

12 MARCH
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)

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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



**EVERY DAY MAY NOT BE
A GOOD DAY**



**BUT THERE'S
SOMETHING GOOD
IN EVERY DAY**



ELDER'S EXHORTATION

BY BRO JIMMY LAU

1Ki 4:29 *And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore.*

What is comprehended in "largeness of heart"? The heart is often put for the intellectual powers, so does it mean Solomon had great capacity to receive vast knowledge? That is, one could talk to him about any subject under the sun and he knew it all? The ASV translated "largeness of heart" as "understanding exceeding much". And indeed, the queen of Sheba, sceptical that one could be endowed with so vast knowledge, came to test Solomon with hard questions. She went home fully convinced that it was indeed so (1 Kings 10:1-7).

The phrase, "largeness of heart" could also mean his disposition to do good with his knowledge. The word large means "big". A "big heart" is one which is magnanimous. The On-line Dictionary defines "magnanimous" as "*generous in forgiving an insult or injury; free from petty resentment or vindictiveness.*"

Matthew Henry wrote in his commentary: "*It is very desirable that those who have large gifts of any kind should have large hearts to use them for the good of others.*"

So it means, Solomon had a heart that was big enough for everyone. He was not lifted up with pride because of his wisdom. He was humble and generous with his love, mercy, compassion, forgiving, and giving.

The Psalmist spoke of God enlarging his heart: "**I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart**" (Psa 119:32). Barnes commented on the verse: "*The heart is contracted or made narrow by selfishness, pride, vanity, ambition, covetousness; it is made large by charity, love, hope, benevolence. **Sin narrows the soul; religion enlarges it.***" (Barnes' Notes, emphasis mine).

We must have this "largeness of heart". If our religion is to be worth anything, either for this world or for that which is to come, it must start with our hearts. Our religion does no good if it does not cause a change in our hearts. Indeed, sin narrows the heart.

The late bro Tan Keng Koon once said: "Some men have a heart smaller than a chicken heart." They have no room in their hearts for anyone except themselves. They are selfish, self-centred, and super self-sensitive. They get irritated and hurt easily. They despise others and think highly of themselves. They are ever suspicious of other man's good intention. They have small hearts.

God enlarged Solomon's empire. God enlarged Solomon's knowledge. God must also enlarge Solomon's heart. For if his heart was not enlarged, he would be the most selfish, self-centred, ever sensitive, and ever suspicious king. Just look at the current leader of communist North Korea: his heart is so small and he would kill anyone he is suspicious of going against him; even his relatives.

To the church at Corinth, Paul said: "**O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged**" (2 Cor 6:11). *"As an unloving man is narrow in heart, so the apostle's heart is enlarged by love, so as to take in his converts at Corinth, not only with their graces, but with their many shortcomings,"* (JFB Comm).

It takes an enlarged heart to stand all the nonsense and shortcomings of another person. It is a heart that is filled with love. I can stand my wife's nonsense and her shortcomings and she can stand mine too. This is possible because of love. But, do I have room for others?

Most will have room for their families and other loved ones. Can we have room for our enemies or those who do not like us? Do they have a place in our hearts?

If your heart is small, you need to ask God to enlarge your heart. His word is the instrument that opens your heart and enlarges it. When the Psalmist said: "**I will run**

the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart," he attributed his big heart to taking heed to the commandments of God. He didn't walk but he ran. It shows his



great affection for the commandments of God and his great eagerness to pursue it. The word of God is the light that guided his path (Psalm 119:105). It is the word of God that kept him from sin (Psalm 119:11).

“Let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom” (Col 3:16). Let the word of God change us and enlarge our hearts.



Hymn #102
"CLOSER TO THEE"

"Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living" (Psa. 142.5)

Adapted

INTRO.: A song that expresses a request to be nearer to Him who is our refuge and portion in the land of the living is, "Closer To Thee" (#76 in "Hymns for Worship Revised" and #37 in "Sacred Selections for the Church"). The text was written and the tune (Taylor) composed both by Austin Taylor (1881-1973). Born in Morgantown, KY, to parents who had been baptized in 1886 at Cain Ridge, KY, he moved with his family to Sherman, TX, in 1890, where he studied music, taught his first singing school when he was 18, and began his career as a songwriter. His first songbook was published in 1905. One day in 1911, he was sitting in his study trying to compose a new song. Several attempts had been cast into the wastebasket. A preacher friend came by for a visit and during the conversation picked up one of the discarded sheets, read it, and pronounced it worthwhile, so Taylor decided to publish it as "Closer To Thee."

It first appeared later that year in his "New Songs of Victory." During his lifetime, Taylor was widely used as a songleader among churches of Christ in the South and Southwest, wrote some 200 songs, published about 25 songbooks himself, and edited other books for the Firm Foundation Co. of Austin, TX. Also, he never missed a day in 27 years of attending the Texas Normal Singing School at Sabinal, TX, and taught his last singing school in 1972 at 91 years of age. His final years were spent in the home of his daughter at Uvalde, TX.

This song talks about the desire to be closer to God.

I. We learn from stanza 1 that being close to God gives us access to His grace

*"Closer to Thee, near to Thy side, Closer, dear Lord, I would abide;
Hold me in Thy embrace, 'Neath every smile of grace, Grant me, Thy child, a place Closer
to Thee."*

- A. We are saved by God's grace: Rom. 3.23-24, Eph. 2.8-10
- B. But even after being saved from sin, we continue to need God's grace: 1 Cor. 1.4-8
- C. Only those who are close to God can come before His throne to find grace to help in time of need: Heb. 4.14-16

II. We learn from stanza 2 that being close to God allows us to have rest and guidance

*"Closer to Thee, near to Thy breast, Closer to Thee, Lord, let me rest;
Guide me when I would stray, Keep me from sin each day, Draw me, dear Lord, I pray,
Closer to Thee."*

- A. Jesus promises to give rest to those who come to Him: Mt. 11.28-30
- B. Thus, those who remain close to God and trust in Him will be kept in perfect peace: Isa. 26.1-3
- C. Also those who draw close to God in submission to His will can find the help that they need to resist sin: 1 Cor. 10.13, Jas. 4.7-8

III. We learn from stanza 3 that being close to God will help us escape the clutches of the world

*"Closer to Thee, closer each day, In from the world, draw me away;
Let me abide with Thee, Blest Lamb of Calvary, O let me ever be Closer to Thee."*

- A. This closeness to the Lord should be something that we desire every day as we daily bear our cross for Him: Lk. 9.23
- B. As we stay close to Him He will help us not to be conformed to this world but be transformed: Rom. 12.1-2
- C. In this way, we shall be able to resist the devil and not sin against God by looking to the blest Lamb of Calvary who is our Advocate: 1 Pet. 5.8-9, 1 Jn. 2.1-2

IV. We learn from stanza 4 that being close to God permits us to call on Him for every need

*"Closer to Thee, happy and free, Grant me, O Lord, ever to be;
Hear me in every cry, Stand near when I must die, Then take me home on high, Closer to
Thee."*

- A. God wants His people to cry unto Him in prayer: Phil. 4.6-7
- B. And God has promised to hear and answer the prayers of His people: Mt. 7.7-8,
1 Pet. 3.12
- C. Those who are close to God can call upon Him for direction here in this life and
afterward for a home in glory: Psa. 73.23-24

CONCL.: As Christians, we should strive each day to draw closer to God. This is accomplished, of course, as we talk with God in prayer, let Him talk to us by studying His revealed word, and then seek to live according to His will. And we can have greater peace in our hearts the more we tell the Lord that we want to be "Closer To Thee."



Meeting Reminder

Business Meeting

Date: 19 March 2017, Sunday

Time: 12.30pm

*The agenda of the meeting is on
the noticeboard in the hall.*

Baby Joy

Our heartiest congratulations to **bro Paul & sis Siew Siew** over her pregnancy! Please keep sis Siew Siew in prayers for her smooth pregnancy and safe delivery.

Thank You

Bro Kenneth Quek & family would like to thank God for watching over Gideon during his 2 years in the army and for the brethren who prayed for him.

Away (Please pray for travelling mercies)

Bro Ernest in the Philippines till 18 March. He is preaching at Greenplains Church of Christ this morning.

Guests Last Week

1. Sis Low Rui Shan
(Columbia Heights COC, San Francisco)
2. Stephanie Tolentino
(Skudai COC, Malaysia)
3. Chia Yock Ee
(bro Daniel's wife)
4. Samuel Dela Cruz
(sis Mergie's husband)
5. Arielle Pascual
(bro Roberto's daughter)
6. Yeo Boon Chiew
(bro Peter Chin's friend)
7. Bai Jia Wei *(sis Farah's friend)*
8. Rukmini *(sis Kim Choo's helper)*

Update of church website & email

Check out our revamped church website at **<http://www.lapcoc.org>**. The email address of the church has also been changed to **limahpincoc@gmail.com**. Please send any news or announcement to the new email address or to Alvin, Ernest, or Ser Ern.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK IN YOUR CALENDAR!

12 March 2017, Sunday (TODAY)

Youth Fellowship

Time: 1.30pm – 3pm

Venue: Church Building

Come join us for an afternoon of discussion and sharing on the topic "When my love to Christ grows weak".

18 March 2017, Saturday

Evangelism Sunday Tracting (KIV)

Time: 4.30pm

Meeting point:

Blk 461 Hougang Ave 10

Singapore 530461

(Nearest to Hougang MRT)

25 March 2017, Saturday

Area Cleaning

Time: 10am – 12nn

Venue: Church Building

More hands make light work!

26 March 2017, Sunday

Evangelism Sunday

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Church Building

Topic: The Goodness & Severity of God

Speaker: Bro Alvin Lin

8 April 2017, Saturday

Blood Donation Drive

Time: 11am – 5pm

Venue: Church Building

Please inform sis Rachel Poo if you are interested to donate.

Blood Drive MRT Tracting

Dates:

25 March, Sat –

11.30am-2.30pm

26 March, Sun –

1.30pm – 3pm

1 April, Sat –

11.30am – 2.30pm

2 April, Sun –

1.30pm – 3pm

Please inform bro Andy or sis Rachel Poo if you are interested to help.



Invite your family & friends to hear the good news!

14 April 2017, Friday

(Public Holiday)

Dementia Health Forum

Time: 10am-12pm

Venue: Church Building

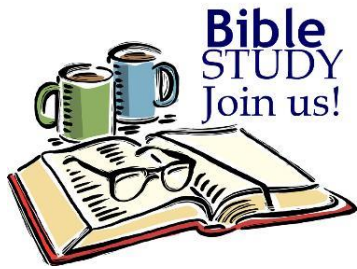
Topics: Dementia and related conditions

Please inform bro Alvin or sis Ser Ern or sign up thru goo.gl/44eafr if you are interested.

NEWS



Thursday Bible Class



Application -
Discover How It Works
By bro Timothy Ng

Birthday of the week

14 Mar (Tue) -Shanice



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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Overseas:

- **Sis Joann & bro Mitchell** in Perth, Australia for studies
- **Sis Rachel Ting** in UK for studies
- **Bro Jong Wah & sis Nancy** in Perth, Australia
- **Our supported missionaries:** Bro Kwan, bro Bob & bro George (China), bro Glen (Australia), bro John Yo (Taiwan), bro Hai (Vietnam)

Health

- **Sis Baby's & Auntie Yeoh's** health
- **Sis Suan Kiang's, sis Linda's & Kwan Mama's** health
- **Sis Susan Goh's mother's** health
- **Sis Kim Tian's** recovery from her skin problem
- **Sis Jasmine Lim's** recovery from her eye problem
- **Sis Susan Goh's** recovery from her fractured ribcage
- **Bro Joel Lee's** recovery from his knee surgery
- **Sis Doris'** recovery from her varicose vein surgery
- **Sis Shanice's** recovery from her eye surgery
- **Lisa's (bro David Sum's daughter)** recovery from her sinus infection

Expectant Mothers

- Cynthia Lee (Mar'17), Daryl Cheong (May'17)

NSF

- Bro Joel Lee, bro Kevin

MEN-TO-SERVE SCHEDULE

| Morning Worship @ 9.30am | | 12 Mar 2017 | 19 Mar 2017 | 26 Mar 2017 |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Song Leader | | Justin Kwan | Amos Yang | Jonathan Yang |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | Timothy Ng | Victor Lee | Jerry Cheong |
| Psalms Text | | Psa 22:22-31 | Psa 23:1-6 | Psa 24:1-10 |
| Preacher | | Lee Tian Seng | Paul Lim | Alvin Lin |
| Lord's Supper Text | | 1 Cor 11:23-29 | Mark 15:24-37 | Mark 14:22-25 |
| Lord's Supper Servers | Scripture Reader | Axel Chee | Shawn Wong | Timothy Ng |
| | Prayer: Bread | Nigel Poo | Wong Sek Hoong | Lim Poh Teng |
| | Prayer: Fruit of Vine | Henry Leow | Ling Leong Dak | Danny Poo |
| | Prayer: Offering | David Chua | Henry Leow | Joel Lee |
| | Assistant | Jose Cardoza | Zachary Ling | Ng Wei Jie |
| Foundation Class | | Kenneth Liong | Wee Hooi Kok | Lau Jeng Sang |
| Announcer | | Jimmy Lau | Amos Yang | Ernest Lau |
| Greeters | | Constance Lau Wu Wenyu | Grace Ler Lois Chee | Lim Poh Im Shum Chee Ming |
| Evening Worship @ 7pm | | | | |
| Song Leader & O.P. | | Jimmy Lau | Jimmy Lau | Alvin Lin |
| Speaker | | Alvin Lin | Ernest Lau | Jimmy Lau |
| Lord's Supper, Giving & C.P. | | Jerry Cheong | Henry Leow | Lee Tian Seng |
| Thursday Midweek Service | | | 16 Mar 2017 | 23 Mar 2017 |
| Song Leader | | | Andy Lin | Alvin Lin |
| Opening Prayer Leader | | | Jeshua Lin | Benjamin Kwan |
| Closing Prayer Leader | | | Danny Poo | Benjamin Tan |