

MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of
MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Private Circulation Only
6 April 2012 (Easter
Sunrise Sunday)

"Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28)

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851 Tel: (65) 6545 8627 Fax: (65) 6546 7422

E-mail: maranatha.bpc@pacific.net.sg Website: www.maranatha-bpc.com

Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 6.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jack Sin (HP: 9116 0948)

The Day Death Met His Match

Introduction

"By His resurrection from the dead He was openly declared to be the Son of God in power. His incarnation was as much a part of the process of manifestation as His incarnation. Indeed, the real Christ has not become known in His essential glory, until He is known no longer after the flesh, but as the risen, exalted Christ, the conqueror of death and sin." (James M. Campbell. *The Heart of the Gospel: A Popular Exposition of the Doctrine of the Atonement*. Fleming H. Revell Co. 1907, 137)

The Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone of historic Christianity. It is the blessed Easter morning again in the year where we remember the glorious work of Christ in His triumphant victory over sin, death and hell. The Christian faith is marked by 2 important events in the life of Christ, namely His vicarious death and His triumphant resurrection.

After the crucifixion of Christ in AD 30, the frightened disciples were revived with hope when a few women witnessed the empty tomb where Jesus' body was missing (Mt 28:1-10). Jesus who was crucified but after 3 days, He rose from the grave and was victorious over the grave and hell. His disciples who saw Him, were to go quickly and tell others also of this wonderful news that they might believe and be encouraged that Jesus is truly God (Mt 28:11).

The Inevitability of Death

Hebrews 9:27 says, *'And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.'* All of us have to die one day and we have all attended a funeral before and witnessed the great sorrow and pain death has caused to many. Recently, one of the elders from Life BP Church went home to be with the Lord and a 25 year old teenager from Sharon BP Church as well after a failed kidney transplant and Fong Choon Chiak's mother on 24 March 2012. An average of 17,000 people died in Singapore every year due to different causes, cancer, heart failure and pneumonia being the top killers. There was a funeral that Jesus attended in John 11:1-40. A young man named Lazarus had passed away. He had 2 sisters named Mary and Martha whom Jesus knew. It was a tragic death for the family. Their sadness was aggravated by the fact that Jesus was late by 4 days and they pointed this out that if he had been earlier, maybe their brother would not have died. Those who are emotionally stretched often make unsubstantiated statements. Yet Jesus had everything planned according to His sovereign good will. He was there four days later, deliberately, and said in John 11:40, *'Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?'* They thought he was referring to the end times bodily resurrection of believers and judgment in heaven but then they were still depressed and distressed by their bereavement. They got it right and wrong, there will be a resurrection of the redeemed dead one day but Christ is referring to something else too which He would do at that time. Lazarus would rise again by the power of God over death.

The physical defeat by death does not mean the end for us as Christians. Job said in Job 19:25-26, *'For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.'* Now, Jesus has risen from the dead, there is everlasting hope where there was despair, there is now peace where there was conflict and eternal life once where there was only death.

Christ our Lord arose physically, literally and visibly and He is coming back again in the same manner

(Acts 1:11). It says in Acts 2:24 that it was impossible for Him to be held in the power of death. There is a hymn that says, that death cannot keep its prey, He tore the bars away, Jesus arose and He is alive for ever more!

The apostle Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 at the death of possibly a member of a church, that there is comfort and solace for aggrieved souls and that is the resurrection. Regardless of the darkness of sin and death, death cannot keep the Lord Jesus and those who love Him and are called by His name for He is the God of life. It was predicted He would rise again and He did and he is the True Messiah for His people. Though they crucified Him, He defeated them all for on the third day, He rose again and one day we will meet Him and our loved ones who die in the Lord and those who are faithful will receive their proper rewards in the will and time of the Lord according to their faithful stewardship. Revelation 14:13 says, *'And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.'*

Our Rightful Response

Knowing the fact of the resurrection, we need to respond appropriately to this truth by putting our faith and our trust in Jesus Christ. When we believe in Christ with our hearts that God raised Him from the dead and repent sincerely of our sins, we shall be saved (Rom 10:9-10).

Margaret French Patton says well,

Ye sleeping buds, break,
Open your green cerements, and wake,
To fragrant blossoming for His sweet sake,
and seek Christ before it is too late (last stencil, mine)

The gospel is good news for Christ is alive today and we worship a Living and True God. Those who will join us on the Holy Land pilgrim educational tour to Israel and Jordan in November this year will witness the empty garden tomb for yourself. It is an invincible testimony that critics and skeptics of the deity of Christ cannot deny. We have no remains or relics of Christ today that we can pass around for there is none at all. We serve and worship a victorious risen Saviour and God who is now in the heavens seated on the right hand of the throne of God (Heb 12:3-4). The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:3-4 says, *'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.'*

Our risen Lord will save us where we believe in Him as our Saviour and repent of our sinfulness and give up our depraved past. God had mercy on us where we were in our depraved and desperate condition for Romans 5:1, 8 says, *'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.'* He never leaves His people without help. He transforms our lives by His Spirit and His saving grace is working in me. We are different today because He is our Lord and our God.

For those who are regenerated and justified, we are to press on faithfully with our sanctification in Christ as we grow in holiness and serve Him in the work of the Lord faithfully for 1 Corinthians 15:57, 58 say, *'But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'*

Conclusion

The glorious gospel of Christ is a message with a blessed eternal hope. Titus 2:13 says, *'Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.'* And God is working in our hearts. It is the best news and it is sealed by the resurrection of Jesus. He is risen and He is coming back for us one day indeed Our Lord says in John 11:25, 26, *'Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?'* Call on Him today as your personal

Saviour and Lord while there is yet time!

This is the touchstone and the pivotal point of the Christian faith that Jesus did rise from the dead, according to eye witnesses of more than 500 people (1 Cor 15:1-5) in the teachings of scripture, and it is an authenticated fact and truth for all to behold without doubt. We will end with this wonderful poem by Thomas Scott :

Angels, roll the rock away;
Death, yield up thy mighty prey:
See, He rises from the tomb,
Glowing with immortal bloom.

Jack Sin

+++++

The Case For Eternal Hope *Jack Sin*

The Son of God came in our stead
For all the wrongs we commit
He came to earth to die for us,
For our iniquities, he would remit.

The cup of contempt, he gladly drank,
And cried, in a sombre voice;
"Not My will, but Thine alone"
He said, with submissive choice.

The traitor's kiss would seal his fate;
He would die at any rate
The governor, Pilate, cringed In fear;
But still let the people jeer.

"I wash my hands in this dreadful woe,"
Quipped Pilate, "Let Jesus be."
The crowd retorted "Crucify him now,
And grant us Barabbas free!"

Pilate gave in to their demands;
And our Lord was taken away.
The soldiers abused and mocked Him,
In essence, they had really strayed.

A crown of thorns laid on His head,
As His execution was carried out;
His hands and feet were all in red,
But he did not scream nor shout.

"Father, forgive them for this sin;
They know not what they do."
He cried in earnest despite the pain,
He did for our eternal gain.

"It is finished," he said in anguish,
As the Sovereign gave in to death.

The curtain tore, and sin vanquished,
And satisfy The Father's wrath.

Consider this poignant final part;
It's why Christians are filled with joy:
The Saviour defeated Satan's darts;
His triumph is ours to enjoy.

He defied death and rose from the grave;
A testimony of our salvation,
Now, justified sinners can rant and rave,
For Christ, our eternal propitiation.

The rugged Cross is not a shameful place,
For Christ suffered and died for human race.
He rose as King, and redeemed His own,
Our Saviour, we gladly worship and praise.

+++++

Adult Baptism

Testimony of Julie Chng

I was born into a non-Christian family. I heard about Christ when I met my husband, Joseph. He was the first person who brought me to church. After a year, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour before our marriage.



After we were married and moved into our new house in Tampines. We decided to worship at Maranatha BP Church which is not too far from our house. Although I attended the Sunday Service for almost 9 years, I did not get to know more about God. I think this could be due to the lack of discipline in reading the bible and for not going to church regularly. Therefore, my spiritual life was weak but I knew in my heart that God is almighty and still loves me. During the last 3 years, I began to attend church services more regularly and faithfully but was still undecided about baptism. In the year 2010, when my son took the first step of faith to attend catechism class and on the day of his baptism, it left a deep impression in my heart that I needed to draw closer to God. God also touched my heart to pray for my mother's understanding regarding my baptism as I knew that she would not agree. Last year in March, during my casual conversation with her, I was surprised that she told me she would respect my decision if I wanted to be baptised. Thank God for answering my prayer and that encouraged me to take this step of faith to go for baptism and attend the catechism class. Coincidentally, my husband, Joseph told me that he would join the catechism class in January for the transfer of membership and that hasten my decision to be baptised. In the catechism class, I learned many things concerning God such as the two sacraments (baptism and Lord's Supper) commanded by our Lord Jesus, cannot save me but my repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus will save me. The past year, my attitude towards my son has become mellow and I have more patience with him. Thank God for this little change in me and His wonderful timing that I can attend the catechism class to study God's word with my husband as companion.

+++++

Testimony of June Siam

I have been attending church and Praise to God, I have had the privilege of knowing about Christianity at a very young age. It was my mother who brought me to Sunday School every week, but to me, attending church was to pray, sing and to listen stories from the Bible and nothing more.



But as I grew older, I began to understand more about our Lord Jesus Christ. The turning point was in the Year 1989, when I was in my secondary school, my classmate brought me to her church and from there, I met one of her senior member and she shared with me a deeper level of a Christian life and salvation. Through her sharing, I began to understand more and it made me realise that all the while, I had not taken my salvation seriously which inspired me to pursue the true meaning of Eternal Life through Christ further.

All this while, my mother has been bringing us from one church to another because of doctrinal issues, and by God's Grace, we have set our foot at Maranatha BP Church. I believe that we can come to Maranatha BP Church is not by mere chance, but by God's loving guidance. I have been attending the catechism class since last November together with others and eventually, Julie and I will be baptized. Thanks be to God, through this catechism class, we have learned more about the selfless love and Salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us while we were yet sinners (Rom 5:8). Only through Jesus' death on the Cross we are freed from the bondage of sin. I know that I am accountable to God and my service will come under His judgement one day when we meet Him face to face.

I have been experiencing the wonderful grace of God, His daily protection and His blessings that are showered on me and my family members. He will not forsake me when I am in need of His protection and guidance. I can always feel the presence of God and His Love flowing in my heart whenever I feel hurt.

Looking back, I used to have a quick temper and would get agitated easily by the slightest thing that got in my way, I guess both my brothers got it from me when they were young, I would always nag and sulk when things were not in place. But God's transformation in me had made me realise my shortcomings. God is Holy and will not tolerate the slightest sin, we have to abide in the word of God so as to be steadfast in our faith, words and actions.

I am so blessed to be in the House of the Lord and worshipping Him with my loved ones. May the Lord continue to use Maranatha BP Church in outreach and to be a blessing to everyone.

+++++

Testimony of Zhu Pei Hua 朱佩华

I have been in Singapore for 3 months now and have been attending this Church for more than 2 months. Ever since I come to know this Church and our Saviour Jesus Christ, my life became more enriching and fulfilling. Although my earnings in Singapore are not as much as I had expected, I am very satisfied because I have come to know Christ. I might not have such an opportunity in China. Thank God! I would like to share and testify to all, about this little incident:



It happened on the afternoon of 31 December 2011 when my fellow workers and I started chatting about our Sunday worship. We commented on how marvellous it is to know Christ as we have gained everlasting life. A fellow worker said Christ is a hoax and it is better to trust in oneself than in God, plus a host of reasons why one should not believe in Christ. I replied that even if he did not believe, he should refrain from blaspheming our Lord because if the Lord were to prove Himself, he would be finished.

When I reported for work on the 1 January 2012, I heard people discussing about how he had broken

the law and was on the run as the police suspected that he was selling contraband cigarettes. Apparently, a guy who was smoking at Chinatown was arrested by the police. The police asked him where he bought those cigarettes. Subsequently, he led the police to the hostel where 38 packs of cigarettes were found. As a result, my fellow worker's passport was confiscated. He is still on the run, but soon he will be caught as he cannot leave Singapore. As Pastor Jack has mentioned before, even if you have flouted a traffic rule here, there is no way you can leave Singapore unless you settle your fine, further more he is left with nothing now.

What do you all think of this incident? Is this accidental or inevitable? I think this is the work of the Lord to testify to me while my faith is still wavering, so that I must take up the cross to follow Him.

Yes, I would very much like to meet this brother who has committed a crime again and I would like to bring him to this Church to know Christ. I also hope he will turn himself in. So I would like to warn my brethren in Christ to not just obey the laws of God but also the laws of Singapore. A few Sundays ago, Elder Su Ching Chun spoke to us about the *Parable of the Sowers* and quoted Matthew 13:12, '*For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*'

I am in Singapore for more than 5 months. It has never crossed my mind to know Jesus, back in China. I have only seen the Cross on TV. I had the opportunity of coming to Maranatha BP Church through brother Xu Wen Sheng. I did not understand much after the first service but he explained to me what it means by believing in Christ. It sounded exciting and I requested for a Bible from Pastor. I started reading bit by bit each night and from then, I believe in the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. Come to think of it, this must be God's plan by arranging for me to work in Singapore so that I may be one of His chosen.

Due to work, I moved to East Coast Dormitory last week. I told brother Xu that going to church might be inconvenient. He encouraged me to continue attending church and shared that it must be the Lord's will that I should continue to be a testimony for the Lord and to do His good work in a new place. The night before I departed, we prayed together. Brother Xu was moved to tears, it must be the work of the Holy Spirit. Thereafter, the Church arranged for the Church Van to pick us up from East Coast Dormitory. Thank God, some friends from the same dormitory joined us.

I have many testimonies for sharing ever since coming to know the Lord. I spoke to one who sold smuggled cigarettes and he blasphemed the Lord. I told him that if the Lord reveals Himself, he would know if he should believe in the Lord. The next day, this man was arrested. This incident deepened my faith. There were times when I couldn't sleep and I would pray. After prayer, my burdens were lifted and I would sleep peacefully. I felt good after waking up. Henceforth, I would commit all things big and small to the Lord in prayer.

There was an accident in the worksite beside ours. The crane crashed onto someone resulting in death. I sent a text message to brother Song Xi Hai requesting for prayer for the victim's family members, as we had corporate prayer that day. Brother Song Xi Hai quoted a few verses which revealed to me the value and meaning of life. Had the victim been a Christian, he would have entered the gate of everlasting life in Heaven. If he had willing to repent and cry to Lord Jesus at that critical moment before death, he would still go to Heaven.

Christians should go to church every Sunday, to approach the Lord, to listen to His words and to fellowship. How I wish it is Sunday every day so that I can be found here in MBPC every day. Lastly, I am willing to work towards laboring for the Lord while I still have breath, together with all brethren, new believers and non-believers that they may come to believe in the Lord, and be blessed.

+++++

Testimony of Xu Ye Bao 许业保

Dear Heavenly Father, I thank Thee and I worship Thee. I will believe you in my heart and confess you with my mouth, I pray that you will grant me the faith to put my trust in you.

I acknowledge that I am a sinner and I have committed grave sins. Gambling was once my only hobby. Every festive season, especially during the Lunar New Year, I would lose thousands of dollars on the average, even to the extent of losing tens of thousands of Yuan. Once I lost 40,000 Yuan in a year. When I sat down to calculate, I realized to my horror that I had lost 70,000 Yuan in all! With this huge amount of debt I would have to labour for 3-4 years with blood, sweat and tears! It really hurt to have to part with this large sum of money!



I am a construction worker and I install ceramic tiles in buildings. In my hometown, I do the work either all by myself or supervising other construction workers in installing tiles; I am paid quite well each year. During my gambling days, I often quarreled and fought with my wife. Most gamblers will understand this. When I lost heavily in gambling, I was frustrated, worst still, with wife's nagging and the public humiliation, unpleasant things happened when anger got the better of me. At times, my wife ran home to her parents, refusing to come home for many days, and no one would do the cooking and chores. When I looked back, I regretted my actions and felt so silly.

Ever since I came to work in Singapore, I have been going to church with my friends. When I heard the word of God being preached, my heart was deeply moved. Within a short time after I come to Maranatha BP Church, I understand many truths from the Bible through the faithful preaching of the pastors and the elders. I forgo the urge of gambling.

The Lord Jesus said in John 14:6, *'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'* If you believe the Word of Jesus, you can place all your trust in him, and He will pave a big way to Heaven for you, and by faith, the Truth of Heaven can be trusted, as God is faithful and worthy of our trust. Praise the Lord.

I was very easily irritated by nature, being a foreman, I used to frown upon the workers' incomplete or shoddy job, I would reprimand them or report them. Many times they would retort angrily and say: 'you are not the supervisor, it's none of your business.' Looking back, I hurt others with my words, and even at home, I have hurt my wife and children. Now that I have known the Lord, I have changed gradually; the Lord has helped me to give up my bad habits and moulds a new character in me. Once I talked to my wife over the phone, she told me that I have changed, no more rude but gentle tones. Even my children said that I am a different person, and I spoke to them in a polite manner. I told my wife that the Lord has changed me, and it was His Words which taught me that I am a sinner. I asked her to forgive me and thanked her for being tolerant towards me. I believe that the Lord Jesus is the Saviour sent from God. He is my Saviour, I pray that by faith He will live in my heart and I will receive eternal life which He intended for me. I believe the Lord died on the cross for my sins, and He cleansed me from all unrighteousness, I believed and accepted Him as my Personal Saviour, I want to thank Him forever.

Dearly beloved kinsmen, my prayer is that those of you who have not accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour will come straight to Him now to plead for mercy, that He may accept us, so that we can receive true light to illumine our mind, thus receiving His peace and joy forevermore. Praise the Lord, Amen.

+++++

Testimony of Yang Chang Jiang 杨长江

My name is Yang Chang Jiang and I came from the province of Jiangsu China. I have been working in Singapore for 2 years. I thank God that I have known many brothers and sisters in the Lord here. Above all, I came to know God personally.



One Sunday afternoon in August 2011, brother Seow Zhi Fa came to our dormitory to distribute some Church tracts. He told me about the teachings from the Bible and invited us to Maranatha BP Church. Initially I was hesitant, but after much thought, I felt that after all, I am going to church, and not engaging in something bad, so I hopped onto the church van. It has been

more than six months since I came to church. I heard many messages preached by pastors and elders. All of a sudden, I realized that I am a sinner. I need to confess my sins and repent. Our Lord loved us so much that he came to call sinners to repent. John 3:17 says, *'For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.'*

Thank God, since I came to church, I find that my life has been transformed drastically. Before, I used to smoke and gamble, but now I do not. Even filthy language and swearing has gone from my lips. When I went home to China for the Lunar New Year, my family noticed that there is a great change in me; they asked me what has happened? I smiled and said, 'God has changed me.'

I want to thank God and praise Him, through the help of the Church Pastor, Rev. Jack Sin, I attended Bible Study class every Sunday. I have benefited so much from studying the Word of God, and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, I am willing to repent, take up the Cross and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, accepting Him as my personal Saviour and Lord and to be baptized. Amen!

+++++

Transfer of Membership

Testimony by Joseph Chng

After Julie and I were married, we moved to Tampines. At that time, we still attended church service at Gospel Baptist regularly for about a year until it moved to another place which was a bit far from our place. We began to skip church service frequently. After some time, I felt that it was not spiritually healthy, so I started to look for a nearby church to worship. I approached my brother, Peter for a recommendation and he mentioned Tabernacle and Maranatha BP Churches. Initially, I attended Tabernacle BP Church whose pastor was Rev. Ronny Khoo for a short period until the church service moved to another place which was also not near my house. So I went over to worship at Maranatha BP Church which is also nearby. Since then, I have since been worshipping here for more than ten years. During this period, I was a passive worshipper – attending only the main worship service and would leave as soon as the service ended (seldom stayed back for fellowship lunch).



Ever since my mother went home to the Lord more than 4 years ago, there was a mini revival in my spiritual life. Because when the Lord took our mother home, he also took away our prayer 'warrior' – every morning mother would pray for her children and if we had any problems or were going through any trials and testing, we would ask her to pray for us. All these years, I took for granted the blessings and the well being of my family because of her prayer and supplication to our Holy Father. Now without her, I began to learn to commune with God more frequently for my trials and testings. These communions gradually stirred my heart and there was this desire to get closer with God and increase my faith in him. At the same time, my family's salvation became an important issue to me and I prayed fervently to my Holy Father for their salvation. God is merciful and gracious in his own perfect time, firstly to my son, Caleb who was baptised 2 years ago and now my wife, Julie. Thank God for his faithfulness and goodness to answer my prayer. His mercy is new every morning. I also learned to be more receptive in serving the Lord and last year, when Dn. George Tan asked me to be an usher, I readily agreed. I knew that God wants me to abide in Him directly and constantly seek Him through His word, Amen.

+++++

Testimony for Lee Yu Wei

Despite being born in a Christian family, I never really understood the true meaning of salvation. I used to assume that I was saved since I attended church regularly and participated in its activities starting from Junior Worship, Daily Vacation Bible School and thereby progressing on to Teen and Youth Fellowship. I was contented to believe that I was saved as long as I prayed to God. However, I never

found true peace in my heart and was unsure if I would ever go to heaven. During one of the Teen Camps in December, the message at the prayer meeting touched my heart and made me realise that to be saved, I needed to be truly born again with spiritual birth. It was not merely a lip service by telling others that I am saved but a conviction that I am a depraved sinner who needs to be justified by His grace before I can become one of God's children and sanctified in the process. I thank God for saving me when I was 15 years old.



After I came to Christ, I saw myself drawing closer and closer to the Lord and finding peace in my heart. However, I was still unwilling to take the next step of engaging in Christian service. God bestowed upon me the gift of music, through the opportunity to pick up the piano since I was a child. I was fearful, mainly because I had little faith. This fear remained with me until I came over to Maranatha BP Church.

I had heard of Maranatha as Pastor Dr. Jack Sin was one of the regularly invited speakers in my previous church. The common introduction of Maranatha by the chairman had always been "a church in the far-eastern part of Singapore". It had been my heart's desire to visit the church as I have benefited from Pastor Jack's messages and I am living in the east.

In 2003, a group of friends invited me to join the Maranatha YF Camp at NSRCC. It was there where I met Shaun Ng and he encouraged me to attend Maranatha BP Church regularly. Over the years, I gradually got to know many of the members better and through the YF, also saw my own spiritual growth. I was then approached one day by Pastor Jack to play the piano for the church, and I momentarily forgot my previous fear and accepted it immediately with much encouragement from the people around me. I thank God that He has enabled me to overcome this fear that I had and to serve Him with my musical gift.

I also grew more attached to the YF where Shaun Ng was serving in the exco and thus I had the opportunity to serve along with him in various aspects. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to grow closer to Him in my personal devotion and Christian service in Maranatha. There were plans to transfer earlier but my parents had reservations as they were worried that I was not ready. With their consent and after seeking the Lord's will, I thank God for helping me make this decision to transfer my membership to Maranatha and I look forward to growing further in my faith and knowledge of the Lord and His Word with the church.

+++++

Infant Baptism

Parents of Lucas Kevin Tan Ming

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

How else can we describe baby Lucas but a blessing? Through the years, Lynette and I have been very much caught up with the world. First the paper chase then the mad dash for "Cs". We have fallen many times but the Lord has been there all the time, merciful and loving. As a result, completing our covenant family with a baby was a late decision and with the delayed decision came the complications of age. Despite all, we committed all to the Lord and with the support and prayers of our parents and siblings, baby Lucas was born to us on 8 February 2012 at 6:25pm.



We would like to take this opportunity to give all thanks and praise to our Almighty God for His providence and grace throughout the entire pregnancy and especially during the birth, especially in the provision of super supportive families. We had a few scares...

We were in the high percentile range after the preliminary checks for infant abnormality, possibility of Lynette contracting gestational diabetes but again, through prayer and faith in the Lord to do what is best

for us, the conclusive tests came out negative.

From the water bag breaking to actual birth, the process took more than 48 hours which left Lynette drained and unable to exert enough pressure for the final pushes. However, the Lord provided 2 “old hand” nurses who added their considerable palm pressures in the final moments without which we would have needed surgery which comes with added risks.

Lastly, Lucas was born 5 weeks premature and the gynaecologist had the paediatrician and Neonatal ICU on stand-by which of course, caused some anxiety. As always, the good Lord took care of all and Lucas was given a clean bill of health.

As the saying goes, this is only the beginning and we ask for your continued prayers for both of us to bring up Lucas in the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

On the morning of 7 February 2012, when the water bag unexpected burst and before heading to the hospital, we were reading the *Daily Remembrancer* for that day with topic from Psalm 31:15, “*My times are in thy Hands*” and were reminded that “*every event in life is under His control; nothing is left to chance*”

Amen and God bless!

Tan Siang Meng and Lynette

+++++

Theme for the Quarter :
Portraits of Christ in John's Gospel
Rev. Dr. Jack Sin
The Hope Factor In Life (1 Corinthians 15:12-26)
Easter Sunday

[End of MM]