

# FOCUS

2008 Couples Retreat  
Registration Now Open

*For the Week of 17th August 2008*



***The constant push to ensure that we give our very best:***

## Worship in Spirit and Truth

I started 2008 with the goal of focusing on our Sunday worship services, in an effort to ensure that we give our very best to the Lord. I was greatly assisted by our worship leaders who took the cue and exceeded every expectation - deacon Swee Aun, Paul Quek, Charles Pang, Ramesh, Kok Shing, Patrick, Barnabas, Daniel Ng and many more.

Many of you have observed the numerous improvements at our worship services, and commended the good work done. After 7 months of staying on top of this, I release these pointers for our worship leaders to share with the men to serve each Sunday. I welcome feedback and comments from the rank and file and will implement the useful ones in these pointers as they are updated on a monthly basis.

### **PP GUIDE FOR MEN TO SERVE**

For All Men to Serve:

- Be present 5 minutes before service
  - you will not be used if you are late
- Put on a tie for 8am and 11am services
- Speak into the microphone, in the way you are addressing a hall full of people
  - do not use your normal conversational voice/mumble your words

Call to worship:

- Stand before the congregation 5 minutes before worship to get their attention
- Say a few words to set the mood for worship
  - save details for announcements

***Continued on the back page***



## **2008 COUPLES RETREAT**

**Registration Now Opens**  
**THEME: LOVE & RESPECT**

Date: 20-22 Nov 2008 (Thur-Sat)

Venue: Pulai Springs Resort  
Johor, Malaysia

Who for: All Married Couples  
(Visitors are welcome)

Retreat Fee: S\$500/couple  
subject to room availability  
Room & Retreat Fee guaranteed for  
1st 20 couples

Registration Dates: 17 & 24 Aug  
2008

### **Program Highlights:**

Couple Bonding Relaxation Time  
Couple & Group Ice Breakers  
Walking down the Memory Lane  
Group Sharing – Ephesians 5  
Movie Screening  
Prayer Walk  
Tips Sharing on Successful Marriage  
Candle-Light Dinner



Over a dozen was at the first **SIBI Open Bible Study** last Wednesday (pictured above). We encourage all our Care teams to come and enjoy this hour of study on a wide variety of subjects each Wednesday from 10-11am. Good notes are given for each study.

We apologise for the disruption of the shuttle bus service on Sundays. The company has finally assigned a new driver to us - **Mr. Ng Boon Ann, Vehicle No: PA9900, HP: 96412219**. Please call him or brother Patrick at 82005250 whenever you have to wait more than 5 minutes for the bus. It will be a good idea to add these contacts in your hand phone.

This Wednesday evening, **brother Lim Cher Yam** will share his last 3 Bible character studies on "Holy People of God" at 7:30pm.

# PP FAMILY NEWS

**Deacon Winston** will be speaking on "A Man Called Peter" at our morning worships today. In the evening **brother Alvin Tjipto** will be sharing his first sermon at 6pm. This is also the first of the monthly 'youth worships' where youth will be speaking and leading in the worship.

Congratulations to **sister Nicolette** for doing us proud in swimming before our president, Nathan at the Beijing olympics at the women's 200 metres breaststroke heats.

We praise God for His healing care on the recent surgery of **sister Veronica Seng's husband, Andy** (heart bypass) and **Bryan Poon**, son of the Allan Poons (collapsed lungs). Both are recuperating at home.

**Sister Doreen Chew** has a dining set (6 chairs of nytoh wood) to give away to anyone who would like to have it. She can be contacted at 64672997.

**From the Winston Chongs:** "Just back from Pulau Springs. The place looks good and very suitable for the retreat. New, clean, spacious, good amenities and good food. It is also very easy to get to – approximately 1.5 hours away." Registration is now opened until next Sunday. Details on our cover. Sign up on the attendance cards.

## MEN to SERVE for this Week and the Next

### Worship Service

#### **8am**

Call to Worship:  
Scripture Text:

#### **11am**

Call to Worship:  
SR/OP:  
S. Leader:  
Communion:  
Preacher:  
Shepherd's Prayer:  
i/c Auditorium  
i/c Balcony

#### **6pm**

Call to Worship:  
Scripture Text:  
SR/OP:  
S. Leader:  
Communion:  
Preacher:  
Closing Prayer:

### Today (17 August 2008)

Elder Adrian Teo  
Psalm 146:1-4

Elder Adrian Teo  
Vincent Lim  
Shawn Li  
Chew Chong Lin  
**Deacon Winston Chong**  
Elder William Wong  
Jeronme Goh  
HI Team

Elder Adrian Teo  
Psalm 148:1-6  
Shawn Li  
Joseph Ooi  
Nehemiah Tan  
**Alvin Tjipto**  
Elder Eric Tan

### Next Week

Elder Tan Beng Chuan  
Psalm 148:7:12

Elder Tan Beng Chuan  
Deacon Li Chhoan  
Shawn Li  
Vincent Lim  
**Charles Cook**  
Elder Adrian Teo  
Kenneth Kuek  
HI Team

Elder Tan Beng Chuan  
Psalm 148:13-14  
Deacon Swee Aun  
Kenneth Leow  
Ramesh D  
**Johnsten Wee**  
Elder Adrian Teo

# OUTLOOK

## THIS WEEK...

**Sunday, 17th August 2008**

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship  
Speaker: Deacon Winston
- 9:30am Bible classes for all ages
  
- 11am Morning Worship
- 12:30pm Free Bus for Seniors
  
- 6pm Evening Worship  
Speaker: Alvin Tjipto  
Special Youth emphasis

**Wednesday, 20th August 2008**

- 10:00am SIBI Open Bible Study  
Free - no registration  
Invite your friends
  
- 7:30am SPC series on "Holy Men of God" by brother Lim Cher Yam

**Sunday, 24th August 2008**

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship  
Speaker: Charles Cook
  
- 9:30am Bible classes for all ages
  
- 11am Morning Worship
- 12:30pm Free Bus for Seniors
  
- 6pm Evening Worship  
Speaker: Johnsten Wee

# FAMILY CONCERNS

**Please pray for:**

Bryan Poon's well being as he recuperates from his recent lung surgery - Eric Tans, Patrick Ongs, Henry Kongs, Annie Cheng

My son, Bevan's health and well being - Ron Tong

My son, Marlon to get well from asthma - Adelma Doctor

My son, Remato to find a job in Philippines - Aquino

My sister, Linda Kho's frequent dizzy spells and her decision to rest from work temporarily. My friend, Henry's thyroid operation - Serina Kho

Shan's father who is suffering from stroke and infection. God have mercy upon him - Grace Mariaraja

My physical and spiritual health and my family in Philippines - Amparo Tabbeg

God to watch over my family in Philippines - Maria Velano

Maribel's problem that she can deal with it wisely with God's leading - Edward Lee

Youth Mission preparation trip to Tuao - Edward Lee

Travel mercy to Penang from 21-24 August - Joyce Tan

My trip to China. Grant me travel mercy - Ariane Soh

**Thank God for:**

Elder William's sermon - William Chong, Fook Weng, Soo Lang, Edward Lee

Patrick's sermon - Henry and Nat

HI members especially Mimi for the courage to serve at the recent Batam ladies retreat - deacon Winston Chong

The Safe trip to and from India - Peggy

Always taking care of me and my family - Lynda Wee



**Sit together as a family during worship**

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	112
11am Worship	245
6pm Worship	32
Total:	389
Morning Giving	\$12,041
Evening Giving	\$ 166
Total Contribution	\$12,207

*Gifts of Love to our 3Rs\* Fund*

Receipt No. Donor Amount

3RsF 1161	Anonymous	\$50
3RsF 1162	Anonymous	\$600
MF 0576	Pang Tee Liangs	\$1,500
(Misprinted in last week's Focus as \$1,000)		

\* Renovation, Repair and Relocation Fund

# PP GUIDE FOR MEN TO SERVE

*Continued from Cover*

## Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer:

- Use the KJV Bible to sync with the powerpoint slide - read from a Bible (do not use a phone/pda)
- Focus on adoration, confession and thanksgiving at the opening prayers - petitions should be prayed at the closing prayer

## Songleader:

- If you can hear your own singing, you are drowning the congregational singing - step back and move away from the microphone
- There is no need to announce the invitation/giving song - it will be flashed
- Please email your song numbers to [tbthng@hotmail.com](mailto:tbthng@hotmail.com) by Saturday 12 noon

## Communion leader:

- Please move to the front on the chorus of the last verse without prompting
- Do not deliver a mini-sermon or choose verses out of context; 5 minutes max
- Enquire if there are new Christians who should be served first by an elder

## Communion assistants:

- Please move to the front on the chorus of the last verse without prompting
- Each server is to return his own tray/bag; do not let one person collect for all
- Please be seated and allow time for members to fill in the cards before collecting

## Preacher:

- It is recommended that you keep the number of slides under 12
- Also, use points instead of full sentences that you read out of
- Dark backgrounds with white letters are easy on the eyes
- Send your powerpoint files in XP format - Vista pptx format don't display correctly
- Sum up your lesson and close it after the clock passes the hour

## Announcer:

- No need to add more announcements than those on the card supplied unless something crops up
- Keep it short, clear and sweet

## Closing Prayer:

- Do not quote verses, let your mind wander or repeat yourself
- A good prayer does not need to be a long prayer eg. Pharisee and Publican
- For petitions, group them together and mention the names without undue comments

## Closing Song:

- Get the congregation to stand

## Baptism Song:

- Sing 2 verses before baptism; the final verse after baptism
- Close the service with an elder's prayer



## **Pro-tem Building Fund Committee**

If you are interested to invest time and effort into looking at the feasibility of building a 4-storey extension at PP, please let our minister know. You may sms your name to 93260669 or email to [henry@ppcoc.org](mailto:henry@ppcoc.org). Thank you.



# What is Work?

By Gareth Chan

We all know what work is, and what kind of tasks we are supposed to carry out everyday. Interestingly, the french word for work is 'travail'. Travail is also an english word that refers to hard work and even pain and anguish. Is this how we actually view work?... as a pain?

## Why do we work?

The question that crosses our mind is often, why do we work so hard? For those of us in school, why do we wake up tired early every morning only to come home even more tired? And it's even worse for the adults, not only do they have to fetch us kids to and fro, they have their own work to contend with.

To me, I feel that many people lose motivation in their various fields of work because they no longer feel that the effort they put in is justified by the work they are producing. However, when I went on a mission trip to Tuao last year, I was amazed at the attitudes of the people in the Tuao church. Even though they aren't blessed with many luxuries, they are still contented, not only with what they had, but also to share what they had. Every morning when we met in the church we'd have a delicious breakfast spread before us... and it took me a while to realise how much effort must have gone into preparing those meals.

I believe that our brothers and sisters in Tuao had a motivation for working so hard: God. It was worth the effort for them, as long as it was exerted for God. Their faith in God led them to produce good works. So, back to the question, why do we, as Christians work? It is the same for us too, as stated in the book of James, that faith and actions must work together for faith to be complete.

## For whom do we work?

We have been warned against serving two masters in Matthew 6. We know that if we choose to follow God, we must place Him above the world. Yet, this knowledge is so difficult to apply. Just like  $E = mc^2$ ; I can quote the formula, but I certainly have no idea how to use it.

The point is that only knowing that God is our priority in life is not good enough – it must be shown in our actions, and in our work. It is not to say that success and a Godly life are mutually exclusive – we should all strive to make the best of our talents. There is probably the misconception that money is the root of all evil. I feel that it is actually the love of money, particularly above God, that is the root of evil. On the other hand, the love for God, and of God, bears good fruit.

If one is successful, we run the risk of placing worldly success over God. The wages for a good job may be high, but the fame and wealth that comes with success is all the more tempting, and can lead us quickly into sin. We know that the Bible says that the wages of sin is death. As God's workers, we are assured of an eternal and infinite inheritance, because Jesus paid it all by dying for our sins. Simply, knowing this, would you rather please your earthly employer or your heavenly Father?

Christ said to the Father in John 17:4 "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." We too are instructed to carry out God's work in Matthew 5:16 "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

## How may we work?

My exams recently ended and I clearly remembered this Physics equation which states that work done = force x displacement in direction of the force. It seems a

little unfair that if for instance you're pushing a wall, you're applying a lot of effort but the wall isn't moving and the work that you've done is zero!

Yet, this is really how God views work as well, in the sense that our endeavors should be accompanied by a Godly purpose. In Colossians 3:17, we are told that "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Our effort should not be misguided, but instead be submitted into the hands of God – in the name of God - so that he may point us in the right direction, and only then will our efforts bear fruit.

The Lord says "Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.", John 14:10.

Similarly Paul writes in Colossians 1:29 "to this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me." This labour that Paul speaks of is not just confined to school or the office; nor does it mean taking up a job with the church. However, it does mean letting God first work in you by inculcating Godly values and praying for God to show you his purpose in whatever work you are setting out to do.

Next, God also calls for us to maximise our talents. This verse, taken from the parable of the talents shows that each of us is blessed with our own gifts. "To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability."

The key teaching of this parable is that we should not shackle these gifts but rather make use of them for good works. There may be times when we feel infe-

rior to someone else because of his/her seemingly abundant abilities. Society has influenced us to value some talents, especially those with money-making potential, above others.

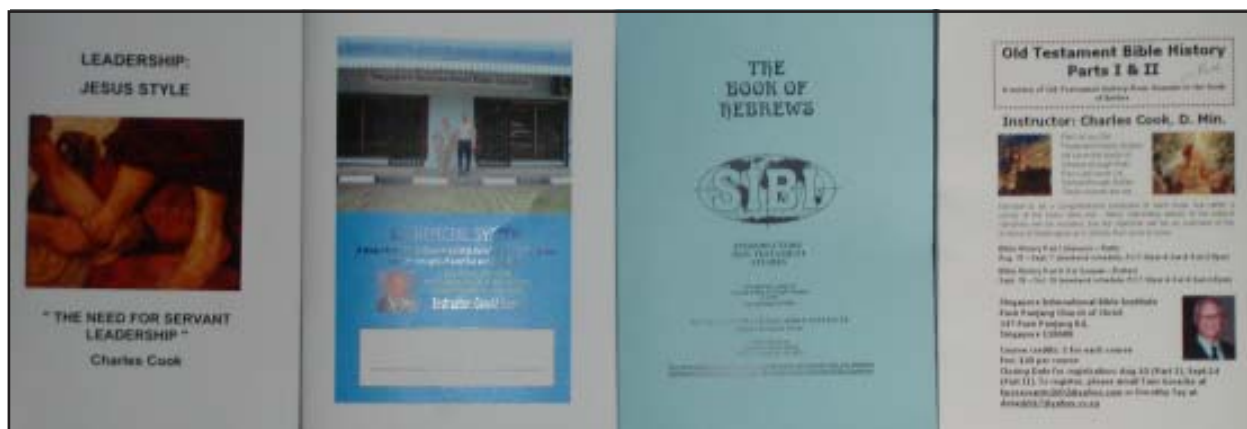
Bear in mind that in God's eyes, our gifts are equally precious and that each of us has a unique calling. The Creator "has not shown partiality to princes and does not favor the rich or the poor, for they are all the work of his hands." Job 34:19

Lastly, be prepared and ready to do God's work. In the Parable of the Two Sons, a father asked his two sons to go and work in his field. One said that he would but didn't; the second said that he wouldn't but eventually did. Both of the sons sinned either by their inaction or disobedience.

As for us, we must not only intend to work for God, but take actual action itself. James 2:19 says "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder." "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead". 2 Tim 2:21 reads: "If a man cleanses himself from the latter ("vessels of dishonour" – false teachings), he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and be prepared to do any good work".

Ultimately, our purpose in working for God can always be found in his perfect Word. We seek this Word, so that we may be prepared to serve him, but our human wisdom can only go so far in understanding God's purpose for us.

At the end of the day, God is the judge and "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet. 4:11



**"The Bible Study notebook you get at each SIBI class alone, is worth more than the registration fee of \$20", says our minister.** Each SIBI class provide the student with good, comprehensive notes that are easy to carry, file and refer to. For example, the recent course by Gerald Padan included a free 120-page book as well as a booklet on the Sacrificial System. The current course on OT Bible History is no exception. File 'em up for future reference.