



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. 12

LORD'S DAY 18 MARCH 2007

My dear readers,

1. "Tremble, thou earth ..."

Last week Sumatra's earthquake caused thousands in Singapore to flee high-rise buildings which shook with the tremors from our Indonesian neighbours. This was only a "wake-up call" to warn us that Singapore is certainly not out of the earthquake zone. The worst is yet to come!

Why does the earth quake? Seismologists attribute it to "earth faults and tectonic plates on the move." God's Word says, "Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord ..." (Ps 114:7), and the Lord says, "The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool..." (Is 66:1). It's only reasonable that the earth trembles and quakes at the presence of the Lord Creator.

If so, how near is the Lord! **Question: "How prepared are you to meet Him at His appearing?"** Let not the frequent warnings fall on deaf ears. Let none who names the name of Christ dismiss them as mere "cry wolf" teasers. Wisdom says, "Give heed: the signs are coming thick and fast. Earthquakes are merely one of many other signs." In any case, to be prepared costs nothing but makes one more useful and fervent in the Lord's service, for we serve Him, the coming King of Kings. His footsteps are already "at the doors" (Matt 24:33).

2. Tower of Babel casts its long shadow

It's long shadow reaches far down the future, sending urgent messages for the end time. Ham was the cursed son of Noah. His grandson Nimrod "began to be a mighty one in the earth" (Gen 10:8). He aspired to a kingdom, meaning to say, he had ambitions to make himself a king, and "the beginning of his kingdom was Babel ..." (Gen 10:10).

Nimrod's followers began to build a city and a tower, without due regard to God. Filled with their own greatness, they determined to make a name for themselves and to stay together, ignoring God's command to "replenish the earth" (Gen 9:1) i.e. to repopulate the earth by scattering abroad on the face of the earth.

This was the beginning of a "One World" system, under which all the earth will be ruled by one man. Nimrod had visions of greatness and power, in total defiance of God. But God was more powerful than he thought. God could easily have destroyed Nimrod and his proud band, but no. By His unsearchable wisdom, He simply "confounded their language" (Gen 11:7, 8) so that they could not communicate one with another. Thus the project came to a standstill, and the people dispersed "upon the face of all the earth" (Gen 11:8), even as God had willed. Our God is wiser than you think. God's time for a **ONE WORLD SYSTEM** was yet future.

3. Babel's rebellion re-surfaces today

Men's ambition to dominate the entire world never died but lurked on in the heart, for the mastermind is Satan whose grand plan is to rule the world. By beguiling men's minds, Satan has resuscitated the ancient "One World" idea, by the alliance of a false **World Church**, ...

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with a “**One World**” political system (“*beast having seven heads and ten horn,*” Rev 17:3). Together they will wield irresistible power over all the earth.

Read Revelation Chapter 17 with Holy spirit illumination. “**Babel**” reappears as “**Babylon,**” a partnership of ecclesiastical and political power, under the headship of Satan. Pray, dear reader, for spiritual eyesight to discern this endtime monstrosity appearing in the guise of a “**ONE WORLD CHURCH**” and a “**NEW WORLD ORDER**” under the name of the “**ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT.**” (This endtime “**Tower of Babel**” will come to pass because mankind has found a common language in the universal use of English.) This religious-political alliance is in an advanced stage of world dominance. From its grip mankind has no escape except through the Lord Jesus: Only He, by the blood of the Lamb, can help us overcome this “**Babel**” system.

God bless all readers.

Lovingly in the Lord
Dr Tow Siang Hwa, Sr Pastor

GODLY WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

The Word of God recorded accounts of godly women who played no small part in the ministry of the gospel and in the edification of saints in the church. These heroines are fine examples for our ladies today to emulate and follow as a pattern of godliness, piety, Christian zeal and hospitality. We shall consider four women (not meant to be exhaustive) in the New Testament who played significant roles in the life and ministry of the early church during the apostolic period.

1. Lydia, one who helped start the first church in Europe (Acts 16:1-15)

The Apostle Paul was constrained by a vision when a man of Macedonia appealed to him to come over and help them (Acts 16:9). He obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit and travelled from Troas to Neapolis and then to Philippi which was the chief city of Macedonia at that time a Roman colony and abide there certain days (Acts 16:12).

On the Sabbath day, he went to the city and spoke to them concerning the gospel. A certain lady by the name of Lydia, heard and believed and requested baptism (Acts 16:14,15). Not only her which would have included children but her whole household was baptised. She was a businesswoman, a seller of purple (purple garment made from a special dye made in Thyatira). They became the 1st members of the church in Philippi, the first converts in Europe. Lydia’s influence in the fledging congregation was significant. On the very day she was saved, she invited Paul and his companion to her home where they ministered to the Apostle with kind hospitality. Paul wrote the Epistle to Philippi 12 years later and that the church became the first one in Macedonia to financially support his ministry (Phil 4:15-16). Undoubtedly, Lydia was involved in the ministry of giving and supporting the work of the gospel. Was not Jesus’ ministry supported by ladies too in the persons of Susanna and Joanna? (Lk 8:3).

2. Phoebe, A steward of the church (Rom 16:1-2)

Phoebe was mentioned only once in the NT in Rom 16:1,2 “*I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.*” She deserved special mention here for her sacrificial labour of love. She was from the church in Cenchrea, a seaport, 7 miles east of Corinth. Some believed that Phoebe would possibly be the courier of the letter to the Roman church which Paul wrote from Corinth. Paul commended her to the church and asked them to receive her and introduced her as a servant of the church. She is called a...

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succourer of many and of Paul himself. She was more than an occasional helper. She was a regular steward and a patron who was responsible and faithful for caring for the needy believers in the church in Genchrea. Paul used the word '*diakonos*' to describe her causing some to interpret that she possibly could have been a deaconess or had held some responsible position in the church. The church is in dire need of Phoebe today.

3. Priscilla (& Aquila), a supportive partner in the Lord's work (Rom 16:3-5)

In Rom 16:3-5, we were told of a couple named Aquila and Priscilla. The verses read "*Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*" Priscilla and her husband, Aquila were Jewish converts and co-workers together with the Apostle Paul. They were involved in tent-making and in the propagation of the gospel. Paul met them on his 2nd missionary journey. They made an unusual contribution to the history of the early church. They risked their lives in the friendship with Paul and in protecting him. They were mentioned again by the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor 16:19 and 2 Tim 4:19. We do not know the exact circumstance but it is possible that while Paul was facing opposition in Ephesus, the couple helped him in such a way that endangered not just their business by their own lives (This is what we called friends in need). In Rom 16:5, we were told that the church started in their house. They were willing to let the home to be used as a meeting place for the assembling of saints. What a privilege and sacrifice! I had the privilege of meeting the Seetohs when I was in Perth last Dec 96. They were the ones who opened their home for worship when the church started in 1986. Today after 11 years, the BP Church of Western Australia has grown to more that 200 people with both English and Chinese congregation. Priscilla and Aquila also demonstrated good theological knowledge and tact in correcting Apollos, a mighty preacher who erred in point of doctrine and encouraged him in the right way (Acts 11:24-28). We desperately need godly couples with a God-fearing wife like Priscilla supporting the ministry all the way.

4. Lois & Eunice, the faithful mothers (2 Tim 1:5)

The son of a praying mother cannot be lost. That was the example of Augustine with his godly mother, Monica and John and Charles with Susanna Wesley. In 2 Tim 1:5, Paul paid tribute to a mother and a grandmother. It read "*When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.*" Paul needed a good and reliable man to hold the fort in Ephesus and he found him in the person of Timothy. How did Timothy become that kind of person fit for the Master's use? The secret is the godly influence of his mother, Eunice and his grandmother, Lois. Timothy's introduction to the faith did not come from Paul. Both his mother and grandmother were believers who taught him the OT scriptures. In 2 Tim 3:15 we were told "*And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*" He was raised up in an environment conducive for spiritual growth and godliness. Lois and Eunice were examples of mothers who in the midst of a pagan and unbelieving world were faithful to the Lord in teaching their son and grandson the scriptures. The Lord then brought this spiritual influence and fruition in Timothy's life through which these godly women were able to bring the Word to others through their own son and grandson. What a privilege! Today, we have mothers who are more concerned about their children's secular education, ECA, piano and computer lessons, swimming, Chinese and streaming that their spiritual health and well-being. Do we bring our children to Sunday School, to church and to be baptised in the Lord? Is there family prayer and devotion? Do we sing hymns, read and study the scriptures with our children? Eunice and Lois are rarities today. O that we have godly mothers (and fathers) to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord! Amen.

Rev Jack Sin
Pastor, Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore

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: 18/03/2007 | Next Week: 25/03/2007 | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Sia Kah Ling to our morning worship service last week. |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | Jonathan Kim | John Poh | |
| <i>Speaker:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | True And False Conversion | True And False Repentance | |
| <i>Text:</i> | Matthew 7:13-23 | 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 | |
| Evening | | | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS |
| <i>Chairman:</i> | John Poh | Seetoh Yoong Chiang | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Worship: For those who interested to open their homes for family worship for the months of March, April and May, please contact Pr. Mok. • Church Easter Camp: Please take note that camp registration closes on 25 March. This is to facilitate the planning of food, logistics and accommodation. Please see Sis Sharon Chan or Grace Lim to obtain/submit your registration form. • ECM, April 07: In preparation of the upcoming ECM in Apr 07, we will be carrying out a membership roll update. Letters will be sent out very soon. All members are requested to spend time in prayer regarding the ECM and their membership status with the church. Members are requested to respond to the letter by 1 April. • Mothering Sunday: We would like to wish all mothers a Happy Mothers Day. • Daylight Savings: Please take note on 25 March, the clocks will be going forward by 1 hour. • Be Punctual: Please purpose in your heart to arrive on time for the worship services and church activities. Remember, "<i>habitual lateness dishonours God.</i>" |
| <i>Speaker:</i> | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | Pr Mok Chee Cheong | |
| <i>Message:</i> | The Names of God – Jehovah-Hoseenu | The Names of God – Jehovah-Jireh | |
| <i>Text:</i> | Psalms 95:6 | Genesis 22:14 | |
| <i>Pianist:</i> | Anthony | Feng Qian | |
| Other Duties | | | |
| | Today: 18/03/2007 | Next Week: 25/03/2007 | |
| <i>Ushers</i> | Wah Soon/Constance | Daniel/Sharon | |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i> | Joyce | Yanning | |
| <i>Lunch:</i> | Yoong Chiang & Team | Constance | |
| <i>Washing-up:</i> | Volunteers | Volunteers | |
| <i>Bible Study:</i> | BBK / DHW | BBK / DHW | |
| Appointments of the Week | | | |
| Fri 23 Mar | 7.00 pm | Young Adults Fellowship: Led by Anthony | |
| Sat 24 Mar | 4.00 pm | Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr: Jonathan | |
| <u>Last Week's Worship Service Collections</u> | | | |
| Offering: £308.16 | | Lunch: £26.17 | |
| <u>Memory Verse</u> | | | |
| <i>Previous Week (Mar07 Wk 2): Hebrews 12:14</i> | | | |
| Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: | | | |
| <i>This Week (Mar07 Wk 3): John 15:5</i> | | | |
| I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. | | | |

Dear brethren,

Attached is an inspiring speech by our top civil servant, Mrs Lim Soo Hoon, who won Singapore's Woman of the Year Award 2006 recently , at the award presentation dinner attended by many VIPs. She is Singapore's first woman permanent secretary and has written a book of her teenage son's battle with cancer. We thank God for her boldness in turning her speech into a testimony of the goodness of God.

*Rev Jack Sin
Pastor, Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore*

SPEECH AT HER WORLD WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2006 GALA DINNER

6 MAR 07

Minister Vivian Balakrishnan

My Dear Family, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. Thank you for being here to share this evening with Esther and me. Thank you Simon for your very kind words. And thank you Her World and the Judging Panel for giving me this honour.

2. This award came as a complete surprise to me. Some time in early January, Simon told me that Her World would like to give me this award and asked if I would accept it. My first question to Simon was "Why me?" Simon mentioned my contribution to the community through my book on my journey when my elder son, Samuel, was battling cancer about 2 years ago. I told Simon that I was very honoured and flattered by the award but there are so many other women out there who have gone or are going through even much more difficult trials than I had. To be honest, I was concerned because when Simon mentioned the award, the first two words that came to my mind were "vanity" and "pride". I wanted to be sure that if I do accept the award, I would do it for the right reason, certainly not for vanity and pride. I told Simon that I would need to pray about it.

3. That night, I asked my family members to help pray for me. Sam said "Mom, so long as you are unsure, don't accept it." I told him that I was unsure because of my concern that I was doing it for my vanity and pride. Yet I also know that if I accept the award, it would a wonderful opportunity for me to share with others God's love for us, and to thank God for all He has done and is continuing to do in my life. Sam said he would pray for me. The next morning, he asked why I would want to accept the award. I repeated what I told him the night before. Sam then said "Go for it, Mom".

4. Two weeks after I told Simon that I would accept the award, we found out that Sam has a relapse. His cancer has returned but we thank God that the tumour is localized, at the old place, in his thymus gland. Sam had a surgery about a month...

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ago to remove the tumour but unfortunately not all could be removed. Sam is currently undergoing chemotherapy treatment and further down the road, will be having a stem cell transplant using stem cells from Russell, his younger brother. My husband and both my sons, whom I am very proud of, are here with me tonight.

5. As a Christian, I am taught to “be joyful always; to pray continually; to give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will” for me (1 Ths 16-18). I am also taught not to be “anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, (to) present our requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” (Ph 4:6-7)

6. Indeed, notwithstanding Sam’s recent relapse, God has granted my family and I much peace. Sam himself is very much at peace, still living life normally and we are greatly encouraged by that. We have learned that when we trust and obey God and do His will, He will give us many reasons to be thankful for. Yes, even with our new trial, our new journey of faith, there is much my family and I are thankful for.

7. And this award tonight has given me the opportunity to reflect on the many blessings in my life and for thanksgiving.

8. God knows my strengths for He is the one who has blessed me with them. He also knows where I am lacking and ensures that I am well supported there. I have a husband who besides being the handyman in the house, happily does the grocery shopping – I know nothing about where to get the value for money stuff – he does. I have a younger sister who lives with my family and is like a surrogate mother to my sons whenever I or my husband are away. I have a faithful and reliable domestic help who has chosen to work with my family for the past 18 years. I am deeply thankful that I have a large but close knit extended family who is always there to love, laugh and cry with me. I feel very blessed to have friends, some of whom are here tonight, who will stay with me through thick and thin, where at times no word need to be spoken for their presence is comfort enough.

9. I have been very blessed in my career as well, not just in the kinds of challenges and opportunities I have been exposed to, but in the relationships that have been formed over time. I am very thankful for the many good bosses, mentors and colleagues in my life, many of whom have become firm friends. If not for their care, compassion and unstinting support when my son fell ill 2 years ago, and even now, I would have found it almost impossible to work. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan was my Minister in 2004 and when he heard about Sam’s illness, he went out of his way to support me, giving me time to take care of Sam and even offering me the use of his office in the Singapore National Eye Centre should I need a place to rest or work whenever I accompany Sam to the National Cancer Centre for his treatment. I thank God that he was my Minister at that point in time. God has truly been taking very good care of me.

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10. Throughout my life, I have taken on and am still taking on many roles. But one thing is clear. I am no superwoman and I don't believe in superwomen nor for that matter, supermen. I think it will be impossible for anyone to play all his or her multiple roles equally well. For me, I have a simple philosophy. What I can't do well or can't do at all, I outsource. When my sons were very young and looking at picture books, they would point to the lady in the kitchen and say "Aunty Lina", my maid, never "mummy". When the Her World team wanted to shoot the video of me, they had suggested that one scene be of me in the kitchen preparing meals. You should hear the hysterical laughter in my home when I shared this with my family.

11. But of all my roles, the one that I treasure most is that of being a mother so I thank the Judging Panel that in deciding to give me this award tonight, they have recognized my role as a mother.

12. Motherhood has given me the deepest pain yet the greatest joy; the most tears yet the most laughs; humility yet pride. And most of all, it has allowed me to get to know my God so much more, beginning with Sam's battle against cancer in September 2004. So I thank God for giving me this opportunity to be a mother to my 2 wonderful boys.

13. There is a story in the Bible about a man who before going on his journey, entrusted his 3 servants with his money. To one, he gave 5 talents of his money, to another 2 talents and to the last, one talent, each according to his ability. When he returned, the one who was given 5 talents said he had put them to good use and gained the master another 5. So also the one who was given 2 talents; he gained 2 more but the one who was given one talent, simply hid the money as he was afraid of losing it. When the master returned, this last servant thought his master would be happy. But his master was furious because he has not made good use of the talent that was given to him. The master expected him to be a steward, not a mere custodian of his talent.

14. So likewise, God has given us gifts and resources according to our abilities and expect us to invest them wisely. We are responsible for ensuring that we grow well whatever we have been put in charge of.

15. I have been in the Civil Service for some 26 years. I love what I do and I am very proud to be a member of the Singapore Civil Service. I used to tell my colleagues that as civil servants, we are custodians of the public funds that have been entrusted to us but I am wrong. Like the Biblical story that I have just shared with you, we are to be more than custodians, especially if we are at senior positions – we are to be stewards, with a responsibility to protect, nurture and growing what has been entrusted to us.

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16. When I first became a Christian about 9 years ago, one of the first things I learned was that we are all God's children. My sons are also God's children. My husband and I are but only stewards of our boys, looking after them on God's behalf. I pray often that we have been good stewards of our children. I think we are not doing too badly because I know my boys are walking right with God. And I know that so long as they walk right with God, they will multiply the blessings God has given them and bless others in turn.

17. Whether as a career woman or a mother or any other role that I have taken on, I pray regularly that I will be a blessing rather than a burden to whoever God has put me in touch with each day of my life. My God has given me much. And as the Bible says, from anyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48) I pray I will do justice to this award you have given me.

18. Thank you once again for this honour. I have been conferred this award but I think this award is for all the women who are blessed with the faith, the peace, the strength and the tenacity to overcome whatever adversity they may face.

God Bless All of you!