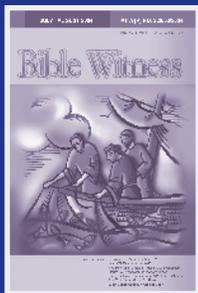


Bible Witness



Inside Articles: Follow Jesus & Be a Fisher of Men
Who Will Reap the Harvest?
The Holy Spirit's Role in Missions & Evangelism
Church & Evangelism in Modern Times
Inauguration of Gethsemane B-P Mission Church
The Truth Shall Make You Free
What Cause Us to Sin Against God?



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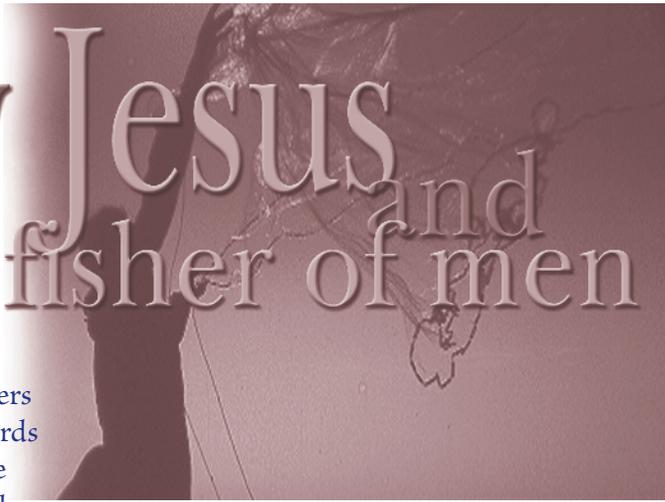
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Follow Jesus and be a fisher of men



“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19) were the words of Jesus to Andrew and Simon. These words of Jesus are full of promise and motivation. None who reads them should fail to observe the prospects they offer. These words of Jesus are gracious, potent and transforming! They are for our joyful contemplation and obedience.

The Call of Christ: “Follow Me”

A Gracious Invitation: Firstly, we notice that herein is a warm invitation from our gracious Lord. He gently beckons us, “Follow Me.” He is sure of the way, for He Himself is “the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). What a great honour it is for us to receive an invitation from the Son of God to follow Him all the way to His glorious heavenly abode!

An Absolute Demand: Secondly, He requires us to accept His leading. He is Lord of lords and King of kings. He demands total commitment from us. We cannot be half-hearted followers, if we were to be partakers of the blessings unto which He is leading us. We must give Him our absolute allegiance. He makes no other demands here, but that we would faithfully follow Him. We cannot have two masters. We have to give up all other glittering things that would try to distract us from the Lord Jesus. He is the author and finisher of our faith (cf. Hebrews 12:2).

A Blessed Assurance: Thirdly, the words “Follow Me” are very assuring to us, because they bespeak of Christ as our unflinching leader. He is ready to lead us all the way. He does not give us any notion that at some point in time in our lives, He would desert us. Rather, He gives us full assurance that He will be always right before us to lead us safely into the presence of His Father. He will lead us and none other. He will always be the Captain of our lives to take us safely home.

What a glorious call Jesus extended to those fishermen of Galilee! The Son of God had not passed them by for the wealthy and mighty of the land. He took great pleasure in these people who were at the lower strata of society; and offered them what they could not have otherwise inherited.

The Promise of Christ: “I Will Make You Fishers of Men”

Jesus can lead any who would accept His call to glorious accomplishments. Anyone who would follow Jesus upon receiving His call will then be transformed by His divine touch. These men were not accustomed to preaching or teaching. They were not in the business of convincing men. They were

only familiar with mending and casting nets. But then the Lord Jesus promised them that He would transform them to be fishers of men, so that they could be His servants to lead many others to His redeeming power.

A Divine Undertaking: It is not “Follow me, because you may make something of yourselves;” but, “Follow me, because of what I will make you.” It did not seem likely that lowly fishermen would become apostles. How could men of the sea become men of the Word? How would men who are only accustomed to boats, nets and fishes be at home in preaching sermons? How could these peasants convict the religious scholars of their sins so that they might repent? Is it possible that fishermen of Galilee would found churches across the world? How could these things be?

Nothing is impossible with the Son of God. Just as He promised, He used those fishermen of Galilee to conquer the souls of the rich and poor, the kings and peasants, the scholars and barbarians, from around the world. From biblical and world history, we know that what He promised, He accomplished.

A Personal Promise: Jesus’ words were taken as a personal promise by Andrew, Simon, John and James. They heard the words Jesus uttered – “I will make you fishers of men.” They took it to their hearts as a personal promise; and responded by leaving their boats and nets.

Dear reader, are you brought low by a sense of your own unworthiness? Do you feel that you can never be useful to lead men to Christ? You need to know that if you answer the call of Jesus and follow Him to

do His will, then you will be moulded by His wisdom and power to fulfil His calling.

Please note also that when His call comes to you, you may not be all that you ought to be. When the Lord saves by His gracious call, He has undertaken your sanctification, edification and even your usefulness. His word is “Follow me, not merely that you may be saved, or even that you may be sanctified;” but, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” If you feel that you are not yet ready to be a fisher of men, then ask Him for His grace to go a-fishing, and so to cast your Gospel net that you may take a great multitude of souls out of the sea of sin.

When the Lord saves by His gracious call, He has undertaken your sanctification, edification and even your usefulness.

You, my readers, live in the midst of millions;

but if you will follow Jesus, and be faithful to Him, and true to Him, and do what He bids you, He will make you fishers of men. Do not say, “Who shall save this city?” The weakest shall be strong enough. Little boy David’s stone brought Goliath, the mighty Philistine, down. Gideon’s barley cake smote the tent. Samson, with the jawbone taken up from the dust of the earth, smote the Philistines. Fear not, neither be dismayed. Let your concerns about your duty of witnessing drive you closer to your Master. Let the horror of besetting sin make you look unto His dear face. Cling onto the Lord, and never let go of your hold. Follow Him everywhere, at all times. By the strong and mighty impulses of the divine Spirit within you, He will lead you to maturity. If you are not fit for this great employment, He will make you fit. You cannot do it by yourselves, but He will make you do it. You do not know how to spread nets and draw shoals of fish to shore, but He will teach you. Only follow Him, and He will make you fishers of men. **BW**



How I long to see every Christian in our church taking the work of soul-reaping with increasing enthusiasm and commitment! May the Lord Jesus Christ, the lover and redeemer of our soul, motivate our hearts with His Words that we may be good reapers of the soul-harvest.

John, the Gospel writer, records in John 4:34-35 that "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

Jesus here talked about sowing and reaping. Just before He spoke these words, He had sown the Gospel seed in the heart of the Samaritan woman whom He met at the well. She had now gone back to her city to tell her people about Christ. Soon, she would return with her villagers. Jesus uttered the above words

to prepare His disciples to win the souls of those who would be coming with the woman. The Lord used the language of harvest, which the disciples were very familiar with, to teach them the need to be ready soul-harvesters.

Those words of Christ are relevant for our times too. If Christians of our times would take heed to the truths of these words our Lord uttered, there will be great soul-harvesting in our churches. To cheer all of us on in this glorious and urgent work of soul-winning, I would like to share the following thoughts from the above conversation of our Lord with His disciples.

Be an Expectant Soul-Harvester

Jesus told them to "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." Those words of our Lord urge us to be aware of the ripeness of many thousands of souls that are still living in sin. Let us not be doubtful about the readiness of many souls to believe in Jesus.

In these days, too many people in the church do not think there is a great harvest awaiting their reaping. They are waiting for some unusual token of providence to draw them into the labour of evangelism. They laugh at those who speak of soul-harvest with expectancy. They will not join or render their help to those who are full of expectancy.

The disciples of Jesus lacked a genuine expectancy

of a great soul-harvest until that time. So Jesus told them to “lift up” their eyes and “look.” They needed to observe and understand the signs of soul-harvest before them.

There was one soul to whom the Lord had already reached out to and He wanted the disciples to know that it was a sure sign of many more to come and believe. Every soul that is rescued by the Great Saviour is a certain assurance that many more are going to be likewise delivered by Him.

Dear reader, open your eyes and be observant. Is not the grace of God that delivered you, a token that He can save a great many more like you? Is not the person who is sitting next to you in the church, yet another token of His power to save many more out there? Just open your eyes and see what the Lord is doing and expect a great blessing in your labour for Him. We do not lack this sign with regard to the great harvest of souls. We have had it in the past; we have it still before our eyes.

So, please open your eyes to see the ready souls. Some people will respond with eagerness as soon as you knock at their door, or share with them your experience since you trusted Jesus, the Son of God. Some are lying on their sick beds with fear of death and hell. See their need to believe in Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, and preach the Gospel to them. Some have lost all confidence in life, for

they have found themselves without strength and motivation to live in the absence of a tender, yet powerful Saviour. There are so many such as them awaiting an expectant harvester to come around to guide them to Jesus, the Great Saviour.

If you are His disciple, eager to do His will, then go and reap with great expectancy. When you reap one soul, go and look for another, and another, and another.

We should always be ready to share the Gospel. Be willing and ready to reach out to relatives, neighbours, fellow students, teachers, colleagues, co-travellers, strangers on the road and in the markets. We must also be diligent to direct them to the church that they may grow spiritually through the teaching of the Word and the fellowship of believers.

There are so many people who are hurt, lonely, and lost, waiting for a kind soul to come around and lead them out of the misery of their sins. They need to be told of Jesus, the lover and redeemer of souls. They must be told that His atoning death on the cross will give them freedom from sin and its misery; and if they believe on Him, they too can receive abundant life. Who will tell them of Jesus and why He died? Who will bring them into the kingdom of our Saviour that they may rejoice in its blessings?

Be an Ever-Ready Soul-Harvester

Patience is a great virtue, but decisive action is all the more a necessary virtue in soul-harvest. Jesus told the disciples, “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you. . . they are white already to harvest.”

There are so many who keep postponing their duty of evangelism, saying, “Maybe it is not the time of harvest yet.” The common reason for lack of urgency in soul-harvesting is that “there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest.” They say, “This is not the time; we better show patience. We must wait; this is not the man; this is not the hour; this is not the place. We must wait till better circumstances are suitable for evangelism to appear.” Many are waiting for the opportune time that will produce grander results.

Their favourite phrase, when it comes to evangelism is that “It’s not the time yet.”

Meanwhile, it is true that many are dying without Christ. Our cemeteries and graveyards are crowded. Time and tide wait for no man. Moment by moment multitudes are perishing without the Saviour. Yet, many in the church say, “There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest.”

Such attitude is a prevailing trend in many ministries of the church, namely, youth ministries, children’s ministries, etc. Are we zealously working to bring youths and children in our neighbourhoods to hear the Gospel? “There are yet four months,” they say, “and then cometh harvest.” In the first year of Gethsemane B-P Church Children’s Ministry, a visiting Christian noticing the struggles of our small church in fetching children on Saturday to church to teach them God’s Word, asked me, “Are you sure that these children will be saved? They may not even last one year with you.” Even though some children would give up their initial zeal to participate in the church programme, yet those who ministered continue with a sense of urgency, hoping that before these young persons die, the Word of God would take root in their hearts and would bud, and mature in their faith.

We can’t wait until someone comes and says, “Sir, what must I do to be saved?” Have you not

been waiting too long? Have not months and years passed you by without you feeling any urgency at all to preach the Gospel to someone? When will you end your waiting? We have waited long; we have waited till our patience may well have exhausted itself.

May we take heed of our Saviour’s words, and no longer say that “there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest.” Let us do as He says, “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” Expect a present blessing in your evangelistic efforts. Believe your Master that He will grant you a good harvest, if you go at His command.

Let’s not be just dreamers of great soul-harvests. Instead, let us be labourers in our Lord’s harvest field. Until we move with great urgency, we shall not experience a great harvest. Get out of your sluggish waiting, and go to the field that is ready for harvest with ready hearts and hands. Let us manifest readiness and instantaneous diligence.

We have a lot more work to be done after every Sunday outreach. We need to call them and encourage them to come to the church. We need to meet up with them to show them the Scriptural truths about faith, worship, fellowship, service, etc. In other words, we need believers who really labour to garner these souls. Like labourers who bring the grains into a granary, we also must labour to bring the souls to the church. Otherwise, the work of evangelism will always be a job left uncompleted by the people in the church.

Conclusion

In Matthew 9:38, our Lord exhorted His disciples, “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Will you say “Yes” to the Lord as He awaits labourers to go to the harvest that many more souls may be brought to His kingdom? Every Christian who is expectant of a present blessing will hurriedly say, “Yes, I will go to reap the souls.” **BW**

We are living in the age of the Holy Spirit. During this period of time, the Holy Spirit is very active in fulfilling the divine plan and purpose of redemption in this world through the Church.

The Church in general does recognise the active ministry of the Holy Spirit during this N.T. period of time. However, there is a lot of confusion over what the Spirit is really doing in His work of extending the Kingdom of God. The confusion comes primarily from the charismatic movement.

Third Wave

Charismatism says that the Spirit today is in the business of producing signs and wonders in order to attract the world to Christ.

I have addressed this charismatic confusion in my book—

Charismatism Q&A. So I will not deal with this here.

I want rather to explore with you the role of the Spirit as revealed to us by Christ.

The Holy Spirit's ministry is revealed by Jesus in John 16:8-14. Jesus said, "And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. ¹²I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. ¹³Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you." Jesus clearly delineates for us what the ministry of the Holy Spirit will be: He will (1) reprove the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, (2) guide believers into all truth, and in doing all these things, He will (3) glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus, prior to His ascension, told His disciples that they "shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and

in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit will not do the work of missions and evangelism alone. He will use the church and work through its members to spread the good news of salvation in Christ to all the world.

In the light of what Jesus has said, we find the

ministry of the Holy Spirit in missions and evangelism to be two-fold:

1. The Holy Spirit Calls Sinners into the Saving Knowledge of Christ (John 16:8)

God calls people into the saving knowledge of Christ through His Spirit who has a ministry of convicting people of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Before a person can be saved, he must realise that he is totally sinful, helpless to save himself, and needs the righteousness of Christ to be accepted by God, and to escape the judgment of His wrath. The outward call of Gospel preaching must be accompanied by

The Holy Spirit's Role in Missions & Evangelism

Jeffrey Khoo

this inward call of the Spirit in convicting a person of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, if he is to be saved.

In the light of this, we should all be encouraged to do the work of evangelism. The duty of preaching the good news belongs to the Christian, but the responsibility of converting a soul is the Spirit's. We ought not to feel guilty or despondent if people reject the gospel after we have preached to them. We are not responsible for soul-winning or soul-saving, but of gospel-preaching. We need just to sow the gospel seed, it is God the Spirit that gives the increase. In Acts 2:47, we are told that it is the Lord who added to His church such as should be saved.

When we preach the gospel, we need to preach to all kinds of people: young and old, rich and poor, high and low. Sometimes we neglect preaching the gospel to little children and to the mentally retarded. We assume that they would not be able to understand the gospel. You may underestimate these people, but please do not underestimate the power of the Spirit in His ministry of bringing people into God's kingdom. The Holy Spirit can give such people a heightened intelligence at the point when the gospel is preached to them, to cause them to understand and accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. Let us just be faithful to do the work of evangelising, and let the Holy Spirit do His work of convicting and converting.

2. The Holy Spirit Calls Saints into the Ministry of the Gospel (Acts 1:8)

All Christians are duty bound to evangelise, to preach the good news of salvation in Christ (Matthew 28:18-20). In a sense, we are all full-time Christian workers. We are all called to be witnesses for Christ. In our respective occupations, in our various places of work, we ought to testify for God in our speech and

in our deeds. The immediate area of ministry would be our Jerusalem. That would be those closest to us—our family and relatives. Then our Samaria—our neighbours, friends and colleagues at the workplace. Lastly to the uttermost part—to strangers.

Some Christians are especially gifted in the area of evangelism. The Holy Spirit endows them with that spiritual gift of reaching out to the lost (Ephesians 4:11).

There are some whom the Spirit will call into full-time Christian service to become pastors, teachers, or missionaries. This was what happened in the Antioch church when the Holy Spirit said, "Separate me Barnabas and Paul" (Acts 13:2).

How do I know whether God has called me to be His full-time servant? There are several indicators: If the Lord has called you into full-time ministry, you would be experiencing an intense and inescapable desire to obey God's call to do so; you would find yourself having the gift of preaching and of teaching as you serve Him actively in church; and you would find spiritually minded people (especially your pastors and elders) confirming your desire and suitability for full-time service.

Let us pray that the Spirit may separate some from among us to serve God as pastors, teachers, and missionaries.

Conclusion

We thank the Lord for sending the Holy Spirit to help us in the work of missions and evangelism. Our missionary and evangelistic efforts are successful because of the Holy Spirit's involvement. May we be very conscious of the Spirit's role in calling sinners to salvation in Christ, and in calling saints into full-time Christian service. **BW**



Church & Evangelism in modern times

Many churches appear to have lost the biblical concept of evangelism. Developing methods that will attract big crowds to church functions are considered today as effective evangelism. Churches are increasingly obsessed with having huge crowds rather than preaching the pure Gospel. As a result, they offer programmes that would draw anybody in the street to attend the church activities, without having to confront or change their worldliness.

Why has the modern church changed so radically in its methodology of evangelism? It is not that old-time methods of preaching have produced no soul-harvests. There have been abundant harvests in city-wide rallies, and local church evangelistic meetings. Door-to-door evangelism, street evangelism, campus evangelism, etc. have often been the coveted arena of God's best servants.

Some would say the reason that "evangelistic methods" have changed so radically is because our secular society is increasingly hostile toward Christianity. That is the reason, so they claim, that all

of the old-fashioned methods no longer work. This is not true. The world has always been hostile to Christianity. Christ and the apostles were often surrounded by hostile listeners. The apostles and the first Christians were often violently dealt with for preaching the Gospel. So let us be careful about blaming the world for our own shortcomings. If we obey Christ, He will do His part and save people. He will continue to work through Spirit-filled men who are zealous in winning souls for Christ.

If we attempt to make evangelism a church ministry that is acceptable to the world, the church will then be more of a place of entertainment than preaching repentance and faith in Christ. It is a spiritual disaster that churches today permit the world rather than the Word of God to formulate their ministries.

Every faithful church of the modern times must endeavour to preach the Gospel without diluting or altering the biblical concept and message of evangelism. We should never think of the success of evangelism as dependent on human skills and strategies.

Keys to the Success of Evangelism

1. *The unashamed preaching of the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.* In Romans 1:16, the Apostle Paul shares with us the power of evangelism - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Like Paul, we must be convinced that the Gospel of Christ is powerful in leading multitudes from sin unto Christ's salvation. The Gospel of Christ is packed with divine power. There is nothing more effective for a soul-winner to do than the preaching of the true Gospel of Christ.

If people ridicule us for not appearing fascinating or contemporary in the preaching of the Gospel, we should not feel troubled. We can be rest assured that the simple and plain preaching of the Gospel is sufficient to win souls. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. . . . it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18-24).

Hebrews 4:12 provides further assurance concerning the power of the Word of God - "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." When a man or woman, who is armed

with unwavering faith in the power of the Gospel of Christ, clearly expounds it to the unbelievers, he or she will most certainly be a very effective soul-winner.

2. *There must be abundant reliance on the power of the Spirit through prayer.* In 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, Paul said, "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Soul-winning is not a human art or skill. It is the work of the Spirit. Effective evangelism is never possible, if the preacher does not abide in the power of the Spirit.

Paul was quick to acknowledge that the secret of his success in evangelism was not his eloquence or personal power of persuasion, but the empowerment of the Spirit. He repeatedly told the first Christians that his success in evangelism must be wholly attributed to God. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish" (2 Corinthians 2:14-15). Truly, only the Spirit of God can equip and empower us for great soul-harvests.

Today, churches and para-church groups talk a great deal about "cross-cultural evangelism training." Many Christians seem to be very concerned about the importance of knowing and adapting to other people's cultures to be successful. The present emphasis on the cross-cultural training often shifts the real focus of evangelists and missionaries from the actual need of being empowered with

(continued on pg. 14)



The Mission Team



On our way...



Street Evangelism

Inauguration of Gethsemane B-P M

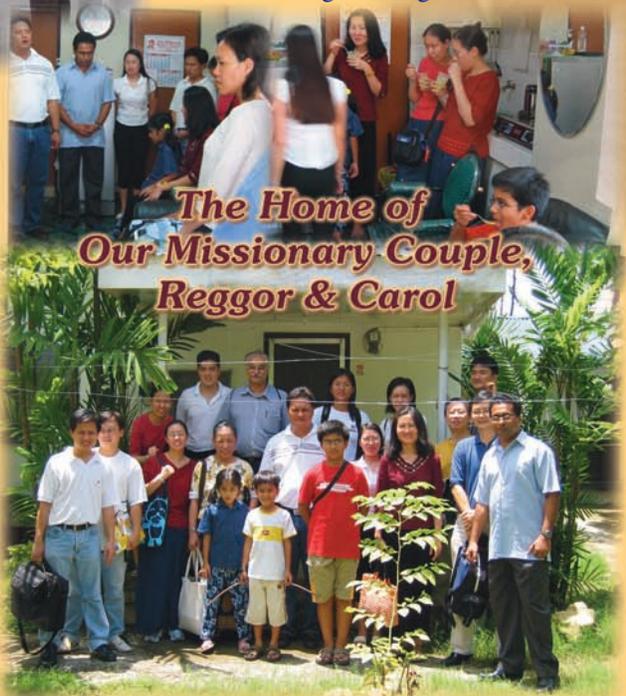
About five years ago, God, in His marvellous plan, brought a young man from drug-infested streets in Cebu, the Philippines, to Singapore in the year 2000 to study at the Far Eastern Bible College. He quickly grew to love the Lord Jesus Christ. While he was a student in the Far Eastern Bible College, he joined Gethsemane B-P Church together with other members of the church. His zeal for the Lord's work was not limited to his studies. He wanted to be her missionary to Cebu, the Philippines. In May 2004, Reggor returned to his homeland in Cebu to minister to drug addicts through the ministry of the House of Prayer. He soon came to know the Lord to join the mission of evangelism and sowing the precious seed of the Gospel, for the glory of the Lord. The Lord also blessed him with a godly wife, Carol.

On 14th July 2004, a mission team of 10 people came to Cebu to participate in the meetings organized by the mission church. In each of the three meetings, they participated. The Lord brought more than 100 people to the service held on 18th July. We thank the Lord for the edification by the preaching of His Word.

The work of the Lord in Cebu is growing. There are now three FEBC graduates (Reggor Galarza, Carol Galarza, and another) working. Through evangelism and home



Morning Devotion



The Home of Our Missionary Couple, Reggor & Carol

Mission Church, Cebu

By God's grace, called out a man from the darkness of the Philippines, to be a bearer of the Gospel light. He studied God's Word in depth. He was baptized in 2000, while he was attending lectures in Manila. He grew in grace and in the knowledge of the Bible. In FEBC, he started a Filipino Fellowship for other Filipino brethren who attended the church, and it eventually welcomed other Filipinos.

In 2003 and laboured for the Lord among the drug addicts of the Ministry of Hope. Meanwhile, he encouraged those who were interested in the church he was planning to plant. After one year he gathered about 50 people for worship. The church is now growing.

In 2019 Gethsemaneans travelled to Cebu to minister in conjunction with the inauguration of the church. Over three nights of meetings, more than 70 people were baptized. More than a hundred people to the inauguration of the church for the Lord for the many souls who were saved and are now growing.

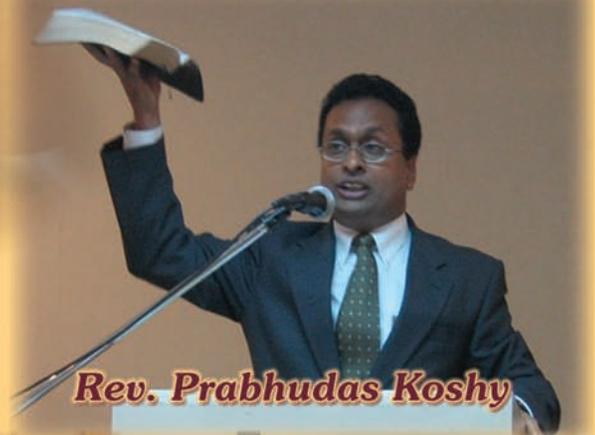
The church is growing strong. An Interim Committee made up of (Bro. Edsel Locot, Bro. Kent Limosnero and Edsel Locot) leads the church. Through Bible study groups, they spread the truth in that city. More than a dozen people are undergoing catechism classes in preparation for their baptisms in December. We covet the prayerful support of our readers for this mission work. [BW](#)



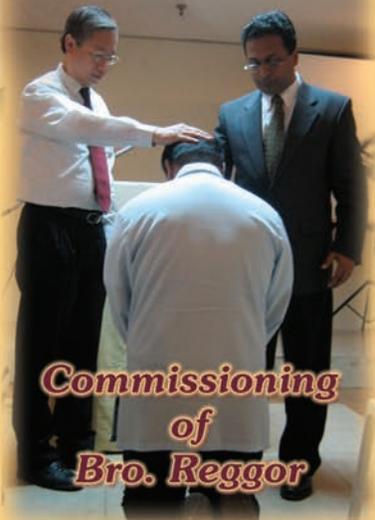
Junior Worship



The Interim Committee



Rev. Prabhudas Koshy



Commissioning of Bro. Reggor



The Inaugural Service

(continued from pg. 11)

the Spirit to that of world's culture and other relational skills. Jesus promised Christians the power of the Holy Spirit that will adequately prepare them to cross the national and societal boundaries to be effective preachers of the Gospel. Jesus' promise to us is that "ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Just as Jesus promised, the apostles and the early Christians received great empowerment from the Spirit in spreading the Gospel - "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (Acts 4:33). In Romans 15:19, Paul testified that "by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."

There is no magical power in any method to bring about salvation. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that people are born again (John 3:3-8). So let all of us, who yearn to be used of the Lord to win

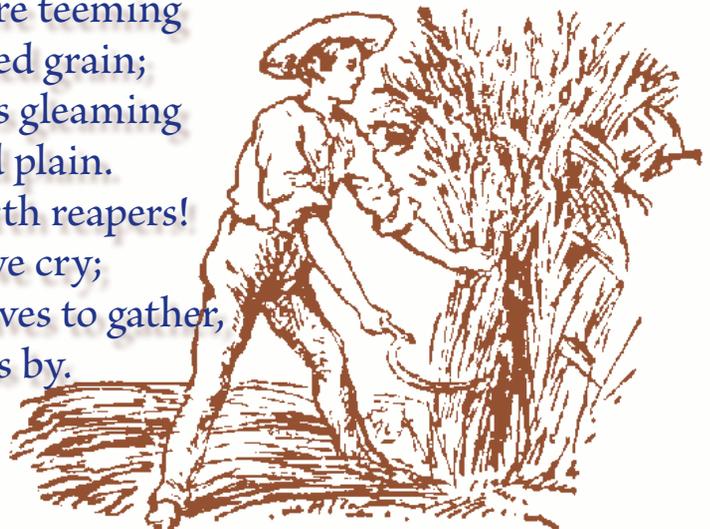
souls, be filled with the Holy Spirit and His power.

In Acts 4:31, we have a wonderful example concerning how Christians can be filled with the Spirit for effective evangelism. We read, "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

Prayer is the key to being filled with the Spirit and His power for evangelism. Do you pray for courage and boldness to evangelise? Do you seek His help in meeting with people? Do you seek the Spirit's wisdom and power to share the Gospel clearly and accurately? If you pray earnestly and yield to the Spirit, He will empower you to be a soul-winner.

In John 15:16, Jesus has promised much more fruit in answer to our prayers - "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." **BW**

Far and near the fields are teeming
With the waves of ripened grain;
Far and near their gold is gleaming
O'er the sunny slope and plain.
Lord of harvest, send forth reapers!
Hear us, Lord, to Thee we cry;
Send them now the sheaves to gather,
Ere the harvest time pass by.
(John O. Thompson)



The **Truth** *shall make you* **FREE**

A Biblical View of Drug Addiction & Rehabilitation

Drug addiction is one of the leading perils of our modern society. It has ruined many a life and has broken many a family, more than any other

vice ever did. It is a terrible and merciless affliction that brings despair and misery not only to the drug addict himself, but also to his relatives and friends. Though there has been constant effort to eradicate this problem, yet more and more young people continue to fall into its lure and come under its bondage.

Over the years, many rehabilitation approaches have been considered and introduced for treating drug addicts. Though many of these physical,

*Paul Cheng &
Prabhudas Koshy*

psychological and social methods of treatment and rehabilitation have helped in the initial stage of the recovery, they hardly bring about a true transformation of the drug addict. From our experience and observation of the drug rehabilitation issue, we are fully convinced that the biblical approach is incomparable in effecting a total recovery from addiction to drugs. We hope to provide our readers with the biblical understanding of the problem of drug addiction and how we can work toward its eradication.

Drug Addiction is Sin

Most of the contemporary rehabilitation programmes treat drug addiction as a sickness. Though drug addiction can lead to many medical problems which would require medical attention, the cause of the addiction is generally one's lack of faith, or sin. In order to help the drug addict to fully overcome his addiction, he has to be told that the root problem of his addiction is his sin; and then lead him to Christ, the Saviour, and to the truth of His Word. By treating drug addiction as a sickness alone will not be sufficient.

The root cause of drug addiction is not sickness, but a sinful attitude that has never been checked. Why do we say that drug addiction is a sinful activity and must be dealt with as such?

Firstly, it is a result of sinful pursuits

In most cases, drug addiction begins as a result of pursuing sinful activities and ungodly friendships. Use of drugs begins with a desire to be accepted by worldly friends who themselves are drug abusers or drug pushers. The first encounter with drugs often begins in places of revelling and sinful pleasures, such as night clubs, discotheques, and wild parties. While listening to worldly music created by musicians, who themselves are addicted to drugs, and dancing to its rhythm in places where the drug culture is promoted, many young people fall into the lure of drugs. At first, popping a pill may be viewed as 'fun' or 'just to satisfy one's curiosity,' but soon

it will overpower the mind and body of the young reveller as he is led to try more potent drugs for more intensified pleasures.

The Scripture teaches us not to participate in such sinful activities for they are contrary to a sanctified life. "That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries" (1 Peter 4:2-3). In the list of sinful pleasures mentioned in this passage, the Apostle Peter includes wine drinking that leads

to intoxication, which is essentially the same as drug addiction. Similarly, other Scripture portions also urge us to avoid revelling and intoxicants (cf. Galatians 5:21; Romans 13:13).

Secondly, addiction to intoxicants is a sin that God will judge

Intoxication is strongly prohibited in the Scripture, as God will judge those who live a drunken life. Though the Bible does not use the same words for the modern intoxicants like liquors and drugs, it clearly speaks against those who allow themselves to be intoxicated. For instance, "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the



work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands" (Isaiah 5:11-12). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (1 Corinthians 5:11). "Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Thirdly, it leads to many more shameful deeds and crimes

Drug addiction is a compounded sin, for it leads to many other evil deeds. Drug addiction leads the addict to wicked and harmful friendships, stealing, fornication, robbery, violent crimes and many other sins. The addict becomes a slave, who has lost all his spiritual values and moral principles. Addiction leads him from one sin to another.

Foolish behaviour and activities abound in a man who lives under the power of intoxicant substances. In Proverbs, we read, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things" (Proverbs 23:29-33).

Fourthly, it leads to the destruction of his mind and body

Self-destruction is an inevitable outcome, if the drug addict persists in his ways. The Scripture warns, "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Proverbs 20:1). "A thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard" (Proverbs 26:9).

Some young people think that party drugs or club drugs are less dangerous than marijuana and heroine. However, it has been reported by researchers and government narcotic authorities that no club drug is benign. Research has shown that use of club drugs can cause serious health problems and, in some cases, even death. Used in combination with alcohol, these drugs can be even more dangerous.

The addict destroys his body physically by the many health problems resulting from addiction and from the various bodily sins he commits as a result, e.g., sexual sins. It can also make one suicidal. A destructive attitude to one's own body and mind is certainly a sin, for it is murderous. Self-murder is sin. "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Matthew 5:21; Mark 10:19; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).



Fifthly, it causes affliction to family members and friends

Drug addicts bring great shame and trouble to their families. They quarrel with members of the family over money. They steal and sell family belongings. They open the home to many dangers that their drug addict friends can inflict. The pain that drug addicts bring to their home is often indescribable.

They disrespect their parents, and become violently rebellious. They do not care for their spouses or for their children. They often make their families poor and distressed. Thus most drug addicts become destroyers of their families.

Finally, drug addicts has to be told

that they are sinning against God and man

To deal with drug addiction merely as a sickness or emotional problem is not the biblical approach. Sin has to be dealt with as sin. A sinner has to be told of the need for repentance and salvation. When sin is rebuked and the sinner is guided to follow the Saviour, a full transformation can be expected. There is no sin that the Lord Jesus cannot forgive. No repentant sinner who trusts in the Lord will be turned away by Him. Even a drug addict, who confesses his sin of addiction and surrenders his life to Jesus Christ in faith, shall be delivered. In Gethsemane B-P Church itself, we have about 10 former drug addicts who have been totally delivered by the Lord. **BW**

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Testimonies of Deliverance from Drugs

Transformed by Jesus - Kelvin Lim

I grew up with my maternal grandparents who were staunch Taoists. My grandma used to prevent me from befriending Christian neighbours. After my grandparents passed away, while I was still very young, I was placed under the care of my aunt. I was not close to my parents, for only on weekends do I get to spend time with them.

When I was in Primary Six, I got into wrong company. Glue sniffing was the mode of rebellion at that time and I was duly introduced to it. The next few years saw an increase in sociological problems for me, especially during my Secondary Two days when I was permitted to stay overnight with friends. My substance abuse extended to include other drugs like marijuana and sleeping pills. Frequenting discos, I also began drinking alcohol.

When my aunt got married, I had to move in with my parents. Unlike most people, 'home' never appealed to me. Although things appeared fine on the surface, I was never happy. Already smoking and drinking heavily by then, I could not concentrate on my studies anymore. The added pressure from my father only led me into more rebellion. I began running away from home. Things finally got out of hand and I gave up my studies. My parents could not control me anymore. Matters at home deteriorated, and I was seldom at home. Often, I was back one night and out for the next week. Usually, I went home only for a change of clothing or when I needed money.

As soon as I left school, I was introduced to heroin, which turned my world upside down. Life had never been the same since then. Addicted to heroin, I was always pestering my family and friends for money to feed the habit, leading to frequent quarrels with them. The long arm of the

law eventually got me and I was admitted to a DRC (drug rehabilitation centre) for the first time. Although my parents faithfully visited me every fortnight, I was unable to appreciate their care and concern. In fact, my father's good intention in securing a job for me upon my release was perceived negatively by me. The lesson unlearned was to cost me more years of my life in DRCs and prison, mostly for drug-related offences.

Soon I was jailed and fined. My mother promptly paid the fine so that I did not have to serve my default term. This was to enable me to be enlisted for National Service (NS) for which I had missed many times before. My mother figured that the army might help to discipline me, but she was wrong.

Back on drugs shortly after my enlistment, I was a junkie recruit during my BMT (Basic Military Training) in Pulau Tekong. In all, my NS stint took a total of six years and four months to complete, out of which more than two years were spent in detention barracks.

By His mercy and providence, while serving my Singapore Armed Forces drug-term, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. Although I came to know the Lord, I was still on the throne of my heart. It cost me to backslide time and again. I was deeply saddened. After my release and while being addicted to heroin again, life became so meaningless and hopeless that I began having suicidal thoughts.

His amazing grace again caught up with me and led me to The Helping Hand ministry,

a Christian drug rehabilitation halfway house run by recovering addicts. There I recommitted my life to God. Attending Gethsemane BPC further bonded my life with Christ, through the Christian fellowship and understanding of God's Word.

Soon many things in my life changed beyond my imagination. I was facing three pending charges: two counts of impersonation and 1 count of possession of pirated VCDs. The Police dropped the pending charges and let me off with a warning. This deliverance is hard to comprehend. It is uncommon for someone with a criminal record, especially a criminal record as 'colourful' as mine to be let off. The Lord heard my prayers. With Him, all things are possible. I was even granted the International Passport without any objections from the Central Narcotics Bureau. Indeed, I

must give thanks to the Lord.

Through my daily devotion of the Bible, I have received countless blessings and assurances from the Word of God. Jesus said: "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9). Without the Lord in my life, I would not even dare to think of having a pasture for my life. I grew in my faith in Gethsemane BPC over the last few years. Recently, I have given my life to serve Him full-time upon hearing His call; and have joined the Far Eastern Bible College for theological training.

Dear reader, sinful pleasures will trouble your life. Believe on the Lord Jesus, who died on the cross to deliver sinners from their sins, and you, too, can have deliverance from your sins and the hope of Heaven. **BW**

From a Curse to a Blessing - *Brian Bono*

I came to know the Lord in June 2000 when I went in for the one-year drug rehabilitation programme at the House of Hope in Cebu, the Philippines. I came from a Roman Catholic background and the name, Jesus Christ, was not new to me. But one thing that really made my eyes open was that salvation is indeed not by works. And now, knowing this wonderful truth of how Christ lived His life here on earth, died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected, I know I have the hope of eternal life.

I started off early at the age of 14 drinking alcohol, gambling and, finally, taking drugs. I did all these things in the past out of curiosity and also to feel a

sense of belonging to friends whom I went out with. I lived a miserable life back then; I never even valued the education that my parents were giving me. I went from one university to another but it was of no use because of my drug habit. Finally, my family gave up on me. I really needed somebody to help me with my problems.

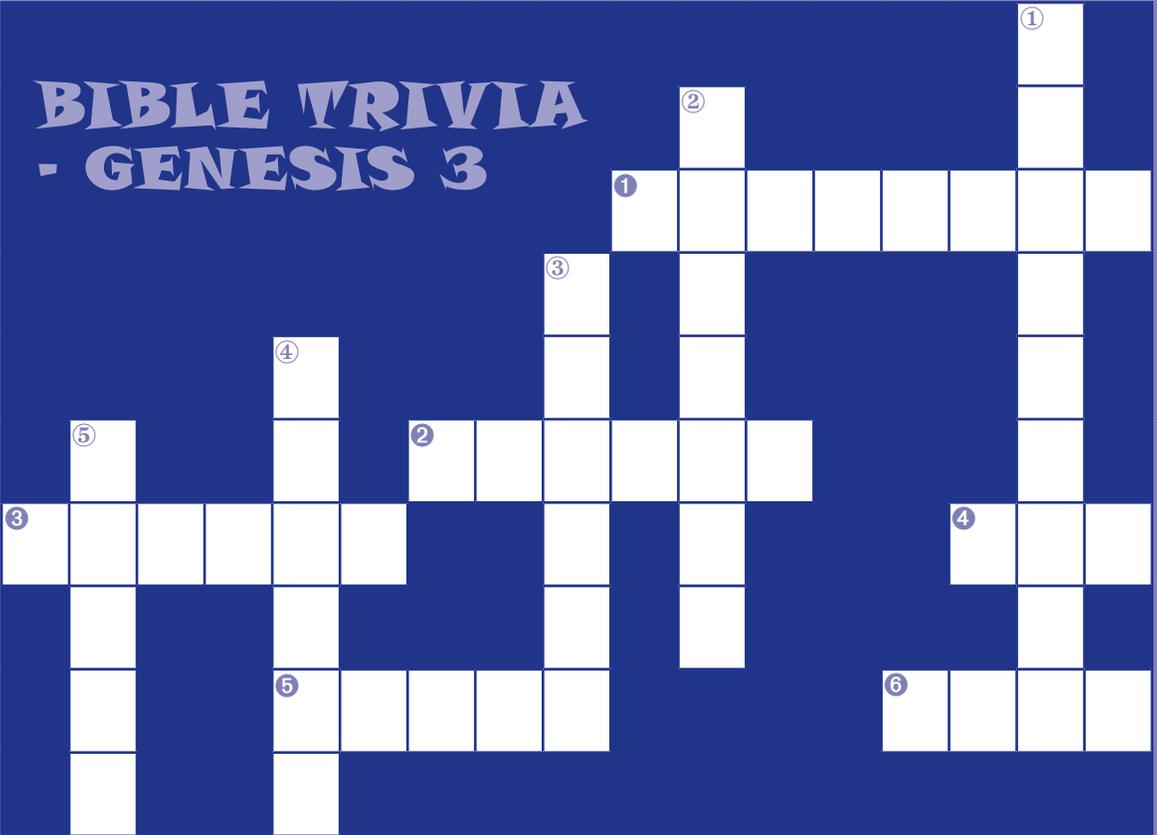
I had no place to stay as my family would not accept me anymore, so I sought admission to a drug rehabilitation centre. And by God's grace, of all the drug centres in Cebu, He led me to the House of Hope - a Christian halfway house for drug addicts. I decided to go in for the programme and, indeed, by the grace of God, everything changed from that time when I dedicated my life to the Lord

and accepted Him as my personal Lord and Saviour.

It is only by God's grace that I am now in Singapore serving Him in the ministry of The Helping Hand. His grace also brought me to Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church, where for the first time in my Christian life, I heard preaching that is so solid and sound, without compromise. The members and leaders of the church really make me feel welcome and help me to understand the true meaning of a church.

Now as I rededicate my life to the Lord as a member of Gethsemane BPC, I just pray that I will not become an extra burden to the church, but instead be a serving member who glorifies the Lord and edifies others. All glory to God. **BW**

BIBLE TRIVIA - GENESIS 3



ACROSS

- ① The woman said, 'The serpent _____ me' (v. 13).
- ② Adam and his wife heard God walking in the _____ (v.8).
- ③ God said to the woman, ' I will greatly multiply thy _____' (v. 16).
- ④ Adam and Eve sewed _____ leaves together to make aprons (v. 7).
- ⑤ When the eyes of Adam and his wife were opened, they knew that they were _____ (v. 7).
- ⑥ God said to the serpent, ' _____ shalt thou eat' (v. 14).

DOWN

- ① God placed at the east of the garden of Eden _____ (v. 24).
- ② The _____ was more subtle than all the beasts (v. 1).
- ③ God said to the serpent that he is _____ above all cattle (v. 14).
- ④ God said to Adam that _____ and thistles shall the ground bring forth (v. 18).
- ⑤ The serpent talked to the _____ (v. 1).

BIBLE TRIVIA - GENESIS 3

FILL IN THE BLANKS IN SECTION A WITH THE LETTER OF THE CORRECT ANSWER FROM SECTION B

SECTION A

1. OF WHICH TREE DID GOD SAY THAT ADAM AND EVE SHOULD NOT EAT? (____)
2. WHOM DID THE SERPENT TEMPT – ADAM OR THE WOMAN? (____)
3. WHO GAVE ADAM THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT TO EAT? (____)
4. FROM WHOM DID ADAM AND THE WOMAN HIDE? (____)
5. GOD DECLARED ENMITY BETWEEN THE WOMAN AND (____)
6. WHEN DID THORNS AND THISTLES START TO GROW IN THE WORLD? (____)
7. WHO GAVE THE WOMAN HER NAME, EVE? (____)
8. WHAT DID GOD USE TO MAKE CLOTHES FOR ADAM AND EVE? (____)
9. WHAT DID GOD DO TO ADAM AND EVE AFTER THEY HAD SINNED IN EDEN? (____)
10. GOD PUT CHERUBIMS TO GUARD THE WAY OF THE (____)

SECTION B

- A) GOD
- B) TREE OF LIFE
- C) ADAM
- D) TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL
- E) EVE
- F) SENT THEM OUT OF EDEN
- G) THE SERPENT
- H) THE WOMAN
- I) AFTER ADAM AND HIS WIFE HAD SINNED
- J) THE SKINS OF ANIMALS

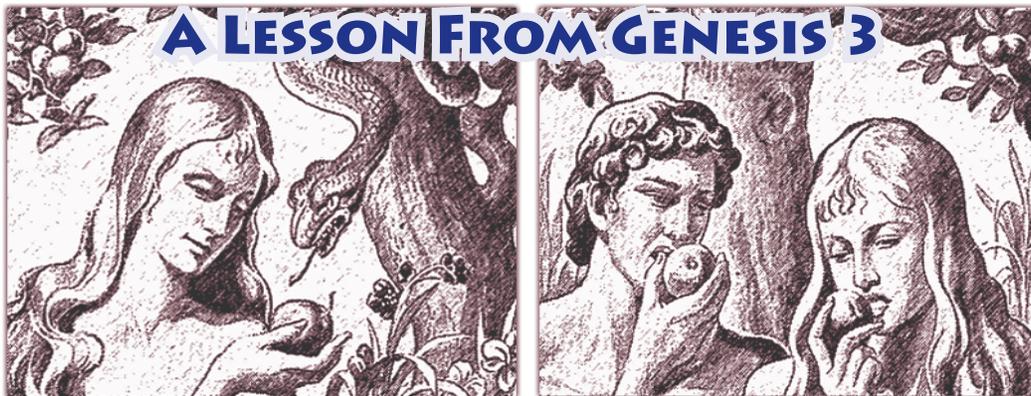
Answers to Vol. 4, Issue 2 - Bible Trivia for Children.

Pg. 22 - 1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. T, 5. T, 6. T, 7. T, 8. T, 9. F, 10. T, 11. T, 12. F, 13. F, 14. F, 15. F.

Pg. 23 - A1-B1, A2-B2, A3-B3, A4-B4, A5-A5, A6-B6, A7-B7, A8-B8, A9-B8, A10-B9, A11-B10, A12-B11, A13-B12, A14-B13, A15-B14

What Cause Us to Sin Against God?

A LESSON FROM GENESIS 3



First, Satan tempts us to sin against God

He tempted Eve with false promises that she might forsake God's command and warnings against disobedience. Though God said that they would surely die if they ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Satan told them that they would not die. He also said that they would be like gods and be knowledgeable of good and evil. Children, always remember that all the promises of Satan that contradict God's Word will lead us to sin.

Second, our greed leads us to sin

Eve wanted to have more than what God had given

her. She wanted to be like gods. She wanted to eat the fruit, which God did not permit. Likewise, we also will sin, if we become greedy for things that are not ours, especially if God has prohibited us from having them. If God says that we should not have some things, then we should not desire them. If we attempt to possess things, which God prohibits, we will sin against God.

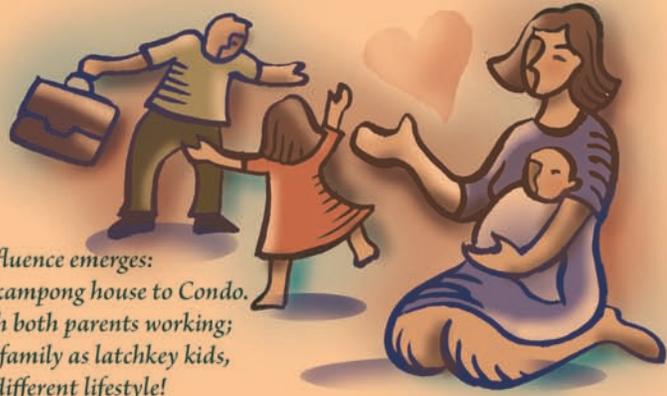
Third, our disobedience leads us to sin

When Adam and Eve went against what God had clearly told them, they fell into sin. Let us not disobey the commandments of the Lord that we may not sin against Him.

Filial Piety – The Changing Scenario

- Tow Siang Yeow -

In days of yore, life was simple; parents ubiquitous.
Papa worked hard daily, returning home early.
Mama ran the home, looked after the children who
grew up in a closely-knit family, under one roof.
Grandpa, the patriarch, the watchword observed by all.
Kids, after a whispered prayer, left for school
wishing elders 'good-bye' and coming home
never forgot to wish "Mum, I've come home!"



A new era of affluence emerges:
upgrading from humble kampong house to Condo.
Life is not the same with both parents working;
living within a nuclear family as latchkey kids,
growing up in a different lifestyle!
Contactable by handphone to monitor movements
while Dad and Mum climb the corporate ladder!
Coming home late for dinner with little to say –
much too exhausted, they soon 'hit the sack'.

To keep the dear little ones contented
parents load them with toys galore
but rarely give them quality time!
Sadly, children drift apart, like strangers.
Older children yielding to peer pressure,
join in wasteful activities, sinful pleasures –
largely because parents have neglected to
'train up child in the way he should go: and
when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Proverbs 22:6)

Modern parents anxious that their children excel,
caught up in the 'rat race,' enrolling them in U or Poly.
Four years hence, receiving coveted degrees or diplomas
much to the satisfaction of Dad and Mum!
Time passes! History repeats itself when Junior and wife
now with good jobs, strike out on their own, relishing
the prospect of having their own 'heaven' on earth!

Meanwhile, the ageing parents, in physical decline,
are finding it hard to fend for themselves!
Their grown-up children with families, obliged to
get together to resolve parents' dilemma –
sheer unwillingness to invite them to their homes!
A deadlock! The Family Court steps in, advising
admittance to a Nursing Home!

Dad and Mum, totally devastated,
loathing to leave family home and loved ones.
However, realising there is no choice, they went
without a murmur, but with a broken heart!

God's commandment to "Honour thy father and thy mother:
that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD
thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12)
needs reiteration from time to time! Yearly,
people celebrate "Mother's Day" and "Father's Day" with gusto;
But what virtue is there in splurging on a grand feast,
if children do not honour their parents? Of course,
there is nothing objectionable in celebrating
"Father's Day" and "Mother's Day" as such, but God will
only bless filial children who unfailingly obey the
Fifth Commandment. Amen.

