

Programmes

YOUTH / STUDENTS

High School (GRIP)

Events, activities and life groups for high-school youth, meeting on Friday nites. Talk to Phil for more info. www.bebo.com/gripyo

What's next

GRIP will be on a summer break and recommence in 2010

Tertiary (FRESH)

Events, activities and life groups for tertiary aged young adults, meeting on Sunday nites for church. Talk to Phil for more info (0402 336947).

What's Next

FRESH will be on a summer break and recommence in 2010

INTERNATIONAL (ISM) STUDENTS

Making lasting friendships in Australia and feel at home with us. More info on activities talk to Tuck Yean or visit ism.aacc.net.au

What's Next

Will recommence in 2010.

Tuck Yean Yong (8344 5619)

BUBS/TODDLERS/PRE-SCHOOL/PRIMARY SCHOOL KIDS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Sundays)

Church designed just for Kids (Toddlers to R to Y8)...GAMES, CRAFT, SONGS, STORIES, DRAMA...Please go to the Chapel for assistance on room allocation.

Today—No Children's Church during school holidays. A programme is organised in the Chapel for children during the sermon.

Contact Mei Ling Soo (0416 188 884)

MUMS AND BUBS (Wednesdays)

Mums and Bubs Group—This is a playgroup for kids and for mums to have fellowship, prayer and afternoon tea together every fortnight Wednesdays at 2pm.

For more information, contact Rebekah (7127 5141)

LADIES' LIFE

Gathering for all ladies for a time of social and recreational activity, support, prayer, dining together...

Next Meeting:

Ladies' Life will recommence in 2010.

For more information, contact Linda (8379 0001)

MEN'S LIFE

Next Meeting:

Saturday 30th January at 12noon. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Contact Alan Teo for more details (8274 1992)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

There will be no Children's church during the school holidays. After worship, children can go to the Chapel where they can view a dvd.

BAPTISMS will be held on the 24th January. If you wish to be baptised, please see Phil Alcorn.

GOING BANANAS

Tues 19th—Thurs 21st Jan 2010

9.30am to 12.30pm, Cost \$3 per child per day.

Contact Mei Ling Soo on 0416 188 884 to register.

LIFE GROUP LEADER'S MEETING

Wednesday 20th January at 7pm in the Chapel.

AACC CAMP—6-8 MARCH 2010

There will be lots of fun and activities and great teaching from Ps Steve Hwang, our new Senior Pastor.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Audio version of **past sermons** can be accessed from our website www.aacc.net.au, click on "Sermon Series" OR go direct to sermons.aacc.com.au

PRAYER AT THE END OF THE SERVICE

Come to the Prayer Room located at the front left of auditorium if you would like someone to talk to or pray with. Life Group leaders or prayer ministry members will be there to support you.

Enquiries Henry Lim 0423366153 & Toh Sang (0407393484)

DIRECT DEBIT DETAILS

Austral-Asian Community Church

BSB : 085-458, Acc No : 52733 2634

Should the funds being transferred be intended for a specific ministry like missions then please note this in the remarks / description field of the transfer.

More info: Rick Tan (0424 953 469)

How To Catch A Monkey

In the Kalahari Desert of Africa, water is scarce. It can be hard to find, but the animals usually know where it is. For the Kalahari bushman, knowing where water is can be very valuable.

The monkeys know where it is, but they are not stupid. They don't want to share it with the bushman. For the bushman to find water, he has to trick the monkey.

Just as scarce in the desert is salt.

A bushman, making sure a monkey is watching, will drill a hole in a termite mound with his arrow. Then he will put some gourd seeds inside the hole, and go away and hide. The monkey, being curious, just *has* to find out what the bushman hid in the hole. As soon as he is sure the bushman is gone, he will go over to the termite mound and reach into the hole. Unfortunately for the monkey, he is more curious than smart. Once he grabs the seeds, his fist, being larger than a straight hand, gets stuck. As soon as this happens, the bushman springs from his hiding place and races over to catch the monkey. The monkey could get away easily by letting go of the seeds, but by the time this occurs to him, the bushman has caught him.

Tying the monkey to a tree, the bushman gives him a block of salt. This is a real treat for the monkey, so the monkey licks and eats it. The bushman waits. Soon, having eaten the salt, the monkey starts to get thirsty. The bushman waits. Very soon the monkey is desperate for a drink of water. The bushman waits. By now the monkey is so thirsty that he doesn't care who follows him, he *must* get to the water. Now the bushman unties the monkey, and the monkey darts as fast as he can to his water supply. The bushman only has to follow him.

How often are we like that monkey? We see something and our curiosity gets the better of us. We reach into the hole and grab hold of the perceived treasure that is inside and because we covet it so much, we get ourselves trapped. James 1:14 says "each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away [or] enticed." (the Greek word for 'and' is a conjunction that can also be read as 'or')

If the monkey knew he was going to be trapped, he would never have put his hand in the hole in the first place. And if we knew we were going down a path into sin, we would have turned away from the outset. We are 'enticed' into sin and we willingly go.

Other times we are 'dragged away' by our own evil desires. Instead of going willingly, if naïvely, we go kicking and screaming to the place where we sin. We set the wheels in motion by our own evil desires, or circumstances conspire and we feel trapped, and then it snowballs and we cannot stop it.

Jesus says that for some, "the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth" choke out the Gospel in our lives and we become unproductive (Matthew 13). I think it is no accident that Jesus uses these two things specifically – worries of life and deceitfulness of wealth as these are things that often drag us away or entice us.

What is it you are holding on to that is going to make you unproductive and entice or drag you away from God? It is probably worth letting go of it now, before it's too late.