



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 7 JANUARY 2007

My dear readers,

Stewardship as a Way of Life

2007 is already here! Have you done your personal reflection yet? Have you reflected and thought about what the past year has brought and what the New Year could bring? If you have not, why don't you go to a park or somewhere conducive to take stock of your priorities, values, pursuits or goals in life?

Generally speaking, most of us look at the New Year as a fresh beginning or as an opportunity to start things all over again such as parenting, being a better spouse, losing more weight, developing different priorities, ministries or anything that we would like to change. So, we hear a lot about New Year resolutions – resolutions which are usually broken in a matter of days, weeks or months. That is why so many people are very pessimistic about the whole issue of making resolutions, and that is rightly so because so many good intentions are followed by a history of past failures. However, our past failures, disappointments and mistakes should not deter us from making God-honouring resolutions. We must, like Paul, forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead. We must press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13, 14).

Who is a Christian Steward?

A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord (Matthew 25:14-30). He recognizes God as the source of everything. He also knows that he will be held accountable to God for the stewardship of his time, talents and treasures.

Gratitude, Responsibility, Generosity and Accountability

Every Christian is a gifted Christian. God has gifted us in a variety of ways. He gives us spiritual gifts for the common good of the church (1 Corinthians 12:11, 7). Therefore, you and I are to discover them and develop them to their full potential and use them well to serve others to build up the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-16).

There are at least four measurements of good stewardship – Gratitude, Responsibility, Generosity and Accountability. With regard to gratitude, ask yourselves, *"Do I give of my talent while I credit God for making me talented?"* With regard to responsibility, ask yourselves, *"Am I wisely responsible with my time?"* With regard to generosity, ask...

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ask yourselves, *"Am I ungrudgingly generous with my treasure?"* and with regard to accountability, ask yourselves, *"Am I accountable in stewardship of the ministry that God has entrusted me?"*

Each of us is responsible for the way we live our lives and how we respond to the circumstances of life – good or bad. At the end of the day, we have to give an account to God for all that we say or do on earth (Matthew 12:36, 37; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15). God is just. He is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34).

Time, Talent and Treasure

Each of us has exactly the same number of hours available in each day. Therefore, making good use of our time requires keeping our priorities right. Since each day is only a 24-hour day (no more and no less), we must learn to say "yes" to one thing and "no" to another graciously. We need to decide what is important and what is not important and what is urgent and what is not urgent. In short, we need to prioritize lest we let time slip by quickly. Paul reminds us to make the best use of our time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:16).

A simple but profound way to be a good steward of God's gift of time is to cultivate a good prayer life. Some of us may feel that we don't have the means to contribute to the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But little do we realize that the greatest contribution to the proliferation of the eternal and glorious Gospel is by means of prayer. We can call upon God anywhere and everywhere at any time. We can pray for the world's political situation, the unsaved people in the community or the pressing needs of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Each and every one of us is gifted with at least one spiritual gift. Therefore, we do not need to excel at something to be talented. Instead, you need to ask yourselves, *"How will I use my spiritual gift(s) to serve in the Body of Christ? How can I use them to build up the Kingdom of God?"* We are God's hands and feet, eyes and ears, mind and heart in the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).

Everything comes from God, and that includes wealth and the ability to get more wealth. Moses warned Israel not to forget that it was God who gave them the power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). Money itself is not evil, but the love of it is (1 Timothy 6:10). Whatever wealth God has blessed us with, we are not to become haughty nor set our hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). Proverbs reminds us that money has wings – *"Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven"* (Proverbs 23:5). Do not be like the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 who would not make God his refuge, but trusted in the abundance of his riches and sought refuge in his own destruction (Psalm 52:7). Whatever our plan is, make sure that God is part of it (James 4:13-15). Our God wants us to be good stewards of the manifold blessings which He has bestowed upon us (Luke 19:12-26).

Obstacles to Stewardship

There are numerous hindrances to stewardship as a way of life. Here are some common ones Christians face when it comes to stewardship of time, money, talents and gifts:

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1. The fear that if they share their time with others, they won't have enough to do what they want to do. According to Paul's teaching, such an attitude is a selfish one. He said in Philippians 2:4, "*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*"

2. The fear that if they give their money away, they won't have enough to buy what they want for their loved ones or themselves. Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35).

3. The fear that if they offer their talents, they won't be good enough to meet the people's expectations. Paul said in Colossians 3:23, "*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.*"

The problem with us today is that our consumer-driven society has made us believe that we will never have "*enough.*" We will always have to buy more, do more and be more. But Christian stewardship is counter-cultural. In fact, it has been called the "*antidote to materialism.*" We Christians believe that God has given each of us "*enough,*" for our heavenly Father knows that we have need of all these things (Matthew 6:32). The testimony of King David was powerful. He said, "*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread*" (Psalm 37:25).

God was His faithful provider in all his life. Jesus said, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matthew 6:33). Our God wants us to know what is the right thing to do when it comes to food, clothing and shelter. He wants us to seek Him and His Kingdom first, and then "*all these things*" (i.e. material things) "*shall be added unto you.*" Do you believe this?

Dear Lifer, may I strongly encourage you to strive to be a better steward for Jesus Christ in the New Year. Seek every opportunity to serve the Lord fervently (Romans 12:11; Galatians 6:10). Make stewardship a way of life. Amen.

Rev Colin Wong
Life B-P Church, Singapore

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## A New Year Meditation

What better time and what better season,

What greater occasion or more  
wonderful reason

To kneel down in prayer and lift our hands  
high

To the God of creation who made earth and  
sky,

Who sent us His Son to live here among  
men

And the message He brought is as true now  
as then.

So at this glad season when there's joy  
everywhere

Let us meet our Redeemer at the altar of  
prayer

Asking Him humbly to bless all of our days  
And grant us forgiveness for our erring  
ways.

And though we're unworthy, dear Father  
above,

Accept us today and let us dwell in Thy love  
So we may grow stronger, upheld by Thy  
grace,

And with Thy assistance be able to face  
All the temptations that fill every day,

And hold onto our hands when we stumble  
and stray.

And thank you, dear God, for the year that  
now ends

And for the great blessing of loved ones and  
friends.

- Helen Steiner Rice -

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

## CHURCH THEME: WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF LIFE (Romans 6:4)

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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <i>Today: 07/01/2007</i>   | <i>Next Week: 14/01/2007</i>                                   | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Aida Kiflu to our morning service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <i>Chairman:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yoong Chiang Seetoh        | Jonathan Kim                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Speaker:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Pr Mok Chee Cheong         | Pr Mok Chee Cheong                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Message:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The Danger of Deception    | Love Does Not Seek its Own                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Text:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Leviticus 19:26-32         | 1 Corinthians 13:5                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Organist:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Anthony                    | Yanning                                                        | NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Evening</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                            |                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dedication Sunday:</b> For all who are serving the church in various ministry, please take note a dedication service will be held next week, Jan 14. Also, for those who would like to serve in any ministry, please see Pr Mok or Jonathan.</li> <li>• <b>Sunday School for 2007:</b> Classes will be rescheduled to 12:30pm after the morning worship service.</li> <li>• <b>Basic Bible Knowledge (BBK):</b> The BBK classes will commence in Jan 07. For those who are seeking baptism and interested in church memberships, please see Pr Mok.</li> <li>• <b>Daily Devotion Materials:</b> We have limited copies of the daily devotion "Our Daily Walk". This is based on the work of F. B. Meyer. They are available at the book table. First come, first serve basis.</li> </ul> |
| <i>Chairman:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | John Poh                   | Jeff Pun                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Speaker:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Pr Mok Chee Cheong         | Pr Mok Chee Cheong                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Message:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The Names of God – El Olam | The Names of God – El Roi                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Text:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Psalms 90:2                | Genesis 16:13-14                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Pianist:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Feng Qian                  | Anthony                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Other Duties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                            |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <i>Today: 07/01/2007</i>   | <i>Next Week: 14/01/2007</i>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Ushers</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | John/Sharon                | Jeff/Joyce                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Sunday Sch:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Carol                      | Joyce                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Lunch:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Constance                  | Maureen                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Washing-up:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | YAF Group 1/Volunteers     | YAF Group 2/Volunteers                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <i>Bible Study:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Video Presentation         | Video Presentation                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Appointments of the Week                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                            |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Fri 12 Jan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 7.00 pm                    | <b>Young Adults Fellowship:</b><br>Led by Jeff                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Sat 13 Jan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 4.00 pm                    | <b>Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study:</b><br>Spkr/C'man: Pr Mok |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Last Week's Worship Service Collections                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                            |                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Offering:</b> £258.50                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Book Sales:</b> £5.00   | <b>Lunch:</b> £27.66                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <h2 style="margin: 0;"><u>The Lord's Prayer</u></h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><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> |                            |                                                                | MEMORY VERSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                            |                                                                | <b>Romans 6:4</b><br>"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |