

# THE AMBASSADOR

"be ye reconciled to God...." 2 Corinthians 5:20

15 SEPTEMBER 2013

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### TODAY'S Programme

### Announcements Hymn | Victory In Jesus Opening prayer Hymn | Verily, Verily

**Hymn** | *Rejoice In The Lord* 

#### Offertory

Hymn | Trust and Obey Exhortation | Pastor Johnny Invitation

### VERSE FOR The Month

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Matthew 12:30



#### From the Pastor's Heart

### **SEPARATION FROM PEOPLE??**

**Romans 16:17** Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

It may seem amazing, in the context and climate of so-called tolerance and acceptance and especially the emphasis on grace, that such a teaching is taught in Scripture. Are we to separate from people? Is that what Paul is really teaching? How we decide will show our handling for God's word. It is the my conviction that the bible is to taken as it is: the preserved Word of God, and as such, it means what it says and says what it means, no matter what culture, or people or opinions may think.

Although it is the clear teaching of Scripture, that as believers we are always to seek reconciliation and unity, and we need to do all we can to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, the Lord tells us through His apostle that when the word of God is compromised, when there are divisions and offences between people BECAUSE OF HIS WORD, we are to make a stand against the tide of compromise and sin. When the word of the Lord, and the Spirit of the Word have been compromised, we are not to stand by and adopt a neutral stance – we are to stand clearly, boldly and strongly against these doctrines that are contrary to the apostolic doctrines because it is causing divisions and offences.

Why does the Lord require us to do so? It is because His word is a statement of His character, His will and His purpose. What Christ says, we are to do. It is not the word of man, but the word of God. We will feel a guilty conscience if we litter, or do something that we know is stated that we should not do. Yet, when the word of God is compromised, are we not to rise up in arms against the offence? It is said that the breaking of God's word is high treason against

#### From the pastor's heart

the God of Heaven because through the actions, we declare that we are on Satan's side. "whosoever is not for me is against me" When we do not stand firmly against doctrines that will harm the church, and the Christians, we are on the side of sin and satan.

We are to avoid these people. Why so? Because evil communication corrupts good manners. How many good people and Christians have been defiled by the world and its ways when they remain in the same company? So many churches have been broken and divided because of offences contrary to the word of God taught? This is the teaching of the apostle Paul.

The trend of scripture is that all Christians and especially church members should be one with each other, united both in mind and heart and purpose for the Lord Jesus. Yet when a brother or sister would by their word or trend of life teach and influence others with teachings contrary to that of our Saviour and the apostle, we are to identify them and avoid them for the purpose of standing for truth, admonishing them and also to preserve the biblical purity of the local church. It is also for the purpose of reconciliation – that through the separation, the offending brethren may see the error of their ways and return to the Lord.

We as believers are never to be offensive to anyone: but our position of standing on the truth of God, may lead us to appear offensive to people. That is never our intention, but it may be the cross we need to carry as we strive to obey the word of God.

**Evangelist-Pastor Johnny Tan** Ambassador Baptist Church

#### THOUGHT For the Week

Severe trouble in a true believer has the effect of loosening the roots of his soul earthward and tightening the anchor-hold of his heart heavenward.

- C.SPURGEON –

#### THE VISION And Mission Of Ambassador

"To Win The North Of Singapore For Christ And A Thousand Souls In Five Years."

Sermon Notes: Sermon Guide		
Sunday Worship Hour		
15 <sup>th</sup> Sep 2013		
"GOD'S TESTING ON ABRAHAM – LESSONS FOR THE BL	ELIEVER"	
Passage		
Introduction		
True faith has to be; it is ant	that there is	when tests
come upon the believer.		
How Does God Conduct His tests?		
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<ul> <li>When faith is</li> </ul>		
<ul> <li>When there is</li> </ul>		
⑦ Tests are		
<ul> <li>It tests our personal</li> </ul>		

Sunday Worship Hour 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 2013 *"GOD'S TESTING ON ABRAHAM – LESSONS FOR THE BELIEVER"* 

### Gen 22:1 – 22

**Gen 21:1 – 2** And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken / For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

**1 Peter 1:7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

**Genesis 22:3** And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

**Genesis 22:5** And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,
Heb 11:18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
Heb 11:19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

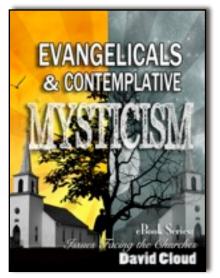
**Genesis 22:12** And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

### CHARLES STANLEY CONTINUES TO PROMOTE CATHOLIC-NEW AGE CONTEMPLATIVE MYSTICISM

For the second time since 2011, Charles Stanley's In Touch magazine has featured an article written by contemplative prayer promoter Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, an "ordained Baptist minister" who practices the Roman Catholic "Saint" Benedict's rule of life. In his book The Wisdom of Stability, Wilson-Hartgrove promotes the writings of Thomas Merton (a Catholic Buddhist who believed that God is in all men) and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Catholic priest who believed in evolution and whose "cosmic Christ" is in every human being. Wilson-Hartgrove spoke at the 2011

Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina, a "four-day revival camp featuring music, yoga, liberal talk and embracing of gays and lesbians." We agree with the following assessment: "The fact is, anyone who is drawn to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, as Wilson-Hartgrove is, has got to be following a different spirit



and another gospel or at the very least greatly deceived. ... If the mystics whom Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove gravitates to are right, then Jesus' words that He is the only Way to the Father are wrong. You can't have it both ways. The opposite view--the contemplative--is that God is in all things, including all people. This is what all mystics believe, across the board. And if that were true, then the need for a Savior would vanish, and there wouldn't be any need for 'one way' to God because man is already indwelled with God and a part of God" ("Sad News about Charles Stanley's In Touch Magazine," Lighthouse Trails, July 25, 2013).

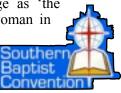
Most of the popular evangelical leaders, are promoting contemplative prayer, and few things are more spiritually dangerous. For more about contemplative prayer and those who are promoting it see *Evangelicals and Contemplative Mysticism*, a free eBook available from <u>www.wayoflife.org</u>.



### SBC BANS CHAPLAINS FROM PERFORMING HOMOSEXUAL WEDDINGS

The following is excerpted from Associated Baptist Press, Sept. 4, 2013: "The Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board released guidelines last week stating that chaplains endorsed by NAMB 'will not conduct or attend a wedding ceremony for any same-sex couple, bless such a union or perform counseling in support of such a union, assist or support paid contractors or volunteers leading same-sex relational events, nor offer any kind of relationship training or retreat, on or off of a military installation, that would give the appearance of accepting the homosexual lifestyle or sexual wrongdoing.' The guidelines, updated in response to the military's repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and the U.S. Supreme Court's abolishment of the Defense of Marriage Act, further prevent Southern Baptist chaplains from participating in jointly-led worship services 'with a chaplain, contractor or volunteer who personally practices a homosexual lifestyle or affirms a homosexual lifestyle or such conduct.' ... The new guidelines require chaplains to minister in harmony with Article XVIII of the Baptist Faith and Message

2000, which describes marriage as 'the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.' They remind SBC chaplains that 'responsible



#### SBC BANS CHAPLAINS ... continued from previous page

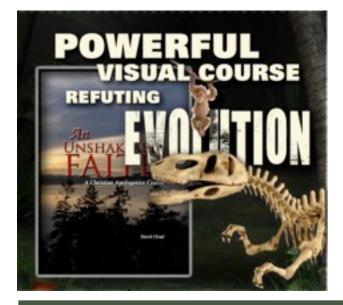
pastoral care will seek to offer repentance and forgiveness, help and healing and restoration' for the sexually immoral. ... The new guidelines formalize what NAMB leaders told chaplains in a 2012 memo after an Associated Press article was published about a 20-year Air Force chaplain who attended a same-sex wedding performed on his base."

### "MARY" A POINT OF UNITY BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS

A report published this summer by the Australian Broadcasting Network was entitled "Why millions of Muslims are seeing apparitions of the Mother Mary" (July 17, 2013). According to the report, "Mary has been one of the strongest symbols across the Middle East for unity, across religions, tribes and nations." Millions of Muslims have allegedly seen Marian "apparitions" in Egypt and Syria. In 1968 and 2009, nearly two million people claimed to have seen Mary's image above a church in Cairo. Since 1982, "Mary" has allegedly appeared in a house in Damascus. Called Our Lady of Soufanieh, the place remains a place of ecumenical prayer for Christians and Muslims. It is possible that this deluding spirit will be one of the means of uniting Muslims and nominal Christians to receive the antichrist and his prophet. The Mary apparitions always preach a false gospel of Christ plus works and therefore are of the devil. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light" (2 Cor. 11:13-14).



"One woman dies every hour in India because of dowry-related crimes, indicating that the country's economic boom has made demands for dowries even more persistent, women's rights activists said Tuesday. The National Crime Records Bureau says 8,233 women were killed across India last year because of disputes over dowry payments given by the bride's family to the groom or his family at the time of marriage. The conviction rate in dowry-related crimes remained a low 32 percent, according to statistics the bureau published last week. Indian law prohibits the giving or receiving of dowry, but the centuries-old social custom persists."



For preparing young people to face the onslaught of end-time skepticism, we recommend An Unshakeable Faith: A Christian Apologetics Course. This course contains a large section on the refutation of evolution. The package consists of a 360-page apologetics course (both print and eBook editions are supplied) plus 20 professional PowerPoint presentations featuring 2,253 slides dealing with archaeology and evolution/creation science. The presentations contain high quality photos and video clips of artifacts from major natural history museums and other sites in several countries, such as the Museum of Man, the Yale Peabody Museum, the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, the American Museum of Natural History, the Field Museum in Chicago, the British Museum of Natural History, the Florissant Fossil Beds, the Royal Tyrrell Museum in

#### POWERFUL VISUAL COURSE ... continued from previous page

Alberta, the Lucy traveling exhibit, Life on Earth traveling exhibit, Michigan State Natural History Museum, the Burke Museum of Natural History, North Carolina Natural History Museum, the Erasmus Darwin House, and the Australia Museum. The PowerPoint slides deal with natural selection, mutations, the fossil record, homology, the peppered moth, Darwin's finches, the fruit fly, Lucy, the Laetoli footprints, vestigial organs, the horse series, the embryo chart, the Miller experiment and the primordial soup myth, whale evolution, archaeopteryx and bird evolution, and billions of years. The presentations also deal with two great icons of creation: the monarch butterfly (metamorphosis, migration, beauty, pollination) and the trilobite. Shem Dharampaul, M.D., radiologist, says: "This is an excellent resource for every Bible Student and the slide presentations are excellent! The

material is pertinent to the young and the mature in the faith and is effective for equipping all Christians. The course content is neither too shallow nor too deep and is engaging and absorbing. I went through some of the slide presentations with my twelve year old son and sixteen year old daughter, and they found them fascinating. I believe that the format would be easily teachable." David Stone, Ph.D. physics, says: "I believe you have hit the right level for introducing this material to young people. You have done your usual thorough job in research. Outstanding pics, diagrams, reasoned arguments. I hope that many iBaptists order your course. There is a woeful lack of education on this subject in the IFB churches." An Unshakeable Faith is available from the online catalog at <u>www.wavoflife.org</u> or by calling 866-295-4143.

## **CARRY MY BONES FROM HENCE**

Both Jacob and Joseph made their loved ones promise not to leave their bones in Egypt (Genesis 47:30-31; 50:25), and many Jews are still doing the same thing. Forty percent of Jews in France are buried in Israel, in spite of the tens of thousands of dollars in expense for air travel and burial plots ("Why Are Jewish Dead Flown to Israel for Burials?



transgressions (Isa. 53:5). When we asked a Reformed Jewish rabbi in Israel, "How do you purge your sins?" he replied, "We ask God for forgiveness through prayer and through actions." No, they are looking for the Messiah of vain Jewish tradition, and he will come in the form 0 f th e Antichrist. In 2012, a representative of the Temple Institute in

*CNN Belief Blog*, March 21, 2012). A tomb in Jerusalem can cost \$25,000. One motive is the belief that those buried in Israel will be resurrected first when the Messiah comes. Jews who are not purely "secular" are looking for the Messiah but not the Messiah of the Bible. They aren't looking for God manifest in the flesh, though their prophet Isaiah said the Messiah's name will be *Immanuel* or "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14). They aren't looking for a Saviour from sin, though their prophets plainly stated that the Messiah would be wounded for their

Jerusalem told us: "Only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah: The one who brings Israel back to Israel; the one who builds the temple again; the one who makes Israel go according to the commandments. After that he can be called the Messiah." This is a description of the Messiah as a Super Problem Solver, which is exactly how the Antichrist will present himself at first. "And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence" (Genesis 50:25).



he )wan.

a waterfowl closely related to ducks and geese, is among the largest and most majestic of the flying birds. The mute swan and trumpeter swan can weigh 30 pounds with a wingspan of eight feet. The adult male is called a cob; the female, a pen. The baby swan is a signet or cygnet, and a batch of cygnets or eggs is a clutch. A group of swans is called a bevy or lamentation, and a group in flight is called a wedge. Most species of swans are migratory. Swans mate for life or at least for many years and build on the same nest each season. During the mating ritual, the male and female touch bill-to-bill and beast-to-breast to form a heart shape. The nest is about three feet across and is built on the ground near water. The male helps build the nest as well as

assists in incubating the eggs. The baby swan hatches in just over a month and swims with its mother within a couple of days. Gray at birth, it becomes white in about a year. Both the female and male swan with eggs or chicks are fierce opponents of any perceived threat and can inflict serious injuries with their strong wings. Most of the six or seven species of swans are white, but the Australian black swan is black with white on the wings and has a red bill, and the South American black-necked swan is white with a black neck and head. In the 12th century, the Crown of England claimed ownership of all unmarked mute swans on the River Thames, the first pair having been given to Richard the Lion-Hearted for his part in the Crusades. The mute swan is a tourist attraction in Lake Morton in Lakeland, Florida. Not native to the area, some were brought in as pets in the 1920s but the small population had died out by 1954. Responding to a plea for help, Queen Elizabeth II donated two royal swans, and the birds made a dramatic come back from that original pair.

#### **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.

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Sermon Notes: Sermon	Guide		
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### Personal Reflection and Application

### WELCOME TO AMBASSADOR

Welcome to Ambassador Baptist Church! We aim very much to honour the name of our Saviour and we are so blessed to have you visit with us. May the Lord speak to us dearly and clearly that we will leave this place knowing what He wants us to know through His word.



Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till be come and rain righteousness upon you. Hosea 10:12

#### **Prayer Retreat**

We are thankful for the wonderful time of the prayer retreat whereby we prayed, had fellowship and learnt the word of God regarding what it means to seek the Lord, principles of revival and what makes a church strong.

All these short messages will be made available on our website soon.

#### Youth camp

The youth camp has been confirmed. Kindly note the details: Date: 2 – 6 Dec 2013

We need labourers and workers who are willing to care and help work with these precious youths. If there are anyone who would like to be involved in serving with the youths, kindly contact bro. Desmond, bro. Jacob, or sis Jamie.

#### **Children's Outing**

There will be a children's sports' day outing. Kindly note the details: Date: 4th October 2013



#### GETTING 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 at: **Phone:** +65 91000305

#### Post:

P.O Box 26 Woodlands Post Ctr Singapore 917340

#### Email:

<u>info@ambassador.org</u> <u>johnny@ambassador-</u> <u>baptist.org</u> (Pastor's email)

#### Facebook

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

**Twitter:** @abc\_singapore

### 16 September – 22 September

The week at a glance

16 SEPT	IN SEPT	IB SEPT	IS SEPT	20 SEPT	21 SEPT	22 SEPT
MONDRY	TUESDRY	WEDNESDRY	THURSDRY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDRY
FBI	Outreach Efforts	Outreach Efforts		Rivers in a Dry Place	ABC Youth	Worship Services

#### Timings

Sunday Services	
Children's Sunday School	09:
Sunday Bible Hour	09:
Mandarin Service	03:
English Worship Service	11:

Weekly Activities Faith Bible Institute Mondays, 7:45PM

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 requests

- For wisdom and preparation for the move to the New place
- For God's grace for bro. Terry's palliative care and for Sis Anna as she manages the household
- For God's power for souls to be saved, baptised and added to the church
- Members to grow
- Sis Kym's parents
- Sis Lydia's parents
- For the follow-up of specific children that has come to the VBS – The LAMBS

#### New Testament Bible Reading Guide