



UNITY IN THE LORD

By Samuel Pan

Among the churches established by the Apostle Paul, there seemed to be a common problem on church unity. So in his epistles, whether to the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 1: 10-12), in Philippi (Phil. 4: 2-3), or in Ephesus (Eph. 4: 2-6), he addressed the same issue of unity.

For example, the church in Corinth had a major problem of divisions (1 Cor. 1: 10-12). One of the causes was their incorrect view and use of spiritual gifts, although they did "not lack any spiritual gift" (1 Cor. 1:7). Hence Paul used three chapters (ch. 12-14) to address this issue.

Unfortunately, many of our churches today are like the early churches -- not lacking in spiritual gifts, yet struggling with the issue of unity. In 1 Cor. 12: 12-27, Paul used the concept of the body to convey the reason why a church must keep the unity in the Lord. Let's learn from Paul's teaching on this vital issue.

In Christ's Body We Are One Body

Paul says in 1 Cor. 12: 12-13,

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

Here he uses the human body to illustrate the important truths about Christ's church. In Christ's church, Christ is the head (Col. 1: 18); all the believers, regardless of their races or nationalities, form the one body of Christ (v. 13). This one body of Christ is referred to as Christ's universal church.

In 1983, while I was studying at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, my wife Dorothy and I participated in summer overseas mission to Japan. While we were there, we had opportunities to worship with the Japanese believers, and also to live in some of their home. One important lesson we learned was that we could worship with the Japanese believers in one Spirit. Since then, we have had the same experiences with other nationals as well. Although our languages and cultures are different, we can always worship the same Lord in the same Spirit. This verifies that all the believers belong to one body of Christ.

Such truths parallel with our physical body — for a normal person has only one head and one body. Just as God made our physical body with one head and one body, so does God want His church to have only one head and one body.

Therefore, since a church is one body, we must keep the unity in the Lord. When we keep the unity in the Lord, God will

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Though each believer is endowed with at least one spiritual gift, none has all the spiritual gifts. That means that all of us receive only partially of the complete grace that God gives to His church.

UNWORTHY

By Caroline L. de Vera

I consider my years spent in seminary as significantly invaluable. The theological training is just a part of the whole learning experience. It is here that I have witnessed how truly amazing is God's grace. As I know and experience God more, I am humbled by the fact that God would choose me as one of His servants. I feel really unworthy, but nevertheless I feel privileged to have been called to the ministry. What could be more fulfilling than serving the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

I learned that to be a godly servant, it is important to maintain a broken spirit and a contrite heart. At the end of the day, I often come to a conclusion that what matters most is the purity of my heart in living and doing God's will. I also learned the importance of enjoying God. As I look at the endless needs of the ministry, I do feel overwhelmed. But I have to remind myself that ministry springs out from my relationship with God.

As long as I dwell in His presence, I can be confident that He will enable me to be and to do what He pleases.



3 R's

By William Jonathan C. Ong

My training in BSOP has been a great experience, not that it was a bed of roses, but rather, it was a long process of constant trials and changes in my life. God has truly been great to me and to my family. My first year can be described as REWARDING, for the Lord rewarded my act of faith when I decided to stop working and start schooling. I was just so happy and thankful that the Lord opened the door for me to come to the Seminary. My second year can be described as RIGID. It was a time of training and really hitting the books hard. I learned to work under pressure and at the same time produce quality work. This last year can be described as REFRESHING, for I am looking forward to graduation day and serving God in His chosen field.

God has been blessing my family life as well. When I entered seminary I filled up my status as "SINGLE," but after the first year it changed to "MARRIED." On my second year I became the proud father of a baby boy named JACOB. Then as graduation day approaches, I will again become the proud father of baby JOSIAH who will be born this summer. The Lord has indeed been gracious and loving to my wife, Laurice, and myself. Indeed the three years spent in BSOP has been more than worthwhile. I came in as a naïve boy, now I will go out as a pastor, a father of two boys and husband of one wife! Praise the Lord.

*Men (l-r): Rev. Un Hock Wee, William Ong, David Uy
Women: Caroline de Vera, Hsu Wan Ti*

It is by God's grace that I can study and be equipped at BSOP. Many people ask me what will you do after you graduate? My answer is "the same as I am doing now." I will still serve at FEBC. Nothing will change. My status won't be different just because I have graduated from BSOP, but what will be different is I will be equipped and that will help my ministry. Because of this equipping I will be able to serve my people better.

It is not easy to work, be a mother, a wife and study at the same time. But I have really enjoyed these years of study at BSOP. Every course taken has been precious to me. I learned from them and from my teachers, not only knowledge, but also their faith.

Through my studies at BSOP I have been able to know God more and the more I know Him, the more I fear Him and grow in faith. Graduation doesn't mean the end of learning, but is another beginning, a new learning period. There are still many things I need to learn. All my life I need to learn how to serve my Lord faithfully so that one day, I will be called His "good and faithful servant."



VALUABLE LESSONS

By David Uy

I began my studies in BSOP as a part-time student in 1999. Two years ago, I became a full-time student. I moved into BSOP with my wife and son. And now, I will leave with two sons instead of one. As I reflect upon my years of studies, I am filled with thanksgiving. I thank God for the many lessons learned. BSOP has provided a venue for learning not just the academics, but to love and work with people of different backgrounds and from different cultures. I have learned to accept others' differences. I even had the opportunity to brush up on my Mandarin a bit. Here, we had the opportunity to serve one another through the food committee and the student council. I thank the Lord for the dedicated teachers who have been an encouragement to me and have created an impact through their lives. My family and I will surely miss the beautiful atmosphere BSOP has created for the students. Day by day, I have learned to rely on God's provisions for my family's needs, a lesson that can only be learned through experience. We are thankful for our church and the people who have supported us in numerous ways. I thank the Lord for letting me experience His grace in much richer ways.

FACULTY ON THE MOVE

- ☞ Dr. Joseph Shao visited Cebu last February 11-13, 2005 and conducted BSOP Sunday at Cebu Gospel Church on February 13, 2005. He will also be a speaker at the SIM Conference in Chiangmai, Thailand, on April 2-9, 2005.
- ☞ Prof. Rosa Shao and Prof. Nenita Lee attended the Asia Member Care Conference held in Hong Kong last February 16-19, 2005.
- ☞ Prof. Dennis Yam attended the Association of United Evangelical Churches Consultation on “Charismatics and Related Issues” held at Zamboanga City on February 23-25, 2005.
- ☞ Prof. Jean Uayan presented a paper at the First Forum on Theology: “Doing Theology in the Philippine Context” sponsored by Asia Theological Seminary and Victory Leadership Institute last February 25, 2005.

SUMMER MODULES

Date	Course	Faculty
April 4-9	<i>Intertestamental Period</i>	Ptr. Wei Yuqin
April 11-16	<i>Spiritual Formation</i>	Elder Huang Xiaoguang
April 18-23	<i>General Epistles</i>	Elder Huang Rongjun
April 23-30	<i>Church Administration/ Management</i>	Elder Lin Zhenyu

WEDDING BELLS

Best wishes to Ptr. Wensley Go Kiao, daughter of Prof. Wilson Go Kiao, who will be joined in matrimony to Ptr. Adam Co on March 19, 2005. The wedding will take place at the United Evangelical Church of the Philippines.



BOARD MEMBER PASSES AWAY

Elder Agapito Cang of Dumaguete Christian Church, one of our provincial board members, passed away on March 11, 2005. He was eighty-three years old. Elder Cang has been faithfully serving our Lord at DCC for more than six decades. May God comfort his whole family.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

The Alumni Association hosted a welcome party for the new graduates on March 6, 2005 at BSOP. Two workshops were conducted (“Advance Powerpoint” and “Different Liturgical Worship”). There was also time for sharing and praying and a book sale. After dinner, the graduates were formally recognized, with four giving their testimonies.

The officers for this year are: Rev. Tony Cheng, Ptr. Leonides Son, Ptr. Billy Arcayan, Rev. Harg Timothy Ang, and Rev. Florentino Lim.

ALUMNUS ORDAINED

Congratulations to Ptr. Dave King who will be ordained on March 20, 2005 and will be serving at the newly setup Alijis Trinity Christian Church.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION

3rd Quarter 2004

Gerizim Evangelical Church *Pastoral Epistles II* Rev. Dennis Yam

1st Quarter 2005

Grace Gospel Church *Poetical Books* Dr. Joseph Shao

Quezon City Evangelical Church *Esther* Rev. Wilson Go Kiao

Gerizim Evangelical Church *Inductive Study of Jonah* Rev. Samuel Pan

Romans Rev. Dennis Yam

