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Editorial: Let the Light Shine On

By Kona Li



It has been a wonderful first year for our church's publication, *Gospel Light*. This year's theme, "Generations for Christ," has three subtitles namely: *Children for Christ*, *Youth for Christ* and *Adult for Christ*. By God's grace and tender mercies, by the relentless hardwork and dedication of the members of the Literature Committee and by the unwavering support of our brethren, we are able to come out with 3 issues of *Gospel Light* as planned and as scheduled. An amazing feat, if I may say so. For this, I would like to say a million thanks to all those who have made this ministry possible. It is our hope to let *Gospel Light* shine on by continuing fervently our pursuit to 'Grow in Christ', our church theme for year 2005. To God be the glory.

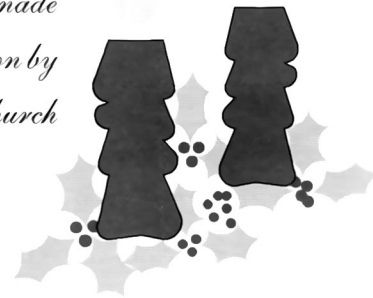


Table of Contents

四種燈	5	<i>Interacting With God</i>	6
忘記背後, 努力面前...	15	<i>Missionary Opportunities for CGC Today</i>	17
基督徒長進的方向	14	<i>Preach the Word, Save the World</i>	9
瑣談戀愛與夫婦之道	8	<i>Psalm Of Petition</i>	4
審慎考查是非	11	<i>Remembering My Beloved Mother</i>	16
<i>Adults For Christ</i>	3	<i>Shades of Christmas</i>	12
<i>An Adult's Journey With God</i>	13	<i>Spiritual Program of PCGS: Testimony & Challenge</i>	19
<i>Church News</i>	2	<i>Sunday School Report 2004</i>	20
<i>DYFR-FM II - The New DYFR FM</i>	22	<i>The Worship Hullabaloo</i>	21
<i>Editorial: Let the Light Shine On</i>	1	<i>To God Be The Glory!</i>	7



CHURCH NEWS 教會消息



Aug 15 - Musical concert by Xiamen Trinity Church Choir

Sep 2-4 - Revival meeting by Rev. Samuel Sia from Singapore

Sep 15 - Sister Chiu Wu So Ngo went to be with the Lord

Sep 17-19 - 39th Mission Emphasis Week with Rev. David Cheung speaking on the theme, "Preach the Word, Save the World"

Sep 19 - Wedding ceremony of Bro. Yuri Kendall Lopez and Sis. Desiree Gay Ang

Sep 23 - Brother Jose Cang rested in the Lord

Sep 26 - Wedding ceremony of Bro. Roger Un and Sis. Christine Dy

Oct 6-11 - Visitation of church mission work in Hangzhou, China by Rev. Albert Ong, Eld. Celestino Siao, Eld. Peter Yap and Eld. Raymond Ong

Oct 24 - Pastor Lilian Dy went to be with the Lord

Nov 14 - Elected the following deacons & deaconesses for 2005-2007: Eusebio Co, Lorenzo Ong Jr., David Johnson Tan, James Young, Livian Garcia, Lili Gothong, Rosaline Chuang Ong, Merry Lourdes Lee Yu.

Nov 21 - 77th Baptismal Ceremony of the following brethren: Kingston Virgil Ang, Christine Joy I. Chua, Nancy Yap Ong, Duane Michaels Po, Gwen Leslie Robins Uy, Michelle Mae L. Uy, and Rodney Robinson U. Uy

Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Service with programs presented by various fellowships

Nov 26-28 - Christian Youth Fellowship 56th anniversary musical play entitled "King Ahren" and worship rally

八月十五日 - 廈門鼓浪嶼基督教三一堂歌頌團主持音樂晚會

九月二至四日 - 星加坡之謝慶福牧師主講培靈會

九月十五日 - 周余素娥姊妹安息主懷

九月十七至十九日 - 第39屆宣道週, 主題為「擴傳福音, 極救世人」由陳貽強牧師主講

九月十九日 - 黃聖春兄弟與卓耿真姊妹結婚

九月廿三日 - 江扶西兄弟安息主懷

九月廿六日 - 溫尚彬兄弟與李珍珍姊妹結婚

十月六至十一日 - 王志強牧師, 蕭必忠長老, 葉美煥長老與王天祝長老往中國杭州探視宣教工作

十月廿四日 - 李能愛傳道榮歸天國

十一月十四日 - 選出新任(2005-2007)男女執事: 許西茂執事, 李永仁執事, 陳大關執事, 楊永興執事, 黃麗綿執事, 吳李欣然執事, 蔡莊容麗執事, 李蔡容容執事

十一月廿一日 - 第77屆洗禮式之兄姊: 洪慶慶兄弟, 林瑛瓊姊妹, 葉如玉姊妹, 傅雷榮兄弟, 黃喜樂姊妹, 黃美謝姊妹, 黃思源兄弟

十一月廿五日 - 感恩節聚會由各團契獻出節目

十一月廿六至廿八日 - 青年團契慶祝56週年演出歌劇及崇拜讚美會



ADULTS FOR CHRIST

by Rev. Albert Ong



Some Christians say that it is difficult to evangelize to our family members and relatives. This can be true to a certain point, but if we have been transformed by the Spirit of God and our lives really prove it, then slowly but surely, our family members will see the difference Christ has made in our lives. The way we live as Christians is the most effective tool in exposing the gospel of Christ to our family. Matthew 5:16 said it nicely, "...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

To be like Christ is not easy. Some Christians may try to get involved in many different ministries and others even study the Bible diligently. I believe that these can help you know infallible information about how Jesus Christ lived and how we can follow His example. However in reality, we can never be totally like Him. He is perfect in all He does and without sin. "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God." (2Cor. 5:21) Christ took our place at the cross that we may be set free from sin. This is the greatest news ever to

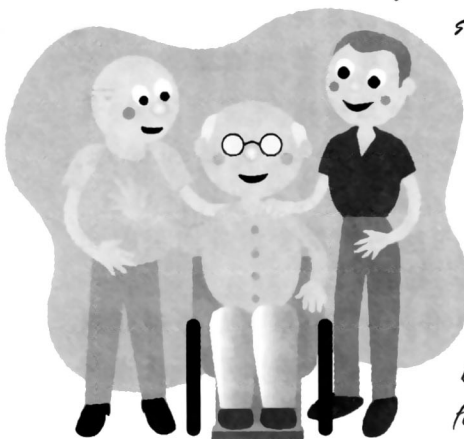
sinner like us and if you accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, this privilege can be yours.

The basic requirement for one to be an effective witness of

Jesus Christ is to be identified with Him in His death. Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Paul was able to endure and to survive a very hard life because he had identified himself with the death of Christ. His old self had already been crucified with Christ. Now, it was not Paul but Christ living in him. Christians, we have a hard time accepting our difficult situations right now because we still think that the lives we live are for our own. When we hear people say unpleasant things about us or someone does things that cause us trouble and pain, we react negatively and find ourselves discouraged and full of resentment. I do not say that those who insult or condemn us falsely are doing the right thing, but we can choose to respond as Jesus Christ did "...Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Forgiving others is the start of a healing process. Though it may take time to heal but with God, we can do it. God wants us Christians to forgive because He is a forgiving God. Who knows, the moment you start forgiving your family members or friends, God will open their hearts to the gospel. I have seen marriages and families broken because of unforgiving spirit. Let us give all the rights to Christ and allow Him to be the Lord of all.

Bringing our family, relatives, and friends to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ is a great task, but there is nothing to fear because we have a Great God and Savior.





PSALM OF PETITION

By Josephine Q. Yu

4

*Hear me, O Lord,
Listen to my cry;
Show me Your tender mercy,
Manifest Your loving kindness.*

*I am married but childless,
A wife but not a mother;
I am ashamed and guilty,
Pitiful and lonely.*

*Open my womb, O God!
Heal my disease and sickness.
Grant me a child;
A precious gift from You.*

*Forgive my sins and trespasses;
Deliver me from trials and temptation.
Blot out my faults and iniquities,
For You are a gracious and faithful God.*

*You are my Lord and Master;
Creator of the heavens and the earth.
Nothing is impossible for You,
When I put my trust and hope in You.*

*I will offer my child
As a living sacrifice,
I will testify to all
Your wondrous works.*

*I will praise You with instruments and songs,
I will proclaim Your might and strength,
I will exalt Your name from generations to generations,
I will give thanks and extol You forever,
For You alone deserve honor, majesty, and glory!*



May this Psalm serve as an encouragement and hope to those who have a similar predicament as I had before. This petition was answered after seven years of long waiting. The Lord is indeed merciful and faithful. He hears your prayer.



四種燈

小山



燈有很多種：有電燈，路燈，門燈，桌頭燈，手電燈，船燈，捕魚燈...在聖經中也提到多種的燈。燈如果沒有點亮就失去它照光的作用。在我們基督徒的生活中應點亮四種的燈。

一. 應點亮上帝話語的燈 詩119:105

詩119:105：詩人說「禱的話是我腳前的燈，是我路上的光。」詩人承認上帝的光好像燈光照明人生應走的路。我們大家一定都曾經歷停電的時候，尤其在晚上，都趕快拿手電燈或點蠟燭。可見人不喜歡黑暗，看不到東西。街路上有路燈，若沒有點亮就不能照明人的行走和來往的汽車。

基督徒要怎樣點亮上帝話語的燈呢？就是要天天勤讀聖經。不是走馬看花地讀而是要用心靈仔細地閱讀，並且要反覆思想才能明白上帝話語的意義。上帝的話語解開來就會發出光來。詩119:130：「禱的話語一解開就發出亮光，使愚人通達。」

在這彎曲背謬之黑暗的世代，基督徒所行的天路是窄的，我們需要有屬靈的燈光來奔跑前程。感謝上帝為我們預備了聖經，就是祂的話。當我們讀經明白祂的意思之時，這話語就成為我們腳前的燈，人生道路上的光！

二. 應點亮上帝引導的燈 撒下22:29, 詩18:28

在撒下22:1說：「當耶和華救大衛脫離一切的仇敵和掃羅之手的日子，他向耶和華念這詩。」就是讚美耶和華的詩歌。撒下22:29 大衛王說：「耶和華阿！禱是我的燈，耶和華必照明我的黑暗。」大衛王體會到上帝是他生命中的燈，照明他路程的黑暗。

人的生命中有黑暗嗎？當然是有的，人生命中的黑暗使我們看不清當走的路。但是大衛王的一生中卻有主耶和華作他的燈光照他與引導他。使他的生命、事業、王國都興旺發達蒙福。啓21:23說：「那城內又不用日月光照，因有上帝的榮耀光照，又有羔羊為城的燈。」那城是指聖城耶路撒冷，就是天上的耶路撒冷。這城沒有也不必用日月之光來照耀，因為上帝本身的榮耀光照，又有羔羊，就是耶穌基督作城內的燈。賽6:3說：「彼此呼喊說『聖哉！聖哉！聖哉！萬軍的耶和華，祂的榮耀充滿全地。』」可見上帝是大有榮光的。

詩18:28大衛王說：「禱必點著我的燈，

耶和華我的上帝必照明我的黑暗。」我們的燈是不是上帝點亮的燈？還是世界物質引誘試探的燈？在我們生命中應點亮上帝引導的燈，使我們好像大衛王蒙光照被引導行義路。當上帝作我們生命之光時，祂的榮耀必發出榮光，照亮我們當行的路。使我們這些屬主的子民靠著主的光照，得以衝鋒陷陣，所向無敵過著得勝的生活。

三. 應點亮上帝救恩的燈 賽62:1

賽62:1說：「我因錫安必不靜默，為耶路撒冷必不息聲，直到他的公義如光輝發出，他的救恩如明燈發亮。」在第六節上帝說：「耶路撒冷阿！我在你城上設立守望的，他們晝夜必不靜默。」守望的大概是指先知在等候傳訊者帶著好消息來，先知們也不必靜默。他們不靜默禱告上帝，直到這城得公義，就是城中的居民都是得救稱義的人。因此他們的公義和救恩必如明燈照耀。使世人能看到這城的榮耀。

同樣，今天我們這些屬上帝的子民應當體貼上帝愛世人的心意，以基督的心為心與祂同工努力傳福音救靈魂。點亮救恩的燈，使救恩如明燈照耀，榮耀主名！

四. 應點亮基督徒見證的燈 太5:14-16

太5:14-16說：「你們是世上的光，城造在山上是不能隱藏的。人點燈不放在斗底下，是放在燈台上，就照亮一家的人。你們的燈也當這樣照在人的面前，叫他們看見你們的好行為，便將榮耀歸給你們在天上的父。」主耶穌叫基督徒做世上的光，可是主耶穌也說：「我是世上的光，跟從我的就不在黑暗裡走，必要得著生命的光。」（約8:12）這二句話關係很密切，是說主耶穌是光的來源，而基督徒與主同行，就不能在黑暗裡走，而且必得著主耶穌生命之光反射祂的榮光來。基督徒的功用就是在生活中為主發光，好像月亮自己不會發光要反射日光一樣。

基督徒也好像一個城市建造在山上，高過四周圍的地方。而在晚上黑暗中，城中的燈光會照耀四方。那些在他們生命中彰顯出基督之教訓的基督徒，他們的光芒是不能隱藏的。很自然地，人不會將點亮的燈放在斗底下。意思是一定要放在燈台上才能照亮一家的人。主耶穌不是要我們將祂的教訓隱藏在自己裡面，而是要我們分享給他人。我們應該將我們的光就是生活的好見證為主來發光。使世人看到我們的好行為便將榮耀歸給我們在天上的父。





INTERACTING WITH GOD

By Melodie Mirth G. Ting

6

A man who imagines himself as one who holds the ultimate power, and who is in control of everything and every situation has to be kidding himself. Nature in all its beauty and complex wonders can even until now probe man's mind. The human body itself is so full of amazing details that man can never cease wondering how it came to be. Many scientists today have proposed so many ideas of how this and that came to be, but no matter how they try, there are always huge gaps of unexplained wonders. Many are blinded by scientific researches that they can not see the answer which is very simple and that is God.

God, who created all things, has many names. He is known as the Creator of heaven and earth, Good Teacher, Physician and the list goes on; but this seems a superficial level of knowing God. Many people don't exactly know God, or their knowledge of God is only from what they heard. They do not have a deep personal relationship with Him. John 4:24 states that "God is spirit and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." This was the goal of the college CYF when they started a small group study in the book of Ephesians. These sessions with a study guide called "Interacting with God in Ephesians" revealed so many truths about God, and ways and suggestions of interacting with Him. The book has written a clear and comprehensive guide to understanding the

book of Ephesians.

For the past few weeks, we have been learning about Paul, the background of the book, about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in detail. We are learning to know God better, understanding our hope, and even understanding the grace of God. These sessions gave light to certain truths that we had not been aware before. We also came to notice things that we had not appreciated before. These sessions made us look at the world with a new perspective; it made us realize little things that God had created for us that were invaluable. It made us see the incomparable power of God and His unconditional love. The most important was the lesson on being God's servant. For I am certain of God's grace and His saving power. We, like Paul, have learned to seek God's will and answer to his call in our life. Though we are still young, it is never too early to offer our lives to God. It may not be as dramatic as Paul's calling but God has His own way of calling us, and we have our own way of responding. We have indeed been richly blessed by learning God's Word and are privileged to be able to share it to others. To God be the glory!



TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

by Dr. Wanda Po Liam Giok



September 25, 2004 was a glorious day. This day will be forever etched in the history of the school as the day when we dedicated the five-storey High School & Administration Building - the Ung Han Liong & Yap Yok Sr. Building. This day also marked the completion of the campus master development plan started in 2001.

The campus was in a festive mood when the mistress of ceremonies, Mrs. Livian Garcia, called everyone to gather at the driveway leading to the new building for the ceremonial unveiling of the commemorative stone and ribbon cutting. As soon as this was over, the guests were invited to tour around the building. The senior citizens took the elevator while the young and robust took the flight of stairs up to the fifth floor where the chapel is located. As soon as most of the guests had gathered at the chapel, the dedication service began.

The mistress of ceremonies led the people in declaring God's faithfulness. With one voice, the people filled the chapel with their song, "Great is Thy Faithfulness." Surely, this was the common song in every heart that afternoon, especially after having seen the place. There was only one voice most fitting - the voice of peoples whose hearts were full of wonder and thanksgiving.

Let me back track a little. In the year 2001, the Board of Trustees approved the plan to rebuild the campus in three phases, giving it a total face-lift. Shortly after school opened in June, construction for a covered gymnasium also began. This structure was completed and dedicated in July 2002. Soon after this, the renovation of the Kindergarten Building built during the 70s was started. A second level was added to this building. We had no money; in

fact, we were already preparing to borrow. God graciously intervened. An envelope with a check inside was dropped into one of the offering bags during one Sunday Worship Service. The envelope had a typed-written note with the following words "Haggai 1:4." Someone hurriedly searched for a Bible and located the verse. It reads, "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?" Inspired by the verse, the brethren gave as God's Spirit led. The amount on the check was enough to cover the cost of the building! This building now named after the note, Haggai 1:4, was dedicated in February 2003. A common spirit of faith and fiery determination moved the Board of Trustees to push on and finish the campus master development plan.

There was little money when the Board of Trustees decided to move on with the construction of the 5-storey High School & Administration Building. But everyone was confident that God would provide. The budget for this project was P60M. Construction started shortly after the ground breaking in July. By the middle of October, the treasurer informed us that if no donations were coming in the next week or so, we would not have enough to pay the contractor in November. Around this time, we received pledges sufficient to cover about half of the total building cost. God's timing was just perfect. He moved more people to give and to give generously and cheerfully.

There is nothing that God cannot do when His people take the step of faith in obedience to His instructions. There is nothing to boast, nothing to pride ourselves with for any of these accomplishments. All things came to pass because of God's faithfulness.

And so God's people sang what their hearts wanted to cry out, "Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed Thy hand had provided, great

...continued on page 25



男女由相識，相知，相愛而攜手步入教堂，似乎是人生的三部曲。特別是初次墜入情網的青年人，遇到談得來且喜悅的異性，會一見傾心，急不待緩的要馬上結婚，雖然認識只是短暫，瞭解也是皮毛，憑一時的衝動來夢幻一幅美麗的憧憬，要去締結他們的愛巢。像初生的牛犢，不知天高地厚，以為有了愛情就可征服一切。有時兩情認識的膚淺，好像一個人從窗口跨進一間生疏的客廳，要窺視這幢住宅的情形。沒有想到這間經修飾的陳列，會錯覺使他認為其他部份或角落也是如此優美雅緻。沒有細察大部份是否破損和醜陋。情人們也有偽裝的面紗，一旦被揭開，也會暴露許多短處與弱點，甚至很多隱藏的怪癖或不可告人的事曝光。這一切和婚前諸多幻想寄望的地方不對徑，彼此互相傾慕的優點反而受低貶，失去光彩且成為反感的負面。譬如初戀時，女者看重男朋友的才華，英俊瀟灑，純正不阿諛，男者也因女友賢淑不慕虛榮，不重視金錢，身材苗條，美麗不華而顛仆。雙方都認定很幸運能在茫茫的人海中尋到不可多得的理想伴侶。可是在流光的衝擊，現實生活的震盪。清靜愛情的湖面也會被攪亂得渾濁，漂浮著許多污穢的渣滓，甚至多多少少埋藏的醜事。愛情就起了風浪，夫妻間開始有了不滿、猜測、齟齬及反目。彼此哀嘆盲妻匹配瞎夫，是陰差或是陽錯？當初不為金迷紙醉所動，現在變得錙銖必較，每月都計較丈夫給她的錢不夠花。她崇尚丈夫的才華，也不過是一個書獃子，沒有作為，有健美的體魄，也只是一團懶惰的笨肉。敦厚、清廉、不會拍馬屁，倒成為丈夫不賞受提升與增薪的絆腳石。過去受丈夫賞心的身段，現卻被嫌不夠美妙。一切美動聽的頌詞，一晃間變成厭惡的怨言。

有一對夫妻在鬥嘴，丈夫罵老婆：「你這麼漂亮，但也真愚蠢，」太太反駁：「是的，我是美麗，你才會向我追求，但我也愚蠢，才會錯嫁給你。」這對夫妻可稱半斤八兩。

當一個人不慎不詳細檢查，買錯了一間房屋，尚可平價或虧本轉賣給別人。但選錯了配偶，卻不能退回。因為人是有靈魂、有感情、也有感受。夫妻的結合有神的見證，雙方都有承諾、許願和責任。夫婦在家庭中應扮演的角色，聖經也有

這樣的記載：「（以弗所書5:22-29）你們作妻子的，當順服自己的丈夫如同順服主。因為丈夫是妻子的頭，如同基督是教會的頭。他又是教會全體的救主。教會怎樣順服基督，妻子也要怎樣凡事順服丈夫。你們作丈夫，要愛你們的妻子，正如基督愛教會，為教會捨己... 丈夫也當照樣愛妻子，如同愛自己的身子，愛妻子便是愛自己。從來沒有人恨惡自己的身子，總是保養顧惜，正像基督待教會一樣。」男女雙方的結合既然成為軀體的肢體，是心血相關的。心需要血的滋潤和供養，而血要有心的推動與運行。兩者密切的默契。存亡相關，必要互相維護，不該敵對排斥。

現在社會政壇與商界，許多女性出頭地，有的是政府高官，商賈大亨律師或強人，但是都不可將這些事業上或社會上處事的架子搬來做主婦治理家庭的模式。家庭主婦是平凡，生活也是平淡。男女熱戀時，不論是怎樣甜蜜與濃烈，新婚何等興奮燦爛歡騰，高潮也會有退潮，且趨於平淡。粉飾美化家庭經大浪風濤沖擊後，隨著浪聲消失，只留下零星泡沫。

儘管社會潮流趨向男女平等，女權擡升，已婚的女性回到家裡還是個平凡的主婦，有應盡的責任和本份等待著她。下班回到家裡是丈夫最需要妻子的時刻，他整天的勞累受怨，困乏極需要和渴望有人給他安慰與調濟，嬖寵聆聽他滿懷的苦悶，使他振奮和重新得力。妻子要記住昔日油頭粉面，西裝革履和你攜手，締結婚約的瀟灑英俊男人是你的丈夫，現在穿著不講究，甚至洗腳不換襪子的老公，還是你的丈夫。因你嫁的是他的人，不是他的衣冠。

有位菲女傳道人說，有一對夫婦，女的是一間銀行的經理，男是一工廠的職員，女的工作輕鬆，入息豐富，每天比較早下班。回家後無所事事，便邀友人打麻雀，日久竟上癮。夫婿回家，沒有理會及侍候，也沒有人關照。如選購些點心、端杯咖啡、準備浴巾拖鞋睡衣使他沖涼解悶。這些瑣事都交托女



... 請看第25頁

Preach the Word, Save the World

by Rev. David Cheung



*Messages from Missions Week (18-19 September 2004), Cebu Gospel Church
An exposition of Romans 1:14-17*

Romans 1:14-17. In this passage, Paul writes, I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Sense of debt

Looking at this passage from a missionary perspective, we note first of all that Paul reveals his sense of debt. He confesses, "I am obligated..."

I recall when we were in college, courses were (they still are) divided into two kinds. There were those that you had to take whether you liked them or not. These were the required subjects. The most disliked courses on campus normally fall within this category. Then there were the electives or subjects which you might choose to take or not. When it comes to electives, most of us were picking the "easy" courses. Students do this for two reasons. The first is, you do not have to study a great deal. Just take it lightly since you do not need to work too hard in order to pass the course. The second is, you can opt to work hard, get a high mark and in so doing pull your semestral average up by some points.

The Bible says that preaching the Gospel is not an elective subject. It is not like you choosing either to sing in the choir or to share the Gospel. Or either you become a fellowship officer or you share the Gospel. Or either you sit on the Mission Board or you share the Gospel.

Preaching the Gospel is a matter of command and duty. As a command, it is issued by Christ. As duty, it is our part to do it. You do not choose. Neither can you reject it. It

is given. It is not optional. It is something you must do. So even if you choose to serve in the choir, this does not free you from your Gospel duty. You are still obliged to share the Gospel. Likewise if you choose to serve as a fellowship officer, you are still under obligation to share the Gospel. Again, if you choose to serve on the Mission Board, you are still obliged to share the Gospel.

This is why Paul feels a strong sense of debt when it comes to preaching the Gospel. He feels (rightly) that there is always something to be done. Not that he has done nothing at all. In fact, after he came to Christ, he has practically given his whole life to the Gospel ministry. Yes, he has done much; but he has not finished. So long as his life remains, he feels he is in debt.

Not only is Paul in debt, he feels indebted "both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish." In saying so, Paul is not trying to sound poetic or cute. Rather he is trying to communicate an important point: I am obligated to *all* people. To paraphrase, Paul owes the Gospel to those of his race and those of other races, to those who share his culture and those of other cultures, to those who are educated and those who are uneducated. His emphasis is clear: **I owe everybody the Gospel.**

Similarly we are obligated to share the Gospel with our friends and relatives. And acquaintances. And strangers. Yes, even to those who regard us as their enemies.

Not long ago I was conversing with a missionary who, after visiting his country in the West, had just returned to Asia. During his time at home, he was discussing with some





Westerners about the September 11 incident in New York City. He told me he and his friends at home had very different attitudes toward those believed to be responsible for the attack. The missionary said, "We should pray for them." The friends said, "We should bomb them!"

I suppose you have no difficulty identifying which reaction is closer to the teachings of the Lord Jesus. The point is, if you think of them as your personal enemies, you cannot think of evangelizing them. This is why Jesus says, "Love your enemies." Yes, we are obligated to preach the Gospel even to our enemies.

How does a sense of debt relate to our Gospel duty? To answer this, maybe we can consider another question, namely: Do you sleep well when you owe money to someone? Some do not because of the awareness that they have promised to pay but have not paid. In contrast, there are some debtors who sleep well. Actually, not just well, but very well. They seem care-free about passing the payment day or about the duty to pay at all. While they sleep soundly, it is the lender who cannot sleep.

This is the difference between those who have a sense of debt and those who do not. If a Christian does not know a sense of debt, chances are he will soon lose his sense of duty as well. A sense of debt is valuable for us, because we are God's people, entrusted with the Gospel message. **We must maintain a sense of debt as we pursue our Gospel work.**

Sense of urgency

In verse 15, Paul says, "That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome." Why does Paul want to go to Rome? To preach the Gospel. Preach to whom? Those who are in Rome. What kind of Christians are they who are in Rome? Verse 8 says, "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for *all of you*, because your faith is being *reported all over the world*" (italics added). In other words, the believers in Rome are doing

quite well in their Christian life.

So why does Paul want to preach the Gospel at Rome though the Christians there are doing quite well? Is it not obvious that the Christians at Rome do not *desperately* need Paul to go and minister to them? Why does Paul not simply choose other needier places to go to?

Because Paul not only has a sense of debt toward those in Rome, he also has a sense of urgency. He says, "I am *so eager* to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome" (italics added). Actually Paul's desire to go preach in Rome is not a new idea which has just occurred to him. In verse 13, we are told, "I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now)..."

Although he has failed repeatedly in these plans, he never gave up the eagerness. He will try again. The sense of urgency is unmistakable.



What is the difference between the sense of obligation and the sense of urgency? To put it simply, the sense of obligation tells me, I must do it. The sense of urgency insists, I must do it NOW. One is about duty, the other is about time.

How much has been lost due to the lack of urgency? Ask the stroke patient on the hospital bed who procrastinated taking his blood and heart tests on the recommended dates. Ask the young doctor who delayed coming to the emergency room because he got caught up with the final minutes of a televised basketball game at the canteen while a little girl's body laid waiting in her own dying minutes.

In evangelism and missions, we must always maintain a sense of both obligation and urgency. The work of the Gospel is about life and death. It is about time. It is about the years of a lifetime. Sometimes it is about weeks, or days, or hours, or minutes depending on the remainder of time from the appointed moment of bodily death. Let us feel the debt and also the urgency.

...continued on page 23

審慎考查是非

鴿兒



在這紛繁複雜的人倫之間，有幾許人能夠共同相處，過著親善和諧並安樂的生活呢？有些人因為相處時間日久，偶然間為了一些細故引起誤會，而雙方當事人未曾省察任憑意氣鬧事，欲把事端擴大，讓眾人同情某一方當事人的受屈。

有一則故事(三人成虎)：記載三國時代，魏國的太子要到趙國去作人質，魏國派大巨龐蔥同行。龐蔥想到離國遠去，不知何時能夠歸回自己的國家，處在這段時間裡，將會有人在魏王面前，暗中挑撥是非，或者因此而得罪魏王。在他臨行之前，便對魏王說：「如果有人來說大街上出現一隻老虎，大王會相信嗎？」

魏王說：「當然不會相信。」

龐蔥說：「如果接著第二個人來說呢？」

魏王說：「我還是不大相信。」

龐蔥又說：「如果又有第三個人來說呢？」

魏王說：「三個人都這樣說，那我就不得不相信了。」

龐蔥問完了話，接著又說：「大街不可能有老虎出現，這是很明顯的事實，可是經過三個人異口同聲的說有老虎出現，就叫人不得不信。足見傳訛的人多了，謠言真是多麼可怕的。現今我到趙國去，趙國的都城邯鄲離魏國的都城大梁，比這裡的大街離得更遠，但議論我的人恐怕不止三個人，希望大王能夠明察才好。」

魏王說：「一切我都明白了，你盡管放心去吧。」

龐蔥陪著太子到了趙國，惡意毀謗和無事生非的人，群起在魏王面前議論龐蔥。起先魏王還不相信，可是禁不住謠言越來越多了，魏王不由得不受影響，而對龐蔥的信心動搖了。當魏太子質押期滿，龐蔥陪著太子安然返國，可是魏王誤信謠言，對龐蔥已不再信任了。

這個故事證明古今往來的人們，以虛假的話語編造事實來陷害人家，因附和的人多了，也會令人信以為真的。詩人大衛說：「你們大家攻擊一人，把他毀壞，如同毀壞歪斜的牆、將倒的壁，要到幾時呢？」詩62:3。

約翰福音八章三節至十一節記載：

「文士和法利賽人，帶著一個行淫時被拿的婦人來，叫她站在當中，就對耶穌說：『夫子，這婦人是正行淫時被拿的，摩西在律法上吩咐我們，把這樣的婦人用石頭打死，禰說該把她怎麼辦呢...』他們還是不住地問祂。耶穌就直起腰來，對他們說：『你們中間誰是沒有罪的，就可以先拿石頭打她。』於是又彎著腰用指頭在地上畫字。他們聽見這話，就從老到少一個一個的都出去了。只剩下耶穌，還有那婦人仍然站在當中。耶穌就直起腰來，對她說：『婦人，那些人在那裡呢？沒有人定你的罪麼？』她說：『主阿！沒有。』耶穌說：『我也不定你的罪。去罷，從此不要再犯罪了。』」

在上面經文裡使我們領會到，文士與法利賽人仍是沉迷在分別善惡的律法。凡人們若沉迷於分別善惡，都是看別人的錯，定別人的罪。

唯獨主耶穌是道成肉身，祂滿有恩典、有真理。祂有赦免的權柄，有慈愛憐憫的挽回，使一切在罪犯中的人，藉著祂

的寶血和生命的光挽回而重新做人。箴言十四章十五節：「愚蒙人是話都信，而通達人步步謹慎。」

記得有一則故事：有信主的兄弟兩人，各人得到祖父分給的產業，且各已分居。但兩兄弟的胸懷上都有抱怨產業分配不夠公平，因而彼此間伺機掀風播浪來互相挑釁。

教會牧師得知他們兄弟經常為了祖父產業爭吵不休，便親自前往探詢原委。正巧他們兩兄弟在鬥嘴，險些將要動武。牧師即時勸解他們，並以慎誠的態度查問他們的爭端。做哥哥的說出一套理由，做弟弟的也道出一番受屈的理由。弄得牧師滿頭霧水，不知如何處理這件糾紛。但唯一的辦法，只有叫他們跪在神面前朗誦主禱文。當他們念到「...免我們的債，如同我們免了人的債，不叫我們遇見試探，救我脫離兇惡...」這時聖靈光照他們同時悔悟，不該有如此私心，做出有辱主名的行為。兩兄弟同時淚珠逐漸地從他們的眼眶中流出來，

...請看第24頁





Shades Of Christmas

By: Mona Li



A decade ago, I rewrote a composition entitled "Shades of Christmas" for our church's Gospel Quarterly. As we are now preparing for the publication of CGC's winter issue and only a page is needed to be filled before it goes to the printer, I thought perhaps rewriting "Shades of Christmas" yet again is befitting, not to mention time-saving as well. Somehow this article has a special place in my heart as it signifies the beginning of my involvement with the literature committee of Cebu Gospel Church.

The hues of Christmas are viewed differently as time goes by in a person's life. As a child, I saw Christmas through the rose-colored eyes of a child. Now I am looking through a bifocal lens of an adult. A person's perception of Christmas may change with time, but, TRUTH stands forever. Christmas is still the best time of the year. Why? Let us go through the spectrum of the yuletide season.

RED - stands for happiness. It is the time of the year when love, peace and kindness abound. For the young ones, Christmas means toys, gifts and candies. Children are in their best behavior lest Santa Claus excludes their names from his list. For the youth, it means endless parties and jamming and a welcome break from tedious school works and assignments. For the young ONCE, Christmas becomes more joyous simply because we now give instead of receive. Acts 20:35 states, "It is more blessed to give than to receive". Truly, Christmas is a season of joy and celebration because it brings out the best in all of us.

GREEN - stands for hope and all things that are new. When I was young, Christmas meant new shoes, new toys and new clothes (no hand-me-downs

at this time of the year). Christmas means new dreams to fulfill, new heights to reach, new goals to set and new challenges to meet. Truly, Christmas is a season of new beginnings.

GRAY - stands for peace and nostalgia. Our calendar is full of parties and of reunions during yuletide season. What better time to set aside differences and spread love and goodwill to all. Truly, Christmas is a season of forgiveness and kindness.

BLUE is a new shade of Christmas I have added to my spectrum. In the past two weeks, we saw 3 big typhoons wrecking havoc to lives and to properties in Luzon province. Indeed, it is a sad and blue Christmas for thousands of people out there.

What better time to show compassion and kinship to fellowmen by giving whatever we can to our needy brethren. Christmas might be a season to grieve for these suffering people, but thank God not all is lost as we go to the most important shade of all....

GOLD stand for the glory of God. One Christmas eve

two thousand years ago, God sent His only Son Jesus on earth to become man. His birth brought forth hope to all mankind. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Jesus paid our sins in full by dying on the cross for us and whoever believeth in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. This is the greatest gift of God to mankind. Let us therefore reach out and receive with thanksgiving the gift of salvation. Let us spread and share the good news about Jesus, our Savior, to everybody. Furthermore, may the spirit of Christmas be with us all not only during yuletide season but the whole year through. Have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.



The Greatest Gift of All



An Adult's Journey With God

By Reverend Anna Chang Wright



Next January, I shall reach the fabulous age of fifty or "half-a-century". While society relentlessly peddles the ideals of youth and beauty, I consider it a blessing each time I reach my birthday and a year is added to my age. There is no more sobering appreciation of life than a close look at death; fourteen years ago, my own husband Paul died of a brain tumour at 39 years of age. I thank God for the wrinkles that each chronological year adds to my face because it means that I have had one year's irrepressible worth of life with my sons, Alexander and Christopher.

When I was a child, I longed to be an adult. Growing up in a Chinese household with high academic expectations, I often got punished for not getting "perfect scores". I often wished I could shake off the mantle of narrow, excessive industriousness. In the university, my classmate saw me as a loner who frequented the library only. My emotional and social development was stunted. Over time, my habit of aiming for "excellence" became a familiar yet an inconsolable master. Graduating from university with a "summa cum laude" did little to assuage my need for achievement and indeed for assurance. Although I was outwardly competent in my job as statistics consultant in USC and later, as a documentation member in a software company in UK, I was constantly filled with a sense of inadequacy. I noticed that, when my own sons started school, I had the same unrealistic and narrow expectations of their excelling academically at all costs, including the diminution of their sense of self-worth. They had to be "perfect". When the Bible mentions the sins of fathers visiting upon their children and their children's children, I believe that such transmission is mediated through the flawed upbringing that is perpetuated throughout the family's history. As they say, a child that grows up with constant criticism becomes a relentless critic himself.

As adults, we have the duty to reflect deeply on how we bring up our children and grandchildren, and the values we inculcate in them. There is no better value than the simple reality of our own inner worth. To be loved is the most amazing thing that we can receive in life; and to be loved for no other reason than our **being** is something miraculous, something divine. After all, He loved us while we were still sinners. And though He created us a little lower than angels, He crowned us with glory and honor. Only by personally experiencing the life of a beloved can we share the same astonishing, gracious reality with others, including our own

progeny.

This brings us to the crucial role of our theological understanding of God, his love and his action in human history. People often remark on the blood curdling narratives in the Old Testament, attesting to a God who seems not only fickle but also vengeful and full of wrath. Yet the most oft-repeated texts by which God describes Himself can be found in Exodus 34:6 "The Lord, the Lord, a compassionate and merciful God, patient, always faithful and ready to forgive..." Whenever the Israelites encountered deep struggles and suffering (e.g. exile to Babylon, slavery), they believed they were being punished by God. All these self-recriminations and cursing/killings of their enemies cannot obscure the over-riding sense of God's graciousness and faithfulness, if we read the **whole** of the OT. Through the quagmire of the Israelites' troubled history, we catch glimpses of God's wide mercy and love. Consider the book of Jonah. Here we see God ordering a Hebrew to preach salvation to the people of Nineveh, Assyria (part of the modern Iraq). God did not care for the "chosen" Jews only but also the Ninevites who "couldn't tell their right hand from their left", including their animals (Jonah 4:10-11) We see God's positive regard and care for His **entire** creation.

Look again at the enduring story of Job. In God's eyes, it was not Job's fault that he suffered innumerable setbacks in life. Indeed, it was not God who tested Job, but Satan!

Suffering should not be taken as God's particular way of testing our faith; a good and faithful God is not that picky, manipulative or distrustful of his beloved creatures. Suffering derives mostly from natural disasters or our own individual and corporate acts of indifference, injustice or cruelty. Jesus came to the world to share in the suffering that human beings endure in this particular earth that His Father created. He came, as it were, to assure us that, beyond this gravitational vale of tears, sorrows and certain physical death, there is a new earth and heaven that awaits us all. His death on the cross is His unique way of identifying himself with our suffering and mortality. His resurrection proclaims the new life that His Father desires for us all. God is always on our side, **if we only believe in it**. This is why I believe we should look more on the triumphant gospel of Christ's life and resurrection than on our failures and propensity for sin. If there is anyone who should be bounding with joy, then it should be those who truly believe in God's astonishing gift of resurrected life in Christ.

...continued on page 24





基督徒長進的方向

許郭錦繡

14

經文：歌羅西二章一至七節

「你們既然接受了主基督耶穌，就當遵守他而行，在他裡面生根建造信心堅固，正如你所領的教訓，感謝的心也更增長了。」

當我們接受主以後神對我們有甚麼要求呢？就是要遵祂而行。「遵」及「行」都是動詞。「遵」就是遵守。「行」就是要有行動。「行」和「停」是一個相反的比例。如果我們在停，就是不行動。如果我們在行，就必定不在停頓。主要是每一位信徒繼續一直在行。因為他希望我們會長大成熟，不是仍舊停頓為一個吃奶的嬰孩。

「停」有甚麼危險呢？這好比我們把腳踏在海上的沙灘上，我們如果停留在原處，腳下的沙慢慢的被海水沖下去，以致我們所踏的地方一直的沉下去。「行」有甚麼好處呢？它讓我們向前而奔，絕對不會沉下去的。

主要是我們遵祂而行。在歌羅西二章七節用四個方法，四個動詞來教示我們可得到屬靈的長進：

(一) 生根(向下)

根是植物生命的基礎，當一棵樹向下紮根時，它就不容易被風吹倒，根越深，樹就越堅固。同樣的，我們也需要向下生根，以基督做我們的根，使我們從他得到能力，不受任何異端邪說或虛談而搖動。

(二) 建造(向上)

當我們建造房屋時，開始堅定了地基，然後日日慢慢的建築起來，最後就成為高大的房樓。基督既然是我們的根基，我們生活的行為也要像建築房屋，日日有進步，使人會看到所結聖靈的果子。在我們行事為人都要高舉基督，使人得到幫助。

(三) 信心堅固(向內)

堅固的房屋需要有剛硬柱石的支持，柱石是由鋼鐵和水泥混合而成的。同樣的，信心堅固也需要以神的話語密切的交談才可得到的。所以讀經和禱告是每一信徒所免不了的。

(四) 感謝的心(向外)

一個有生命的基督徒，他感謝的心似河流一般，一直的向外而流，他無論處在任何的環境中，遭遇到多大的試探，他總是仍然發出讚美與感恩的心來見證主的大愛。因他知道一切都在上帝的掌握中，所以用感謝的心來接受順服天父的旨意。

希望我們竭力追求屬靈的長進。凡事遵他而行，向下生根，向上建造，向內信心堅固，向外發出感謝的心來滿足主的心意。



忘記背後，努力面前…

王郭筱穎師母



二零零四年一分一秒的過去，商店佈滿了聖誕的裝飾品，到處都可聽到聖誕的歌聲。但這位聖誕節的主角“主耶穌基督”在我們心中的地位卻是如何？是否就如一件被陳列在櫥窗裡或掛在聖誕樹上的裝飾品而已？讓我們好好的檢討一下我們這一年與主的關係，我們是否如以下所說的：

你們稱我為主啊的，卻不聽從我。
 你們稱我為光明的，卻不看見我。
 你們稱我為道路的，卻不遵行我。
 你們稱我為生命的，卻不渴望我。
 你們稱我為智慧的，卻不跟從我。
 你們稱我為正直的，卻不喜悅我。
 你們稱我為富有的，卻不求告我。
 你們稱我為永恆的，卻不想到我。
 你們稱我為尊貴的，卻不服事我。
 你們稱我為全能者，卻不尊崇我。
 你們稱我為公正的，卻不敬畏我。

從經上我們可以看到當主耶穌基督在世時，有幾等人與祂扯上關係：

一. 眾人(multitude)→這等人是旁觀者，常常是遠遠的跟隨主，他們對主所行的神蹟最感興趣。

二. 一百二十人在樓房聚集
 →這些人受感動與主更親密，他們與主耶穌基督的受難有份。

三. 十二個使徒
 (後來十一個)

→這等人是主基督親身所教導的，從“主的僕人”成為“主的朋友”。約15:15:「以後我不再稱你們為僕人，因僕人不知道主人

所做的事，我稱你們為朋友，因我從我父所聽見的，已經都告訴你們了。」

四. 在眾使徒中有幾位與主更親密的(inner circle)，那就是彼得，雅各，約翰→他們享受與主最親密的團契，也是主最信賴期望的人。

彼得→成為初期教會一個很重要的人物，放膽傳主的道，行了許多神蹟奇事

雅各→使徒中一個殉道者(徒12:1-2)

約翰→與主最親密的一個使徒，聖經形容說“他靠在主胸膛”(約21:20)

親愛的兄弟姐妹，就是現今我們每個人與主親密的程度也有所不同，可能我們到教會或團契只是觀察性質，如眾人遠遠的跟隨主，觀看主的作為，或是受到激勵，如在樓房的那一百二十人，或如十二個門徒，從主的僕人成為主的朋友，或是更進一步的成為主的密友。

我們常忙於教會活動，但私底下卻與主並非那麼親密，要與主有一個親密的關係，必須多花費時間勤讀聖經，多與主交通，才能知道神對我們一生的旨意。

二零零四年就將要過去，但願我們能如使徒保羅所說的：「忘記背後，努力面前，向著標竿直跑，要得神在基督耶穌裡從上面召我來得的獎賞。」腓3:13-14. 唯望新的二零零五整年為我們大家靈裡豐收的一年！加油吧！◎





Remembering My Beloved Mother

by Helen Tian

16

I keep on forgetting how swiftly one month slips into another until suddenly it is almost a year since my mom passed away (went home to be with the Lord.) Time flies. It seems only yesterday when I was with Mom.

If asked to describe my mom, I would use five words: patient, religious, generous, lively & lovely. She had her own weaknesses, of course. Yet, I have always been very proud of her.

Having grown up in a poor family (my father passed away when I was still very small), I have one religious brother, two wonderful sisters and I am the youngest. Mom was only a teacher. She raised us in hardship that made us value life. Above all, she showed us her deepest love and concern with her unselfish sacrifices and made us what we are now. My mom, my brother, my two sisters and I grew very close with one another.

My mom always maintained a simple lifestyle, including the food she ate. Her favorite dish was fish and vegetable. She loved to sing, dance, play the piano, and travel. Mom and I traveled a lot. The times we spent together were the sweetest I can remember...

The reasons for the healthy image I have of her and the respect I have for Mom are many. I always looked up to her. She was a mom I could depend on. I am glad that when she was still alive, I was able to show my love to serve her in the best possible way I could. Being there for my mom was the best gift I could give. No amount of material things could substitute for that. I can still remember what she used to teach me such as patience, love of God, rejoicing always. She was a mom who loved me despite my shortcomings.

I probably would not have known my Heavenly Father, had I not grown up with a loving and religious mom. For me, my mother was (and is) the greatest mom in this whole wide world.



Missionary Opportunities for CGC Today

by Rev. David Cheung

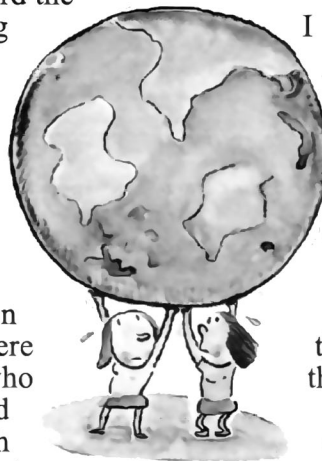


(1) The first missionary opportunity (well, actually duty) is your household and work place. Paul says, "first for the Jew..." This is to say that salvation came first to Abraham, and then to Abraham's household (the Israelite or Jewish nation). To relate this to ourselves, salvation has come to you. Therefore let it proceed to those of your household. This includes your parents, wife/husband, children and relatives. And also, the non-biologically related members of your household, namely: your housemaid and driver. And also those of your work place, namely: your employee or employer, your business partner or work colleague. Have you done your duty to these people who live with or work close to you?

(2) The second missionary opportunity is for CGC to increase its support toward the ministry of pastoral training among Filipino church workers. In 1970, there were less than 6,000 Protestant churches in the Philippines. Today there are more than 50,000 of them. Praise God indeed! Yet this growth means that we need at least 44,000 more pastors. Of course, many have been trained in the last three decades. But still there are many in the rural regions who were made 'pastors' by the blessed circumstances of church birth although personally they remain formally untrained. Graduates of prestigious local seminaries (like Asian Theological Seminary and others) often find themselves becoming teachers at Bible schools and other settings, training pastors who did not have solid Biblical education. The challenge is for CGC to respond to this great need for pastoral training in the Philippine churches by investing more in theological training ministry.

(3) Another missionary need is to help Filipino Christians in the area of financial

stewardship. When I was in Mindanao some years ago, I learned of a church of 200-plus people whose average Sunday offering amounted to twenty (20) pesos! That was the average, not just on one abnormal Sunday. Obviously it was not simply a matter of poverty. If each member gave only one peso, there would be 200 pesos in total. And then there was the Filipino pastor who was a missionary in one of our Manila churches. He could not devote all his time to the Gospel work because he also worked as a tricycle-driver to meet his family needs. Now I wonder, would he still have to do that if his church people learned to manage their money well and practice faithful tithing? Often it is not that Christians do not want to give to the Lord's work. Rather it is that the money has been expended before Sunday comes.



I think CGC have the God-given expertise to hold Christian Financial Stewardship seminars. If God's people are taught the lessons of disciplined spending and wise saving, the ministry will reap rewards. There are many people in CGC who are more than capable of producing the materials for the seminar. And there are also many who can speak English or Bisaya fluently to deliver the lectures orally. Why not begin with the congregations of your church-planting missionaries? The sooner they learn to be good stewards, the sooner they will experience the joy of supporting their own pastors and their own church work.

(4) Our theme this year is "Preach the Word, Save the World". So how can we overlook the largest mission field in the world China? Today China is modernizing in turbo mode. Because of this, China welcomes all sorts of experts, technicians, professionals, consultants, so on. The advantage of CGC is



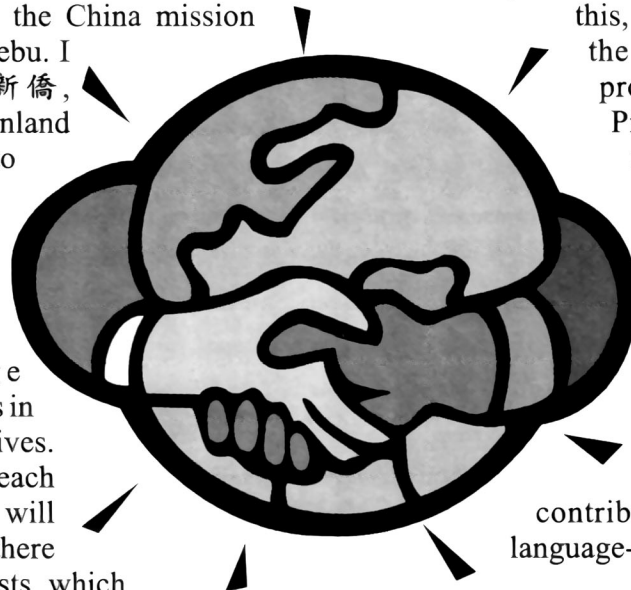
that there are many members who can qualify for work in China. Whether as teachers of the English language, or doctors and medical specialists, or engineers, or business consultants, or accountants, ...the list is endless. With the boom in international trade, Chinese companies are in great need of oversea Chinese who can speak both Chinese and English. Already two of our young ladies in Manila both in their 20s are working in Amoy-speaking Quanzhou (Choanchiu, near Xiamen) and Mandarin-speaking Shanghai. I hope the Lord will choose someone from CGC to go to China as a professional and as a one-to-one evangelist-discipler.

(5) Finally, there is the China mission field right here in Cebu. I refer to the *xinjiao* 新僑, or those from mainland China who came to RP after 1980. They may be grouped as follows: (a) business people, (b) college students, (c) pre-college students, (d) teachers in schools, (e) housewives. Obviously the outreach to each sub-group will vary greatly. Yet there are common interests which can attract all. I remember once when the United Evangelical Church of Pasay threw a mid-autumn 中秋 party at Kenny Rogers restaurant on Roxas Boulevard. The whole second floor was booked and the *xinjiao* merchants at Baclaran were invited to a free dinner, games and an evangelistic song-talk (that is where you integrate the sermon and the songs so they come out as one unified

message). Such festival evangelism is really not difficult to do and quite effective at drawing attendance, too.

I think there are many people in CGC who can participate in *xinjiao* outreach. CGC can do festival evangelism once a year. Or per quarter - during Chinese new year, Duanwu 端午, mid-autumn 中秋 and Christmas. The Men's and Women's Fellowships can do friendship evangelism. The Young Professionals' Fellowship can produce flyers and posters utilizing their computer skills (and reviewing their Chinese, too). And the CGC student population can promote the events among their classmates. Aside from

this, CGC can follow up the festival event by providing English or Pilipino tutorial classes for *xinjiao* students after school hours for housewives and college students. With their excellent grasp of the English language, CGC young people can contribute a lot to such language-teaching ministries.



Conclusion

To end, may I say, **first of all**, that it is always a joy to fellowship with old friends here in Cebu Gospel Church. But **most of all**, I hope that all of you will *strive* - not just *work*, but *strive* - that all of you will strive to fulfill your part in the Gospel ministry of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ - our beloved Great Commissioner.

SPIRITUAL PROGRAM OF PCGS: TESTIMONY & CHALLENGE

Mr. Stephen Si, School Chaplain



One of my life's turning points was when I came to know the Lord through the ministry of Philippine Christian Gospel School, known then as Cebu Christian School. I had a godly teacher when I was in Grade Two. She taught Bible and explained the gospel clearly to us. When she gave an invitation to those who would want to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, I raised my hand. It was a sincere commitment I made to the Lord because from then on, the Lord began to work in my life. The school worked like a partner with the local church in nurturing me spiritually. One of the significant spiritual programs of the school was the annual spiritual emphasis. It was there that my heart for mission and the desire to serve the Lord in full time ministry was developed.

Today, the school stands high with its beautiful and impressive buildings and facilities. But it is the Biblical emphasis in its program and curriculum that separates it from other schools. Intrinsic to its curriculum is the Bible class. The Bible class introduces students to the Bible's heroes of faith. It inspires students to commit to a life of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Practical life application from a biblical perspective is emphasized. The high school Bible classes start with a devotional reading from "Our Daily Bread." Done regularly, the readings give



opportunity for students to get in touch with God's Word and to apply Bible truths to basic issues in life.

Chapel services are held weekly for all students at all levels. Speakers are invited to encourage students to grow

spiritually and to encourage them to live for Christ. Much prayer is needed for the students that they will respond to God's word as it is being shared with them.

The high school spiritual program has a unique class called the "ministry class." This class is the other part of the Bible class in which students get to learn practical creative skills to be able to get involved during chapel services. From being just spectators, students are encouraged to participate in the chapel service through creative ways such as drama & mime, choir, the worship band and even dance.

Each year, the school holds a "Christ Emphasis Week." During this week, there is a focus on a special theme. This year, it was held on the last week of November. A team from the United States sponsored by the EFCA International Mission spoke on Forgiveness and Meekness. They also conducted Character Training Seminar for the faculty.

Another highlight in the yearly spiritual program of the school is the Daily Vacation Bible School (DVBS) sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Cebu Gospel Church, which started about 3 years ago. A lot of students, especially from the lower levels, look forward to it. But due to the tight schedule this year, it is put off till next school year.

Graduating students are privileged to attend a spiritual retreat before the closing of school in March. This year both Grade 6 and Fourth Year students will be out for a 2 to 3-day retreat. It will give these students an opportunity just to take time off from school and family to be with their friends. And most especially, they will have a special time focused on making a commitment to the Lord before they leave the school.

Spiritual counseling is given not only to

...continued on page 24





Sunday School Report 2004

by Jdg. Jocelyn G. Uy-Po, cpa

MISSION

To lead all Sunday School students to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ in simple, clear and convincing manner that each student may receive salvation.

VISION

The Word of God, like seed sown in their hearts, will prepare these Sunday School students to live a life of faith and service all the days of their lives.

PROGRAMS

- Nursery/Pre-school Class
(8 months - 3 years old)
- Kinder 1 (3-4 years old)
- Kinder 2 (4-5 years old)
- Grades 1 up to 6
- High School 1 up to 4

- College English Class which is preparatory to the adult Bible study
- Adult Bible Study (English and Chinese)
- Yaya Bible Study

Total number of Sunday School students is 210.

We collect weekly tithe and offering as part of a child's training to give back portion of their bounty to the Lord which we hand in annually to the church coffer.

Presently, there are 30 teachers in the Sunday School and each handles various tasks. Some do the song leading, collect tithes and offerings, do arts and crafts, lead in Bible study, make presentations, involve in missions, and handle Daily Vacation Bible School (next year we plan to conduct two DVBS - one at PCGS and another one here in our church). These are the things being taught in Sunday School and volunteers are therefore badly needed. Our principal, Miss Jenny Ting, runs the Sunday School efficiently with the help of her officers. Since she is very democratic, we can all help in deciding what is best for Sunday School. Whenever we encounter problems in doctrine, we discuss them openly after class always using the Bible as our basis. It is a privilege to have

Josephine Yu, Philip Uy and others in our staff as they take time out to study the word of God in Bible Schools. In fact, Josephine Yu authored a book entitled "Methods of Teaching" which is out for sale for P100.00, all proceeds of which go to Philippine Christian Gospel School. This is truly one ministry that encourages teachers to study the word of God better to enable them to teach this fast growing and changing population.

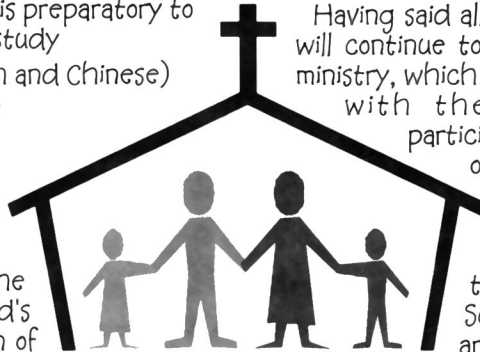
The Sunday School is indeed a very important ministry because here we MOLD SOULS FOR ETERNITY. Moreover, herein will arise future generation of this church. It also determines the kind of leadership we will have in the future. After all, it is here that they are now molded and trained. Therefore, the Sunday school will, in one way or the other, determine WHAT THIS CHURCH WILL BECOME. I know, I am a product of our very own Sunday School and so are most of our church council and of course you.

Having said all these, I hope our brethrens will continue to support this very important ministry, which is JUST WITHIN OUR MIDST, with their prayers and active participation. Continue to pray for

our Sunday School teachers that God will grant us good health and remove the cloud of disappointments that often beset us. Sunday School teachers are the first to arrive every Sunday morning, oftentimes taking very light

breakfast or even skipping it altogether as it is really difficult to teach and sing with full stomach. I hope our church council will continue to recognize the importance of this ministry. We are dealing with our very own children here, their salvation, their lives and their future as well as ours. Hopefully by next year, teachers will have more seminars, retreats and trainings.

To those of you who are interested to serve the Lord in this ministry, kindly feel free to approach any of us and we will welcome you with open arms. To those of you who have the heart to serve but are not equipped to do the job, we are willing to train you. To those of you who are contemplating on serving this ministry, you can best prepare yourselves by reading your Bibles thoroughly and repeatedly, as well as other Christian books. GOD BLESS.



The Worship Hallelaloo

Angel Beth U. Oh



One of the most hotly debated issues in churches today is the kind of music used for worship. Generations ahead of "us" prefer singing hymns in worship. While we, the so-called "X and Y generations", are more comfortable with the contemporary praise and worship songs. We come together on Sundays to worship through songs and praises, but with what kind of music? We see a very diverse congregation in our church or what may seem to be "generation gap". Is it possible to resolve such difference?

Let's first take a quick review of what worship is. The word itself is fascinating enough to write an article about (but that would be another story). However, we must briefly define "worship" to help us solve our dilemma. It is a shortened English version of the old Anglo-Saxon word *weorthscipe* which, transliterated "worth-ship", simply means "worthiness". To worship someone means to recognize and to declare that person's worth.



But to worship God pushes "worth-ship" to its ultimate limits, for true Christian worship calls us to declare the absolute worthiness of God and the relative worthiness of everyone and everything else. This indicates what God expects of us in Christian worship: to exalt the Living God with all that we have and all that we are.

I once heard a teenager comment how she can't relate to the rhythm and melody of hymns. Her companion agreed with

her and quickly added that "we should stick with praise and worship songs during the beginning of the service because we sing hymns during our closing song anyway."

I agree with her that sometimes I just can't seem to appreciate the melody of hymns. If we like the melody of the song, we immediately conclude that it's "good". However, we (the youth) often have the misconception of what "good music" means. "Good music" is more than just the melody; it's also about how we can relate to the words. When we read or listen to the lyrics of the hymns intently, there's so much depth and passion in these songs. Some words just pierce my very soul; as if the writer really knew what I was thinking or feeling at that time. Don't get me wrong, I don't mean to say that singing hymns is the sole and final answer.

I find some praise and worship songs monotonous and repetitious. Sometimes I feel that these songs are a form of chanting, repeating the same words and melody over and over and over again. True, some praise and worship songs are more melodious. (Generations ahead of us may not be able to relate to these kinds of songs, with reasons much like ours.)

As Christians, our ultimate goal is to give God all our praises and adoration. I suppose our church has reached a good compromise of alternating praise and worship singing with hymn singing. There's really no point of arguing as to which style is more appropriate. God doesn't mind what types of songs are sung as long as our purpose of singing is worship. It's all that matters.





DYFR-FM II - THE NEW DYFR FM

by Rev. Robert Yu

Psalm 37:4-5, 7, "DELIGHT yourself in the LORD, and HE will give you the DESIRES of your heart. COMMIT your way to the LORD, TRUST also in Him, and He will do it." Praise God for these verses because they were really the foundations of our faith from the beginning of our projects up to this time.

DYFR was constructed at IBC compound almost thirty years ago through the kindness and generosity of many dedicated Christian brethren from Cebu Gospel Church (CGC) as well as those of the Assemblies of God of the Philippines (AGOP) who generously leased to FEBC a piece of land free of charge for twenty years. This contract ended in the early part of 1990. When it expired, a new contract was signed between IBC and FEBC. The new contract stipulated that a monthly rental of \$300.00 was to be paid to IBC with an annual increase of \$50.00 for the next four years. At first, we were able to manage until the Peso began to tumble against the mighty dollar. We found out to our horrors that we have to spend between P25,000-P28,000 monthly just for this purpose. This led us to spend more time on our knees. We prayed and trusted God to give us a property of our own. Actually, a choice property was already reserved for us on a very ideal place located on top of a hill. However, just when we were preparing to develop it, trouble erupted between the owner and the squatters in the adjacent area. So we gave up the place.

Three years ago, a miracle began to unfold before us in answer to our sincere pleadings before God. The AGOP informed our President in Manila that they were selling the property to us for P12T psm. To us, this was a miracle because they had consistently refused our proposal to buy the lot. We have to act fast and immediately requested our president to start negotiation. Eventually, the price was lowered to P10T psm with a free perpetual Right of Way.

Thus started the FAITH journey of the new DYFR. First, He provided the fund for the purchase of the lot. Then, He gave us a pleasant surprise by providing an extra fund to purchase a better and taller tower which was not even in the original plan. Next, He provided the fund for the renovation of the dilapidated and termite-infested building. Waves upon waves of problems came upon these projects, yet, at the same time, waves

upon waves of miracles visited us as we placed our faith in Him.

For example, at the very moment when we needed a place to temporarily use as an office area, the Lord provided us with a very cozy building which is just a stone throw away from the station. You can just imagine the hassles had we been located somewhere downtown. Another miracle, on the day when three truckloads of pre-mixed cement were ready to pour out their loads, clouds suddenly darkened the sky and rain was ready to pour down in great torrent. We immediately called upon the staff for prayer. Afterwards, I went to the site, pleading to God to save the day for His glory by withholding the rain. To make the story short, the three trucks poured their contents under a "smiling" sun. Praise the Lord indeed!

During construction, accidents could not be avoided. Were there accidents? Sure. But God was greater than accidents. A young man whose forefinger nail was hit by a hammer was totally healed after three days. One was almost electricuted. One was pierced an inch deep by a nail. One mason, instead of digging the ground with an iron rod, "dug" his toe. But the worst tragedy could have been me. Late evening, as I was coming out of the new building, I was led to stop for a moment with no reason. Suddenly, out of nowhere, a two inch pipe with a length of 12 feet dropped in front of me. Had I not stopped, the pipe would have hit me and who knows what would have happened. Praise the Lord not only for His provisions but also for His protection.

Praise the Lord! The building is now almost finished. Hopefully, it will be completed by December. Praise the Lord, whereas before we have to cramp for working quarters, now God had provided ample spaces for us to work in. One good news especially for our brethren in CGC is, DYFR II will now have a Chinese Program recording studio. This will strengthen our Chinese Programming. Moreover, we also have a Prayer/Counseling room, and a good-size A/V Conference room.

We know that God did not put up a Christian station in Cebu for no purpose at all. This station has been broadcasting the Gospel for almost 30 years now. Although we know many has been saved and blessed, only God knows the extent of this ministry. May all glory and honor rebound to our great God alone. Amen!





...continued from page 10 (Preach the Word, Save The World)

Sense of glory

In verses 16-17, Paul proclaims, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'"

In verse 16, Paul mentions a cultural phenomenon very familiar to us Asians, namely: shame. Shame is a very powerful regulator of our behavior. After waiting in line for so long at the slow-motion local government office, Elena would rather not protest loudly with the clerk at the window fifteen feet away in front, not because she still had patience left, but because to do so would make her *chin-pai-se*. Cecil and her friends settled for the wrong dish which they did not order because the once-confused-but-now-irate waiter had already changed their order three times.

But shame is not only an inhibiting regulator on our behavior. There are times when it can be transformed into a powerful motivator of action. Somehow I suspect that the killing that resulted from the quarrel between the Manila jeepney driver and his passenger was not about the 5-centavo change (this was long ago) but about one or both men being shamed (*napahiya*) publicly.

Often times, shame is an obstacle to evangelism. We are tempted to consider: What will the prospect think? Will she accept? Will I look credible or will I be labeled as weird? Will he regard me a hypocrite or think I have become a religious fanatic?

The Bible talks about both shame and guilt. Both are related but are not the same thing. Not long ago, I was told that there is an addition to the Ten Commandments. The eleventh commandment was said to be: Thou shall not get caught. The implication is that it is alright to steal, lie and commit adultery as long as you

keep the sin secret and nobody knows about it. I thought this was bad enough until I heard that there is a 12th commandment. This one says: Thou shall not admit when caught.

In the joke about the two extra commandments, we see something clearly. It is that people are more fearful of being caught by men than of having sinned against God. And this is the difference between shame and guilt: **Shame is being afraid that people might find out that I have sinned. Guilt is being afraid because I have sinned.** The Bible says we will be judged by the fact of our guilt (the sins we commit) and not by our sense of shame (the embarrassment we feel).

Shame is the power of man. Guilt is the power of sin. The Gospel is the power of God to forgive sins, remove shame and save the repentant person. When Paul says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel", it is a testimony of the triumph of the power of God (Gospel) over the power of man (shame) and the power of sin (guilt). "I am not ashamed of the gospel" is therefore a statement of Paul's **sense of glory** about the Gospel. Paul does not feel the Gospel as a thing of shame. On the contrary, he considers it a thing to glory about, to find pride in, to cherish and to present to others with great confidence.

Even if we have a sense of debt and a sense of urgency, the power of shame can still hinder us from preaching Christ to others. The corrective is to have the precious sense of glory about the broken Man on the bloody cross whose transformation on the third day became the first fruit of the harvest of bodily life everlasting. And how can we not glory in the Gospel? It is the power of God to save, to wash away sins and to endow the new birth. And who does not want to be saved from eternal pain?

In summary, Romans 1:14-17 teaches us that as the people of God entrusted with the Gospel work, we must develop a sense of debt, a sense of urgency and a sense of glory. And having developed these, we must take care to maintain them in our hearts and in our mind.





... continued from page 11 (審慎考查是非)
繼之他們倆便相擁抱、相痛哭、並且互相認錯。

後來、做弟弟的體會到，他的哥哥人口多，生計負擔重，我的人口少，應當助他一臂之力。便自動地背了一袋米，在晚間偷偷地放在哥哥的房門口。做哥哥也領悟到，我的人口雖多，我的弟弟人口雖少，但神賜福豐盛給我，我應該幫他一力。於是買了一些弟弟所需用的物品偷偷地放在弟弟的房裡。當哥哥發現自己的房門口，放著一袋米，同時弟弟也發現自己的屋有一些不是他買的物品，他們同感到很詫異。

過了數天，兩兄弟正巧在互送東西相遇。各人同時說出情由，遂即互相感謝神的恩典。從此，兩兄弟便過著和睦的日子。

所以，我們在主裡的兄弟，應該為著教會、為著見證而維持兄弟之間的和諧、安寧和好處。若果聽聞兄弟之間的錯失，必須步步謹慎，要給當事人的對方留餘地。因為單憑我們脆弱的腦力、有限的之智能，對於詭秘的糾紛難於明察秋毫。若果遇到有人在申訴別人的錯失時、請注意下面幾點：

- 一. 不可輕易相信。
- 二. 不可人家說的，也隨即附和、並以訛傳訛。
- 三. 不可因一時的傳聞，而改變對某人的態度，使某人感到難堪。而且這是違背愛心的行為。
- 四. 應當制止那些沒有真憑實據的傳聞。遏止那些說話不負責的人。並阻止那些不顧主名受辱，只顧敗壞別人名譽的人。
- 五. 應當為那過犯的人、帶到神面前祈禱，切不可在主面前加以控告，因為他們可能並沒有錯失。
- 六. 因為神是公義的，我們也應該以公義的態度、慎思明辨。若果發現某人蒙受委屈時，應當為主名的緣故仗義執言。

當我們蒙受主的恩典，絕不求出類拔萃，更不求人的稱羨，卻殷勤地追求屬靈的進步。若能這樣實踐，我們的心靈是何等的安樂阿！但願我們共勉之。阿們！

...continued from page 19 (Spiritual Program of PCGS)

students who seek it but to all students especially the graduating fourth year students. The goal of the school is that each student will come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ before they leave the school. We hope and pray that their encounter with the Lord here and now will make an impact in their lives, making a difference in the people they meet, in the families they belong and produce, and in the community they serve.

Please continue to pray for the ministry in the school. There is much room for volunteers who wish to get involved in the Lord's work. May the Lord move hearts among his people to get into the harvest. "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Mt 9:37-38 NIV

...continued from page 13 (An Adult's Journey with God)

As an adult Christian, the best gift we can share with our children and other people is Hope. Hope, together with faith in God's good intention for the ultimate destiny of humanity and the love of Christ's redeeming work, is as precious as it is rare in these days of uncertainty, fear and terrorism. We are called to be gentle with each other and to lighten each other's journey with the good news (gospel). That gospel is the same message that God first unveiled to the Israelites in their dark days: "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I know you by name, and you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1) My brothers and sisters, may the Lord bless you and keep you, smile on you and give you peace.

...continued from page 7 (To God Be The Glory)
is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me ...”

An investment in a school is an investment in the future. Our founding fathers believed that by establishing a Christian school, we could best propagate Christianity. We remind ourselves then that this building, after all, is more than sand and gravel, steel and cement. It is but the tool through which to produce the finished product - boys and girls who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; boys and girls who are better equipped to fill their places in life; boys and girls whose characters and minds are formed according to Christ's teachings. To this end, I hope that the Ung Han Liong & Yap Yok Sr. Building may not be just another building but a channel of blessing -

transforming lives for eternal gain. For this cause, we ask our founding partner, the Cebu Gospel Church brethren, to pray for us faithfully. Pray that we will be God's faithful instruments to bring Him pleasure and glory by saving souls!

The story that began well over half a century ago is best told in pictures. The 12-minute video presentation that afternoon captured the school's story more vividly than what the tongue could describe. Finally, everything was over, every person who attended the service would have ineluctably agreed with the psalmist, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness" (Psalm 115:1).
(see pictures on opposite page)

...continued from page 8 (瑣談戀愛與夫妻之道)

傭人辦理，工作雖幹得不錯，但所給予丈夫感受不同。正如奶媽不能像親生娘餵哺嬰兒，沒有溫存憐惜與愛撫，工作雖一樣，效果有異。

夫婦間最忌憚的是婚外情、隱私、外遇、藏嬌。這些第三者的介入，的確會破壞一個家庭的和諧和溫馨，較嚴重還會家破人散，夫妻反目親人披離。這種情景是不幸，但有時防範不得。有如白蟻是無孔不入，牠們會潛伏在庭宇中營生，最後使你無棲身之處。房屋及家器若以輕疏木料建造的，白蟻更喜愛盤據。男人外表上比女人堅強，事實上是外強中乾，內心脆弱。一旦愛情受侵蝕就失掉防禦力，則使勾引人是醜八怪，也會變為楊貴妃。倘若有這樣不幸的故，首先要安靜自己，不要大動雷霆，或嘮嘮喋喋不休。間接或直接都散發流言及誹謗，中傷丈夫的尊嚴或聲譽，這將封閉家庭重歸和合的管道。當你冷靜自我檢討思索，要追溯到婚前你豈不是有許多長處與優點而捕取他的傾心愛慕。而彼此結合？現在為什麼讓第三者闖進破壞？罪魁比你強在什麼地方？怎樣篡奪了你的伴侶？為什麼會喧賓奪主取代你呢？弄清這些以後，你要加強你的優點，補足短處，增加夫妻間的和諧與情趣。

以柔克剛有時可用來解脫愛情的芥蒂。下面援引一個故事供參照。大岷地區有對新婚夫婦相敬如賓，及感情甚篤。新郎

頗循規蹈矩，和安分守己。夫妻耳鬢廝磨相親相愛。然而平靜愛情湖面，偶然掀起波浪。婚後半年，老公恢復拈花惹草癖好，開始夜生活，樂而忘蜀，繼而夜夜遲歸。如逢明天是假日，變本加厲，索性通宵不歸。回家時襯衣上留有唇印，還有濃郁的香水味。發現丈夫有偷香的嫌疑，子意外地沒有大發雷霆，反處之泰然，舊般勤溫柔地侍候夫婿，如宵夜、熱水浴、睡衣等備至。處處給他飽溫、舒適、輕鬆與愉快。隻字不提夜歸的事。幾個月過去，她從未發怨言，保持嬌柔笑顏侍奉不懈。另一方面，虔誠祈求聖靈幫助她矯正丈夫的癖隱及惡習。她深信「為神事在人，成事在神」她的行動要配合神的大能才能有作為。馬太福音七章七-八節：你們祈求，就給你們。尋找就尋見。叩門，就給你們開門。因為凡祈求就得著。尋找的就尋見。叩門，就給你們開門。上帝是信實奇妙及聽祈禱的。上帝的大能開始在浪子的身上運作，經過一陣狂歡的生活，好像醉後醒悟，丈夫的心情平定下來，意識到嬌妻的反應竟是這麼的平和體貼，保持對他的顧愛與珍惜，使他血肉的心和良知深感慚愧。體會自己所作所為，是何等的荒唐愚妄。他發誓要重新做人，做個好丈夫。不再穿花拂葉，要堅貞不移地惜愛妻子。一根柔弱的幼苗在神的庇護下，竟成疾風勁草。一幕黑雲，陰沉沉的悲劇，經神大能的化解，而雲開見日，有絢麗的完場。



*Dedication of Ung Han Liong & Yap Yok Sr. Building
(PCGS High School & Administration Building)*





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