

FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

(A ministry of Calvary Tengah Bible-Presbyterian Church)
to NIE, NTU, NUS and Polytechnics)

NEWSLETTER VOL 1/2004 (January-March)

Spiritual Lethargy and Dryness

Spiritual lethargy and dryness is one problem many Christians face during some point of their lives. Earlier in their Christian walk, their thirst for spiritual things was seemingly unquenchable. They were eager to read God's Word, which was sweeter than honeycomb to their mouths. Prayer with God was so warm and comforting that it could not be dispensed. Their hearts were often filled with much zeal to render their services unto the Lord. Their souls burned with fire to evangelise to lost souls. However, somewhere along the road, some dramatic change occurs. Bible reading that was once so joyful has now become insipid. Prayer that was once so warm has now become cold and merely a form with no power. They start to lose interest in their ministries and in evangelism. They try to mourn for their sins, but can no longer mourn. They want to have a desire for spiritual things, but can no longer find a desire. They begin to feel like a man that is stuck in miry clay, sinking deeper and deeper into the pit which seemingly has no end to it.

I am sure most of you can relate to the above description of spiritual lethargy and dryness. I am not spared from going through such periods of dryness. Why does such backsliding occur? The reason is a simple one – **sin**. In Jeremiah 17:9, man's heart is described as "**deceitful above all things and desperately wicked**". In Hosea 11:7, God described His own people as "**bent on backsliding**" from Him. Left on our own, man's natural disposition is one of enmity towards God. Just like what is described in the lyrics of the hymn "Come Thou Fount", our hearts are prone to wander from the God we love. Were it not for the grace of God in our hearts, we can do nothing but rebel against Him. Knowing how filthy our natural hearts can be, it is no wonder that Solomon advises us in Proverbs 4:23 to "**keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life**".

The question we got to ask ourselves now is this – **have we diligently kept our hearts?** For us who are students, we always find ourselves caught in tons of homework and tests. Sometimes, we just get so carried away with our work and doing well in our tests (and even our CCAs) that we neglect spiritual things! We often do not discipline ourselves to practice self-examination, or do our Quiet Time. Such spiritual graces are often regarded either as a burden or something that can be dispensed with. We often forget about God most of the time during the week until either Saturday at fellowship meetings or Sundays at worship. The result of this is often a compromising attitude to sin. The process often starts with "small" subtle sins which lead to "bigger" and more blatant sins. Sin then begets more sin and the cycle goes on and on. Sometimes, it may even lead to our consciences being seared like a hot iron (1 Tim 4:2). In the worst scenario, we even begin to abuse Scripture by using God's Word to justify our faults! Yet, sin still remains, and it is sin which takes away the joy from our Christian walk. My dear friends, if we deny ourselves the spiritual means of graces which God has given us, and have not diligently kept our hearts from sin, and set our souls on the path towards godliness, it is no wonder that we find ourselves becoming spiritually lethargic and dry.

What then is the root of the problem? The root of our problem is our lack of **commitment to Christ in our hearts!** In the Old Testament, we read about Daniel and his friends who are often persecuted for their religion and their beliefs. Yet, Daniel stood firm and did not waver. How was he able to do that? It was because he **purposed in his heart** to remain firm (Daniel 1:8). **Let us examine our hearts!** How strong is the purpose in our hearts to follow Christ? Can we say like Paul in Philippians 1:21 "**to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain**"? Can we "count all things but loss" for Christ (Philippians 3:8)?

Beloved brethren, many of us can often quote Colossians 3:2 – “**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth**”. Similarly, we often quote Matthew 6:33 – “**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you**”. But how often do we live our lives in accordance with these verses? One of the greatest contradictions that often occur in our Christian lives is that we spend more time thinking and labouring for the temporal things of this world rather than labouring for the heavenly things which are eternal. For a Christian student, there is a tendency, sometimes to put in so much time and effort in our work and CCAs that we neglect the more needful things which pertains to our souls. Sometimes we tend to justify ourselves working overly hard for achievements by saying that it is for the glory of God. Working hard, my dear friends, is commendable. Slackness in studies is displeasing in the sight of the Lord. However, let us consider how many of us are really sincere in our hearts when we say that we study for His glory. How often is it true that it is for selfish gain, rather than for the Lord? My dear friends, consider John 15:4 – “**Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me**”. Even if we do well in our studies and in our other activities, will God be pleased with our sacrifice if we do not abide in Him? Dearly beloved, **let us rather have eternity’s values in view and strive for things above!**

Is there then no hope for the backslider? Is there no hope to ever get out of spiritual lethargy and dryness? There is hope my dear friends! The hope lies in the gospel and in Christ alone. What is the essence of the gospel? The essence of the gospel is that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom we are all chief (1 Tim 1:15). In His righteousness alone is our hope, for our righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). To put it simply, we ought to mourn over our poor spiritual condition, but neither are we to despair as though there is no hope, for there is always grace available in Christ to cover our sins! O backslider, will you not turn to Christ today for forgiveness? Consider Jeremiah 3:22a – “**Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings**”. Consider 2 Chronicles 7:14 – “**If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.**” Lastly, consider 1 John 1:9 – “**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**”. All these are promises recorded in God’s Word. Aren’t all His promises sure?

Let us look at the following principles, the first three of which are taken from Revelation 2:5.

REMEMBER. Firstly, remember from whence thou art fallen. Remember that we were once children of wrath and disobedience, but are now called out from darkness into light. Meditate on God’s amazing grace for us. Does not God’s grace constraint you daily to be a debtor to Christ?

REPENT. Confess all your sins and turn away from them.

REMOVE. Remove all sins from your life by confessing them unto our Lord Jesus Christ. His precious blood will wash us clean. Labour to mortify them. Fill yourself rather with heavenly things! And finally,

RENEW. Renew your commitment to Christ. Consecrate your lives fully to Him. Surrender absolutely to the Spirit’s control.

Of course, these four steps will be impossible without God’s help. In 2 Corinthians 7:14, we see that we must **humble** ourselves, and submit to our Almighty God. How often have personal human pride get in the way of revival! Secondly, we see that we must “pray” and “seek his face”,

implying that much **prayer** and much **perseverance** are needed before revival can finally be achieved. What we have to ask ourselves is: **how much do we truly desire this revival?** Well, to do all that is stated above is not easy, and can only be sustained by faith which comes from the grace of God. **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”** (Hebrews 11:6). Beloved brethren, let us not be like the sluggard in Proverbs 6:6-12 who folds his hands to sleep only to suffer from poverty. Rather let us seek Him early, that we might obtain mercy at the throne of grace.

Finally, let me end by saying that we should not put our trust too much in emotions or feelings as a gauge of closeness with Christ. Sometimes, those who feel that they are close to Christ are often those that are furthest from Him while those who feel they are the furthest are actually faring much better in their walk with God. Spirituality is measured not by emotions, but rather by whether we are doing the will of God (Matthew 7:24-27). Let us then not base our trust in emotions or religious affections, but rather **base our trust on nothing but Christ the rock and His written Word**. All other ground is sinking sand! As such, whenever we find ourselves in a situation where we feel discouraged by our spiritual walk, let us consider the lyrics of these two hymns:

*When I fear my faith will shall – Christ can hold me fast!
For my love is often cold – He must hold me fast!
He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so - He will hold me fast*

And

*If all were easy, if all were bright,
Where would the cross be? and where the fight?
But in the testings God give to you,
Chances for proving what He can do.*

*Keep on believing, Jesus is near,
Keep on believing, there's nothing to fear;
Keep on believing, this is the way,
Faith in the night as well as the day.*

The FCM Newsletter

Do you have any ideas for the next issue of the newsletter? Do you think the newsletter can be improved? Do you know how this newsletter came about? For any feedback or ideas, please **DO** contact Junsheng at sa_jurong@hotmail.com or hp at 90265218.

Consider these verses also:

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand” (Psalm 37:23-24).

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

For those who are spiritually lethargic, dry, and backslidden, and sincerely want to go back to the Lord, be encouraged, for the Lord will definitely heal you as He has promised you so in His Word. Let us then press on, looking constantly to Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith, running with patience the race that is set before us (c.f. Heb 12:1-2), and fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12). For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come (Heb 13:14). The grace of God be with all who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. Amen.

In-Christ,
Clement
Science FCM
1 Tim 1:15
25 September 2003

“Bible Baffle”

1. Who was the last good king of Judah?
2. Why was dove's dung sold for five silver coins?
3. With how many women did David have children?
4. Who was the first woman recorded in the Bible as using cosmetics?
5. Whose flesh, eyes and tongues will rot in the last days?
6. Name the paternal grandfather of Benjamin.
7. Who was Malchus?
8. Which two books in the NT give an account of the Virgin Birth?
9. On how many occasions was Paul whipped by the Jews?
10. At what activity was Nimrod, builder of Babylon, especially skillful?



Answers on **page 12**.

The Birth of FCM ALUMNI - finally - on 27 Nov 2003. The meeting time was 7.30pm. And the number of alumni present by 7.30pm? 4! (Well, most, including yours truly, were held up at work etc ...alumni mah. Hopefully this does not become a regular feature of the group! ;)

Most of us reached by 8.30pm and embarked on the 1st program for the evening - Makan! The sumptuous spread was contributed by the individual alumni FCMers. Worth mentioning was the curry that our facilitator, Junsheng prepared PERSONALLY. It was simply of Chef-Standard! (Hint: So please feel free to get him to cook it for any of your fellowship makan sessions if you want some good curry! Junsheng's totally proud of it! ;)

As the alumni spans across several FCM BS groups like NUS Science, NUS Arts/ Engine, Poly, NTU and also across several generations of graduated FCMers, the dinner time came in as a really good ice-breaking time. (Well, most of us are talkative by nature so it's really not difficult for us to feel comfortable with one another!). The informal setting gave us the chance to update one another as some of us have not seen or spoken to one another for a long time.

After makan, we had a short devotion by Junsheng. God-willing, sharing of God's Word with the group would be one of the features for alumni meetings. Junsheng shared from the Dry Bones account from Ezekiel chapter 37. The passage was on how God had instructed Ezekiel to prophesy and encouraged the dispersed Israelites that He'll, for His own name's sake, bring them back to their own homeland. The passage was a very apt devotion for us as one of the common spiritual struggles that we face, having graduated from tertiary studying into the working world,

is in maintaining quality and regular personal devotional lives. The lack of prayers and studying of God's Word have caused many of our faith to be dry and ineffective.

The devotion was followed by a time of sharing. And of course, FCMers are always known for our abilities to share - being Alumni have not caused us to lose that trait. We shared about struggles, updates, prayer requests etc.. and finally only ended after the guard came in to remind us that we have to end the session. The room was to be closed at 10pm!

All in all, we had a very blessed time. The idea of an FCM Alumni was mooted some years ago and only finally materialized that evening. Thank God for this fresh means of restoring 'lost' fellowship and contact between many of us who, in a certain sense, have grown up spiritually together during our student lives, sharpening, rebuking, arguing, teasing, camping, singing (and some even marrying!) one another. As an alumni of working adults, one foreseeable challenge would be the commitment in attending the monthly-held weekday meetings as we carry with us the day's fatigue, on top of existing work commitments etc... We've started simple. May the Lord direct and help us.

Liz Thng
Arts FCM Alumni
Calvary Pandan B-P Church

FCM Alumni meets on every third Wednesday of the month. For more details please DO contact Brother Junsheng at hp:90265218 or e-mail him at sa_jurong@hotmail.com.

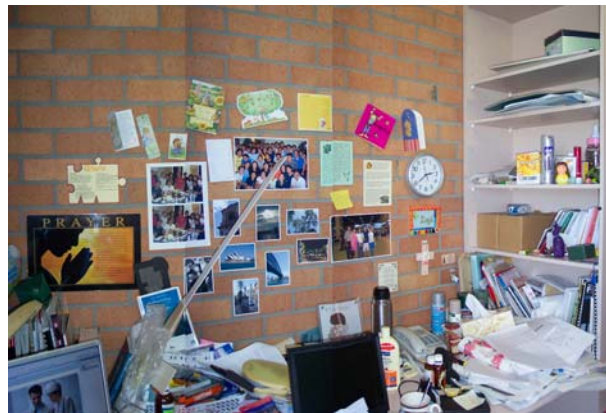
Overseas studies in Australia, Newcastle

“It is of the LORD’s merices that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.” Lam 3:22-23.

Thank God for Who He is – Infinite, unchangeable, the Alpha and the Omega.

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him?” Ps 8:4a.

Thank God for His unceasing love, even though we have failed Him numerous times. It is only through the grace and mercies of God that I have managed to go through 9 months of studies in Australia. Being in a new environment, I took quite a few months to adapt to the pace of life in Newcastle, where a high percentage of elderly people live in. Even though Newcastle is a suburb of New South Wales, it is not spared from all the worldly and immoral influences – Drunkenness, fornication, adultery, vulgarity, etc ... It was not easy to stay with other foreigners as most of them indulge in such worldly activities. Thank God that He has given me the courage and strength to tell them my stand and it was also probably a blessing in disguise that my course work did really demand a lot of time. Therefore, it formed as an “excuse” for myself to be absent for most of their activities.



A picture of my messy room

Other than struggling with the course work, I was also struggling to keep myself spiritually alive. Without the presence of fellow and like-minded brethren, things in life were really different. There would be no one to remind you of your convictions, resolutions and your Christian

testimony. It was really a struggle for me as I am used to share a lot with my sister, Zuhui, as we would often talk to each other about our daily lives. As all the Christian friends and my sister were not around, I have to learn to depend on God. Though I must say that it was really hard during times when I was physically very ill and school work was piling up. Thank God that He has taught me many lessons about His Divine providence. During the course of my studies, I was also thankful for Christian brethren from Jurong YF and FCM who took pains and effort to write cards and letters to encourage me. They were indeed letters of reminders and “wake-up” calls for my spiritually weary soul.

All in all, I would like to thank God once again for the many precious lessons that He has taught me and I am truly glad to be back home to fellowship with fellow brethren in my church and even in FCM. For those who are considering overseas attachment or studies, well, hope that you are not frightened by my sharing. However, I would sincerely hope that each one of you will prepare yourself spiritually as I am sure that all of us are equally aware of the perilous times that we are living in. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:” 1 Peter 5:8.* May we also learn to totally surrender our lives to God and to humble ourselves before Him. *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” 1 Cor 10:12*

Mission trip to Kelapa Sawit (17th – 20th Dec 2003)

This was a much anticipated trip for me; I thank God for giving me this chance to pay my 3rd visit to this mission area. This time round, there were 7 members – Hun shen (Our team leader), Patrick, Jaclyn (A Pandan kindergarten teacher), Jamie (Pandan YAFer), Liz, Zuhui and myself.



From left to right : Jamie, Liz, Patrick, Zuhui, Hun Shen, Jaclyn, myself

Normally the DVBS will be divided into 3 different groups, mainly the kindergarten, primary and youths. As the youths were also holding their own DVBS during the same time at another outreach area, we were unable to have a youth class. Initially we were a little disappointed because the youth class has always been the main emphasize of the whole DVBS. Nevertheless, we still continued on with our planning. As a result, we have formed 3 classes for this DVBS:

- 1) Kindergarten class,
- 2) Primary (church regulars)
- 3) Primary (New comers)

According to my previous trips, each day’s DVBS would normally draw about 20 – 30 children. Therefore, we were actually expecting the same amount of children for this year. However, the Lord gave us a bigger crowd than we have expected for all the 3 days! First day it was about 36 – 39, the second day was 52 and the third day was 48! All praise and glory to God! Due to the great increment, all of us felt that it was quite tough to control the noise level. However, the Lord was still good to provide us with sufficient strength to go through each day’s DVBS. This year’s theme was on “Faith”. Therefore characters like Abraham and Moses were used to teach the children about their faith in God and eventually, the gospel message was also preached on the last day. Personally, I was encouraged and touched by those who have been coming faithfully for the past few DVBS and those newcomers who listen diligently to the Word



52 children on the 2nd day

of God. Thank God that His Gospel seed was sowed into the hearts of these young lives. Pray that the Lord will continue to work in their hearts and may they also be found in the Book of Life.

During our stay, we were also invited to join their church for a night's caroling session. However, only Hun Shen, Jaclyn, Patrick and Jamie went for the caroling as the rest were feeling tired. Through the sharings, I have learnt that it was a very fruitful session as they were all able to know the youths and the church members better. More importantly, they were also able to minister to a group of construction

workers who were really sincere and earnest to know about Christianity.

So once again, thank God for this opportunity to see His wondrous work in Kelapa Sawit. For those who have not been there before, maybe you would like to consider that as your next mission visit? If you would like to know more about this ministry, you can always talk to anyone of us. Do bear in mind that you would need to use Mandarin to teach and communicate, but let it not be a hindrance to you to serve. God will enable. May the Lord help us!

"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase." 1 Cor 3:6.

In-Christ,
Zuyi
FCM Alumni

Report on Mission Trip to Hilltop (4 – 9 December 2003)

Team Members: Elder William Seah, Deacon Peter Lai and Brother Lim Jun Sheng

Objectives:

- 1. To meet up with the six students Tengah is supporting at the Center for Biblical Studies, Hilltop, Antipolo, Philippines**
- 2. To travel with one of the six students to the church to which he/she has been attached to.**
- 3. To minister the Word to the CBS students at their Chapel Hour and to participate in whatever activities as may be arranged for the team.**

4th Dec

Our flight PR 502 landed at the Manila International Airport at 1315 hours. The whole journey took slightly more than 3 hours. Met at the airport by Pastor Bill Ebert and later Dn Peter Lai joined us having been to Cebu to visit a missionary friend. We then proceeded to the Hilltop, home of the Center for Biblical Studies (CBS). The journey through the city of Manila was an eye-opener. The traffic was





congested and there was seemingly no law and order as some drivers even drove through the red light. It is also one of the most polluted cities in the Philippines. In fact, up at the Hilltop, we could see a layer of smoke hanging above the city!

Though it was only 35km from the airport to Hilltop, it took us more than 2 hours to reach our destination. On arrival, we had a short briefing from the members of the faculty regarding our stay in the Philippines. I was assigned to share my testimony during chapel hour on Friday, as well as ministering to the youths at the Fundamental Baptist Church of Agudo. Dn Lai was assigned to share at the church's Sunday School teachers' devotion as well as ministering to the brethren in song and psalm. Elder Seah was assigned to preach God's Word at their Sunday Worship Service.

Before dinner, Pastor Bill brought us up the rooftop to see the scenery around the Hilltop. It was indeed a great place for the students to

study, equipped with classrooms, dormitories, chapel, library and beautiful mango trees all around! These trees have been contracted out which helps to finance, to some degree, Hilltop's expenses. We had a great dinner prepared for us by Mrs Darla Ebert. We had chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, peas, melon and rice. It was a great time of fellowship. We had to go for a stroll after dinner because of the amount we had eaten.

Pastor Bill shared with us regarding the six students whom Tengah is currently supporting, a good mixture. We were glad to learn that they are hardworking and industrious and are active in serving the Lord in the churches to which they are attached. Calvary Pandan B-P Church was instrumental in helping purchase the land and erect the buildings and continues to date in supporting the Hilltop in the running and maintenance of the complex.

5th Dec

Attended some of the classes at the CBS. Some of the lecturers were former students of Rev Charles Seet and they were in fact using most of his notes. After the classes we joined the faculty and students for their Chapel Hour. Elder Seah shared the Word using **CBS** to equate to **Commitment to Biblical Separation**. Dn Lai sang Psalm 1 and I shared my testimony. After that we proceeded to have lunch at the dining hall with the



faculty and students. We were told that the cost for each meal is budgeted at 10 pesos! (S\$1.00 = P30)

In the afternoon, we met up with the current students whom Tengah is supporting and also some alumni students whom Tengah had supported in the past. One of the objectives of this session was to find out what they were doing, how they were doing, and how we can be of help in other ways besides supporting them financially. We had a profitable time hearing from the students as they shared about their vision, their ministries in the church, etc.



The students study from Tuesday to Friday and on weekends, they will move out to the different churches where they have been assigned to minister as directed by the pastor of that church. All the students return to the Hilltop on Monday which is an off-day.

In the evening, we treated Pastor Bill and his wife to dinner at a western restaurant called “Fridays.” Had a good time of fellowship, sharing over the meal which was typical American cuisine.

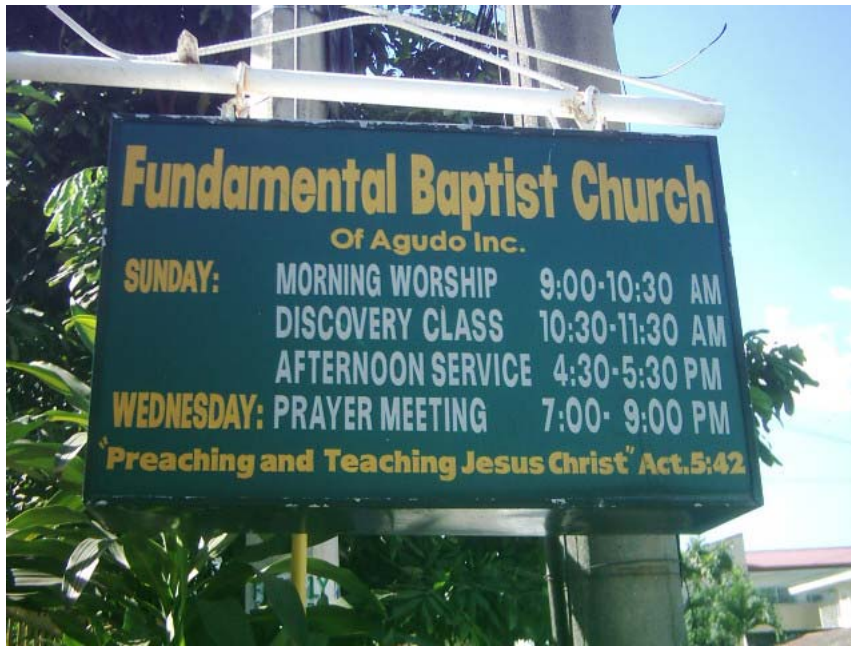
6th Dec

We woke up early, to wash up and be ready to move out at 6: 00 a.m. to the mission field with one of the students, Verna whom Tengah is supporting. Her co-worker Phebe traveled with us as well. We were “treated” to the many modes of transportation used by the locals in the country. We traveled by tricycle (8 pesos each), then FX (a type of jeep which we shared with others at 25 pesos each), then the famous jeepney (12 pesos each) to reach our destination. It took us almost 2 hours in total to reach our destination. It was quite an experience and we thank God for safety all the way.



We were welcomed by Pastor Leo and his wife from Fundamental Baptist Church of Agudo on arrival and treated to a lovely home-cooked breakfast. After breakfast and a time of fellowship it was time to get down to work!

We took a bus to the outreaches of the church and the students taught little children bible stories and singing of choruses. Since it was Christmas time, the story of Jesus was taught. I was reminded of the bible character Deborah as she sat under a palm tree to judge Israel. Here the sisters do not have a proper place to teach, so they would choose a shady tree where the children were gathered and were taught. They had to pray that it would not rain, especially during the rainy season.



We later visited one of the member's house where we were treated to lunch which included baked St Peter's fish. Dn Lai was most fascinated with St. Peter's fish which he enjoyed thoroughly. He was given the pet name Pedro which equates to Peter. Had a short rest, before the students continued with teaching some children around the vicinity of the member's house. At 5.30 p.m. there was bible study led by Pastor Leo at the member's

house which was very profitable. The work is far from easy but we could see the joy on the faces of those who served.

After all that we stayed on to have fellowship as the hosts served us with many local goodies. Indeed, they were most hospitable and we are thankful. We were then driven to the home of Dr Ito and his wife where we were treated to a sumptuous dinner. Dr Ito is an elder of the church and his home became our place of abode for the next two days. Some of the church members of the church joined us for dinner (at 10:00 p.m.) including Elder Oscar. By the time we stepped into our room, it was past 11 p.m. We were tired and exhausted, yes, tired in the flesh but spiritually uplifted!

7th Dec

We woke up at 7.30 a.m. to have our breakfast after which we proceeded to the church for the Worship Service. Dn Peter was asked to share at the Sunday School Teachers' Devotion at 8.30 a.m. He shared from

Philippians 1:27-28, encouraging the Sunday School teachers to always put the preaching of the Word of God first, and all of them need to be united to



do that. Elder Seah was the speaker at the Worship Service where he shared from Acts 1:1-8. He encouraged the congregation to be the light and salt at home (Jerusalem) first, then our friends and relatives (Judaea), neighbours and colleagues (Samaria) and all parts of the world. Pray for them as they are planning to start the first worship service in Marilao in January next year.



After the service, there was the Discovery Class, which is similar to our SBC. I shared on the parable of the talents with the youth group, about 7 of them. Reminded the youths to be faithful in helping out in the church, which need not be necessarily great or big things, but even in little things, according to the talents that God has given. God will reward accordingly those who are found faithful to Him. We had lunch in the church after the classes.

begin at 3.30pm, all of us took this time to fellowship and to share with one another. Also Dn Lai shared some songs from the Psalms again. Elder Seah shared with those who stayed behind from the Word as well as his life experiences. It was a great time of fellowship even though we had only known each other for so short a time. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. How wonderful!

During the waiting period for the next children bible class to

Later in the evening, we treated some of the members including the good doctor and his wife, Elder Oscar and his family to Chow King Restaurant, a famous and economical fast food outfit for dinner. The traffic was so congested that it took us almost 2 hours to reach the place. They served Chinese food like what we have back home. 20 of us managed to squeeze into the restaurant. It cost only around S\$2 for a bowl of rice and drink! We had a great time of fellowship and we played some bible games around the table. Later elder Seah and the rest went to the supermarket to buy some groceries to cook for the faculty dinner the following night.

For supper and back at the doctor's home, we had 'balut'! It's a half-hatched duckling in an egg. To me it was simply delicious! Unfortunately Dn Lai was too tired to join us and Elder Seah was literally traumatized even by the thought of it. It is very rich in protein and also high in cholesterol! It was a tiring day!

8th Dec

We packed our stuff and got ready to return back to CBS. We had our breakfast, well, extended breakfast till 11am. We took some photos and proceeded to Elder Oscar's home for lunch (our intention of eating at Jolibee was crushed!) However, we had a sumptuous meal (no regrets) and Elder Oscar drove us all back to CBS in his van arriving at about 3.30pm.

Elder Seah wasted no time to prepare some dishes for the faculty dinner later in the evening. Dn Lai and myself went to play some basketball with the students. We also taught them to play Captain's Ball as well, but they still preferred their basketball because they play it at least once a week!



In the evening we had a time of fellowship and ‘makan’ together with the faculty, staff and their families. It was a time of sharing, songs and testimonies. Managed to hear the testimony of a lecturer in CBS, on how the Lord led him out of an eye operation as well as a kidney surgery. He lost weight from 172 to 105 pounds! After he recovered, he realized how real God was in his life, he decided to give his life for the Lord to use. He even composed a song which became a testimony of his life!

9th Dec

Dn Lai and myself went to attend some of the CBS lessons in the morning before we left for the airport. We changed one of the classes to a bible Q & A. At 10.30am we left Hilltop after bidding farewell to those who came to see us off. Verna passed some letters to each one of us before we left.



Going through the heavy traffic for the last time we arrived at the airport at 12:30pm. We had a light snack at Delifrance for lunch in the airport. Our flight PR 501 was delayed and when the plane finally took off, it was already 1615 hours. It was a delay of about one and a half hour!

On the flight home, we opened the letters given to us by the students. Indeed looking back those past few days, we were much encouraged by them especially their love for the

little children from the slum areas of the Philippines. Also they were so grateful to us, Singapore brethren, as they felt that if God did not touch our hearts to give, it would not be possible for them to be able to study there. A little gift does go a long way! And we thank God for giving Tengah the privilege so to do!

Reported by Brother Lim Jun Sheng
Calvary Tengah B-P Church

Answers to “Bible Baffle”:



1. Josiah (2 Kings 23:24-25)
2. It was food during a famine. (2 Kings 6:25)
3. 7 (2 Samuel 3:1-5; 2 Samuel 12:24)
4. Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30)
5. All those who attack Jerusalem. (Zech. 14:12)
6. Isaac
7. The man whose ear was cut off by a disciple. (John 18:10-11)
8. Matthew and Luke (Matthew 1:19-25; Luke 1:26-35)
9. 5 (2 Corinthians 11:24)
10. Hunting (Genesis 10:8-9)

How many did you get correct? 😊

FCM Retreat 2003

Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Thank God for the short but fruitful FCM retreat at Calvary Tengah B-P Church. And like to thank all the campers as well as the helpers who came and received the blessing of God, in God's own special ways.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”~ Zechariah 4:6b.

Well, if any man ask me what is best to describe this retreat, this verse is definitely going to be the one and only verse to sum up the whole retreat in my opinion. Serving in the retreat committee itself, to me is mystery beyond comprehension, only the Lord knows. Before the retreat itself, the retreat committee had actually lots of doubts and uncertainties. Questions like “A retreat just after Christmas, isn't it inappropriate?”, “Is the theme message appropriate?” were discussed and asked, even to some minute details on the unexpected scenarios were being penned and planned. Some problems can be solved practically, but as usual, dealing with human, is equivalent to dealing with uncertainties. So in all things rather than relying on human reasoning and workmanship, the retreat committee prayed. Indeed, if we do our part, God will do His part, if God willing. And God never fail. Praise God for His faithfulness and grace!

Just by one glance at the campers, I realized that most of us bore the “marks” of toiling late at nights. My guess to these “signs”, will be the involvement in Christmas activities, notably caroling or is it something else? So exactly what make these tired bodies, dragging themselves from the comfort and the festive season of Christmas to a lushly well-camouflaged, emerald -green forest where Calvary Tengah is located and surrounded? My answer will be the “spiritual-magnetic” attraction of God's Word on spirit-hungered men and women who wished to know the whole counsel of God's word, illuminate in this “silent” issue of Christian courtship in the Bible.



However, on the first day of the camp, I believed most of the campers got a double shock! One is the theme itself “Biblical Courtship” is not “exactly” that “biblical”, but the principles of it still applied to us today. Next, one of the brethren bear false witness! That is me. I have to confess that during the compilation of the retreat booklet, the camp master, Clement was away on a caroling camp and offered me writing a hand-written foreword. So using my human wits, I recognized the trouble of having to travel down to fetch this hand-written foreword, and told the camp master that I shall write the foreword of the retreat booklet for him and bear his name. Next to saving trouble and time, the “worldly-wise” me, decided to quicken the work by altering Desmond's past year Camp address and foreword. So this is how I had fallen and how you received the “altered” Retreat Foreword. Woe is me!

Laying aside these, the retreat program ran smoothly and the highlight of the retreat finally dawns, the theme message, Courtship by Elder William Seah. Browsing through my human experiences and memory, I have heard Elder Seah preached on this kind of topic so many times, and developed a “hardened” mind, with pride of knowing what he is going to say next and what examples that he is going to quote and etc. Indeed, God knows better, I must humble

myself. The message was conducted with many frank, heart-relating reflections and certainly with God's truth. Although belonging to a different era and culture, Elder Seah related some of his heart-felt life experiences without any refrain and restrictions at all. Sharing his temptations, inner thoughts that he faced as a young Christian even up to today itself. These really make me think that actually the problems that I faced today are not exactly that "novel" or new. Just that Satan has changed his tactic on deception through the ages. Of course, Satan can only tempt, ultimately it is our own sinful self who sinned and rebelled against God. Through Elder Seah's sharings, I realized that he had so many decisions to make and to unmake. Sometime, it seems very logical, "humanly speaking" for him to make that decision, but the end of it is not God's will. For example, there was once he shared that his cousin, a ballerina cast her eyes upon him. And by Elder Seah's verbal description of her, she is fair, slim, tall, and graceful... In another word, she is simply irresistible. Gentle-speaking, elegant, indeed what more can a "man" want?

However, she is not a Christian, and a stand is required to be made. That's exactly what Elder Seah did, wait for the Lord, seek His will in prayer and believing the Lord will provide, Jehovah Jireh.

Well, Elder Seah did share many of life examples, and God's truth and Mrs Seah did support Elder Seah with lots of recitation of bible verses. In this, they set a good example of what a couple should be..... supporting one another, and sharpening God's Word together.

Moreover, who can forget the many songs that they sang spontaneously during the forum. Also not forgetting Preacher Ho, who shared with us his friendship with his wife, which led to his conversion and eventually, the friendship became courtship. Now, they are married in the Lord and being blessed with two wonderful kids.

Many of the campers enjoy the night message, "A Spirit-filled life" shared by Elder Boaz Boon. Those who are struggling with their spiritual and their prayer life (including me) found relief of God's truth via this message. Indeed, a spirit-filled life must be filled with spiritual things and nothing else. And we also thank God for Elder Boon's wonderful singing of the song, "Refine My Heart" which really describes our sinfulness and wretchedness. May God refine us. Dorm fellowship plunged a gravity of self-reflection to our heart, of whether we have left our first love and back-slided from the Lord. Many are astonished by the frankness of the sharing, while some are filled with guilt in their heart upon self reflection. However, that is what dorm fellowship is all about, sharing your deep, and heart-felt thoughts to the brethren to edify and to encourage one another in the Lord. Indeed, there are so many lessons that I have learnt through this short retreat and I believe that you too had learnt much. If I will have to write everything that I had learnt through this retreat, I think it will have no end. So the "voids" that I left, I hope that you can continue to ponder it through your own private memoirs of the retreat.

***"Behold,
how good
and how
pleasant it is
for brethren
to dwell
together in
unity!" ~
Psalm 133:1***

God bless,
Shujian
Poly FCM



UPCOMING EVENTS!

FCM combined meeting 2004

Date: 27th Feb 2004, (Friday)

Topic: "Lawful but not Expedient"

~ Christian liberty and Choices in life

Speaker: Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo

Venue: Calvary Pandan Bible-Presbyterian Church, (AV Studio)

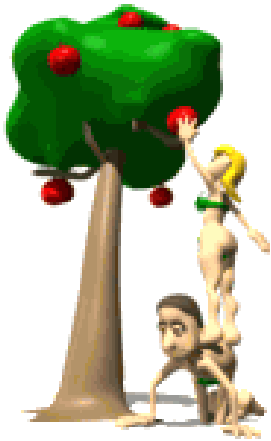
Address: 201 Pandan Gardens, S(609337)

Time: 6.30pm – Dinner; 7.30pm – Message

Those who would like to have dinner, please contact Zhihui

at hp: 97414915 or e-mail at emmanuel_cen@hotmail.com

Offerings collected for that day will be channeled to the FCM Fund.



FCM CAMP 2004

Date: 24th -29th May 2004

Theme: "A Living Sacrifice"

Day Speaker: Rev Quek Suan Yew

Venue: Not Confirmed yet

Camp Fees: Full-time: \$30;

Part time: ~\$3/meal, \$1.50/Breakfast



SMS BROADCAST SERVICE

SMS broadcast is a new service provided by MyTengah IT ministry to enable members and friends to receive news and updates via Short Messages through their handphones.

To subscribe to the service, please follow the instructions below:

For Fundamental Christian Ministry News, type "FCM" and send to **96341214**. It is **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I unsubscribe from the SMS Service?

To un-subscribe simply type "QUIT" and send to 96341214. Your handphone number will be removed from all the above Broadcast groups. You should then proceed to re-subscribe to only the specific group which is relevant to you.

2. Will my handphone be spammed by junk messages?

This will not happen since the access code is only accessible to responsible people designated by the church Elders. In any case you can always unsubscribe from the service by following the instructions above.

For more updates and announcements log on to <http://www.mytengah.com/FCM> now!

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Nanyang Technological University/ National Institute of Education

- NTU/NIE Group
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Meeting Time : Every Monday, 6.30pm
Dinner : Canteen 11, 5.30pm



National University of Singapore

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Meeting Place : Life B-P Church
Meeting Time : Every Wednesday, 7.00pm
Dinner : 6.30pm

