

2010 Theme: Ebenezer - "Where there is no VISION the people perish". Prov 29:18.

COMING WEEK APPOINTMENTS (12 July 2010 – 18 July 2010)			LAST WEEK'S Collection (04/07/10) Ebenezer	
			Kilsyth	CGF
TUE (13/07/10)	7.00 pm 7.45 pm	CGF Dinner CGF Bible Study: Lesson 2 - Haggai 2: 1-9 "Glory of the 2nd Temple"	Attendance 132	34
THU (15/07/10)	8.00 pm	Prayer Meeting/Bible Study - Speaker : Rev Patrick Tan	Offerings \$1,614.45	\$397.80
FRI (16/07/10)	7.00 pm 8.00 pm	Monash BS - Recess YAF:	MBS Designated \$110.00	
SAT (17/07/10)	6.00 pm 6.45 pm	CGF Facilitators' Meeting CGF Prayer Meeting	Received To Date	
SUN (18/07/10)	9.30 am 9.45 am 10.15 am 10.30 am	Choir Practice Pre Worship Prayer Meeting Pre Worship Praise Worship Service: 'The Unpardonable Sin' - Rev. Patrick Tan	Internal Gift 321,777 Internal Loan 75,000 External Gift 437,994 Mission Fund YTD 5,000 Pew/Sanctuary 21,340 Sanctuary Air con. (11,630)	
	11.45 am 12.15 pm 12.30 pm 2.30 pm 4.00 pm 6.00pm	Sunday School Biscuit Fellowship BBK/SBC Strabane: - Mohan Raw CGF Worship: "To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice"- Philip Soon CGF Singing Group BBK - Recess	Next Loan (Internal) Repayment \$75,000	31 Dec 2010

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. WELCOME TO EBENEZER:** All worshippers invited for fellowship tea.
- 2. BBK & SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS:**
- 3. SKETCH & TELL MINISTRY:** Thank God for Hai Seng;s mission trips to Malaysia and Batam and Hope BPC in Adelaide.
- 4. PRAYER FOCUS: a) HEALTH & HEALING:** Olivia Ong, Koh Choon Fong, Michael Yap, Ps Sid Bell, Ai Choo, Alan Muzon , Richard Turner, Victor Ho
b) MISSIONS: Cambodia Life University: Rev David Koo (Sihanokville); Moses Han BPC & Rev Stephen Choi Glory BPC; (Phnom Penh), First BPC: Chanthon & Siang Lai (Siem Reap). Barnabas & Lekema (Poipet); **Kenya-Molul** June Korir, **Laos** Surish, **Batam** Ev Roska Sihombing & Pr Efendi Ginting; Schools & Churches, Ev Ang Liang Filadelfia Shelter Home.
- 5. JOURNEY MERCIES:** - Olivia & John from the US, Pastor & Mrs. Bob Vandermeijer to US, and Rev. and Mrs. Jack Sin to Singapore . Students on vacation home and away. Welcome back Pastor & Mrs. Tan from Singapore/WA.
- 6. CHURCH PRAYER MEETING:** Remember prayer is the powerhouse of God. Do come and unite in prayer, praying for the Lord's work at Ebenezer and her ministries. Come and be spiritually fed as we study the book of Psalms. Time: 8pm on Thursday.
- 7. EBENEZER WINTER CAMP 2011:** The camp is now changed from Easter to a Winter Camp ie a combined camp with the youth. The date is yet to be fixed. Please watch this space for an update.
- 8. FILADELFA SHELTER HOME BATAM:** Thank God for the love gifts to this need. Please see Preacher Hai Seng Lim for any further donation of love gifts.
- 9. CGF Bible Study:** Every Tuesday. Study on the book of Haggai. Dinner 7pm and Bible study at 8.00pm. 15, Drummond Street, Carlton. Do come and join in a time of searching the scriptures
- 10. Farewell: Su Shiang Lo** as she leaves for Singapore to continue her studies at FEBC. We thank her for her time spent in encouraging and sharing with the young people at CGF. May the Lord bless her in her studies.
Han Jie Soh - as she leaves for Singapore on 15th July 10, to take up the scholarship in Master of Landscape Architecture. We wish her God's blessings.
- 11. Dutch Care Ministry** - 1.30pm today. Dr. Stephen Lim and Han Jie Soh. Do come and support this ministry.

Memory Verse: - 1 Cor 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord

LORD'S DAY MEDITATION

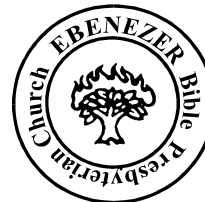
The CGF commenced their study on Haggai Chapter 1 on Tues which speaks to our hearts as we read of the returned exiles' failure to complete the rebuilding of the temple sixteen years after their return from Babylonian captivity. Cyrus the Persian king was stirred by God to permit the exiles to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1.) It was to be the number one priority of the returned exiles but personal and worldly distractions got in their way.

Hence they were reminded 'to consider their ways' (Hag 1 :5-8) and to realize that the cause of their suffering was due to God's discipline (vs 9-11). The returned exiles have to repent of their procrastination in rebuilding the temple which was lying in ruins, to obey God and to resume the temple's rebuilding. The assurance from God is that they would have his presence 'I am with you' (vs 13) and the reward for their obedience is revival (vs14-15).

As we reflect on this, how are we faring in Ebenezer BP as we stepped into the 11th year of the Lord's Work? We as believers make up the church which is the body of Christ. Have we pushed the Lord's Work to the back of our own personal pursuits and goals? Are we allowing other relationships to impede our relationship with the Lord? Are we seeking to achieve self honour at the expense of honouring God? Where do we stand individually and corporately with our God? Are we a good witness to the world as a church serving God faithfully and lovingly or is our church in ruins because we fail to make God's priorities our own?

God will always act to protect the integrity of His Name as He reminds us in Mal 1:6 that 'A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of Hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name?' At the same time God is merciful and will, our of His great love, act to correct the sinful ways of His people giving them a second chance.

The returned exiles seized on the second chance to repent, to rebuild God's temple and experienced His presence and revival in their hearts. What about us today?



ACN No: A0038695
"Hitherto hath the LORD helped us."
1 Samuel 7:12
Supervisory & Senior Pastor
Dr S H Tow

EBENEZER WEEKLY

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Web Page: www.ebenezerbpc.org

Date 11th July 2010

City Gospel F'ship
Resident Pastor

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Chew Hou Lian (Treasurer), John Tann
Lim Hai Seng Tel: 9548 9193

ORDER OF WORSHIP

	10.30 am (Ebenezer)	4 pm (City Group Fellowship)
Pre Worship Praise	William Ong/Carol Raw	Grace Kong
Prelude	Rachel soon(p)Hannah Chia(o)Esther /Teo Hui En(f)	Esther Chin
Flowers	Rita Soon	
<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>		
Call to Worship	Dr. Philip Soon	Paul Yeo
Opening Hymn	540 - We're Marching To Zion	37 - Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven
Invocation	Dr. Philip Soon	Paul Yeo
Gloria Patri	<i>Glory Be To The Father</i>	
Responsive Reading	Matthew 26: 36-46	Romans 12:1 -18
Hymn	363 - I Must Tell Jesus	375 - O To Be Like Thee
Tithes / Offering	67 - Praise The Savior Joel Tan/Richard Ang/Jock Campbell/Paul Yeo	30 - Thank You Lord Andrew Lam/Wei Yong Lee
<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>		
Scripture Reading	Luke 11: 1-13 Jock Campbell	1 Samuel 12: 18-29 Rong Sheng Kee
Preparatory Hymn	376 - O To Be Like Thee	365 - Teach Me To Pray
Pastoral Prayer	Rev. Patrick Tan	Rev. Patrick Tan
	"Lord Teach Us To Pray" Rev. Patrick Tan	"Teach The Good And The Right Way" Rev. Patrick Tan
Closing Hymn	365 - Teach Me To Pray	365 - May The Mind Of Christ, My Savior
Benediction	Rev. Patrick Tan	Rev. Patrick Tan
<i>The Lord Bless You & Keep You</i>		
**Next Week's Roster	18/07/2010 Ebenezer @ 10.30am	City Gospel Fellowship (CGF) @ 4 pm
Speaker	Rev. Patrick Tan	Philip Soon
Pre Worship Praise	Huey Chen / Judith Lim (p)	William Ong
Worship Leader	Dr. Stephen Lim	William Ong
Scripture Reader	Huey Chan	Rodney Chen
Musicians	Jia Hui Teo(p)Asha Meyale(o)Hui En/Esther(f)	Jia Hui Teo
Ushers	N. Lindenburg/Mohan Raw/David Leong/Chris Rudalski	Rodney Chen/Robin Chen
Flowers	Stephanie Ho	
Fellowship Tea	Biscuit Fellowship	Susanna Ting/Jean Lui

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His Holy Temple (x2)
Let all the earth keep silence
Let all the earth keep silence before Him
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen, Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

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

My dear readers,

1. A Country called Heaven

Heaven is a country I have never seen, but nevertheless it is a real place, no less real than Singapore, the island state which I call home. My interest in Heaven dates back to the day in 1935, when I heard the preacher Dr John Sung ask the question to a congregation of perhaps a thousand, *"Who among you, having heard the story of the rich man and Lazarus, would like to receive Jesus as your Saviour, to be cleansed of your sins and be given a place in Heaven?"*

With many others, I raised my hand, and prayed to receive Jesus as my Saviour. It was a prayer from my heart and since then my faith in Jesus has grown stronger over the years as I serve Him, my Lord and Master, knowing that I have a place in Heaven, prepared for those who believe.

Time has flown by: I am now in my ninth decade, physically declining with the ravage of years. My help-meet of 56 years recently was called Home to Jesus, and I am increasingly conscious, my call cannot be far away. But I can face the future with the full assurance that while the *"... outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day"* (2 Cor 4:16). So like Paul the Apostle, I am *"... willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord"* (2 Cor 5:8).

Indeed, oftentimes I pray the Lord to call for me, for with father, mother, wife and many other loved ones gone ahead to the heavenly home, I have a growing *"desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better"* (Phil 1:23). At times my spirit is so moved and uplifted I can truly say I am *"... willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."* For then, Heaven will, at last, have begun, and my hope come true.

2. What is Heaven like?

Our only authentic source of information on Heaven is from the record of God's Word, as it is written *"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"* (1 Cor 2:9).

What are *"the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"*? We quote from Revelation 21:3,4: *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

What can we learn from this passage about Heaven? Firstly, Heaven is God's dwelling place, now ready and waiting for God's people! We, who have been saved from the condemnation and penalty of sin, who have been washed, made pure and clean by the blood of the Lamb will be welcomed into the very presence and company of God. It will be a sweet fellowship, unspeakably warm and affectionate as *"between Father and sons."*

The second great fact is: all the old corruption, curse and sorrow of a fallen world will be a thing of the past, never to trouble us again. Sorrow, death, pain and crying will be banished once and for all from Heaven.

What else do I know about Heaven? It will be a new experience, beyond imagination, to discover the beauty, purity, unspeakable joys of being in the presence of the Lord Jesus, angelic hosts, and the thrill of meeting loved ones, fellow believers of former days with whom I had laboured in the Gospel, and also the thrill of meeting the saints of old whose names and exploits adorn the pages of Scripture.

It is totally beyond our present limited imagination to forecast or to appreciate what the new Jerusalem, the City of God, will be like – the streets of gold, the buildings of precious stones, the river of *"water of life,"* the throne of God and the amazing tree of life which bears twelve manner of fruits, a different one each month!

Truly, Heaven will be a brand new and most exciting experience with totally unimaginable surprises, prepared for them who love God! There, the holy Kingdom of God will be beyond the reach of corruptions, violence, pain, sorrows and travails of earth woes: all these former things will be no more – all because our Lord Jesus did His great work of redemption and restoration, paying the price with His own precious life blood on Calvary's cross.

In Heaven, all the redeemed shall be forever singing with the angelic hosts the praises of the Lamb of God, our blessed Lord Jesus Christ. That Heaven is just a breath away.

3. "But I don't need to go to Heaven"

Some reader may believe that *"death ends it all"* and there is no need to bother about the *"after-life."* Maybe that is what you think. May I urge you to think again. The hard fact is: death is not the end, only a new chapter of experience. Never forget: we all came on to the world stage without our consent or knowledge, and at the appointed time we are taken out, again without our consent or knowledge, to face judgment. In the case of those who are not admitted to God's Heaven, they will be sent, again without their consent, for trial at the *"Great White Throne"* (Rev 20:11-15). And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire *"... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever"* (Rev 20:10).

Some will say, *"But that's not fair. After all, God is love and surely He will not want anyone to suffer that way."* This is not for us to say, but God. He says to you and all who read: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (Jn 3:16). For God is *"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Pet 3:9), and life.

Final advice to someone waiting to believe: *"Jesus patiently awaits your turning to God, and He will surely save you! Come today, don't delay!"*

*Faithfully in the Lord,
Dr. SH Tow, Sr Pastor*