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of a common goal for the ministry - camaraderie that develops in the trenches of service. Beloved, thanks for using your gifts of "helps" in the right place for the right reason. Our Lord has entrusted the right gift to ensure your usefulness in His Creation. Let us press on serving our Lord while we are still physically fit and mentally sound. May I borrow Mother Teresa's words to the sisters to the Missionaries of Charity, Calcutta "We who are wedded to Christ **CANNOT** allow any other love into our hearts without drawing down God's displeasure upon ourselves. God has **CHOSEN** us. He also has the right to **STOP** choosing us, **BUT** He will **NEVER** do it of His own accord except when we force Him to do it."

I Am Created For His Exclusive Use,  
*Pastor David Kerk*

### The JOY of Reunion

To me, Chinese New Year is more significant than other festivals. But if you ask me about the meaning behind it, I am only say "how beautiful & blessed way of expressing & witnessing God's Provision" by reuniting over our traditional dishes such as roast duck and chicken, fish, special pig's stomach soup with mushroom and abalone, and mixed vegetables with "fa cai" or black moss. Yes, this is a good old tradition that we Gentile Christians should still preserve even we are New Creation in Christ Jesus.



So, this year, we will have our Steamboat Reunion Dinner on January 24, 2009 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Like previous year, each LG will take ownership of a table. Bro. Roland Seah will oversee the remaining COSK members.

We love to have you with us in this Reunion Dinner, if you are coming please indicate below:

I am coming with my family 2 3 4 5 (please ✓)

My Name..... Contact No:.....

I love to contribute.....  
(indicate duck, chick, bootled drinks etc)

You may contact **Bro. Roland Seah at 97872434** for further information.

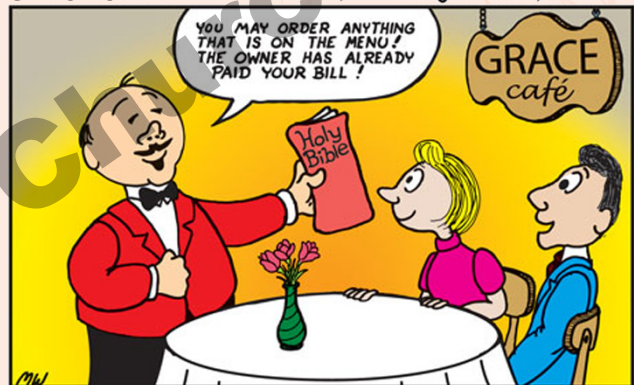
### Reflecting Over last Sunday's Message: May God's Anointing Upon on the Goal Set As We Stay With HIM!

Thank you Father God! Last week Pastor Tan Swee Hai used the verse in Deuteronomy 11:11-12: "But the land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end" as the opening of our church in 2009. He had mentioned: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17), "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal..." (Philippians 3:13-14). This is not only the goal set by Christ, but also our reward in future, and "the anointing you received from him remains in us." (1John 2:27). And this goal is what Luke 4:18-19 had mentioned: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Thank you Father! Now that we have the right goal as we enter into 2009, we next to proceed to do what we should do. We thank God for the availability of His anointing upon us in achieving the goal.

May Church of Sengkang enter God's destiny track  
Grace Chen

### GRACE CAFÉ

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.  
**2 Corinthians 1:20**

600 Punggol Seventeenth Avenue,  
Marina Country Club,  
Marina View 2<sup>nd</sup> Level,  
Singapore 829734

Tel: 6387 6612 / 9646 0704 / 9771 0250  
Website: www.cosk.sg



### Church of Sengkang

Is called by God to be *welcoming* and *prayerful* community filled with and led by the **HOLY SPIRIT**

**THE SUNDAY TIMES** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
**SUNDAY SERVICES TIME: 10.30am to 12.30pm**

**How you can help?**  
You can make a difference at Church of Sengkang. We truly appreciate your prayers and help. And a good way to share this Chinese New Year is with a "Hong Bao".

**How your Hong Bao will help?**  
We are located at 600 Punggol Seventeenth Ave, Marina Country Club, Marina View 2<sup>nd</sup> Level. Church of Sengkang needs help in the ministry of the gospel, new staff recruitment, pastoral staff training and development as well as providing assistance to needy families. Your Hong Bao will help us to do this.

**All you need to do**  
Place your offerings in a Hong Bao attached and bring on Lunar New Year Thanksgiving Service. Cheque donations should be crossed and made payable to "Church of SengKang Ltd".

**Please write your name, address and NRIC on the back of your cheques or Hong Baos.**

**Church of Sengkang wishes all a Blessed & Abundance Lunar New Year!**

### CHINESE NEW YEAR 2009

3 hours of Special Thanksgiving Service

on January 25, 2009 starting from 10.00am to 1.00pm

CNY or Lunar New Year is celebrated from January 25 to February 9, 2009. It is a time of Chingay parade and street processions involving large flashy costumes, lighted-up gigantic floats and thousands of lanterns which light the way for the Lunar New Year. Firecrackers (still banned in Singapore) were used to frighten the evil spirits away.

For this Special Thanksgiving Service, we are coming to celebrate God's Goodness in Praise & Thanksgiving. Due to the overwhelm response and reception from our recent Co-workers' Appreciation Nite, many singing talents were discovered from LGs. So, we are doing an encore to have every LG presents a song and a testimony. The two Richards ( Fan & Toh) will be the emcees for this CNY Thanksgiving Service.

Beloved, we have much to thank our Lord for crowning us with His Goodness & abundant provision materially and spiritually. What better way to honor our Lord with a one time "Hong Bao Special Offering!". But of course, our Lord will most be pleased to have His children gathering in His House to render their hearts of thanksgivings and lips of praise on January 25, 2009.

There will be **NO 1<sup>st</sup> Day Lunar New Year Service**. However, if you **will like to OPEN your HOME for us to visit**, kindly cue Sis. Ching Ching or Pastor David Kerk soonest.



## Message from Pastor David Kerk

**“Thank You, Lord, for making me  
walk up all these steps!”**

**Corrie ten Boom Spoke on Romans 12:1-2**

The late Sis. Corrie ten Boom spoke this text during one Sunday Church Service in Copenhagen. Sitting in the pew that morning were two young nurses. They were ministered by that text. They invited Sis. Corrie ten Boom for lunch. She accepted their lunch invitation. Corrie went with them - only to discover they lived on the 10th floor, and there was no elevator.

Corrie didn't think she could mount the stairs, but the 2 nurses were so eager for her visit that she decided to try. By the 5th floor, Corrie's heart was pounding. She collapsed on the landing, complained bitterly to the Lord. Looking upward and wondered "Perhaps I am leaving earth to go to heaven," she thought. But the Lord seemed to whisper that a Special Blessing awaited her on the 10th floor, so she bravely pressed on.

Up on the 10th floor, Corrie found the parents of one of the girls. She soon discovered that neither parent was a Christian, but both were eager to hear the Gospel. That day both prayed for Christ to enter their lives.

On her way down the steps, Corrie said: Thank you, Lord, for making me walk up these steps. And next time, Lord, help Corrie ten Boom listen to her own sermon about being willing to go anywhere you tell me to go - even up ten flight of stairs. What is the lesson we can learn from Corrie's sharing on **Romans 12:1-2**? Apostle Paul is saying if we want to show our thanks to God, we need to make our lives a living sacrifice, we need to crawl up on the altar and offer our entire lives as Worship to our Lord. How do we do that?

### **Our Thoughts & Words Communication Can Be A Worship Unto Our Lord.**

But the real problem is not many of us are skillful in communication. Look at our Lord who was an expert in communication. People understand him so well that they wanted to kill him. He encouraged directness in communication: "Let what you say be simply "Yes" or "No"; anything more than this comes from evil." Read **Matthew 5:37**. Very simply, he is saying,

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"Mean what you say, and say what you mean." If all of us could learn to do this, communication would be greatly helped. Jesus also encouraged directness in expressing forgiveness, In **Matthew 18:15** he said, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." Beloved, the health of a healthy church depends on learning the art of communication. Jesus also emphasized both actions and words in his teaching and communication. He said our words should have direct meaning, and he is known as the One "who went about doing good." Christian communication is clear word communication.

### **Financial Givings As A Worship Unto Our Lord**

Offering God our material resources is another form of worship. God warns against "blemished lambs"- offerings that cost us nothing - but He's pleased when we offer generous gifts with joyful hearts. He rewards the giver with the promise of His help.

### **Authentic Service As A Worship Unto Our Lord**

Yes, it is called authentic service. It has 2 essential characteristics. First, it flows naturally out of worship, Second, it takes into account the unique giftedness of the server. Serving God from a heartfelt response for all that He has done is what pleases Him. Authentic servers realise that they are sinners deserving condemnation. We can do nothing to earn God's favor. Only Jesus on our behalf buys our entrance into heaven.

People who grasp the reality of all they have in Christ can't help but respond with Worship & Gratitude. They find themselves lying awake at night thinking up ways to show their gratitude for God's Amazing Grace. Like the psalmist they ask, "How can I repay the Lord for all His Goodness to me?" **Read Psalm 116:12.**

Over the years I've heard many people complain about my incompetency in managerial administration. It is for this reason, I am full gratitude to our Lord in putting people to assist in the pursuit

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## OUR COLLECTIONS

**Proverbs 3:9-10:** "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

**December 08' Collections : \$19,125.65**  
**Last week's up to 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 09 : \$17,218.60**  
**Church Building Fund : \$27,080.00**

If you are making out a cheque, kindly mark  
"Church of Sengkang Ltd".

## Today's Sermon

Speaker: **Bro. Robin Yiu**

Title of Message: **Run & Not Be Weary Into 2009**

Scripture Text: **Hebrews 12:1-3**

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (v1)*

### **Main Points:**

#### **1. Let Us THROW - v1a**

1:1 Hindrances:

1:2 Sins:

1:3 Entanglements:

#### **2. Let Us RUN - v1b**

2:1 Perseverance - Don't Give Out

2:2 Race Marked Out -

#### **3. Let Us LOOK Unto Jesus - v2**

3:1 Author & Finisher of our Faith - Focus on Christ

3:2 May Not Be Weary & Lose Heart - v3

### **Reflection on this message:**

Individually as a believer or corporately as a church, we are running a marked race heavenwards. Along the way we need to make assessment of our position in this race. As we enter 2009, we need to **THROW** excess weight, luggage, **RUN** persevering towards the finishing line marked for us & **LOOK** to none other than Jesus who **RAN** His race well.

*The percentage is a generalization of what we retain.  
Understanding and Remembering are better when we make notes.*