



2024

# EVERY GARDENER A MISSIONARY

## 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 Lim Siah Chuan	Dns April Wu
Yap Foon Lyn	Hazel Chiang
Selene Wee	Eld Lin Hongsui
Ng Wen Hooi	Dness Clarissa Leong
Yap Foon Lyn	Ng Jianzhi
Arnci Amor	Chia Hua Song
Lau Wen Min	Ng Wai Yoong
Kimberly Goh	Xavier Arokiam
Eld Reuben Ang	
Merissa Ng	
Ng Jianmin	
McPaul Wee	
Sheri Goh	
Ng Jian Hao	
Crystal Lim	

## NEXT WEEK

**Mission Accomplished – Not Yet**  
Acts 28:11-32  
Ps Lawrence Ong

## Lead Ps Wendell Chua

9027 7465

## Ps Lawrence Ong

9146 8277

## Asst Ps Joseph Tee

9088 0077

## Ps Yap Kim Sin (Advisory)

9862 4390

**Read** (pg 10-15)

**Book Circle Review: Keeping in Step with the Holy Spirit**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Theme *God's Miraculous Works*

### Prepare for Worship

Prelude

### Exalt His Name

Call to Worship  
Invocation  
Doxology  
Opening Hymn  
Responsive Scripture Reading

Mark 12:13-17

Worship in Song

**Listen to His Word**  
**God and government**  
Romans 13:1-7

Ps Yap Kim Sin

Response Song

### Give to His Work

Offering  
Offertory Response

### Pray to Him

Corporate Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn  
Benediction  
Announcements  
Postlude



# SERMON NOTES

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## God and government Romans 13:1-7



**1. Human government is ordained by God (vv 1-2)**

**2. The reasons for government (vv 3-4)**

- a. To restrain and punish evil (vv 3-4)
- b. To do and reward good (v 4a)

**3. Our responsibilities to the government (vv 5-7)**

- a. Pay our taxes (v 6- 7a)
- b. Give honour to whom it is due (v 7b)

### Conclusion

- 1. Pray for our leaders
- 2. Remember your heavenly citizenship

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Reflections...

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

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## Prayer for the World: Protests in Bangladesh

- » Please pray for justice and peace for those affected by the unrest in Bangladesh.
- » Though we do not know exactly how the situation will unfold, we keep trusting and praying for the people of Bangladesh.
- » In the midst of this situation, let us continue to pray for spiritual breakthrough among the unreached Bengali people.

## Praying for Our Nation (Singapore's National Day - 9 Aug)

- » We thank God that Singaporeans can stand together as God's people in this land He has appointed called Singapore.
- » Ask humbly for our forgiveness as we repent of any lukewarmness, knowing that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people". (Proverbs 14:34).
- » As the LORD have urged us in Scripture, we pray too, especially, for our elected leaders and all those in authority to steer the country wisely in the way that pleases and honours Him, so that we may lead "peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

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## **SAF Outing (6 Aug 2024) - Outing to Victoria Wholesale Centre, Kiseki Japanese, Buffet Restaurant & Singapore Garden Festival**

- » Pray for Pastor Lawrence as he prepares to deliver the message during our gathering. May God grant him wisdom, clarity, and inspiration as he shares God's word with us.
- » Pray for the safety of the 80 seniors who will be attending the outing. May God provide traveling mercies and protect each senior throughout the day.
- » Pray for a time of good fellowship and bonding among all seniors. May this outing be filled with joy and opportunities to grow closer to one another and to God.

# CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

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## Tavistock Ready Project Renovation Update: Washroom Usage

We thank God for the good progress we have made with the TSR Project thus far. The following disruptions will take effect from **19 July (Friday)**.

- » Washrooms on **ALL Levels** will be closed for renovation until further notice. Please kindly use the *temporary portable toilets* located at the Open-air carpark on Level 1.
- » **The Handicap Toilet on Level 1 and the Guest Suite Toilet on Level 2** will only be available for Seniors and PWDs.

Please bear with us as we adjust to a new normal and continue to pray for all involved in the coordination of the renovation, to be able to manage the project well and to be a good testimony to our contractors as well.

Should you have any questions, or concerns, or require more information regarding this renovation, you are encouraged to reach out to the **Church Office @ 8463 2186**. Please note that our land line (6284 1987) will be *unavailable* until further notice.

# CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## Bible Reading Plan 2024

### Aug Week 1 Schedule

- 5 Aug: [Jeremiah 34](#)
- 6 Aug: [Psalms 7-8](#)
- 7 Aug: [Jer. 36; Jer. 45](#)
- 8 Aug: [Jeremiah 37](#)
- 9 Aug: [Jeremiah 38](#)
- 10 Aug: [Psalms 13-14](#)
- 11 Aug: [Jeremiah 40](#)

## Prayer Fellowship

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

7, 14, 21, 28 August  
Wednesday @ 8.00pm

Join in prayer together for our church:

<http://tiny.cc/zionPF2024>

Meeting ID: **881 8621 6365**

Passcode: **017821**

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



International Fellowship Ministry  
**National Day Celebration** Dinner, Sharing & Fellowship!  
**17 AUG 5.30PM**  
CHAPEL 1, L3

For queries & RSVP:  
Elder Chua 9010 2893  
Pinky Guite 8015 9481

ALL FOREIGN FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

The banner features a group photo of people at a celebration, with the text 'National Day Celebration' in large white letters on a red background. Below the title, it says '17 AUG 5.30PM CHAPEL 1, L3'. To the right, there is a smaller photo of a group of people. At the bottom, contact information for Elder Chua and Pinky Guite is provided, along with the text 'ALL FOREIGN FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!'.

## IF National Day Celebration

17 Aug (Sat), 5.30pm  
@ Chapel 1

Come celebrate National day  
with international friends!

For RSVP & queries, please  
contact **Pinky (8015 9481)** or  
**Eld Hung Choo (9010 2893)**



THE DAY OF  
**PRAYER**

INTERGEN PRAYER & PRAISE  
17 AUGUST 2024, 4PM @ SANC 2

CONTACT ASST PS JOSEPH TEE (405 9888 8077) & SONJA CHUA (9227 4533) FOR MORE DETAILS

The banner has a dark background with a person's hands clasped in prayer. The text 'THE DAY OF PRAYER' is prominently displayed in orange and white. Below it, the event details 'INTERGEN PRAYER & PRAISE 17 AUGUST 2024, 4PM @ SANC 2' are written in white. At the bottom, there is a small line of text providing contact information for Asst Ps Joseph Tee and Sonja Chua.

## INTERGEN PRAYER & PRAISE: THE DAY OF PRAYER

17 Aug (Sat), 4pm @ Sanc 2

Let us unite in prayer!

For queries: **Asst Ps Joseph Tee (90880077) & Sonja Chua (92274533)**

# CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

SAF X Family Ministry presents

*Where are we now in our marriage?*



Marriage Talk for the young & old  
**31st August 2024 (Sat)**  
4pm, Sanctuary 2 (Level 3)

Register with Asst Ps Joseph Tee 8088 0077,  
Roland 9338 8054, Joanne 9780 8641.

Speaker: **Mr. Joseph John**  
Adjunct lecturer at Singapore Bible  
College (School of Counseling)

## Family Ministry & Senior Adult Fellowship Marriage Talk (Open to all!)

31 Aug (Sat), 4pm @ Sanc 2


How do we still live out our marriage vows to “have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part”?

This marriage talk aims to address some of the day to day realities for couples young & old and encourage couples to continue to grow strong together in the Lord.

Speaker: **Mr. Joseph John**  
(Singapore Bible College)

For queries, please contact:  
**Asst Ps Joseph Tee (9088 0077) , Roland 9338 8054) or Joanne (9780 8641)**

# YF CAMP 2024



DATE: 16-21 DECEMBER  
LOCATION: ZION SERANGOON AND SHALOM B-P CHURCH  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT ARTR AMOR (91243539) OR LARANE LIM (96448983)  
CAMP ILLUMINATE

## SAVE THE DATE!

### YF CAMP 2024: CAMP ILLUMINATE

16-21 December 2024  
Zion Serangoon (16-19 Dec) &  
Shalom B-P Church (19-21 Dec)

Calling ALL YOUTHS to join us for our Youth Fellowship Camp! More details to come!

For queries, please contact:  
**Artri Amor(91243539) or Laraine Lim (96448983)**



Congrats to **Joseph & Melissa Lee** on the birth of their daughter, **Hannah Lee Jia En**, on 1 Aug 2024.

**Asst Ps Joseph Tee** will be on leave from 3 - 9 August 2024.

# CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

RETHINKING REFORMATION

# CONFERENCE

24 - 26 OCTOBER

ZION SERANGOON B-P CHURCH  
3 & 5 TAVISTOCK AVE S555108

Register now at <https://r2conf.peatix.com>



Keynote  
Speakers



Dr. David  
Chapman



Dr. Tasha  
Chapman

Topics  
Covered



Impact of  
the Word



Archaeology  
& the Word



Burnout in  
Ministry

Full Conference: \$30

Night Sessions  
24 & 25 Oct (\$10/Session)  
6.30pm-9.30pm

Day Session  
26 Oct (\$20/Session)  
1.30pm - 9.30pm

Contact us @ 8463 2186

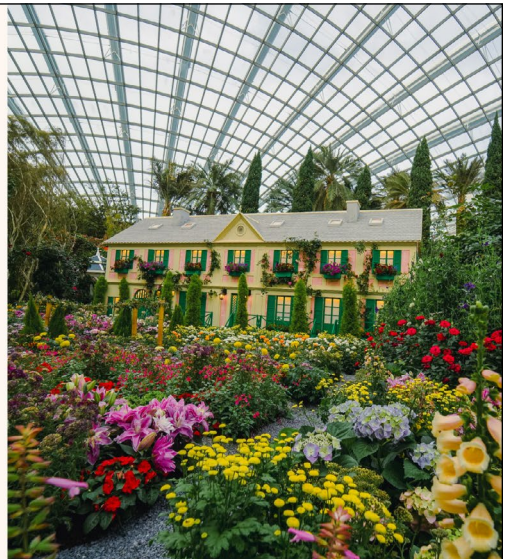
[reformationsg.org](https://reformationsg.org) [f](https://www.facebook.com/zionserangoon) [i](https://www.instagram.com/zionserangoon) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@zionserangoon)

# Calling for Befrienders

Blk 123 Flower Dome Outing  
(Gardens By The Bay)

17 August 2024 (Sat)  
8.30am-1.00pm

Meet at Blk 123 Ang Mo Kio Ave 6 Void Deck  
Contact Dns April to volunteer/ for more info





# ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Services	Worshippers & Volunteers
ZMS	218
2MS	132
ZES	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>
Sunday School	-

# WEEKLY OFFERING

## General and Missions Fund

(Received 22 July - 28 July)

**\$29,069.03**

Weekly offering to meet budget for 2024 (including A&A): **\$79,450**



### PayNow

UEN: S86SS0063K555

### Bank Transfer

DBS Bank Ltd  
003-938549-8

### MINISTRY STAFF CONTACT

**Dns April Ding** (Church coordinator, HOME, DGs, HR)  
9694 3276

**Nicolette Yu** (Accounts, Finance, Building)  
8786 2418

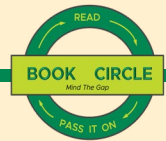
**Ng Jianmin** (Youth Ministry Head, Sports & Music)  
9168 3971

**Ng Peiyi** (Music, Worship & AV)  
8598 5967

**Paul Low** (Building Maintenance)  
9876 9154

**Pinky Guite** (Missions Coordinator)  
8015 9481

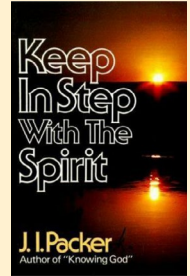
**Rachel Cham** (Communications & Engagement)  
9787 8932



## KEEP IN STEP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT by J.I. PACKER (1984)

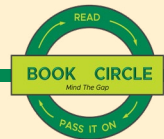
by Peggy Teo

This book is about keeping God in focus with the help of the Holy Spirit. Oftentimes, we acknowledge God, but He can remain a fuzzy concept relegated to the back of our lives especially in busy times. To sharpen our focus, we need to think about God's character, His sovereignty, His love, His Son and His Spirit. We are reminded in Luke 24:49 "*And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you...stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high*". Similarly, Acts 1:8 "*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*". Indeed, the emphasis is on the Holy Spirit's help for us to make more acute our understanding of who God is and how we relate to Him. Packer suggests four ways we can approach the work of the Holy Spirit:



**Power:** Luke says plainly that from the first, the gospel was spread by the Holy Spirit's power. Paul also says in Romans 15:13 "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope*" and that "*your faith might ...rest... in the power of God*" (1 Cor 2:4-5). The akin verse is "*I can do all things through Him who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). Empowering is the work of the Holy Spirit. Notwithstanding, Packer maintains that we get waylaid by our concentration on the felt ups and downs of the soul as it seeks power over this and that of our everyday lives. As such, the mind likens the spirit's work to be man-centred, made available to us to switch on and use and regulate according to the degree of our faith at any time. This is a shortcoming we must overcome.

**Performance:** In meritocratic Singapore, good performance is credit, even in church life. Take for example our gifts. As both leaders and laypeople, we realise our gifts by serving our congregation and our community. Whether in preaching/teaching, singing, counselling/healing, etc we strive to do our best. By many measures, this cannot be held against us, but it also creates a roadblock. We begin to see the spirit's empowerment in terms of performance. We measure the Holy Spirit's works by the number of activities we invest ourselves in and the skill and success with which we carry them out. Packer asserts that deciphering these gifts and "doing" them is more important to us than the fruits of these gifts from the Holy

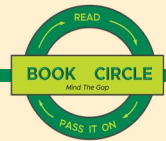


Spirit-and that is to become more Christ-like. The Spirit's work is not framed on acts of honouring or serving God. What is at the heart and truth of the Holy Spirit is that we are ensconced into God's purity.

**Purity:** Packer affirms that the Holy Spirit centres us on purifying and purification. God cleanses us from sin and enables us to resist temptation. As the Holy Spirit progressively sanctifies us, we put to death sin (Romans 8:14), changing us from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor 3:18). Packer warns us though, that in our struggles, we should not make this into a doctrine insofar as the moral struggles we face begin to become legalistic. If rules and rigid and restrictive behaviour are believed to be the bulwark against worldliness, we end up like the Pharisees.

**Presentation:** J.V.Taylor (1979) in the "Go-between God" describes the Holy Spirit as *rauch* (Hebrew) which means "wind blowing". This divine "current of communication" produces awareness of oneself, of others, of things and most of all, of God as significant realities requiring us to make choices that may involve self-sacrifice. It is by this awareness-choice-sacrifice pattern that the influence of the Holy Spirit operates as a "life-giving Go Between" entity. Packer opines that although Taylor's work shows "genuine excellences", he says too little about the Word that the Spirit presents. The conflation by Taylor of the Word (Jesus) and words misses the mark. Words that witness to the Word are distinctly different from that Word. The awareness-choice-sacrifice pattern can only come about when the Spirit authenticates the revealed words of God, in His teaching and messages to the prophets and apostles and what is written in Scripture. The Holy Spirit interprets for us and brings us to the place where we can grasp what God is saying to us. Jesus' constant intercession for us, the reality of His love for us, the sure hope of His return – these are the anchors of awareness of Christ in the Holy Spirit's ministry. Choice and sacrifice are meaningful only within acknowledgement of God's sovereignty and grace.

In short, the four approaches to the work of the Holy Spirit are: **power for living** viz I am empowered by God in all things I do; **performance in service** viz by doing, we become more Christ like; **purity of motive and action** viz the spirit's lead is to make us put away sin and become more like Him; and **presentation for decision** viz the Holy Spirit helps us grasp what God is saying to us so that it transforms our lives.

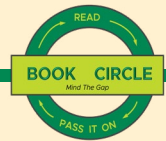


In viewing the Holy Spirit, we may think of the Spirit as a consciousness heightener that communicates now-do-this urges. No doubt this may happen as it changes perceptions and changes one's personal identity. But, as Packer asks, is this the essential ministry of the Spirit? No. **Central to the Spirit's ministry since Christ came is the furthering of your fellowship with Him.**

Another question asked in the book is "What is the Holy Spirit in the bible? In the Old Testament, the Spirit is God active as the creator, the controller, the revealer, the quickener, and the enabler. In these ways, God presented Himself to man. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is the "Paraclete" (John 14:16,26; 15:26: 16:7) whose role is comforter, counsellor, helper, advocate, advisor all in one. The distinctive role of the Holy Spirit is to fulfil what Packer calls a floodlight ministry to Jesus. Just as how a floodlight is hidden but does an effective job of showing the beauty of a building/tree/work of art, the Holy Spirit stands behind us, throwing light over our shoulder on Jesus who stands facing us. Look at Him, see His glory, listen to Him, go to Him and taste His gift of love, joy and peace. We often ask ourselves, "Do I know the Holy Spirit?". This is the wrong question. We should be asking "Do I want to know Jesus? Do I want to know Him better?" for that is what the Holy Spirit desires us to ask. By witnessing our adoption through Jesus into God's family, the role of the Holy Spirit is to further our fellowship with Christ and God by glorifying the son as the object of our faith.

Another question often asked is: "Do I have the Holy Spirit?". Romans 8:9 answers this: "*If anyone does not have the spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ*". Acts 2:38 "*for the promise of forgiveness and the Spirit is to everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him*". So, the question is now inverted to "Does the Holy Spirit have you?". This is a challenge Packer puts to us. Packer suggests some ways to map the Spirit's path in our lives. Instead of self-centred godliness with a concern for self fulfilment rather than pleasing our God, we need to remember some basics as we navigate our lives to holiness, guided by the Spirit:

***Transformation through consecration:*** There needs to be an active expression of our knowledge of grace that separates us sinners from God through our saviour who is now transforming us into His image. We can do this because of the justification rendered to us through the death and resurrection of Christ. This also becomes the root of holiness as we

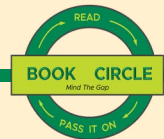


become co-crucified and co-resurrected with Him. The agent that helps us do is the Holy Spirit. Conflict will continue to reside in us, but we just need to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and remember this transformation that has already occurred.

**What about our spiritual gifts?** Packer says that our thinking about gifts is shallow. We say it comes from the Spirit, but we think of them in terms of giftedness (our human abilities to do things skillfully and well) or in terms of the supernatural novelty (such as speaking in tongues, prophecy etc). We have not formed the habit of defining gifts in terms of Christ as the head of the body and His present work in our midst. In 1 Cor 12, Paul's wording makes it clear that spiritual gifts are given in Christ; they are enrichment received from Christ. The use of gifts edifies/builds up (1 Cor 14:2-3; Ephesians 4:12). The blessing of gifts happens inside and outside the church. The ability to lay hands and relieve malfunctions in the body have occurred both inside and outside the church. The ability is not necessarily a spiritual gift. It is only if defined in relation to God and given edification in Christ through its performance. Where this is absent, the supposed gift can be carnal rather than a spiritual manifestation.

I lost Packer in Chapter 4 when he went into what he calls "versions of holiness". The chapter outlines main evangelical views about the Spirit's gifts of holiness as theorized as Augustinian Holiness, Wesleyan Perfectionism and Keswick Higher Life through Repentance followed by Victorious Life through the Spirit. This chapter is a difficult read. The takeaway for me from these treatises on navigational tools is that Christians long for a fuller deliverance from sin and closer fellowship with Christ and when Christians ask this of the Holy Spirit, he will do it even with the shortcomings in our theology because He is most gracious and generous God. As such, the guiding principle is to *make Christ centredness as a way of life*, "always carrying in [our bodies]..the death of Jesus, *so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies*" (2 Cor 4:10). As Packer argues, the holiest Christians are those whose minds, hearts, goals and love and hope are fully focused on Jesus Christ. *When we are focused on Him, our love of God finds expression in the keeping of His commands and the Holy Spirit's work is to lead Christians to explore more diligently*. When we get baptized, the rite signifies death to sin and resurrection in Christ. This is a physical act with spiritual connotations. It is not a once-for-all event of becoming a Christian but the continuing experience that the Holy Spirit

## BOOK CIRCLE REVIEW



helps us with as we enter into a thousand little deaths everyday and into the constantly recurring experience of risen life with Christ.

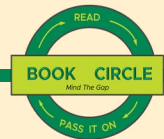
Besides these navigational tools, Packer immerses us into an oft asked question about the place of charismatic movement. I gather that Packer is tolerant and stands non-judgmental. Whether charismatic or not, it boils down to differences in “vocabulary, self-image, group {we associate} with, and books and journals read, than in the actual ingredients of their communion with the Father and the Son through the Spirit (p199). The commonality of non-charismatics with charismatics are-faith in a living God; learning through Scripture; openness to the indwelling Spirit; close fellowship in prayer and praise, discernment and service, expectation that God will answer and is in control--these are all for spiritual renewal regardless of the label we carry. As D.L. Moody’s response to a critique of his evangelistic methods: *“Frankly, sir, I prefer the way I do it to the way you don’t do it”*. So, the charismatic movement with its concentrated quest for intense experiences, emotional highs, supernatural communication (basically physical and mental euphoria) is propositioned by Packer as a gadfly/irritant/prod to the church to understand better the moral realities of redemption and how this affects our discipleship.

In the final chapter, in a call “Come Spirit, Come” Packer maintains the need for us to bare ourselves to face unpalatable truths in order to make necessary changes. Spirit quenching can manifest in complacency in our attitude to God, what He says to us in Scripture and how we can become more Holy like Him. So long as we stifle conviction of sin, we are similar to the Church of Laodicea in Revelation 3. They are lukewarm and spiritually stagnant but continue to fancy that they were doing well. There is a need to welcome and make real the psalmist’s (139:23-24) words ‘Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way everlasting!’ Only when the Spirit is invoked/prayed earnestly for can we respond to Christ in a manner that will please Him.

***Continued on next page.***

# BOOK CIRCLE REVIEW

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This is a heavy weight book. Nevertheless, Packer brings to light many issues for us to reflect upon and to digest. Take a read and be blessed by it.

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Books from the Book Circle, a 24/7 *“Word Ministry”*, are available at *L1 Glass-Enclosed Lift Lobby*. Drop by 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) or Meng Choo (96156853) to see if the book is available in the library.

*“Nurturing in each gardener a heart with a thirst to seek after Him”*