



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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Vol. 10 No. 32

**LORD'S DAY 6 AUGUST 2006**

Dear Readers,

### **"A bruised reed shall He not break." Matt 12:20**

A bruised reed, Lord, Thou wilt not break,  
My broken life Thou canst remake;  
Help me escape the hostile world,  
Where Satan's darts at me are hurled;  
In Thee, dear Lord I am secure,  
In Thee, the promised home is sure.

The Lord is good to give us two articles to remind us of His love for us. Are you going through a rough patch? Can you not forgive? May you read these articles and be encouraged.

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### **"Intended For Good"**

*"And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Gen 50: 19 – 20*

Joseph, the dreamer, was a good lad and the favourite son of Jacob. But his life was filled with one difficult situation after another. By the time he was a teenager, his brothers had developed an intense hatred toward him. Their hatred led to an attempt to take his life but rather than kill him, they sold young Joseph to some Ishmaelite merchants.

The Ishmaelites on arriving in Egypt sold Joseph into slavery to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's senior officers and captain of the Palace Guard (Gen 37). Joseph was put straight to work, but God took care of him and helped him to become successful at everything he turned his hand to. Potiphar noticed this and was so pleased with Joseph that he put him in charge of all his household business. As a result, the Egyptian's house was blessed and everything in it flourished. But later, Joseph was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife of rape and Potiphar immediately had Joseph thrown into prison (Gen 39).

Despite the false accusation, Joseph trusted God. He could have become very discouraged when he became a slave, but somehow Joseph simply adjusted to his circumstances and thrived; "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered" (Gen 39:2). When Joseph was tempted with sexual sin by Potiphar's wife, he kept himself pure because he did not want to "sin against God" (Gen 39:9). Nevertheless, the false...

*Continued on Page 2...*

accusation still resulted in his being sent to prison.

While in prison, Joseph continued to place his complete trust in God. He found favour in the sight of the head jailer who soon put him in charge of the day-to-day running of the jail. For three years, Joseph remained in prison where he was known as an “interpreter of dreams”.

When asked to interpret Pharaoh’s dreams, Joseph risked his freedom. However, he rightly interpreted the dream of the 7 thin cows eating the 7 fat cows as 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine. Rather than take credit for himself, he gave all the glory and praise to God; “It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace” (Gen 41:16).

Joseph was rewarded with much more than his freedom; he was made Governor of Egypt and placed in charge of the entire land of Egypt during the great famine. He was also reunited with his family who were invited by Pharaoh to move to Egypt. As a result, he was able to keep them from starvation. Several years later, after their father died, Joseph’s brothers came and fearfully asked for his forgiveness. Joseph could have taken revenge, but he continued to demonstrate his understanding of how God cares for His children, and he forgave his brothers.

When Joseph was sold into slavery, he had no idea of God’s awesome plan. He did not know that he would spend years in jail before receiving even a hint of God’s purpose. But God is always at work in the lives of those who love Him. Joseph’s life must encourage us to draw near to God during times of hardship, to continue trusting and honouring Him in all we do, no matter what our circumstances!

We all go through ‘dungeon’ seasons when life seems to take unplanned and seemingly ‘unfair’ turns. We all, at times, feel abandoned and alone: “Has God forgotten me? Does He no longer care?” We may not understand why things happen the way they do, but if we continue to love and obey Him with all our heart and consistently trust Him through all our trials, we can be certain that God is in control and our situation is truly intended for good.

May we continue to trust and obey God in times of adversities taking comfort to know that God intended it for our good. Amen.

*Elder Prasad Sivaraj  
New Life BP Church, Singapore*

## **“Make Level Paths for Your Feet” – Hebrews 12:13, Matthew 18:1-35**

The Jewish Christians in the days of St Paul were undergoing bitter persecution, undervaluing Christian privileges and absorbed in their own sufferings. They were generally in a backslidden condition. Paul wrote this letter to the Hebrews to rectify these errors: hence the encouragement to “make level paths for your feet”, meaning the pursuing of “level paths” which righteousness entails, so that the weak and tottering Christians could be healed.

Jesus’ disciples were once “position seekers”, competing for greatness amongst themselves. The Lord told them that except they humble themselves as a little child, they will not be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. In other words, they should possess the heart of humility of a child, esteeming others better than oneself.

Should a member of the Body of Christ cause another to stumble (i.e. tempted to sin), it is better to cut off that “sinful” part – this means to eliminate or abstain from whatever is tempting one to sin. On the other hand, if we see a brother in dire need of help, we should do our level best to save this brother like the shepherd who left his fold of ninety-nine sheep just to save the lost one!

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**In Green Pastures**  
**Devotional Readings for Every Day of the**  
**Year**

By J.R. Miller, D.D.

6 August 2006

**MORNING**

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:14 “Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.”**

THE desire of all true friendship is not to get, but to give, not to be served, but to serve.

In all Paul’s letters we find that he is eager to do people good, never having the desire to be profited by them. We have this in these words, “I seek not yours, but you.” He would not be a burden to them.

It was not the part of children to lay up for their parents, but for parents to lay up for their children, and he was to them as a father. He would most gladly spend and be spent for their spiritual welfare.

Paul’s interest in them was not fully appreciated, for the more he loved them the less did they love him. But this did not affect his care for them—he still loved them, and was very eager to do them good. He sought not theirs, but them.

This little sentence tells the whole story of true friendship. It is the true minister’s motto. It should be every man’s desire for his neighbour. It is always love’s motto—“Not yours, but you.”

**EVENING**

**SPIRITUAL POVERTY**

WE are greedy after this world’s things, and never can get enough of them; but of the real things, the things that will last through eternity, we are satisfied with very small portions. “What seek ye?” asks the Master, His hands filled with precious blessings; and we ask for some little thing, some trifle, when we might have glorious fulness of blessing. How very strange it must seem to the angels to see us poor mortals giving our life, our very soul, to get some paltry thing of earth that will perish tomorrow, and then not taking the precious spiritual boons that we might have for the mere asking!

Confrontational redemption involves confronting a wrong so as to help bring about repentance and restoration. The first step is to meet the brother in private. No other party should be involved at this stage. The aim is to privately settle the issue, and win the offending brother back into the Body of Christ. If this does not work, the next step is to take one or two more brothers to speak to the offending brother. If this fails as well, then the final step is “to tell it to the church”. If he neglects to hear the Church and submit to Church authority, the Church may treat him as an unbeliever.

Church discipline is a moral commitment. Unfortunately, this is often not carried out by the Church authorities, as churches worry more about losing one member rather than restoring a repentant brother back to the fold!

Forgiveness of an offending brother is an essential step towards restoration of good relationship and brotherly love within a Church. The Apostle Peter learnt there were no limits to the number of times he should forgive an offending brother. An illustration was given of a servant who was unable to repay his huge debt. He pleaded for patience from his master. His master’s heart was touched, and he willingly forgave his debt! But the wicked servant later denied mercy towards a fellow servant who owed him a relatively small sum. This second servant was cast into prison. This incident came to the ears of the master who was infuriated, and in the end, the wicked servant received the punishment rightfully due to him instead of mercy and compassion.

God expects us to forgive others as He has forgiven us. Forgiveness is a virtue. Withholding mercy from one another out of spite is a great offence to God.

We all need to make straight paths for the weak and disabled to recover. The Lord Jesus Christ has taken this a step further, saying, “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you.” Amen.

*Bro Roy Ho*  
*New Life BP Church, Singapore*

**WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON**  
**CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**  
**IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)**

Our **worship services** begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.  
 Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

| Worship Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                          |                                                                    | WELCOME                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Morning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Today: 06/08/2006</b> | <b>Next Week: 13/08/2006</b>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day morning.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <i>Chairman:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Alvin Chow               | Seetoh Yoong Chiang                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Speaker:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Rev Lim Chee Boon        | Rev Lim Chee Boon                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Message:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Christ's Humility        | Christ's Foreknowledge                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Text:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | John 13:1-20             | John 13:21-38                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Organist:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Anthony                  | Yanning                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Evening</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Chairman:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Jeff Pun                 | John Poh                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Speaker:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Rev Lim Chee Boon        | Rev Lim Chee Boon                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Message:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | The Sight of God's Glory | The Suffering for the Faith                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Text:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Exodus 16:1-12           | 1 Peter 1:1-9                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Pianist:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ming Yann                | Anthony                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Other Duties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                          |                                                                    | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Today</b>             | <b>Next Week</b>                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Continue to pray for those who are sick:</b> Pray for Rev Lim, he has an appointment with the TIA clinic on 8 August.</li> <li>• <b>Visa Application:</b> Thank God that Mok &amp; Carol have been granted minister's visa for 2 years, commencing on 1 September. Due to the visa date, they are delaying their return by 1 day. Pray for seat availability.</li> <li>• <b>Areas of Service:</b> For those who are interested to serve (as ushers, Sunday school teachers, pianists, organists, ...), please see Jonathan or Daniel.</li> <li>• <b>Maasai Mission:</b> Continue to pray for the settlement of the land issues. Pray for Sis Pui Meng – for God's protection and blessing in her clinic ministry to the Maasai.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Ushers</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Jeff/Daniel              | John/Jonathan                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Esmeralda                | Joyce                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Lunch:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yoong Chiang/Jonathan    | Maureen Poh                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Washing-up:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | YAF Group 2              | YAF Group 1                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <i>Bible Study:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No DHW                   | DHW – Genesis 26                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Appointments of the Week                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Wed 9 Aug                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7:30 pm                  | <b>Mid Week Prayer Meeting:</b><br>C'man: Rev Lim                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Fri 11 Aug                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7.00 pm                  | <b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b><br>Led by Rev Lim (Book of Daniel) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Sat 12 Aug                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 4.00 pm                  | <b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b><br>Spkr/C'man: Alvin      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Offering:</b> £152.56                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          | <b>Lunch:</b> £17.66                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <u>The Lord's Prayer</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <p><i>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen</i></p> |                          |                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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*Keep Thou my heart, O Lord,  
 ever close to Thee;*

*Safe in Thine arms of love, shall  
 my refuge be;*

*Then, over a tranquil tide, my  
 bark shall safely glide;*

*I shall be satisfied, ever close to  
 Thee.*