



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Vol. 11 No. 10

LORD'S DAY 4 MARCH 2007

My dear readers,

1. "Get Rich Fever" grips many

The love of money needs no nurturing. It is in every breast. Many succumb to it, it's only natural. But the wise stay clear. Singapore has never had it so good. People are getting rich and the rich are getting richer. Everywhere apartment blocks are being torn down, not because they are old, but to make way for developers to build better and higher, both in height and in price. Big businesses are booming, raking in unprecedented profits. The stock market is on the boil. The bulls are having a field day. Everywhere the New Year is ushered in with smiling "Gong Xi Fa Cai" greetings.

But what about you and others who are perhaps out of the "swing of things"? Are you worried? Let's hear what God's Word says.

2. "Godliness with Contentment is great gain" (1 Tim 6:6)

The true riches is not measured in dollars and cents, but in one's heart condition toward God. He is our true riches. It is He who gave us life and health, and the ability to work and get wealth. He holds the key to peace of mind and happiness which is better than money.

The apostle Paul has godly counsel for us: "*Having food and raiment let us be therewith content*" (1 Tim 6:8).

Also listen to what Pastor James Smith says in *Daily Remembrancer* (May 8 Evening):

"GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN." *They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare.* God knows best. We cannot really want more, and if God sees fit to withhold, we ought not even to wish for more. Our food may be sparse, and our raiment coarse. What then? If we have God's blessing, if we enjoy His presence, we are better off than if we possessed a kingdom without them. If God gave us no more, we ought to believe that more would be injurious to us. God either loves us, or He does not. He cares for us and provides for us, for He leaves nothing to chance. If we are believers in Jesus, God certainly does love us, He does care for us, He does provide for us; if He has numbered the very hairs of our head, fixed the bounds of our habitation, promised to supply all our needs, He cannot have left anything to chance. But such is the case. Let us then be content with such things as we have. Let us learn in every state therewith to be content. Let us bear in mind that godliness with contentment is great gain, or a good future. Remember that it is written, that "all things that pertain to life and godliness," are given to us through the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Great things are not what I desire,
Nor rich repast, nor gay attire;...

Continued on Page 2...

Content with little would I be;
That little, Lord, must come from Thee.

3. **“Footprints in the sands of time” serialized**

(memoirs from bulletin dated 4 February 2007)

From this week, as often as appropriate, the recently preached messages, touching on my life story, will be serialized. Please pray for me as I work on the script. Thank you.

Chapter One – Farewell, China! land of my birth

Go south, and live!

Wisdom cried out: *A living dog is better than a dead lion. Perish vain thoughts of greatness and power. For real power, go to the One who alone conquered death to live for evermore. He says: “All power is given unto me, in heaven and in earth.... I have the keys of hell and of death”* (Matt 28:20, Rev 1:18).

Father thought hard and long. Twice spared from certain death in his pursuit of name and fame, dabbling in Chinese politics, he took a close look at his life direction.

Mother was a woman of prayer. Daily she prayed to God and reasoned with Father: *“Better to be God’s servant, like the lowly Jesus, than to hobnob with kings. You have cheated death twice. There may not be a third time. Nanyang is safer.”*

The message was clear. To everything there was a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven: a time to come, a time to go. Father crossed his Rubicon; instantly a great weight fell away. The final decision was not easy, but safe. God was calling, no mistake about it. Taking Big Brother Timothy (Siang Hui) with him, Father called on General Chiang Kai Shek at his official residence in Eastern Hills, and tendered his resignation from the Superintendentship of the Military Hospital of the Whampoa Military Academy.

Father had learned his lesson. From henceforth, it was *“Christ only, the hope of glory,”* no more hobnobbing with the top brass.

It was deep winter when we set sail for Nanyang (South Seas) in search of our land of promise. Father gave the word and Mother uprooted the family from Swatow the Teochew Capital City, never to return. I was in my fourteenth month of life, just discovering my feet. Travelling together were my three elder siblings: - Big Sister, Big Brother, and Second Brother; Grandfather and Father’s three younger sisters. Ten souls made up the migrant family.

The *“P and O”* boat took us to Singapore, port of transit. Our destination, prepared by Father, and awaiting our arrival, was *Senai*, a rubber-growing village in South Johor, some thirty-two miles to the north of Singapore.

Here in *Senai*, was Father’s *“land of dreams,”* conceived during his sojourn some years earlier, when he worked as assistant to a certain Dr Chan in Penang. As proud owner of seventy-three acres of rubber, and rubber was enjoying an unprecedented boomtime on the world market, Father had visions of becoming a prosperous landlord, living off the *“milk and money”* flowing from the trees in the estate. But this was not to be as we shall see: God had other plans.

In a clearing in the estate stood a sturdy wood-and-plank attap dwelling house with...

Continued on Page 3...

many rooms. Into this, our abode for the next six years, the family quickly settled. While our leaving China had some semblance of the *Exodus* of the Israelites leaving Egypt for years of wilderness wandering, *Senai* was heaven by comparison and no wilderness. The family house provided comfort and ample shelter for everyone: no need of a *pillar of cloud* for shade, like the Israelites.

For water supply God had prepared a crystal clear water brook, flowing through the estate just a stone's throw from the Family House. This kept our water tank supplied at all times. Abundant bird life in the trees filled the air with bird-song through all hours of the day. Here was paradise, we thought.

Reflecting on this garden-like environment, Father named the estate, "*Peach River Garden*." For the years the Lord put us there, it was a garden of experience, at times like Eden, but the latter days more like Gethsemane. Our faith in God was to be put to the test, as we shall see.

Peach River Garden was God's "*School of Learning*" for the family. There He would teach us to be "... *content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*" (Heb 13:5). Days of severe testing lay yet ahead: how shall our faith withstand the test?

When we first arrived in *Senai*, the rubber price was soaring to the clouds, buoyed by a global commodity boom. With every cut of the bark, out oozed the white sap or *latex*; the trees were literally "*flowing with milk and money*."

When World War I ended in 1918, Europe and the rest of the world were broken and bankrupt, devastated by four years of war. America, largely untouched, emerged as economic kingpin and saviour of the world. With America in the lead, the nations began to rebuild their shattered economies. The decade of the nineteen twenties ushered in a boom of unprecedented proportions in every area: reconstruction, building, manufacturing, transportation, finance and investment.

The price of commodities rose with the growing market demand. Rubber prices followed the trend, reaching a high of \$100 a picul (about 60 kg). Fueled by greed, trading on the New York Stock Exchange boomed, pushing the Dow index to record heights in 1929. Speculators by their thousands, joined in the gold rush, creating a highly volatile and overheated "*bull market*."

Then someone decided it was time to sell, *take profit*, and get out. Suddenly, everyone else thought the same. The result: **panic selling**. In one day Tuesday October 29, 1929, the New York Stock Exchange collapsed. Suddenly, stocks and shares lost their shine. Prices plunged "*across the board*," and millionaires plunged from New York's skyscrapers to escape their sorrows. Many a *millionaire* saw their *millions* fly away, leaving only the air.

Shock waves from New York swept around the globe. In Malaya and Singapore, the price of rubber fell from \$100 to \$10 a picul. Suddenly, rubber became rubbish. Overnight, it was not worth tapping. A billion trees stood untouched in a thousand estates throughout Malaya.

Suddenly the specter of hunger and starvation stared us in the face. Until this day, Father's voice from the past rings loud and clear in my ears: "*Rubber was not worth tapping. The proceeds could not even pay the tappers' wages*." (to be continued)

God bless all readers.

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr Tow Siang Hwa, Sr Pastor

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: 04/03/2007	Next Week: 11/03/2007	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Seetoh Yoong Chiang	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Mind Your Language	The Pursuit of Holiness	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	James 3:1-12	1 Peter 1:15-16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: Thank God for a blessed worship at Evelyn's home. For those who interested to come, please see Pr Mok. Also, for those who like to open their homes for family worship for the months of March and April, please contact Pr. Mok. • Church Easter Camp: This will take place between 6 to 9 April. The speaker will be Rev Jack Sin (Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore). More details will be published in the camp pamphlet next week. If you would like to help out in the logistic of the camp, please see Sis Feng Qian. • Areas of Service: For those who are interested to help in the kitchen ministry or post lunch washing-up and usher, please see Daniel or Jonathan. • Tracting: Those who are interested to do 15-20 minutes of distributing of tracts on the Lord's Day, outside the main entrance of the church, please see Sis Esmeralda for details. • Recent Bereavement: 1) Yoong Chiang's grandma - Pray for the Lord to comfort Yoong Chiang and family. 2) Myriam's grandma - Pray for the Lord to comfort Myriam and family.
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	The Names of God – Jehovah-Shalom	The Names of God – Jah	
<i>Text:</i>	Judges 6:24	Exodus 3:14	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	Today: 04/03/2007	Next Week: 11/03/2007	
<i>Ushers</i>	Chin Kiong/Evelyn	Daniel/Joyce	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Yanning	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Constance	Maureen	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	BBK / DHW	BBK / DHW	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 9 Mar	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Led by John Poh	
Sat 10 Mar	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £203.65		Lunch: £35.73	
<h2><u>Memory Verse</u></h2>			
<i>Previous Week (Feb07 Wk 4): Romans 14:19</i>			
Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.			
<i>This Week (Mar07 Wk 1): James 1:19</i>			
Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:			