



Lively Stones

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Holding forth the word of life

Issue 1, 2014

5 January 2014

General Superintendent's Address

Walk by Faith

"For we walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7)

One pastor asked his congregation one day: "How do you spell faith?"

They shout out, "F-A-I-T-H"!

But he said, "No! Let me give you a better spelling, it's **O-B-E-Y!**"

The Great Commission speaks of this type of faith living.

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matt. 28:18-20)

Jesus told His disciples in His final commission, that they are to tap on the power of the Triune God which is the **source** of the power to reach out to all nations which is the **scope** of the commission, and to make disciples by teaching them to obey all things – this is the **strategy** of the commission! If teaching all nations to obey is the strategy of New Testament outreach programme, then we need to live by faith, and not by sight.

My family spent Christmas in London this year. The highlight of the London Christmas celebration was not the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, but Boxing Day shopping! By the grace of God, we managed to attend Sunday morning worship service at the Metropolitan Tabernacle Baptist Church where Dr Peter Masters preached from Hebrews 13:20-21 on the

assurance of our salvation in our Lord Jesus Christ! Then in the evening, my wife and I attended the Christmas Carol Service at All Souls Church (Langham Place) which the late Rev Dr John Stott (27 April 1921 – 27 July 2011) was the Rector Emeritus. Rev Hugh Palmer, the current Rector, preached from John 12:46, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness". Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ came the first time as light into the world, that we may be saved from darkness into His marvellous light! Christmas is about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the reason for the season, not shopping or commercialism. Definitely not Santa Claus!

Satan has successfully created a world system of commercialism and fleshly pursuits. Christians are not spared as many tromp into shopping malls to buy their prized goods which they may use only once or even keep in the closet ostensibly untouched! What a deception! Instead of focusing on our Lord Jesus Christ and reminding ourselves of His second coming, we engross ourselves in material pursuits. Instead of worshipping the Lord Jesus Christ and thanking Him for coming to save the world from sins, we pour our energy and attention into self-gratification that is transient and perishable. Woe to those who do not walk by faith in true obedience to the Great Commission.

IMPORTANT: All SS teaching and non-teaching staff are strongly urged to attend the SS Staff dedication at the 1045 Service TODAY.

PLEASE NOTE:

12 Jan 2014 - 1st Sunday School Ex-Co meeting at 6, Clover Close, Singapore 579248 at 2.00 p.m.

Chinese New Year visitations on 9 Feb 2014 are strongly encouraged by teachers and students.

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As 2013 comes to a close, the world is restless and aching to beat every odd against our path ahead. England had its worst Christmas in years. Bad weather caused thousands of homes to be without power supply. Floods in southern England greeted many homes on Christmas Day with fierce destruction without warning. Instead of having a nice Christmas family lunch together, many were busy clearing up their flood-affected homes! By the grace of God, our service apartment in Richmond Cottage, North End Road, in West Kensington, was unscathed. In fact, both Christmas Day and Boxing Day in central London were beautifully cool and fine for outings. Personally, I was not very happy with shopping, but for the sake of spending quality family time together, we went out together to the malls in Regent and Oxford Streets. The token blessing was meeting some young Lifers and a colleague from the National Cancer Centre Singapore during the Boxing Day mad rush. News reported that £50 million was spent in one single day by shoppers in England on Boxing Day! Such is the order of the day, when there is no lack; there is no sense of need for God. Self-sufficiency makes us complacent. Instead of living by faith, we live by sight – what you see is what you get (WYSIWYG, pronounce as *we-see-wig*)!

As we enter 2014, may I challenge everyone to live by faith, and not by sight according to 2 Corinthians 5:7! There are three things we can do to make this happen:

1. Make sure we keep our daily quiet time in solitude. The two keys of spiritual discipline namely, the Word and Prayer, are critical for the spiritual health of every disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is a great example, and the apostles were exemplary in the Word and Prayer too!
2. Obey the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ – “Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (Jn. 6:29) To believe is to obey! If we don’t obey God’s Word, we can’t profess to have believed. This is also the basis of our salvation – God’s redemptive plan for all sinners.

Sunday School Executive Committee 2014

General Superintendent	Eld Sherman Ong
Asst Gen Supt	Eld Lim Ching Wah
Honorary Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Goh
Assistant Secretary	Mr Vincent Goh
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Caleb Chia
Adults Dept Superintendent	Dn Lee Hock Chin
Seniors Dept Superintendent	Mr Mark Liu
Young Teens Dept Supt	Dn Heng Shao Sheng
Junior Dept Supt	Miss Sheryl Ong
Primary Dept Supt	Mrs Iris Loe
Lively Stones Editor	Mrs Trudy D

3. Intentional Disciple-Making – reach out to those who are still outside the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This is another spiritual discipline we need to exercise daily. “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.” (Prov. 11:30) Soul-winning is the benchmark for every true disciple of Jesus Christ. Let our life be a source of soul-winning. Let it attract others to Christ, not repel them from Christ. He that winneth souls is wise, what a great way to increase “in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man” (Luke 2:52) like our Lord Jesus Christ while He was on earth.

Let us live by faith, not by sight in 2014. I had challenged the Sunday School Staff at our Annual General Meeting to reach out in 2014 by challenging their students to reach out to their classmates and colleagues in 2014. Let us run this last lap before our Lord Jesus Christ returns with great zeal and earnestness. I close by quoting the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:14) May the Lord Jesus Christ help us to walk by faith and not by sight in 2014!

Blessed New Year in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Elder (Dr) Sherman Ong

General Superintendent

Life B-P Church Sunday School

WORK FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING

Lyrics : Annie L Coghill (1836 –1907)

Music : Lowell Mason (1792—1872)

Work, for the night is coming,
Work thru the morning hours;
Work, while the dew is sparkling,
Work ‘mid springing flow’rs.
Work when the day grows brighter,
Work in the glowing sun;
Work, for the night is roming,
When man’s work is done.

Work, for the night is coming,
Work thru the sunny noon;
Fill brightest hours with labour —
Rest comes sure and soon.
Give ev’ry flying minute
Something to keep in store;
Work, for the night is coming,
When man works no more.

Work, for the night is coming,
Under the sunset skies;
While their bright tints are glowing,
Work, for daylight flies.
Work till the last beam fadeth,
Fadeth to shine no more;
Work, while the night is dark’ning,
When man’s work is o’er.