

FOCUS

our 4 5th year
For the Week of 22nd March 2009



Camp Site Guoman Resort is now under the Thistle Chain

The Thistle Hotel Chain has purchased the Guoman Resort with a multi-million dollar investment, turning it into a luxury resort. It will launch in June 2009 in Port Dickson, Malaysia set on 90 acres of tropical paradise. The lavish 5-star resort (formerly known as Guoman) is a beautifully balanced world of sun, sea and golf.

There are 247 modern bedrooms, with breathtaking views overlooking the "Straits of Melaka". You can also enjoy a nine-hole golf course, two tennis courts and swimming pool, with a special "Kid's Wet Play Zone".

Adults keynote speaker, brother Glen Gray, Dean of Apollos Institute brings with him a wealth of experience on the marketplace ministry. Brother Glen delivered the 2006 Open House forum at PP on "Da Vinci Code – Truth or Fiction".

Youth will have separate camp with keynote speaker, brother Tom Goracke. Every alternate year like this year, our youth will have their own activities and programme.

Camp sessions will be highly practical with much interaction and engagement. Our nightly room devotions will begin at 8:30pm so that enough time is carved out for rest and family time.

Sign up for the camp at the lobby today
Rooming List out on First Sunday of April

Be a Member in Good Standing (II)

Ever since the National Kidney Foundation saga, new stricter controls have been put in place for all churches which are listed under the charities act. Amongst the many new regulations are:

1. A public listing on the government website at <https://www.charities.gov.sg/charity/index.do>.

After attending a government seminar and working on the information at hand, our 2009 ROS chairman brother Peter Lim posted PP's data at the above site for the public.

2. The AGM and other meetings of the church will be closely scrutinized, especially in the areas of conduct and accounting.

An active membership listing is key to the election of officers and passing of accounts and other proposals.

As PP complies with all governmental regulations, it cannot list as members those who have placed membership with other churches, nor grant to members who are not attending regularly, voting privileges at the business meetings.



PP FAMILY NEWS

We ask all who have signed up for the camp to encourage others who have not, to do so by the end of this month. The rooming list will be released on the first week of April with the cut off date on the following Friday, April 10th at our annual church Retreat. Read the cover story of the wonderful upgraded facilities awaiting you at Port Dickson.

Brother Kelvin Koo will speak on "Jesus, take the wheel" at our morning services today. Come back at 6pm tonight as our minister speaks on "Care for One Another" at our 6pm evening service.

Get your Bible power hour with SIBI at 10 am this Wednesday. Brother Charles Cook will continue to dig into the Book of Proverbs: In The Market Place.

Come back at 7pm this Friday as SIBI begins a new important series of studies on "Scheme of Redemption" with brother Ed Wharton. This course continues on Saturday and Sunday at 2pm. Read page 4 for full details.

For 3 Wednesdays, brother John Massie will be teaching on 'Historical Christian Evidences' at the 10am Open Bible Study and 7:30pm SPC classes. Tell your friends about it.

Please uphold sisters Alice and Belinda in your prayers as they join elder Eric in Hangzhou, China. This is our first tentmaking trip to China this year. Hangzhou is the second outpost after Xian that the church is reaching out in partnership with the local brethren in China.



Invitation to all couples at PP:

sms elder Beng Chuan (96393008) to confirm your attendance at the final "2 are Better Than 1" Seminar on April 25.

Andy: "The seminar helped me keep my focus on God, brushing up on my communication with those around me, especially my family. I learned how to manage and spend more time with my family."

Julie: "It is a timely reminder that God is in the centre of our lives. I am still learning to be submissive to my husband and to be supportive in his activities. I pray that God will sustain us of His love so that we can bring glory to His name and use our talents to serve Him together".

Worship Service	Today (22 Mar)	Next Week
8am Scripture Text:	Psalm 67:1-4	Psalm 68:1-3
11am Call to Worship: SR/OP: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Shepherd's Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Alvin Tjipto Kuek Lee Hock Paul Quek Kelvin Koo Elder Tan Beng Chuan	Henry Kong Kenneth Koh Peter Lim Chew Chong Lin Elder Winston Chong Elder Adrian Teo
Ushers Balcony	Richard Leow HI Team	Nehemiah Tan HI Team
6pm Call to Worship Scripture Text: SR/Prayer: S. Leader: Communion: Preacher: Closing Prayer:	Elder Adrian Teo Psalm 67:5-7 Ban Haw Leong Charles Pang Ramesh Dhanabalan Henry Kong Elder Winston Chong	Henry Kong Psalm 68:4-6 Charles Cook Tom Goracke Deacon Li Chhoan Liu Ming Hui Elder Winston Chong

CALENDAR of events

Sunday, 22nd March 2009

7:30am Shuttle Bus Service
 8:00am Morning Worship
 Speaker: Kelvin Koo
 9:30am Bible Classes for all ages
 Adults combined series
 on "How We Got the Bible"
 by Lim Cher Yam
 11am Morning Worship
 6pm Evening Worship
 Speaker: Henry Kong

Wednesday, 25th March 2009



10:00am SIBI Open Bible Study
 Book of Proverbs
 7:30pm Leadership, Jesus Style
 Brother Charles Cook

FAMILY CONCERNS

Please pray for:

God to strengthen our family, so we can bond with one another - Serina Kho
 God to use me to continue to show Leroy's parents the plan of salvation - Doreen Lum
 My brother, Yew Chye's recovery from a heart attack and stent implant - Yew Noi
 Ability, wisdom and guidance as I take up a new job posting - Molly Ponnusamy
 Jennifer, my sister-in-law that she may deliver her first baby smoothly - Maribel
 Alice and I for travel mercy to join elder Eric in Hangzhou in kingdom work - Belinda Yam
 Travel mercy and protection for us in USA - deacon KC Cheangs
 Brethren who are affected by the economic downturn and travel mercy for those who are overseas doing kingdom work - Fook Weng

Thank God for:

Brother Siow Hwee's sermon - Patrick Ongs
 Brother Kenneth Kuek's sermon - Edward Lees

UPCOMING SIBI CLASSES

**Scheme of Redemption with
 brother Ed Wharton
 27 March-19 April**

**Day time courses
 Monday to Wednesday
 30 March-19 April**

Friday, 7pm-9:45pm
 Saturday, 2pm-5pm
 Sunday, 2pm-5pm

10am-12nn Christian Evidences with John Massie
 1pm-2:45pm Premillennialism Examined with Ed Wharton

FACTS & FIGURES

8am Worship	124
11am Worship	173
6pm Worship	<u>58</u>
Total:	<u>355</u>

Morning Giving	\$9,841
Evening Giving	<u>\$1,532</u>
Total Contribution	<u>\$11,373</u>



Receipt No.	Donor	Amount
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3RsF 1237	Anonymous	\$50
3RsF 1238	Anonymous	\$400

Members who wish to sponsor local and overseas campers are asked to speak to any of our ministers or elders. Thank you.

SIBI: Two New Courses This Week Hurry sign up today!

Send an eMail to the dean of students, Tom Goracke: sibi@ppcoc.org



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 12 at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ.
- Every Monday to Wednesday (April 6 through 17) he will teach a morning class for SIBI at the Pasir Panjang Church facility from 1-2:45pm (lunch will be served). The subject will be Premillennialism Examined.



HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN EVIDENCES
with JOHN MASSIE
Date: March 25 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 5 at the Pasir Panjang Church of Christ.
- On Wednesday evenings (March 25 through April 15) he will present lessons on Historical Christian Evidences from 7:30pm to 9 pm)
- Every Monday through Wednesday (March 30 through April 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.

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.



STRESS

By Hedy Wong

To quote Dr. Ang Peng Tiam an oncologist, when he wrote on the Link between stress and cancer - "So how can anyone, particularly a cancer patient, cope with stress?"

Faith in God is one way. By entrusting one's life to a supreme being, the burden is taken off oneself. Exercise, meditation, leisure activities, counseling and use of anti-anxiety drugs may all help in improving one's psychological well being too. Even though I sometimes struggle to see the many patients waiting to see me, I constantly remind myself to practise what I preach: "Be happy and live each day to its fullest" You don't need science to tell you that.

Dr. Ang is so right when he said by entrusting one's life to a supreme being, the burden is taken off oneself. God is greater than all our problems. In Matthew 6:33-34, Jesus said *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

He also advised meditation. In Philippians 4:8 Paul's advised us *"Finally my brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things"*

Dr. Ang concluded by saying *"Be happy and live each day to its fullest"* – In Colossians 3:23 we are encouraged *"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men"*. If we turn our eyes upon Jesus, and look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth world will go strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Prayer certainly helps to release stress. Philippians 4:6-7 *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"*

Our almighty God will not forsake us because He is faithful. In I Corinthians 10:13 Paul encourages us *"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."*

Jesus gave comfort and assurance when he said, *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?"* Matthew 6:25.

With the looming recession that heralds this New Year, let us brace ourselves by trusting God whole heartedly and not let stress creep into our lives.



3 Lessons I Learnt After I Was Struck by a Golf Ball

by Peter Soh



Peter recuperating in hospital

I am sure we have experienced pop-ups whilst browsing through the internet. Our minister, brother Henry Kong is like a pop up. Ever since I got hit by a golf ball in the head and told him about my spiritual learning from this incident, he has been sending me reminders and sometimes out of the blue by SMS too, to urge me to write something about it to share with others. So here I am, succumbing to it. But seriously, I have something to share which I think will encourage us to trust in God in troubling times.

A few months ago whilst playing golf with friends, my playing partner miss-hit his shot from the sand bunker and hit me on the head at 30 meters. The ferocity of the shot was so intense that others who were playing near me ducked when they heard a cracking sound. It was the sound of the ball striking my head. I was stunned and by the time I realised I was bleeding and was struck on the head. I was feeling weak and had to sit down. By the time people rushed to me to offer help, I was lying down and was ready to pass out. After I became unconscious my friends later told me that my body went into convulsions and the whites of my eyes rolled over.

My friend who struck the ball that hit me thought that he had killed me. I was brought to the hospital in an ambulance and I threw up. I spent the next three days in hospital for observation.

The doctors did not allow me to watch TV or spend time on my laptop which I had asked to be brought to me. I had to have a quiet time to allow my brain to recover. That was when I had a lot of time to think about what happened, why it happened and whether God had a part to play in this.

What are the chances of being hit by a golf ball and knocked unconscious? One in two million - the odds for striking the Singapore Sweep. Whilst I don't mind being the beneficiary of such odds in the lottery, I had to ask the question of the other - Why me? This was the question I asked God when I was lying down, when my brain was still functioning. In other words why did God choose me to be struck down out of so many, even if there is a reason for someone to be struck down? Was it a warning that I have been playing too much golf? Should I give it up and focus on other things? What was God trying to tell me?

I like golfing. Golfers who love the game would agree with me if I tell you that we have all wondered at one time or another if there is a golf course in heaven. I asked of God for the reason because I believed, as most of us do, that nothing in life is a coincidence. That God knows every strand of our hair and have got our life all planned out for us, so even being struck is part of God's plan.

Lesson Number 1

The first lesson I learnt from this is that as Christians, we have someone to call on instantly

when we get into trouble or in life threatening situations. We have the comfort of knowing that God is with us constantly and we can seek Him whenever we want.

After I asked the first question, I was ready to pass out and I said a short prayer, asking God to spare me from serious injury since it has already happened. I experienced an immediate calm passing over me shortly after the prayer and as I was lying down facing the sky, I could feel the hot sun and bright light even though I was in pain. But in addition to the calm, I experienced an even brighter light but it was cool and soothing. I thought that was it - I was dying. After that I passed out.

Lesson Number 2

The second lesson I learnt overturned my belief that there is no such thing as a coincidence and that God planned every single detail of our life.

What happened to me that day was due to my own doing. It had nothing to do with God. From the days of Adam, God made us in His likeness but He also gave us free will. We are free to oppose Him and do what we want with our lives. Even in heaven God allows the exercise of free will to go against him, as the archangel did.

God taught us how to live, gave us laws to obey, sometimes in great detail, how to worship Him but never interfered if we chose to go our own way. No sooner than the tablets inscribed with the commandments God gave us through Moses was brought down, they were broken to pieces by the many sins of those the commandments were written for.

At one time, God became so exasperated with us that he decided to wipe the slate clean and start all over again. Like hard re-setting our computers with too many viruses, God decided to do so by deleting the human race and saved only the essential good programs in a backup. His backup program was Noah; the device was the Ark.

After that we all got infected again and since there is no solution, no lasting anti-virus, God decided that all the viruses will be wiped out from us if He sacrificed His son to absorb all the hits so that we can have a smooth passage and still be with Him. So God has tried and failed

with us. Only because God chose to give us a free will. God is indeed a God of love to make us in His image but allow us the freedom to choose.

Lesson Number 3

The third lesson I learnt was that He is there in case we choose to exercise our own free will to follow Him. I understood the true meaning and essence of "Ask and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you" (Matthew 7:7).

My understanding of this after my incident was so profound that I knew my past interpretation was wrong. It was not about asking for blessings in career, relationships, comfort, good health and so on that we associate with this verse. It is asking God to come into our lives. About knocking the door so that we can be with Him and finding Him – the haven of comfort, love, joy and peace. It's about asking Him for things that He wants from us in the first place and Him granting it so that He can set us free from the viruses that ravage our lives. It's about exercising the free will that He gave us, to choose Him first – Ask, Seek and Knock. It's up to us.

Although I asked "why me?" when the ball struck, I also asked God to make it less serious. God is pleased every time we go to Him for help. As a father I am most happy when my children come to me when they have problems. It fulfils many promises – love, faith, respect, obedience, recognition and a demonstration and exercise of the power and ability to help. My injury was not serious although the doctors told me at that time that there was insufficient oxygen reaching my brain and that I could go into a trauma. I believe that God did interfere in that respect because I asked. If I had no God or had not asked, things would have taken its course and I may be in different circumstances.

In times of distress, we look for immediate solutions when we turn to God and sometimes conclude that He is not responding or He does not care or even have doubts about His existence. Asking therefore must be accompanied by truckloads of faith and a focus on whom the Lord is.

As we consider how to trust God in the dark



*A smiling Peter back at church
after the golf ball accident*

places in our lives, let's look at the story of Peter as he saw the Lord walking on the water. Jesus told him to come out on the water with Him. Peter stepped on the water, but the Bible tells us he began to get distracted by the wind and waves whipping around him. In other words, he began to focus on his circumstances. When Peter took his eyes off the Lord and began to focus on his situation, he began to sink. Just like Peter, we will sink every time if we are focused on our circumstances instead of our solution, Jesus Christ. But as Peter began to sink, he realised he had to change his focus. He looked up and said, "Lord, save me." And the Lord saved him and allowed him to walk on the water again. Peter focused on two things. One demonstrated a lack of faith and focus, the other, the opposite. Jesus responded only when asked. My incident also had two focuses – one "why me?" and the other "Jesus I trust you to heal me."

Another benefit of choosing to leave it to God in the darkness is that you receive strength for the journey. Habakkuk 3:17-19 says:

*"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,*

*yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.
the Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to go on the heights."*

A lack of joy and hope certainly saps your strength; it makes you want to stay in bed all day and stay in a perpetual state of depression. But God makes our feet like "the feet of deer," nimble, quick, and strong to make it up and over the mountains we face.

Every believer has a choice to make. We all face different circumstances, but each of us must decide whether we choose to believe God. (Not the same as believing there is God) We have to believe two things about God in order to have faith in Him as we walk in the dark. We must believe in His character, or what He tells us He is like.

The lessons I learnt from the incident have also taught me to reflect much on how we interact with God in our daily lives and God's character. Once we know what God wants from us, we act on it. It does not take a lifetime to learn from Him. Ask, Seek, Knock. He will be there.