

nothing wrong with it.

Convictions become important to us not only because they give us an uncompromising base to stand on issues, but also because they provide us with a sense of identity, a sense of self to operate from. It's at this point that we ought to be guardedly circumspect and not become unhelpfully legalistic, pushy and proud.

Our tendency to look for something solid to perch on and anchor ourselves to amidst all our positions about issues can become a subtle source of distraction and disorientation. Some are so consumed with their personal beliefs that they miss out the greater principle of love and honouring the body of Christ. You might recall the ongoing spat between a Bible college and church over the use of the King James Version. They have taken the matter to court even though it was specifically proscribed in the Bible (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). They had carried their convictions too far.

It won't take you long to discover that not everyone within the Christian community shares the same convictions as you do. For example, people can disagree over the kind of beverage one could drink, forms of entertainment, types of worship, use of certain Bible translations, speaking in tongues etc.

Convictions can be very useful so long as they don't make us intolerant bigots and cause us to damage the body of Christ. Some mistakenly equate convictions with spirituality and maturity. Maturity is not measured by the number of convictions we hold but how we apply those convictions. They're meant to free us, not to master us. We apply them to ourselves in order to honour God, not to make us proud or self-righteous. Daniel, for example, held on to the conviction that he shouldn't eat the king of Babylon's food because he resolved not to defile himself. He wanted to please and honour God. However, he didn't do it in a haughty manner. He "asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favour and sympathy to Daniel" (Daniel 1:8b-9).

Your convictions must serve a larger purpose, beyond that of validating your identity and understanding as a Christian. It must be crafted for the purpose of honouring God, not for dividing the body of Christ. If yours differ from others, be humble and respectful. Perhaps they could provide you another perception and understanding of God's incredible Word.

Pastor Song Cheng Hock



DO NOT FORGET TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

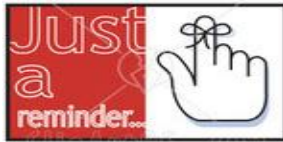
WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.

SUNDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

Two classes are conducted upstairs every Sunday morning from 9.15 - 10.00a.m. before Worship Services.

Basic Christian Living classes are for new believers or believers who wish to hone their Christian Living. **Facilitator:** Sister Chiew Eng.

Discipleship Class: For believers who wish to deepen their Christian Life. Studying the book of Philippians. **Facilitator:** Pastor Song.



OUR NEXT EVANGELISTIC MEETING: November 29th 2009 at 10.30am.

PRAY, PREPARE PARTICIPATE.

Pray without ceasing. Pray specifically for someone to bring. Pray for salvation for friends and family. **Prepare** to see many come to know Christ. Be an usher, a counsellor or just a helper. **Participate** in our evangelistic effort. Share a testimony, a song item or contribute a dish for the lunch. Let's unite in our effort to win souls for our Lord.

SINCERE CONDOLENCES

To our sister Chua Lay Lin whose husband Chua Boon Han was called home to the Lord on Tuesday October 13. Uncle Neville and Anne drove up to Seremban to be at the funeral service on Thursday morning and drove back after the service. Sister Lay Lin was one of the earlier pioneers of the Church of God. She was contemporary with Sister NG, Sai Tien and others.

Sister Lay Lin is in her late forties. **Please pray for her and her two teenage children.**

PRAYER PAGE

1. **Uncle Neville** and the Cambodian team would like to thank you for your prayers for them. They are grateful to God for their safe return. Please continue to pray for the work in the new village. A missions report together with a financial report is available for your prayerful attention.



2. Please pray for **Pastor Song** as he brings God's Word to us this morning. Pray for ourselves too that we may not be hearers of the Word only but doers too.

3. Pastor Song has decided that he will be leaving us at the end of this year. Please pray God will provide for us a new person of His calling to lead our congregation. Pray for the Directors as they meet to decide on the new leadership of the church.

4. Brother **Yook Siong's mother** needs our prayer. She has advanced stage cancer. Her last MRI results, praise God was not too bad but she is still bothered by the itching on her back. Her doctor has postponed her chemo as she has a flu.

5. **Sister Sow Ching**, wife of Bro. James Wong, another pioneer member had brain surgery. Thank God the surgery was successful and she is now recovering at home. Please continue to pray for her.

6. Continue to pray for our **sister Alice**. Her red blood cells has improved and she was able to go through her chemo last week. Do pray for strength and stamina for her. Praise God for being with her during this time of illness. Please pray also for **sister Catherine**, that the Lord will continue to help her as she cares for her sister.

7. Pray for **students** who are studying for their final exams, that the Lord will guide, strengthen and bless them with success as they try their best. Pray too for parents of the students that they may trust the Lord and commit their children to Him.

8. For Sunday School Teachers

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).

We thank the Lord for our Sunday School Teachers' commitment, diligence and dedication in preparing their work, in teaching and loving their students. Pray for strength and wisdom to lead by example, and for the Holy Spirit's anointing and empowering.

9. Continue to pray for our **Youths too**, that even in their youth they will love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Pray that they will want to observe and do all the commandments of God.

10. Pray for our spiritual well-being - that we may **enthroned Jesus** as the Lord of our lives and be committed to living a godly life and exercising our gifts to the glory of God.

PASTORAL PRAYER. *Should you or someone you know need prayer, please speak to the pastor or send your email to chggod@churchofgodsg.com.*

Memory Verse:

Last week's: *The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." - Galatians 5:14*

This week: *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11*