

## *Living Abundant Christian Lives*

### Editorial

### Note

*Lu Tan Wan Xian*

Dear fellow pilgrims,

Time flies. By the time you receive this issue of Channel, 2009 would be just a few days away or would have already arrived!

As we enter into a year of uncertainties, may I encourage you to keep looking to God as our provider and keeper and not to look to things around you.

Just to share a couple of learning points I gained in 2008, which would be applicable in such uncertain times as these.

#### **1. A fresh insight to Luke 12:25-26**

***And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?***

Several months ago, I was undergoing a personal crisis of confidence- my confidence in God was shaken. As problems and worries of the future tumbled into my life, I found it difficult to trust God. I knew the model answers- that God would provide the sufficient grace for every difficulty and so on. But practically speaking, I couldn't live according to the model answers. In other words, my daily living and my fears showed that I didn't believe those promises. I could only pray "God, help my unbelief" until one long weekend arrived.

During that weekend, I was reflecting on how God has circumstantially provided for certain needs of my family in ways which could not have happened out of man's planning/orchestration of events ... How He has also provided me with a job that caters to both my strengths and weaknesses ... It then dawned on me that I couldn't have added a cubit to my current lot through my own planning or hard work. So, why think so much?

Just walk the path God has for me ahead in submission and in obedience to His revealed will. My part is just to walk uprightly and trust that no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (Ps 84:11). Conversely, anything that God permits to come into the life of those who love Him will work for their good (Rom 8:28), though we may not be able to see how. The wisdom and love of our heavenly Father who is in control of all things, is beyond question.

weekend, I was reminded of a devotion on Isa 43:2 which I have

***When thou passest through the waters... they shall not overflow thee (Isa 43:2)***

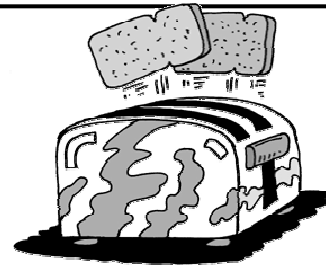
"God does not open paths for us in advance of our coming. He does not promise help before help is needed. He does not remove obstacles out of our way before we reach them. Yet when we are at the edge of our need, God's hand is stretched out.

Many people forget this, and are forever worrying about difficulties which they foresee in the future. They expect that God is going to make the way plain and open before them, miles and miles ahead; ... You must get to the waters and into the floods before you can claim the promise..."

As Annie Johnson Flint said, "We shall **not go down, or under**, For He saith, '**Thou passest THROUGH**'"

**3. In difficult times, never mind if you think, "I can't take it anymore! I can't take the next step". Either God will so strengthen you such that you will be able to take it, or He will call a sudden halt, and you shall not have to take that step at all.** (paraphrased, based on Pg 12 of Streams in the Desert) **He knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. (Ps 103:14)**

How true! There were times when God changed the circumstances and I didn't have to take that dreaded step! Be



**A time to suffer - and  
a time to be delivered**

encouraged that "GOD is never at a loss to find a way of providing for His children. All things are His servants. The brooks of water, the birds of the air, the beasts of the field, the wings of ravens, the waves of the sea – all creatures, all things animate and inanimate—belong to Him and are ready to serve Him at His call."

**4. ...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Heb 13:15)**

"A city missionary, stumbling through the dirt of a dark entry, heard a voice say, 'Who's there, Honey?' Striking a match, he caught a vision of earthly want and suffering, of saintly trust and peace ... calm appealing eyes set amid the wrinkles of a pinched, black face that lay on a tattered bed. It was a bitter night in February, and she had no fire, no fuel, and no light. She had had no supper, no dinner and no breakfast. She seemed to have nothing at all but rheumatism and faith in God. One could not well be more completely exiled from all pleasantness of circumstances, yet the favorite song of this old creature ran:

Nobody knows de trouble I see,  
Nobody knows but Jesus;  
Nobody knows de trouble I see-  
Sing Glory Hallelu! ...

And so it went on: "Nobody knows de work I do, Nobody knows de griefs I have, " the constant refrain

being the 'Glory Hallelu!' until the last verse rose:

Nobody knows **de joys I have**,  
Nobody knows but Jesus!



Praise God every day for every thing!

Troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed; (2 Cor 4:8-9). It takes great Bible words to tell the cheer of the old negro auntie.

Remember Luther on his sickbed. Between his groans he managed to preach on this wise: 'These pains and trouble here are like the type which the printers set; as they look now, we have to read them backwards, and they seem to have no sense or meaning in them; but up yonder, when the Lord God prints us off in the life to come, we shall find they make brave reading.' Only we do not need to wait till then. Remember Paul walking the hurricane deck amid a boiling sea, bidding the frightened crew 'Be of good cheer,' Luther, the old negro auntie - all of them human sunflowers. WM. C. Garnett"

(taken from pg 72 of Streams in the Desert)

God has given us more than just rheumatism and faith in Him! Surely, we have many more things that we can give thanks for than the auntie in the above devotion. ☺ In the New Year, may we make it a point to give thanks in everything (I Thess 5:18).

## Advisor's Thoughts *By Pak Sing*

Dear YAFers,

Christmas has passed. I hope you had enjoyed your Christmas holidays and had time to spend with your loved ones.



As it is commonly said, Christmas is about giving. I presumed you had bought gifts, given them out and hopefully received some in return ☺. Fiona and I did our usual listing of people whom we need to get presents for (and inadvertently left out some), did several rounds of shopping (we never seem to be able to get it all done in one trip no matter how much we plan each year), and gave all the presents out by Christmas. As we were busy buying gifts, wrapping them up and giving them away, I spent some moments thinking about our giving and comparing that to the Lord's giving on the first Christmas.

John 3:16 talks about the Lord's giving as follows:

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

From the words "he gave his only begotten Son", we can see the **Giver** – God Himself, the **Giving** – he gave, and the **Gift** – his only begotten Son. Comparing the Lord's giving with our giving shows us even more

clearly how wonderful the Lord's giving of His Son is.

### **The Giving**



First, our giving is always limited. We have a fixed budget and our buying is constrained by the limited amount of money we are willing to spend. Especially when we have to get gifts for many people, don't we all delight to find sale items or a good deal that allows us to spend less for more? Our Lord's giving, on the other hand, is not limited. He does not go for cheap sales. He does not go for bargains. He gave of His only begotten Son. O how small our giving is when compared to His giving of His dearly beloved Son. As the owner of all things on earth and in heaven, God could give a small portion of what He has and no doubt it would be great riches for us. But no, He did not give a little of what He has, He gave of His Son.

Because of our limited resources, our giving is also constrained to a limited number of recipients. We typically make a list of whom we want to give presents to, starting with our loved ones, to our friends and our acquaintances. Even among our friends and acquaintances, we limit to those whom we are close to and keep in contact with. It is not likely that we give the whole church, or the whole company, or the whole neighbourhood. But our Lord's giving is available for the whole world. His gift of His Son is freely given to whosoever who wants to receive it. There is no limit to the number of recipients. And unlike us, the Lord never misses out anyone in His giving.

Our giving is also limited by our capacity of love. We give to our loved ones, to friends whom we like, to people who are nice to us. We seldom give to complete strangers and almost never, if not never, to our enemies. Our Lord's giving, however, is to sinners who are enemies to Christ. Our Lord sacrificed His Son on the cross while we were yet sinners, rebelling against God. God's love was so great that He unilaterally made the first move to give of His Son to those who are still outside Christ, strangers to the Kingdom and enemies to God.

We also do not plan our giving way in advance. Usually, we would start drawing up the list and buying the Christmas presents 1 or 2 months ahead of Christmas, sometimes even up to the day before Christmas. Just look at the shopping centres nearing Christmas and we can tell that many of us are doing last minute shopping in time for Christmas! Our good Lord, however, planned His giving way before, even before the foundation of the world. And in the fullness of time, He gave of His only begotten Son as the gift of salvation. It reveals to us the marvellous wisdom of God and His thoroughness in thinking of our salvation.

Our giving also does not involve suffering, certainly not to the extent of Christ's suffering on earth. Jesus Christ gave up heaven's glory and was born in a lowly estate. Christ grew up being a poor carpenter and suffered the humiliation of men's rejection and died the terrible death on the cross. The Lord's giving involved suffering, the just for the unjust.

### **The Gift**

Besides our giving, our gifts pale in comparison with the Lord's gift. Our gifts do not last. Our chocolates expire, our flowers die, our books turn yellow and our ornaments suffer wear and tear. The Lord's gift is eternal. Whosoever receives Christ have everlasting life. The Lord's gift is also life giving. Christ who lives in all believers is the vine and fountain of living waters.

# The Elusive Abundant Life

By Mark Chen

Our gifts are also many times inappropriate and not suitable for the people we give to. I wonder how many gifts are floating out there as recycled gifts being passed from one person to another! Our Lord's gift of His Son, however, is the most suitable gift for anyone - whether rich or poor, of high estate or of low estate, whether black or white, educated or non-educated. No other gift is able to meet the needs of all mankind.



## **The Giver**

And the reason why our giving and our gifts are so different from the Lord's is because of the giver. We are finite creatures, limited by our resources, by our capacity to love, by our wisdom whereas God is an infinite, all knowing, all wise, all loving God. The giver of the greatest gift is infinite - He can give of Himself. He is all just - He had to deal with our sins and hence have to sacrifice His son as the propitiation for our sins. He is all wise - He devised the great plan of salvation even before the foundation of the world.

And He is all love - For God so loved the world, that He gave. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

This is what Christmas giving is about.



*"So I saw in my dream that the man began to run. Now he had not run far from his own door when his wife and children, perceiving it, began to cry after him to return; but the man put his fingers in his ears, and ran on crying, "Life! life! eternal life! (Luke 14:26)." So he looked not behind him, (Genesis 19:17), but fled towards the middle of the plain. The neighbors also came out to see him run, (Jeremiah 20:10); and as he ran, some mocked, others threatened, and some cried after him to return; and among those that did so, there were two that were resolved to fetch him back by force."*

These words were written by John Bunyan 330 years ago, in his book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It shows the desperation of a man as he chased after eternal life, breaking free from the world that he was in. We Christians today should have a similar desperation - to chase after an abundant life.

Christ promised in John 10:10 - *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* However, this abundant life is elusive to some of us. We live life, but may not experience true Christian abundance, because we go to the wrong source.

## **The Abundant Life Is Found in Christ**

Abundance in life is found only in Christ. For life to be abundant, we need both substance and wisdom. And God has given us both through Christ. Firstly, God has

given us *all* things in Christ (Romans 8:32). And secondly, God has given us all the tools necessary to live a godly life (2 Peter 2:3).

The abundant life we seek is not primarily a life of comfort, for the Son of man had nowhere to lay his head (Matthew 8:20). It's not primarily a life of reputation, for we shall be persecuted for his sake (John 15:20). It's not primarily a life governed by our desires, for we need to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23). But it is a life all about Christ and his will accomplished in us, for we're crucified in him and we live this life through him (Galatians 2:20).

Christ is the basis for that abundant life. If we obsess after *our* comfort, and *our* reputation, and *our* desires, then we can't have a life founded upon *Christ* nor have all things in *Christ*. But if we, by his grace, invest in Christ, we shall have abundance.

### **Desire and Pursue the Abundant Life**

One reason why we don't experience true Christian abundance is because we don't desire it. We know that living the Christian life is hard – we need to deny the flesh, mortify sin, and be heavenly minded – these things don't come naturally to us. But we also know the results of doing these things – among them are wisdom, love, liberty, hope, and confidence.

The pilgrim knew what he wanted. Which is why, after he heard the gospel and was given instructions to travel to the celestial city, he began to run, to the dismay of his wife and children. His desire for that life overwhelmed him. He hungered for it more than anything else.

Luke 14:26 says, "*If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he*

*cannot be my disciple.*" We see here that desire for Christ and desire for an abundant life must be more passionate and desperate than our desire for anything else.

Is Christ more important than the world to us? Is peace with him more desirable than security in things? Is contentment in Christ more attractive than comfort in relationships? It's not that these things are necessarily wrong, but we may often be put in a position where our hope in them exceeds our hope in Christ; where we yearn after security and crave after companionship more than Christ.

And when we're tested, we're brought to a point where we might admit that a bigger paycheck soothes our nerves more than Christ. And we're brought to a point where we might admit that a companion is better than the fellowship of Christ. It is then that we need to tweak our desire for him and to remind ourselves of how lovely Christ is.

Admittedly, it's not always easy to desire Christ more. It's easy when we're in love with him; but at other times, it dips and wanes. And so to experience abundance, a certain resolve is needed in putting away distractions.

### **Be Resolved to Put Away Distractions**

When the pilgrim was running desperately after eternal life, I'm sure he was tempted to turn around at the cries of his children and wife, but we see that he was resolute in his task – he plugged his ears and refused to look back – his desperation drove him to be single-minded.

In Genesis 19:17, the angel said to Lot and his family, "*Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.*" Lot was commanded not to

look back for the sake of his life. Many a pursuit for abundance has been abandoned because of distractions. I'm sure Lot's wife desperately wanted to escape to save her life, but affection for the burning city distracted her.

Spurgeon asked, *"Do you find yourself forgetting Jesus? Something steals your heart away, and you become unmindful of Him who should have your affection? Some earthly business captures your attention when you should have your eye steadily fixed upon the cross? It is far too often the unending cry of world, world, world; and the constant noise of earth, earth, earth – which take away the soul from Christ."*

What are some of the things that distract us? One obvious one is work. Work often leaves us with no time to live life. Working hard is needful, but working too hard is sinful, and that can be a snare. Another is church – church activities can keep us too busy but not blessed – beware of that one! Then there are those things that are not necessarily wrong, but may draw our attention from Christ – they are peculiar to each one of us, and we need to discern the Lord's will concerning them. Do we know what our distractions are?

If distractions prevent us from living in the will of Christ and from experiencing abundance, what shall we do with them? Obviously we are to put them away. But that will be very difficult.

### ***Bear with Great Difficulty***

When the pilgrim was leaving the city, his neighbors came out to watch him and mock him. This was the same with the prophet Jeremiah (Jeremiah 20:10). In doing and in preaching what was right, he had to endure the insults of all around him. Many

watched for him to fall and hoped for him to fail.

When we minimize the distractions and pursue the abundant life, we will no doubt be met with lots of opposition. Imagine if we scale down our work life – certainly there will be opposition. Imagine if we resist some of the busy work in church – we'll be accused of tepidity. And there are a lot of other things we can and need to do in order to pursue that Christian life and abundance, which will incur much opposition. There might be those who would mock and deride us. And there might be those who would try to bring us back to conformity by pressure and force.

We might mock and deride ourselves as well. And fear is a strong motivator for us to stop and conform.

Christian, if you know there are areas in your lives that hinder you from experiencing that abundance, resolve in your heart today to remove them. It will be difficult and painful; at times you will want to give up because it's easier not to do anything about it – but bear with difficulty. Have the desperation that the pilgrim had. Have the resolve that Lot had. Have the courage that Jeremiah had. Remember this life is achievable. And Christ and the abundant life he offers will be worth it all.

# The Chemo Connection

## *By Deborah*

One may consider this as part 2 of my testimony. The second and, prayerfully the last part of my cancer treatment (chemotherapy). Just as a refresher, I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in mid-April, 2008. After a whirlwind of activities and seeing the Lord's hand working in the lives of my loved ones and myself, I had a successful operation but still had to go through six cycles of chemotherapy.

The chemo gave me an extended holiday! In which I could continue to read and meditate on the Bible, but I am jumping ahead of myself. Let me begin first by explaining what chemo does to one's body. It basically attacks all very active cells because cancer cells always like to do things in a frenzy (i.e. multiply crazily fast). However, the chemo drugs are not able to distinguish good from bad cells, so they also kills off white blood cells (attack and weaken immune system), stomach lining cells and hair follicles.

Because of that, usually patients experience nausea, feel weak and tired all the time and will lose all their hair. As each cycle goes on, patients mostly feel weaker and weaker as they are unable to recover fully from the previous cycle. Praise the Lord that it was the exact opposite for my case. I became stronger and stronger after each cycle and only felt terrible for the first three or four days. My white blood cells kept increasing in number, so much so that my doctor kept increasing the dosage of my chemo drugs!

My super-charged recovery was in part due to having so many people from YAF come visit and encourage me. It motivated me to want to be well enough so I can attend the Saturday afternoon fellowship meetings held weekly. I would like to pause here and express my heartfelt gratitude to YAFers

like Fiona, Mei Li, Priscilla, Hui Miin and all who made the effort and time to come see me so often during my convalescence period. There are so many of you that the pages will be filled with names if I listed you all down. Truly, you are models in displaying brotherly (and sisterly) love as dictated in the book of John.

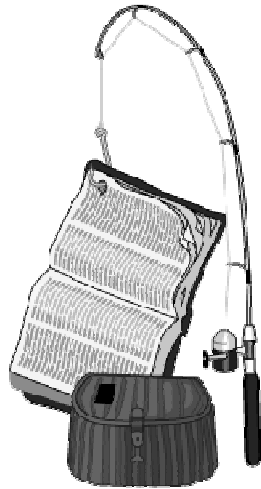
Going through the chemo itself was a blessing. I had to sit for five and a half hours for the medicine to be dripped



through my system though I believe it was even more tiring for my poor mother who came along and had to sit through the process with me. The nurse has to first find a vein (on the hand or arm) 'nice' enough for them to poke the needle through and sometimes they have to poke the patient a few times before they are successful. I was really quite fearful at first and prayed very hard for the whole thing to be as painless as possible because I heard that it can be a terrible experience. Thank the Lord that all went well with just the initial pain of the needle going in once. That was how it was for the first four cycles.

The fifth one was a nightmare. The nurses simply could not find a proper vein and poked me a total of five times. It may not sound like much but each time they insert the needle, you can feel the pain shoot right down to your toes. By the fourth time, I prayed very, very, very desperately for them to get it right. The Lord was good and I believe He knew my limit and the rest of the process went well. Thankfully this happened during the fifth cycle and not the earlier ones because it would have made me extremely fearful of going for the chemo treatments. Praise the Lord for His good timing!

I must admit that in the past, I was not a very disciplined person and only touched the Bible when I felt guilty for not reading it after a long time. However, with all the free time and having personally experienced God's grace and mercy to me in such a BIG way, I just had to read and see what else the Lord wanted to say to me. And so I became hooked to the Bible and it was amazing to just read and have the Lord speak to me through the biblical stories and verses. It struck me then how much I was missing out, having wasted my time on the television and other things of this world.



The most amazing thing out of the whole chemo experience I believe has to be that I actually held my church wedding ceremony in the midst of chemotherapy! I was the Bald Bride. I was completely without hair and even my eyebrows and eye lashes fell off, but it only served to give a stronger testimony of God's goodness in strengthening me. The Lord blessed Colin and me with YAFers, Desmond and Li Jun, (our wedding coordinators), the YAF 'wedding crew' and even Deacon Benny Chng. They made the wedding so beautiful and memorable. Again, I have to stop here to say a HUGE 'Thank you' once again to all who helped out and to all who came for the wedding.

After the wedding, I still had one more chemo treatment and that was completed without any fuss or trouble. However, there was one piece of information that troubled me. (From this point on, some guys may want to skip to the next paragraph. ☺) Through some research, I discovered that one third of ovarian cancer patients who have gone through chemotherapy do not recover their regular menstrual cycles. This means they go into menopause earlier than the expected age of 50 and above. I was

worried because I was having menopausal symptoms. On top of that, my doctor advised me to take contraceptive pills which would halt my menstrual cycle. I brought my fears and worries once more to the Lord (honestly, who else can one turn to when faced with crisis?) and He again allayed my fears by me having my period even while on the contraceptive pills! All glory be to God!

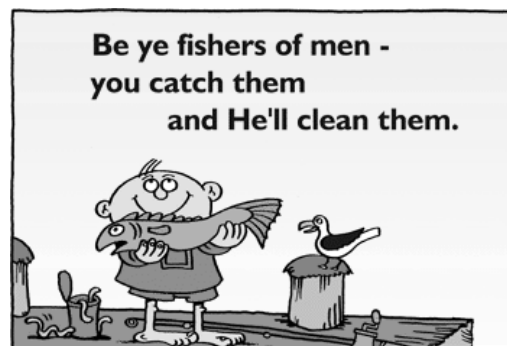
Through this whole journey, there has been nothing but blessings after blessings. I believe it is a second chance for me to build an intimate relationship with Jesus. I can now understand and say 'for me to live is Christ and to die is gain'. Amen.

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## "Preaching the Gospel to Impoverished Christians"

*by Michael Yu*

Lately, my mind has been occupied with the importance of preaching the gospel accurately, faithfully and continuously. As many others have said, "The gospel message is not ours to alter, but ours to proclaim." Sadly, many Christians have a deficient understanding of the gospel of grace. In a world dominated by



pragmatism and tangible results,

evangelism is frequently reduced to almost a "sales pitch" – for example, be comprised of 3 or 4 man-centered statements topped off with a "sincere" prayer by the recipient. Even in churches where the congregation may have a solid understanding of the gospel, the gospel tends to be *assumed* rather than *proclaimed*. In other words, it is not emphasized (or worse, nearly absent) in the worship service and the various ministries of the church. These pastor and congregation would rather talk about "influencing the world," "serving others," "sharing God's love in our schools, workplace and community," "success in our families" or "breaking bad habits & building godly ones." I don't mean to suggest that these matters are unworthy of our attention, because they are important and it is good to strive for excellence in them.

But they are not the gospel. It has been my personal experience that a church characterized by a "Do More, Try Harder" attitude tends to produce theologically immature members and burnt out leaders.

It should hardly be a surprise that preaching a weak gospel will produce weak, malnourished sheep. My purpose in sharing all this with you is to point out the need for every Christian – young & old, foolish & wise – to hear the good news again and again.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30).

Those of us who have been Christians for a long time have no doubt experienced at one time or another periods (sometimes, protracted periods) of "spiritual dryness." We struggle with that nagging or enticing sin that just won't go away. We feel overwhelmed and weary from addressing

all the demands of our busy lives. Christians who are heavily involved in ministry activities are especially susceptible to these bouts with spiritual "depression" from time to time. During these periods, worship becomes routine; and our prayers and personal devotions, if they have not been ignored, feel forced or mechanical. Then, when we hear a message on "Exhibiting the Fruits of the Holy Spirit" or "Being an Example of the Love of Christ" we feel like additional weight is subtly being pressed upon our heavily strained shoulders. In short, we start feeling and behaving like impoverished Christians; and we wonder "Where is the abundant life that Jesus spoke about in John 10?" When we find ourselves under this group, we need to hear the gospel. When we are burdened with sin and cares, we need to go to the cross and see that Christ has borne our ultimate burden. We need to see, once again, that we are accepted by the Father, notwithstanding how we feel and in spite of our continual failings, because of the finished work of Christ alone. He is our great High Priest, who is able to save to the uttermost those that come unto God by him, seeing he ever lives to make intercession for us. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)



Why carry your sins  
when God wants to  
take them away?

## Membership Letter *By Chin Kiong*

I thank God for His providence in bringing me to Life Bible Presbyterian Church in 2001 and leading me to baptism in October 2002 in the same church. However, at that moment in time, being a very young Christian, I knew not much about the duties and responsibilities of being a Christian and I was not very active in seeking His Word.



Go forward on Faith in Jesus

To make things "worse", I went to the UK for further studies and was "separated" from the reformed teaching for quite a number of years. I thank God for bringing me to

New Life BP Church in London in 2006 where I started to understand the true meaning of being a child of God. I started to realise the importance of the need to fully understand the Word of God, the importance of true Christian fellowship, and the importance of service in a local church so that God's Kingdom can be further extended.

Upon returning to Singapore from my studies, joining the YAF was one of my top priorities since I believed the Lord has led me back to Life Church not to be a pew-warming Christian which I initially was, but as an instrument to God to carry on what I have done (if not, more) during my time in New Life BP Church, London. In order to achieve further spiritual growth, I knew I had to build up a strong Christian bond between myself and the members of the church and I had to serve the Lord in whatever areas He hath put me to with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. I believe

the YAF is the area whereby the Lord has so providentially shown me to. Since the Lord has given me the time, the strength, the energy and the health, there is a duty for me to make full use of these to carry out His work for the benefit of the saints in the YAF and the church. Given that YAF is part of the church, being a member of YAF allows me to be a more integral and responsible part within the body of Christ.

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## Membership Letter *By Jia Zhen*

I have attended Life Church in late 2006 and got baptised during Easter in 2007. I really thank God for saving me and I have grown much spiritually through the night classes, prayer meetings and YAF.

Although my busy work commitments do not allow me to attend YAF meetings regularly, but I will strive to the best of my ability to come and listen to God's word, do bible study together and have fellowship with like-minded brethren. Whenever I come for YAF, especially the bible study, I am really blessed by the sharings and the discussions we have. I have also learnt that it is important to prepare for bible study before coming down to YAF, so as to benefit and even contribute constructively to the edification of the saints.

Hence, I hope to take this step of faith and sign up as a YAF member. It helps me gain accountability and at the same time, I will strive to serve God through YAF, in whatever small ways I can. Hopefully, I can also be a source of encouragement to fellow brethren and make new-comers feel welcomed. Making a commitment is never an easy task and after much prayer and encouragement from like-minded brethren, I hope the YAF Exco will accept me to be a

humble member who will strive to attend YAF meetings whenever possible.

## Membership Letter *By Colin*

I have received so much from Life-BP since the transfer of membership (April 2008). This church greatly espouses what Christ has taught in word and in deed. Being with a fellowship group such as the Young Adults' Fellowship (YAF) allows me to consistently apply what Paul has written in 1 Thessalonians 5:14 *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."* Though our journey on earth may be short, no man can live an independent life alone on this treacherous world. Everyday, I am tempted to fall for the world's desires and sins and if I do not continually dwell in the mist of Christ-like brethren, I will fall short and slowly slip back to the old man. The same analogy can be taken as a person watching an hour of television program (violent dramas) everyday. And what has been fed into this person's mind through the eyes, slowly wither the person's creativity and zeal for outdoor activities. In place, sins fill up the heart, like poison, corrupting the mind bit by bit as each day passes. Soon, what is understood as sin is a norm to that person. Therefore, we should regularly be in fellowship with one another to dislodge the images of the world, which we have encountered and received during the week.

A fellowship also enriches my experience of Christ's love, as in John 13:34-35. By being a member of a fellowship group, it completes my experience in Christ that I might be able to enjoy the love of Him through the love of brothers and sisters-in-Christ in YAF. Deborah and I have greatly felt this love during our ordeal for the last six months and we felt it is also right to return that love. I just pray that my small acts of kindness and words of

encouragement could go a long way in showing Christ's love in us.

## Membership Letter *By Deborah*

We, as Christians, are called into a life of servitude; A faithful and humble servant of God, as well as a servant to man. Jesus has done so by example and He has even told us to do so in Mark 10:43. If one is a true believer of Christ, I believe that the person will feel that this call is a joyful one. The blessings one receives by obeying God and the blessings one gives to others through his/her service is immeasurable.

That is one of the reasons why I would like to join the YAF. I have been blessed so richly by the brethren in the YAF and would like to bless others with what I can offer in whatever little ways I can. The second reason why I would like to become an official member of YAF is because it is to have a sense of belonging to the fellowship. Though the context is used for marriage, God did say in Genesis 2:18 that it is not good for man to be alone; I do believe it applies to being Christians in a fallen world also. Support from fellow brethren is vital in keeping the right path. It is far too easy to go astray through temptations, especially if we are not anchored to a group of loving Christian brothers and sisters who will gently but firmly guide us back to the 'Light' once they notice something amiss.

Another reason is that it is hard to find such a fervent group of young adults around my age group to be so on fire for the Lord. Usually people in this age group are all so caught up in our careers, families and/or enjoying a carefree lifestyle that God takes the backseat. To be able to find YAF makes it all the more special and I would like to see it kept going till the end of time. In order for it to do so, YAF needs people who are dedicated, willing and able to take on responsibilities that allow the YAF to be

held almost every Saturday of the year. I would like to be one of those dedicated, willing and able persons.