

A Penny For My Thoughts...



35th Year Message: Christian Lifestyle

1. Work in partnership with God - and you'll never want to slow down, give up or let go. The day I graduated from Bible college to enter into full-time ministry with PP, I spent it in prayer and fasting. One of the things I vowed to God that day was that He is to be my 'boss' and that I will be totally obedient to Him whatever men may say or do.

When we serve the Lord out of our own efforts, giving Him a little here and there, we missed the big picture and do not find strength to continue the moment difficulty or trouble confronts us. We will also want to take sabbaticals, go on leave or else 'focus' on one thing or another. But when we serve God in partnership, we keep on going, reaping the joys and rewards of a growing, fruitful ministry as each year progresses. There is nothing that can beat the joy that comes from such a partnership.

2. Lust after the spiritual! Not simply to seek, but to be greedy for the things of God.

Take this simple test. Answer each of your responses to these 6 common Christian activities below with a number from 1 to 10. 1 being 'I don't want anything to do with it - boring!' to 10, "Give me more!"

- 1. Bible Classes ____**
- 2. Annual Advance ____**
- 3. Inviting Friends to Church ____**
- 4. Take a Tentmaker's Trip ____**
- 5. Taking Visitors to Lunch ____**
- 6. Start Family Devotions ____**

I put it to you that unless we renew our minds with a strong desire for the spiritual; our friends, relatives and especially our family will get the idea that God is not THE priority in our lives. This being the case, it will be reflected by the way our children respond to the gospel or grow up true and strong in the faith.

3. Wait on the Lord - I see this as the sign of Christian maturity. The world we live in is very real with all kinds of problems and struggles. Living the Christian life in the midst of various of temptations requires a steadfastness that matches the patience of Job.

In many situations, it is easier to choose the path of least resistance, go with the crowd or throw in the towel. It takes great faith, much discipline and a deep devotion in God to wait upon Him and trust His timing. Yet God's ways are the best and the person who waits upon Him will end up

better, richer and stronger for it.

This past week after a session at the Upper Room, I had a longer-than- usual chat with brother Adrian. I shared with him my experiences with Li Chhoan the day before when we had lunch together, then ran an errand for the church.

During this brief time together, Li Chhoan mentioned to me no less than 3 times that he has come to learn to 'wait on the Lord' and discovered that God's timing is always the best. Brother and sister Adrian were the ones who introduced Li Chhoan to the church and what a joy it must be for them to see how he has grown and matured in such a fine way.

Ultimately, the success of the work we do at Pasir Panjang will not be measured by the number on the membership roll, the size of our edifice or the annual budget. Our goal is to share the gospel in such a way that every Christian, like Li Chhoan will have a living, growing relationship with God.

Marking Each Year

These past 34 years have flown so swiftly. As I looked back, I am amazed at the amount of work that went into these years. I have since, marked the day I officially entered full-time ministry with PP with a May Day Tracting session.

I never wanted to be a preacher but I have always wanted to give my life to full-time ministry. I enjoyed personal work and teaching. And although I accepted the roles of preaching, administrative and leadership duties as the Lord leads me, my first love is reaching out with the gospel of Jesus.

On May Day, as we enjoy a sumptuous breakfast together, and then go out door knocking, I am in my element - where the rubber touches the road. It's a great feeling!