

FOCUS

For the Week of 8th November 2009



My Journey after my baptism

By Seah Ke Howe

The Journey began

Today I am 1 year 21 days old as a child of God and very happy to be able to serve the Lord. One year ago it was very naive of me to think that life would be filled with God's blessings and I would live happily ever after once I become a Christian. I found that this was not so. I found out soon that life as a Christian life is not a bed of roses.

The Narrow and Wide Gates

Actually Jesus have already warned me in Matthew 7:13 - *Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

I knew it yet I took the plunge. Thought that the gate cannot be so narrow; after all brother Henry and all the elders and deacons have been serving relentlessly for years; and I so much smaller in size than most of them; if they can squeeze through why can I not?

Squeezing through the narrow Gate

I was determined to do so and today I can gladly say that I have no regrets. However only 3 months ago I was in a state of great despair and misery not because I hated to be a Christian, but because I hated myself for going backwards.

From this experience I realized that my progress in transforming to be Christ-like was similar to an old car going uphill in 4th gear. When backsliding it was going downhill also on 4th gear and no brakes. Any one of you in my age group would understand me better as in those days when we were learning to drive using very old Morris Minors and we had a hard time going up

Ang Siang Hill.

I learned that a small sin will rapidly lead to bigger and bigger sin; and before long I was back to where I started.

Bargain with God

I was very creative; I actually bargained with God. I pleaded with Him and argued that certain human gratification needs to be satisfied; begged Him to allow me to violate some of His not so "serious" laws. He seemed to have given me His consent. He said to me "You know I have created Man with freewill; it is your choice son; it is all up to you what you like to do. I will not force you, but remember the consequences of sin"

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Happily sliding down unknowingly

I brushed aside His warning; put a deaf ear to His words and made the terrible choice to go against His will. So I sinned behind His back. I rationalized that it was no big deal; after all it is only a small sin which one can commit once in

Continued in the supplement pages

PP FAMILY NEWS

Right: PP welcomes the Edwin Kweok family at the 11am worship last Sunday. Pictured left to right are Edwin, Joel, Zheng Wei, Xiu En and Stella.



Brother Ken McCumsey will speak on "the Mystery of Wisdom" at our morning assemblies today. Come back at 6pm to hear the answer to **deacon Li Chhoan's** question, 'Am I Humble?' at the evening assembly.

Please use the attendance cards to **update your directory particulars**. Brother Douglas, a professional photographer will be on duty today at the lobby from 10:30am-1pm to help you update your photograph. The exercise will end on 30th November. We plan to release the 2010 pictorial directory in January.

Join us this Wednesday at 10am for SIBI's Open Bible Study on the book of Ephesians.

Bring the entire family at 7:30pm this Wednesday for SPC's final series of the year - **Transforming into Jesus' Living Church** by brother **Lee Hock**. More information at the back page. Especially recommended for new converts.

Total amount given to 2009 Missions Sunday to date: \$213,432 (\$52,800 in pledges). Thanks to a congregation with a heart for missions.

Registration for youth camp is now open. Parents, please encourage your children to attend - it is a good way for them to befriend fellow youths. Date: 28th-31st Dec. Venue: Camp Challenge, Sembawang (meet at church building for coach transport). Camp fees: S\$70. Sign up with Olivia, Li Jun or Angelin.

More and more members have asked to be in **missions resource groups**. If you have a heart for missions, send an email to patrick@ppcoc.org and ask for an invitation to the PP interest group of your choice.

Special Prayer Request by our neighbour and regular visitor, Caesar Tun: *My colleague, Daw Muya who is not a Christian met with a motor accident while aboard. She is back in Singapore and is now discharged from hospital. She is unable to use both her arms as she injured her spinal cord. Please pray for her recovery and all her family members to have the strength to rally around her.*

Worship Service	Today (8 November)	Next Week
8am Scripture Text:	Psalm 119:1-8	Psalm 119:25-32
11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Alvin Tjipto Matthew Tng Chew Chong Lin Ken McCumsey Elder Winston Chong	Henry Kong Kenneth Kuek Jason Ng Lam Chern Woon Kuek Lee Hock Elder William Wong
Ushers Balcony	Jeronme Goh HI Team	Daniel Ong HI Team
6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: SR/Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Psalm 119:9-16 Patrick Ong Deacon KC Elder William Wong Deacon Lim Li Chhoan Elder Winston Chong	Henry Kong Psalm 119:33-40 Ban Haw Leong Charles Pang Elder Simon Goh Mac Ibra Elder William Wong

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 8th November 2009
 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
 8:00am First Morning Worship
 Speaker: Ken McCumsey
 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
 11am Second Morning Worship
 1:15pm Shuttle Bus Service ends
 6pm Evening Worship
 Speaker: deacon Li Chhoan

Wednesday, 11th November 2009

10am SIBI Open Bible Study
 the book of Ephesians
 by brother Charles Cook
 7:30pm New SPC series on "Transforming into Jesus' Living Church" by brother Kuek Lee Hock

SIBI Internship Jan 2010

Join Ben Walker & Natalie
 At the Kota Rainforest
 Resort
 Sign up with
 elder Tan Beng Chuan



FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

All PP members and my family and my work
 - David Dass
 My driving theory test. My family and PP church members and my work - Kumar
 God's guidance to be with PP to increase His kingdom work - Geoffrey Kiangs
 Me to prepare myself to return home to share the gospel with my parents - Maribel
 All the 'A' level students and their preparation for exams - Basil Chong
 Our family's devotion time with Him - Serina Kho
 Me to be selected for the netball team and to be open and to follow Christ - Shernise Teo
 Me to increase in the word of God - Immanuel
 The health of my sister Figaya - Fabila Elvira
 Me and Belinda in service to the Wangsa Maju church for three weeks - Caroline Ang
 Adelma's son's recovery from a recent surgery. Grant him strength and courage through this difficult time - Adelma, Catherine Leow
 My studies - Ibra Mac
 Patrick's relief from back pain - William Chong
 Jocelyn's further studies - David Yeas
 Nat Cooper's son, Steven's health - Charles Cook

Thank God for:

Elder Adrian's sermon - Patrick, William Chong
 Kenneth Koh's sermon - Henry Kong
 All His people for praying for my successful surgery - Linda Seet
 Watching over me when my employer was overseas - Maribel
 His protection throughout this past week - Julie Wee
 The PP family - Ibra Mac

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	145
11am Worship	187
6pm Worship	38
Total:	370

Morning Giving	\$11,445
Evening Giving	\$ 175
Total Contribution	\$11,620

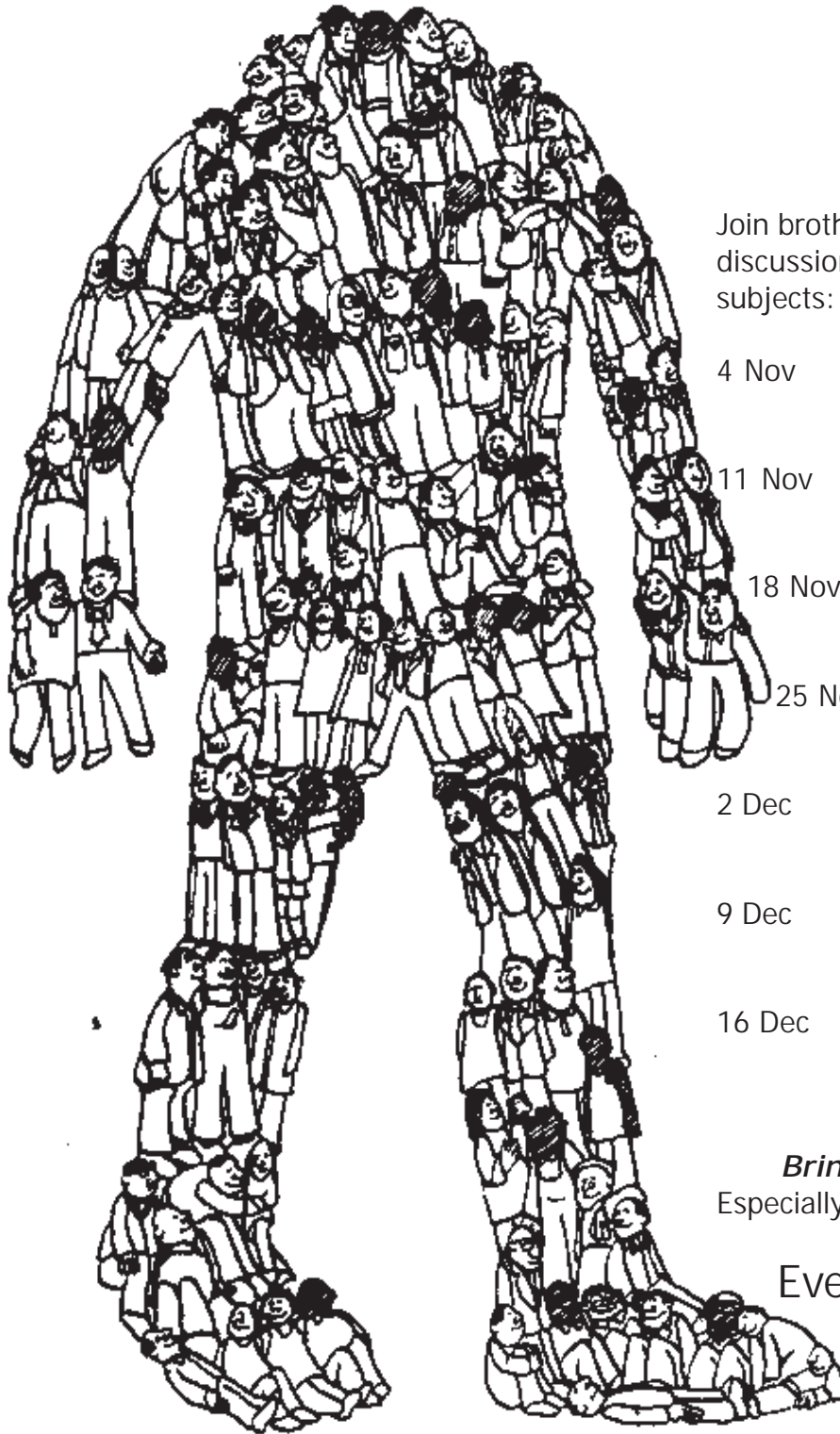
*Gifts
of Love*

Receipt No. Donor Amount

3RsF 1316	Anonymous	\$50.00
3RsF 1317	Anonymous	\$600.00

Final SPC Series for 2009:

Transforming into Jesus' Living Church



Join brother Lee Hock for a dynamic discussion series at SPC on these subjects:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 4 Nov | Lesson 1: Connecting to Jesus & the Living Church |
| 11 Nov | Lesson 2: Staying Holy in the Living Church |
| 18 Nov | Lesson 3: Fellowshiping in the Living Church |
| 25 Nov | Lesson 4: Loving in the Living Church |
| 2 Dec | Lesson 5: Appreciating in the Living Church |
| 9 Dec | Lesson 6: Serving in the Living Church |
| 16 Dec | Lesson 7: Worshipping in the Living Church |

Bring the entire family
Especially helpful for New Converts

Every Wednesday
at 7:30pm



My Journey after my baptism

Continued from the Cover

a while. In local colloquial Hokkien dialect – “*ku ku chek pai*”; it means once in a while should not be a problem.

Learned my lesson

Thanks to His love for me He taught me some lessons which I will never forget. I recall what brother Charles Cook taught us in the Old Testament that obedience is what God is looking for in us

1 Samuel 15:22- *But Samuel replied: Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams*

My first few months as a child of God

The first few months of my walk were plain sailing. Everything moved smoothly. I was very hot in my pursuit for the Lord's word. My wife of 29 years can attest to it. I have always been like that, be it having a pet dog, learning to sail, learning Tai Chi, learning Chi Kong, learning to be a Buddhist. In the beginning I would be extremely motivated and put my heart and soul into pursuing a hobby or even a relationship, but soon my enthusiasm would die and I will look for new toy. She predicted that it would be the same in my walk with Jesus.

Parable of the Sower

My character fits very well with what Jesus taught in this parable in Mathew 13:5 - *Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.*

In whatever I do then I had no root and could only endure for a while. However today I can still exclaim Halleluiah! Praise the Lord! Today I

am still as hot as ever in my pursuit of the Lord's word. I believe it is His love for me that saved me.

Support and encouragement

During the early phase of my journey I have been very fortunate to have received so much support and encouragement here in PPCOC which strengthened my foothold on the narrow path. There was a period I thought of leaving PPCOC. Through God's grace the idea was abandoned. I was greatly encouraged by the warmth and love of you brothers and sisters here; thank you.

I realized how important Paul's instruction was in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

New converts need help

One more important lesson I learned is that new converts like babies need to be spoon fed. Mature brothers and sisters in Christ need to hold our hands so to speak to lead and nourish the young ones to prevent them from stumbling. Fortunately the Lord stretched out His arms to pull me out of the dark hole I fell into.

My wake up call

It must be driven by divine intervention; can-

Brother Seah after his baptism





Brother Seah's mother was baptized together with him on the same day

not be luck that at the lowest moment in my walk with Jesus I received a SMS from Deacon Swee Aun asking me whether I would like to serve the following Sunday worship to read the scripture and lead the opening prayer. I thought to myself; this cannot be so; how can I be asked to do something so important, so holy when I am so sinful. Opening prayers to me are a very essential feature of our worship as it sets the mood. My heart was racing; besides being sinful I was fearful as I had no clue how to prepare for it.

God spoke to me

It was then when I sensed that God is telling me, "Do not worry, just accept the invitation". So without knowing exactly what to do I obliged. Then I received through the mail the worship flow and the verse I was supposed to read. I asked Deacon Swee Aun for some pointers and based on his guideline I prayed and started to prepare. It was during the preparation that I became more intimate with the Lord and he spoke to me through His words that I must be humble and I must be like sheep conditioned to be ever ready to hear our master's voice. Suddenly it dawned upon me that I have been deaf all this time, complaining that God does not speak to me.

Enlightenment

He had been speaking to me all these while. It was me who refused to listen. This started a new wave of soul searching and I realized that

I have fallen back to a half-past-six Christian. I was not living as a Christian. I started on my uphill journey to pull myself up. Brother Cher Yam's weekly lesson on Jesus' parables became more and more meaningful to me. My journey from the bottom started again. Then came the greatest moment of my recovery; on Wednesday 12th July whilst attending brother Cher Yam's lesson on Jesus' parable of the sower, deacon Swee Aun invited me once again to lead the opening prayer for the following Sunday worship and I accepted with mixed feelings.

God is going after me

Wah!! God is really going after me; I thought to myself. What if the message is too difficult for me to tackle; then how? As my study of the Life of Moses was still fresh in my mind I thought that if Moses could lead 2 million people in the desert why can I not perform this relatively small task? The verse from Psalms 99:4 really broke the camel's back. I was filled with terror and joy that our God love righteousness and justice. I broke down and asked God for His forgiveness of my foolishness. Then everything became so clear to me. I realized that it is useless for anyone to know the word of God, to go to Church faithfully every Sunday, to live a righteous life and be very Holy and do nothing else; all these actions are totally useless if one is not bearing fruit.

Faith and deeds

I now realized what James meant in James 2:14 - *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

So like this Bible it was useless for 40 years when it was kept in my cupboard. But when I started to read it God spoke to me. So what good is it to have a full knowledge of the Bible; to be well versed in all the doctrines; have all the faith in the world; live a righteous and holy life, but have no action, no service rendered to glorify God. I realized that it is through serving that we can learn and be blessed abundantly.

Parable of the talents

I further recalled Jesus's parable of the talents where the servant hid the one talent given to



Brother Seah's wife, Bee Kin is a regular visitor and active Care team participant

him by his master. Matthew 25:28-29 - *Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him*

So if we have the gift and we do not use it to serve for the Lord's glory, very soon this gift will be taken away from us. I am very thankful that I heeded God's voice and recognized the importance of serving. So today I urge all of you especially the younger generation to equip yourselves with the knowledge of our God and start to use your talent to serve Him in His glory.

It is never too late to arm oneself with the knowledge of the word of God. It is critical to obey and live a life of righteousness as our Lord commands. We need to remember that grace does not equate to a license to sin.

Romans 6:1 - *What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*

It is necessary to serve HIM in whatever way one can to glorify His name. Serving encompasses our being disciplined in whatever we do.

Finally to encourage us all to continue our journey with our Lord Jesus Christ I would like to share with you what Peter taught which have given me much comfort in my search for the truth.

True Story

What I have related to you is a true story of my journey and if you have enjoyed it I would recommend that you learn about the best true story you can ever hear on earth; the true story of our Lord Jesus.

2 Peter 1:16-18 - *We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye-witnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.*

Therefore for those of you who are encouraged by my experience and have not yet taken the first step to put your foot on to this narrow but beautiful path laid by our Lord Jesus I urge you not to hesitate and come forth to take up this God sent gift by becoming a child of God.