

与上帝和好



本堂主理 蔡伟山牧师

着的每一天，尤其是当我们进入到人群中时，我们都需要以谦卑的心与和平的使者耶稣同行。

因为，信徒要与和平的使者耶稣同行，首先必须先与上帝和好，这是朝向这个主题的重要起点，也是信仰的基础。所以教会从今年8月到明年7月间的主要活动项目都会配合这个主题来进行。为什么需要与上帝和好？就是因为当中出现了不和好的现象；

圣经清楚地告诉我们；起初上帝创造人类是照着祂的形象而造的。由于爱，祂赐给他所造的人类丰盛的生命，居住在那个上帝特别为他们预备的乐园里，过着无忧无虑的生活。然而，后来他所最疼惜的人类却选择了背叛祂，肤浅而愚昧的听信了恶者的怂恿和煽动而陷于罪中，偏行己路，干犯圣怒，以至与上帝的关系破裂，被逐出乐园！正如保罗所形容：

[你们从前与上帝隔绝，因著恶行，心里与祂为敌] (西1:21)

圣经教导我们；要恢复原本与上帝美好的关系，不再彼此为敌，藉着自己的努力是不能达到的，只能依靠主耶稣在十字架上所流的宝血。赎清我们的罪，我们才能再次的来到天父面前，与祂和好。因此，唯有耶稣基督才是人与上帝之间的中保，是我们的救赎主。若非藉着他，我们无法亲近上帝，更无法与祂和好。圣经说；

“我们既因信称义，就藉着我们的主耶稣基督，得与上帝和好。” (罗5:1)

“因为我们作仇敌的时候，且借着上帝儿子的死，得

与上帝和好；既已和好，就更要因他的生得救了。” (罗5:10)

我们能与上帝和好，是因耶稣付上重价牺牲自己而成的，故我们领受这奇异的丰盛恩典时，理当加倍感恩与珍惜！

恢复与上帝和好的关系，只是我们信仰旅途的起点，要持续维持彼此之间的和好关系需要努力“经营”，依靠圣灵的扶持是我们得帮助的唯一源头；因为那“老我”的肉体仍然会犯罪，使我们远离上帝。因此，我们要需要依靠圣灵，随从及体贴圣灵的感动，不让圣灵忧伤，这样我们才能从实际经历中过着“胜过罪恶与肉体”的生活了。

罗8:5-6如此说；“因为随从肉体的人体贴肉体的事，随从圣灵的人体贴圣灵的事。依靠肉体的，就是死；体贴圣灵的，乃是生命，平安。”

我们唯有依靠圣灵才能过得胜的生活，故信徒们要尽本份顺服与配合圣灵的引导，顺服上帝的旨意；而每日的灵命操练也不可减少。

为了要实现我们的主题目标，今年开始我们必须要进行以下几方面属灵功课的操练：

- 明白上帝的心意
Understanding God's will and purpose for us
- 顺从上帝的旨意 Alignment with God's agenda
- 甘心地上自我 Surrendering ourselves
- 灵命更新、作主门徒
Spiritual renewal and individual discipleship
- 提升个人的敬拜赞美 Doxology

本堂也将在今年的将临节 (Advent) 和大斋节 (Lent) 期间，继续将有关的灵修资料在讲台信息中传达与释放，以便帮助信徒们在灵命中成长。另一方面，也藉着“静思之旅”和2017年6月份的家庭营等管道继续传播与强调有关信息。盼望有更多弟兄姐妹参与，达到以上的操练目标：

“与上帝和好，灵命得更新。”

PEACE WITH GOD



Rev Chua Ooi Suah
Pastor-In-Charge
(Telok Ayer Chinese
Methodist Church)

The church pastors and leaders were engaged in careful planning and discussion over the focus for Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. It was decided that the theme "Peace with God" will guide the church for the next three years from August 2016 to July 2019. I think this theme is appropriate as it applies to every member of the TA family. Every believer needs spiritual exercise. In fact, after we accepted the Lord, we need to walk with a humble heart every day we live. This is especially true when we enter into the world that is complex.

For believers to walk with Jesus who is the messenger of peace, we must first be reconciled with God. This is an important starting point for this theme and it forms the basis of our faith. As such, the church will be organizing some key activities from August this year to July next year to allow members to be

engaged with the theme of Peace with God.

Why do we need to reconcile with God? The need for reconciliation arises because we have sinned against God. The Bible tells us clearly that God first created man in His image. Because of love, He gave man that he created a rich life – living in the paradise that God specially prepared for them and living a life without fear. However, the man whom He most cherished later chose to betray Him, to become superficial and ignorant, to believe in the incitement of the wicked, to fall into sin, to walk his own way, to acquire the wrath of God, and to eventually walk out of Paradise! As Paul describes it:

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior." (Col 1:21)

The Bible teaches us that to restore the good relationship with God and not be in an antagonistic relationship with Him, we cannot rely merely on our own efforts. We can only do it through the blood that the Lord Jesus shed on the cross. Once our sins are redeemed, we can go before the Father and be reconciled. Therefore, only Jesus Christ is the mediator between man and God and He is our Redeemer. If it were not for Him, we cannot get close to God, and cannot be reconciled with him. The Bible says:

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ " (Romans 5: 1)

"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Romans 5: 10)

We can be reconciled with God because Jesus paid the price of sacrifice for us. So, we should receive this rich grace with a grateful heart and cherish it.

Reconciling with God is just the starting point in our journey of faith. It is also necessary to strive to maintain good relations with one another. The support from the Holy Spirit is the only source of help to do this. For that "old" flesh will still sin and keep us away from God. Therefore, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit, to stay obedient to the prompting of the Holy Spirit so that we will not grieve the Holy Spirit. Only by doing so will we be able to experience the victorious life over the flesh and sin.

Romans 8: 5-6 says, "Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."

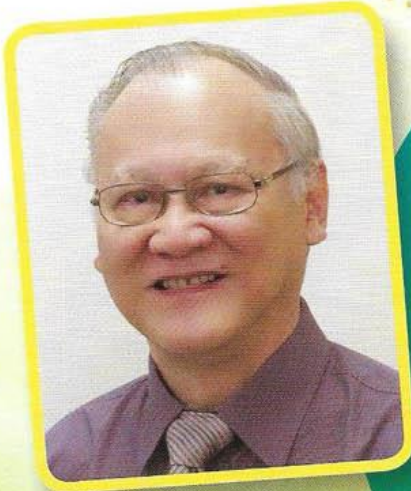
We have to rely on the Holy Spirit to live a victorious life, so the believers have to obey the guidance of the Holy Spirit, obey God's will, and be disciplined and persistent in our daily spiritual practice.

To enable us to live the theme of Peace with God, we ought to take note of the following aspects of spiritual exercises:

- Understand God's will and purpose for us
- Alignment with God's agenda
- Surrendering ourselves
- Spiritual renewal and individual discipleship
- Doxology

During the Advent and Lent period this year, the church will continue to communicate and spread the relevant spiritual materials to help believers grow spirituality. Further, through the "Spiritual Timeout", 2017 June family camps and other channels, we will continue to spread and emphasize the message of Peace with God. I hope that more brothers and sisters will come forward to participate so that we will be able to achieve the goal of **"Be reconciled to God, and be renewed spirituality."**

Translated by Dr. Tan Aik Ling



本堂执事会主席 洪耀华医生-荣休感言 主恩永相随

在1950年代，当我年少时，我们全家人就在当时的主日学校长林清菊女士介绍下，我和祖母、哥哥、以及两个妹妹，第一次踏入直落亚逸堂教堂。参加主日学让我们感受到喜乐与平安。我们都很喜欢听圣经故事，学习我们主耶稣的榜样。我们也学会祷告，唱主日学诗歌以及背圣经金句。我和妹妹在家里经常祷告。不久，我的父母注意到我们的行为有很大的改善，以及我们对上帝的谦恭敬虔。他们也决定跟我们一起参加教会。我15岁那年，就接受耶稣为我个人的救主。由于家人也接受了耶稣，于是，我们全家就在1955年在直落亚逸礼拜堂一同接受圣洗，由当时的主理方汉京牧师主持。

我在1990年开始担任执事会主席，前后事奉了26年，今年我将卸下主席之职务。当我回想这二十多年的路程时，我不得不为着上帝如何大大地祝福我们的教会来献上感恩。在1980年代，鉴于我们的教会是建立在直落亚逸街商业区当中的位置，在市区重建计划中，这块土地很有被政府收回的可能性。有鉴于此，教会牧师和领袖们开始计划在直落布兰雅建造另一座教堂。但是，因着上帝的恩典，在1989年政府宣布我们直落亚逸礼拜堂将被保留为古迹。啊！这是多么大的福份！我们万分庆幸和感恩！我们可以继续在直落亚逸街敬拜了。接下

来，我们即刻决定在直落布兰雅建造新堂，所以TA2就这样在2004年诞生了。一直以来，上帝不断地祝福我们的教会，使我们发展成为两座教堂和设立四个语音的崇拜－厦语、华语、英语、和印尼语。当我们向前迈进时，在万分感恩之余，我们也不断发展宣教事工，差派宣教队到中国、印尼、柬埔寨、尼泊尔和马来西亚等地，扩展神的国度。

光阴似箭，日月如梭。教会自成立以来，至今已超过百多年的岁月了。在这里，期盼本堂教牧、同工、执事们都能忠心到底地事奉主。但愿本堂每一代的教会领袖们继续荣耀上帝，并有合一的心，一同向前迈进，传扬耶稣基督的福音。

愿我们如同诗篇100：4-5所宣扬的：

“当称谢进入他的门，当赞美进入他的院，当感谢他，称颂他的名！”

因为耶和華本为善，他的慈爱存到永远，他的信实直到万代。”

但愿上帝的恩典继续浇灌在我们的教会当中，并让我们能成为周围群体的祝福。

Reflections from Dr Ang Yiau Hua

THE EVERLASTING GRACE OF GOD

In the 1950s, when I was still a little boy, Ms Lim Cheng Kiok, the principal of the Sunday school brought my grandmother, elder brother, two younger sisters and I to church. That was the first time we stepped into church. Attending Sunday school was a joyful and peaceful experience for us. We enjoyed listening to Bible stories and learning from the example of our Lord Jesus. We also learnt to pray, to sing songs of praise, and to memorize verses from the Bible. My sisters and I often prayed at home. Soon, my parents noticed a great improvement both in our behavior as well as our humility to God. They too decided to join us in the church. When I was 15 years old, I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. As a result of my family's acceptance of Jesus, we were all baptized in 1955 in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church by Rev. Han Hong Keng.

I began serving as Chairman of the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) in 1990. I have served in this position for 26 years and will retire this year. When I look back over these twenty-six years, I have to thank God for His great blessings upon our church. In the 1980s, given that our church was based in the commercial district of Telok Ayer Street, the land was likely to be recovered by the Government under the urban renewal program. In view of this, the church pastors and leaders began to plan the construction of another church at Telok Blangah. However, thanks to the grace of God, in 1989, the government announced that the building of Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church would be retained as a conservation monument. What a blessing! We are indeed very fortunate and grateful as we can continue to worship at Telok Ayer Street. Soon after, we decided to build a new church in Telok Blangah and so TA2 was born in 2004. God has continually blessed our church so that we can develop into two churches with four worship services Hokkien, Mandarin, English, and Bahasa Indonesia. As we move forward, we will continue to develop missionary work and send mission teams to China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal and Malaysia.

Time flies. Our church has been around for more than a hundred years. I hope that the church pastors, co-workers, deacons will remind loyal to serve the Lord to the end. May the church leaders of every generation continue to glorify God and together with one heart, move forward and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

May we, as Psalm 100: 4-5 preached:

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

May the grace of God continue to be poured into our churches and allow us to be a blessing to our communities.

Translated by Dr. Tan Aik Ling

一位智勇双全的奇女子——喇合

李幼吟

凡有读过旧约约书亚记的信徒们，都知道喇合这个平凡的女子所操的职业是什么；在世俗的眼光中，可以说是一种很不光彩的职业；一个堕落风尘的妓女！

然而，当我读完约书亚记后，脑海中所浮现的人物；除了约书亚之外，印象最深刻的竟然是这位风尘奇女子的身影以及她在那种步步惊心的非常时刻如何以超凡的智慧帮助两位探子，安然无恙的逃过耶利哥城军兵追捕的紧张情节：

当时，摩西的继承人约书亚正率领大军守在约旦河的另一端，在准备过河攻入迦南前夕，他先小心翼翼地派遣了两个探子潜入该地，窥探军情。

当这两名探子一潜入敌方阵地时，即刻躲进妓女喇合的住所；当喇合得知他们是前来窥探军情的敌方探子时，一时之间，虽是心惊胆跳，措手不及，但就在那种紧张慌乱的瞬间，她竟然不顾一切地冒着“欺君叛国”大罪，选择了帮助前来打探军情的探子！

她之所以能够如此果断义无反顾的掩护两位探子，帮助他们逃出险境，只因她曾听闻昔日摩西带领以色列民逃离埃及时，被埃及法老王所派的军兵追逼至“前有红海，后有追兵”的山穷水尽时刻，耶和华上帝如何施展其奇妙大能与救恩；藉着其忠心仆人摩西的手中拐杖，将波涛汹涌的红海点化成干地，让以色列百姓摆脱了紧追在后的埃及百万追兵，安然无恙地踏上前往应许之地-迦南彼岸！（出14:21-29）

喇合从这些震撼人心的神迹中认识了耶和华上

帝果真就是那位宇宙中的全能主宰，因而产生了敬畏之心。（书2:11.）故在惊险万分的危机时刻，便毫不犹豫地以她那超凡的智慧和胆识，做出了正确的选择；及时为那两位探子伸出援手；完成了危险万分的重大任务！（书2：3-7）

更重要的是；在这种危急时刻，为了顾念到家人的生命安危，她也及时把握机会，提出她的要求：“---耶和华你们的神本是上天下地的神。现在我既是恩待你们，求你们指着耶和华向我起誓，也要恩待我父家。并给我一个实在的证据，要救活我的父母，弟兄姐妹，和一切属他们的。拯救我们性命不死。”（书2：11-13）

后来，当约书亚率军攻下耶利哥城时，也实践了当时所立下的誓约；及时救了喇合全家，免遭杀害。（书2：18-19，6；25）

从喇合生命中所展现出来的那股超凡的智慧和果断精神，让我更深刻的体会出；一个真正认识耶和华上帝而且懂得敬畏和遵行他旨意的人，他（她）的生命必然会产生极大的改变；喇合因认识耶和华上帝而迸发出来的信心和勇气不但救了自己和全家，而且也因为及时掩护了两位探子，间接成了约书亚能够长驱直入，攻入耶利哥城的一把不为人知的“重要推手”！我非常相信她也是上帝心目中决意要从污泥中把她拯救出来的儿女！而且根据圣经学者的记载；喇合后来也归化了以色列，并嫁给撒门，生了波阿斯（得：2章到4章），成为大卫王以及主耶稣肉身的先祖。

因为圣经说：“敬畏耶和华的，大有依靠；他的儿女也有避难所。”箴言（14：26）



AN AMAZINGLY BRAVE AND WISE WOMAN - RAHAB

WRITTEN BY ESTHER LYG

TRANSLATED BY DR.TAN SENG CHEE

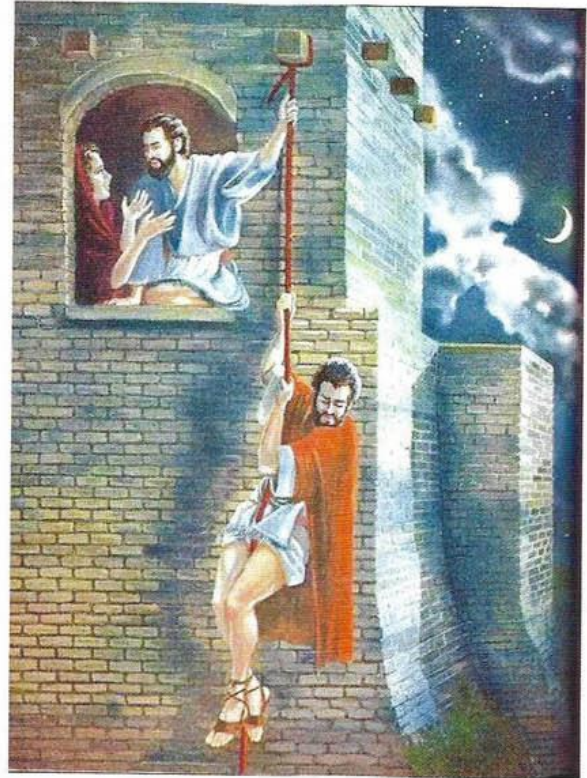
Christians who have read the Old Testament Joshua will know the occupation held by Rahab, an ordinary woman; from a secular perspective, she held a disgraceful job: a prostitute, a fallen whore!

Yet, after I read the Book of Joshua, besides the main character Joshua, what emerged in my mind was this extraordinary woman Rahab and the captivating event of how she exercised her extraordinary wisdom to help the two spies escape unharmed from the pursuit of the Jericho army:

At that time, Moses' successor Joshua was leading an army and waiting at the other end of the Jordan River. On the eve of the attack of Canaan, as a final preparation, Joshua cautiously dispatched two military spies to sneak into the enemy's ground to investigate the military strength of Jericho.

When the two spies infiltrated into the enemy's ground, they immediately sought cover in Rahab's home. When Rahab learned that they were enemy spies seeking military intelligence, for a moment, she was overcome by shock, apprehension and fear. Yet, at that frantic moment, she risked bearing the crime of treason and chose to help the military spies!

The reason why Rahab felt so duty-bound to help the spies escape was because she had heard of how Moses led the Israelites out of the Egypt. When the Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army sent by the Pharaoh, the gracious God



fulfilled His promise to his servant Moses to deliver the Israelites from the tyranny of Egyptian Pharaoh. Through Moses' hand, He miraculously parted the Red Sea to create a path so that the Israelites could escape from the pursuit of millions of Egyptian soldiers; they safely crossed the Red Sea and set foot on the Promised Land - the land of Canaan! (Exodus 14: 21-29)

Through the stunning miracle performed by God, Rahab got to "know" the Lord God who is the ultimate sovereign ruler of the universe, and she fears the God. (Joshua 2: 11) Consequently, at the thrilling moment of a crisis, she did not hesitate to exercise her extraordinary wisdom and courage to make the appropriate decision: to lend a helping hand to the two spies. As a result, the spies managed to escape unharmed from Jericho pursuers. (Joshua 2: 3-7)

More importantly, at this perilous moment, Rahab, out of the concern for the lives of her family members, she grasped the opportunity to plead with the God: "...for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. 'Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.'" (Joshua 2: 11-13)

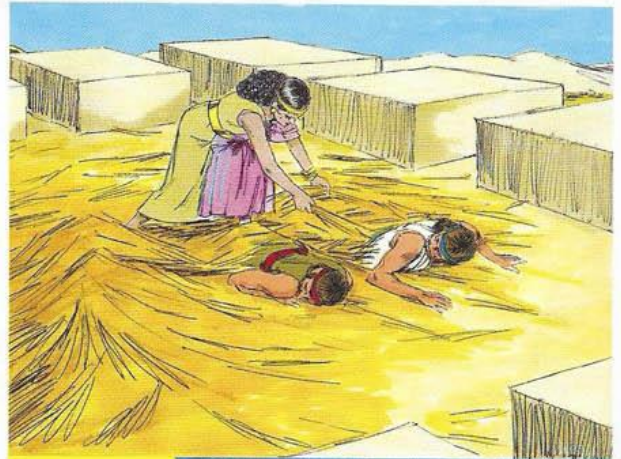
Later, when Joshua led his army to capture the city of Jericho, he faithfully fulfilled his promise to protect Rahab and her whole family from the massacre. (Joshua 2: 18-19, 6: 25)

Rahab's life exudes a kind of extraordinary wisdom and resolute spirit. It dawns on me that if a person truly knows Jehovah God, fears Him and does His will, his (her) life will be transformed. Because Rahab "knows" Jehovah God, her confidence and courage not only saved her family and herself, but through the timely refuge rendered to the two spies, she became the invisible hands that enabled Joshua to capture Jericho.

I believe in the eyes of the God, Rahab is a worthy daughter that should be salvaged from the sludge! Moreover, according to biblical scholars, Rahab was later naturalized in Israel and married Salmon to give birth to Boaz (Ruth 2-4); thus, she is reckoned among the ancestors of King David and Jesus.

Rahab, because of her reverence for the Lord, she became a woman of wisdom and valour; by lending a helping hand to the two spies at the critical moment, she assisted Joshua to conquer Canaan! At the same time, by faith, God saved her family through the hands of Joshua!

The Bible tells us so: "Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge." (Proverbs 14:26)



何谓基督徒的真自由？

吴钧杰

有史以来，“自由”这个词从不同的观点曾被套上许多不同的定义。从圣经的角度来诠释；基督徒的真正自由到底是什么？

保罗如此说：“基督释放了我们，叫我们得以自由。所以要站立得稳，不要被奴仆的轭挟制”；又说：“我保罗告诉你们，若受割礼，基督就与你们无份了。”（加5：1-2）

原来在基督耶稣里，受割礼不受割礼全无功效，唯独使人发生仁爱的信心才有功效。因神律法的本意原是为了创造一个爱的社体。而这爱的社体是由神的律法治理。当神的子民以神的方式实践彼此相爱的生活时，神的旨意，计划，和神自己的属性就在那个群体当中得以成全。

但是，从旧约的记载和保罗在这里的重复声明，我们知道律法根本没有能力改变人的行为来完成其原本爱神和爱人的目的。

因此，如果我们的生命是由神的律法管辖，那我们就被困在律法以下成为律法的奴仆，背负着奴仆的轭，虽整天劳碌但却得不到自由，永远无法成全律法原本的目的：那就是“爱神和爱邻舍”。

所以保罗要我们“站立得稳，不要被奴仆的轭挟制。”他把律法和自由的根本问题做出了总结。（加5:1）

原来是基督释放了我们，让我们从罪恶、死亡、和审判中得释放；同时更需要靠着圣灵的引导，享受基督徒应有的真自由。因此，每一个基督徒都必须知道何谓“圣灵所赐给我们的真自由”。

保罗在5:16说：“你们当顺着圣灵而行，就不放纵肉体的情欲了。”顺着圣灵而行，是指我们不断地活在神的恩典之内。基督徒是靠

着基督在十架上所做的工，藉着恩典才能称义。而在称义的同时，我们因为重生，接受了圣灵，也改变了我们的生命！


恩典就像环绕着我们的大气层；如果我们让神的恩典渗透在我们生活的每一个层面，这就意味着我们活在神恩典的大气层里。唯有藉着神的恩典，我们才能在生命中真实地体验到神能力的同在。基督徒的整个生命方向是由圣灵来指导和操作的。如此，我们才能够不再放纵肉体的情欲。

凡属世界情欲的事都是显而易见的，如；奸淫、污秽、邪荡；拜偶像、邪术；仇恨、争竞、忌恨、恼怒、结党、纷争、异端、嫉妒；醉酒、荒宴等都是。（太5：19）

使徒保罗在这里也警告我们：行这样事的人必不能承受神的国！

我们曾经活在“属肉体”的世界，被我们败坏的本性牵着走。如今我们既已成为神的儿女，每一天都得靠着圣灵来胜过罪，这就是成圣的生活。在这个过程中，我们的生命就会越来越像基督；无论言语、行为和思想都会慢慢地变得更圣洁。

但是，其重要关键是：我们必须靠着神的启发和引领方能成事。因为神才是成圣的源头和启发者。我们的天父上帝是藉着耶稣基督在十字架上所流的宝血，和丰盛的救赎恩典，使我们成圣。



在基督里，我们拥有胜过罪的自由，这是我们的特权。而我们的责任就是；每时每刻都要与圣灵同行。圣灵所赐的真自由不仅是胜过罪的自由，圣灵也赐我们互相服侍的自由；保罗在5：13节说：“不可把这自由当作放纵情欲的机会，总要凭着爱心互相服侍。”这种爱能激励我们自动自发地去爱我们的邻舍如同爱自己一般。当我们如此行时的那一刻，我们就真正的自由了。

但凭爱心互相服侍，是要付出代价的。而这些事都是我们日常生活中常遇到的琐事。要做到这点，就得靠圣灵的带领，才能每时每刻都自动自发地服侍他人。在群体中我们有责任以爱心彼此服侍，互相关怀。其实，身为基督徒，互相服侍的自由，早已经成了我们所当负的一种新的轭。

如果只爱自己就是成为自己的奴仆，那么凭爱心服侍他人就代表我们已互相成为彼此的奴仆了。基督徒真自由的矛盾就在此：当圣灵释放了我们，赐我们互服侍的自由时，圣灵也同时征服了我们，使我们成为彼此的奴仆。

耶稣容许自己成为我们的奴仆，为我们受苦，并且为我们的罪钉在十字架上。我们也蒙召背负相同的轭，成为自愿性的仆役。因此，基督徒的真自由不是“以自我为中心”的自由，而是自我牺牲的自由。而当我们凭爱心成为彼此的仆人时，我们就会发现在基督里成为仆人才是真正的自由。基督已释放我们不再被罪和死亡挟制。因此，今天的我们就已经拥有以基督的爱去服侍他人的真自由了。

圣灵所赐给我们的自由是让我们能够成全上帝爱的律法。这个爱的律法是在利未记摩西的律法里首先记载的：“---你们要爱人如己。我是耶和華。”(利19:18) 在新约时代，当有人问耶稣，律法里最大的一条戒命是什么时，耶稣的回答是：“你要尽心、尽性、尽意爱主你的神。这是戒命中的第一，且是最大的。其次也就是要“爱人如己”。如此，实践爱神的

方式就是去爱神所造的人。

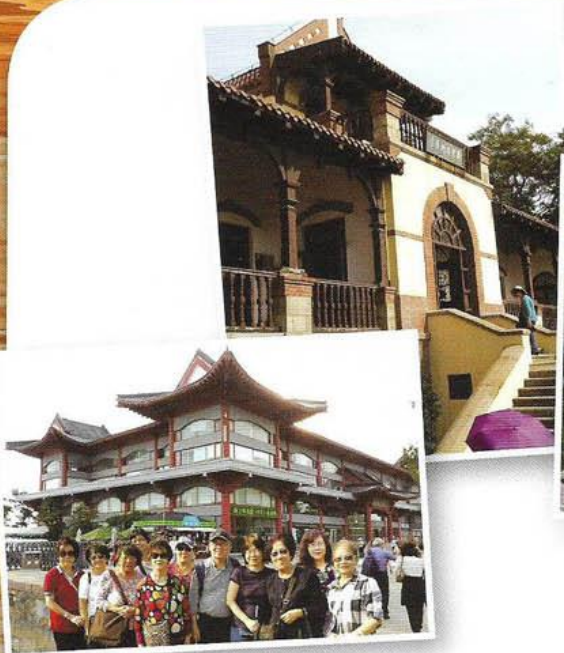
若我们顺着圣灵而行，就必然会成全律法的要求。因为，律法已成了我们脚下的一条路和指引方向的指南，生活中的规矩。而当我们抬头仰望的时候，我们不再看到律法在我们之上，而是神的恩典好像大气层般地环绕着我们。

神其实从未废除他的律法。神的基本戒命和旨意从未改变；神知道靠我们自己是没有办法成全爱的律法，因此，神就让我们靠着圣灵的能力守住他的律法。我们已挣脱了律法的挟制；如今，圣灵使用律法帮助我们实践已得的自由；我们之所以能过圣洁的生活，不是因为律法在外管辖催逼着我们，而是因为圣灵在内给予我们力量。我们从律法中被释放得自由，为的是要活出与律法相称的正直生活。

我们唯有藉着耶稣，他代替我们完全地守住了律法的每一个要求。是耶稣把我们不可能遵守的律法中释放出来。但这不代表我们如今就不需要遵守神的律法；乃是要靠着圣灵的同在，给我们自由和能力活出一个正直、完全符合律法的生活。也就是说：圣灵是神能力的同在，赐我们成全律法的自由。

弟兄姐妹们，今天的你，

是否还在与罪挣扎？
是否一直习惯性地犯同样的罪？
是否生命里有一些隐藏的罪，一直无法挣脱？
今天，复活的主在圣言中要与你相遇。
圣灵能够给你胜过罪的自由。
你是否发觉爱邻舍、事奉他人对你来说非常困难？
你是否在服侍的生涯里觉得越来越无力？
还是你一生所服侍的一直都是你自己？
今天，复活的主在圣言中要与你相遇。
圣灵能够给你互相服侍的自由。



2016年青岛之旅 一个主恩满溢的奇妙旅程

李幼吟

感谢上帝的恩待，这个在本堂溢恩乐龄团契主席颜运星姐妹带领下，经过数月细心商讨筹划后，好不容易才组成的“青岛之旅”，终于得以在今年9月22日夜晚在樟宜机场会合，午夜12时乘搭酷航飞机按时出发；次日清晨7时左右抵达目的地。

一大清早，下了飞机之后，我们就在当地导游的带领下，先到宫家村享用刚从树上摘下的肥美多汁，甘甜美味的葡萄；这种在凉风习习的清晨里坐在果树围绕的绿荫下品尝新鲜葡萄的经验，生平还是第一次！霎时间仿佛梦游于昔日伊甸园里的一隅！据说，这里气候温和，水分充足，几乎各样水果都肥厚多汁。尤其是所产的核桃，柿子，苹果，梨子等，产量丰富，香甜美味。在来去匆匆的旅程中，沿途也亲眼目睹了一些小贩在摆卖着颜色鲜艳，价廉物美，令人垂涎欲滴的各类水果。

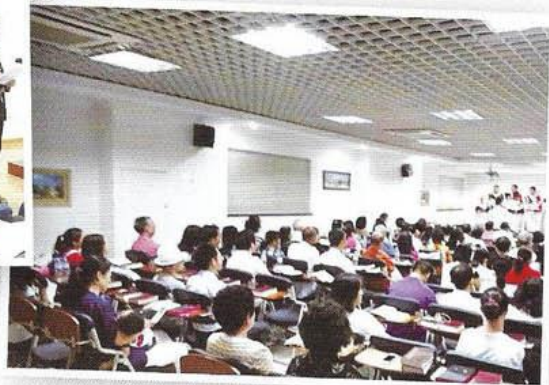
早餐过后，我们先去游览有关景区；闲逛于奥运帆船比赛中心，漫步于蓝天碧海，波涛荡漾的滨海木栈道，沐浴于柔和冰凉的海风里。随后才入住青岛机场富华酒店。接下来几天，都在当地导游的带领下，游历了几个著名景区。

山东全省共有；青岛，济南，威海，潍坊，烟台，日照等17个地级市。

青岛市地处山东半岛的东南部，南临黄海，东北与烟台市毗邻，西与潍坊市相连。西南与日照市接壤。这里有崂山景区，自然风光，秀丽宜人，而其中风格独特优雅的欧式建筑，处处可见。此外，还有著名的八大景区，更有亲切友善的青岛人；犹记第三天在前往刘公岛的威海码头时，就遇见几位热情洋溢的青岛人迎上前来，笑问“客从何处来？”我有些错愕地与他(她)们寒暄了几句，就各自含笑挥别上游轮去了。这种初临异乡就迎来素昧生平人士的亲切问候，那感觉果真胜过“他乡遇故知”，令人倍感奇妙与温馨！

由于地方大，范围广，所安排的游览景区，都有一定距离。路途遥远，每到一处，都必须花上3,4个钟头的车程；虽然沿途所见，尽是景色宜人，鲜花处处，绿树成荫的自然景观。可惜的是；由于时间有限，许多天然美景，都是匆匆一瞥的走马看花，犹如昙花一现，印象模糊。其中留下较深刻印象的有以下几个景区：

9月24日 我们先游过小鱼山，下来后，步行了一段路，就望见一座造型别致的西式洋楼。原来就是康有为故居。建于1899年，现为山东省重点文物保护单位。康有为不仅是中国历史上维新变法的代表人物，他也是青岛市的形象代言人。他于1923年出资购买此楼房作为寓所，到1927年3月病逝于此。2000年青岛市政府特别拨资金维修，并于当年国庆期间正式对外开放。



9月25日 主日早上，我们先到当地的一间教会参加主日崇拜。崇拜时我们全体上台呈献两首厦语诗歌，受到热烈掌声与鼓励。

散会后再去参观江苏基督教堂。这是青岛的第一座基督教堂，建于1908年，也是当年德国各新教派共同使用的教堂。这是一座由钟楼和礼堂两部分组成的宏伟建筑。据说钟塔上的巨型古钟，至今依然报时准确；只是教堂本身已成了一座只供游客参观的景点；踏进教堂内部，只见礼堂空旷整洁，但却不见有人在那里祈祷或聚会崇拜。举目望去，只见讲台后高高耸立着的十字架依然闪烁着一股怜悯与慈爱的光辉，正默默地凝视着到来参观拍照的游客们！

在9月26日当天，我们由威海码头乘船前往刘公岛。岛上有历经千年的战国遗迹，也有英殖民地时期遗留下来的欧式建筑。我们先后参观了甲午战争博物馆，游览过中日甲午战争陈列馆，以及刘公岛博览苑等。

9月27日乘车前往烟台山公园，参观张裕斯卡酒庄及欧式地下大酒窟的酿酒过程。也受到主人的热情款待，各人品尝了半小杯的二款张裕葡萄酒。最后又到潍坊游览杨家埠民俗大观园，风筝博物馆及风筝加工坊；同时也有机会近距离观赏木版年画及风筝的制作过程。

9月28日原本要到乐道院潍坊集中营参观，不巧遇到堵车，无法进入。便转道前往著名的香翠谷香博园花田赏花。这时天空飘洒着毛毛细雨，让我们终于有机会亮出随身携带着的“全副武装”；风衣，外套，雨衣，帽子等配备。跟着园里的向导，在开满各类鲜花绿草的花田里，走在那弯弯曲曲，高低不平的花田小径间，一面目不暇给的观赏着各色不同品种及一些具有医药疗效的奇花异卉。一面聆听着由麦克风传来的讲解---

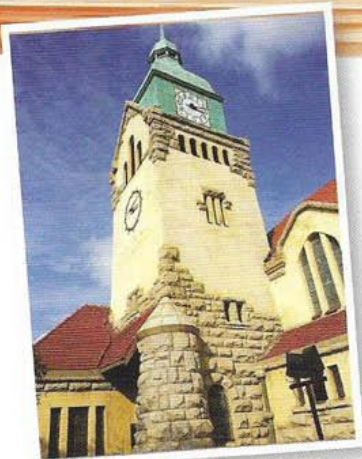
但在这一刻，我的整颗心早已被那漫山遍野，各放异彩的奇花异卉所牵引，对于越走越

远的向导偶尔传来的有关各色花卉品种异同的介绍，已经不重要了。心灵里回响着的是；这些没有经过人工染色的花花草草，在大自然的孕育中，它们的彩色，造型，以及每株花朵，花瓣与叶子和枝干等，怎的能配搭得如此天衣无缝，如此清新悦目，令人感到舒畅与怜惜！是哪一位智慧巧手能做出如此无与伦比的巧妙配搭！漫游于这一片在默默中散发着缕缕幽香的花树间，让我更深刻地体会出“花不语自香”所带来的启示！读者们，你我是否能从中领悟出些许有关那位也是默默的伟大宇宙创造者的奥秘！

另外，在旅途中，值得一提的是；除了每日忙于参观各主要景区景点外，在那短短数天的旅程中，随团的施牧师也常常在交流时，点到为止的在不经意间，向那位终日把风水挂在嘴边的年轻导游，轻描淡写地释放些许太初上帝创造宇宙万物的奥秘，同时也简单扼要地传讲有关圣经里的真理。

后来不知是从我们数日来的言谈举止中还是从我们在车上所吟唱的诗歌里，以及施牧师简短的信息中得到领悟与激励；到了最后两天，也就是我们即将挥手道别的前一两天，这位对天文地理，民情习俗，无所不精的博学导游对我们的称呼，已从最初的“先生女士”，转成“各位弟兄姐妹了”。更妙的是，那几天根据气象局的预告原本是会刮风下雨的日子，但在我们出游的当天都化为风和日丽的大晴天！他满怀感恩地对我们说；“感谢上帝，没想到会有这么好的天气，你们不必带外套，风衣，也不会着凉了--”

相信奇妙的慈悲天父在默默中除了扶持照顾我们外，也不忘记施落恩典于我们偶遇的人士中。短短数天，看到这位原本不认识神的朋友的改变，我心里除了感恩之外，也深信；即使他目前尚未完全认识主，但真理之门已离他不远了！



后记

这次短短七天的青岛之旅,原先只是抱着一种消闲度假的心情,并没有带着什么富有使命感的目标,纯粹只是想藉此机会跟乐龄团契的弟兄姐妹们结伴同游;有一个较长时间的日夜相处,增进彼此间的了解与默契,在主里更能像一家人般的不分彼此,互相接纳,彼此鼓励。然而出乎意料之外的是;全团36位团员中,除了本堂的26位会友外,其中不但有好几位来自本岛其他堂会的弟兄姐妹,而当中更有一位来自澳洲教会和一位来自上海的朋友。此外,还有两位未信主的新朋友。初见面时,虽然有些生疏,但相处数天后,我们很快地从素未生平素到无所不谈。而且整个团队每一天都出入平安,旅途顺畅。更让我深切的感受到上帝的圣手一直在其中扶持与引领!

更感恩的是,负责领队的“小董”是个能言善道,亲切友善的当地导游,每天领队出发途中,除了介绍有关景点外,一路上对游客的服务和对每一个景点的介绍,都是那么的仔细周全,讲解清楚,口才一流,是一个称职的年轻导游;在那短短七天的“青岛之旅”,他带给我们的不只是让我们对青岛市的人文概况和民间习俗等有了一个较具体的概念。更重要的是他博古通今,天文地理,无所不精;对于中国历史,历代君王及近代执政者的执政方针及其中历程,以及民间人文习俗等的各种异同点,不但融会贯通,叙述起来更是熟悉得如数家珍。根据他自己的介绍;似乎很早就融入社会谋生。也许就因为这样,才让他有机会从错综复杂的大环境熔炉中熬练出一身的胆识与智慧。在言谈举止中,不但世故历练,处事待人也礼仪周到,恳切有加。真可说是一个学识渊博,热心服务的称职向导。其中更应该提到的一点是:

熟悉之后,他更是像老朋友似的,时常随意而恰当的谈些家常琐事,包括笑翻天的奇闻趣事等,让大家在旅途中不但消除了舟车疲惫,同时也增加了我们对他乡民情习俗有更深一层的认识。他的尽忠职守以及个性的豪爽随和,不但拉近了我们与他之间的距离,也让我们在整个旅途中,几乎每天都充满了温馨和谐的笑声和赞美声。

而团队中的好几位来自远方的朋友,一听到本堂期刊《水湾之声》将刊登有关“青岛之旅”的旅游报道,都不遗余力地热心提供有关相片,并且兴奋迫切的翘首期盼“水湾”早日出版。感恩之余,心里不免感到有些遗憾;因版位有限,所提供相片,无法一一刊登,只能选出数张具有代表性的,以壮实篇幅,希望有关的弟兄姐妹多多包涵。在此,我无尽感恩地向你们说声“谢谢”!其实,无论远近,在主里,我们都是一家人。在平常的日子里,我们虽然各居一方,甚至远隔重洋,素不相识。这次藉着上主所施落的恩典,让我们有机会结伴同游,朝夕共处,真是何等的福分!在那短短数天的日夜相处后,在上帝的慈爱中,我们果真如一家人般的不分彼此,无所不谈,一路上也处处彼此扶持,互相照顾。写到这里,我内心里不自禁地涌出感谢主恩的赞美诗!主所赐的果真超过所求所想,他的恩典何等美善又奇妙!





亲尝主恩的美善

· 吴莉萍 口述 · 刘淑莲 笔录


2004年的某一天，我去参加外叔公的丧礼。我一向很怕看到遗体，可是当时，却偏偏有一个人硬拉我趋前瞻仰遗体。当时看了遗体之后，我非常害怕，一直哭泣。之后，我的精神就一蹶不振。当时的我是崇拜偶像的，因此，有人带我到印尼去，到处问神明，甚至为我做法。但回新后，我的情况并无好转；每天只知睡觉，整个脑袋处于真空状态，我甚至无法照顾好自己的生活起居，而且还常出现幻觉；感觉似乎有人一直在监视我，又仿佛看到有人闯进我的房间。其实这一切都不是真实的，可是它们却不断地困扰着我，弄得我每天迷迷糊糊、浑浑噩噩地过日子。

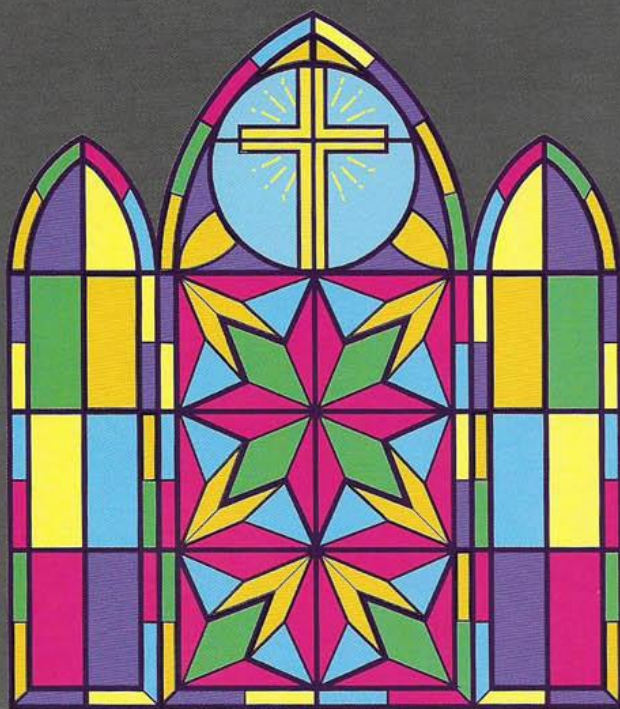
有一天，我路过一间礼拜堂，便走了进去，就在里头开始哭了起来。那里的牧师就为我祷告，还邀请我出席医治祷告会。后来有人带我上礼拜堂聚会。牧师很有爱心，除了为我祷告以外，还常常到我家探访。那时我开始看圣经，其中有一句话：“祢的话是我脚前的灯、路上的光”一直出现我的眼帘。我知道上帝在看顾我，医治我。因此，这句话也成了我的精神支柱。有一天，我在路上迷了路。当时我的外子一直在寻找我，后来还报警说我“失踪了”！最后我被警察带到医院去。外子接到通知后即刻赶到医院去，当时的我精神很差，还出现许多幻觉。我在医院住了一段日子。后来，我的精神渐渐有了起色，身体慢慢康复过来，便出院了。

有一天，我梦见了十字架与一尊偶像。醒来后，我打电话给在香港的母亲，请那里的牧师把偶像给清理掉；也请新加坡的牧师把

我身边的偶像都清除干净之后，我做了一个决志祷告，愿意接受主耶稣成为我个人的救主。现在我的精神好了很多感谢上帝医治了我的病，现在我可以照顾自己，也可以做家务、煮饭，还可以工作，这是以前绝对做不到的。这一切的改变都是源自上帝奇妙的恩典！若没有恩主，我今天还陷于精神迷糊及幻觉连连的低谷中，无法自拔！

不久，我来到直落亚逸堂参加聚会，并在2008年接受了圣洗。在教会中，我的灵命渐渐成长，从弟兄姐妹的口中，我听到许多美好的见证，使我的信心更坚固。直至遇到另一件事，让我再次看见天父上帝的慈爱与大能！几个月前，我右手腕的部位突然长了一粒水瘤，而且愈长愈大，也非常疼痛。起初医生建议开刀切除或抽水，但他预测过后还是会再长，故又建议观察一段时间。我为此殷切祷告，相信恩主从前医治过我的病痛，今天祂必定会医治我的水瘤的。经过一段时日的祈祷后，水瘤竟然不翼而飞！外子不相信，以为我是做了手术，不管我如何辩解，他仍不信这是神迹。后来，不知何故，水瘤在同样部位又卷土重来，而且还比之前的更大更痛。我继续怀着信心来祷告，心中虽不明白，但不困惑，结果，这水瘤后来再一次地消失不见。我万分感谢上帝再一次用祂医治的大能覆庇我。直到现在，我的手腕依然无恙，我要欢呼恩主的大能，他一再地让我经历神迹。我愿意在此数算祂的恩典，并为祂做见证，叫更多人认识这位坐在高高宝座而又如此亲近人类的救主，祂对我们的大小事都关怀备至，并且会按祂的美意一一成就！感谢赞美主！





上帝奇妙的恩典

杨淑娟

在2004年父母相继离世之后,我得了失眠症。开始没有胃口,体重迅速地下降,视力也开始模糊,在家或在外都常跌倒。我恐慌,消极,开始封闭自己,见到熟悉的人也不认得,黑暗笼罩了我的生活。我的人生跌入了谷底就这样过了一段漫长的日夜颠倒的日子。

在2012年,我头上突然长了一个颗疮。我不敢出门去看医生,也没有告诉家人。这颗疮就变得越来越,也很疼痛。我就开始吃止痛药,有时一天吃超过八颗药还不能止痛,真是痛不欲生。

有一天当我躺在床上昏昏欲睡时,忽然听到有一个声音对我说“已经恶化了,要赶快去动手术”。听了这话,我这才打电话告诉儿子。我儿子就带我到鹰阁医院去做检查。我本来是有高血压的,但当天血压却变得很低,又查出我有糖尿病。那时大约是晚上七点多,医生又少,我心里很是慌张。我儿子就握着我的手为我祷告,把一切委托给上帝,祈求上帝来带领安排。

感谢上帝奇妙的作为,祂派来为我开刀的医

生竟然是我儿子的学长。他是一名基督徒。手术顺利完成,我满心感恩。住院期间,我就开始每天祷告。有一天下午当我小睡时,梦见了父亲来医院探望我并说了很多鼓励和安慰的话。他还对我说,“如果你一心想归向主,你就去找一间历史悠久的教会”。当下我很感动,父亲他真的很懂我的心。醒来时我满脸都是温馨、感恩的泪水。康复后我就走进直落亚逸卫理公会礼拜堂,开始听道崇拜,并在2013年复活节受洗成为上帝的儿女。感谢上帝赐给我满满的恩典。

在受洗之后不久,因糖尿病的缘故,我的眼疾开始发作。我再度到鹰阁医院去动眼睛手术。虽然结果不是很完美,但是我很满足。感谢上帝医治了我,领我走出黑暗,点亮了我的人生,使我重见光明。

因着耶稣的宝血,我已经成为一个得到救赎的义人!因着耶稣的宝血,我从魔鬼手中得到了释放!靠着耶稣宝血的能力,我的疾病得到医治,成为一个健康的人了!

哈利路亚,感谢赞美主!

母亲—彭水锦 眼睛中风的经历

陈华恩

大概在 2002年11月间的某一天，母亲上巴士途中，突然觉得眼皮很沉重，一直要盖下来。赶紧回家，马上去看眼科医生。医生诊断后，证实是眼皮的肌肉松懈造成的；随即就定下日期先在她的左右眼皮个缝了一针。到了2007年，再度到医院检查时，医生才发现母亲是眼睛中风。从那时开始，每一次的复诊都要经过一番的仔细检查，医生才能确定“眼球”后的血管是否有“积血”的现象。如果拍摄出来的眼球是又高又凸，就表示眼球后又中风了。

感恩的是；母亲每回到诊所时，她都勇敢的去面对；复诊时，医生会在她左右两边的眼球打针。记得当我第一次带她到诊所那天，当她从手术室出来时，只见她眼睛的白眼球竟然变成“红眼球”了！我看了，真的吓了一跳！但她还是静静的，一句话也没说。

最近的一次，我再带她去复诊检查眼睛的中风情况时，遇见了一位老伯，他身边跟着太太和儿子还有一位女佣。老伯也被医生确诊出；眼球中风。需要安排日期打针。母亲就坐在他们的附近。这时，老伯的心七上八下，非常紧张。无法决定是否要打针。妈妈看着老伯的家人在苦苦地说服他接受治疗，

但他好像还无法决定。但这病是不能拖延的，许多个案都因为拖延医治而造成眼球脱落，最后眼睛瞎了！

不久，老伯走近母亲身旁，问母亲眼睛打针会痛吗？母亲心里在想：要如何回他的话；若说“不痛”是讲骗话，若说“很痛”（的确是痛）会使他害怕不打针，恐怕会害他不敢接受治疗。母亲心里一直在挣扎。但后来她想：我是基督徒，都有9次的打针经历了；每次上帝都保守医生的手，让他很准确的打在正确的部位，即使痛我也忍得过去。

于是母亲就说：“虽然会痛，但我的主耶稣每次都帮助我勇敢的度过难关。因此，我并不害怕，今天已经是第9次了，每次我都平平安安的度过。”从那次开始，母亲便按照医生的规定，按时到医院做检查与治疗一直到现在。

母亲感恩的说；虽然我不认识字，但是耶稣还是爱我，没有让我瞎眼，看不见东西。我更加珍惜主耶稣对我的厚爱。如今我更加有决心立志；要时常把握机会向人传福音，把自己所领受的恩惠与平安与人分享。希望其他有需要的人也能得到主的怜悯与医治。

圣经营所带来的心灵回响

霍勇贝

2016年的国庆期间，10月3日到7日，我们在昆明东部的度假村举行了第二届圣经营。这是一次蒙神祝福的营会。

从今年整个9月份开始我们就积极地筹备这次营会的活动项目。因为我们深深地体会到营会的价值；其中的属灵争战及我们自身的软弱，我们在教会祷告会中切切为此祷告，在每天晚上入睡前的分享及祷告中，我们也常常記念此事。我们祈求神大大祝福、使用这次营会，感动更多的弟兄姐妹来学习圣经所释放出来的真理、建造灵命。因目前弟兄姐妹们在圣经的根基上尚未扎根，急需好好的打根基。我们深知依靠神的必不至于羞愧！我们看到神在诸多方面赐福给我们，也堵住了我们各样的破口。

参加营会的成员共60人，其中来自各大高校的学生约占2/3，除了为数不多的几位老慕道友以外，都是基督徒。因营会定位为培养信徒的圣经根基及灵命，我们也不鼓励毫无圣经根基的非信徒参加。回顾一下这几天的活动情况，简单总结如下：

第一天，发生了不少的状况，主要是来自政治环境安全方面的隐患，但感谢神的保守，最终都有惊无险的度过了。以下是营会后参与者的反馈；

第二天，大家的反馈是：正在努力的“磨合”中；

第三天，“渐入佳境”，适应了这种因契环境，彼此的和谐关系建立起来了。

第四天，“难舍难分”、“如胶似漆”。

第五天，“我不想说再见”，离别总是让人伤感……

具体而言，我们要衷心感谢我们远道而来的讲员们，他们在基督里，不辞劳苦。付出了许多的劳苦！

营会的讲员有来自新加坡和厦门的教牧与导师；其中来自新加坡的施牧师负责传讲圣经旧约书卷《以斯拉记》；东山老师传讲《摩西生平》，书卷涵盖“出埃及记、利未记、民数记和申命记”；而来自厦门的王老师则传讲《使徒行传》。

施牧师是个谦卑柔和的牧者，他本身形象就已经见证了他所传讲的。他所带出的许多劝勉，都那么的引人深思，让人更深地感受到谦逊柔和也可以发出极大的力量！有初信的弟

兄，就提到他很享受睿智的长者所传达的真智慧。东山老师在讲解摩西的生平时，也激发了大家读《出埃及记》的热心；他对摩西生平大事的简介和概括，也非常清楚，有助于大家把握要点。而王老师慷慨激昂的宣讲及苦口婆心的劝诫更是那么地触动人心，发人深思。根据营会成员的许多反馈，都认为在学习圣经的过程中收获良多。

另一位来自新加坡的陈老师负责带领我们查经。每天午饭后，他牺牲午休的时间，带领我们6个小组的组长和辅导一起查考、探讨圣经经文；之后，我们都带着探讨所得的成果再到小组分享。小组的分享时间是一段非常有意义的建立美好关系的时段。在其中，即使原本不喜欢发言的人也慢慢的融入其中、享受彼此间的美好关系。

这次营会还有一个亮点就是游戏的设计，来自新加坡的颜弟兄父子，在游戏的设计上颇有恩赐。每一个游戏都需要精心的准备和花费许多的心思。但这些劳苦都不是徒然的，因为大家玩得非常尽兴。在这个过程中，团队关系有力的建立起来了。其中最高潮的是“天才之夜”，每个小组负责表演一个学习过的主题，例如“医治大臣的儿子”、“浪子回头”、“摩西生平”等。大家在很短的时间内写剧本、排练。在最后一个晚上才以话剧的方式呈现出来。谁是最后的“天才”并不重要，因为每个小组的表演都闪烁着许多“天才的亮光”，重要的是在这过程中，大家对于圣经的理解更深了、彼此的关系也更密切了。

营会期间，我们每天晚上有一个小时与各小组组长及辅导一起反馈、总结当日状况，然后一起祷告交托给神！各小组也在每天的中午、下午两段空闲时段不停歇的祷告。当听到许多的弟兄姐妹提到自己在营会中收获很多时，原本不愿敞开心的也慢慢敞开了、原本不愿与人交往的融进来了、原本还是老慕道友的也想决志信主了。营会结束后，师大和民大的弟兄姐妹们更积极组织起来、成立早晨的集体灵修时间。我们相信是神在做工，荣耀归给神！这也再次印证箴3:5-6，及耶17:5-8的真理。感谢神，借着这些服侍让我们学习功课、加增我们属灵的经验。

此次营会，我们在会务、后勤方面还有许多的不足，需要我们在会后认真反思和改进。期待明年的圣经营更蒙主祝福，造就更多人！

参加昆明短宣的心路历程

(10月2日到10日)

颜益德



主内弟兄姐妹平安！在此想藉着《水湾之声》与你们分享我今年有福份跟随本堂短宣队到昆明侍奉的心得；

这次短宣的主要对象是云南少数民族的大学生。参加营会的共60人，来自大学城的学生约占三分之二，当中有非信徒的大学生。其他参与者包括传道人、年长者、和已毕业的弟兄姐妹。

营会的讲员有施牧师、东山老师、和我们所认识的厦门籍神学毕业生王沛哲老师。施牧师为我们传讲《以斯拉记》、东山老师传讲《摩西生平》、沛哲老师传讲《使徒信传》、华如弟兄带领小组组长的查经预查及辅导。

这次的圣经营，是由我们教会资助在昆明侍奉的宣教士们。为了要添加一些游戏活动。因此，我和爸爸被邀请一同参与这次短宣队，让我有机会发挥我在设计游戏项目上的恩赐。我是这次短宣队中最年轻的一个，心里感到有些忐忑不安，我更担心自己无法以正确的普通话讲解游戏的内容。

抵达昆明营地途中，频频遇到一些突发状况；主要原因来自政治环境安全方面的隐忧。我们的团队不得不住在离营地10分钟车程的酒店。其次，因场地空间有限、只好改变原本已计划好的游戏项目，重新设计。后来，从破冰游戏的交流中，我发现他们不太理解游戏的规则，只好把很多游戏修改至较简单的玩法。幸好我们有充分的准备，因此，临时调整游戏内容没那么困难；无论是《迷你游戏》、《急速前进》、或《人体桌足》等项目，都让弟兄姐妹们玩得那么尽兴、那么热烈。通过这样的游戏，能帮助各小组提升团队精神、享受主里的美好团契。我为我们所付出的辛苦感到很欣慰！

营会的高潮是《天才之夜》，每个小组须按照在营会中学习到的主题，以短剧的形式呈现给大家，由3位讲员担任评审。有的走搞笑风格、有的走情感风格、有的用精湛的演技来取分。虽然最终还是有人输赢，但谁输谁赢并不重要，最重要的是让大家对圣经的真理有更深一层的理解，同时也借此增进彼此间的友谊。

接下来两天的行程，我们到九乡风景区和西山景点参观，但这些景点的道路都不容易走，需要走凹凸不平的山路，每次看到老师们好辛苦才爬完全程，不禁对他们满怀敬佩。同时也让我们亲身体会到了（10月份）国庆长假的大阻塞！我们被阻塞了整整半个小时，但当地的老师却说，这只是小儿科！

我也很荣幸地能够与十来位大学生在昆明共度最后一晚。经过一个星期的相处，我发现我们教会的团契缺乏他们那种坚韧的凝聚力。这是值得我们学习的地方。

在昆明短宣的那短短数天，让我发觉到；我们的宣教事工当前正面对着一些新的挑战与隐忧；其中之一是政治上所提倡的无神论以及一些其他敏感问题。另一方面，我也体会到这个禾场极需要福音。更是证明了基督在路10:2对众人所说的话：“要收的庄稼多，作工的人少。所以，你们当求庄稼的主打发工人出去收他的庄稼。”

我这次能够跟随团队到昆明侍奉主是个美好的福分；我从每个长辈属灵生活上得到激励。因此，我在圣经营的分享会中说出了心里的感动；我对中国禾场服事有所负担，期盼在完成学业后，能够以我的专业进入中国的宣教事工领域。但愿圣灵充满我，让我在这件事上，能够专心依靠祂，由祂来引领我前面所当行走的路。

同时，也借此激励你们更加迫切地参与我们教会的宣教事工或外展活动，因为使20:35提醒我们，基督自己也曾说：“施比受更为有福”。



The Miracle of God

Khoo Chee Saik

In August 2015, our mother complained of a mild abdominal pain. A CT scan showed she had two large stones lodged in her bile duct. Given that she was 93 years old, her doctor advised monitoring her condition instead of medical intervention.

Mother rarely had fever. However from late February to late July of 2016 she had 20 bouts of fever. The doctors could not establish the cause of the recurring fever. We prayed throughout to have God reveal the root cause and heal her.

Just before her 94th birthday in July, mother developed a “jaundiced” complexion and the colour of her urine was orangey. We brought her to a gastro-liver surgeon who diagnosed that two stones were obstructing bile from flowing normally through her bile duct; rather like a pipe closed off at one end. The obstruction was the cause of her frequent fever. If untreated, sepsis will set in and that would be life threatening. To prevent this, her surgeon’s priority was to relieve the obstruction through a surgical procedure known as ERCP. This involves inserting a stent to dilate the bile duct just so that bile may flow again. The procedure required our mum to be sedated while lying flat on her stomach for about 40 minutes. The downside of such a procedure is that the stent has to be replaced every one and a half to 2 years.

With only 40 minutes to insert the stent into her bile duct, it was not in the surgeons’ initial plan to remove the two stones. For one thing, the stones were far too big to pass through the bile duct. For another, on account of her age, a full blown surgery complete with general anaesthetics would be too risky. Her surgeons explored the possibility of making a small incision in the bile duct to remove the stones but this too might pose other complications that would put her life at risk. The family gave her surgeons total discretion to do the best they can in the course of the procedure even if it means taking some calculated risk.

Our Heavenly Father had a better plan. We believe HE directed the entire procedure. The surgeons were HIS instruments. During the procedure her surgeons discovered that the bile duct had been dilated/widened to such an extent that the stent could not hold. They pushed boundaries by making a small incision in the bile duct, skilfully “dredged” the stones bit by bit. First, the stone located near the bottom of the duct and then the bigger “boulder” at the upper part of the duct were both flushed out. The final outcome was above and beyond what her surgeons had expected. So much was accomplished in 30 minutes. Only by HIS GRACE. God spared mother the pain, suffering and expense of a full blown surgery. Her surgeons called her “a walking miracle”. We called it God’s amazing grace, mercy and goodness. To HIM be all the glory.

Looking back, we see now that from diagnosis to the procedure being carried out, our Heavenly Father went ahead to prepare the way. HE opened doors for mother, her team of doctors, the medical assessments and hospital accommodation; all at very short notice.

2 Corinthians 12: 9 reminds us that **HIS grace is sufficient for us for HIS power is made perfect in our weakness.**

To steady mother’s nerves, one of us led the meditation of **Romans 12:12.**

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer”.

A cousin, celebrating the success of the procedure, reminded us of God’s faithfulness in that HE **“is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine”** (Ephesians 3:20)

In ending, we thank Pastor Chua for visiting and praying with mother a few hours before the medical procedure. Also, we thank Yin Chun and all other church members who stood in faith with us in prayer. Indeed, prayers are powerful.

Trusting Christ

Susan Koh Woon Siok

By the time you read this, I would have known the outcome of my almost-lumpectomy (cancer or not). The fact that I am able to finally pen this mid-life testimony without the need to know the outcome of the medical report is a result of many edifications and encouraging circles of prayers by sisters and brothers-in-Christ of TA - Rev Chua Ooi Suah, Rev Ng Beng Keow, Mrs See, to name a few. Specifically, I wish to thank my father's private nurse, Than Than (introduced to my family by Prof Tan's wife, Wan Ying in 2013) and Than Than's previous employer, Mary Sia (Matthew Sia's sister). Than Than was caring for Mary's mother previously. These strong pillars of strength are walking testimonies of God's utmost mercies, compassion and grace. They literally transported food, nutrients and water to nourish my parched and dying soul, body and mind that had been on the brink of anxiety and depression. I was uplifted by their fervent prayers as living testimonies to the redeeming blood and unfailing love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. My strength and life is in Christ and my faith is deepened. I hope the name of the Lord will be glorified through my sharing.

I have always prided myself to be a third-generation Christian having strong faith in the religion. My pride stems from the fact that my grandmother was one of the pioneer converts of John Sung, my father a respected elder and church school principal for decades, and my mother was active in 妇女会 back in the 1980s. Further, my third uncle was an Anglican ordained pastor. My two sisters and I grew up in the church school in TA. We bore all the attributes expected of a pedigree Christian family. My family is seen to be "well-known" and "well-regarded" in TA. My self-confidence and pride gave me a false sense of security and 'safety'. This is evident from the testimonies throughout my

teens, as a young adult and right up to my transfer of membership back to TA in 2010. All my testimonies were contrived and crafted without any consideration of God. I was the master of my own fate and I boldly took responsibility for my own actions. I subscribe strongly to the idea that "Man proposes, God disposes". I interpret the ways and power of God based on my pride and defiance. I do not always live according to the Word of God. God was merely the figurehead of the only religion I knew. As such, I could be easily passed off as modern-day Pharisee. I am indifferent to my faith and truly believed that I would never experience the goodness that God has promised as I have yet to taste any goodness from people around me. My motto was "No expectation, no disappointment". I lived my life as expected by others and God to "avoid trouble with God". I balanced on this fine thread since I was young. One can only imagine how difficult, empty and joyless life was outside of TA. I was always yearning and envious of others in every aspect of their lives as I felt deprived.

My 'hardness' of heart, on hindsight could have found its roots in the deep-seated favouritism toward the male offspring in my paternal grandmother's household (with the exception of the most academically successful and most well-behaved dream child second sister). I was the youngest of three daughters born to the favourite youngest son (my father) of my paternal grandmother. My growing up years were my darkest time. Even my name bore the meaning of 'mediocre'. Life was an abyss for me and I would cry myself to sleep every night and turn up in school with puffy eyes. I felt abandoned and unwanted. My parents, grandmother and relatives hardly paid any attention to me. I was a loner and while I tried to catch up with my second

sister, I was seldom successful. I started to accept my sorry state as a fact of life by harbouring and burying my bitter feelings. I fulfilled my duties as a daughter with habitual occasional visits. In 1996, my mother suffered a massive stroke and became bed-bound and uncommunicative. My father was her strong and sole caregiver until 2008 when he became wheelchair-bound. My parents stayed with my eldest sister for 10 years before renting a place next to my second sister for six years till 2014. My second sister re-married in 2008, after five years of widowhood to a man none of us knew well.

Fast forward to 2013, the third year after I returned to TA family with my own family. I was living in bliss and self-perceived contentment, trouble-free and I thanked God faithfully with my tithes. My sights were set on worldly goals such as career, family and the occasional visit to my parents. As God would have it, He introduced testimonies via GoodTV social media while I was basking in my self-pious and contented state. He planted in me a covetous desire and deep envy to experience similar life-changing transformation that the interview subjects had undergone. I was "jealous" of these folks' higher spiritual realm and in my usual "kiasu" style, I started calling out and praying to God for the "gift" of attaining such heights in faith and to know God at a more personal level. While I was on my quest for higher "spiritual" attainment, my sisters and I drifted apart. We heard from my second sister's helper that corporal punishment was inflicted on my two nieces. One night in September of 2013, I prayed fervently that my eyes will be opened to the true character of my second brother-in-law. Prior to this, I had also been praying for my father's health which had been deteriorating in terms of his memory but to which my second sister had shrugged it off as old-age depression. Subsequently, my father, who had always had low blood pressure and a strong heart, collapsed one night over what was a massive stroke. Three days later, my second brother-in-law announced at a family meeting that he would not

have our parents stay beside them anymore and he gave a move-out ultimatum date.

While my father was diagnosed to be suffering from moderate dementia, he still had the presence of mind to express his fear of losing his memory. Miraculously, he was among the few dementia patients who can go without any medication and rely entirely on his spiritual spring of life to put him back to a stable state. The antidote is merely a combination of going back to church after more than two decades of staying at home and caring for my mother, listening to hymns and sermons. God is the great physician healed him and suppressed his mood swings and temperaments which were symptomatic of most dementia patients. My father displayed none of them and was reviewed as one of the calmest and peaceful patient. He also scored well on cognitive and reasonable responses. God has protected and preserved his and my mother's (my mother suffered from haemorrhage for two decades) lives and most importantly, brought them back to the house of the Lord to be re-united with the TA family of friends and loved ones. God also bestowed on me, the "useless" youngest daughter of the family, the responsibility of looking after them. I was blessed with many people who guided me throughout this journey thus far, especially the fine doctors and caregivers of the medical institutions of both my parents and most importantly, the very best nurse and caregiver, Than Than.

At this juncture, I must emphasize that God is trustworthy and true and fair. His ways are indeed higher, better and completely beyond human expectation, prediction and understanding. My second sister's family, under the influence of the husband as the "head of the household" does not attend church and embraces many religious godheads and statues and emblems in the home. I do not wish and cannot wash the dirty linen for my parents' sake. Suffice to say that when I look back at all that have happened to myself, my ongoing long-

drawn legal tussle initiated by my second brother-in-law in my sister's name, God also provided the "ammunition" and supplies to sustain me and my loved ones. Words cannot begin to express the goodness and faithfulness of God who is wise and unfailing. The hindsight is always perfect and consoling. If only I had had more faith. If only I had been more obedient. If only I had reacted with more patience and compassion which our Lord God had exemplified through the Cross and His benevolent love. Every health scare and episode concerning my parents in the past three years had been reminders of God's unfailing love through the blessings from the people around my parents. I count it pure joy and privileged blessing to count in His eyes. All my years of wallowing in self-pity and whimpering were not from nor of Him. They are implants by Satan to waver and mislead. God's timing and plan take patience and time to manifest. How Great Thou Art!

Just a year ago, consumed and sapped out physically, mentally and financially, I had wailed and vowed to wheel my parents to the funeral wakes of those who have wronged us. Again, God spoke to me through the TA family and my own health needs which could have brewed out of deep-seated hatred which is not of God. I finally let go and let God only recently, as I had been reminded by Rev Ng that God loves reconciliation. How am I to live out "Peace with God" as the TA theme without first making peace with one another? God will right the grave wrong and I had been reminded by Rev See and Mrs See that throughout this family ordeal, make sure that God's name is praised and honoured. Than Than who is grounded in faith and strong conviction through her years of hardship and also Mary Sia's sisterly guidance, also encouraged me to "pray for them and wish them well" (those in the wrong).

The recent two months had been a baptism of fire for me with the burdens of events in the past three years and compounded by fresh health issues.

I finally broke down uncontrollably in September. As I looked back in tears the past three years, I could not help but stand in awe of God's faithfulness. I remember with gratitude the rallying prayers and support of Rev Chua and the pastoral team and the TA members such as Prof Tan Chwee Lim and wife and help from 郑火龙弟兄 over my parents' predicament. Prof Tan gathered old photos to help my father reminisce his favourite years serving in TA. My uncle Chew Tiong Kheng and aunt Mary assisted in reuniting my father with his beloved extended family members. Mary Sia and her sister, Bee Lian also showered my parents and the caregivers with gifts of food and necessities, and all my father's TA church friends who still greet him with cheer and thankfulness whenever they attended service. The onset of this family crisis, was permitted by God but He also provided overwhelming grace and mercy to enable me to carry on.

In times of crisis, God uses our community of faith to pray and renew faith and trust in Him. I am a living testimony to this fact. Just call out to Him and He will respond. It is that simple. He generates life. Be led by the Holy Spirit and bless the people around you, even in your own time of distress. Let the circumstances be what they are, and continue to seek God with the calm and blessed assurance that He is causing everything, "whether good or bad, past or present, work for the good of those who love him" (Rom 8: 28). I had been uplifted by God's angels around me that even if it is sickness, God will "surround me with songs of deliverance" (Ps. 32:7). In the words of J. R. Miller, "I will welcome this heavy cross with Jesus by my side and He will carry my cross for me. There are many blessings we will never receive until we are ready to pay the price of pain, for the path of suffering is the only way to reach them."



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD?

Jason Chen Fang Hao

“Li Jiak Ba Buay (Have you eaten?)” This is the usual greeting when we meet one another in church. Food is a large part of our lives and also part of the Singapore culture. During church programmes, food often forms an indispensable part of the planning. With regard to such an important aspect of our lives, how does the Bible instruct us about right and wrong ways to think about food?

It is impossible to treat the topic comprehensively in this short article but I thought it would be helpful to share five passages of Scripture and bullet them as a kind of primer on a theology of food to sensitize the church community on the theological and spiritual aspect of food.

In 1 Timothy 4:4-5, Paul exhorts that everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving because it has been sanctified by the Word of God and prayer. So food is good for humans since it is created by God, both for its nutritional value and its taste. However, food is not automatically honouring to God. Food has to be sanctified in prayer and in the Word and then enjoyed with gratitude to God as an expression of the believers' relationship to God.

Secondly, 1 Corinthians 6:12-13 demystify an important truth: “The body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body.” Hence, food and stomach are not ultimate as they are transient and going to be destroyed one day. Food is not our ultimate idols or gods for they will perish one day. In this passage, Paul explained that food (like money) is a lawful means to

an end but not a master. Therefore, we should not be mastered by anything, especially food as the Lord is for the body. Our God is our true Master and nothing else. In fact, Jesus commanded fasting in Matt 6:17 as a way to intensify this notion that we are not mastered by delight in food but delight in God alone. And there is no better way to intensify it by abstaining from alternative pleasures periodically to express our love to God: “I love you more than I love food. I need you more than I need food. I want you more than I want food. You taste better to me spiritually than food tastes to me physically”.

Thirdly, the first part of Psalms 34:8 reads a familiar text: “Oh taste and see that the Lord is good.” It is interesting to read that God is to be tasted. The reason we know the meaning of this word is because we have tongues and taste-buds for food. Hence, food is a pointer that enables us in our consciousness to categorically understand our relationship with the transcendent God in a certain way. For example, we would also better understand when Jesus says he is the “Bread of Life” as we tasted bread and can know what it means. Hence, we should find God in the very enjoyment of our food.

Lastly, in the familiar temptation narrative of Jesus recorded in Matthew 4:3-4, it is apparent that our final nourishment is not material food but spiritual food. We need the Word of God vastly more than we need physical food. When a Christian who has time to eat breakfast in the morning and no time to have devotions should ask himself or herself: Does he or she really believe in what Jesus spoke about in Matthew 4:3-4? The steadfast love of the Lord is better than life. And so the Word that mediates the love of God is more important than life sustaining food.

In summary, everyone is controlled by appetite, either an appetite that glorifies God by showing He is our supreme satisfaction, or an appetite for food that would then become idolatry when it would seem to say that food is more satisfying to me than God. Through our appetite for food, let's cultivate a taste for the goodness of God, an appetite for God and his Word that out satisfies everything. To Him be all blessing, power, glory and honour forever. Amen.

This article is contributed by Mr Chen Fang Hao, Jason. His family and he currently worship at the English Service.



RECOVERY AND RESTORATION



Khoo Fun Ming

“if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJVA)

It was a usual Saturday morning and I had just finished my morning walk with my walking group at East Coast Parkway. However, instead of attending to Jalan Kukoh ministry, I excused myself and headed out to work at Marina Bay Sands (MBS) that morning. I had to inspect my exhibit with my colleagues as there was to be a water industry exhibition the next day.

As my colleagues and I were engrossed in our discussion in the office, he suddenly asked me why my backpack was opened. I swung the bag around quickly and to my horror, found my wallet missing! The other contents in the bag were still intact. I was both horrified and afraid as I thought of the thief who did this nasty act to me on a happy Saturday morning. I immediately swung to action by reporting the theft to the exhibition organizer and thereafter to the nearest police post in Kreta Ayer. The staff sergeant at the police post issued me an official report stating the contents in my stolen wallet (credit cards, identity card and driving license).

As I was driving home, the LORD impressed upon me to utter two words in prayer, “recovery and restoration”. I also activated my Geylang exercise group to pray for this lost item. One kind brother advised me not to be frustrated but moved on with the loss. I returned home and told my wife how the wallet was stolen.

As the exhibition was an important event and initiative by the government, I thought that it would be appropriate for me to report the incident of theft to my safety officer, Ariel. As I related the incident to him, my phone rang and it was my colleague on the other side of the line. She told me that my lost wallet was found by a cleaner who happened to be clearing the rubbish in our booth. The cleaner saw a wallet flung out while clearing the rubbish cartons. He handed the wallet immediately to my company manager, Lynette.

Although I had cancelled my credit cards, I was very happy to see my wallet at the MBS expo hall again. I cancelled the loss reports with the organizer and the police and thanked them for their work. Praise to the Almighty GOD who protects His children in the midst of chaos and confusion. We prayed and He acted swiftly to retrieve the loss for me. No words can describe the lost and found episode except to praise and serve HIM more and more. Praise The Lord!!!

Peace with God

by Rev Seet Keng Tat

The theme 'Peace with God' adopted by the church for the year 2016/17 is the first of a three-year theme centered on "Peace". The themes for the three years are:

Peace with God (year 1), Peace with Ourselves (year 2) and Peace with Others (year 3).

The theme, 'Peace with God', calls us to examine our relationship with Christ. Are we living at peace with God? Is our soul in conflict with God? An honest answer helps us get right with God and lead us to practical changes in our lives.

How Can We have Peace with God?

Romans 8 tells us that the whole creation is waiting (Rm.8:19) and groaning (Rm.8:22) for the revealing of the glory that the children of God will possess at the end of time. This glory is such that it will result in the whole creation being released from bondage to decay (Rm.8:19-21).

Who are the children of God?

The children of God are those whom God has predestined to conform to the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29). God has a plan of salvation to call out from the human race a group of people to be justified so that they can be glorified, to be revealed as children of God with the image and likeness of Jesus Christ (Rm.8:30).

God's Plan of Salvation

Justification

God's plan of salvation begins with His call for us to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. This is God's prevenient grace – God's free grace in calling us to faith in His Son even while we

were yet sinners. When we respond to God's call, God freely justifies us (God's justifying grace) and grants us all benefits of the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the justification by faith through Jesus Christ as revealed in Romans 5:1-2.

Justification brings four benefits to those who respond to God's gracious salvation – two of which relates to our relationship with God and another two deals with the problem of sin in our lives.

. The first benefit of being justified in God's eyes is our freedom from the wrath of God (Rm.5:9). Christ's death atones for our sins in God's eyes. This frees us from the death penalty of sin. God's wrath has been satisfied by the death of His Son and God no longer sees us as enemies.

Being reconciled with God is the second benefit of justification by faith. Not only have we escaped the wrath of God, we are now reconciled into a relationship of peace with God (Rm.5:10) and now stand as children of God and not enemies of God.

New Birth

When we come to faith in Jesus Christ, we are not only justified before God, we are given a spiritual rebirth. We are born again in the Spirit. At our spiritual rebirth, we died to our old sinful nature (Rm.6:10-12) and also died to the Law (Rm.7:4-6). These are the two benefits that justification through faith has brought to us to deal with our old sinful nature.

Jesus' death broke the power of sin in our lives so that sin has no more control over us. We have the power not to sin because we are no more under the bondage and control of sin. We have died to sin.

In our spiritual rebirth we also died to the law. We are no more under the condemnation of the law.

Jesus' death on the cross paid for the penalty of sin demanded by the Law once and for all. The Law cannot condemn us any longer.

The practical implication of all these benefits of the cross is to enable us to choose not to sin and is now able to ask God for a way of escape from falling into sin. We therefore have no excuse to continue living in habitual sin, to be a slave of sin. Jesus has freed us from the bondage of sin. Even when we fail to resist temptation and fall into sin, we need not remain in our sin and be condemned by guilt. We have died to the condemnation of the Law. Instead we can seek God's grace to forgive our sin through confession and repentance (1 Jn.1:9). Dying to sin and dying to the Law allows us now to constantly receive God's grace and be renewed to fellowship with God through confession and repentance.

Sanctification through the Holy Spirit

God's law is a standard for holiness used by God to train us to live in holiness. Using the sport of high jump as analogy, we can say that the law is the bar that sets the standard for us to jump over. When we are unable to jump over the bar, do we try to lower the bar or remove the bar altogether? No. Instead we are to train ourselves to meet the standard, to jump over the bar that has been set. In this respect, God has provided for us a helper, the Holy Spirit to train us in holiness and enable us to jump over the bar. This is the work that God does in sanctification through the Holy Spirit. In sanctification we are transformed to be more and more like Christ till we are fully

conformed to the image of Christ at Christ's return. In justification, God does all the work of salvation. In sanctification God's Spirit works with our co-operation to help us live according to the Spirit daily, putting to death the misdeeds of our sinful nature with the help of the Spirit (Rm.8:5-13).

Reflection and Action

1. How is your relationship with God? Do you have peace with God or are you constantly struggling with sin in your life?

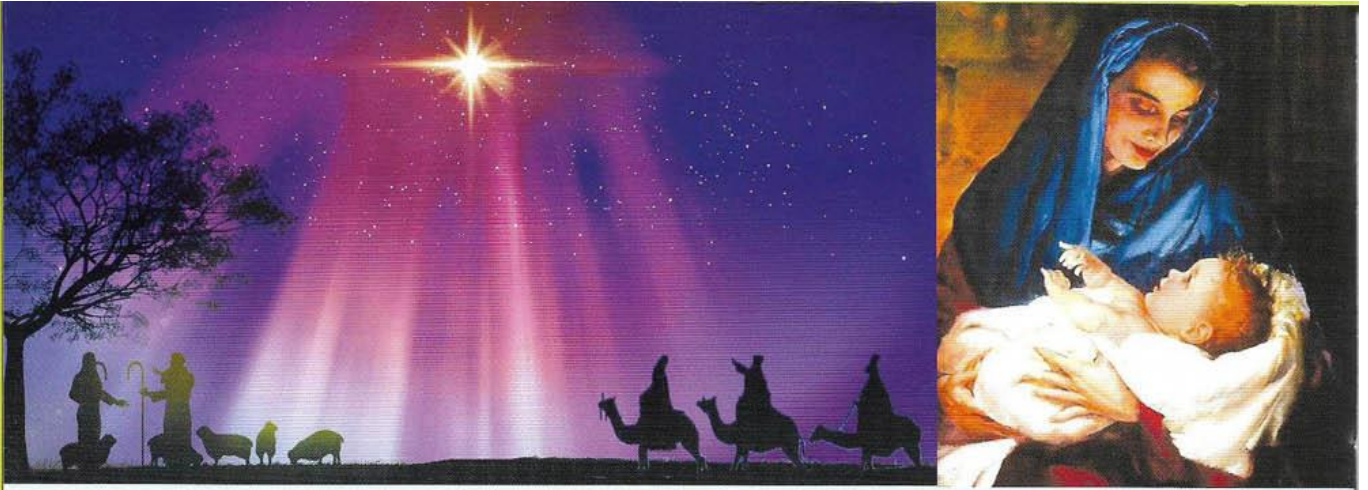
Ask God to examine your heart to reveal secret sins and habitual sins that God wants you to surrender to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you put to death these misdeeds of sinful nature.

2. How is your spiritual discipline? Have you been regularly employing God's 'means of grace' so that God's Spirit can work through them to train you to live in holiness and to transform you into Christ-likeness? (**means of grace' includes reading and meditating on God's word, prayer, fasting, fellowship with believers for mutual encouragement and service, corporate worship and holy communion.*)

Ask God to help you to commit to consistently practice one 'means of grace' that you find most difficult to do.

3. Are you serious with your spiritual growth to want a prayer or accountability partner for your spiritual growth?

Ask God to help find a prayer or accountability partner this year.



弥赛亚为什么要来？

编者

根据马太福音书的记载，弥赛亚（基督）的降生是神旨意的完成，所有关于主耶稣的出生，生活教导，直到他为世人的罪被钉十字架与复活；整个环节的有关事迹，都是为着预言的应验，也就是完成神的旨意；对马太来说，弥赛亚或基督，这个称呼已说明了一切，马太（1；18-23）

他来，是为拯救以色列人，把他们从罪恶沉沦中拯救出来。马太（2；6）如此说；“犹太的伯利恒城啊，你在诸城中不是最小的，因为将来有一位君王要从你那里出来，牧养我以色列民。”

他同时也是为外邦人而来，外邦人在神的国度里正是处于核心地位。而且根据马太福音的描述，最先肯定耶稣的正是外邦人；所以当日主基督看见那百夫长近前来要求耶稣医治他那瘫痪的仆人时，他信心十足地对耶稣说：“只要你说一句话，我的仆人就好了。”他那种毫不犹豫的信心，令这位救赎主满怀感叹地对跟从的人说；“这么大的信心，就是在以色列中，我也没遇见过。我又告诉你们，从东到西，将有许多人来，在天国里与亚伯拉罕，以撒，雅各一同坐席----- 唯有本国的子民竟被赶到外边黑暗里去，在那里必要爱哭切齿了。”马太（8；5-12）

今夜，正是这位伟大的救赎主道成肉身，从那至高的尊贵宝座上，降临到我们当中，为世人带来了光明与永生的伟大纪念日。在两千多年前的那个寒夜里，有独具慧眼的东方博士，知道有个伟大的救赎君王将在在这奇异的夜晚降生，即刻马不停蹄，披星戴月地带着珍贵的礼物，来到那不为人注意的小伯利恒城里的马槽边，虔诚恭敬地来朝拜这位给全人类带来希望与光明的救世主。

但愿今日的我们也能在这样奇妙的夜晚里，用一颗虔诚敬畏的心来迎接这位救赎主，把这爱的礼物与人分享！

现在让我们以一颗喜乐的心，高声唱起那首震撼人心的；

“普世欢腾，救主下降，普世迎接君王-，惟愿众心预备地方，天地万物歌唱----”

TELOK AYER CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

235 Telok Ayer Street Singapore 068656. Tel: 6234 4001 Fax: 6324 4002

61 Wishart Road Singapore 098716 (TA2 Sanctuary) Tel: 6278 1323 Fax:6278 1138

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