



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 13 JANUARY 2008

GODLY RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

It is edifying to have God-honouring goals in life as we begin the new year by the enabling strength of the Lord.

Here is an example of the resolutions of Michael Roberts who covenanted with God in 1803.

1. I resolve, by the grace of God, that I will search the Bible as my life's chief study, and that I will read some portion of it every day, and take every advantage of the works of authors within my reach with the aim of increasing my knowledge in God's Word.
2. I resolve, by the grace of God, to sanctify the Sabbath, in thought, word and deed.
3. I resolve that my behaviour and my communion with my brethren and my non-professing fellow-sinners shall be such as is consistent with the Gospel, and without affliction to myself, and edifying and profitable to them.
4. I resolve, by the grace of God, that I shall not rush into anything, or change my situation in life, or remove any livelihood, or anything of that sort, without enquiring much of the Bible, and seeking advice from my parents and brethren.
5. I resolve, by the grace of God, that I shall not be a slanderer, or a flatterer, or double-tongued, or tell any untruth; but that I shall endeavour to be pure from the blood of all men in the great Judgement.
6. I resolve, by the grace of God, while I minister in the Church, to concentrate on the true doctrine and discipline; and that I shall not be jealous at the elevation of any of my brethren, but rather shall labour to fill my position for God, rightly using my talents in the light of the day of account.
7. I resolve, by the grace of God, to observe carefully God's Providence, in respect of the Kingdom, the Church, and Families, and especially in respect of myself.
8. I resolve, by the grace of God, that I shall not misuse any of my precious time, but rather shall spend it in the manner in which I should have...

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desired to spend it when giving my detailed account [to God].

9. I resolve, by the grace of God, to be faithful and honest in my calling, and to keep a conscience void of offence toward God and men.
10. I resolve, by the grace of God, that I shall not be miserly, or wasteful, concerning the mercies of this life, but shall eat and dress as is seemly; and shall contribute to the cause of the Gospel, and be charitable, as God has prospered me.
11. I resolve, by the grace of God, never to eat or drink or sleep to excess, not to do any injury to my nature in any way, as far as I am aware.
12. I resolve, by the grace of God, to do those things concerning which there is no specific commandment in the Bible in accordance with the general commandments.

Church Covenant

Here is an example of a Church Covenant agreed upon by the Congregational Society of non-conformist protestants in Llanbrynmair (i.e. Wales in the UK).

As a Church of the living God, and members of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by the help of the Holy Spirit, we bind ourselves and make a covenant with the Lord, and with one another in the following matters:

1. Regarding the points of our faith we assert the doctrines contained in the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly (1643-47) in accordance with the word of God.
2. We promise to strive against every sin and all occasions that appear likely to lead us into sin.
3. We promise to practice with constant diligence all the means, public and private, that God has commanded, namely, to pray, to meditate, to read, to listen to the word and to partake of communion, so as to build up ourselves and on another in grace and holiness.
4. We promise to strive conscientiously to uphold and to exercise such discipline in the House of God as is in accordance with His holy word.
5. We promise that if we do anything deserving of rebuke in the opinion of the Church, to submit to such rebuke as appears meet to the Church.
6. We promise to consult the Church when contemplating taking any important step, especially marriage; and we agree that it is the bounden duty of every church member not to carry on a friendship with any person with a view to marriage, without first of all consulting the Church, and the neglect of this duty in itself deserves rebuke.
7. We promise that we shall not harbour evil thoughts concerning one another without conscientiously ascertaining if we have just cause, and that we shall not believe every tale we hear about one another without sufficient...

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testimony, and especially that we shall not slander one another, but rather that we shall conceal one another's faults in so far as we are able to do so with a good conscience.

8. We promise according to our gifts and opportunities, to do our utmost to build up one another in the Lord, that is, to pray and keep watch over one another, to be ready to give the best advice and guidance that we can to one another, and to behave kindly and forgivingly to one another according to the law of Christ.
9. Whatsoever be our family circumstances to at anytime may be, we promise to strive to fulfil every duty appertaining to our family life in a conscientious manner according to the word of God.
10. We promise that we shall contribute conscientiously and faithfully, according to our circumstances, towards the sustenance of the cause of the Lord in our midst.
11. We promise to do as much good as we can to every man in every station, and, through sober, honest, just, helpful and meek conversation, do our utmost to win others to the faith.

Since we devoutly hope, that God has called us by his grace, we feel an obligation to devote ourselves, in a public manner, to God, and his service; and as we prefer to be embodied into a Church, rather than to unite with any other Church, we hope that ministers and Churches will recognise us as such.

We now, in the most deliberate, and public manner, dedicate ourselves to God in church fellowship and communion, according to the rule of his revealed word. We are also determined, and we vow, that by divine aid, we will be steadfast in the faith, 'walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord', hear His word, trust in His promises, and serve Him and each other according to the laws and institutions of His house.

Our purpose and aim in all this are, the glory of God, and our own edification, the increase of the kingdom of Christ, and the good of all mankind; and we earnestly pray that our dependence may be placed on the direction and aid of the Spirit of God.

(Taken from George Davis' *Covenanting with God*, Evangelical Library of Wales, 1994, pages 76, 77, 96-100)

(NB: If we aim at nothing, we are bound to hit it. Let these godly resolutions inspire and stimulate our hearts to greater devotion and commitment to our God in this new year as we seek to honour and put Him first in our lives personally in the covenant home and in the church.)

Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha B-P Church, Singapore
(Adapted from *Maranatha Messenger* dated 6 January 2008)

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR
AND TREMBLING. (Philippians 2:12)

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: 13/01/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/01/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Maurice Roberts	Elder Stephen Toms	
<i>Message:</i>	Christ Is All	A Man Who Walked With God	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Text:</i>	1 Corinthians 1:30-31	Genesis 5:24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome: We would like to welcome Rev Maurice Roberts, our speaker for this Lord's Day. Rev Roberts is the Minister of the Inverness congregation of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). He is well-known as a conference speaker in many countries around the world and was the Editor of the monthly magazine <i>The Banner of Truth</i> from 1988 to 2003. • Memory Verse Exercise: Please note that the memory verse final review exercise for the entire year of 2007 is due on end January 2008. • Family Worship: For those who would like to open up their homes for family worship, please contact Pr Mok. • Sabbath School: This will be held after the morning worship. 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. • DHW Bible Study: Please take note that the DHW bible study will reconvene on 20 Jan 08.
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	John Poh	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Rev Maurice Roberts	Elder Stephen Toms	
<i>Message:</i>	The Prodigal Son	A Profane Person	
<i>Text:</i>	Luke 15:11-32	Hebrews 12:16	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Hubert	Sophia	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 13/01/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 20/01/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Daniel/Yetta	Jee/Sharon	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Yanning	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No DHW Class	DHW Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 18 Jan	7:30 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: YAF Meeting	
Sat 19 Jan	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Pr Mark Chen.	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering:	£574.70	Lunch: £33.61 YAF £36.00	
Memory Verse			
<i>Last Week (Jan 08 Wk 1): Philippians 2:12-13</i>			
Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.			
<i>This Week (Jan 08 Wk 2): 1 Corinthians 1:18</i>			
For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.			