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SAMANTHA
NEWSLETTER

PRAISE & PRAY

Awana ministry:

1. Thank God for changes of my position and Calvary's club.
2. Pray for leaders to be encouraged to serve with deeper commitment and passion.
3. Coming Presentation to Singapore Baptist Church to start an Awana club.

Neighbourhood

4. Thank God for the children contacted.
5. Children to grow freely in the knowledge of Christ and wisdom to counsel them in their faith and life.

Others :

6. Thank God for opportunities to teach in a VBS and Family Camp during the coming school holidays.
7. Wisdom and creativity to plan and prepare the lessons.
8. Thank God for my nephews' sponsorship to join me at the family camp. This will be their first church camp in Malaysia.
9. Please pray for wisdom to teach and be their guardian at camp.

Faraway GOD Now Present



Dear Beloved,

How have you been my friend? Is your day of light or darkness; a day of peace or trouble? **I believe it's all a matter of perspective.** Just as darkness is a common fear to every child so is trouble to man, as both thought that something bad or scary is going to happen to them. **No ocean of words or even truth can bring relief except 'light seen' or a 'stronger presence felt' can allay that fear.** In my nephews' growth in overcoming the fear of darkness, I observe the different levels i.e. (1) ask me to turn on the light they cannot reach, next (2) trust my presence without light; and then (3) finally turn on the light themselves. **Likewise, I believe much of our fears is because of what we know and don't know ((truth, lies, assumptions) and who do we have to face this trouble.** What then is the cure for our troubled heart? Jesus use the words in **John 14:1** 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me.' to comfort His disciples and prepare them for the trouble ahead and again in **John 16:33** 'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.'

By observing the passages between these verses about what 'these things' are, I saw at least 3 fundamental truths which is the 'light' He wants us believers to see to dispel our fear of darkness.

Truth #1 : The Father's house is our **ultimate home**, which means our trouble is temporary (in time and confined to our present body/world). That's why Paul wrote in **2 Cor 4:17-18** 'For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.'

Truth #2 : **Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life**, no one comes to the Father except through Him (Jn 14:6). Having Jesus as Saviour and Lord already puts us on the journey and His leading is sure to bring us safely home and heavenward through faith. Just as Noah who knew nothing about rain, flood, shipbuilding and zoo-keeping; did all he was commanded, entered the ark he cannot steer, trusted GOD alone for the journey of many 'unknowns', like, how, when, and what he is going to survive in the zoo-like ark and limited food. He cannot even shut nor open the door. He just knew that God is sovereign and the reason for the flood (Gen 6:1-8:19).

Truth #3 : **Presence and Work of the Holy Spirit.** (Jn 16:7,13 *It is for your good....if I go, I will send him [Counsellor] to you. He will guide you into all truth.*). In the past, **God was faraway from us, through Christ and the Holy Spirit, God is now brought near and present within us.** (Jn 14:23 *If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*)

May you take comfort and have peace when you face any trouble since it is God's purpose and plan to perfect you and not destroy you for His glory and His peace and joy is made possible in your pain (James 1:2-8) when you trust Him. God's Word is our light. Trusting it is the 'light seen'. **Sometimes God will have someone to 'turn on' what we cannot; another time we can only trust His Presence and finally He enables us to keep the light on ourselves. God will keep in perfect peace us whose mind is steadfast, because we trust in Him. (Isaiah 26:3). No matter how our life is, let us spur each other to invest quality time in understanding God's Word which is so fundamental to our journey so that we can live as children of light.**



Ministry Update

1. After much evaluation and prayer with my Regional Director, he has approved my **change** from part-time **position to a volunteer with effect from 1st April 2008.** This change allows me to use my time with more

liberty to accept other ministry opportunities and still remain in Awana without any conflict of time nor change of role and responsibilities.

2. **Zion Bishan** faced with the challenges of leaders for some years has decided to discontinue the Awana club. This 'loss' benefitted in the purging of outdated materials and other clubs as free clubber gifts from the supplies that were returned.

3. **Calvary Jurong** accepted some changes and update their club in uniforms and awards giving the clubbers a fresh boost to the image and interest.

Neighbourhood Outreach

1. Apart from the regular parties, 15 children came to the 3-Day March holidays program and at least two started with the bible correspondence course .
2. At least 3 children has begun to attend Sunday school with me.
3. Started free tuition with 2 girls who are weak in their studies. This gives me more time to bond with them. I'm exploring this as a new avenue of ministry. One girl brought her classmate from the neighbourhood as a result of this.

Precept Inductive Bible Study in Sunday School launched

1. Good feedback from the children on the study of James which provides God's answers to their problems.
2. Weekly teaching of God's Names in the Praise Hour to help our children know their God and be strong in their faith.