



# Lively Stones

I PETER 2:5

*Holding forth the word of life*

Issue 1, 2007

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## Continue In Prayer

Our church theme for 2006 was "Being Built Together for His Habitation" based on Ephesians 2:22. This year we will focus on consecrated living and prayer life. Even our memory verses are specially chosen under the theme of "O For a Closer Walk with God". Hence, our focus this year is to build lives that are consecrated to spiritual walk in Christ.

In line with our church theme, I would like to encourage our Sunday School staff and students to pay special attention to our prayer life this year. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians, "Continue in prayer and watch in the same with

morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel." (Exodus 24:4) So did his successor Joshua, and King David, and our Lord Jesus Christ – they all lived their lives in prayers. Let us learn and acquire the blessed habit of prayerful living, and seek to please Him always.

Jesus instructed His disciples, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." (Mark 13:13) Herein underpins the secret of victorious Christian living! As disciples of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we must learn to watch and pray! The ability to stay watchful is the Christian's core

"Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving."  
(Colossians 4:2)

thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2) We need to have a consistent walk with Christ in prayers and living a life of thanksgiving. In another occasion, Paul instructed the Thessalonians: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) What a wonderful instruction! Truly, "His commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3b). As we seek the Lord together in the New Year, we will receive His favour and blessings through prayers. Those who learn to consecrate their life in daily living will also be living in God's perfect will. A prayerful life is a life of thanksgiving. A life of thanksgiving is a life living in God's holy will! Let us learn to focus our attention to "continue in prayer". "Prayer without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

There are many godly examples in the Bible of godly prayer warriors. "And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before God." (Genesis 19:27). "And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the

competency for spiritual living. The world can not watch and pray and thus, they fall into temptations. But God's people are empowered to watch and pray with great anticipation of Christ's imminent return. The Apostle Peter said, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10)

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, are you watching and praying today? Are you looking forward to the imminent return of Christ? Are you actively winning souls into Christ's kingdom? Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving. Only then, can we stand accountable before the *bema* (judgment seat of Christ) in the day of reckoning. May our Gracious Lord help us to watch and pray in this hour. Amen. - Elder Sherman Ong

### Announcements

TODAY is **Promotional Sunday**. Please see your respective DSs for information.

TODAY is also **Sunday School Staff Dedication** at **10.45 a.m.** worship service. All staff are strongly encouraged to be present.

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## Editorial

We all start the new year with resolutions to do better the year before. We all also brings with us sweet spiritual victories and plentiful defeats too. The only way to a better year is to have a New Life in Christ as stated in II Corinthians 5:17. This year, the editorial team has picked the theme "New Life in Christ". Prayerfully, the articles would encourage, exhort and humble us to walk well with the Lord on step at a time.

The small article that follows is but one of those bad attributes that we should be throwing away as we begin this new year. So dear readers, let's not hoard "potatoes" in our hearts but throw them away...

Coram Deo...before the face of the Lord  
J Koh

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### The Stench of Hatred

A kindergarten teacher has decided to let her class play a game. The teacher told each child in the class to bring along a plastic bag containing a few potatoes. Each potato will be given a name of a person that the child hates, so the number of potatoes that a child will put in his/her plastic bag will depend on the number of people he/she hates.

So when the day came, every child brought some potatoes with the name of the people he/she hated. Some had 2 potatoes; some 3 while some up to 5 potatoes.

The teacher then told the children to carry with them the potatoes in the plastic bag wherever they go (even to the toilet) for 1 week.

Days after days passed by, and the children started to complain due to the unpleasant smell let out by the rotten potatoes. Besides, those having 5 potatoes also had to carry heavier bags. After 1 week, the children were relieved because the game had finally ended.

The teacher asked: "How did you feel while carrying the potatoes with you for 1 week?" The children let out their frustrations and started complaining of the trouble that they had to go through having to carry the heavy and smelly potatoes wherever they go.

Then the teacher told them the hidden meaning behind the game. The teacher said: "This is exactly the situation when you carry your hatred for somebody inside your heart. The stench of hatred will contaminate your heart and you will carry it with you wherever you go. If you cannot tolerate the smell of rotten potatoes for just 1 week, can you imagine what is it like to have the stench of hatred in your heart for your lifetime???"

#### Moral of the story:

**Throw away any hatred for anyone from your heart so that you will not carry sins for a lifetime. Forgiving others is the best attitude to take!**

**The Lord has forgiven our sins... The offence that we do to God is of greater magnitude than those who offend us....**