

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.

Bethany IV ... 10 May 2020

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MEDITATION

REV DR CHARLES TAN

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Text: 1 Thessalonians 2-3

“THE WORD OF GOD”

SUCCESS IN MINISTRY

The Apostle Paul was instrumental in founding many churches as he preached the Gospel in many lands. How did he succeed in all his endeavours?

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 1)

SHARING PERSONAL THOUGHTS

Paul was candid in his sharing with the Thessalonian Church. He wrote about how he succeeded in ministry.

1. Succeeding in the Ministry of God

a) Consciousness of two things in particular

i) Paul was an approved servant of God

ii) He was an entrusted minister of the Gospel of God 1 Thes. 2:4

b) Conscientious avoiding of the following in ministry

i) No error 1 Thes. 2:3a

ii) No uncleanness 1 Thes. 2:3b

iii) No deceit 1 Thes. 2:3c

iii) No use of flattery 1 Thes. 2:5a

iv) No covetousness 1 Thes. 2:5b

v) No seeking of glory 1 Thes. 2:6a

vi) No unwarranted demands 1 Thes. 2:6b

c) Commitment to do the following

i) Boldness in preaching 1 Thes. 2:2

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MEDITATION

(Continued from page 2)

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|---------------------------------|-------------|
| ii) Gentleness exercised | 1 Thes. 2:7 |
| iii) Deep affection | 1 Thes. 2:8 |
| iv) Labouring night and day | 1 Thes. 2:9 |
| v) Devoutness and blamelessness | 1 Thes. 2:9 |
2. Suffering amidst serving God faithfully
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| a) There was much affliction | 1 Thes. 1:6 |
| b) Spitefully treated | 1 Thes. 2:2 |
| c) Persecution | 1 Thes. 2:15 |

OUR CHALLENGE TO SUCCEED IN MINISTRY

Let us be challenged to succeed in our ministry for the Lord.

1. Emulating good examples
Paul and his team were excellent examples. Let us seek to emulate their lives.
2. Engaging ourselves fully
 - a) It takes a lot to succeed
 - b) Let us determine to be fully engaged to serve fruitfully

May the Lord grant His grace and mercy as we seek His blessings!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

1. The world at large

Covid-19 has affected the world adversely! Truly, in the world we will have tribulation!

2. Faith in the Lord

Let us continue to exercise faith in the Lord!



MOTHER'S DAY

Thank God for all who are mothers!
Your impact is far greater than you know!

May you know the Lord's blessings! Happy Mother's Day!



HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

Heartfelt condolences to Regina Yeo on the passing away of her husband, Arthur Tong Pu Cheong @ Thong Poh Cheong. He was 74 years old. Arthur went home to be with the Lord on Monday, 4 May 2020.



WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Psalm 111:7-8

⁷The works of His hands *are* verity and justice;
All His precepts *are* sure.

⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
And are done in truth and uprightness.

1. The works of God's hands

- a) They reflect truth
- b) They also reflect justice

2. The word of the Lord

- a) His precepts are sure and steadfast
- b) They will stand forever

3. Close relationship between Works and Words

- a) They reflect the Person of God
- b) They reflect truth and uprightness

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Today: 10 May 2020

Text: John 16:33 “In the world you shall have tribulation”

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace.

In the world you will have tribulation;

but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

1. The teachings of the Lord Jesus

They will bring peace to the heart

2. In the world

Tribulation is to be expected

3. Being of good cheer

It comes from faith that the Lord has overcome to world.

NEXT SUNDAY: 17 May 2020

Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:3 “These afflictions”

That no one should be shaken by these afflictions;

for you yourselves know that we are appointed to this

POETRY CORNER

1

EXAMPLES TO ALL

The city of Thessalonica had a very rich history;
It existed for hundreds of years from antiquity.
It was a Greek city at the start and was prosperous,
Under the Romans, it became a city that was populous.

The Gospel was preached mightily by the Apostle Paul;
Many heard and responded positively to God's Call.
They left their idolatrous practices for faith in a living God;
Soon, they were persecuted for their faith in the Lord!

Though it was a very young church when Paul was forced out;
They learned lessons of faith that caused them to be stout.
They were unafraid of the suffering they had to encounter;
The living faith in their hearts enabled them not to flounder.

The Thessalonians became examples to many;
They had learned well, and they walked in integrity!
There was no turning back to their old ways of sin;
They were determined that this race they would win!

Charles Tan
Inspiration: 1 Thessalonians 1:7

POETRY CORNER

2

(A POEM TO HONOUR ALL MOTHERS)

THE WORKS OF HIS HANDS

When we think of God's works, what comes to mind?
God's creation is a masterpiece, creatures of every kind.

The universe is vast and it is awesomely planned;
Everything reflects the power of God's almighty Hand.

But there is a special work that few have taken full notice;
A Mother is no less a wonderful and special masterpiece!
What does it take to make a woman a wonderful Mother?
It takes the mighty power of God to create a work of wonder.

It begins with a long journey of many months in pregnancy;
Many challenges are faced and overcome, every anxiety.
Then comes the pain at childbirth, yet Motherhood prevails;
She is determined, of God's grace and strength, to avail.

A Mother is a special work, wrought by God's own hand;
She has a special role to play, in God's profound plan.
She will nurture her child till Destiny is revealed;
Though in her life, the work of God is concealed.

Charles Tan
Inspiration: Psalm 111

POETRY CORNER

3

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before Jesus returned to His Father in heaven,
He said that a Helper, like Him, would be given.
Jesus promised the Holy Spirit who comes from God,
This would be a gift for all who believe in Christ the Lord.

The Holy Spirit has a manifold and glorious ministry,
He dwells within us, sanctifies us and makes us holy.
He reveals and enlightens us concerning spiritual matters,
Without Him, we cannot understand the Holy Scriptures.

The Holy Spirit is the power behind Christ's resurrection,
He also works within us to effect spiritual regeneration.
He enables us to overcome sin and obey the word,
He empowers us to proclaim the Gospel we have heard.

Let us discern the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives,
And desire to be filled by the Spirit who raised Christ.
May the Holy Spirit give us power for life and ministry,
As we seek to devote ourselves to the Lord faithfully!

Yvette Seow

Inspiration: 1 Peter 1:2, 11, 12, 22 and 3:18

POETRY CORNER

4

Mother's Day...Every Day

The world celebrates mothers on the second Sunday of May;

Yet mothers do not reprise their roles only on Mother's Day.

I hope the lyrics of this song are what our children will say;

"All that I know of faith, kindness, love and strength, I've learnt just by watching you every day".

Motherhood is a great responsibility for us to undertake;

But to love and nurture the heritage of the Lord is such an undeserved privilege.

There will be lessons we forget, instructions we neglect and words and actions we regret;

We worry about how our mistakes will one day on our children impact.

Yet every triumph and stumble in our children's life journeys;

They affect not only themselves, but also you and me.

For God teaches, encourages and also admonishes through our children; do you not agree?

Because He knows our children matter most to us; how marvelous is His pedagogy!

The Lord Jesus had set the perfect example of welcoming children to His fold;

May our children too, become well-grounded in God's Word and in His ways follow.

For their faith, joy and peace in godly contentment, let us continually pray;

Not just today, but also each and every day

Dr. Sng Li Wah

Inspiration: Psalms 127:3; Luke 18:16; I Timothy 6:6

POETRY CORNER

5

Life through the narrow gate

Death and taxes are the only certainties in life, Benjamin Franklin stated
He had failed to include as well, life's trials and tribulations
Jesus had said that life through the narrow gate is difficult
Whereas entering through the wide gate can only lead to destruction

So, there was no offer of life on a bed of roses
No promise of sunshine without rain nor endless peace and respite
But God had promised that we are never alone in our sorrow and woes
For He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort

The Lord gives us strength and courage to withstand life's travails
Put our trust in Him, not in ourselves while we look for deliverance
Our receipt of His consolation and solace helps us to prevail
Let's channel them to fellow sufferers to make a difference

Expect life's hardships and difficulties as we have been forewarned
Try to be of good cheer in our resolve to meet the challenges we see
For Jesus has already conquered and overcome the world
Like Paul let us bless the Lord for His grace and mercy

Jessie Quek

(Inspiration: 2 Corinthians 1:4, Mathew 7:13, John 16:33)

POETRY CORNER

6



In Your House I Will Dwell Forever

An owner of challenges many mountains conquered,
Victories through sweat and toil many uncounted.
Biggest hurdle yet, far from my winter years,
Stirred up emotions, questions, understandable fears.
Yet peace and comfort I get, with thoughts of my Shepherd,
Beside still waters, abundant Grace was given unfettered!
Reminded of Your goodness, heightened awareness of Your presence!
In your house I will dwell eternal, Your mercy a quintessence!

*A poem written by Tan Kok Yang for
Grace Chew in celebration of her
courage and faith.*

25 May 2019

https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/obituary-former-singapore-netball-vice-captain-u-21-coach-grace-chew-dies-at-58?utm_source=STSmartphone&utm_medium=share&utm_term=2020-05-06+09%3A49%3A38

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POETRY CORNER

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*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the
crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous
Judge, will award to me"*
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8



Chew Ping Ping Grace
Age: 58
Passed away peacefully on 4 May 2020.

Deeply missed and fondly remembered by loved ones.

Father : Chew Ang Hor Anthony (deceased)
Mother : Phua Mui Kiang Jessie
Brother : Chew Pong Pong Gregory
Sister-in-law : Hu Shu Chen Janet
Sister : Gwendoline Chew Lin Lin
Brother-in-law : Michel Bellier
Nieces : Chong Xin Yu
Elizabeth Chew Ting Xin
Victoria Chew Bi Rong

Caregivers: Vicki Woo, Nicole Quek, Sister Jessica,
Rachel Yin, Serene Lim, Ashley Lim, Anna-Mae

And relatives and friends.

Wake is held at Singapore Funeral Parlour Level 2
Daisy Room, 91 Tampines Link, S'pore 528746.
Cortege will leave on 7 May 2020 (Thursday)
for Mandalay Crematorium for cremation.

Grace Chew has been an athlete for most of her life. She started off with netball being a vice captain to the national netball team for nearly a decade. She went on to golf and played with her teammates weekly for many years. She was referred to me by the sports physician after she was found to have unusual bone pain. She was admitted for a series of investigations. Imaging on Sat 18 May 2019 revealed that she had advanced cancer that had spread to the bones.

When I received news of her image findings, I was at the zoo with my dear daughter Chloe. It was Chloe's birthday on 17 May and I had brought Chloe for a special Daddy – Daughter time at her favourite place: the zoo. Chloe and I had woken up early and we were at the zoo from early morning. That time was special as I remember how excited she was and how appreciative she was that I had decided to have this time together. During that morning, we expressed our love for each other.

I received news of Grace's scan in the late morning. Although I had expected that the result for the imaging would be as such, I was still sad-

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POETRY CORNER

(Continued from page 13)

dened that a relatively young athlete still full of energy would have to face such a diagnosis. I remember stopping in our tracks for me to take the phone call. Chloe had enquired about the phone call and instinctively asked me:” Daddy, you have to go back to the hospital?”



I explained to her that I have received some important news and yes, I would have to go back to hospital. This was significant news and I felt it was most appropriate for me to return to the hospital to break the news to her personally. It was only right for the primary physician to do so. Chloe was initially disappointed but after thinking, she told me that she was happy to finish up after going to Reptopia. So, we went to her favourite place, Reptopia. Then she said she was ready to go and also was willing to come with me to the hospital and wait for me there while I did what I had to do.

Grace was with Chin Sim, the sports physician and Vicki, her best friend and former captain of the netball team when I arrived in my shorts. She actually already anticipated what I was going to say to her. She took the news with courage and resolve and expressed her faith in God. That attitude had inspired me to write the poem for her.

Chloe waited in my office, became a little impatient. When I returned, she

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POETRY CORNER

(Continued from page 14)

gave me a big hug and said she missed me and asked how Grace took the news. I told Chloe she took it well and Chloe was happy.

Grace went on to chemotherapy, it was clear that her days were numbered. I however, did not expect that Chloe would be called home to God earlier than Grace just 3 months later. Grace turned up for Chloe's memorial service with a walking stick. I appreciated her attendance. Since then she had a picture of Chloe and Joie and music written by Joie next to her TV in her sitting room.

By Apr 2020, she was in palliative care at home. I had wanted to see her but unfortunately this was not possible due to the social distancing measures and her health reasons. She passed away peacefully on 4 May 2020.

Today, I went to her wake. Vicki and Chin Sim were there. They reminded me of how I had gone straight from the zoo to break that news to her personally a year ago. I was reminded of how wonderful and meaningful a time I had with Chloe on that day. Was very amazing to me how events were related to each other. Such a wonderful reminder of Chloe's understanding and giving nature had brought much comfort to me. This whole sequence of events brings a gentle reminder of God's goodness and grace.

Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Tan Kok Yang
5 May 2020

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 3-8	3 rd floor
Evening-Bilingual Worship		4.00pm	Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	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 4-8	4 th floor
Intermediate Sunday School			Auditorium 3-8	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			Fellowship Hall	1 st floor
Senior Sunday School IV. II			Auditorium 2M	2 nd floor
Special Needs Ministry			Auditorium 4-7	4 th floor
CHOIRS				
Singing Kakis	Thurs	8.00 pm	Auditorium 3-2	3 rd floor
One Voice	Sat	5.00 pm	Auditorium 4-8	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 4-8	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 3-8	3 rd floor
Young People's Group III			Auditorium 3-1	3 rd floor
Young Adults' Group			Auditorium 4-7 & 4-8	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