

ANNOUNCEMENTS For more information, please approach Gladys or Priscilla.

1. Global Day of Prayer 2009

Date: 31 May (Sunday)
 Time: 7.14pm
 Venue: Singapore Expo Halls 8 & 10

2. Anglican Schools Concert

As part of the Diocesan Centenary celebrations, our 9 Anglican schools are putting up an Anglican Schools Concert. There will be 2 identical performances held on the same day.

Date : Saturday 27 June 2009
 Venue : SAJC Cultural Centre
 Cost per ticket : S\$30.00 (or free will donation)

All donations will go towards our Anglican schools. Please purchase the tickets at the Admin counter.

3. Playmax

Date: 12 - 13 June 2009
 Time: 9AM - 5PM
 Venue: St. Andrew's Cathedral
 Experience High-Energy Fun-Filled Excitement in 6 Amazing Sectors

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May	31	(Sun)	Global Day of Prayer Confirmation Class #5
June	07	(Sun)	Ministry Leaders Meeting Confirmation Class #6
	12 & 13	(Fri & Sat)	PlayMax
	14	(Sun)	Confirmation Class #7
	16 - 19	(Tue - Fri)	Family Camp
	26	(Fri)	Corporate Prayer Meeting
	28	(Sun)	Council Meeting Confirmation Class #8

Any announcements, articles or testimonies to share? Email Gladys @ wacoffice@livingstreams.org.sg

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

9.10AM BOON LAY WAY - BOON LAY MRT (BUS STOP)
 9.15AM JURONG WEST ST 51 BLK 511 CARPARK
 9.30AM CLEMENTI MRT - BUS STOP TOWARDS CITY





WESTSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. IMPACTING COMMUNITY

BISHOP: The Most Revd Dr John Chew **ASSOCIATE VICAR:** The Revd Canon Dr Louis Tay
DEAN & VICAR: The Very Revd Kuan Kim Seng **PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:** Revd Timothy Chow

31 May 2009

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

What is the mission of the church? What is its reason or purpose for being in the world? Just as the church had a divine beginning, even so it has a divine mission. The mission of the church is altogether spiritual. First, I want to state what the mission of the church is not.

WHAT MISSION IS NOT The mission of the church is not to be a political institution. It was never the mission of the church to try to direct and control the affairs of state. Jesus taught that there is to be a separation of church and state. He said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt 22:21). There is no justification for the church or any other religious organization seizing the reins of government and attempting to exercise control over men in government.

The mission of the church is not to become a social institution. There are some who evidently feel that the mission of the church is to entertain people and please men. This has led some churches to build mammoth recreational programs, complete with kitchens and fellowship halls. Some have built gymnasiums and athletic facilities in the hope of luring people to become interested in Christianity. One church that I know about has a place of worship, which will seat about 400 and a fellowship hall, which will seat 3500. Are we able to see where the emphasis is being placed?

One preacher said it was getting so that when he heard the word "fellowship" he could smell the coffee! Well, if you use the word "fellowship" in a biblical sense, you will "smell no coffee." The recreation business should have no connection with the church. It may be the business of parents, mothers and fathers, to provide recreation, but it is not the duty or the mission of the church. When people feel they must provide recreation halls, kitchens, fellowship halls, gymnasiums, athletic facilities and what have you to induce people to come to church, they are telling the world that they do not believe that Christianity has the merit to attract the attention of serious-minded people. All of these circus-like attractions which are used to woo large numbers of people is only bribery. It is not a cut above the denominational group which recently initiated the practice of giving "trading stamps" to those who could secure the most new members for the congregation. Such is bribery! Such is not the mission of the church! What is the mission of the church?

The primary mission of the church is to preach the gospel. This is our paramount objective. Sometimes people say: "What about the poor and the unfortunate? Doesn't the church have an obligation to them?" Yes, it is necessary to do good and relieve the afflicted, the needy and poor, but that is not the primary mission of the church.

West Coast Recreation Centre
 No. 12 West Coast Walk

Sunday Services

10am - 12pm
English Service @ Auditorium
 10am - 12pm
Mandarin Service @ Thanksgiving
 10am - 12pm
Children In Action @ Honor

Saturday

3.30pm - 6.30pm
Destiny Impact (Youth) @ Honor

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EVERY MEMBER A FRUIT BEARING DISCIPLE 

Perhaps you remember that one of the first problems that the church faced in the first century was the complaint that the Grecian widows were being neglected, and that they were not being fed. What did the apostles do? Did they give up the preaching of the gospel and say, "Our first duty is to take care of these poor folks and feed them?" They did not. They told the disciples to choose seven men to be appointed over the business of caring for the poor. They continued with their primary mission - preaching the gospel. They said, "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables" (Acts 6:2). It is a worthy thing to give a poor beggar a bath and a new suit of clothes, but how much more important that he receive the bath of regeneration and put on Christ. After all, what profit is it if you are able to relieve a man's physical needs momentarily at the expense of letting him die without having heard and obeyed the gospel, and letting him go to an endless and Christless eternity? How much better to preach the gospel to him, and fit him and prepare him to live forever with Christ and all the redeemed.

TO PREACH THE GOSPEL Preaching the gospel is the primary mission of the church because the church is God's agency to evangelize the world. Jesus compared the church to a householder who went out into the marketplace to hire laborers into his vineyard, Matt 20:1-16. Jesus also compared the nature of the kingdom of heaven to a sower who went forth to sow. The seed the sower was sowing was the word of God, Matt 13:3-23. In early days, the church was God's agency to send preachers out to preach the word and do the work of God. The Bible says of the church at Antioch, "And when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away" (Acts 13:1-3).

The apostle Paul said in I Tim 3:15 that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth. A pillar is a large stone colonnade or column, which supports the roof of a porch or a building, thus the church supports and upholds the truth of God. That is the mission of the church - to support and uphold the truth. He also identified the church as the institution, which is to make known the wisdom of God. Eph 3: 10, "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God." I understand therefore that the church is to be employed in the dissemination of the wisdom of God.

Paul said further: "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end" (Eph 3:21). It is God's will that glory to himself shall be in the church by Christ Jesus. Men who do not consent to this are not in harmony with God's will.

Let me also point out that local congregations of the church were the medium through which this mission of the church was to be accomplished. It was never God's plan to have some organization bigger than the church, the local congregation to preach the gospel. It was never God's plan to have a missionary society as an adjunct to the church in this respect.

God never intended for us to have some human society for the purpose of having rummage sales, garage sales, pie suppers, bingo games, and cake walks for the purpose of preaching the gospel. God intended for the church to do this work. Members of the church are to give their money on the first day of the week, and these funds are to be used for the mission of the church. What is the primary mission of the church? Its primary mission and central obligation is to preach the gospel.

It is said that if you go to Palestine, the Holy Land, as it is called, and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the guide will take you to a red stone beneath the great dome of the church and state: "Now right here is the center of the world, because this is where Jesus stood when he gave the great commission and said to the disciples: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that

believeth not shall be damned' (Mark 16:15,16)."

No doubt Jesus stood somewhere when he said that, but it seems unlikely that Jesus stood on that little red stone. We can't say for sure, but I am certain of one thing. The great commission is the center of the church's obligation even if that place is not the center of the world. Matthew stressed that same obligation but he worded it just a little differently. He recorded Jesus as saying: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20)

...to be continued

DUTY SCHEDULE

	Today <u>31st May</u>	Next Week <u>7th June</u>
Chairperson	Kelvin Koo	Susy Tan
Speaker	Revd Timothy Chow	Revd Timothy Chow
Worship Leader	Andy Philip Sng KaiLun, Carol,	Joanie
Music Team	Scarlet, Jonathan Kee, Matthew, Carolyn	Elissa, Astrid, Althea, Jakob, Jethro, Jun Hoong
Projectionist	Scarlet, Priscilla	Michelle, Violet
Soundworks	You Fu, Carol	Janice Leow
H.C. Server	-	-
Intercessory Prayer	Susy Tan, Eddy John Sng	Tony Tay
Scripture Reader	David Yong	Carol Loke

WIS-DISCIPLINE-SHIP TRAINING

DATE	PROGRAM
05 June	No WDT
12 June	No WDT
19 June	No WDT
26 June	Corporate Prayer Meeting

*Cell groups are suspended till further notice due to WDT. For further enquiries, you may contact the Office at 63376104 ext 188/189 or email wacoffice@livingstreams.org.sg

MISSIONS

MISSIONS FUNDS NEEDED IN 2009	:	S\$20,000
AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE	:	S\$9,610.50
AMOUNT COLLECTED TO DATE	:	S\$7,276.50

VISION STATEMENT

A home and family focused church committed to building godly families that are the centers of worship, faith formation, discipleship ministry fellowship and witness for Jesus Christ