



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We begin 2008 very smoothly and orderly on 2nd January at 7.30 am when the entire school of about 2850 students were gathered at the Parade Ground for our first assembly in the school. The devotion, taken by the Principal, was based on

Genesis Chapters 1&2 and staff and students were encouraged to play their roles in sustaining planet earth, a creation which God brought about in 6 days of hard work and at the end of His creation, he surmised that it was very good. The need to balance hard work with rest and recreation was also highlighted emulating God's declaration of the Sabbath rest at the end of His creation.

At 1.00 pm, the entire school filed into the Dr Tan Sri Tan Chin Tuan Auditorium where the first Chapel service was conducted. A review of our accomplishments in 2007 was shared and the Action Plan for 2008 unfold. The school also adopted the theme for 2008, "grow in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men", based on Luke 2:52. This theme allows us to focus on our emphasis in providing a holistic education for all our charges and to enable us to fulfill the mission of being a "world class institution in nurturing the holistic development of our students".

Luke 2:52 enables us to have a glimpse that our Lord Jesus Christ developed holistically in four different domains. Applications were drawn from the need to '**grow in wisdom**' and students were made to realize the importance of academic work and to set personal targets and goals for their academic achievements, besides applying knowledge and principles gained from their education in their daily life. The need to '**grow in stature**' was equally emphasized and the importance of physical training, health and life-style was elaborated. Students were encouraged to set personal targets for body weight, physical achievements, and accomplishments in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) and to use their stature to honour God. The importance of PE lessons and active participation in CCAs cannot be over emphasized as ways to nurture the 'growth in stature'.

Vertical relationship with God was impressed upon the school as a matter of utmost importance as we seek to **‘grow in favour with God’**. Staff and students were made to realize that whilst physical training is of value, training in Godliness is even more important. As such, we must always remember to please God rather than man and to set example for others in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. ACSians must learn to use their spiritual relationship to appropriate God’s resources and to reach out to others for Him. Daily devotions, Chapel services and Christian education in the school will help them nurture this important aspect of their life.

Lastly, when our vertical relationship with God is right, our horizontal relationship will naturally fall in place. We will then **‘grow in favour with man’**. All present were reminded to establish healthy social interactions and to seize opportunities to relate well with others. We need to choose our friends wisely and develop habits and attitude that are winsome. We should make our aim to employ the God-given personality to make friends and influence others positively for Christ. The importance of Pastoral Care and Career Guidance (PCCG) and other programmes in the school e.g. Community Involvement Programme (CIP) to support these dimensions of growth was reiterated.

Come Saturday, 1st March 2008, the school will celebrate 122nd Founder’s Day and have an official opening of our extended campus by our Guest-of-Honour, Dr Tony Tan, former DPM and Minister for Education, who has been instrumental in initiating the Independent Schools movement. On this special occasion, we will be launching our publication commemorating 20 years as an independent school entitled “On His Wings ... soaring”. We would like to cordially invite all of you to join us in this momentous occasion.

In view of the above, the school will continue its journey towards excellence keeping holistic development in mind as we pursue academic excellence, character development, service excellence and CCA accomplishments. We will always remind ourselves to strive to be better, believing that the BEST IS YET TO BE.

DR ONG TECK CHIN

Principal/CEO