

without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (11:5b-6). This suggests that he lived among people who didn't believe in God's existence. He was in the minority. But he believed. He stood above the rest in his faith, and that pleased God.

This is the essence of faith – that courage to keep believing and live differently, even if it seems silly or uninformed to others. Faith requires courage. However, many of the characters mentioned cowered in fear when they were confronted with dangers or had to undertake daunting challenges. For example, Abraham lied twice about his true relationship with Sarah in order to protect himself, while Moses tried to worm himself out of the task God assigned him by giving excuses about his inadequacies.

The people mentioned on that list are just like anyone of us. They too had their fears and were apprehensive of change. Like us, they weren't willing to come out of their comfort zones and venture beyond their geographical and psychological safety. It's only natural. We're constantly devising and erecting safety structures to insulate ourselves from potential and future harm. For example, we try to build a successful career and grow our nest-egg so we can feel secure.

When God asked Abram to leave his established abode for an unknown place, and Noah to build an ark in a dry and arid land, they must have had their reservations. Wouldn't we if we were in their place? We've already constructed our safety structures to protect ourselves from unpredictable times. To dismantle them for an unseen future would mean facing those catastrophic feelings that caused us to erect them in the first place! To do so means we're moving back to square one again. Doesn't sound like a great deal, does it?

But that was what stimulated those men to become heroes of faith – that willingness to look beyond their fears. Courage is not about being unafraid. It doesn't come at the absence of fear. It is the gumption to move on and to grab the situation by its horns despite our fears.

This is possible because as believers, we've an "unfair" advantage – we can pray. Someone very wisely said that "courage is fear turned into prayer." Translate that into practical terms, it means you too can be a courageous hero of faith.

But be prepared to face this: it can be a very lonely journey. People might not share your vision. Well, so were the ancients. But they pressed on because they knew they were called and loved by a faithful God. We too can rest on that premise as we seek to live out our remaining journey creatively and courageously.

Pastor Song Cheng Hock

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WELCOME all guests who have come to worship with us this morning. If this is your first visit, please fill in the Visitor Form so that we can keep in touch with you.



DO NOT FORGET TO SWITCH OFF YOUR HANDPHONES!

Please note that there will be no Christmas Service and Friday Prayer Meeting on December 25th, but we will celebrate the birth of Christ on Sunday, December 27th. It will be a thanksgiving service.

PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR

What do we have in store for the new year 2010?

After much prayer and waiting on the Lord, we have proposed to work on the theme: "Equip God's people for the ministry".

In January, our sub-theme will be "**Equipped to Serve - Rediscovering our Purpose**". The weekly Sunday topics will be as follows:

Jan 3 - **Jesus our Model for Service**

Jan 10 - **Rediscovering our Purpose 1**

Jan 17 - **Rediscovering our Purpose 2**

Jan 24 - **The Preparation and the Right Attitude to Serve**

Jan 31 - **Open - Evangelistic Meeting**

We have also invited various teachers and lecturers to help train us to be equipped for the ministry.

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES - 9.15AM-1030AM.

We have invited Dr. Suraja Raman to do a seminar on "**The Gift of Teaching**" in 2010. The syllabus is as follows:

"**The Ministry of Teaching in Today's World**"

"**The Teaching Learning Dynamics**"

"**Creative Bible Teaching**"

"**Issues of a Christian Nature**"

"**Facing Challenges in the World.**"

These classes are open to all members, especially for those who wish to serve in the teaching ministry. Learn to teach the Word of God properly and creatively.

***Please register for these classes and commit yourselves to finishing the whole course.*

ADDITIONAL ADMIN PERSON (Part time) NEEDED

In view of Pastor Song's leaving, we are looking for an additional part time admin person who will be willing to manage the church office from **Monday to Friday, 9.00am-1.00pm.**

Please note that this is a ministry, a service to the Lord. Duties

will include helping to prepare the church newsletters, inviting and reminding speakers, filing, documentation and some secretarial duties. Please contact Brother Aaron or Uncle Neville if you feel led to serve or if you have someone to recommend.

We still need an assistant treasurer and also a **coordinator for the Adult Bible Class.**

PRAYER PAGE



1. **Pray for Pastor Song**, as he brings us God's Word this morning. Pray that we will respond to God's word and the prompting of the Holy Spirit.
2. Pray for the **Worship Team**, the **audio/visual support group**, as well as the **ushers**. Pray that God will continually refresh them as they experience deeper worship themselves, leading others to worship God in spirit and in truth.
3. **Please pray for our programs and visions for 2010** as we wait upon the Lord for His will and provision of a pastor. Pray that God will raise more people from our midst to be involved in the leadership and ministry of our church. As we embark on the theme of Equipping God's people for the ministry, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us why we are here and more people will offer themselves to serve in the church.
4. **Continue to pray for Kennard**. He is the nephew of Maria Lim who is from our Ladies Fellowship. Pray especially for his parents that they may not be discouraged by all that has happened.
5. Do remember **Susan Hardman and Cheryl Barton** missionaries to Japan, who are suffering from cancer. Cheryl's last email to us was that the doctors have discovered a new spot in her lungs.
6. Continue to uphold **Sister Alice** as she continues her chemo session. Pray that the therapy will work. Pray for God's grace and strength to be with her and **Sister Catherine** who is the main caregiver.



Memory Verse:

Last week's: The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. - **Psalms 34 : 10**

This week: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - **Galatians 6 : 9**