



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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THE BLESSINGS AND BUFFETINGS OF THE PASTORAL MINISTRY IN EUROPE

Introduction

What come to the mind of many when they talk about Europe? It would be the huge magnificent Cathedrals, Castles and many monumental churches. All these seems to attest to a period in Europe’s history which speaks of their great monarchical and colonial power, their rich cultural and spiritual heritage and their religious fervency, particularly of Christianity.

The Europe and Britain of Today

The Europe of that period, particularly of the British Empire, of their political, commercial, cultural and religious influence on the rest of the world has changed from that of great global power, scientific discoveries, maritime explorations that sparked the epoch of the European colonial empires, industrial revolutions, and not forgetting the unflagging Christian missionary endeavours, to that of becoming a continent battling with political and social woes, struggling with high unemployment rate, increasing crime and social disorder and declining morality and spirituality.

Those glorious days of Europe, are bygone eras only to be reminisced by the remnants who have know better days where God’s countenance so graciously smiled upon Europe and especially on the British Empire which boast of controlling nearly one-fifth of the land surface of the globe, and more than one-fourth of the world's population.

This landscape sadly has been altered so drastically, giving way to a culture of government hand-outs with no incentive for hard work, the endless pursuit of materialism and entertainment, the obsession of politicians to be “political correct” for votes winning, the backing of gay culture, the push for more human rights and ultimately the widespread acceptance of humanistic evolution and the rejection of the existence of God.

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All these and many more now begs the question from the Christians minority, “Will those former days ever return again to Britain, especially the days of true evangelical piety where the God of the bible is to be experimentally encountered and feared.

The Churches in Britain Today

Britain, like many other developing nations are still blessed with the freedom of worship and the opportunity to propagate the gospel. But the challenges and problems facing many of our evangelical churches today is the present of “intellectual Christians” on the one hand and on the other hand are those who grew up in so called “Christian homes” or brought up in countries where Christianity is a national religion.

These Christians who fills our churches are mostly those who do not have the faintest idea of what true evangelical saving grace is all about. Though born in Christian families, they are usually raised up with no more than just Christian moral values but without the personal knowledge of Christ Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Those who have Christianity as their national religion would come to church regularly on Sunday just to warm the pews and then leave with the satisfaction that they have paid their dues to God as the saying goes.

There is also a growing numbers in our churches who know their bible intellectually and are engaged in great theological discourses, yet they have not experientially encountered Christ and there is little, if not a total absence of a life of consecration, dedication to holy service and true godly fervour and zeal for the Lord, which the bible described as *“having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”* (2 Timothy 3:5).

Pastors and Preachers alike must face the sternest rebuke from the Lord for such spiritual decadence in our churches because of their failure to preach and teach sound biblical doctrines for fear and favour of men. Being pressurised and challenged by elders and deacons of the church who are not called and unfit for holy office, they are sucked into the phenomenal of church growth and contemporary worship and thereby going in the way of compromise and ultimately to apostasy. This is the pathetic scene in many of our so called reformed evangelical churches today.

The needs of Britain’s churches today

What is needed for our churches today is the return to sound biblical imperatives of declaring the gospel of Christ that God saves and is alive and that He is coming again to judge the crooked and perverse nations.

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There is no need of human devices for church growth but a humble return to the practices of the early church that we read in Acts 2:42-46 and thereafter the result was *“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”* (v.47).

The clarion call of the day to pastors and preachers is to preach and teach *“all the counsel of God”* (Acts 20:27); regular preaching of evangelistic sermons, persuasively calling out to sinners to repentance just like what the apostle John did, and warning of the reality of hell and of the soon coming judgement of God.

Our conservative reformed churches are fast losing our young people either to churches that are inclined to contemporary worship, social gospel and “easy-believism” or to the world of worldliness, therefore concerted effort must be made to lead them back to *“the old paths”* (Jer 6:16) through the Word, giving sound biblical counsel and leading by example by parents, pastors and leaders of the church.

Conclusion

There are much more that needed to be done if the church is to win the hearts and minds of sinners for the Kingdom of God. And so there is also the challenge of training and equipping of men called to the ministry, of lay leaders – elders and deacons and Sunday school teachers.

This can be best done through church-based Seminary where men who are called can receive a well-balanced and practical theological training. This is the biblical pattern we see in Paul’s injunction to Timothy - *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (2 Timothy 2:2).

Despite the seemingly lukewarmness of many of our churches and the great *“falling away”* (2 Thess 2:3), the Lord has graciously keep alive His *“seven thousand who have not bowed unto Baal”* (1 Kgs 19:18) in the faithful remnant scattered throughout Europe and the UK.

It is the earnest prayers of these faithful few that God in His great mercy would once again visit this country by His *“quickenning Spirit”* (1 Cor 15:45) to bring about a spiritual awakening that will once more drive sinners to their knees in true evangelical repentance and that saints may be revived to raise their voices in unison and to praise and serve the Lord who sitteth upon His throne in these perilous days till He comes.

*Pr Mok Chee Cheong
New Life Bible-Presbyterian Church, London*

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: 27/04/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 04/05/2008</i>	We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We like to welcome Justin and Notiler to our morning worship service last Lord's Day.
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Elder Teo	
<i>Message:</i>	Living Without the Fear of Death	The Problem of Pleasure	
<i>Text:</i>	Philippians 1:19-26	Psalms 111:1-4	
<i>Organist:</i>	Anthony	Anthony	
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	<i>Today: 27/04/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 04/05/2008</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catechism class: Catechism class will begin on 04 May 2008. Those seeking baptism and transfer of membership must attend. Please approach Pr Mok for more information. • Sis Yanning: Thank God that she underwent a smooth delivery on 21 April 2008 in Singapore. Both the mother and son are currently in a healthy condition. • Sabbath School: Leaflets are placed on the book table to encourage children of ages 6-12 to attend Sunday School. Please feel free to distribute those leaflets to any child, especially yours, who may be interested in joining in. Please note that class will be held at the Library after the morning worship service. • Duties of Office Bearers: For those serving on Lord's Day, please refer to the notice board in the Fellowship Hall regarding your duties for the service unto the Lord. Please also refer to the rota on the same notice board for the schedule of duties. Those who are unavailable on their scheduled day of service, please swap with another person or approach Jonathan as early as possible. For those who want to render your service to the Lord, do approach Jonathan.
Evening			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Pr Mark Chen	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	
<i>Preacher:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Pr Mark Chen	
<i>Message:</i>	Divine Discipline is not Punishment	The Seven Deadly Sins	
<i>Text:</i>	Proverbs 3:11-12	Proverbs 6:16-19	
<i>Pianist:</i>	Joy	Hubert	
Other Duties			
	<i>Today: 27/04/2008</i>	<i>Next Week: 04/05/2008</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	Chin Kiong / John	Daniel / Hui Min	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Hui Min	Hui Min	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	No DHW Class	No DHW Class	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 02 May	7:30pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Prayer Meeting	
Sat 03 May	4.00pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Led by Jonathan Kim	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering:	£321.36	Lunch: £36.80 YAF: £51.05	
<u>Memory Verse</u>			
<i>Last Week (Apr 08 Wk 4): Psalm 121:8</i>			
The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.			
<i>This Week (Apr 08 Wk 5): Philippians 1:21</i>			
For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.			