



### From the Pastor's Desk

#### Give Your Best till The End

On the 14th of August, Rev Thomas Lau shared his experience of a visit he made to a sick elderly brother. At the last stage of his life, this brother was unable to speak, and when the pastor visited him, he wrote these four words to the pastor, "Give your best till the end". At that time, I was standing next to the hospital bed, as this elderly brother was my grandfather. He was 82 years old that year, and he was still worshipping at church and serving on the funeral services committee of SCAC. Although he was old, he would serve the families of the bereaved as long as his health allowed him. Three months before he found out he had stomach cancer, he was still active in church. My grandfather once told me that "Give your best till the end" was the title of a sermon given by Rev Dr. Tie King Tai at the Masland Methodist Church in Sibiu, and that he had taken the message of that day to heart. Indeed, he continued to follow and serve the Lord all his life until the day he passed away.

The other day, as we were having breakfast with Pastor Douglas Ling from the Calvary Family Church, we were joined by Sister Susan, the advisor of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at TMC. During the conversation, Sister Susan shared that she has been the advisor for 11 years, and this impressed Pastor Ling. He then talked about how rare it is to serve in one position for a long time, let alone 11 years among teenagers.

Growing up in the church, I have seen many Christians quit serving, stop meeting, or even leave the Christian faith for different reasons. Some quit while in Sunday school, some during their teenage years, some while in college, and some while serving as pastors. Sunday school children may leave Sunday school because they are shy or unfamiliar with the teachers or classmates; teenagers may leave fellowship because of friendship or love problems; college students may stop participating in church life because of worldly attractions, while adults may not want to stay in church because of differences in thoughts and ideas. Of course, there are some brothers and sisters who have been hurt in the church and left with disappointments. It seems like it is a difficult task to "Give your best till the end" for God!

Is it really difficult? No, it is not. There may be a thousand reasons to stop serving or to stop church life, but none of them can negate the love of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected on the third day. Jesus Christ could have had a thousand reasons not to go the way of the cross, but He still chose to obey, simply because He loves us. In the same way today, we are involved in ministry and committed to the life of the church for no other reason than because of our love for Jesus Christ. No wonder Paul said, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord and not for human master, since you know that will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Col. 3:23-24) For it is not men whom we ultimately serve, but our Lord Jesus. Let us fix our eyes on the love of Jesus Christ, focus on Him, and let His love be the motivation for our service, and we will be able to persevere and to "give your best till the end" for God.

Compared to eternity, our time on earth is like a passing cloud. Let us cherish our life on this earth and serve the Lord faithfully, as Paul said: "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord." (Romans 12:11) I pray that when we finish our race, we will all finish well with no regrets. Let us give our best till the end and look forward to the joy of the Lord and the reward He had prepared for us.

Rev Vincent Lau

### 牧者的话

#### 力尽方休

主日早上，刘世尧牧师在英文堂证道时，分享了一个例证，谈起他曾经探访一位生病的会伯。这位会伯在生命最后的阶段中，因为无法说话，在牧师探访他的时候，他写了这四个字给牧师“力尽方休”。那时，其实我就站在病床旁边，这位会伯正是我的爷爷。那年他82岁，仍然去教会敬拜，也在年会治丧服务组服侍。虽然年老，但只要身体允许，他都会亲力亲为，去服侍丧者的家人。甚至在他发现患上胃癌，离世的三个月前，他仍然到教会去敬拜，参与治丧服务组。爷爷曾经跟我谈起，“力尽方休”是一次池金代牧师在诗巫福源堂证道时的讲题，而他把当天的信息记在心里，坚持一生跟随和服侍主，直到离世的那天。

前几天和加略山家庭教会 (Calvary Family Church) 的林贵章传道 (Pastor Douglas Ling) 一起早餐，和我们一起的还有英文部少团的顾问Susan姐妹。聊天的过程中，Susan姐妹就分享自己担任少团顾问有11年之久，这让林传道赞叹不已。随后也谈起要在一个岗位长久服侍确实少见，更不用说在少年人当中服侍11年。确实，从小在教会长大的我，无论在主日学，少年时期，大学时期，甚至成为一位牧师，一路上都看见不少基督徒因为不同的理由退出服侍岗位，停止聚会，甚至是离开基督信仰。主日学孩子可能因为害羞或者陌生，

所以离开主日学；少年人可能因为友情或爱情，所以离开团契；大学生可能因为花花世界，不再参与教会生活；成年人可能因为理念的不同，所以不愿留在教会。当然，其中也不乏在教会中受伤害而失望离开的弟兄姐妹。这样看来，似乎要“力尽方休”是一件难如登天的事。

真的难吗？其实不难。停止服侍或停止教会生活也许有千百个理由，但这些理由都不能否定耶稣基督的爱，祂为我们的罪在十字架上受死和复活。就好像耶稣基督一样，祂可以有千百个理由不走上十字架的路，但祂仍然选择顺服，只因为祂爱我们。同样的，今天我们参与服侍，委身于教会生活，不因为别的，只因为耶稣基督。难怪使徒保罗说：“无论作什么，都要从心里作，像是给主作的，不是给人作的，因你们知道从主那里必得着基业为赏赐。你们所侍奉的乃是主基督。”【西3:23-24】因为我们最终服侍的对象不是人，而是我们的主耶稣。就让我们定睛耶稣基督的爱，将焦点放在主的身上，让祂的爱成为我们服侍的动力，我们就能“力尽方休”，坚持到底。

相比永恒，我们在地上的时间如同过眼云烟。让我们一起把握短暂的人生，忠心服侍主，如同保罗所说：“殷勤不可懒惰。要心里火热，常常服侍主。”【罗12:11】祈祷我们走完人生路时，都能毫无遗憾的以“力尽方休”写下我们的句点，得主的喜悦和祂为我们所预备的赏赐。

刘立伟牧师

## Dari Meja Pastor

### Berikan Yang Terbaik Sehingga Ke Akhirnya

Pada tanggal 14 Ogos, Rev Thomas Lau telah berkongsi pengalamannya tentang lawatan yang dibuatnya kepada seorang lelaki tua yang sakit. Pada peringkat terakhir dalam hidupnya, lelaki ini tidak dapat bercakap, dan ketika pastor melawatnya, dia menulis empat perkataan ini kepada pastor, "Berikan yang terbaik sehingga ke akhirnya". Pada masa itu, saya berdiri di sebelah katil hospital, kerana lelaki tua ini adalah datuk saya. Dia berumur 82 tahun pada tahun itu, dan dia masih beribadah di gereja dan melayani dalam jawatankuasa pelayanan pengebumian SCAC. Walaupun sudah tua, dia akan melayani kepada keluarga yang ditinggalkan selagi kesihatannya mengizinkan. Tiga bulan sebelum dia mendapat tahu dia menghidap kanser perut, dia masih aktif di gereja. Datuk saya pernah memberitahu saya bahawa "Berikan yang terbaik sehingga ke akhirnya" adalah tajuk khutbah yang disampaikan oleh Rev Dr. Tie King Tai di Gereja Methodist Masland di Sibu, dan bahawa dia telah mengambil mesej hari itu ke dalam hatinya. Sesungguhnya, dia terus mengikuti dan beribadah kepada Tuhan sepanjang hayatnya sehingga hari dia meninggal dunia.

Pada hari yang lain, ketika kami sedang bersarapan dengan Pastor Douglas Ling dari Gereja Keluarga Calvary, kami disertai oleh saudari Susan, penasihat Persekutuan Pemuda-pemudi Methodist di TMC. Semasa perbualan saudari Susan berkongsi bahawa dia telah menjadi penasihat selama 11 tahun, dan ini mengagumkan Pastor Ling. Beliau kemudian bercerita tentang betapa jarangnyanya seseorang melayani dalam satu jawatan dalam tempoh yang lama, apatah lagi 11 tahun dalam kalangan remaja. Membesar di gereja, saya telah melihat ramai orang Kristian berhenti melayani, berhenti mengikuti persekutuan, atau meninggalkan iman Kristian atas sebab yang berbeza. Ada yang berhenti semasa di sekolah minggu, ada semasa remaja, ada ketika di kolej, dan ada ketika melayani sebagai pastor. Kanak-kanak sekolah minggu mungkin meninggalkan sekolah minggu kerana mereka malu atau tidak biasa dengan guru atau rakan sekelas; remaja mungkin meninggalkan persekutuan kerana masalah persahabatan atau cinta; pelajar kolej mungkin berhenti mengambil bahagian dalam kehidupan gereja kerana tarikan duniawi, manakala orang dewasa mungkin tidak mahu tinggal di gereja kerana perbezaan pemikiran dan idea. Sudah tentu, terdapat beberapa saudara dan saudari yang telah terluka di gereja dan pergi dengan kekecewaan. Nampaknya ia adalah satu tugas yang sukar untuk "Berikan yang terbaik sehingga ke akhirnya" untuk Tuhan!

Adakah ia benar-benar sukar? Tidak. Mungkin terdapat seribu alasan untuk berhenti melayani atau menghentikan kehidupan gereja, tetapi tidak seorang pun daripada mereka boleh menafikan kasih Yesus Kristus, yang mati di kayu salib untuk dosa-dosa kita dan dibangkitkan pada hari ketiga. Yesus Kristus boleh mempunyai seribu alasan untuk tidak pergi ke jalan salib, tetapi Dia masih memilih untuk mematuhi, semata-mata kerana Dia mengasihi kita. Dengan cara yang sama hari ini, kita terlibat dalam pelayanan dan komited kepada kehidupan gereja tanpa sebab lain melainkan kerana kasih kita kepada Yesus Kristus. Tidak hairanlah Paulus berkata: "**Lakukanlah semua tugas dengan sepenuh hati, seolah-olah kamu melakukannya untuk Tuhan dan bukan untuk manusia. Ingatlah, kamu akan menerima pahala daripada Tuhan, yang telah disediakan Tuhan untuk umat-Nya. Hal itu demikian kerana tuan yang kamu layani sebenarnya Kristus.**" (Kolose 3:23-24) Kerana bukan manusia yang akhirnya kita layani, tetapi Tuhan kita Yesus. Marilah kita menumpukan pandangan kita pada kasih Yesus Kristus, fokus kepada-Nya, dan biarkan kasih-Nya menjadi motivasi untuk pelayanan kita, dan kita akan dapat bertahan dan "berikan yang terbaik sehingga ke akhirnya" untuk Tuhan.

Berbanding dengan keabadian, masa kita di bumi adalah seperti awan yang berlalu. Marilah kita menghargai kehidupan kita di bumi ini dan melayani Tuhan dengan setia, seperti yang Paulus katakan: "Jangan malas, tetapi bekerjalah dengan rajin. Abdikanlah diri kepada Tuhan dengan semangat daripada Roh Allah." (Roma 12:11) Saya berdoa agar apabila kita menamatkan perlumbaan kita, kita semua akan menamatkan perlumbaan dengan baik tanpa penyesalan. Marilah kita "berikan yang terbaik sehingga ke akhirnya" dan menantikan sukacita Tuhan dan ganjaran yang telah Dia sediakan untuk kita.

Rev Vincent Lau

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## Editorial Committee



### **English Editors :-**

Yeoh Gim Suan (Chief Editor)  
Assistant - Rosaline Eu

### **Chinese Editors: -**

Peter Hii Huong Ying (许向仁)  
Assistant - Francis Wong King Kung (黄敬躬)

### **BM Editors :-**

Sitie Ak Jet  
Assistant - Grace Charles

### **Others:-**

Graphic Designer - Teo Kheng Swee

Photographer - Kimberly Hong

Website Posting - Wong Yut Tung

## The Editorial

Eighth Issue! It has been two years since I took up this calling to be the chief editor at Trinity Newsletter. Looking back, I could have pleaded with God to ask that retired English Language teacher or that retired IT expert as having taught mathematics for 30 years hardly qualifies me for the role!

When God called Moses to bring His people out of bondage to slavery in Egypt, Moses pleaded with God to send someone else. His excuses were from 'I am slow of speech and tongue' (Exo 4) to 'What if they do not believe me and say, "The Lord did not appear to you"? Like Moses, when God calls us, we will plead with God, "O Lord, send someone else to do it". We forget that when God calls us, He also comes alongside us giving us guidance, direction and assistance in the form of other people skilled and talented in whichever areas that we are lacking. God gave Aaron, a man with the eloquence of speech to help Moses to talk and convince the elders of the Israelites to leave Egypt.

When I said 'yes' to David Teo who approached me with the challenge, my stepping up in faith to God's calling saw God's providence. Where I lack all IT knowledge and skills, God called Wong Yut Tung, a retired engineer and IT expert into the team. Not an English Language expert? God called Rosaline Eu, the ex-principal of an English Language centre. For the Chinese section, God called Peter and Francis, two

very good Chinese Language experts to take charge of the Chinese section and very capable Sitie ak Jet and her assistant Grace to head the BM section. While Yut Tung does the website posting, Teo Kheng Swee oversees the graphic designing and publishing of the Trinity Newsletter. What more can I ask for as Teo an expert in graphic designing owns a publishing company! God also called a young and energetic photographer, Kimberley Hong to provide us with photos of recent activities around the church. Last but not least, God provided me with a supporter and advisor in my soulmate who gives his honest and frank opinion of each issue.

Indeed, God did not abandon me when He calls me into His ministry. Each time when I have to write the Editorial, He inspires me with a thought of what to write. When I think that I don't have enough articles to publish, God will inspire someone to write! God did not call me into this ministry because He thinks I am qualified, rather He calls me so that I can experience His faithfulness and His presence in my life. In my weakness and insufficiency, I tasted His strength and all-sufficiency. In 2 Cor12:9, God promised us that "My grace is sufficient for you, My power is made perfect in weakness". So, the next time God calls you, step up in faith and see how He opens the Red Sea for you to walk through! God bless.

The Editor

## Rencana Pengarang

Edisi Kelapan! Sudah dua tahun sejak saya menerima panggilan ini untuk menjadi ketua editor di Berita Trinity. Mengimbas kembali, saya boleh merayu kepada Tuhan untuk meminta guru Bahasa Inggeris yang telah bersara atau pakar IT yang telah bersara kerana telah mengajar matematik selama 30 tahun hampir tidak melayakkan saya untuk jawatan itu!

Apabila Tuhan memanggil Musa untuk membawa umat-Nya keluar dari perhambaan di Mesir, Musa merayu kepada Tuhan untuk menyuruh orang lain. Alasan-alasannya adalah 'Aku lambat bercakap dan tidak fasih' (Keluaran 4) kepada 'Bagaimana jika mereka tidak percaya kepadaku dan berkata, "Tuhan tidak menampakkan diri kepadamu"? Seperti Musa, apabila Tuhan memanggil kita, kita akan merayu kepada Tuhan, "Ya Tuhan, suruhlah orang lain untuk melakukannya". Kita lupa bahawa apabila Tuhan memanggil kita, Dia juga datang bersama kita memberi kita bimbingan, arahan dan bantuan dalam bentuk orang lain yang mahir dan berbakat dalam apa jua bidang yang kurang kita miliki. Tuhan memberikan Harun, seorang lelaki yang fasih bercakap untuk membantu Musa bercakap dan meyakinkan para tua-tua orang Israel untuk meninggalkan Mesir.

Apabila saya berkata 'ya' kepada David Teo yang menghampiri saya dengan cabaran itu, saya melangkah dengan iman menyahut panggilan Tuhan dan melihat penyediaan Tuhan. Di mana saya kekurangan semua pengetahuan dan kemahiran IT, Tuhan memanggil Wong Yut Tung, seorang jurutera yang telah bersara dan pakar IT ke dalam pasukan. Bukan pakar Bahasa Inggeris? Tuhan memanggil Rosaline Eu, bekas pengetua sebuah pusat Bahasa Inggeris. Untuk bahagian Cina, Tuhan memanggil Peter dan Francis, dua pakar Bahasa Cina yang sangat baik untuk mengambil alih bahagian Cina dan Sitie Ak Jet yang sangat berkebolehan dan pembantunya Grace untuk mengetuai bahagian BM. Semasa Yut Tung melakukan penyiaran laman web, Teo Kheng Swee menyelia reka bentuk grafik dan menerbitkan Berita Trinity. Apa lagi yang boleh saya minta kerana Teo adalah seorang pakar dalam reka bentuk grafik dan memiliki syarikat penerbitannya sendiri! Tuhan juga memanggil jurugambar muda dan bertenaga, Kimberley Hong untuk memberikan kami gambar-gambar aktiviti terkini di sekitar gereja. Akhir sekali, Tuhan memberikan suami saya, penyokong dan penasihat yang memberikan pendapatnya dengan jujur dan berterus terang tentang setiap edisi.

Sesungguhnya, Tuhan tidak meninggalkan saya apabila Dia memanggil saya ke dalam pelayanan-Nya. Setiap kali saya perlu menulis rencana pengarang, Dia memberi inspirasi kepada saya dengan pemikiran tentang apa yang hendak ditulis. Apabila saya berfikir bahawa saya tidak mempunyai cukup artikel untuk diterbitkan, Tuhan akan memberi inspirasi kepada seseorang untuk menulis! Tuhan tidak memanggil saya ke dalam pelayanan ini kerana Dia fikir saya layak, sebaliknya Dia memanggil saya supaya saya dapat mengalami kesetiaan-Nya dan kehadiran-Nya dalam hidup saya. Dalam kelemahan dan kekurangan saya, saya merasai kekuatan dan kecukupan-Nya. Dalam 2 Kor 12:9, Tuhan berjanji kepada kita bahawa "Aku mengasihani kamu dan hal itu sudah cukup bagimu, kerana kuasa-Ku nyata sekali pada masa kamu lemah."

Maka itu, jika lain kali Tuhan memanggil anda, melangkahlah dengan iman dan lihat bagaimana Dia membelah Laut Merah untuk anda lewat! Tuhan memberkati.

Ketua Editor

## Editorial

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Editorial

# A Testimony of God's Goodness

My name is Dr. Colin Tan. I'm married to my wife, Rosalind. We have 2 daughters, both married and we have 6 grandchildren. They are all overseas.

I'm 87 years old and have retired from general practice for 1.5 years and was looking for a time of peace, love and serenity. But ALAS! This dream was shattered in early February when I woke up with a fever, sore throat and hackling spasmodic coughing that seemed to tear my chest apart. I knew that it was not an ordinary 'flu' and a rapid PCR test done by brother Dr. Yii Kie Sing confirmed that it was the dreaded covid. Both my wife, Rosalind and servants were also positive but luckily symptom-free. A very concerned Dr. Wong Chee May called the Ambulance and had me transported to the hospital for urgent evaluation and investigation. Eventually, after a long night's wait, I was admitted to the Isolation Covid Ward.

As I lay in bed with an IV drip running through my veins, I was suddenly seized with fear and apprehension. Would I die from this horrible disease, or would I survive, but with terrible consequences involving the lungs, heart, and neurological traumas like Long Covid and Brain Fog? As I searched desperately for answers, suddenly I remembered these words from my wife, 'Pray to God'. I clasped my hands over my chest and prayed deeply for God's mercy and deliverance. My life has been tumultuous, to say the least. I was in poor health when young with frequent bouts of tonsillitis. I almost died of Malaria during the Japanese occupation at Buntal where my parents sought refuge – renting a small part of a coconut plantation and staying in a tilted attap hut with timber bark flooring that had gaps for mosquito invasion! Our water was from a small muddy pool. From the coconut, we fed the ducks and pigs. We also had coconut oil from the kernel which we used as hair oil, skin care and for lighting lamps.

My education was disrupted by the Second World War. After the war, I had to follow my parents back to China due to my poor health. I studied Mandarin for almost 2 years in a convent school in Swatow where the medium of instruction was Teochew- another hurdle! But the teachers were very accommodating and kind and allowed me to use Mandarin. I returned to Kuching after 2 to 3 years as the Communists were approaching Swatow. I studied then at St Thomas. As I had no proper grounding and no knowledge of English grammar, I borrowed books and dictionaries to read and study at the famous Sarawak Museum. Words and phrases were copied to be memorized.

My parents were Chinese School teachers. The school was run by the Chinese association. The salary was small and there was no job guarantee.



As I had so many health issues and never-ending problems but yet survived, I asked myself this important and pertinent question.

**DID I SURVIVE BY MY OWN EFFORT?** The answer is a definite NO! NO! NO!

God and only God gives me the **STRENGTH, COURAGE AND BELIEF** to overcome all obstacles and challenges in my life's journey. No mountain is too high and no river too broad and current too swift to overcome.

I pray to God to endure me with strong and unwavering faith to obey God, fear God, pray to God always, study the Bible and walk the talk guided by the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord. Amen.

Dr. Colin Tan



I hear this voice “go go go” very often especially when I approach the traffic lights junction. As the green light is about to turn red and the countdown begins, a voice inside me will tell me “go, go, go” in order not to miss the green

light. My foot will be pressing hard on the pedal. I also hear this voice “go go go” sometimes when I read the Scriptures and when I pray. The voice of Jesus telling me “go go go”, but more often than not my foot refuses to press on the pedal.

Today is the last Sunday of the mission month. Rev Jabez suggested that I should continue to preach on missions - the topic I have tried to avoid. I must confess my lack of involvement in mission works. So far, I have only made a short mission trip to Thailand together with my family and a couple of short local mission trips to our indigenous people's area. Although over the years in TMC I have been challenged to go many times to different places, each time I managed to find excuses not to go. Many years ago, the missionary at Living Water Village asked me to go over to help with their building works. I procrastinated and in the end, I sent one of my office engineers. Not long after, he resigned and went to seminary and became a pastor. Another time I was challenged by a missionary friend to go with him to the Golden Triangle area. He cautioned me it was a dangerous area and I need to be prepared. .... He did not hear from me again. Enough of my embarrassing testimonies. When I was preparing this sermon, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would preach to me first. As I prayed, the Holy Spirit encouraged me to proclaim God's word on mission even when I am not yet fully able to live it. I hope I will not feel like a hypocrite before you.

When we talk about missions some of us may think it is for some special people. Maybe it is for some Christians who are hyperactive and enjoy going places. Maybe it is for some who are dropouts from pastor school or for those who are less passionate about pastoring. Maybe it is more suited for those who are singles. Maybe it is meant for those holy people who really can hear God's voice. Is mission a side issue or the main concern of the Bible? Some Bible teachers even claim that the Old Testament which constitutes about 75% of the Bible contains nothing resembling the Great Commission. Is this true?

We need to have a bird's eye view of the Bible. Let's begin with the Book of Genesis. God's rescue plan for mankind started right from the beginning, immediately after the fall of Adam and Eve. I want to refer you to this key verse: Genesis 3:15 - And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offering and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel. Jesus, the son of God, born of a woman will crush the serpent's head at the cost of bruising his heel. This is God's first promise of deliverance. It points to the finished work of Christ, the very foundation of mission. Many other passages in Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah and other prophetic books pointed to this. In fact, Jesus is all over the Old Testament.

Having promised deliverance, God immediately began the mission work. He called the first missionary. Let us look at the following verses: - Gen 12:1-3

The Lord has said to Abram, “leave your country, your people and your

father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you. I will make your name great and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

I want to emphasize the bottom line – “all peoples on earth will be blessed through you”. To show His seriousness, God repeated the same covenant 4 times.

Gen 18:18 (God repeated to Abraham, again take note of the bottom line)

Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

Gen 22:16-18 (God repeated to Abraham, more seriously this time)  
I swear by myself, declared the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand in the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed me.

Gen 26:4 (God repeated to Isaac, son of Abraham)  
I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.

Gen 28:14 (God repeated to Jacob, son of Isaac)  
Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.

What can be so important that God has to say it 5 times? Especially look at the bottom line – all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Apostle Paul called this the Gospel. This is what he said in Galatians 3:8 – The scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith and announce the Gospel in advance to Abraham “all nations will be blessed through you”. You and I are the results of Abraham's faith. He is the first missionary. So, when we drink from the cup of salvation think of the source. Think of Abraham, the father of faith.

From the time of Abraham to the end of the Old Testament, there is a period of about 2,500 years. If you read this portion of the scripture you will learn about the journey of the Israelites, the descendants of Abraham: how God delivered them out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery, the giving of the laws at Mt. Sinai, 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, journey into the promised land, the rise and fall of the two kingdoms, the words of the prophets that warned the Israelites of their sins, the final exile into Babylon and their subsequent return followed by 400 years of silence. Throughout this journey God was leading them, showing them great love and mercy despite their disobedience and rebellions.

You may think that 2,500 years is a long time but not to God. “For with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, a thousand years like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness.” (2 Peter 3:8) In the fullness of time God sent His only son, born of Mary and Joseph from the family line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... as God has promised. Remember the bottom line of the covenant - all peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. Jesus is the offspring.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16). God sent His only son from heaven to earth to become the greatest missionary on earth. His 3 years mission on earth began at the age of 30. He was always on the move, going from village to village, town to town, passing through here and there. The spirit of God was empowering Him to preach the good news to the poor, proclaim freedom to the oppressed, heal the sick, open the eyes of the blind and raise the dead. He called together the 12 disciples, instructing them, teaching them and sending them out.

At the end of His mission, Jesus laid down His life. He was crucified on the cross, bearing the sins and punishments of the whole world upon Himself. He was dead, buried and raised to life on the third day according to the scriptures. By His death and resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and death and thereby offered the free gift of salvation to all who come to Him and believe in Him. Thus, fulfilled what was promised in Gen 3:15. “He will crush your head and you will strike his heel.” Jesus, the son of God, born of a woman crushed the serpent’s head and won the greatest spiritual battle of all times. Jesus is the greatest missionary. The table of salvation is now ready. So when we drink from the cup of salvation, let us think of the source. Think of our Lord Jesus – “the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 12:2) Immediately after His resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples and gave them His marching order, “Go Go Go.” It is called the great commission. It is in all the Gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of age.

Mark 16:15-16

Go into the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

John 20:21

As the Father sent me, I am sending you.

Jesus gave the marching order “Go Go Go.” He is their commander and He promised to go with them. But Jesus knew that the disciples were not ready, and He asked them to wait. “Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5) You see, the disciples still needed something else, something they cannot do without. The disciples were still fearful and afraid of the Jews even after Jesus’ death and resurrection. They have seen what has been done to their master. Now these people might go after them. They locked themselves up. They hid in the room for fear of what might happen to them. They stayed in the city and waited for the power that Jesus promised. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit come on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Seven weeks later, on the day of Pentecost, Holy Spirit fell on them, 120 of them; the sound of a violent wind, tongues of fire resting on each of them. All of them were on fire. They burst into the streets of Jerusalem, glowing with fire, sharing the gospel boldly. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up among the crowd and preached his first sermon and as a result, 3,000 were converted. They have received the power. All fear was wiped out, no longer afraid and persecution did not matter anymore. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, they marched on from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth, carrying with them the flaming message of salvation.

I must not forget to mention Paul who was the worst persecutor of Jesus and His followers. He met Jesus on his way to Damascus. A bright light flashed around him, and he was miraculously changed. Jesus commanded, “I have made you a light for the gentiles that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

he became the greatest missionary to the gentile world of that time. As a result, the Book of Acts was written. Since the days of the apostles, many have responded to the marching order, “Go Go Go...” Fulfilling what was promised to Abraham - all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

Brothers and sisters, what about us? We also have the message of salvation. We too have the Holy Spirit. Jesus also gave us the marching order “Go Go Go.” The traffic light is green. Let us go into the market-place, go into the schools, go into the hospitals, go into the poor squatter areas, go into the indigenous peoples’ areas, go into all the corners of the earth. We can go near and we can go far. Go tell the story of Jesus: there is a God, He has a son, His name is Jesus and He died for us. Tell with urgency, simplicity and with clarity. Beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news. Do you want beautiful feet? Let’s go and tell the story of Jesus.

In the past, I have been very blessed to have many foreign missionaries staying in my house because of my wife’s hospitality. I noticed that all of them were full of energy and fire. They were always going. I asked one of them “where do you get that fire?” I always remember what he said “The Holy Spirit only goes with the goers. He doesn’t sit with the sitters, nor does he sleep with the sleepers. We may have all the Holy Spirit in us, but we never experienced His power because we never go. He is dormant inside us because we put Him in cold storage.

The recent covid pandemic has slowed down everybody. I confess that I have become slow and lazy, too. I feel reluctant to go for visitation, reluctant to attend weddings and funerals. Recently, a dear sister passed away and I felt reluctant to attend her funeral. But just an hour before the funeral, I received a text from her daughter, “My mother would be glad if you can attend her funeral.” I was having lunch alone and I read the message again. “My mother would be glad if....” Suddenly it struck me and the food got stuck in my throat. The dead is speaking to me calling me to go to her funeral. Then I remember in the Bible, God also used a donkey to speak to Balaam. I got ready and rushed all the way to the funeral. I arrived just on time and the pastor invited me to say the opening prayer. In a rush, I don’t know how and what to pray. I asked the Holy Spirit to help me, and He gave me the power to comfort them with the words of Jesus.

After the funeral service, as I was about to leave, I was asked if I could accompany them to the cemetery. I was about to excuse myself then I heard a voice, “go go go.” So I went to attend the burial ceremony. I was the last to lay the flower in the tomb. As I laid the flower I whispered softly, “I did come, I did.” While saying goodbye, the daughter graciously invited me to attend the evening dinner. I was about to decline, and again I heard a voice, “go go go.” So, I attended the dinner. Since no pastor was there, I asked the Holy Spirit, “What can I do?” He prompted me to invite all the relatives and friends to sing a song of thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus.

Brothers and sisters, the traffic light is green. It has been green even throughout the pandemic. It will remain green throughout all generations. Press on the pedal and go go go! Let us go together and tell the story of Jesus because many out there are still in darkness and have not heard the story of Jesus.

Matthew Wong



# Locating Heaven on Google Maps



I started reading death notices and obituaries in the newspapers after I turned forty. Over the years, I began to see more and more familiar faces and names published. No doubt one day, you will read mine. I like what DL Moody wrote about his death: "SOME day you will read in the papers that DL Moody, of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I

am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all; gone out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal, a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint, a body like unto His own glorious body." Life would have been a lot easier for everyone of us to be brought immediately into the Father's house the moment we believed and surrendered our lives to Him, don't you think? The apostle Peter felt the same way. In John 13:37, Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." He truly meant it, just as all of us, at our moment of conversion, had.

We all have our arguments neatly packaged: Lord, I would go anywhere with You! Do anything for You! Just tell me... I will do... only, please don't leave me. Don't leave me here, to make my way to You. Take me with You! I'm scared! I will lose my way!

And so, our passage this morning begins with these words of Jesus found in John 14: 1 "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."

This passage was spoken by Jesus during the Last Supper with His disciples. He was going to leave them. He would be crucified the following day. He would be buried. To all intents and purposes, that would have been the end of Him, and the death of all their hopes and dreams.

But Jesus returned to them, having been raised three days later. He would spend forty days with them, giving them convincing proofs of His resurrection, teaching and instructing them about the kingdom of God.

John 20: 21-22: ' Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

During this first resurrection appearance of Jesus to His disciples, Jesus did two things: firstly, He gave them His peace and told them about the work they would need to do for Him. Secondly, He gave them the Holy Spirit to empower them for the work.

On the eve of His ascension, He reassured them of His continuous Presence with them. He told them to wait for the promise of the Father in Jerusalem before they would be sent out to be His witnesses, to the ends of the earth.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Jesus assured them that there would be a place for each one of them in His Father's house. He also promised that He would return, to bring them to where He is going to.

I had often wondered what Jesus meant by "the Father's house" and why it needed to be prepared for our arrival. Had the "Father's house" been constructed? Is it waiting for Jesus to go and build it? Perhaps our travel-starved brains imagine heaven as a hotel, with rooms that needed tidying up after the guests had departed! Or, is it that we need to be prepared to go there? Is that why we must go with Jesus in order to gain access to this house?

What preparation did 'the Father's house' need?

Hebrews 9: 23-24 ' 23 So it was necessary for the sketches of the things in heaven to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves required better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands— the representation of the true sanctuary—but into heaven itself, and he appears now in God's presence for us. ' (NET)

This passage reminds us that the blood of bulls and goats, together with the sprinkling of the ashes of the red heifer, offered through the earthly Temple in Jerusalem, could not sanctify those who had been defiled by their sins. Only the blood of Christ, who offered Himself through the eternal Spirit, unblemished, could bring eternal redemp-

tion to all who, through faith, look to Him for the purifying of their conscience from dead works to worship the living God.

Pardon was given through His self-giving, sin-bearing, death defeating, sacrifice upon the cross. In His ascension, His blood also effected cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary. In all these, Christ prepared the way for us to enter into the presence of the thrice holy God, before His throne of grace, to call Him our Abba, Father, in heaven.

Then Jesus promised His disciples that He would return and take them to Himself, that they would be with Him forever.

But, what does Jesus say about this place called "The Father's house"? In the Revelation, particularly in chapters 21-22, using names like 'the new creation', 'a new heavens and new earth', 'the holy city', 'the new Jerusalem', we are given a picture of what God's final plan of redemption is for His creation. We see the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven to earth, symbolizing the joining of God's realm (what we call heaven) with the realm of humans in God's new creation. In our resurrection bodies, filled With the Holy Spirit conferring eternal life, God now comes to dwell fully in the midst of His creation and His people.

This life in God's new creation is the Father's house. It will be characterized by God's presence, the absence of death, sorrow and pain; complete security and protection because we now live in God's kingdom; a restoration of Eden, but infinitely more than that, and removal of the curse.

4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

What Jesus is basically saying here is this: Walk with Me. I know the way; you don't. When we walk together, we will reach where I want you to go with Me to.

Yes, Jesus came to them after the resurrection. He spent some time with them. But then, forty days after returning from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven! The disciples were left behind! There was no instant teleportation from earth to heaven for them! What were they to do? No wonder they gazed long and hard into the skies!

Acts 1: 10-11 says: ' 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, two men in white robes stood right beside them. 11 They asked, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you saw him go up into heaven." (ISV)

It was only after the two men in white robes reminded them of Jesus' last instructions that they made a move to return to Jerusalem, to prepare for the coming of the Lord for them. This time, He would return in the power of the Holy Spirit, to fill each believer, equipping and empowering them to bear witness to the risen and glorified Christ, first in Jerusalem, then all Judea, to Samaria, and finally, to the ends of the earth. Not only that, but the Spirit will begin His work of transforming and molding their character, into the likeness of Christ. Faith in Jesus grants us the gift of the new birth. This process of becoming, in union with Christ, is why we need to remain, to grow in knowledge and wisdom, to become 'fit citizens' and credible witnesses for the kingdom of God.

As disciples, we become pilgrims left on earth, travelling to a distant place which we had never been, but which we call 'home', because Jesus Christ our Lord is there, together with the Father.

So, how do we plan our travel? Project management strategies have established a useful format called the 5Ws and 1H framework for problem-solving. They basically ask 6 questions: (5Ws) Who, What, Why, When and Where; and (1H) How?

If you use this format to look at our journey, we can ask ourselves these questions:

Q1. Who do we go with?

A1. The Holy Spirit; the church (which can be made up of members of our physical or spiritual family); or those we have yet to invite to join us on our journey (that will depend on you and I)

Why do I say that? If you say: 'Give Jesus a try; He loves you and wants to give you a good life, and, at the end, bring you to heaven'; no one will lift a finger against you. Some might give you a hearing; others will just turn away with an indifferent shrug and mutter: 'To each their own'. I doubt that many will take much notice of you.

But, if you preach Acts 4: 11-12:

11 *This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. 12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

you can be assured that you will be hearing from the religious authorities, just as Peter and John did 2000 years ago, when they preached this in the Temple in Jerusalem.

*The greatest cause for persecution from the time of Jesus' first disciples throughout the history of the church up till today is evangelism.*

Evangelism must proceed from the foot of the cross, the front of the empty tomb and the throne of God in heavenly glory. All three together tells the story of Jesus, the Son of God who came to live among us, die for our sins, and rise victorious over the grave, overcoming death and evil, and who now reigns with the Father in heaven. One day, He shall return to judge this world, consummate His kingdom reign forever, and renew all things. This Jesus is the one whom the church proclaims as Saviour and Lord.

Ajith Fernando, in writing about a biblical foursome of Christian truth, pointed out that Evangelism triggers persecution; but the presence of Christ helps us bear the persecution and gives us a foretaste of heaven. In turn, this heavenly vision helps us be faithful in the midst of persecution.

Q2. What do we bring along the journey?

When going on a journey, one should pack properly, sensibly and appropriately.

A2. Food, clothes, shoes, money, walking stick and, most importantly, a map.

Map: Nowadays, with GPS apps like Google maps and Waze, we are spoiled for choice. We just need to type in our desired destination, and we can find our way there.

However, can we do the same for Heaven? Can Google maps help us find heaven?

What constitutes a good map?

Jl Packer, in his book 'Hot Tub Religion', offers 7 basic qualities which we should look out for in a trustworthy theological map:

1. Accurate in their presentation of material, both human and biblical. You will never find your way in Paris by carrying a map of metropolitan London, no matter how updated it might be! In the same way, you can't know the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ by reading an Agatha Christie mystery. We are not left to find God by guesswork. God has given to us His written word through the Old and New Testaments of the bible. The Lord Jesus Christ had come to reveal the face of God to us in His incarnation. The Holy Spirit is our constant Comforter and Advocate to the truth about God.

So, take care what and whom you consult, in your reading and your listening.

2. God-centred, recognizing divine sovereignty as the heart of everything; maintaining God's control of problematic events, both actual and imaginable.

If heaven exists, then so does hell. We will either spend eternity with God, in the Father's house, or without! It can't be both!

It would be wishful thinking to say that everybody gets saved in the end, no matter what (universalism); or that those who died in unbelief get annihilated, ceasing to exist (annihilationism, or the doctrine of conditional immortality). Scripture has not allowed for this option, not if I hold on to its truth, to the words of Christ Jesus, or His apostles.

All his life, John Wesley referred to himself as 'a brand plucked from the burning'. He knew that he was on fire with the hot flames of hell when Jesus Christ grabbed him out of the fiery pit and extinguished the fire with His own blood.

3. Doxological, giving God glory for his glorious achievements in creation, providence and grace; encouraging a spirit of joyous, trustful worship and adoration in all circumstances

4. Future-oriented, for Christianity is a religion of hope. Holding onto the promise that one day, God will wipe out the fruits of sin and unveil something better in their place.

This will be God's new creation, God's kingdom come on earth as in heaven. Hope as God's promises are fulfilled; faith will become sight; and unending love will dwell and reign in and among us.

5. Christ-related (two ways):

a) Proclaim the centrality of Jesus as our mediator, prophet, priest and king, in all God's present dealings with, and future plans for the human race.

b) Of faithfully following the Saviour, even when the path leads to our self-denial and cross-bearing.

These two ways show us how to walk patiently with Him

through experiences that defeat our minds and feel like death into the experienced reality of personal internal resurrection.

6. Church-centred: the Christian journey is not in isolation, but in company with fellow believers, supporting them and being supported by them.

7. Freedom-focused: we are free from the law as a system of salvation; yet we desire to live by it:

Firstly, out of love for the Lord, who wills it. Secondly, out of love for the Law itself, which now delights us with its vision of righteousness. Thirdly, out of self-love, since we know that there is no real happiness to be found, either here or hereafter, without holiness.

**Q3. Why are we going?**

A3. *Because Jesus is there. Life is found in Him.*

(In John 6: 63, Jesus said: The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.)

**Q4. When are we starting on this journey?**

A4. *Right now: wherever we are.*

**Q5. Where is the final destination?**

A5. *The Father's House*

**Q6. How do we know the way?**

*John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

A6. *We don't, but Christ does.*

1 Timothy 2: 5 reminds us: For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, God did not offer us a smorgasbord of beliefs from which we can pick and choose what we like: He offers Jesus Christ as the only food which human beings can feed on in order to have life. All other choices is as drinking sea water when adrift on a raft in its waters; it will be as poison to our souls, and will eventually lead to separation from God, destruction and eternal damnation.

Just as a holiday is most enjoyable when we share it with compatible friends, we can make our journey of faith home in good company. Let us hold out the gospel to those whom we encounter along life's pathways, as light shining in the darkness, inviting them to know and confess Christ as Saviour and Lord, showing wanderers the way home. All of us have tried, haven't we, to do just that?

And when we finally reach our heavenly home, what do you think our Father in heaven will ask us? A report card? Will He ask us about our achievements here: how many people we had witnessed Christ to, how much money we had given to the church or the poor, how many had believed because of our preaching and teaching, how many LCEC ministries we had served in, or mission trips participated in? Don't you think that the only matter that God is concerned about is how much we have been transformed by the Holy Spirit into the likeness of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, during our life journey home? That everything else is secondary?

Good travelling calls for deliberate, responsible decision about how we are going to live. It never forgets that Christian decisions are commitments to action on principle (not out of mindless conformity), undertaken in freedom (not out of external pressure or bullying), motivated primarily by love of God, in seeking His glory and of pursuing justice for all (not out of fear).

Conclusion:

One of my favourite movies is the 1993 Disney film called 'Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey'. The story tells of a family leaving their three pets with some friends while they travelled away from their home to a distant place. The three pets were a young Bull Terrier named Chance, an elderly Labrador named Shadow, and a cat named Sassy. Thinking that they had been forgotten, the three animals decided to make the arduous journey to find their owners. The film tells of the dangers and hardships they had to overcome during the journey, until, finally, they arrived at the place where the family was.

If human beings can rejoice in this manner over the home-coming of their pets, just think how great the celebration in our Father's house will be like, when sinners saved by grace reach home: to see the gracious face of the triune God, the angels, the saints, our loved ones, and who knows, maybe even our beloved pets, too!

Luke 15: 10 ' In the same way, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart and life."

Rev 21: 3 ' And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ' (ESV)



## My Journey of Faith

My name is Kee Fong. I was born and brought up in a non-Christian family. My parents did not know God and Jesus was never mentioned in my upbringing. I studied scriptures in school for the sake of passing exams only. As I did not know God myself then, I did not bring up my two children the Christian way.

In spite of all my ignorance, our omnipotent God has his wonderful ways.

My daughter married a catholic and she is a Christian now.

My son who accepted Christ at the age of 17, tried very hard to

persuade me to read the bible and to believe in Christ. I did not pay any attention to him at all. While away from home, he persisted in praying for my husband and my salvation, without our knowledge. God answered his prayers after 10 long years! Praise the Lord!

In the year 2000, I joined the Homemakers through a neighbour and we met once a week. The book we were discussing then was "Making Love Last Forever" by Gary Smalley. God used a short paragraph in one of the chapters about 'A balanced life' to touch me. We were asked to imagine our life as a large, diversified garden with many types of vegetables grown and each type represents one part of our life.

For example, carrot represents the relationship with my mate, cucumber- my career, tomato- friendship, etc.

Spiritual life would be the sunlight and water needed to nurture the vegetables.

I looked at it from a slightly different angle where I considered my spiritual life as a fertile corner of my garden that had been totally neglected! As a result, my life was not balanced at all.

After admitting this to the group during the meeting, I broke down in tears and sobbed for quite a while. It certainly was not my idea to cry in front of a group of friends.

My life took a big change since...I started by going to church to listen to God's word and joined a small group for bible study. Most important of all, I repented and accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour.

I strongly believe that God has his plan and timing for each individual. Before knowing God, I solved all my problems according to my limited, worldly know-how. Now, I have a God who provides wisdom and guidance to lead me. He also blesses me with many friends who willingly pray for me in times of need.

I am grateful to have a God who loves me and that gives me joy and peace. Thank you, Lord.

I know I'm making slow progress in my spiritual journey and I would like to claim the promise that - "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." as stated in Philippians 1:6

Praise and Glory be to God!

Chai Kee Fong

## My Shack



Everyone has a shack but everyone's shack is different. Some shacks are bright with lights; some are dark and hopeless. In February this year, I had seemingly fallen into or was locked in the deepest part of the shack and could not get out. After a month-long of self-imposed isolation, I took the step to seek help from my pastor. My pastor recommended this book, "The Shack" for me to have a face-to-face encounter with darkness and light. Throughout my struggle, I kept fighting with darkness and the lies, being defeated again and again, and being convinced by it countless times. Through the book, God spoke to me and helped me to remove the many

lies that imprisoned me. Because of my struggles, I stopped going to church. Throughout the month of February, I struggled with myself as I wanted to change but didn't have the strength to do so. I had allowed myself to degenerate further. However, God first spoke to me through this book: One person cannot change, it takes the power of the Trinity.

Many times I wanted to change, but I kept relying on my own strength, forgetting that I can't make any changes on my own. I needed the Trinity and relied on the Lord's power to make the changes. Because of my estrangement from God, it became more difficult for me to come back to Him. Once you get used to certain things, it is not that easy to change them. After not doing Bible study and prayer for a long time, I didn't want to go back. I want to have more of my own time and do my own things. I realized that there were too many obstacles such as laziness in my life that prevented me from getting closer to God. I wanted to do nothing at all. Even though I knew that such a life was not what I wanted, I let it fester. However, God spoke the second time to me: There are too many obstacles in your life now, but you don't have to continue living like this.

Even though there are all kinds of obstacles and lies surrounding me in my life, I actually don't need to live like this, I don't need to continue to live meaninglessly like this. God was waiting for me to come back to Him, and He was already removing all the obstacles from my life, and He wanted me to live well. During that month, I shut myself up in the garden surrounded by thorns, not letting anyone touch me or even enter my garden. However, God spoke a third time to me: Open up - so

that others around you can help you.

He said: People around me are worried about me and want to care for me, while I repeatedly turn them away. However, God's plan is always perfect, and in His predetermined time, He brought me out of my shack. Even though the process was very torturous, I felt deeply that God was reassuring me little by little. God spoke the fourth time to me: I ask you only this thing; When you start to sink, let me come and save you.

His hand has been holding mine, and all I need to do is to similarly hold on to His hand and let Him rescue the me. How could I forget how powerful the Lord who created all things in the universe is and how His grace is sufficient for me? God spoke to me the fifth time: Grace does not exist only when there is suffering, but where suffering exists, you will find grace in all forms. Grace does not need a backdrop of suffering, yet grace will certainly be found during difficulties. How wonderful are His promises.

Finally, God said to me: Forgiveness is not to have a stranglehold of that person who wronged you.

Here, I want to say sorry and thank those of 'you' who cared for me inside and outside.

I'm sorry that I have rejected your concern; I'm sorry that when you treated me with compassion, I treated you with indifference.

Thank you for your continued concern, both publicly and privately.

There are so many lies inside me, and it contributes to my life being like an unkept and messy garden.

I cannot forgive myself for the hurt I have caused, even though the other person has forgiven me. There are some hurts that cannot be erased. Yet, forgiveness - letting go of the hands that personally choke me - helps me, reminds me, to keep on walking in dependence on God.

The part that touched my heart the most in the whole book is when God says to the main character: You don't trust me because you don't know that I love you.

He had so much resentment toward God that he cannot trust God. He does not know how much God loves him. Just like me, I have too many complains and grumbings against God, complaining why God forced me to go through such things and why it happened to me. Sometimes I really doubt if He loves me, and don't believe that He can really help me.

From this experience, I know that He loves me so, so much, and in the same way I have to learn to trust Him and that everything He allows to happen to me is a reflection of His love for me.

Dormy Tiong

# Romania Ramblings: Stories from the Frontline



Amy and Rebekah at Mushroom Hill, with beautiful sunset in the background

Dear friend,  
It's 35°C (95°F) here this week, which feels like home... Except without the air-conditioning indoors! But it's still a good time for summer activities. I went to a lake with some Deaf friends, it was great fun.

Blending of cultures: Deaf, hearing, Romanian, Ukrainian, Dutch, American, Canadian, Malaysian  
[Image description: Amy with a big group of friends, blue lake and mountain in the background]



## War in Ukraine



Masha (front), with her family and friends, photo taken in Romania

Thank you for praying for Masha and the other Christian Ukrainians who came to Romania for temporary refuge. They are now back in Kyiv, very happy to be able to go to church and see friends and family again. Things are different, but life goes on.

The war is not over yet. Last week there was more bombing. Please continue to pray for peace, for God's protection over them, and for the Church to be a beacon of light to those who don't know Him.

Meanwhile, there are still more Ukrainians (e.g. the Ukrainian Deaf) in my city, please pray for good communication and opportunities to share Christ with them.

## Language Learning: LSR

I'm definitely making progress. It's still a challenge at times, but God is growing my character in the process too.

But I'm enjoying getting to know Remus, my Deaf language helper, better. He even took us biking in the city one day and showed us some of his favourite hideaways.

[Image description: Remus, tall man with dark hair and beard, sorting word cards on a table during a language lesson]

Notes:  
LSR = Limbajul Semnelor Românesce (LSR) a.k.a. Romanian Sign Language



## Little joys at Deaf Club

One week I visited the local Deaf Club, where Deaf people hang out to chat and play games. This 8-year-old boy came up to say hi, which was really sweet. Praise God for little encouragement when I need it the most! Please pray for opportunities to build deeper relationships with the Deaf.



[Image description: Amy with Nicolaş, a shy blonde boy wearing a red Mario shirt]

## TBSR: Romanian Sign Language Bible Translation Team



Laci, leader of the Romanian Sign Language Bible Translation team (TBSR)  
[Image description: Video frame of Mark 1:21-28 in Romanian Sign Language. Middle-aged man signing to the camera, illustration of the map showing the location of Capernaum at the side]

Thank you for praying for the Romanian Sign Language Bible translation team (TBSR). Praise God for the completion of Mark 11 (you can find it on YouTube), they will work on Mark 12-16 next.

An older couple on the team is hoping to retire after completing the Gospel of Mark. Laci, the leader of the team and both of them will meet with three Deaf people from another city who might potentially join the team. Please pray that it will be a fruitful meeting and that God will provide suitable people to do His work of advancing His kingdom.

- Praise God for my Deaf colleague, who was appointed the very first Deaf sign language consultant in Europe! Please pray for him and his family as they transition back to their home country.
- Pray for God to provide more people willing and able to be trained as sign language consultants, and for more to advocate for the Deaf community
- Pray that I will be able to give a reason for the hope that I have and talk about Jesus more meaningfully as my language ability increases
- Please pray for me to have a greater love for God and His people, which enables me to do things that don't come naturally to me, for their good and God's glory

Thank you for praying along with me. God has been so graciously answering your prayers, I'm always so amazed. Do let me know how I can be praying for you too!

YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBDF0x8RKq5c5SGnt-3SFmQ>

## Bonus story: Laci

After a few months of toddler babbling/signing, I finally managed to get to a point where I was able to ask Laci his story! (With help from my colleague) I tell his story in this video:



The video link is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5bFTg56ak4>  
Love from Romania,



# ♥ A Grateful Heart ♥

One day, a pastor went to a barber shop to get his hair cut, and he asked how much it would cost. The barber said, "Pastor, this is free because I serve God." The next day the barber found a small prayer book and a thank you note from the pastor outside his shop. A few days later, a policeman came and asked how much it would cost after he had cut his hair. The barber said:

"There is no need to pay because I am serving the community." The next morning, he found some pastries and a thank you note outside his shop.

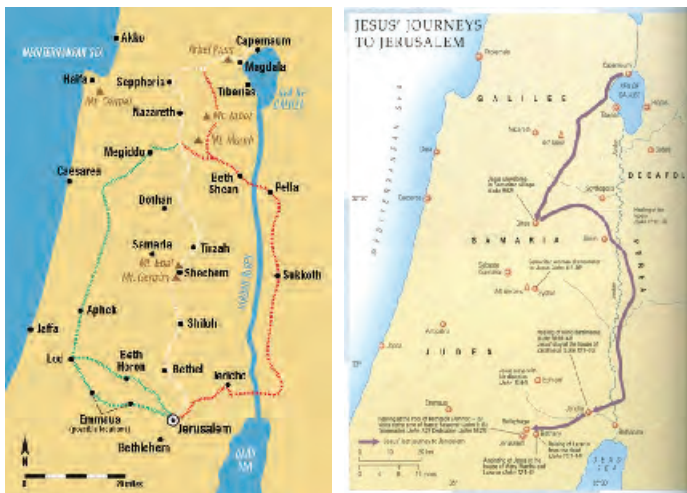
Dear brothers and sisters, how would you respond if you had been given such a service? Many people today accept blessings given by others but may forget about that after a short while. Our lives are often so busy that we ignore the people and things around us and because of that, we forget to be grateful for everything. Today, many scientific and technological measuring tools can be used to measure human health indices. If we have a gratitude measuring tool to measure the index of how thankful we are, what score do you think you would get? Last week was Thanksgiving Sunday. Have you given thanks to God for every blessing you have received from Him? Let's see how the Lord Jesus taught us to have a grateful heart.

Please see Luke 17:11-19.

*[11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. 15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."]*

First of all, in this passage, we see that the Lord Jesus immediately showed His mercy to those who are in despair (17:11-14a).

According to Biblical geography, Galilee is in the north and Jerusalem is in the south. The Lord Jesus was going to Jerusalem, and Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.



If we refer to the 3 Pilgrimage Paths from Galilee to Jerusalem, the central path is the shortest route that goes through Samaria which would have taken only three days by foot. Pilgrims would have passed the cities of Sepphoris, Nazareth, Tirzah, Shechem, Shiloh, and Bethel.

If we compare that to the route that Jesus took, it seems like Jesus was taking the shortest route. However, when Jesus arrived at Ginae, as he was to continue going south, He turned north and went into a village. Jesus made a special trip there, not by coincidence. We might ask what kind of village did the Lord Jesus go to. The Lord Jesus made a special trip to a village that had ten men with leprosy. The majority of the people from this village may have already left the village, and only a few people with leprosy remained.

What kind of disease is leprosy? In Leviticus 13:45-46 it says: "Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' 46 As long as they have the disease, they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp." During those days, when a disease infected a person, whether it was leprosy or eczema, he must be isolated from others. So the ten men stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice (verses 12 and 13) because if they stood too close, they would be stoned. Lepers at that time were isolated from the public and lived in complete isolation. We can imagine what a sad life that was! What is our "leprosy" today? Today we may not be infected with this skin condition, but perhaps our "leprosy" might be a terrible situation that causes us despair, a helpless situation or betrayal by family members or even being stricken with an incurable disease. However, the Lord Jesus is ready to heal us as long as we cry out to Him.

This is in line with our Wesleyan theology; when the Lord Jesus shows His mercy to those who are in despair even though they haven't accepted Him as their personal savior, we say that we experience His prevenient grace. Prevenient grace is the grace that comes to us even before we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. It is present in all creation — in the natural order, in human conscience, in the relationships and heritage into which we are born, love of family, the Christian community, the sacraments, creation itself, the pangs of guilt, the pull toward a vision of what can be, are all expressions of God's prevenient grace. John Wesley described prevenient grace as the porch on a house. It is where we prepare to enter the house.

My mother experienced this grace when she was young. Even though she didn't know much about Jesus yet at that time, she prayed to God to let it rain. God really let the rain fall when the communists were hiding nearby her house, and the government soldiers were on their way to her house. Because of the rain, my mother had the chance to inform the communists to run away before the soldiers arrived. If it had not rained and she did not inform them to flee, my mother's whole family would have been caught and put into jail. That is how my mother experienced God's grace before she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal savior.

So will these lepers who wanted to be healed but are not willing to follow Jesus' instructions, be healed? Likewise, if we don't want to follow God's ways even when we are in desperation, will we have a chance to be healed?

From the passage in Luke 17, the first point is that the Lord Jesus is ready to show His mercy to those in need, and He is ready to help us. The second point is Our Responsibility. How do you respond to His mercy? How do you respond to His command? Let us look at Luke 17:14b, "And as they went, they were cleansed."

Without hesitation, they went and showed their bodies to the priests. Why should they be examined by priests? According to the Old Testament, at that time in Judah, lepers had to stay outside the camp. Even if the lepers are cured, they cannot go home directly. They need to see a priest to confirm if it is true. When it is confirmed, only then can they return home after offering sacrifices according to their law. So it is in this situation, Jesus said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." The lepers could only be examined by priests when their leprosy is completely cured. If their leprosy has not been cured, it is meaningless. So, when Jesus told them to show themselves to the priests, it meant that the lepers were completely healed at that moment. However, in the eyes of lepers, they were not yet healed

because they can't use their own eyes to confirm whether they were healed or not. Instead, they had to believe and obey the words of the Lord Jesus. When they went, they discovered the fact that they indeed had been fully cleansed and healed.

Dear brothers and sisters, if you believe in Jesus, you will be saved, and you can overcome all difficult situations by believing in the Lord Jesus. Do you want to believe and accept Him as your personal Savior? Some brothers and sisters among us will be baptized in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the 4th week of September because of their faith. This is their response to faith. What about you?

John Wesley considered justification, or justifying grace, as the doorway into the house of God's salvation. God reconciles us to Godself, adopts us into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, bestows upon us our identity as beloved sons and daughters and incorporates us into the body of Christ, the church.

Realizing our identity and worth as being rooted in the one to whom we belong is the essence of justifying grace. To accept that identity is to enter the doorway into a whole new existence. It is an identity we can never earn, nor can it be taken from us and the door is always open with a welcome sign on it.

The passage above also allows us to see the reactions of the ten lepers who were healed. What were their reactions when they were completely healed?

*The third point is that we should respond to God's guidance with a grateful heart, which will bring greater blessings (17:15-19)*

From the passage, ten people were healed, but only one came back to give glory to God. Luke, the writer of the Gospel of Luke says that only one person came back, and he emphasized the contrast here: it was a collective action of ten people who asked Jesus for healing, but the action of only one man who returned to Jesus in grateful worship. So gratitude is a personal act, and it is from the bottom of one's heart!

This leper is different from the other nine. They gathered to ask for healing, they were healed together, they went to be examined by the priest together, and at the same time, they found that they were healed. But the other nine focused only on themselves, not Jesus; they only see the healing of their bodies, but do not see the power of Jesus. But the Samaritan leper who went back to thank Jesus saw that his leprosy was healed, and it was all because of the power of Jesus. His feelings were different from the other nine, and his action was also different from the other nine. There was no procrastination, no planning to set a time or arrangement, or plans on how to do grateful things. As soon as he felt God's grace, he immediately went back and gave thanks, without any other reason or thought. What actions did he take that were spiritual manifestations? He came back, praising God in a loud voice. This man's gratitude to Jesus was overwhelming. His loud voice was similar to the loud cry in Luke 17:13, he allowed the feelings in his heart to be expressed in the loudest voice. This inspired God's mercy and opened the door of God's greater mercy to this leper. When he knew that his healing was a miracle, he saw God the Father through Jesus, so he gave glory to God, which pleased God's heart. His action was also praised by Jesus Christ.

In an act of worship, the bible says, "He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him." The man fell prostrate at Jesus' feet. Prostration is the act of placing one's forehead, nose, both palms, both knees and both toes on the floor at the same time; this act expresses true reverence, gratitude and worship in the heart. Who was this man? He was a Samaritan. Who were the Samaritans? Samaritans were the result of intermarriages between Jews and non-Jews. Their blood is no longer pure Jewish blood and hence was always looked down upon by the Jews who did not want to be associated with them. Those who do not know gratitude only look at themselves and see what they have. Those who know gratitude not only look at themselves and what they have but also find that everything is given by God. Being thankful is a duty of every Christian. So let us be thankful all the time and live grateful life.

Dear brothers and sisters, have you experienced God's grace? Some people have seen God's grace with their own eyes, and some people have experienced God's grace, but do you say thank you right away? Appreciate every opportunity to be grateful. Some people give thanks once a year or regularly and give thanks according to a plan. I think this leper is our role model. Whenever we receive grace, that's the time to be grateful. Ten people witnessed the miracle, but only one came back and thanked Jesus! This Samaritan was a person who know how to put his priorities right, and God wants us to learn from him, that is, to put God as our priority.

Last Saturday, I gave thanks because I had this opportunity to attend the Chinese Congregation's 30th-anniversary thanksgiving service. From the sharing, testimony and video, I witnessed how God has blessed our church. I also want to give thanks to our previous LCEC leaders who saw the vision from God 30 years ago; they took up the call to set up the Chinese service. Within these 30 years, we have witnessed how God has blessed our Chinese congregation from 14 members initially to 400 plus members today. I was also inspired by the testimonies in the thanksgiving magazine. Today is Christian Literature Sunday and two years from now, our church will celebrate its 40th anniversary. I believe TMC has blessed so many members among us, including you and me. So, I would like to challenge all of you to write your testimonies to let others especially the new generation know how God has led us through these 40 years.

Dear brothers and sisters, do we have a special way of giving thanks? You may do it through your tithes and offerings in response to God's grace. You can also open your house and invite neighbors to enjoy a dinner together or maybe dedicate your life to becoming a full-time pastor or missionary.

The Lord Jesus taught us that grateful people bring greater blessings. The Samaritan was praised for his gratitude, even his sins were forgiven, and he was given a new life. Brothers and sisters, the grace of gratitude is not just for these two, but for many more. While thanking God, you will be praised by God and praised by others, not only will you be rich in material possessions, but also your spiritual life. Being grateful is a way to receive blessings. This leprous Samaritan was healed by God first, and then he received God's abundant life and blessing. Do we have a grateful heart today? I hope that we not only receive grace but also learn to be grateful with practical actions.

I saw the following short thanksgiving text on the Internet:

*"If you have food in the fridge, clothes on your body, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than eight percent of the world's population.*

*If you have money saved in the bank, money in your wallet, and pocket money at home, you are eight percent of the rich people in the world.*

*If you wake up in the morning with health, you are more blessed than a million people who couldn't make it through the week. If you have never experienced the dangers of war, the silence of prison, the pain of abuse, or the torture of hunger, you are in a better place than five billion people in this world.*

*If you have the freedom to go to church on Sunday without fear of harassment, arrest, abuse, or death, you are more blessed than three billion other people in the world.*

*If your parents are still alive and live together, you are a very lucky person."*

In conclusion, when the ten lepers who were in despair cried out to Jesus, their requests were all answered, and they were healed. But only one leper came back to give thanks and glorify God. The Lord Jesus gave him a new life and abundant blessings! Let us live a life of gratitude with action, and above all, respond with faith. I am sure you will experience God's blessings.

Rev Chan Chok Ong



# Questions that would be Unanswered



Dear Mama,

If I could ask you a question, I would probably ask you where my lost socks are.

Jokes aside, if we could sit in the living room again, my head lying by your lap, I would ask you...

## How did you persuade God to bring you home?

For all we know you've been ready since June, with grudges forgiven and hatchets buried. I remember waking up from my nap to your groans, trying to persevere through the pain, refusing to take morphine. What made you so strong and what made you stay on? We know you glorify God through your pain and suffering. You remembered to include this very line into your prayers without fail — "I will fulfil the number of my days in health" (*Exodus 23:25,26*). You clung to the book "God's Creative Power for Healing" by Charles Capp that Auntie Mee Ting gave you and quit scrolling Facebook and watching dramas. Rather selfishly, we clung to you, hoping for a bit more of your company. Love is complex - we want what's best for you and what's best for us. In the end, God knows best and that's why He brought you home.

## How did you give?

For during the funeral we've heard stories of how you've poured yourself out to your family, friends and community. We see you being a filial daughter, making sure that you were home by 9 pm to tuck grandma to bed. We see you missing an entire day of work just to bring our grandma for hospital visitations, without complaints. You demonstrated to us how a family unit works — that in an Asian setting, being in a family requires true sacrifice.

As your daughters, we've felt your devotion to the family you've built. You poured your time, energy and money into us, never denying us any opportunities to learn and grow. You tirelessly drove us to all our activities, from waiting till 10.30 pm when my sister ended the marching band practices and church camp planning, to socials and bringing us along with you to seek donations for our social initiatives from colleagues. You let us speak — to teach us how to communicate with those in authority. Any request to learn an instrument, participate in a workshop, or buy a book was always met with a resounding "yes". Thanks to you, now Jie Jie and I know the true meaning of commitment, of going the extra mile, of being "professional". Were you ever tired of your two demanding daughters? Were you ever tempted to say no to our requests? You could have pampered yourself with the money and time that you spent on us. What made you give like you did? What made you love like you did?

We felt the love you had for Papa. Being with a strong man requires a strong wife and you certainly were that. With endless patience, you meticulously ensured all his affairs were in order. Regardless of any disagreements, arguments or fights, at most, you would shed a few tears, pick yourself back up and carry on. I'm glad you found God, who taught you to love and gave you a reason to love. You definitely bore the fruits of the spirit, practising grace and forgiveness for Papa, that you accept him fully even with his flaws. I'm so glad that Papa supported you throughout your fight with cancer and he was with you during your last days, caring and loving you.

## How were you so strong in your faith to face all your challenges?

What started as an innocent way to fill your Sundays turned into your anchor in life itself. We remember you joining 'Growing in Christ' in 2013 and memorizing bible verses on flashcards in between errands, never feeling inferior about knowing God later than your classmates. Your first cell group was Auntie Mee Ting's and your first ministry was Sunday School, both of which you joined the year you were baptized in 2014. God empowered you and grew you, making you an assistant small group leader and the secretary in Sunday School ministry. You outgrew all these roles, helping out wherever you were needed and /or praying with them. We know you appreciated the hospitality of your cell group members when your sisters would visit you weekly, bringing soup and love. Do you know, Mama, that many of your cell group and Sunday School sisters paid their last respects at your funeral? Seeing them cry breaks my heart, knowing how much they loved you. Worry not Mama, in heaven, you would see all of them again, this time with bodies that would never gain weight regardless of how much you eat!

I'm so proud of your relationship with Christ and how it grew after your baptism on 20/04/2014. I think we see your faith best when it was tested by the storms of life. Your first real test came in 2016, with Papa's family issues that threatened even our family relations. I remembered you praying fervently with your cell group sisters, dragging Jie Jie and me to our knees to plead that God would resolve this situation. This time round, for you, we were on our knees voluntarily. We see you spending copious amounts of time reading the Bible every day since, hoping to complete the Bible one more time before going to heaven. We see you praying before every injection, every blood test, every scan, overcoming your fear of pain— even the nurses were moved to pray with you. We know your desire was always to glorify God and in the end, neighbours could say "Praise the Lord" at your funeral. Praise the Lord for He is good; He let you pass on in peaceful slumber with the world so quiet at 12.12 am on 26th July 2022.

We know your favourite singer, flowers, and breakfast spot. The Carpenters, red roses and Hojo kopitiam where you had breakfast every day faithfully for a decade or so. But we've never been to your childhood home in the countryside nor did a pilgrimage or watch the Northern Lights together.

All these questions would go forever unanswered.

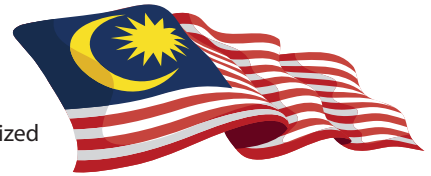
And if I'm being honest, I don't know if the answers are important now. But one question I'm dying to know the answer to is "How to live in a world without you?"

And I think I can only find out by living it out and trusting in the Lord, but I have help from your friends. They tell me to miss you but also take comfort in the community around me; take care of myself as your legacy, rely on the Lord for strength and to honour your last wish — for Papa to know Christ.

Written by Rui Yu and Edited by Rui Jie



# A Prayer for Malaysia



Father God in heaven, today we stand here as Malaysian, to thank you for Malaysia. We are proud that we are Malaysians. We thank you for all your goodness to us.

These sins and many others have characterized our past leadership, especially the last 65 years of our history. Lord forgives us and gives us a new beginning. Give us a heart to love you, fear you and seek you. Take away from us all the above sins.

We stand here today to close the evil past, especially in the last 65 years of our national leadership history, and at the threshold of a new dispensation in the life of this nation. We stand here on our own behalf and on behalf of our predecessors to repent. We ask for

We pray for national unity. Unite us as Malaysians and eliminate all forms of conflict and racism. Help us to see that we are all your children, children of the same Father. Help us to love and respect one another and to appreciate unity in diversity.

your forgiveness.

We pray for prosperity and transformation. Deliver us from ignorance, poverty and disease. As leaders, give us the wisdom to help lead our people into political, social and economic transformation.

We confess these sins, which have greatly hampered our national cohesion and delayed our political, social, and economic transformation.

We want to dedicate this nation to you so that you will be our God and guide. We want Malaysia to be known as a nation that fears God and as a nation whose foundations are firmly rooted in righteousness and justice to fulfil what the Bible says in Psalm 33:12: Blessed is the nation, whose God is the Lord. A people you have chosen as your own. We renounce all the evil foundations and covenants that were laid in idolatry and witchcraft. We renounce all the satanic influence on this nation. And we hereby covenant Malaysia to you, to walk in your ways and experience all your blessings forever.

We confess sins of idolatry and witchcraft which are rampant in our land. We confess sins of shedding innocent blood, sins of political hypocrisy, dishonesty, intrigue and betrayal.

We pray for all these in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forgive us of sins of pride and racism; sins of laziness, indifference and irresponsibility; sins of corruption and bribery that have eroded our national resources; sins of sexual immorality, drunkenness and debauchery; sins of unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred and revenge; sins of injustice, oppression and exploitation; sins of rebellion, insubordination, strife and conflict.

Rev. Jabez Tiong



## Angel in Our Midst

throughout the service remind me of the Introit (Be Still or Holy Holy Holy) we sing every Sunday at the beginning of the service. She has an inherent sense of holiness which has left an indelible impression on my mind. I felt like I was worshipping beside an angel. A renowned theologian Karl Barth was once asked, "What is the greatest truth in the Bible?". Without missing a beat, he replied, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Imagine that! A Sunday school song encapsulates the greatest truth of the Bible. Surely "from the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." We have sung this song down thru the years and it is still popular among our Sunday school children.

"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.." (Psalm 8:2)

This verse is quoted by Jesus when he responded to the accusations of the chief priests who were so angry with him for disrupting their business at the Temple by overturning the tables of the money changers and literally crashing their currency trading for the day. In Matthew 21:14-16 "The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes" replied Jesus, have you never read "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"

I often wonder what worship would be like in heaven. I am particularly fond of this song by Don Moen entitled "Hallelujah To The Lamb". The book of Revelation written by Apostle John on the island of Patmos gives us a glimpse of that overwhelming worship in heaven where GOD alone is worthy of such immense adoration. Saints and angels by the millions (Rev. 5:11-12) sing in a loud voice "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise." (Rev. 5:12). This is followed by another majestic chorus "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our LORD and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 11:15) I think the closest approximation to that heavenly worship here on earth is Handel's sacred oratorio, Messiah. The "Hallelujah" chorus is, without a doubt, the climax of the oratorio. It is sung in four parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. However, in heaven, the same Hallelujah chorus may be sung in 7 parts because 7 is a complete number with GOD: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass..... In prayers, I have told GOD I don't mind being placed in the furthest corner of heaven to join in that heavenly choir with people from every corner of the world singing "Hallelujah to The Lamb."

This verse takes on special meaning for me during one Sunday service in June. We were slightly late for the service. The praise and worship had started. We chose instead to find our places on the balcony and joined in the praise and worship. While we were singing along with the worship team, somehow a lovely little girl standing beside me caught my eye. Her soft composure attracted my attention. She was dressed in her Sunday best. Her arms were placed by her side in a respectful manner. Although wearing a mask, I could see and hear her singing along. All thru the service I couldn't help but cast occasional side glances at her. Her soft demure composure and respectful attention

The little girl sitting next to me exemplifies through her mannerism the quiet assurance and reverence for GOD. She's an 'angel' to me.

John Chieng  
05/08/2022.



## Doa Untuk Malaysia

Allah Bapa di syurga, hari ini kami berdiri di sini sebagai rakyat Malaysia, untuk berterima kasih kepada-Mu untuk Malaysia. Kami berbangga bahawa kami adalah rakyat Malaysia. Kami berterima kasih atas segala kebaikan-Mu kepada kami.

Kami berdiri di sini hari ini untuk menutup masa lalu yang jahat dan terutamanya dalam 65 tahun terakhir sejarah kepimpinan negara kami dan di ambang pengurusan baru dalam kehidupan bangsa ini. Kami berdiri di sini bagi pihak kami sendiri dan bagi para pendahulu kami untuk bertaubat. Kami memohon pengampunan Tuhan.

Kami mengakui dosa-dosa ini, yang telah sangat menghalang perpaduan nasional dan melambatkan transformasi politik, sosial dan ekonomi kami.

Kami mengakui dosa penyembahan berhala dan sihir yang berleluasa di negara kami. Kami mengakui dosa menumpahkan darah orang yang tidak bersalah, dosa kemunafikan politik, ketidakjujuran, tipu daya dan pengkhianatan.

Ampunilah kami dari dosa kesombongan dan perkauman; dosa kemalasan, ketidakpedulian dan tidak bertanggungjawab; dosa rasuah dan rasuah yang telah menghakis sumber negara kami; dosa percabulan, kemabukkan dan pesta pora dan maksiat; dosa tidak mahu mengampuni, kepahitan, kebencian dan dendam; dosa ketidakadilan, penindasan dan pemerasan; dosa-dosa pemberontakan, ketidakpatuhan, perselisihan dan konflik.

Dosa-dosa ini dan banyak lagi telah menjadi ciri kepimpinan, pemimp-

in kami yang lalu, terutamanya 65 tahun terakhir dalam sejarah. Tuhan ampunilah kami dan berikan kami permulaan yang baru. Berikan kami hati untuk mengasihi-Mu, takut kepada-Mu dan mencari-Mu. Jauhkanlah dari kami segala dosa di atas.

Kami berdoa untuk perpaduan negara. Satukan kami sebagai rakyat Malaysia dan hapuskan segala bentuk konflik dan perkauman. Tolonglah kami untuk melihat bahawa kami semua adalah anak-anakmu, anak-anak dari Bapa yang sama. Bantu kami untuk mengasihi dan menghormati antara satu sama lain dan menghargai perpaduan dalam kepelbagaian.

Kami berdoa untuk kemakmuran dan transformasi. Jauhkan kami dari kejahilan, kemiskinan dan penyakit. Sebagai pemimpin, berikan kami kebijaksanaan untuk membantu memimpin rakyat kami ke dalam transformasi politik, sosial dan ekonomi.

Kami ingin mendedikasikan negara ini kepada-Mu agar Engkau menjadi Tuhan dan pembimbing kami. Kami mahu Malaysia dikenali sebagai sebuah negara yang takut kepada Tuhan dan sebagai sebuah negara yang asasnya berakar kukuh dalam kebenaran dan keadilan untuk memenuhi apa yang dikatakan oleh Alkitab dalam Mazmur 33:12 - Berbahagialah bangsa yang mengakui TUHAN sebagai Allah-Nya; berbahagialah bangsa yang dipilih sebagai milik-Nya! Kami meninggalkan semua asas dan perjanjian jahat yang diletakkan dalam penyembahan berhala dan sihir. Kami meninggalkan semua pengaruh syaitan ke atas negara ini. Dan dengan ini kami serahkan Malaysia untuk-Mu, untuk berjalan mengikut jalan-Mu dan mengalami semua berkat-Mu selama-lamanya.

Kami berdoa untuk semua ini dalam nama Bapa, Anak dan Roh Kudus. Amen.

Rev. Jabez Tiong



## CAHAYA YANG TIDAK PERNAH MALAP

Shalom dan salam berkenalan saudara saudari dalam Kristus. Nama saya Marsha Bovina Anak Sidi. Coretan ini ditulis agar saya dapat berkongsi serba sedikit perjalanan hidup saya mengenali Tuhan Yesus.

Saya bukanlah dilahirkan di dalam keluarga Kristian. Ahli keluarga saya belum menganut apa-apa agama. Banyak kawan-kawan di kampung saya mengikuti Sekolah Minggu di gereja. Mereka selalu bercerita tentang apa yang mereka lakukan semasa persekutuan Sekolah Minggu. Keadaan ini menarik minat saya mengikuti nenek serta sepupu saya ke gereja.

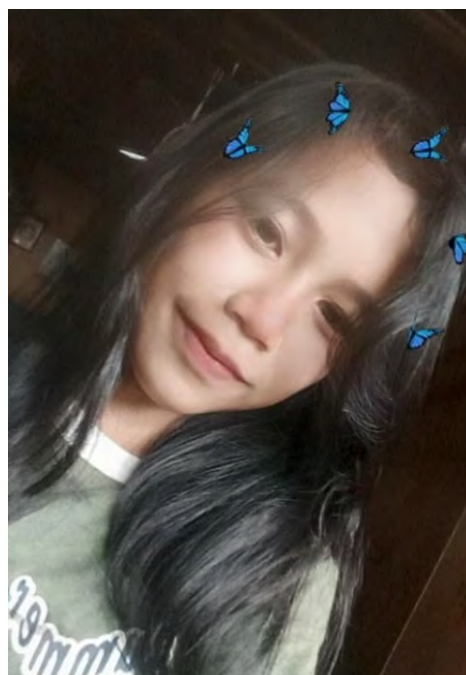
Kalau tidak silap, saya pertama kali menjejakkan kaki ke gereja semasa umur 9 tahun. Nenek menjadi pendorong utama saya untuk aktif pergi ke gereja serta mengikuti kelompok kecil. Dia selalu membangunkan saya setiap pagi hari Ahad supaya tidak terlewat. Walaupun nenek sudah tidak bersama kami lagi sejak tahun lepas, ini tidak mematahkan semangat saya untuk aktif seperti biasa. Saya bersyukur ahli keluarga mulai mendekati diri dengan Tuhan. Kesungguhan serta kesetiaan nenek mengikuti Tuhan sehingga keujung nyawanya menjadi inspirasi kepada saya untuk terus percaya kepada-Nya.

Tuhan sungguh baik, gereja kita ada menubuhkan kelas tambahan setiap pagi Sabtu iaitu TLC. Saya bersyukur kerana kelas tambahan ini dapat membantu saya memahami lagi matapelajaran Matematik dan English. Pada waktu petang Sabtu saya juga aktif mengikuti Persekutuan Muda Mudi.

Tahun ini saya memutuskan untuk mengikuti Kelas Manual Keahlian untuk menjadi ahli Gereja Methodist Trinity. Walaupun jadual harian saya penuh setiap minggu tapi saya percaya Tuhan menyertai saya membahagikan masa dengan baik.

Doakan agar saya dapat mengikuti kelas sehingga selesainya pembelajaran nanti. Malah untuk menjadi terang dan gembira untuk ahli keluarga saya serta orang sekeliling saya. Sekian perkongsian saya. Terima kasih dan Tuhan memberkati.

Marsha Bovina Anak Sidi





## Peluang Kedua Yang Berharga

Setiap orang mempunyai jalan cerita yang berlainan dalam hidup. Suka dan duka dalam kehidupan juga begitu. Tidak terkecualinya saya yang menempuhi saat getir yang tidak dapat diucapkan. Masih tersemat di dalam ingatan saya mengenai tragedi pada bulan Februari tahun 2015. Walaupun sudah hampir 7 tahun berlalu kenangan tersebut masih diingati sampai kehari ini.

Adik saya yang bernama Juyang (telah meninggal pada tahun 2018) menelefon saya pada waktu malam. Dia memberitahu bahawa adik kami yang

bernama Ijau terkena strok dan sedang berada di unit rawatan rapi. Semua badan berasa lemah dan hilang kata-kata. Saya menguatkan diri untuk bercakap dengan dia melalui telefon. Juyang masa itu menenangkan saya supaya tidak terlalu risau mengenai Ijau. Saya memberitahu Juyang supaya memberitahu berita itu kepada kakak saya yang berada di Bintulu. Dia memberitahu perkara yang sama kepada kakak saya.

Kakak saya seorang yang jenis mengambil berat terhadap setiap adiknya, tidak putus-putus bertanya kenapa Ijau boleh dalam keadaan sebegitu hingga masuk unit rawatan rapi. Juyang pun menerangkan apa yang telah berlaku. Kebetulan pada bulan itu, ibu kami berada di Kuching melawat kami adik-beradik. Tanpa membuang masa, saya memberitahu emak kami dan membeli tiket kapal terbang pada kesesokkan harinya. Kira-kira pada pukul 10:15 malam saya dan ibu berangkat ke Kuala Lumpur pada hari Sabtu.

Ibu memberitahu saya supaya berdoa untuk perjalanan kami berdua yang mahu berjumpa dengan Ijau. Saya berdoa untuk kami berdua. Puji Tuhan, kami berdua sampai di Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur dengan selamat.

Juyang dan anaknya masa itu sedang menunggu kami berdua di Balai Ketibaan. Jarak Lapangan Terbang agak jauh dari rumah adik saya. Lebih kurang pukul 1 pagi baru kami sampai di rumah. Pagi hari Isnin baru Juyang menghantar saya dan emak ke hospital untuk menjenguk Ijau. Sesampainya di hospital dimana Ijau sedang dirawat, kami bertiga melihat Ijau sedang dirawat oleh doktor dari segi senaman untuk membolehkan otot bergerak seperti sedia kala. Saya dan ibu tidak dapat menyembunyikan tangisan lalu menangis disitu serta merta.

Beberapa orang yang sedang berada di bilik itu memujuk kami berdua supaya tidak menangis tetapi memberi kata-kata semangat kepadanya. Malah orang itu memberitahu supaya mendoakan Ijau agar dipulihkan seperti sedia kala. Tatkala saya habis berdoa, saya mendengar suara orang menyebut "amin" berulang kali. Saya menoleh kebelakang dan melihat seorang doktor India. Lepas itu saya bertanya kepadanya. "Doktor Kristian?". Dia menjawab "Ya". Setelah masa untuk pesakit bersenam sudah habis, kami pun pergi ke katil Ijau.

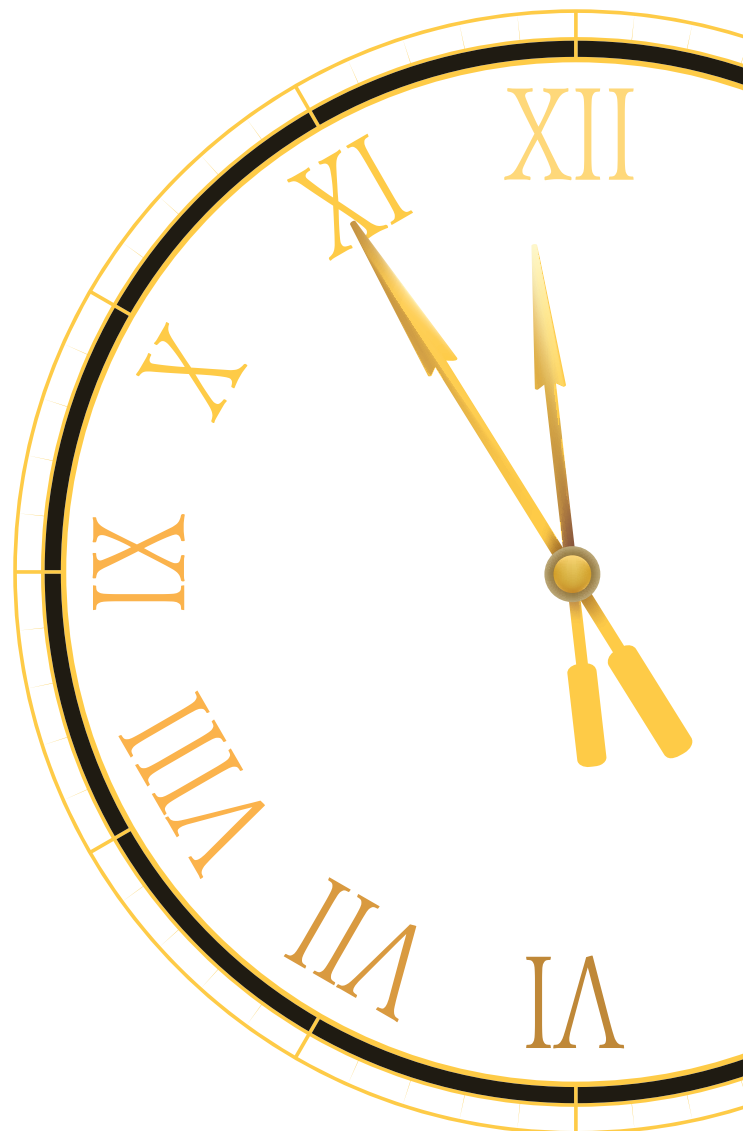
Doktor India mempelawa saya mengikuti mereka kelompok kecil pada hari Jumaat pada pukul 1:30 petang. Saya dengan rasa senang hati mengikuti mereka dan berdoa bersama sama. Agak janggal juga masa itu sebab kebanyakan mereka bercakap menggunakan bahasa Inggeris. Puji Tuhan ada budak dari Sabah menterjemahkan untuk saya.

Agak cepat waktu berlalu, saya menjaga Ijau hampir dua malam. Seorang doktor bertanya kepada saya. "Adakah kamu mahu berjumpa dengan doktor di atas?" "Bolehkah kamu pergi kesana bersendirian?" Saya memberitahu doktor bahawa saya tidak tahu selok belok hospital sebab baru pertama kali datang Kuala Lumpur. Agak memalukan tetapi itulah realitinya. Puji Tuhan atas berkat doa, ada orang yang hantar saya berjumpa dengan doktor di tingkat atas.

Sesampainya saya diatas, pengawal perempuan Melayu yang menyambut saya. Dia berborak dengan saya seketika. Saya memberitahu dia bahawa saya datang dari Sarawak dan datang untuk menjaga adik saya yang sedang menerima rawatan. Doktor memberitahu serba sedikit mengenai penyakit yang dihadapi oleh Ijau dan beberapa rawatan yang perlu dijalannya.

Seperti anak kecil yang baru mahu belajar berjalan serta mengucapkan sepatah dua kata Ijau masa itu. Atas keazaman dia yang kuat untuk sembuh Ijau semakin pulih. Anak adik saya Juyang juga tidak melepaskan peluang untuk membantu Ijau menyebut beberapa perkataan setelah dia dapat keluar dari hospital. Saya mengucap syukur Tuhan masih memberi dia peluang meneruskan kehidupan seperti sedia kala. Jauh dilubuk hati saya supaya dia terus diberikan kesembuhan dari segi fizikal dan rohani. Kini Ijau sudah mulai bekerja dan tinggal bersama saya. Tanpa Tuhan dalam hidup kita, segalanya akan sia-sia. Sekian perkongsian saya.

Rosetina Chol





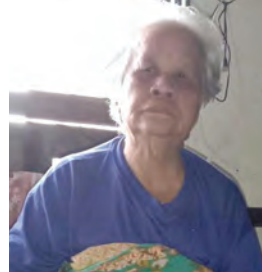
## PERKONGSIAN PESERTA KELAS PEMBAPTISAN DAN PENGESAHAN 2022



Shalom dan salam sejahtera. Saya bersyukur kerana telah mengikuti kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan sampai habis. Bahan pelajaran yang kami gunakan ialah dari buku Manual Keahlian. Saya ingin mengucapkan terima kasih kepada 7 orang Fasilitator yang mengajar sepanjang 5 bulan. Banyak yang saya pelajari apabila mengikuti kelas ini. Walaupun ada kalanya mempelajari bab yang sukar difahami kerana topik yang dibincangkan terlalu dalam pembelajarannya. Bab yang paling saya suka ialah Bab 10 dan Bab 15 iaitu

mengenai Doa Bapa dan Sepuluh Perintah. Tahun ini sangat bermakna kepada saya kerana menjadi anggota sah Gereja Methodist Trinity. Doakan agar saya terus bertumbuh dan setia kepada Tuhan. Sekian, Tuhan memberkati.

Marsha Bovina Anak Sidi



Shalom dan selamat sejahtera kepada semua. Saya adalah orang yang paling tua mengikuti kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan tahun ini. Saya mengambil keputusan untuk menjadi ahli keanggotaan Gereja Methodist dengan rela tanpa paksaan daripada sesiapa. Puji Tuhan walaupun diumur sebegini saya dapat menghabiskan pembelajaran dari rumah. Oleh kerana saya tidak dapat

menghadirkan diri ke gereja setiap minggu disebabkan tahap kesihatan yang tidak mengizinkan. Banyak yang saya pelajari sepanjang kelas. Saya lebih mengenali Tuhan Yesus sebagai juruselamat malah sebagai cahaya kepada kegelapan dalam hidup saya. Berkat daripada mengikuti kelas kini saya menyerahkan segala hidup saya kepada Tuhan. Doakan agar saya diberi Tuhan kesihatan yang baik dan ada kerinduan menghadirkan diri ke gereja. Sekian, Tuhan memberkati.

Nawi Anak Layang



Shalom kepada pembaca sekalian. Saya bersyukur kerana telah menghabiskan kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan. Sepanjang 5 bulan pembelajaran, saya mengalami sukacita yang luar biasa. Ada 17 bab yang perlu kami pelajari sepanjang 5 bulan. Mempunyai fasilitator seramai 7 orang membolehkan saya mempelajari setiap bab dengan cara yang berbeza. Puji Tuhan, saya berharap apa yang saya pelajari dari kelas dapat diguna pakai dalam kehidupan

sehari-hari saya. Doakan saya agar terus mengikuti jalan Tuhan serta menjadi terang dan garam kepada orang disekeliling saya. Sekian, Tuhan memberkati.

Boneyrdatte Esyter Anak Renang



Selamat sejahtera semua, saya bersyukur kerana diberi kesempatan untuk berkongsi di sini. Nama saya Tuyah Anak Jet, berumur 57 tahun. Saya telah menerima Tuhan Yesus sebagai Tuhan dan Juruselamat saya lebih 20 tahun yang lalu. Saya juga telah dibaptis di rumah panjang suami saya di Sebeman, Lachau. Tetapi saya tidak ingat tarikh pembaptisan saya dan sijil pembaptisan saya juga telah hilang. Saya dibaptis oleh paderi gereja Anglican.

Saya seorang balu, suami saya telah meninggal 3 tahun yang lepas. Sekarang saya tinggal dengan keluarga adik saya di Bintawa. Di sini saya gembira kerana dapat bersama dengan adik beradik, saudara-mara dan jemaat gereja yang baik.

Sejak dari awal kehidupan Kristian saya, saya telah mengalami banyak kebaikan dan penyembuhan dari Tuhan. Inilah yang membuat saya sungguh-sungguh percaya kepada Tuhan Yesus. Dia Tuhan yang baik dan mengerti keadaan saya.

Saya bersyukur kerana dapat mengikuti kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan sehingga selesai kerana ini menyegarkan dan meneguhkan lagi iman percaya saya kepada Tuhan Yesus. Bahan pelajaran yang kami gunakan ialah dari Buku Manual Keahlian. Ada 17 bab semuanya. Saya juga sangat diberkati dengan setiap firman Tuhan yang dikongsi oleh para pastor dan pemimpin gereja pada setiap hari minggu. Saya berdoa agar Tuhan sentiasa memberi saya kesihatan yang baik dan tetap setia mengikuti jalan-Nya.

Dengan kesempatan ini saya mahu mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada 6 orang fasilitator yang telah memimpin dalam kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan selama 5 bulan ini. Tuhan memberkati anda semua.

Tuyah Anak Jet



Shalom dan selamat sejahtera dari saya. Jauh dari lubuk hati, saya berasa sangat bersyukur kepada Tuhan kerana dapat memberikan waktu selama 5 bulan mengikuti Kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan. Bahan pelajaran kami ialah dari buku Manual Keahlian. Banyak cabaran yang saya tempuhi sepanjang mengikuti kelas ini. Oleh kerana masih musim Covid-19 saya mengambil keputusan mengikuti kelas secara atas talian. Puji Tuhan semuanya berjalan dengan lancar dengan menghabiskan kelas sebanyak 17 kali.

Walaupun kadang-kala perlu mendengar rengekkkan anak-anak kecil, saya cuba beri tumpuan sepenuhnya dengan penuh sabar. Malah kelas selalunya akan dijalankan sesuai mengikuti masa saya ketika ada masa terluang. Keadaan ini memudahkan saya mengatur masa dengan baik sebab saya juga seorang ibu yang bekerja diwaktu pagi. Doakan agar segala apa yang saya pelajari sepanjang 5 bulan dapat saya terapkan mahupun dikongsi dengan ahli keluarga saya. Sekian, Tuhan memberkati.

Catherine Anak Bejie



Selamat sejahtera semua, saya Helen, berumur 60 tahun. Pertama kali saya pergi ke gereja ialah pada bulan November 2021. Lama sudah saya mahu pergi ke gereja, tapi banyak halangan.

Setelah beberapa bulan saya mengikuti kebaktian, mendengar firman Tuhan, ada perubahan dalam diri saya kerana hati saya sangat damai dan tenang.

Tidak seperti sebelum ini, saya susah untuk tidur pada waktu malam. Dan saya juga dapat mengelakkan diri dari hal-hal duniawi.

Dengan itu saya pun mengambil keputusan untuk mengikuti kelas baptisan dan pengesahan. Saya tidak lancar membaca dan juga kurang pendengaran. Jadi saya akan membaca buku di rumah dengan perlahan sebelum mengikuti kelas pada hari Ahad. Melalui kelas ini juga, banyak perkara yang saya pelajari dan dapati. Saya juga tahu apa yang baik dan tidak berkenan di mata Tuhan. Saya tidak pandai berdoa, tetapi saya tahu bahawa saya harus berdoa kepada Tuhan bila-bila masa dan dimana saja.

Syukur puji Tuhan, saya dapat mengikuti kelas baptisan dan pengesahan sampai akhir. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Rev Chan dan semua fasilitator yang telah memimbing saya dan saudara saudari seiman. Terima kasih dan Tuhan memberkati.

Helen Anak Monok



Saya bukan Kristian tetapi isteri saya seorang Kristian. Setelah isteri saya meninggal pada 17 Sept 2021, hati saya terbuka untuk menjadi seorang Kristian. Ahli keluarga dan saudara mara saya mendorong saya untuk menjadi Kristian untuk meneruskan warisan iman isteri saya. Saya mulai melangkah kaki saya ke gereja dan kini saya mengikuti kelas baptisan untuk mempersiapkan diri saya dibaptis.

Beberapa waktu setelah isteri saya meninggal saya bersendirian sahaja di rumah. Apabila bersendirian fikiran saya terganggu dan adakalanya perasaan takut mulai timbul. Ini menyebabkan saya susah untuk tidur setiap malam. Akhirnya saya mengambil keputusan untuk berdoa kepada Tuhan. Tuhan mendengar doa saya. Sekarang saya boleh tidur dengan tenang walaupun saya bersendirian di rumah. Saya bersyukur kepada Tuhan kerana membuka hati saya untuk percaya kepada-Nya.

Salim Anak Pita



Shalom, nama saya Jacqueline. Saya sangat bersyukur kerana masih diberi kesempatan untuk mengikuti kelas pembaptisan dan pengesahan ini. Saya juga banyak mempelajari bab-bab tentang Tuhan yang saya tidak pernah ketahui sebelum ini.

Ramles Anak Grunsin



Shalom, saya ingin menulis kesaksian saya bagaimana saya menerima Tuhan Kristus sebagai Juruselamat saya. Nama saya Ramles Anak Grunsin, berumur 26 tahun. Sebelum saya bertaubat dan menerima Yesus Kristus sebagai Juruselamat, kehidupan saya dahulu jauh berbeza kalau di bandingkan dengan kehidupan sekarang.

Kehidupan saya dahulu amatlah gelap, disebabkan saya mudah terpengaruh dengan aktiviti-aktiviti yang tidak mendatangkan kebaikan dan kesihatan tubuh badan. Pertama saya juga pernah terjebak melakukan perkara yang tidak berfaedah seperti menghisap batu dan menelan pil (Nospen). Kedua saya juga pernah memasuki tempat-tempat seperti pub dan sebagainya, sehingga salah seorang dari kami bergaduh dengan orang lain, ada juga dari pihak lawan membawa Samurai, kayu besbol, tetapi kami sempat melarikan diri kerana kami betul-betul takut ketika itu. Pada keesokan hari saya berasa trauma yang amat menakutkan, dari situ saya berfikir panjang, Saya mula mengelak dari kawan-kawan yang tidak berguna, dan saya mula perlahan-lahan membuang aktiviti-aktiviti yang tidak baik, hari demi hari, bulan demi bulan, tahun demi tahun, menjelanglah pada tahun 2019 saya mula mengenal isteri saya iaitu Daphne, saya rasa bersyukur dapat mengenali dia dengan lebih rapat, keluarga dia cukup baik terhadap saya. Dari situ juga saya mula mencari duit untuk mengahwini wanita yang saya paling cinta.

Dari dia juga saya mengenal Tuhan Yesus, selama saya hidup saya tidak tahu apa-apa tentang Tuhan, sehingga dia mengajak saya pergi ke gereja, hati saya mula tersentuh apabila pertama kali menginjak kaki ke gereja. Hati saya berasa tenang ketika itu dan berasa amat gembira. Terima kasih Tuhan kerana Engkaulah saya berada di sini, mengenal Engkau lebih mendalam lagi, mempercayai semua firman-Mu, taat dan setia kepada-Mu sahaja. Dan saya berterima kasih sekali lagi kepada isteri saya disebabkan dia saya menjadi ahli gereja. Amen.

Masuk tahun ke 3 kami mendapat cahaya mata, dan saya berasa amat-amat gembira bercampur dengan perasaan sedih, kerana inilah kenangan manis saya, apabila mendapat anak yang pertama, Saya pun berdoa kepada Tuhan, kerana Tuhan telah mendengar doa kami selama ini. Semoga saya menjadi suami yang baik kepada isteri saya, dan menjadi bapa yang bertanggungjawab kepada keluarga, setakat ini sahaja perkongsian saya. Terima Kasih, Tuhan memberkati, Amen.

Jacqueline Anak Juti



## Perkongsian Peserta Kursus Perkahwinan 2022



Setiap pasangan mengimpikan bahtera perkahwinan yang sempurna. Sebegitu juga kami berdua mengimpikan keadaan sedemikian. Sepanjang 15 tahun menjalani bahtera perkahwinan bersama-sama ada pasang surut, ombak badai yang perlu dilalui. Tahun ini merupakan kursus perkahwinan yang kedua yang kami berdua sertai. Banyak ilmu dalam perkahwinan yang kami pelajari setelah mengikuti kursus sepanjang 3 bulan dijalankan. Selama ini tidak ada "Masa Perkahwinan" yang kami berdua tetapkan dalam setiap minggu, tetapi setelah mengikuti

kelas ada hari untuk kami berdua meluangkan masa bersama-sama tanpa gangguan anak-anak.

Ada juga soalan yang ditanyakan dalam buku manual kursus perkahwinan dapat membolehkan kami berdua lebih mengenali diri masing-masing dari segi memegang watak landak ataupun badak. Dalam bab Impak Keluarga (dahulu dan sekarang) dapat membolehkan kami berdua mengerti sikap yang saling bertentangan antara satu sama lain. Tetapi Tuhan mempunyai rencana-Nya sendiri memberi kami berdua saling melengkapi antara satu sama lain. Terima kasih kepada Rev Chan dan Saudara Wilfred kerana membimbing kami 10 pasangan semasa mengikuti kursus. Doakan agar bahtera perkahwinan yang dibina terus tetap kukuh dan diberkati oleh Tuhan. Sekian, perkongsian kami berdua.

Renang & Senorita

Terima kasih kepada Pelayan BM Gereja Methodist Trinity kerana memberi peluang kepada kami untuk mengikuti kursus perkahwinan ini. Saya akan memulainya dengan berkongsi cerita bagaimana saya mula mengenali suami. Pada bulan Oktober 2019 saya dan suami berkenalan melalui Facebook iaitu melalui komen messenger masa itu. Kami berdua terus meneruskan berhubung melalui whatsapp hingga masuk hujung bulan November 2019. Setiap hari dipenuhi dengan perasaan yang bercampur aduk dengan keresahan dan harapan apabila kami saling jatuh cinta. Setiap pertemuan pasti ada yang mengerak dan menyentuh hati kami masing-masing. Kemudian kami berdua bersetuju untuk berkahwin pada 30 November 2019. Dari awal perkahwinan sehingga kini suami saya banyak menolong saya dan keluarga.



Melalui kursus perkahwinan ini kami berdua sangat bersyukur kerana berpeluang mempelajari banyak aspek tentang kehidupan berumah tangga. Semua bab yang dipelajari ada sangkut paut dengan kehidupan saya dan suami, walaupun kami ini masih baru kahwin tetapi banyak juga halangan dan rintangan, namun kami bersyukur kerana penyertaan Tuhan selalu ada, semua cubaan dan rintangan dapat diatasi, sehingga membolehkan keluarga kami hidup dengan harmoni.

Dengan kesempatan ini kami ini mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada Rev. Chan dan sdr. Welfred Tungku yang menjadi fasilitator kursus perkahwinan ini. Sekian, terima kasih, Tuhan memberkati.

Ramles & Daphne



Syalom, kami bersyukur dan berterima kasih kepada Tuhan kerana telah memberi kesempatan untuk kami mengongsi pengalaman semasa mengikuti kursus perkahwinan selama 7 minggu. Apa yang menarik mengenai kursus ini adalah sesuatu yang jarang kami kongsi masa menjalani rutin seharian di dalam rumah tangga. Kami dapat belajar bagaimana mengatasi, menangani dan mengurus hal keluarga di kedua-dua belah pihak.

Tidak saya nafikan kadang-kadang kami ada perselisihan faham dalam sesuatu hal. Apa yang paling seronok di dalam kursus ini, kami mengenali diri sendiri di tahap tertentu. Seorang Landak dan seorang Badak.

Ada masanya sepanjang pembelajaran kursus ini saya agak kecewa, sedih kerana suami saya selalu tidak ingat bila tarikh perkahwinan, berapa tahun usia perkahwinan, harijadi saya, tetapi setelah mengikuti kursus ini dapat membuat saya mengenali lebih mendalam mengenai pasangan saya. Walaupun suami saya tidak mengingati semua tarikh itu, itu bukan bermakna saya terus menyalahkan dia. Saya mendorong dan membimbing dia dimana dia lemah di sesuatu sudut.

Apapun yang kami pelajari semasa kursus tersebut akan kami terapkan di dalam hubungan kami supaya ianya membawa kebaikan pada masa akan datang. Tiada kerugian dari segi masa, tenaga dan wang yang banyak untuk mengikuti kursus ini kerana melalui Tuhan, Tuhan akan sediakan sebelum kita minta, kerana Tuhan tahu apa niat hati kita ketika mengikuti kursus ini. Di masa yang akan datang, kami berharap, lebih banyak lagi pasangan yang belum pernah mengikuti kursus dapat mengikutinya kerana kebaikan kursus ini dapat membimbing kita dengan cara yang betul dan berkesan sekiranya kita saling bertolak ansur.

Sekian, perkongsian dari kami. Tuhan memberkati.

Lofkman & Dalina



S H A L L O M saudara saudari seiman, saya dan suami bersyukur kerana berkesempatan untuk mengikuti Kursus Perkahwinan ini. Kursus ini memang bagus untuk suami isteri untuk menjalankan kewajipan sebagai suami dan isteri di mata TUHAN. Pertamanya dapat meningkatkan hubungan sesama agar

menjadi lebih akrab lagi dalam hubungan yang semakin berusia, kerana kebiasaan dunia semakin tua kita, semakin hilang cinta yang pertama yang telah kita bina dahulunya mula-mula bercinta. Di sini juga saya ingin berkongsi sedikit awal perkahwinan saya dan suami, perkahwinan saya dan suami tidak direstui oleh kedua ibubapa saya, walaupun tak direstui kami berdua nekad untuk meneruskan perkahwinan kami pada 25 December 1999. Walaupun hakikatnya kami berdua tak pernah bercinta seperti pasangan lain, cinta kami dipupuk setelah kami mendirikan rumahtangga. Hanya satu saja yang saya minta dengan suami mula-mula mendirikan rumahtangga, cinta sampai ke nafas terakhir jangan seperti bapa kamu meninggalkan isteri dan anak-anak semasa masih kecil. Saya tetap bersyukur kepada TUHAN, kerana TUHAN memberikan saya pasangan yang sangat menerima dan menghargai saya seadanya sehingga ke saat ini. Mengenaliku, MengenalMu membuatkan cinta kami masing-masing bertahan, walaupun banyak rintangan dalam kehidupan sebagai suami-isteri kerana membina asas yang kukuh dapat menyelamatkan keadaan. Membina asas yang kukuh antara tajuk yang dibincangkan dalam kursus ini.

Kami bersyukur kerana dapat mengikuti kursus perkahwinan 2022 yang dianjurkan oleh Pelayanan Kesusasteraan dan Pendidikan Kristian PBM TMC. Kursus ini ada 7 sesi dan telah diadakan seminggu sekali pada setiap malam Khamis bermula pada 7 Julai 2022 dan berakhir pada 25 Ogos 2022.

Semasa kursus ini dijalankan, suami kurang memahami apa yang dikongsikan dalam video atau soalan yang ada dalam buku Manual Tetamu. Saya berusaha menerangkan kepada dia agar dia lebih memahaminya. Syukurlah dia dapat faham kerana banyak yang dikongsikan dalam video itu kami pernah mengalaminya. Ada perbezaan, ada konflik, ada badak dan landak, ada suka dan dukanya dalam kehidupan rumah tangga kami.

Bab Seni Komunikasi telah mengajar kami untuk lebih terbuka meluahkan pendapat dan menjadi pendengar yang lebih baik kepada satu sama lain. Sekarang kami lebih mudah untuk mengucapkan kata-kata penghargaan seperti terima kasih, Tuhan memberkatimu kepada satu sama lain. Salah satu bab yang menarik bagi kami adalah Bab Seks yang Baik. Secara jujur dalam usia yang sudah setengah abad, kami telah mengalami penurunan keghairahan terhadap seks. Di sini kami belajar untuk membuat perubahan bagi menjalin



Saya dan suami bersyukur juga, dari segi seni komunikasi dan menyelesaikan konflik, bagi kami tak ada banyak masalah, kerana saya dan suami selalu bersemuka dan berbual-bual tentang sesuatu perkara, kami juga minta pertolongan TUHAN, kami berdoa secara bersama atau berseorangan. Dalam pekerjaan seharian, kami sama-sama bekerja, tanggungjawab kami dalam keluarga kami galas sama-sama dari anak sulung lahir 2000 hingga anak ketiga lahir tahun 2008, semuanya kami berdua pikul bersama dari segi keperluan lain, kami tidak bergantung kepada keluarga masing-masing. Hingga ke saat ini, suami sering menolong memasak bersama dengan saya selepas balik kerja petang, suami sentiasa bersama dengan saya di dapur tolong buat ini dan itu, bagi kami berdua ini adalah cara kami menyemai cinta kami selalu mewangi setiap hari, masa bersama kami gunakan dengan baik. Saya rasa sangat dihargai oleh suami. Suami juga pernah menyatakan kepada saya yang Dia juga bersyukur dengan memiliki saya. Saya juga selalu mengakui kesilapan saya dengan suami, terkadang nada suara saya adakala tinggi.

Dengan kesempatan ini saya mendorong semua jemaah dengan mengikuti Kursus Perkahwinan ini selama tujuh sesi kerana bagi saya dan suami, kursus ini sangat-sangat membantu kita terutama keluarga yang sangat-sangat memerlukan pertolongan dari segi rohani dan jasmani, sangat-sangat digalakan kerana ketujuh-tujuh sesi sangat-sangat bermakna untuk memulihkan hubungan diantara suami dan isteri. Kita juga akan mengetahui kewajipan kita sebagai suami dan isteri di mata TUHAN. Kita akan menikmati masa kahwin setiap masa juga. Kita akan tahu juga dengan pelajaran yang telah dibekalkan dengan ketujuh-tujuh sesi akan membuatkan cinta kita kembali bersinar seperti cinta pandang pertama. Saya percaya semua pasangan yang TELAH mengikuti kursus ini sentiasa diberkati dan yang belum mengikuti kursus ini akan merasakan sendiri nikmat cinta ini, kerana cinta tak perlu di kata, "CINTA HANYA PERLU DIUNGKAPKAN MELALUI PERBUATAN".

AMEN!!

Sekian Terima Kasih.



Herry & Catherine



hubungan yang lebih intim dan mesra dengan satu sama lain. Dalam bab Cinta dan Perbuatan, kami mendapati bahawa kami mempunyai bahasa kasih yang sama iaitu perbuatan baik. Kami masing-masing akan merasa dikasihi, dihargai apabila keperluan kami dipenuhi oleh satu sama lain. Contohnya apai Amay sangat senang hati bila saya dapat menolong dia membuat 'paper work' dan menyediakan makanan yang enak untuk dia. Dan saya juga sangat senang hati bila dia dapat menolong saya memasang peralatan atau memperbaiki barang-barang yang rosak di rumah atau membeli buah-buahan yang saya suka.

Bagi kami secara keseluruhannya, kursus ini sangat baik, banyak yang dipelajari untuk kami mengenali dan memahami satu sama lain dengan lebih mendalam lagi. Kami semakin tahu peranan kami masing-masing dan melakukannya dengan lebih berkesan lagi untuk menjalin hubungan yang lebih akrab dan manis lagi. Sekarang kami ada "Masa Perkahwinan" yang ditetapkan pada malam Jumaat. Doa dan harapan kami agar perkahwinan kami akan berkekalan sehingga kematian memisahkan kami.

Dengan kesempatan ini, kami mengucapkan jutaan terima kasih kepada Rev. Chan dan sdra. Welfred Tungku yang menjadi fasilitator dalam kursus perkahwinan ini. Tuhan memberkati.

Peter & Sitie



从2014年到今年，我已在青团八个年头。从一个普普通通的新契友，到四年的财政再到今年懂懂的青年团契主席，变化很多。特别是今年，就如今年的青年主日的大合唱歌曲- 不要放弃。

当你孤单的时候，不要气馁；  
当你在十字路口，不要徘徊；  
当你难过的时候，擦干泪水；  
当失望的时候，不要放弃！

历时一年半左右的行动管制令，虽然帮助我们远离了病毒，它也远离了关系，也给实体团契的回归带来一定的困难。因为契友们都习惯了线上团契的模式，需要再重新适应实体的团契模式。在这期间，非常的挣扎与徘徊，事奉人员短缺，出席的契友只有三四位。

老实说，自从去年复选被选为主席，对自己立了一个目标，希望把契友们之间再联系起来，就像我刚来三一青年团契的时候。所以刚回来实体的时候，失落感是有的，一度有一个想法就“这样吧，两年的MCO 改变了团契很多，我也没办法，就这样吧！”

感恩神在我最迷茫的时候，安排了一个天使副主席一直的跟我说“当主席会看到失望和灰心，但是不要放弃！没有什么事在主里不能解决！”

在差一点要放弃的那段时间的某一夜晚，我做了一个梦，很奇妙是我还记得这个梦的细节。梦中的我和副主席一同进去聚会所，那个聚会所坐满了青年人们，很是热闹，然后站在台上做着报告，然后梦就醒了。跟副主席分享了过后，她跟我说“神要你帮祂做一些事情，不可以放弃，我们可以的！”

还记得三月的一次大专之夜一开始的预计人数是三十人，到四十三人出席大专之夜，这一切都是神的恩典。这些弟兄姊妹们也有固定出席崇拜和团契聚会。慢慢的，在主的带领下，我们一步一步的从困难中，青年团契中关系逐渐的建立起来了。但，还不可以放弃，要为主多走一哩路 -- 稳固人与神的关系与时常寻求神的话语。

今年青年团契也做出了重大改变，更改聚会时间和聚会场所。一开始就面临着工作者时间上的紧凑，可是神的恩典够用。纵然有许多的问题出现，可是在弟兄姐妹以及职员们的配搭下，所有事情都迎刃而解。

当你处在十字路口时，不要徘徊！上帝会指引道路，可能那条路是窄小的，可是那条路的路尾必会有一道美丽的风景线等着你！

我的感恩：  
感恩那时候的没有放弃，  
感恩职员们热心的服侍，  
感恩弟兄姊妹们的包容，  
感恩指导顾问们的指导。

林依瑶



交托二字说起来容易，做起来难。

我记得那是在一次团契查经会当中，查经材料有一个问题让我一直感到纠结。问题是这样的，在你的生活中，有哪些部分尚未完全将主权交给主耶稣？，大致意思就是，有什么是自己紧紧抓住的，不愿交托给神呢？在那个当下我心里想，肯定没有！因为神知道我的一切。可是查经会过后，我的心里却一直有个声音在问真的吗？真的吗？真的吗？所以在过后的几天我就一直在思考这个问题。

经过我深思熟虑一番，我想我确实是有有一个事情是自己想要紧紧抓住的，不愿放手交托给神，那就是我的未来学习的方向。在第一次填写大学志愿的时候，为了想填好表格，可以成功填到较好

的大学，寻求了许多人的意见，但是可能就是有太多的声音导致原本就是有选择困难症的我，更加得纠结了。可能出于所谓的“逆反”的心理，我几乎隔绝了全部的声音，听不进任何人的声音，看不见别人的提醒，完全照着自己喜好的，没有寻求神的智慧，就一股脑儿的填完，然后就交上了。

过后，在我第二次填写大学志愿的时候，有了“沉思”问题的小插曲后，我就不那么急急忙忙地填了。在第一天填的时候，就真的祷告交托，然后才开始找资料，自己选自己真的可能会读的，想要读的，以及在自己的学术范围里面的。还记得在最后期限时间的最后两个小时，我还特地信息我的哥哥，让他帮我做最后检查，因为怕自己选到的可能性都很小。我到现在还清晰的记得他在帮我分析完我的表格的时候，最后还信息我说祷告，交托给神。让原本还是有点儿犹豫，纠结的我，瞬间被敲醒。是的！既已交托就相信到底吧！然后便交上了。

现在如果你问我，我的未来学习方向结果如何？我想我只能回答，我相信一切都有神自己的安排！而一切的安排都有神自己美好的旨意。是的，也许有时候我们会认为某些东西可能自己来就可以了，小事儿、小问题，自己可以解决的，但是如果从一开始我们都没有想过交托，那么到发生大事儿、大问题，自己不能解决的的时候又怎么会一开始就寻求神呢？所以，愿我们在生活当中无论事情的大小，都记住交托于神，因为神既是我们的神，也是我们的阿爸天父，相信神也非常愿意参与我们所做的每一件事情。

程书琴

# 其中最大的是。。。。爱

2019年4月，三一堂在预备着守夜祷告——走过“耶稣苦难的每一站”，在其中一个抽经文卡片并画出来。那时我抽中【哥林多前书13:13】：“如今常存的有信，有望，有爱；这三样，其中最大的是爱。”那时候，我就到台前向神祷告说：“为什么是这张经文？祢要我明白什么。”其实在那段期间，经历着爱家人、朋友许多的挣扎，真的觉得“爱”是一件很难和痛苦的事情。

这段痛苦一直持续到9月，我于祷告山参加教区的代表大会，在那一夜的其中一个环节一样有抽经文卡片。我印象最深刻的是我本来已经抽了某一张，仿佛有声音告诉我说不要抽这张，我就默默地换了另一张。当我翻开来时，我就WOW。。。原来。。。我拿的卡片，里面的经文还是跟守夜祷告时，一模一样的。当时的我，情不自禁的哭了。

那时候，我渐渐明白神要告诉我什么，也让我有所反思。我总是先爱别人，却忘记了圣经的教导，要先爱神才学会懂得爱人。在爱人——朋友和家人，都是以我自己的方式或者我要得到他们的

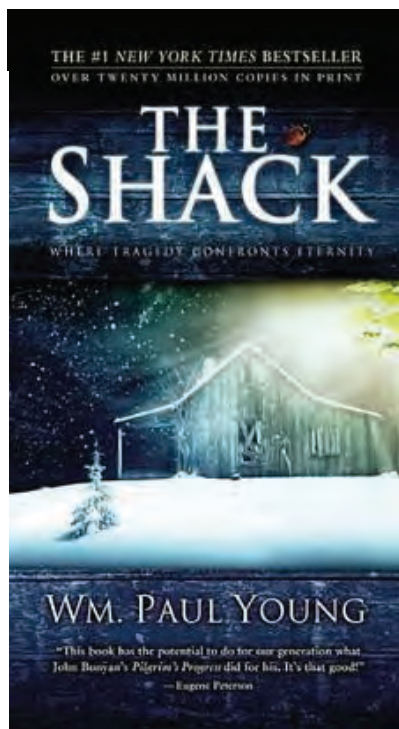
认可及称赞，我就觉得这种的爱太痛苦了，真的很痛苦。

那一夜，我好像刮了自己一巴掌，眼泪一直不停地狂流。却经历了神的拥抱和医治，我这破碎的心得到了安抚。

一直到10月Edwin结婚时，青团就为他献唱出这首“最大的是爱”，之后诗班也是一样献唱这首歌。因为在“最大的是爱”的歌词里提到了爱的真谛和哥林多前书13章，所以那一整年我都“逃”不过这首诗歌，可是却给了我很大的提醒和学习的功课。

首先，爱神是表现在爱神的话语，其次，爱人如己，去珍惜重视对方，如同自己也渴望可以被重视。这些爱是我们一生都要学习的功课，对我而言，爱也包含了祝福。在上帝眼里，我们都是神所爱的孩子，因为爱是从神而来！

郑嫦菁



## 走出《小屋》

每个人的心中都有一间小屋；每个人的小屋都各有千秋。有的小屋明亮有光；有的小屋暗淡无望。在今年二月，我仿佛跌入或说被锁在小屋的最深处，无法从中解脱。经历了长达一个月的自我封闭，我才踏出那一步，向牧师寻求帮助。透过与牧师的约谈，他推荐了这本《小屋》，让我进行一次与黑暗和光明的面对面交流。整个过程中，我不断与黑暗斗争，与谎言拉扯，一次次被其打败，无数次被其说服。

在书中，神向我说话，也提醒我，但更多的是帮我——清除诸多的谎言。因为这样的状况，我暂停教会的服侍。整个二月，我

不断与自己争斗，我很‘想’改变现状，却心有余而力不足。每每都只是‘想’，而没有行动，虽然知道‘想’无法让事情解决。但我一直在想与不想之间，放任自己持续堕落。我‘想’，却又不愿付出行动。然而，神藉着此书向我说第一句话：【一个人无法改变，需要三位一体一起】。

很多时候，我‘想’改变，却一直靠着自己的力量，而忘了单靠我自己是无法做出任何改变。我需要三位一体的主一起，且依靠主的力量一起做出改变。因为与神的疏远，使我要重新回到神的面前，变得更加的困难。某些事情一旦习惯了，就没那么轻易的改变。离开读经灵修祷告的生活久了，就不想回去了，更多的是想拥有自己的时间，做自己的事情。此时我发现，在我的生活中有太多的荆棘（如懒惰）阻挡我亲近神。我想要什么事情都不做。

虽然知道这样的生活并不是自己想要的，但还是任由它发酵。然而，神向我说第二句话：【你的路上现在有太多障碍，但你不必继续这样活着】。

纵然，我的生活中有各样的障碍与谎言围绕我，但其实我并不需要这样的活着，我不需要继续这样毫无意义地活着。神在等我回

到祂的面前，祂已经在把我生命路上的障碍——清除，祂要我好好活着。在那一个月里，我把自己关在那充满荆棘围绕的花园，不让任何人接触我，甚至进入我的花园里。

然而，神向我说第三句话：【保持开放——让周围的其他人能找到你】。

祂说：身边的人都在担心我，想要关心我，而我却一而再，再而三地拒人于千里之外。不过，神的计划总是很巧妙，在祂预定的时间内，祂把我再次带入人群中。纵然这个过程十分煎熬，但我深刻感受到神在一点一点地安抚我。因为，神向我说第四句话：

【我只要你这件事。当你开始往下沉时，让我来救你】

祂的手一直紧抓着我，而我需要做的只是同样抓住祂的手，让祂来救那个时常因为一些小事情、小情绪、小挫折而往下沉的我。我怎可忘了创造宇宙万物的主是何等的大有能力，祂的恩典是何等的够我用。因此，神向我说第五句话：【恩典并不依赖苦难而存在，但苦难存在的地方，你会在许多面向与色彩中发现恩典。】

恩典不需要苦难的衬托，然而在困难当中肯定会发现恩典。在每一次的苦难经历中，却可以确实实地发现神无数的恩典。祂的应许何等美妙。

最后，神向我说：【原谅是不要再掐住另一个人的脖子不放。】在这里，我要向那些在内在外关心我的‘你’，说声对不起，也谢谢你。对不起，我拒绝你的关心；对不起，你以热情待我，我以冷漠待你。谢谢你，依然持续的关心，无论是公开或私下的关心。

我的内心有太多的谎言，它促成我的生命就像不规则、凌乱的花园。我无法原谅自己对他人的伤害，纵然对方已原谅我，但我仍无法原谅自己。有些伤痛，是无法磨灭的。然而，原谅——放开那双亲自掐住自己脖子的手——能帮助我，提醒我，坚持依靠神走下去。

在整本书中，最触动我心的一句话。就是上帝对主角说：【因为你不知道我爱你，所以你不能信任我。】主角对上帝的怨愤，他无法相信上帝，所以他不知道上帝是何等地爱他。就如我一样，对上帝的太多的抱怨，埋怨上帝为什么我要经历这样的事情，为什么这样的事情会发生在自己身上。。。有时候真的怀疑祂是不是不爱我，不相信祂真的可以帮助我。。。我不知道上帝是何等地爱我，导致我无法信任祂，并祂在我身上所允许的苦难与恩典。

在这次的经历中，我知道祂是如此地爱我，同样我也要学习去信任祂，并相信祂所允许在我身上发生的每一件事情，都是祂爱我的象征。

张孔馨

# 神是谁？

时间滴答滴答不停地过去，过了一年又一年。时间正冲冲地过去，我们务必好好把握每一时每一分每一秒。神提醒了我一些事是我绝不可忘记的。

以前的我是活在黑暗里，在黑暗里行的。如今我得以行在光明中是因为神的怜悯，医治和恩典。若不是主耶稣介入我的生命，带领我以及改变我的生命，我就不会写这篇见证。

从前我是个死人如同行尸走肉，如今我是个活生生的新造的人。因为我已知道什么是生命的真正意义。透过学习神的话语也就是圣经，让我找到答案和认识神。

除此之外，主释放了我的一切捆绑，使我得以享有在基督里的自由。以前的我被色情和游戏牢牢地捆绑着。我时常无法胜过肉体的情欲以至我常常犯罪。感谢主，当我回归并依靠主时便胜过了罪。感谢主一直以来的陪伴和对我不离不弃。

以前我是为自己而活，如今我是为主而活。以前尤其是在大学期间，我把大部分时间花在游戏上。我承认那时的我打游戏的技能是算高等水平。我也很看重游戏技巧和操作的熟练度。为了保持良好水平，我认为必须抽出一些时间来打游戏以便能锻炼我的游戏技巧和操作。但以前我看为美的事，现在我都看为粪土。神藉着门徒课程，藉着祂宝贵的话语，慢慢地改变了我的观点和生命

。现在我不是为自己而活，乃是为我亲爱的主耶稣基督而活。活是为主而活，死也是为主而死，吃也是为主而吃，不吃也是为主而不吃。凡事都是为了主而行。

做基督徒其实是不简单但也是不难的，因为我们有一个坚定不移的靠山也就是我们的神。祂是我们的知己，安慰者，好牧人，依靠，随时的帮助，避难所，保障。祂是我们的一切。恳求主帮助我们每个门徒务必只对主至死都忠心到底，持守主的道到永远。

愿我们都能在基督里有恒心和合一。我们也要常常数算神的恩典和纪念神在我们各人生命里所实行的作为免得我们忘记了神的同在。毕竟人真的是非常健忘的。我们也非常需要神的话语，因为神的话语是我们脚前的灯，路上的光。神的话语能照亮前面的道路。花时间研读神的话语是必要的，不然我们是绝不知道该怎么奔跑属灵之路。若不花时间来学习神的话语，我们便不知道哪一条才是通往天堂的道路。我们也不只是停留在属灵的知识上长进而已，也要对神的信心有所作为。神怎么说，我们就怎么做。恳求神帮助我们愿意完全顺服于主耶稣基督，跑完当跑的路程，打完那美好的仗，让我们都能存着无愧的良心来见主的面并与主同度永生。愿一切的荣耀都归给我们的神直到永永远远。阿门。

池宣諒

## 重生得救



神是谁？耶稣又是谁？在我还没有成为基督徒时，这是我人生当中的大疑问，但我一直没有寻找关于“它”的答案。因为我压根儿不在乎，年轻气盛的我，根本不认为自己有必要了解这个答案，一直到一些事情发生，我才开始重视我的生命。

在我认识耶稣是谁之前，我的脾

气绝对可以比喻为定时炸弹，任何不如我意的事，都可以成为我的引爆点。而这个时间的我正在努力的追求认同感，以至于在朋友面前出口成脏，逃学，赌博等等，都是家常便饭。一切可以让别人记住我的举动，我都不放过。

中学时期，我有一群非常要好的朋友，大家每天都聚在一起，抽烟，喝酒，赌博，逃学。而我也其中一份子，是一个一眼就可以辨别出“不健康”的小混混，那时的我非常沉浸在这样的朋友圈里，也以此为我的目标。我不需要好成绩，我只需要有一群朋友和我一起“普通人”不愿意做的事情。我非常喜欢在学校闹事，因为我的背后会有很多朋友来为我撑腰，让我显得自己有很多“敢死队”朋友，这样可以让我在学校过着仿佛有特权一般的生活。殊不知，这样的行为它在慢慢的侵蚀着我。

这样的情况一直维持到初三，在一个炎热的下午我和朋友们如往常一样，逃学到学校附近的废弃地溜达，在我们预备“开盘”赌博的时候，其中一位朋友就凑到我旁边很神秘和我说

他的钱包里面有“很有趣”的东西。充满好奇的我，一下子就被吊起胃口。他就缓缓的打开他的钱包，就在那一瞬间，我倒吸了一口气。我开始意识到原来我接触的朋友开始玩“不一样档次”的东西了。我看著钱包里面大大小小包装的“冰毒”，那一刻我开始思考起来了。在和内心剧烈的挣扎后，我拒绝了。但这件事却都一直埋在我的心里。

这件事情发生不久后，上帝像是有计划的一样，让我要离开这个可怕的“无底洞”。偶然的会下，我接触了一位女同学。她是一位基督徒，而她的教堂就在我家附近，她主动的来邀请我去参加少团聚会。如同大家一开始会排斥一样，我认为那是一群“HOLY的人”聚集的地方，像我这样不配的小混混，不应该去那样的场合，因为和我的“形象”格格不入。所以，我当下就拒绝了。

但这件事情并未就此结束，上帝再一次透过别人叩叩我的心门。在同一个星期天，某个在参与XEE课程的学员透过我爸爸要为我讲述三福课程的福音，而他需要我做他的实习的对象。而我就半推半就的听他说完一遍的福音信息。我才恍然大悟。以前的提问“上帝是谁？人类存在的目的是什麼？”。

这些我没有寻找过答案的疑问。他使用短短的时间，为我解答了一生中“务必”要知道的答案。我才知道原来上帝是存在的，我做的每一件事祂都看得清清楚楚。我也在当下信主了！我也也开始慢慢的和这些朋友们做割舍，也明白了我的身体是圣灵的殿，应当保护好我的身体。从那时候开始我就慢慢的参加了教会的活动，圆滑了自己的性格，改正自己的脾气。因为在主里面的我是一个“新造的人”。

最后，我想对朋友们说，当你遇到人生危机或者寻找人生意义的时，不要气馁，不要放弃。上帝会在任何时候向你伸手，你需要做的只是握住祂的手和祂一同前行。

朋友，耶稣爱你！

余自凱



# 踏出第一步

今天看到牧师发的信息让我有许多感触。是的，如果当初没有勇敢踏出第一步，我可能无法经历更多主的恩典与祝福。

记得在2018年我被选上当妇女会主席，当下的我无法接受，心里有许多挣扎，因为害怕做不来也觉得无法胜任。毕竟自己本身的工作已经够忙了。这种种的情绪让我忧虑了好久，但我每一次祷告，天父总说祂的恩典够用。其中还有一段经文常出现在我脑海里，那是【哥林多前书十13】：“你们所遇见的试探，无非是人所能受的。神是信实的，必不叫你们受试探过于所能受的，在受试探的时候，总要给你们开一条出路，叫你们能忍受得住。”经过无数次的祷告，自己就完全降服在天父的主权之下。

记得初任时我确实遇到重重的挑战和困难，毕竟这不是我熟悉的领域，唯有全然的交托并相信主的带领和同在，加上姐妹们彼此的扶持和同心的事奉，让所有的事工都能顺利进行和完成。

委身顺服，谦卑服侍让我确实经历上帝丰盛的恩典。只要勇敢的踏出第一步，你才会看到不一样的风景！

符月枝

## XEE 導師

感谢神，我上了XEE导师后，第一次在三一堂第一届开班有机会成为队长课程，并在当中学习，之后就停止了四年多。

很感恩今年三一堂再次举办第二届开班，当我被再次邀请成为队长时，心里充满当初那种火热的心，当我知道这次不但要当队长，还要当导师时，我其实没有想太多就答应了。

这是我第一次教课，我没有经验，不知要怎样当导师。我又是一个内向的人，现在想起为何当初那么大胆，没有考虑清楚，之前其他教会举办时，道财弟兄和怡晖姐妹有问我可以当队长吗？我拒绝了，就这样停止了4年。然而上帝还是没有放弃我，继续给我机会。这让我想起了我们上XEE课程时，有一种叫罗马式的握

手礼。我们常常遇到一点问题还是困难就慢慢远离神，但神还是抓住我们的手不放，当我们悔改，回转向神时，神还是接纳我们并紧紧抓住我们。

第一次当导师的心情非常紧张，担心自己能够胜任吗？还好每一次轮到我时，还有其他导师的帮忙和引导，学员们的鼓励。当完成当天的课时时，心里也放松了许多。这次的教导也遇到了一些的拦阻，但我感谢神每一次都能顺利的完成。

XEE，不但是一种传福音的工具，也是一个足以改变生命，带领人与神建立更深厚的关系的课程。

黄惠如

## 锡安函授

感谢无所不知，无所不在的天父上帝，祂圣灵的帮助让我有机会，报读圣经锡安函授学校为我们预备的课程。让我能够腾出时间安静在主前来研读，思想，并靠着那赐给我信心与力量的主来完成每课的功课的同时，让我享受在主活语教导及与主建立美好的关系。

藉着这些课程的学习，使我更增广对上主真理的知识，更深认识上帝在我生命中所创造的美和独特，更要紧的是坚信主耶稣基督用重价救赎了我脱离罪恶，叫我这不配的罪人因信称义，帮助我在成圣的旅程里灵命更新靠主成长，在属神与属世的事上有一个很明确的立场，不以自我为中心，凡事都以上帝的事为优先。让上帝的旨意在我生命中当权，过属神的生活，多安静，多读经，多祷告，让上帝的爱和祂恩典的光辉向我照射，这样上帝的爱也从我生命发射出感谢和赞美的祭。

愿主帮助，在这末世的时代，面对任何各种的环境和困难时，愿

主磨练我的心志，建立我的品格，让我爱人不虚假，待人由心而发，与教会有共同的异象和使命，彼此相顾彼此建立，单单高举主名，将主耶稣的馨香之气彰显出来，使这个世界也因我们变得更美好。

【罗马书第十二6】很清楚告诉我们，体贴肉体的就是死，体贴圣灵的乃是生命的平安，让我反省及时刻警醒，不要像那没有预备灯油的童女一样，直到主来的时候，才后悔莫及，为时已晚，趁着我还有今日，当时刻提醒自己，不好吃懒做，不虚度光阴，不随波逐流，以敬虔的心来等候那荣耀的相聚，不空手见主面。

十字架是我的荣耀，愿我活出有主耶稣基督的样式。主已把福音的责任托付给我，愿我忠心去完成。【彼后三18】：你们却要在我们救主耶稣基督的恩典和知识上有长进。愿荣耀归给祂。从今直到永远。阿们。

沈金花

# 忆亡夫 (曾其生)

1962年我俩相识相恋二年后，结为夫妇，度过了57週年，感谢主。

回首当年，我俩和睦相处，情深似海，鲜少衝突。自信主后，经上说：

【雅歌二16】良人属我，我也属他。

【林前七5上】夫妻不可彼此亏负

【罗马十二16上】要彼此同心，不要志气高大。

【以弗所四26】生气却不要犯罪，不可含怒到日落，经文让我们更珍惜彼此。

你真是一位好丈夫，好父亲，好人。你从来不自己出外，撇下我和子女，除非是公事，你也是一位好员工，做事谨慎，循规蹈矩，从不发怨言，深得上司的器重，所以获得州元首颁发勳章。

我们有一个美满的家庭，儿女都住在附近，个个事业有成就，孙子个个聪明伶俐，一直过着安逸的日子，感谢神。

你知道吗？这一生最让我毕生难忘的是在我们结婚五十周年纪念日的，你当着儿女孙子兄弟姐妹亲戚面前，拥抱着我告白，我会一生爱着你，第一次送钻戒又送花，令我好感动。

自从信主之后，你就很用心研读圣经，常常祷告，同时热心于教会的事工，当过牧职关怀主席，副会友领袖，乐龄主席，本处传道，西教区乐龄团契文书等，你是一位爱神爱人的信徒。

不幸的是，你在2016年得了肾脏癌，在患病期间，你需要打针吃药，化疗，电疗，因你诚心的祷告，得到神的垂听，所以特别看顾你，使你不脱发，不呕吐，好像一个平常人，真是感恩。

在这几年，病情反反复复最后终抵不住癌细胞的扩散，在重病时，你就把后事交代清楚。

你终于在2021年7月7日早上9时20分，儿女孙子们都围在你身边，当我亲吻你后，孩子们也一个个上前吻你，你就很安详安息主怀了。你就如【提后四7】：“那美好的仗我已经打过了，当跑的路我已经跑了，所信的道我已经守住了。”

如今已经一年多了，我时时刻刻想念你，默坐时泪流满面，回想当年我俩心心相印，往日的欢乐，温情叫我如何不想你。你听见了吗？我早晚向你请安，盼望在梦中与你相见。

现在我求神帮助我，让我只怀念你，但不要悲伤难过，加上老同学，老同事，妹妹，傅师母与主内姐妹不断的劝勉。这样子我才逐渐振作起来，感谢神的看顾。我最亲爱的先生，你放心，家中所有的人都孝顺你。我们永远怀念你！

鲁银秀

## 少年人的心声 #1



我是来自少团的 Tiffany, 今年14岁。我升上少团的时候是在MCO 时期, 所以基本是在线上团契。在线上聚会的时候, 我很少打开视频, 也很少说话, 这样的情况持续了两年。之后教会就开始慢慢的恢复实体, 我也开始去教会参加团契。

刚开始, 我只敢和比较熟的人说话, 但少团的契友门从不会把我落单。每次玩游戏和分享的时候我总感觉无法融入他们, 所以我有想放弃去少团的念头。直到在几个月前, 我参加了蛤蜊见阳光的生活营。这个生活营有来自不同的教会的少年人一起来敬拜, 听神的话语, 彼此分享, 一起玩游戏。

在我的生活营的小组里, 组员们特别鼓励我勇敢分享自己的想法。慢慢得我觉得主动跟别人聊天, 分享并没有这么困难。当生活营结束后, 我觉得自己要改变, 不能回到教会又变成之前的样子, 什么都不做, 也不说。所以我就鼓起勇气主动跟别人聊天, 参于少团的每一个节目。在少团我也结交了一群朋友, 在少团里我也学会了如何领会和领唱, 对我来说这完全是新的体验。我之前不想去的念头转换为期待每个星期日去少团聚会。

在这段期间我也有所成长, 在我升中学的第一次考试我经历了上帝的爱。在那一次的考试, 我考了人生中最差的成绩, 因为我没有认真学习, 也没有复习, 沉迷于电话之中。那时我很伤心并且深感后悔。在拿到成绩的那天晚上, 我就向神祷告, 求神原谅并且带领我。

在那天晚上我真的觉得耶稣就在我身边跟我说话, 安慰和鼓励我。我感谢主因祂在我遇到挫折跌倒的时候, 祂来帮助我, 使我能重新归向神, 学习更依靠祂。感谢主带领着我现在的学业, 让我的学业有进步, 这都是神的保守看顾。在学校也交到了一些认真读书的朋友并跟他们一起学习。我希望我能影响我身边同学, 让他们可以看到神的孩子是不一样的。

最后, 我要感谢赞美主, 因为您的恩典使我可以成为神的宝贝孩子。我也很欢迎12-18岁的少年人一同来参加少团, 一同来聆听主的话语, 彼此学习和成长。

刘琦俊

# 少年人的心声 #2



弟兄姐妹。他们邀请我参加少团线上的聚会，我从中也开始慢慢的认识了神，我开始反思，我人生的目标是什么？我到底还有救吗？直到一个营会（蛤蜊见阳光）的出现，神透过它改变了我。

这次的营会中发生了一件让我难以忘怀的事。不知大家是否曾经有过在敬拜中听诗歌听到流泪的经历。营会中有一个环节，类似祷告会，那时敬拜赞美团唱了一首诗歌，深深的触动了我的内心。

“每当我，面对风浪，祢总在我身旁，生命福分与我分享，更深的渴望”。。。“每当有困境阻挡，你旨意不摇晃，使我心中充满平安，充满无限希望”。。。。

那时我的脑海里一直反复地出现我过去所犯下的罪，我认为我愧对了神。但我也感受到仿佛神紧紧的抱着我，我一边哭，一边向神说对不起，不断的向上帝认罪祷告。即使我自觉无药可救，但神还是紧紧的拉住我，不让我继续在罪中堕落下去。就这样，在营会中我经历了耶稣基督十字架的爱，带领我生命经历改变和成长。

从那天起，我不再觉得自己一无是处，也不会因为一点小挫折而放弃神；而是让神带领我，使我越来越像基督。感谢神，在少团中赐给我一群爱神的朋友，让我可以与他们一起学习真理，经历生命成长。

若你也是少年人，并且可能也正在经历挫折，那我真诚的邀请你来参于我们，一同经历耶稣基督在我们生命中带来的改变。愿一切荣耀归于上帝，阿们！

许恺乐

敬爱的牧师，长辈，以及弟兄姐妹，主里平安！我是来自少团的许恺乐，今年15岁。当我得知今天我要上台分享见证时，我内心其实非常的恐惧，也多次想要推掉这次的分享。但奇妙的是我总是听到一个声音对我说：“恺乐，你常说想要为神传福音，那为什么这次这么好的机会，能让更多人看见神在你身上的作为和改变，而你却不把握住呢？”于是，在我不断地祷告下，我选择顺服神，我靠着神给我的勇气，今天站在这里与大家分享神在我生命中的作为。

其实说到少团，以前我是非常害怕，甚至讨厌少团的。为什么这么说呢？因为我是个内向且极度自卑的人，时常觉得自己没有价值。每次看到少团的契友彼此聊得很开心，玩得很尽兴，我就感到非常的羡慕，但却从不参与他们。渐渐的，在少团中我变得孤独，从羡慕演变成嫉妒，我感觉我不属于少团。我想证明自己的价值。于是我就在学校交了一群损友，骂脏话，顶撞老师，甚至霸凌同学。渐渐的，我喜欢上这样的生活，也为自己感到骄傲，感觉这才是属于我的生活。其他的事情如学业，未来的人生和信仰，都被我抛在脑后了。

这样的生活是不是没完没了呢？不！神开始动工了。MCO期间，我无法和学校的朋友们见面，于是也没有继续与他们联络了，我莫名地感到心里有一些空虚。唯一与我聊天，关心我的是少团的



# 感谢主！



感谢主！日子过得真快，今天是三一家可喜可贺的日子，也是耶和華祝福满满的日子，因为三一家在过去30年生养众多，遍满全地。

感谢主！在2011年生了一只“金凤凰”，倒过来念就是我的姓名“黄凤金”。我这只金凤凰清楚看见并印证了神的话语，人、事、物的见证，回应天父上帝的呼召，我总不撒下也不丢弃，走上了这一生奉献的道路。我这只金凤凰漂洋过海，千山万水嫁到眼未见，耳却曾听到的大国“中国”来了。

回想当初因着看见婚姻祷告中的异象，所以真是凭着信心嫁到这么远去。这20年来宣教的旅程，我们一家人都是靠着主得胜、靠着主重新得力、靠着主过信心的生活，一路走过来的。感谢主！这一路走来并没有忘记三一家给予我们的守望祷告、爱心奉献、爱心关怀。这一切都是让我们能勇敢去面对总种种的逼迫，教会的不同心、婚姻的摩擦等等。因着有您们满满祝福的祷告，我们安然度过难关。我们虽然没有在一起，却能够一起加油努力，来完成主所托付的大使命。感谢主！荣耀归于主耶稣基督。

我们这20年的宣教旅程中有着不少的千辛万苦、有着伤心难过、有着汗流满面、有着不少委屈，也有同工不同心的时候，但是这一切都没有让我们放弃过。因为我们不敢违背那从天上来的呼召，比起主耶稣所受的鞭伤与痛苦，我们这一些算得了什么？耶稣基督的爱激励着我们勇敢殷勤努力去完成大使命，我们并不孤单。天父上帝差派了天使如云彩那般多来帮助我们，我们成立的兴道会现今已经有了几十间大大小小的教会。虽然没有像娘家教会那样富丽堂皇，但是样样都有。还有，曾经的恩渔圣经学院也培育出了多个传道人。现在有长牧8个，副牧及传道人数十人，总共有20多位牧师及传道人。感谢主！这一切都是天父上帝的供应。

自从有了法规指导后，就有了执事，成立了儿童主日学，青少年，初成，成人，乐龄团契，诗班等等。在此特别要感谢三一家的几位姐妹——淑翠，瑞莉，丽冰帮忙我们做线上指挥指导诗班。特别是淑翠姐妹，这一年多来尽心尽力的帮助。在去年兴道会诗班歌唱比赛中，她负责的两间教会都各自拿了第二名及第三名，荣耀归主。

此外，各群体培训等及目前刚刚要完成的一个事工就是养老院，感谢主！这些事工都是我们要去完成的。还有，我们的女儿——Priscilla。感谢三一家这16年来对她的守望祷告、奉献及肯定。她除了上读高一外，从11岁开始就做两间教会的司琴，春夏秋冬她都自己一个人独来独往的坐公车去主城区服侍，一趟来回是四个钟头，连续了五个年头。今年我先生——Paul去了主城区的教会服侍，她才跟着Paul的车来回。目前，还做着诗班司琴，乐队司琴及教青少团契友跳舞。回想起当初她刚出生时，因着黄疸过高，在昏迷中被送进医院抢救，医生说我的女儿Priscilla是弱智儿童，心脏有孔等等病情。我们夫妻两凭着信心同心守望祷告，三一家人们也迫切的为我女儿守望祷告。我的女儿Priscilla终于脱离生命危险，如今的她殷勤顺服的服侍，看着她那阳光又充满笑容的脸，我们把一切荣耀都归给天上的父。

在这感恩的日子，我们一家人带着满满的感动与祝福，祝福三一家在未来日子里，生养众多，得人如得鱼一样多。再生多多的“金凤凰”，漂洋过海到千山万水外去领人归主，荣耀归于主耶稣基督。阿们！

黄凤金

# 为三十周年感恩而作 人生十好

一生信主真正好，  
二人世界咱俩好，  
三餐温饱身体好，  
四季平安快乐好，  
五谷丰收百姓好，  
六亲相聚大家好，  
七十古稀人生好，  
八珍海味补身好，  
九品人格勤俭好，  
十分把握天堂好  
愿大家天天都好！

萧招济

# 为马来西亚祷告



天上的父神，今日我們來到祢面前，為馬來西亞感謝祢一切的美善。我們以身為馬來西亞人為榮。

今天，我們在這裡，要與過去一切的罪惡，尤其是過去65年馬來西亞領袖們所造成的罪惡分別，宣告國家有一個全新的命定起點。我們也要為自己 and 祖先們罪犯下的罪悔改，懇求祢赦免。我們承認以下的罪，嚴重阻礙國家合一，延緩政經與社會各層面的轉化。

我們在這土地上，犯了拜偶像和行巫術的罪；流無辜人血的罪；政治偽善、勾心鬥角和背叛的罪。赦免我們的驕傲和種族主義的罪；怠惰、冷漠和不負責任的罪；貪腐、行賄的罪；性、醉酒和荒宴的罪；苦毒、仇恨和報復的罪；不公義和逼迫人的罪；不服權柄、衝突的罪。這些就是馬來西亞領袖在過去65年間所犯下的罪惡，求主赦免，賜我們全新的開始，並賜給我們愛祢、敬畏與尋求祢的心。

我們為國家與人民的合一禱告，除去所有形式的分裂和種族主義，因為我們都是天父的孩子，當學習彼此相愛、互相尊重、異中求同。幫助領袖們得著智慧，帶領國民實現政治、社會和經濟的轉化，進而脫離無知、貧窮和疾病。

祢是我們的神，把馬來西亞獻給祢，求祢引領我們，讓馬來西亞成為一個以敬畏神、行公義聞名於世的國家，正如【詩篇33章12節】所言：「以耶和華為神的，那國是有福的！他所揀選為自己產業的，那民是有福的！」

我們要棄絕所有邪惡與撒但的權勢，並代表馬來西亞與祢立約，行走在祢的義路上，經歷祢所賜的一切恩典直到永遠，阿們！

张鸿恩牧师

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Ingatlah, hai Israel! TUHAN - dan TUHAN satu-satunya - ialah Allah kita. Kasihilah TUHAN, Allah kamu dengan segenap hati: Tunjukkanlah kasih itu dalam cara hidup dan perbuatan kamu. Jangan sekali-kali lupa akan hukum yang aku berikan kepada kamu hari ini. Ajarkanlah hukum itu kepada anak-anak kamu. Percakapkanlah hukum itu semasa kamu di rumah ataupun berpergian, semasa kamu berehat ataupun bekerja.

Ulangan 6:4-7

以色列阿，你要听，耶和华我们神是独一无二的主。你要尽心，尽性，尽力，爱耶和华你的神。我今日所吩咐你的话，都要记在心上。也要殷勤教训你的儿女，无论你坐在家里，行在路上，躺下，起来，都要谈论。

申命记:6:4-7



# FAMILY ALTAR

WORSHIPING • BIBLE READING • SHARING • PRAYING

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BERIBADAH – MEMBACA ALKITAB – BERKONGSI - BERDOA

## 家庭祭坛

敬拜-圣经阅读-分享-祈祷

# Parents' Sunday

8/5/2022

