

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	27 APRIL	4 MAY
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin
USHERS	JOVIN & POI CHING	JESSICA & STEPHANIE
BIBLE STUDY	YEOW Leadership Lessons from Bible Women	PETER CHIN He Is Risen (Luke 24:1-10)
SERMON	KOAY CHUAN LEK The Churches Of Christ Salute You (Romans 16:16)	PETER CHIN Jesus - Lord, Liar or Lunatic (Matthew 16:13-16)
SONG LEADING	ALVIN GOH	WEN LIANG
OPENING PRAYER	FRANCIS LAI	EDWARD LOW
SCRIPTURE READING	OOI CHONG HAI	BENJAMIN WONG
LORD'S SUPPER	RENGA & BENJAMIN WONG	LIM YEW BOO & OOI CHONG HAI
COLLECTION	TEE CHEE LIK	CHRIS LEOW
ANNOUNCER	CHARLIE CHAN	YEOW CHIN KIONG
CLOSING PRAYER	ENG KIM LENG	RICHARD LEE
CHORES	JENNY LIM	JENNY LIM

PORTFOLIOS OF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2008

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DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE***EDIFICATION***EVANGELISM

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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

CHALLENGING QUERY #469 Why doesn't God answer all our prayers? YEOW CHIN KIONG

It is implied in the Holy Scriptures that one reason God does not fulfill our requests the way we want them fulfilled is that He knows better, our thoughts on the matter not being His thoughts, nor our ways His ways (Isaiah 55:8).

The Holy Scriptures are both clear and replete with the assurance that God listens to, and answers, the prayers of His people. Jesus promised His disciples, "whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:13-14), adding, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you" (John 15:16).

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



The most assuring of the Lord's promises must surely be, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him" (Matthew 7:7-11). The Lord says again, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24).

Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

STATISTICS FOR 20 APRIL 2008

CONTRIBUTION	RM1,824
BIBLE STUDY	35
VISITORS/YOUTHS CLASS	5 / 5
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	55
FRI - BIBLE STUDY (18 APRIL)	37
MANDARIN WORSHIP	7
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM100

We note immediately that God only gives "good things". Knowing the harm that stone and serpents can do to children, why would a loving father give his child a stone or a serpent even if that child asks for them? Would he not give bread instead?

As only requests for "good things" are met, we as creatures must be prepared to have some of our requests turned down simply because, being creatures with finite knowledge, we do not have unerring knowledge of what is good for us in all circumstances. Only God is good, and the measure of all that is good (Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19). As such, we need to end all our prayers with the words, "Nevertheless, as Thou will, O Lord", being prepared to accept His answers as that which is best for us.

As Jesus told the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, when she requested for positions of honor for them in His kingdom, "*You do not know what you ask*" (Matthew 20:22). Even when Jesus reminded the mother and her sons that positions of honor entailed great sacrifice, they insisted that they wanted what she had requested for them. In any event, the request itself became a sore point among the apostles (Matthew 20:24). We thank God that He answers many of our requests made in prayer, "You do not know what you ask".

That God answers cannot be doubted. However, many a Bible student have concluded from scripture and personal experience that God answers prayers in many way besides giving us what we want. Indeed, the very scripture which says that we can know assuredly that God gives us what we pray for states that **the condition is that we ask according to His Will** : "*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him*" (I John 5:14-15). Hence, we should know His general will as such is revealed in the Bible, and align our prayers in the direction of His Will.

When we think about it, we answer requests made to us in many ways, among them: "Yes, I would have given it to you anyway", "Yes, I was waiting for you to ask", "Yes and no, you get what you want but not in the exact form you requested", "No, its not good for you", "No, its not good for others" and "No, at least not now,- later." Why should we deny God the same options?

As we ponder over our troubles and what we perceive to be God's lack of response to our prayers to be relieved from them, we may ask, as Jesus did while on the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). However, emulating our Lord in his darkest moment, our very next words should be, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46), for we are to

accede to His Will in everything (Matthew 6:10), including the way He answers our prayers.

As the pot does not and cannot question the will and intent of the potter (Romans 9:19-21; Isaiah 64:8), we,- being finite in our knowledge of what is best for us and our fellowmen,- cannot question the ways of God. One parable ends with these words from the master of the vineyard, "*Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?*" (Matthew 20:15). The Lord knows what is best for us,- and, often, it is not what we want for ourselves. He answers our prayers accordingly.

Continued next issue

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Sun - Angel & Jun Hon (SJ's guests) * Mr Khoo, Stephanie, Maxine & Wilton (Karen's family & parents) * Aneesha (Mahiban's daughter) * Shereen & KK Low (walk-in)

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Fri - Lawrence & Li Li (Klang) * Allan & family and Yu Kong (Malacca)

Sun - Sis Hor (Klang); Mandarin - Candy & Tze Yean (Kuantan) *

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 * Charlie DiPalma's eyesight*

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR LEELA : As she rests from another round of chemotherapy

BAPTISM: Gemma Rafols, Nerrine Tan's domestic helper, who has been studying with Mei Yean, obeyed the Lord in baptism last Sunday, 20 April. We rejoice with her. Please pray for her growth and steadfastness.

OUR APPRECIATION TO: Koay Chuan Lek, elder of the Klang church, for exhorting us through his sermon this morning. .

CHURCH LUNCH: We invite everyone to join us. We thank all who brought food to share, Josephine for coordinating and those who will be doing the washing-up.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

- Evangelism Seminar, 8.45am Saturday, 1 May. Please come early to welcome our visitors.
- Engs' home fellowship at 8 pm, Tuesday, 29 April
- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 30 April

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. Ladies Fellowship - 4pm, Saturday 10 May with Mary DiPalma, sharing a lesson entitled, "What Should My Priority Be?" Bessie & Stephanie coordinate.
2. Sunday School Open Day Saturday, 24 May