

## Hokkien Retreat 29 May 2010

### We praise and thank God for a wonderful retreat.

The Lord's messenger was Rev Tan Chee Keong. Some 59 members turned up that day. The message was: "... grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ ..." 2 Peter 3:18



Part 1 of the message was on how to "grow" in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To grow is to make progress. Everyone who believes in Christ must not remain stagnant but to continue to grow. Peter, when asked by Jesus who he was, answered that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. We who are

redeemed, need to renew our mind through studying God's Word and obeying it.



As in 2 Peter 1:1-4, believers will have peace with God (because their sins are forgiven); and given exceeding great and precious promises that we might live out our new life in Christ. There are 7 characteristics listed in verses 5 - 7 that we may develop in, namely : faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance "pull

handbrake", patience "jim-nai or thun-lun"; godliness, brotherly kindness and charity (love one another in Christ and to love the unloveable and our enemies). Whichever characteristics we are weak in, we will need to give all diligence to strengthen or develop it. By doing that, we will be fruitful and established in our faith in Christ.

In Part 2, this growth in Christ that happens in our hearts should be manifested in our works. Our works should be centred on serving God (taken from 2 Peter 3:1- 4). How

can we serve Jesus? We can serve by bringing the gospel to our friends and relatives so that they too will have this abundant life in Christ. Without Christ they will perish! Heaven and hell is forever. In the Bible, the rich man who did not have his sins forgiven, when he died, is in hell – alone, forever under torment.

Being old and frail does not stop us from serving God because of the weakness in our physical faculties. They can still serve God by being an example to the younger ones, by coming punctually for worship service or fellowship meetings or to say a prayer. As we live each day according to God’s Word, we also look forward to the day when Christ returns and we will have a glorified body. While we are on earth, let us shine from our little corners. No matter how old we are, we are to serve God all the way. In the last days, there will be scoffers, but we are to keep close to God and firmly establish our family with Christ as the centre of our homes. While the Lord tarries, we are to do works that have eternal values because the reward is forever. The things we value today on earth have no value in heaven like gold; the roads in heaven are made of gold. One day when we face Christ, will we be ashamed and fearful or will the Lord say ,” Well done, thou good and faithful servant”?

In the afternoon, after a sumptuous lunch, we headed for Labrador Park. Praise God for providing the shelter and cloudy and windy weather for us. It was a time for singing praises to God and a time for friendly competition in games. All who came that day were not only blessed by the messages but also a time of encouraging one another in the Lord. Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

