

SBC BULLETIN

THE APOSTOLIC CREED



Who is Jesus?

WELCOME

EVENTS

BIBLE READING

NOTICE:
Special Members'
Meeting on 16 May

Today is Mother's Day. In some sense it is of course just another commercial contrivance to get money out of our pockets. It is, nevertheless, also an important time for us to stop and show our appreciations for all mothers.

As with so many other things in this world, there is also a dark side. We think of mothers who have lost children, some before birth. We pray for those who have carried the pain of not being able to have children. We sigh with those who mourn their mothers, and feel the pain for those whose mothers failed in their love for them.

This morning we focus on the unique person of Jesus, We confess that he was conceived through the Holy Spirit and was born of Mary, a virgin.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAYS@6 - Join us for dinner tonight and a short service afterwards

Monday morning

Bible Study - 9.30 at the church

Tuesday morning

Craft Group - Meeting from 9.15 - 11.30

Thursday morning Mainly Music

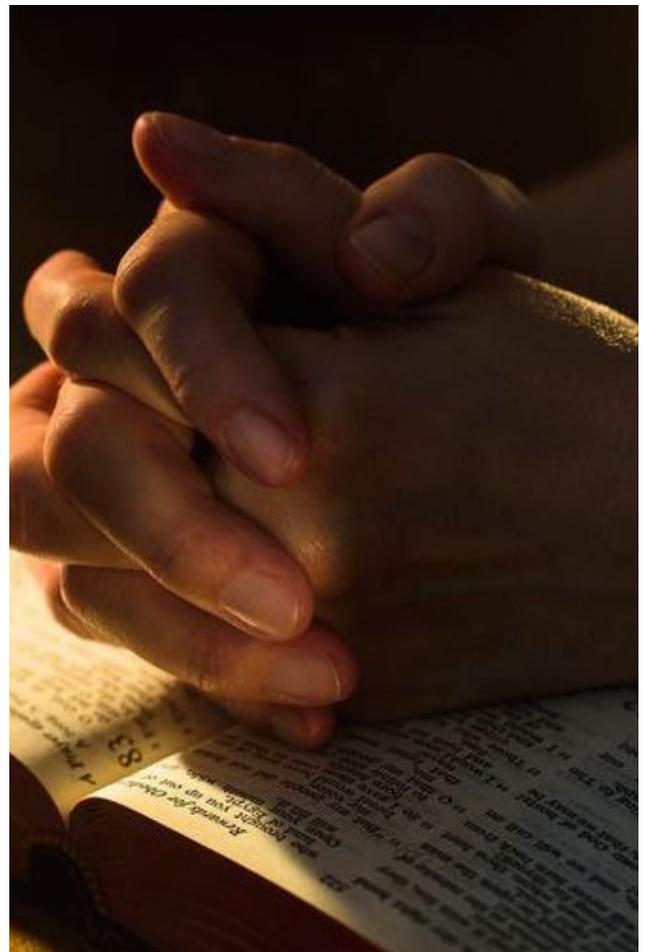
Thursday Bible Study at 6pm - at the church

Thursday Bible Study at 7pm - at the church

Mentor Programme - contact Chad

A Prayer List for you

1. Pray for the situation in India - Baptist World Aid has asked for donations
2. Pray for Deirdre's sister who is still critical.
3. Thank God for people who want to become members of our church.
4. Pray for Iris, Malcolm, Joy, and Krina who is currently in hospital.
5. Thanks for the way his love continues to impact our lives
6. Pray for the camp in August.
7. Pray for the friend Paul & Trish Hitchens, Bram Dickens who has been given a very short life expectancy.
8. Pray for Jeremy Beckett and his family as they get ready to return to Australia after 5 years in Dili.
9. Praise for Carmen's brother, Ian, who is terminally ill and seems to be in remission.



THE MARY WE NEVER KNEW

SCOTT MCKNIGHT - Christianity Today, Nov, 2006

There are two Marys. One wears a Carolina blue robe, exudes piety from a somber face, often holds her baby son in her arms, and barely makes eye contact with us. This is the familiar Blessed Virgin Mary, and she leads us to a Christmas celebration of quiet reflection.

Another Mary—the Blessed Valorous Mary—wears ordinary clothing and exudes hope from a confident face. This Mary utters poetry fit for a political rally, goes toe-to-toe with Herod the Great, musters her motherliness to reprimand her Messiah-son for dallying at the temple, follows her faith to ask him to address a flagging wine supply at a wedding, and then finds the feistiness to take her children to Capernaum to rescue Jesus from death threats. This Mary followed Jesus all the way to the Cross—not just as a mother, but as a disciple, even after his closest followers deserted him. She leads us to a Christmas marked by a yearning for justice and the courage to fight for it. Like other women of her time, she may have worn a robe and a veil, but I suspect her sleeves were rolled up and her veil askew more often than not.

... On the horizon today is nothing less than a Protestant reclamation of Mary, seen most completely in Tim Perry's new book, *Mary for Evangelicals* (InterVarsity, 2006). For the purposes of this article, we first need to ask, "Which Mary?" A good place to begin our search for answers is Mary's Magnificat. There we will discover not so much the Blessed Virgin Mary draped in piety, but the Blessed Valorous Mary dressed for action.

When Mary announced that God "has brought down rulers from their thrones," anyone within earshot knew what that meant for Herod the Great, if not also for Rome. And, in noting that God "sent the rich away empty," she pointed her finger at Herod the Great with his insatiable appetite. God "has lifted up the humble" and "has filled the hungry with good things" meant that Mary and the poor of Israel would experience justice.

Had Mary sung this song—and probably she sang it more than once—in Nazareth among the peasants of Israel, they would have hoisted a toast and shouted, "It's about time! Blessed be the Lord (and Mary)!"

John 1: 14-18

CEV TRANSLATION

The Word became
a human being
and lived here with us.
We saw his true glory,
the glory of the only Son
of the Father.
From him all the kindness
and all the truth of God
have come down to us.



John spoke about him and shouted, "This is the one I told you would come! He is greater than I am, because he was alive before I was born." Because of all that the Son is, we have been given one blessing after another. 17 The Law was given by Moses, but Jesus Christ brought us undeserved kindness and truth. 18 No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is truly God and is closest to the Father, has shown us what God is like.

Mary continued

If you were a poor woman in the first century, if you were hungry, if you had experienced the injustices of Herod, and if you stood up in Jerusalem and announced that God would yank down the proud, the rulers, and the rich from their high places, you likely would be tried for subversion. If you were Herod or one of his ten wives or one of his many sons or daughters with (unexpressed, of course) hopes for the throne, you would conclude that Mary was a rebel, a revolutionary, a social protester. And you would be right: The real Mary was a subversive.

We can quietly repeat the Magnificat during evening prayers, or we can stand with Mary, sing it full throttle, and declare that justice ultimately will be established. The Herods of this world will be dethroned because Mary's son, the newly conceived Son of David, has gained a foothold in our world. Herod dethroned and Jesus enthroned was Mary's rallying cry. You can paint the Blessed Virgin Mary as tender and a splendid example of spirituality, or you can celebrate the Blessed Valorous Mary, who heralded a socio-religious protest against injustice in the person of her own Messiah-son...

**CAMP
AUGUST**

6- 8 AUGUST

Please speak to Lyn if the date does not suite you and you would like your money returned.

**HELP
ERANTHA**

The church has decided to help one of our members in Sri Lanka who is struggling to survive financially due to Covid, The management allocated \$500 and hopes to raise another \$500 through donations