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复活的救世主—耶稣基督!



本堂主理 施谦益牧师

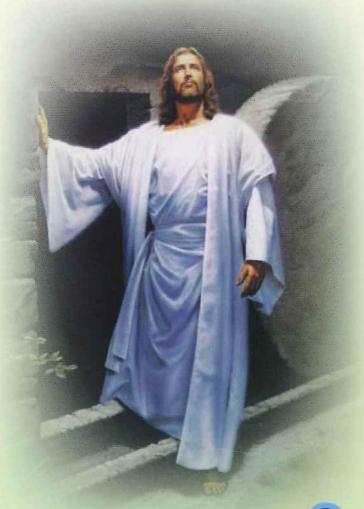
主耶稣从死里复 活是基督教的信仰中 心,但处在今日这样一 个科技发展迅速得令 人日不暇给,昏头转向 的社会状态中,人类有 了一些成就之后,便狂 妄到以为自己可以代替 上帝,甚至替天行道的 疯狂年代里,要向人传 扬关于基督"复活"这 件事,真是谈何容易!

尤其是对那些自认有科学头脑的新人类,"死后复 活"简直是一种荒谬的无稽之谈。这也难怪,因早 在一千多年前的第一个复活节,连多年来时刻跟随 在耶稣身边的门徒们,对耶稣的复活,一时之间也 无法相信。虽然一般犹太人都相信在末日死人都 必将复活,但耶稣的门徒却万万没想到,这末日的 奇迹竟然就发生在他们当中!因此,当耶稣复活后 向他们显现时,他们各有不同的反应;根据马可福 音的记载,第一个复活节当日,当十一个门徒坐席 时,耶稣向他们显现,便责备他们的不信,心里刚 硬。因为他们中还有人抱着半信半疑的困惑态度; 不相信站在他们面前的竟是复活的主!

(马可16; 12-14)

时至今日,当我们向人传讲耶稣的复活时,也可能遭受到许多人的嘲笑,讥刺,甚至嗤之以鼻, 认为这是一种毫无科学根据的神话!

有位神学家在反驳一位反对基督复活的作者 时,如此说:"保罗是当时社会,无论在政治,或哲 学界的圈子里都是一位具有权威的响当当人物。他 起初也是个极端反对耶稣,逼迫教会,甚至携枪带 刀到处抓拿凡是跟随耶稣,相信耶稣从死里复活的 人。直到他自己亲眼目睹了复活的耶稣,才由一个 反对耶稣,攻击耶稣的敌对者变成一位最忠心的 传扬基督复活的福音使者。"哥林多前书15章是保 罗对耶稣基督从死里复活的事迹写得最详尽的一章。他在林前(15;14)如此说;"若基督没有复活, 我们所传的便是枉然,你们所信的也是枉然。"当时在哥林多这个城镇的社群中有很多是具有高智慧的饱学之士,他们终日探索哲理,寻求智慧。故当日保罗在传扬基督复活的信息时,必定会遭受到他们的驳斥和抨击。而事实上,当保罗书写哥林多前书时(大约是在主复活后的25-30年左右),这些凡事都喜欢追根究底又能言善道的饱学之士,竟没有一个人能够拿出证据来反驳保罗,由此可见"耶稣从死里复活"的事迹证据确切,无可驳斥。



那么,基督的复活给我们带来什么重大的意义呢?最重要的,有下列几点:

一、基督的复活宣告了已战胜死亡,给 人类带来永生的盼望。

耶稣在世时就曾叫死人复活;当他呼叫已经 死了四天的拉撒路从坟墓走出来之前如此说:"复 活在我,生命也在我。信我的人,虽然死了,也必复 活。凡活着信我的人,必永远不死。"(约11:25-26) 这表明了他有掌管生命主权的地位。所以当我们看 见主耶稣复活之后,我们深信有一天我们也必复 活。

其实,古往今来,许多人都领悟到人生的短暂,明白生命的脆弱与无奈!故人人怕死,却又难逃一死,这真是人生最大的悲剧!当人类都活在绝望的黑暗中时,上帝的儿子却从死里复活了!这大喜讯给绝望的人类带来了永生的盼望;把人类从死亡的毒钩释放出来,让我们能够藉着他的受死与复活,罪得赦免,进入永生。

二、基督的复活使我们拥有一个崭新的生命。

在复活节这一天举行洗礼是历代教会的传统,表明一个人接受主后便与主一同经历死而复活的生命。圣经也对领受"圣洗"这个仪式作如此的解释:"所以,我们藉着洗礼归入死,和他一同埋葬,原是叫我们一举一动有新生的样式,像基督藉着父的荣耀从死里复活一样。"(罗6:4)故当一个人受洗时,就表示他要与主同死,同埋葬,同复活。 一个诚心悔改接受圣洗的人,他里面就有了崭新的生命。

三、基督复活带给信徒的福音使命

主耶稣复活后,向门徒显现时,除了责备他们 的不信与心里刚硬外,同时也向他们宣告了一大使 命;"你们往普天下去,传福音给万民听,信而受洗 的必然得救。不信的必被定罪。"(马可16:15-16) 今天,世界上还是有许多未得救的人,故拯救灵魂 的工作在主耶稣复活之后更是当务之急;因复活的 主是人类唯一的盼望,祂是我们与上帝之间的中 保,除祂以外,别无拯救,因为天下人间,没有赐下 别的名,我们可以靠着得救。因此,每个信徒都有 责任履行主复活后所嘱托的使命;到普天下传扬福 音,将人带到上帝面前来。

基督在复活之前,他经历了十字架的苦杯,受 尽鞭打,凌辱,哀伤与痛楚。但在第三天,他终于战 胜了黑暗与死亡,从死里复活。耶稣的经历,成为 我们得救的经历。新生命是要通过死亡才能得到 的。所以,只有当我们愿意放下旧的生命,才能够真 正得到新生命,活出基督,遵从耶稣的吩咐:与人分 享基督那宽阔无私的爱。

我信我主耶稣基督 路加

[经文]

(约-14-18)

[前言]

使徒信经第二部分宣告的是基督教信仰的中 枢。它不单继承信经第一部分(父神)的宣告,也引 进第三部分(圣灵)的宣告,我们因着第二宣告才 能明白第一和第三宣告。正如亚他那修所讲,我们 只有透过子才能正确认识父和灵。基督教信仰何时 离开耶稣基督,何时就会走错路。有些近代神学家 说,我们若不由基督耶稣开始,就不能回到他那里 去,结果只能产生没有基督的基督教信仰——也 就不是真正的基督教了。这情况曾发生在教会历史 中,有些神学只重视神是创造者,试图从我们的理 性推理出上帝,基督教就成为没有耶稣的主观臆测 的哲学。而另一些神学只重视圣灵,从而强调人的 宗教经验,基督教也就成了没有基督的经验神学。 但教会历史告诉我们,基督徒要见证的是基督,基 督教的中心就是基督,若不本于这基础,信仰就会 偏差。所以,第二部分宣告是基督教信仰的中枢。

[正文]

一、我信我主

1、"我信"源自"我主"

我们信心源自我们的信仰对象。正如来十一 1:"信是对所望之事的实底,是未见之事的确据"。我们的信不是源自自己,而是对所望之事和未见 之事所产生的实底和确据。若没有所望之事,不管 我们的信心多伟大也只是画饼充饥、自欺欺人而 已。故此,基督教所宣讲的不是"信则有,不信则 无"的主观之信,乃是基于信仰对象而产生的信。

2、"我主"决定"我信"

基督教信仰不单在宣告"我信"源自"我主" ,也强调"我主"决定"我信",即信仰对象决定信 仰方式。比如,在自然科学界中就是科学研究的对 象决定了研究它的方式,像研究"毛毛虫能不能过 河?"这问题,昆虫学家不可按照自己的推理来先 入为主的断定毛毛虫是永远不能过河,而是要先 谦卑在毛毛虫面前,让毛毛虫自己显明它自己是如 何过河的,因毛毛虫有一天会变成蝴蝶飞过河。

同样,当人类面对神时,首先要谦卑俯伏 在神面前,让神向我们启示他自己,后我们才 可能认识他,而正确的认识他后才能正确的 回应他。就像以赛亚先知当年眼见神的伟大与 荣耀时,首先是谦卑承认自己的罪,当罪被除 去后才聆听到神的说话——神的叹息——" 我可以差遣谁呢?谁肯为我们去呢?",最后 他就顺服神的差遣(赛六1-13)。故此,在面对 这位至尊至荣的神时,我们唯一正确的回应 便是敬拜——敬畏、自省和回应神的差遣。

二、耶稣是上帝的独生子

使徒信经宣告耶稣是上帝的独生子,这意 味着他既是神又是人。

1、耶稣是完全的人子

我们如何认识这位历史上的耶稣? 就是通过 门徒的见证。而门徒所见证的耶稣是一位与他们生 活、工作在一起的耶稣,所以门徒的见证被称为第 一手资料的见证。首先,耶稣是一位由童贞女马利 亚所生的耶稣,是会饥、会渴的人子耶稣。同时, 他也是一位实行神迹奇事的耶稣,能叫瞎眼看见、 瘸腿行走、大麻风洁净、死人复活的人子耶稣。并 且他又是道德无暇、充满爱心和绝对饶恕的人子 耶稣。其次,耶稣在十字架上也彰显他是完全的 人子耶稣、神的羔羊,并最终借着从死里复活来彰 显他是神的圣者,这是最重要的。所以,门徒从耶 稣事迹中认识了耶稣是从神而来的完全的人子。

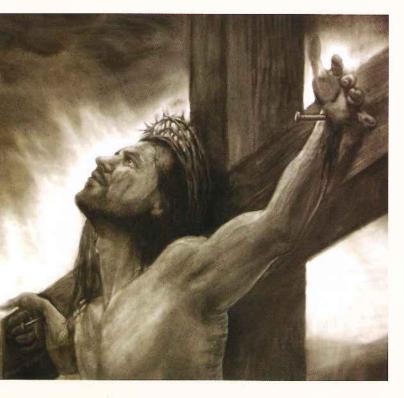
2、耶稣是完全的神子

耶稣是太初之道,这道不同于希腊的道 (Logos)。希腊的道是无位格的规律,即他们 不知规律来自何处。但太初之道却是有位格的, 他是创造主,万有都是"本于他"、"借着他"、 "依靠他"和"为了他"被造。故此,他与世界 的关系是创造主与被造物的关系,他借着话 语从无创造万有,并用全能的命令托住万有。

这道在历史时空中成了肉身住在世界,就 是既是真神又是真人的耶稣基督。而古典希腊 思想认为,一位全能的、超越的、不改变的神怎 可能居住在时空的、会改变的世界里面呢?甚至 还喝奶、会哭、会死。所以,道成肉身是不可思 议的。耶稣怎么可能既是神又是人?诺斯蒂主义 (Gnosticism)继承这主张而强调灵界与物界对立 的二元论,超越的主与创造主是对立的,旧约的 耶和华因创造物质而被认为是次等、邪恶的神, 神也不可能在肉身显现。所以,耶稣要么不是神 只是人,要么只是幻影而已。为何诺斯蒂主义会 出现如此大的错误呢?因他们像不尊重毛毛虫 的昆虫学家一样,先入为主的规限神就是超越、 不能与世界有任何关联的神,而没有尊重神在历 史时空中自己的作为——就是他的道成肉身。

另外,耶稣基督的神性是与神同质的,因他 是上帝的独生子。他是独一的神,由神所生,而非 神所造。故此,我们反对亚流主义(Arianism), 因它受希腊哲学与诺斯蒂主义影响只承认耶稣的 人性而否定其神性,认为耶稣是神首造的被造之 物,后被神收纳为儿子。耶稣基督与父同质的意义 对我们认识神来讲意义重大,因只有父怀里的独 生子才将父表明出来,而这是由于爱子是那不能看 见之神的像。所以,我们看见了子就看见了父。我 觉得近代认识论的危机是将"瞎子摸象"的比喻用 过了头, 典型代表者康德继承古典希腊思想认为 神是超越时空界、与世界毫无相关的神,因我们不 能用我们受时空限制的有限理性去认识神。同时 又认为我们根本不能认识到事物的本质,所认识 到的只是事物的表面现象而已。但圣经却提醒神 学家和科学家,"爱子是那不能看见之神的像"(西一15),我们看到耶稣就是看到了父,表象与本 体不能分离,因为表象一旦脱离本体他就成为幻 象了。简单来讲,虽瞎子摸象所摸到的都不一样, 但这些瞎子对大象的感受都是来自大象本身。

道成肉身教义也提醒我们,虽理性受时空限制,但关键是神进入我们的时空界并居住在我们中间,所以我们能借着耶稣基督来认识这位独一真神。当然,耶稣基督与父同为一对救恩论也有重要意义,我们将在第三方面来介绍。



最后,耶稣基督借着在十字架上的死来 彰显他是神的儿子(神性)。正如可15:37-39所 记载到的,"耶稣大声喊叫,气就断了。殿里的 幔子从上到下裂为两半。对面站著的百夫长 看见耶稣这样喊叫断气,就说:'这人真是神 的儿子!'"。所以,基督是借着死亡来彰显他 荣耀,甚至耶稣死了、埋葬了、第三天从死人 中复活以大能显明他是神的儿子(罗一4)。

三、耶稣就是基督

耶稣基督这名字是一个带着职份的名字,因基督是耶稣的职份。就如奥巴马总统,总统是他的职份。而基督的原意是"受膏者"之意,在旧约中有三个职分是需要受膏的,也就是祭司、先知和君王。

1、耶稣是祭司:带来恩典

耶稣基督是神人之间唯一的祭司,因他 既是真神又是真人。正如约翰说:"道成了肉身 住在我们中间,充充满满地有恩典"(约一14), 这份恩典就是人与神和好、以神为乐的恩典。

2、耶稣是先知: 启示真理

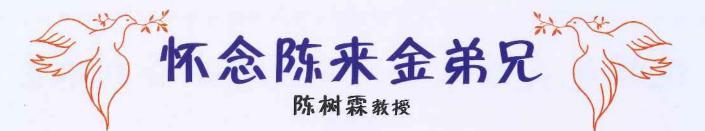
耶稣是先知要将神的真理启示出来,因只 有父怀中独生子才能将父表明出来。所以约翰 说:"道成了肉身住在我们中间,充充满满地有真 理"(约一14)。耶稣是我们认识神的基础,因为 他是父怀中的独生子。另外,耶稣是启示末世性 的高潮,因为他是历世历代先知所预言的实体。 他不像先知们需要透过神所赐的异梦异象来明 白神的旨意,他也不像摩西只能看见神的背影, 他就是神本体的真像、是神荣耀所发的光辉。

3、耶稣是君王: 彰显王权

耶稣是君王,他所彰显的王权不是用武力, 而是以"恩典"与"真理"的两个杖来治理他的国度,在他国度里的都是与神和好、认识神的人。

[结论]

所以,弟兄姐妹们,我们当如何回应这位 至尊至荣且爱我为我而死的主呢?我想最好的 表达就是"跪下"敬拜他;"出去"传扬他。正如 太28:16-19所说:"十一个门徒往加利利去,到了 耶稣约定的山上。他们见了耶稣就拜他,然而还 有人疑惑。耶稣进前来,对他们说:'天上地下所 有的权柄都赐给我了。所以,你们要去,使万民作 我的门徒,奉父、子、圣灵的名给他们施洗。'"





陈来金

陈来金弟兄与他的太 太惠瑜姐妹以及儿子子奇, 是我们厦语属区小组谦卑组 的组员。四年前、来金兄病 危于医院中,当时我们的组 员已故海浪嫂(又称玉贞姐) 向他传福音,来金兄愿意信 主。于是2006年年底施牧师 在医院里为他施洗。感谢 主、来金兄竟然从垂危中得 到康复,上帝给于他多四年

的岁数、直到今年2月26日清晨蒙主恩召。我在此要与大家思念来金兄的一生。来金兄有三方面值得我们怀念。

首先、来金兄是一位典型的好丈夫与好父 亲。2月16日我与太太婉英在医院看望他时、见到惠 瑜姐不停地为他涂抹右腋窝处的流脓与血迹,顿 时感到他们夫妇俩的恩爱。惠瑜姐当时还对来金 兄开玩笑说:"幸亏你以前对我好,不然的话,现在 见你生病,我就把你丢一边不管了!"可见,来金兄 多年来疼爱惠瑜姐,惠瑜姐铭感于心。另一方面、 我们也察觉到来金兄对子奇的关爱。孩子虽已长 大,但在来金兄心目中,还视之如小童,以致在言 谈中曾听到他对子奇的操心与担忧。

其次、来金兄心地善良、和蔼可亲。他四年 前病愈后、曾在一个基督教机构所开办的老人中 心工作、他与那里的乐龄人士打成一片,自发自动 帮助人,来金兄确实有敬业乐业的精神。可惜后 来、来金兄因身体软弱而离职。近年来、来金兄 常进出医院。但他不愿因病患被困家中。一旦身 体状况许可,他总喜欢到楼下或隔邻的购物中心 (WestCoastPlaza)与朋友邻舍闲谈。与他住同座组 屋的邻舍们,包括本堂会友与小组组员,如海浪嫂 的女儿美华、如俄、廷清父女、世添夫妇等,都不时 关照他。一次,他走到购物中心,突感不适、还好那 里一位熟悉他的女店员,马上请两位陌生年青人扶 他回家。记得数月前,当时来金兄刚出院不久,我 打他手机问候他。他接机时,我听到他周围有谈话 声、原来来金兄又到楼下与友人聊天了。惠瑜姐也 告诉我们,有一次,她按每天惯例打手机问他在那 里、来金兄回答说他过海了,惠瑜姐惊问难道他出 国不成?原来、来金兄与朋友跑到圣淘沙去了。

最后、来金兄有信仰上美好的见证。2006年 年底来金兄受洗时,惠瑜姐不反对,甚至赞同。但 惠瑜姐表示她本身早年皈依佛教,必须慎重考虑 才做决定,她说除非对信仰清楚了解,不然她决不 受洗。故当时她没与来金兄一同受洗。当时,我们 想惠瑜姐大概是很难相信基督。但没想到,四个 月后,我们欣闻惠瑜姐决定在复活节受洗。很显明 的、她已清楚信仰。她丈夫的生命是一个活见证、 影响惠瑜姐做这决定。惠瑜姐信主后,常与我们分 享她人生观的改变,以致她能以凡事交托主的心 态、平静地看待来金兄的病况。两年后,即2009年, 出乎来金夫妇俩的意料之外、子奇也决定受洗。夫 妇俩原想年青人自有己见,必然不易劝他信主。记 得一次子奇看到爸爸的病患,神速得到医治,隔天 出院,甚至参加当晚小组聚会,惠瑜姐于小组里作 见证说,子奇告诉她:"这真是神迹!"因此,来金 兄的生命又再次成为活生生的见证,影响子奇信 主。我想到来金兄就有如新约圣经的拉撒路,约翰 12:11提及:好些犹太人因拉撒路的生命而信耶稣。 一次我听来金兄说,他在医院里向邻床的一位青 年作见证,鼓励该青年信主。来金兄生命的最后旅 程中,其健康每况愈下,频频入院,在身体软弱中, 难免有灰心的时刻,但他仍坚持其信仰。子奇对妈 妈说,他佩服爸爸的坚强。来金兄信主不多年,但 我们都看到他所结的果子。

记得2月16日那天,我与婉英到医院看望来金 兄,我们与他及惠瑜姐有谈有笑。来金兄心情开朗 多了,我当时引用诗篇118:24"这是耶和华所定的 日子,我们在其中要高兴欢喜!"鼓励他认定每日 都是上帝所赐,并要以欢喜的心态面对之。那天之 后,来金兄再度过上帝所赐的最后十天的时光。在 这日子里,他告诉惠瑜姐说,上帝已多给他四年的 时光,他别无遗憾,可安然回返天家。在最后几天 的危急中,惠瑜姐与子奇一直陪伴着他,临终时, 虽然来金兄当时处于昏迷状态,但子奇突然感觉 到爸爸紧握他的手,这应该是来金兄与他疼爱的 孩子作最后的告别。

来金兄从此无需再与病痛纠缠,在主里永享 安息。我们也知道、将来有一日我们将与他再见。 保罗的话,正好反映了来金兄的信仰历程:"那美 好的仗我已经打过了,当跑的路我已经跑尽了,所 信的道我已经守住了。"(提后4:7)

追思光夫陈来金-从死荫幽谷到永生

陈惠瑜

先夫陈来金,生于1952年2月3日,2011年2月26 日安息主怀。享年59岁。他在2011年10月间感染了一 种从泥土来的细菌,住院82天;期间因注射和服用 抗生素过多而导致心脏病爆发!病情严重,一度进 入ICU.医生甚至嘱咐我们随时要有心理准备;

他告诉我们;如果他的病情进一步恶化,就 要马上开刀。他已经发烧多天不退,检验结果,血 液里又有病菌,一旦开刀,一定死亡。奇妙的是; 过后,他在ICU里面竟然梦见主耶稣站在他床边! (因为在这之前,他已从树霖弟兄所带领的小组成 员一已故海浪嫂口中听过福音)随后,一连大解了 数次。烧也退了。人也清醒多了。并在这年12月在医 院接受圣洗。

2007年心脏病再度爆发,入院后,院方即刻 在7月5日为他进行心脏绕道手术。然而,手术后 恶梦却接踵而来;手术影响到肾脏,同年8月肾脏 开始衰竭,并且要永久洗肾。过了两年,他又感染 IIINI.之后他又在2011年新年前"生蛇"(带状疱 疹),从此,健康每况愈下。一直到2011年2月26日, 因切除三分之二败坏的小肠,在医院里两度开刀, 由于病情复杂,因此在开刀后便因心脏病复发而离 世。

先夫在鬼门关兜了一圈后,在主的恩典中又 在世间度过了四年的岁月。虽然在这四年里病情反 反复复,进出医院无数次,受尽各种病痛的磨难, 但幸而在这一段艰难的时刻,时常得到家人和教 会弟兄姐妹的鼓励和关怀,逐渐恢复了信心。而身 为妻子的我,在这四年里也心甘情愿地陪伴她度 过无数个难言的艰苦岁月,但在我心里却深深地感 受到上帝对他的疼爱。因此,在2007年4月8日,我 便下便决心接受主耶稣为个人救主,接受圣洗。洗 礼后,我变得更加坚强而有信心,我勇敢地面对困 难,陪着先夫度过一关又一关的考验,但我依然毫 不灰心地鼓励他要坚强走下去。这是因为在这段难 熬的日子里, 教会里的施牧师夫妇, 会督, 陈树霖 教授夫妇以及教会的弟兄姐妹,和亲友们时常关心 地来探望与慰问,祷告和鼓励,还有充满爱心的邻 居们在各方面的支持与帮忙,都给了我很多的力量 与勇气。

{在这里,有一些事令我特别感恩的就是;住 院期间,来金碰到了两位好医生及许多有爱心的 护士。其中一位心脏科医生一直不赞成他接受心 脏手术,因为他知道动了这个手术一定会影响到 他的肾。另一位是肾脏科医生, 三年来, 也不断地 细心观察他的病情, 并写下报告, 让他得到一份保 险金。他说:"你的身体太多毛病, 得常常进出医 院——你每个月都得来见我, 因为你的健康随时 都会出现状况。"后来医生发现他的肠有问题, 原 定在3月3日去做扫描。但由于那段日子医生要去 服兵役, 便改期到3月15日。想不到他的病情提早 在2月中复发而离世! 医生永远都见不到这个病人 了! }

对来金来说,最后几次的进院治疗,是他最 痛苦难熬的经历。但我却从他口中知道他已经没有 什么遗憾了。因为上帝已赐给他多四年的岁月。在 农历新年期间,他虽然身体依然衰弱,但他还是坚 持要和许多久未见的亲友见面。而他最挂念的侄 儿玮毅和侄女玮珊,也在农历新年到我家吃团圆 饭。这期间,施牧师和陈树霖夫妇也多次到医院探 望他,为他祷告。但我深知他心中最难舍的是我们 母子。因最后几次,我曾经在医院问过他:"你还有 什么话要对我说?"他说:"你已经为我做了很多, 我永远不会忘记你。"另一次是他躺在病床上,被 护士推去手术室时,他忽然大声对我说:"不要 哭,没有事的。"这是他对我说的最后一句话,从手 术室出来后,他就再也没有机会说话了!

在治疗过程中,当医生打开他的胸膛,要切除 败坏的小肠时,发现他三分之二小肠已经败坏,心 脏又开过刀,而且肾脏衰竭,再加上肝硬化。真的 是百病缠身!当我的儿子子奇知道这情况时,惊讶 得目瞪口呆,说不出话来!他在父亲离世的最后两 天不断地对父亲说:"爸爸,你是一位最勇敢坚强 的战士!你是我最棒的爸爸!"

而今,来金已脱离世间的一切愁苦与病痛,安 息在上帝的怀抱中。虽然他也走过一段不算短的死 荫幽谷,但慈悲天父的竿和杖一路扶持带领着他, 引领他走向永生的道路。他此生总算无憾!而且他 临终前我们母子都在他身边,在他咽下最后一口气 的前一秒,在昏迷状态中,他紧握着儿子的手一下, 这应该是最后的告别。

在那一段困难的日子里,我看到亲友们以及 教会弟兄姐妹所给于的关怀与支持,心中虽有千言 万语,但却无法用言语来表达我对他们的感激之 情。靠着上帝的大爱与恩典,我要对已安息主怀的 来金说:"挚爱的来金:没有你的日子,我会继续勇 敢地走下去,直到我们重聚在天家!"

我这一生的经历

我出生在一个贫困的家庭,本姓郑,出 世第12天就被领养。养父母没有孩子,他们 包了一个十二元的红包给我的生父母,领养 了我。后来,他们又领养了两个孩子,我就有 了一个妹妹,和一个弟弟。

在我二十岁时,养父母相隔两天去世。 在当时这是一件轰动新加坡的新闻。养父 患病住院十天,他知道自己病危,没有活命 的希望,把后事情交代了给我妈妈后,在下 午一点时去世。我妈妈伤心过度,在当晚七 点时中风,医生诊断后,对我说,就算她的 病情有进步,也只能长期躺在床上,不能自 由走动。我看着妈妈无助的神情,对她说, 她不用担心,我会好好的照顾弟弟和妹妹。 妈妈听了我的话后,便在隔天早上七点时,离 开了我们。这件事真是晴天霹雳,我和弟妹 们以后的日子怎么过?

感谢神,虽然当时我还不认识祂,但是, 照顾孤儿寡妇的神。祂看顾了我,赐我智 慧和力量,让我能克服种种困难,带大弟妹 们。我学会裁剪,然后用这手艺教导人赚取 学习费。后来,我开了家裁剪学院。

婚后,我有了自己的儿女。他们都信了 主,常为我的得救祷告,希望我能早日认识 神。1987年,7月19日,我在裁剪学院工作时, 双脚忽然不能动弹。我又害怕又惊慌。到处 寻医,无论中西医,我都尝试过,前后看了七 个医生,都无法医好。感谢主!这个时候,刚 好有间教会主办佈道会。在儿女的邀请下, 我便参加了这佈道会。因受到圣灵的感动, 我一面听道,一面为过去所犯的罪感到悲 伤。当牧师呼招时,我决志信主。神的恩典 也临到了我,我的双脚得了神的医治。

信主后第三年,我去听唐崇荣牧师佈道 会。当他呼召谁愿意奉献自己为主工作时, 我就站起来,奉献自己。后来在一位神学院 讲师的鼓励下,我去修读夜间神学课程。虽 然我没受过教育,但在神的灵和祂的爱的引 领下,完成了五年的夜校课程。在领文凭时, 全场的人都为我这个满头白发的老学生拍 掌叫好。感谢神!

在得到属灵装备后,我开始学习事奉. 我非常喜欢听道及参加圣经班。要在神的 话语上继续长进,我后转会到直落亚逸礼拜 堂,因这里有好的学习环境。转会至今已有 六年。

今年我已73岁。不知还能活多久。如果 神让我活多十,二十年,我愿用我剩下的年 日忠心事奉主。我看到我家对面的新组屋 将要建好,我计划开办"邻居小组",招集邻 居到我家来,将福音传给他们。

求神继续带领我前面的路程,愿我的 事奉得主喜悦。



(2010年9月5日-12日)

周晓明医生

感谢神的差遣,让我有机会参与这次的尼泊尔医疗短宣。出发前的几次祷告准备会都让我更深的领悟:要做主的门徒,就要做好心理准备,不可犹豫不决,要专心信靠、仰望主,遵行上帝的旨意。我在二零一零年七月二十四号参加了一个"宣教之旅培训会",对做主的门徒有更深的理解,为我第一次侍奉做了充分的准备。感谢神的引领,让我整个行程,都完整地做了自己当做的,同时也从中充分体验到为主做工的喜乐,以及门徒之间的相互关爱及分工合作与彼此配搭的甜美。

在路加福音(9:46-48)当门徒在争 论谁最大时,主耶稣看出他们心中的议论, 就领一个小孩子来,站在自己身边对他们 说:"凡为我名接待这小孩子的,就是接待 我;凡接待我的,就是接待那才我来的;你 们中间最小的,他便为大。"主如此说乃因 小孩子有一颗纯洁谦卑的心,是主所喜悦 的。故一个带有宣教使命的门徒,凡事都要 尽力而为,凡是美善的事,在神的眼里就是 最伟大的。我们向着目标前进时,一定要有 一颗圣洁谦虚的心,本身若没有基督的样式,就不能做好上帝所托付的任何事情。凡事都要以荣耀主为本。在约翰福音(14:5-6)耶稣在回答多马的问题时如此说:"我就是道路、真理、生命;若不藉着我,没有人能到父那里去。"我们要记住主的话,时常仰望十字架,求上帝的灵感动,让我们全心全意地跟随他的脚步;代价就是放下一切,一直的跟从到底。因主耶稣说,手扶着犁,向后看的,不配进神的国。路(9:62)

在这次的医疗短宣过程中,前来就诊 的大多是腰酸背痛,或患脚疾等的病人,还 有一些是妇科疾病的。在医治他们肉体带 来的疼痛时,也借着上帝的爱为他们祷告、 交托,求上帝的灵感动他们,不只是医治 他们身体的疼痛,更重要的是拯救他们的 灵魂。愿上帝的灵充满他们,让他们认识那 位又真、又活的上帝,接受主耶稣为个人救 主,罪得赦免,得享永生平安,成为上帝所 疼爱的儿女。

愿一切荣耀归于主, 阿门!



Hainan Mission Trip 2011 Reflections

Euphemia Tan

would like to thank God for giving me an opportunity to go for the Hainan Mission Trip from 7-12 Feb 2011. As it was my first mission trip, I did not really know what to expect but I was excited to see how God's work is being done in China. As we prepared for the youth camp, I could feel God guiding us. Before we left, we managed to adequately prepare.

We went into the sanctuary when we arrived at the village church. There were two things there that caught my eye. They were the words "高举元首基督" (Jesus will take the highest honour) which was placed on the wall above the stage at the front of the sanctuary; and the words "哈利路亚" (Hallelujah) placed right at the back of the sanctuary. These phrases were not placed just for decoration. During their worship, it was evident that the youths kept these two phrases in their minds. They sang their hearts out to Jesus, glorifying his name and truly giving him the highest honour. Looking at their facial expression when they sang, it was obvious that they really meant what they sang. Hearing all the youths gathered from different worship locations worshipping together with us, it really reminded me that in Christ, we are one big family, regardless where we come from.

The title for the camp was "我岂不爱 惜呢?" (Do I not care?), taken from Jonah 4:11. It also focused on the whole book of Jonah to teach the youths how they should not reject God's calling.

I observed the youths during the various sermons and workshops. I noticed that most of them were very eager to hear the word of God. Also, when they were asked a question, they actively responded. I feel that this is a contrast to us as when we are asked a question like "Who is the most popular singer around here?", many of us would be too shy to give a response. But over there, they actively respond to such and many other kinds of questions. It was evident how much they yearn to learn more about His word, through their attitude towards the sermons and workshops.

On the last day of the camp, Rev Lim asked those who wanted to dedicate their lives to the Lord and to do his work to put their hands up. I was so touched when I saw the number of hands that went up! So many of them were willing to live their lives for God. Especially in China, where there is a risk in spreading the gospel and running a house church. Despite all the risks, many of them were ready to take those risks, go out into China and spread the gospel. This led me to ask myself: in Singapore, where we have so much religious freedom, how many times did I not dare to speak about God? Just because I was shy to do so or that I was scared that people may laugh at me. And yet, the youths there were not scared of getting into trouble if they were found out by the police that they are spreading the gospel. Yet, they are willing to bravely go out and spread the good news. This was a lesson that I learnt from them.

The last night was a talent night. Groups were each given a problem in the modern society and they had to reenact the problem as well as find a solution for it. Watching them brainstorm for ideas, practice their skits, make their own props and perform with all their might, really showed me how much they wanted to show everyone what they have learnt from the camp. The very last event was a sharing session. It was really heart-warming to know how much the youths appreciated us. One part that striked me was when this youth took out a note book and quoted something that Rev Lim had said. It really shocked me to see that he wrote down the exact words that Rev Lim used. Once again, it showed their eagerness to learn the word of God.

One of the things I feel we can learnt from them is their ability and determination to remember God's word. When sharing, many of the youths recited verses from Psalms or Proverbs. Seeing them recite verses so easily, made me start to reflect on the effort we put into reading and memorizing scripture. In China, bibles are not readily available. But in Singapore, where bibles are everywhere, do we do the same? Their resources are limited, they make full use of it. But how many of us actually make it a point to memorize scripture? This is another lesson I learnt from them.

In conclusion, the trip was truly a great way to experience God's work in different countries. I urge all those who have a heart for China to join us on our future mission trips to Hainan.



MONGOLIA 2010 SHARING EUDORA TAN

Сайн байна уу? ("Hello" in Mongolian!)

In June 2010, I joined the GEN12ii Mission Trip to Mongolia with other university students and 2 Campus Crusade staff to conduct English classes for teenage students and some of the nomadic folks living in the beautiful outskirts. God really blessed our time there and allowed us to see His Spirit working in and through us.

We taught, interacted, and shared the Gospel to 30 Mongolian students in Erdenet (the 3rd largest city in Mongolia) and through the two evangelistic parties we organised with a small group of Mongolian Campus Crusade for Christ (MCCC) staff and students, 18 students prayed to receive Christ.

Many of them understand the concept of a god. They interact daily with nature and thus believe that there is a god who creates and controls life. However, they attribute they experiences to natural "gods" or subscribe to shamanism, a culture in which they grew up in and often practising rituals they do not fully understand. Even after praying to receive Christ, many of those students struggled with their decision as they felt they had turned their backs on their families and even their culture.

One particular student had prayed to receive Christ during the first party but struggled with her decision and expressed regret to her teachers (my other team members). However, after the second party, which we organised, and hearing the testimonies shared, she told us that she was convicted that there was no turning back; she had committed to follow Jesus the rest of her life. We knew that it was God alone who moved hearts, not our hands.

Before I left for Mongolia, I struggled with going into a foreign land to share the Gospel without knowing the language. I questioned how effective I would be. But God rebuked me and showed me that there was no questioning about His calling and it was not about what I could do but what He could do. I saw how the English classes bridged the hearts of these students to Him.

And as if to make His point, He brought this girl, Doma, to our team. A genius 18 year old linguistics Master's student, she spoke excellent English and was drawn to us because we spoke English. Her heart was very guarded and she had been very critical during the evangelistic party but I had a chance to clinch a dinner meeting with her despite her initial attempts to decline. God slowly opened her heart and I was able to establish a very good relationship with her. We had much to share with each other and even though she tried to evade topics on Jesus, I managed to share with her what I thought about God and bits and pieces of who Jesus was to me. We also talked briefly about "Facing the Giants" (an evangelistic film) which she watched with us.

Finally it was time to leave and we were going to pay for our food. Suddenly, I felt led to pray for her and it did not seem appropriate to be praying on the streets, so in my heart I frantically sought God's leading and provision. And to my surprise, the cashier had a bit of problem and she informed me that we would have sit and wait for a while more! Seizing that moment, I asked if I could pray for her and she agreed. I thanked God for creating her and prayed that she would one day come to know the love of Jesus and accept Him, and also for blessings for her future endeavours.

After the prayer, her eyes were teary and she giggled in a mix of embarrassment and joy. She explained that it was the first time anyone had prayed a blessing for her and she was so very thankful. After reuniting with the team, I spoke to one of the MCCC staff and realised that they actually recognised her as she had attended many of the Christian fellowships to criticise and disrupt their meetings, bearing much apprehension about the Christian faith. As such, many people in school did not treat her too kindly. The staff shared with me that it seemed so strange that she was so open to us despite knowing that we were Christians and it seemed that God had placed this desire to know Him in her through us and through our meeting, she could recognise that God was not all about knowledge but He was about love as well. She did not pray to receive Christ but I knew that through our meeting, God had softened her heart and showed her how much He loved her. I believe a seed was sown in her heart.

God was very good to us. He gave us a really interesting and complete experience during the short 3-day-2-night nomad trip after the ministry in Erdenet. We milked cows, helped build a ger (Mongolian house), tried archery, played with the adorable little children, endured a brief windstorm which blew down our tents, learned how to kill a goat and barbecued it (which was a very delicious, by the way), pinned down sheep, rode on horses, wrestled, and best of all, witnessed 10 people receiving Christ.

I remember on our 2nd ger visit, there was a boy who spoke good Mandarin and Fay (our SCCC staff) was sharing the 4 spiritual laws with him using the Mongolian booklet. He was very serious and sincere. My heart felt so warm and my eyes were tearing with joy. I really enjoyed seeing God's hand at work. The families we visited either had not heard about Jesus before or had very limited and wrong understanding about Jesus. While many believed, others were open and receptive but chose not to decide yet. I pray that God will continue to use the Mongolian students on the "To the Last Nomad" project to reach these nomads' hearts!

Finally, I just want to share that this trip had been a very memorable one for me. I feel very blessed to have gone to Mongolia, contrary to my initial fears and apprehension. God has shown me His heart for the nations and how much He loves His Mongolian children. There is so much more that I can share but I think there's a limit to what you can take in in this article. But I hope you are encouraged by what God has done in this very short trip of 15 days and will continue to foster your love for the nations. May you also be encouraged to be a witness wherever you are and when God calls, you may go to the ends of the earth to declare His Name.

Jesus is truly the good shepherd and as He declares, there will be one flock and one shepherd. May the lost sheep find the voice of the shepherd and the way back into His sheepfold. (John 10:1-18)





退修! 安静! Hineni!

弟兄姐妹们,你们知道什么是(BUSY)忙碌吗? 意思就是:"Being Under Sadan's Yoke!"在撒旦的束缚下。

上帝的创造-安息

当神完成了六日的创造之后,他进入了安息。难道他累了吗?他需要休息吗?经上不是说,他是不打吨,不睡觉的神吗?这是修辞上面的冲突,还是实际情况的矛盾?…其实,我们错误将"安息"定义为睡觉休息。事实上,"安息"不是静止,而是灵魂在静默中的活动;它不是创造的结束,它乃是创造的高峰。亚当,人类的第一人,当来到世上的第一件事就是享受安息。上帝是如此的慷慨,将他的安息分享于人类。他一切的工作并不是在安息中消失,而是在安息中发散出最美的光辉。亚当并没有在安息中沉睡,而是在这安息中观看上帝一切的作为:光与影、天与地、花草、树木、飞禽、水族和各样的走兽,好像音乐中的不同音符,合奏起来成为一首颂赞上帝的壮丽诗篇。

然而, 罪进入了世界之后, 亚当便失去了 这样的安息。"汗流浃背才能糊口",人类在这 咒诅中看到的一点点生存希望,成为了活下去 的动力。于是,工作、繁衍、一切活着要做的事, 仅仅只是为了活着。无论是亚当一个人,还是亚 伯拉罕一家人,或者是雅各一族人,甚至是400 百年后的以色列一国人,大家所希望的,所追 求的,就是得到神所应许给他们的流奶与蜜之 地。连年的流离失所、痛苦欺凌,使得安息对于 以色列人来说,就是拥有一个属于自己的土地, 在那里享受上帝所赐的奶与蜜。但是,这与起 初神所设立的安息己相距甚远,就算是神借着 摩西用安息日律法的方式来不断的给人提醒, 也无法让人进入那真正的安息。安息日的安息 给人带来的只是捆绑、条规和各样有形与无形 的枷锁,而迦南地的安息只不过是以色列人生 活的插曲,外邦的搅扰、强夺和入侵才是他们 没有停止过的主题。

看来,时间和空间,都不足以成为人得到 安息的条件。那么,如何才能得到神的安息呢? 根据圣经所记载的几个例子中,也许可帮助我 们更加明白所谓"安息"的真义;

当日主耶稣在安息日走过麦田时,他随 手拾取麦穗;在会堂里他及时医治了手臂枯萎 的人;在推罗、西顿因那迦南妇人的信心就医 治了她的女儿;在毕士大池子旁他也及时将瘫 痪了三十八年的病人从痛苦中释放出来——看 啊,就在那里,人得到了神所赐的安息!这不在 乎时间是否是在安息日,也不在乎地点是否在 应许地,一切全在乎耶稣触摸到人的生命那一 刻。"你们得救在乎归回安息,你们得力在乎平 静安稳"(赛30:15)。而主也曾经对我们说"凡 劳苦担重担的,可以到我这里来,我就使你们 得安息"(太11:28)。这样说来,真正的安息, 就是神在创造之初所分享给人类的宝贵礼物, 如今可以借着归回到耶稣的面前重新得着。

然而,人如何才能回到主的面前,让他不 断的触摸自己的生命呢?还记得马利亚在主面 前安静听道吗?还记得主曾经对门徒所讲的话 吗"我的羊认得我的声音"?人如同群羊,而主 就是牧者。牧者靠的是声音来带领他的羊群, 而羊则是靠着聆听来回应他的牧者。道声与聆 听,就是我们回到主面前的途径。若有人问,基 督教的信仰, 与别的宗教有何差别? 在诸多不 同但同样是正确的答案中,一个与我们今天的 话题直接相关的回答,就是聆听的信仰。这世 上的宗教,大多是以人的学说,思想,以及人的 行为,作为基础的宗教。而我们信仰则是以"道 出于神、人聆听神"以至于可以回归到神那里 为基础的信仰。这是一种"人-被动式""神-主 动式"的信仰,神的道是藉着我们的聆听进入 我们的生命,给我们的生命带来安息。主虽然 早已回到父那里去,但是他从来没有停止对我 们说话;他藉着宇宙万象,66卷圣经,信仰的历 史和活活的圣灵…一直在跟我们在说话。他要 发声到永远,因为他是永活的道,是从永远到 永远的声音。

因此,今天我们能否得到安息,不在乎这位主是否在发言,而是在于我们是否在聆听!

世界的恶毒-喧嚣

然而,今天的信徒普遍都存在着"失聪" 的问题,就是听而不闻。除了神学和信心层而 的问题之外,更大的难处是安静。如果用一个 字来形容今天的世界,"喧嚣"则合适不过。 今天世界的"繁荣昌盛"已经来到一个让人头 晕目眩的地步。每天醒来,人从这个世界所收 到的,就是各种行业透过各样的媒介带给我们 各样的资讯: 24小时不停播放的新闻: 让人厌 烦的推销电话;巴士车上各样的广告;MRT的屏 幕中不断播放着的绚丽商品信息; 新一代的手 机,电脑从Desktop变成Laptop,而iPad等的出 现,这些新人类的科技产品,能够更快捷、更方 便的把各类的娱乐讯息和游戏等送到你的掌 心、送到你的面前,让你走着、坐着、站着、躺 着,甚至是睡着都可以和电脑作伴;而在你的 外围则是整个商家军团,他们正开着大音响, 吼着嗓门,把更多、更新、更精彩的资讯、娱乐 消费消息,夸张,炫耀、疯狂的塞进你的耳朵 里。

请问,在这样喧闹的环境中,人还听得见 上帝的声音吗?世界的喧嚣已捅破了我们的耳 膜,既听不见上帝的声音,又何来对上帝回应 呢;听不见也无法回应,又聋又哑,灵性何来, 安息何在?!

我们的出路–Hineni

也许我们会认为那些中古的苦修僧侣太 过极端,将自己拘禁在旷野无人之境,刻苦己 身的生活。然而,对于今天活在这个极端吵杂 世界中的你我,他们不正是我们所需要的借镜 吗?也许在这个时代,希望像他们那样过生活 是一种不切实际的白日梦。但是,他们那种刻意 让自己脱离喧嚣、安静在神面前的精神,却是我 们切切需要学习的。越是忙碌的人,越需要休 息;越是生活在嘈杂时代的人,越需要安静。

Hineni是希伯来文,意思是"我在这 里!"在旧约圣经中,这个词出现了80多次。 它代表的,是一种听到便立刻回应的态度。主 人在家中呼唤奴仆,奴仆一听到便跑来跪下 说"Ilineni,我在这里,主人有何吩咐。"列祖 和先知们也是用同样的话语来回答主耶和华对 他们发出的声音。神人交通的方式从来没有本 质的改变,今天的信徒同样需要有这种Hineni 的心态,才能在主的面前听到神的声音,得到 神所赐的安息,享受"在地如在天"的生命。

这次的营会并不是一次性的营会,而是希望成为一种新的属灵生活的开始。无论是每日7个小时的安静,还是中午一餐禁食的操练,都是为了用大力度的方式来推动参加营会的青年人,进入聆听与安息。这并不是一件容易的事,但这却是一件值得努力的生活方式,更是充满了鲜活、激动、热情与奇妙的属灵旅途。在这个营会中,许多的参与者都经历到上帝的触摸,神的真实与鲜活向更多的少年人显现。看到这些青年人生命得到复兴,我们再次向我们生命的牧者献上感恩:只有他,才能够成就这样的事!

其实,需要Hineni的人又何只限于年轻 人呢?活在这个繁忙世界的每个人,不都需要 这种神圣的静默吗?Hineni的营会只是一时, 而Hineni的生活则是一世。深深的盼望,这次 营会中青年人的分享能够成为每个读者操练 安静聆听的开始。





学校年终假期不只是给你时间来准备新的一年,也是让人放松自己,让自己好好休息一下。虽然在假期里我有很多活动,但我还能够抽出时间来参加了两个营会。其中一个营会就是一个领袖训练营。在那三天两夜里,我最大的得着就是更了解我自己的个性,了解自己的领导潜能。这营会也使我了解我领导风格的特征、优点和缺点。我觉得一个人要真正了解自己的个性其实是件不容易的事情,但参加了这个营会后,我发现我更了解自己。这营会也让我反省自是个怎样的人,知道自己的不足,以后才能有所改进,也才能够成为一个有影响力的好领袖。

另一个对我影响最大的就是教会在马来 西亚所主办的营会一Hineni安静营。在短短 的四天三夜里,我们有禁食,默想,敬拜赞美 神,当中也有分享。这营会跟其他的营会大不 相同;因为在营会里,我们没有玩游戏,却有 很多休息睡觉的时间。这营会是个退修营,因 为它的与众不同,才会对我产生更大的影响。 它让我学到默想是什么,也让我体会到默想的 美好。当周围鸦雀无声,当我没有手机,没有电视,没有任何的电子设备又不能与别人说话时, 我还能做什么?我只能欣赏风景,只能思考,只 能默想。但这就是它的美。因为从中我得到安 息,脑子里不再想其他让我分心的事物,要把 所有的烦恼都抛到九霄云外,把它们交给主。 虽然饥饿的感觉是很难受的,但如果我专心默 想,专注于上帝的话语中,那么时间就会很快的 飞逝,默想和禁食的时间很快就结束。这营会 让我感到神的同在,也更新了我的心身灵,让 我与神有更密切的关系。有些人可能会觉得这 种营会节日很无趣,不想参加,可是对我来说, 在我所参加过教会所举办的营会中,这次的经 历是最有意义的。

现在,每当我回想到二零一零年年终假期的时光,我就想到这退修营,也想到我所学习 到的功课。因这段时光,令我回味无穷,更令我 异想天开地盼望着时间能够倒流,让我能够再 次回到这营会,重温与神独处,专注聆听上帝 话语的美妙时光。





2010年12月26日我参加了"Hineni"的安静营。在这个营会之前(在11月13日)另有一个一日的安静营。本来,我也想去参加,因为从小到大,我还是第一次听到有"安静营"这样的营会。但是,最后我放弃了。我以为再也没有机会参加安静营了。没想到不久教会又举行了另一次的安静营。起初,我也不想去的,因为,我很少有意念要去尝试新的东西。但是,在朋友劝她下,我报名参加了这个"Hineni"营会。但是,当我听到在营会中我们得禁食,立刻感到很后悔。因为,我从来没有禁食过。

(但经过了这次营会后,我深深地肯定说 我的选择可能是我这一生中所做的最好的决 定。)很快的,12月26日来了,我带着一个很矛 盾的心情到了营地。到了之后,心里有一点难 过,因我得放下我所拥有一切世俗的东西;比 如,游戏,电脑,电视等等。一到了营地,我们 得交出我们的手机。表面上是非常心甘情愿的 交出来,但是事实上,在我的心灵深处,有一种 很不愿意交出来的感觉。私底下,我甚至企图 把它偷偷的藏起来,但是,最后,我还是决定把 它交出来。

第二天,也就是12月27日,我们得开始安静我们的心灵,当我在读其中一份资料时,我读到一句话"匆忙不是属乎魔鬼的东西,它本身就是魔鬼"这一句话,让我停顿下来,深深的思想;我们一生中,为何只顾着追求名牌,钱财,实力,等等?这些东西能满足我们空虚的心灵吗?我们整天忙碌,匆匆忙忙的度过一天,收获又是什么?我们的目标到底是上帝?还是这些没有价值的东西?这时,我想到了《彩虹下的约定》,我们到底与上帝有没有约定呢?那时,我感到很内疚,因此时此刻,我本身还在迷恋游戏以及其他属世的东西。那时,我真的很想哭,但是,怕打扰到朋友,就忍着的读下去。

那一天,真的是不好过,脑海里一直在想 着游戏,无法集中精神,到了别墅的外面,才找 到了我所需要的,一个安静,能与上帝亲近的 角落。第三日的早晨,当我们在读有关"顺服" 的资料时,我回到我那安静的角落,但是,今天 却有鸟的啼叫声,而且这些鸟儿发出的声音很 特别,我感到非常困扰,因我被这些鸟叫声打扰了。但是,回到别墅里,我领悟到这些鸟叫声不就像是我们人生中的种种的诱惑和干扰吗? 每当我们在读上帝的话语时,我们往往都会被这些杂音打扰。有时,还会放弃读上帝的话语。

营长第一天就说过,我们的耳朵常被这些声音干扰,让我们无法听到上帝想对我们 说的话。小平老师接着也加上一节。"凡耳可 听的,就应当听"这节在4本福音书里出现了 许多次,我们都有耳朵但是却听不到上帝的声 音,因为我们的周围有太多声音了,使我们无法 听到上帝的声音。

在第三日,我亲身体验到上帝与我说话。 当我在默想个人操练时,我看见一只松鼠正爬 上一棵树,然后,牠就很快的从一棵树跳到另 外一棵树。他根本都没从树上跌下来,我心里 在想牠一定是练习了很久才会有能力跳过每一 棵树。我就联想到我们的基督徒生活。我们能 听到许多信息,弟兄姐妹的分享,但是,我们又 没有应用在我们个人的生活。我本身没这么做, 听证道时,是一边进,另一边出。这时,我感到 很内疚,就好像上帝要提醒我,要把我所学的 都应用在我的生命当中。我立刻掉了眼泪,然 后向上帝祷告,忏悔。因为我终于明白;属灵的 生命是需要不断的操练和实践,才能像松鼠那 样在树枝间跳跃自如的。

我认为在这个营会中,是一个很难得的机 会,因为,平时,我们的生活已很忙碌,要停下 来的确是一件非常困难的事情,然而,我希望 若将来不久有多一次这种得营会,我鼓励那些 没参加这次营会的弟兄姐妹,下次若有机会,一 定要来参加,不要再错失良机。



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让我大开"火"界的营会

林吟恩

2010年十二月份的"Hineni"安静营对我 来说是个全新的体验,比我想像中的更有意 义。因为能够抽出几天的时间离开喧嚣,安静 地来到上帝的面前,是多么的珍贵。

的确,我有好多时候因受到周遭杂音和物质的干扰,很难把焦点和注意力完全地放在上帝那里。不仅如此,这次的营会的特点是:像手机、电视和网络那样物质上的影响已不在我们当中,但我们所要克服的那最大难关还是我们自己的思想。在营会里,虽然能独自一人坐在客厅里,身边只有圣经、纸和笔,但我有时还是无法集中精神,把眼目完全地专注于神。

其中的一段"默想个人操练",我默想到 马可福音4:1-20,《撒种的比喻》。我发现自 己其实和耶稣所列出那三个坏例子一模一样, 甚是感到惭愧;容易分心、懒惰、以自我为中 心——这些是经文所提醒我的三大缺点。

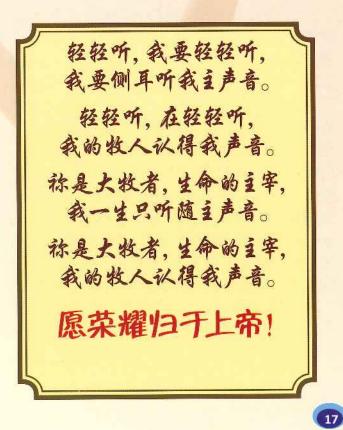
第一个例子描述, 被撒在路边的种子, 代表着上帝的话, 被撒旦轻而易举地拾去。反 省后, 我发现自己其实经常允许撒旦把不重要 的思想播种在我的脑子里, 尤其是当我应该专 心聆听神的话的时候。这些思想可以是不圣洁 的, 也可以是自私的。就在那时, 我才突然领悟 到自己的注意力、甚至是认识上帝的决心, 可以 是那么地脆弱。

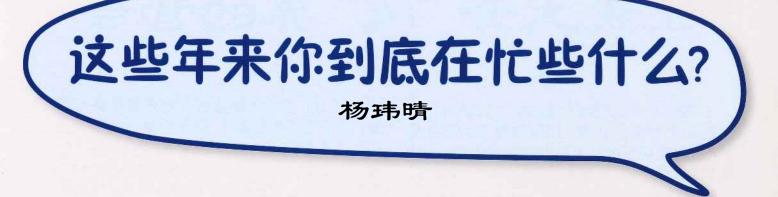
第二个例子描述,种子落在土浅石头地 上,由于土不深,根无法长出来。当日头出来一 晒,种子就枯干了。有好多时候,我也是如此。 有时能从神得到真理的启示,但身为一个懒 人,我不常将这些真理反复思想,不将这些教 训铭记在心,最后也不常在我生命里把它们活 出来。

第三个例子描述,种子落在荆棘里,被荆 棘挤住了,不能好好地生长。这荆棘代表着世 俗的影响,是我本身最难摆脱的一个影响。世 界的影响有时使我无法聆听神的呼唤,有时也 使我把神的话当作耳边风。最后,我可能降服 在自己的欲望之下,而不是在上帝的旨意里。我 可以是个倔强及自尊心很强的人。当事事不如 意时,我经常容易气馁、生气、甚至同情自己。 到头来,我常常以自我为中心,而不是以神为中 心。我看见自己的心里有时无法容纳基督,只有 空位容纳自己。 不过,上帝仍然是那么地充满恩典与慈 爱。当我与耶稣说话时,我含泪地告诉祂我其 实是很爱祂的,但正如我有时怎样对待家人一 样,把祂当作是理所当然的,也常常容易分心。 耶稣给了我一个拥抱,亲切地告诉我,祂也很 爱我,也希望我能像祂爱我那样地爱祂。这段 对话太逼真、太有震撼力了。当我离开对话时, 虽然心中充满内疚感,但我已下定决心,来弥 补我的缺陷,促进与神之间的关系,继续地与 神亲近。

这段安静的时间让我有机会好好地审查 自己,更重要的是,它让我重新体验到神的恩 典与良善。如今,我更清楚地知道,只要我愿 意把自己的罪谦卑地放在神的脚前,专心仰 赖祂、信靠祂,祂必定会把我从罪的捆锁中拯 救出来。如今,我也更清楚地知道,"祂必兴 旺,我必衰微。"(约翰福音3:30)" He must increase, but I must decrease."(John 3:30).

感谢神,这营会不仅让我有机会在百忙之 中学习如何安静、谦卑下来,所领悟到的也深 触我心。它不仅让我大开眼界,也可以说让我 大开"心"界吧!求神帮助,让我回到忙碌生活 中的时候,能继续聆听主的声音,一心一意地 来寻求祂。





「这些年来你到底在忙些什么?」 这就是神,通过营会,对我的一番 教训。

「忙」这个字是我们都所熟悉的。我们 每天不是忙这个,就是忙那个,整天匆匆忙 忙的;有时一天已经过去了也都不知道。那 么忙碌的生活,对我来说,是很平常的。身 为一位大学艺术学生,我每天都是要赶功 课,有时需要连续牺牲两天的睡眠时间,不 停地做,做,做,拼命的做,直到把功课交 上才肯让自己喘一口气。不过,休息了几 天之后,这可怕的恶性循环又再度开始!但 感谢神藉着去年年底 Hineni营会,把我放 在一个非常宁静的环境里,使我终于能有一 段专注在神话语里的时间。

在这安静营里,在没有手机,与世界各 种杂声隔绝的情况下,让我学习如何静下心 来,恭敬的把自己的时间全部献在上帝的 脚前。这也是我第一次尝试, 藉着上帝的话 语与他所赐的丰富想象力,把自己融入圣经 故事的人物里头。很自然的,我便把自己放 在"马大"的故事里。因着我艺术的背景, 我把故事内容想象得十分详细,儿乎能够把 整个布景很鲜明地画出来。奇妙的是我第 次想象出一幅;自己跟随在耶稣后面,然后 坐在耶稣的面前听他对我说话的情景。在 这一刻,我一直听到神反复地对我说:「我 的孩子,我爱你! | 神那温柔的呼唤使我第 一次领悟到神是多么的爱我。我忽然感到 十分惭愧,因神当年怎样指责了马大,今天 神也同样的指责我。我发现这几年来,我一

直忙着学校功课,即使有些时候是在忙着 在教会里的事奉,但在昏头转向的忙碌中, 我根本无法感受到神每时刻都在扶持引领 着我们。参加了这营会才使我发现神是多么 的爱我们,他喜悦我们每天花多点时间与他 沟通。但可怜的我,每天就是匆匆忙忙的度 过,灵修也是在匆忙间草率了事,真正与神 沟通的时间简直是太可悲了。我很感激这营 会让我有机会能够安静下来,好好的听上帝 的指责、劝勉、安慰及鼓励,而最后完全的 降服在他的旨意里。

在营会中,几乎每位都是第一次在默 想中尝试与神说话,但最后每个人的经历都 满有意义,而都是独特的。我们这批平日碰 碰跳跳的年轻人,这一次,不玩肮脏激烈的 游戏,也没搬演疯狂搞笑的话剧,却在默想 与分享里更加的认识彼此。以前营会游戏 再好玩、环境再舒适、讲座再有趣都比不上 我们在那几天里,一起禁食、默想和抄圣经 的经历更加有意义。Hineni营会可说是那 么多年以来,最特别,最不同,而且在我们 每个人身上,影响力最大的一个营会。这营 会使我领悟了许多!营会结束后,我面对的 挑战就是;再度回到忙碌生活的圈子里时, 如何学习把时间分配出来,在静默中好好与 神交流与沟通!

「你们要休息,要知道 我是神」诗篇(46;10)

BOW AGAIN IN AWE BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY GOD

GARETH

I was very excited about this camp. No camp has ever ventured into making fasting and praying the core programme. No camp allows God, yes just God, to speak personally into our hearts like this camp did. No camp has made silence a must for a good part of the camp. This camp is truly a first of its kind. The committee had been preparing for this camp since 6 months back. All of us had been praying faithfully before God for this camp. I expected this camp to renew all our lives, but God showed me that indeed, as high as the heavens are above the earth, His ways are far higher, far greater, far more loving than mine...

God showed me how small, how puny my faith was in a God far greater than I can even imagine. He planned for this camp to call back all His sheep that had left Him. He knew each of them by name, and only He and He alone can call them back. I have been praying, seemingly for endless time for a few of my friends. I was already beginning to lose faith. To my surprise though, they were willing to come for this camp. To be honest, I never expected anything to happen during the camp. But God loves them and knows them far more than I ever will. He has been listening to my prayers every time I close my eyes and bow before Him. He has been saying "Yes, I want to call my children back, BUT be patient my child... in my time"

During the camp, the friends I never thought would turn to God actually looked to God with a faith I never knew existed or could exist. God had spoken to them in an amazingly personal way. There is indeed no God like ours – One who held the universe in His hands yet, could speak so gently to lead a straying child back to Him!

Another main component of the camp was prayer. Accompanying each meditation time, the committee would pair up to pray for the camp. I had apprehensions and fears about bowing and kneeling down to pray with my prayer buddy for an hour. To my surprise yet again, that one hour was probably the fastest and most peaceful 1 hour I have ever spent for a long time. Prayers just flowed from our mouths; no, from our hearts. It was as if God was laying each burden in our hearts before Him, taking them, prayer by prayer, into His hands. And to this day, I still hold that it was the prayers of each committee member that God had listened to that made this camp so successful. It was the committee's sheer dependence on God, our desperate cries for His Spirit to touch each of our lives that God had listened to and He acted.

This camp was not without its problems. One person fell sick, various logistical issues and hiccups were just some of the setbacks the committee had to deal with. Being part of the committee, I must say that not once during the camp did I doubt that God was moving, despite the issues we faced. I can't say that I understand why God did certain things, or allowed some things to happen, but I believe to this day that the camp was led by God all the way.

This camp is definitely not the end of something great. But I believe it is paving the way to something much greater. It is merely the beginning of a plan that God had since the beginning. He is moving to change our lives, to get back the stolen sheep out of Satan's grip. God is always working. And His plan is always far greater than I can imagine. All I can do is to bow in adoration and awe before Him and say, "Hineni, I am here, Lord, use Your humble servant to do Your will."

My Reflection for Hineni

Clarence

Silence really is a gift from God. Personally, I hate crowds, and this camp was really to my liking. On top of that, it taught me how to use the 'quiet times' wisely, rather than spending them on superficial and materialistic things.

Generally, people feel that meditation is not for a Christians – it detaches him from the world and makes him forget all. However, meditating on God's Word is a completely different story. Well, although we are to detach ourselves from the world, we are supposed to attach ourselves more to God as we do the former. If we view meditation in this manner, there is nothing unbiblical or wrong with meditation!

Iremember spending 3 hours meditating on God's Word without even knowing that 2 hours had passed! It was time well spent. Following shortly was a sharing. However, I feel that the most important step would be after sharing – acting on what we have learnt. What did I learn, you may ask.

I have learnt not to doubt.

My meditation verse was from Matthew 21: 18-22:

"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Don't doubt... and you will receive.

That's what Jesus said to me that day.

Grace

"Disconnect to connect."

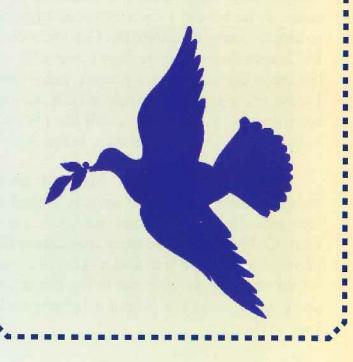
This was the slogan for a Thai ad from a network provider reminding people not to get obsessed over their mobile phones. This was also what the Hineni camp wanted to bring forth to the campers: Disconnect with your busy life, and connect to God again.

While there were those who immediately took a step back after they heard that their mobile phones will be taken from them for the duration of the camp, I'm glad there were even more people who attended the camp after learning about it.

There was no need for any famed speaker. Only God.

He is the one who is always talking to me. All I had to do was to listen. What He wants me to know is more about myself, and especially more about Him.

Thank God for this wonderful experience to start connecting with Him.



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I was oblivious to God's grace and mercy.

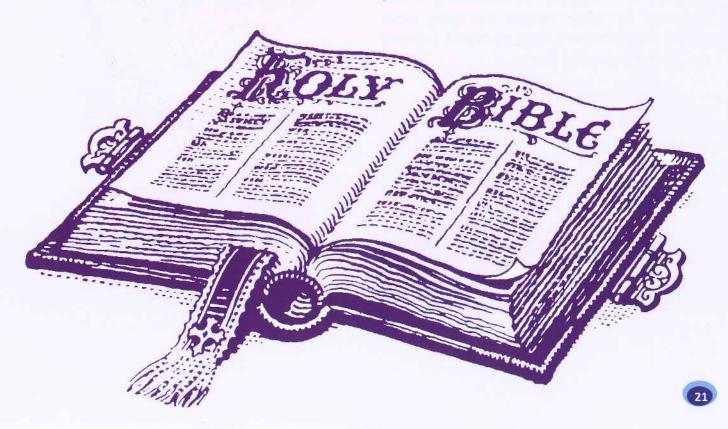
Why did God want to kill the Israelites in the dessert? Why did they sin? How would I feel if I became the king and my people did not obey and love me?

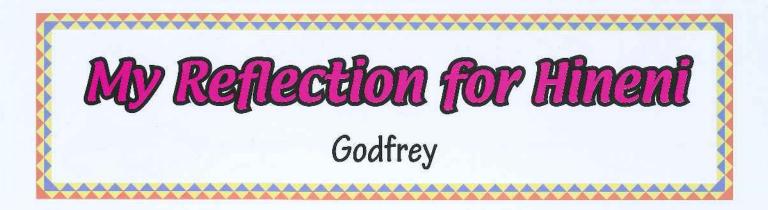
Question after question flashed before me. Though we did many terrible things in God's eyes, He still pulled us through hard times and lifted us up when we were down. So why do we sin when we know it is wrong? Why do we lie when we know we can speak the truth? Do we not fear Him? Do we think that He is nonexistent when we commit those sins? When we hear that the days are ending, when we see catastrophes, when we see countries turning against each other, do we fear Him?

We always say we are sinners; we pray for forgiveness. We know right from wrong but why can't we do it right for once? Think about how we acted in the past few days. Our responses would likely be, 'Nothing much, just the same routine...' THE SAME ROUTINE! What does that tell us? We are sinning again and again! And without realization too! When would we ever change? We have all vowed to be better than the non-believers, but look! We continue to act and lead a life the same way as they do. Our mentalities are fixed, we are no better than anyone. We said we would change, but did we? We love giving excuses when we sin. And then we pray for forgiveness...

How would you feel if someone tells you they are sorry for wronging you and seek your forgiveness, and then they repeat their mistakes again and again? You would think that it is being done deliberately after the third or fourth time.

Well, after the camp, I think I can better understand how God feels. And how truly gracious and merciful he is.





Before the HINENI camp, I was hesitating if I should go for it or stay and slack at home since there would be nothing I would need to do then.

And after I completed my PSLE, I began to feel the urge to go for the camp. I am glad that I had that desire as I would have missed out lots of fun and fellowship had I not gone.

During the first day, I thought that the camp's main programme of meditation would be quite relaxing until 小平老师 gave us the introduction to real meditation. And we had to go on without lunch throughout the meditation period!

On the second day, we had worship followed by mediation.小平老师 shared with us how he meditated. Unfortunately, I was distracted by things around me many times during the meditation. Because of that, I wasted my second day of the camp.

On the third day, it was more or less the same, except that this time I was fully focused on what I was supposed to do and I succeeded! Surprisingly, I didn't fall asleep like I did on the first day of meditation. Phew! I'm glad I admitted and learned from my mistakes.

The movies that we watched after the meditations were very meaningful. They were about some great heroes of Christianity and I'm sure they're role models whom we can and look up to follow. The fourth day marked the last day of the camp. I'm sure it was quite sad for everyone. We had a scrumptious breakfast in the clubhouse to "reward" us after our fasts.

HINENI camp really taught me what Christianity means. Meditation is one of many important things we need to do and do right. I hope the church can organise more of such activities and I hope more youth camps, like the one coming up in June, would be as interesting and meaningful. God really provided me a very precious and meaningful opportunity to come for the HINENI camp.



So, what does the resurrection entail for us? Below are some of the important considerations:

ONE: Jesus' resurrection proclaimed victory over death and brought with it the hope of eternal life to mankind.

When Jesus ministered on Earth, he raised the dead – Lazarus, who was dead for 4 days and was already buried. He said this before raising Lazarus: 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.' (John 11:25-26) This episode demonstrated this authority over life and death. Therefore when we see Jesus' resurrection, we can believe that one day we will be raised as well.

The fact is that since time immemorial, mankind has always recognised the transient, fragile nature of life. The greatest tragedy is that though we fear death, we cannot avoid it. Just when mankind was deep in dark despair over our inevitable destinies, the Son of God was raised! That is indeed good news; one that brings hope of eternal life! It rescues mankind from the sting of death and through Him die and come back to life as He did; to be forgiven of our sins and enter the life eternal.

TWO: Christ's resurrection gives us a new lease of life.

It is a time-honoured tradition to conduct water baptism during Easter. It is a sacrament through which a Christian identifies with Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The Bible explains baptism as such: 'We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.' If a person is baptized, it means he desires to die, be buried and be raised to life with his Lord. A sincerely repentant person who receives baptism in faith receives new life in Christ.

THREE: Christ's resurrection charges us with the Great Commission

After He was raised, Jesus appeared before the disciples, not only to rebuke them; He charged them to 'go into all 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'. Today, many are still not saved. The commission to preaching the gospel of salvation is of the utmost priority from after the Resurrection because the risen Christ is our only hope, our only intermediary between us and God. There is no other saviour besides Him, no other name which is given for our salvation. Therefore, every believer is obliged to fulfil His Commission in spreading the Gospel all over the world to bring all mankind before God.

Before His resurrection, Jesus endured the cup of the cross, floggings, insults, grieve and pain. But on the third day, He vanquished the darkness and Death and was raised to life. Jesus' experience becomes our salvation experience. New life can only come about from death. Hence, only when we are willing to put down our old lives, can we truly receive new life to live out Christ in us, to obey his instruction – to share with everyone His great and selfless love.



THE RESURRECTED SAVIOUR - JESUS CHRIST!

Pastor-in-Charge Rev See Ping Eik

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core of Christianity. However, in this mindbogglingly fast paced, high-tech society, there are some, when they achieve some measure of success, who begin to think that they can take the place of God and thus, enforce their beliefs and even justice on others. Hence, it is no easy task to share about the resurrected Christ to people in this dizzying age. Especially to the new generation of scientific sages, the concept of resurrection is at best amusing and at its worst, ludicrous. This should come as no surprise to us, because nearly 2,000 years ago, during the first Easter, even Jesus' closest disciples could not make sense of it when they first heard about it. Although, most Jews believed in the resurrection at the end of days, Jesus' disciples never in their wildest imagination thought that they would be witness to this last-day miracle. Therefore, when the resurrected Jesus appeared before them, they had mixed reactions. According to the Gospel of Mark, Jesus appeared before the Eleven and rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe. This was so because among them were those who were undecided what to belief and those who did not believe that the One standing before them was their resurrected Lord! (Mark 16:12-14)

Even until today, when we share about the resurrection of Jesus may be met with ridicule,

insults and even downright dismissal as an attempt to beguile others with a pathetic and unscientific myth!

A theologian once, in his attempt to defend the Resurrection, said this, "Whether in the circles of politics or philosophy, the Apostle Paul was an influential figure of authority. He was initially dead against Jesus, persecuting His church, arresting His followers. But when he saw for himself the resurrected Christ, he became His most faithful servant, His most passionate messenger of the Gospel." In his first letter to the Corinthians, the 15th chapter, Paul wrote, in greatest detail, about Christ's resurrection. In verse 14, he laid down the foundation of Christianity: 'And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.' In the learned city of Corinth are many who are constantly in pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and truth. One would expect that Paul would receive much criticism and refutations. However, the truth is that when Paul wrote his first letter to the church of Corinth, about 25 to 30 years after the resurrection, no one, none of the glib, learned scholars were able to provide evidence contrary to Paul's claims. From this we can see that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was, and still is, an undeniable, indisputable fact.

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