



From the Pastor's Desk

Rethinking Filial Piety (Mark 7:10-13)

Elder brothers and sisters in the Lord, especially parents, have you ever told your sons or daughters, "It is good for you to earn money and use it for yourself. You don't need to give money to mom and dad because mom and dad have enough. After all, your salary is not much, and you have so many commitments including car and housing loans. Just take good care of yourself and be safe, and mom and dad will be happy." When you hear your mom and dad say this, what is your reaction? Do you feel that mom and dad understand your needs too well? Then from now on, will you use the money on yourself and never give money to your parents again? At first glance, this seems like a very considerate thing for parents to say to their children, but is it biblical? Let's see what Mark 7:10-13 says:

10For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' 11But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) — 12then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. 13Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

From verse 10, we see that the fifth of the Ten Commandments that Moses received from God was to honor his parents. This is also the first of the Ten Commandments for human relationships. This commandment is placed in between the commandments of God's relationship with man and the commandments of man's relationship with man, indicating that "honoring your parents" is the first of all human relationships, and that all human relationships must first have the relationship between man and God as the foundation. During the Old Testament times, dishonoring one's parents was a major sin, and those who cursed their parents were likely to be put to death (Ex. 21:17, Lev. 20:9). As an example, Noah's son was punished for defying his father when Noah was drunk (Gen 9:20-27). In spite of this, this commandment is also the only one that promises blessings to those who keep it; hence it is also called "the commandment with a promise" (Eph 6:2). This blessing is a long life while on earth. Therefore, I believe that the apostle John lived to such an old age possibly because he took care of the mother of Jesus as his own. God allowed him to be the only one among the disciples to live to an old age.

Next, "filial respect" is translated as "reverence" in the New International Version of the Bible and has several meanings:

- a. To honor (Prov. 4:8).
- b. To take care of (Ps 91:15).
- c. Honoring (Lev. 19:3, 20:9).
- d. Obedience (Deut. 21:18-21, Eph 6:1).

We will focus more on the specific manifestations in the area of caregiving and the most concrete manifestation in this area is the giving of money to support our parents. If the children say, "The money I am supposed to give you has been given to God, and there is no more money for you", that would be a great treason. The Lord Jesus is teaching here in Mark 7 that if we are to be filial to our parents, we must serve them. In teaching, this, the Lord Jesus is rebuking the Pharisees for allowing their parents to be trapped in poverty and not taking care of them.

From verse 11, "11But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) — 12then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother", the word "corban" is a kind of wish-offering of possessions, which originated from the promise of Jephthah (cf. Ps. 11:29-40). Any property designated as "corban" by the owner should not be used by others. The problem was that the money was not used entirely for religious purposes but was used for their own personal needs. Thus, the vow of the "Corban" became a means by which the children could evade their responsibilities to their parents as specified in the Law. Some unscrupulous Jews, as custodians of their properties, used this method to promise to dedicate their family properties to the temple, but actually used the money for personal needs, thus avoiding the responsibility of providing for their parents, and leaving their parents in poverty.

Then in verse 13, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, saying, "13Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that." The Pharisees were rebuked for they were

1. using one biblical teaching (do not break your vows) to nullify another biblical teaching (honor your parents).
 2. applying the Bible teaching according to the words of one passage of Scripture but ignore the spirit of the whole Bible.
- Brothers and sisters, our human nature can lead us to "nullify the Word of God". As we become Christians, we must read the Bible well and only follow the Word of God.

How do we only follow the Word of God in the matter of filial piety to our parents? For adult children who have just started working, they have a lot of expenses in life like multiple loans, insurance, and medical cards to pay, that very often they feel that they don't have enough money. However, if this becomes an excuse for not giving money to our parents and providing for them, we are really being unfilial.

In fact, I think what our parents ask for is not much, but what is most important is our heart. Let our parents feel our filial piety and love for them. One parent complained, "My son is so unfilial! I raised him and paid for his education until he graduated and went out to work on his own. But when he started working, he didn't give me any money." Another mother shared, "My daughter is so filial to me! She gives me three hundred ringgit every month!" This shows that money is really the most concrete expression of filial piety.

So how are we going to balance our expenses and our income? Today, many people complain that they don't have enough money. That is because they don't budget well and buy whatever they want, without thinking if they can afford it. We need to be savvy consumers and budget our expenses. That way, not only can you pay your tithe, but you can also support your parents and have savings too. The city of Lake Elsinore has a well-known large family, the Casons and their 17 children. Father Dave Cason is 46 years old and his annual income is \$80,000, with bonuses included. He is a network engineer. This is a usual income for jobs of this nature. The mother, Christi Cason, 42, is a full-time home maker. The question that arises is whether the father's salary alone of \$80,000, before tax, can support such a large family? The answer is Yes. This mother is the "treasurer" of the family. She has many ways to save money, such as collecting discount coupons and buying groceries only when there is a sale. When she does a good job of budgeting for these expenses, the family can also go abroad once a year for a vacation. So, no matter how much you earn, once you budget well and don't spend randomly, you will still have enough money. Plus, if you also observe tithing and support your parents, I believe God will bless you greatly.

In fact, God, who has everything, does not lack anything. As Psalm 50:10-12 says: "for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it." In spite of this, God does not tell us that we don't need to give Him money; instead He says to the Israelites: "... Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." (Malachi 3:10)

Therefore, as parents, you do not need to be greater than God, and never say to your children, "Mom and Dad have money, so you don't have to give it to us." Let your children learn to show filial piety. Sons and daughters, even if your parents say they have enough money, you still have to give them money on time and show respect to them. Remember to give willingly and cheerfully for God says, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) So, when we give money to our parents or give an offering to God, we should give it willingly.

Dear brothers and sisters, I hope that through this year's Filial Piety Day you will once again reflect on what filial piety means to you and remember to show our filial respect to our parents in the most practical ways. Amen.

Rev Chan Chok Ong

牧者的话

孝亲的再思 (可7: 10-13)

主内长辈兄弟姐妹，特别是父母，请问您是否说过：“孩子啊，你做工赚钱，自己用就好，不需要再把钱给爸爸妈妈了，因为爸爸妈妈自己的钱够用了。毕竟你的薪水又不多，在外地花费又那么大，又有许多贷款如房贷，车贷要还。你就好好照顾自己，平平安安，爸妈就安心了。”孩子们，当你听到爸爸妈妈这么说的时，你是什么反应啊？你是否觉得爸妈太了解你的需要了。然后从此以后，钱就自己用，再也不给爸妈钱了呢？父母们这样跟儿女们说，乍看之下似乎爸妈很体贴，但是这合乎圣经的教导吗？让我们一起看看马可福音七10-13怎么说？

10 “摩西说：‘当孝敬父母’，又说：‘咒骂父母的，必治死他。’ 11 你们倒说，人若对父母说：‘我所当奉给你的，已经做了各耳板’（“各耳板”就是“供献”的意思），12 以后你们就不容他再奉养父母。13 这就是你们承接遗传，废了神的道！你们还做许多这样的事。”

从第十节的经文，我们就看到当初摩西从神那里所领受的十诫中的第五诫就是当孝敬父母。这也是十诫中人际关系的第一条。这个诫命放在神与人关系的诫命和人与人关系的诫命中间，表明“孝敬父母”是人伦之首，也表明一切人与人的关系先要有人与神的关系作基础，这样，人与人的关系才能稳固。在旧约时代，不孝敬父母是一项大罪，咒骂父母的人很可能被处死（出二十一17，利二十九）。作为例子，挪亚的儿子曾在父亲喝醉了的时候，藐视他而受到了刑罚（创九20-27）。虽然如此，这诫命也是十诫中唯一应许遵守这诫命的人可得福分。因此，这诫命也被称为“带应许的诫命”（弗六2）。那个福分就是在世长寿。所以，笔者认为使徒约翰可以活到这么老，很可能是因为他照顾耶稣的母亲就好像照顾自己的母亲一样。所以，神让他在众门徒中，是唯一一个老死的。

接着，「孝敬」在新国际版圣经NIV译作「尊敬」，有几种意思：

- a. 使其尊荣 (箴四8)；
- b. 照顾 (诗九十一15)；
- c. 敬重 (利十九3, 二十九)；
- d. 顺从 (申二十一18-21, 弗六1)。

我们会比较专注在照顾方面具体的表现。而在这方面最具体的表现就是给钱奉养父母。这本是一件天经地义的事，是孝顺父母最具体的表现。如果孩子们说：“我给你们钱已经给了上帝，没有钱给你们了。”这就是大逆不道的事。而主耶稣在马可福音第七章这里就是教导我们要孝敬父母，就一定要奉养父母。主耶稣在做这个教导的时候，就是在责备法利赛人，因为他们任由自己的父母陷于穷困而不顾。

不但如此，他们还教导犹太人说：“人若对父母说：‘我所当奉给你的，已经做了各耳板’（“各耳板”就是“供献”的意思），12 以后你们就不容他再奉养父母。”“各耳板”（Corban）是将财物作一种许愿式的奉献，起源于耶弗他的许愿（参士十一29-40）。凡是经过拥有者指定为“各耳板”的财物，别人就没有权利动用。问题是这笔奉献的钱，并不一定是要用在宗教的用途上，可以随着奉献者的心意，最后仍归自己享用。因此，“各耳板”的誓词，变成了一种的手段，让作儿女的可以逃避律法上指明儿女对父母应尽的责任。所以，一些不肖的犹太教徒，就藉这个方法，许愿将家产献给圣殿使用，这样就可逃避供养父母的责任，而自己却以财产监管人自居，仍旧享用其钱财，任由自己的父母陷于穷困而不顾。

接着在第十三节，耶稣责备法利赛人说“13这就是你们承接遗传，废了神的道！你们还做许多这样的事。”耶稣会这样责备法利赛人是

有原因的。首先法利赛人会如此教导犹太人是根据圣经上另一处的话说，不可违背所起的誓言(参民卅2)，来支持“各耳板”的藉口。从表面上来看，他们似乎是“以经护经”——以神的道来维护神的道，相当正确。但是主耶稣说他们是“承接遗传，废了神的道”，他们的错误在于：

1. 用一个圣经教训(不可违背誓言)，来废掉另一个圣经教训(要孝敬父母)。
2. 应用圣经教训，只按着一段经文的字句，而忽略了整本圣经的精神。

各位弟兄姐妹，承接人的遗传，会导致我们“废了神的道”。所以，当我们一开始作基督徒的时候，我们就不能接受任何人的遗传、看法和观念；而是要好好读圣经，单单地遵照神的道而行。

至于我们要怎样在孝顺父母的事情上，单单地遵照神的道而行呢？特别是刚刚出来做工的儿女们。我们在生活上有很多的花费，又有许多的贷款、保险、医药卡要还；作为基督徒的，我们还需要交上每个月的十一奉献。所以，我们会很常觉得钱不够用是正常的。但是，如果这成为我们不拿钱给父母，奉养他们的藉口，我们就真的很不孝了。

其实，笔者认为父母要求的其实不多，最重要的是我们的心意。让父母感受到我们对他们的孝顺和爱。有两位会母在这方面就有很深的感触，其中一位会母抱怨说：“我的儿子真是不孝顺啊！我养他，供他读书到他毕业了，自己出来做工了。可是，当他做工了，却一分钱都没有给我呀，真是不孝啊！”另外一位会母却分享说：“我的女儿真是孝顺我呀！她每个月都给我三百块钱哪！”可见钱真的是表达孝顺最具体的表现。

问题是，我们要怎样平衡我们的开支和收入呢？这就是我们需要去想和计划的。今天，很多人投诉说钱不够用。那是因为你没有做好预算，想买什么就买什么，没有想钱会不会够用。我们需要做一个精明的消费者和我们需要做预算。这样你不但可以交上十一奉献，还能奉养父母，还能有存款呢。这里就有一个例子。艾尔辛诺湖市有个全美闻名的大家庭，卡森(Cason)夫妇和17个孩子。父亲戴夫-卡森(Dave Cason) 46岁。年收入8万美元，奖金包括在内。他是网络工程师。这是类似工作的相当普遍的收入。母亲克里斯蒂-卡森(Christi Cason) 42岁，是个全职母亲。问题来了，单凭父亲的薪水，8万美元，而且还是扣税之前，能养活这么一个大家庭吗？答案是能。这位母亲就是家里的“财政部长”。她有很多省钱的方法，比如收集折扣卷，大减价的时候才买菜等。当她做好这些预算开支以后，他们一家还能一年出国度假一次。所以，不论你收入多少，一旦你做好预算，不随便花费，钱还是会够用的。再加上如果你还遵守十一奉献和奉养父母，我相信神更加会大大赐福与你。

其实，拥有一切的上帝，祂不缺乏任何东西。就如诗篇五十10-12节这么说：“因为，树林中的百兽是我的，千山上的牲畜也是我的。山中的飞鸟，我都知道；野地的走兽也都属我。我若是饥饿，我不用告诉你，因为世界和其中所充满的都是我的。”虽然如此，上帝并没有告诉我们说不用给祂钱了，祂反而对以色列人说：“。。。你们要将当纳的十分之一全然送入仓库，使我家有粮，以此试试我，是否为你们敞开天上的窗户倾福与你们，甚至无处可容。”(玛拉基书三10)

所以，作为父母的，你们不需要比上帝还伟大，千万别对儿女们说：“爸妈有钱，不必给我们了。”要让儿女们训练学习具体的孝顺。

各位儿女，如果你的父母对你说：“爸妈有钱，不需要给我们了。”你还是要按时给他们钱，表达你对他们的孝敬，具体的孝敬。

笔者这么说并不是勉强做儿女的，一定要给钱给父母，而是，如果你不给钱给父母，就绝对是表达你不孝顺。但是如果你没有甘心心地给或者感恩地给，也还是不孝顺。为什么笔者这么说呢？因为上帝也对我们这么说：“各人要随本心所酌定的，不要作难，不要勉强，因为捐得乐意的人是神所喜爱的。”(林后九7)所以，当我们捐钱或奉献的时候，要捐的心甘乐意。同样的，当你要把钱给父母的时候，要甘心的给，感恩的给，这样才算是孝顺的表现。

亲爱的弟兄姐妹，笔者希望大家透过今年的孝亲节再次反思孝亲对你的意义何在。同时，我们也用最实际的行动来表达我们对父母的孝敬。阿们。

Dari Meja Pastor

Memikirkan Semula Kewajipan Kepada Ibu Bapa (Markus 7:10-13)

Saudara-saudari yang lebih tua dalam Tuhan, terutamanya ibu bapa, pernahkah anda memberitahu anak-anak lelaki atau perempuan anda, "Adalah baik untuk kamu memperoleh wang dan menggunakannya untuk diri sendiri. Kamu tidak perlu memberi wang kepada ibu dan bapa kerana ibu dan bapa sudah cukup. Lagipun, gaji kamu tidak banyak, dan kamu mempunyai banyak komitmen termasuk pinjaman kereta dan perumahan. Hanya jaga diri kamu dengan baik dan selamat, dan ibu dan bapa akan gembira." Apabila anda mendengar ibu dan bapa anda berkata begini, apakah reaksi anda? Adakah anda merasakan bahawa ibu dan bapa memahami keperluan anda dengan baik? Kemudian mulai sekarang, adakah anda akan menggunakan wang itu untuk diri sendiri dan tidak pernah memberi wang kepada ibu bapa anda lagi? Pada pandangan pertama, ini kelihatan seperti perkara yang sangat bertimbang rasa untuk ibu bapa katakan kepada anak-anak mereka, tetapi adakah ia Alkitabiah? Mari lihat apa yang dikatakan dalam Markus 7:10-13:

"Musa memberikan perintah ini, 'Hormatilah ibu bapamu,' dan 'Orang yang mencaci ibu bapa mesti dihukum mati.' Tetapi kamu memberikan ajaran berikut: Jika seseorang berkata kepada ibu bapanya, 'Apa yang seharusnya saya gunakan untuk menolong ayah dan emak, sudah saya jadikan Korban. Semuanya sudah saya persembahkan kepada Allah.' Maka orang itu tidak payah menolong ibu bapanya. Dengan jalan ini ajaran yang kamu sampaikan kepada orang lain, meniadakan firman Allah. Banyak lagi perkara seperti ini yang kamu lakukan."

Dari ayat 10, kita melihat bahawa yang kelima daripada Sepuluh Hukum Allah yang Musa terima daripada Tuhan adalah untuk menghormati ibu bapanya. Ini juga merupakan yang pertama daripada Sepuluh Hukum Allah untuk hubungan manusia. Hukum ini diletakkan di antara hukum hubungan Tuhan dengan manusia dan hukum hubungan manusia dengan manusia, menunjukkan bahawa "menghormati ibu bapamu" adalah yang pertama dari semua hubungan manusia, dan semua hubungan manusia mesti terlebih dahulu mempunyai hubungan antara manusia dan Tuhan sebagai asas. Semasa zaman Perjanjian Lama, tidak menghormati ibu bapa adalah dosa besar, dan mereka yang mengutuk ibu bapa mereka berkemungkinan akan dihukum mati (Keluaran 21:17, Imam 20:9). Sebagai contoh, anak lelaki Nuh dihukum kerana menentang bapanya ketika Nuh mabuk (Kejadian 9:20-27). Walaupun demikian, hukum ini juga satu-satunya yang menjanjikan berkat kepada mereka yang memeliharanya;

oleh itu ia juga dipanggil "hukum dengan janji" (Efesus 6:2). Nikmat ini adalah panjang umur semasa di bumi. Oleh itu, saya percaya bahawa rasul Yohanes hidup sehingga usia yang begitu tua mungkin kerana dia menjaga ibu Yesus sebagai ibunya. Tuhan mengizinkan dia menjadi satu-satunya di antara murid-murid yang hidup hingga tua.

Seterusnya, "penghormatan anak-anak" diterjemahkan sebagai "penghormatan" dalam Bible International Version dan mempunyai beberapa makna:

- a. Untuk menghormati (Amsal 4:8)
- b. Untuk menjaga (Mazmur 91:15)
- c. Menghormati (Imamat 19:3, 20:9)
- d. Ketaatan (Ulangan 21:18-21, Efesus 6:1)

Kita akan memberi lebih tumpuan kepada manifestasi khusus dalam bidang pengasuhan dan manifestasi yang paling konkrit dalam bidang ini ialah pemberian wang untuk menyara ibu bapa kita. Jika anak-anak berkata, "Wang yang sepatutnya saya berikan kepada anda telah diberikan kepada Tuhan, dan tidak ada lagi wang untuk anda", itu akan menjadi pengkhianatan yang besar. Tuhan Yesus mengajar di sini dalam Markus 7 bahawa jika kita ingin berbakti kepada ibu bapa kita, kita mesti melayani mereka. Dalam pengajaran, ini, Tuhan Yesus menegur orang Farisi kerana membiarkan ibu bapa mereka dalam kemiskinan dan tidak menjaga mereka.

Daripada ayat 11 "Tetapi kamu memberikan ajaran berikut: Jika seseorang berkata kepada ibu bapanya, 'Apa yang seharusnya saya gunakan untuk menolong ayah dan emak, sudah saya jadikan Korban. Semuanya sudah saya persembahkan kepada Allah.' 12 Maka orang itu tidak payah menolong ibu bapanya," perkataan "korban" adalah sejenis persembahan hajat harta benda, yang berasal daripada janji Yefta (rujuk Mazmur 11:29-40). Mana-mana harta yang ditetapkan sebagai "korban" oleh pemilik tidak boleh digunakan oleh orang lain. Masalahnya ialah wang itu tidak digunakan sepenuhnya untuk tujuan keagamaan, tetapi digunakan untuk keperluan peribadi mereka sendiri. Oleh itu, ikrar "Korban" menjadi cara anak-anak dapat mengelak daripada tanggungjawab mereka terhadap ibu bapa mereka seperti yang dinyatakan dalam Hukum Taurat. Beberapa orang Yahudi yang tidak bertanggungjawab, sebagai penjaga harta mereka, menggunakan kaedah ini untuk berjanji untuk mendedikasikan harta keluarga mereka kepada Bait Suci, tetapi sebenarnya menggunakan wang itu untuk keperluan peribadi, dengan itu mengelakkan tanggungjawab memberi nafkah kepada ibu bapa mereka, dan membiarkan ibu bapa mereka dalam kemiskinan.

Kemudian dalam ayat 13, Yesus menegur orang Farisi, dengan berkata, "13 Dengan jalan ini ajaran yang kamu sampaikan kepada orang lain, meniadakan firman Allah. Banyak lagi perkara seperti ini yang kamu lakukan." Orang Farisi telah ditegur kerana mereka

1. menggunakan satu ajaran alkitabiah (jangan melanggar ikrar anda) untuk membatalkan ajaran alkitabiah yang lain (hormati ibu bapa anda).
2. menerapkan ajaran Alkitab menurut perkataan satu petikan Kitab Suci tetapi mengabaikan semangat keseluruhan Alkitab.

Saudara dan saudari, sifat manusia kita boleh membawa kita untuk "meniadakan Firman Tuhan". Apabila kita menjadi orang Kristian, kita mesti membaca Alkitab dengan baik dan hanya mengikut Firman Tuhan.

Bagaimanakah kita hanya mengikut Firman Tuhan dalam soal kewajipan kepada ibu bapa kita? Bagi anak-anak dewasa yang baru mula bekerja, mereka mempunyai banyak tuntutan perbelanjaan dalam hidup seperti pelbagai pinjaman, insurans dan bil perubatan untuk dibayar yang selalunya mereka merasakan bahawa mereka tidak mempunyai wang yang mencukupi. Walau bagaimanapun, jika ini menjadi alasan untuk tidak memberi wang kepada ibu bapa kita dan tidak memberi mereka nafkah, kita benar-benar tidak taat.

Sebenarnya, saya rasa apa yang orang tua kita minta tidak seberapa, tapi yang paling penting ialah hati kita. Biarkan ibu bapa kita merasakan ketaatan dan kasih sayang kita kepada mereka. Seorang ibu bapa mengadu, "Anak saya sangat tidak taat! Saya membesarkannya dan membiayai pendidikannya sehingga dia tamat pengajian dan keluar bekerja sendiri. Tetapi apabila dia mula bekerja, dia tidak memberi saya wang." Seorang ibu bapa lain berkongsi, "Anak perempuan saya sangat taat kepada saya! Dia memberi saya tiga ratus ringgit setiap bulan!" Ini menunjukkan bahawa wang adalah benar-benar ungkapan paling konkrit mengenai ketaatan anak.

Jadi bagaimana kita hendak mengimbangi perbelanjaan dan pendapatan kita? Hari ini, ramai orang mengadu bahawa mereka tidak mempunyai wang yang cukup. Ini kerana mereka tidak membuat bajet dengan baik dan membeli apa sahaja yang mereka mahu, tanpa memikirkan jika mereka mampu. Kita perlu menjadi pengguna yang bijak dan bajet perbelanjaan kita. Dengan cara itu, bukan sahaja anda boleh membayar persepuluhan anda, tetapi anda juga boleh menyokong ibu bapa anda dan mempunyai simpanan juga. Bandar Tasik Elsinore mempunyai keluarga besar yang terkenal, Casons dan 17 anak mereka. Bapa, Dave Cason berumur 46 tahun dan pendapatan tahunannya ialah \$80,000, termasuk bonus. Dia seorang jurutera rangkaian. Ini adalah pendapatan biasa untuk pekerjaan seperti ini. Ibunya, Christi Cason, 42, adalah suri rumah sepenuh masa.

Persoalan yang timbul ialah adakah gaji bapa sahaja sebanyak \$80,000, sebelum cukai, mampu menyara keluarga yang begitu besar? Jawapannya ialah Ya. Ibu ini adalah "bendahari" keluarga. Dia mempunyai banyak cara untuk menjimatkan wang, seperti mengumpul kupon diskaun dan membeli barangan runcit hanya apabila ada jualan murah. Apabila dia melakukan kerja yang baik dalam membuat belanjawan untuk perbelanjaan ini, keluarga juga boleh pergi ke luar negara sekali setahun untuk bercuti. Jadi, tidak kira berapa banyak yang anda perolehi, setelah anda berbelanja dengan baik dan tidak berbelanja secara rawak atau sesuka hati, anda masih akan mempunyai wang yang mencukupi. Selain itu, jika anda juga memberi persepuluhan dan menyokong ibu bapa anda, saya percaya Tuhan akan memberkati anda dengan berlimpah.

Sebenarnya Allah yang memiliki segala-galanya tidak kekurangan apa-apa. Seperti yang dikatakan Mazmur 50:10-12: "kerana haiwan di hutan milik-Ku, dan juga lembu di atas ribuan bukit. Semua burung liar kepunyaan-Ku, juga semua makhluk hidup di padang. Jika Aku lapar, Aku tidak minta makanan daripada kamu, kerana dunia serta segala isinya milik-Ku." Walaupun demikian, Tuhan tidak memberitahu kita bahawa kita tidak perlu memberi Dia wang; sebaliknya Dia berkata kepada orang Israel: ... "Bawalah seluruh persepuluhan kamu ke Rumah-Ku supaya ada banyak makanan di sana. Ujilah Aku, maka kamu akan nampak Aku membuka tingkap-tingkap syurga dan melimpahi kamu dengan segala yang baik." (Malaekhi 3:10)

Oleh itu, sebagai ibu bapa, anda tidak perlu menjadi lebih besar daripada Tuhan, dan jangan sekali-kali berkata kepada anak-anak anda, "Ibu dan bapa ada wang, jadi kamu tidak perlu memberikannya kepada kami." Biarkan anak-anak anda belajar untuk menunjukkan kewajipan anak. Anak-anak lelaki dan perempuan, walaupun ibu bapa anda mengatakan bahawa mereka mempunyai wang yang cukup, anda masih perlu memberi mereka wang tepat pada masanya dan menunjukkan rasa hormat kepada mereka. Ingatlah untuk memberi dengan rela dan sukacita kerana Tuhan berfirman, "Masing-masing harus memberi sebanyak yang telah ditentukannya. Orang harus memberi dengan rela dan sukacita, kerana Allah mengasihi orang yang memberi dengan senang hati." (2 Korintus 9:7) Jadi, apabila kita memberi wang kepada ibu bapa kita atau memberi persembahan kepada Tuhan, kita hendaklah memberikannya dengan rela.

Saudara dan saudari yang dihormati, saya berharap bahawa melalui Hari Kewajipan Anak tahun ini anda akan sekali lagi merenungkan apa erti kewajipan anak kepada ibu bapa dan ingat untuk menunjukkan rasa hormat kepada ibu bapa kita dengan cara yang paling praktikal. Amin.

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The Editorial

When I lamented to my mum my daily chores of raking leaves in my yard, she was least sympathetic and exclaimed that she wishes to rake leaves too if she could! My mum who will be 91 years of age this July is no longer strong enough to perform such task. However, in her younger days, I could not recall her 'enjoyment' while raking leaves in our home in Penang! Such are we, humans; we complain about our work, our daily chores and responsibilities, not realizing that the ability to do them are blessings from God and will be taken from us one day.

Young parents often lament on their lack of sleep at night, not realizing that the privilege of being parents are not accorded to all. Babies grow up too fast and your children will leave home one day before you know it. Then you wish to have your children back and will wait with anticipation and excitement for their homecoming.

We complain about our busy schedules at work, not appreciating the God-given ability to work and earn a living. Not everyone has a job to go to every morning.

Likewise, when God calls us into a ministry, His calling that perfectly matches our present circumstances and ability, has a time limit. Our ability, mental or physical will diminish with age and should not be taken for granted.

King Solomon in Ecclesiastes 3:1 wisely proclaimed that *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.'*

So let us enjoy whatever we are given to do at this stage of our life. Enjoy and cherish the ability to do what God has given us to do and the opportunities that He places us in. The next time when you are ferrying your kids to school or waking up in the middle of the night to feed your baby or even raking limitless leaves in your yard, rejoice and enjoy the moment! Praise God!

The Editor

Rencana Pengarang

Apabila saya merungut kepada ibu saya tentang kerja harian saya menyapu daun di halaman rumah saya, dia tidak begitu bersimpati dan berteriak bahawa dia ingin menyapu daun juga jika boleh! Ibu saya yang akan berumur 91 tahun Julai ini tidak lagi kuat untuk melakukan tugas seperti itu. Namun pada zaman mudanya, saya tidak dapat mengingati 'keseronokannya' semasa menyapu daun di rumah kami di Pulau Pinang! Begitulah kita, manusia; kita mengeluh tentang pekerjaan kita, tugas harian dan tanggungjawab kita, tidak menyedari bahawa kemampuan untuk melakukannya adalah rahmat dari Tuhan dan akan diambil dari kita suatu hari nanti.

Ibu bapa muda sering merungut kerana kurang tidur pada waktu malam, tidak menyedari bahawa keistimewaan menjadi ibu bapa tidak diberikan kepada semua. Bayi membesar terlalu cepat dan anak-anak anda akan meninggalkan rumah suatu hari sebelum anda mengetahuinya. Kemudian anda ingin anak-anak anda kembali dan akan menunggu dengan jangkaan dan keterujaan untuk kepulangan mereka.

Kita merungut tentang kesibukan kita di tempat kerja, tidak menghargai kemampuan yang diberikan Tuhan untuk bekerja dan mencari rezeki. Tidak semua orang mempunyai pekerjaan yang harus dilakukan setiap pagi.

Begitu juga, apabila Tuhan memanggil kita ke dalam pelayanan, panggilan-Nya yang sangat sesuai dengan keadaan dan kemampuan kita sekarang, mempunyai had masa. Keupayaan kita, mental atau fizikal akan berkurangan dengan usia dan tidak boleh dipandang remeh.

Raja Salomo dalam Pengkhotbah 3:1 dengan bijak menyatakan bahawa *'Untuk segala sesuatu ada waktunya, dan ada waktunya untuk setiap kegiatan di bawah langit.'*

Jadi marilah kita menikmati apa sahaja yang diberikan kepada kita pada peringkat kehidupan kita ini. Nikmati dan hargai kemampuan untuk melakukan apa yang Tuhan telah berikan untuk kita lakukan dan peluang yang Dia tempatkan bagi kita. Lain kali apabila anda menghantar anak-anak anda ke sekolah atau bangun di tengah malam untuk memberi makan bayi anda atau menyapu daun di halaman anda, bersukacitalah dan nikmati masa ini! Puji Tuhan!

Ketua Editor

编者的话

当我向妈妈抱怨我每天都得花时间在院子里耙树叶的琐事时，她总是语重心长的说，如果她能做到，她也希望能耙树叶！妈妈今年7月就91岁了，她已经没有力气再做这种家务了。然而，我还记得在她年轻的时候，她在我们槟城的家里耙树叶时有多“享受”！我们人就是这样；我们常常抱怨我们的工作，抱怨我们的日常家务和抱怨我们所应当负起的责任，却没有意识到做这些事的能力是上帝的祝福。而这能力或许有一天会从我们身上消失不见了。

年轻的父母经常为他们晚间的睡眠不足而叹息，没有意识到做父母的特权不是人人都能得到的。孩子成长得太快了，趁你还未意识到之前，他们就长大了，有一天也会离开家。到那时候你又多么地希望你的孩子能陪伴在你身边。你总是满怀期待和兴奋地等待着他们的归来。

另一方面，我们也抱怨工作上的忙碌，很少会欣赏上帝赐予的工作和谋生能力。然而，我们都知道，并不是每个人每天早上，一觉醒来，都有工作的机会。

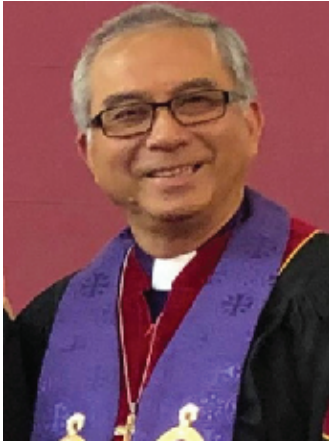
同样，当神呼召我们进入某项工时，祂的呼召与我们目前的能力完全吻合。我们都要承认我们的能力，不管是精神上的还是身体上的，都会随着年龄的增长而减弱。因此，现在你所拥有的，不应该被视为是理所当然的。

所罗门王在传道书3章1节里，很明智地宣称：“凡事都有定期，天下万务都有定时。”

因此，让我们享受在我们生命的每个阶段被赋予的一切。我们要享受并珍惜上帝赋予我们做事情的能力，以及祂安排给我们的机会。下一次，或当你接送孩子往返学校，或得半夜醒来喂你的孩子，或在你的院子里耙着无数的树叶时，请欢喜快乐并享受那一个当下吧。

主编

Methodism – The Religion of the Heart



John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, may be thought of by some, as a preacher who was sub-theological and merely focused his teachings on practical holy Christian living. However, Wesley's preaching was not sub-theological, but rather it was theology that made you sing – that is what all Christians should do!

In his early years, even after his ordination as an Anglican Priest, he was devoted to external, religious forms. It was only after his heart-warming experience at Aldersgate on 24th May 1738, that Christ became real in his life!

According to his journal, that evening he reluctantly attended a meeting in Aldersgate. Someone read from Luther's Preface to the Epistle to Romans. About 8:45 p.m. "while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

I can testify that I had a similar heart-warming experience as a student studying in England in 1978 at the age of 20. As I was brought up in a Methodist Christian home, I was always struggling with the question of "How can I be saved as I see myself being such a wretched sinner?" I was never sure of my salvation until two brothers from the Christian union in the college where I was studying my "A" Level came and shared with me explaining to me that I can never earn my salvation through pietism and good works. They explained to me the passage in Ephesians 2:8-9, that was when I realized I can only be saved through faith by trusting in Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross and it is by God's grace—by God extending His favour to me which I do not

deserve. That is how I can be saved. At the moment of being assured of my salvation, they laid their hands on me and prayed for me. That was when I felt my heart strangely warmed (and even my whole body) as the Holy Spirit came to dwell in me!

Therefore, to be sure, to be a Christian, meant more than behavioural change. It meant changing of the heart. John Wesley insisted that Christianity is the religion of the heart. This meant, among other things, that the Christian recognises sin is rampant and pervasive, but God's grace is sufficient and complete!

Hence, Wesley's teachings emphasise on heart religion. It is only when someone has had an encounter with the Lord, has received the assurance of salvation through Jesus Christ's saving grace and realises they have been justified by faith, that someone can really become a Christian. Thus, for Wesley, justification is experiential. Justification is something God does for us; giving us the new 'birth' which is regeneration; something God does in us. Justification brings us to God; regeneration makes us want God.

Salvation does not just bring about holiness; it also brings happiness. That's why as Christians we should be holy and happy people! We should not only believe, but must live out a life of holiness and happiness! Indeed, true joy for the believer is only found when we worship God from the heart!

Accordingly, we need the perfect righteousness of Christ, which is purely found by the grace and favour of God in the salvation of sinners. Personal holiness demands a response of nothing less than full surrender and devotion.

Wesley is firm on grace, but he teaches that grace leads to transformation. For Wesley, no one should be "content with any religion which does not imply the destruction of all the works of the devil. Therefore, this is the challenge to us as Christians: "Are we a holy and happy people?" If not, may we desire and work at living a life of holiness and happiness!

Servant of the Lord,
Bishop Emeritus Dr. James Kwang



I want to get off!

Sermon by Dr Wong Chee May at TTMC on Sunday 13 March 2022



I went on my first ocean-going cruise in 1997. In the liner was a fully equipped gym which guests were given free access to. The only problem was that I had never visited one before! Anyway, I decided that it was time to try out some of the machines that everybody was raving about, especially when there was no other person about at the time. The easiest and most user-friendly looking machine seemed to be the treadmill. So, I got on it and, nothing happened! I pressed the keyboard randomly, and, lo and behold, the thing started

running. After about five minutes, I decided it was enough, but I had no idea how to stop it! So, I did the only thing possible under the circumstances: I swung up across the handle bars, hopped off, leaving it happily running, and hoped that somebody would come and stop it at some point.

Brothers and sisters, do you sometimes find that life is like that? We seemingly run an endless treadmill, exerting all our energies. Or, we ride a merry go round, full of music, bright lights and colourful ponies, going up and down, round and round, but moving absolutely nowhere. We

end up exactly where we started! I had a hamster who used to run around on his little treadmill in his cage; he seemed very busy, but really, got nowhere despite all his efforts.

Today's Scripture lesson is a summary of what the Preacher, the writer of Ecclesiastes, learned from his observation about life under the sun. Let us assume that the Preacher mentioned was King Solomon. This collection of writing would then have been made near the end of his life, when King Solomon was thinking how he could guide his son, Rehoboam, to be heir to the kingdom which his father, King David, had given to him. As the gift of wisdom was what God had given to Solomon at his own request, let us come to listen as the Preacher speaks to us, from the wealth of wisdom he had accumulated over the years, through the experience of his triumphs, his gross mistakes, his failures and the eventual coming to terms with his life and death. Let him teach us how to look at life through glasses not tainted with frivolity or triteness, but with care. Let us examine the verity of a life lived 'under the sun' and the hope of a life lived 'beyond the sun', held in the hand of God.

The beginning of our passage this morning introduces us to the futility of a life lived 'under the sun', where everything that counts can be quantified on earthly terms. What do we want out of life? Is it to matter: to someone, or something? To accomplish something which would make a name for ourselves, so that others will remember us, even after we are dead and gone? Is that why we build the Great pyramids, the Petronas Twin Towers? The world's longest suspension bridge? Pastor the biggest megachurch? Hold the longest prayer meeting?

Do they really matter? Or, are they "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher. "Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless." as the Preacher tells us in verse 2?

From verses 3-11, the Preacher gives us examples of things that seem to change in appearance, but not in reality. He asks in verse 3: 'what do people gain from all their labours at which they toil under the sun?' He answered, in Ecclesiastes 2: 18-21: I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. 19 And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. 20 So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labour under the sun. 21 For a person may labour with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.'

The Preacher realistically understood his mortality, that he would die, and then, all that his hard work had accumulated and accomplished would be left behind to someone else. He could not control nor determine what would happen after that.

The Chinese have a saying: the first generation worked hard to buy a cow; the second generation rides the cow, and the third generation out of poverty sells the cow. 做牛, 坐牛, 卖牛. This seems to imply that prosperity in a family lasts at most three generations.

In King Solomon's experience: his father David fought hard to become king over a united Israel; King Solomon enjoyed the peace and luxury of that kingdom; after him, his son, Rehoboam, will eventually lose the kingdom foolishly, only managing to salvage Judah and Benjamin, and ceding the other ten states of the northern kingdom to Jeroboam.

Using the examples of nature and human experience, in verses 4-9, the Preacher talks about the ceaseless seasonal cycles of day and night, El Nino and La Nina; the never-ending cycles of learning and forgetting, of humanity repeating fatuous mistakes because we had chosen to ignore or refused to learn from history. 'There is nothing new under the sun' was his sombre conclusion.

Brothers and sisters, do you agree with him? Is there anything of which one can say, "Look! This is something new"? Verse 10 asks. If you look at the world now, you would realize that over 100 years ago, the world was also gripped by a pandemic after the First world war, from February 1918 till April 1920. During that time, almost one third of the world's population (500 million) was infected by the Influenza A H1N1 virus and almost 25-50 million people died. Today's SARS Co-V 2 pandemic has infected over 430 million people, and over 6 million people have died as a result. This is the outcome, despite the giant strides made in modern science with new vaccines hospital care and medication.

What about architectural accomplishments? Can anything compare to the pyramids of Egypt? Even today, we have difficulty in understanding how the Egyptians managed to construct them.

What about medical advances? To date, we have found it difficult to replicate the science of mummification which the Egyptians practised over 3500 years ago. Closer to home, the urine pregnancy test was 'discovered' in 1926, when scientists realized that the urine of women could be used to determine their status of pregnancy. Did you know that 3000 years earlier, the Egyptians were already doing that? They would soak bags of barley and wheat in the urine of a pregnant woman. If the urine caused accelerated growth of barley, it would be a girl; if the bag of wheat showed accelerated growth, it would be a boy! I haven't tried this out myself, so I don't know how accurate this is!

In verse 11: 'No one remembers the former generations, and even those yet to come will not be remembered by those who follow them.' Brothers and sisters, is this not so? How many of us remember who the second Prime Minister of Malaysia was? Who won the Tennis French Open in 2021? Who won the Oscar for Best Actor for 2021, in what movie? Which country hosted the previous Summer Olympics in 2016? Who is the current Miss World? Who is the fastest man in the world today? Who is the richest woman?

All these people had given years of their lives working to be where they are today, but, none of us even remember who they are!

And so it is with life: there are three inescapable facts which each one of us must understand: Life is brief. Death is certain. Judgment is inevitable. In light of these, how then should we live?

Brothers and sisters, today is the second Sunday in Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days, beginning from Ash Wednesday and finishing on Easter Saturday, when we remember Christ and His work of redemption for humankind. We especially remember His temptation in the wilderness, His suffering upon the cross for the sins of the world, His crucifixion, death and burial. Lent should be a time for us to take stock, to reflect upon our own lives, whether we have used the time God has given to us wisely; how we have benefited others using the lot in life that we have been gifted with, to recognize our own mortality and prepare for it, and therefore, consider our accountability before God, our Creator and our Judge.

If life were simply two dimensional, grounded merely on earthly terms, it would make good sense to work hard and accumulate as much wealth as we can, preparing for all eventualities. In the age to come, money, food, clothes, make-up, jobs, marital relationships will no longer mean the same thing as they do in this life.

On 01 July 1999, the RM 500 and RM 1000 bank notes were discontinued, and the Malaysia Ringgit was disallowed to be used in foreign exchange. Similarly, why do we want the currency of this world when it is not 'legal tender' in the age to come when God is King? Jesus has come teaching us to think in terms of a kingdom where there is no need, no lack: a kingdom where our heavenly Father is Lord, Provider and Giver of everything good and necessary for life: abundant life, eternal life. This is the Kingdom that the Lord Jesus Christ inaugurated when He died upon the cross and rose on the third day, when He overcame sin and its resultant death. This is the life we are going to inherit by grace through faith as the Holy Spirit's born-again children of God.

To help us, Lent urges three spiritual disciplines: Prayer, Fasting and Alms-giving.

Prayer: an intentional turning away from the lures of this world to God.

1. Let us learn contentment at the feet of Jesus, determined to see the fingerprints of our Creator God in all things around us
2. Let us re-learn what it is to wonder in awe as a little child at the vastness of our universe and to marvel at beauty wherever He leads us to be; where God can teach us to look into a face of ugliness and even there find the image of Christ
3. We need to confess to God our tendency to wander away from His side and His ways
4. We need to own up to our proneness to selfishness, arrogance and hypocrisy
5. We should grieve over our desires for quick fixes and short cuts rather than staying perseverance for the long haul
6. We must always remember to give thanks for the time He has given us, whether long or short, to use it wisely, to worship Him as He deserves, and to love one another as He has loved us

Fasting: to stay away from anything that diminishes us, that makes us less like Christ.

1. We need to remember that love costs, that following Jesus means denying self, taking up our cross daily and follow Him, wherever He leads us, as our shepherd and the captain of our salvation, the author and finisher of our faith
2. We must abstain from unkind words and bad thoughts, struggle with negative attitudes and insensitivity with difficult people in our lives; to not give up on people, or be too ready to prejudge people
3. We must learn to be generous with forgiveness, rather than to hold grudges

Alms-giving: to bless others as God has blessed us, to act as channels of His love.

1. Let us be ready to offer kindness and help, be it in word, action, food or monetary aid
2. Seek to be generous with time, attention and effort, knowing that everyone's lot in life is different and difficult. We all stumble and fall down. We all need encouragement. We need accepting grace even more
3. We must seek the justice and rights which we desire for ourselves to be also given to others

In Luke 12: 15-21, Jesus tells the parable of the Rich Fool:

15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."
16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'
18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry!'
20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'
21 "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Who is a fool in the bible? Someone whose outlook of life is dull and obstinate. Proverbs tells us 5 things about a fool:

1. He does not engage in a pursuit of wisdom
2. He who manifests a spiritual rather than a mental problem
3. He who enjoys his folly
4. He who has no reverence for truth
5. He who is a menace in society.

Brothers and sisters, the bible reminds us that the key to opening the door to a life of meaning and purpose is given only to those who remember who God is, and honour Him as such.

Ecclesiastes 12:13b-14: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Jim Elliot: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose." "Wherever you are, be all there! Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God."

Let us let Jesus have the last word on this matter: in John 10:10b 'I came so that they could have life—indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.'

Let us come to Jesus to receive a life that is worth living, and worship a God who is worth loving. Let us pray for a life that is abundant and filled with meaning and purpose, a life dedicated to the glory of God and to the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Dr Wong Chee May

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 1: 1-11

1 The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!"

says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless."

3 What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south
and turns to the north;

round and round it goes,
ever returning on its course.

7 All streams flow into the sea,
yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from,
there they return again.

8 All things are wearisome, more than one can say.

The eye never has enough of seeing, nor the ear its fill of hearing.

9 What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again;
there is nothing new under the sun.

10 Is there anything of which one can say,

"Look! This is something new?"

It was here already, long ago;

it was here before our time.

11 No one remembers the former generations,

and even those yet to come

will not be remembered

by those who follow them.



Do you remember your baptism? To be honest, I don't. Many years ago, when I needed to fill out a church form, I could not remember the date, the church where I was baptised nor the pastor who baptised me. That was also when I found that I had lost my baptism certificate! What a shame it is for a pastor to lose his baptism certificate! I called my mom for help, hoping that she could find it at her house. Unfortunately, she couldn't find it either. But fortunately, she found my twin brother's baptism

certificate and as we were baptized together, I could use the same information for the form.

On 15 March 1981, I was baptized by Rev Lee Jian Guang at Tien Nguon Methodist Church, Bintangor. That means, I have been baptized for more than 40 years. Thank God that I am what I am today because of God's grace, my parents who raised me up with God's Word and the pastors who disciplined me in the past.

- Do you remember your baptism?
- What really matters about baptism is NOT the date, the church where you were baptised in or the pastor who baptised you, but the meaning behind your baptism!
- Baptism is NOT for a piece of paper.
- Baptism is NOT a procedure to get married in the church.
- Baptism is NOT a requirement to get buried in the Christian graveyard.
- Baptism is NOT a ticket to heaven but..

Remember Your Baptism

- Baptism is a public declaration of faith in Christ.
- Baptism is a seal of ownership to God.
- Baptism is an initiation into Christ body.
- Baptism is a commitment to live for God.

Not only that, we must also receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit beside the water baptism. John the Baptist said to the Pharisees, "I baptise you with water for repentance...He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire..." (Matthew 3:11). Jesus said to Nicodemus when talking about the New Birth (Born again), "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5) Therefore, both water and the Holy Spirit baptism are equally important for the transformation of our life inwardly and outwardly.

Regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit, John Wesley explains that the born-again person could feel the grace, the peace, the joy and the love of God poured into his heart by the Holy Spirit. But simply feeling good or happy is NOT the new birth. The nature of new birth is the great change which God works in the soul when He brings it to life. In other words, you have to change in some ways if you are born again! Brothers and sisters, REMEMBER your BAPTISM!

Don't become an ALMOST Christian or a DEAD Christian who has received water baptism for the wrong purposes. Don't become hypocrites like the Pharisees who clean only the outside of the cup and dish but are full of greed and self-indulgence inside.

Repent! For the kingdom of heaven is near!

Receive the baptism of water and receive the Holy Spirit!

Rev Jabez Tiong

Romania Ramblings

Take me to a Deaf Church



Have you ever wondered how Deaf people do church?

I was in a Deaf church here in Romania the first weekend I was here. Apart from a few of us from the team who are hearing, and occasionally some CODAs (child of deaf adult), everyone else was Deaf. Everything was in Romanian sign language.

People were very friendly, many came up to say hi. With the limited Malaysian sign language I knew, I tried to introduce myself. (FYI: sign language is not universal, just like how we don't have a universal spoken language). Thankfully, the Deaf were very understanding.

My favourite part was the singing. Very often, they would pick a Psalm from the Bible and sing(sign) it, along with a beat - think Col 3:16 with a twist. Sign language is very visual language, so instead of hearing it, we see it. I thought it was really cool.

During the sermon, I tried my best to follow along. Sometimes there were pictures, PowerPoint slides, and Bible verses that I could look up in English, which helped. When it went too long without something I could understand, my concentration started to lapse, and I started getting bored. Then it occurred to me... **That's what a Deaf person feels on a weekly basis when the only option they have is a hearing church with no interpreter!**

But it doesn't always have to be this way. The Deaf are capable of leading Deaf churches and understanding the Bible for themselves, given that they have access to it in a language that they understand best - sign language.

LANGUAGE LEARNING

I have been learning Romanian and Romanian Sign Language with a method called the Growing Participator Approach, where we approach language learning as children, seeking to participate and learn about the host's world through their lens.

Our Romanian language helper, or "Nurturer" is Iulia, a young Romanian university student whom I've really enjoyed getting to know - our lessons are always lots of fun. As for Romanian sign language, our language helper is Remus, a Deaf artist, who is teaching us not only the language, but also providing us a window into Deaf culture.

To give you an idea how our Romanian language lessons look like...



Figure 1- Lots of toys, pictures and pointing.

I used to see language learning as a barrier or obstacle to overcome before we can get to the "real work" of ministry, but now I'm starting to see otherwise - language learning can be very relational if you're intentional about it!

I've had many opportunities to talk about God in the process of language and culture learning, whether it's to encourage fellow believers or to share with unbelievers what Jesus means to me. Praise God for these conversations, and may He continue to grant more, that it may bring Him glory.

INTRODUCING MY HOUSEMATE, REBEKAH

You're probably going to hear about her or see her in my pictures a lot, so I thought I should introduce her.

Rebekah is from Canada, and we're here on the same training program. We didn't know each other before this, but we decided to live together, which has turned out to be a huge blessing. Praise God for a wonderful apartment and a lovely housemate!



Figure 2- With my housemate Rebekah, at my favourite time of the day ;)

I can't say this enough, but thank you so much for your support and prayers! God does hear and answer your prayers. Do know that I pray for you often too.

Love from Romania,
Amy Ting

The original article was published as shown in the link below:
<https://mailchi.mp/a31dd9ef85b9/romania-ramblings-take-me-to-a-deaf-church?e=9298dca064>

IS ↻ ounselling, necessary?

Counsellors have been around for long time; however, it has never been a popular or a properly understood profession. Often, it gets confused or overlooked with professions such as the psychologist, therapist, social worker, psychiatrist and other professionals. During the duration of my learning to be in the profession, it has often been questioned if other health professionals even knew what role the counsellor plays in the industry. Counselling has a very similar meaning to advising, however the role of a counsellor is not to tell a person what to do, but to support and guide the person. This is performed via exploration and understanding of one's emotions, which allows an individual to better decide for themselves a suitable path. This is done as problems come with unseen factors, and much is left unseen, with various prejudices and viewpoints obscuring the full picture.



Counsellors focus on emotional and behavioral changes to cope with problematic situations, and this takes time. Often, I use the example of their mental health being like a muscle which is often neglected. It takes times to strengthen it and if you do not take care of it, it affects other parts of your body. You do not merely go to a gym for an hour and expect to see results. The process can also require facing pain. Furthering the analogy, when a muscle is neglected, often you do not see or feel the ill effects until it is too late. There are many different ways to strengthen a muscle and there isn't one method that fits everyone. Likewise, there are many professions that support mental health including professions such as teachers, human resource personnel, and even talking to a friend or loved one can have the same impact as counselling. However, a counsellor focuses on providing solutions in a safe and non-judgmental environment, using techniques for situations that over years of research have proven to be effective without putting much focus on labels or the use of medicines.

Working with the younger generation has been a blessing and has been rather inspirational. My original response when working with this age group was that it would be difficult. It would not be easy to discuss topics such as self-harm, suicide, gender identity, sex and many more with a young group, especially with someone who is still

considered a stranger. However, we need to understand that for a generation growing up with technology, the majority would already know and have been exposed to these topics. From movies, videos, social media and even friends that open their minds to such issues at a young age, they merely seek further guidance on how to handle it. Occasionally, students seeing me will tell me 'Don't tell my parents' or 'my parents would not understand' or 'I have been afraid to come to talk to someone about my problem'. Usually, this is due to the stigma put in them about mental health from society, passed down through generations of thinking that if they reveal their problems or see a counsellor, there must be something 'wrong' with them.

It is sad, as often, they are told things like 'stop', 'control yourself', 'behave', 'don't be childish', 'that's not how your friend/brother/sister acts', but that does not help them handle the problem; rather it encourages them to conceal it. This ends up becoming much like a pressure cooker, waiting to explode if they can't find a way to properly let out the steam. It also creates a communication barrier between the parent and child while letting the child feel they can't be themselves. God created us with emotions both positive and negative for a reason. We should not try to eliminate or hide negative emotions but instead learn and openly discuss how to use it to benefit us, for example, using anger to protect, stress to motivate, sadness to show empathy and kindness. Everyone benefits from a little extra support/guidance and this is true for any age. Often, most are just uncertain how to express themselves properly, getting lost or misguided by media and lack of information. Thus, counsellors are trained in this area to be sensitive and identify the needs or problems so as to guide a person to look for possible solutions to the issue using their own strengths.

In conclusion, is counselling necessary? I would say it is the same if you ask me, is church necessary? You can be a faithful child of God without going to church. However, going to church provides a nurturing environment and guidance that allows you to grow closer with God. Without guidance and nurturing, will mean less support to the person and leaving them more vulnerable to whatever comes.

Rebecca Chang



The Great Commission

SEVEN! That was how long it took me to finish my Masters in Christian Studies (MCS) in the Theological Education by Extension or more popularly known as T.E.E. The journey was not a breeze as I thought when I first begun. However, by the grace of God, the journey turned out to be a journey of discovery. Just when I thought it was a journey of discovery about God, it was also a journey of discovery about myself. Just when I thought theological education is a destination, I discovered that it is a progressive process that needs constant unlearning, learning, relearning and constant adaptation. Just when I thought, with the pandemic around, our graduation could only be done online, God provided the opportunity for us to have a physical thanksgiving graduation ceremony at St Thomas Cathedral, Kuching. God's grace has been unfailing, and it comes in unexpected ways.

When I first received my graduation gown in late August 2021, the photo studios did not accept children below 12 years old for our family portrait. It has been something my wife was looking forward to. Who would have known? Just when matters did not look promising, a Thanksgiving ceremony was arranged to be held here in Kuching and my family and I would be able to take our family portrait, with me in my graduation gown! Nonetheless, the Lord reminded me that this is not the destination and that we ought to continue to grow in our journey of faith, knowing Him through the study of the Scripture and through fellowship among believers. Lest we forget, our mission comes with a commission - His last commandment before ascension must be our first priority. Let us all be reminded of the great commission lest it becomes the great omission! Grace and Peace to us all.

Garry Lin

P6

My Faithful God

It is a principle generally acknowledged and practiced that a student in search of scholarship should apply for all that he/she qualifies for. The award of a scholarship is unpredictable and depends on what others may call 'luck' but what we call 'God's will'. A poster child with full straight A+s and a good record of participation in Co-curriculum activities may not succeed in his/her application; one with a blank application may even be awarded the scholarship - "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of the Lord!" (Job 1:21 Easy-to-Read Version)

With that in mind, I applied for the ASEAN Scholarship in the May/June 2021 while I was in Year 11, not thinking too seriously of it. My parents encouraged me to just go ahead and try for the "experience" and thinking nothing could hurt, I went ahead. In my mind I had already planned to follow the path my sister took for her further studies: head to MCKL for A Levels in July 2022 then to the UK for university.

That was, until an email came for the selection test. The test was in the middle of my IGCSEs (equivalent to SPM) so I prepared for it the best I could with resources from my school teachers. Another two weeks later, an email for an interview came. The interview was held right after my High School Graduation Ceremony, and I fumbled my way through the short, 20-minute interview. In my nervousness I gave honest answers that I thought were plainly unattractive to my panel of interviewers. Thinking I did the very worst, I dare not send a thank-you email or even notify my mentors.

Until two to three weeks later, on the 7th of December 2021, an email arrived. "Congratulations! You have been awarded the ASEAN Scholarship". With that heading, joy and anxiety both blossomed in my heart - my life plans so far has been flung out the window in that instant. I remembered telling Mdm. Re Gal, my career counsellor that I was 79% sure to stick to my plans. After all, I was afraid of Singapore's A Levels that was much more challenging than the International A Levels I had planned to take. Many people had explained that I would encounter the "big fish small pond" problem where in being surrounded by bright and accomplished peers, my self-esteem would be shattered by my mediocrity. I had to drop SPM, something I had worked towards for the past 5 years externally. My father was very displeased by this fact as it meant I could not apply for Malaysian scholarships or come back to work in Malaysia (unless I sit for the exam later).

I committed the next few days to praying as I had to reply to them within a week. The next day, as I was praying, I felt God calling me to head to Singapore for a season of moulding, as this was the door He had opened for me and the paths He had prepared for me. He led me to Deuteronomy 1:19-33 "Israel's Refusal to Enter the Land". The passage was about how God commanded the Israelites to enter the land of Amorites, a portion of the Promised Land (Genesis 15:18-21) yet they disobeyed Him as they were afraid of the Amorites and their fortified cities in the land of Kadesh-Barnea. A bit later on, they confessed their sins and prepared for battle, but God told them to stop as "He was not in their midst" (Deuteronomy 1:42, ESV). The Israelites promptly disobeyed God and suffered a defeat where they were driven from Mt Seir all the way to Hormah (name meaning "devoted to destruction"). You can probably imagine how fearful I felt. In my situation, I was the Israelites - obeying God would mean entering the land in February, when God first calls as opposed to going to KL of my own accord and getting defeated in July. "Okay God, if that is the case, convince my father (a pre-believer)" I remembered praying.

On the very same night, my father came back singing a different tune.



Convinced by his friend who assured him of NUS world ranking (ref: <https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/national-university-singapore-nus#profile-university, QS University World Ranking>), he fully encouraged me to choose whichever options I would like. God displays His perfect timing by being so quick to answer my prayers and convincing both my father and I on the very same day.

The next family member was my mother who was worried about how I would handle the stress. God answered her as well because one day while she was cleaning her desk, she stumbled upon a note that said: "Life has meaning only in the struggle. Triumph or defeat is in the hands of God. So let us celebrate the struggle". This quote was taken from a Swahili Warrior Song mentioned in Bishop Lau's sermon on 2 August 2020 entitled "I Will Continue to Love God, But...". While reading, these words switched on a lightbulb and touched her heart, so she gave me her blessing to walk this path.

Apart from that, I really thank God for the blessings from my community and church. He has sent people to pray alongside me during that fateful week. I've had calls and consultations with pastors, church elders, my career counsellor, dad's friends and more. My aunty advised me to negotiate with God, so on the 10th of December that was promptly what I did. I had a long list of requests in my head, but that morning as I prayed the Spirit compelled me to list down three only. "After all, if these requests please God, He would grant me good academic results as well" I thought (with Solomon's request and Matthew 6:33 in my mind). I presented my requests to the Lord namely:

- 1) that Holy Spirit will keep me ever close to Him amidst all difficulties
- 2) that God will provide me with a healthy Christian community/church and support system
- 3) that God would assign me good teammates for Project Work (a component in school).

Now it was God's turn to give His terms:

- 1) Continue to have quiet time with Him no matter what
- 2) Serve in the church in Singapore
- 3) Practice good time management

We shook on it. God has also taken care of my unspoken requests as well. Although I could not go to Methodist College Kuala Lumpur (MCKL), God has sent me to a Methodist Institution in Singapore as well - Anglo-Chinese Junior College.

Throughout this entire experience, I've learned that men may plan, but ultimately God knows best, and He is sovereign and in control. Just as it is written in Proverbs 16:9, "In their hearts, human plan their course, but the Lord establishes his step". As to where I'll go after A Levels, I don't quite know yet; but I rest assured that I shall be walking in the paths that God has prepared for me. As my new Junior College's motto states, "To God be the Glory, the Best is yet to be".

Rui Yu



The Greatest Christmas Gift

My name is Wong Shu Shan. I am from Selangor, and I am currently staying in Kuching, pursuing my Masters in Counselling in one of the local universities in Sarawak. As for my age, I am a 7-day old Christian baby.

I would like to thank God for giving me this golden opportunity to share my journey of salvation with you all, and I'm really happy and excited to share. Throughout the journey, I would say that I had a very

amazing and wonderful experience. I was born and raised in a Buddhist-Tao family. In 2015, I became a devoted Buddhist, and for those who have known me, you'll definitely link my identity with Buddhism. Back then, I have never ever thought that one day I would become a Christian.

Despite coming having a Buddhist background, I have uncles and aunts who are Christians. In fact, one of my aunts, just became a Christian a few years back. Even though I do not know much about Christianity, the one thing that I see in Christians is that they are so loving, accepting and kind towards one another. Since young, I have the thought of hoping to grow up in a Christian family that celebrate Christmas together, go to church on Sundays, pray together before meals and carolling during Christmas. But I know that all of this would not be possible as my family members are committed Buddhist. Hence, I followed my family to the temples since young and have joined many Buddhism activities. In spite of this, I am thankful to God that I was brought up in a family that holds certain values.

In 2016, I came to Kuching for my undergraduate studies. I thank God that I got my first choice, which is in Social Work Studies. The first day when I stepped on Sarawak land, I immediately fell in love with this wonderful place; the environment, the people, the surroundings, and the culture. After I have graduated, I thank God that I am able to continue my Masters in Counselling from the same local university. One thing that led me to further my studies right away was because of my hope to stay longer here in Sarawak. Thankfully my parents and relatives are all very supportive for me to further my studies.

In August last year, I moved out from my friend's house, as I needed to find a place nearer to where I will do my internship. Back then, I was not a Christian yet, but deep down inside me, I was hoping that I can stay with someone who is a Christian so as to know more about Christianity. With God's grace, when I moved into the house where I am still staying right now, there's a sticker on the wall with this phrase 'God is Love 耶稣

爱你. The moment I saw the words on the wall, I was really surprised. My housemate who is a Christian was the first person who introduced me to Jesus.

Then in December last year, I have a very strong urge to go to church for the Christmas service. Sister Re Gal, invited me to Trinity Methodist Church, and that day my life changed. After the service, the liturgist announced that they will be going to Kampung Kudei to distribute Christmas gifts. The first thought that came into my mind was: Oh, I'm definitely joining! I approached brother Raymond to ask about the details, and I got to know sister Judith outside the Sanctuary. She brought me for breakfast and we went together to Kampung Kudei. She invited me to her house for Christmas dinner too. I would like to take this opportunity to thank sister Judith for her kindness and love. That whole day was the greatest Christmas gift that I've ever received from God. I felt the inner peace, inner joy, inner happiness, and it has filled the emptiness in my heart. That day onwards, I told myself that I will definitely attend the Sunday services.

The next day, I went for Sunday worship. Throughout the service, I felt like God was speaking to me. The preaching and the songs that we sung, truly touched my heart. During the silent prayer, that was the first time I prayed to Jesus. In my prayer, I said: Lord Jesus, please help me with my struggles. I know that when I choose to receive you as my Lord and Saviour, I will be facing a lot of struggles and challenges because I was an active member in my previous religion's organisation. As I am very new to Christianity, all I know is that to put your trust in the Lord, and He will take care of you. So, I chose to trust Him.

As God works in mysterious ways, it only took me 5 days to overcome my inner fears and doubts. God has truly answered my prayer in many ways. One of it was sending someone who was previously a devoted Buddhist but now a devout Christian to share his testimony with me. He even gave me the Holy Bible. The moment I received the Bible, I felt that I've received the greatest gift from our Heavenly Father.

I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour on the Watchnight Holy Communion Service. I am happy to announce to the whole world that I am now a child of God, and despite knowing that I will still be facing many struggles and challenges, I am willing to take up my cross, and follow Jesus Christ.

All in all, I would summarise my whole experience in a song titled: **All I once held dear** by Robin Mark.

Thank you, dear Lord, for your Grace.

Thank you, brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you TMC,

May God bless every one of us, Amen!

Wong Shu Shan
7th January 2022

A True Story To Relate



We went for Holy Communion last Sunday at Trinity Methodist Church. We queued up and when we reached the front, we knelt down with our left hand opened, palms up and right thumb and fingers closed to receive the bread and wine. Pastor came and gave us a small plastic receptacle with the wine, saying the Body of Christ. We prayed, eyes still closed but alas, no bread was delivered to the left hand.

We were kneeling there for a long time and as pastor came a second round, he asked if we wanted to be prayed for. We

told him that we have yet to receive the bread. As we opened our eyes, we saw a broken piece of biscuit on the top of the sealed receptacle but could not figure out where the bread for us was.

Then the helper came and pointed to the sealed biscuit on top of the wine. Realising the sealed biscuit, we tried to peel off the cover but failed. The assistant pastor quickly and deftly peeled off the cover and delivered the bread to us and all was good after that.

Lessons learnt:

1. The failure of communication due to Covid. Remote meetings had not trumped over physical ones.
2. The failure of the older person's eyes and fingers. We are Creatures of habit. Our minds are so imprinted with our old ways, our eyes do not see what is right in front of us and our fat fingers are not adapted to peel off the covers without spilling the wine or breaking the bread.
3. Jesus has freely given His Body and Blood for us. Let not Covid, nor any physical constraints put a barrier for us to freely receive His love and forgiveness.

♥ A Tribute to my dog, Bibi



Bibi was such a beautiful and wonderful gift entrusted to me from our good Lord to bless me from October 2007 till December 2021.

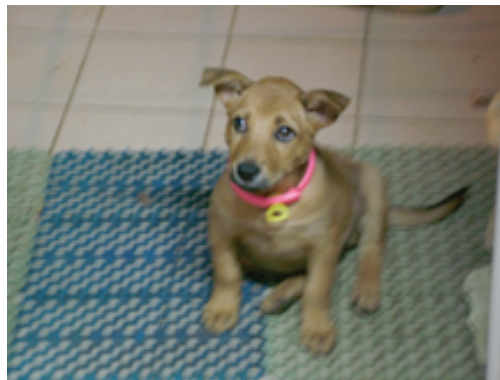
She was presented to me as a tiny, cute dog when she was 1-2 months of age. She had a pair of big eyes with a tiny body that was covered with skin disease. I remembered vividly how she showed up sitting in front of my front door. Imagine, she was so tiny that she could crawl through the stainless-steel frame of our front gate. That same afternoon, the Vet whom I bought Bibi to, was not so optimistic of its chances of survival. The rest was history of how she survived and thrived.

From the year 2021 till now, I went through the painful journey of my dogs going through sickness, ageing and death. My dogs, no doubt, are members of my family. The emotions of losing them are as real as losing our loved ones.

Toward the second half of 2021, I noticed that Bibi, though still as energetic as before, began to change in her habits. She used to be a bossy dog who would dominate over my other two dogs, Harry and Naughty. I noticed that she had lost that position of dominance and was rather insecure, tailing me whenever I was with them. During the night, instead of resting at her favourite spot, she began to switch to a distant spot, away from the other two dogs.

Sensing that my dogs are getting old and since they all like to rest in the coolness of the house, we allowed them to rest in the kitchen. We then realized each time her difficulty when she tried to lie down or get up. Dogs age like humans too. They have stiff joints and their legs, especially the hind legs are getting weak. The muscles are not as strong. One day, I realized that Bibi's fur around her backside was wet. From then on, she was incontinent.

Bibi was frustrated, anxious and lost her usual confident energetic self. Webpage information says that Bibi was probably showing signs of dementia.

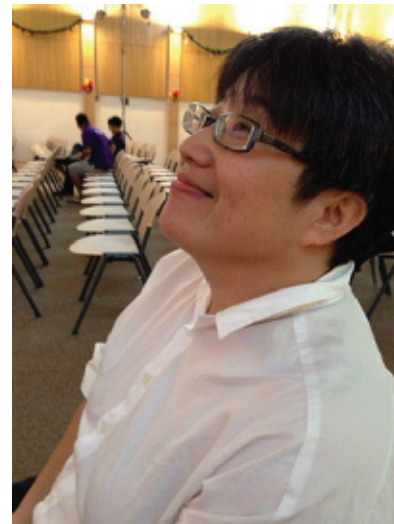


On the last day of 2021, I came back late from work. I arrived home at 6:30pm and I saw my friend's car parked outside my house. When I went in, the other two dogs were wagging their tails to welcome me, but I did not see Bibi. When my friend opened the gate to go into my house, Bibi must have walked out through the gate and out of my life. I spent hours looking for her, knowing that she will be so terrified if she hears firecrackers later that night. I went with a broken heart to the Church's watchnight service that evening, knowing somehow that she had just left as suddenly as she had come 14 years ago.

I was terribly sad as I felt that I had overlooked and neglected her ways of asking for help. During the last two months of her life, she was desperately trying to get my attention, but I had done so little to help her. I know that I had often told her that I love her. Yes, indeed I truly loved her but at the same time, my love is so divided as my heart is so full of many other things. I did not take the time to show enough love to her. I could have done more!

I believe that the Holy Spirit is teaching me through everything that was happening in my life, be it happy or sad, gain or loss. It could be a time for me to reflect my life. I began to ask, "Lord, what is it that you are showing me about myself? What is it that you are teaching me? What is it that you want me to change from this experience?"

Losing Bibi, caused me to realize that we often assume that we plan our own lives and think we hold the plan in our hands. Our minds often expect things to happen as we envisioned it. We are seldom prepared



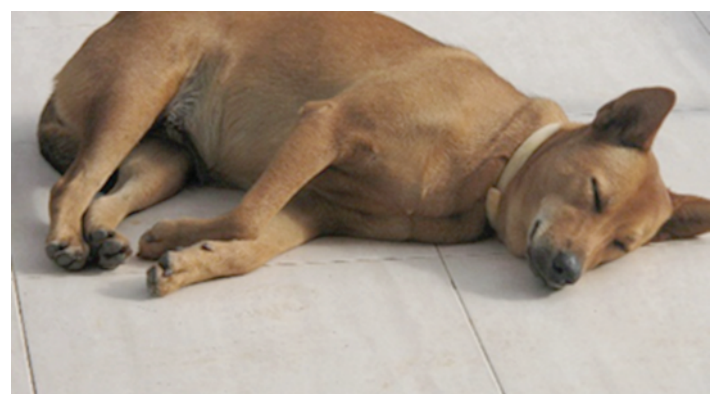
for things that will be out and beyond our hands. But no! Life is in fact not in our hands. Our life is in our Master's hands. Losing Bibi, taught me to let go of my grips on treasures of my heart but to trust that God knows better and that He is always good. In the early hours of 2022, God was teaching me to let go and let Him have the treasures in my heart.

Secondly, I realized that love towards a loved one is best expressed in action while we are still given the privilege to do so. Do what we can so that our love

towards our loved one is obvious and felt by them. Loving my Bibi is my duty as I am her Master. How different is this Master of Bibi as compared to our Master, Lord Jesus? We do not deny the challenges as we learn to grow to love as Christ loved. The challenges lie in recognizing our own brokenness and overcoming them with God's grace and help. Most people will likely say that I loved my Bibi very much. But I

know and God knows too that there are areas which I could have done more. But the Holy Spirit reminded me that I should not continue to feel sorry for things I have failed to do but rather to strive for the things that I can do now. By God's grace, we will strive to do our best in things that He has entrusted us with and to show love to all that He has sent to us with our best intentions and capacity. May God help us all to continue to grow our faith in Him through our life's journey here on earth, growing through all life's incidents and daily experiences. In all things, we are to thank Him, honour Him and glorify Him. For He is our God and there is no other but Him that deserves all our worship and praise.

Judith Tang



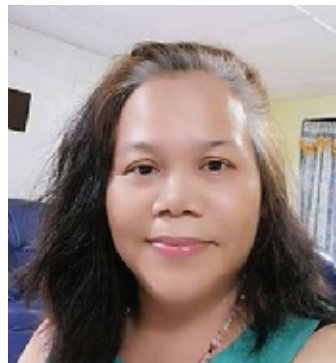


Adakah anda ingat pembaptisan anda?

Sejujurnya, saya tidak. Bertahun-tahun yang lalu, apabila saya perlu mengisi borang gereja, saya tidak ingat tarikh, gereja tempat saya dibaptiskan mahupun pastor yang membaptiskan saya. Ketika itu saya juga mendapati bahawa saya telah kehilangan sijil pembaptisan saya! Sungguh memalukan seorang pastor kehilangan sijil pembaptisannya! Saya menghubungi ibu saya untuk mendapatkan bantuan, berharap dia dapat menemuinya di rumahnya. Malangnya, dia juga tidak dapat menemuinya. Tetapi mujurlah, dia menemui sijil pembaptisan saudara kembar saya yang pada masa itu kami dibaptis bersama, saya boleh menggunakan maklumat yang sama untuk borang tersebut.

Pada 15 Mac 1981, saya telah dibaptiskan oleh Rev Lee Jian Guang di Gereja Methodist Tien Nguon, Bintangor. Ini bermakna, saya telah dibaptis selama lebih daripada 40 tahun. Syukur kepada Tuhan kerana saya seperti sekarang ini kerana kasih karunia Tuhan, ibu bapa saya yang membesarkan saya dengan Firman Tuhan dan para pastor yang memuridkan saya pada masa lalu.

- Adakah anda ingat pembaptisan anda?
- Apa yang benar-benar penting tentang pembaptisan BUKAN tarikh, gereja tempat anda dibaptis atau pastor yang membaptis anda, tetapi makna di sebalik pembaptisan anda!
- Pembaptisan BUKAN untuk sehelai kertas.
- Pembaptisan BUKAN tatacara untuk berkahwin di gereja.
- Pembaptisan BUKAN persyaratannya untuk dikebumikan di tanah perkuburan Kristian.



Sentiasa Berdoa dan Berjaga-jaga

Di setiap perjalanan kisah hidup kita, bagi orang yang percaya dan beriman kepada Tuhan Yesus harus sungguh-sungguh mengandalkan Dia untuk setiap penyertaan kehidupan sivil kita.

Tuhan mengerakkan hati saya untuk satu destinasi yang sangat memenuhi keinginan rohani saya untuk bersama dengan Dia di dalam satu roh untuk menyelami

betapa Tuhan Yesus mengasihi kita dan Dia mahu bersama menyertai kita walau sekecil apapun yang kita lakukan dan bertindak semahu-Nya.

Pelayanan Wanita BM telah mengadakan Retreat Wanita ke Gereja Methodist Petra di Bau pada 4-5 Mac 2022. Perjalanan saya bersama 12 wanita ke sana dan ke gunung doa memberi saya satu ruang di hati saya untuk satu tanggungjawab yang harus dipikul oleh setiap orang percaya, iaitu sentiasa berdoa dan berjaga-jaga. Saya bersyukur dan memuji Tuhan walaupun pada malamnya kami di serang oleh sekumpulan lebah yang membuat sarangnya di atas lobang paip air di sebelah kiri bangunan depan gereja.

Puji syukur tidak ada yang di antara kami yang terkena sengatannya. Terima kasih pada Pastor yang memanggil Pegawai Bomba dari daerah Bau untuk mengusir lebah itu. Pada petang hari pertama kami disana tetapi pada malamnya lebah itu tetap keluar untuk mencari siapa yang mencerooboh tempat kediamannya makhluk ciptaan Allah, pencipta kita juga.

Ada sinonimnya lebah dan kita sebagai manusia ciptaan Tuhan, pada hari ke enam di mana Allah melihat seluruh hasil karya-Nya itu sungguh baik sekali. Kejadian 1:31.

Kejadian 1:26-27 Allah menciptakan kita manusia menurut rupa diri-Nya. Dari sinilah mulanya salsilah kita manusia bermula. Dan dari sinilah fungsinya manusia harus bergerak dan berjalan bersama

- Pembaptisan BUKAN tiket ke syurga tetapi..
- Pembaptisan adalah pengisytiharan umum tentang iman kepada Kristus.
- Pembaptisan adalah meterai pemilikan kepada Tuhan.
- Pembaptisan adalah satu permulaan ke dalam tubuh Kristus.
- Pembaptisan adalah komitmen untuk hidup bagi Tuhan.

Yohanes Pembaptis berkata kepada orang Farisi, "Aku membaptis kamu dengan air untuk pertaubatan... Dia (Yesus) akan membaptis kamu dengan Roh Kudus dan dengan api..." (Matius 3:11). Yesus berkata kepada Nikodemus ketika bercakap tentang Kelahiran Baru (Lahir semula), "Yesus menjawab, "Apa yang Aku katakan ini benar: Tidak mungkin seorang pun menikmati Pemerintahan Allah, kecuali dia dilahirkan daripada air dan daripada Roh Allah." (Yohanes 3:5) Oleh itu, kedua-dua air dan pembaptisan Roh Kudus adalah sama penting untuk perubahan hidup kita secara dalaman dan luaran.

Mengenai pembaptisan Roh Kudus, John Wesley menjelaskan bahawa orang yang dilahirkan semula dapat merasakan kasih karunia, damai sejahtera, sukacita dan kasih Tuhan yang dicurahkan ke dalam hatinya oleh Roh Kudus. Tetapi hanya merasa baik atau gembira BUKAN kelahiran baru. Sifat kelahiran baru adalah perubahan besar yang dikerjakan Tuhan dalam jiwa apabila Dia menghidupkannya. Dengan kata lain, Anda harus berubah dalam beberapa hal jika anda dilahirkan semula! Saudara-saudari, INGATLAH PEMBAPTISAN anda!

Jangan menjadi Kristian yang HAMPIR atau Kristian MATI yang telah menerima pembaptisan air untuk tujuan yang salah. Jangan menjadi munafik seperti orang Farisi yang hanya membersihkan bahagian luar cawan dan pinggan, tetapi di dalamnya penuh dengan ketamakan dan kesenangan diri.

Bertaubatlah! Kerana kerajaan syurga sudah dekat!

Terima baprisan air dan terima Roh Kudus!

Rev. Jabez Tiong

bergandingan tangan dengan Allah pencipta kita yang telah memberi kita bagi orang yang percaya kasih karunia-Nya yang cukup berharga iaitu pengorbanan-Nya di atas kayu salib. Justeru itu jangan mengangap kasih karunia Yesus di kayu salib sangat murah.

Hati dan roh saya sangat berduka cita dan terganggu pada malam hari ketika saya tidak dapat tidur. Apabila saya belajar dan menyelami hati Tuhan Yesus ketika dia di Taman Getsamani. Matius 26:36-45 Yesus pada malam Dia dikhianati. Yesus berdoa dengan iman yang penuh percaya, doa menyerahkan diri kepada kehendak Bapa di syurga.

Yang jadi masalah manusia dan orang yang percaya ialah masih percaya dan melihat definisi dunia global sekarang ini yang penuh kepura-puraan dan tipu daya si ular tua itu. Dunia dilanda Covid-19 pada Oktober 2019 hingga sekarang sudah hampir 3 tahun. Dunia kita sengsara, kita dilanda virus corona.

Mari kita lihat nubuatan nabi Yohanes di kitab Perjanjian Baru iaitu Wahyu 16:15 - "Dengarlah! Aku datang seperti pencuri! Berbahagialah orang yang berjaga-jaga dan siap berpakaian, sehingga mereka tidak berjalan dalam keadaan telanjang dan dipermalukan di hadapan umum!"

Wahyu 3:3 - "Ingatlah kembali apa yang telah diajarkan kepada kamu dan apa yang telah kamu dengar. Taatilah semuanya dan bertaubatlah daripada dosa kamu. Jika kamu tidak bangun, Aku akan datang kepada kamu seperti pencuri dan kamu tidak akan mengetahuinya saatnya Aku datang."

Renungan Firman Tuhan pada hari Retreat itu di Efesus 4:17-24 sangat tegas mengenai kehidupan rohani kita orang percaya dan sangat memberi pencerahan yang mendalam di dalam kehidupan saya sebagai orang percaya. Firman Tuhan ini berkata di ayat 20: kerana kita telah mendengar tentang Yesus dan menerima pengajaran di dalam Dia menurut kebenaran yang nyata. Amin!

Kita harus berada dalam hadirat Tuhan supaya kita tidak diombang-ambing oleh ajaran dan ideologi dunia.



Asal Kita Sanggup, Tuhan Pasti Beri Kemampuan Untuk Melakukannya

Saya bersyukur kerana Tuhan beri saya kesempatan untuk membuat kesaksian saya sepanjang di dalam pelayanan saya.

Di dalam pelayanan yang ditugaskan kepada saya kadang-kadang saya ragu-ragu sama ada saya mampu atau tidak untuk melakukannya. Apa yang saya jawab ketika diberi tugas atau bertindak. Saya hanya cakap ok saja. Tapi selepas

itu, di dalam fikiran bermacam-macam, apakah saya boleh atau tidak. Kalau tahu tidak boleh, kenapa harus jawab boleh. Dalam perjalanan balik sampai rumah, tak apalah, saya minta Tuhan tolong saya. Sepanjang tugas itu belum dibuat saya berdoa supaya Tuhan buka jalan, supaya Tuhan permudahkan. Doa saya, Tuhan, Engkau tahu yang aku tidak mampu dan tidak berpengetahuan dalam sesuatu perkara ini, tapi kenapa aku harus diletakkan di situasi ini. Namun saya tahu ini adalah rencana Tuhan di dalam kehidupan saya.

Tidak saya nafikan, saya ada pergumulan baik dalam keluarga saya dan orang di sekeliling. Ada saja ujian dan cabaran yang saya alami. Jikalau bukan kerana kasih Tuhan yang selalu berbicara kepada saya, bahawa dia selalu menyertai dan saya tahu Tuhan pasti memampukan saya di dalam segala hal.

Di dalam pelayanan, saya tidak pernah berputus asa kerana saya tahu di dalam Tuhan ada pengharapan, kita hanya perlu membuka hati, jiwa serta sanggup cabar diri dan siap melakukannya. Tidak kira tugas itu besar ataupun kecil. Yang penting berusaha dan bertindak di dalam pimpinan Tuhan.

Mengapa saya mengatakan bahawa Tuhan sentiasa memampukan saya kerana pada masa Krismas tahun lepas, pihak gereja kita ada membuat kunjungan ke kampung Kudei. Setelah sampai di kampung Kudei kami berpecah kepada beberapa kumpulan sambil membawa hadiah Krismas untuk diberikan kepada jemaat di sana.

Ketika kumpulan saya ingin memberi hadiah tersebut, ada seorang ibu yang meminta untuk didoakan kerana anak dia sedang sakit. Oleh kerana masa itu hanya Rev. Jabez dan saya yang masuk ke dalam, maka ibu itu terus bercakap dengan saya dalam bahasa Iban. Dan saya memberitahu Rev. Jabez bahawa keluarga ini memerlukan doa. Masa itu Rev. Jabez kata ok. Dan secara tiba-tiba Rev. Jabez meminta saya untuk menterjemahkan dalam Bahasa Malaysia. Hati saya terus berkata "Apuu". Saya sempat mengeluh, saya takut, saya terus automatik ingat Tuhan dan minta Tuhan tolong saya. Rev. Jabez kata "not so hard" tapi "very hard" untuk saya, "It's simple prayer". Saya pun kata ok saja. Kemudian saya pun tidak tahu bagaimana saya boleh dengan lancarnya menterjemah doa Bahasa Inggerisnya kepada Bahasa Malaysia. Disitulah Tuhan telah memampukan saya, di saat saya perlukan Dia. Selesai berdoa, Rev. Jabez dan saya pun keluar dari rumah itu dan dalam hati saya berkata, selepas ini saya tidak mahu lagi satu kumpulan dengan Rev. Jabez.

Bila difikirkan kembali pada saat dalam hati saya berkata begitu, saya menyedari bahawa itu adalah rencana Tuhan yang Dia sudah aturkan untuk saya. Kita sendiri tidak tahu, saat kita tidak tahu, masa itulah Tuhan menyertai dan memampukan kita.

Saya akhiri perkongsian saya dengan Amsal 16:3 "Serahkanlah perbuatanmu kepada Tuhan, maka rencanamu akan terlaksana." Amen

Dalina Jawan



Kesaksian Peribadi

Syalom semua, nama saya, anak ke 3 dalam tiga adik-beradik. Saya dilahirkan di tengah keluarga yang percaya dan mengikuti Tuhan Yesus, secara langsung saya dibesarkan dan dididik untuk membaca Alkitab dan berdoa serta dipimpin ibu bapa menerima Tuhan Yesus dalam hati saya

semasa masih sekolah rendah.

Sebagai anak muda yang masih belum matang secara rohani dan pemikiran ketika ibu bapa tidak bersama saya untuk berdoa dan membaca Alkitab, saya tidak konsisten untuk melakukannya. Saya rasa itu penyebab pertumbuhan rohani saya juga tidak konsisten tetapi saya menyedari bahawa berdoa dan membaca Alkitab itu adalah sangat penting sebab itu ibu bapa saya menekankan bahagian ini menjadi amalan hidup kami adik-beradik. Untuk memelihara kerohanian saya bertumbuh dengan baik saya mulai mengikuti persekutuan muda-mudi pada umur 15 tahun.

Masa itu saya didorong oleh ibu bapa saya dan dibawa oleh dua orang kakak saya, kerana dorongan itu saya terpaksa mengikuti persekutuan

muda-mudi. Jauh dalam hati saya, saya tidak mahu mengikutinya, saya sangat bergumul. Saya bergumul kerana saya berasa malas dan hanya tidak mahu mengikuti persekutuan muda-mudi. Dalam keadaan yang terpaksa saya pun mulai mengikuti dengan berterusan dan saya menemui manfaatnya.

Mengikuti muda-mudi memberi manfaat kepada setiap yang mengikutinya. Bagi saya persekutuan muda-mudi ini telah membentuk saya dari pertumbuhan rohani seperti membaca Alkitab dan berdoa walaupun masih belum konsisten. Selain itu membentuk saya dari segi disiplin diri dan memberi saya pemikiran yang terbuka. Selain dari itu kesempatan untuk menjadi AJK Muda-mudi mendorong saya untuk menjadi bertanggungjawab pada diri saya di hadapan Tuhan dan di hadapan manusia.

Saya bersyukur kerana mulai daripada paksaan saya menemukan kasih Tuhan dalam hidup saya, oleh itu saya mendorong pemuda pemudi yang berada di sini untuk mengikuti persekutuan muda-mudi. Mari kita sama-sama menjadi anak yang menyenangkan hati Tuhan dan ibu bapa kerana mereka layak melihat kita gembira.

Berdoalah untuk saya dan muda-mudi yang lain supaya kami terus mengikuti Tuhan dan terus melayani Tuhan di mana-mana sahaja dan bila-bila masa. Segala kemuliaan hanya untuk Tuhan Yesus Kristus. Saya akhiri kesaksian saya dengan ayat Firman Tuhan yang di petik dari 1 Timotius 4:12 "Jangan biarkan sesiapa menghinamu kerana usiamu yang muda. Jadikan dirimu teladan kepada semua orang beriman dari segi kata-kata, kelakuan, kasih, iman dan kesucian."

Wesley Sam

我是4D门徒

2021年3月份，刘立伟牧师在三一少团里介绍这个4D课程，鼓励我们青少年参加。当时我并不想也无意参加，因为觉得学校的功课都够繁重了，那里还有时间。于是就抱着事不关己的态度，这或许有可能是遗传自我爸爸那不爱读书的基因。后来经过立伟牧师和契友们不断的邀请，我才勉为其难的报名参加。

刚开始上课时我都是带着每次上网课，上到麻木的心情上课。但后来我渐渐发现这个课程并不会有任何的压力，反而有种每个星期跟朋友喝茶聊天的感觉，很放松自在。一个星期一个小时，上课时间并不长。所以即使我再忙都还是有办法把一个小时的时间挤出来。

在这个差不多为期一年的4D课程，我学习到了很多神的话，认识到了自己其实还不是一个完整的基督徒。4D并不像其他课程，它算是一个比较简单的课程。我，牧师和其他两位学员，可能因为我们性别一样，所以说话是会比较轻松，比较开放，不会太拘谨。

上这个课程以前，我已经有很多年没灵修了，上完过后，虽然有时会忘记，但是大多数时间我还是会有灵修。其实以前没上这个课程时，我算是有一点点社交恐惧，在团契中我是能坐角落就坐角落的人，可是4D中期时会让你实习，实践。当我听到要实习时，我真的一下就冷了，我太没有自信了。

去年，我听说了这个4D门徒课程。我还记得，那时牧师第一次介绍这个课程的时候我不在场。后来在少团的报告中，牧师再次地介绍了。那时我就毫不犹豫地报名了。你问我那时我心里在想什么，我其他的都没想，只想着“更多认识神”。

在此，先说说4D门徒课程和其他课程有什么不一样。首先，它是设计给青少年使用的。一个老师和三位学生为一个小组。我们可以自由安排时间上课，通常是每个星期一次，也可以自由安排地点上课。可惜的是，去年刚好碰上严重的疫情，所以我们都在网上见面。

在每一次的课程中，我都十分投入与享受。因为刚好我的小组成员都是少团中一起侍奉的弟兄，因此都能敞开心胸自由地分享。感谢神，让我在每一课都能学习不同的东西。我印象最深刻的是对于敬拜这个课题。我学习到敬拜的定义不只是唱歌赞美神，而是无时无刻都在敬拜神，不管是在什么场合，只要敬拜者存虔诚，敬畏的心。此外，我也学习到敬拜时要将焦点转向神，要诚

4D课程是一个非常轻松的课程。在这个课程里就很像是一边聊天一边学习。我要感谢神让我接触到了这个4D课程，我从中学到了很多。我在这个课程里重新的认识了自己，认识了自己的不足。我知道我要改的还有很多，并且我下定决心要努力更加学像基督，也知道做人不要否定自己，要提升自我的价值。

在课程的后半段，我们也开启了实习。在教学的过程中，我也复

我开始喜欢4D课程，里面的课题很吸引我而且也不会很难理解，比如有很多世界性以及教会生活的课题。研读这些课题让我的信仰更加生活化，也激发我想要探索和了解更多。

这个课程让我了解到信仰的基础，虽然父母从小都有教导我，但自己再一次的通过这个课程来巩固这个基础是更好的，更能深入我的心。所以少年人们，不要犹豫了。你们一定要来参加这个课程，它能让你更加的亲近神。

郑以烈

记得第一次实习时，我支支吾吾，连自己说什么都不知道，只知道一直重复同样的话，不过久而久之，虽然还是会紧张，但起码不会说什么自己都不知道。现在，我也是少年团契中的职员了，更是一个小组的组长，什么都要我开头。我发现我真的改变了很多，我敢于说话了，没有了以前那种能免则免的心态了，这就是实习的好处。

我希望4D这个课程有更多人参与，了解神，并改善像我这样患有社交恐惧的人（以前）。最后我也谢谢张牧师的指导与帮助。

钱学良

实实，毫无保留地来到神面前敬拜。因为圣经说：“上帝是个灵，所以拜祂的必须用心灵和诚实拜祂。”在教会唱诗赞美时，唯有神是我们的观众，带领敬拜的或会众们都是敬拜者。

当然，我在信仰的各层面也有了更多的认识。如祷告，胜过试探，认识圣灵等等。我也透过这个课程，更加看重了每一天灵里的喂养，更专注与神亲近，更加渴慕认识神。透过每次在课程中的分享，也让我学习如何对他人分享和学习聆听他人的分享。除此之外，在上D3时，我也学习到如何教导。在教导的同时，我也领受许多。

最后，在我未来的道路当中，我还在寻找神对我的计划，我相信祂必有祂的安排，因为祂的道路高过我们的道路，祂的意念高过我们的意念。愿神赐福我和所有人。阿门！

黄永钧

习学过的课题，这让我在面对非信徒的问题时，可以正确的回答，而不会误导他们。这要感谢张鸿恩牧师，感谢他在这为期大概一年的时间里对我们三位学员耐心的指导，让我们从中获取的更丰盛，也要感谢另外一班，我们实习的对象，感谢他们专注参与，还有他们的指导与帮助。

钱学忠

新生命的瞬间

在我就读医学系的第三年，我得到了在诗巫中央医院妇产科实习机会。在实习的过程当中，其中有一项要求是规定实习医生必须要观察十次自然分娩的过程。然而，就在这样的机会当下，我首次亲眼见证了新生命开始的珍贵过程，同时也感受到母亲们那份牺牲的爱。

我充满期待及带着好奇心进入了产房，在医生与护士的协力下，我目睹了一个婴孩如何从母腹，慢慢地通过产道滑出来。我先是看到稀疏的头发，皱皱的皮肤，紧闭着的眼睛，扁扁的鼻子，接着就听到“哇哇哇”响亮的哭声。就这样，一个奇妙的新生命降临到了这个世界！

从宫缩到胎儿娩出的整个过程当中，我看到身为一位母亲是如何在生产疼痛中，依然保持坚强与勇敢。当时的我无法掩盖我激动

的心情，眼泪立即控制不住的流了出来。顿时联想到两千多年前，也有一个婴孩——耶稣为了我们，来到了这个世界，不是出生在舒适的产房，而是出生在简陋的马槽里，以这样卑微的方式出生。同时这也让我想到，我们更应该过着谦卑，倒空自己的生活

。在那样的一瞬间，让我更加决志要做一位好医生，一位以基督的心为心，以基督为榜样的医生，帮助及医治有需要的人，在行医这条道路上，更加学像基督耶稣。

弟兄姐妹，让我们一起默想在马槽里出生的耶稣，他卑微的样式。让我们一生跟从耶稣所走的道路，过谦卑奉事的生活，活出基督的样式。

黄钟莹

无论何处去

五年前，因丈夫工作的关系，我带着刚出生的大儿子随着丈夫来到古晋定居。一转眼五年过去了，回首这五年的时光，真的是上帝的恩典 (Grace) 满满。

G - God is good! 上帝给了丈夫稳定的工作，为我们预备了很棒的房子，又赐给了我们多一个产业 (小女儿)。

R - Relationships! 感谢神我们在三一堂感受到了弟兄姐妹们温暖的关怀，很享受与初成弟兄姐妹们之间的团契。

A - Ample! 上帝的恩典满溢！上帝知道我们经济上的需要，为丈夫开路，使他能接触到一份副业，供应我们一家的需要。

C - Christ ! 我们刚搬进新家的时候，我的母亲送给了我们一副木匾额，上面写着 [基督是我家之主]。我们把它挂在墙上，它提醒着我们要在生命中把基督放在首位！“你们要先求祂的国，和祂的义，这些东西 (你所需要的) 都要加给你们了。” (太6:33)

当有了年幼的孩子，忙碌的家庭生活以及丈夫在事业上的冲刺，常常让我们很轻易的就选择放弃灵修亲近神的时光。我们要常提醒自己，[基督是我家之主]，在生活中要记得尊主为大！

E - Emmanuel! 神与我们同在的信心！创28:15里记载着上帝对雅各的应许，神说“我也与你同在，你无论往哪里去，我必保佑你，领你归回这地，总不离弃你，直到我成全了向你所应许的。”当初来到古晋，对未来的未知也曾令我们感到彷徨，神对雅各的应许成为了我的定心丸，神与我们同在，必不离弃我们，必带领我们前面的道路。

如果你正面对人生的转折点，或是刚移居至他乡，请记得上帝的恩典 (GRACE) 够你用！因为 God is good! 要回到教会，参与团契，与教会的弟兄姐妹们保持 Relationships! 在生命中记得尊主 (Christ) 为大，无论你往哪里去，神都与你同在 Emmanuel !

刘世慧

我病了

去年年尾我被检测到中Covid，之后我就被隔离了一个半月，因当时疫情严重，所以公司比较谨慎，就比别人隔离在家做工更久。休息期间，感谢主没有太多的不舒服，唯独失去了嗅觉功能，六个月后才完全康复。

康复之后我的情绪就开始莫名的高低起伏。整个人开始臃肿，一直吃不饱，体重于是开始增加。当时的我完全没理会自己的健康，也没有寻求神的帮助。一开始做工就一直忙赶之前隔离未能完成的工作。

就这样拖了几个月后，发现自己真的越来越肥，情绪越来越不好，脑海一直有对婚姻，丈夫，孩子甚至自己的抱怨。一直有很负面的情绪出现在脑海中，甚至经常在梦里被这些负面的情绪惊醒。

当时，自己真的很无助，不知道怎么跟别人说出口。感觉说了还是帮助不到，因为自己的情绪根本无法控制，而且是前所未有的坏情绪，就连自己都觉得恐惧。

于是我安静自己，我跟神说话。我没有听到神回答我，我没有得到答案。我继续祷告，但是我知道我自己的祷告充满着焦虑，祷告内容非常模糊，心情很不平静。

之后，因为需要带母亲去做全年身体检测，自己也顺便去做了全面检测才验出自己得了thyroid (甲状腺素过度分泌)。我当下感到很平安。我差点觉得自己是奇葩。得病了竟然还心里平安。我终于清楚知道我异常情绪的来源。

就这样我很平静的来到神的面前，我祷告。我记得我跟神说：我承认我生病了。我承认我没有放下自己全然信靠你。你让我看到我自己的软弱。我的病让我再次回到神的怀抱中。

神让我再次回到读经，灵修，团契小组生活。神让我在这个病当中看到我的缺点，看到我的需要。病痛也让我看到我对婚姻的渴望，误解，需求。我的得着不只是从这个病当中得着康复，而是得以挣脱心里的苦毒而得着自由。不再被捆绑。最后在此分享在这期间对我印象深刻的经节：

“然而靠着我们的主，在这一切的事上，已经得胜有余了。因为我深信无论是死，是生，是天使，是掌权的，是有能的，是现在的事，是将来的事，是高大的，是低处的，是别的受造之物，都不能叫我们与神的爱隔绝；这爱是在我们的主基督里的。” (罗8:37-39)

李美凤

我从小就非常喜欢和家里的老人粘在一起，因为总觉得他们不会骂也不会打小孩。

还记得在2014年初，我从教会一位弟兄口中得知三一日间托老中心正在寻找一位合适的中心经理。当时的我没有特别的想法，但是在聆听了这位弟兄分享上帝是如何带领这个小组看到照顾长辈的需要，我也因而被上帝感动了。

回家反复的思考自己是否有能力胜任这个职责时，上帝就让我脑子里浮现出许多长辈活动时的有趣画面。这是我人生路程里从未想过的事，但上帝竟然让我看见了。最后我顺服了。

很多朋友甚至家属很好奇地问我，为什么会选择这份工作，因为如果换作是他们，肯定不敢轻易尝试。我承认，一开始工作因为有很多的不懂、不会、不理解，导致我很压力，甚至想以辞职来逃避。但是上帝很爱我，他透过一位弟兄在灵修的时候告诉他，我现在非常需要帮忙。而这位弟兄却不知道会有这样的声音，也不懂该怎样向我开口。一直到有一次的祷告会，我们一起服事，那一天当我们彼此代祷时，我分享了我当时的处境。这位



弟兄就立刻告诉我，许多时候，发生事情后上帝不是没有回应或不理我们了，相反的上帝是要我们学习“等”而不要急着做决定。

我非常认同，也承认我确实每次祷告了，但却没有耐心等待神的回应，就立刻自己寻求解决方案。当我学习祷告交托，等待神的带领时，我发现我又意外的领受了一个很美丽的恩典。

原来在2014年上帝引领我到托老中心，不完全是为了服事长辈，而是预备我和我家人来照顾我们患癌的父亲。我们没有想到父亲后期肺癌转移到脑部，会因此导致他失去日常生活能力，甚至就像一位失智的长辈。感恩的是因为在那之前我时常与家人分享工作里的得着，所以很自然的我的家人就开始认识到应付失智者的一些方式，甚至如何移动父亲等等的大小事情。若不是上帝的带领和恩典，我们一家不可能如此的淡定的面对这样突发的转变。

职场上的挑战是永远不会少的，神对我的爱也是永无止境的。因此我要带着这份爱，凭着对神信心，面对一切困难。

李美玲



我出生在一个小康之家，从小我就跟母亲到庙里祈福，祈求神明保佑平安。

到了中学时期，我和家人遇到种种问题，那时候我们过着很不安宁的日子，每天提心吊胆的，心灵和肉体都受到伤害。在没有办法之下，我们尝试到所有的庙去求问神明，甚至还信了佛教。

之后爸爸的朋友带我和爸爸来到教堂寻找牧师，第一次踏进教堂我感受到了平安，透过诗歌带给我安慰和鼓励，还有一群弟兄姐妹为我们祷告，感觉充满了爱。

牧师也邀请我来团契，第一次要去团契时刚好有事情就缺席了。之后，一班青团的弟兄姐妹邀请我参加，还有交通载送，到了团契大家对我微微笑，非常热诚的招待，让我感受到了归属感，就像一家人一样，心里也有平安，我就在当中学习不断成长。

当我信主后，我开始真正了解到自己的信仰，也经历了神的同在，透过课程装备自己，也确定自己已经重生得救了。

以下是我信主后真正找到的。

1. 永远的生命和生命的改变。

永远的生命是神的生命，我们得着了神的生命，不但能在今世有生命的改变，还能在将来得享永远的福气。

2. 生命带来平安，满足，充满力量。

3. 爱与被爱

信耶稣充满了爱，和感受被爱，有归属感。我们爱，因神先爱我们。

黄惠如



从小，妈妈就带我上主日学。到我出来社会工作，就自己去教会。从受洗，参加团契，到现在，信主已有15年了。

在这当中我学到了如何事奉，服侍，待人，做上帝的工。在团契里也学到如何领会，领唱，做招待，认识圣经里神的话语，如何祷告等等。

我本是个很内向，文静的一个人，参加了团契过后，慢慢的就善于跟人交谈。虽然我信主和参加团契很多年，我还是不断在学习当中，比如学习当个好基督徒，当个好职员。我现也开始上门徒课程，也许这一切都是上帝的安排下。

我要将这一切荣耀都归给我主上帝。

陈嘉丽

一封家书

至亲爱的三一家人们，

主里平安！

感谢上帝的恩典，让我们能在主里相遇，三一家一直都很照顾我们。我还记得上次您们给予我们带来的惊喜，从遥远的马来西亚递来的饼干、干捞面和美极面等等。当我们收到时，我们真的很感动。我非常想念马来西亚。



感谢神让我们在基督里成为一家人，特别是上帝可以通过三一家的众弟兄姐妹给予我们，这么多的祝福。最后我感谢您们一直把我们放在您们的祷告中、并以实际的行动来支持我们的事工，我们感受到您们无私的爱和奉献。

愿我们在未来的岁月里携手努力，来荣耀主的名，上帝祝福您们！

苏献恩

望天

乌黑的天，连绵细雨
唯有祢的话语，洒在我心头
能洗涤我心中的忧闷与哀愁
耶和华 我的神哪！

天地之主。。。我当歌颂赞叹祢这奇妙的创造。。。
-雨后必有晴天-

《望天》这首赞美诗是在我心中最忧烦苦闷时，上帝来到我身旁，开我心灵的眼，让我有所感触而写的一首诗。

每年的年初都是我烦恼头痛的日子，因为我需要准备一整年公司的工作展望和计划。两年前因着疫情的关系，很多的工程都停滞不前。感谢主的供应，看顾和保守，即便面对这种情况，公司的周转并没有太大的问题。然而今年，无论如何都要想尽办法让一些工程能够实行。

同时，新的一年也开始进行教会一整年的事工计划，我所负责的团契组事工也因着疫情关系，很多活动无法实行。今年是否能够回到实体也还是个未知数。每天翻开报纸都看到新冠变种病毒奥米克戎(Omicron) 新闻讯息满天飞。疫苗注射了一剂又一剂，我有时在想，这世界为何会变成这个样子，可悲啊！

然而，这疫情却让我能安静的躲在家中两年。开始时真的很不习惯，尤其是像我这样，以往天天都出门在外公干的人。

现在习惯关在家里，想到又要出外地去工作，要走出这个舒适区而往外跑，心中却是百感交集？在床上翻来覆去无法入眠，满脑子都是胡思乱想的事，心里无法安静下来。

凌晨三点钟，我走出房门，打开大门往外看，乌黑的天，下着绵绵细雨，好像在诉说着我心中的苦闷。翻开手机的圣经，想要以上帝的话语来安抚我那颗不能平静的心。

【创1:4】"神看光是好的，就把光暗分开了。"

【诗119:105】"你的话是我脚前的灯，是我路上的光。"

【诗55:22】"你要把你的重担卸给耶和华，他必抚养你，他永不叫义人动摇。"

【诗68:19】"天天背负我们重担的主，就是拯救我们的神，是应当称颂的。"

看着这一段段赞美神的诗篇，心中慢慢的平静下来。五更抬头望天，一丝淡淡曙光照进我的心房，犹如一道暖流流遍我身，神的爱拥抱着我，我禁不住赞叹祂这奇妙的创造。

雨后转晴所照来的光安慰温暖着我的心，有神与我同行，前方的道路再难、再迷茫、我又有何惧！

田峻嶸

门徒绿本回忆录

每当圣诞铃声响起时，我的心情也跟着起伏，因为这时也到了决定明年要作的计划和参与的事奉的时候。

“参加门徒吧！” Oh No! 主啊！我没有时间！不要再提醒我了！” 这是我好几年下来与神的对话。

2019年经历了生活的压力，情绪的波动，心中的苦和忧闷；许多失眠的夜晚，工作的烦恼，经济的压力，人事的摩擦，搞到我面目皆非，面临崩溃的边缘。

这时主内的姐妹送了一本《Experiencing God》给我。失眠的夜晚，我就一天一天，一篇一篇的看这本书。从中与神重新建立了关系。主说祂爱我，为我舍身，要我行在祂为我预备好的计划中；让我感受到祂那无限的爱与祝福。我说“是的，主啊，我愿回转放下了自己的计划，顺服祂的引导，参加团契和门徒，认真对待自己的信仰，活出与信仰相称的生活。”

2020年尾我下定了2021年参与绿本门徒的决心。因为上红本有好多的功课，要花很多的时间，我一直在问自己可以吗？可以吗？但与主立约不可回头！

开课了，许多的人我不认识，许多的功课，我不明白！经文的意思不了解，我每天都对我自己说你确定要继续吗？

渐渐的在上课时，牧师的引导，门徒班员的个人心得分享，及课

文的讲解让我越上越有兴趣，越读越了解圣经所要说明的！其中在人性光景中，看见人的软弱，以及学习如何用神的智慧来面对。班员们在有困难时，互相的代祷，加油，鼓励分享，也使绿本越来越成为我生活中不可缺少的一部分！

绿本塑造了我，开了我的眼睛，使我看得更全面，教导我，好好分配时间完成功课，并从中得益处，应用在每日生活中。

我在绿本中也学习到，不惧怕前面，勇敢踏出，做改变！就如以色列人勇敢的踏进红海，海水就分开了！原来改变没有想象中的难，离开罪，也没有如想象中的带来亏损，反而看见上帝的慈爱与满满的祝福。

2021年充满着 covid 19 的威胁，害怕与不安！但2021年却让我更深刻的体验到神的恩典，明白耶稣的心意及圣灵的同在。

2021年是困难的一年。但困难不会阻止我亲近神；而是神紧紧的抓住我，抱着我走过困难与患难！困难，患难是神另类的祝福！

罗5:3: “不但如此，就是在患难中也是欢欢喜喜的。因为知道患难生忍耐。”

张汉琳

书名：《清晨》

作者：金南俊 译者：王桂珠

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封面简单，白底蓝字，有如一片清新又宁静的心田。

您是否正在寻找清晨祷告的动力？不妨来阅读这本简单易读的书，让作者带领你去目睹许多的圣经人物的例证，看看他们透过清晨的祷告而得着神的帮助，领受神的策略，化险为夷，反败为胜的经历。

如约书亚如何面对眼前坚固的耶利哥城墙，希西家王如何面对敌军攻略，摩西如何面对后有埃及追兵前有红海的穷途末路，大卫又如何面对扫罗的追杀等的例子。他们都有一个共同点，就是黎明未到，他们就极早起来寻求神的面，谦卑呼求神的帮助。奇妙的是，神的手常在清晨时临在他们当中，赋予祂的大能和怜悯施行神迹，成就救赎计划的大工。

圣经的记载让我们一一看见了神施展奇妙的大作为 - 第七日清晨，神使耶利哥城墙突然倒塌了！希西家王清早起来一看，不料看见全部敌军都被灭尽了！就如诗篇46:51所说“神在其中，城必不动摇，到天一亮，神必帮助这城。”摩西在急难中定睛仰望神的拯救，神使红海分开了！能力荣耀都属于独行奇事的耶和華！

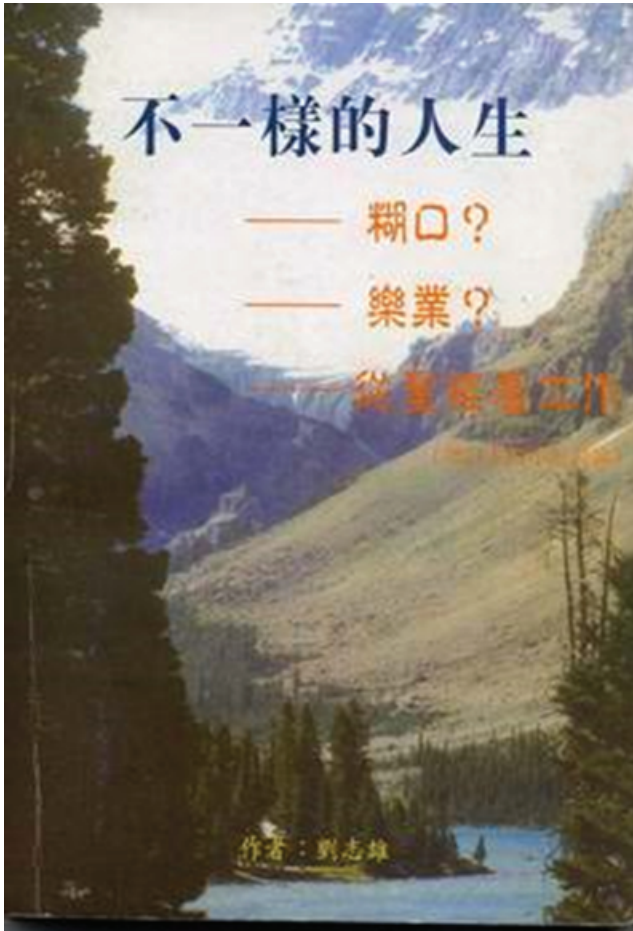
阅读完毕，的确让我看见神喜爱在清晨动工。凡在清晨等候神的人都得以寻见祂。大卫喜爱黎明时寻求主的面，耶稣也在天未亮时，祷告父神。神喜爱于清晨降临，将吗哪，天粮共给百姓，抹大拉的玛丽亚在清晨遇见复活的主，复活的主在清晨寻见灰心丧志的彼得，是主的爱使他重燃爱主的心...

大卫在诗篇108:1-2 如此说“神啊，我心坚定，我口要唱诗歌颂。琴瑟啊，你们当醒起！我自己要极早醒起。”大卫清晨起来，以赞美迎接新的一天，向爱他的主倾心吐意。

但愿每个清晨有主温暖的爱，唤醒我，得以极早起来朝见爱我的主，胜过被窝的温暖。愿我能学像诗人那样，“至于我，我必在义中见你的面；我醒了的时候得见你的形象，就心满意足了。”(诗篇17:15)

杨官莲





书名：《不一样的人生》

作者：劉志雄

一个服侍主的人，如果他劳苦，亲手做工，供给自己和同人的需用，就是织帐棚者。身为织帐棚者，我们的服侍、工作及家庭应如何来协调，又该有怎样的态度？我们的服侍是否合神心意？我们的工作敬业、糊口还是见证神...？

歌罗西三17：「无论作什么，都要从心里作，像是给主作的，不是给人作的。」我们所侍奉的乃是主；无论做什么都是为主做的，无论在哪里都要成为合神心意的人。然而，我们每天都非常的忙碌，生活中有太多的事情，不知该如何安排事情的优先次序！

我们是蒙主恩被救赎回来的儿女，我们的工作、服事、家庭、生活上的一切应该都是为着主，以神为中心，并且我们活着只有一件事，就是荣耀祂。犹如保罗的人生，他活着，只有一件事...（腓三13）。当我们知道是为神而做的时候，凡作在主身上的，便有永恒的价值，那我们会重新定位自己的价值观。我们也不再受工作的捆绑，不再叹息汗流满面才能糊口。

真实的服事是生命的流露，当我们在主的面前谦卑下来，肯让十字架来破碎我们时，我们才懂得真正的服事。一个人能被主使用，那是多么大的恩典！依靠神，让祂牵着我们的手来做每一件事，我们就能越服侍越轻省，若靠自己就确实做不成什么。

15世纪的马丁·路得提出一个真理：“信徒皆祭司”，阐明每一个重生的基督徒都是侍奉神的祭司，（彼前2:9-10）使徒彼得亦称神的子民是“有君尊的祭司”。因此，我们每个得救的基督徒都应该出来侍奉，活在地上为主而活，为福音而活，这是一个伟大的呼召。保罗书信中说：「这个天上来的呼召是让我们为着神儿子基督作见证，为主活在这个世界上。」神把这样一个恩典摆在我们中间，让我们知道自己是一个祭司！是一个侍奉神的人！

基督徒在服侍神的过程中，有一个最近的工场就是自己的家，神呼召我们是「我和我的家」一起来服侍。在我们的家庭生活中，有一个很重要的观念，就是保罗说的「一个人若不能照管自己的家，焉能照管神的教会。」求主给我们这个恩典，让我们看到服

侍需要一家人全心投入，特别是夫妻二人更需要同心合力、彼此代祷、彼此服侍、爱我们的伴侣、爱我们的孩子、孝顺父母、与家人有亲密的关系。让我们常常安静在主前，求圣灵来光照我们，来清理我们心里面许多的亏欠。靠着圣灵的引导，我们的生命会一天新似一天，满有基督的身量。

我们活在世上，要有仆人的心态，愿意谦卑、感受到每一件事都是主的恩典。倘若信徒的一生能被描述为“神的仆人”，并成为后人的榜样，这可真的是上好的祝福。能够享受神儿子一切的祝福和自由，不是靠我们自己的能力，乃是倚靠神的大能。我们工作的表现能不能把荣耀归给天父是件很重要的事，因这一切乃是在于神的恩典。愿我们都能找到属神儿女的生活目标和意义，向着标杆直跑，过一个与世人「不一样的人生」。

郑丽冰



记住你的洗礼



你记得你的洗礼吗？

说实话，我不记得。许多年前，当我需要填写一份教会的表格时，我不记得我的受洗日期，教会，和牧者。也就是那个时候我发现我遗失了我的洗礼证书。一位牧者遗失洗礼证书是多么丢脸的事啊！我打电话请我妈帮忙，希望她能在家中找到我的证书。遗憾的是，她也找不到。但庆幸的是，她找到我双胞胎弟弟的洗礼证书。由于我们是一起受洗的，所以可以用同样的资料来填写表格。

1981年3月15日，李剑光牧师在民丹莪的天元堂为我施洗。也就是说，我已受洗超过40年了。感谢神！因着神的恩典，父母以神的道扶持我，以及过去栽培我的牧者们，我成了今天的我。

你记得你的洗礼吗？

洗礼真正重要的不是日期，教会和为你施洗的牧者，而是洗礼的意义。

洗礼不是为了一张纸。

洗礼不是在教会结婚的程序。

洗礼不是在基督教墓园埋葬的条件。

洗礼不是上天堂的入门票。

洗礼是公开宣告在基督里的信仰。

洗礼是归属权的印记。

洗礼是开始加入基督的身体。

洗礼是为神为上帝而活。

再者，除了水的洗礼，我们也必须接受圣灵的洗礼。施洗约翰对法利赛人说：“我是用水给你们施洗，叫你们悔改。。。他(耶稣)要用圣灵与火给你们施洗。”(太3:11) 耶稣与尼哥底母谈到重生时说道：“我实实在在地告诉你：人若不是从水和圣灵生的，就不能进神的国。”(约3:5) 因此，水的洗礼和圣灵的洗礼对我们生命内在和外在的转变是同样重要的。

关于圣灵的洗礼，约翰卫斯理解释道，重生的人能感觉到神透过圣灵所给予的恩典，平安，喜乐和爱。然而，单单感觉良好或快乐并不是重生。重生的本质是当神将新生命赐给我们时，神在灵魂里的动工带来巨大的改变。若我们已重生，我们的生命一定有某种程度的改变。

弟兄姐妹们，记住你的洗礼！

别成为一个为了错的目的而接受水洗的“差不多”基督徒或是“死”的基督徒。别成为假冒为善的法利赛人一样，洗净杯盘的外面，里面却盛满了勒索和放荡。

天国近了！你们要悔改！

领受水的洗礼和领受圣灵吧！

张鸿恩牧师

Baptism & Confirmation, 2022

