

9 JULY 2017

LAP BULLETIN

Church of Christ 20 Lim Ah Pin Road Singapore 547839 Tel 6286 5605
www.lapcoc.org limahpincoc@gmail.com www.facebook.com/lapchurchofchrist

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY

9.30 am
Worship
(English)

11.15am
Bible Class
(English)

3.45pm
Bible Class
(Mandarin)

5.00pm
Worship
(Mandarin)

7.00pm
Worship
(English)

THURSDAY

7.45pm
Bible Class
(English/Mandarin)

.....

Elders

Bro Jimmy Lau
Bro Lee Tian Seng

Deacons

Bro Henry Leow
Bro Jerry Cheong

Preachers

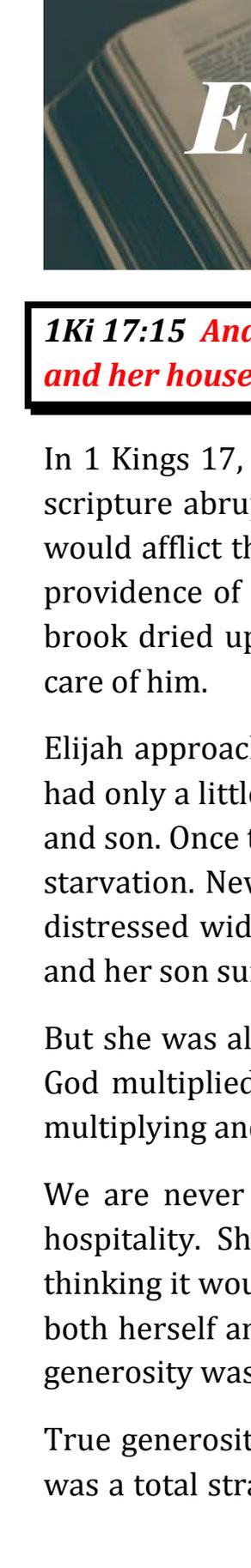
Bro Alvin Lin
Bro Ernest Lau

Administrator

Sis Goh Ser Ern



**IF YOU CANNOT DO
GREAT THINGS,
DO SMALL THINGS
IN A GREAT WAY.**



Elder's exhortation

by bro Jimmy Lau

1Ki 17:15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

In 1 Kings 17, we have a beautiful story of Elijah and a widow. Elijah appears in the scripture abruptly during the reign of Ahab. He prophesied of a severe drought that would afflict the whole country. With the drought, also came a severe famine. By the providence of God, he was fed by the ravens while residing near a brook. When the brook dried up, God sent him to Zarephath where a widow and her son would take care of him.

Elijah approached the widow and asked her for some bread. The widow replied she had only a little flour and some oil left which she was about to make bread for herself and son. Once this was eaten there would be nothing left for them but to wait to die of starvation. Nevertheless, she was willing to share it with this stranger. Little did the distressed widow realize that deliverance was at hand—that never again would she and her son suffer the pangs of hunger.

But she was also to be the widow whom God would command to sustain Elijah. And God multiplied what she had and was willing to share. The little flour and oil kept multiplying and the three of them were able to eat bread until the famine was over.

We are never too poor to share what we have. This poor widow was rich in her hospitality. She did not deny Elijah when he asked her for bread; she shared it thinking it would be her last meal. Although she felt sharing the final meal would hurt both herself and her boy, she ventured out to share it with the hungry stranger. Her generosity was richly rewarded.

True generosity is a willingness to share when you have little with a stranger. Elijah was a total stranger and an Israelite. The widow was from Zarephath, a city of Sidon.

Treating a friend to a meal is friendship, but treating a total stranger is true benevolence and generosity.

The scripture is full of examples of people who were poor but generous. One does not have to be rich to be able to give. The poor widow in Jesus' time gave two mites which was all she had (Mark 12:42). The church in Macedonia was poor but she was generous in her giving and helping the poor saints elsewhere (2 Cor 8:2).

The widow proved that sharing what she had with another needy one did not impoverish her life, but greatly enriched it. God multiplied her handful of meal and cruse of oil as Jesus multiplied the five loaves and the two fishes to feed the hungry crowd following Him.

Our Lord taught us that **"it is more blessed to give than to receive"** (Acts 20:35). How is it so?

The giver is more blessed or happy than the receiver:

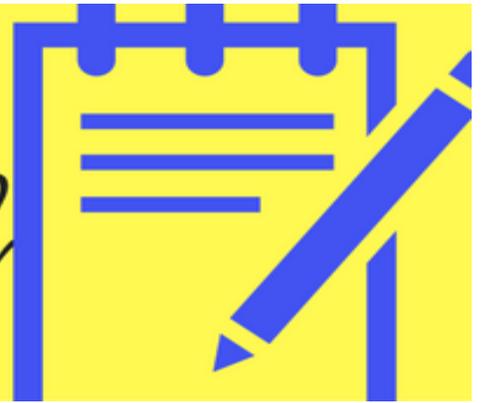
1. Because the power to be able to give is a blessing in itself (Jas 1:17). It is something for which we should be thankful for.
2. Because it promotes our own happiness knowing we have done a good deed to help a poor soul who is in need (Luke 10:33-35).
3. Because God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor 9:7).
4. Because the merciful shall obtain mercy (Matt 5:7). We don't know when we will need help but one day we will need the help of others (Matt 7:12; Luke 6:38).
5. Because true religion is manifested in how we give to others (Jas 1:27).

What does it take to be able to give? Just a heart. One does not need to be rich to be able to give. One just needs a heart; a kind and generous heart. Many are able to give but they aren't giving; they do not have that kind and generous heart. Many poor souls are more generous with their possessions; they have a heart to give.

Let us learn from this poor widow of Zarephath. She was poor but she was willing to share with a stranger. **"For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"** (Matt 5:46).

Like this poor widow and the Samaritan in Jesus' parable, true generosity is being willing to extend it to strangers. You are never too poor to give; even to a stranger.

From the Brotherhood



Stranger? Or Family and Friend?

By Wayne Jackson

(<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1427-stranger-or-family-and-friend>)

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

The foregoing are words that Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, a congregation with which he worked for three years (Acts 20:31).

Some nineteen centuries before the birth of Jesus, Jehovah selected Abraham to be the founder of a new nation, the nation of Israel. The relationship was formalized even more with the giving of the law of Moses, which stood as a middle wall of partition, separating the Jews from other nations (Ephesians 2:14).

The purpose of this special relationship between God and Israel was redemptive, i.e., through these people the Messiah would come, and the Jews would play a role in preparing the world for this wonderful event. Jesus emphasized this truth to the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well near Sychar when he declared: “[F]or salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22).

In view of this unfolding plan, there are many Old Testament references to, and provisions for, “strangers” (Exodus 22:21-24; Deuteronomy 16:11ff). While it is clear that the Lord cared for these “strangers,” they were alien to a formal relationship with God.

That day changed, however, as a result of the mission of Christ and the provisions of his new covenant for “all nations” (Matthew 28:19), a reality that had been foretold by the prophets of Israel (cf. Isaiah 2:2-4).

Hence, Paul could declare to the saints in Ephesus (mostly Gentiles by background; cf. Acts 19:8-10) that as a result of the conciliatory work of Christ (Ephesians 2:11ff), they were no more strangers and aliens, but “fellow-citizens” in the “household of God.” Note the phrase that depicts family!

What a thrilling concept it is to transition from being a stranger to becoming a citizen, indeed, a family member and a “friend.” Our Lord once said: “You are my friends if you do the things which I command you” (John 15:14).

It is a most unfortunate thing that many, who have the impression that they are friends of Christ, within his family even, actually are not. This is not because the Lord does not want them as such, but due to the fact that they either do not know, or ignore, the conditions for this relationship.

Some, such as the Universalists, contend there are no conditions. Others, like hardcore Calvinists, believe God chose them unconditionally before the foundation of the world, in conflict with Hebrews 5:8-9, which affirms that Christ is the Author of salvation to those who obey him. Not a few entertain the unfounded notion that their “morality” (and that is what they judge such to be) will get them by. Others allege that just because they “got converted” their level of dedication is irrelevant.

Happily, within this very book, the method of access into the family relationship is set forth plainly. “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word” (Ephesians 5:25-26). The term “word” is a reference to the teaching of Christ, which constitutes the only source of instruction that can guide people from earth to heaven.

The expression “washing of water” is a clear allusion to the obedience of immersion in water, which culminates the “new-birth” process (John 3:3-5). Scholars virtually are of one voice in acknowledging that the “water” of this text refers to baptism (see the Greek lexicons of Thayer 1958, 634; Danker et al. 2000, 1024). No one prior to the time of Calvin even questioned that the water of the new birth was baptism (Wall n.d., 95-96).

It is very difficult to see why the denominational world so militantly opposes this conclusion, but it has a long history of stubbornness in this matter.

If you are a Christian, rejoice in your sweet relationship with Christ. You are not a stranger, but a family member and a friend.

If such is not your status, why not become a child of God and refresh your soul as a true kinsman and friend of the Savior? (Galatians 3:26-27).



Meeting Reminder

Management Committee Meeting

Date: 16 July 2017, Sunday

Time: 1.30pm

Health update

The lab results of the test done on **bro Ivan's** tissues indicated that he has early stage cancer. He will have another appointment with the specialist this Thursday to discuss the subsequent course of action, likely to be surgery to remove the tumour followed by chemotherapy. Please keep bro Ivan and sis Belinda in your prayers as they come to terms with the news and also for the health and treatment of bro Ivan.

Away (Please pray for travelling mercies)

1. **Sis Shuan Kwee** will be leaving on 10 August for work to Hong Kong for 3 years. We wish her well in her stay there, and as she serves the Lord with Wahfu COC.
2. **Sis Naomi** in New York & Canada till 17 Jul.

Guests Last Week

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. Bro Andy Ling
<i>(Kota Kemuning COC, Malaysia)</i> | 5. Kenny Kee
<i>(sis Debbie's husband)</i> | 8. Tan Sok Teng
<i>(bro Reuben's friend)</i> |
| 2. Chia Yoke Ee
<i>(bro Daniel's wife)</i> | 6. Shirley Ho
<i>(sis Seow Hui's mother)</i> | 9. Lucas Yang
<i>(bro Benedict's friend)</i> |
| 3. Peh Guang Rong
<i>(sis Yan Ling's husband)</i> | 7. Stephanie Senna
<i>(bro Martyn's friend)</i> | 10. Shalen Manuel
<i>(sis Seow Hui's helper)</i> |
| | | 11. Fun & Triston |

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

9 July 2017, Sunday (TODAY)

Youth Fellowship

Time: 1.30pm-3pm

Venue: Church building

Highlights: Team games & prayer session

All are welcomed to attend.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

"THE GOSPEL- FOOLISHNESS OF MEN, BUT WISDOM OF GOD"

SPEAKER: KWAN TAI CHOOM

30 JULY 2017, SUNDAY | 9.30AM | 20 LIM AH PIN ROAD

Invite your family & friends to hear the good news!

CAN YOU SURVIVE
THE 10 PLAGUES?

ESCAPE
from
EGYPT

• 9 AUGUST 2017, WED | 10AM
LAPCOC | EXODUS 1-12 •



5 August 2017, Saturday

Area Cleaning

Time: 10am

Venue: Church building

*More hands make light
work!*

Upcoming events!

26 Aug – Ladies Fellowship

26 Aug – Men's Fellowship

1-6 Sep –

Philippines Mission Trip

22-25 Nov –

FSC Lectureship

23-25 Nov – Gospel Meeting

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class

Spiritual Maturity

By bro Jimmy Lau

Birthday of the week

9 Jul (Sun) -

Swee Inn & Debbie

12 Jul (Wed) -

Kim Tian & Lois

13 Jul (Thu) - Victor



Please send any news & prayer requests to limahpincoc@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- **Sis Joann** in Perth, Australia, for studies
- **Bro Long Jun** in China
- **Sis Swee Inn** in Canada

Health

- **Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & sis Peiyi's** health
- **Sis Kim Tian's** recovery from her skin problem
- **Bro Chee Beng's & sis Susan Ng's mother's** recovery
- **Lisa's (bro David Sum's daughter)** recovery from ACM
- **Bro Roberto's** recovery from osteoarthritis (operation on 1 August)
- **Bro Ivan's** recovery from piles

Expectant Mothers

- Sis Siew Siew (Sep), sis Adeline (Oct)

NSF

- Bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

Morning Worship @ 9.30am		9 Jul 2017	16 Jul 2017	23 Jul 2017
Song Leader		Jonathan Yang	Justin Kwan	Benjamin Kwan
Opening Prayer Leader		Kenneth Quek	John Goh	Low Chong Ping
Psalms Text		Psa 35:1-14	Psa 35:15-28	Psa 36:1-12
Preacher		Lee Tian Seng	Peter Chin	Alvin Lin
Lord's Supper Text		Matt 26:26-29	Isa 53:4-9	Php 2:5-11
Lord's Supper Servers	Scripture Reader	Jeshua Lin	Zachary Ling	Soo Kok Leong
	Prayer: Bread	Wong Sek Hoong	Danny Poo	Chua Kian Hong
	Prayer: Fruit of Vine	Benjamin Tan	Lau Jeng Sang	Andy Lin
	Prayer: Offering	Reuben Lim	Ong Jun Wei	Henry Leow
	Assistant	Melvin Tan	Cornelius Lee	Yew Tian Geng
Announcer		Ng Chee Beng	Ernest Lau	Benjamin Tan
Greeters		Jimmy Lau	Paul Lim	Lee Tian Seng
		Constance Lau	Lim Poh Im	Ludina Carrido
		Wu Wenyu	Shum Chee Ming	Susan Cheong
Evening Worship @ 7pm				
Song Leader & O.P.		Alvin Lin	Ernest Lau	Alvin Lin
Speaker		Ernest Lau	Lee Tian Seng	Jerry Cheong
Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P.		Amos Yang	Jerry Cheong	Henry Leow
Thursday Midweek Service		13 Jul 2017		20 Jul 2017
Song Leader				Jeshua Lin
Opening Prayer Leader				Alvin Lin
Closing Prayer Leader				Danny Poo