

13 JANUARY
2019

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
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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
Bro Michael Yeo

Deacons

Bro Benjamin Tan
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preachers

Bro Alvin Lin
Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern

CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS



DO I NEED GOD?

Speaker: Ernest Lau

27 January 2019, Sunday | 9.30am |

20 Lim Ah Pin Road

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Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

Jdg 15:11 Then three thousand men of Judah went to the top of the rock Etam, and said to Samson, Knowest thou not that the Philistines are rulers over us? what is this that thou hast done unto us? And he said unto them, As they did unto me, so have I done unto them.

Tit for tat, that's what we see in Judges chapter 15. Samson was on a vengeful rampage. We see him leaving the wedding feast in anger after the young men answered the riddle that was part of his bet with them. He went and slaughtered thirty Philistines and took their garments and gave them to the men who had expounded the riddle. After that, he went home (Judg 14:10-20).

When his anger was gone, he remembered his wife and returned to her. But her father had married her off to another person. Samson was infuriated. He went and burnt the fields of the Philistines. Of course, the Philistines were angry too. When they found out it was Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, who had done it, they burnt his wife and father-in-law. It's a game of tit for tat: you burn my fields; I burn your wife and relations.

When Samson heard they had killed his wife, he went on a killing spree. The Philistines said: "*To bind Samson are we come up, **to do to him as he hath done to us***" (Judg 15:10). Samson said: "**As they did unto me, so have I done unto them**" (Judg 15:11).

"Samson is moved chiefly by selfish and vain passions, and his sense of official duty is all too weak and vague. We see little patriotism and not a trace of religious fervour. He is serving a great purpose with some sincerity, but not wisely, not generously nor greatly. Samson is a creature of impulse working out his life in blind almost animal fashion, perceiving the next thing that is to be done not in the light of religion or duty, but of opportunity and revenge" (Expository Bible Comm).

Samson is a real and striking example of a typical man. In spite of his extraordinary gift and being one chosen by God from birth to deliver Israel, he was just like any ordinary man who is governed by his fleshly impulses. *“Samson has the rude material of life; but though his action were far purer and nobler it could not make him a spiritual man: his heart is not purged of sin nor set on God,”* (Expository Bible Comm).

Many of us are able to identify ourselves with Samson. We see a Samson in us. We know we are Christians and we are supposed to be spiritual and have higher moral values. But many times we fail. We even practice tit for tat like Samson. We are nice to those who are nice to us and we also hate those who hate us. We return good for good and evil for evil.

Our Lord says: **“For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?”** (Matt 5:46-47).

Hence, if you think you are not like Samson; think again. Do you greet your enemies? Do you invite your enemies for dinner? Do you praise your enemies? Yes, in many ways, we are no better. Our Lord says: **“That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven”** (Matt 5:20).

*“His fury knew no bounds. Everything Philistine was hateful in his eyes. The former wrong was lost in the glare of the far greater wrong which succeeded it. The Philistines were made to pay dearly for the insult and injury they had done him.... **If quarrels are to be healed, there must be patience on both sides.**”* (Homiletics, Pulpit Comm).

Samson wasn't perfect; and neither are we. He was one hundred percent a carnal man though he was a Nazarite. Are we fifty percent carnal and fifty percent spiritual? Perish the thought; God forbids. God does not want a half-baked Christian.

“But like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living” (1 Pet 1:15, ASV).

The scripture says we are to be holy in **ALL** manner of living. Hence, fifty percent holiness won't secure us a place in heaven (2 Pet 1:10-11).

There is a Samson in every one of us; it's only a matter of quantity – some have more and some have less. Samson was selfish, vengeful, and carnal. How about us?

Let us rid of the carnality that is in us and strive towards perfection in holiness. **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever”** (1 Pet 1:23). Let's be born again.



Standing In The Gap: Ladies Fellowship 2019 Appeal

by sis Eunice Chua

The theme for 2019 is “Standing In The Gap” and has been chosen by the church leadership to remind us all of the need to fill the gaps that will be left behind by those who will be leaving for the new work.

For the women in the church, we must remember that although we are not tasked with the heavier burden of leading worship, preaching sermons or teaching lessons in combined bible classes, the gaps left behind by the faithful sisters will indeed be great.

In Acts 9:36-42 we read of a faithful Christian lady who lived in Joppa called Dorcas. We are not given much information on her background or what she did for a living. However, she is simply heralded as a woman who was “full of good works and almsdeeds”. Dorcas was not someone who merely did an act of kindness or helped with some church activity now-and-then. She was not someone who just came to worship service and left to return home to keep up with her busy schedule of managing her own household. Her soul was full of love for those around her and her time was filled up with showing care to them. Dorcas’ faith was evident by her actions of Christ-like love towards everyone.

The bible also describes how “all the widows” were at her funeral mourning her death and had brought along the coats and garments made by Dorcas for them. I know of some ladies who are skillful in sewing and have been the privileged recipient of some really beautiful handmade sewn handicrafts. But to produce not one but probably quite a few pieces of clothing for adults is really no small feat!

Dorcas not only provided for the widows physically by providing them garments to wear, she also developed close relationships by spending time with them. To be a widow during that period was akin to belonging to the lowest group in society. Unlike today, these women would have no means of supporting or fending for themselves. We are so blessed to be in a society where women can have jobs to earn a living to provide for themselves and their dependents!

Dorcas was a friend to them, providing them much needed encouragement and friendship in their challenging situations.

Dorcas saw the gaps or the needs of these women – physical, emotional and spiritual. She poured herself into filling those gaps and when she died, her death left behind a huge gap that was hard to fill. However, this story ends well as Peter resurrected Dorcas and I am certain she carried on with her life of love and good works to others.

As Christian women living in this modern age, I challenge all of us to ask ourselves the following questions:

1. Is there a gap/need in the church that I see?
2. What am I doing to fill up this gap?

Is there a gap/need in the church that I see?

The church is composed of Christians. Although we have become children of God, we still bring along our various flaws and eccentricities, wrapped up in our imperfect and perishable bodies. In our journey to become more Christ-like, we will all pass through experiences of disappointment, uncertainty, loneliness, sickness and loss. Some of us may overcome these experiences, while others may have valleys so difficult to climb out of that they have given up. Look around you and think about the needs or gaps in others that needs to be filled with love, friendship or a simple word of encouragement. In Philippians 2:4, we are commanded not to just be concerned with our own interests, but also to be concerned about the interests of others. Push yourself out of your comfort zone and step into the gap, to find out what your fellow sister is struggling with. Just like how God looked and saw that mankind was struggling in sin, He stepped out of His comfort zone and took the form of a human in order to bridge the gap that we may achieve eternal life (Philippians 2:6-8).

Look around you and see the areas in God's Kingdom that you can serve in. The mission of the church is to "go...and teach all nations" the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20). This is a massive undertaking and cannot be accomplished with just a few people. In order for the church to accomplish her mission, all hands need to be on deck. We need sisters to help with teaching ladies and children classes, preparing of the Lord's Supper, visiting the elderly and the infirmed, planning and helping in fellowship activities, cleaning and tidying of the building premises. Are you actively serving or sitting idly expecting to be served?

What am I doing to fill up this gap?

Matthew 25:31-46 is a sober reminder that our actions towards others will be judged by God when this world is over. I shudder to think about what God would say to me over the lost opportunities where I did not give my time, a loving gesture or a word of encouragement to a sister who was in need. It is very easy for us to excuse ourselves citing work and family commitments. We may say that we lack the emotional capacity or are not fluent in our words

to others. We may have the intention to do it, but if it does not translate into action, that good intention remains as just a thought.

Demonstrating love and care towards someone can be done via the simplest of gestures. It could be a comforting hug, a hand-written note, or just providing a listening ear. If we aren't even capable of these simple actions, we ought to seriously ask ourselves if we truly know and love God (1 John 4:7-8, 20-21).

Ladies Fellowship is an opportunity to get to know our fellow sisters. It is impossible to encourage or strengthen another without first spending time with them and getting to know them. Through these relationships we will be able to identify the gaps/needs of others in order to offer ourselves in loving service. The Ladies Fellowship Committee has planned several activities for 2019 and will be introducing ladies' topical bible devotions as well to encourage discussion and learning of God's Word.

On behalf of the Ladies Committee, we hope that you will actively join us in 2019 in filling the gaps with love and good works!



Collection of angbao for our Mission Workers

We appreciate our mission workers – **bro Bob Xiang (China), bro George Zhang (China), bro John Yo (Taiwan), bro Wang (Taiwan), bro Glen Tattersall (Australia), bro Hai (Vietnam) & bro Lamhot (Indonesia)**. Boxes will be made available for you at the pulpit area till **27 Jan** to give angbaos to show your appreciation to them during this festive season.

Business Meeting

Date: 20 Jan, Sun

Time: 12.15pm

All members above 21 are required to attend this meeting.

Placing Membership

We welcome the Four Seas students who have placed membership with us. Their particulars are as follow:

| Name | Birth date | Baptism date | Email |
|-------------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Thyna Mancia | 28 Feb'92 | 31 Oct'14 | thynamancia@yahoo.com |
| Jana Del Castillo | 17 Aug'92 | 22 Jul'17 | janarosedc@gmail.com |
| James B. Mira | 14 Dec'95 | 11 Apr'18 | mirajames70@gmail.com |
| Dave G. Tapiru | 31 May'97 | 13 Nov'18 | alaintapiru@gmail.com |

Guests last week

1. Bro Ivan & sis Joann Kwek (Central North COC, Australia)
2. Bro Dennis & sis Lisa Loh
3. Sis Julia Ng (Wahfu COC, HK)
4. Jason Lam (sis Sarah's husband)
5. Kenny Kee (sis Debbie's husband)
6. Meyske (sis Debbie's helper)
7. Shalen (sis Seow Hui's helper)
8. Lay Lay (sis Lydia's helper)
9. Adriel Yeo (sis Julia's nephew)
10. Andrew Fernando (sis Germaine's friend)
11. Gan Sok Ting (bro Reuben's friend)
12. Yen & family (late bro Soon Heng's family)
13. Leon Teo

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

Singing Fellowship

Date: 13 Jan, Sun (**TODAY**)

Time: 1.30pm – 3pm

Venue: LAP Main Hall

All are welcome! Come and praise God in song!

Evangelism Sunday Tracting

Date: 19 Jan, Sat

Time: 4.30pm

Venue: Blk 639 Hougang Ave 8 (see map below)

Join us in spreading the gospel!



Chinese New Year Activity

Date: 17 Feb, Sun

Time: 1.30pm – 3pm

Highlights: Singing Performances & Games

Please bring along 2 mandarin oranges for games.

Lunch option: Please make payment of \$4 for bento lunch to Ser Ern by 27 Jan

Come join us in this festive season!

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

""The Witness of John the Baptist" (John 1:19-34)

by bro Alvin Lin

Next Sunday Worship

Standing in the Gap to Win Souls

by bro Alvin Lin

Birthday of the week

15 Jan (Tue) –

Nancy & Rhui Yin



Please send any news & prayer requests to

limahpincoc@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- *Bro Long Jun* in China
- *Bro Kenneth Liong and sis Iris* in San Francisco
- *Bro Jonathan & sis Joan, sis Farah* in UK
- *Sis Shuan Kwee* in Hong Kong
- *Bro Kevin* in New York for studies
- *Bro Siang Yee* in UK for studies

Health

- *Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & sis Molly's* health
- *Bro Leong Dak's mother-in-law & sis Shermin's grandmother's* health
- *Bro Wei Xiang* from his fractured arm
- *Sis Susan Ng* from hives
- *Sis Candice* from her neck pain, injuries to her elbow & leg

Pregnancy

- Sis Christine (Apr'19), sis Mae (May'19), sis Deborah (Aug'19)

NSF

- Bro Wei Jie, bro Benedict, bro Titus, bro Shawn

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

| Morning Worship @ 9.30am | | 13-Jan-19 | 20-Jan-19 | 27-Jan-19 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Song Leader | | Justin Kwan | Joel Lee | Amos Yang |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | Paul Lim | Kenneth Quek | Jerry Cheong |
| Preacher | | Lee Tian Seng | Alvin Lin | Ernest Lau |
| Lord's Supper Text | | Mar 14:22-25 | Mat 26:26-29 | Isa 53:4-9 |
| Lord's Supper Servers | Scripture Reader | Zachary Ling | Titus Goh | Axel Chee |
| | Prayer: Bread | Reuben Lim | Cornelius Lee | Wong Sek Hoong |
| | Prayer: Fruit of Vine | Timothy Ng | Alvin Chan | Danny Poo |
| | Prayer: Offering | Alan Poon | Benjamin Tan | Martyn Gostelow |
| | Assistant | Gordon Loo | Leonard Chia | Jose Cardoza |
| Foundation Class | | Ng Wei Jie | Yew Tian Geng | David Sum |
| Announcer | | Benjamin Kwan | Jimmy Lau | Alvin Lin |
| Greeters | | Mary Ann Catalos Ellen Hernandez | Grace Ler Wu Wenyu | Constance Lau Lim Poh Im |
| Evening Worship @ 7pm | | | | |
| Song Leader & O.P. | | Benjamin Kwan | Jeshua Lin | Ernest Lau |
| Speaker | | Alvin Lin | Timothy Ng | Benjamin Kwan |
| Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P. | | Ernest Lau | Jerry Cheong | Martyn Gostelow |
| Thursday Service @ 7.45pm | | | | |
| Song Leader | | | 17-Jan-19 | 24-Jan-19 |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | | Ernest Lau | Benjamin Kwan |
| Teacher | | | Charlie Teo | Lee Tian Seng |
| Closing Prayer Leader | | | Alvin Lin | Alvin Lin |
| | | | Paul Lim | Marc Wee |