

God and His Creation

part 3



- written by T P Ng

In Genesis 1: 1-2, it says, "... everything was engulfed in total darkness." In science, we know that within the Milky Way, the galaxy in which our solar system operates, there are dark regions caused by cosmic dust and perhaps gases (space smog). Again in Genesis, before the fourth day the earth was blanketed with a layer of clouds or swaddling band. However, the Creator evidently caused this swaddling band high above. Thus, by His creative forces, the sun, the moon and the stars were made to be visible from within the earth's atmosphere, "... shine in the sky to give light to the earth." (Genesis 1:15)

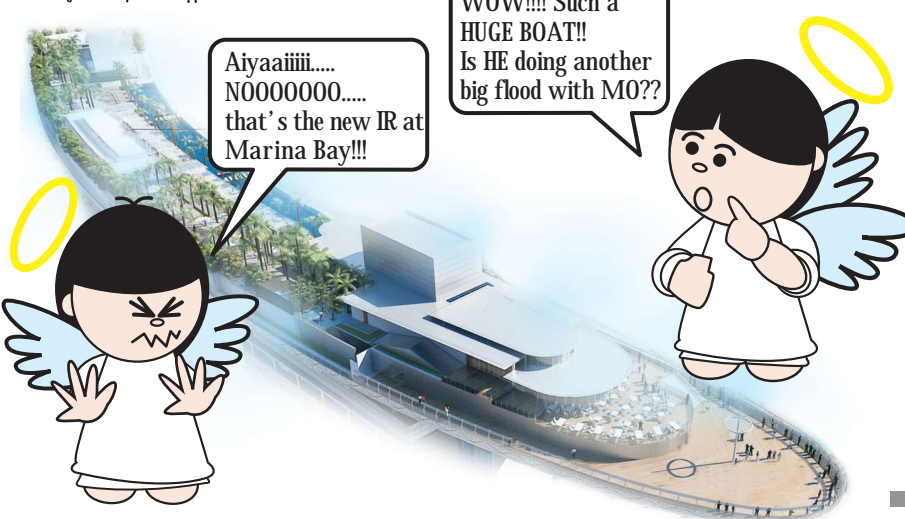
In view of the above, we can see that the Bible does not conflict with science. On the contrary, it silently goes in harmony with science in some ways. Regarding the theory of evolution, we have to bear in mind that it is precisely some form of hypothesis on the origin of life. It only refers to the development of matter, not to its making. Matter itself does not exist forever. Before it could evolve, it must have come into existence as it was actually created. So, the belief that 'the universe has no beginning and that it existed through matter' is wrong. Today, more and more scientists have confirmed that the universe will come to an end naturally had a very beginning.

As for the question on the origin of man in Genesis of the Old Testament, we can understand more in the future when we read more articles on how anthropologists and archaeologists who from time to time discover more proofs on the truth of human origin. Lastly, it has been reported that the deluge in Genesis 6 to 8 of the Old Testament proved to be earth-wide. Excavations throughout the earth have uncovered the bones and carcasses of countless thousands of animals which would not normally herd together, were buried in heaps altogether in some places. The circumstances in which they are found indicate that they were all killed at the same time and then swept together by a gigantic force. For example, mammoth and bison alike animals were twisted and torn apart, even though some of them weighed as heavy as several tons. Fig trees have been unearthed in cold Greenland and palms in Siberia. Scientists believe that the deluge accompanied by a drastic change in climate was no doubt an earth-wide flood that brought destruction to this planet.

Frankly, both science and religion are two social aspects resembling two eyes which govern the world, but both are guided by a Supreme Being. We Catholics/Christians and all believers of God know very well that in the very beginning it is He who created the universe and set up their respective orders and regulations.

The Lighter side of The Apostles

the beagle with yellow slippers



Sunset Mass
5.30pm
Rosary
4.40pm
Sunday Masses
8.30am (Mandarin)
11.00am (English)
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor
4.20pm (English)
Weekday Masses
7.20am
5.30pm

Intercessory Prayer
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)
Infant Jesus Devotions
5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)
4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)
Divine Mercy Devotions
Fri, after 5.30pm Mass
Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)
Sion Adorers - Holy Hour
7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)
Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)
3.00pm (Daily)

Counselling at SPP
Family Life Society Counselling every
Monday 11.00am - 2.00pm and 6.30pm -
9.00pm. Call 6382 0688 for appointment

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www.sppchurch.org.sg

We welcome literary contributions to The Apostles. Please email your submission to spptheapostles@gmail.com. You can also download The Apostles at: <http://sppchurch.org.sg/downloads.html>

Parish Priest:
Rev Fr ANSELM PHANG OCD
Asst Parish Priest:
Rev Fr JOSEPH KOH OCD
Priest in Residence:
Rev Fr GREGORY HON OCD
Provincial-Delegate:
Rev Fr THOMAS LIM OCD
Parish Secretary:
Ms Martha Loh, Ms Jannie Lui
Music & Liturgy Office:
Jacob Wee, sppjacob@gmail.com
Pastoral Office:
Patrick Chan, spppatrick@gmail.com
Youth Office:
Alex Wong, sppalex@gmail.com

Church Donations
Please make you cheque payable to :
(i) **Church Of Sts Peter & Paul** -for contributions /donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings;
(ii) **Church Of SPP Building Fund** - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund;
(iii) **Carmelite Fathers** for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation.

Information is correct at time of publication.



Footprints

Rita Amada Y.C. Tan

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord.
Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky.
In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.
Sometimes there were two sets of footprints,
other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat,
I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord,
"You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always.
But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand.
Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied,
"The times when you have seen only one set of footprints in the sand, is when I carried you."

A Beautiful Poem by Mary Stevenson

Behind every lovely smile, there may be something ugly or painful - big or small. Everyone carries a cross - be it for us or for someone else. Some of us may accept to carry the cross graciously but some may deny it. In our human frailty, it's not unusual for most of us to shake our fists at the heavens and insist to know what have we done to deserve unpleasant things to fall upon us and/or our loved ones.

At this grueling stage of coping with our cross it'll be so convenient finger-pointing

everyone else, including God. In the same way, we'd whine during the trying periods of our lives claiming that we see only 'one set of footprints in the sand.' Yet, does Jesus whine and blame those who paved the way for His cross? Does Jesus blame His Father for His cross?

While I'm working my little brain to figure out the jigsaw of the mystery of all these human suffering, I wonder if Jesus has ever thought of hiding or even running away from His cross! Obviously, He didn't. If He were to hide or run away, He would not have suffered, died on the cross and risen from the dead. Then, there'll not be salvation! Staring at the lukewarm bitter gourd tea, it reminds me of a famous proverb 'Who has never tasted what is bitter does not know what is sweet'. I think one of the amazing mysteries of life is that 'who has never taken his cross does not know what is Grace'! It takes a cross to prepare our souls to receive Grace from God! "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

Well, some of our cross is particularly heavy and we may be stuck for a while, but disheartened not, as we still could iron out through prayers and help. Probably, our cross could be somewhat sacred - to keep us close to the Christian community and also closer to God. When we experience pain when we carry a cross, we'll lean on our community and God. It think it's part of God's mysterious plan that we carry a cross so as to experience transformation, new life, Grace and most importantly, a closer relationship with Him! He loves us so we 'have seen only one set of footprints in the sand' during trying times because those are the time when He carried us!

God wants us to be close to Him to the extent that we could call Him 'Father'. He wants to be our loving Father who is near to us, care, love and carry us when we're taking our cross. Like any other fathers on this planet, He may sometimes seem strict, but always has love for all His children in His heart.

Also, let's not forget all fathers who not just pay the bills, shouting disciplinary orders at home, planner of some cool family fishing trip during the Great Singapore Sale (when the weather outside is better than indoor...) but who also bear heavy cross for the families. This Father's Day, let's celebrate the man who is at the corner stone of the Holy Family, our family life, spiritual life, community life - our loving and forgiving Father in Heaven, our father on this lovely planet, grandfather or any man, even our beloved priests, who love as a father would. Happy Father's Day!

POPE'S GREETINGS TO WORLD'S PRIESTS
His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI gave his blessings to all priests in St. Peter's Square at the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on 11 June 2010 to close the "Year for Priests",

"My dear brothers, as I thank you for your love of Christ and of his bride the Church, I ask you again solemnly to be faithful to your promises. Serve God and your people with holiness and courage, and always conform your lives to the mystery of the Lord's cross. May God bless your apostolic labours abundantly!"

Come celebrate the 140th anniversary of our parish on the Feast day of Sts Peter & Paul!

Triduum 140
24 Jun '10 (Thur): 140
Praise & worship at 6.00 pm, followed by Mass at 6.30 pm

25 Jun 10 (Fri): Love the lord, feed the lambs.
Praise & worship at 6.00 pm, followed by Mass at 6.30 pm

26 Jun 10 (Sat): Ever-growing parish?
Praise & worship at 5.30 pm, followed by Mass at 6.00 pm

Feast day: Spirit-filled leaders Peter & Paul... are you one of us?
27 Jun '10 (Sun) at 11.00 am

Fr Ignatius Huan will be celebrating all the Masses.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (20 JUN 2010)

READINGS:

Sunday Missal (Year C): Page 280

Responsorial Psalm:

"For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God."

Prayers of the Faithful: Page 282

Readings for the Week:

Mon 21 Jun – Sat 26 Jun 2010

Mon : 2 Kgs 17 : 5-8,13-15,18/Mt 7: 1-5
Tue : 2 Kgs 19: 9-11,14-21,31-35,36/Mt 7: 6,12-14
Wed : Kgs 22: 8-13; 23:1-3/Mt 6:1-6,16-18
Thu : Nativity of St John the Baptist, Solemnity (See Sunday Missal)
Fri : 2 Kg 25: 1-12/Mt 8: 1-4
Sat : Lam 2: 2,10-14,18-19/Mt 8: 5-17

REFLECTION

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me." What is the meaning of to 'renounce' yourself? It means giving up voluntarily something, for instance the worldly pleasures, our human nature and desires. Taking up our crosses every day to follow Christ is never easy, but as long as we choose to walk in the light of Christ, God is always with us. God, our Heavenly Father, will send the Holy Spirit to teach us everything and make us remember all His teachings.

Moreover, The Christ of God was also not spared from the suffering. Jesus had chosen to fulfill His Heavenly Father's will and was thus subjected to rejection, humiliation, physical torture, and later crucifixion. But Jesus was raised up on the third day! He had taken precedence over us, so what else should we fear when following him?

We welcome literary contributions to our weekly newsletter (articles, observations, book reviews, etc). Please email your submissions to spptheapostles@gmail.com. Thank you.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS: 2009-2010 Let us remember and pray for all our priests during this holy year. **SPP Divine Mercy Prayer Group** will be offering prayers for priests every 1st Friday at 3 pm in the Adoration Room. **SPP Prayer Group** is also conducting a prayer session for priests & religious and for more priestly and religious vocations on the last Thursday of each month from 7.15 pm to 9.00 pm with half hour of Praise and Adoration and Repentance in the Adoration Room.

"Don't Say A Few Prayers... Listen to Him"

written by Michael Hii from St Peter's Church, Kuching, Sarawak

My wife Eileen Kueh and I are here for a few weeks seeking medical treatment, we take this opportunity to treat this as a retreat... (continue from the last issue of The Apostles)

That will be just right. Friday's Divine Mercy Prayers were attended by many people, and the prayers were longer. Evening Mass was said by Fr Phang, his sermon is always easy to understand, very down to earth. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Fr Phang explained, "The Way is not like the road map or the GPSR, the Way is the Life Style. A Life style based on Jesus' life." We must be going where Jesus is going, by imitating his ways of life. The Benediction after the Mass is beautiful too. Back in Kuching at St Peter's Church, we do not have Benediction like this. For those who missed the 3 o'clock Divine Mercy Prayers in the Chapel, there was another Divine Mercy Devotion in the Church after the Mass and Benediction.

So today, on the third day of listening, we have the message and the answer. To save souls by our life style.

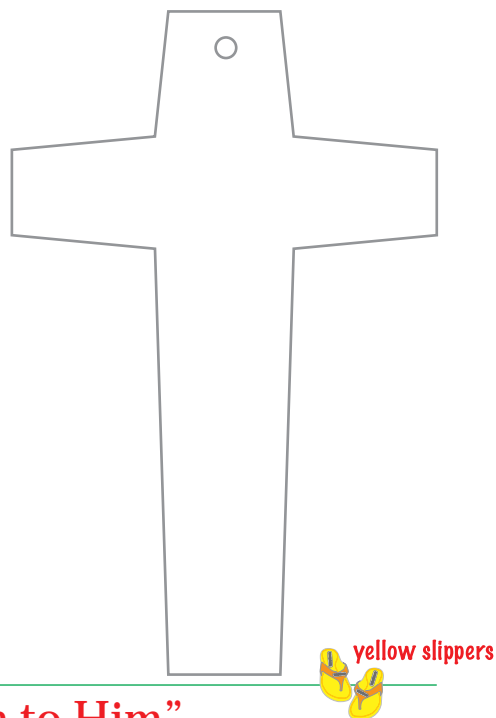
Here we like to share 2 happenings which may save souls.

October last year, Eileen was diagnosed with Cancer. She totally surrendered to God's will and accepted the Cross with complete trust in Jesus and Mary. We came to Singapore for treatments - Surgery, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy, Medications, countless Blood Tests, many Scans, X-Rays, Ultrasounds etc. She bore the severe side-effects and much sufferings with great strength and strong faith. Her sister Alison who is a pagan was amazed at her graceful response to the misfortune. She noticed that there must be something in this Catholic Faith that Eileen could face such adversity with such strength and grace. So impressed was she that she wanted to become a Catholic, together with her husband! Since then, they have started the RCIA course at the Holy Trinity Church in Kuching.

We spent our Chinese New Year last year with our family in Melbourne, Australia. We visited some friends in Sydney. One old classmate who has settled down in Sydney showed us around. As a young man, he was very active in Holy Trinity Church, Kuching: Parish Counciller, Legion of Mary etc. But after he went overseas for further studies, he was lapsed and never went to Church for many, many years. His wife recently died of cancer after battling for few years. We were to flying to

Kids Corner - Jesus said:" If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross everyday and follow me."

Colour this cross, or write any sins that you are struggling. Punch a hole at the circle, tie a string around it and use it as a book mark, for your bible, textbook or story books. Remind yourself to take up the cross and follow Jesus.



Melbourne on Sunday on a midday flight (time chosen so that should I miss Sunday Mass in Sydney, we could still attend Evening Mass in Melbourne). Saturday I told my friend, "Chris, tomorrow we must go to Church, you bring me. You will come with me, won't you?" Sunday, Chris brought us to a beautiful Church - St Patrick's Church, at the Rocks. Ironically, Chris stays in an Apartment developed by the Church on the Church Compound; St Patrick's was at his doorstep, he passed by the Church every day, yet he never set foot in it! Today was different, he attended the Mass because of me, as I insisted that he bring me to Church. After Mass, as we came out of the Church, I heard the most beautiful word from Chris, he said, "Thank you Michael, for bringing me back to the Church!" Actually I should be thanking him for bringing me to the Church. I did not do anything smashing really, all I asked him is to bring me to Church, and asked him to come alone... it has been more than 1 year now, Chris has never missed a single Mass since.

Lord, are you speaking to me through Alison and Chris? Are we saving souls by our life style?

Speak Lord, your servant is listening. ■

PARISH NEWS

SPP FEAST DAY LUNCH - To commemorate our **SPP 140th Anniversary Feast Day**, our Church is organizing a buffet lunch on Sun 27 Jun '10, 12:30 pm at Hotel Royal @ Queens (across the Church). Adults: \$15/pax. Child (Below 12 yrs old): \$10/pax. All Church members and parishioners are welcome. Please contact your ministry coordinators for registration and payment in advance. For registration & further information, please contact Sandra Koh 9362 2728, email: jscfan@gmail.com or Michael Cheuk 9011 9997 email: mikecheuk@rocketmail.com.

CONFIRMATION FOR ADULTS will be held in our parish on 18 July 2010 during the 11.00 am Mass. Please register with the Parish Secretariat in the Parish Office by 27 Jun '10.

FATHERS' DAY is celebrated this Sun 20 Jun 2010. We wish all fathers a very "Happy Father's Day!"

G-CONNECT - A parish spiritual programme to connect ourselves with the Lord our God will be held every Thursday from 8.00 pm to 9.00pm, Chapel (level 3). All parishioners are welcome to join in and get connected!

MONTHLY PRAYER FOR CMs - For the month of June, it will be held on Mon 5 Jul 2010. Family members and parishioners are also invited to join in the prayer with our Communion Ministers.

INFANT BAPTISM - Our next Infant Baptism service will be held on Sun 25 Jul 2010 during the 11.00 am Mass. Forms for Baptism are obtainable from the parish office or downloaded from website: www.sppchurch.org.sg/downloads.html.

MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED - A mass dedicated to the souls of the faithful departed whose remains are placed in the columbarium in our church, and for their family members is held in our church every last Friday of the month. For the month of June, the Mass for the Faithful Departed will be celebrated on Fri 30 Jul 2010 at 5.30 pm.

DAILY PRAYER - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday morning after the 7.20 am Mass.

COUNSELLING SERVICES - Family Life Society (FLS) is making its counselling services available at our SPP Church every Monday from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Lay Counsellors trained by FLS will be available to provide a listening ear and help to those in need. Parishioners may call 6382 0688 (weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm) to make an appointment. Website: <http://www.familylife.sg/>

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

46TH RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND - Has your marriage become unloving and uncaring? Has your marriage grown cold and distant? If you are serious about making your marriage work, join 'Retrouvaille' - a Lifeline for Troubled & Hurting Marriages. The next weekend session will be held from Fri 25 Jun to Sun 27 June 2010. For confidential enquiry, Tel: 6749 8861 / 6423 9756 / 6445 1375. Online registration: www.helpourmarriage.sg.

EVENING WORKSHOP - You are invited to join a workshop on "Christian Meditation, The Whole Person Body, Mind & Spirit in Prayer" on Tue 29 Jun 2010 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm at Holy Family Church Function Room Level 4. Learn to acknowledge the presence of the indwelling Spirit and offer your whole being in prayer. The Presenter: of the workshop is Fr Joe Pereira, National Co-ordinator, The World Community for Christian Meditation in India. Register by 24 Jun. Call Rebecca 9835 7835 rebeccalimky@gmail.com or Daulet 6469 7671 daulet@pacific.net.sg. A love offering will be taken. Organised by the World Community for Christian Meditation Singapore.

ME WEEKEND - It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is to love their mother/father. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. You deserve the best and your children need to see you reaching for it. Coming Weekends: 2- 4 Jul; 6 - 8 Aug; 3 - 5 Sep 2010.. To register call 9670-5390 or click marriage-encounter-sg.org.

SEMINARS FOR THE ELDERLY - The Singapore Pastoral Institute, Caritas Singapore & Family Life Society will be conducting the following two seminars for those in their senior years. To register, please call Maria at 6488-0278 or email maria@familylife.sg
- Fri 2 Jul 2010 from 9.30 am - 12.30 pm @ Christ the King Church. Focus: Successful ageing, grandparenting skills, advance care planning.
- Fri 13 Aug 2010 from 9.30am - 12.30pm. @ Christ the King Church. Focus: Prayer, spiritual reminiscence. assessing mental changes and medical conditions.

SJI OPEN HOUSE - For parents enrolling your son for Sec 1 in 2011 - Visit SJI Open House on Sat 11 July 2010 from 9.00 am - 1.00 pm. Website: <http://www.sji.edu.sg>

CHRISTIAN ZEN PRAYER - Join a retreat that leads to a prayerful path of alertness in solitude and mindful-living that heals and relaxes. 16-18 July 2010 at the Cenacle, 47 Jurong West Street 42. Contact Cenacle Sisters at 6565 2895, 9722 3148, or email: cenaclesisters@yahoo.com.sg

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC) - For couples intending to get married, the commencement date for the 3rd Quarter 2010 MPC is on 18 July '10. Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis. Application forms can be obtained from the church office or our website @ www.catholic.org.sg/mpc. For further enquiries, please contact: John & Joan @ 9848 2864.

ACTS NOW SEMINAR - Journey through the Acts of the Apostles with Thomas Smith from the Great Adventure Timeline Series. Register today at register@giota.stmary.sg for a 2-day seminar at the Church of St Mary of the Angels on Fri 23 July (7.30 pm - 9.30 pm) and Fri 24 July 2010 (8.30 am - 8.30 pm). Cost: \$25/ per participant (workbook & lunch included). For more information, visit: www.stmary.sg/giota.

SOCIAL MISSION CONFERENCE 2010 - Caritas Singapore is organising The Social Mission Conference 2010, bringing together 33 experienced overseas and local speakers to enlighten and challenge participants to go beyond charity to enable the needy to build a better life with dignity. The conference will be held at SJI, Malcolm Road on Sat 21 Aug 2010 from 8.45 am - 4 pm. Cost: \$55 per person. For more information or to register, please visit www.caritas-singapore.org or call 6337 3711.

QUIETING THE SOUL, MARANATHA - A 5-day silent retreat will be held from 6-12 Sep 2010 at the cool pine-forest environment of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Retreat is limited to 12 participants only. Contact Cenacle Sisters at 6565 2895, 9722 3148, or email cenaclesisters@yahoo.com.sg. Deadline for application: 15 Aug '10.



Welcome Father Definito -

The Carmelite Friars and the Church of Sts Peter and Paul welcomes the Discalced Carmelite

Definito General of the East Asia-Oceania Region, Fr Peter Chung Soon-Taick chung, O.C.D. As Definito, he would be assisting the Superior General in his office and he would also be performing other duties assigned to him by the Superior General. He is on his first Fraternal Visit to this region. Even though this is not his Pastoral Visit, he would still be visiting Carmelite Convents and Monasteries in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Welcome, Fr Definito!