



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship – 11 September 2016

Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	108 - <i>All Glory, Laud, and Honor</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	2 Chronicles 7:12-22
Hymn	TP 130
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Nehemiah 11:1-12:26
Hymn	169 - <i>Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Everyone in Ministry"
*Closing Hymn	185 - <i>Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au

Contact: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Report on the Australian mB-P Ministers' and Elders' Fellowship

Introduction

The pastors and elders of several Bible-Presbyterian Churches in Australia met in Adelaide from 26 to 28 August 2016.

Jimmy and I represented Covenant Church. Pastor Mathews Abraham and his elder, Stephen Lim, represented Ebenezer Church.

Pastor Timothy Ki, and his elders, Michael Lee and David Yeo, represented Hope Church. And Pastors Ed Paaue and David Weng represented Providence Church. Most of the wives and some family members were also present.

The purpose was for fellowship, mutual encouragement, and to explore the possibility of future formal fraternal ties.

Some of the pastors had attended the Australian Banner of Truth Conference in February this year. They thought it would be good to continue that fellowship by meeting for an extended time over the Word.

Mutual Ties Already Exist

There has already been personal ties among some of the pastors - some of them studied together. Pastor Ed, who helps in Providence Church, was our founding pastor.

There has already been ministry in each other's churches - I have spoken at both Hope and Ebenezer Churches in the past. Mathews Abraham, the pastor of Ebenezer Church ministered at our last Bible Conference.

There has also been past and future cooperation. Hope and Ebenezer Churches have combined church camps every few years.

Three churches have also cooperated in inviting Dr Tedd Tripp last year, and Dr Bob Jones III next year. In light of these reasons, it was natural to meet for mutual encouragement.

Fellowship Over the Word

At the fellowship, I shared on "The Unity of God's Ministers" from Philipians

1:27-2:30. Paul and his fellow ministers co-labored and submitted to one another.

Pastor Timothy Ki shared on "The Character and Preaching Ministry of God's Ministers" from 2 Peter 1:5-11. Many failings of ministers can be forborne, but character failings will lead to many problems.

Pastor Mathews Abrahams shared on "Our Love for God's Ministry and People" from 1 John 2:5-13. The minister ought to be characterized by affection for the church and each other.

Church Reports

Each church gave a report of their history and activities - sharing their challenges and joys. Providence Church shared their experience of church planting.

It was a fruitful time of encouragement and served as fodder for discussion on our stewardship of our churches. Particularly interesting was the issue of social media use. Each church shared how they handled related difficulties.

Principles of Presbytery

Pastor Edward Paaue gave a historical sketch of the B-P Church in Australia, of the beginnings of each church.

What I noted was this - the number of splits over 30 years in Australia, based on personal and doctrinal differences, was particularly disconcerting.

Pastor Ed shared from the Scriptures the 6 Biblical marks of church government:

1. The office bearers were chosen by the people,
2. the office of bishop and elder was identical,
3. there was a plurality of elders in each church,
4. ordination was the act of a Presbytery,
5. there was the privilege of appeal to the assembly of elders, and the power of government was exercised by them in their capacity, and
6. the only Head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

While the Presbyterian form of government is not in everything an exact copy of the New Testament Church and is

wanting in several things; yet it contains all of these marks.

The roles of Presbytery were discussed. Among them: to receive complaints and matters that are unresolved in a church session; to ordain, install, remove, and judge ministers; to resolve questions of doctrine and discipline; to condemn opinions which injure the purity, peace, or unity of the church; to encourage fellowship; and to work for the spiritual well-being of each church while respecting each congregation's liberties.

Reaction

It was agreed by all that the principles were correct, and working towards Presbytery was desirable. Also, failing to do so acts against the B-P constitution.

The folks were quite upbeat and spoke of their desire for greater cooperation - as it would increase effectiveness in missions and lend greater accountability.

There was also a sombre recounting that if Presbytery had been present, many past problems - both doctrinal and character - may have been addressed.

In fact, 2 prior and separate attempts to form a Presbytery in Australia had been made by Pastor Ed and Pastor Ki.

But it was also agreed, that unless the members of Presbytery were committed to unity, mature Christian character, and mutual love; no Presbytery could work.

And unless there is mutual love and confidence in each other, and subjection to the brethren, no Presbytery could function. Likewise, this is the same in a church session.



Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 95. Of what use is the moral law to all men?

A. The moral law is of use to all men, to inform them of the holy nature and will of God, and of their duty, binding them to walk accordingly, to convince them of their disability to keep it, and of the sinful pollution of their nature, hearts, and lives: to humble them in the sense of their sin and misery, and thereby help them to a clearer sight of the need they have of Christ, and of the perfection of his obedience.

Three Proposals

The pastors and elders agreed to teach their sessions and churches about the principles of Presbytery and formal fraternal ties. It would be very difficult to form a Presbytery if no one is convinced.

It was also proposed that such and similar annual fellowships would be conducted in the various cities in Australia.

Furthermore, it was proposed that the pastors from the churches be present at the upcoming dedication of Hope Church's new church building in April 2017.

Reflection

It was a very profitable time for Jimmy, Florence, and me. We got to fellowship with the folks in the churches - to rekindle friendships and to meet new friends.

The interstate pastors ministered at Hope and Providence Churches. And we all visited the newly purchased premises of Hope Bible-Presbyterian Church and rejoiced with the provision of our Lord God.

We are grateful for Hope Church for hosting us and for Providence Church for handling the logistics. And there was way too much food - buffet, home-made kimchi, etc.

Thank God for the fellowship and the mutual encouragement and the like-mindedness. May the Lord grant us wisdom, resolve, unity, and patience as we work towards a formal fraternal, DV.
~ Pastor

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (11.9.16)	Next Week (18.9.16)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Chris Budiman	Ken Chong
Pianist	Evelyn Lee	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Kim & Jesslyn Leow	Ian & Merrill Read
Offering Stewards	Terence Lee*, David Lim* Jacob Woo, Rex Sriharan	Yen Fye Yap*, Paul Butler* Ian Read, Jansen Ng
Usher	Angela Yap, August Ng	Jerome Ng, Jemima Ng
Kitchen Duties	Merilyn Woo*, Victor Poon, Rosemary Fitzpatrick	Florence Orchard*, May Poon, Ken Hong
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>16 September 2016</i>	<i>23 September 2016</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Eugene Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "Rejoicing for the Kingdom" (Nehemiah 12:27-47).
3. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Jesus Helps Me Grow" (Colossians 1.15-20). Speaker - Johnson Lim.
4. Young People's Group. Saturday 17 September 2016, 4:30 pm at the Ng residence. Topic - "Why Are There So Many Versions of the Bible?" For more information, please contact Jerome Ng at 0451 124 799.
5. Vacation Bible School. 3-5 October 2016 (Mon-Wed). 9am - 12.15pm. Theme: "God's Top Ten." Registration ends 18 September. Registration forms are available in the foyer. Volunteers needed! Please contact Ken Chong or Valerie Ong.
6. Combined Youth Camp. "Living as Christians in a Non-Christian World." 1-3 December. Speaker: Pastor Ron Nugent. Fee: \$55. For more information, see Eugene or Jerome.
7. **Notice of the 7th Annual General Meeting.** Date: Sunday, 25 September 2016. Time: 11:30 pm sharp. Venue: 47 Davis Road, Attadale, WA 6156. Please collect your AGM papers from Terence Lee or Ken Chong.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance																
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 10%;">WED</td> <td style="width: 15%;">10:00 am</td> <td>Craft Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FRI</td> <td>7:45 pm</td> <td>CBI & Prayer Meeting</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">SAT</td> <td>4:30 pm</td> <td>JF & TF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4:30 pm</td> <td>YPG</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">SUN</td> <td>9:00 am</td> <td>Sunday School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10:00 am</td> <td>Worship Service</td> </tr> </table>	WED	10:00 am	Craft Group	FRI	7:45 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting	SAT	4:30 pm	JF & TF	4:30 pm	YPG	SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School	10:00 am	Worship Service	<p><i>General Fund - \$2,847.60 (#612 - \$226.00). Missions Fund - \$640.00 (#609 - \$120.00, #610 - \$100.00, #611 - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$105.00 (#390 - \$100.00, #391 - \$5.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$3,592.60. Attendance - 152.</i></p>
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Building Fund to Date		
Available Building Fund	\$69,855.39	Building Fund Account:
Outstanding Pledges	\$1,705.00	Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church
Last Week's Collection	\$105.00	(Westpac Bank, Applecross)
Total	\$71,660.39	BSB: 036-031 Acct: 316969
<i>Outstanding Loan</i>	<i>- \$416,000.00</i>	SWIFT: WPACAU2S
<i>Amount Still Needed</i>	<i>\$344,339.61</i>	

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.

Everyone in Ministry
Nehemiah 11:1-12:26

When God revives the soul of a person, there will be love for the Word, sincere and complete repentance, and obedience to God. We will love the church and invest our resources in her. And one of those resources is ourselves. We will serve God with all our hearts, with our hands, with our gifts. The kingdom of God is a place where everyone is in ministry. We expect to be busy for the Lord.

1. God Builds His Kingdom
 - a. God chooses his people for the work
 - b. God had a spiritual work
 - c. They trust in God
2. There Is Submission in the Building of God's Kingdom
 - a. There was submission in the past
 - b. They and their families went willingly
 - c. They endured hardship
 - d. Served in whatever they were called to do
3. There Is Legacy in the Kingdom
 - a. The same families were serving God
 - b. God works in families

There is a work to be done. It's a spiritual work. It requires people to sacrifice themselves and submit to God to do the work. This is a means by which the kingdom will grow and a means by which you will lay down a legacy.

Questions for Reflection:

1. The people committed to bringing tithes of their income to the house of the Lord (10:38). They commit to bringing 10% of themselves in 11:1-2. What does that say about the time and effort we should devote to the kingdom of God?
2. Though lots are cast to select them, the leaders go willingly to live in Jerusalem (11:2). What does this say about God's faithfulness to Israel (see Psalm 122)? What does it say about Israel's commitment to God?