



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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LORD'S DAY 01 APRIL 2007

My dear readers,

Another excerpt from "Footprints" – Senai

The Senai I knew was a "one street town," two rows of plank and attap shophouses lining the North-South highway, long gone, demolished by the advancing forces of modernization.

Today, Senai is a major airport town, located on the trunk road linking Johor Baru in the south with Kuala Lumpur, the Federal Capital, in the north. A rapidly growing town with potential and promise of developing into a major logistics and communications hub of South East Asia, by its strategic land, air, and sea links.

Impressive housing estates, schools, shopping centres, hotels, entertainment and recreational facilities make up the "greater Senai" which by natural growth may well overtake and absorb the neighbouring town of Kulai, a few kilometres to the north.

What can I tell you of my Senai experience of eighty years ago worth your trouble reading? From the misty past, emerge six scenes, a heritage from the musty memory store distinguished by the years: "*Tis distance lends enchantment to the view*" (Thomas Campbell 1777 - 1844). The distance of years might just add a touch of antiquity.

Peach River Garden

Father had grand visions of a tropical paradise, but God's plan was otherwise. The Great Depression of the nineteen-thirties turned men's plans upside down. Overnight, rubber became rubbish: seventy three acres were no blessing, but an unbearable burden. "*Man proposed, God disposed.*" Father had to dispose of the estate and that was the end of his dream.

God's will over-rides: man is nothing, less than nothing. His Word reminds: "*Without me ye can do nothing*" (Jn 15:5). Even the name of the estate coined by Father was a misnomer. "*Peach River Garden*" grew no peaches, was no garden, and the river was but a "*pint size brook.*"

"So sadly, when the sun was low, Stood still the silent untapped trees,

Dumb observers of human woe: Father and Mother on their knees

For mercy pleading, Latex not flowing,

Rubber not selling. But God still rules O'er everything."

Was Senai God's answer to China? (More to follow)

*Lovingly in the Lord
Dr Tow Siang Hwa, Sr Pastor
(extracted from Calvary B-P Church bulletin dated 25 March 2007)*

God is Truth

“God is Truth” is an absolute statement because He never changes. Truth can only be absolute if it does not change. Otherwise, it is only relative truth i.e.

- a) it is relative to time and space (true at one point of time but not another), or
- b) it is relative to person (true for one person but not another).

On the contrary, absolute truths do not change with time, place or person. Only God can make such a claim and He did so in the book of Malachi, *“For I am the Lord, I change not...”* (Mal 3: 6).

Problem with Absolutism?

Do we need to have absolute evidence before we believe in the absolute truth? Of course not! Absolute truth does not stand or fall on the basis of how it is regarded. Regardless of man’s mockery, absolute truth remains as absolute truth and God will remain as God. Whether we want to believe in Him or not, or whether we are still in the process of deciding, does not change His claim to deity and sovereignty.

“Close-Mindedness”

If we adopt such a stance, will we not be guilty of being close-minded? Ought not we to be open-minded? In a society of relativism, to be ‘open-minded’ is the in thing. ‘Open mindedness’ is the buzzword. It is a virtue to be extolled, while ‘close-mindedness’ is derided as a mindset that is undesirable and uncondusive for progress and growth.

After all, should we not be gracious to concede that another viewpoint may after all be correct and deserve our endorsement? We are duty bound to explore all possibilities before coming to a firm conclusion. It appeals to the intellect. That would be good if the new position we come to was actually true, but what if it were not so? Would we not have fallen into the trap of ‘half truth’? Do we abandon a correct position in the name of ‘openmindedness’ when all reasons tell us that there can be only be one conclusion? Applying it to the Christian faith, do we then discard our dogmas, such as (i) The Christian God is selfexistent, self-sufficient, eternal, infinite in power and wisdom, and who changes not; (ii) Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life; and (iii) Thy Word is truth?

We regard these systematic and absolute truths from the eternity past into the eternity future. They remain as the firm anchors of our faith. We need to be firmly rooted in them, to keep ourselves from being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine and by the sleight of men and their cunning craftiness. Let God be true and every man a liar. God forbid that we should be swayed by the appeal of ‘open-mindedness’. In fact, to be open-minded is to take an absolute position. That in itself is self-contradictory, for an open-minded person is guilty of the very attitude he seeks to condemn!

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As Christians, we cannot be so open-minded that we live our faith on a body of truth that depends on an infinite regress that will never arrive at any truth. Dearly beloved, in life, that never works. We need absolutes. No system can stand without the support of absolutes, anymore than for a spider to be able to build her webs without the support of the attaching walls! So too Christians have absolutes as unchanging truths. While we should be “openminded” by having our sails up to the contemporary winds of change, our anchors must be firmly rooted on God’s unchanging truth. We must change when there is a need to change but the Word of God must never be contravened.

The Biblical absolutes are not negotiable. They are not for sale. They are pivotal to the stability and timeless claims of our Christian faith. The evil one is powerless against the truth of God’s Word. Did not our Lord Jesus Christ quote Scriptures to expose the deceit of Satan in the wilderness? Lest we be caught off-guard, beware of the wily foe, who can cause our faith to be shipwrecked, firstly by causing us to neglect His Word and secondly, by undermining our trust in the veracity of His Word.

For the sake of the elect, Paul charged us to – *“study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth”* (2 Tim 2:15). To encourage us in the faith further, he exhorted that we should be like the Bereans, *“received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so”* (Acts 17: 11).

May we do so with this great conviction of God’s Word – *“Sanctify them through thy truth,thy word is truth”* (Jn 17: 17).

The Bible stands like a rock undaunted
’Mid the raging storms of time;
Its pages burn with the Truth eternal,
And they glow with a light sublime.
The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.

~ **Haldor Lillenas**

Amen.

Lovingly in The Lord,

Elder Lim Yew Cheng

Evangel B-P Church, M’sia

(extracted from Evangel B-P church bulletin dated 25 March 2007)

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

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
Morning	Today: 01/04/2007	Next Week: 08/04/2007	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Hong King Wu to our morning worship service and Georgi Nikolov to our evening service last week.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Jack Sin	Rev Jack Sin	
<i>Message:</i>	Why We are Christians?	The Case for the Resurrection	
<i>Text:</i>	Acts 11:17-26	1 Corinthians 15:1-22	
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Speaker:</i>	Rev Jack Sin	Rev Jack Sin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: Mrs Angie Sin will be conducting a bible study on the topic of "The Roles of godly Women in the Covenant Home and Church". All are encouraged to attend the bible study. • Easter Worship Activities: The following is a summary of the Easter weekend activities: Friday 6 Apr, 11am – Good Friday Service Saturday 7 Apr, 10am – Outing to Bunhill Fields & Wesley Chapel Saturday 7 Apr, 4pm – Prayer Meeting & Bible Study Sunday 8 Apr, 11am & 4pm – Morning & Evening Worship Services Monday 9 Apr, 11am – Gospel Rally (followed by BBQ) • ECM, 8 April 07: A reminder for the ECM to be held on 8 April. Please take note that the responses for the membership roll is due today. Please hand the responses to Pr Mok. Also, for those who have not received the letter, please see Pr Mok.
<i>Message:</i>	Why We are Bible-Presbyterians?	Why We are 6 Day Creationists?	
<i>Text:</i>	Jude 3 & 4; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18	Acts 17:15-30	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Feng Qian	
Other Duties			
	Today: 01/04/2007	Next Week: 08/04/2007	
<i>Ushers</i>	Chin Kiong/Evelyn	Daniel/Joyce	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Carol	No Sunday School	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Tbd	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	Special Bible Study (refer to announcements)	Special Bible Study (refer to announcements)	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 6 Apr	Young Adults Fellowship: No YAF meeting (Easter weekend)		
Sat 7 Apr	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Rev Jack Sin	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £534.90		Lunch: £37.67	
Memory Verse			
<p><i>Previous Week (Mar07 Wk 4): 2 Corinthians 7:10</i></p> <p>For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.</p> <p><i>This Week (Apr07 Wk 1): Acts 11:26</i></p> <p>And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.</p>			