



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. 3

LORD'S DAY 14 JANUARY 2007

My dear readers,

Six Marks Of A Healthy & Vibrant Growing Church

Introduction

Our Saviour in His Word set the standard for authenticity and vitality for His elect. The Church comprised the called-out ones. What are the distinguishing marks of a healthy Church? When we are gathered together there should be mutual encouragement in edifying one another. We need to be genuine in our ministry of the Lord's work.

Paul wrote in Eph 4:25, *Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.* There is so much hypocrisy, hatred and strife in the world and we do not need to add them to God's Church. The Church needs authenticity and commitment in the congregation. Be dedicated and genuine in your worship and service of the Lord and be a blessing, not a stumbling block to others.

Servant Oriented Spirit in Stewardship

We need to commit to a Church as an actual member, not just a pew warmer but one that operates as a community of servants using their spiritual gifts. Every member is a steward with gifts and talents. The early Church in Acts and the Epistles tell us how to be an active member of a local Church, there is purposeful and committed membership. There is nothing in the Bible about being a passive and indifferent member.

The Bible verses on spiritual gifts tell us that every Christian has a ministry, a calling to do something for the Lord in the Church (Rom 12; 1 Cor 12; Eph 4). But the multitude can serve well with good attitude and aptitude. Jesus says, *But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister.* He demonstrated this when He washed the disciples' feet: John 13:14,15 says, *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.* In an achievement-oriented world, where success means recognition, power and perks; Jesus redefined greatness as servanthood! What a challenge to believer to be meek and lowly in an arrogant world!

When all of us in a local Church use our spiritual gifts, have a servant mind-set and "dwell together in unity" (Ps 133:1), that's where the Church becomes a powerful force for God's kingdom and for His glory.

Loving & Caring Relationships among Brethren

We also need to commit to a church where loving relationships permeate every aspect of Church life. Jesus says, *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another;...*

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as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Paul said serving is useless if we do not serve in love (1 Cor 13:1-3).

The love is based on the truth in God's holy Word and not the compromise of doctrine. Life for many people is not only sinful, it's also dead. Eph 4:32 says, *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* We are to preach the unadulterated and pure gospel and stand for the reformed faith in the authority of His Word. Reformation truths of salvation by grace alone among other important doctrinal beliefs and the doctrines of grace are to be upheld and proclaimed.

The Good News is that our Saviour not only redeems us, forgives our sins but will present faultless before the Father one day, *"In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight"* (Col 1:22). When He does this, He gets rid of the depravity in our lives so we can be acceptable before God. When God impacts our lives, He enables us to touch others; save His own, ie the elect of God, to be well equipped to worship, serve and honour Him, thus transforming lives. A local Church that knows how to effectively serve the Lord and advance His kingdom will have an enormous impact in the community and the world at large.

Commitment to Reverential Worship and the Sacraments

We also need to commit ourselves to a Church that worship God in a reverential manner, by applying the authoritative and infallible Word, administering the sacraments properly. At Pentecost, *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls* (Act 2:41). They were saved and were disciplining in small ministries or local Churches. *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart* (Act 2:42,46). There is a place for small groups ministry and fellowships in the collective study of the Word and corporate prayer.

These small groups not only keep each other accountable, but also care for, help, pray, support and encourage each other and edify one another with the Word (Mal 3:16). Life change and spiritual growth happen to zealous and united people who care for and help and edify one another in Christian discipleship fellowship and the worship of the Lord.

Striving for The Gospel Truth

We also need to commit ourselves to a Church which honours God and inspires people by preaching from the pure, infallible and inerrant, providentially preserved Word of God. We need to be steadfast and defend the truth of God's Word against the liberals, new agers and cults of our times. 2 Tim 2:15 says, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

We are always to give of our best to the Lord in our time, talents and treasures in promoting His kingdom on earth and in the defence of the faith in these last perilous days.

When someone asked a mother in India why she was sacrificing her child to be drowned in the Ganges River, she replied, "My god deserves the best." While we may not agree with the heathen practice of human sacrifice, does not our God deserve...

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the best from us too?

Committed Godly Leaders

We also need to commit ourselves to a Church that recognises God-fearing and God honouring leadership: in the pastors, elders, deacons and fellowship leaders and Sunday School staff: *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness* (Rom 12:7,8). God's people should be led by godly men gifted in spiritual leadership; taught by gifted teachers; encouraged in prayer both private and corporate; cared for in small groups by those with the gifts of mercy and encouragement; and inspired to reach out to others by those with the gift of evangelism and leadership. The Bible refers to the local Church as a living and active body and if every part of the body is active doing what is supposed to do, the body will be healthy, growing and bearing fruit in due time (Eph 4:18).

Paul again in Eph 4:11,12 say, *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* The question is "Am I serving the Lord in any capacity today?" Something to think about.

Total Devotion to Christ in His Word & Work & Prayer

Finally, we also need to commit to a Church where full devotion to Christ is being exercised and His Great Commission obeyed for the cause of saving souls. It ought to be the dedication in every Church that all members would be fully committed and devoted to Christ, as disciples carrying their crosses. And this is not a one-time commitment, but a daily surrender in every area of life to the glory of His name. If we can have a Church with these marks, we will be able to carry out the Great Commission God has given us: to reach the unsaved with His unconditional love and forgiveness and turn men (by the help of the Holy Spirit) into true disciples for Christ (Matt 28:19-20). Let the zeal of the Lord excite you with a glorious burden and vision for New Life Bible-Presbyterian Church.

Conclusion

These are important attributes of a thriving Church. We need to commit to God's Church for us, to love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and spirit; to let His love, compassion and care for His people. We need to commit to purity of doctrine and defence of the faith when there are obstacles, opposition and we will humble ourselves and seek God's blessing. The truth of God's holy and infallible Word and His love must be taught against the backdrop of His justice and holiness and the falling away in these last days. There may be times of disillusionment, but we are to look up always to the Lord (and not to men) in any Church problems or challenges.

There is nothing like the local Church when it's growing, working, watching and waiting for Christ working well together in the Lord (Rom 12:9-18). When Churches are fully engaged in fulfilling their work for Christ, the lost get found (by Christ), the confused find light in Christ and lives are changed for eternity. What other endeavour is worthy of our effort than this? Let us serve the Lord with fear, fervour and gladness in our local Churches, not the least in New Life.

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore
(edited and expanded from Grace & Truth Magazine, April 2004)*

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 | <i>Today: 14/01/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 21/01/2007</i> | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Si Tu to our evening service. |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | Jonathan Kim | John Poh | |
| <i>Speaker:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | Go Labour On | Love Does Not Seek Its Own | |
| <i>Text:</i> | 1 Corinthians 15:58 | 1 Corinthians 13:5 | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| <i>Organist:</i> | Yanning | Anthony | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Bible Knowledge (BBK): The BBK classes will commence in Jan 07. These classes are meant to prepare those who wish to seek baptism, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of membership. For those interested, please see Pr Mok. • Family Worship: For those who like to open their homes for family worship for the month of January and February, please contact Pr. Mok. <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MY PRAYER</p> <p>God, give me eyes that I might see The work that can be done by me; God, give me ears that I might hear The cry of those who need me near. God, give me lips that I might speak Comfort and peace to all that seek. God, give me a mind that I might know How to help those who need me so. God, give me hands that I might do Some large or simple task for You; God, give me a prayer that I might pray Thy help and guidance every day. And this one thing, all else above; God, give me a heart that I might love.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Vincent Magro-Attard</p> |
| Evening | | | |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | Jeff Pun | Seetoh Yoong Chiang | |
| <i>Speaker:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | The Names of God – El Roi | The Names of God – El Elyon | |
| <i>Text:</i> | Genesis 16:13-14 | Psalms 57:2 | |
| <i>Pianist:</i> | Anthony | Feng Qian | |
| Other Duties | | | |
| | <i>Today: 14/01/2007</i> | <i>Next Week: 21/01/2007</i> | |
| <i>Ushers</i> | Jeff/Joyce | Wah Soon/Rebecca | |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i> | Joyce | Yanning | |
| <i>Lunch:</i> | Maureen | Constance | |
| <i>Washing-up:</i> | YAF Group 1/Volunteers | YAF Group 2/Volunteers | |
| <i>Bible Study:</i> | Video Presentation | Video Presentation | |
| Appointments of the Week | | | |
| Fri 19 Jan | 7.00 pm | Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Rebecca | |
| Sat 20 Jan | 4.00 pm | Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok | |
| Last Week's Worship Service Collections | | | |
| Offering: £702.10 | | Lunch: £Tbc | |
| Memory Verse | | | |
| <i>Last Week: Romans 6:4</i> | | | |
| Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. | | | |
| <i>This Week: 1 Corinthians 15:58</i> | | | |
| Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. | | | |