



## DISASTERS IN 2011 SO FAR....

**January 1st**  
earthquake of magnitude of 6.9  
in Argentina  
earthquake of magnitude 5.2 in  
Southern Xinjiang, China,

**January 2nd**  
major earthquake of magnitude  
of 7.1 in Chile

**March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
major earthquake of magnitude  
8.9 caused a tsunami  
devastating Japan

**June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**  
earthquakes of magnitude 6.0,  
5.5, and 4.4 hit Christchurch in  
New Zealand

**Mid-July**  
Floods in Thailand

**August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Hurricane Irene hitting USA

**August 29<sup>th</sup>**  
deadly typhoon hit Taiwan and  
China

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
floods in Pennsylvania

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
fire in Texas destroying 1,554  
homes with 17 people missing

**November 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Africa's most active volcano  
erupts

Economically, both USA and  
Europe had been hit by financial  
woes.

Politically, many countries are  
in turmoil, and in Singapore, we  
experienced two fierce  
elections on May 7<sup>th</sup> and August  
27<sup>th</sup>.

# Give Attendance to Reading

***"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine [teaching]." (1 Timothy 4:13)***

It was Sir Francis Bacon (1561 – 1626), an English author, courtier, and philosopher, who said, "Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man." He stressed the importance of good reading habit, and reading widely to achieve a comprehensive range of knowledge. Indeed, reading allows one to become confident and gain the propensity towards maturity. Bacon emphasised that through reading, one becomes a "full man" or matured person. The Apostle Paul instructed young Pastor Timothy to "give attendance to reading" in 1 Timothy 4:13. As a leader, Timothy was to give attention to both private and public reading of the Scriptures. He needed to be an example to his congregation in reading and meditating the Scriptures privately. Once he had his communion with God, he could then give exhortation to his flock, which is also much needed today. By exhortation, he communicates God's commandments and instructions for Christian living to his flock. By teaching, he is to make disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ, and to indoctrinate them in the way of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading." (Nehemiah 8:8)

When revival came to the Jews in the time of Nehemiah, one

of the first acts of devotion and worship was the reading of the Scriptures. For years, the people of God had neglected the reading of the Law of God. Hence, Ezra read from the Law of God and together with the leaders "gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading"! If we want revival in our church, we must go back to the reading of God's Word.

"And Baruch the son of Neriah did all that Jeremiah the prophet ordered him about reading from the scroll the words of the LORD in the LORD's house." (Jeremiah 36:8)

We are told in the opening verses of Jeremiah 36 that God told Jeremiah to write down His judgments against Israel and Judah and all the nations in a scroll. The prophet then ordered Baruch the son of Neriah to write down the words of the Lord into the scroll. After that, he also ordered Baruch to read the words of the Lord which he had written to the Jews. God has spoken, we are to read it!

"Behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet." (Acts 8:26-27)

In the New Testament, God sent Dn Philip to minister to an Ethiopian eunuch who was a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This Ethiopian eunuch was a very powerful man since he was in charge of all of the queen's

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treasure. The Holy Spirit led this man to read the words of the prophet Isaiah. Philip was sent to explain the gospel to him. Subsequently, he was soundly converted and became born again. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17) The reading of God's Word brings about conversion of souls. Hallelujah!

This year, instead of giving away cash prizes, the Sunday School Executive-Committee having prayed and deliberated over the matter, decided to present books as prizes to our Sunday School students. The purpose of giving away good Christian books is to encourage the inculcation of good reading habit amongst our Sunday School students. These books were specially chosen by the teachers and Department Superintendents. Although the process was somewhat lengthened, it is our hope that when you receive the books, you will take time to read them. If it be possible, do read the book before the New Year commences. Once you have read the books, we would like to encourage you to share your reading by writing short book reviews and submitting them to your teachers. If we can collate all the book reviews from you, there will be plenty of learning to share throughout the entire Sunday School.

Another project that you may want to consider is book exchange. If you can exchange your books with one another and further encourage each other to read another book, it will be a great bonus to this year's prize-giving exercise. Not only do you benefit from reading the book you won, but also another book which your classmates had won as well. Each class will have the usual special prize, first, second and third prize. That would mean you can read up to four books in the next few months if you share your book prizes with one another. May the Lord bless each one of you

as you read the books and share the books with one another.

As this year draws to a close, do spend some time to reflect over what God has done in your life in 2011. There were so many events that had happened this year. 2011 started with an earthquake of magnitude of 6.9 in Argentina and earthquake of magnitude 5.2 in Southern Xinjiang, China, on 1<sup>st</sup> January! This was followed by another major earthquake of magnitude of 7.1 in Chile on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. The next major earthquake of magnitude 8.9

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caused a tsunami devastating Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Then, earthquakes of magnitude 6.0, 5.5, and 4.4 hit Christchurch in New Zealand on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The list continues with Hurricane Irene hitting USA on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; deadly typhoon hitting Taiwan and China on August 29<sup>th</sup>; floods in Pennsylvania on September 10<sup>th</sup>; fire in Texas destroying 1,554 homes with 17 people missing on September 11<sup>th</sup>; and most recently, Africa's most active volcano erupting on November 9<sup>th</sup>! Economically, both USA and Europe had been hit by financial woes. Politically, many countries are in turmoil, and in Singapore, we experienced two fierce elections on May 7<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>. Are these signs of end time? Harold Camping predicted that on May 21<sup>st</sup> Jesus Christ would return to earth. When his prediction failed, he predicted that the physical rapture would take place on October 21<sup>st</sup>! The Lord Jesus Christ told the disciples before His ascension, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." (Acts 1:7) Let us read God's Word faithfully and learn to wait upon the Lord Jesus Christ for His imminent return. May you give attention to reading!

***Elder (Dr) Sherman Ong, General Superintendent***

## **announcements**

◆ **27th November (Sun) Sunday School Annual General Meeting cum Election at 12.30 p.m. Lunch is catered.**

**Please indicate your attendance to your respective Departmental Superintendents.**

◆ **18th December (Sun) Sunday School Prize-Giving at 9.30 - 10.30 a.m.**

◆ **\* No Christmas Gathering this year!**

◆ **25th December (Sun) Christmas Combined Worship Service (no Sunday School)**

◆ **1st January 2012 (Sun) Promotion Sunday  
SS Staff Dedication at 10.45 a.m. worship service**