



2023

LOVING BEYOND | BOUNDARIES

WELCOME HOME!

We are glad that you can join us today to worship the Lord as one family in Christ. May we continue to trust Him, and glorify Him in all that we do!

SERVING THIS WEEK

Eld Tim Soh	Cassia Ong
Brenda Soh	Hazel Chiang
Selene Wee	Dn Amos Chia
Ng Wen Hooi	Dn Ding Si Han
Sonja Chua	Dns Clarissa Leong
Lau Wen Min	Josh Lim
Ruth Ong	Xavier Arokiam
Louis Tee	Cecilia Arokiam
Ng Jianmin	
Nicolette Yu	
Eld Reuben Ang	
McPaul Wee	
Muru Nagaraju	
Ivan Lee	
Amelia Lim	

NEXT WEEK

Our Greatest Need & God's

Greatest Gift

Acts 3:1-10

Ps Wendell Chua

Lead Ps Wendell Chua

9027 7465

Ps Lawrence Ong

9146 8277

Assis-to-Ps Joseph Tee

9088 0077

Ps Yap Kim Sin (Advisory)

9862 4390

Read (pg 9-12)

Calvin – by Bruce Gordon (Part 1)

by Lau Wah Ming

ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Theme *Repent & Grow*

Prepare for Worship

Prelude

Exalt His Name

Call to Worship

Invocation

Doxology

Opening Hymn

Responsive Scripture Reading

Joel 2:28-32

Worship in Song

Listen to His Word

What is the Significance of Pentecost?

Dr. Greg Perry

Acts 2:14-27

Response Song

Give to His Work

Offering

Offertory Response

Pray to Him

Corporate Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn

Benediction

Announcements

Postlude



SERMON NOTES

What is the Significance of Pentecost?

Acts 2:14-47



1. **The Proclamation of Pentecost Reveals the Living Lord who Defeated Death (vv14-36)**
2. **The Promised Spirit of Pentecost Creates New Lives and Empowers Their Witness (vv37-41)**
3. **The Purpose of Pentecost is to Spread this New Pattern of Life and Its Practices (vv42-47).**



Reflections...

What does Pentecost mean to you as a Christian and as Zion Serangoon B-P Church? Does it encourage you to walk in the Spirit and to bold, loving witness?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for Our Vision: “Loving Beyond Boundaries”

- » What is holding you back from caring for those around you with Jesus’ love?
- » Confess and submit to the LORD. Ask Him to remove the barriers of your heart from truly loving beyond boundaries.
- » May the Holy Spirit give us the power to be Christ-like in our interactions with others!

Community: “New Government Impersonation Scam”

- » Our hearts have righteous anger against the raise in scams and compassion for victims who are affected.
- » With a new type of government impersonation scam emerging, we pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance and discernment as we encounter such cases.
- » We also want to rise as fellow members in God’s family to protect and assist those who are vulnerable to such scams in our midst.

Conversing Through the Book of Mark: Seekers’ Class Training (14 & 28 Oct, 10.30am)

- » Thank God for the opportunity to be a witness for Christ wherever we are through reading God’s Word
- » Pray for Ps Wendell as he leads this class over two alternate Saturdays through the Gospel of Mark.

Intergen: Prayer & Praise - Christmas Edition (2 Dec, 4pm)

- » We thank God for the last opportunity in 2023 to praise and pray to our LORD God with Christmas carols.
- » We pray for hearts of non-believers to be soften as they hear the gospel being sung. Pray for the music team and intergen committee as they organise this event.

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Update of Church Membership Information

All Communicant Members are reminded to update their contact information with the Church Office when there are any changes. Please update your information at tinyurl.com/zsmember23

Ling Kwang Home Wheeling Update:

We thank God and are immensely encouraged for bringing alongside **7 more volunteers** this past Sunday. He indeed answers our prayers! 🙏

We are currently needing **3 more volunteers** to be able to resume the wheeling. Our hearts look forward with anticipation to the day the Ling Kwang Home residents can finally worship together with us.

For more details, please contact **Dn Si Han (9620 3481)**

Prayer Fellowship

**PF takes place every Wednesday except on public holidays or as announced!*

11, 18, 25 October
Wednesday @ 8.00pm

Join in prayer together for our church:

<http://tiny.cc/zionPF2023>

Meeting ID: **865 4863 7670**
Passcode: **017541**

For queries, please contact **Ps Lawrence Ong @ 9146 8277**

IF Online Bible Study

10 October (Tues), 8pm @ Zoom

To join, log in @ <http://tiny.cc/zionIFBS>

Meeting ID: **880 3654 6552**
Passcode: **524832**

ALL FOREIGN WORKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

We encourage the employers to let their helpers join this Zoom BS.

For queries, please contact **Elder Hung Choo @ 9010 2893** or **Olga @ 8158 1885**

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Seekers' Class Training

Conversing Through the Book of Mark

Making a case for Christ to those seeking answers.
by Ps Wendell Chua

**14 & 28 OCTOBER (SAT)
10.30AM - 12PM @ LIBRARY**

*Please sign up with
Dns April at 96943276 or
april@zionserangoon.org.sg*

Conversing Through the Book of Mark: Seekers' Class Training

14 & 28 October 2023 (Sat),
10.30am @ Library

Ps Wendell will be bringing us through how we can converse through the book of mark with Seekers. If you are keen to follow up with Seekers (especially after ZS Carnival), this session will prepare you to do so! If you are keen, please sign up with **Dns April Ding (96943276)**.

SCCC X BPCIS REFORMATION LECTURES 2023

REFORMING WITH THE REFORMERS

26 OCT, 7PM WHAT IS A "REFORMATION"?	27 OCT, 7PM HISTORICAL REFORMATIONS	28 OCT, 6PM APPLYING REFORMATION
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ZION SERANGOON B-P CHURCH
3 & 5 Tavistock Ave S555868
Free dinner will be provided.

Register Now at reformationsg.org



Reformation Lectures 2023

26-28 Oct 2023 @
Zion Serangoon B-P Church

Come learn the foundations, history and the application of the reformations of our faith.

- Day 1 (26 Oct, Thu | 7-9.30pm):**
What is "Reformation"?
- Day 2 (27 Oct, Fri | 7-9.30pm):**
Historical Reformations
- Day 3 (28 Oct, Sat | 6-8.30pm):**
Applying Reformations

Free dinner will be provided.

Sign up by 15 Oct (Sun).

FIND OUT MORE & SIGN UP
NOW @ reformationsg.org.

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Zion Serangoon B-P Church presents

13 Nov 2023 9am-5pm

3 & 5 Tavistock Ave S55108

Ticket \$10/ Ticket!

Children Shows

- 10 AM & 4 PM Explorer Joe Ventriloquism Show
- 2 PM Farm Animals Experience

Carnival Food

Popcorn, Candyfloss, Churros, Slushie, Ice Cream

A Christian Message will be shared.

Carnival Games

Bouncy Castle, Sport Arena, Giant Ball Pit, Air Hockey, Talko Drums, Bashi Bashi

Text 8463 2186 for tickets!



Calling for Volunteers!

13 Nov 2023 (Mon), 9am to 1pm OR 1pm to 5pm

Volunteers' Briefing: 4 Nov (Sat), 12.30pm @ Chapel 1

- 1 Ticketing Personnels
- 2 Café Befrienders
- 2 Arcade Personnels
- 4 Parking Wardens
- 6 Ushers

If you're interested, please contact Nicolette 8786 2418 or Rachel Cham 97878932

ZS CARNIVAL 2023: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

13 November 2023 (Mon)

We are looking for volunteers to be **Arcade Personnel, Food Helpers, Parking Warden, Ticketing Personnel, Ushers** for our upcoming ZS Carnival 2023!

Please contact **Nicolette (8786 2418)** or **Rachel Cham (97878932)** if you would like to volunteer!

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Intergen Prayer & Praise
2 December 2023 (Sat) @
Sanc 2

SAVE THE DATE! Join us for our last prayer and praise for the year and its a Christmas edition.

It will be on **2 December (Saturday) from 4pm**. Stay tuned for more details.



YF Camp 2023
18-22 December 2023 @
Zion Serangoon B-P Church

We invite all youths between the age of 12-19 years old to join us for our annual overnight YF camp!

Camp Fee: \$65/ pax
Sign up by 22 Oct to enjoy \$10 off camp fee!

For more details, contact
Megan Leong (8782 4995).

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Services	Worshippers & Volunteers
ZMS	165
2MS	117
ZES	39
Total	321
Sunday School	58

FELLOWSHIP TEA CONTRIBUTIONS

8 Oct	Leslie Lee & Family	Thanksgiving
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WEEKLY OFFERING

General and Missions Fund

\$33,069.40

(Received 25 Sept - 1 Oct)



PayNow

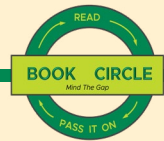
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Bank Transfer

DBS Bank Ltd

003-938549-8

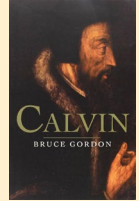
BOOK REVIEW FROM BOOK CIRCLE



Calvin – by Bruce Gordon

by Lau Wah Ming

*“But now, O LORD, thou art our father; **we are the clay, and thou, our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**”
Isaiah 64:8*



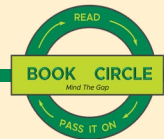
In late 1534 a man who called himself Martinus Lucianus arrived quietly in Strasbourg. He was born in France, grew up in the Catholic tradition, and was studying for a career as a priest, but switched suddenly to legal studies and became steeped in legal studies, the ancient classics and culture, and the humanities. While in France he was a writer and teacher. For years past he attended Catholic services, but he held reformist views and stayed in the home of a friend Louis du Tillet who was a priest of the Catholic Church.

Who was he? Why was he in Strasbourg?

His real name was John Calvin. He was then fleeing Paris for fear of being arrested soon after an event known as the Placard Affair: a Reformist group was distributing placards denouncing the sacrifice of the Catholic mass as an abomination. Most audaciously, such placards were posted at the door of the king’s bedchamber. (Note: France was then under the rule of King Francis I). Calvin had by 1534 been converted to a Reformist and had openly expressed Protestant evangelical views; hence he was at risk. From Strasbourg, he went to Basle (now Basel). Thus began his life of exile.

John Calvin provided two accounts of his conversion in the biography “Calvin” by Bruce Gordon. The paperback book is 398 pages long with many details recorded, blow by blow. You will need concentration to follow the complexity of events narrated therein. This review (Part 1 of 2) will bring out some aspects of Calvin’s life and highlights his journey from an unknown lawyer to the great Protestant Reformer that we know today. If you want to learn more, do read the book. You will find that Calvin led a fascinating life, complete with mystery, danger, tragedy, conflict, and betrayal. There was also friendship, love, and vision. It reads like a historical novel. It also tells us of his marriage following a few failed attempts at matchmaking by his well-meaning friends.

BOOK REVIEW FROM BOOK CIRCLE

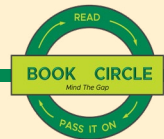


Calvin studied law in Orleans and Bourges (in France) and moved in and out of Paris. He was exposed to Renaissance humanism and was influenced by inter alia Erasmus and Jacques Lefevre d'Etaples who were leaders of the radical movement of the time. In his first account of his conversion, Calvin spoke of the spiritual and psychological anguish of breaking with the old faith, a tormented conscience, and his fear of God's judgment. Twenty years later, Calvin stated that his conversion was the beginning of a journey, not its conclusion. He explained how God had tested and moulded him and acted to change his life and put him on a new course different from what he desired. He saw God's providential hand in every event. The fear of God featured prominently in Calvin's conversion narratives throughout his life. It plays an important part in Calvin's theology. (*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..." Proverbs 9:10*)

Exile was Calvin's fate. It was an act of obedience to God, a separation from a false church, and a declaration of faith. He must go through the trial of fire. To respond to God's call in his conversion, Calvin had to leave France. While in Basle Calvin continued to study and moved among the evangelical friends. It is believed that even before he reached Basle, while in Orleans Calvin had drafted the *Institutes* in which among other subjects Calvin argued a vigorous defence of the evangelicals persecuted in the wake of the Placard Affair. From Basle Calvin saw clearly the fight tearing apart the Protestant world of the German-speaking lands. This was especially so in the dispute over the Lord's Supper. Calvin was learning firsthand the self-destructive nature of disunity within the Reformation. He worked hard and in 1535 he completed his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. In its preface dedicated to the king, Francis 1, Calvin explained that it was intended as an apology for the Reformed faith in France and as a tool of instruction in the essentials of true piety.

In July 1535 Calvin returned to France (under an edict allowing exiles to return under certain conditions) for a short while to manage family affairs. This was to become his last visit home. On his journey back to Basle, he had to divert via Geneva because the usual route through Strasbourg was blocked. At an overnight stay at Lake Lemman, Calvin was tracked down by Guillaume Farel and was persuaded to go to Geneva, on a threat of eternal damnation if Calvin refused. Farel was an incendiary, prophetic and highly divisive figure who had led the Reformation in the French-speaking lands of the Swiss Confederation and carried the movement to Geneva. Calvin perceived in Farel the hand of God. He felt the hand of providence; God

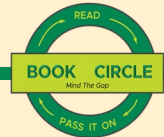
BOOK REVIEW FROM BOOK CIRCLE



wanted him to remain in Geneva. But he was there as a teacher, not a preacher. He worked as a lecturer on the scriptures. Little did Calvin anticipate the troubles he was to get into. The fabric of Geneva was then being torn apart by factionalism. In 1537, controversy dogged Calvin and Farel. They were accused of holding unorthodox views. In the subsequent events, Calvin wrote fierce letters to older Reformist mentors including Martin Bucer (a key German Reformer); Calvin showed arrogance and made misjudgement arising from impatience. The reply to Calvin from the Church Elder and Reformer was harsh and Calvin was bruised by humiliation. More trouble followed. In 1538, Calvin and Farel appeared before the Council of Geneva (newly elected) and demanded among other issues the right to refuse communion to those whom they regarded as upsetting the unity of the Church. They were summarily dismissed. More disagreement followed. Eventually, Berne, which had control over Geneva in governance, ruled that Calvin was the chief troublemaker. Calvin and Farel were deprived of their privileges and ordered to leave Geneva within three days. They left for Zurich but broke the journey at Berne. In both places, they got a frosty reception. In May 1538 they went to Basle in a worn-out state.

Calvin's confidence in his calling was seriously shaken. He spent three years in Strasbourg in exile. By then he became a well-known writer and a leader, though an expelled person. The pure scholar had given way to the bruising world of church life. Calvin was bowed but not beaten. In Strasbourg, Calvin spent time meditating on the nature of the Christian calling, and he was learning to be a pastor under the tutelage of Martin Bucer. He started to preach to a congregation. He was able to test and put in place some of his ideas in church worship including the singing of the psalms. He also gained experience and insights into the delicate balances to be maintained in dealing with civil authorities. In Strasbourg, Bucer was Calvin's tutor, teacher and benefactor. Their relationship has its share of conflicts and tension. But Bucer's cumulative influence on Calvin during these years was significant. The Strasbourg years witnessed a discernible broadening and deepening of Calvin's theology and for this, he owed much to Martin Bucer. In Strasbourg, Calvin began to revise his Institutes. Also, Calvin remained in close contact with Geneva although he had been expelled. He wrote letters to Geneva that sounded like Paul in the New Testament. He believed that resolving the chaos in the Geneva church required the restoration of the Christian ministry. In Part 2 we will talk about Calvin's return to Geneva and his legacy thereafter.

BOOK REVIEW FROM BOOK CIRCLE



In this short review, we focus on Calvin as a man of humanity. He had his travails. His brilliant mind was not created from emptiness. His life was a physical, intellectual, and spiritual journey. He had to travel widely for his studies. He had to flee persecution even as he struggled for church unity. His relentless studies were utterly devoted to books and intellectual exchange for the service of the church. He revised the *Institute of the Christian Church* extensively to take into account of his scriptural work and his reading of the theological tradition and contemporary debates.

This book by Bruce Gordon is intended for readers with an interest in John Calvin as a person whose personal growth was a visible demonstration of God's moulding, testing via trials and tribulation, strengthening by God's heating, and tempering, and guiding at every stage; even as Calvin himself felt so, as revealed in his personal letters. This review has quoted and paraphrased extensively from his book. Do read his original. Above all, God guides but leaves Calvin freedom of action and the full play of his personality traits: he was kind and compassionate, yet also arrogant, impatient, even stubborn and argumentative, capable of scolding friends and enemies and being polemical, i.e. he was a human with complexity just like us. But he was obedient to God's calling all his life. You will find examples as you read the biography. We will highlight his legacy in Part 2 of this review.

Drop by the Book Circle, a 24/7 "*Word Ministry*", situated in the Fellowship Hall to *browse, pick up a book, read, and pass it on.*

Should you be interested in a book or an author or a topic that you want to know more about; do let us know so that we can check on your behalf the book's availability in the library. As this is a pilot initiative, we seek the patience and understanding of the requesters should the response be delayed, or the book is not available.

You can contact Bee Hong (HP 91711009) or Pek Hong (HP 98188220) to see if the book is available in the library.

"Nurturing in each gardener a heart with a thirst to seek after Him"