

# FOCUS

SINGSPARATION  
Today @  
9:30am

*For the Week of 23rd November 2008*



You may be curious why a sermon on the four seasons comes from the pulpit of a tropical Singapore. In the local TV-comedy "The Moose", this sitcom summarises the Singapore weather as 'For the next 300 years, the weather will be hot and humid'. Using the 4 seasons as my sermon theme, I want to relate the different seasons with the different cycles in our spiritual life.

From the spiritual perspective, we all experience different seasons in our Christian walk. In my last two sermons, spring was about growth and summer was about Christian maturity. Tonight, this season Autumn is about harvest.

Autumn (also known as Fall) marks the transition from summer when the arrival of night becomes noticeably earlier. Northern hemisphere usually in 22 September and ends on 20 December. Southern hemisphere usually in 20 March and ends on 21 June.

The alternative word Fall is a North American English word for Autumn. The word has the meaning "to fall from a height". The term came to denote the season in the 16th century, an expression like "fall of the leaf" and "fall of the year". Autumn is usually associated as a season of harvest which is about celebration and thanksgiving.

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## Praise God for the Christian love and hospitality

Since my arrival on 6 November, I was overwhelmed by the love, care and hospitality of the saints at Westbury Church of Christ.

James has been calling me to ensure I am well taken care of, he spent time with me before going to work. His wife, Nina and son, Solomon also joined me for meals.

Shimin comes in the evening and all of them ensure the refrigerator are filled with fruits, brought me to the supermarket....

Mark Hall`s reception and kind introduction of me to the elders, and to the church. Also the warm reception from the elders and members.

I am grateful to the PP Church leaders for their encouragement, commitment to start a 100 days prayer for the ministry for China.

Most of all, I thank my God for His mercy and that He saved me from eternal damnation and transferred me into the Kingdom of His son.

Have a blessed day

**- Elder Eric Tan**



## COORDINATORS LISTING

### West Zone - Elder Simon

Sharon Goh	HP: 98219056
Shawn Li	HP: 96230430
Magdalene Lim	HP: 92210770
Joseph Ooi	HP: 91525067

### Central Zone - Elder William

Elder William	HP: 94551556
Edward Lee	HP: 96277817
Peggy Phua	HP: 96542798
Rosalind Png	HP: 96300683

### South Zone 'A' - Elder Adrian

Geoffrey Kiang	HP: 90888061
Eileen Lim	HP: 96996905
Judy Ong (HI)	HP: 96229063
Pang Foon Yoong	HP: 94509021

### South Zone 'B' - Elder Tan BC

Nat Kong	HP: 97552916
Geraldine Lim	HP: 82688267
Doreen Teo	HP: 98781903
Hedy Wong	HP: 94551552

### East Zone - Elder Eric

Deacon Winston	HP: 96771031
Kuek Lee Hock	HP: 82232483
Catherine Leow	HP: 92701717
Janet Lim	HP: 93823754
Rudy Lim (HI)	HP: 97384241
Tan Li Li	HP: 90494897
Belinda Yam	HP: 98466606

### Youth Care Team Coordinators

Magdalene Lim	HP: 92210770
Geraldine Lim	HP: 82688267
Andrea Li	HP: 92471702
Charmaine Tan	HP: 92762075
Shawn Li	HP: 96230430
Alvin Tjipto	HP: 96260657
Joseph Ooi	HP: 91525067

*Please get in touch with the above or brother Patrick for more information.*



We warmly welcome sister Precious Gomez into the PP family last Sunday as she places membership with PP. She is working with the KK hospital and hails from the Davao City congregation in the Philippines. Get to know this friendly sister.

Our hearts were touched at the two rededications last Sunday. At the 8am service, brother Tee Liang confessed sin and shortcomings and resolved to walk closer with God and with his family. At the 11am service, sister Alice Tan asked for the prayers of the church as she set her heart to work with children. Let us uplift these two active members in our prayers and surround them with our love and support.

**Brother Ken McCumsey** will speak on "Honouring the gift we have been given" at the morning services today. Come back tonight at 6pm as **brother Tom Goracke** exhorts us on "Freedom for the Prisoners!"

The **Open Bible Study** continues as usual at 10am this Wednesday morning at 10am.

**The mid-week SPC class will take a break this week** and will resume on 3rd December with a 3-week series on conversational sign language. This fun and useful series will be conducted by our HI team, led by brother Patrick Ong.

Members are asked to update the church of any change in data on the attendance card by the end of November. The **2009 PP Directory** will be released on the Church Planning Day on 1st January 2009.

**Next Sunday is the final day** to bring your used clothing and working toys for refugee children from Myanmar at Wangsa Maju in Malaysia.

Our minister is working with **sister Mee Geok** in providing our old folks in the Chinese congregation with communion when they are unable to attend worship. If you would like to help, especially if you have parents attending the Chinese worship, please see sister Mee Geok or our minister.

Uphold 20 members of our **Tuao missions team** who will be leaving for the Philippines this Thursday and return on 6th December. Brother Richard Leow is the contact guy for the team - please get the latest update from him at 90047532.

## The Christian Cycle

by Hedy Wong



The topic on 22 September 2008 in the Daily Care was The Christian Cycle.

As I read it, it reminded me of my childhood.

I quote the author Lana Clevenger  
 "My dad and my mother worked together as a team. They always prayed for each one in the family: they held home Bible studies: they taught classes: they mentored young families and fed countless visitors. Every good work they did was done to the glory of God."

If your parents are still with you, as much as possible, love them, call them, e-mail them and visit them. Ask them about their walk with the Lord. Stay close to them. So the cycle continues."

My dad who has since gone home to be with the Lord in 1997 was a minister at the Moulmein Road Church of Christ in the 1960s. My mom is now with the Chinese congregation in PP actively involved in many areas of service. It is my prayer that the Lord will continue to bless her with good health so that in her evening years she can continue to serve Him.

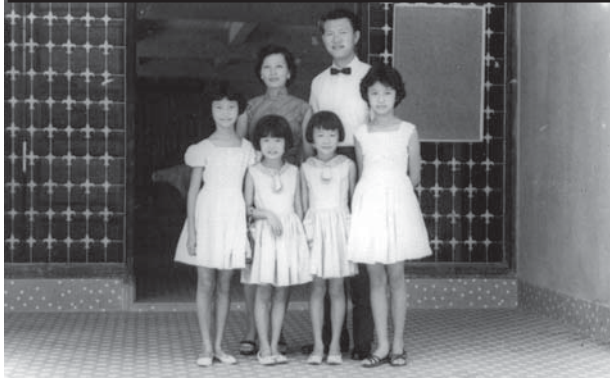
My mom only had a few years of education in Chinese because of the war. So she worshipped in the Chinese congregation in the afternoons.

Despite their different educational backgrounds, I recall how they both worked as a team to serve the congregation. My mom's role was complementary seeing to the physical aspects of my dad's work. She would ensure that he was neatly dressed each day as he set out to work and especially so when he had to preach on Sundays. She was indeed a model homemaker.

On Sundays after the morning worship my dad would so often bring many members home where a sumptuous lunch prepared by my mom await us. He was proud of my mom's cooking. I am sure Henry and Nat would have enjoyed some of her cooking.

For a period of time, my dad was administering to a physically challenged member called George. Some years ago some of us would have seen him selling tissue paper outside C. K. Tang. My dad would bring him home after service and he will have lunch with our family. My dad would then drive him home all the way to a kampong in Changi. My mom would accompany him on that long drive and they would rush back for the Chinese service in the afternoon. Sadly George has lost his faith. When Janis Dacus was living here a few years ago,

***Continued on the next page***



she tracked him down in Orchard Road. She was so disappointed that he did not remember her.

Our home was always busy . It was like a 30 minute walk from the Church building. During those days, it was just normal to walk. There was always a hive of activities . Prayer meetings were often hosted. Overseas visitors ate at our home. Missionaries and families like the Dacuses and the Harbins would pop in now and then for a chat or ask of little favours and marketing tips from my mom. . And like what Lana said of her parents, ..."they fed countless visitors."

My dad owned a Toyota station wagon. He once drove a group of youth all the way to Penang for a gospel meeting. Overseas mission trips for the youth started way back then.

During the school holidays, my dad would bring us to the Church to fold tracts. The Church had a printing machine that churned out thousands of tracts. My siblings and I would form a production line to process the folding. Sometimes our whole family will be at the Church building to give it a good "scrub". So my dad's ministry was a family affair.

What about me now? Am I continuing this cycle? I think my parents' lives have impacted me somewhat. I enjoy having crowds at home, cooking, welcoming overseas visitors. And of course I took on my mom's habit. I make sure Bill is neatly dressed each Sunday. Like my mom, I play a complementary role to my husband .

I look forward to the day Michelle continues this cycle. Serving the Lord is indeed a family affair. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15



Autumn is a season in God's design. In Genesis 8:22 "As long as the earth remains, there will be a springtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night". (NLT)

The course of nature will never be discontinued. It tells us that there is a timeframe and this earth is not to remain always, and all the works in it, must shortly be burnt up; and we look for new heavens and a new earth, when all these things must be dissolved. But as long as it does remain, God's providence will carefully preserve the regular succession of times and seasons.

Countless times throughout the Bible we see God showing his love and patience toward men and women in order to save them. Although God know that their hearts are evil, He continues to try to reach them. When we sin or fall away from God, we surely deserve to be destroyed by his judgment. But God has promised never again to destroy everything on earth until the judgment day when Christ returns to destroy evil forever. Now every change of season is a reminder of his promise.

Autumn colours are beautiful and it is amazing when I look at the beauty of nature. Leaves are in colours of orange, red, yellow, and bronze during Autumn. Have you wondered why such colourful brilliance before they all fall to the ground? During this period of Autumn, the tree trunk are not supplying nutrients to the leaves because the leaves are about to fall. So pigments are produced in the leaves to sustain them for a while before they fall. Actively produced are Anthocyanins (red-purple) that protects the leaf against the harmful effects of light at low temperatures. It is true that the leaves are about to fall and therefore it is not of extreme importance for the tree to protect them. By shielding the leaf with anthocyanins

the tree manages to re-absorb nutrients (especially nitrogen) more efficiently. The red-purple colors are warning signals towards insects that use the trees as a host for the winter. If the colors are linked to the amount of chemical defenses against insects, then the insects will avoid red leaves.

The protection of the leaves simply remind me of the punishment of Cain after he killed Abel. Read Genesis 4:13-15. This passage tells us that even though God drove Cain out of the garden, He still protects him. He is a God that punishes sin but still love the sinner.

Life is also like the colors of Autumn leaves – whatever color we are, God has made us as what we are. Do you think you are too tall or too short? Too young or too old? Do you have grey hair or no hair? God has a purpose for each one of us. Be thankful. And just as the light brings out the brilliance in the autumn leaves, so the light of God's presence in our life brings out the brilliance of the design and purpose of God in our life. God has made us for Himself, and we will never know the full beauty until we know Him. "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

Autumn may also bring out a mixed mood in us. Most poetry written in Autumn is mixed with a sad feeling and depressive mood. Probably because the skies turned grey with shorter daylight time and people start to look inward and feel sorry. William Butler Yeats' in his poem 'The Wild Swans at Coole' reflects the maturing season as liken to his own aging-self: where he also has reached his prime and have to face the inevitable old age and death.

This is like when you are 50 to 55+, in the autumn of life.

1. Approaching empty nest and retirement
2. No longer the backbone and driving force in the society
3. The next generation is beginning to take over, make the decisions, run the household, . . .
4. Raising young children is being replaced with grandchildren

Coupled with physical aging and experiencing change, this age group faces 2 great challenges:

1. Temptation to live in the past
2. Temptation to live in the future

Living the past is liken to old folks spending time reminiscing their past. You will hear phrase like "When I was younger I could do this and that..." On the other hand, one may be tempted to live in the future with worries such as "What if I have cancer?" "What if my children leave me?" "Do I have enough money to see me through retirement?"

Even though Autumn may be associated with melancholy, how do we face these challenges? A simple answer is: The more we dwell on the past, or worry about the future, the more we will miss out on the challenge, opportunity and joy of the present! The key is to live in the present, not the past nor the future, and learn to celebrate your harvest in your autumn.

Autumn is generally associated with harvest. With the transition from warm summer to cold weather, autumn is the season of harvest.

Farmers have one purpose in planting – they are planning for a harvest. I have a star fruit plant at home. I put fertilizer to the soil and water the plant daily. My purpose of planting a star fruit plant is for the harvest of star fruits. When the fruits finally arrived, I was overjoyed to see these mini-size star fruits and they're juicy in taste. In the same manner, God also have a harvest plan for us. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future".

Autumn is the time when fruits, vegetables and grains and wheat are ripened.

And along with the harvest is thanksgiving and celebrations which are usually in the mid-autumn. Examples are the Chinese mid-Autumn or Moon festival and the US Thanksgiving holiday. When we celebrate and in our thanksgiving, we express our gratitude to God for the things we have at the harvest season. Be thankful for so many things that we have and

often do not deserve.

God encourages joy. He does not intend for religion to be only meditation and introspection. He also wants us to celebrate. Celebration plays an important part in worship. In worship we celebrate God for who He is and what he has done for His people. When we worship, we acknowledge the eternity of God. He is worthy of our deepest love, adoration and thanksgiving. Let us offer ourselves, our time, our money in thanksgiving and celebration of the harvest.

There is a story of a little boy who lived in a far out country. Being in the countryside, this boy has never seen a circus all his life. Imagine his excitement when his school poster announced the coming of a traveling circus. He ran home to tell the glad news and asked his father for permission to see the circus. Though they were poor, his father could see how important the circus was to the boy. So on Saturday morning, his father gave him \$1 which is a lot of money a boy could have at one time. With the \$1 in his pocket, the little boy ran happily towards town. On his way, he noticed there were people lining the streets. Squeezing through the crowd, he saw the approaching circus parade. It was the grandest thing he had seen – caged animals, acrobats, bands beating, etc. Finally as the clown passed by, the little reached into his pocket and gave the precious \$1 to the clown and went home.

What had happened? The boy thought he had seen the circus when he had only seen the parade! Are you experiencing all that God has for you? The Christian life is a marvelous adventure, an exciting journey that is meant to last an entire life-time! Don't settle for second best – or be like the boy who experienced the parade, not the circus.

We need to live the Christian life to the fullest. God's example in nature teaches us that there are four seasons of our lives. Too often we focused on just one or two seasons and neglect the rest. Too often we live an active and fruitful Spring and Summer seasons and then act like that's all. Unlike a tree that goes through the 4 seasons every year, we only live once. In Hebrews 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"

That's why we must seize the opportunity (i.e. the seasons) when we face them.

Taking perspective, let us remember that God has created and put us on this earth. Our entire lives must be fruitful and bring him glory. We are NOT just "hired" to serve for a specific "career" and then retire. God also equips us for ALL seasons. In the first half of life, He equips us with ambition, energy, health, opportunity to establish career, family, build a home, raise children, and make ourselves financially secure. In the second half, He equips us with experience, perspective, time-tested values and truths, flexibility of time like never before.

Within the span of our lives, God has appointed us at different seasons – a right time for everything and a purpose for every time. (Ref. Eccl. 3:1) The way of discipleship, love and worship of God is to accept His plans and His timing for our entire lives. At the different stages in our lives, from the cradle to the grave, we will experience growth, maturity, harvest and the cold. In each of the seasons, there are certain needs to be met and tasks to be fulfilled. There will be problems to be faced and ministries to be served in each season of our lives. Look out for them. For it is in working closely with God, the beauty of each season can be brilliantly reflected in our lives and in due season we can give God the Glory.



**Take a minute...  
to update your particulars  
on the attendance card  
today**

The 2009 PP Directory will be released on 1st January at the annual Church Planning Day

# CALENDAR of events

**Sunday, 23rd November 2008**

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship  
Speaker: Ken McCumsey
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages

## SINGSPARATION

- for youth and adults
- 11am Morning Worship
- 1:30pm SIBI Equipping Course  
Session #3 (final)  
For Youth and Young  
Adults with brother Tom  
Goracke
- 6pm Evening Worship  
Speaker: Tom Goracke

**Monday, 24th November 2008**

- 10:00am SIBI Evangelism Course  
@ Tom's SIBI Office

**Wednesday, 26th November 2008**

- 10:00am SIBI Open Bible Study  
with brother Charles Cook
- 7:30pm No SPC Class - Break

**Coming next Wednesday 3rd Dec**

Last SPC Series of 2009  
3-week series on  
Conversational Sign  
Language by the HI team  
led by brother Patrick Ong

# FAMILY CONCERNS

*For your prayer support. Please note that every prayer request will be petitioned before the throne of Grace by our elders in their weekly prayer sessions on Sundays at 5pm. If you want your request to be mentioned at our assemblies, please hand it to our minister before the start of the service.*

**Please pray for:**

- Travel mercy and safety for Andrea to Australia.
- Youth preparation for the coming mission trip  
- Edward Lee
- God to strengthen my faith and to understand  
thoroughly His word - Adelma
- I want to dedicate myself to the Lord's work in  
teaching and sharing the gospel, beginning with  
children - Alice Tan
- My employer's faith in God and my brothers that  
they may come to the salvation in Christ  
- Maribel
- My sister who is job-seeking - Gina
- God to bless me with a good employer - Amparo

**Thank God for:**

- Brother Winston Bolt's sermon - Fook Weng,  
William Chong
- Brother Ming Hui's sermon - Patrick Ong, Henry
- Brother Cher Yam's dedication in bringing us through  
the book of Galatians - Hedy Wong
- Brother Tee Liang's and sister Alice's rededication  
- Henry Kong
- The prayers, visits and gifts by the church during  
my recent surgery. By the grace of God I am  
recuperating well. Please continue to pray for  
my well-being. Thank you for your love and  
concern - Jenny Kwa

**FACTS & FIGURES**

8am Worship	128
11am Worship	219
6pm Worship	<u>33</u>
Total:	<b>380</b>
Morning Giving	\$7843
Evening Giving	<u>\$ 306</u>
Total Contribution	<u>\$8149</u>



**Receipt No. Donor Amount**

3RsF 1197	Anonymous	\$50.00
3RsF 1198	Anonymous	\$600.00
3RsF 1199	Anonymous	\$700.00
MF 0732	Denise Yang	\$500.00
MF 0733	Anonymous	\$100.00
MF 0734	Anonymous	\$50.00
MF 0735	Anonymous	\$1000.00



*For the full month's listing, look up the Notice Board  
For up to the whole year's listing, log in at [ppcoc.org/men.htm](http://ppcoc.org/men.htm)*

## **MEN to SERVE at All Services for this Week and the Next**

Please call the church office by Wednesday if you cannot serve

### **Worship Service**

### **Today (23rd November)**

### **Next Week**

#### **8am**

Call to Worship:

Scripture Text:

Elder Beng Chuan

Psalm 27:1-3

Elder Adrian Teo

Psalm 28:1-2

#### **11am**

Call to Worship:

SR/Prayer of Praise:

S. Leader:

Communion:

Preacher:

Shepherd's Prayer:

Elder Beng Chuan

Deacon Li Chhoan

Jason Ng

Paul Quek

**Ken McCumsey**

Elder Adrian Teo

Elder Adrian Teo

Alvin Tjipto

Matthew Tng

Lee Yoke Choi

**Kelvin Koo**

Elder William Wong

Ushers i/c

Assistants

Richard Leow

Yoke Choi

Michael Yam

Ng Ee Kai

Leow Peng Liam

Benjamin Chew

HI Team

Nehemiah Tan

Alvin Tjipto

Daniel Chng

Chern Woon

Valmond Teng

Jason Mok

HI Team

Balcony

#### **6pm**

Call to Worship:

Scripture Text:

SR/Prayer of Praise:

Song Leader:

Communion:

Preacher:

Shepherd's Prayer:

Elder Beng Chuan

Psalm 27:4-5

Ban Haw Leong

Edward Lee

Elder William Wong

**Tom Goracke**

Elder Adrian Teo

Elder Adrian Teo

Psalm 28:6-9

Patrick Ong

Deacon KC

Nehemiah Tan

**Vincent Lim**

Elder William Wong



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow; but woe to him that is alone when he falleth, and hath not another to lift him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have warmth; but how can one be warm alone? And if a man prevail against him that is alone, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12