

MARANATHA MESSENGER

Weekly Newsletter of

Private Circulation Only

# MARANATHA BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5 August 2018

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

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Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday English / Chinese Worship Service: 10.45 am Sunday Chinese Worship Service: 7.30 pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8.00 pm

Rev Colin Wong (HP : 9665 8160); Elder Daniel Tau (HP : 9761 5415); Elder Peter Ong (HP : 9626 7045)

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## Come, Let Us Serve the Lord

### Introduction

Last Sunday, during our Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM), the members have elected the new session comprising two elders and two deacons to serve in the church. We praise our God for a smooth and God honouring ACM. May the newly elected elders and deacons serve diligently, faithfully and humbly before God and men. May they co-labour together with our beloved pastor – by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Now, is that all to serving God? Is serving God in the church the sole responsibilities of the elders, deacons and pastor? Of course not. God has given to the church, men and women endowed with different gifts and talents – namely, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, administrators, workers of mercy, etc. – for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ that all God's people will come in the unity of faith, and the knowledge of the Son of God, becoming a perfect man, attaining the full measure and stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

So, serving the true and living God does not confine to just the elders, deacons and pastors. Serving God is the duty for all the redeemed and those of us who are purchased by his blood – to all who are called Christian born of the Spirit of the Living God.

### Why Do We Serve God?

The psalmist in Psalm 100:2 exhorts the people of God to serve him. There is good reason for us to serve the LORD because he is our God, our Creator, who made us, and we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. In the New Testament, the LORD is our God, our Saviour and Redeemer, and we are his people purchased with his own blood. We are reminded that the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Hebrew 9:14).

The Lord Jesus Christ, himself, has showed us that he came not to be served but rather to serve. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are saved to serve the living God. We are not saved to be served by others.

How do you want to live your Christian lives? To serve yourselves and to receive blessing from God

only? Or to serve God and be blessed? Let us be like Joshua in Joshua 24:15 and said without reservation, “but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

### **How Do We Serve the Lord?**

In Psalm 100:2, we are exhorted to serve the LORD with gladness. In Hebrew 12:28. We are encouraged to serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Set your hearts to serve the living God. We are to serve willingly without compulsion, serve joyfully for we serve none other than the Eternal God, Yahweh. Serve gladly and with great reverence and godly fear for you and I are not serving any gods but the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscience God – the Great I AM.

### **Where Do We Serve the Lord?**

We serve the Lord in the local church, amongst his people. We serve where he called us to serve. Now you say to yourselves where has God called me to serve – I know not where to serve the Lord.

Dearly beloved, I pray that the Lord Jesus Christ will open your eyes to see the ministry needs in our church. The needs are aplenty, but the labourers are few. Pray and ask the Lord to direct you to where to serve in the body of Christ that you might be a blessing to some, if not many. That, you will find great joy and much blessing as you serve our Lord. The word of God is true – it is more blessed to give than to receive. Do you find not much joy and blessing in your Christian walk? Perhaps, you have not been availing yourselves to God to use you as his instrument of righteousness and blessing for his service.

You can serve as a pianist or organist or violinist or guitarist in the worship service or fellowship meetings. You can also teach in the Sunday School. You can prepare the refreshment for the evening Chinese service or communion bread-and-cup. You can usher, with love, friends and visitors to our church. There are other areas of ministries that we too can be involved – like visiting and praying for the sick or lonely, evangelism activities, counselling, encouraging and care for a hurting brother, driving the church van to fetch the brethren. These are but few areas we can serve the Lord. Consider prayerful where we can serve in the church.

### **Conclusion**

Come forward to serve the Lord. Remember, 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. Our labour in the Lord has eternal and everlasting impact. It shall not be in vain. May God help us to serve him willingly, joyfully and with godly fear. Amen.

*Elder Daniel Tau*

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## **Announcement of the ACM Election Result**

**29 July 2018**

The brethren elected into Session are :

Elder Daniel Tau Ting Seng

Elder Ong Gaik Sun (Peter)

Deacon Yeo Wee Thee (Royce)

Deacon Hong Che Hwee

Maranatha BP Church wish to thank Rev Lee Hock Chin and Elder Roger Lim from Life BP Church for rendering their kind assistance as the returning officers for the Election of Session Members during the ACM. We praise and thank God for a smooth and God honouring ACM.

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### **LET US RISE UP AND BUILD**

*"Let us rise up and build.  
So they strengthened their hands for this good work"  
(Nehemiah 2:18)*

Praise and thank God for a very fruitful Co-Labourer Fellowship on 21st July 2018, 10.30am at Maranatha Bible-Presbyterian Church. We began with a time of worship. Then Pastor Colin exhorted us from Nehemiah challenging us to build up the church again.

News came to Nehemiah about the tragic situation in Jerusalem. After learning that the remnant of Jews in Judah was in distress and that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, he mourned for days, and sought God by fasting and prayer. God answered his prayer.

He got the king's permission to return to the city of Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls. The king not only granted him permission, but also provided him with resources to do it, including captains of the army and horseman for the long journey back to his homeland. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, he spent three days surveying the broken walls secretly in the night. After that, he told the people of God, saying, *"Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach"* (Nehemiah 2:17). Then he told them the good hand of the Lord was upon him and challenged them to rise up and rebuild the broken walls.

After the exhortation, every one of us was encouraged to share our concerns about the various church ministries. We encouraged one another to press on in the Lord's work. The followings are some of the ministries that need to be strengthened:

1. Our Nursery, Junior Sunday School and Youth Fellowship need to be equipped with good resources in order to teach more effectively. God willing, training seminars will be organised to equip teachers for the ministries above.
2. To increase church membership through church outreaches and personal evangelism by

church members.

3. To integrate the Chinese Morning Service with the English Service to enhance interaction and cohesion in the church. In order to do that, a combined service will be held on the 2nd Sunday of the month which is also Communion Sunday.
4. To continue to support overseas missions.

Let us pray for a spiritual revival in every member's heart. Let us co-labour faithfully together with the leadership of the church. We can make a difference for God in the eastern part of Singapore, for "*The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: ...*" (Nehemiah 2:20a). Amen.

Lovingly in Christ,  
*Serlin Foo*

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**Theme for the Quarter :**

**LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IN THE WORLD  
(The Study of the Epistle of James)**

**Combined Worship Service :**

Rev Colin Wong  
speaks on  
*Don't Blame God*

(Scripture Text : James 1:13-18; Responsive Reading : Genesis 39)

[*End of MM*]