

## ORDER OF SERVICE:

### Call to Worship

Bong

### Adoration Song

Music Team

### *10,000 Reasons*

### Welcome, Pass the Peace

Rowena

### Community News

Bong

### Prayer for Others

John

### Offering

Bong

### Bible Reading

Bong

### *Isaiah 35:1-10*

### Message

Rowena

### Communion

Rowena

### Song

Music Team

### *Shine Jesus Shine*

### Benediction

Rowena

*Audio recording of this service*

*is available on the church's website.*

## QUESTIONS TO PONDER:

*What is the one thing that you always bring with you wherever you go? What does this thing tell about you, your gratefulness or your insecurities? What would happen if you don't or can't have it anymore?*

## TRANSITION TEAM'S MEETING UP-

**DATE: Wednesday, 11 December 2013**

- Asylum Seekers to and in Australia.** Natalie had led us in a simulation of a very confronting issue in our community. We will seek to find more ways the church can be made aware of local community issues. The church, through Kathy, is still accepting donations for asylum seekers in our community of old, unused but in good working condition **mobile phones with chargers.**
- Church Christmas Fellowship.** So many enjoyed and were blessed. We managed to raise a significant contribution to BWAA. That is **\$500.00 for a "Toilet"** and all the training that comes with it. Thanks to Carol and Leonie for organizing this great event.
- Bible Study Group Ministry.** The church is establishing this as a coordinated ministry. It is still in the process of development. The objective is to make at least a group available for every individual in the church to join. There will also be a core group who will act as support to groups that will be established.

## OUR FAITH IN ACTION:

- Trevor** will be admitted to the hospital this Thursday, the 19th and will undergo a **vascular repair** operation the next day in Epworth, Richmond. Let us all be in prayer for Trevor that our Lord be with him and the doctors and nurses who will look after him.
- Career Counselling.** Are you lost and confused about your career and not knowing what you should be doing? Are your kids or someone you know, lost and confused about their career pathway or unsure if their studies will achieve their desired career outcomes? Do you need advice, tips on planning or making career decisions? Are you looking for further education opportunities for a better career or job? This church ministry will be offered, at no charge to you, starting early next year. More info will be provided in the next few weeks. Please see Wai or the pastors if you want to book early.
- Worship Steward Roster.** A new 6-month roster will be given out next month. Many of you have been sent an email of invitation to join or continue to be a part of this ministry. Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated. Please express your interest to serve our church community to Bong.
- Weeks of Prayer - For this week, 6-21 Dec, Pastor Rowena, Len, Emil and Beth** are in roster to pray during the week for our church. We use the following guides in our households to pray together or alone. **We pray God guides and blesses...Our Dreams and Visions...Our Church...Our search for a new Pastor...Our Faith and Action...Our Leaders, now and in the Future.** This is our most important ministry.

## CHRISTIAN QUOTATION:

*"Solemnized by the knowledge of the deep need and inspired by the vision of all things made new by the mighty Christ, resolve to give yourselves to encouraging a spiritual awakening."* John R. Mott 1865-1955

John Raleigh Mott was a long-serving leader of the YMCA and the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF). He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946 for his work in establishing and strengthening international Protestant Christian student organizations that worked to promote peace. During Mott's remaining two years at Cornell, as president of the Y.M.C.A. he increased the membership threefold and raised the money for a university Y.M.C.A. building. The sum of Mott's work makes an impressive record: he wrote sixteen books in his chosen field; crossed the Atlantic over one hundred times and the Pacific fourteen times, averaging thirty-four days on the ocean per year for fifty years; delivered thousands of speeches; chaired innumerable conferences.



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE:

### A Simple Lifestyle

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December 6, 2013

Washington (BWA)--It has become customary for followers of Christ to encounter, in the circumstances of Jesus' birth, the option to live simply.

This option suggests itself to those who realize that Mary gave birth to her first child, God's Son, not in a place of ostentation and opulence but, because space was not available at the lodgings, in a manger, a stable, a cave -- according to the traditions that we have. Yet, there, in this lowly place, the Christ child was welcomed and cared for. Mary wrapped him in "swaddling clothes" (Luke 2:7).

To illustrate the lowliness of Jesus' birth, the songwriter William Dix summoned his creative imagination to compose the popular carol, "*What child is this?*" in which he placed "ox and ass" at the scene of Christ's birth. It was the prophet Isaiah who said: "The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know; my people do not understand" (Isaiah 1:3). Even today, many do not recognize the God who made an appearance in flesh in Bethlehem at Christmas. However, the shepherds who appeared at the place of Jesus' humble birth may be understood as reflecting the reversal of Isaiah's dictum: They rejoiced to meet the one they recognized as their Savior! The child who was born in a lowly place did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (Phil. 2:6). He came into the world at a crossroads littered with life's challenges and its opportunities.

From the simplicity of the place of Jesus' entry into the world and from the way of life Jesus chose for himself we may learn the desirability of a simple lifestyle. This lifestyle is advanced as a pattern for us by the authors of *Advices and Queries* -- the guide prepared in Britain for the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers): "Try to live simply. A simple lifestyle freely chosen is a source of strength. Do not be persuaded into buying what you do not need or cannot afford."

In our materialistic world where people's pattern of consumption is often regarded as an index of their "success", the challenge to live simply may easily go unheeded. Yet, commitment to the simple lifestyle is consistent with the example of our Lord Jesus whose entry into the world was without the creature comforts some regard as basic necessities, and whose way of life showed no sign of materialistic obsession.

Voluntary simplicity would help limit the widening gulf that marks the troubling economic and social inequality in our globalized world. It would also reduce the negative impact of human activity on the natural environment.

This year, as we celebrate the coming of Jesus -- the miracle of God appearing in the form of a human being -- contemplation of the circumstances of Jesus' birth could bolster the resolve to opt for the simple lifestyle. If this happens during this season, when promoters of a growing consumer culture seek to maximize their gains, we could relieve ourselves of the anxiety that is associated with over-spending. When consistently we choose to live simply, we open up for ourselves the door to peaceful pathways hitherto unexplored and abundant joy never before experienced.

If God makes an appearance in simple places, choose to live simply and have a blessed Christmas!

Neville Callam  
General Secretary  
Baptist World Alliance

To read and distribute this message in other languages go to [www.bwanet.org](http://www.bwanet.org)