

Report of Combined Youth Conference 2008 (19 to 21 June)

by Karen Lee

The theme for this year's Combined Youth Conference is built on the rhetorical question "The Lord Tarries: My Licence to Relax?" It was attended by about sixty young people, from churches like Calvary Pandan, Gethsemane, True Life and Truth. The three-day-two-night Conference was a blessed time of searching and learning from God's Word about prophecies and signs of the End Times and the Lord's Second Coming. It was also a time of reminder as to how we are to carry our crosses now, and how we ought to anticipate the crowns that await us. We also have blessed fellowship with like-minded brethren during discussion time, around the meal tables, during dorm fellowship and as we play together.

The Lord tarries, is it then our licence to relax? Hebrews 10:37 warns, "*For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.*" Are we prepared to meet our God? The series of messages that built around the theme provoked a careful reflection in each individual on how we have been living for Christ, and the reminder of how little time we have left to serve our Lord. Rev (Dr) Jeffrey Khoo and Rev (Dr) Quek Suan Yew brought us through the signs and prophecies of the End Times, and we were left with the question of whether we are ready for such a time. Rev Quek pointed out that we are living in the midst of the fulfillment of Matthew 24:24, and reminded us that being God's children and having believed the prophecies He has given us in His Word, we must live in accordance to that belief, knowing that our Heavenly Father will do what He says. We ought to live a life motivated by our love for God, with eternal goals in view. Dr Khoo reminded us also that if our Lord has fulfilled all the prophecies about His First Coming, we can be very sure that all the prophecies about His Second Coming will soon come to pass. Are we ready for such a time?

The message on the Lord's Second Coming by Dr Khoo reminds us of the blessed hope we have in Christ Jesus. He spoke of the event unveiling through three high points. First is the Rapture of believers who are alive and the resurrection of the dead in Christ (followed by the seven-year Tribulation). The second high point is the Return of Christ to earth with His saints (followed by the Battle of Armageddon, the final war when the Anti-Christ will be defeated). The third high point is the 1,000-year Reign of Christ on earth and we shall reign with Him. At the end of this Millennial Reign, Satan will be let loose for a season before being cast into the lake of fire for ever and ever. Then follows the ultimate destruction of heaven and earth by fire, and God will create a new heaven and a new earth.

It is with much gratitude to God for the great mercy He has bestowed upon us undeserving sinners saved by His grace as we see how He pours out His wrath on the unrepentant sinners during the seven-year Great Tribulation, and how Christ and His finished work on the Cross alone has spared the believers from this wrath to come. Walking through the three high points of the Lord's Coming also reminds us of our duty here on earth while our Lord tarries. We are to warn of the wrath to come and to preach the good news we have received in Christ Jesus.

By God's grace, He brought three friends (who are still outside His Kingdom) to attend this Conference. They listened to the message on The Second Coming, and the gospel was shared personally with them during lunch hour in the dorm. Thank God also that tracts and a Bible were given to them. Pray for their salvation.

The series of messages ended with the reminder by Pr Dennis Kabingue that we, as followers of Christ, ought to carry our crosses and follow Him. We are to bear the cross of defending Christ and the cross of witnessing for Him in these last days when apostasy prevails. Rev (Dr) Prabhudas Koshy also concluded with the encouraging reminder of the crowns that await the faithful. May we diligently seek God (Heb 11:6c) and press towards the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet 3:9). May the Lord help us redeem the time for the days are evil, to actively do the work of evangelism while He tarries, and to be salt and light in this sin-sick world. May we let our loins be girded about, and our lights burning (Lk 12:35), labouring in zeal for the Lord's work, serving Him while it is still day, for the night would soon come when no man can work (John 9:4). In all our service, may it be motivated by our love for Him because of what He has done for us on Calvary's Cross, living each day in the presence of the Lord, walking in the fear of Him, and in anticipation of His soon Return. Seeing also how that we are living in the midst of the fulfillment of Matthew 24:24, may the Lord help us stand strong in Him, putting on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devils (Eph 6:11) in these Last Days. Let us all be prepared to meet our God.

All thanks and praise to our God Almighty, who is to be greatly praised.