

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	3 DECEMBER	10 DECEMBER
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Priscilla & Josephine	Sui Lin, Priscilla & Josephine
USHERS	LIM YEW BOO & JENNETTE	ALVIN & MEI YEAN
SERMONETTE		<u>Lim Yew Boo</u> Hate (Amos 5:15)
BIBLE STUDY	<u>TIM BURROUGHS</u> "God's Cure For Sin"	<u>YEOW</u> The Church
SERMON	<u>ANDY GATES</u> "Heaven Our Home"	<u>ENG</u> DIRECTION 2007
SINGING LEADING	CHARLIE	BENJAMIN
OPENING PRAYER	ALVIN	CHRIS
SCRIPTURE READING	WEN LIANG	LIM YEW BOO
LORD'S SUPPER	EDWARD & RENGA	WEN LIANG & JOEL LEE
COLLECTION	ENG	RENGA
ANNOUNCER	YEOW	CHARLIE
CLOSING PRAYER	RICHARD	ALVIN
CHORES	POI CHING	POI CHING

PORTFOLIOS OF COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2006

Chairman:
Charlie Chan

Secretary:
Edward Low

Treasurer:
Eng Kim Leng

Benevolence
Mahiban Daniel

Evangelism
Richard Lee

Education
Yeow Chin Kiong

Youth Work
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Utilities
Khong Yau Seng

Sunday School
Richard Lee

BCC Programme
Charlie Chan

DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE***EDIFICATION***EVANGELISM

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Newsletter of the
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SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL

10.30 AM
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



CHALLENGING QUERY #430

What does the Bible mean by "hope"?

Yeow Chin Kiong

In conventional usage, "hope" (as a noun) refers to a wish or desire for a particular outcome (eg. the full recovery of an ailing loved one) accompanied by a degree of expectation of its fulfillment. It covers a spectrum of feelings from a baseless optimism ("hoping against hope") or wishful thinking ("I hope the weather improves as the day progresses.") to a general feeling that some desire will be fulfilled ("I hope to get a pay increase next year."). As a noun, too, it means someone (or something) on which expectations are centered. Implied in the word as used in the world's definition is a degree of uncertainty ("Hopefully, we've covered all possibilities.") on the part of the individual who hopes that might suggest a lack of confidence that a desire will be fulfilled or a degree of helplessness on his part in bringing about its fulfillment ("I hope this works; we've tried everything we can think of.")

The Bible sometimes uses the word in the conventional sense, as when it says that the agriculturalist should plow "in hope" (1 Cor.9:10). However, the word is most often used to mean a **firm, evidence-backed assurance** about that which is unknown (or at least unclear or unsure) to mere humans, that assurance being so

STATISTICS FOR 26 NOV 2006

CONTRIBUTION	RM1,712
BIBLE STUDY	44
YOUTH CLASS	4
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	69
FRI - BIBLE STUDY (17 NOV)	20
MANDARIN WORSHIP	9
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM100

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

convincing that we are expected to live our lives and conduct our affairs with full confidence that the desired state will come about.

Old Testament (Hebrew) words for "hope" are TIQVAH (Strong's Hebrew number 8615, "looking for something with eager expectation"), BATAH (Strong's Hebrew number 982 "confident, securer sure) and YACHAL (Strong's Hebrew number 3176, "trust"). It means nothing less than to depend on something reliable.

The New Testament (Koine Greek) word for hope is ELPIS (Strong's Greek number 1680, "to anticipate with pleasure and confidence"). It refers to an expectation based on trust.

In the Bible, the **content of hope**, - that which is hoped by man, - is not frivolous; it has to do no less than with the *realization of righteousness to replace the injustice we see in our world* (Gal.5:5; II Pet.3:13), *possession of the eternal inheritance* (Eph.1:14), *our transformation into the Lord's likeness* (II Cor.3:12; 1 Jn. 3:1-3), *eternal life and the inheritance of the saints at the return of Jesus Christ* (Titus 3:5-7; 2:11-14) and *the experience of the resurrection of the body, - and indeed of the whole creation, - now overcome by death and decay* (I Cor.15:21; 50-55; Rom.8:23-25; Acts 23:6). Concerning the last hope, Paul says that Christians are the most pitiable of men if that which is hoped for does not come about (I Cor.15:19); therefore, he takes pains in I Corinthians 15 to outline and emphasize the argument behind the basis for our assurance in the resurrection of our bodies, that is, the undeniable resurrection of Jesus Christ (see also I Pet.1:3, "he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."). Doing this, Paul raises the issue of the **basis of our hope**, - why we are firm in our hope for those things to happen.

That which is hoped for by the man of God does not come from his own imaginings; it comes from God Himself and His Son, who has revealed what to hope for (in the scriptures) and has given a reason why such hopes will surely come to pass. Paul tells us that we have set our hope on the God who raises the dead (II Cor.1:9-10) and the Living God Who is the savior of all men (I Tim.4:10). Peter says simply that, "your faith and your hope are in God" (I Pet.1:21). Our omnipotent, omniscient and loving God alone is the ultimate ground of our hope and He can be trusted to deliver His promises in future as He has proven Himself trustworthy in fulfilling His previous promises

of a bloodline of nations to Abraham, a nation to the Israelites in bondage in Egypt and a Messiah to the Israelites at large. In short, the hope which we are to have regarding the future is nothing less than the realization of the plan of God for man. This is a worthwhile hope never to be disappointed, for it bears the guarantee of He Who has delivered (with recorded evidence) every other promise.

(Continued next issue)

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Sun - Lee & Chen (Benjamin's guests) * Yit Meng (Karen's guest) *

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Sun - Karen (JB) * Mei Yean & Mei Jean (Malacca) * KC Lee (Kuantan) * Sis Chang (Jurong) * Sis Wong (Klang) Alvin & Nelly (Penang) * Milton & Julie (Wangsamaju)

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, Leela, JC Choate, Mahiban, Sarojini, Gary, Mdm Pang (Bessie's mother), Mdm Tan Moy (Chong Foo's mum), Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's bro-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (Daybreak printer) * Santhi and family * For Dr Ken Lee in Taipei * For Charlie DiPalma's another cataract surgery scheduled on 15 Dec * Mary DiPalama's parents health * Napoleon Ng's wellbeing * SPM students

AWAY FROM US THIS MORNING

Andrew and Eunice in Penang * The Tees in Taiping, Perak

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

- ◆ Engs' home fellowship at 8pm, Tuesday, 5 December
- ◆ Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 6 December

OUR APPRECIATION: Andy Cates and Tim Burroughs for the lessons last Friday and this morning. We are encouraged and we pray for them as they travel to Singapore for the AABL.

ADDITION TO SJ: We welcome Mei Yean who works in KL & has placed membership with us (having been with us all the while anyway!).

MAHIBAN'S HEALTH: Please pray for Mahiban who has to re-schedule his parathyroid gland surgery on doctor's advice due to throat infection.

RICHARD WILL BE AWAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

From the 4 to 18 December, to attend the AABL in Singapore and to administer the Perth Camp in Australia. Pray for his safe trip.

PROGRAMMES COMING UP

1. AABL 4th-7th Dec. Hotel Royal @ Queens, Queen Street, Singapore
2. Youth Camp in Perth, Australia 11-14 Dec. Interested? See Richard Lee.
3. YDP organized by Klang 18-21 Dec 2006 at Resort Sungai Perak, Kuala Kangsar, Perak.
4. Yearend Gathering, 8pm Sunday, 31 December in the church assembly premise. The theme: "Hope Beyond The Horizon"