



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. 19 No. 23

LORD’S DAY 07 JUNE 2015

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Evening Service – 4pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 67

Isaiah 48:16-19

*Opening Hymn **

RHC 19 – “Come, We That Love the Lord”

RHC 351 – “He Leadeth Me”

*Opening Prayer **

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri **

Glory Be to the Father

Responsive Reading

Psalm 119:73-88

*Second Hymn **

Psalm 119 verses 73-80
(to the tune of Cleansing Fountain, RHC 173)

Announcements & Memory Verse

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology **

RHC 119 – “Sweeter as the Years Go By”

Scriptural Text

John 5:1-16

1 Kings 18

Pastoral Prayer

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Sermon Message

The Lord Jesus Christ and the Impotent Man at Pool of Bethesda

Elijah on Carmel

*Closing Hymn **

RHC 268 – “Lord, I’m Coming Home”

Insert – “O praise the Lord, for He is good”

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen **

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Dr Stephen Scott-Pearson

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* Congregation Stands

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

Church Theme 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b

From the pastor's heart...

IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 11th January 2015

I recently came across an article about a couple leaving a hundred dollars for a waiter who served them. A married couple, Makenzie and Steven Schultz went to a restaurant in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA, to celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary. The meal they had for the occasion cost them \$66.65, and they left \$100 for a tip. As far as I understand, it has been practiced for some time in America that customers in restaurants leave tips, about 15% of the cost of their order for lunch and 20% for dinner. Even if we say that this couple had a dinner, \$14-15 would be more than enough to show their appreciation for the service they had received. However, they left \$100 just for a tip! Then our minds will quickly run to think of the reason(s) why they were overly generous. I could think of at least four reasons: (1) They had received superb and incomparably good services from the waiter. He truly made the day for them. They were so impressed that they could not but give him tips super-generously. (2) It was an error, and they left such a large sum of money by mistake. (3) They were just very rich people and wanted to show off their wealth in such a flashy way. Or, (4) It was a way for them to celebrate their wedding anniversary after all! The news article shows that none of my guesses is correct but proven to be all wrong. The service they received that night was terrible. I would not quote their words directly because they are not really suitable for my use. The service that night was very poor. How poor was poor? MaKenzie wrote about her experience as following: "Took 20 minutes to get water, 40 minutes for an appetizer and over an hour for our entrée. People all around us were making fun of the restaurant and how bad the service was. Yeah, it was pretty terrible." Makenzie further explained that the problem was not the waiter. "It was very obvious that the issue was being short staffed, not the server. He was running around like crazy and never acted annoyed with any table," she continued. "At one point we counted he had 12 tables plus the bar. More than any one person could handle! As I sat there and watched him run back & forth and apologize for the wait, I said to Steven... 'Wow, this used to be us.' Waiting tables. I don't miss it at all and I never loved that job. I did it for the tips." According to this news article, this couple met while working at a restaurant as waiter and waitress. They knew the difficulty the waiter facing during that night. They thought that the waiter would not be able to receive any tip for the night, which could be a disaster for him. They deliberately left \$100 and wrote on the bill, "We've both been in your shoes. Paying it forward." On their credit card payment slip, they wrote \$100 for gratuity and signed.

I wonder how you feel about the story, the couple, bad services, tip, and the waiter. As for me, it was a perfect example or application of the Golden Rule to our daily life. Matthew 7:12 says, "*Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*" What this biblical principle says is, "Put yourselves in someone else's shoes, and do right." We, human beings, are inevitably self-centered. In a way, we cannot say that such a trait is always negative and bad. It is because it will prepare us for self-preservation. It will make us keep distanced from dangers or unnecessary distractions. However, the overall impact of this self-centeredness has worked against us more negatively, if not detrimentally. The self-centeredness of Adam and Even caused them to break the commandment of God and to be chased out from the Paradise. Think of Cain who killed his own brother Abel. "Why me, or why not me?" has been almost like a propaganda of our self-centered and self-esteemed society. "Me, only me" is the motto of such society and community. We are too busy to think of others because we are too busy with ourselves. Thus, we have neglected and missed all opportunities to think of others and their needs. All conflicts and problems are coming from such a mindset we have. James describes quite unpleasant conditions of life, work, and relationships in James 4:1-2, which says, "*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?*"² *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain . . .*"

Me-centered selfishness of man brings all the troubles we experience. We will be even more surprised if we know that the readers of this epistle were believers. They were not just ordinary believers but persecuted believers who were strong in faith and willing to take trials and difficulties for Christ's sake. However, they could not overcome their selfish attitude toward one another and fought against each other. It seems that selfishness is powerful enough to cancel all Christian ethics, morality, and virtues. I wonder how much difference we could have made, if we have put ourselves into others' shoes. Exodus 22:21 says, "*Thou shalt neither vex a stranger, nor oppress him: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.*" It is the same as saying, "put yourselves into their shoes." The children of Israel were under the bondage of the Egyptians, and after all, they were strangers in Egypt. They experienced sorrows, unreasonable persecutions, merciless acts from their masters, and many agonizing trials even to the extent that they were commanded to kill all boy-babies. They knew what it was meant to be strangers. Now, they were free from the bondage and they could make their life more flourishing and abundant. In this happy prospect, God told them to put themselves into the strangers' shoes and to be compassionate to them. Deuteronomy 16:11-12 says the same thing: "*And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.*"¹² *And thou shalt remember that thou wast a bondman in Egypt: and thou shalt observe and do these statutes.*"

We find many stories of people who have put themselves in others' shoes. In fact, we find these stories demonstrating a universal virtue of mankind regardless of religion or culture. For example, a Pharaoh's daughter found a baby in a floating basket in the Nile River. She knew that it was a Hebrew baby, who was supposed to have been killed according to his own father's command. However, Exodus 2:6 says that she had compassion on him. She not only rescued him from the water but also educated and raised him as her own son. She put herself in Moses' and his mother's shoes and was compassionate. Prophet Jeremiah has been known as a weeping prophet. He wept and lamented in Jeremiah 9:1, "*Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*" Jeremiah himself was promised protection by the Lord. He would not be taken into captivity, but his people would. As a preacher of truth and righteousness, he knew that his people deserved harsh judgments from the Lord. However, he cried for them. His tears were not for his own suffering but for his people. He put himself into their shoes and could not but cry for them. Jesus put Himself in our shoes and willingly suffered for our sins. As a result, we are redeemed.

I have seen many people's trials, sorrows, miseries, unhappiness, insecurity, and many negative experiences they have suffered with. They hurt others and are also hurt by them. They are both offenders and victims. Having seen many of their struggles, I wonder if they can relive their pain and suffering simply by putting themselves in others' shoes. If children put themselves in their parents' shoes, husbands and wives in each others' shoes, employers in employees', pastors into their congregations, and vice versa, how much happier we all will be! I am sure that the waiter who unexpectedly received a large sum of money for a tip on that terribly busy and frustrating night must be speechless at the end of the day and very thankful for the tip. It all happened because of a couple who put themselves in the waiter's shoes. I wish that all of us will do the same thing.

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

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.

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK			WELCOME
Thurs 11 June	No Mid-Week Bible Study		We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We do hope that you have a blessed time of worship on this day.
Sat 13 June	4pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting <i>Study on the Life of Joseph</i>		
Next Lord's Day	Morning Service	Evening Service	LORD'S DAY DUTIES
Preacher	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	Mr Charles Scott-Pearson	<u>TODAY: 07/06/2015</u>
Message	TBC	TBC	
Text	TBC	TBC	
NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS			<u>Chairman:</u> Jonathan <u>Organist:</u> Anthony <u>Pianist:</u> Anthony <u>Ushers:</u> Daniel / Evelyn <u>Sunday School:</u> Keene / Rachael <u>Lunch:</u> Helen <u>Washing Up:</u> Volunteers <u>PA Crew:</u> Scott <u>NEXT WEEK: 14/06/2015</u> <u>Chairman:</u> John <u>Organist:</u> Anthony <u>Pianist:</u> Matthew <u>Ushers:</u> Tom / Daniel <u>Sunday School:</u> Keene / Rachael <u>Lunch:</u> Maureen <u>Washing Up:</u> Volunteers <u>PA Crew:</u> Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-lunch Bible Study: There will be video shown on "<i>The Life of John Bunyan</i>". • Pray for those who are sick: Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor & Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew, Kalel, Magdalene. • Pray for expecting mothers: Sharon, Magdalene, Helen. • Pray for those seeking employment: Yetta, Nana. • Pray for those on travel: Dr Martin, Samuel Ki. • Pulpit Ministry: Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as the interim minister. • Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology: 7th-9th July 2015. Theme - "<i>Pathway to Power</i>". 			
Worship Service Collections – Last Sunday: £1069.05, Lunch: £29.00 Attendance - Morning: 24 (A) 5 (C), Evening: 16 (A) 4 (C)			
SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 71			
Q: What is required in the Seventh Commandment? <i>A: The Seventh Commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.</i> <u>Scriptural Reference:</u> 2 Timothy 2:22; Ephesians 5:11-12			
MEMORY VERSE			
Last Week <i>"But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."</i> Luke 11:28	This Week <i>"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."</i> John 1:1-2	Next Week <i>"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."</i> John 1:3-4	