

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	23 MARCH	30 MARCH
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin
USHERS	STEPHANIE & JENNETTE	CHRIS & MARY YEOW
BIBLE STUDY	<u>YEOW</u> Leadership Lessons from the Kings of Israel & Judah	<u>BARRY HATCHER</u> Godly Families
SERMON	<u>CHARLIE CHAN</u> King David (I Sam.16:1 to 2 Sam.2:11)	
SONG LEADING	RICHARD LEE	ENG KIM LENG
OPENING PRAYER	ALVIN GOH	CHARLIE CHAN
SCRIPTURE READING	BENJAMIN WONG	JOVIN
LORD'S SUPPER	FRANCIS & WEN LIANG	TEE CHEE LIK & OOI CHONG HAI
COLLECTION	JOVIN	LIM YEW BOO
ANNOUNCER	ENG KIM LENG	YEOW CHIN KIONG
CLOSING PRAYER	MAHIBAN	EDWARD LOW
CHORES	STEPHANIE YEOW	BESSIE YEOW

PORTFOLIOS OF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2008

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Property/ Utilities
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DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE***EDIFICATION***EVANGELISM

VOL. 10 No. 12
23 March 2008

A weekly handout for members of
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SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30 AM
WORSHIP
2.30PM
MANDARIN WORSHIP

FRIDAYS:
8.00 PM
BIBLE STUDY

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that



CHALLENGING QUERY How is Ecclesiastes a guide to life? *Continued* Yeow Chin Kiong

Ecclesiastes is not merely a guide to what does *not* satisfy, but also a guide to what should provide a measure of satisfaction in this life. Having exhausted the means through which the worldly-wise attempt to obtain fulfillment in the first half of his written sermon (chapters 1 to 6), the writer in the rest of his book directs our minds to wise thoughts and practical ways which helps us to have a contented life.

Firstly, the contrarian and master of paradox that he is, Solomon begins his advice for achieving the good life by extolling the value of attending sorrowful funerals instead of joyful feasts (Eccles.7:1-4; because funerals remind us of our own inevitable physical end).

He continues to overturn our set ideas by telling us to welcome the "rebuke of the wise" rather than the praise of fools (Eccles.7:5-6), to value more the situation at the end instead of the beginning of any enterprise, and to appreciate the present instead of harping about "the (good) old days" (Eccles.7:8, 10), to accept both adversity as well as prosperity as God-given (Eccles.7:14), to be in everything moderate instead of excessive or obsessive (Eccles.7:16-17).

Secondly, Solomon reminds us not to expect too much from our fellowmen because, though God made them (and us) upright, they (and we) are scheming beings (Eccles.7:29)! Worse, "there is not a just man on earth

STATISTICS FOR 16 MARCH 2008

CONTRIBUTION	RM2,835
BIBLE STUDY	44
YOUTH / VISITORS CLASS	5 / 3
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	61
FRI - BIBLE STUDY (14 MAR)	25
MANDARIN WORSHIP	8
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM140

And when He had removed him (King Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus (Acts 13:22-23).

who does good and does not sin" (Eccles.7:20, anticipating Rom.3:23). So, among other things, don't take to heart everything people say,- because you might hear them cursing you as you yourself have cursed others (Eccles.7:21-22)!

Thirdly, we are to expect some misgovernment and not set ourselves up to resist authority (Eccles.8:1-9). Those in power sometimes mess up badly to others' hurt (Eccles.8:9) but they, like wicked men, will go the way of all men and thereafter be appearing before the Judge (Eccles.8:10-14).

God's people simply do not curse those in authority (Eccles.10:20) not only because this would be dangerous for them but chiefly because earthly government has a role to play in God's Plan for man and we should pray for governors and kings (Rom.13:1-7; I Tim.2:1-4; I Pet.2:13-17).

Fourthly, we are to enjoy the simple pleasures of life which are the returns of our labor (Eccles.8:15; 9:7-10). We are to enjoy while we can, when we are young (Eccles.11:9-10). But be ever conscious that we are accountable to God for how we live our lives (Eccles.11:9). Youth is a good time to enjoy life's pleasures, just as long as the young remember then that the physical sorrows of old age and death await them (Eccles.12:1-7).

Fifthly, accept that all men come to the same end, in death (Eccles.9:1-6). Not only is this thought a motivation for us to enjoy life in the flesh while we can, it also consoles us that evil men do not live forever and are waiting for their time to be forgotten by men and judged by the Almighty.

Sixthly, accept that there is no guarantee of "justice" and "fair play" in this world (Eccles.9:11-18). As victory does not necessarily come to the strong or the swift, so too riches do not necessarily come as rewards for the skillful. Many aspects of our life are subject to the vagaries of chance and circumstance. It is patently foolish,- and painful,- to believe otherwise!

Seventhly, seek wisdom for its own sake, and not for glory nor gain (Eccles.9:13-18) but for eternal reward. God wants us to have wisdom (James 1:5-6) but we shouldn't deceive ourselves into thinking that it will change the world for the better; all it takes for the fruits of wisdom to be undone is for a sinner (or a fool) to open his mouth! Indeed, some people (and some national leaders!) lay great store by folly (Eccles.10:1-7).

Eighthly, work hard, be industrious, even though you are unsure of gains from your endeavor (Eccles.11:1-6). Ultimately, it is God Who will give or take away and we should surrender to His Will. After all, we need the means with which to enjoy this life to the fullest as Ecclesiastes encourages us to do.

So much for pointers which make our life on earth bearable, if not satisfying. Our earthly life does not need to be depressing, and should not be if we realize that physical things,- things tied to this earthly realm of materiality and time-space,- cannot be ends in themselves. Earthly things can only bring us a finite measure of joy, and that too when we take Ecclesiastes' counsel that the joy obtained from earthly things cannot last. This very important point brings us to Ecclesiastes' "conclusion of the matter" in chapter 12. Ultimately, the answer to man's search for purpose, fulfillment and satisfaction, the writer tells us, lies not within himself, - **his** purpose, **his** fulfillment, **his** satisfaction, nor in **his** world of time-space,- but in Another's. This life is not about us, but about our Creator.

Continued next issue

**JOIN US FOR A STUDY OF ECCLESIASTES IN RELATION TO THE
1941 MOVIE, CITIZEN KANE, ON FRIDAYS @ 8 PM**

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Fri - Wen Sen (Wen Liang's cousin) * Seow Leng & Angie Ng (Bessie's guests)

Sun - Soon Hong, Angel Pang, and Mr Khoo & Stephanie (SJ's guests) * Maxine & Wilton (Karen's parents) * Joanne (Tze Yean's guest) ; *Mandarin* - William (Sui Lin's husband)

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Fri - Allan & Family (Malacca)

Sun - Ruby Chu (Melbourne) * Allan & family and Yu Kong & Mei Mei (Malacca) * Tze Yean (Kuantan) * *Mandarin* - Sis Chang (Jurong)

PRAYER REQUESTS : For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, Frank Pierce, Mahiban, Gary, Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's brother-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (*Daybreak* printer) * Santhi and family * Yik Min's grandmother * DiPalmas' work in India * Charlie DiPalma's eyesight and Leela's & Sarojini's health *

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR LEELA & FAMILY: Her medical treatment began last Tuesday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' MEETING: Please meet with Richard after worship today.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 19 March 2008
- Barry Hatcher speaking on *Godly Families* @ 8pm Fri & Sun 28 & 30 March 2008

CHURCH LUNCH NEXT SUNDAY: Sister Audrey is coordinating. Please let her know your dish (es).

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. Health talk on allergy by Dr See on 12 April organized by Ladies Fellowship
2. Evangelism Seminar 1 May 2008
3. Ladies Fellowship - Kuantan trip on 10 May co-ordinated by Bessie