



# NEW LIFE

## BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Vol. 19 No. 17

**LORD’S DAY 26 APRIL 2015**

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### *Morning Service – 11am*

#### *Evening Service – 4pm*

*Prelude*

*The Lord Is in His Holy Temple*

*Call to Worship*

Psalm 89:15-18

Psalm 9:1-2

*Opening Hymn \**

RHC 29 – *“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”*

RHC 60 – *“Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim”*

*Opening Prayer \**

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Gloria Patri \**

*Glory Be to the Father*

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*Responsive Reading*

117 & 118

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*Second Hymn \**

*Psalm 117 & 118 verses 1-4*  
(to the tune of Wiltshire, RHC 35)

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*Announcements & Memory Verse*

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim

*Tithes & Offerings & Doxology \**

RHC 125 – *“Jesus is the Joy of Living”*

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*Scriptural Text*

Colossians 3:18-21

John 17:3

*Pastoral Prayer*

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Sermon Message*

*Developing a Faithful Christian Home*

*The Essence of Eternal Life*

*Closing Hymn \**

RHC 471– *“A Christian Home”*

RHC 274 – *“Soul of Me, Why Will Ye Scatter”*

*Benediction/3-Fold Amen \**

Dr Carl Martin

Dr Carl Martin

*Postlude*

*The Lord Bless You*

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\* Congregation Stands

#### **THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE**

The Lord is in His holy temple,  
The Lord is in His holy temple:  
Let all the earth keep silence,  
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -  
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

#### **DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world  
without end. Amen, Amen.

#### **THE LORD BLESS YOU**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,  
and give you peace, and give you peace;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,  
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

**Church Theme 2015 – “Build a God-Honouring Family” – Joshua 24:15b**

*From the pastor's heart...*

## CHRISTIANS AND TRIALS

Adapted from Weekly Lively Hope Newsletter, Sunday 22nd March 2015

I am sitting before my computer and trying to write an article for this week. I have been reading a few books at the same time: in the morning one title, and another at night, or one day one title and another day another. When I tried to pull out all the insights I had been able to glean from such readings, I realized that I was all mixed up. I could not remember where I read what, who said which. Out of such confusion, one word popped up into my mind, which was "tragedy." Although I was not in a tragic situation in my office on Monday morning, somehow this word lingered in my mind for a while. This word is not one of the brightest in our vocabularies that brings enjoyment. However, it stuck in my mind and I could not stop thinking about it. I began to remember a few unforgettable incidents; either that I had witnessed or heard of from different people. From tragic deaths and accidents, to mysterious events that had broken the hearts of many of my acquaintances. Some lost their loved ones by tragic accidents or natural disasters, or some people's hearts were broken because of betrayals by people they most trusted. Some suffered with terminal illnesses, and some suffered deep depression. We heard so many stories from John Wilson and his wife last week about tragedies fallen upon faithful believers in different parts of the world. Even this morning, I read the news from Pakistan that religious zealots killed many Christians near Lahore, where I visited a few years ago. In other news, Vanuatu has been devastated by Cyclone Pam and its 300 km/h wind force. Homes are lost, and many places are flattened. Having fixed my thoughts on them, I busily looked up Bible concordances to see if I could find the word, "tragedy," in the Bible. Then I looked up "accident." There was no occurrence of such words, at least in the King James Bible. Then I searched for "misery." Aha, there are 13 verses having "misery." Family word: "misery," "miseries," "miserable," and "miserably."

There are three Hebrew words used for "misery" family words. The first word is "*ama*" in Judges 10:16; Job 3:10; 11:16; 16:2; and proverbs 31:7. This word means "toil," "trouble," "labor" or "mischief." It occurs 55 times and is translated as "travail," "sorrow," "grievance," "pain, etc., in addition to the given definitions of the word. The second word is "*ra*" which is translated as "misery" only once in Ecclesiastes 8:6. It occurs 663 times in the Bible and its basic meaning is "bad," or "evil." However, it is also used as "affliction," or "adversity." The third Hebrew word is "*maruwd*, found in Lamentations 1:7 and 3:19. This word means "restlessness," "straying," "wanderer" or "refugee." It occurs only three times in the Bible. There are also three Greek words for "misery" family words in the New Testament. The first word is "*kakos*" (Matthew 21:41), which means "miserable," "to be ill," or "wrongly." It occurs 16 times altogether. Interestingly, this word is used a few times in referring to sick people. The second word is "*talaiporia*" (Romans 3:16; James 5:1), which means "hardship," "trouble," "calamity," or "misery." The third word is, "*eleeinos*" (1 Corinthians 15:19; Revelation 3:17), which means "to be pitied" or "miserable." I also looked up another word, "afflict" or "affliction." Surprisingly, there are 180 occurrences with five forms (afflict, afflicted, affliction, afflictest, afflictions) in 172 verses in our English Bible.

Finding such words from the Bible offered me relief. Having seen and heard stories after stories of tragedies in this world, if I could not find any biblical reference related to tragedies and afflictions, I would have been disappointed and even helpless. By knowing that the Bible deals with such related issues of tragedies, I find answers or at least relief and hope. We can be easily puzzled as we face incomprehensible tragedies. The more we are devoted to God, the more we are puzzled by Him. Why does God allow such things to happen? When we do not have answers for tragedies, we call them "acts of God." As we look at the devastated lives, homes and families, we are speechless. Such frustrations are well expressed in what Teresa of Avila said, "Lord, if this is the way you treat your friends, it's no wonder you don't have many!"

Bob Russell wrote a book, titled, “Acts of God.” I am going to share a portion of his writing, which could offer us some insight into the reasons why tragedy occurs. Behind his insight on this issue, there is a strong and biblical view that God is not the originator of evil. Thus, blaming God in tragic moments is not a solution at all. He offers us six reasons for our trials. (1) Lack of discipline brings trials. Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of losing his temper and usurpation of God’s glory. Miriam was struck with leprosy for undermining Moses’ leadership. We all know that God chastises His disobedient children (Hebrews 12). (2) Poor decisions bring trials. Sometimes we choose the wrong friends, eat the wrong foods, and make the wrong decisions in business or in family. Actions have consequences. (3) Satanic attacks bring trials. Satan is our enemy. Our battles are not against flesh and blood, but evil spirits. The Bible describes how Satan attacked a good man named Job, who suffered deeply and thoroughly. Paul spoke of a “thorn in the flesh,” some unpleasant infirmity that God allowed Satan to use as a weapon against the apostle. (4) The sins of others bring trials. We may suffer as the consequence of others’ sins. Parents’ sins bring trials and suffering to children. Husband’s or wife’s sins also bring trials. Our friends’ sins could bring tragedies to us, too. (5) Persecution brings trials. 2 Timothy 3:12, *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* If we carefully read it and rephrase it, we may say, “bad things (in this case, persecutions) happen to good people (who are godly and righteous).” We need to see that godliness is a cause of persecution. (6) A fallen world (or effects of the fall of mankind) brings trials. We are living with fallen people in this fallen world. There’s also the distinctly Christian idea that we live not just among fallen people, but in an entire fallen world. Romans 8:18-21 says, *“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, <sup>21</sup> Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”* It helps us understand why there are tsunamis, earthquakes, diseases, floods, and even the attacks of vicious animals. We can suffer through non-human agencies, and the Bible teaches us that even in these cases, we are experiencing the consequences of a world that has rebelled.

Having read all these reasons, consider the following:

“G. K. Chesterton once said that what we call coincidences are ‘spiritual puns.’ A pun is a word with a double meaning, and a coincidence is an event with two meanings. Who supplies the second one? God is always working out His divine purposes—purposes no one but He can see in the limited view of the moment. . . . The Bible, like life itself, is packed with “it just so happened” moments. It just so happened that Ruth was gleaning in a field owned by Boaz. It just so happened that Samson was bound to the two supporting pillars of the temple which he pulled down. It just so happened that Caesar Augustus issued a decree for taxation, requiring a man named Joseph to go to the town decreed by prophecy for Jesus to be born in. And it just so happened that Esther married a king and had the opportunity to save the Jewish people. “Just so happened” moments are what the Bible calls “in the fullness of time.” Like the seasons, like the tides, there is a rhythm and a timing for everything God has planned to do” (Kindle location 1014). All is in the hands of God.

Lovingly,

Your Pastor

# WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

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.

| APPOINTMENTS FOR THE WEEK   | WELCOME   |
|---|---|
| Thurs 30 Apr <span style="float: right;"><b>No Mid-Week Bible Study</b></span>  | We extend a warm welcome to all worshippers this Lord's Day. We welcome Annabelle, Vicki Paulin, Skye and Larrissa to our worship services last Lord's Day. |
| Sat 02 May <span style="float: right;"><b>No Bible Study &amp; Prayer Meeting</b><br/>(Next meeting on 9 May – every alternate week)</span> |   |

| Next Lord's Day | Morning Service          | Evening Service          | LORD'S DAY DUTIES  |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Preacher</i> | Mr Charles Scott-Pearson | Mr Charles Scott-Pearson | <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TODAY: 26/04/2015</u></b></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> Jonathan<br/> <i>Organist:</i> Keene<br/> <i>Pianist:</i> Keene<br/> <i>Ushers:</i> Tom / Margaret<br/> <i>Sunday School:</i> No classes<br/> <i>Lunch:</i> Tom<br/> <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers<br/> <i>PA Crew:</i> Scott</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NEXT WEEK: 03/05/2015</u></b></p> <p><i>Chairman:</i> John<br/> <i>Organist:</i> Keene<br/> <i>Pianist:</i> Matthew<br/> <i>Ushers:</i> Daniel / Evelyn<br/> <i>Sunday School:</i> Keene / Rachael<br/> <i>Lunch:</i> Maureen<br/> <i>Washing Up:</i> Volunteers<br/> <i>PA Crew:</i> Jonathan</p> |
| <i>Message</i>  | Tbc                      | Tbc                      |  |
| <i>Text</i>     | Tbc                      | Tbc                      |  |

| NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS   |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pre-lunch Bible Study:</b> Dr Martin will continue with the study on "Building Firm Foundations"</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those who are sick:</b> Douglas, Barbara, Prema, Margaret, May Chew, Constance, Deborah, Pastor &amp; Mrs Ki, Susan, Dr Carl Martin, Dr Scott-Pearson, Nina, Helen, Eld Chew's mother, Hannah, Shirley, Daniel, Dr Tow, Jonathan's father, Sarah, Matthew, Toby, Ellie, Kalel.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for expecting mothers:</b> Sharon, Magdalene, Helen.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those seeking employment:</b> Yetta, Nana.</li> <li>• <b>Pray for those on travel:</b> Matthew, Sarah, Anthony &amp; Helen, John &amp; Family, Daniel &amp; Maureen.</li> <li>• <b>Pulpit Ministry:</b> Pray for Dr Martin as he serves as interim minister.</li> <li>• <b>Ladies Fellowship will be held after lunch today.</b></li> <li>• <b>Metropolitan Tabernacle School of Theology:</b> 7th-9th July 2015. Theme - "Pathway to Power".</li> </ul> | <p><b>Worship Service Collections</b> – Last Sunday: £572.20, Lunch: £42.90<br/> <b>Attendance</b> - Morning: 30 (A) 7 (C), Evening: 19 (A) 4 (C)</p> |

## SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 65

**Q: What is forbidden in the Fifth Commandment?**

*A: The Fifth Commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honour and duty which belongeth to every one in their several places and relations.*

Scriptural Reference:

Romans 13:7; Romans 12:10

## MEMORY VERSE

| Last Week   | This Week   | Next Week   |
|---|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mark 8:38</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matthew 22:37</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Matthew 22:38-39</b></p> |