



Christ Alone (*Solus Christus*)

By Dennis Yam

It is only through Christ's perfect righteousness on the cross that the justification of sinners is accomplished.

On a trip to General Santos City (down south in Mindanao) last April, the author had an opportunity to teach at the local Chinese church. Included in the lecture was the impact of the Reformation not only during the 16th century but even to our present understanding of theology. Part of the lecture was on the work of Jesus Christ with emphasis on *solus Christus*, i.e., through Christ alone. It is only through Christ's work on the cross that we are imputed with His perfect righteousness. During a tour of the city one afternoon, we passed by one of the leading Catholic colleges. A mural painted on one of the walls immediately attracted my attention. In huge white large prints were these words painted: "All to Christ through Mary; all to Mary for Christ."

It is not a surprise at all for us in the evangelical circle to read these kind of statements from the Roman Catholic church. Just in these past few years alone, there is a renewed¹ Catholic movement that is seeking the endorsement of the papacy for the Blessed Virgin Mary to be elevated to the position of co-redemptrix, and mediatrix of all graces. All of these dogmas in addition to her being the advocate of the faithful to Christ. To the Roman Catholics, Mary is considered co-redemptrix because of her unique and exceptional co-

operation and participation in the salvation of humankind through the divine birth of Christ. Although in theory, Roman Catholic theologians would object to the charge that Mary is co-equal in status as Christ as redeemer, yet in practice, we see most often Mary is considered an equal or even designated with a higher status to Christ. Mary has more than often been idolized, called the "Mother of God," and "Queen of heaven."

With the debate still going on, we affirm that our salvation is accomplished only through Christ. His complete obedience on the cross and the work of atonement is sufficient for our justification. We affirm that Christ is the only mediator and advocate to the Father whereby we are reconciled back to Him.

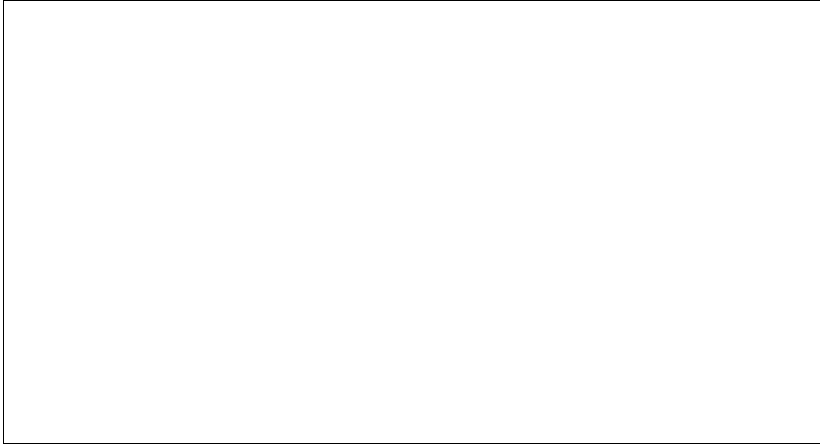
There are several areas that can help us understand this better:

1. Christ alone is the Redeemer. He alone is the perfect, sinless God-man that the heavenly Father has appointed for the redemption of mankind.

2. He is the only Mediator that God has ordained for our salvation. He is the only way that sinful man can get access to the Father and experience the reality of salvation.

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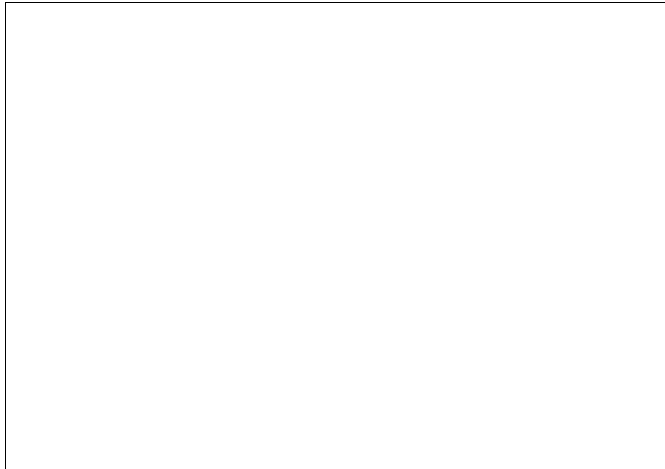
2003 Alumni Family Retreat



Everybody wants to have another Family Retreat, if not next year, then as soon as possible. This was the general consensus of participants to the 2003 Alumni Family Retreat, held on May 11-14, 2003 at the Caliraya Recreational Center. There were 43 adults and 21 children in all. Rev. Jeremiah Cheung gave four sessions that inspired us to pursue spiritual growth to empower our service to the Lord. We also viewed Dr. John Maxwell's video lessons on Equipping Your

BSOP's 2003 Alumni Family Retreat, May 11-14, 2003

Team for Ministry. Ample time was provided in the afternoons and evenings (after nine) for fellowship, prayer, batch reunions, and family time. The children also had their own activities and learning time. As with the annual homecoming, the great attraction was the book sale. Everyone went home with lighter wallets and excess baggage of books! The beauty of this retreat was the chance afforded for different generations of alumni to get to know each other. Different batches—from the 60s down to the present year—were represented. In fact, the photo (right) shows four generations of teachers and students: Alice Huang (second from left) taught Jean Uayan (middle) during the 70s; Jean Uayan taught Christopher Young and Suzanne Li (left and second from right) during the 80s; Christopher in turn taught Sherwin (left, not a BSOP alumni) at Jubilee Christian Academy and he recently graduated from another seminary. God bless the hard labor of the Alumni Association officers and volunteers for the Retreat. May all who attended be more empowered by the Holy Spirit as they returned to their respective churches and ministries.



Rev. Jeremiah Cheung giving the Theme Message



Children of alumni learning how to draw

FACULTY ON THE MOVE

- ❖ Dr. Joseph Shao will be teaching at the Reformed Institute from June 21 to July 14, 2003, as well as speaking at the Arlington Chinese Bible Church. He will also visit some alumni, board members and supporters of BSOP.
- ❖ Rev. Wilson Go Kiao taught a TEE course and visited our student in practicum at the United Evangelical Church of Zamboanga from May 2 to 5, 2003.
- ❖ Rev. Dennis Yam also taught a TEE course at the United Evangelical Church of General Santos (April 24-28) and visited Cebu Gospel Church where two of our students were doing practicum.
- ❖ Dr. Tan Chiu Eng and Dr. Jane Chuaansu successfully underwent a rigorous month of TESOL training (see related item) and are applying their knowledge in teaching the new batch of foreign students.

NEW STUDENTS

Praise God for the 48 students who enrolled this year! Please pray for their studies, adjustments, interpersonal relationship with other students and faculty members and spiritual growth.

MACE NEWS

After persistently coming to BSOP (some from as far as Bacolod City) for five summers, two MACE students are finally at the stage of writing their theses. Please pray for research work and their eventual oral

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TESOL at BSOP

TESOL stands for **T**eachers of **E**nglish to **S**peakers of **O**ther **L**anguages, Inc. An organization headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA, TESOL trains English as a second language (ESL) and English as a foreign language (EFL) educators to serve all over the world. They work in countries where English is spoken only as a foreign language or as a dominant language. ESL teachers work with all sorts of people – immigrants, refugees, international students, as well as in specialized academic, adult education and community based programs.

TESOL trains students in linguistics, language pedagogy, methodology, materials development, testing and research, curriculum and syllabus design, program administration, and cross-cultural communication. TESOL has more than 90 affiliated organizations representing 45,000 professionals.

BSOP was privileged to have this opportunity to work with TESOL in training our first batch of ESL/EFL teachers coming from the Chinese and Filipino Christian communities. Two of our professors (Dr.

Tan and Dr. Chuaansu) and an alumnus (Ptr. Eduardo Yu) were in the program. Through faculty members Mr. Sam Kuka (director of Asia's Center for TESOL or ACT, former teacher at Faith Academy), Ms. Hester Bucy, Mrs. Rosa Smith (former director of Asia's Center for TESOL), and Dr. Glenn Deckert. Dr. Deckert came all the way from the United States and is

a fulltime Language Professor at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Deckert was very much impressed with the facilities of BSOP and the energy and creativity of the teachers of ACT; he also found the students very mature and professional. He observed, though, that this batch of students underwent a grueling month of learning how to teach English, so much so that they hardly had time to think back on what they learned everyday. Immediately applying what they learned on the third week, BSOP's foreign students (as well as students from other seminaries like ABS and ISOT) became their "English students" during a week of intensive module. The 2003 TESOL class proudly graduated on May 31, 2003.

(l-r) Hester Bucy, Rosa Smith, Sam Kuka & Glenn Deckert

3. His perfect righteousness on the cross completely fulfilled the demands of the Law. Christ was the only perfect human being who was sinless. He was tempted in all aspects, yet He never sinned.

4. It is only through Christ that the justification of sinners is achieved. Martin Luther was not wrong when he declared that justification of sinners is by faith and only through the complete obedience of Christ on the cross. Through his righteousness on the cross, this righteousness is counted (imputed) as ours.

Michael English has aptly put this message in a song entitled, *In Christ Alone*. May the words of this song help us to understand better our total dependence on Christ's work on the cross.

*In Christ alone will I glory
Though I could pride myself in
battles won
For I've been blessed beyond
measure
And by His strength alone I over-
come
Oh, I could stop and count suc-
cesses
Like diamonds in my hand*

*But those trophies could not equal
To the grace by which I stand*

*In Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of
the cross
In every victory let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source
of hope
Is Christ alone*

*In Christ alone will I glory
For only by His grace I am re-
deemed
Only His tender mercy
Could reach beyond my weakness
to my need
Now I seek no greater honor
Than just to know Him more
And to count my things but losses
To the glory of the Lord*

*In Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of
the cross
In every victory let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source
of hope
Is Christ alone I place my trust
And find my glory in the power of
the cross
In every victory let it be said of me
My source of strength, my source
of hope
Is Christ alone*

*My source of strength, my source
of hope*

MARRIED STUDENTS

We now have five pairs of married students staying at our dormitories. During summer, their apartments were renovated. Thank God for His provisions.

DR. JOHANN LAI
Our former adjunct faculty member—now Dean of Academic Affairs at the Overseas Bible Seminary (in San Jose, California)—Dr. Johann Lai is coming back to teach “The Unity of the Bible” this quarter. He will also be the Resource Speaker at the special seminar jointly sponsored by BSOP and the Haggai Leadership Institute. The theme is *Equipping and Training for Effective Leadership*. Venue is at BSOP; date: June 30 to July 1, 2003. Seminar fee is Php 1,500.00 (before June 15, early registrants need only pay Php 1,200.00). Dr. Lai will also talk on “How to Lead Bible Studies” and “How to Pray from Scripture”.



BSOP follows the GMT standard time (+ 800 hrs).

FACULTY MEMBERS' SUMMER MINISTRY	FACULTY	CHURCH	CONFERENCE	DATE
	Dr. Joseph Shao	Westminster Student Church	Family Conference	April 16 – 19, 2003
	Prof. Allen Lim	Glory Evangelical Church	Family Conference	April 17 – 19, 2003
	Rev. Dennis Yam	Christ's Universal Mission	Family Conference	April 17 – 19, 2003
	Rev. Wilson Go Kiao	United Evangelical Church of the Philippines	Family Conference	April 17 – 19, 2003
	Dr. Tan Chiu Eng	Grace Gospel Church Cebu Gospel Church	Women's Fellowship Women's Fellowship	April 10, 2003 April 22, 2003
Dr. Jane Chuaunsu	St. Stephen's Parish United Evangelical Church of the Philippines	Sunday School Teachers' Training Women's Fellowship	April 6, 2003 April 11, 2003	