



GOOD BOOKS

The Equipping Pastor. A Systems Approach to Congregational leadership, by R. Paul Stevens and Philip Collins (1993). It was my pleasure to have known both authors personally. I highly recommend this book. Sensing the need to redress a certain situation where books and resources are plentiful "on the release of every member of the church for ministry and mission", the authors have proposed here a "systemic approach to congregational leadership and equipping the laity."

Many find themselves caught in a system that discourages both pastor and people from working together in synergy. The book does not indulge in platitudes. Rather, using a scientifically conceived system it examines leadership and membership issues. I cannot agree more that the task of equipping the laity "is essentially a relational, rather than a programmatic ministry". Too many leaders are task-oriented when they need first to be people-oriented. I found also helpful Mansell Pattison's four stages of Group Acceptance (Storming, Forming, Norming, Performing). These are just two nuggets from many in this important book, a **MUST READ** for those interested in growing their churches. I wish every church leader can read this helpful book. (QSH)

NEWS BITS

- 1 Our apologies for the late appearance of BTW due to technical problems. Phew! We are glad we are now BTW rather than "Monday Morning Memo".
- 2 Marva Dawn's courses - students taking both "Cyberspace Stress" and "Re-thinking Worship" for credit please note: (a) that on Monday, May 7, 8-9 pm at BGST Conference Room, Dr Quek Swee Hwa will conducting a tutorial on "How to write a theological summary". Attendance is optional. (b) The deadline for turning in all your assignments - reading report, theological summary, and paper is July 15. Extension can be requested in writing from Dr Quek at bgst-dean@cyberway.com.sg. (c) You are reminded that the topic for your paper needs to be approved

(d) Those who missed any lectures may view these at BGST Library. (e) The videotapes of Marva's courses can be requested for viewing by churches. Watch out for the announcement when these are ready.

- 3 Praise God, three new courses for Term Two are up and running: "Interpreting Judges," "Cross-Cultural Christian Communications," and "New Testament Textual Criticism".
- 4 Registration for two new, short courses for Term Two are going on.

(a) **Understanding Adolescents**, 1.5 credits, class study, by Dr Moira Lee. This is held on **four Thursdays**, 7-10pm (May 17, 24, 31, & June 7). Cost: \$150. At the end of the course, participants will have wrestled with an understanding of:

- * The adolescent search for identity;
- * Transitions through adolescent years; building self-esteem among teenagers; and building communication bridges with teenagers;
- * Adolescent world of social relationships;
- * Moral and faith development in adolescents; crafting a philosophy of youth ministry.

(b) **Romans: the Gospel According to Paul**, 1.5 credits, video class, by Dr Quek Swee Hwa, on **eight Saturdays**, 8.30-10.00 am, (May 12, 19, June 9, 16, 23, July 14, 21, & 28). Cost: \$150. By the end of the course students will know the argument of Romans by heart using the "Walk Through the Bible" method. They will also understand why this major epistle by the Apostle Paul was the cause of epic movements within the history of the Christian Church. We recommend this as one of the "first courses" that a student new to BGST can take.

- * Please note that special fee arrangements can be made for students taking these courses for audit, i.e., they will merely attend the class and do not need to do the written or reading assignments. Those interested may call Dr Quek at tel. 97865944.

5 **Leong Kok Weng, Assistant Librarian**, will be away in Taiwan on reservist training from 4 May till 25 May. Do keep him in prayers.

† Chapel

At Chapel last week Dr. Satterthwaite spoke from Haggai 2:1-9. Jerusalem was a depressing place in 520 BC. The Jews had started to return from exile in Babylon 18 years earlier with the aim of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem, destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. So far, however, they had accomplished little. They seem to have been discouraged by the scale of the task and by the opposition they faced from peoples round about. But, at the prompting of Haggai and Zechariah, they re-applied themselves to the task (see Haggai ch. 1), and a few weeks later received the prophecy recorded in Hag. 2:1-9. The prophecy encouraged the people to see the rebuilding of the temple as the first of a series of acts by which God would restore his people and fulfil his purposes both for them and for the nations: they were still his people, to whom he had bound himself by covenant (vv. 4-5); the nations would come to the temple to honour God with their gifts (vv. 6-8); there would be peace and security in the land (v. 9).

In this passage we see two sides of what it means to be part of God's people. On the one hand, it may involve hard work under difficult circumstances, faithful perseverance in the task at hand, taking small steps that have a larger significance, such as the laying of the foundation-stone. On the other hand, belonging to God's people involves sharing a hope for the future, looking forward to the future fulfilment of God's purposes, when all the nations will come to worship God.

Both sides are required in Christian discipleship. We cannot persevere for ever without hope for the future. We must make a habit of lifting our eyes from the task at hand to remind ourselves why we're doing it. We must read those parts of the Bible which speak of the fulfilment of God's purposes, particularly the prophets, Revelation and the Gospels. But we must also persevere in the present, even with tasks that are boring and discouraging. Often the only way we can express our hope for the future is by 'mundane' obedience now. (And if we give up on obedience in the present, that may mean we've given up on hope for the future too.)

Dr. Satterthwaite concluded by reading 1 Cor. 15:51-58, which ends: 'Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'



**We wish these who celebrate
their birthdays this week
God's richest blessings**

Ms Tan Lee Pin 02/5
Ms Lee Yen Linn Iris 05/5
Mrs Low Bee Hong 05/5

Dear BGST friends and family,
Thank you for sending me BGST This Week regularly. I enjoy reading it and it keeps me informed about what is going on. BGST may be small in structure but I think it is doing a very good job in theological training. When I look back on my days at BGST, I realize that it gave me a very good opportunity to get started on theological studies. Besides good lecturers, BGST has a very good library and an excellent collection of books and theological journals. Even though here in Aberdeen University I am given a study room (shared with several persons) and a personal desk, I have to walk to the main library about 5 minutes away to get a book or to browse through the journals. Also quite a number of the theological journals which BGST holds is not in my university library because this is not a theological school or seminary. When I was at BGST, I had direct access to all the books and journals at my fingertips and I was able to do my reading and writing in the library itself. I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to BGST for providing me such an excellent library facility and 'sorry' for the 'little things' I used to complain about.

Here in King's College, besides attending New Testament Seminar for one and a half hour every Thursday, the rest of my time is spent either in my study room reading and writing or in the library reading and browsing books and journals. It might sound boring because it is so monotonous but, fortunately, I enjoy doing this. My PhD dissertation is progressing well so far. My thesis is about the Messianic exegesis by early Christians and the origin of Divine Christology. Prof. Howard Marshall, my thesis supervisor, has given me good guidance and his critical comments are very helpful. I still need to do quite a bit of writing for Part 3, which is the major section of my thesis. Please pray for wisdom and speedy completion of this mammoth task before me.

A couple of weeks ago, Prof. Marshall invited my family and another Korean student family for Sunday lunch at his home. Before his retirement he used to invite all post-graduate NT students and families for a pot-luck dinner at the end of the academic year but this was the first time he invited us in such an informal manner. We had a good conversation over and after the meal. I respect him very much not only for his great scholarship and critical mind but also for his sincerity and humility. He has been a source of great encouragement to me both academically for my thesis and spiritually by his Christian example. He does not pastor any church, but he preaches almost every Sunday in different churches. It is refreshing to see that while his lectures displays his vast knowledge, his sermons are simple, direct and inspirational.

Warmest regards and love to all BGST family,
**Aquila Lee Hyun Il (M Div, '97) (together with
Ila and Abraham)**