

GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Not my will, but Thine, be done" – Luke 22:42

A WORD ON WORSHIP

We worship on the first day of the week after the tradition of early Christians (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2). The first day of the week was also known as "the Lord's day" (Revelation 1:10). "The Lord's day" means the day pertaining to the Lord. It was the day of Christ's resurrection (Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-8; John 20:1), and it was also the day the risen Christ appeared to His disciples as they gathered together (John 20:19). Obviously, those reasons have led Christians to meet for worship on the first day of the week. The writings of the early church fathers also bear witness to those facts. So, let us also according to this biblical tradition, rejoice and worship the Lord.

SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

Dying

Hebrews 11:13

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Dn Kelvin Lim

*Hymn 5: Command Thy Blessing From Above

*Invocation & Gloria Patri

***Responsive Scripture Reading** *Revelation 3:14-22*

Hymn 55: Our Great Saviour

Collection of Offerings

*Doxology & Prayer

Hymn 359: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Scripture Memorisation

Intercessory Prayer

Elder Mah Chin Kwang

Sermon

Pr Andrew Koh

"Gain Through Loss"

Philippians 3:7-8

*Hymn 425: Take the World, but Give Me Jesus

*Closing Prayer & Threefold Amen

** Congregation Standing*



TODAY, 27 AUGUST 2017

NEXT LORD'S DAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2017

9.00 – 10.00am		CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR	CHURCH CHOIR & CHILDREN'S CHOIR
		MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP	MALAYALAM FELLOWSHIP
10.30am	CHINESE SERVICE	Worship Leader: Gan Chin Hwi Preacher: Pr Daniel Lim Musician: Dyllis Teo Flowers: Lee Kim Lei Refreshments: Maggie Ho Ushers: John Peh & Lawrence Ng	Worship Leader: Pr Daniel Lim Preacher: Pr Daniel Lim Musician: Gan Sze Huey Flowers: Francis Tan Refreshments: Rose Chua Ah Moey Ushers: Chan Tuck Whye & Francis Tan
	ENGLISH SERVICE	Worship Leader: Dn Kelvin Lim Preacher: Pr Andrew Koh Musicians: Jasmine Low, Sarah Lee Ushers: Dn Low Boon Siang (i/c) Ng Kwan Teng, Theodore Wang Benny Skariah, Cayson Chok Timotheus Liu, Chan Tuck Whye Greeter: Sally Lum AV Ministry: Crew No. 1 Flowers: Tomei Tan Refreshments: Roscelle Lim, Edeliza Ballega Lena Chan, Rhodora Resuma Junior Worship: Kamala, (Rossellini Liu) Neo Kian Seng, (Adlucia Lim) Jenny Lok	Worship Leader: Dn Francis Lee Preacher: Pr Dennis Kablingue Musicians: Jasmine Low, Ellyzabeth Ushers: Bernard Lim (i/c) Andy Lee, James Chen Jonathon Lim, Ricky Yang David Ng, Julius Del Rosario Greeter: Violet Quek AV Ministry: Crew No. 2 Flowers: Karen Quek Refreshments: Stella Tan, Mary Lee Rachel Teo, Valerie Leow, Lok Qian Hui Junior Worship: Pr Jeremiah Sim, (Adeline Lim) Gina Sim, (Rhodora Resuma) Low Siew Lian
1.30pm	FILIPINO SERVICE	Worship Leader: Eric Delina Preacher: Pr Dennis Kablingue Musician: Ayn Tindaan Usher: Anthony Evangelista Refreshments: Janet Carbajosa	Worship Leader: Eric Delina Preacher: Pr Dennis Kablingue Musician: Duaine Kablingue Usher: Julius Del Rosario Refreshments: Rowena Delina
3.30pm	LIONS HOME	Venue: 9 Bishan Street 13 English Speaker: Kenneth Wong Dialect Speaker: Pr Jeremiah Sim	Venue: 487 Bedok South Ave 2 English Speaker: Arvind Pawa Dialect Speaker: Pr Jeremiah Sim

27 August 2017

A Young Christian Mother's Testimony

Gethsemane Young Mothers is a special ministry of our church that ministers to the spiritual needs of the young mothers in our midst. But it is also attended by other Christian young mothers. One of them is Sis Chui Yin. She worships in Calvary Pandan BPC together with her husband, Jack and their two little children. Both Jack and Chui Yin are medical doctors. However, in order to fulfil her biblical role as a wife and mother (Titus 2:4-5; 1 Timothy 5:14; Psalm 113:9; Psalm 128:3) she became a homemaker. Recently, her pregnancy led to a severe medical condition and the loss of her child. The testimony of God's help in her trial was published in Calvary Pandan weekly; and it was brought to my attention by Sis Low Hui Lin. For the glory of God and for the edification of all the young mothers in our midst, I publish the WhatsApp message I received from her on Friday and also her testimony below.

Dear Pastor Koshy,

Thank you for your concern. I'm doing fine, resting at home and waiting on God for full recovery of strength and health. All these weeks that I have been confined to the bed whether at home or in hospital, I have been greatly blessed by being able to tune in to the live streaming of Sunday worship service of Gethsemane B-P Church. While seeking God's will for me and my baby, I remembered the few messages I heard at Gethsemane Young Mothers' meetings, especially about God's gift of children with disability, and also about bearing the death of children. I thank God for your faithful service in teaching us how to bear these trials in motherhood. It was by God's grace that I could have attended those meetings earlier in the year. I look forward to being able to join Gethsemane Young Mothers again when I can.

At 6am on 17 June, I had to be rushed to KK hospital, where investigations confirmed that my water bag membrane had ruptured, and I was leaking amniotic fluid from the water bag. I was in my 18th week of pregnancy.

Doctors advised that the prognosis was grim. My womb was susceptible to infection and prone to pre-term labour. Baby would be extremely premature. Even if by some miracle the pregnancy could be sustained for many weeks

more, the baby would most likely be born with multiple problems of prematurity and chronic lung problems.

Doctors advised for termination of the pregnancy in view of the poor outlook. We declined and started on the long journey of waiting on the Lord, hoping that the pregnancy would be sustained. I was admitted to the hospital for complete bed rest, rigorous round of antibiotics and regular monitoring.

Testimony

At that time, I had not fully understood what was to come. All I knew was the precious promise in God's Word that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are called according to His purpose. Amidst all the uncertainty, these precious words brought peace.

The difficulties of the path ahead soon revealed themselves. I was fearful of moving as I didn't want to worsen the leaking. Enforced bed rest was also a difficult adjustment. I lost my physical freedom, the comforts of life, my "modesty". I needed to depend on nurses to help me with all my basic needs. I had always been the main caregiver of my 2 older children, and was frustrated that I could not take care of them, and frustrated to see how my family members had to struggle to take care of them, and shuttle to and from the hospital to see me.

Doctors advised that there was nothing they could do to save a foetus at this gestation age. The baby was deemed pre-viable. The pregnancy had to be sustained till 24 weeks minimum for there to be any hope for this baby.

At that time, in the 18th week of pregnancy, 24 weeks seemed like an impossibility.

I felt discouraged and frustrated by the helplessness I felt. Clinging on to those precious words that all things work for good, we trudged on, and I soon realized that it was to be a season of rest and waiting on God. The enforced bed rest gave me much time to read and reflect on God's Word. I started to read the Psalms. Psalm 4, a psalm of

David, verse 4: "Stand in awe and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still..." encouraged me to persevere in the adversity, and to purpose in my heart to not have a sinful response, but to be still before God. Several psalms later in Psalm 22:10, another psalm of David, where he proclaimed unto God, "thou art my God from my mother's belly..." – these words brought me much comfort because they reminded me that God is the God of the baby in my womb, and He will watch over him.

In this first hospitalization, there were many other problems. For the first 2 weeks, Jack still had work commitments, including 24-hour overnight shifts and the care of the children would be a problem. But truly, day by day, God's grace was sufficient. And we had no lack. There were times where at the last hour, Jack would be relieved of his night duties and released to go home at 6pm. His subsequent night calls were also assigned away to other colleagues so he only needed to go in for the day's work, and could return home in the night to manage the children, and even bring me some supplies from home. Some time back he had already planned to clear long leave for the entire months of July and August and this worked out perfectly, enabling him to take care of the children.

Day by day God provided everything that we needed, and we truly experienced the sufficiency of His grace.

At this time, I was greatly encouraged by 1 Peter 4:19, "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator." I rested in God's

faithfulness, and slowly counted the days as they crawled by...

With much prayer, God sustained us for 5 weeks, and I even managed to be discharged home for 2 weeks for a short reprieve from the hospitalization. We were hopeful as we approached the 24th week – the golden age of viability.

In the wee hours of the morning of 24 July, at 23 weeks and 6 days of gestation, at the brink of foetal viability, I was awakened by contraction pain and bleeding from the womb. We went back to KK and I had to be hospitalized in preparation for a possible premature delivery. The neonatologist came to see us, and advised that while baby was at an age where it was medically acceptable to resuscitate him, severe neurodevelopmental deficits would be expected in the babies that do survive. He advised that the outlook would be much more favourable if the baby could make it to 26 weeks of gestation.

Medically, it was a tumultuous week. I had recurrent episodes of contractions and was sent to and from the labour ward for monitoring for the onset of labour and imminent delivery of the severely premature baby. Many of these episodes happened when I was alone, sometimes in the dead of night when there was no one I could turn to for help or support, because close friends, and husband were asleep. Spending many hours at the labour ward also meant no visitors except for my husband who came when he could, no proper rest because of the constant monitoring and frequent doctors' rounds.

It wore me out physically, and emotionally I felt defeated.

After 4 trips down to the labour ward within the first 72 hours of admission, I had a final blow that required me to be sent down to the labour ward for the 5th time that week.

I was back in the general ward and was taking a quick shower when I started feeling giddy and close to losing consciousness. I felt helpless but thankfully, I did not lose consciousness, and managed to dry myself and get back quickly to bed.

Because of this near fainting episode, investigations were performed and revealed an abnormal heart rhythm, and I had to be sent down to the labour ward again for close monitoring and a cardiologist review. I lay there for many hours watching the cardiac monitor which displayed long runs of an abnormal heartbeat which I could feel as a discomfort in my chest. I recognized that I had been having these abnormal sensations for the past months of pregnancy, but had not recognized that it was abnormal.

All this while the struggle had been for the survival of my baby, but this new diagnosis that there has been something wrong with me was a great blow. And I understood how frail and weak I was. It was the final blow to an already very battered confidence.

At this time, I drew comfort from the words in the hymn "How Firm a Foundation", for the hymn reflected the words from Isaiah 43:1-2, "Fear not: for I have

redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.”

God was teaching me not to be afraid.

With those events, the 24th week slowly and painfully went by. And we continued to wait on God, and prayed to reach 26 weeks.

On 10 August, at 26 weeks and 2 days of gestation, things took a drastic turn for the worse. I developed a high fever, and had regular contractions. Womb infection was the likely cause and it was clear that it was time, and the baby would need to be delivered quickly.

I underwent an emergency caesarean section and our baby was born that night. His scores were very poor at birth, but God preserved him in the initial 12 hours of his life while I struggled to recover from the general anaesthesia and post operative blood loss and pain. I managed to go and see him in the ICU. Soon after, he succumbed to overwhelming infection and had massive bleeding in his brain and lungs and he passed away. I managed to see and hold him as he took his last breaths.

When he died, I was deeply saddened but I had peace in my heart. What I went through in the preceding weeks of seeking and waiting on God’s will and timing, pleading in prayer for this baby, contemplating different permutations of bad outcome, and reflecting on the hand of God in our

lives, receiving comfort and instruction from God’s Word and receiving God’s goodness and grace day by day, and the eventual unspeakable peace that God gives, has led me to the undeniable conclusion that this is God’s will and His will is perfect.

The testing was severe, but the journey has been blessed in many ways. God had provided wonderfully along the way and I have so much to be thankful for. I have no time to go into the details but God was with me, and we truly had no lack.

He knew my weakness and gently led me and provided for me each step of the way. He took away all the crutches I had in this life, whether material comforts, personal freedom, solace from family and friends, health and life itself, and led me to the lowest point, so that I could see clearly, and experience the fullness and sufficiency of His grace and love. And today I can say to you: God is love. He gives peace. His timing is perfect. He knew everything. His will is perfect.

To my dear family and friends, and especially my brother Ern, I know many of you grieve with us. Take heart, for we do not grieve as those who have no hope. For the Bible tells us that his soul is with God, and though we do not have a chance to be together in this transient earthly life, we will see him again in heaven for all eternity. This child has been spared the toil of this earthly life, and he is in the presence of God.

To brethren who are facing fearful uncertainties, I want to encourage you not to lose heart and not to be afraid. We are fearful because we do not know what lies ahead, but God knows, our paths have been determined and His will for our lives is perfect.

To brethren who are suffering while waiting – When I look back at the past events, I can see how they have been orchestrated so well, every single step.

Our baby was born at a time when we had the full support of our family. God provided for Jack's long leave these 2 months (which was planned way before anything happened), and my parents who had an unplanned travel cancellation exactly in this period and have been available to help. As someone who is usually slightly obsessive with planning, I am truly humbled by how impeccable God's timing is. And so I want to encourage you to be patient and wait upon God's timing. His timing is perfect. I have truly experienced this.

To those of you who do not know Christ – I believe with all my heart that there is a God who created us, and who holds our lives in His hands. And He gives peace and security amidst the storms of life. And I hope that everyone can experience this too.

When I left KKH on Tuesday, after 8 tumultuous weeks, I had peace in my heart. I thank God for everything that He has given us, even life itself, health and strength, being able to get into the car and go home, being able to sit at the

table to eat, seeing how the 2 children have grown in my absence, how God has preserved them, and me.

All we have is by the grace of God and He has given me new eyes of thankfulness.

We didn't have a name for the baby when he died, and only named him after. I wanted to name him wen xi - for 喜乐. Joy, for the joy that he brought us, and the joy he has in the presence of God right now.

But we changed it to 文悦 - 悦 for 喜悦 which has the same meaning of joy. Most of you know our two older children by their English names, but their Chinese names are actually 文杰 and 悦祈. So Wen Yue has one character from each of his siblings' names. He will always be a part of our family, and the memory of him will live in our hearts.

This child was a precious gift from God. Even though he did not live long, 26 weeks and 2 days in the womb, and 2 days in the world, his short existence has shown me how God's will and timing are perfect, and a powerful reminder of God's grace and tender mercies. I will never forget these past 8 weeks, all those days and nights I struggled and waited, where for me and that little baby in my womb, we had no one and no help but God alone.

His life was not given or lived in vain. My child has now been promoted to glory, and my faith in God is strengthened.

All glory be to God. ■

A CHRISTIAN STUDENT

Not too long ago, a non-Christian father of a young Christian attending our church, asked me a question: "What should be the most important thing in the life of a Christian student?" I replied, "Loving and serving God." He was very unhappy to hear my reply. He retorted by saying that I then do not encourage the student to focus on his studies. But I replied, "Loving and serving God do not mean that a Christian student neglect his studies, but rather that it will direct him to be truly responsible in all his duties in life – towards God, towards church, towards parents, towards friends and neighbours, towards his studies, towards his work, etc."

Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). The first and foremost concern of every Christian must be the things of God's kingdom and righteousness. In other words, we should not neglect our love and commitment to God. We must always seek Him through prayer, worship, study of His Word and fellowship with His people. Whatever belongs to God must not be sacrificed for other things.

Loving and serving God do not mean that things of life, such as studies, work and family will be neglected. On the contrary, Jesus says, He will help us to add all these things in the right manner to our life – "and all these things shall be added unto you." As we diligently seek Jesus, He will bless us with His supreme wisdom and power to do all the duties of life, and also help us when troubles do come in various realms of life.

If you want to be blessed of the Lord, then seek Him first. Have you been reading God's Word? Have you been praying day and night? Have you been obedient to God? Have you been worshipping God sincerely? Have you been attending the fellowships to increase in spiritual understanding? These things will not hinder your progress in life, but will most assuredly bless your life with greater blessings!

Prabhudas Koshy

COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 20 August 2017

Tithes: 4,415.00

Offerings: 7,069.30; EUR 0.01

Bldg Fund (Project): 1,000.00; 650.00; 500.00

Designated Gifts: Bible Witness 10,000.00; Charity Fund 50.00; GBPC (Ethiopia) 100.00; Ephrem Chiracho 100.00; Pastor Koshy 400.00; Pr Kelvin Lim 50.00; 50.00; Kenneth Wong 50.00; Jeremiah Sim RM490.00; Gina Sim 200.00

NON-SUNDAY GIFT

Missions Support: 2,000.00

Bldg Fund (Project): 1,000.00; 125.00

TGCM (local): 2,000.00

Designated Gifts: Pastor Koshy 1,000.00; General Fund 400.00; 50.00; Bible Witness 200.00

SPECIAL FUND UPDATE

(as of 20 August 2017)

Building Fund (Project): \$2,296,026.70

GETHSEMANE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Topic: Book Study of 2 John

Speaker: Pastor Koshy

Chairman: Bro Tan Yeh Wen

Date: Sat, 2 Sep 2017

Time: 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Venue: Home of Pastor & Mrs Koshy
826 Tampines St 81, #02-92
Singapore 520826

GYAF SEMINAR 2017

“Sure & Stedfast (Hebrews 6:19)”

Speaker: Pr Clement Chew

Date: Sat, 2 Sept 2017

Time: 2.00-6.00pm

Venue: City Beach Resort
(Small Function Room)

8 Port Rd, Singapore 117540

Transport from Labrador Park MRT station from 1.30pm. Please sign up on the list at the reception table.

PASTORAL VISITATION

TAMPINES EAST/SIMEI

Date & Time: Fri, 8 Sept 2017, 8.00pm

Venue: Home of Mr & Mrs Eugene Song
147 Simei St 2, #01-68
Singapore 520147

If you live in this region, please check that your name is on the list placed on the reception table. If it is not, please add it in.

SUNDAY EVANGELISM

There will be an evangelism session today at

Bld 542 Bedok North Street 3
Singapore 460542

Please meet @ 1.30pm at the foyer.

BAPTISM/AFFIRMATION OF FAITH/TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP

Date: Lord's Day,
10 September 2017

Parents of young infants seeking baptism of their child and brethren from like-minded churches seeking transfers of church memberships, together with several brethren who have completed the Catechism Class held in the 1st half of 2017, are asked to register with Sis Diana Koh by today, 27 August 2017. Please refer to Eld Choy or Eld Mah for any clarification.

COMBINED GAF/GMF DAY-RETREAT

Theme: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15b)

Speaker: Pastor Koshy

Date: Wednesday, 18 Oct 2017
(public holiday)

Time: 9.30am – 4.45pm *

Venue: TGCM premises (Punggol)

Attire: Modest & appropriate casual
(in view of games session)

** Programme includes 3 messages interspersed with tea / lunch breaks, and games session at the end.*

Do sign up at the reception table to facilitate seating arrangements and catering for packet lunch / light refreshments.

(There is concurrent GCM programme for children aged 4-12.)

13TH BIBLE WITNESS RETREAT

*(held in conjunction with
Gethsemane Ladies' Fellowship Seminar)*

Theme: "An Empowered Woman of God"

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Date: 6th – 8th September 2017 (Wed–Fri)

Venue: Tanjong Puteri Golf Resort
Pasir Gudang, Johor

Closing date: Today, 27th Aug 2017
Please make your final payment by today.

COMBINED YOUTH RETREAT OF GYF AND CALVARY PANDAN B-P CHURCH YF

Theme: Deny Yourself, Take Up Your
Cross and Follow Christ!

Speakers: Pastor Koshy, Preacher
Joshua Yong, Brother Andrew Koh

Date: 8-9 September 2017

Venue: Calvary Pandan B-P Church

Fee: \$10

Sign-up: <http://tinyurl.com/yfseptretreat>

CHINESE BIBLE CONFERENCE

Theme: Earnestly Contending for the Faith

Speaker: Pr Daniel Lim

Date & Time: Sat, 30 Sept 2017, 10.00am-2.00pm

Venue: City Beach Resort
8 Port Road, Singapore 117540

(Transport from Labrador Park MRT station from 9.30am.)

We encourage Chinese-speaking brethren to attend this conference and to invite your Christian friends. Do sign up at the reception table. If you are joining the lunch (\$5.00 per person), please make payment to Sis Aileen Tan.

POST-WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

Please stay back after worship to join us for:

Refreshments & Fellowship

12.30pm – 1.30pm

Bible Study (Adults, Youths & Children)

Cancelled in view of Evangelism

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Night Bible Study & Prayer
8.00pm @ L5 Auditorium, SingPost Centre

Wednesday Lunch Hour Bible Study
1.00pm @ Bible Witness Bookroom

Wednesday Night GBI-Online
7.45pm-9.15pm @ TGCM

Thursday Seniors' Ministry
11.00am (Please contact Pr Jeremiah Sim)

Friday Morning Prayer
7.45am – 8.30am @ Church Resource Centre

Friday Campus Bible Study
SUTD Semestral Break

Sunday Lions Home Ministry
For enquiry, contact Pr Jeremiah Sim

*For more information, please call
the church office at 6741 1910.*



Bible Witness
Magazine



Bible Witness
Web Radio



Church
Weekly

Time & Place of Worship

10.30am

Level 5 Auditorium
Singapore Post Centre

10 Eunos Road 8
Singapore 408600

(next to Paya Lebar MRT station)

Prayer Hotline

8138 8139

SMS or WhatsApp
your prayer item

Our Office

510 Geylang Road, #02-06
Singapore 389466

Tel: 6741 1910

Fax: 6741 1016

Our Websites

gethsemanebpc.com
biblewitness.com

Our Pastor

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy
Mobile: 9001 1119

Email: pastor.gbpc@gmail.com

Our Session

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy
Elder Mah Chin Kwang

Elder Alan Choy

Elder Ng Poh Kok

Deacon Daniel Lim

Deacon Lok Kwok Wah

Deacon Kelvin Lim

Deacon Francis Lee

Deacon Low Boon Siang