



THE LAVENDER BULLETIN

*And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)*

A weekly publication of the **LAVENDER CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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21 February 2010

UPCOMING EVENT

Lavender Church of Christ presents:

A seminar on Christian perspectives towards dating and making the decision towards a lifetime commitment - marriage, or embracing singlehood. Join us to find out more!

**13 March 2010. Saturday. 9am to 5pm (breakfast & lunch provided)
Pico Art Centre. 20 Kallang Avenue. Level 5. Auditorium.**

TRUE LOVE WAITS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY BROTHER SEAH SIEW HWEI
A DEDICATED TEACHER WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING A SERIES OF THESE LESSONS

Preview into topics covered:

Dating - How Christians should view dating differently from the world's view.

Mr/Miss Right - What Christians should look out for in selecting his/her life-partner?

Courtship - For two persons who are in love to grow closer and guard each other - Do you know each other well enough to proceed to marriage? Does the community have a place in your courtship?

The Day of Reckoning - Is marriage inevitable? The gift of Singleness.

Forum - Q&A session

To register by 5 March 2010

Contact **Joseph** @ 8125 5950/ acidarie@yahoo.com or **Sheldon** @ 9183 1882/ shellongoh@hotmail.com

COME WORSHIP WITH US !

Sunday – Worship: 9.30 am | Bible Class: 11.15 am
Wednesday – Midweek Service: 8.00 pm



If the book of Job teaches us anything about suffering, it affirms that God's reasons are beyond man's ability to comprehend.

The patriarch Job, perhaps as well as any other, understood what it meant to suffer. Having lost his fortune (Job 1:13-17), his children (1:18-19), his health (2:7-8), the support of his wife (2:9), and the comfort of his friends (16:2), Job became despondent. He asked, "Why did I not die at birth? Why did I not perish when I came from the womb?" (Job 3:11). The reality of his suffering drove Job to conclude that man "who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (14:1).

As we consider Job's plight from our remote perspective, it is not surprising to find Job questioning God about the difficulties he faced. Like so many others who have lived since his day, Job wondered how a just God could allow the righteous to suffer while the wicked prospered. Although his friends attempted to answer his quandary by arguing that he was wicked, Job maintained his purity and stated: "Let me be weighed on honest scales, that God may know my integrity" (Job 31:6).

Attempting to Understand Suffering

Job's account of suffering is certainly not the only one in Scripture. Job was not the only individual to delve into the issue of how God could justly allow the righteous to suffer while the wicked seemingly went unpunished. The prophet Jeremiah asked, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?" (Jeremiah 12:1). And Habakkuk pondered, "Why do You look on those who deal treacherously, and hold Your tongue when the wicked devours a person more righteous than he?" (Habakkuk 1:13). Those questions spring out of man's desire to know why. But if the book of Job teaches us anything, it affirms that God's reasons are beyond man's ability to comprehend.

Rather than providing Job with the answer that he sought, God affirmed His sovereignty by asking, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the

earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Job 38:4-7).

Although God's answer was not what Job sought, the point was crystal clear – the ways of God are higher than the ways of man (Isaiah 55:8-9). No wonder Paul wrote, "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).

The God of All Comfort

Like Job's friends, it is easy for those who are not afflicted to look at the sufferer and draw various conclusions. Although we might be correct in our suppositions, they remain just that – suppositions. Carson's observations along this line are quite valuable:

"We can offer standard answers to every problem that comes along, especially if the problem is afflicting some other person. Our certainty and dogmatism give us such assurance, our systematic theology is so well articulated, that we leave precious little scope for mystery, awe, unknowns. Then, when we ourselves face devastating catastrophe, and we find that the certainties we have propounded with such confidence offer us little relief, our despair is the bleaker: we begin to question the most basic elements of our faith. Had we recognized that in addition to great certainties there are great gaps in our comprehension, perhaps we would have been less torn up to find that the mere certainties proved inadequate in our own hour of need."

(Carson D.A., *How Long, O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil*. P.26, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008)

Those who suffer need to be comforted. If we really want to help, let us remind the sufferer of God's love and of our concern, God is truly the "God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (II Corinthians 1:3-4). And we must all strive to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). Job certainly slipped into the depths of despair. But even in what seemed to be a hopeless situation, Job expressed hope: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him" (Job 13:15). May those who suffer do the same.

Chad Ramsey is the author of the book "Reasons to Believe", and he is the minister for the Gloster Street Church of Christ in Tupelo, Mississippi. This article is taken from the April 2009 edition of "The Gospel Advocate"

CONGREGATION UPDATES

A Warm Welcome

A warm welcome to all our visitors and brethren from other congregation. We thank you for being with us, and we hope to see you again soon.

CMW Newsletter: Logo Design

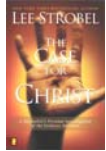
The editorial team of our Cambodia Mission Work (CMW) committee is pleased to announce the title of our quarterly newsletter, **The Messenger - Extending Beyond Borders**. The title implies that the gospel is being brought beyond the shores of Singapore, as reinforced in Matt 28:18-20. We are very excited about its coming release. And as part of our efforts to get the publication ready, we would like your involvement in the creation of the newsletter's logo.

The design of the logo has to be a true representation of our mission's objectives. The winning logo will be released and printed in our inaugural issue that is slated for distribution in early April 2010. You can submit more than one entry to the following email address lcoc.cmw@gmail.com.

The closing date for all entries is **14 Mar 2010**. So what are you waiting for? Keep your ideas flowing in!

Midweek Service

This Wednesday (24 Feb 2010) at 8pm, we will resume our DVD series entitled "**The Case For Christ**". All are welcomed!



CNY Fellowship: "3 House Visit"

- Date** : 27 February 2010 (Saturday)
- Time** : 12.00pm to 3.00pm
- Venue** : 47 Richard's Place
Tat Chuen & Eileen's place (Tel : 6525 8191)
- Time** : 3.30pm to 6.30pm
- Venue** : 81 Toa Payoh Lor 4, #23-436
Kelvin and Hilda's place (Tel : 6250 3800)
- Time** : 7.00pm to 10.00pm
- Venue** : 418 Ang Mo Kio Ave 10, #06-1045
Suay Hua's place (Tel : 6459 9201)

Please sign up today if you are planning to join in the lunch/dinner sessions.

Eldership Forum

- Date** : 2 April 2010 (Good Friday)
- Time** : 8.15am to 5.00pm
- Venue** : Furama RiverFront Hotel
(405 Havelock Road)
- Main Speaker** : Wayne Barrier

Breakfast, lunch and 2 tea-breaks will be provided. For logistical purposes, please sign up early if you are planning to come.

LAST WEEK'S NUMBERS

14 February 2010

Attendance : 94

Contribution : \$2,613.60

SERVING IN WORSHIP

	21 February 2010	28 February 2010
Song Leader	Ivan Ho	James Wong
Preacher	Peter Low	Peter Low
<u>Ushers</u>		
Scripture Reader (OP)	Kelvin Chung	Roy Low
Lord's Supper I/C	Teo Cheng Heng	Jason Lee
Lord's Supper Asst	Kevin Wee	Tony Poh
Announcer (CP)	Roger Hiew	Wat Tat Chuen
Premises Steward	Chang Chee Wee	Katheravan Ramasamy