



## GOOD BOOKS

This week's 'good book' is not a book at all, but a truly excellent CD-Rom from Inter-Varsity Press (IVP). IVP have placed on CD 12 of their biblical studies reference books: 7 Dictionaries (*Jesus and the Gospels; Paul and His Letters; the Later New Testament; New Testament Background; New Bible Dictionary; Dictionary of Biblical Imagery; Dictionary of Biblical Theology*); 3 Commentaries (*New Bible Commentary, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition; Bible Background Commentary, OT; Bible Background Commentary, NT*); also the *New Bible Atlas* and *The Hard Sayings of the Bible*. These works are now cross-referenced on CD so as to form, in effect, one huge, multi-faceted electronic resource for Bible study.

I have always felt that reference tools such as these are among the most useful books in BGST Library, particularly for students looking to orientate themselves to a new topic. Dictionaries are, after all, written with students' needs especially in view. Here are twelve such books, in an electronic form that will make them particularly easy to consult while (say) at your computer writing assignments. You can consult a commentary on a particular Bible verse, look up a key theological term quickly, view a map on the computer screen, call up an article on an aspect of Gospels scholarship – and much more.

What impresses me about this offer is that the books which have gone into this CD are both high quality and up-to-date, the most recent of them published in 2000. They are written by evangelical scholars, but are of a quality that has generally drawn praise from evangelicals and non-evangelicals alike. This is not a publisher's gimmick designed to give extra life to books that are past their 'sell-by' date. I have a copy of this disk myself, and find it very easy to use, with numerous 'hyper-text' links between articles, and also various ways of organising and searching through the material.

The system requirements are Window 3.1, Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows 2000, and it is recommended that the computer be of Pentium class, with 16 MB Ram, 20 MB free space on the hard drive, and of course, a CD player. If you have such a computer, and if you don't own most of these books already, I recommend this disk. You will find it a valuable resource.

It is available from MindManna (848 4255) at S\$220.00 (PES)

## NEWS BITS

- \* "Understanding Adolescents" has to be cancelled due to insufficient enrolment. Only two students signed up. We appreciate Dr Moira Lee's willingness to offer this course and hope that this course can be offered again at a later date.
- \* Erratum – apologies for some typo errors last week. Also please note that the correct telephone number to reach Dr Quek via handphone is 97865044, not 97869044. Sorry for the inconvenience caused. Thank you, Rev Thomas Chin for pointing that out.

\* We are pleased to note that BGST students are getting excited about communicating cross-culturally, grappling with the issues raised in the Book of Judges when every man did what was right in his own eyes and getting to the bottom of the Christian Faith. What is the Christian Faith? Judging by the differing answers given by Christian leaders to the world at large and the inconsistency between preaching and living out the Faith, it is no wonder that the non-Christian world is utterly confused. It is encouraging to see lay persons poring over the variant readings in the Greek text and getting excited about being able to understand the complexities of textual criticism. That is what happens in a typical week at BGST and last week was just such a week!

\* The Dean gave "An Israel Update" at Bethesda Katong's Missions Prayer meeting last Friday. He is away this weekend preaching and baptizing at Johor and Pahang. Council Chairman, Mr Paul Yap, is in Moscow, Suat is in Jerusalem, and our readers 'tune in' every Monday to what's happening this week at BGST – wow, we've become global! Praise God. Do drop us a line, if you are reading BTW and share your blessings with other readers.

\* We welcome Dr Ian Provan, Regent Professor, visiting Singapore enroute to Kuala Lumpur for a speaking engagement. He is the personal guest of Dr Satterthwaite and will have the opportunity to catch up with former students and friends resident in Singapore.

Chapel on Wednesday, May 9, will be taken by BGST Alumni, Mr Benny Fang. We welcome you to join us. It is always such a pleasure to see new faces at our small gathering each week.



## Thinking Points

by Mickey Chiang

### Who is the most romantic man in the Bible?

Our romantic hero comes to the harvest, and as a good Jew he greets his workers, "The Lord be with you !" (Ruth 2:5). Then he saw this woman and asked his foreman, "Whose young woman is that?" (Doesn't he mean, "If she's not attached, I'm interested in her!")?

Then Boaz tells her, "Listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field." He wants her to stay in his field! In case she missed his meaning, he said, "And don't go away from here" (Ruth 2:8). And to make 100% sure, Boaz blurts out, "Stay here with my servant *girls*." Did he mean: "Don't go near my *men*"? Yes! For he next said, "I have told the men not to touch you." Hey, between talking to the foreman and walking over to her, he had probably stopped the harvest, gathered his men and told them not to touch her? Is that Standard Operating Procedure on a farm? Wasn't he telling his men: "I'm interested in her, so hands off!"?

Boaz's next words nearly made Ruth faint. In fact she fell "with her face to the ground". For he said, "And whenever you are thirsty, go and get a drink from the water jars the men have filled." Excuse me, when a non-Jew drinks from a vessel, don't the Jews consider it contaminated and will not drink from it? So Ruth immediately said, "Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me - *a foreigner*?" Wasn't Ruth saying: "Whoa! I'm a non-Jew!"?

Boaz replied, "I have been told all you have done" (Boy, this guy wasted no time in getting all the information, and he didn't even have a cell phone!) "for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband" (i.e. I know you are unattached). But what Boaz said next was a shocker. "May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge! " Isn't that like saying: "Since you have taken refuge in the God of Israel, I consider you a Jewess, so it's all right for you to drink water from the same jars as us Jews"?

In a Hollywood movie, the next scene would show Boaz and Ruth joining lips. In a Bollywood movie, they would be singing on a mountain, a beach, a castle, and in ten other places, with a dozen costume changes. But Ruth plays it cool. When mealtime came, she stayed away from the harvesters. How do we know? Because Boaz called out, "Come *over here*!" ?

Then he offered her bread and roasted grain, and, as if letting her drink from the same vessel was not enough, he now asked her to eat from the common bowl! (Rich Jewish farmers eating with lowly female strangers? Unheard of!)

When Ruth left that evening, she carried 22 litres of grain home. Have you tried carrying 22 litre-packs of milk home? Grain is heavier. Ruth must have been carrying as much as she could carry. What more could Boaz do to show Ruth he was madly in love with her? Give her flowers? But do many wild flowers bloom at harvest time?

So wasn't Boaz romantic? Shouldn't *you* show your feelings towards the girl or guy you love?

## Chapel

**D**r Quek shared in his Chapel talk last week from 2 Tim 3:5 about the danger of "having a form of godliness but denying its power". Too often the pursuit of learning is devoid of acknowledging the truth when one is finally confronted with it (3:7). Learning is sterile and positively a bane if it does not translate into godly living.

Dr Quek cited the example of a movement that is exemplary in the way in which it sets its sights on personal as well as corporate holiness as foremost in its priorities. Thus Peter Maiden of Operation Mobilization, who takes over the reins from retiring Chairman George Verwer, gave his threefold vision for an OM fellowship which

- \* gives a priority to worship and from that foundation of worship our work flows. This will not be the work of slaves but of sons and daughters who have become willing bond slaves (Galatians 4:7).
- \* is committed to maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, a fellowship where individuals deal immediately with broken relationships and
- \* is committed to living on the cutting edge, whether that be the cutting edge of missiology or technology, but with that commitment refuses to move away from utter dependence on God and His Word expressed in our prayer lives personally and in the prayer life of our fellowship and in the place that Scripture has amongst us.

May we, in like manner, seek to mirror Christ always in our lives.

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

Mr Daniel Jew 08/5  
 Dr Atomic Leow Chuan Tse 08/5  
 Mr Joshua Cheng Eng Huat 09/5  
 Mdm Marietta Randolph 09/5  
 Ms Tamilarasi 09/5  
 Mr Richard Lim Beng Heng 10/5  
 Mr Daniel Wang 10/5  
 Ms Chan Kit Yee 12/5  
 Mr Bernard Low Bun Leong 12/5