

MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

Private Circulation Only

MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

14 January 2018

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

Address: 63 Cranwell Road, Singapore 509851

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Sunday School: 9.45 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Godly Direction For 2018

Introduction

It is the beginning of the year and we should prayerfully have some biblical directions for 2018. Paul in Acts 20:24 says, *'But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.'* Consider the following:

1. *That we would know and would love Christ more:* It is a heartfelt prayer that our eyes would see Christ's love in new and fresh ways and respond gratefully in greater devotion to Him and conformed to him. We will spend eternity searching the depths of Christ's love for us, and we need to strive to know him and then make him known. Demonstrate your life to others with the glorious gospel of Christ.

2. *That we would cherish and obey God's Word:* 2 Timothy 2:15 says, *'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.'* It is God's Inspired Word that brings eternal life and sustains life. It is His infallible Word that we need to read, study, meditate and memorise daily. Let us pray this year for hearts to be disciplined to seek God's Word. Make a conscious effort daily to cherish, read, study and apply the Word of God in your lives.

3. *That we would seek and put Christ first:* Matthew 6:33 says, *'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'* We need to have the right priorities, give our hearts to glorify Him and to obey Him. Let us pray for right priorities (i.e. not just work) this year for hearts to love Christ above all else. Let us pray for hearts that will be dissatisfied with the world of sin and pray that we would desire the satisfying joy and peace that comes through the pre-eminence of Christ in our lives.

4. *That we will remove all the idols from our heart:* Recently, a famous K-pop star committed suicide and died. Beware of the things we bow down to in our heart, that we love more than Christ, these are called idols: wealth, fame, pleasure, ambition, possessions, computer or hand phone games and obsession with our career. These are all possible idols that crowds our hearts. Pray that God would reveal to you the idols that you need to remove and put Christ in their

place. Be set free from this bondage or slavery of the evil one and resolve to honour Christ as Lord and God.

5. *That we would desire holiness and the fear of God:* 1 Peter 1:16 says, *'Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.'* Martin Luther described the Christian life as one of growth in progressive sanctification. As long as we live in this sin-stained world, we will continue to be tempted by the evil one by God who is faithful to preserve us each time if we turn to him (1cor 10:13) . Let us pray for hearts to be set apart, consecrated and sanctified by God. May we readily turn to the cross and Christ and His pardoning grace in our lives.

6. *That we would think more of eternity:* This year, let us pray that we would spend less time consumed with ourselves and worldly interest, cares and work, and more time thinking about commitment, loving and serving God to the extension of His Kingdom, His work and His will. Matthew 6:21 says, *'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'*

7. *That we share the gospel of Christ wherever we are:* Romans 1:16 says, *'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.'* The Gospel is to be shared to all in different stations of life. Gospel witness, outreach and missions are what Christ has for us to do, to speak of His saving grace, and the Cross of Christ that saves us if we believe in Him.

8. *That we would worship and serve the Lord more fervently:* To love God requires us to want to worship Him in spirit and truth. We need to pray that we would have desire to keep the Sabbath, exalt and worship Christ. Pray for a fervent desire that seeks to serve Christ with sacrifices. The Apostle Paul said that in Romans 12:11, *'Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;'* This year, may we focus on the headship of Christ and may it motivate us to zealously devote our lives more and adore Him with reverence and reach out to save souls as He call us.

9. *That we will live each day, conscious of His soon coming:* In Psalm 39, David prayed, *'LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is: that I may know how frail I am.'* (vs.4). Our lives are short and we should not waste our limited time. May we be wise and use every precious moment for God's glory and honour and purpose and to advance His Kingdom for He is coming soon. Walk wisely and number your days.

10. *That we will prayerfully seek out the will of God for our lives:* Praying that God's will be done in our lives requires us to constantly seek and obey Him in the first place. There are many decision we need to make this year May we submit all our aims and desires to discover and do God's will, trusting that His sovereign will is the best for us. Psalm 37:4 says, *'Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.'*

Jack Sin

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India Mission Trip (2017)

Praise and Thanks: **Firstly**, I give praise to the Lord our God for His provision and leading us to India. It was my first visit to Bangalore, India.

Secondly, I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. & Mrs. Jack Sin for helping us to go along with the mission team of Maranatha BPC from Singapore to India. Without the love that they have in Christ we would not have been able to join the mission team to India.



Thirdly, I owe a debt of my gratitude to the two ladies who helped us with the air tickets to and fro India. May the Lord our God richly bless them.

Fourthly, I give my sincere thanks to Mrs. Angie Sin for making arrangement for everything that we needed for our whole trip such as booking air tickets, making arrangement for our lodging, meals, and ground transportation for our whole trip. May God Bless her and her work!

Fifthly, I give my heartfelt thanks to Dr. and Mrs. George Skariah and their two children for their kind hospitality and those working hard for God's kingdom in India.

It was a historic trip to India because we participated in the inauguration of India Reformed Biblical Seminary and the dedication of Covenant Bible Presbyterian Church-India, which were held in the 500th Year of Anniversary of the Reformation.

Milestone for the Lord's Ministry: I was told that there are many churches and bible schools in India especially in Bangalore and many Bible students from Myanmar are studying in India but there are very few reformed churches and reformed bible schools. I am thrilled with joy to see how the Lord has started a bible-based, Christ-centered, reformed faith-rooted denomination in the land of India through the fervent prayer and generously support of Maranatha BPC-Singapore. Laying the foundation, dedication of the building and an inaugurating the seminary are a blessed milestone of Christendom in India.

Result of the Prayers and Generously Giving of Faithful Believers: India Reformed Biblical Seminary's inauguration was held on December 9 and the dedication of Covenant BPC's sanctuary was held on December 10, 2017. It was very good to see that young people are participating in the work of God at Covenant BPC-India. I was very encouraged to see the fruits of hard work, faithful service and earnest prayers of mission minded by God-loving people (Maranatha BPC-Singapore). I really appreciate the pastor, deacons, church council members, and members of Maranatha BPC-Singapore for their love and zeal for the Lord's work. Faithful labour by God-loving people will never be done in vain.

We were encouraged through the preaching Word of Pastor Jack Sin at an inauguration of India Reformed Biblical Seminary on December 9, 2017. He preached from Isaiah 34:16-17; 35:1-10

and he expounded the text with Four “E’s” (1) **E**vangelical; (2) **E**ducation; (3) **E**difying; and (4) **E**cclasiastical.

Invitation by Church Members: Our Mission Team was blessed by the warm welcome of church members of Covenant BP Church in India. They invited us to have family devotion together and served very delicious Indian food. It was encouraging to see how the church members love God and His Word.

Tour to Bangalore: In the midst of the busiest days we took time off to visit OM Book Store, the house of Parliament and others historic places. Lastly we also took the time to go for shopping. Each one spent some Rupees to buy some gifts to take home for family and friends.

Goodbye to Bangalore: We finally departed for Singapore and safely arrived in Singapore. Our Mission Team was warmly welcomed by family and friends from Singapore and had breakfast together at the airport.

Short Visit to Singapore: I was very excited to see Singapore because I had last visited it more than ten years. Two deacons from Maranatha BP Church pick us up at the airport and took us to some interesting and historic places and to Emmanuel Reformed Bible Seminary, Maranatha Bible Presbyterian Church, and Life Bible Presbyterian Church in Singapore. We spent the day with snap-shot and having lunch together with friends. Then lastly, we said goodbye to our friends in Singapore and departed for Yangon, Myanmar and home to reunion with our beloved families who were waiting for us at Yangon Airport.

May the Lord Our God Bless Each One of You who helped us in everything for the Mission Trip to India.

Rev David Khobal
Principal
Biblical Reformed Seminary
Yangon, Myanmar

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Emmanuel Reformed Bible College



Emmanuel Reformed Bible College had her opening of the semester on 5 January 2018 with about 50 pastors, lay leaders, students and other BPC members in attendance.

We thank God for sending 11 fulltime students to study in the College (and many more part time students for day and night lectures - more than 100 students including Emmanuel Reformed Bible Lectures in 10 subjects offered.

1. Mr Betrand Lam from Singapore (M.Div programme)
2. Mr Yos Samphos from Cambodia (M.Div programme)
3. Mr Benjamin from Myanmar (M.B.S. programme)
4. Ms Suminah Kusuma from Indonesia (M.B.S. programme)
5. Mr Lim Kwang Taek from South Korea (B.Th programme)
6. Mr Ajay Daram from India (B.Th programme)
7. Pastor Vo Hoang Phong from Vietnam (M.Div programme)
8. Ms Alice Wong from Malaysia (M.T.S. programme)
9. Ms Lilian Lee from Singapore (M.B.S. programme)
10. Ms Chan Ching Wei from Singapore (M.B.S. programme)
11. Mr Joshua Jeyamoorthy from Sri Lanka (B.Th programme)

It is encouraging to see so many lay people attending both day and night classes and committing to the serious and systematic study of the Word for more effective service of the Lord. Do sign up if you are interested by this week. Please pray for wisdom for the faculty as they prepare to teach the Word to equip the students for the ministry in the knowledge of the Word of God and diligence for the students in Emmanuel Reformed Bible College.

Jack Sin

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Pray for the Catechism Class as they be grounded on sound doctrine.

Brother Fong Jing Heng teaching from the Gospel to the Chinese Sunday School



Sister Shawna Heng teaching the Lower Primary Class with sister Tan Chan Ping.



Sister Ng Chwei Ling teaching the Upper Primary and Youth Class.

Brother Fong Jing Heng and Dn Shaun Ng leading in the discussion in the first MYF meeting of the year.



First Emmanuel Reformed Bible College class on *Biblical Counselling* with 18 participants (including lay leaders) from 6 churches.

Brother Lu Zhen Bing who came to church about a month ago accepted Christ as his Lord and Saviour last Sunday when we shared the gospel with him. Praise the Lord and pray for his growth.



Theme for the Quarter :
The Extraordinary Display Of Faith In God (Studies in the Book of Hebrews)

English Service

**Rev Dr Jack Sin
speaks on**

Noah – The Obedience Of Faith
(Scripture Text : Genesis 6:8-22; Responsive Reading : Genesis 7:1-24)

[End of MM]