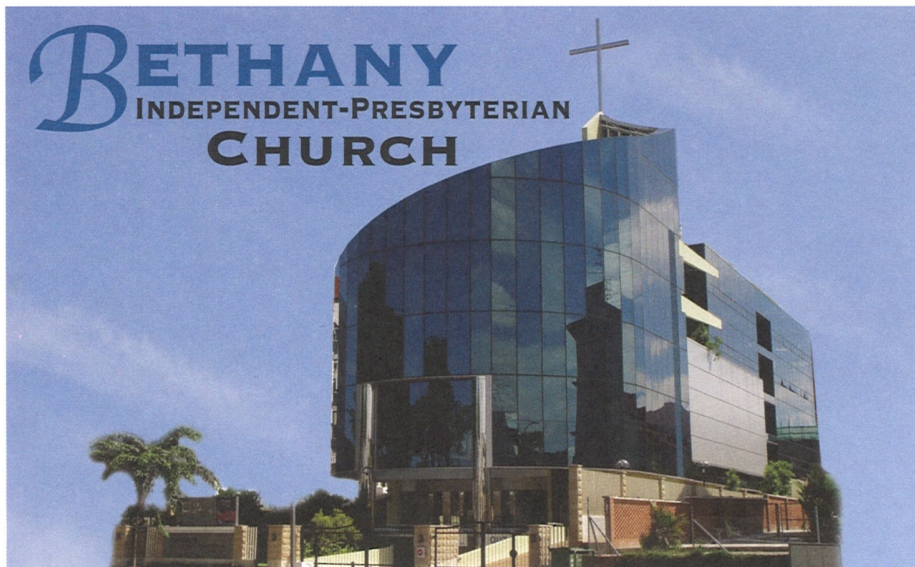


BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



God's kind of Church...where God is touching lives...and people care for people

Bethany IV ... 30 July 2017

MICA (P) No.: 030/10/2012

MEDITATION

by Rev Dr Charles Tan

TEXT: PSALM 71



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Meditation | 1 |
| Announcements | 3 |
| Worship | 6 |
| Testimony | 7 |
| Poetry Corner | 13 |
| Bible Memory Work | 14 |
| This Week @ Worship | 15 |

"I DECLARE YOUR WONDROUS WORKS"

THE WORKS OF GOD ARE INDEED WONDROUS

The Psalms were written to reflect the wondrous works of God. Psalm 71 is an attempt to remember some of the personal works of God in life.

(continued on page 2)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

1. A cry for Deliverance Psalm 71:2
 - (a) This was sought from the Lord
 - (b) Reasons for this prayer
 - i. The hand of the wicked Psalm 71:4a
 - ii. The hand of the unrighteous Psalm 71:4b
 - iii. The hand of the cruel Psalm 71:4c
 - iv. Enemies Psalm 71:10a
 - v. They lay traps Psalm 71:10b
 - vi. They pursued the Psalmist Psalm 71:11
2. Faith in God exercised
 - (a) Trust in God Psalm 71:1
 - (b) Resorting to God as a Refuge Psalm 71:3
 - (c) Hoping in God as a Rock and Fortress Psalm 71:3, 5
3. Drawing encouragement
 - (a) Remembering how God was always there
 - i. Upheld from birth Psalm 71:6
 - ii. Trusted from youth Psalm 71:5
 - (b) Believing
 - i. God will hear and save Psalm 71:2
 - ii. God will not cast away Psalm 71:9

REJOICING IN THE LORD

There is every reason to rejoice greatly in the Lord! The Psalmist determined that he would do the following:

(Continued on page 3)

MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. My praise shall be continually of You | Psalm 71:6, 8 |
| 2. I will hope continually | Psalm 71:14 |
| 3. My mouth shall tell of Your salvation | Psalm 71:15 |
| 4. I will make mention of Your righteousness | Psalm 71:16 |

Let us learn how we may speak of the Lord and His goodness shown to us, individually and as a church. May we always sing His praise. †

Write to me at: charlestan@bethanyipc.sg

We are glad that you have chosen to worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us today. May your heart be lifted up through worship and fellowship! †

WELCOME
to Bethany IV

COMBINED WORSHIP TODAY

We will be having a Combined Worship Service today! The Teens and the Bilingual brethren will be joining the Morning Worship. †

CATECHISM CLASS TODAY

Time: 1.00pm

Venue: Auditorium 4.2 †

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY (30 July 2017)

Thank God that we can have a Special Needs Sunday. Some of the Committee Members of the Special Needs Committee will be leading us in worship. Some other features to note: -

1. Pre-Worship

This will be led by Jewel Yi.

2. Gifts for our special needs children

A special gift will be given to the children.

3. A special Children's Book

This has been specially printed for the children. These are also available to all at Bethany. †

NEXT SUNDAY

We will be having Holy Communion next Sunday (6 August 2017). Let us come prepared in both heart and mind. †

MINISTRY IN MYANMAR

31 July 2017- 3 August 2017

1. Leadership and Worship Conference

2. A good number of missionaries/ teachers/ pastors will be attending

Let us pray for the Lord's blessings! †



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER MEETING/ BIBLE STUDY

We will not be having the usual Prayer Meeting and Bible Study Programs. The Pastoral Team will be attending a Leadership-Worship Conference in Myanmar. †

SPIRITUAL RETREAT

11-12 August 2017

Theme: "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly"

1. We will be looking at the Epistle to the Colossians
2. An analysis of the entire Epistle would be considered at the Retreat
3. Let us avail ourselves of every opportunity to study the Lord's Word better

WHO MAY ATTEND THIS SPIRITUAL RETREAT?

1. Anyone who would love to delve a little more deeply into the Word of God
2. The Retreat is open to all in Church

Sign up today! †

CELEBRATING BETHANY'S 40+4 ANNIVERSARY

Date: 27 August 2017

Venue: Shangri La

Time: 10.30am

Followed by an Anniversary Lunch at 12.30pm †

ANNOUNCEMENTS



YOUTH CONFERENCE

3-8 December 2017

Theme: "The Same Spirit of Faith"

1. Let us pray for the Lord's blessings
2. Let us remember the Planning Committee
3. Student-Pastors

They will be playing an active role in the Youth Conference. †

WORSHIP

Worship
in Spirit
& Truth

Psalm 81:6-7

*I removed his shoulder from the burden;
His hands were freed from the baskets.*

*You called in trouble,
And I delivered you;*

*I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah.*

1. Recalling the past
 - (a) Israel in Egypt
 - (b) Many burdens to bear
 - (c) Baskets were used to carry bricks etc
2. Calling upon the Lord
 - (a) In time of trouble
 - (b) In faith and hope
3. God heard and answered
 - (a) He delivered Israel
 - (b) God answered mightily
 - (c) The secret place of thunder (a reference to the power of God employed)
4. May the Lord's works in the past cause us to worship Him in awe and gratitude †

MY JOB SEARCH

BY CYNTHIA WONG

By Grace Through Faith - my job search journey (2014 to 2017)

2 years 7 and a half months. That was the length of time I took to secure my present job after 70 job applications and 30 interviews.

It has been 3 weeks now since I joined the Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore (CPAS) as its Executive Director. There is much work to be done and as I go to work each day, I'm much humbled by the fact that the Lord has prepared me very well for this job, tough as it may be. During the first two weeks, I even had the rare opportunity to share with colleagues on two occasions of how I came to accept Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

Winding back the clock to end Oct 2014, I had not expected to be out of job after having performed relatively well at work for more than 25 years and almost always, by God's grace, securing a job every time I went for an interview. So it was very tough when I was faced with complete silence when job applications went unanswered, the phone wasn't ringing, headhunters were no longer calling. But I believed God is there and knows my deepest cry and longings.

Suffice to say, there were times spent kneeling in prayer, times crying out to the Lord in tears, times wondering whether it is really because my faith was not strong enough...there were unknowing people who said "Perhaps you don't have enough faith, that's why God is not answering your prayers". There were also others who said "Don't be too choosy, don't just apply for jobs your level". Little did they know that I have already tried applying for jobs below the level of my last position. If you have friends who are currently in job search mode, I would urge you not to say the above to them - it can be very discouraging. I liked best

(Continued on page 8)

TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 7)

what my close friend simply said to me every time she spoke to me. “You will get a job, it is a matter of time, trust in His timing”. Even headhunters told me “Cynthia, we are not able to present you to the client as the person the position is reporting to is much less experienced than you”. So, seniority in position and age were real barriers. But nothing is too insurmountable for God as all were in His plan and in His time.

Faith

God taught me many precious lessons during this time. First, the lesson of **faith**:

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.
Hebrews 11: 1.

It was really a journey of faith, of hope despite not seeing any job in the horizon but believing that God has a great plan.

Fortitude

Next, I learned **fortitude**, to persevere and look beyond my circumstances, and to fulfill God’s purpose for my life.

I volunteered actively in 4 VWOs – namely the Singapore Association for the Deaf, Meals on Wheels with Touch Community, Muscular Dystrophy Association and HCA Hospice Care during the past 2 years 7 and a half months. I like what James wrote in James 2: 18b *“I will show you my faith by my works”*. So it was good that my time was taken up by meaningful pursuits and my attention was aptly diverted and not just solely focused on job searches. Little did I know that the Lord has planned even this part of my volunteering work which now serves as very valuable experience for the present job I now hold.

When there is no job in sight, one can also be very vulnerable to misinterpreting own desires with what the Lord wills. I was so convinced by a passage that I read one morning in Isaiah 61: 1 as follows:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me to

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

I was so sure at that moment that the Lord was calling me to a career in healthcare. At this point, I must mention that our dear brother Huay Cheem, on knowing my interest, so kindly wrote to the CEOs of 4 hospitals/healthcare groups to seek possible openings for me despite his busy schedule. So to this day, I cannot forget his kindness. But alas, the healthcare sector was not opened to my applications.

By Mar 2016, one and a half years had passed, still no job offer in sight. My husband did not think it was possible for me to return to the workforce. I even wrote to Pastor Charlie. His exact words then were: "Jobs out there - Given the present climate, it might prove a little challenging"

"Faith...Yes...Let there be an exercise of faith!"

2016 proved to be an even more trying year. My mum was diagnosed with a serious heart condition, but by His mercy, it was discovered in time and she had to undergo a major heart surgery. By God's grace, the surgery was very successful. However, what followed was an extremely stressful year of caregiving to my mum, arranging for domestic help and getting her to accept the fact that she now needs help and change in lifestyle habits. It was a tough year but through it all, the Lord took His time to mould me and change me. Many things I took for granted in the past, I no longer took for granted.

During this period, talking to God and reading His Word were key in helping me press on. The verse: *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need"* Hebrews 4:16 was indeed real - I really needed God's mercy and find His grace in those circumstances.

Blessings

I would be lying if I said I was cheery all the time. I prayed for 7-8 people

(Continued on page 10)

TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 9)

who lost their jobs during these 3 years and all of them found a job but not me then. There were times I would ask God why? But never did I once doubt the Lord's faithfulness. God continued to shower me with **blessings** in more ways than one.

He gave me rest. Rest from a life of hectic work schedules, plenty of time to enjoy nature, His creation. I took many walks at the Botanic Gardens and MacRitchie Reservoir and discovered the beauty of His creation which I never had the chance to see. I became fitter than before as I have now developed a habit to brisk walk at least 21 km per week. Previously when I was working, I couldn't even manage 7 km a week.

Another blessing I had was learning to live with what I have as shared in Philippians 4: 11, 12. *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content; I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned to be both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.*

Having earned a reasonable income for many years and suddenly not earning a cent is great transformation. Learning to depend solely on my husband for all the household expenses was a big change. Lifestyle was also changed, I exchanged my work clothes for home clothes, doing marketing/grocery shopping/being the family driver/doing domestic chores instead of going to work in an office. But I am thankful for this period because it has helped me understand a wider perspective of life and also what my stay at home friends go through.

The Lord has also given me the opportunity to hone my job search skills so much so that I think I can organise a workshop for those who are searching for a job. Recently I offered to help two newly made friends who attended a job search workshop at WSG with their job search/interviews.

Wisdom

Towards the end of last year, I asked the Lord for **wisdom** as to where to focus my job search on. Psalm 90: 12 *"So teach us to number our days that*

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

we may gain a heart of wisdom" became real.

I told the Lord, I had no desire to go back to corporate work and if God willing, to allow me to give my time to the non-profit sector, serving those who need it most rather than be in a corporate job earning huge revenues for the company.

So beginning of this year, I started reaching out to my contacts in the social service or non-profit sector and applied for jobs that were advertised in that sector. By God's grace, I went for 9 interviews (some were 2nd round interviews) in four months. 4 of these interviews for 3 organisations were coincidentally in the special needs sector.

The first 2 special needs organisations catered to persons with mild disabilities. I was so sure that I was going to secure the job at the 2nd organisation that when CPAS advertised, I held back my application for it. I was disappointed when I didn't get the job at the 2nd organisation as I had spent many hours preparing for that 2nd interview. But in the end, I applied for the job at CPAS.

At the CPAS interview, I was asked why I thought I was suitable to work in that organisation. I answered because I am very "personable". In all my years of working life, at interviews, I have never used that word in response to such a question. I would normally list all the achievements I had accomplished. But that exact word "personable" resonated with the interviewers as they had hoped to select a leader who is personable. Next the interviewers asked, "If you are so personable, how can you get work done and manage such a large team of staff?" I replied that I value excellence in work and would motivate staff to achieve excellence in their work but leveraging on each one's strengths rather than focusing on their weaknesses. I knew the Lord was with me otherwise I would not be guided to answer the question as such. The interview went by so quickly and the interviewers all looked tired by the time the interview ended that I seriously thought I didn't get the job.

The interviewers shared that there were several candidates – both

(Continued on page 12)

TESTIMONY

(Continued from page 11)

internal and external. In all there were 65 applicants and 6 were shortlisted and I was the last to be interviewed. The interviewers shared later that due to my 6 years of service in the non profits and also the corporate experience I brought, in my last senior position, they chose me. As I mentioned earlier, the Lord had it all planned but I just didn't know at that time. I am also much humbled by the fact that the Lord has counted me worthy to serve in this organisation which serves persons with multiple disabilities, which means more challenging work than the first two special needs organisations I interviewed with which serves persons with mild disabilities.

But all praise to Him when the job offer came. It was a pleasant surprise and an honour too. God is greatly to be praised. I know getting the job is not about what I can do but what He will do through me. Even sharing this journey is not about me but about how God can work beyond what we can imagine.

At this point, I would like to specially mention thanks to my three special friends Carol, Li Kum and Yvonne who have laboured faithfully and tirelessly for the last 2 years and 7.5 months in prayer with me, through the ups and downs – especially those times when we thought I would be given a job offer but in the end found that things did not turn out that way. There were also many others who prayed along at different points in time and encouraged me. To those, I say thank you.

May the Lord continue to use me as He has planned in my new position.

Lastly, to all those who are still on a job search or beginning a job search, do not lose heart. Have faith and fortitude, ask God for wisdom and enjoy the journey with Him.

Thank you.

I MEDITATE ON ALL YOUR WORKS

The troubles of life can bring great distress;
The spirit can be overwhelmed under stress.
The heart cries out to God in stirring prayer,
God hears for He will always be there!

The troubles of life must cause us to pray,
The heart learns to cry out without delay!
The soul must find great comfort in God,
Much wisdom is sought from the Lord.

The soul must learn to be still and meditate,
Therein is the secret; to God we supplicate.
From the Word of God comes needed hope,
We find fresh strength that we might cope.

The call to meditate is much needed today;
We can be too busy; It would lead to dismay.
The challenge is to be still and to seek the Lord;
The spirit can be revived by the power of God.

Psalms 143:5

Charles Tan



BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today, 30 July 2017

Psalm 111: 7 The Works of the LORD are Verity and Justice

The works of the LORD are verity and justice;

All His precepts are sure.

1. More descriptive words about the works of the Lord

(a) Verity (truth)

(b) Justice

2. Underneath these works

(a) The precepts of the Lord

(b) And they are sure!

NEXT SUNDAY: 6 August 2017

Ephesians 2:10 We are His Workmanship

For we are His workmanship,

Created in Christ Jesus for good works,

Which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.



THEME : ESTABLISH THE WORK OF OUR HANDS FOR US

This Week @ Worship

— MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE —
10.30 AM . CHURCH SANCTUARY
“I Meditate on all Your Works”
Psalm 143

Chairmen

Mr Milton Ong
Ms Jewel Yi
Mrs Ong Shaio Yee
Dr Tan Li Wah
(presenting the
Special Needs Ministry)

Pianist

Dr Daniel Chia

Organist

Mrs Sally Tan

Interpreter

Mr Goh Liangzhou

Speaker

Rev Dr Charles Tan

— TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE —

NO TEENS' WORSHIP SERVICE

— CHILDREN'S CHURCH —

10.30 AM

“Parable of the Light
Under a Basket”
Mark 4:21-25

CC I: P1—P3

3rd Floor
Auditorium 3-1

CC II: P4—P6

4th Floor
Auditorium 4-1

Speaker

Mr Jonathan Jacob

Speaker

Student-Pastor
Benjamin Chong

— COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE —

**NO COMBINED EVENING-BILINGUAL
WORSHIP SERVICE**

Breakfast : Joel Lee
Fellowship Lunch : Geena Ng
No Evening Tea

BETHANY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

| | Day | Time | Venue | Location |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| WORSHIP SERVICES | | | | |
| Morning Worship Service | Sun | 10.30 am | Church Sanctuary | 2 nd floor |
| Children's Worship I (P1 – P3) | | | Auditorium 3-1 | 3 rd floor |
| Children's Worship II (P4 – P6) | | | Auditorium 4-1 | 4 th floor |
| Teens' Worship Service | | | Auditorium 3-2 | 3 rd floor |
| Combined Evening-Bilingual | | 4.00pm | Auditorium 4-2 & 4-3 | 4 th floor |
| SUNDAY SCHOOL | | | | |
| Crèche | Sun | 8.30am 10.30am | Green Turf | 1 st floor |
| Beginners' Sunday School | | 8.30am | Auditorium 2-1 | 2 nd floor |
| Junior Sunday School I | | | Auditorium 3-1 | 3 rd floor |
| Junior Sunday School II | | | Auditorium 4-2 | 4 th floor |
| Intermediate Sunday School | | | Auditorium 3-2 | 3 rd floor |
| Senior Sunday School I | | | Fellowship Hall | 1 st floor |
| Senior Sunday School II | | | Main Sanctuary | 2 nd floor |
| Senior Sunday School III | | | Prayer Room 4-1 | 4 th floor |
| Senior Sunday School IV | | | Auditorium 4-1 | 4 th floor |
| Special Needs Ministry | | | Auditorium 4-3 | 4 th floor |
| CHOIRS | | | | |
| Singing Kakis | Thurs | 8.00 pm | Auditorium 3-2 | 3 rd floor |
| One Voice | Sat | 5.00 pm | Auditorium 4-2 | 4 th floor |
| Youth Choir | | 5.00 pm | Auditorium 3-1 | 3 rd floor |
| Evergreens | Sun | 1.00 pm | Auditorium 3-1 | 3 rd floor |
| BIBLE STUDY | | | | |
| Church Bible Study | Tue | 8.00 pm | Church Sanctuary | 2 nd floor |
| Home Bible Study | 2 nd and 4 th Thurs | 3.00 pm | - | - |
| Mandarin Bible Study | 1 st and 3 rd Fri | 7.30 pm | 4 th Floor Auditorium | 4 th floor |
| CATECHISM CLASS | | | | |
| | Sun | 1.00 pm | Auditorium 4-2 | 4 th floor |
| PRAYER MEETING | | | | |
| | Mon | 8.00 pm | Church Sanctuary | 2 nd floor |
| FELLOWSHIP GROUPS | | | | |
| Young People's Group I | Sat | 3.00 pm | Auditorium 2-1 | 2 nd floor |
| Young People's Group II | | | Auditorium 3-2 | 3 rd floor |
| Young People's Group III | | | Auditorium 3-1 | 3 rd floor |
| Young Adults' Group | | | Auditorium 4-2 & 4-3 | 4 th floor |
| Young Married Group | | | Auditorium 4-1 | 4 th floor |
| Adults' Ministry | | 4.00 pm | Auditorium 4-1 | 4 th floor |

Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church

301 Upper Paya Lebar Road, Singapore 534934
tel : 65-62877713 . fax : 65-62877980 . website URL : bethanyipc.sg

COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE
30 July 2017
Order of Worship

PREPARATION

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Pre-Worship Singing | <i>Special Item by the children</i> |
| Song No. 1 | My God Is So Big |
| Song No. 2 | Jesus Loves Me |
| Prelude | <i>Pianist : Dr Daniel Chia</i> <i>Organist : Mrs Sally Tan</i> |
| Call to Worship | <i>Mr Milton Ong</i> <i>Ms Jewel Yi</i> <i>Mrs Ong Shaio Yee</i> <i>Dr Tan Li Wah</i> |
| Invocation | |

PRAISE

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Hymns | |
| Century Praise 57 | Worthy Of Worship |
| Century Praise 354 | Take My Life And Let It Be |
| Century Praise 399 | Make Me A Blessing |

“PREACH THE WORD”

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Message: | “I Meditate on all Your Works” |
| Text : | Psalm 143 |
| Speaker: | Rev Dr Charles Tan |

RESPONSE

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Offering | |
| Hymn | |
| HWC No. 390 | May The Mind Of Christ, My Saviour |
| Prayerful Meditation | |
| Benediction | |
| Postlude | |

PASTORAL LETTER

Senior Pastor : Rev Dr Charles Tan

30 July 2017

Dear Brethren,

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Life itself is so often complex. It becomes even more challenging when there are “special needs.” How do we face such needs? There are many lessons that we can learn from the Scriptures. (Take time to read John 9).

AN UNWISE APPROACH

The disciples of the Lord Jesus raised this question. “Who sinned?” The man himself or his parents? (John 9:2).

The answer of the Lord was direct. “Neither this man nor his parents sinned.” (John 9:3). This approach would lead nowhere!

THE WORKS OF GOD

The Lord went on to teach His disciples how they may address such problems.

“But that the works of God should be revealed” John 9:3

1. The works of God
 - a) In the Gospel of John the works of the Lord Jesus were noted
 - b) They were then explained along the way
2. The application of this thought
 - a) The works of God must include other things beside miracles
 - b) In the Epistles of the writing Apostles, there was strong emphasis on expressing our faith through works

THE MINISTRY TO THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

Thank God for the works being attempted by the Committee looking after the Special Needs children. These are some of the works that are being done.

1. Teaching the children every Sunday
2. Coming up with books for the children to read
3. Ministering to the parents
4. Reaching out to children with special needs outside our Church

Thank God that we can have a Special Needs Sunday at Bethany. May our hearts be deeply moved to have compassion!

***Prayerfully,
Pastor Charlie***