

(Contd. from previous page)

Only with self-control and planning, can your romance be fun and enjoyable, without hurt, pain and guilt. Boys and girls who learn responsibility in dating will experience the true love of giving.

**3. Practise Chastity (save sex for marriage)** - Sex is a sacred act of marriage. Chastity is the only way to prevent pregnancy before marriage and sexually transmitted diseases.

**4. Prayer** – Learn to pray for each other and commit your dating to God. Invite the Holy Spirit to guide you.

**5. Be nourished by God's words** -

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” Psalm 119:105. Read the Words of God to know more about God and your relationship with Him.

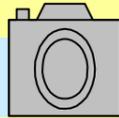
However, a healthy relationship may be jeopardized by some unhealthy character and habits :

1. Explosive temper or violent behaviour during disagreement.

2. Unreasonable demand on the partner's money or attention.
3. Manipulative in relationship.
4. Dishonesty - frequently lying about oneself to boost one's ego.
5. Heavy drinking or drug taking may result in losing self control and acting irresponsibly.
6. Addiction to pornography may lead to premarital sex and treating each other as sex objects.
7. Taking nude photos of each other. If relationship goes sour, one partner may expose the nude photo in the internet or through hand-phone, to take revenge.

Pursuing a healthy relationship is not easy. However, it is vital for young men and women to live in accordance with God's will and reject unhealthy relationship.

### Photo-News



Talk at SMK Batu Kawa on 8th Sept. 2009



Talk to Christian Students at DPAH Abdillah on 27th March 2010



Talk at SMK Sungei Maong on 29th Oct. 2009





**PRO-LIFE GROUP**  
Provides Free Services On:

- **Pregnancy Crisis Counselling and Services** (Strictly confidential)
- **Advisory Service for Adolescents and Parents** on relationship problems
- **Public / School talks on Pro-life issues :** Boy-Girl Relationships, Sexuality, Abortion etc.

**Call: 082-413454**

**or Email : kprolife@tm.net.my**

**or Visit us : Pro-Life Office,**  
**Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre,**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Lot 2500, Jalan Stampin,**  
**Kuching**

Pro-Life Group AGM on 31st Jan. 2010, graced by Hon. Advisor Rt. Revd. Bishop Datuk Made Katib (Front row 3rd left)



# PRO-LIFE NEWSLETTER

## PRO-LIFE GROUP

(Association Of Churches In Sarawak)  
Christian Ecumenical Worship Centre  
1st Floor, Lot 2500, Jalan Stampin, 93350 Kuching

**Tel & Fax: 082-413454**

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**Issue No. 16**  
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## MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF CHURCHES

### God, The Creator of Life

*God created .... He saw all that He had made, and it was very good.* (Genesis 1)

Human being is the crown of God's creation. From the beginning it is His intention that the sanctity of human Life remains, and remains in communion with Him till eternity. God did not spare even the life of His Son so that human might not lose his. Yet what we see today is an appalling culture that pays a complete disregard to God's will; where human life is being taken with impunity. How it must have grieved the Creator's heart.

On behalf of the ACS, I am honoured to commend the Pro-Life ministry for its witness and service to our community.

**The Rt. Revd. Datuk Bolly Lapok,**

Bishop of Anglican Church, Sarawak, cum Chairman of the Association of Churches in Sarawak.



### Life In The Womb

Life in the womb is sacred because it is created and consecrated by God (cf. Jer. 1:5). It is the life of a human person as is evident in the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Lk. 1:39-56). John in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy because he recognized Jesus in Mary's womb as Lord and Saviour. Sacred as it is, life in the womb must be protected and nourished till birth

**Archbishop John Ha,**

Roman Catholic Church, Kuching, Sarawak



### Virginity and Chastity

In this day and age of rampant promiscuity so very many young people unfortunately lost their virginity at an ever increasing early age. The Bible says: *"Flee fornication.... He that commits fornication sins against his own body."* (1Corinthians 6:18)

Losing your virginity before marriage for a brief thrill and a moment of pleasure, is not worth what you lose by it. You lose your chances of knowing real love or experiencing God's best for you. Loss of self-esteem and perhaps a life-long feeling of guilt may ruin your future marriage. Worse still, you may end up marrying the wrong person.

Remember, your virginity is the most precious gift of God to you.

**Pastor Lawrence Banyie, President,**

Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sarawak



### God and Morality

The Biblical references (Romans 2:14ff) confirm the fact that God has revealed Himself to all in the conflicts of our moral obtuseness which distorts all our consciousness of God and His will. We all have some awareness that the sense of obligation to do good and to spurn evil reflects the will of an ultimate Lord to whom we are responsible.

**Rev Steward Damat Mambang,**

President, Sarawak Iban Annual Conference, Methodist Church in Malaysia.



### The Evil of Abortion

Man was created in God's image (Genesis 1:26). Man was given a place of honor. Therefore, women who have abortion will feel guilty for a long time.

**Major Ronald Maarten Saptanno,**

The Salvation Army, Kuching



# ADOPTION OF A CHILD WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME

By Sue

With three young children wriggling in the airplane seats for hours on end, we flew to Malaysia in 1996 eager to work and to experience a new country so different from our Canadian homeland. It had been our hope for some time to have our next child by adoption, not because we couldn't have more biological children, but because we knew that some children are born into this world without anyone to love and care for them: we were convinced that we could love an adopted child as much as a biological one. So it was a thrilling surprise when God led us to first meet Joseph as a newborn baby in a children's home. Joseph was born with a cleft lip and palate, special needs that were not so very difficult to manage. We loved him at first sight, cared for him and adopted him during our first three years in Malaysia. We gave him the middle name: Tien Ci: "Gift From Heaven."

We enjoyed Malaysia, and eagerly took the opportunity to shift to Sarawak in 2000. We were happy. But at that same time my heart again ached with the yearning a woman feels when she longs to fill her arms with the wonder and delight of a baby. We prayed for a new child. So it wasn't that strange to find myself making a rather nervous phone call to the Sarawak Pro-Life office in September 2001: "Hello, my name is Sue. We are a Canadian family living here in Kuching. I am calling because we would love to be considered for adoption. I know that healthy newborn babies are readily adopted out to Malaysian couples, but I want you to know that we are very open-minded to adopting a child with special needs." Michael Hii, the man on the other end of the phone kindly assured me that he would keep me in mind. I thanked him and hung up.

A few days later I received a call from Michael: "I know of a baby with Down's Syndrome," he told me. "The parents don't feel they can care for her and would like to adopt this child out. She is now living with a babysitter and is around 20 months old. I don't know how you would feel about this?" I was taken aback, but did not want to let this on, so I politely answered that my husband and I would pray and consider it. Truth is, I was terrified at the prospect of raising a child with Down's Syndrome. I did not feel equal to such a commitment and knew that a child with a mental disability would not fit "neat and tidily" into our family life as we had known it. As I recall, we did not pray earnestly about it, and we did not seriously consider it. We waited a few days and politely declined to Michael.

But the Holy Spirit, the Counselor was working in both my husband and I. For a month we did not talk about the little girl, but we were both thinking about her. One day my husband spoke to me: "Sue, you know that

little girl with Down's Syndrome? We were only thinking about ourselves when we made that decision. We were forgetting about her! Isn't every child a gift from God? Don't we believe that every child deserves to be welcomed, enjoyed and cherished? We could have had a biological child with Down's Syndrome...I think we should adopt her. With God's help, we can do this." I was in total agreement with him. I was nervous, but convinced.

I recorded in a journal about those early months with Sally: "The children (aged 12, 10, 7 and 5) and her father all received Sally immediately as a much loved youngest member of the family. My progress was slower --sometimes fearful; sometimes anxiety-ridden; and sometimes outright mournful, but by God's grace it has been a continuous progress of accepting her fully into the family. Today, five months later, I can't imagine life without her! Indeed, my affection and love and enjoyment of Sally is a lot like being in love. I adore her."

Today, Sally is 10 years old. We have since moved back to Canada and welcomed another biological daughter, Elisabeth, who was a little surprise for me in my forties - a little sister for Sally. Sally is accepted as any other members of the family by all her relatives. She is a much loved and appreciated member of our Church, her school, and the community. I would characterize her as a loving, mischievous, creative, beautiful, willful, affectionate and chatty handful! She loves to draw and look at books, dance and sing, worship God, love and play with her family and friends. She has a fun imagination!

Candidly, raising her has been difficult at times. But I am convinced that nothing worthwhile in life is without challenge. Every good thing costs something. And this is true with child-raising as well: whether a biological or an adopted child; a healthy or an ill child; a compliant or a willful child; a typical or a special-needs child. It takes perseverance to love well. It means honoring every child to whom God has granted life and breath. It means loving them with all the grace and strength God provides moment by moment. I truly believe that life holds many rewarding adventures for those who trust Him. That has been our experience.



Sally, 9 years, with her eldest brother



Sally, 10 years old

# How To Build A Healthy Boy - Girl Relationship

By Dr. Jenny Goh (Chairperson of Pro-Life Group, Kuching)

## Introduction

Since creation, men and women desire for companionship. Adam was lonely and God created Eve. They became one flesh. Boy-Girl Relationship is for growth, maturity and preparation for a strong foundation in marriage.

## Part 1. Types Of Relationship

### Relationship designed by God:

#### 1. Marriage - Genesis 2:24

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Sexuality is a mystery and sex between a husband and wife is a sacred act which must be prepared with prayers, respect and purity of heart from youth.



#### 2. Celibacy - St Paul was called to a celibate life for advancing the gospel. Some of us will be called to remain single to serve Christ.

### Relationships which are not in God's plan :

#### 1. Premarital sexual relationship

Fornication is a thorny issue. Jesus spoke on the sanctity of marriage which is an irrevocable commitment to one another. Premarital sex is sharing of bodies without this commitment. Sex for self gratification only is a poor foundation for future marriage. When a couple is preoccupied with sex, there is no time to truly get to know each other. If one has many sexual partners before marriage, bonding to one's partner after marriage can be difficult.

"Everybody is doing it" is no excuse for Christians to copy. It is a sign of weakness rather than strength. It is merely surrendering to peer pressure. 1 Corinthians 6:19 "Your body is the holy temple of God, you must not defile your body....."

#### 2. Homosexual relationship (gay or lesbian)

Homosexual act can never be an expression of marital love, which is between a man and a woman. It is a violation of human dignity and God's gift of union. 1 Cor 6: 9-10 "neither the immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterer, nor homosexuals .... will inherit the kingdom of God."

#### 3. Relationship with a married man or woman (adultery)

Matt. 5:27 "Do not commit adultery, but I say to you that whoever looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Be aware of dating married men or women who pretend to be single.

#### 4. Sexual relationship within close family members (incest)

Incest is a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment. The cruel perpetrator must be stopped.

#### 5. Relationship which carries risk of irreversible conversion of religion.

Denial of God - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, may risk losing one's salvation.

**ALL OF THE ABOVE RELATIONSHIPS MUST BE AVOIDED.**

## Part 2 Building Healthy Relationship

Friendship is like a beautiful garden. A good gardener selects good soil and good seeds before planting. He constantly waters, weeds and adds fertilizer. He also prays for good weather, so that the garden will be forever beautiful.

### Five ingredients for building healthy relationship :

#### 1. Respect - Self-respect is vital for building friendship with others. Respect others as you want others to respect you.

#### 2. Fun activities - to get to know all about each other. Jogging or walking, a game of badminton, an ice cream date, going to exhibition, getting involved in charity food sales or works, visiting places of interest, shopping, picnic, meals together, beach walk, national park adventure in a group....



A good gardener takes good care of her/his garden

Dating is fun and important for communication. **Plan and practise** ahead what to talk about. Ask questions about his or her family, hobbies, interest, talents, feelings and goals. Show interest in the other person. As your friendship progresses, do not let physical attraction interfere with getting to know each other as persons.

attraction interfere with getting to know each other as persons.

### What about physical relationship ?

Hugging and kissing are part of showing affection and care for the other person. **Planning ahead** is essential. You must plan not to be involved in heavy petting that can lead to sexual involvement, giving rise to fear, guilt and tragedy.

### How far can you go ?

Things are going too far when a boy fondles a girl's breast. Lying down together along with any form of undressing is going "too far".

Having sexual intercourse has gone "way too far" and things have definitely gone out of hand. Girls who dress little to sexually arouse young men are inviting trouble. Boys who are out to see "how far the girl is willing to go in physical relationship" are acting immaturely, irresponsibly and foolishly.

(Continued next page)