11 DECEMBER 2011

WEB EDITION



be ye **reconciled** to God

2 Corinthians 5:20

the weekly digest of ambassador|baptistchurch

from the pastor's heart

THE REWARD OF CHRIST



And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelations 22:12

Every athlete starts off with the motivation of the gold medal. Every training session, every correction by the coach and every attempt in the selected event is an effort to improve oneself for the time of victory, of crowning and of glory. Every athlete looks forward to the time where his name is announced and they walk up the podium to collect the price. It is the same with the Lord Jesus Christ. He tells us to be occupied till He comes, to be faithful

find.it

from the pastor's heart

page 1-2

news highlights

page 7

week at a glance

page 8

sermon materials

page 3-6

today's program

the **news**

hymn I the fight is on

opening prayer

hymn I i love to tell the story

hymn | onward! christian soldiers!

offertory

hymn I must Jesus bear the cross

alone?

exhortation | pastor johnny

invitation and closing

till death, and to deny ourselves! He also tells us that His reward is coming!

Notice firstly, the time is short

"...I come quickly..."

The word 'quickly' means suddenly and without delay. It means that the

continued on page 2

from the pastor's heart

time of our course on earth is drawing to a close. The end-point is in sight; the stress and sighing will be over and trials and troubles will be a thing of the past. The heavy burdens will be removed, the pain will be erased and the tears will be wiped away.

Notice secondly, the time of reckoning is soon.

"...to give to every man according as his work shall be..."

will all have to give For the believer, we will all an account of all the have to face the judgment seat of Christ, to give an things [he has] ever account of all the things done in [his] flesh that we have ever done in the flesh. Every word spoken, every deed done, every thought considered, every plan constructed and every relationship formed will have to go through the fire of God's tests to see if it will pass the test of objective holiness and the standard of righteousness. The believers of this world are pressing towards the day where the Lord Jesus will judge them for their deeds done in this life. No one will escape this judgment and the time of reckoning.

Notice thirdly, the time of is reward is sure

"...my reward is with me..."

The Lord Jesus will never lie: when He comes, His reward will be with him. We are glad when Man rewards us, but when the Lord rewards us, it will be everlasting joy!

Do you realise that the time is short, that the Lord will judge us for our lives on earth and that our reward is sure? This is the vision of God, the word of God for the believer, and the high motivation for the one who loves the Lord Jesus - His reward is sure. Are you running the race?

Evangelist-Pastor Johnny Tan Ambassador Baptist Church

thought for the week

Christians, Run to win the prize
Set the Lord before your eyes
Run and strive to do His will still,
For He comes quickly to reward
those who will

memory verse

The believer ...

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

sermon notes: sermon guide				
Sunday Worship Service II December 2011 "Running to Win"				
I. The title for this message is	5			
II. The passage for this messa	ige is			
III. God wants us to	to the race	in this life.		
IV. What challenges does God	give to His children	to	and	this race
of life?				
A. He challenges us to be		for Christ		
B. He challenges us to be				
5				
C. He challenges us to be				
D. He challenges us to fear the	at we will be			

sermon notes: personal notes

Sunday Worship Service
11 December 2011
"Running to Win"

Turn to: **1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27**

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

1 Corinthians 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?
- **2 Timothy 4:8** Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

- **1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.
- **1 Corinthians 9:25** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
- **1 Corinthians 9:24** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
- 1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

WAY OF LIFE

DECEMBER 9, 2011

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

MacARTHUR PROMOTES CULTURAL LIBERALISM

The Contemporary Christian Music crowd loves rock & roll. Period. They simply love rock & roll and there is no biblical principle or godly argument that will pry it from their ears. CCM artists listen to secular rock in their private lives; they perform it in their concerts and record it for their albums. They don't care who they offend. In fact, they seem as eager to mock and offend the "old-fashioned Christian" as I was in my unsaved hippie-rebel days. They become so drunk on rock and so spiritually stupid that they even use secular rock in the worship of God. Consider some examples from the past few years. Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their 2007 Christmas theme. Pastor Tim Stevens said: "With Across the Universe currently in the theaters and the new Beatles-themed CThe influential John MacArthur of Grace Community Church in southern California is facing two ways in regard to the heresy of

"cultural liberalism." On one hand he reproves the emerging "new Calvinists" for their worldliness, while engaging in that very thing on the other. In an interview with Alex Crain of Christianity.com, which was posted on YouTube, Aug. 18, 2011, MacArthur says, "The fear is that the power of the world's attraction is going to suck these guys and every generation after them, more and more into the culture, and we're going to see a reversal of the Reformed revival. ... My fear is that

the further this thing goes in trying to accommodate the culture, the less it's going to be able to hang on to that core doctrine" ("MacArthur Predicts Reversal of the Reformed Revival - Part 1," http://youtu.be/xYhmo5gabQU). MacArthur, who rightly warns that the heresy of cultural liberalism puts the next generation at risk, is referring to the popular philosophy which was enunciated by Mark Driscoll as the combination of "theological conservatism with cultural liberalism," which is not new but has always been a major element of New Evangelicalism. It entails such things as Christian rock,

continued on page 2

ROBOT PRISON GUARDS

Robot guards will be stationed in the Pohang city jail in South Korean next spring ("Robotic Guards," *Popular Science*, Nov. 28, 2011). The upright robots, which travel on four wheels and have a "cute," non-threatening appearance, will monitor inmates for abnormal behavior and detect prisoner



violence. They will be e q u i p p e d w i t h "remote conversation function" by which "live" prison guards can communicate with prisoners via the robot's cameras, microphones, and speaker system. For the most part they will be deployed at night.

LADY GAGA HANGS OUT WITH JESUS

In a recent interview, the blaspheming, morally outrageous rocker Lady Gaga said that she hangs out with Jesus. Speaking with Women's Wear Daily, the morally vacant mega-star described how

she grew up with traditional Roman Catholic Christmas practices, including Santa and the Mass. She said, "I still believe in Santa. He's for sure around. He and the Easter Bunny. I've hung out with them and Jesus Christ a few



times. ... They're just all really good friends." She is mocking the holy Jesus, of course, bringing Him down to the level of a silly myth. Lady Gaga is the epitome of an end-time "Christian," living after her own lusts and loving fables (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Her "Jesus" is the non-judgmental, "I don't put any obligations on you," "let's rock" *Shack* Jesus. Large numbers of professing Christians love every foolish thing that the vain pop culture drags out of the Pit.

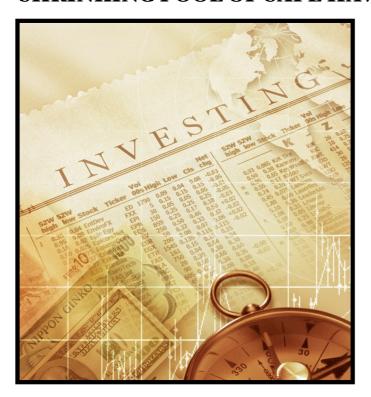
WAY OF LIFE

DECEMBER 9, 2011

continued: MacArthur Promotes Cultural Liberalism...

drinking, champagne dance parties, beer brewing lessons, gambling nights, hula "worship," analyzing R-rated movies for "edification," and performing secular rock in the context of "worship." What MacArthur says about the danger of cultural liberalism is true, but his condemnation of it is grossly ineffective and hypocritical because he is guilty of it. Camp Regeneration, a youth camp hosted by MacArthur for "churches throughout the nation each July," is rife with cultural liberalism. High school boys and girls dress immodestly, engage in questionable activities (such as girls getting covered with wet mud in the presence of boys), and rock out to rap music performed by ear-ringed, tattooed hip-hop artists in an atmosphere of darkened auditoriums, flashing lights, and smoke. The Master's College, which is headed by MacArthur, hosted a hip-hop concert in December featuring Lecrae, Trip Lee, Tadashii, Sho Baraka, DJ Official, and THI'SL. The Master's College students produce pop/rap/country rock videos with full blown dance routines and covers of secular rock songs. They host a Fall Thing event that is extremely worldly. This year the theme was "Unrestricted Reality," and the students donned costumes imitating characters from Star Wars, sci-fi fantasy, super heroes, and the pop culture in general. This plays right into the hands of the culture's fascination with fantasy and the devil's use of it to corrupt men's minds. The young people wouldn't want to dress up this way unless their minds and hearts were already in love with Hollywood. The Master's College's annual Week of Welcome features beach activities and pool parties complete with girls in tight and very skimpy bathing suits. (All of this is evident from the photos placed at the Flickr pages owned by the camp and school and from YouTube clips. See http://www.pccmonroe.org/2011/10.htm.) Can someone tell me how MacArthur is leading the way against the adaptation of the sensual pop culture and why he is a safe "conservative" to follow? He is correct in observing that cultural liberalism will ruin the youth and eventually destroy sound doctrine, and his own flock will be the proof of it, as will the flocks of every foolish pastor that follows in his footsteps. Many fundamental Baptists are on the same destructive path, as we have documented in the free eBook "Biblical Separatism and Its Collapse Among Fundamental Baptists." See http://wayoflife.org/free ebooks.html.

SHRINKING POOL OF SAFE HAVENS



"Shrinking Pool of Safe Havens" is the title of a Reuters report on the global economy published on November 26. It says, "The universe for safe-haven assets is shrinking fast." Indeed, the vaunted modern global economy is shaking at its very foundation, and Bible prophecy indicates that things will get worse. Actually, there is no safe haven in this world and never has been, not for your money and not for your soul. And even if there were a safe financial investment haven, it would only be temporary in the extreme, since life is so short. The Lord Jesus addressed the issue of finances several times. He told of a foolish rich man who hoarded up his goods for "many years" in order to take his ease, eat, drink, and be merry. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:16-21). That is a question that every man and woman must ask. When the plug is pulled on your frail earthly existence and God requires an accounting, where will you stand? Where will you go? We can't take anything physical with us. The ancient prophet Job wisely said, "Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither" (Job 1:21). The wise individual plans for the future, not just the next year or 10, but for eternity. He does that through salvation and saving. In taking heed to the Revelation that God has so mercifully given in the Bible, we learn that God is a holy Judge, that all men are

sinners who have broken God's laws, and that the only way of salvation is through the propitiation that God Himself has made for man's sins through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross. The individual receives this salvation through repentance of his sins and faith in Christ. Once we are saved, we can then start saving in God's eternal bank. Jesus said: "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:19-21). The believer does not have to trust in this world's shaky investment schemes. He can lay up eternal treasures in heaven through service to his merciful Saviour. And he can trust in God's promises, such as Psalm 37:25. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

WAY OF LIFE

DECEMBER 9, 2011

AMERICAN AIRLINES HEAD STEPS DOWN IN DISAGREEMENT OVER BANKRUPTCY



filed for bankruptcy, chief executive Gerald Arpey stepped down for conscience' sake. In an op-ed in the *New York* Times, Michael Lindsay said, "Arpey split with his employer of 30 years out of a belief that American Airlines bankruptcy was morally wrong, and that he could

not, in good conscience, lead an organization that followed this familiar path." He did this in spite of the fact that he had no severance package and his company stock will likely be worthless. We have no idea if Arpey is a

professing Christian, but his action is commendable in this day of pursuing wealth at all costs. It recalls the words of Psalm 15:4, "He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." God's law requires us to be honest, to speak truth, to be men and women of our words. When we make financial contracts, we are obligated before God to repay. To walk away from a debt and forget it is sin, unless it has been forgiven. If there are extenuating circumstances beyond one's control, there is nothing wrong with attempting to change the terms of repayment or even to beg forgiveness of the debt in part or in whole. The believer is to be merciful, willing to forgive debts, remembering the great debt that God has given us in Christ (Mat. 6:12). But since the borrower is servant to the lender (Prov. 22:7), those decisions are not in the borrower's control.

SAUDI KING BUILDS INTERFAITH CENTER FOR WORLD PEACE

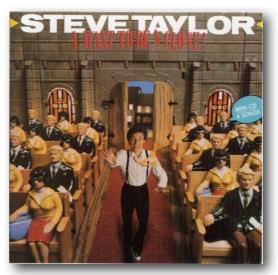
Saudi King Abdullah's has built an Interfaith Center in Vienna to foster world peace. The King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Center for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue will mostly be financed by the Islamic Saudi government. The governing body of the interfaith center will be composed of representatives from Islam (Sunni and Shiite), Roman Catholic, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Judaism. During a ceremony in Vienna,

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister said that "world peace cannot exist without peace between the world's religions" ("King Abdullah's Interfaith Center," Christian Post, Oct. 17, 2011). Abdullah says he conceived the idea after meeting with Pope Benedict at the Vatican in 2007. Since the center's founding document calls for 'freedom of thought, conscience and religion," we suggest that the place to start would be Saudi Arabia itself. The Saudi government is one of the most oppressive on earth. It grants zero religious liberty; there are no public non-Muslim houses of worship; Christianity is forbidden; Jews are forbidden; Muslims who leave Islam risk execution for apostasy. Saudi Arabia was the breeding ground for the murderous Al Qaeda. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thessalonians 5:3-4).



CCM MUSICIANS MOCK FUNDAMENTALISTS

Christian rock was birthed in the Jesus People movement of the 1970s. Instead of renouncing their old music, the Jesus hippies used rock & roll to create Christian rock and thumbed their noses at anyone who believed it was unscriptural and unholy. Larry Norman led the way with his 1975 hit "Why Should the Devil Have All the Good Music?" The lyrics went like this: "They say rock 'n' roll is wrong ... They say cut my hair/ They're driving me insane. ... Just give me a song that has a beat/ Just give me a song that moves my feet/ I don't like none of those funeral



marches!" This has always been the Christian rock philosophy. "I will listen to whatever music I like; I will dress as I please; no one is going to judge me; and if they do I'll rail on them." Christian rockers have gotten not only their music from their secular brethren, but their attitude as well. This is why they are enemies of every fundamentalist Bible-believing church. They mock such churches continually. In the song "I Want to Be a Clone," Steve Taylor ridicules fundamentalist churches as clonemaking machines. Gregory Volz of Petra says that those who preach against continued on page 4

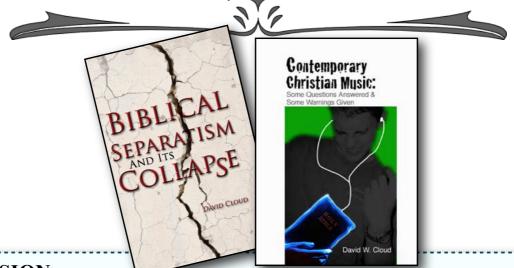
PAGE 3

WAY OF LIFE

DECEMBER 9, 2011

continued: CCM Musicians Mock Fundamentalists...

rock are "bigoted" and the band mocked the bigots with the song "Witch Hunt": "So send out the dogs and tally ho/ No one is safe, no stone is left unturned/ And we won't stop until somebody gets burned." DeGarmo and Key raised the flag against any standards for Christian music in the song "Don't Stop the Music" -- "Don't stop the music. Play it in your own way. I hear dissenting voices but they don't bother me." Michael W. Smith says, "You're always going to have those very very conservative people who say you can't do this, you can't do that ... you can't drink, can't smoke. It's a pretty bizarre way of thinking" (The Birmingham News, Feb. 1993). Deniece Williams says, "In the church I grew up in, you couldn't go to dances, you couldn't go to movies, and you couldn't wear pants or sleeveless dresses. There were a lot of 'Thou shalt nots" (CCM Magazine, Jan. 1987). God forbid! Rich Mullins warned about "those Bible-believing, Biblethumping born again-ers" (April 1996, Netcentral.net). In their song "Time Ta Jam," DC Talk mocked the 'hyper fundi" who opposes rock music. Caedmon's Call says churches "in the Bible-belt" that teach against drinking, smoking, and cussing and say, "Don't do this; don't do that" are Pharisees (Lighthouse Electronic Magazine, 1996). Don Francisco says those who opposed rock & roll are "selling legalism, guilt and sour grapes" ("Freedom to Move"). No wonder Contemporary Christian Music acts as a powerful transformative agent when it comes into the life of an individual, family, or church. The same attitude permeates Southern Gospel today. Mark Lowry says, "Preachers keep giving people a list of rules instead of 'Love the Lord with all your heart, then do as you please" (CCM Magazine, May 1996). It is too bad that Lowry wasn't around 2,000 years ago so he could have instructed the poor, dim-witted apostles and prophets who wrote the New Testament. They could have saved a lot of expensive parchment by shortening the Epistles to "Love one another, then do as you please," instead of filling up the canon of Scripture with page after page of grace-lived, God-fearing rules and obligations (i.e., Romans 12-15; Ephesians 3-6; and the entire epistle of James).



CONCLUSION:

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.

sermon notes: personal notes

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 Timothy 3:2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy

Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

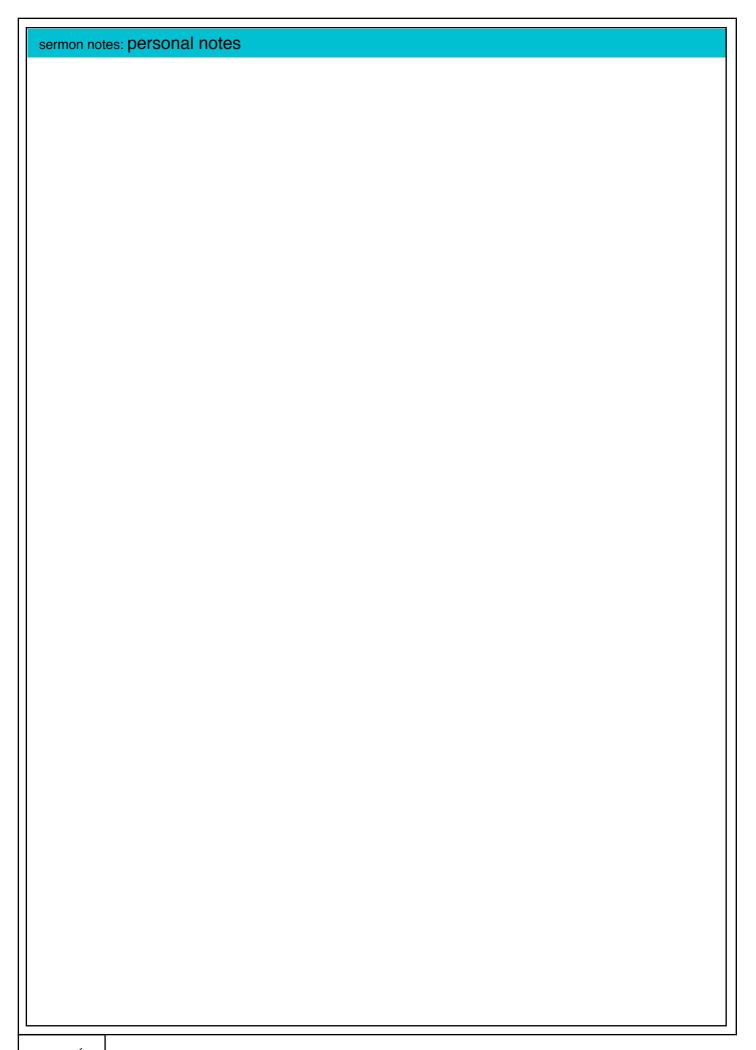
Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Revelation 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.



news highlights

IN BRIEF I Meetings today: There will be a VBS debrief followed by a Media Ministry meeting after service today.

ministry news • coming up

NEW WEBSITE

The Media Ministry is glad to announce that it will be updating Ambassador's website come January 1, 2011.

The website at www.ambassador-baptist.org will be more user-friendly, making it easier to navigate and find resources and information.

The Ministry wants your views on what you want in the site. Send an email to media@ambassador-baptist.org with your feedback.

coming up

IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Welcome to the last month of the year! Ambassador will be holding the following events this month, so be sure to join us!

Christmas Evangelistic Service

23 - 25 December 2011 1096 Sembawang Road *Details behind

Watchnight 2011

31 December 2011 1096 Sembawang Road

coming up • highlights

WATCHNIGHT 2011

31 December 2011

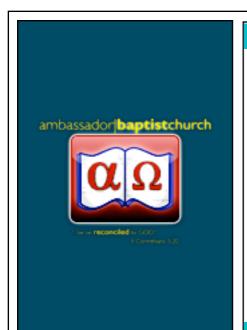


THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

"To win the north of Singapore for Christ and a thousand souls for Christ in five years."

THEME FORTHE MONTH:

Finish the Course



the week at a glance

12 - 18 DECEMBER 2011

12 Dec	13 Dec	14 Dec	15 Dec	16 Dec	17 Dec	18 Dec
monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Out- reach Efforts	Out- reach Efforts		Rivers in a dry Place	ABC Youth	Worship Service

get in touch

We'd love to hear from you, be it feedback about this bulletin, requests for material, or just about any other query you may have about Christ, His Kingdom, and Ambassador. Contact us by:

Post:

1096 Sembawang Road Singapore 758518

Email:

info@ambassador-baptist.org johnny@ambassador-baptist.org (pastor's email)

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/ ambassador.baptist.church.SG

Twitter: @abc_singapore

timings

Sunday Services

Children's Bible Hour 09:30AM Sunday Bible Hour 09:30AM Mandarin Service 03:30PM English Worship Service 11:00AM

Routine Weekly Activities

Faith Bible Institute Mondays, 07:45PM

"Rivers in a Dry Place" Fridays, 08:00PM

Ambassador Youth Saturdays, 10:30AM

Outreach Efforts

SEMBAWANG Person-in-Charge: Bro. Robert Tuesdays, 08:15PM

YISHUN

Person-in-Charge: We need one. Wednesdays, 08:15PM

For more information on our weekly activities, visit our website at www.ambassador-baptist.org

prayer list

- The new place
- The vision of Ambassador: To Win the North for Christ!
- The various ministries
- · Growth of Ambassador and its members
- Youth Camp
- VBS
- Year-end evangelistic outreaches
- Watchnight

special update - ambassador's christmas program

Look out and be sure to join us for our special program this coming Christmas!

23 December 2011, 7:30PM "O Holy Night"

24 December 2011, 4 - 6PM "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men"

25 December 2011, 10 - 12AM "O Glorious Love" (single service) and Mandarin Service at regular time