

GETHSEMANE

Bible-Presbyterian Church

'Not my will, but Thine, be done' (Luke 22:42)



Volume 22, Issue 44

3rd January 2010

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WELCOME

to all worshippers

*O come, let us worship
and bow down:*

*Let us kneel before
the LORD our maker.*

Psalm 95:6

Scripture Memorization

SALVATION BY GRACE

Eph. 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith;
and that not of yourselves: it is the gift
of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Pastoral Exhortation

HE WILL PROSPER US, SO LET US ARISE AND BUILD

Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

Happy New Year! Blessed 2010!

As we are brought by the Lord to the dawn of another New Year, let us arise with great joy and enthusiasm to do all His will concerning us.

In this New Year, many Gospel doors are opened before us to go in and achieve great things for the Lord; among these the chief is our 2010 Ethiopian project. We must prayerfully rise up with all our might to accomplish this project for the glory of our great Redeemer. Herein we have a wonderful opportunity to make a mark for Christ in the continent of Africa through this project in Ethiopia.

We have already purchased a piece of land (9,546.25m²) to build a Bible college and a church. By God's grace, we have obtained this large piece of land at a cost of S\$270,700. If we can raise S\$550,000 this year, we will be able to erect a building that will be suitable for the beginning of a Bible college and the church.

We will also strive by His grace to make every opportunity count both in Singapore and in all other mission fields that the Lord has opened before us.

For your encouragement and strengthening, I would like to publish the following article which I wrote some years back:

"The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build" (Nehemiah 2:20). That was Nehemiah's reply to Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem who laughed and scorned at the plan of God's people to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple. When the enemies despised them, Nehemiah and his co-labourers trusted in their God for help.

God's people are never left to be alone in their labour for Him. The Apostle Paul said to the Corinthian believers, "We are labourers together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9). What a comforting and reassuring thought! Praise the Lord!

In the work of the Lord, we can do nothing without Him. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). But once our hearts are led by His counsels and established in His promises, nothing can stop us from labouring and building for Him.

He will prosper us!

Nehemiah declared before his enemies, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us." What a bold affirmation! Can we be this sure of God's help? Most certainly!

As far as Nehemiah was concerned, it was not a presumptuous claim. He was not making a hasty, incautious, self-conceited, presumptuous,

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overconfident assertion in order to derail his enemies' plans.

His confidence in the Lord's blessings was the result of his prayerful determining of God's will concerning the rebuilding of Jerusalem and His temple. After carefully assessing the needs of the rebuilding of the city of His people, Nehemiah took time to pray. He prayed, "O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy . . ." (Nehemiah 1:11). He personally sought the Lord concerning the work. As he sought Him in prayer, he was assured of God's sure blessings.

Everyone who seeks God's will in prayer and then stretches forth his hand to fulfil that which God has led him to do, can be assured of His good blessings. God will not forsake those who labour to do His will. He will most certainly prosper them.

So if you make sure that your desires are His desires, and your plans are His plans, you will have all of His guidance and blessings in the future, so much so that you can say, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us."

This was the case in Gethsemane B-P Church. We saw the need for a building for a Church Resource Centre. We sought the Lord in prayer and were ready to fulfil whatever He would lead us to do. We carefully examined our needs and understood what we needed. We then sought to obey the Word in meeting the need of the church. When the Spirit of God began to lead us by His truth and providence, we too affirmed in our midst the words of Nehemiah, "The God of heaven, He will prosper us."

These magnificent words of faith and confidence have serious implications in our midst. It meant that we would not seek any man's help in a way that would contradict God's Word. By His grace, we boldly decided not to approach banks for loans, or people for interest-free loans! We believed that if we would go forward by the way of the Lord, He would prosper us. He did just that! Praise the Lord!

Hitherto, we experience the same kind of provision from God in publishing the Bible Witness magazine. We thank the Lord for seeing us through 9 years of publishing. Men may despise, but God will help. Men may reject and oppose, but God will bless and prosper! We can trust God to keep His promises.

We will arise and build!

Nehemiah 2:20 not only talks about divine leading and help, but also the responsibility of His servants. It calls us to duty - "Let us arise and build."

God's promises do not make His servants sluggish or lethargic. On the contrary, recognising God's good hand in a project grants great motivation to press on even in the midst of opposition. It gives His servants willingness and readiness to sacrifice, and also to set themselves apart to accomplish the work that He has called them to do.

The only proper response to the goodness and promises of the Lord is to "arise and build". People's resolve to do His work is a token of their conviction of God's sovereignty and faithfulness.

We found this truth being illustrated powerfully among the brethren in Gethsemane B-P Church. Having been convicted of God's leading and goodness, they gave themselves wholeheartedly to acquire the building. They sweat and shed tears. When disappointment and anxiety arose, they went to the Lord with renewed trust. The Lord was always there to strengthen hearts and hands to work even harder. Many prayed earnestly. Many gave generously. While some searched for an appropriate place, others gave plenty of thoughts to prepare and furnish the new place.

God prospers His people! They arise and labour! God's work is done!

Thanksgiving for the Church Camp

Dear Rev Koshy,

I am greatly thankful to our Great God for giving me many blessings. I was so overwhelmed that I could not give my testimony in front of you people. No words can describe my joy when I was able to join the Family Camp. I enjoyed everything at the camp. I learned more now, how to redeem the time because now I have realized how I have wasted many years of my life with useless things. I am very grateful to all those who helped me even getting my food and coffee. It was a wonderful fellowship with the Gethsemanians. I will never forget this episode in my life. I am also grateful especially to the one who sponsored me - "Thanks very much to you. I hope I can know you".

My stay in Singapore has been a great blessing to me. I can tell the world that my God is really a Great and Good God who extended my life to enjoy these blessings that I might praise Him.

Thank you to you and all Gethsemanians. My prayers will always be with you.

Merry and most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

In Christ,

Rebecca Delina

Our Church Session: Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy (9001 1119), Elder Mah Chin Kwang (9675 4031), Elder Alan Choy (9853 9556), Dn Arvind Pawa (9642 8954), Dn Daniel Lim (9385 0371), Dn Lok Kwok Wah (9022 5508) & Dn Kelvin Lim (8268 2828).

JESUS IS ALL-KNOWING

by Pr Kelvin Lim

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man. John 2:23-25

Jesus is omniscient. The word "omniscient" means having unlimited knowledge. In the above-mentioned passage, we read that "he knew all men", and also "for he knew what was in man". Only the living and true God has such knowledge; to know what is in a person's heart is truly divine.

According to the above-mentioned passage, Jesus was at the Passover feast in Jerusalem, and He did some miracles there. Many people who saw the miracles were astonished and believed in His name. But Jesus knew that these people were not sincere in their hearts even though they believed in Him. He knew that their faith in Him was not true, and He did not trust them. He knew their thoughts; these people only saw Jesus as a man who has the ability to perform miracles, and not as God. Is Jesus really God or just a man as they thought?

The omniscience of Jesus is recorded in many passages throughout the four gospels. Let us look at two accounts and learn this attribute of Jesus together!

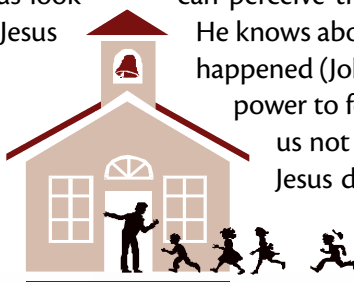
In the gospel of Luke, there is this man who was so sick that he cannot walk. So his friends carried him to Jesus. When Jesus said to him, "Man, thy sins are forgiven", the scribes and Pharisees who were there

reasoned within their hearts. They were thinking, "Who can forgive but God?" Jesus knew their thoughts. He answered their question even though it was never asked aloud. Jesus proved to them that He has the power to forgive sins by healing that man. When they saw the man walk, they were astonished!

Can you remember in the gospel of John, the Bible story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead? When Jesus received news that Lazarus was sick, He told His disciples that this sickness would not lead to death. He then told them that He needed to go to Bethany to awaken Lazarus out of his sleep, but they did not understand what He meant. Thus, Jesus had to tell them plainly, "Lazarus is dead." Not only did Jesus know that Lazarus was dead; He also knew that Lazarus will live again.

From the biblical examples cited, we see that Jesus can perceive the thoughts of man (Luke 5:18-26), and He knows about the things that will happen and have happened (John 11:1-15). We also learn that He has the power to forgive sins, to heal and to give life. So let us not be like the crowd who saw the miracles Jesus did, but thought of Him as a mere man.

Rather, let us believe that He is both man and God – the all-knowing God!



GETHSEMANE YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

Speaker: Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy

Chairman: Bro Aron Ong

Date: Friday, 8th January 2009

Time: 7:30pm (Pot-Bless Dinner)

Venue: Home of Pastor Koshy
Block 414 #10-317 Tampines St 41

For enquiries or directions, please call Sis Carolyn (6788 1721) or Sis Kamala (9026 0401). Those who like to open their homes for YAF, please inform Sis Kamala.

"REDEEMING THE TIME"

Recollect, relearn and enjoy the blessings of our recent church camp.

Camp messages and scenes are now available in DVDs (A box of 9 DVDs, 1 mp3 CD and a Photo CD).

The package is available at \$18 per box.

Please place your order at the reception table.

Sunday Activities		JANUARY 03	JANUARY 10
Gethsemane Filipino Service (12:00noon)	Worship Leader:	Eric Delina	Eric Delina
	Preacher:	Pr Dennis Kabingue	Pr Dennis Kabingue
	Usher:	Arnold Diaz	Anthony Evangelista
	Pianist:	Chloe Pawa	Josias Pawa
	Refreshment:	Emelinda Villardar	Rhodora Resuma
Gethsemane Chinese Service (2:30pm)	Worship Leader:	Gan Chin Hwi	Kelvin Lim
	Preacher:	Pr Daniel Lim	Pr Daniel Lim
	Pianist:	Jollyn Low	Flora Ng
	Ushers:	Jerry Chan & Simon Lim	Chan Tuck Whye & Samuel Ng
	Flowers:	Lee Kim Lei	Tay Soo Thian
Refreshment:	Roscelle Lim	Katherine Peh	
Gethsemane English Service (2:30pm)	Worship Leader:	Elder Alan Choy	Dn Arvind Pawa
	Preacher:	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy	Rev Dr Prabhudas Koshy
	Pianists:	Carmen Wong & Flora Ng	Jasmine Low & Jollyn Low
	Ushers:	Dn Pawa, Dn Kwok Wah, Francis Lim, Jeremy Mark, Sean & Randy Winnie (Greeter)	Kee How, Francis Lee, Andy, Arnold, Benny & John Stephanie Lee (Greeter)
	Junior Worship:	Luan Kheng, (Diana) & Samuel Yong	Dorothy, (Corliss) & Stephanie
	Sunday School:	Dn Kelvin & Carolyn	Dn Kelvin & Carolyn
	AV Ministry:	Crew No. 1	Crew No. 2
	Flowers:	Diana Koh	Karen Quek
	Refreshment Duty:	Aileen Tan, Lena Low & Sarah Abraham	Low-Ho Hui Lin, Ruth Low & Alice Lim
	Adult's Bible Class (4:45pm)	"The Rapture"	"The Bema Judgement"
Malayalam Fellowship (6:30pm)	Venue: SingPost Meeting Room #02-30		

Christmas Collection (DECEMBER 25 ENGLISH SERVICE)	
Tithes:	1,800.00
Offerings:	3,693.45
Building Fund (Ethiopia):	330.00; 685.00
BW-Web Radio	1,100.00
Gifts:	Pastor Koshy (300.00); Eric Delina (100.00); Rebecca Delina (150.00); Anthony E. (5.00); Jerry Chan (5.00); Ruth Low (10.00)

Sunday Collection (DECEMBER 27 ENGLISH SERVICE)	
Tithes:	4,740.00
Offerings:	2,327.05
Building Fund (Ethiopia):	150.00; 1,000.00
Gifts:	Pastor Koshy (400.00); Dennis Kabingue (100.00); Kenneth (100.00); Ruth Low (5.00); Anthony E. (5.00); Jerry Chan (5.00)

Non-Sunday Collection	
Building Fund (Ethiopia):	200.00; 8,160.00
Printing Machine Fund:	220.00
Bible Witness:	300.00; 500.00

Ladies' Prayer Group

Date: Wed, 20 Jan 2010 @ 3:00pm
Venue: Home of Sis Choy Luan Kheng
Speaker: Pr Dennis Kabingue
Chairperson: Sis Gina Sim
Topic: "Chaste, Quiet, Submissive"
ALL ARE WELCOME!

FEBC Night Classes

Far Eastern Bible College reopens with a Day of Prayer and Registration on Mon, Jan 4, 2010, at 9am, in Calvary Tengah BPC. Transport leaves FEBC at 8.15am sharp.

FEBC Basic Theology for Everyone courses will resume on 4th January 2010. Monday class "First Kings" by Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew. Thursday class "First Corinthians" by Rev Dr Jeffrey Khoo. We encourage all worshippers to attend and equip yourselves in God's Word. Registration forms are available at the reception table.

Mon - Sat Activities		JANUARY 04 - JANUARY 09
Tuesday Prayer Gathering (8:00pm) Venue: SingPost Seminar Room #02-31		
Wednesday Lunch Hour Bible Study (12:45pm) Venue: Bible Witness Media Ministry Bookroom (Tel: 6438 0578), Hong Lim Complex		
Thursday Seniors' Ministry (11:00am) Venue: Please contact Dn Daniel Lim for more information at 9385 0371.		
Friday Morning Prayer (6:30am - 7:15am) Venue: Church Resource Centre (For more info, please call Dn Kelvin Lim at 8268 2828.)		
Young Adults' Fellowship (Every 2nd and 4th Friday, 8:00pm) Please contact Sis Kamala for more information at 9026 0401		
Saturday	Church Choir	Time: 2:00pm Venue: SingPost Seminar Room #02-31
	Adults' Fellowship	Every 1st and 3rd Saturday, 4pm. Venue: SingPost Seminar Room #02-31 Annexe
	Gethsemane Children's Ministry	Time: 4:00pm Venue: SingPost Seminar Room #02-31 Refreshment: Sis Luan Kheng & Sis Carolyn Song Leader: Choy Luan Kheng Nursery-P2: Lee Kim Lei P3-P6: John Peh
	GYBH	Time: 4:00pm Venue: SingPost Seminar Room Annexe Chairman: Cornelius Koshy Speaker: Pastor Koshy Topic: Bible Study on Minor Prophets

2010 Ethiopian Assignment	
New Building Fund Target:	\$500,000.00
Total (as of 27 Dec 2009):	\$142,558.80
Please give cheerfully! Let us rise and build! Hasten to complete the work! 'Strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God' Ezra 6:22	

Our Place of Worship: SingPost Auditorium (Level 5), 10 Eunos Road 8, Singapore 408600

Our Websites: www.gethsemaneipc.com; www.biblewitness.com