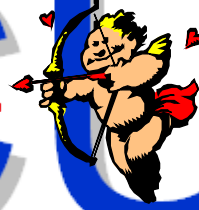


FOCUS

our
4

5th
year



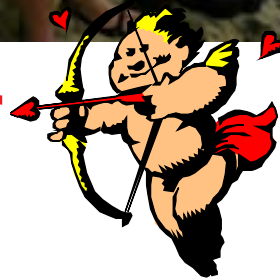
For the Week of 15th February 2009



**Singing season
has started!**



Focus on Our Marriages



In line with our 2009 theme, "Two are Better than One", our leaders are focusing on marriages at PP, to strengthen and encourage them to serve together in the many activities of the congregation. Since the first weekend of the 2009, we have scheduled a series of Saturday morning workshops at the nearby NUSS for couples at PP.

Elder Beng Chuan has been inviting our couples to be a part of these sessions. Please respond positively when you receive a personal call from him. After the first session, we have now a committed team assisting him in these workshops - elder Simon, deacon Li Chhoan, our ministers and their wives.

At the second session on February 7th, brother Cheng Chong was very excited about these sessions that he recommended that we do it more often. Brother Frederick got a lot out of it as well, by the email we received from him. Brother Patrick has put up a special Valentine presentation of PP's couples from these sessions and the couples retreat.

There is nothing more important than strong marriages in building a strong congregation at PP.

Gear up for our first a cappella Singing for 2009 the first of March. We have great and beautiful songs lined up for you. Warm up your voice in preparation for the challenge. Here are some updates:

1. A cappella Singing website has a new and refreshing look for 2009. Jason has a new Mac which will speed up the website updates. Do take a good look: faster loading pages and more user friendly. The link is on the top of the PP webpage.

2. Combined 9:30am Singing next week. A Cappella singers prepare to share with our brethren the songs you have learned.

Continued on the insert



The second session of the **"Two is better than One"** workshop (above) was conducted on the first Saturday of February. Elder Beng Chuan is making a list of all the couples at PP (and checking it twice) and inviting all to be part of the Saturday morning session. Please respond positively when he comes calling on you.

At our morning worships today, **deacon Swee Aun** will exhort from Luke 22:31-32. Come back at 6pm for **deacon Li Chhoan's** first sermon of 2009, "Leave your crisis with God" in the evening.

Sister Judith Ooi left for Australia last Tuesday to pursue her further education. Many of our youth and mentors were at the airport to see her off. **Brother Johnston** will be returning to Australia this week.

We want to thank **brother Siow Hwee** for the good lessons that he shared at the 10-week combined adult Bible classes.

Due to popular request, we will be enjoying a combined a cappella session next week, led by **brother Daniel Ng**. See this issue of Focus for more exciting a cappella programmes coming your way.

Starting 1st March, **brother Peter Lim** will lead a team of teachers (**elder Winston, brothers Ken McCumsey and Boo Chye**) on a combined adults series, "God in the Marketplace". At times such as these, this series is designed to empower Christians at work.

Joining our SIBI intern regulars in Batam, **Cheryl, Michelle, Olivia and Joel are Christopher, Clarence and Kenneth Kuek**. They will be there for 3 weeks. The 2-month internship will end with PP's first medical missions to 2 villages in Batam. With this issue of Focus are the first of several reports.

Open Bible Study: The lesson from Proverbs for this Wednesday will be: "Finding A Lifelong Mate." We recommend that Open Bible students will find this to be a good lesson to share with young people. Bring a friend with you this Wednesday at 10am.

We want to urge all members and visitors to sign up for **the church camp** during the month of February. Resorts will only release their best facilities after they receive a confirmed list of campers from us. If you have not yet signed up, please do so this month. Also, if you are inviting overseas guests, please make sure they arrive by Friday 5th June and leave on Monday, 15th June. Thank you for your cooperation.

Worship Service	Today (15 Feb)	Next Week
8am		
Scripture Text:	Psalm 50:1-6	Psalm 52:8-9
11am		
Call to Worship:	Elder Beng Chuan	Elder Adrian Teo
SR/OP:	Alvin Tjipto	Victor Soh
S. Leader:	Kelvin Koo	Shawn Li
Communion:	Ken McCumsey	Michael Yam
Preacher:	Deacon Swee Aun	Henry Kong
Shepherd's Prayer:	Elder William Wong	Elder Simon Goh
Ushers	Ivan Kuek	Nehemiah Tan
Balcony	HI Team	HI Team
6pm		
Call to Worship	Elder Beng Chuan	Elder Adrian Teo
Scripture Text:	Psalm 51:7-12	Psalm 57:1-3
SR/Prayer:	Ban Haw Leong	Patrick Ong
S. Leader:	Charles Pang	Deacon Paul Lim
Communion:	Ramesh D	Deacon Li Chhoan
Preacher:	Deacon Li Chhoan	Charles Cook
Closing Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo	Elder William Wong

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 15th February 2009

- 7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
- 8:00am Morning Worship
Speaker: deacon Swee Aun
- 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship
Speaker: deacon Li Chhoan

Wednesday, 18th February 2009

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

Sunday, 22nd February 2009

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

SINGSPARATION

- 11am Morning Worship
- 6pm Evening Worship
Speaker: Charles Cook

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

The safety and well being of the youth internship in Batam - Hedy, Geraldine, Henry
Our second son, Caleb that he may restore his faith - Victor Sohs
Audrey's salvation and obedience to God's Word - Julie Wee
My grandmother and parents who are holidaying in China - Geraldine Lim
God's mercy to be with my cousin, Navin that he may regain his eyesight - Molly Ponnusamy
My mother, Poh Choo, that God may give strength to her to overcome her pains so she can focus on Christ despite of her aches - Doris Siow
God to keep watch over my niece, Ashlea and her well-being - Gina
Larrens' bereavement and for him and his family to return to church - Henry and Nat
Molly Leong's recovery from her knee operation. Thank God that the operation is successful - deacon Paul Lim

Thank God for:

Safety and protection in my travels in Malaysia - Joyce Tan
Brother Cher Yam's sermon - Fook Weng, elder Eric, Patrick
Brother Johnston's sermon - Henry Kong
His word of love and power to me - elder Eric
The safe return of my employer from holidays and for our family in Philippines - Maribel

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	136
11am Worship	227
6pm Worship	<u>60</u>
Total:	<u>423</u>
Morning Giving	\$10,433
Evening Giving	<u>\$ 926</u>
Total Contribution	<u>\$11,359</u>



Receipt No. Donor Amount

3RsF 1226	Anonymous	\$400
3RsF 1227	Anonymous	\$500
MF 0742	Anonymous	\$2000
	Batam Medical Missions	

PASIR PANJANG CHURCH OF CHRIST

ADULT BIBLE CLASS SERIES

Work-Life: Balance or Integration?

Is there a perfect job for me?

**Ethics in the workplace
- Is it possible?**

How should Christians respond to unemployment?

Workplace Evangelism - How Can I Share Christ in my workplace?

GOD IN THE MARKETPLACE
EMPOWERING CHRISTIANS @WORK
STARTING FROM 5TH APRIL 2009

TEACHERS: WINSTON CHONG, KEN MCCUMISEY, OOI BOO CHYE, PETER LIM

12 lessons series on how to integrate our daily work into our Christian walk of faith



SIBI Internship Reflections:

By Joel Goh & Cheryl Soh



I will start off by saying thanks to elder Beng Chuan for persistently asking me if I would join the programme. Thank you too elder Winston, uncles Charles and Tom for organising and planning the lessons. I really learned a lot the past month.

Initially, I was reluctant to enter into the SIBI Internship Programme. Perhaps this was due to the fact that I knew the expectations of an intern. In addition to learning and gleaning knowledge, an intern has to perform the job. Being a male intern for Christ, I was enthused over learning more about God's word, but I was not entirely comfortable with actually preaching it.

I love to learn and the lessons were welcome topics that I had wondered about but was reluctant to delve into myself. The teachers were encouraging. The pressure to play an active role in leading, be it songs, devotion, prayer, lessons, was still evident, but I felt they understood if I wanted to take small steps or if I appeared uncertain in my presentation. One lesson brother Charles Cook shared about Jonah gave me great comfort. Jonah was an unwilling preacher, but God gives the harvest, and the whole of Nineveh believed God. Jonah sounds like me! This insight tilted the scales in favour of me committing more to the internship.

The SIBI lessons solidified certain beliefs and corrected some misconceptions I had about Jesus, God and the church. "Historical Christian Evidences" firmed up my faith with secular facts and gave me ammunition against my educated friends. I am part of a generation that questions everything. The course backs up the Bible with logic and sound reasoning, which is very comforting whenever I find myself doubting like Thomas. Brother Nat Cooper's lessons were full of new insight on familiar passages and top-

Starting the SIBI Internship was something that I had been looking forward to immensely. After two years of studying in school and preparing for my A level exams, studying the bible full time together with three dedicated teachers came to be a refreshing and appealing change for everyone who attended the internship in the month of January. It also became an opportunity for us to be more familiar with His word, establish a more deeply rooted faith in God and to serve Him by fulfilling His purpose for all of us to be missionaries, whether at home or abroad.

We started off the year with brother Charles Cook, by studying about biblical teaching, that as Christians it is important for us to preach from the word and not our opinions, not adding more than what has been given to us in the bible and not taking away. Although some of us were females and do not preach on the pulpit, this lesson proved to be important to us because God's commands about preaching are no less important to us when teaching. This was followed on by a course on historical evidences of the reliability of the New Testament (taught by brother Tom) which was interesting and fun to study because in our society today, people often seek solid, tangible evidences for the faith. Although our faith should be built on believing and not seeing, it is a good tool to convince or interest non-believers enough to want to find out more.

Brother Nat Cooper then came in to lead us in the lessons on "Character Counts!", "Sermon On The Mount", "Searching for the Invisible God", "The transcendences of Doubt" and "Finding God in the Experience of Pain". Character Counts was probably the least bible based lesson we had and I think the most important thing I took away from this lesson was that

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PP's First Medical Missions

24th-27th February 2009
Batam, Indonesia



PP's first medical missions is made possible with the help of the Bluemountain Kelong owners, Lincoln and his wife, Daisy. They are retired but help sponsored two English teachers teaching English to the children and young people at the fishing villages.

Lincoln has helped us to make contact with the two fishing village leaders about our intention. Lincoln has also helped us to register our two doctors under the organization, Peduli Bangsa.

Peduli Bangsa means "Caring for the Nations". It is an Indonesian NGO established soon after the tsunami hit the nation. It seeks to serve needy communities through the provision of orphanages, education for children, adult life-skills training and micro-enterprise ventures.

By the grace of God, a team of 2 doctors and 5 nurses, together with our interns at Batam have decided to take on the challenge to embark on this medical outreach to 2 fishing villages, 10-15 minute boat ride from Bluemountain Kelong.

One village is on the island of Cembra. There are about 50 families and over 90 inhabitants. All are fishermen and live off the sea. The average household income is \$100 per month. The second village is on Subang Mas. It has a larger population (200) but are equally poor. Both villages are reachable by a 10-15 minute boat ride.

Our outreach Process consists of

- I. Registration with nurse
- II. Doctor consultation
- III. Medication
- IV. Hygiene talk by nurse
- V. Our purpose - why we're doing the medical outreach by Cheng Chong

Lincoln has been gracious enough to provide us with three interpreters. Our youth will engage

the young people at the fishing villages with activities and games like beach volleyball while waiting for registration and screening by our nurses.

Below is the tentative agenda at the Bluemountain Kelong and fishing villages:

24 February 2009 (Tuesday)

Assemble at 8.30am within vicinity of 'Batam Fast' counter on 3rd Floor Harbour Front. Lincoln and Daisy will chaperon us all to Bluemountain Kelong. We are taking the 9.30am "Batam Fast' ferry.

Upon arrival and after boarding the van, we will go to Batam SIBI with another van to pick up the 6 interns around 1015am.

Arrival at Bluemountain Kelong - Bed and room allocation

Preparation for next day

25 to 26 February 2009 (Wed. to Thu.)

Reveille & breakfast followed by Devotion by Kenneth Kuek & team

Trip to fishing village - Medical missions begins
Debrief by Boo Chye, Kenneth Kuek & Olivia Leow

27 February 2009 (Friday)

Reveille & breakfast followed by Devotion by Kenneth Kuek & Team

Debrief by Boo Chye & Kenneth Kuek & Olivia Leow

Boat ride to Batam jetty - board van to Mall for shopping

Check immigration & board ferry - arrive in Singapore at 6:30pm

- Elder Beng Chuan



PP Youth's Internship

10th-27th February 2009
Batam, Indonesia

Our 7 young interns will stay at the modern, spacious Batam SIBI school at Stt-Sidang Jemaat Kristus, Jalan Abulyatama-Kelurahan IV, Batam Centre. They are Cheryl, Michelle, Olivia, Joel, Christopher, Clarence and Kenneth Kuek. Only Christopher will leave earlier on 18th February. The remaining 6 will join 9 adults on February 24th and stay at the Kelong on an island off Batam to conclude their internship with PP's first medical missions at Pulau Cembra in the Riau, Indonesia.

Elder Beng Chuan will be the contact person for the interns and parents of interns. In the field, Kenneth Kuek is the person in charge. Joel Goh will be the 2nd person in charge. Olivia Leow is the third person in charge and Michelle Yeo is the fourth person in charge. Deacon KC and elder Beng Chuan will be going up on Saturday, 14th February to buy the interns Valentine lunch.

On February 24th, Tuesday, the interns will be joined by a team of medical personnels and adults to Bluemountain Kelong for the medical missions to the fishing villages at Pulau Cembra, off Batam. We will spend 2 days doing the outreach to 2 fishing villages which have about a 250 population of which more than half are children and youth. We'll return on Friday, 27th February 2009.

We will be using the World Bible School programme for the interns in reaching out to the high school and tertiary students using conversational English based on the book of Mark.

We believe that we have a great bunch of young people whose hearts are right with God. May God blesses our young people for their zeal and enthus serving the Lord.

Please read the previous article for details of the medical missions. We will be publishing more reports as things begin to firm up more. There is still room for members who want to help in this outreach. Please contact elder Beng Chuan if you can participate.

- Elder Beng Chuan

Singing season has started! Continued from Cover

3. Songleader's Class Jan - Feb 2009

Nine enthusiastic students are in the midst of their Songleading class and will complete their course with an assessment on 15 Feb 09. Potential songleaders will be doing their trial runs, 10 minutes before the 11am worship services in March. Look out for the new faces and give them your support.

4. Singing Revision Class for Level 1 students - Mar 2009

18 students are confirmed for the 5-weeks class beginning 01 Mar 09 and will be receiving notification soon.

5. Hymns for 1 Mar 2009 A Cappella Singing

Hymn 827 can be challenging. Prepare in advance. Singing class students do make full use of your newly acquired skills to sight read.

6. Singing Class(Level 1) Jul - Sep 2009

Registered students - 14 ladies, 6 men. Class is full, 4 are on the waiting list.

Many thanks to everyone for making a cappella Singing a reality in PP. May your voices continue to echo in the halls and rooms of PP as we sing in praise and adoration to our almighty God.

- Daniel Ng

Joel Goh's Reflections

ics, like Sermon on the Mount and Doubt. The stories of his experiences in the harsher times and places of the world are truly inspiring and encouraging, and definitely interesting as well. Learning about the church of Christ gave me a deeper understanding on the church and our doctrines. The reasons for the structure of the church and the way we worship made clear from the Bible.

I think the word intern scared me. Perhaps this fear or pressure was self-imposed because I understand what God wants me to do for Him. The idea of being forced to face my fears and graduate fully trained before a deadline was distressing. I hope that God knows that I need more time. While I'm not quite a preacher yet, the SIBI programme was a small but sure step towards that goal.

Cheryl Soh's Reflections

God had given us an aptitude for character and our conscience is a God-shaped vacuum. And our study on Matthew 5, 6 and 7 was a lead up to Character Counts as we learnt about Christian character, faith, thoughts, deeds and actions. Some of the things that brother Nat mentioned which stood out to me in his lessons on transcendence of doubt were that we should not investigate where God is when we are hurting - James 1:6, unbelief does not obstruct God's worthiness - Romans 3:3-4. We often question God's goodness and grace whenever unfortunate things happen in our lives or when things do not go the way we want them to. The trials and challenges we face make our search for God memorable and significant.

We ended our theoretical study in the fifth week with a study of world religions, which is crucial information for everyone because only when we know the faith of another and the teachings and perhaps limitations of the god they worship then can we better teach them about the gospel, which is the absolute truth. We studied mostly the larger religions of the world today, namely Islam (which is the fastest growing religion today), Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Knowing the religion of the people



Conversational Sign Language course

The Conversational Sign Language course will begin this Sunday 15 February at 1:30pm. It will be held at the SIBI class room at the back of the educational building on the 3rd Sunday of each month of 2009.

Lunch will be provided for everyone that has confirmed attendance in advance. Please email or sms brother Patrick at 82005250.

The Conversational Sign Language course will be professionally taught by our HI sisters, Mimi Ng and Tan See Mui. Powerpoint slides will be used to teach this class. The objective of the CSL is to help us to be aware of the deaf and how we can understand and communicate the gospel of Christ to them in their deaf world.

around you also gives you more confidence when you want to talk to them about Christ and also teaches you tact lest you offend them by saying stuff that they may consider derogatory or offensive. Oh and by the way, contrary to popular belief Christianity is actually pretty much a stagnant, slow growing religion in today's society, which is a great incentive for us to spread the word!

Other than the classes we had, all of us had a lot of fun bonding and talking to each other. We often went out for dinner together as a class. As a conclusion, brother Charles brought us an "ethnic experience", the details of which were fully concealed from us till the day of. We had our false scares when he asked if we had ever eaten snake but turns out we were all going to have a safe Indian meal.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone especially rigid school system students to go on this internship. We are all missionaries for God, at every place and at all times.