

## **Report of Combined Youth Conference 2009** **25 to 27 June @ Calvary Pandan BPC** *(by Simone Quek)*

I thank God for the Combined Youth Conference 2009 which was a very good opportunity for youths from many B-P churches with a common faith to come together to refresh ourselves with God's Word and to fellowship one with another. Almost 50 youths attended this year's Conference.

The Conference started with a message by Preacher Dennis Kabingue on "The Reality Of Sin In My Life." In this message, we were exhorted to be constantly aware of sin, as testified to us by our conscience, our forefathers, God's Word, the Holy Spirit, and our Triune God.

After the message, we had a fruitful hour of small group discussion where questions were asked and answered, with small personal sharings from our own lives.

The same day, after wash-up and dinner, Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew spoke to us on "The Reality Of God And His Word In My Life." We were encouraged and reminded that God's Word is our everlasting strength, and in abiding in God and His Word and allowing them to be real to us, we could have abundance and joy. We were shown how God could use us in amazing ways if only we would let Him by living out His Word in our lives.

The discussion that followed was centered on how real God and His Word are to us personally.

The day ended with a good time of dorm fellowship. The girls played Uno Stacko while introducing themselves and had a good time laughing and getting anxious over the falling stack. Edison chaired the boys' dorm fellowship where they shared

why they were attending the Conference. There was also much encouraging and bearing of one another's burdens.

The second day began with Brother Elvin Siew's morning devotion on Isaiah 40:28-31 in which he encouraged us to find much strength in our almighty, unchangeable God and to yield our lives to His control.

This was followed by a strong message by Preacher Kabingue on "Living Out God's Word In The Church." In the first part of this message, we were reminded of the aspects and purposes of the church. The Church is like a family. It is the possession of God and a pillar of truth in these last days. It has a government consisting of Christ, the Head of the Church, our leaders, and our brethren. We were then exhorted on how to relate to the different groups of people in the Church. To Christ, we are to submit in obedience and respect. To our leaders, we are to respect them, encourage them, and uphold them in much prayer. Towards the members, we are to encourage one another, fellowship one with another in the Spirit, and be merciful one to another.

The second part of Preacher Kabingue's message focused on a common teenage matter, namely Boy-Girl Relationships (BGR). Preacher Kabingue preached on the purpose, the parameters, the process of BGRs and even gave us his opinion on the period of time suitable for BGRs. In short, it was an eye-opening message that helps us to understand how to keep ourselves pure, holy and not commit any sexual sins.

Due to the lack of time, there was a short session of Q & A in place of small group discussions.

In the afternoon, after lunch, a video show "Fly Wheel" was screened, and afterwards, a short but fruitful time of Bible games.

The message on Friday night was preached by Rev Quek on "Living Out God's Word In My Home." We were reminded that as children, we have to honour our parents by living godly lives in obedience to them and to God's Word, so that in turn when it is our turn to become parents, we will be able to pass down the virtues and principles taught in God's Word and be godly examples to our children, and leave a good legacy for future generations.

Small group discussion which followed was a good time of sharing. In one group, we were able to listen to the struggles of a fellow Christian who comes from a non-Christian home. We also discussed about practical ways to honour and love our parents, and how to be good testimonies for Christ in the home.

Night Testimony was a very good time of fellowship and sharing where many participants shared their heartfelt thoughts and lessons learnt in the Conference. I was very encouraged to hear how real the messages had been to most participants and how they resolved to improve their lives to be better Christians for God. It showed me that this Conference has helped many to draw closer to God and to find Him real in their lives.

The third and final day of the Combined Youth Conference started with Brother James Tan giving us the exhortation based on 1 Chronicles 28:6 to 10. He reminded us to examine our hearts before serving God so that we may serve with a "perfect heart" and a "willing mind" all to the praise and glory of God.

The final message was delivered by Dr Paul Ferguson on "God's Word In My School And Future Pursuits." Dr Ferguson spoke about Daniel, a young man who lived in the Old Testament in exceedingly trying times but lived a life so holy that it leaves a legacy even till today. We were challenged to be like Daniel in our lives now, by arming ourselves with God's Word and with much prayer, determined not to make any compromises on our faith so that others may see Christ in us.

The message was followed by an interesting session of Q & A, after which we cleaned up the dorms, had lunch fellowship and broke camp.

Thank God for an opportunity to be able to attend this year's Combined Youth Conference. I was able to draw closer to God and truly learnt how to live in His presence. The world outside may be real and scary, but God is real too. He is sovereign, and He is in control. May God help us to hold these lessons we have taken away from this Conference close to our hearts that we may live for Him even in these last days all for His glory alone.

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