



and the cities are fortified and very large” and went on to describe the different peoples occupying there (Numbers 13:28 ff). That hesitant “BUT” was a disastrous preposition that wiped out all memories of God’s goodness and power.

They had witnessed the plagues inflicted on the Egyptians, the opening of the Red Sea, the Lord’s presence in the fiery cloud, and most recently, the defeats of Sihon and Og, the kings who tried to block their progress. Those were dramatic rescues. No survivor could have forgotten those incredible events. But they did!

Consequently, their lives in the wilderness were revolved around this discouraging “BUT”! That word is rooted in unbelief, disobedience, fear and the dictating compass of their lives. Notice their regression – “But you were unwilling...you rebelled...you grumbled...” and they blamed and accused God of hating and plotting against them! (Deuteronomy 1:26-27).

Perhaps in fairness, we need to remember that they were people in transition. They hadn’t gelled as a nation yet, even though they had received their “national constitution” in Sinai. It wasn’t easy to go through that transition – from a place of familiarity to an unfamiliar destination. They saw their transition as a penalty box, a place for losers and quitters. Their subjugated experience as slaves had conditioned their collective unconscious – to be fearful and risk averse.

But that spelled lost opportunities and years of futile wandering. As the church goes through new transitions and restructuring, please bear in mind that changes, however disorienting, can be useful pathways for growth and discovery. Learn from the lessons of Israel – don’t opt for the path of least resistance and blame God when times get tough. Transitions can help you clarify your priorities and intentions, and re-orientate you to embrace the heartbeat of God.

As you enter into the New Year, make it your aim to learn a story about your life with God that you don’t yet know, so that you can stop living merely to repeat the stories that you already do know. Don’t let your stories of God’s intervention grow thin, predictable and pitifully dated.

Part of Israel’s problems was their rebellious and stubborn attitude towards leaders. They could have possessed the land earlier. But they didn’t, because they weren’t trusting of the leaders. Moses was tested and vexed by their constant murmurings and grumbling that he despaired of his responsibility.

Work in harmony with your leaders. Take this command seriously, and you’ll see fruits of it — “Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you” (Hebrews 13:17). I wish you a fruitful and blessed journey ahead!

**Pastor Song Cheng Hock**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning.** If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.



**DO NOT FORGET TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!**

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE. May this Christmas be a true expression of our gratitude to God for sending us His own Son to become Emmanuel. God with us.**

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### WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Come and join us for our annual “Watchnight Service.” A thanksgiving service for the year gone by and the welcome of another New Year that God will bless us with.

Come prepared to share some thanksgiving item to the Glory of God. **Light refreshments will be served from 9.30pm.** Come early and join your church family in a time of fellowship.

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### PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR 10.30pm to 12.01am 2010

What do we have in store for the new year 2010?

After much prayer and waiting on the Lord, we have proposed to work on the theme: “Equip God’s people for the ministry”.

In January, our sub-theme will be “**Equipped to Serve - Rediscovering our Purpose**”. The weekly Sunday topics will be as follows:

Jan 3 - **Jesus our Model for Service**

Jan 10 - **Rediscovering our Purpose 1**

Jan 17 - **Rediscovering our Purpose 2**

Jan 24 - **The Preparation and the Right Attitude to Serve**

Jan 31 - **Open - Evangelistic Meeting**

We have also invited various teachers and lecturers to help train us to be equipped for the ministry.

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### ADULT BIBLE CLASSES - 9.15AM-1030AM.

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**We have invited Dr. Suraja Raman** to do a seminar on “**The Gift of Teaching**” in 2010. The syllabus is as follows:

“**The Ministry of Teaching in Today’s World**”

“**The Teaching Learning Dynamics**”

“**Creative Bible Teaching**”

“**Issues of a Christian Nature**”

“**Facing Challenges in the World.**”

These classes are open to all members, especially for those who wish to serve in the teaching ministry. Learn to teach the Word of God properly and creatively.

*\*\*Please register for these classes and commit yourselves to finishing the whole course.*

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## PRAYER PAGE



1. **Let us pray** that as we come to the last Sunday of the year 2009, our hearts will be drawn to what the true meaning of Christmas is. Pray for Pastor Neville as he brings us this morning’s message and for ourselves, that we may be open to let the Holy Spirit minister to us.
2. Pray for our **Worship this morning**. Pray for those who will lead us in worship, for the **audio/visual support group**, and for the **ushers and greeters too**.
3. **Pray for guests and visitors** who are led by God to come into His sanctuary. Pray that all who enter into His house this morning will leave blessed and enriched by the Power of His Love. Let us reach out our hands in Christian love to everyone who comes in. “GOD’S LOVE IS SEEN IN HIS CREATION.” **You and me**.
4. **Kennard’s parents and aunt** send Christmas greetings and thanks for praying for them and Kennard.
5. Please continue to remember and uphold **Susan Hardman and Cheryl Barton** who are suffering from cancer before the Lord. At times like these, just knowing that there are people praying for you is the greatest source of comfort.
6. Continue to uphold **Sister Alice** as she continues her chemo session. Pray that the therapy will work. Pray for God’s grace and strength to be with her and **Sister Catherine** who is the main caregiver.
7. Praise God for the safe delivery of **baby Solomon**. Both mother and child are well. Please pray that everything will be well with Solomon.
8. Please pray for the **Cell Groups**, that God will provide the strength, inspiration and anoint the Cell Leaders and bless them as they serve. Pray that the cells will play their God-given role and are able to minister to the needs of every member.
9. Continue to pray for the **Youths**, that they will all have personal encounters with the Lord each day, make godly choices and live in a way that is a delight to the Lord.

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**When God permits trials, He also provides comfort.**

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### Memory Verse:

**Last week’s:** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - **Galatians 6 : 9**

**This week:** Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you. - **1 Peter 5 : 7**

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