

From the Pastors Desk:

Lenten Roulette

In my home country, Easter is associated with spring time. In Washington, DC we used to get excited about Easter Lilies. We'd fill the church with them. And it was easy to go for an Easter sermon that made the connection between the new life of the season and the new life in Christ.

Here in Bangkok, it doesn't work so well. Easter often falls on one of the hottest days of the eternal summer. Living in a city where the temperature rarely drops below 30 degrees (even at night in the shade) has its advantages. But forgive me if I miss a Washington, DC style spring a little.

But then I'm reminded of the kind of winter many parts of the northern hemisphere had this year. Lots of people I've talked to mention the word "record" in the same phrase with "snowfall".

One friend of mine wrote of a winter ritual he has with the guy who delivers his newspaper. He calls it "Park Record Roulette." It's simple and everybody who has a driveway in Park City plays it, he says. The delivery guy throws the newspaper into the driveway at about 4:00 a.m. in the middle of a snowstorm (God bless him) and then it's the gambler's job to find it. Hands work best (a winner!), but sometimes you've got to go with the snow blower (sudden-death loser).

Losing means the snow blower instantly grinding to a halt while a confetti of bad news and supermarket flyers comes spewing out of the chute. Surprise!

The key to winning this game is to approach the driveway like a grid, walking around in concentric rectangles kicking at the snow until the orange newspaper baggie appears. A little systematic preparation saves at least an hour of banging tools, frozen fingers and non-Christian language.

After hearing my friend complain, I got to thinking, this is really what Lent is all about. This is the time of year when we take intentional time to redefine our boundaries. We kick around our lives trying to root out some of the bad habits and persistent sins that are waiting to jam us up.

If we do Lent right, we do it systematically. We focus on prayer, fasting and study. These things are designed by God to help us identify where we need to grow and what we need to avoid.

As you move through Lent this year, I hope you'll pray. I hope you'll fast. I hope you'll dedicate yourself to study.

God bless,



Stewart

ICB now has **two Worship Services** every
Sunday at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm.
Something for everyone!



Sermon Schedule

01 March	Guest Preacher, Dwight Davidson
08 March	How to stay focused spiritually Mark 8:31-38
15 March	Recognizing God's love in life Exodus 20:1-17
22 March	Finding purpose Ephesians 2:1-10
29 March	Getting your heart right Psalm 51:1-19
05 April	How much are you worth to God? Mark 11:1-10
12 April	EASTER SUNDAY

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

Outreach Partner Visit

Join us on **Sunday 8 March** when representatives from BIT will share their ministry with the congregation. Come at 9:00 am for an informal discussion time and the 10:00 worship services.

Sunday School Teachers Meeting

Sunday School teachers will meet after the worship service on **Sunday 8 March**. If you are interested in teaching or helping with the children in a class, please contact Caryn Macky at < magicrat@loxinfo.co.th >.

Had Yai Trip, 13-16 March 2009

A small group of people are traveling to Had Yai to visit the Cornerstone Church, our November Outreach Partner. Please keep this group in prayer during these days.

Movie Night ~ Slumdog Millionaire

Come and join the group on **Saturday, 28 March** to watch this powerful movie set in the slums of India. Watch the Messenger for more details.

Palm Sunday is **5 April**

•**Rohingya People** fleeing Burma

•**Nam McDonald** who continues to suffer from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Please pray that she gain strength day by day. Pray also for David who is taking care of his wife.

•**Pray for peace** in Thailand.

•**Those in our membership** who are experiencing financial hardship due to the world economic crisis.

•**Those of our members** who are refugees from countries experiencing political violence.

•**Pray for friends, family and neighbors** who are far from God.

If you would like a prayer concern to be included in this list please email to <pastor@icbangkok.org>.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

Prayer Focus of the Month ~

Let's focus our prayers this month from Ephesians 3:16-19. Pray that our congregation would remain rooted and grounded in the love of Christ.

ICB Council Update

The first meeting of the 2009 Council members was held on 15 Feb. Among some of the topics of discussion was whether or not changing our morning worship time would be beneficial to the congregation. The ICB Church Council decided not to change the worship time in the immediate future. We will continue to begin worship at 10:00 am. The Council did decide to experiment with the pre-service atmosphere for the morning service in order to create a more meaningful worship.

The most important decision the Council made was to focus this year on trying to improve fellowship and community within the church. How do people who are new get involved, make friends and find a place to serve and be served? These types of questions will be on the top of the agenda during 2009.

Please continue to keep the council members in prayer as they carry out their duties and service to the church and our members.



March Outreach Partner Bangkok Institute of Theology



For over 65 years Bangkok Institute of Theology dedicates itself to carrying the good news of God's word, witness and Christian service to more than 70 million people of this largely Buddhist nation of

Thailand.

From modest beginnings, diligent planning, prayerful commitment of hard-earned resources and generations of steady labor, a small group of Christian men and women began a work which has grown far beyond its initial vision to one which serves not only the needs of a small portion of Thailand's society but also the whole community.

Founded with a clear goal and plan to train clergy for a small but growing group of churches serving Thailand's Chinese community, the Bangkok Institute of Theology today finds itself serving the whole church in Thailand.

At the threshold of the new millennium, Bangkok Institute of Theology is a treasured resource of it's parent church, the Church of Christ in Thailand. Today the seminary finds its graduates, faculty and physical resources being called to wider service.

BIT is a multi-cultural institution with a mission focus which started in the historic churches of the CCT and reached out to Bangkok's slums and suburbs alike, and then further to ethnic hill trip communities on Thailand's borders.

BIT is planting churches and ministries throughout Thailand. From simple beginnings, today's BIT reflects vitality. Since the beginning, BIT has reached out joyfully in Christian recognition to Thais and Chinese as one Church, members of the body of Christ, to bring redemption to those yet in darkness.



BIT graduates throughout Thailand pastor churches and missions from Muslim south, to Bangkok, to farming communities and Karen, Hmong, Khmer, Lahu. Lisu and other ethnic groups. In addition, immigrants and refugees from China, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar challenge BIT to prepare men and women from minority ethnic groups as well as for complex urban problems and ministry.

BIT began its life as a facet of then missionary dependent Church of Christ in Thailand. Today the church in Thailand has been transformed, through the efforts of Thai, Chinese and indigenous ethnic Christians. BIT and the CCT welcome teaching and other assistance from the churches internationally, even as they faithfully mirror the integrity, authenticity and capacity of the church in Thailand.

(Information and pictures taken from <http://www.theology.ac.th>)



Join representatives from BIT on Sunday 8 March at 9:00 am for an informal discussion and during the 10:00 am Worship Service.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Primita Dwiana
- 08 Bashala Kasendo
- 10 Saskia Gale
- 12 Prinya Wanchupela
- 12 Mark Hensman
- 14 Watson Anthali
- 20 Gerd Walter-Echols



Small Group Studies



Bible Study

Siam Area Small Group — There are a few people interested in getting a weeknight evening small group started. If you would be interested, please talk to Pastor Stewart. Night and time is not yet determined.

Chatujak Book Group — meets alternating Thursdays at the home of Dan Lewis. Call Betsy Walter-Echols, 081-919-7627 or Dan Lewis, 081-804-1957 for details and directions.

Sala Daeng Bible Study — The group meets on Wednesdays at the Bangkok Christian Guest House at 7:00 pm. They are studying Ephesians. If you'd like more information contact Pastor Stewart.

Nichada Group — Women's fellowship and bible study meets Tuesday evenings at the home of Salli Baker. Family fellowship dinners on occasions. Contact Caryn Macky for details at magicrat@loxinfo.co.th.

Ramkamhaeng, Bangna, Srinakarin Area Group — This group meets in Ramkhamhaeng near Assumption University on alternating Sundays. Please call Francis Carredo, 085-145-2845 for details.

Indonesian Women's Study — a group of women from Indonesia meet for bible study once a month. If interested talk to Ansyie Rungkat (087-081-5440). This group uses the Indonesian language.

Thong Lor Area Group — If Interested, contact Pastor Stewart for more information.

It only takes three people to start a group. The church can provide materials and training as needed.

Church and Congregation

Connect With Fellow Members

Go to the Facebook Group – International Church of Bangkok. Join a small group. Invite someone you are chatting with after worship to join you for lunch.

Indonesian Monthly Worship

For more information about this group, contact Stansye Rungkat at 081-554-9039.

Help Wanted

The Sunday School team is looking for volunteers to help with the childrens classes. We work on a rotation schedule so no one person is away from the worship service for very long. If interested or for more information, please contact Caryn Macky or Pastor Stewart.

Toys Wanted

Do you have toddler toys that your child has outgrown or doesn't play with anymore? The nursery is looking for some **clean, safe**, used toys that are in **good condition** for the nursery. Toys can be brought on any Sunday or for more information contact Frances Carredo or Caryn Macky.



Outreach Opportunities

Rahab Ministries

Rahab Ministries has many volunteer opportunities, including a 1.5 hr / week commitment teaching English. Contact pastor Stewart if interested.

Pakkred Babies Group

Volunteers help feed and play with children (ages 4-10) who have physical and intellectual disabilities every Tuesday. A bus departs from Christ Church at 9:15 am and returns around 1 pm. Contact Mio Foster (06-044-3808).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

If you have any items - stories, comments, news about members, ideas, pictures - to include in the April issue, please send them to <newsletter@ic-bangkok.org> by MONDAY, 23 MARCH.



New Members



New members were welcomed into the ICB family in February.

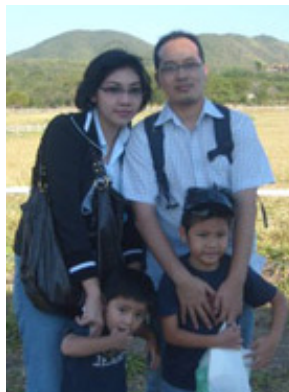
Yanti, Mark, Ryan & Scott Bevan are from Australia and Indonesia. Scott works with IMAX theaters.



Aiko Akiyama is from Japan. She sings with the worship team on Sunday evenings. And she works with the UN in the area of encouraging nations to protect the rights of those who are disabled.



Esra Simanjuntak is from Indonesia and works with Thai Nippon Steal.

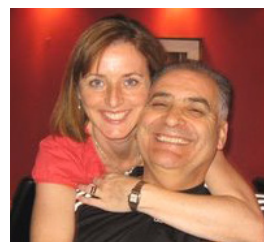


Morgan Parlindungan, Vanie Agustina, Hasian and Willie come from Indonesia. Morgan works for Toyota.

Steve Najosan is from Indonesia. He works for the shipping department of Nestle Business Services. We've wondered at the possibility of a container of chocolates being diverted for coffee hour.



Paeng Homsombat is Thai. She says her spoken English has really improved since coming to ICB. She's pursuing a master's degree at the moment.



John Smith, Heather & Laura Chase. John is originally from the UK and works in Sales. Heather & Laura (not pictured) are from Canada. Heather has a food blog www.culinarychase.blogspot.com. Laura is in High School.

John Smith, Heather & Laura Chase. John is originally from the UK and works in Sales. Heather & Laura (not pictured) are from Canada. Heather has a food

Billy Lampono is from Indonesia. He works for Siemens in IT. In his spare time he likes to cycle.



Look for more pictures and short bios on the other new members, the Kasendo family, Laura Kingdom, Becky Weaver, Laura Chase and Malcolm McKinley, in next months newsletter.



New Banners Introduced for Lent

By Avery Udagawa, Worship Committee

A pair of new banners is being introduced to ICB's worship space during Lent (March 1–April 5, 2008). The banners frame the altar table and screen during worship.*

Like ICB's altar and pulpit cloths, the new banners were designed by ICB member Tom Larsen and crafted from Thai silk by U-Thong Quilts, producers associated with ThaiCraft, an independent fair trade organization with historic ties to ICB.

Like the altar and pulpit cloths used during Lent, the banners are purple. One banner features the word hosanna, which is commonly associated with praise and Palm Sunday, but in Hebrew means "save now" or "save us now," reflecting the need for salvation felt throughout Lent. It also features a vessel of water, a symbol of cleansing prior to the resurrection and forgiveness of sins.

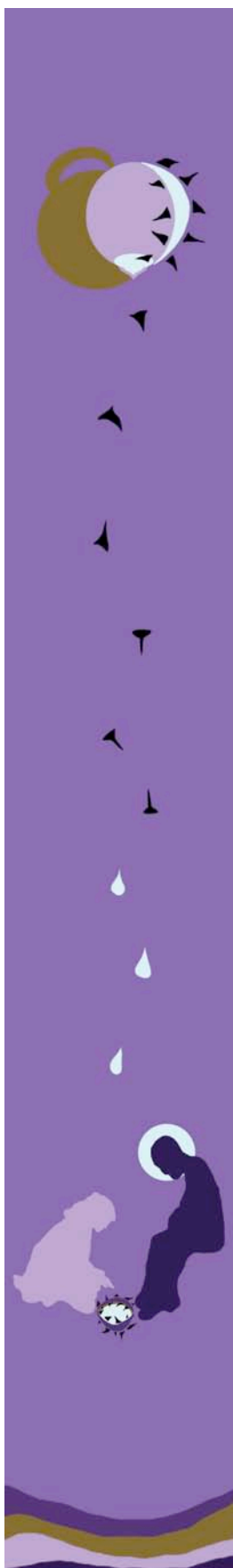
*The other banner features a moon that forms part of a pitcher, from which spill three thorns, three nails, and three drops of water (or tears), all symbols associated with Lent. The lower portion of the banner features a woman washing the feet of Christ, an image associated with Holy Week**.*

The vessel of water on one banner and moon on the other are formed using the three segments of the crown of thorns found on ICB's altar and lectern cloths, and the text and symbols on the banners complement the depiction of Christ in the wilderness on the altar cloth.

New vertical banners were also introduced at ICB during Advent 2008. More new banners—for Easter, communion, and Pentecost—will be introduced in coming months.

**Lent* is the forty-day-long season of fasting and prayer before Easter. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert in preparation for his ministry. (Matthew 4, Mark 1; Luke 4) The purpose of Lent is to prepare for Easter—by paying special attention to our life with God.

***Holy Week* is the last week of Lent and the week before Easter. It includes Biblical events like Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem riding on a donkey, the last supper with his disciples, his betrayal, trial and conviction and his death on the cross up until Easter morning when he was resurrected.





Sunday School News



Virtue of the Month: Hope ~ believing that something good can come out of something bad.

Memory Verse for the Month: We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. Romans 8:28a

3 - 5 Year Old Teachers



Valerie Bobe



Joy Rendaje

Week 1: Bible Story: Shipwrecked! (Paul sails for Rome) • Acts 27:1-44; 28:1-11

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God has a plan.

Week 2: Bible Story: Raising Lazarus (Lazarus is raised from the dead) • John 11:1-45

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

Week 3: Bible Story: The Last Supper (Jesus' last supper with the disciples) • Luke 22:7-23; John 13:33-38

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember what Jesus did for you.

Week 4: Bible Story: My Father's House (Jesus promises heaven) • John 14:1-11a

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.

6 - 8 Year Old Teachers



Caryn Macky



Charm Carredo

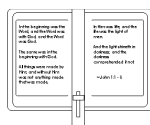
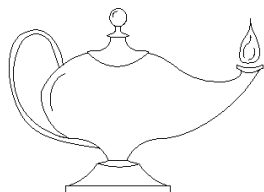


Frances Carredo

9 - 12 Year Old Teachers



Rachel Cruz



Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

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Website: www.icbangkok.org

ICB'S SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:45 am *Choir Practice*
10:00 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Graded Sunday School (ages 4-12)*
11:00 am *Loaves and Fishes Cafe*
6:30 pm *Contemporary Evening Worship*

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ICB Council Members

Chair:	Thelma Kay
Vice Chair:	Vacant
Secretary:	Darrell Chen
Worship:	Avery Udagawa
Christian Ed:	Caryn Macky
Finance:	Devin Brougham
Prop/Personnel:	Dora True
Membership:	Vacant
Mission/Outreach:	Malinee Leethochawalit
Fellowship:	Nancy Pacag
At Large:	Prenston Gale
At Large:	Margaret McMillion
At Large:	Didid & Primita Dwiana
At Large:	Caryn Macky

International Church of Bangkok
61/2 Soi Saen Sabai 3
Sukhumvit Soi 36
Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Address Correction Requested

In February, ICB raised approximately
75,546 Baht for the Prachakittisuk Church.

THANK YOU!