

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	29 JULY	5 AUGUST
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Ai Fong, Linda, Shirley, Ai Cheng, & Ai Lin	Ai Fong, Linda, Shirley, Ai Cheng, & Ai Lin
USHERS	PAULINE & BENJAMIN	AI FONG & STEPHANIE
SERMONETTE	<u>CHARLIE DIPALMA</u> A SURVEY OF PROVERBS	<u>TEE CHEE LIK</u> Reverence In Worship
BIBLE STUDY		<u>YEOW</u> The Patience Of God
SERMON	<u>STEVEN CHAN</u> Valley Of The Dry Bones (Ezekial 37:1-10)	<u>RICHARD LEE</u> Teach Me Lord To Wait Isa 40:28-31
SONG LEADING	CHARLIE	ENG
OPENING PRAYER	ENG	EDWARD
SCRIPTURE READING	OOI	JOVIN
LORD'S SUPPER	TEE & ALVIN	CHRIS & RENG
COLLECTION	ANDREW	ALVIN
ANNOUNCER	RICHARD	YEOW
CLOSING PRAYER	FRANCIS	CHARLIE
CHORES	MARY LAI	PAULINE WONG

PORTFOLIOS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2007

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Benevolence
Mahiban Daniel

Evangelism
Richard Lee

Education
Yeow Chin Kiong

Youth Work
Alvin Goh

Sunday School
Richard Lee
Ron Ying

BCC Programme
Charlie Chan

STATISTICS FOR 22 JULY 2007

CONTRIBUTION	RM2,366
BIBLE STUDY	41
VISITORS CLASS	4
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	61
FRI - BIBLE STUDY (20 JULY)	26
MANDARIN WORSHIP	9
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM110

Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezek 37:5-6 (NKJV)

DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE**EDIFICATION**EVANGELISM

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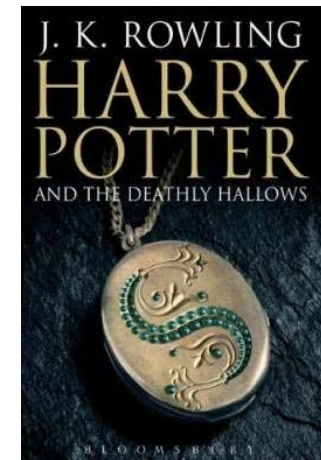
SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30 AM
WORSHIP
2.30PM
MANDARIN WORSHIP

FRIDAYS:
8.00 PM
BIBLE STUDY

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



THE SCRIPTURES BEHIND THE STORIES #36 Harry Potter and Perennial Concerns Yeow Chin Kiong



A decade after the release in 1997 of the first title in her seven-volume series of fantasy novels involving Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley and their fight against the evil schemes of Lord Voldemort at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, English author Joanne (without a middle name; the "K" was added for publicity) Rowling has become a favorite writer in

63 languages and the world's first billionaire author. Harry Potter and his nemesis Lord Voldemort are to today's teenagers what Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader were to their parents,- characters of a fantasy world whose engaging adventures keep fans wanting more. The merchandising and accompanying cinematography has certainly helped to propel both the Harry Potter and the Star Wars series to turn-of-the-century cultural icon status, but their popularity has very much to do with their running theme,- the age old, never-ending battle between good and evil.

At the heart of the spiritual life is a battle between good and evil. Not necessitating a Christian's conflict with out-

side forces, it may be his Bible-directed conscience wrestling with his fleshly desires; not others poisoning his mind but self-doubt or double-mindedness. In fact, as the Star Wars episodes suggest, man's greatest foe is his "dark side",- very much like what the apostle Paul describes in Romans 7:15-21.

It is because we identify with the struggle of the main characters of a novel (of film) that we develop an interest towards them. And the most interesting characters are those that are multi-dimensional,- with character flaws as well as strengths, just like us. As adults, we see ourselves in the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodsman and the Cowardly Lion in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* as much as younger readers wish only to identify themselves with squeaky-clean Dorothy.

Romans 2:15 tells us that we do not need Revealed, inscripturated religion to be aware of morals and ethics. Our moral character "accuses us" (when we do wrong) or "excuses us" (when we do right). Along with this innate awareness is the desire that good,- especially *our* good,- triumph over evil. It is this deeply-seated desire to be avenged and to see evil subdued that allows novelists to keep readers at the edge of their seats, desiring sequels. All writers have to do is end their novels with a stalemate between opposing forces. It is human to want a conclusive, decisive conclusion to moral issues and debates.

The problem of pain, evil and suffering addressed by God through the book of Job is staple to all good literature. Any suggestion that Christians should avoid literature or films which portray "nature, red in tooth and claw" is misdirected, for the human condition thus described is the whole reason for God sending His Son to earth to be a propitiation for our sins. Many Christian parents were,- and still are,- concerned that their children would allow the worldview of witchcraft and wizardry in the Harry Potter series to crowd out their Bible School learning concerning the work of God and the part played by the Son of God. They worry also that no mention is made about Deity in Harry Potter (nor, for that matter in Star Wars nor The Wizard of Oz). These worries are unwarranted.

It must be remembered that we are dealing with fiction, and the readership of all such literature must understand that. They must be able to identify the enduring ideas conveyed by any literature (novel, poem, drama), film or art form,- which are, after all, the enduring concerns of man. The Christian should then invite them to see what the Bible has to say about similar themes. Having the luxury of not having to experience for themselves the trials and tribulations of the main characters of a novel, the reader can engage in an objective consideration of what he himself would do when caught in a similar predicament. Each novel or film then becomes an extended case study in ethics which,- when scriptures are applied to them,- help us grow in discernment (Hebrews 5:14).

As regards the triumph of good over evil, we know that reality is far more complex than the make-believe world of the novel and the film. Indeed, the

best-loved authors are those who bring out the complexities of every moral situation. More often than not, resolution comes in the form of a *dux ex machina*, Latin for "God in the machine",- an intervention of Deity or some overpowering outside source worked into the plot. Christians can understand this. Their hope for the triumph of justice and fair-play does not lie in this world but in the next, when God judges, rewards and punishes (Eccles. 12:13-14). If man are not inclined to hear this truth from God's Word, maybe works penned by their fellowmen might stir their interest.

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Sun - Gopi, Mr & Mrs Khoo & daughters (SJ's guests) * Terrance (Pow Chin's guest) * Lily & Nick (Ai Lin's guests) * Mr & Mrs Fung Tze Fen (Karen's guests) * Hui Koon (Pek Ha's guest); Tee Min & Nerrine (Ai Mei's guests) & William (Sui Lin's husband)
Mandarin - Terrance (Pow Chin's guest)

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Sun - DiPalmas & Vimala Ravindran (India) * Wong (Klang) Pek Ha, Kathleen & Kelly (Skudai) *
Mandarin - Pow Chin & Joanna (Klang)

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, JC Choate, Mahiban, Sarojini, Gary, Mdm Pang (Bessie's mother), Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's brother-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (*Daybreak* printer) * Santhi and family * **Charlie DiPalma's eyesight and Leela's & Sarojini's health** * **Amelia Tee's final paper for 1st year exam** * **Kelly, Bryan and Stephanie Khoo -UPSR**

WORD OF THANKS: From Linda Chow whose prayer request for her friend's stolen vehicle last week was answered. The culprit was caught and the vehicle was recovered.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP WITH MARY DIPALMA YESTERDAY: We had a good session of Bible Study and fellowship. We look forward to another lesson from Mary.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

- Engs' home fellowship at 8pm, Tuesday 31 July
- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 30 July

CHURCH LUNCH TODAY: We thank all who brought food, Paik Hua for coordinating and those who will be doing the washing up.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP: All teachers please take note.

MEN TO SERVE MEETING TODAY: This meeting with Richard is to enhance the quality of the men's ministry during the assembly.

PROGRAMMES COMING UP

1. Charlie DiPalma will assume the Friday Bible class on 10,17,24 & 31 August 2007
2. **18th** Restoration Seminar & **8th** Restoration Roundtable (both on elders and deacons) Friday, 31 August 2007. Sample issues: *What happens when an elder realizes that he cannot any longer agree with the other elders on a point of Bible doctrine? How are elders "removed"? What happens when an elder's child falls away from the Faith?*