



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship — 4 February 2018

**Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	23 - <i>Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Mark 14:32-50
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	TP 41:5-13
Hymn	623 - <i>Footprints of Jesus</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Acts 21:1-16
Hymn	128 - <i>Hallelujah! What a Saviour!</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Let God's Will Be Done"
*Closing Hymn	359 - <i>Singing I Go</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

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## **A Report of Our Missions to India**

Last year, Pastor Mark Chen accompanied Dr Swee Hwa Quek to visit the work and churches of the Bible-Presbyterian Churches of India - a synod comprised of 2 presbyteries and 17 churches.

He was introduced to the Bible-Presbyterian School of Ministry (BPSOM).

This school was founded nearly 7 years ago and runs modular classes throughout the year. Visiting lecturers teach courses on Bible, Doctrine, and Pastoral Theology.

This year from 18-25 January, Pastors Mark Chen and Mathews Abraham taught modules at the BPSOM as well as ministered to the host church, Mount Carmel Bible-Presbyterian Church of Villivakkam, Chennai.

### *Ministry to Mount Carmel B-P Church*

We arrived on the morning of Saturday, 20 January. Pastor Mathews spoke to the women of the Women's Fellowship.

These women came from different backgrounds. Among them were women who were raised in the church as well as converts out of Hinduism.

The fellowship also invited a number of unbelievers from the neighborhood who were eager to listen to the preaching of foreigners.

Pastor Mathews preached the gospel to them and also spoke of the faith of Hannah and the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

On the Lord's Day, Pastor Mark ministered at the morning worship, speaking from Luke 9 on following Jesus. The church was established 30 years ago and has about 100 worshippers.

Pastor Mathews ministered at the Youth Fellowship, speaking from James 1, and encouraged the young people to live out their Christianity.

### *Bible-Presbyterian School of Ministry*

The Bible-Presbyterian School of Ministry ran from Monday to Thursday. The training started at 9 am and concluded at

6 pm each day, with a lunch break and periodic short breaks throughout the day.

The modules were for the continuing education of our pastors and were also open to others.

There were about 70 participants, a majority comprising of pastors, and others included a few pastor's wives, women ministry leaders, and a few church youth.

The pastors were mostly from the Bible-Presbyterian synod with a few from standalone B-P churches. Other pastors were from mainline and independent churches, with quite a number of practicing Charismatics.

Pastor Eman Kumar, the moderator of BPCI and the pastor of Mount Carmel B-P Church, has been conducting Bible Studies and training for different pastoral fraternals in Tamil Nadu.

Through his ministry and contact, these non B-P pastors had indicated a desire to attend BPSOM.

The participants, the majority of whom were pastors of small churches, were given transport allowance, simple meals, and lodging at the church (for those not from the Chennai region).

Covenant and Ebenezer B-P Churches jointly supplied the funds needed for this training.

### *Modules Taught*

Pastor Mark taught the Westminster Confession of Faith. He stressed that these were the doctrinal standards of the Presbyterian Church.

And while not everyone would be convinced of all the doctrines, it was important to understand the statement of faith for one of the largest wings of Christianity - the Reformed movement.

The students were very attentive and asked many questions. We had many lively discussions on the topics from the WCF - concerning almost every chapter - but especially on "Of the Holy Scriptures," "Of God's Eternal Decrees," and the chapters concerning Soteriology

- Effectual Calling, Justification, Repentance, and Sanctification.

Only 19 chapters were covered - we sacrificed breadth for depth.

Pastor Mathews spoke from 1 John for the morning devotion as planned, and conducting 2 lessons on "Examining the Charismatic Movement." The latter module was a last minute development as we considered the make-up of the participants.

Many of the students (of a more charismatic persuasion) asked questions on the issues of tongues, prophecy, and healing.

Our B-P pastors also interacted with them - assuring them that we were merely teaching our understanding from the Scriptures (and church history), and were not trying to alienate them. They made their points compassionately.

#### *Feedback*

The feedback was quite unexpected and very encouraging. Many of those from a Charismatic persuasion gave assurances that due to the teaching, they had understood the Biblical practice of tongues, and were no longer convinced of their "modern" tongue-speaking.

Others were happy that they could now give Bible-based responses to their church members and to Charismatics in their interactions with them.

Others gave feedback that the depth of the doctrines learned from the WCF

helped them to clear up many questions and to learn things they had never quite understood before.

They testified that this led to a more devotional application in their lives and ministry.

One pastor shared that while he had spoken in tongues for many years, he had not spoken to his estranged brother for over 35 years, even though they were from the same church.

But as the doctrines of Christ's atonement and reconciliation were expounded, God showed him the necessity of having a tender spirit and the need to make right with his brother.

Not a few had asked us to return. And when the day concluded with WCF 19, not a few asked the lecturer to complete chapter 20!

We were humbled by the response and it brought great and needed encouragement to our hearts.

We never expected that the teaching we brought would have such an impact on the pastors as greatly as it did.

We thank our respective churches for releasing us for those days and sending us to India to minister to these pastors. We all share in the fruits of it.

And as the Lord allows and leads, we would be grateful and honored to return to teach them again.

~ Pastors Mathews Abraham and Mark Chen



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 191. What do we pray for in the second petition?

A. In the second petition, (which is, Thy kingdom come,) acknowledging ourselves and all mankind to be by nature under the dominion of sin and Satan, we pray, that the kingdom of sin and Satan may be destroyed, the gospel propagated throughout the world, the Jews called, the fullness of the Gentiles brought in; the Church furnished with all gospel officers and ordinances, purged from corruption, countenanced and maintained by the civil magistrate: that the ordinances of Christ may be purely dispensed, and made effectual to the converting of those that are yet in their sins, and the confirming, comforting, and building up of those that are already converted: that Christ would rule in our hearts here, and hasten the time of his second coming, and our reigning with him for ever: and that he would be pleased so to exercise the kingdom of his power in all the world, as may best conduce to these ends.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (4.2.18)	Next Week (11.2.18)
Speaker	Mark Chen	Keith Morris
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Valerie Lee	Nancy Lim
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Kim & Jesslyn Leow
Offering Stewards	Micah Chiang*, Chris Budiman* David Lim, Paul Butler	Ken Chong*, Kim Leow* Vincent Chiu, Jacob Woo
Ushers	Jerome Ng, Putri Harapan	Rebecca Lee, Josephine Austin
Kitchen Duties	Helen Wong*, Grace Wang Adeline Ng, Josephine Austin	Jenni Budiman*, Marilyn Woo Vincent Chiu
PA Duty	Raymond Woo	Ian Tay
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>9 February 2018</i>	<i>16 February 2018</i>
Facilitator	Jimmy Orchard	Jimmy Orchard
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. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. Next week's speaker is Rev Keith Morris. Message: "Jesus Raised in Power" (Romans 1:3-4).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message - "Obey Your Church Leaders" (Hebrews 13:1-19). Speaker: Jimmy Orchard.
5. Bible Conference 2018. Dates: 23-26 April 2018. Speaker: Pastor Allen Beardmore. Venue: Hotel Lord Forrest, Bunbury. Please register with Ken Chong or Ken Hong.
6. Bible Study Tour of Israel and Jordan. Dates: 9-21 December 2018. Please contact Pastor Mark if you are interested.
7. Pastor Mark is away on holiday from 5-21 January. Please contact Elder Jimmy for pastoral care.
8. We would like to offer our deepest condolences to Mary Loh and her family on the passing of her husband and our brother SK Loh.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	General Fund - \$3,577.05 (*DD - \$860.00). Missions Fund - \$250.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,127.05. Attendance - 128. *DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$82,638.90
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00
Total	\$82,938.90
Outstanding Loan	- \$390,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$307,061.10
General Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Missions Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Building Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.

## Let God's Will Be Done

### Acts 21:1-16

If you knew that what lay ahead was arduous and filled with trials, would you push on ahead? Many explorers and missionaries did. Paul did the same - his future was filled with certain trouble. This was revealed to him by the Spirit. But Paul forged on ahead, in obedience to God's will - no one could dissuade him from following Christ.

1. The Right Concern of the Church for Their Beloved Apostle
  - a. Their pleas were articulated
  - b. Their love was exhibited
  - c. Their knowledge was limited
2. The Resolve of One Bound to Obey God's Will
  - a. He went against his own will
  - b. He submitted to His divine will
  - c. The will of God was bigger than Paul

Christ was at work in the church according to his will. He was working in the hearts of the people, to endure hardship, to die to self, to grow in grace, and to love one another. Why this doesn't happen in our lives is because we don't always surrender ourselves to God's will. May our heart's cry be to do God's revealed will.

### Questions for Reflection:

1. Do you think we often confuse our sentiments and feelings for God's will on a certain issue? Why is this so? If God's will is clearly revealed in the Word, what part can or can't our feelings and desires play in delaying to do God's will?
2. How has doing God's will in your life helped you in endure hardship, die to self, grow in grace, and love the brethren? Do you see these characteristics in yourself increasing? What does this say about your relationship with the will of God?