

13 AUGUST  
2017

# LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605  
www.lapcoc.org limahpincoc@gmail.com www.facebook.com/lapchurchofchrist

## Worship Schedule

### SUNDAY

9.30 am  
Worship  
(English)

11.15am  
Bible Class  
(English)

3.45pm  
Bible Class  
(Mandarin)

5.00pm  
Worship  
(Mandarin)

7.00pm  
Worship  
(English)

### THURSDAY

7.45pm  
Bible Class  
(English/Mandarin)

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**Elders**  
Bro Jimmy Lau  
Bro Lee Tian Seng

**Deacons**  
Bro Henry Leow  
Bro Jerry Cheong

**Preachers**  
Bro Alvin Lin  
Bro Ernest Lau

**Administrator**  
Sis Goh Ser Ern



***1Ki 20:40 And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone.  
And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be;  
thyself hast decided it.***

An unknown prophet told this parable to king Ahab: "*Your servant went out into the midst of the battle, and behold, a soldier turned and brought a man to me and said, 'Guard this man; if by any means he is missing, your life shall be for his life, or else you shall pay a talent of silver.'*" And as your servant was busy here and there, he was gone." (1 Kgs 20:39-40a, ESV).

It would not be possible to hold your prisoner, and to busy yourself about other things at the same time. This man, in the prophet's parable, made a great mistake to concern himself with a number of trifles, when his own life depended on giving all his attention to ensure the prisoner did not escape. Unfortunately, he didn't take his job seriously and the prisoner escaped.

We can identify ourselves with the man in the parable. We too, are sometimes guilty of busying ourselves with the many trifles and forget the main thing. Our excuse is: "I'm so sorry. I forgot about it." We were busy here and there and we simply forgot about it.

Busy here and there, and the task remains undone. It is called procrastination. It means, "I'll do it; but not today." Days passed by and the task is still left undone. Students are known to procrastinate preparing for exams until the thirteenth hour.

Busy here and there, and an opportunity is gone. Oftentimes, we let opportunities slipped by because we were busy with some other things. How often did we regret not seizing the opportunity but allowing them to pass our way.

Busy here and there, and time is gone. Many spend their days in mere trivialities. The young think they have lots of time in their hands and can afford to waste some. A game of cards, an extra hour of sleep, a day on the internet and etc. They did not know that time is wasted and regret later that they should have made the best use of time. **“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,”** (Eccl 12:1).

Busy here and there, and life is gone. I can't believe I am approaching sixty years old. How I wish I could rewind the clock and return to my youth and start all over again. Many indeed wish that if they could start all over again, they would do things differently. How we wasted our lives because we were busy here and there: **“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”** (Eph 5:16).

Busy here and there, and the chance of saving others is gone. **“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”** (Heb 3:13). Too often we are too busy with our travails while our friends are swept from us and have gone on to meet their Creator. Have we told them the gospel? Again, we were too busy here and there.

Busy here and there, and the children are gone. Fathers are too busy to watch their children grow up. Before they know it, their children are adults. Some have quit the faith. Some have turned wayward. Those fathers have only regrets. They wish they had spent more time with them when they were young: **“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it”** (Pro 22:6).

Busy here and there, and the knowledge of God is gone. How much time do we spend on surfing the internet or checking on the Facebook? Now, how much time do we spend daily on studying the word of God? Many said they want to grow in the knowledge of God; but they are not making an effort. They are busy with other things and the study never gets started. **“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”** (2 Tim 2:15).

Busy here and there, and neglect the services of God. Some people are too busy with their family to serve the Lord: *“I have married a wife,”* (Luke 14:20). Some are too busy working or running their business to serve the Lord: *“I have purchased some*

land and I need to go see it," "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them," (Luke 14:18-19).

Busy here and there, and life is over. The saddest thing is that many will lose their souls while "making a living". The prophet Amos cried out: **"Prepare to meet thy God"** (Amos 4:12). It will be too late for many because they were busy here and there and forgot God. **"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"** (Matt 16:26).

God asked Elijah not once, but twice this question: **"What doest thou here, Elijah?"** (1 Kings 19:9, 13). God will ask us in the day of judgement the same question. Will your answer be: "I was busy here and there and could not find the time for worship, bible study and service to Thee."

Have you been busying yourself here and there and forgot God?



## Is Taking an Oath in Court or Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance Forbidden?

*by Wayne Jackson*

*(<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/270-is-taking-an-oath-in-court-or-reciting-the-pledge-of-allegiance-forbidden>)*

**"In James 5:12, Christians are commanded not to swear any oath. Does this mean that we should not submit to practices such as swearing an oath of honesty in a court of law, or pledging allegiance to the American flag? Furthermore, is it also wrong to say 'I promise . . .'?** I have never heard any Christian speaking against these things, but I want to make sure that I understand this matter correctly."

First, let me point out that the term “swear,” as employed in our modern society, has two distinct senses. It is used as an equivalent for “profanity,” which, of course, no Christian should ever use. Also, though, the term “swear” may refer to a “legal oath.”

The question above pertains to this latter usage. Is it proper, for example, in a court setting to answer in the affirmative when asked: “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?” The following facts may help us put the matter into focus:

### **Oathes are not evil**

An oath is not intrinsically evil. Jehovah bound himself under an oath to Abraham when he promised to bless the patriarch (cf. Heb. 6:13-14). With reference to the priesthood of Christ, God “hath sworn, . . . ‘You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek’” (Psa. 110:4). Since the Lord is perfect, one must conclude that an oath *per se* is not sinful.

### **Jesus testified with an oath**

When Jesus was on trial, the high priest said:

“I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the son of God” (Mt. 26:63).

The word “adjure” translates the Greek *exorkizo*, which means “to extract an oath, to force an oath” (Thayer 1958, 224). Caiaphas put the Lord under oath, hoping that he would incriminate himself.

And Jesus honestly replied, “You have said” (*su eipas*), which, as language authorities note, “is a Greek affirmative reply” (Robertson 1930, 218). Mark’s parallel has it even plainer: “I am” (Mk. 14:62). This is the same expression used by Jesus when Judas asked the Lord, “Is it I?” (Mt. 26:25).

### **Paul made an oath**

The apostle, Paul, employed an oath when he wrote to the Corinthians:

“But I call God for a witness upon my soul, that to spare you I forbore to come unto Corinth” (2 Cor. 1:23; cf. Rom. 1:9).

And remember, he wrote these words by inspiration.

Observe the apostle’s strong statement in this passage:

“Now concerning the things which I write unto you, behold, before God, I lie not” (Gal. 1:20).

## **Warnings for a false oath**

The Scriptures warn against “false swearers” (1 Tim. 1:10), which would seem to be a needless specific if **all** swearing, of **any** sort, is prohibited.

## **What is the meaning of James’ prohibition from swearing an oath?**

What, then, is the meaning of James’ prohibition?

Since it is apparent that a respectful, sincere, legal oath is not condemned in the Scriptures, we must conclude that the prohibition of James 5:12 (cf. also Mt. 5:33-37) pertains to something else.

A **different kind** of swearing must be in view in these passages. What is it? Let me introduce the testimony of several respected scholars.

J. T. Mueller, a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, describes sinful swearing as that which is “false, blasphemous and frivolous” as well as the assumption of oaths regarding “uncertain things” (Harrison 1999, 382).

Professor D. Edmond Hiebert says that the New Testament condemns the “indiscriminate, light, or evasive use of oaths” (Pfeiffer 1998, 1219).

Guy N. Woods noted that oaths that are condemned involve the “flippant, frivolous and profane” use of God’s name. Woods pointed out that the prohibitions of Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12 have no reference to sincere judicial oaths. His discussion of these matters is very thorough (1991, 288-294).

## **Jesus authorized oaths**

That all oaths of **every** kind were not forbidden is evident within the context of Jesus’ discussion of this theme in the sermon on the mount. In the context of condemning certain oaths, the Lord said, “but you shall perform **unto the Lord** your oaths” (Mt. 5:33).

## **What about the Pledge of Allegiance**

Finally, as to the Pledge of Allegiance, there is nothing in this historic pledge that is at variance with the principles of Christianity. It is simply an affirmation of devotion to the laws of the government under which we live. This is entirely consistent with the instruction of Romans 13:1ff (cf. 1 Pet. 2:13), which enjoins obedience and respect for the “powers that be.”

Of course one’s allegiance to his nation is always subservient to his loyalty to God, and whenever the two come into conflict, obedience to the Lord takes precedence (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29).

# WEEKLY NEWS



## **WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!**

We rejoice over the baptism of **sis Karen** (*sis Ludina's niece*) last Sunday! Let us give her a warm welcome into the family of God.

## **Wedding**

Our heartiest congratulations to **sis Olivia and her husband** over their wedding on 5 Aug! Please pray for the newlyweds as they begin a new life together as husband and wife.

## **Meeting Reminder**

### **Glorification Meeting**

Date: 13 August 2017, Sunday (TODAY)

Time: 12.15pm

*All men-to-serve on Sundays and Thursdays are requested to attend this meeting.*

## **Enlistment**

**Bro Wei Jie** will be enlisting to the army on 15 August, Tuesday. Please pray for his faith and safety while serving the nation.

## **Guests Last Week**

1. Bro Bret Jardine (*Atlanta, Georgia, USA*)
2. Sis Deborah Tan  
(*Tai Peng COC, Malaysia*)
3. Bro Samuel Lim & Alexis  
(*family members of bro Poh Teng*)
4. Leonard Chia (*sis Peiyi's husband*)
5. Kenny Kee (*sis Debbie's husband*)
6. Peh Guang Rong  
(*sis Yan Ling's husband*)
7. Chia Yock Ee (*bro Daniel's wife*)
8. Shirley Ho (*sis Seow Hui's mother*)
9. Cely (*sis Ludina's aunt*)
10. Arielle Pascual  
(*bro Roberto's daughter*)
11. Gavin Cheah (*bro Reuben's friend*)
12. Chua Siang Yee  
(*sis Jasmine Yong's friend*)
13. Triston

## **Away (Please pray for safety)**

1. **Sis Kia Sang and sis Eunice** will be travelling to Melbourne, Australia, from 13-20 Aug.
2. **Bro Melvin and sis Elsa** in Tokyo till 16 Aug.
3. **Bro Joel Lee & sis Grace** in London & Iceland till 20 Aug.
4. **Bro Jonathan, sis Joan, bro Justin & sis Bernice** in Canada till 20 Aug.

## **Health (Please pray for smooth recovery)**

1. **Bro Ivan's** recovery from his operation to remove his cancer cells.
2. **Sis Sydney's** wisdom tooth extraction on 25 Sep at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

**13 August 2017, Sunday**

## **Singing Fellowship**

Time: 1.30pm – 3pm

Venue: Church building

*All are welcomed to attend. For any questions, please approach Benjamin Kwan.*

### LADIES FELLOWSHIP

## **Homemade Waffles**

26 AUG, SAT

2:30PM - 5:00PM

SIS KIM TIAN'S HOME

BLK 546 PASIR RIS ST 51

#10-19 S(510546)

High Tea

(waffles, cakes, bread, coffee & tea)

Sharings by

sis **Jacqueline** – "Worklife balance between church, family & work"

sis **Kia Sang** – "Tips on retirement & balance between church n family."



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

## **Fatherhood**

26 AUG, SAT | 3PM | LAPCOC



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **September**

1-6 Sep – Philippines Mission Trip

16 Sep – Tracting

24 Sep – Evangelism Sunday

### **November**

22-25 Nov – Four Seas Lectureship

23-25 Nov – LAP Gospel Meeting

28-30 Nov – Vacation Bible School

# IT'S IN YOUR BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES.

You can give life, by giving blood.

All it takes is just 60 minutes of your time today, to save lives tomorrow.

## **Blood Donation Drive**

Organised by Jurong Church of Christ

Date : 9 September 2017, Saturday

Time : 11.00am – 5.00pm

Venue: Jurong Church of Christ,  
Auditorium, Level 2  
120 Boon Lay Drive  
Singapore 649924

You can register your interest at:  
[bit.ly/bdd2017](http://bit.ly/bdd2017)



- Please bring along your NRIC/Student Pass/Work Permit/EP.
- Donors aged <16 & >17 (based on date of birth), please provide signed Bloodbank parental consent form from [hsa.gov.sg/parent-consent](http://hsa.gov.sg/parent-consent).
- To check eligibility and overseas travel criteria, visit [hsa.gov.sg/donor\\_criteria](http://hsa.gov.sg/donor_criteria) and [hsa.gov.sg/travel\\_deferral](http://hsa.gov.sg/travel_deferral).
- For more information, please call Singapore Red Cross at 6220 0183 or visit [www.redcross.sg](http://www.redcross.sg).

## NEWS

★★★★★★★★★★

### Thursday Bible Class

**The Christian and Evangelism**

*by bro Isaac Chua*

### Birthday of the week

14 Aug (Mon) –

Sarah Ho

15 Aug (Tue) –

Cynthia Lee

★★★★★★★★★★

Please send any news & prayer requests to  
[limahpincoc@gmail.com](mailto:limahpincoc@gmail.com)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Overseas:

- **Sis Shuan Kwee** in Hong Kong for work
- **Sis Joann** in Perth, Australia, for studies
- **Bro Jong Wah & sis Nancy** in Perth, Australia
- **Bro Long Jun** in China
- **Sis Swee Inn** in Canada

### Health

- **Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's, sis Peiyi's & bro Ivan's** health
- **Bro Chee Beng's & sis Susan Ng's mother's** recovery
- **Lisa's (bro David Sum's daughter)** recovery from ACM
- **Bro Roberto's** recovery from his knee surgery

### Expectant Mothers

- Sis Siew Siew (Sep), sis Adeline (Oct)

### NSF

- Bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

## MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		13 Aug 2017	20 Aug 2017	27 Aug 2017
Song Leader		Benjamin Kwan	James Medez	Kevin Lee
Opening Prayer Leader		Alvin Lin	Paul Lim	Danny Poo
Psalms Text		Psa 37:21-31	Psa 37:32-40	Psa 38:1-10
Preacher		Low Chong Ping	Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau
Lord's Supper Text		Matt 26:26-29	Isa 53:4-9	Php 2:5-11
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Kenneth Liong	Wee Hooi Kok	Gideon Quek
	Prayer: Bread	Isaac Chua	Farand Lim	Jerry Cheong
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Wong Sek Hoong	Ling Leong Dak	Henry Chee
	Prayer: Offering	Amos Yang	Soo Kok Leong	Alan Poon
	Assistant	Ng Wei Xiang	Axel Chee	Melvin Tan
	Foundation Class	Ng Chee Beng	Benjamin Tan	Justin Kwan
Announcer		Jimmy Lau	Ernest Lau	Alvin Lin
Greeters		Constance Lau Wu Wenyu	Lim Poh Im Shum Chee Ming	Grace Ler Lois Chee
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau	Jimmy Lau
Speaker		Ernest Lau	Henry Leow	Alvin Lin
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Jerry Cheong	Lee Tian Seng	Henry Leow
Thursday Midweek Service			17 Aug 2017	24 Aug 2017
Song Leader			Andy Lin	Alvin Lin
Opening Prayer Leader			Ong Jun Wei	Reuben Lim
Closing Prayer Leader			Henry Leow	Kenneth Ouek