

ANNOUNCEMENTS For more information, please approach Gladys or Priscilla.

1. Sawang DaenDin Mission Team

Date: 16 - 20 October
 Camp Venue @ Sung Dao.
 Targeted number of people to attend the camp: 50 adults & 20 youth

If you are Interested, please approach Hui Ling/Janice for more information.

2. Confirmation Service

Below is the names of those being confirmed today.

Angeline Ester Huang	Janice Koh
Astrid Lim	Lam Kah Mun
Casie Eng	Rachel Koh
Catherine Kua	Scarlet Leong
Faith Lin Qiu Feng,	Yvonne Lim

3. RBC Women's Bible Seminar: Jesus Speaks To You Today

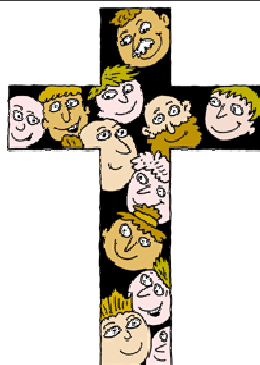
Date: 09 & 10 July, 7.30pm - 10pm
 Venue: Cathedral New Sanctuary, SAC
 Speaker: Dr Alice Matthews
 No registration required. Admission is on first-come-first-served basis.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

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

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE
 9.10AM BOON LAY WAY - BOON LAY MRT (BUS STOP)
 9.5AM JURONG WEST ST 51 BLK 51 CARPARK
 9.30AM CLEMENTI MRT - BUS STOP TOWARDS CITY



The Church is a Family

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

05 July 2009

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT GOD'S PURPOSE, & DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCE - PART 2

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don't give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. Through suffering, these bodies of ours constantly share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies.

These verses focus on the stressful pressures which were a constant part of Paul's life. If he had attempted to rely on his own strength, in dealing with these things, he would have never survived; the stress would have destroyed him. However, God had put the "light" of salvation into Paul's heart. This enabled him to not give up, but to focus on God's mercy and strength. And because he did focus on God's mercy and strength, that light was able to radiate out for others to see - and to be encouraged by it (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-7).

2 Corinthians 4:7 But this precious treasure - this light and power that now shine within us - is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

Paul's own weaknesses only proved that this "light" was not of human origin. It was like a treasure being stored in a clay pot. (The contrast between the treasure and the clay pot enhances the beauty of the treasure.) It is the same way with the power of God, when his power is displayed in the life of a weak person.

Many people are repelled by the idea that Paul was a weak person. Paul, however, knew he was weak, and openly admitted it. That is why God was able to accomplish so many powerful things through him.

Paul also tells us about some of the specific types of things he suffered. He mentions them because some false apostles had begun to boast that they were better than Paul. Rather than responding the way a person of the world might respond, by saying something like, "I'm more spiritual," he responded by focusing on his weaknesses - which directs our focus to God's strength, rather than to Paul.

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

2 Corinthians 11:23-29 They say they serve Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in jail more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. I have traveled many weary miles. I have faced danger from flooded rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the stormy seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be Christians but are not. I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food. Often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along. Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?

Paul wanted to talk about Jesus, not about himself. But because of the attacks of his enemies, he was "forced" to talk about himself - though he considered himself to be "like a madman" for doing so. Of course, God used Paul's "forced" response to accomplish good - even for us! Today, we can read these things and realize that when we endure trials, God can use us, too!

Paul did not enjoy his trials. They weren't pleasant! But he accepted them as the way God's power could be best displayed. He did, on one occasion, ask God to take away something that he described as "a thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7). However, God showed him a better way:

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me. Since I know it is all for Christ's good, I am quite content with my weaknesses and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

God displayed his power through Paul's weakness. Once Paul understood this, he was satisfied. He was content, even in this type of situation, because his greatest desire was to glorify God.

We should always have a desire to live in a way that brings glory and honor to God - not just when we aren't suffering, but also when we are. It seems that many of the Scripture passages that focus on the issue of suffering tell us that we should respond to suffering in a way that brings honor and glory to God. (This is a frequent theme. Maybe it is because we need an extra reminder, when circumstances are difficult!)

In many of the verses about suffering, there is a second focus - one that may be a bit surprising, but which is equally true: The Bible tells us that, if we belong to Jesus, we are united with him. Because of this, our suffering is, in many respects, considered a sharing of Christ's sufferings. Even more amazing is this: Since we are sharing in his sufferings (and that brings honor and glory to him), we will also share in his glory!

Quite clearly, our suffering is not going to be a waste of our lives! It is our duty to glorify God when we suffer, and one day God will glorify us - all because we are united with Christ. God has promised it!

DUTY SCHEDULE

	Today 05 th July (H.C.)	Next Week 12 th July (H.C.)
Chairperson	Chia Siew Choo	Kelvin Koo
Speaker	Abp John Chew	Revd Timothy Chow
Worship Leader	Liow Zhong Fa	Kelvin Koo
Music Team	Janice, Eunice, Carolyn, Matthew, Sean	Denny, James, KahMun, Jonathan, Kevin
Projectionist	Rachel, Violet	Scarlet, Priscilla
Soundworks	Denny Lin	Eric Matthew Sng
H.C. Server	Raymond, Tony	Raymond, Tony, Kevin
Intercessory Prayer	Susy Tan	Joyce Chow
Scripture Reader	Pamela Pung	Anita Tay

WISDOMSHIP TRAINING

DATE	PROGRAM
10 July	WDT
17 July	WDT
24 July	Evangelism
31 July	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	:	\$20,000
AMOUNT PLEDGED TO DATE	:	\$11,030.50
AMOUNT COLLECTED TO DATE	:	\$9,348.50

PRAY FOR CHRIST CHURCH SAWANG DAENDIN:

Date: 16 to 20 October

Camp speaker and also the team going to Sawang Daendin.

