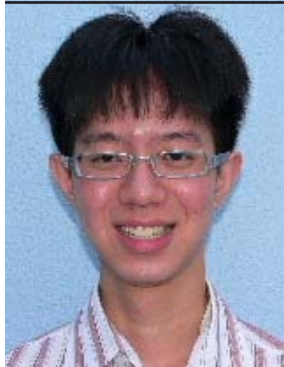


# FOCUS

our 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> year

*For the Week of 1st March 2009*



## How Being Part of a Care Team Has Benefitted Me

By Chen Yi

It has been almost four years since I have been involved with a Care team – and I do not regret moment of it! Let me share with you why.

Many of you remember me as quiet and introverted back in my Junior Bible Class (JBC) years. As the years went by, I gradually made more friends with the youth at PP and began to open up. Care team has been one of the main contributing factors to the bonding I have had with many of the youths now. Before Care teams were instituted for youths, we would see each other only once a week at Sunday Bible class and worship, and the time I spent with my friends in church was fleeting. When the first Care team was formed, it gave me a chance to befriend several other youths in greater depth.

During Care team meetings, our typical agenda is to check-in, have Bible study, and prayer. During check-in, members take turns sharing about their week – the struggles faced, progress in walking with God, and humorous or interesting moments. Check-in gives me the opportunity to understand better some of the trials my fellow members face, and through the sharing we develop a spiritual accountability with each other. Bible study in Care team is very different from that on Sunday mornings. I share more personal thoughts and insights during discussions, as the level of mutual trust in the Care team is high. It also gives me comfort to know that fellow youths will pray with me whenever I have problems.

Care team has also benefitted me by honing my leadership and organizational skills as a team leader in 2007. It also gives me a chance to mentor and encourage other youths, just as I am encouraged and mentored.



Hey, you,  
sitting on the pew,  
I've got something  
to share with you...

Do you want some friends  
who'll give you support?  
Not just friends  
of any old sort.  
Friends who can talk  
to you comfortably,  
Friends who'll see you  
through all eternity!

Feeling down after  
a week of school?  
Wish you had someone  
who you could talk to?  
Don't fret,  
and burn out just yet,  
There's a care team out  
there,  
And they are all set...

To hear you out,  
through and through,  
To share the word of God  
and pray with you.

So join a care team today,  
We hope you'll this do,  
And you might begin to care  
for others too!

- adapted from an article  
from PP Beacon 02  
February 2009

**Concluded on page 6**



### Our Historic 1st PP Medical Missions

This past Tuesday, PP took another step forward by sending our first medical team to minister to two fishing villages in Batam. Pictured above are the team with well-wishers who were present to send them off.

The team will be joined by our internship students in Batam who will be led by brother Muller, a leader with the Batam church.

We are looking forward to a full and exciting report by brother Teng CC in next week's Focus.

We want to commend deacon KC for the great way he is overseeing our work with the Batam congregation. Together with his wife, Irene and elder Beng Chuan, they have put in many hours of hands-on preparation and supervision for the internship programme as well as the medical missions.

Many thanks to the team of doctors, nurses, supporters and donors to this great work.

We welcome warmly all our visitors today. This church wants to serve you. If you have a need or concern, simply write it on the attendance card, and we will respond to you within the week. Our elders and ministers are ever ready to minister to you and your family. Simply speak to any if you need one-to-one studies, prayers or other assistance.

Starting today at 9:30am, brother Cher Yam will be teaching the combined adult 5-week series on "How we got the Bible". The series by brother Peter and his team on "God in the Marketplace" will follow in April.

Elder Adrian Teo will be speaking on "Learn to Live a Legacy of Love" at our morning services today. In the evening, deacon KC will speak on 'Is criticism wrong?'

A cappella singers who have ordered your lunch box, please collect it from sister Betty at the lobby after the 11am service. Brother Daniel Ng will conduct the a cappella singing at 1:30pm.

Couples who are slotted for the "Two are Better than One" session this Saturday, 7th March are to confirm with elder Beng Chuan asap.

The Book of Proverbs is full of good counselling. You can pay more than \$100 an hour for advice like this! If you tell your friends there is free counselling every Wednesday morning at 10am at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ, they might be interested. The Open Bible Study lesson this week is on how to succeed in life.

| Worship Service  | Today (1 Mar)  | Next Week  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>8am</b><br>Scripture Text:  | Psalm 62:1-2   | Psalm  |
| <b>11am</b><br>Call to Worship:<br>SR/OP:<br>S. Leader:<br>Communion:<br>Preacher:<br>Shepherd's Prayer:                   | Henry Kong<br>Lam Chern Woon<br>Jason Mok<br>Tan Yiu Huat<br><b>Elder Adrian Teo</b><br>Elder Beng Chuan                       | Elder Adrian Teo<br>Dennis Loh<br>Deacon Paul Lim<br>Chen Yi<br><b>Kuek Lee Hock</b><br>Elder Simon Goh                      |
| Ushers<br>Balcony  | Samuel Wee<br>HI Team  | Nehemiah Tan<br>HI Team  |
| <b>6pm</b><br>Call to Worship<br>Scripture Text:<br>SR/Prayer:<br>S. Leader:<br>Communion:<br>Preacher:<br>Closing Prayer: | Henry Kong<br>Psalm 62:11-12<br>Deacon Li Chhoan<br>Kenneth Leow<br>Elder William Wong<br><b>Deacon KC</b><br>Elder Beng Chuan | Elder Adrian Teo<br>Psalm<br>Ban Haw Leong<br>Deacon Paul Lim<br>Patrick Ong<br><b>Elder William Wong</b><br>Elder Simon Goh |



# Is it all doom and gloom?

by Hedy Wong

Walk along busy Orchard Road or the 1 million sq ft Vivocity, it is sales, sales everywhere! These are signs of bad times. The economic forecast is this will be the worst recession since World War II. For most of us, this is the worst we have seen in our lifetime.

How do we as Christians brace ourselves for this onslaught?

Invariably the scriptures will bring comfort:

1. Phil 4: 6 "be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.
2. Phil 4: 19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"
3. 1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you"
4. Matt 6:25-34. Jesus teaches about worry.
5. 1 Cor 10:13 – " ....but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it".

Dr. Lee Wei Ling, a non-believer and a director at the National Neuroscience Institute has this to say: *"Slump time has arrived with a bang. While I worry about the poorer Singaporeans who will be hit hard, perhaps this recession has come at an opportune time for many of us. It will give us an incentive to reconsider our priorities in life.*

*"Decades of the good life have made us soft. The wealthy especially, but also the middle class in Singapore, have had it so good for so long, what they once considered luxuries, they now think of as necessities.*

*"A mobile phone, for instance, is now a statement about who you are, not just a piece of equipment for communication. Hence many people buy the latest model though their existing mobile phones are still in perfect working order.*

*"The media encourages and amplifies this ostentatious consumption. Perhaps it is good to encourage people to spend more because this will prevent the recession from getting worse. I am not an economist, but wasn't that the root cause of the current crisis - Americans spending more than they could afford to?"*

Perhaps God is reminding us:

- that we should not trust in worldly riches. There have been several cases of men who killed themselves because they lost all their wealth. In Matt 6: 19, Jesus taught about money. "do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth ..... vs20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...."
- that we should not fall into the trap of greed – we have seen the consequences of greed in Wall Street. To quote Prov 15:27 "He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house. But he who hates bribes will live"
- to re- examine the difference between needs and wants
- "do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind....".... Rom 12:2
- to be like the ant, Prov 6:6 "go to the ant, you sluggard, consider her ways and be wise.... vs. 8, provides her supplies in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. My mom always quotes a Chinese proverb – "when it is good weather, gather the wood for rainy days"
- to spend within our means and not to keep up with the Jones - the example of the Americans spending beyond their means that resulted in this current crisis.

While most would think that the recession is the **Concluded on page 6**



# Leave your Crisis to God

by deacon Lim Li Chhoan

I was not really thinking of the financial crisis that is happening around the world today when I was selecting this sermon title.

There are many types of crises that we all experience today. It may be health crisis, job crisis, relationship crisis or financial crisis. No one is immune to a crisis. I was not spared when a health crisis

hit me recently.

One evening about 10 days ago, my wife told me that she saw a circle of bright light in her vision. She was worried even though the light went off after a rest. As it was late at 10pm, we decided to call sister Peggy to seek her advice. She advised Doreen to go for an eye check-up immediately the next morning.

The next morning I accompanied Doreen to the Eye Centre. After a thorough check-up, it turned out that Doreen's situation was not critical but requires another follow-up in 3 months time. The funny part was I too have my eyes checked and was shocked to be told I have cataract on both eyes! The doctor advised lens replacement surgery for my eyes. I was completely unprepared to receive this shocking news. Even though I was told that it is a minor operation, I was uncomfortable at the thought of surgery. I never have a surgery in my lifetime! So I am learning to leave my eye "crisis" to God.

In today's Sunday Times there was an article that said students who were offered jobs last year upon graduation this year will no longer have jobs as companies have frozen hiring amidst the economic crisis. These upcoming graduates have been "fired" even before they were hired. Such are devastating news to individuals and families and is happening globally. Yes, the financial crisis is real. It started with the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the USA and this has cascaded to the rest of the world and crippled every country. The impact is huge. For example, the Citigroup's market capitalization of US\$255 billion in Q2 2007, has shrunk to US\$19 billion in January 2009.

Yet in the midst of difficult times . . . where do we stand as a Christian? Let me share with you 3 stories that remind us of our hope in God. Crisis or no crisis, our hope is always in God.

In 2 Kings 6:1-7, The story begins about how the sons of the prophets pestered Elisha to go over Jordan to dwell. Elisha agreed and whilst cutting a log, one of the student's axe fell into the water and as the axe was borrowed he was worried and cried out to Elisha. Verses 6 and 7 tell us that Elisha make the axe float and the student could just retrieve it from the water. We face impossible tasks all the time and if an axe can float, isn't placing our hope in God not in vain? Luke 18:27 tells us that with God all things are possible.

The second story is in 2 Kings 6:11-19. The King of Syria was warring against Israel and he found out that his plan was thwarted. Whatever plans he made, the King of Israel always knew about it. He thought there was a spy in his camp. But his servants told him that it was due to a guy called Elisha advising the King of Israel. So the King of Syria sent out a great army to capture Elisha. Verses 15-17 tell how Elisha's servant was frightened when he saw the vast Syrian army. Elisha told him not to be afraid and prayed to God to open the servants' eyes so that he can see that God's army is even bigger than the Syrians.

In our daily lives, we get so bogged down with our routine. With mounting pressures we can be fearful of the coming events, problems we are going to face, etc This is the time we need to ask God to open our eyes so that we can see that God is with us (Romans 8:31) and who can be against us. God has promised to be with

us till the end of age (Matthew 28:20b).

The third story emphasizing our Hope in God is from 2 Kings 6:24-7:20. During the reign of Ben-hadad, King of Syria, he mustered his entire army and besieged Samaria. As a result there was a great famine. Things were so expensive, probably worse than our recession here. As the story goes, two women agreed to eat their sons and after the first son was eaten, the second woman chickened out the next day and refused to have her son eaten. When the King of Israel heard about this, he was angry with Elisha. So he went to see Elisha. Elisha told the king that tomorrow everything will be fine and food will be cheap (7:1.)

The captain whom the King was leaning on and who mocked at God will be punished (7:2). That night God sent sounds of chariots and horses and the magnitude was such that the Syrians were so frightened and ran away. Four lepers subsequently found the camp empty, reported the good news and everyone came out of the gate to enjoy the spoils in the Syrian camp. The captain of the King of Israel who was guarding the gate was trampled to death just as Elisha had said.

We learn that no crisis is too big for God to handle. And God is not to be mocked as well. Often what we lack is Faith. God wants us to

have faith in Him. He tells us in Isaiah 41:10 that He is with us and He will help us. He will also show us new mercies every morning and shower us with blessings every day. Isaiah 41:17-18 recounts how God is truly blessing us and He can make water out of dry land just to take care of us. If we think God's blessing is not sufficient, think again! His blessing is abundant (Ephesians 3:20).

Are we sure of hope, help and blessings from God? We can and we can be assured as well. God takes care of everything. He goes on to assure the doubtful. Romans 8:28 gave us a powerful assurance from God.

We know – Certainly based on God's truth  
That God causes – God is the creator  
Everything – All that happens to us – illness, jobs, relationships, success, etc  
Is working together – Not separately or independently  
For good – God will bring good out of it, eg. Story of Joseph

Let us look at God's wonderful promises. Keep this table with you. Look at it when you are feeling low in spirit. Look at it when you are thankful. God's promises will strengthen your faith when you trust God's word. Treasure God's word in your heart. Remember God's word never return void.

| You say                         | God says                            | Bible verses          |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| It is impossible                | <b>All things are possible</b>      | Luke 18:27            |
| I am too tired                  | <b>I will give you rest</b>         | Matthew 11:28-30      |
| Nobody really loves me          | <b>I love you</b>                   | Jn 3:16 & Jn 3:34     |
| I can't go on                   | <b>My grace is sufficient</b>       | 2 Cor 12:9 & Ps 91:15 |
| I can't figure things out       | <b>I will direct your steps</b>     | Proverbs 3:5-6        |
| I can't do it                   | <b>You can do all things</b>        | Philippians 4:13      |
| I am not able                   | <b>I am able</b>                    | 2 Corinthians 9:8     |
| It is not worth it              | <b>It will be worth it</b>          | Romans 8:28           |
| I can't forgive myself          | <b>I forgive you</b>                | 1 Jn 1:9 & Rom 8:1    |
| I can't manage                  | <b>I will supply all your needs</b> | Philippians 4:19      |
| I am afraid                     | <b>I have not given you</b>         | 2 Tim 1:7             |
| I'm always worried & frustrated | <b>a spirit of fear</b>             | 1 Peter 5:7           |
| I don't have enough faith       | <b>Cast all your cares on ME</b>    | Romans 12:3           |
| I'm not smart enough            | <b>I've given everyone a</b>        | 1 Corinthians 1:30    |
| I feel all alone                | <b>measure of faith</b>             | Hebrews 13:5          |
|                                 | <b>I give you wisdom</b>            |                       |
|                                 | <b>I will never leave you or</b>    |                       |
|                                 | <b>forsake you</b>                  |                       |

Our God loves us so much. He knows our every need. He knows every strand of hair on our head. He is never too busy that He neglects to look out for us. The bible tells us that the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole world looking out for us (2 Chronicles 16:9a).

We also know that the church will stand by us when we are having a crisis. We can seek help and support from each other. This is apt and in line with this year's theme "Two is better than one". The bible teaches us (Hebrews 10:24) to encourage one another so that together we can strengthen our faith, give thanks (1Thess 5:18), rejoice always (1Thess 5:16) and pray unceasingly (1Thess 5:17). Remember, all things work for good. I could have viewed my cataract as a crisis and complained, or I could choose to wait for God's providence of a new pair of superman eyes!

If you are weighed down by a crisis today, put your faith in God. Put God first in your life. Straighten out your life with God. Matthew 6:33 tells us how and Galatians 6:9 tells us to persevere for in due course we will reap the rewards. No crisis is too big for God to handle and no one is too small for God to notice. Whatever situation we are in, it will be according to God's plan. We got to believe and have faith for God promises that His plans for us are good and it will give us a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

In conclusion, my encouragement for all of us is to stay focused on Jesus, continue to run the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1-2), look to Jesus as the founder and perfecter of our Faith and getting our reward in Heaven, (1 John 5:4). As you sing the invitation song (191) remember these words: "Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you. No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you". Stay faithful! God bless.

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### How Care Team Has Benefitted Me

Being a part of a Care team makes my involvement with the youths at PP vibrant and colourful. The friends I have made through Care team and at church are different from those I interact with in the world – they strive to be cheerful Christians, avoid using bad language,

and I know that they will be my friends through eternity. Also, no one can deny the fun, joy and laughter we experience at each Care team meeting.

Recently, there has been news that Joanna, Nicolette and Candice (studying in UK, the USA and Japan respectively) have been trying to hold Care team meetings through Skype, software that allows users to make telephone calls over the internet. Although feeling the challenges of not being able to see each other face to face while communicating and living in different time zones, they are making such efforts to 'meet'!

Having discussed the many ways Care team has benefitted me, I would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to parents to encourage your child to join a Care team today. If your child is interested in joining a Care team, he or she can look for the Care Team Coordinators: Chen Yi (guys) and Joanne Seah and Charmaine Tan (gals). The Care Team Coordinators will offer advice as to which Care team your child can join depending on schedules and area of residence. Alternatively, your child can feel free to approach any one of the Care team leaders: Shawn Li, Alvin Tjipto, Basil Chong, and Irvin Wan (guys) and Geraldine Lim, Magdalene Lim, Charmaine Tan and Andrea Li (gals) for any assistance.

**website: [www.ppcoc.org/careteam.htm](http://www.ppcoc.org/careteam.htm)**

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### Is it all doom and gloom?

best time to invest if you are cash rich, we Christians should think of investing in souls in times like this. Statistics have shown that Singaporeans have become more religious now.

Let us turn the negative to positive:

1. Let us take advantage of this time to take stock of our lives and our priorities
2. Find the opportunity to share the gospel
3. Let us be optimistic and not be entrenched with the doom and gloom attitude for we Christians are here for a different purpose

*Footnote: this article was in the works when Li Chhoan preached his sermon 'Leave your crisis to God'.*

# CALENDAR of events

**Sunday, 1st March 2009**

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship  
Speaker: Elder Adrian Teo
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages  
New adults combined series  
on "How We Got the Bible"  
by brother Lim Cher Yam
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship  
Speaker: Deacon KC Cheang

**Wednesday, 4th March 2009**

- 10:00am SIBI Open Bible Study  
on the book of Proverbs  
with brother Charles Cook
- 7:30pm Leadership, Jesus-Style  
with brother Charles Cook

**Sunday, 8th March 2009**

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship  
Speaker: Kuek Lee Hock
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship  
Speaker: elder William Wong

# FAMILY CONCERNS

**Please pray for:**

- Good health and travel mercy - Precious
- Safety for my family and friend - Amelyn
- Guidance our family members in His grace and  
mercy as we serve Him - Maribel
- My father and family's health - Lolita
- Me as I am feeling overwhelmed by work and  
relationship problems - Kenneth Koh
- Paul Quek's bad gout that he gets well soon  
- Florence, Soo Lang
- Sarah Yu that she gets to keep her job - Soo Lang
- My colleague's eyesight - Melissa
- Guidance and wisdom for me and my family  
- Amparo
- Guidance for my brother going to the Middle East  
for work - Gina
- Wisdom for my son as he continues to grow up  
- Adelma

**Thank God for:**

- Henry's sermon - Edward Lee, Lynda Wee, Julie  
Wee, Linda Kho, Angela Teow
- Charles' sermon - Patrick Ong
- Support from the church during my father's demise  
last week - Elizabeth Yee
- Seeing me through a tough week of challenges  
- Soo Lang
- A timely lesson. An opportunity to sing your praises  
and learn from your word - Lynda Wee

| FACTS & FIGURES    |                 | <i>Gifts<br/>of Love</i> | Receipt No. Donor Amount |           |       |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 8am Worship        | 135             |                          | 3RsF 1228                | Anonymous | \$500 |
| 11am Worship       | 196             | 3RsF 1229                | Chew Chong Lins          | \$500     |       |
| 6pm Worship        | <u>41</u>       | 3RsF 1230                | Chinese Cong.            | \$700     |       |
| Total:             | <u>372</u>      | 3RsF 1231                | Anonymous                | \$500     |       |
|                    |                 | 3RsF 1232                | Anonymous                | \$120     |       |
|                    |                 | 3RsF 1233                | Anonymous                | \$200     |       |
| Morning Giving     | \$10,303        |                          |                          |           |       |
| Evening Giving     | <u>\$ 1,029</u> | MF 6743                  | Simon Gohs               | \$3,000   |       |
| Total Contribution | <u>\$11,332</u> |                          | Batam Medical Missions   |           |       |



### SCHEME OF REDEMPTION

with Ed Wharton

Date: March 27 to April 19, 2009

Fridays: 7pm - 10pm;

Saturdays & Sundays: 2pm-5pm

Course Fee: \$20

Ed Wharton has been a Bible Instructor at Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock Texas for the past 45 years. He has taught his Bible courses and Preached God's Word on every continent of the globe. He is highly respected for his thorough and clear presentation of the Scriptures.

#### While Ed is with us...

- Every weekend (Fridays: 7pm - 10pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 2pm-5pm) March 27 through April 19 he will teach The Scheme of Redemption course.
- He will be the Sunday morning speaker on April 12th at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ.
- Every Thursday and Friday (April 6 through 17) he will teach a morning class for SIBI at the Pasir Panjang Church facility from 10 am to 12 noon (lunch will be served). The subject will be Millennium Mania (Premillennialism Examined).



### HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES

with JOHN MASSIE

Date: March 27 to April 19, 2009

Course Fee: \$20

John Massie is a minister with the Alamo Church of Christ in San Antonio, Texas, he travels internationally teaching Bible courses, and is widely appreciated as a personal worker and soul winner.

#### While John is with us...

- He will be the Sunday morning speaker on April 5th at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ.
- On Wednesday evenings (March 25 through April 15) he will present lessons on Historical Christian Evidences from 7:30 to 9 pm)
- Every Monday through Wednesday (April 6 through 17) he will teach a morning class for SIBI at the Pasir Panjang Church facility from 10 am to 12 noon (lunch will be served). The subject will be Historical Christian Evidences.
- Each Thursday through Saturday (April 6 through 17) John will be teaching at the Batam Bible College, Batam, Indonesia.



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

**FOCUS** is published weekly by the Church of Christ (English-speaking) meeting at 347 Pasir Panjang Road, Singapore 118688 (Tel: 67788259. Fax: 67765278). eMail Address: ppcoc@pacific.net.sg. Internet Webpage: www.ppcoc.org. Address all correspondence to Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang P.O. Box 74, Singapore 911123.