



# **NEW LIFE**

## **BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)*

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**LORD'S DAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Dear Readers,

### **Christian Fellowship - The "KOINONIA" of the Church**

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)*

According to Acts 2:41, the New Testament Church is born having an initial membership of something more than 3,000 men and women. The life of this new body of believers developed in four specific areas, described in Acts 2:42. These areas were: (1) Doctrine; (2) Fellowship; (3) Breaking of Bread; and (4) Prayer.

These four areas of the new life in Christ are described in two couplets, that is, doctrine and fellowship are linked together, and breaking of bread and prayer are linked together.

The Greek term for fellowship is Koinonia. The word Koinonia carries the basic idea of having something in common. The word is related to koine, meaning "common", which we use to refer to koine Greek, the original language of the New Testament, which was common to many people at a certain time in history. Jude 3 speaks of our "common (koine) salvation", referring to a salvation known and shared by all believers. The best way to bring the meaning of Koinonia into English is to speak of joint participation in something. Koinonia involves loving, caring and sharing fellowship – it is love.

The discipline of Koinonia means that we act in a certain way towards one another. The best way to explain this is to point to the "one another" passages in the New Testament. There are over fifty of these passages. Let us highlight just some of them:

- Love one another (John 13:34-35, Galatians 5:14)
- Encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25)
- Be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be kind to one another (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Have concern for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Confess your sins to one another (James 5:16)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Teach and admonish one another (Colossians 5:16)
- Pray for one another (James 5:16)
- Don't judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- Don't slander one another (James 4:11)

All of these were part of the spiritual-fitness program to be found in the early church. Members devoted themselves to Koinonia or fellowship with one another.

The discipline of Koinonia presupposes something, something we find scattered throughout our...

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Bible reading and all of Acts 2. And that is "togetherness." Listen to what these verses say about being together:

*"And all that believed were together, and had all things common;"* (Acts 2:44)

*"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."* (Acts 2:46)

At the very beginning of the chapter we read this:

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."* (Acts 2:1)

Many people today say they don't need the church to be a Christian. That is absolutely wrong! You don't need the church to become a Christian but you certainly need the church to be a Christian. The church doesn't make you a Christian any more than a garage makes a bike a car. But Spirit-filled Christians – and there are no other kinds of Christians – gather together in church.

When God saves us, He puts us together physically with other Christians. He puts us together to experience Koinonia. He puts us together so we can learn to love one another, encourage one another, be devoted to one another, build up one another, be kind to one another, accept one another, serve one another, have concern for one another, and so on. Christians need to be part of a group that holds them accountable, that encourages, admonishes, supports, prays for them, and cries with them.

### **Areas of Joint Participation (Fellowship) in the Early Church**

#### Koinonia in Material Things

- Romans 15:26-27. The word "contribution" is Koinonia .
- 2 Corinthians. 8:4, "fellowship of the ministering to the saints"
- 2 Corinthians. 9:1, "ministering (distribution) to the saints"
- Galatians. 6:6, "communicate with"
- Philippians. 4:15, "communicated"

Note that in each passage there is joint participation in something material - money.

#### Koinonia in Suffering

- Philippians. 3:10, "fellowship of his sufferings"
- 1 Peter 4:13, "partakers of Christ's sufferings". Here there is a believer's participation in the area of suffering.

#### Koinonia in the Incarnation of Christ

- Hebrews 2:14 shows that Christ became a joint participant with us when He took on a human body – "he also himself likewise took part of the same".

#### Koinonia at the Lord's Table

- 1 Corinthians 10:16 says that we have "communion" (Koinonia) with the blood and body of Christ.

#### Koinonia in Spreading the Gospel

- Galatians 2:6-9 tells how Peter, Paul and other apostles were given the "right hands of fellowship" indicating joint participation in the spread of the Gospel.

#### Koinonia in Salvation

- 2 Peter 1:4 says that by the Word of God we become "partakers of the divine nature".

Koinonia in the Holy Spirit

- 2 Corinthians. 13:14 and Phil. 2:1 both indicate a joint participation of the believer and the Holy Spirit.

Koinonia in a Common Effort

- Luke 5:10 expresses this where James, John, and Simon are called "partners" (Koinonia). The joint participation was in the fishing business which they all shared.

### Conclusions

Fellowship in the New Testament means joint participation in some area, defined by context. In some contexts, joint participation is prohibited, especially when it brings one into fellowship with evil (e.g. 2 John 11; 1 Corinthians 10:20). In no passage is fellowship presented as a goal or end in itself - it is merely the by-product of common goals or possessions. The more the believer discovers the salvation common to all other believers, the more fellowship occurs. May the Lord continue to bless and unite us together in one accord. Amen.

*Elder Sherman Ong  
Life BP Church, S'pore*



### Blest Be The Tie That Binds

In 1765 John Fawcett was called to pastor a very small congregation at Wainsgate, England. He laboured there diligently for 7 years, but his salary was so meagre that he and his wife could scarcely obtain the necessities of life. Though the people were poor, they compensated for this lack by their faithfulness and warm fellowship. Then Dr Fawcett received a call from a much larger church in London, and after lengthy consideration decided to accept the invitation. As his few possessions were being placed in a wagon for moving, many of his parishioners came to say goodbye. Once again they pleaded with him to reconsider. Touched by this great outpouring of love, he and his wife began to weep. Finally Mrs Fawcett exclaimed, "O John, I just can't bear this. They need us so badly here." "God has spoken to my heart too! He said. "Tell them to unload the wagon! We cannot break these wonderful ties of fellowship. This experience inspired Fawcett to write a hymn. *"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love! The fellowship of kindred mind is like to that above."*

*H.G Bosch*

## In Green Pastures Devotional Readings for Every Day of the Year

By J.R. Miller, D.D.

24 September 2006

### MORNING

**EPHESIANS 5:8 "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:"**

WE are able to walk in this world as children of light. Light stands for all that is beautiful, true, right, and good. Darkness is the emblem of all that is wrong, evil, ugly, unholy.

As Christians we belong to the kingdom of light. We should so live that our lives shall always give out light. We are the light of the world. We are to make life brighter for others. We are to live so as to make the way plain to some who do not know where to go or what to do.

It would be very sad if any persons in darkness should look to us to learn how to live, and find our light not shining. If the light in a lighthouse were to go out some night, ships might be wrecked. If our light fails to shine even for a little while, we know not who might perish in the darkness.

We are all children of light, and dare never to have our lamp grow dim.

### EVENING

#### GOD'S DARK ROOM

THE noblest, richest, purest, and most fruitful lives in this world have always been lives of sufferers. There are elements of loveliness in the depths of every human soul which the fires of pain alone can bring out. The photographer carries his picture into a darkened room to develop it. God often takes His children into the chamber of pain and draws the curtains while He brings out the features of His own image, which before had been there but in dim and shadowy outlines.

**WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON**  
**CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**  
**IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)**

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm.**

Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
<b>Morning</b>	<b>Today: 24/09/2006</b>	<b>Next Week: 01/10/2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Patrick Yddisak to our worship service last week.</li> </ul>
<i>Chairman:</i>	Jonathan Kim	John Poh	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Rev Jack Sin	
<i>Message:</i>	In Christ We are Overcomers	The Elements of a Healthy, Vibrant, Growing Church	
<i>Text:</i>	John 16:25-33		
<i>Organist:</i>	Yanning	Anthony	
<b>Evening</b>			
<i>Chairman:</i>	Alvin Chow	Jeff Pun	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Pr Mok Chee Cheong	Rev Jack Sin	
<i>Message:</i>	The Fourth Commandment	The Biblical Strategy for Effectual Gospel Missions in the Last Days	
<i>Text:</i>	WLC Questions 115-121		
<i>Pianist:</i>	Anthony		Feng Qian
Other Duties			NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Next Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Areas of Service:</b> For those who are interested to serve (as ushers, Sunday school teachers, pianists, organists, kitchen, ...), please see Mok, Jonathan or Daniel.</li> <li>• <b>Maasai Mission:</b> Pray for the settlement of the land title and the safety of the workers. Continue to pray for Sis Pui Meng as she ministers to the Maasai community.</li> <li>• <b>Daily Rememberancer:</b> We have copies of the Daily Rememberance available for purchase at the book table. Each copy will cost £5.</li> <li>• <b>Rev Jack Sin:</b> Rev Jack Sin, the pastor of Maranatha BP church S'pore, and his wife, Angie, will be in London on 29 Sep for 2 weeks. During this time, he will be taking the pulpit and leading the YAF sessions on the topics of Reformation and the End Times. All are encouraged to join the YAF as well as the worship services. Please invite your friends along.</li> </ul>
<i>Ushers</i>	Alvin/Yoong Chiang	Daniel/Joyce	
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Carol	Joyce	
<i>Lunch:</i>	Yoong Chiang	Constance	
<i>Washing-up:</i>	Yetta/Prema	YAF Group 1	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW – Genesis 27	DHW – Genesis 28	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 29 Sep	7.00 pm	<b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b> Spkr: Rev Jack Sin	
Sat 30 Sep	4.00 pm	<b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b> Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
<b>Offering:</b> £173.70		<b>Lunch:</b> £28.71	
<h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen</i></p>			<p>~~~~~</p> <h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>FELLOWSHIP</u></h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)</i></p>