

HALLELUJAH

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 Gospel Assembly of God

**BREAKING THE LIMITS
SETTING THE PACE**

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VISION OF GOSPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

To raise up a church with Believers who understand what prayer is, who love to pray and know how to pray.

Are grounded in the Word and readily apply the Word in their daily lives.

Are supportive and mindful of every possible means and ways to reach the Lost for Christ.

Who love the Lord completely and are true worshippers of God.

Readers are welcomed to submit articles, testimonies, etc. to the Editor for the



Such contributions are greatly appreciated.



GOD'S HOUSE

What is God's house like? I had no idea until I was invited to attend a Youth fellowship at Church. There I was, savoring the sights and sound, registering every emotive expression in "God's house." I was very impressed, never mind the fact that the people cried (during worship), and they spoke in a strange language (tongues). I felt good about it. The experience left my heart fluttering and a fervent desire to attend Church more regularly.

Yes, in case you do not know... the local church is God's house. The church represents the Body of Christ, where believers gather in unison to worship and commune with God. It is undeniable that God's awesome presence is evident at every service. Needs are met, and you will also find assurance and fulfillment for your heavy laden soul. God refreshes and liberates you to face life's demanding challenges as you soak in His loving presence.

After becoming a child of God (Christian), my commitment to God's house was strengthened. Attending and supporting my Church is a must. Any area and task no matter how menial, was never beyond me to undertake. I will gladly serve. It matters to me that God's house was kept in immaculate condition. Compliments given by visitors impressed with God's house brought satisfaction.

Tithing and giving to God's house comes naturally. Gladly I would skip meals to save and give to God, if necessary. The support for God's house was a spiritual attitude developed and honed by appreciation and gratefulness to God. I would readily rise up in defense of God's house, and sacrifice for the same if needed.

The sweet psalmist of Israel, King David, a devoted lover of God, pens beautiful descriptive words of his desire and eternal passion for God and His house,

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God" (Psalm 84:1,2).

There is nothing to equate with memorable moments spent in God's house, it impacts our lives. How descriptive and self explanatory is David's song. He further has this to add,

"One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD, and to seek him in his temple" (Psalm 27:4).

There is nothing more precious and priceless than being blessed with permanent "residential" status in God's house. Well spoken by one deeply in love with God.

May our attitude, commitment and support for God's house be transformed today!



Editor's Write...

"We Are 30!"

Gospel Assembly will be 30 this year and we will commemorate these 30 years with a Thanksgiving Dinner on 31 August. Thirty years may seem a long time when we are young, but having been in GA for 29 years, I can still remember vividly the first time I stepped into GA on the upper floor of a rented shop lot in Damansara Jaya.

Living Body of Christ

GA moved to her own double-storey shop lot in DU and currently her own semi-D factory lots. The Church building has expanded, and having spent 29 years in GA, I attribute the ministry of this Church in playing a part to mould my life to what and where I am today and for this, I am very grateful to God, my pastors, leaders, and brothers- and sisters-in-Christ, some of whom have become my close friends. I do not live a very extra-ordinary life. Even with short-comings and handicaps, God has been good and faithful all these years and He has kept to His promise in John 10:10 "I have come to give life and to give it abundantly." The life and pulse of the church is the people and not the building (Matt 18:17) and this is where I learned about God through His Word (Psalm 19:7-11) and live out my Christian life.



Gospel Assembly was located at the upper floor of a rented shop lot in Damansara Jaya.

The Lord's Church

As I rewind the many memories etched in my mind – events, happenings, friendships forged during these years and where we served alongside each other in good and bad times, I believe many of us will fondly remember GA as 'my' church. We may be diverse in character and personality, but we still laboured in unity and this is possible when the Holy Spirit is among us. Although many lives have passed through this Church and some have relocated due to marriage, work transfer, migration, or having moved to other ministries, new ones were added. GA is still flourishing and standing strong for the simple reason that we remember that GA is the Lord's church - "I will build my Church" (Matt.16:13). GA serve to equip, disciple, and minister to lives "to prepare God's people for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built

up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ” (Eph. 4:12-13).

Lifelong Discipleship

GA was the place where I first learnt to engage with God through the Prayer Meeting, His Word, and Worship. As a young believer there were occasions where I found my viewpoint and values conflicting with the Word of God. I understand that this is inevitable as from young we were raised and taught from a secular perspective. SCG classes, home cell, opportunities to serve in the church to disciple us together with reading Christian literature helped me understand more about the Kingdom of God and the life God intended for me. It may not be easy as we are in the world but not of the world. Changing our mindset and values to align with God’s word is a lifelong process so we need to be continuously disciplined. The key lies with us and not the Church or what kind of a church I am in. We must desire to know more about kingdom values and principles to live out the abundant life in practical ways.



The Building Committee in front of the then Gospel Assembly of God premise in Damansara Utama

Worship the Lord

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness” (Psalm 29:2). The Lord tells us in John 4:23 “that true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.” Do all churches or only certain ones qualify? Our views may differ, but one thing I know for sure is that God is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. He is everywhere – in the big churches of thousands, small churches of 50’s and less, gatherings in conferences, seminars, home churches, in places where Christians are persecuted, deep jungles, remote places, cities, villages, where believers who love Him gather in His name and “Worship Him in Spirit and in Truth”. True worship comes from a grateful and humble heart who acknowledges that His Savior has given His life so that he can become a new creation with a new life and an opportunity to go to heaven. A person that is committed and obedient to serve his Master.

Looking Ahead

When we first moved to Sunway Damansara, there were more trees and shrubs than buildings, and not even a “makan shop” was in sight. Within 6 years, our property value has increased as we are in a bustling and thriving business and living community that sprouted after we moved in. In obedience to the direction of God, Pastor and the church responded to the challenge to relocate here in spite of not seeing much life except for the few factory lots that were our neighbours then. God showed His favour upon us when He freed us of our financial burden of repaying off our church premise within 5 years. It is a miracle considering the size of our congregation.

God definitely has His plans for GA here. As a church we need to seek Him. For sure we have a big, new community before us and a group of faithful Christians that will obey the Lord. The mission of the church, regardless of its size, is to touch lives with the gospel and minister to them. A healthy and

growing church is to fulfill this mission. Spiritual and numerical growth is a work of the Spirit. If a church will fast and pray, be disciplined in the Word of God and reach out to people, numerical and spiritual growth will happen. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain." When we do our part, God will do His. So Church, arise and be ready when the harvest comes!



Our current premise in Sunway Damansara



The Main Sanctuary



The 2nd Sanctuary



GA Resource Center – Home School



The Church Office



A CALL TO WORSHIP

By Dave Butts

Isn't it interesting what Christians choose to fight about? We fuss and argue with each other over church structure, the role of women, the Holy Spirit, the Second Coming, etc. I guess it should surprise no one that Christians today are also fighting over worship. Hymns, choruses, praise songs, guitars, drums, raised hands, dancing...all have become the new battlefield for many a congregation.

I have a confession regarding my stance in this battle. I love worshipping the Lord! I love hymns and choruses...fast and slow...loud and soft. I'm as comfortable in an acapella service as in one with a band leading. I've even been known to slip into a time of real intimacy with the Lord with Gregorian Chant going on in the background.

It's time we moved beyond personal preference and doctrinal watch-dogging and begin to find out what God expects of us in worship. The only place to go is God's Word. As we study together, we will first determine what worship is. Next we will examine the Lord's perfect plan for worship.

What Is Worship?

For those desiring to obey and please God, worship is perhaps first of all a command. God says that we are to worship Him. Psalm 96:9 is one of hundreds of verses that give the command to worship: "Worship the Lord in the splendor of

His Holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth." Over and over the command is given to worship God. These commands are not put forth because God is having a problem with keeping His ego in check. Far from it! It is the common sense command of the Creator to His creation, helping us to understand our place in His plan. Worship helps us to acknowledge God's rule in our life and puts us in our proper place before our Creator. "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker" (Ps. 95:6).

Worship is ultimately then, more than a command... it is our response to a holy God. It is young Isaiah seeing God revealed in the Temple and experiencing awe in His presence. It is Israel seeing God destroy the armies of Pharaoh in the Red Sea and worshipping him in song and dance. It is the Apostle John seeing Jesus on Patmos and falling at His feet as though dead.

When we come into God's presence in worship, there should be a response to Him, or else we are merely going through the motions of worship. The particular response is often dependent upon the personality of the worshiper. Some will cry and others will laugh; some will kneel while others will stand; some will sing loudly and others will whisper their songs of praise. However, there is ALWAYS a response to the perceived presence of God.

It is important for us to understand at this point, that worship is also a lifestyle. It is not simply a matter of going to a worship service, although that is important. Paul points this out to us in Romans 12:1 when he says that we are to “offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” Worship is not just what happens when the church meets together. It is what happens each day as we offer ourselves to the Lord. The most powerful worship occurs when a congregation of believers who have been worshipping the Lord individually all week long come together.

How to Worship

The clearest biblical teaching on how to worship comes directly from the mouth of our Lord as He discusses proper worship with the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. In response to her questions about the proper place of worship, Jesus tells her that it is not a matter of place, but rather a matter of the heart. He says in John 4:24, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The first heaven-ordained characteristic of worship is that it must be done in spirit. It is in the realm of the spirit that we worship. Never a matter simply of the emotions, or even of the will, worship goes deeper to touch us at the level of the spirit. This means that worship must move beyond the surface things that we do. Acts of worship become a connection between the Spirit of God and our own spirit. This sort of connection is spoken of in Romans 8:16: “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

In worship, we must allow God’s Spirit to touch our spirit. For God is spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. Acts of worship such as singing, praise, prayer, etc. need to be seen as ways to bring us into His presence to allow Him to have His way with us. Here are some practical examples:

The music that we use in worship should bring us into His presence. Note that I didn’t select a particular style of music... but simply music that draws our spirits to a place of worship. The prayers offered in worship are prayers that reach His throne...prayers that are filled with awareness of the presence and majesty of God. In worship there will be times of meditation for the purpose of seeking the face of God...times of quietly waiting before Him.

Whether we are speaking of the afore-mentioned acts of worship such as singing, praying, meditation or of worship that involves giving, service or sacrifice, the focus should not be on what we receive out of it. It is not a matter of how we enjoy it. Worship in spirit should not be self-seeking. Instead, it should be a glorious act of self-abandonment that focuses on God and delights in who He is.



Jesus also told us that true worship must be in truth. The object of our worship must be true. There is a lot of worship that goes on in the world today. From religions such as Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, to pseudo-Christian cults like Mormonism or Jehovah’s Witnesses, worship is pervasive. The great lie today is that there are many ways to God and the only thing that matters is one’s sincerity in one’s act of worship. Jesus presents a stark contrast to that prevalent view. He says, “I am the way.” He states with authority, “No one can come to the Father but by me.” Worship, to be true worship, must have as its object the One true God...Father, Son and Spirit.

It is in the area of worship in truth that the Word of God takes precedence. It is in the pages of God’s Word that we see God’s self-revelation. To come to know God in truth we must become a people of the Book. I love to see the Bible as a meeting place with God. It is vital to worship that we come to the Bible, praying as we read, “Lord, teach me today more about You. Show me today more of Your love, power, grace and majesty.”

God is calling His people to a renewed passion in worship. Today, the call to worship is the same as it was in the Old Testament, as we read in 1 Chronicles 16:29, “Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.”

(Adapted from May 2001 Herald of His Coming)



Corporatisation Of Church?

By Wong Siew Li

In the corporate world, the most admired leaders are those who can lead their organisations to stay relevant and ahead of the competition to reap the required results. Understandably, since most of us are exposed to marketplace situations, when we consider good models of leadership, our minds automatically think of successful corporate leaders such as Bill Gates and Warren Buffet. Hence it comes as no surprise that even in church contexts, especially in churches where lay leaders play a prominent role, many leaders have adopted a fair amount of corporate thinking and ideas in the way they lead their congregations and run their churches.

That the church is always on the lookout for newer and better ways to organise itself and to fulfill its responsibilities is laudable. After all, all good ideas come from God.

To a large extent, one can argue that the principles of good leadership are universal – such as Stephen Covey's *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* – whether they are applied in a corporate setting or in a church context. However, more critically, the concern is with the employment of corporate planning or management tools in

churches. The fact that such tools are useful and applicable within the corporate setting is without question. The issue is whether such tools can be transposed directly for use in the church context.

What's wrong?

Consider this scenario that took place in a church in the Klang Valley. It all started when several members of the church board proposed using 'key performance indicators' (a widely used corporate management tool) to measure success within the church. With that, the leaders began to set targets and plan appropriate strategies for different aspects of their church life. For example, in their Sunday services, the leaders were concerned to increase the attendance from 400 to 450 within one year. To help them meet this target, they planned a whole host of strategies including organising a 'bring a friend' campaign among their church members. They were also concerned to increase the level of maturity in the church. For the purpose of achieving this target, the leaders organised adult bible classes and encouraged their members to attend. In both instances, success was measured by numbers. Incidentally, the pastor of the church was measured on how successfully the church met all of its listed targets.

The fact that the church is concerned about achieving goals and takes active steps to work on them is commendable. However, in this case – in the way this church has employed this particular management tool, it is questionable if the church has actually met its goals.

The nature of the church

One can argue that like the corporation, the church is also made up of people; and where people and other resources are involved, leaders need to manage them. But unlike the corporation, the church is not a profit-making concern, and making money is not a factor that determines its entire structure, function and direction. Another significant difference is that church leaders have no control over who makes up the church, which is something that is determined by the Holy Spirit.

The church is unique in that it is a gathering of 'called out' people whom God is transforming into the likeness of his Son and whom God is also calling to witness to the larger community.

As such, while some corporate methods may be helpful for church leaders to think through and analyse certain situations, not all corporate ideas are applicable in the church context or compatible with the nature and calling of the church. We would do well to weigh these ideas and tools carefully against the church's calling, and consider if their use will further the cause of the gospel or become a hindrance to what the church is called to do.

The concern for results

It would appear that the single motivating factor that often drives church leaders to adopt corporate management tools is the desire to see results – preferably, tangible results within a short span of time. Such leaders are concerned with questions such as these: Are we growing? How many people have we baptised this year? Are we planting new churches? Have we made an impact on the community? These are all valid questions which every serious church member, and certainly, every church leader must consider.

However, this concern for results must be evaluated critically.

First, while growth is important since every healthy living thing must grow, it needs to be pointed out that in the context of church, not every aspect of its

well-being and growth is measurable or for that matter, easily quantifiable.

The book of Ephesians tells us that the goal of the church is to build up God's people to maturity in Christ and to equip them for works of service. In other words, the goal of the church is, both qualitative (building mature Christians) and quantitative (doing works of service). In one sense, works of service should not be seen as a separate goal but rather, as a natural outgrowth of the first goal – i.e. of lives lived in conformity with Christ as Lord.

To what degree can we measure these outcomes?



While to some extent, we can measure 'works of service' in terms of members' participation in the life of the church community and in the way they serve the larger community (including through their vocations from Mondays to Saturdays), measuring 'maturity' is not so simple and is a more daunting task. Just because three quarters of our church members have attended adult bible classes does not mean they have understood or internalised what is taught and have become 'matured.' Maturity in Christ is the outcome of a life lived in obedience to God's commands and it manifests itself as Christlikeness in the individual's life. One could appeal to the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and whether these are present in the individual's life as evidence of the person's maturity. But even if we apply this yardstick, how do we benchmark such qualities between one Christian and another?

Furthermore, the goal of Christian maturity cannot be manufactured overnight. For example, lessons in Christian spirituality and commitment are not the instant results of attending a couple of weekend seminars, but are convictions of the heart that are

nurtured deep within the soul by God's Spirit working in the life of the individual over time.

In our quest for maturity, our concern is not only with the end product. For the Christian, the process of maturing (of journeying with Christ) is as important as achieving the goal itself (of becoming a matured believer).

But perhaps, more pertinently, we must ask the question: should numerical growth and results be the determining factor in deciding if a church is successful? If it were, what do we make of Old Testament prophets like Jeremiah who was asked to preach to a people who would not listen? And what about modern-day missionaries like James O Fraser who laboured for decades in the rugged mountains of southwest China before he actually saw his first conversion? It would appear that we should not be overly concerned with results. Our role is to remain faithful to our calling and God will do the rest.

The belief that we are in charge

The presupposition behind every corporate tool is the assumption that the CEO or management team are the ones who will resolve the issues or problems. There are no other primary drivers in the company's search for solution or success.

One of the dangers of applying corporate management tools in church settings is that, in many instances, church leaders tend to assume incorrectly that it is they who 'make it happen.' No doubt pastors and elders are the ones God has appointed to lead the church, nevertheless, it is a given that in leading the church, they must be dependent on the Holy Spirit. Oftentimes, the easy formulaic, step-by-step solutions offered by corporate management tools tend to blind church leaders to the role of the Holy Spirit and prayer. Rather than seeking God about which direction to take and waiting to hear from him, leaders are tempted to charge ahead after praying a few cursory prayers.

The role of church leaders and the community

At the end of the day, when we consider the nature of the church and its goals, we realise that the role of church leaders is not so much to *manage* or *organise* or even to *grow the church numerically*. Rather, church leaders are called to *discern, equip and be faithful*. The primary role of church leaders is to ascertain the calling of the body of believers under its charge – taking particular note of its distinctive gifts and passions, and the unique

ministry opportunities offered by the location of the church – and to consider prayerfully how this body can fulfill God's calling to his church. Apart from listening to God and discerning his will, church leaders are also called to the important task of equipping believers so that they can live confidently as Christians in the world and influence their family, friends, colleagues, and neighbours for Jesus Christ.

Within the church context, the task of discerning God's will is not confined to leaders alone. When we examine the crucial instance in the life of the early church in Acts 15, it becomes apparent that the course of action was determined after much deliberation by the leaders and confirmed by the church. It was a clear case of seeking God's will through the 'wisdom of each other' (borrowing the phrase from Eugene Peterson) as they recognised that each believer was a person in whom the Spirit dwells. Within the church context, dissenters must be heard, even if they form only a minority.



Regaining our perspective

It needs to be reiterated that the writer of this article is not against corporate management tools but her concern is with the fact that such tools are often applied in church situations without much reflection. Inevitably, when we act on what is expedient and will yield the results we want, we allow the 'corporate spirit' to invade our church practices and to thwart us from our real goals. But when our eyes are fixed on our calling as defined by the Bible, that focus will provide us with the right perspective on how we can achieve our goals.

Such an understanding of church will free us – and our leaders – from the need to be successful as the world defines it.

(Adapted from "Understanding The Modern World Through Christian Eyes")



Evangelism In The Smaller Church

By David B Crabtree

I stood alone, scanning the parking lot of my new church. It was 3 minutes before Sunday school and not a single car containing visitors had turned down the gravel lane. I thought of Zechariah 4:10, where God asked, “Who despises the day of small things?” (NIV). At that moment I despised the day of small things. My new post had a 35-year history and 33 people. Morale was low. Our building was secluded on the back of the property. Everything from the burnt-orange carpet to the peeling vinyl entryway to the crooked sign said, “Stay away.”

Worship was stifled and awkward. I didn’t have a novel strategy to help the church grow. Evangelism programs I knew about didn’t seem to fit this congregation, and I was too inexperienced to make appropriate modifications. On that second week in September, I didn’t want to stay at Calvary Church. I wanted to eat a Sunday brunch and start packing. I might have, except for the tan Chevy I saw turning down the lane. I smiled, waved, and slipped inside.

As I remember, we had a banner day that Sunday. Our rule was: If it breathes, we count it. That day we counted 39 people. People seemed pleased with the turnout. That was 15 years ago.

Today Calvary Church is healthy and vibrant. Some transfer growth helped us along the way, though I have learned that people who drift in from other churches usually drift out in short order. A wise elder defined these short-termers as *scaffolding*. They help you build for a while, and then they fold up and move on. We experienced good growth as people moved into the community and became part of the church. But by far, the most solid growth came through personal

evangelism and the joy of the new birth radiating from new believers.

Establishing Foundational Truths

A small church can engage in effective evangelism if the right climate is established. At Calvary Church, we established foundational truths that set the stage for growth.

Prayer

The first foundation was, and still is, prayer. I was especially blessed to have faithful prayer warriors among the elderly. Early on we started a prayer meeting, and we have had an organized, ongoing prayer ministry ever since. Our evangelism has risen and fallen in conjunction with our intensity in prayer.



Evangelism

Having built a foundation through prayer, we affirmed that it is God’s will that every church grow. The Early Church was our example. We became convinced that any healthy body will grow, but it will require time and nourishment. If a church does not experience growth, it has a fundamental problem. No church can move forward without two convictions: that God wants the church to grow, and that people in the church want it to grow. At Calvary Church, we endeavored to create a healthy discontent with the status quo. People soon understood that a static church is a struggling church, and God delights in partnering with us to solve the problem.

With these principles, we simplified and personalized evangelism. We weren’t anywhere

near the commitment level needed to support some of the evangelism programs I wanted to implement, so our focus became people, rather than programs. We determined that evangelism comes down to one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.

The greatest tools for evangelism are not located in a binder-and-tape series; they are sitting in our pews every Sunday morning. Since 86 percent of people who come to Christ are won through the witness of a friend, relative, associate or neighbor, no church can complain about a lack of resources for evangelism. Every Sunday I am looking at and preaching to my evangelism program.

Several women came without their husbands. Their fervent prayer challenged us to join in the battle for these men's salvation. One by one we saw these husbands give their lives to Christ. Today, some of these men lead ministries in our church. Most churches would grow by 50 percent if we would reach the immediate families of our members. I have found that more prayer and less push opens the door of a stubborn heart.

One woman drove by our church every morning for 6 years. From time to time she thought about visiting. One day she sat next to a businessman on an airline flight back to Greensboro. The subject of church came up in their conversation. This businessman invited her to church. She visited and her life was transformed. She lived a few blocks away, but she found us at 33,000 feet because one beggar told another beggar where to get bread.

Discipleship

It takes disciples to make disciples. In most circumstances, the soul-winner is also the logical one to disciple a new convert. If we fail here, we limit the harvest. If we do not train, we cannot sustain. The exponential growth we see modeled in Scripture requires more than a prayer and a hug at the altar. The vibrant enthusiasm of the new believer must be anchored in discipleship, lest our harvest field wither without root. With a nutritious, balanced diet, a healthy church grows like a healthy child. The pulpit and the classroom must take the new believer beyond surface issues.

Missions

Nothing has stirred people at Calvary Church to evangelism as much as world missions. Familiarity

with the status quo breeds contempt. An aggressive missions endeavor raises awareness of the lostness of the lost.

After I came as pastor, one of the first things we did was double the monthly support to our missionaries. A few years later, we became involved in short-term mission trips. Short-term



teams magnify awareness and personalize a sense of missions. The majority of short-term team members come back to our church with a new commitment to world missions and a greater awareness of the local mission field. The culture shock of an outreach to an inner city or foreign country reshapes our perspective on missions.

Conclusion

The most under challenged, underutilized and untrained potential for evangelism sits Sunday after Sunday, listening to our preaching. The possible impact of this untapped resource is staggering.

On a cold Sunday morning, an old English preacher looked out over a small gathering of poor, tired laborers. He preached without eloquence or response. He thought his time had been wasted. An old man slept on the second row; a young boy sat on the back row with his head down. The old preacher didn't realize the little boy was Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

David Livingstone received his call in a small meeting of grandmothers. Most of the preaching greats were won to Christ in humble circumstances. In every church pew there is potential, an unmined vein of gold. In every smaller church there is an unheard – or unheeded – call. Be steady, be seeking, be simple, and be sound. Small is a starting point, not a destination.

(Adapted from Enrichment Asia 2nd Quarter 2002)

Why Women Cry



A little boy asked his mother, "Why are you crying?" "Because I'm a woman," she told him.

"I don't understand," he said. His Mom just hugged him and said, "And you never will."

Later the little boy asked his father, "Why does mother seem to cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason," was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God. When God got on the phone, he asked, "God, why do women cry so easily?"

God said:

"When I made the woman she had to be special.

I made her shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world yet gentle enough to give comfort.

I gave her an inner strength to endure childbirth and the rejection that many times comes from her children.

I gave her a hardness that allows her to keep going when everyone else gives up and take care of her family through sickness and fatigue without complaining.

I gave her the sensitivity to love her children under any and all circumstances even when her child has hurt her very badly.

I gave her strength to carry her husband through his faults and fashioned her from his rib to protect his heart.

I gave her wisdom to know that a good husband never hurts his wife but sometimes tests her strengths and her resolve to stand beside him unflinching.

And finally, I gave her a tear to shed. This is hers exclusively to use whenever it is needed."

"You see my son," said God, "the beauty of a woman is not in the clothes she wears, the figure that she carries, or the way she combs her hair.

The beauty of a woman must be seen in her eyes because that is the doorway to her heart – the place where love resides."

(Source unknown)

RAISING CHILDREN FOR THE LORD

By M S Lowndes

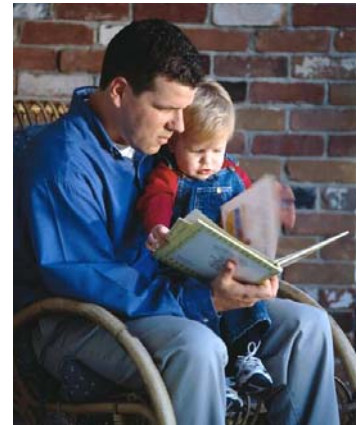


*It's such an awesome privilege
And a big responsibility
God has given to us as parents
This wonderful opportunity
To raise our precious children
And instil into their lives
The wonder and amazement
Of the love of Jesus Christ*

*So they will learn to trust in Him
And worship and to pray
To love others with the love of God
And to honour and obey
As parents we've been entrusted
To raise them in God's love
To be there to encourage them
When they feel like giving up*

*And to be there just to listen
When life deals some painful blows
And comfort them when they feel afraid
And when tears begin to flow
To share with them those joyful times
The precious moments in their lives
When doors begin to open up
And opportunities arise*

*Through everything they face in life
Let's be there cheering them on
For we only have one chance at this
For childhood soon is gone
So let's rely on Father God
To raise them to become
Men or Women who trust in Him
And in His precious Son*



Presented in conjunction with Men's Day on March 9, 2008

CHURCH MINISTRIES AND BIG DAYS

Big days are important dates in the calendar of Gospel Assembly. These dates are set aside to remember individual groups of people or special events and to invite unsaved loved ones and friends to join the Church celebrate these days.

Women Aglow held the first big day “Women’s Day,” on 24 February 2008. The ladies play a supportive role in the church ministries to give grace and beauty to church work and worship. It also creates opportunities to reach out and minister to the physical, social and spiritual needs of ladies in order to foster a warmer and closer relationship among women in GA and reaching out to friends outside the Church.

The next big day was assigned to the Kingsmen which fell on 9 March. This ministry seeks to

- Support church growth through encouraging and caring for one another.
- Improve relationship with God through prayers, learning about integrity, accountability through Christ-centered fellowship.
- Regular get-together for quality, social activity among the men of the church and friends outside the church.

Good Friday and Easter came next on 21st and 23rd March respectively. GAYA (Youth Department) put up a stirring performance entitled “The Eleventh Hour” on Good Friday and our choir sang 2 songs accapella style on Easter morning.



Song presentation by the ladies of Women Aglow



Poem recital by Sis. Mary Lim



Special presentation entitled, “The Eleventh Hour” by the youths of GAYA on Good Friday



The Church Choir on Easter morning

GAYA (Youths), Discovery Hour (Children), Chinese Ministry, SCG classes, Prayer Meetings are held weekly to minister, disciple and equip the people of God to mature to Christlikeness, prepare them for works of service and reach out to the unsaved with the gospel of love. Home Cell meetings are held fortnightly in homes located in different parts of the Klang Valley. In such a relaxed atmosphere, these small groups are able to interact and learn from one another and to reach out and touch their family members, friends and neighbours who are not saved. Ministries that we can involve ourselves to serve in the church include Teaching, Worship and Music, Hospitality, Visitation, Publication, Publicity, Audio Visual, Transport, intercessors, altar workers, and others.

The local church should really be a very exciting place to be in. With Jesus as Head of the church and the enablement of the Holy Spirit, may His love, power and glory be manifested in this House of God and in individual lives. The local church should be a school to learn about life and living correctly and healthily according to God's purposes. People can find solace, direction, love, acceptance, wisdom, build healthy friendships, develop skills and so much more. Acts 2 describes the Fellowship of the Believers that attracted people. May we, in this House of God, be a community of believers that others would want to be a part of us.

Rev. Rick Warren in his book "The Purpose Driven Life," describes God's purposes for his church being similar to an individual. "Worship helps you focus on God; fellowship helps to face life's problems, discipleship helps to fortify your faith; ministry helps find your talents; evangelism helps fulfill your mission."



Discovery Hour – Children



Chinese Ministry



Home Cell Ministry



GAYA (GA Youth Aflame) – Youths

PRESSING ON TOWARDS MATURITY

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected, but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me (Philippians 3:12–16).

MATURITY

If you can see a work which you have begun, taken from God and given to another without bitterness – that is Maturity.

If you can listen to someone criticise you even unkindly, and receive instruction from it without hard feeling, - that is Maturity.

If you can see others chosen for a job which you yourself are better qualified to do without feeling hurt, that is Maturity.

If you can see a person do an art which is against your Christian standard and react without self-righteousness, that is Maturity.

If you can hear a man argues his point of view which is contrary to your own and accepts his right to his own opinion without a feeling of smugness – that is Maturity.

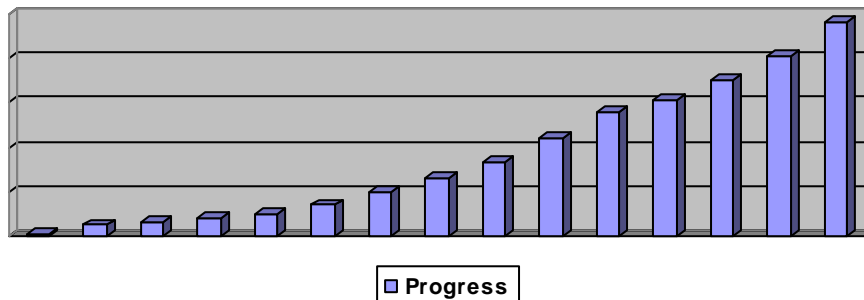
If you see someone you know, deliberately snub you, and still make allowances for his actions, that is Maturity.

If you suffer nagging pain or ache, still singing and praising God, controlling your feelings, for the sake of others, that is Maturity.

If you can give yourself to help someone else who needs you without having the idea that you are a pretty good fellow – that is Maturity.

If you can crawl out of bed at an early hour to pray when you would rather sleep because you realise that here lies your power with God – that is Maturity.

If you can look upon every man as an object of God's yearning so that, you become burdened for his soul, that is Maturity.



Are we totally perfected yet? Yes, by Jesus Christ who has laid hold of our perfection by shedding His blood for us (Hebrews 10:10), but not really, as we require practical outworkings to be transformed into the image of Christ. Christian Maturity is expressed not just in 'spiritual' things but also in the way we think, relate with others, carry ourselves – our mental, physical, social and spiritual makeup (Luke 2:52).



How can we work towards or attain maturity? Be humble to admit we have not arrived (Philippians 3:12). Be not dependent on past achievements and experience. Christian maturity is not mere legalism but rather being led by the Holy Spirit and God's Word and changing accordingly to serve in the newness of Spirit (Romans 7:6). We must press on, keep on striving through the school of the Holy Spirit in overcoming difficulties, disciplines, testings, trials, disappointments. God has given gifts to the Church to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11–15). We should learn and submit to God's given ministries and leadership.

Even in the House of God we must exercise maturity so as to show reverence and not disrespect for God's House (1 Timothy 3:15). These are some guidelines to follow to help us give reverence to the House of God. Participate in the Worship Service and listen to the Word being preached. Unless in an emergency or necessity, try not to walk in and out of the sanctuary. When distraction or disturbance is created during preaching, it's being discourteous to God Himself by failing to listen to His word and preventing or distracting those near you from hearing as well. Talking, passing notes, sending messages via SMS, and using hand phones are not encouraged. Avoid littering, respect and handle all church equipment and property with care, putting things back in the right place. Children must be properly supervised in the Sanctuary. Dress pleasantly and modestly. Smoking in the vicinity of the building is not allowed. New Christians may be unsure of what is expected of them in differing circumstances but these can be learned through Bible study, the leaders or in serving. Our attitudes should align with what the Apostle Paul said in Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through Him." When we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, He can help us to be obedient to our Lord in everything we do and say, whether at home, work, or at church.

Reference Master Builder 2
The Tabernacle A/G Kuala Lumpur



GOSPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Fax: 03 – 7806 4029
Website: www.ga.org.my
Email: wga57@streamyx.com

CHURCH SERVICES

SUNDAY

English Worship Service	9:30 a.m.
Discovery Hour (Children)	9:45 a.m.
Chinese Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
School of Christian Growth (Foundation class)	12:00 noon
School of Christian Growth (Youth class)	12:00 noon
School of Christian Growth (Adults class)	12:15 p.m.

MONDAY

Men's Intercessory Prayer	9:00 p.m.
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WEDNESDAY

Corporate Prayer Meeting	8:30 p.m.
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FRIDAY

Women's Intercessory Prayer	10:00 a.m.
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SATURDAY

GA Youth Aflame – GAYA (Youth)	3:00 p.m.
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FORTNIGHTLY

Home Cell Meeting (English) (Call our Church Office for details)	8:00 p.m.
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COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Christian Counseling By Appointment
- Christian Marriage & Registration
- Christian Funeral Arrangement & Helps
- Resource Center (Home School)

PASTORS AT YOUR SERVICE

- Rev. Kelly Yap (Senior Pastor)
- Rev. Suen Chee (Associate Pastor)

CHURCH OFFICE STAFF

- Sis. May Lim (Administration)
- Sis. Toh Jin Ai (Resource Center)
- Sis. Julie Loke (Resource Center)
- Sis. Kong Kar Yoong (Resource Center)
- Bro. Yap Rufus (Resource Center)