

PRAYER NEEDS

CATECHISM CLASS (Saturdays @ 1.00 pm)

- * Thank God for bringing people to attend the Catechism Class. They are **Danfer Chua, Gracia Chan, Isabel Chng, Rakel Tan, Frankel Ng & Julieta Ang, Daniel Chay & Michelle Sim and Melissa Chua & Tan En Ying.**
- * Thank the Lord for their desire to seek Him and grow in His grace and knowledge. May the Holy Spirit convict their hearts through the lessons to get to know the Triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) deeper and develop an intimate relationship with Jesus, their Saviour and Lord.

FOREIGN MISSIONS - Bhutan

- * The country claims to be the happiest in Asia. With a population of around 700,000, it remains one of the nations least touched by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Buddhism is practised by more than 75% of the population and is its state religion. Christians represent a small percentage but the number is growing.
- * Pray for Bhutanese believers to receive training on how to share their faith, disciple new believers and form new churches across the country. May they obey God and be bold in their faith against strong persecution and oppression.

Our Missions Partner - Tharlam Church-planting Ministry

- * Uphold in prayer **Aaron Sewang** as he and his co-workers labour to proclaim the Gospel and build up the believers spiritually in 4 different localities. The main congregation is in Thimpu. May the Lord grant wisdom and guidance to Aaron as he disciples and mentors a group of church lay leaders.
- * Thank God on 27 December 2019, the completed missions centre was dedicated. The congregation at Thimpu has started worshipping at the new place from 29 December. May it be a place where the testimony of God shines brightly.

Church News & Activities

Pastor Yap is away from 20 January to 2 February to attend the 20th World Congress of the International Council of Christian Churches (ICCC) at Puerto Montt, Chile. He represents the Singapore Council for Christian Churches (SCCC) in his capacity as President. He is also one of the speakers at the Congress.

Combined Morning Service on CNY
26 January, 9.00 am @ Sanctuary 1
(NO 2MS, ZES, ABC, SS)

Chinese New Year Tracts

Pick up an evangelistic tract or two at the Info Desk today to share with relatives or family members during your upcoming CNY visitations!

Church Office will be closed on 24 January (afternoon) & 27-28 January.

SAF Bible Study & Fellowship Lunch
6 February, 10.00 am @ Sanctuary 2

Church Camp: 13-17 June 2020

Camp registration is now open at the Fellowship Hall. Early bird fees until 29 February – \$50 off the regular price!

ROOM RATES/PAX

	Regular	Early Bird
Single	702	-
Twin	467	417
Triple	432	382

Choir singing at the Easter Service

Come join us. If interested please text Foon Lyn (96800329). Rehearsal is every Saturday, from 8 February to 11 April, 5.00-6.00pm @ Main Sanctuary.

MINISTRY SHARING BY PASTOR LAWRENCE

Chinese Lunar New Year is on this Saturday, January 25. The celebration usually continues for two weeks. During this period, Chinese people greet one another with auspicious wishes. As this year is the year of the Rat according to the Chinese Zodiac, these are some special greetings: 鼠年吉祥 Shǔ nián jí xiáng (Wish you Rat year lucky.) 鼠年如意 Shǔ nián rú yì (May the year of the Rat go well.) 鼠年行大运 Shǔ nián xíng dà yùn (May the year of the Rat be of great luck.) However, more common and favourable greetings are 新年快乐 Xīnnián kuàilè! (Happy new year) 新年进步 Xīnnián jìn bù (New Year's progress) 恭喜发财 Gōngxǐ fācái (happiness and prosperity).

Most of the greetings are enamoured with materialistic prosperity, wealth and worldly success. Instead of using the above greetings when wishing people, which refers to tangible or financial wealth for that person, it is more meaningful for us Christians to wish them peace in the New Year, or eternal joy from God. For example, Zhu nǐ Xīnnián měng fú (Blessing from God); 祝你新年蒙福; Zhu nǐ Xīnnián měng en (Blessing of grace) 祝你新年蒙恩 or Zhu nǐ Xīnnián pín-ān. (Blessing of peace) 祝你新年平安

In wishing one another a blessed new year, customarily "ang pows" (red packets containing money) are given to children, parents, grandparents or others. The giving and receiving of ang pows is meaningful when we understand them as showing love and filial piety for parents, or as gestures of love and appreciation rather than symbols of luck or wealth.

Brethren, we have Christ as Lord and Saviour of our lives. Jesus died for us, redeemed us and rose from the dead, having destroyed sin and death, and brought us everlasting life. For us, only Christ is the basis of our hopes in the New Year. However, we should maintain good Chinese New Year traditions - visiting families, relatives and friends; exchanging greetings; and wishing God's blessings and peace for our friends and neighbours. These are significant social and family encounters and part of our Chinese culture. Furthermore, it is an opportunity to bear testimony for Christ through our speeches and actions, better still share the Gospel of Jesus Christ - the best greetings you can give to people around you!

Let me give you a few Scripture verses to contemplate as you celebrate Chinese New Year: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved." (1 Corinthians 10:31-33). Let us rejoice and offer praise, "giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," (Ephesians 5:20).

Blessed Chinese New Year 2020 - abide in Jesus, trust in the LORD with all your heart, seek His Wisdom...Praying God gives us a year of His favour, full of His unending love.

"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!" Psalm 90:17