

Report of Combined Youth Conference 2013

by Liu Jiahui

The Combined Youth Conference (CYC) 2013 was held from 27th to 29th June in Calvary Pandan BPC. The theme was “The Real Treasures of My Heart” based on Matthew 6:21. Pr Ko Linggang (from Calvary Pandan BPC) was the main speaker.

The first day of the Conference started with the usual registration and conference briefing. When I arrived, I was pleasantly surprised by the large number of conference participants this year. More than 90 participants (part and full-time) attended.

After the briefing, Benjamin Tan led us in some simple ice-breakers, which helped us to get to know the names of the participants as the participants were from different churches.

Shortly, we had singspiration followed by the first main message, “What are Real Treasures” based on Matthew 6:19-23. Pr Ko pointed out that heavenly treasures, unlike earthly ones, are eternal and are to be treasured by believers. Our heavenly treasures have a sanctifying effect. This last point is also a warning from Matthew 6:22 that if we pursue after the temporal things of the world, we will fail to be witnesses or to shine for God in this world. The message was followed by discussion when we reflected on the things that we treasure most in life, and whether we place them over God.

Lunch followed, and we had a blessed time of fellowship over food. After the meal, we had a workshop on “The Wise Use of Social Media” conducted by Bro Clement Chew (a FEBC student, from True Life BPC). He exhorted us from Matthew 5:13-16 to be mindful of our online testimonies when we participate on social media websites like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. He also gave us some very practical and useful scenarios for discussion.

After the workshop, we had some free time to rest and wash up. Some of us took the opportunity to get to know other participants, while others took a short nap before washing up. At 6 pm, we had dinner followed by the night message by Pr Ko.

The night message provoked us to consider what our hearts are truly seeking after. Pr Ko pointed out some good indicators to help us know our true desires. For example, the things that we spend the most time or money on are probably the dearest to us. He then went on to exhort us from Matthew 6:24-34. We are not to worry unduly about our physical needs, because to worry is the way of the fatherless, the faithless and the Gentiles. Instead, we are to seek God our Father and His righteousness first and foremost, and He will take care of our every need, as He has promised. During discussion, we considered some practical ways in which we can better live out Matthew 6:33 in our lives. Examples: starting and ending the day with God by reading His Word and with prayer.

The night ended with supper and a time of dormitory fellowship.

The next morning (28th June, Friday) started with morning devotion by Br Bernard Too (a Kenyan FEBC student). He shared from Psalm 91 about dwelling under God's protection.

Thereafter, we had our personal Quiet-Time, breakfast and the third and fourth main conference messages. The messages highlighted the value of true treasures and the curse of false ones. While true treasures are incomparable in value and bring great joy, false ones bring judgment, cause moral corruption and lead to murder. The discussion caused us to realize how little time and effort we put into seeking heavenly treasures, as compared to earthly ones.

After lunch was a time of "Object Lessons"! Four different stations were set up. I personally enjoyed the activities and took away with me several interesting lessons. The object lesson of the station held in the Level 3 sanctuary was that we are not judge a person or thing by its appearance, just as God judges us by our hearts. The station in the fellowship hall encouraged us to faithfully plant the gospel seed and then leave the salvation of souls to the working of the Holy Spirit. The maze of the station in the AV studio warned us about our choice of friends, while the object lesson of the station in the cry room reminded us that we cannot save ourselves no matter how many good works we do, but our sins must be washed away by the blood of Christ.

Then, we washed up and had dinner before having the night message about how to use our treasures. We were reminded that God's Word is a great treasure, and I was personally much rebuked by the message for not cherishing and depending on God's Word as much as I ought to. Pr Ko encouraged us to study God's Word diligently and to hide it in our hearts. He also urged us to

share God's Word with those around us, so that we may be a blessing to them through our conversations. We took some time during discussion to reflect on how we have valued, or failed to value, God's Word in our lives.

The final night of the Conference ended with a time of sharing and testimony. Many of the participants gave thanks to God for the lessons learnt through this year's Conference as well as the fellowship we had.

The following morning (29th June, Saturday), we started the day with breakfast. The conference timetable had to be adjusted a little as there was a wedding being held in the venue that morning. Thank God that all the participants co-operated willingly and joyfully with the CYC organizing committee.

After morning devotion by Bro Andrew Koh (a FEBC student, from Gethsemane BPC) on Christian unity and our personal Quiet-Time, we had our final conference message.

Pr Ko, speaking from Mark 10:17-22, presented us with choices we all must make. In choosing between heavenly and earthly treasures, we are essentially making a choice between Christ and the world, between joy and sadness. Following the message, we had a time of Q-&-A instead of discussion.

Then it was time to pack up, have lunch and say our farewells.

On the whole, CYC 2013 was a very blessed time of learning God's Word and of fellowshiping. By God's grace, all the activities ran very smoothly. There were hardly any hiccups; activities started and ended pretty much on time. One observation we made was that the participants this year seem to be older, and therefore we also had closer fellowship. Thank God for the organizing committee, all the speakers, and the participants who made this a very enjoyable Conference.


