



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. 50

LORD'S DAY 16 DECEMBER 2007

WHY BELIEVERS SHOULD BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF SAINTS

Introduction

The book of Romans is an excellent book on both doctrine and demeanour, creed and conduct, precept and practice for every believer. It deals with the doctrine of election, justification and sanctification in the first 11 chapters and also applies in the life of the believer as to what he ought to do and live his life after redemption. One of the things that was emphasised was the body concept of the church and the importance of Christian fellowship and service in Chapter 12. Paul speaks of the church as one body with many members each having a differing gift and all these God-given talents are to be used for the edification of the saints and the work of the ministry (Romans 12:4-8). He also delineates briefly the reasons why as redeemed men we should gather ourselves together often. We will briefly enumerate 4 basic reasons for the coming to a Christian fellowship taken from the Pauline epistle.

Reasons for Edifying Fellowship and Prayer (Romans 12:12; 15:4)

Firstly, the business and aim of any Christian meeting should have the Scriptures as its centre of activity. The fellowship provides a good avenue to learn more about the Word of God through its pool of speakers and Bible study and interactive discussions. It is one thing to study the Bible on our own and another to come together with like-minded brethren to examine, explore, discern and deepen our knowledge and application of the Word. Meditation and serious application of Scriptures will be discussed during the fellowship meetings. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

Secondly, it is for the purpose of mutual encouragement and edification (Romans 12:10). Hebrews 10:24, 25 speaks of provoking one another unto love and good works. It is an opportunity to build up faith and share and hear of one another's testimony to praise God and to testify of his goodness. This, in turn, will challenge, warm and revive one another's hearts in spiritual things in the midst of worldliness and to exhort and edify the brethren in the most holy faith. A Christian fellowship has the advantage of hearing from others in their spiritual experiences and growing...

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together as well. We can also bear one another's burden (Galatians 6:2, 5) and pray for one another in our successes, woes and tribulations. Come and find succour and solace for your souls in the Lord Jesus through the edifying Christian fellowship and worship.

Thirdly, it is for the purpose of Christian service and ministry (Romans 12:11). Paul said in Romans 12:11, "*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord*". The fellowship offers many opportunities for service like chairing the meeting, leading in singing of hymns and songs, preparing Bible study, even playing the guitar or piano or preparing refreshments for the group. These are praiseworthy tasks and avenues for us to employ and develop our spiritual gifts. Many owe it to the fellowship which has allowed them to discover, develop and demonstrate the talents that God has given to and to be more equipped and effective to serve the Lord. The future leaders of the church are often nurtured in fellowships. The fellowship is a good school for training and moulding lay men and women for the work of the Lord.

Finally, it is a good process of progressive integration into the local church (Romans 12:4, 5). The church life of Maranatha BP Church also lies in the fellowships, Ladies' Bible study, Church Choir and the Sunday School, besides the Sunday Worship service, the 3 NBCs and the prayer meeting. It is not just the Sunday Worship Service alone but the informal meetings and get-togethers, the fellowship cottage meetings that we really grow closer together as a church. Identity, cohesion and unity in the local church is built and enhanced as a result of fellowship groups. In MBPC, the 5 fellowships bring about greater growth, unity and enhance and strengthen the ministry of the church.

Conclusion

The YF, YAF, Tweens and MLF and Ladies' Bible Study play a pivotal role in the life of Maranatha BP Church. Are you or your children attending the fellowship regular meetings to benefit from the messages and spiritual activities? Do not deprive and forfeit yourselves of spiritual blessings found in sound edifying Christian fellowship. God will surely reward and spiritually enrich your life as you seek to put Him first (Colossians 3:1) and not neglect the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:24, 25) for the purpose of worship and Christian fellowship. Make it a resolution to come for any fellowship meeting henceforth. Malachi 3:16 says, "*Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*"

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore
(Adapted from Maranatha Messenger dated 9 December 2007)*

FROM THE DESK OF JACK & ANGELINA SIN

Our Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is the end of yet another year! As we commemorate Christmas, consider the fact that our comfort and joy began with His birth, life, suffering and death. Isaiah 7:14 says,

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Let us be mindful that Jesus' miraculous birth led to His vicarious death on behalf of sinful humanity - a cardinal doctrine of biblical Christianity. This is the very reason Christ came to Earth: Gal 4:4-5,

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law".

His purpose in coming was to save sinners – Matt 1:21,

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Indeed, the name Jesus is a precious and glorious name, and no other is sufficient for eternal salvation (Acts 4:12).

Let us be soberly reminded that we have a sure hope in the Living and Risen Saviour who condescended to dwell with men. Biblical Christians have something infinitely better to embrace Psa 145:5,

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

Let us rejoice in the everlasting peace and life in Christ because a Saviour is born to redeem fallen us from the bondage of our sins. It is a time to come together and worship the Saviour with joy, adoration and repentance of our sins. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith – the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 12:2; 13:8).

It has been a blessed and fruitful year of ministry, service and stewardship by the grace of God in Maranatha BPC and beyond. We are conscious of God's mercies, protection and saving power as we met people and witnessed lives changed by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your prayers and continued support for us and our ministry as we serve the Lord in the strength and fear of God into the New Year, if the Lord tarries. There is much to be done in the Lord's kingdom! We have often felt so feeble and weak but His grace is sufficient for us. (2 Cor.12:9) Please keep in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Psa 136:1-2,

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.

*With Christian regards,
Jack & Angie Sin*

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: 16/12/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 23/12/2007</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Bless the Lord all my Soul	Praise God for the Gift of Gifts	<h3 style="text-align: center;">NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Service: Please note that the evening worship service at 4 pm on 23 Dec 2007 will be a Christmas Service. Do invite family and friends to join in the service. There will also be a carolling session at the residence of Elder Ford after the evening service. For those who are interested, please see Jonathan Kim. • Family Worship: For those who would like to open up their homes for family worship next year, please contact Pr Mok. • Addendum: Please note that the YAF offering of £26 was not reflected in the bulletin of 02 Dec 2007. We apologise for the oversight. • Book Table: Please feel free to browse the book table and help yourself to any book of interest. • Sabbath School: Please note that class is held at the Library after the morning worship. All children are encouraged to sit with their parents during the main service. • Those serving on the Lord's Day for both morning and evening worship services: Please gather behind the pulpit area at 10.30am for prayer.
<i>Text:</i>	Psalm 103	2 Corinthians 9:15	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Yanning	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	John Poh	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Message:</i>	Offering our Sacrifice of Praise	The Word was made Flesh	
<i>Text:</i>	Hebrews 13:10-15	John 1:14	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Anthony	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 16/12/2007</i>	<i>Next Week: 23/12/2007</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Chin Kiong/Esmeralda	Chin Kiong/Daniel	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Carol	Carol	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Volunteers	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW - Genesis	DHW - Genesis	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 21 Dec	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: YAF Meeting	
Sat 22 Dec	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
	Offering: £356.70	Lunch: £35.50	
	Book Sale: £1.46	YAF: £26.00	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (Dec 07 Wk 2): John 6:35</i>			
And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.			
<i>This Week (Dec 07 Wk 3): Psalm 103:17-18</i>			
But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.			