

ANNOUNCEMENTS For more information, please approach Gladys or Priscilla.

1. Day of His Power

07 August, 7.30PM @ Singapore Indoor Stadium

2. Marriage Breakthrough Weekend

08 - 10 August 2009 @ Hotel Re!, Pearl's Hill

For more information, please collect the brochure at the Admin Counter.

3. WDT Questions on 2 Samuel

Please see insert.

4. The Diocese of Singapore's Centenary Celebrations Exhibition

To celebrate the Centenary, a special exhibition on the distinctive of the Anglican Church in Singapore; looking back to look forward.

Open daily except Sunday. Free of charge.
@ St. Andrew's Cathedral Welcome Centre

There will be artefacts from the 19th Century, highlighting the early development of the Anglican Church in Singapore including Charters signed by Queen Victoria and how it has grown into a Diocese with 26 churches and 6 overseas stations or deaneries. It will look at the contributions of early pioneers in the field of social medical welfare as well as educational work with an emphasis on the future work as well, such as the Autism Centre. There is also a section dealing with what are the fundamentals of an Anglican Church.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July	05	(Sun)	Confirmation Service
	28	(Tue)	Church Council Meeting
	31	(Fri)	Corporate Prayer Meeting

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

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

9.00AM	BOON LAY MAV - BOON LAY MRT (BUS STOP)
9.15AM	JURONG WEST ST 51 BLK 51 CARPARK
9.30AM	CLEMENTI MRT - BUS STOP TOWARDS CITY



WESTSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES. IMPACTING COMMUNITY

BISHOP: The Most Revd Dr John Chew
DEAN & VICAR: The Very Revd Kuan Kim Seng

ASSOCIATE VICAR: The Revd Canon Dr Louis Tay
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE: Revd Timothy Chow

12 July 2009

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSE, & DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE - PART 3

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Romans 8:17-18 And since we are his children, we will share his treasures - for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.

Many people think that God should prevent temptations and trials from coming into our lives. This type of thinking is backwards, for ultimately, God is not the one to blame for our problems. We, the human race, are the ones who chose to sin. We, the human race, brought it upon ourselves. And each time we personally choose to sin, we are expressing our agreement and solidarity with those who have gone before us, who also chose to sin.

The actual issue is not what type of circumstances we will have in our lives. Rather, it is how we will choose to respond to them. Trials and temptations will come our way, but will we surrender to them, or remain steadfast in doing what is right? We have no legitimate reason to give up and yield to those trials and temptations, for God has promised to help us endure and overcome them.

1 Corinthians 10:13 But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.

When we read verses such as this, we should avoid false expectations. Note that God doesn't promise to take away the trials, but to provide a way that we can stand up under their pressure, and get through them. He is faithful; the only question is whether or not we will be willing to accept his help! Once we begin to ignore God's help, the temptation may become too strong to resist - but it won't be God's fault.

One of the books in the Old Testament is about a man named Job. This man was blameless and innocent of any serious wrongdoing, but he suffered worse circumstances in his life, than any of us ever will.

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

Many things in the book of Job have strongly influenced my perspective on the issue of suffering, but there are two passages I want to mention right now.

Job 17:9 The righteous will move onward and forward, and those with pure hearts will become stronger and stronger.

Some people use the major trials of life as an excuse for turning against God. This passage, however, suggests to me that it is not that such people have lost trust in God, but that they never had a genuine trust, to start with. This verse tells me that, though the person who trusts God may become very upset with what is happening, he will cling tenaciously to his righteous ways. He will continue to trust God.

The second passage focuses on the issue of integrity. In many types of trials, we may find ourselves tempted to compromise our integrity, or to do things that we know are wrong, in order to ease the pressure of the trial. Job, for instance had been tested with the choices to either "curse God and die" (Job 2:9-10) or to lie about himself - to pretend that he had done something wrong (which he hadn't done) and to pretend to "repent," in an attempt to gain God's (or at least his friends') approval. Instead, he chose to maintain his integrity, come what may. In this matter, the way he reacted is a worthy example for all of us to follow.

Job 27:3-6 As long as I live, while I have breath from God, my lips will speak no evil, and my tongue will speak no lies. I will never concede that you are right; until I die, I will defend my innocence. I will maintain my innocence without wavering. My conscience is clear for as long as I live.

A different translation of verse 5 brings out the concept of integrity a little clearer:

Job 27:5 I will never admit you are in the right; till I die, I will not deny my integrity.

Both of these translations are accurate - it's just that, when translating from a different language, there are often different words that can be used to convey the intended meaning. Either way, Job could say this, because he was truly innocent of the accusations his friends were making.

Here is one last verse - one that focuses on the attitude we should have. This is a good attitude to have at all times - not only when we are enduring trials.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will honor you.

Our attitude - whether we are humble or proud - will influence the final outcome of everything that happens in our lives. God has guaranteed that he will honor those who humble themselves under his mighty power. We need to remember, however, that the phrase "in his good time" does not mean "when we want it." We tend to get impatient and unwilling to let God determine when the best time is. Instead, we should focus on our responsibility to be patient. We should learn to trust God... and let him "worry" about when "his good time" will come to pass.

These are just a few of the many passages in Scripture, which focus on this topic. I'm sure you can find more, without too much effort. But even without doing so, these few verses are sufficient to show how we should respond. I hope you are willing to consider these things and to let them influence your life.

If I were to summarize my own response to finding myself in difficult situations that I could not escape, this would be my conclusion: Everyone experiences trials of one kind or another. However, for we who belong to God, God allows us to be where we are, in order

to accomplish good in us and to accomplish good in the lives of others, through us. Learning this and living it - takes time, but I am trying to do so. Sometimes, when the trials become very wearisome, it becomes more difficult for me to accept this, but I am accepting it more than I used to.

I hope that you also can learn and accept these things, if you haven't done so already. I hope that, when trials come your way, you will focus on the goodness of God and will not give-up. Those who patiently endure the trials they must experience, and who keep their focus on God, have something wonderful to look forward to. It is my desire for you to have this confident hope that belongs to those who love God.

DUTY SCHEDULE

	Today 12th July (H.C.)	Next Week 19th July
Chairperson	Kelvin Koo	Raymond Ang
Speaker	Revd Timothy Chow	Revd Timothy Chow
Worship Leader	Kelvin Koo	Arlene Pang
Music Team	Denny, James, KahMun, Jonathan, Kevin	Joanie, Elissa, Althea, Astrid, Andy, Jakob, Jun Hoong, Jonathan
Projectionist	Scarlet, Priscilla	Violet, Rachel
Soundworks	Eric Matthew Sng	Carol Elizabeth Wee
H.C. Server	Raymond, Tony, Kevin	-
Intercessory Prayer	Joyce Chow	Tony Tay
Scripture Reader	Anita Tay	Eunice Ng

WISDOM DISCIPLINE TRAINING

DATE	PROGRAM
17 July	WDT
24 July	Evangelism
31 July	Corporate Prayer Meeting
07 August	Day of His Power

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\$11,577.50
AMOUNT COLLECTED TO DATE	:	S\$10,267.50

PRAY FOR CHRIST CHURCH SAWANG DAENDIN:

Date: 16 to 20 October

Camp speaker and also the team going to Sawang Daendin.