



# 水湾之声

Ripples from the Bay

2010年10月份

## 蒙召与分别为圣

**基**督徒是蒙受上帝的恩典，从世俗中被分别出来，成为圣洁，以便让上帝使用的群体。

“分别”是从负面来看基督徒与众不同，而“为圣”则由正面来看基督徒的特质；因此，我们蒙召成为“上帝的子民”后，这种圣洁的特质，必须在日常生活中体现出来，让人能够从你的言谈举止中，感受到你的与众不同；触觉到从你内心散发出来的那股：“基督爱的芬芳”。

保罗在哥林多后书(6: 14-15)用几个例子告诉我们，“——光明与黑暗，基督与彼列(撒但的别名)有什么相和呢，信主和不信主的有什么相干呢。神的殿和偶像有什么相同呢——”他们原本是不相配的。所以凡是蒙召成为上帝子民的，必须从世俗中分别出来，成为圣洁，全心全意地事奉神。正如当年上帝对耶利米所说的：“我未将你造在腹中，我已晓得你，你未出母胎，我已分别你为圣。”(耶1: 5)先知撒迦利亚亦预言在弥赛亚的国度里，百姓是要“归耶和華為圣”。

上帝的子民若要在世人中彰显出自己是“分别为圣”的一群人，不是只有在敬拜时，才表现出一副敬虔的样子。这是不够的，因为敬拜时的气氛让你感觉到上帝的同在。这种时刻，我们往往会觉得很圣洁。但崇拜聚会结束后，圣民都要回到日常生活面对各种问题，那才是个真正考验的时刻。真假的信仰与信心就是要在日常的言行举止中被分别出来。可惜在尼希米时代的以色列人在这方面却彻底的失败了；百姓们在圣城重建完工的庆典落幕，在高声赞美神的欢呼声后，似乎即刻把在上帝面前所立的约全给忘了；开始过惹动上帝怒气的犯罪生活。

因此，尼希米即刻当机立断地执行了以下四件事：

1、洁净圣殿；当尼希米不在的期间，管理圣殿库房的祭司以利亚实，为要讨好亚扪人多比雅，就与多比雅结亲，又将那间原本是要用来存放神殿

中的供物如：素祭，乳香，及各种分别为圣器皿的大房子让他们居住。按照摩西的律法书，亚扪人和摩押人原是不能进入上帝的会幕中的，而现在亚扪人多比雅竟然住在圣殿中这间分别为圣的大房子里！这是严重地触犯了摩西的律法条规！



本堂主理施谦益牧师

所以当尼希米知悉这件事之后，为主大发义怒，将多比雅的一切家具都抛出去，并且进行洁净圣殿之礼。同时，当他为着百姓的所作所为气愤忧伤得心力交瘁时，他如此向神求告说：“我的神啊，求你因这事纪念我，不要涂抹我为神的殿与其中的礼节所行的善。”

(尼希米13: 14)

2, 改善利未人的供应问题：当尼希米发现无人供应利未人的生活需要，导致祭司要去做工赚钱。他就立刻采取行动，吩咐百姓遵照律法书上所言，按时供应他们的需要。尼希米重视神的殿与神的工人，他除了洁净圣殿之外同时也改革供应圣职人员的制度，使之更合乎律法的要求。

3, 将安息日分别为圣：安息日原本是以色列民与上帝立永约的记号，但当时，他们竟然容许外邦人在安息日与他们做生意。尼希米大发雷霆，严厉地斥责犹大的贵胄，并禁止商人在安息日作买卖，同时也安排已洁净的利未人來守城门，“使安息日分别为圣”。

4, 处理异族通婚的问题：这并非歧视外邦人，乃是因以色列人与外邦人结婚，导致他们言语，宗教，及道德观念掺杂不纯。

尼希米面对罪恶毫绝不让步，他不但理正词严地斥责罪恶；并且要求百姓彻底脱离罪恶。尼希米的这种激烈反应乃是为要建立一个真正属上帝

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的圣洁子民，让他们分别为圣，成为当代上帝的见证人。他虽面对艰巨的挑战，但他却毫不畏惧地站在神的圣洁公义上，斥责罪恶，使以色列民与世俗分别为圣。从圣经的记载，我们看到忠心耿耿又疾恶如仇的尼希米，当时为了上的殿被沾污而大发义怒时，他也不忘时刻与上帝联系，在执行以上各职权时，他无数次地向神说话。在处理有关洁净祭司守城门时，他如此说：“神啊，求你纪念他们的罪，因为他们沾污了祭祀的职任，违背了你与祭司所立的约。这样，我洁净他们，使他们离绝一切外邦人，派定祭司利未人的班次，使他们各尽其职。”

(尼13: 29-30)

当他处理完毕一切艰巨的任务后，他依然迫切地向上帝祈求说：“我的神啊，求你纪念我，施恩与我。”因他深切地明白，他所做的一切，若没有上帝的施恩与同在，就会空空警醒，徒劳无功！

朝向真神是教会生活的标志，而朝向人群则是以前三者为前提。而其中最为困难的就是朝向人群，因它关系到你我对真神的敬畏，对真理的遵行以及彼此相爱的团契。如果没有前三者我们将不能为耶稣作见证。而今天教会有一严重问题，那就是在福音事工上，所表现出“守株待兔”的现象，什么是“守株待兔”？就是大家静坐于礼拜堂中等新朋友到教会来。唉！这真是何等自欺和懒惰的表现啊！一个真悔改蒙恩者怎么可以说，我对神充满着爱，却对失丧之灵魂漠不关心呢？

### · 竭诚献上的生命

最后我以英国宣教士柏格理的见证来勉励会众：柏格理蒙神呼召后便放下他在政府部门的工作，来到当时清政府所统治的中国内陆，就是贵州苗族的居集山区—石门坎。途中，他所乘的船就在长江中翻了船，后来进入贵州山区，经历数次土匪的抢劫和土著的谋杀。柏格理的几位同工因此而失去年轻的性命。但这一切都不能阻止柏格理要将耶稣的爱带给这个被世界遗忘的地区。最终，他来到石门坎，将福音传给了苗族中的一个部族—花苗。

柏格理首先为苗族创立了苗文，并以苗文翻译了新旧约全书。同时也从彝族土目（类似于封建城邦的王）那里，要求一块土地。但土目担心外国人来华可能存心不良，故不卖土地与宣教士，但在柏格理苦苦的央求下，终于购得一块地皮。柏格理就在此地皮盖了第一座苗族礼拜堂，存留至今。从这些事迹可看出柏格理对传福音的执著及对苗族人之爱。在短短五十年间，柏格理不但为苗族带来

从尼希米的祷告中，让我们清楚地看到他事奉上帝的心态；他回到耶路撒冷不是为自己留名，更不是为了建立个人的功绩。而是要遵从上帝的旨意，让上帝的旨意得成。所以他祈求上帝施恩伸出膀臂来帮助他完成这些事工。

尼希米愿意将自己的生命交在上帝的手中，去完成上帝的救赎大功，成就上帝的旨意，同时他更清楚地知道：真正与世分别为圣的属灵生活，是要在每天的日常生活实践出来，不是只有在崇拜或庆典时才那么慎重其事地敬虔敬拜或举行各类有关活动；过后就可以随心所欲，又回到旧日的老样子。

而今，本堂立会120年的庆典已经圆满落幕，但欢乐的庆典结束之后，并不代表一切工程的结束，而是我们进入另一个新里程碑的开始。但愿我们继续在主里同心合一，并驾齐驱，一起为上帝的国度作光作盐，带领更多的人归向祂。

了基督信仰，而且使苗族拥有了自己的学校、文字，并培养出两三位博士。使石门坎成为当时贵州、四川、云南毗邻地区的教育文化的中心。

1915年，石门坎流行伤寒，柏格里为了照顾学生和村民，把他自己带来的昂贵“盘尼西林”，拿出来医治患病的学生和村民。而自己最终因积劳成疾，得了伤寒而与世长辞。成千的村民在其坟墓前唱诗哀哭了三天三夜！

神仆人柏格理的生命历程震撼着每一位听众的心灵，当我呼召时，我见到圣灵大大动工，约有近八十位青年，一边流着眼泪一边唱着诗歌走上台前，以致台前容纳不下，一些人需留在自己的座位上。此次会众对神呼召的回应，超过了我的想象。

亲爱的读者，此刻我恳求耶稣基督的大爱触摸到您的心灵；当你接触到那亿万从未听闻福音者的目光时，心灵中那种沉重的欠债感，迫使您不能将那白白得来的恩典，放在斗底下。我们的生命只有一回，您要如何使用您短暂的一生呢？是如同无知爱宴乐的财主那样，将生命浪费在吃喝玩乐上吗？或是付上生命的代价，去赚得全世界呢？耶稣说：“人若赚得全世界，赔上自己的生命有什么益处呢？人还能拿什么来换取生命呢？”（太十六26）还是你愿意如同柏格理一样，为耶稣的缘故，将基督的大爱带给那些最需要福音的人呢？甚至为此摆上生命？

# 这世界真有一位上帝

路加

## 海南短宣之旅(2010年7月24日-29日)

### • 带着爱和欠债感来了

这次到海南参与服侍，我带着一份紧张而欢喜的心来到了海南岛，因这是由于我第一次来到祖国最南端的省份来服侍。但最让我深受感动的是，陈明星夫妇那种将传福音视为还债的心态。故当一海南弟兄对我说：“路加弟兄！陈先生是为还债而来，那你呢？”当时我想了一下回答说：“我也是来还债的，因我是白白得来，也应白白舍去”。我们就是带着这种被基督之爱所激励的欠债感，来到了这个宝岛—海南。

### • 营会的序幕(谦卑祷告)

周一清早前往营地之前，我们四位队员，在陈明星先生带领之下，同心合一为着营会的参与者，讲员等向上帝献上祷告。从陈先生那柔和而坚定的祷告声中，我们深深感受到这是上帝在率领我们去争战，他是我们的元帅。而身为讲员的我，在内心深处也在默默地向父神呼求：“求主除去人心中一切坚固的营垒和障碍，使他们顺服基督，因为争战的得胜，不在乎人的力大，也不在乎马的腿快，而是在乎耶和華。主啊，不要让你仆人的软弱拦阻你的圣工，但愿所作的能荣耀你的名。”之后我们便坐车前往营地。

### • 靠主攻破坚固的营垒

营地是由几间平房组成的。到会者都是来自海南各地的青年，人数约有一百二十人。当中有三分之一为初信者。为了配合营会的主题——“这世界真有一位上帝”，我便以《上帝存在的真实性》、《创造与进化》及《谁是真神》来做为三堂证道的讲题。会后有些青年前来做见证：自己以前不相信有上帝，而听过之后，他们确信真有上帝的存在。也有另一些青年，他们一直都认为人乃是由猿猴进化而来的，但听过道后，他们便笃信人是由上帝创造而来的。

接下来我谈到有关基督的复活是一个强而有力的证据，来证明基督是神。我以空坟墓、软弱门徒的转变和见证，以及当时迫害基督徒的敌对者—保罗生命的转变，来证明耶稣基督真的从死里复活了。耶稣基督的复活，给许多绝望的人带来永生的盼望。

证道后呼召时，有众多听众举手回应，其数目超过我的预料。之后，我便带领他们做接受主耶稣为个人救主的祷告。亲爱的读者，若你尚未信主，今天，我也要再一次奉耶稣基督的名来邀请您打开您的心门，接受主耶稣基督为你生命中的救主。让您的生命成为他复活的见证。这是我诚心的邀请！

### • 羔羊是配得的

“这世界真有一位上帝”，这是千古颠扑不破的事实，而且这位上帝为了爱世人，不惜差遣自己的独生子耶稣基督道成肉身，降世为人，为我们的罪被钉死在十字架上，作为世人的赎罪祭，他也要求我们对祂做出回应。这回应不单是要接受祂的拯救，且要将您的生命献上，让祂成为您生命的主宰。因这位赎罪的羔羊主耶稣是配得的。祂是上帝自古以来对选民以色列的应许而立的拯救者，祂也是世界上所有的人的拯救者，而祂不单为我们的罪死了，也为我们从死里复活了。以祂复活来显明祂是神的儿子，给一切信靠祂的人带来复活的盼望。所以，这位羔羊是配得我们的敬拜和摆上一切的。

若要接受主耶稣为个人救主，就要悔改，悔改是你整个生命的改变；以前你事事以自我为中心，悔改之后就要懂得感恩和敬爱上帝，心中渴慕上帝的话语，遵行祂的道，凡事不求自己的荣耀，单求上帝的荣耀。以前自我为中心，现在是以上帝为你生命中的主宰。这样才是真正的悔改。

这次呼召时，会众中有人低声饮泣，有人放声大哭——在将近30分钟的认罪祷告中，一遍遍紧扣人心的《十字架上的光芒》将基督在十字架上的大爱，照入会众的心灵，这爱如同甘泉雨露般涌入干渴的心灵，又如同大锤般将顽梗之心敲碎！当时我在心里默默地祈求主亲自来叩开每一颗紧闭的心灵，让主爱的光芒照进每一个居住在黑暗中的灵魂！

在最后一堂讲道中，我再次以圣经的话来劝勉会众，要过有见证的教会生活。这样的生活包括以下四个重要的原则：一、朝向圣经—遵行真理的生活；二、朝向信徒—团契分享的生活；三、朝向真神—敬拜赞美的生活；四、朝向人群—传扬福音的生活。而这几个面向当中，

(续前页) Pg2

# Walking with Jesus

## 2009年6月份“以色列之旅”-与主同行

### 旅游随笔 - 哭墙 / 米吉多

文: 李幼吟 摄影: 许自仁

为了配合立会120周年纪念,本堂特于2009年6月间组团到耶路撒冷圣城一游。

#### \*耶路撒冷

抵达圣城之前,心中带着几许敬畏及满腹的期待,以及满脑子的美丽梦幻,渴想一睹这历代以来发生过多少奥秘奇事的神圣古城的风采;这一片各宗教家都带着一颗虔诚敬畏的心前来朝拜的奇妙圣地,该是一座肃穆宏伟,金碧辉煌完美无比的奇异圣城,她应是那永恒家园的美丽缩影吧!

然而,当我带着这样的心态亲临这片国土时,心灵中那美丽的幻梦顿时为亲眼目睹的一切所惊醒!脑海中的许多华美皇宫,寺院,以及历代君王所建的许多宏伟圣殿及童话似的城堡等,到了原址,眼目所及,竟都已成了一堆堆层层叠叠的废墟败瓦,少数侥幸被保留的宫廷殿堂,也只留下一些残缺不全的部分亭台楼阁,古旧城墙——再也难凭有限的想象力去寻回其昔日辉煌璀璨的风采。

世间最华美璀璨的宫廷殿宇,坚固如铁的堡垒,皇宫,在人类自私贪婪的败坏中,你争我夺的残酷征战中,也只不过是这短暂人间存留片刻的浮光掠影。

行程中,我从车窗外望,一望无际的蓝空下是重重叠叠的山峦,蜿蜒不息地怀抱着这令人一听到名字便肃然起敬的圣城。难怪在在画家笔下,她是:“淹没在群山间,为不可捉摸的山岗迷宫所包围的圣地”而这一刻,我脑海中却不停地回响着那一首温馨熟悉的诗歌:“众山围绕耶路撒冷,主也围绕我,——永不动摇,永不动摇,哈利路亚,哈利路亚——”

建立在山丘上的耶路撒冷,尽管历代以来屡遭战争及天灾人祸的无情摧毁与破坏,一栋栋华丽的殿堂与寺院宫廷等,多少次被建立又多少次被摧毁,但奇妙的是;圣城耶路撒冷却依然屹立不倒地存在着,她连接了过去,现在与永恒!沿途所见,陈旧斑驳的古城墙静静地耸立著,她那历尽沧桑的外表,似乎在向人们述说着历代以来风起云涌的历史变迁,而周围悄然无声地躺卧在酷热风沙里的大小岩石,似乎也在默默地倾诉着他那历经万变的辛酸史。然而这些无言无语的废墟,遗迹,却隐含着一种神奇的魅力;她吸引着无数历史学家,考古学者们不惜一切地一头栽进去,日夜不停地一层又一层地去挖掘去考究她那永远探索不完的千古奥秘。

这次旅程,由于时间紧凑,来去匆匆,而且是在酷热的六月天,一踏上圣地,几乎每一天的行程都得顶着一个大太阳在凹凸不平的岩石间赶路,同时每到一些值得考究的古迹或景点时,都得气喘吁吁地环绕着一处又一处残垣败瓦的废墟间,斜坡上,随着领队郭牧师的讲解与指点全神贯注的聆听与观察,有时我的精神状态几乎是沉陷在一种迷迷糊糊的幻象中;“看!这里是所罗门王昔日的圣殿旧址,那里是历史有名的清真寺——”随着郭牧师所指的方向望去,只见在那重重叠叠的高坡上有一座金光闪闪的圆顶清真寺,她就那么四平八稳地耸立在那万里无云的蓝空下,散发出它那璀璨夺目的光芒。

圣地之旅全体照 (Yad Hashmona)



## \*西墙 (哭墙)

这一天是造访西墙(哭墙)日子;这是犹太教的一个圣迹。它是圣殿被毁的最后一道遗迹,原本称为“西墙”。后因以色列人在此洒下了许多泪水,而改称为“哭墙”。

这座圣殿本为所罗门王所建,后被巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒拆毁。后又有巴比伦的流亡者及希律王重建。最后再被罗马提多烧毁。圣殿被毁的第二日,犹太教信徒们都聚集在废墟上哭泣,祈祷。但不久,圣殿的废墟遗址又被新建起的回教磐石圆顶清真寺的圆顶所遮盖,如今,只剩下最后这一道墙令人伤感的城墙。

在酷热的艳阳下,从远处望去,只见西墙被分割成两部分;男女分开。场地宽敞而整洁。许多犹太教徒面朝着哭墙诵经,祈祷。他们看来都那么虔诚而专注,他们或坐或站,有的高声朗诵,有的手拿着经书,有些甚至摇晃着身体,喃喃的念着经文,有些在低声饮泣,似乎在对上苍倾诉着什么。这时成群结队,络绎不绝前来参观或拍

照的游客,也许也为他们祈祷的虔诚态度所感染吧,大家也带著几分的尊重与肃静,悄悄的站在适当地点,静静地在观看着,并未对他们造成干扰。我心中千头万绪;在些许的感动中参杂几许的忧伤与感慨;我无法理解他们祈祷的内容,但却为他们在与上苍交流与沟通时的那种庄重与虔诚所感动,心中也默默地祈祷着;“主啊,我虽不明白他们在祈求些什么,但主你一定知道,求主怜悯与施恩——”

因为如此专注,心无旁骛而虔诚祈祷,比起我们平时所见到的一些信徒来到圣殿参加崇拜时的那种漫不经心,心不在焉的随便与懒散态度,我们是否应该检讨一下;每次来到圣殿,我们内心里是否真的带着一颗虔诚敬畏的心来敬拜我们那独一无二的真神?还是只不过是怕良心不安而在形式上来应酬敷衍一下!而我们每一次的祈祷,是否真正打开心门,真心诚意地与神交流沟通,将心事向神倾吐祈求,还是在那一声“阿门!”过后,立即将刚才自己对主说的话,一概置诸脑后?

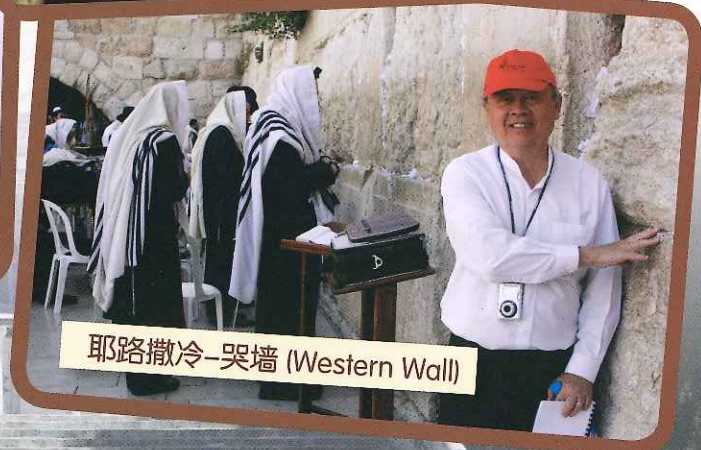
犹太教徒在哭墙前虔诚祷告、哭泣



耶路撒冷-哭墙 (Western Wall)



耶路撒冷-哭墙 (Western Wall)



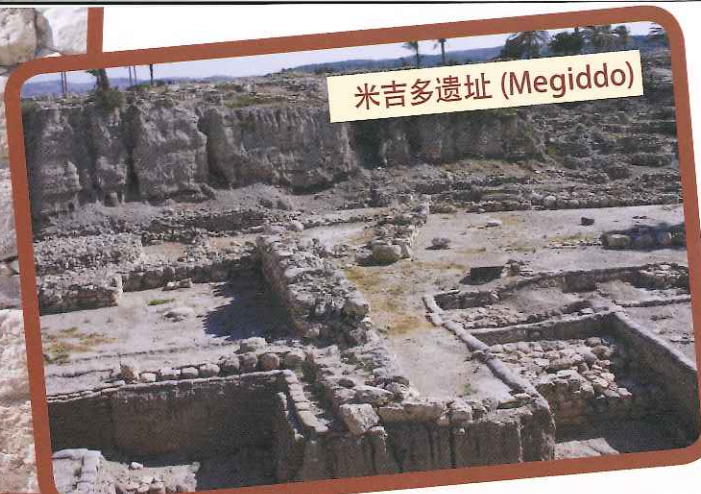
全体成员在磐石圆顶清真寺前合照



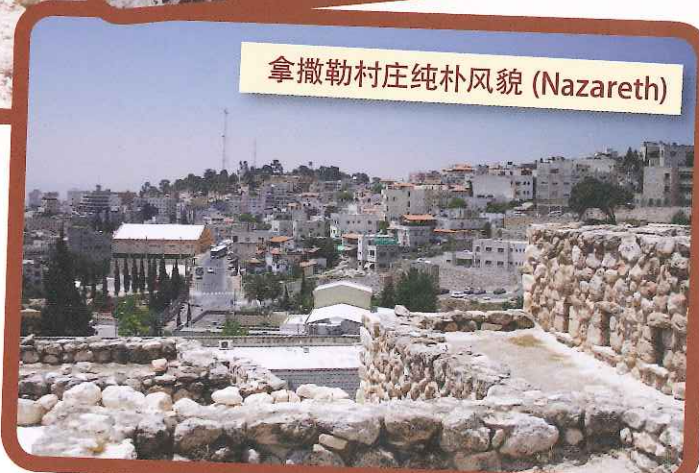
米吉多 (Megiddo)



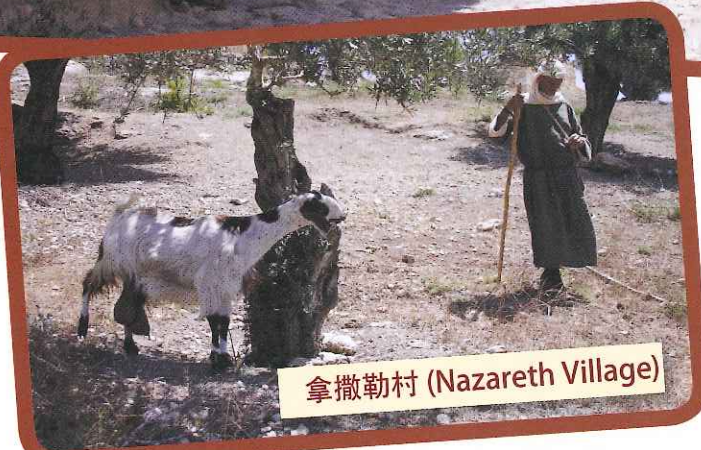
米吉多遗址 (Megiddo)



拿撒勒村庄纯朴风貌 (Nazareth)



拿撒勒村 (Nazareth Village)



## \*神秘之城—米吉多

6月17日这一天，我们来到了这个位于耶斯列谷西北的米吉多；它是迦南军事重镇，也是当地交通要道，又是加密山区隘口，是历代兵家必争之地。其附近有一条往来流畅的溪水，又称为米吉多水。很早以前米吉多周围已是许多重要战役的战场。

由于米吉多地理位置具有战略上的优势，易守难攻，故在士师时代，无人能攻破此城。一直到了所罗门王的极盛时期才为所罗门攻下，重建了米吉多。成为12个行政区中的一个总部。（王上4：12-19）并建有大规模的赛马场，充足的军事配备等，以巩固北边的防御国界。

这个底下层层叠叠深埋着20个城镇的神秘之城，她不但是历代以来饱经战火洗礼的城镇，也是启示录中所记载的最后善恶审判之地。根据启示录中的预言；将来必有一场大战在米吉多发生。它也是将来世界末日时上帝实行大审判的所在处。

启示录（16：13—16）如此说：“我又看见三个污秽的灵，好像青蛙从龙口兽口并假先知的口中出来。他们本是鬼魔的灵，施行奇事，出去到普天下众王那里，叫他们在神全能者的大日聚集争战。看哪，我来像贼一样，那警醒看守衣服，免得

赤身而行，叫人看见他羞耻的，有福了。那三个鬼魔便叫众王聚集一处。希伯来话叫做哈米吉多顿。”（哈米吉多顿 即米吉多山）

是的，主来的日子近了！他来之前将毫无预告，因他说“我来像贼一样。”我们是否已做好准备“警醒看守衣服——”穿戴好圣洁白袍，随时都可以满怀喜乐迎接主的到来，还是到时赤身露体，满脸羞愧，无处藏身？

## \*思古幽情

几天的行程，走过许多重要景点，虽然大多数都是走马看花似的匆匆一瞥，但当我们亲身走在一些大小岩石堆积的崎岖道路上，亲手触摸着那一栋栋陈旧的古城墙时，想到昔日含血流泪苦劝以色列民从罪恶深渊中回头的众先知哲人们皆已圣踪杳然，去如黄鹤，心中未免有些苍凉与失落！而当我来到一些与主耶稣在世时有关的城镇如：拿撒勒，加利利等地时，想到这些纯朴的小村庄，曾经是主耶稣儿时的故乡，也曾经是他施行神迹奇事，医治病患，呼召门徒，广传天国福音的佳美圣地时，心灵中不禁涌起千丝万缕的思古幽情！

在晚霞辉映的微风里，在翠绿婆娑的树影下，站在这连接着亘古与永恒的（上帝之城），蓦地嗅觉到一股难以言喻的温馨和谐的芬芳香味，从四周袭来，历久不散——。

# 事奉上的自信

陈树霖教授

2008年我在新加坡神学院夜校上一门“心理与信仰”的课。记得有一晚的课题是“自信”，当时胡问宪老师对“自信”下一个很有意思的定义。根据胡老师的讲解，“自信”就是尽自己所能地把事情做好，然后将结果完全交给上帝，相信上帝会按其美意处理一切。在我反思胡老师有关“自信”定义之际，我便回想到2007年亲自体验过的有关“自信”的经历：

记得2007年三月某日，我接到卫理公会会督办公室一职员之来电。邀请我在当年五月二十四日阿尔德门街大会(Aldersgate Convention)最后一晚联合崇拜里担任传译、即从英语翻译华语。讲员是来自英国的一位神学家并物理学家，大卫·威金森博士(Dr. David Wilkinson)。当时我有点犹豫，但对方说我有科学的背景、是最适当的人选。于是也就答应了。然而，在接下来的两个月里，我就一直为这苦差而担忧。深恐听不懂威金森博士的英国腔、又怕遇到一些专有名词一时不知如何翻译、加上要面临广大的会众所带来的重大压力。当时，我几乎完全没有自信，也开始后悔接受了这任务。

那时，我唯能做的就是向上帝祷告。感谢主，上帝指引我几样准备的工作。首先，会督办公室在崇拜前约两周之前，就把讲员的讲章大纲以电邮寄给我。大纲虽不甚详细，但也给我做好心理准备，略知讲员大概要讲什么。其次，我根据大纲里所提到的一些人物或事物，上网寻找一些有关的资料，

以了解其背景。在联合崇拜的前几晚以及前周六的上午，威金森博士正主讲一系列的英语讲座。因此，我下一步的准备工作，就是赴威金森博士每场的演讲。并且也购买了讲员所著的书来阅读，以便了解他的神学与科学观点。

那一天，第一场演讲开始之前，负责人也马上介绍威金森博士给我认识，我们只能聊了几句，因他随即就要上台。于是在接下来的三晚讲座，我每晚提早到场，以便有更充分的时间与威金森博士交谈。我们同坐在第一排、无所不谈。我逐渐习惯他的腔调，也更体会他的神学与科学思想。更重要的是，我与他的距离也拉近了，也不再感受到有太大的威胁。

2007年五月二十四日当晚，我胸有成竹地上台。威金森博士就坐在我身边。我想过去一两周里，我已经尽我所能做我所当作的。这时，一切都交于上帝。谢谢主，当晚的传译进行顺利。讲员每句话都能随即翻译。隔年2008年年底某月，我遇到一间堂会的弟兄，他说去年五月的阿尔德门街大会崇拜当晚，他就坐在台下，并说他欣赏我的翻译。我内心再次地感谢上帝的同在与引领。不错，正如胡老师所说的，只要我们事先尽自己的本分，就能以自信的心态仰望上帝的帮助。腓立比书4章13节的应许就能实现：“我靠著那加给我力量的，凡事都能做。”

# 2010年再访淡岛孤儿院

何安全

本堂勉励会与溢恩乐龄团契在今年五月，再到峇淡岛孤儿院探访那些孩子们。这次探访一共有十一位兄弟姐妹参加。我们大约在中午一点时抵达孤儿院，我们看到这些孩子在短短的九个月里，长高了许多，也更乖了。感谢神！

我们的来到时，他们聚集在大厅里唱诗。他们唱得非常大声，近乎是一种喊叫的声量，尤其是在他们唱“我的灯需要油”的时候，更是充满活力。可见他们是从心里发出赞美的声音赞美神。

唱了几首诗后，孤儿院的一位负责人叫一位男孩站起来带领大家祷告。这男孩大约十岁。他充满自信的站出来。祷告时，声音宏亮。虽然我们听不懂他祷告的内容，但我们看得出他是个非常懂事，成熟的孩子。祈望，不只是这些男孩，更盼望其他的孩子们，在孤儿院负责人的带领，教会众兄弟姐妹的持续关爱下，以及上帝的爱中，健康成长。

唱诗后，孤儿院的负责人告诉我们，孩子们还没吃午餐。这是因为我们太早抵达孤儿院。唱诗就暂停。这时年纪较大的姐姐们就到厨房帮忙；他们分工合作，一些负责煎蛋，一些负责煎鱼。我们在大厅坐着，一阵阵的菜味饭香从厨房传来，实在太棒了！没一会儿，午餐就准备好了。他们的午餐很简单，每人只有一条小煎鱼(Ikan Kuning)和一个煎蛋，但孩子们都吃得津津有味。

午餐过后，我们开始分班上主日学。负责人告诉我们，一些较年长的孩子们因参加工作实习，没有在我们当中。但较年长的那一班，仍有六个孩子。他们学习态度认真，其中两位还带了他们自己的圣经，上课时认真地查阅。我们也将课程中的圣经节翻译成印尼文，以方便他们学习。

上完主日学课后是享用点心的时间。除了糕点之外，我们也带了两个蛋糕，这是为了庆祝在五月份出生的孩子准备的生日蛋糕。过后是游戏时间，我们准备了一些集体游戏的节目，一个是寻宝游戏，让他们寻找藏起来的东西一个是记忆游戏，让他们记忆图片中的东西。孩子们分成两组进行游戏。他们都玩得非常高兴。我们发现孩子们有很好的记忆，在有限的时间内，几乎完全记得图片中所有的东西。我想，这些孩子们若能得到较有系统的教导和启发，这些孩子日后必能成材。

大约下午五点，有另一团队来到孤儿院。他们是佛教团体的成员，他们带来食物作孩子们的晚餐。这时也是我们该回新加坡的时候，我们就和孩子们告别。回程时，我们在想，别的宗教组织也关心他们，我们与他们有什么不同？我们的关怀事工是否应更进一步，不只关心他们物质上的需要，更需关心他们属灵上的需要，坚定他们对神的信心，终生追随主的脚步，一直到老也不偏离？

孤儿院儿童唱诗



儿童们在庆祝生日





# 信心的考验

陈淑德

2008年8月我开始感到左边大腿，站久就痛，或双脚麻痹，坐下来休息一下，情况就稍微改善。医生让我去照X光和MRI扫描，发现是脊椎骨压到神经的关系，医生建议我动手术，我要求医生让我去作物理治疗，经过几个月的物理治疗和服用一些药物，并每天早晚依照物理治疗师的指导在家作运动。她说这些运动能帮助脊椎不要压到神经，那么疼痛自然得以消除。我起初非常努力，后来就渐渐松懈下来。没想到2009年的10月，我的左大腿又开始痛起来，而且痛得非常激烈。

11月份儿子带我们全家去清迈旅游，12月又参加了教会在实迢远的家庭营，我被这肉体上的痛苦折磨到无法享受其中的乐趣。今年1月我又去看骨科主治医生，再去照X光和MRI，在还没去作这些检验前，我在家不断地作腿部伸展运动，脚底按摩，每个星期去给中医针灸两次，希望X光和MRI的报告不要太差，但是事与愿违，报告还是显示出脊椎挤压进一步恶化。我到处向人打听有关施手术的各种情况，多数人不赞成施手术，其实我本身也很害怕，因为任何手术都有一定的危险，何况这又是一项大手术。医生告诉我危险性是百份之一，痊愈的机会会有八十巴仙，他说如果现在我还要拖延，有一天我可能无法行走。神经损坏的程度也会越大，我无可奈何的听从医生的建议，定于五月四日去动手术。

但过后又为这决定整天烦恼不已，弄得我血压飙升人憔悴。医生告诉我需要放镙丝来固定，我就担心放镙丝的结果，不知道手术后有什么后遗症，更担心自己的身体状况会承受不了大约五小时的手术。护士在跟我讲解有关手术前的准备工作时，一直强调这是一项大手术，必须一切检查妥当才好，她要我去向心脏医生拿一封证明书。面对如此重大的抉择时，我内心的挣扎若非亲身经历是无法了解的。加上有时脚部好像又没那么痛，可以承受得了，就很后悔要去开刀。但想到在诗班献诗时，我

只能用一只脚站着唱，去巴杀或超级市场时走不到十分钟，就要到处找地方坐，来舒解我的左脚的疼痛或麻痹，这时我又巴不得赶快动手术，我可能就可以从此脱离痛苦。可是接下来的两个星期，我发觉到我的脚没那么痛，无论站或坐都没有问题。这时内心又不断地在挣扎；我真不知如何是好，我想如果痛苦没大过手术的危险性，那我又何必冒这个危险呢？后来我甚至想延期六个月后才动手术。因为手术总有一定的危险，手术的后遗症人无法预知，医生也不能给人担保。我衡量着手术后要休息最少三个月，一年之后才能拿重的东西，而且要住院至少十天，以及种种手术后带来的各种问题。我就是这样整天找许多问题来烦恼自己，虽然告诉自己要交托神，却时时自己在背重担。

儿子说得好，无论是施手术还是不用手术，都要相信神。我感谢神的慈爱与怜悯，惟有祂了解我的痛苦与忧伤，祂知道我的处境与困难。我相信神要我经历这苦难，一定有祂美好的旨意。[我们在一切患难中，祂就安慰我们，叫我们能用神所赐的安慰去安慰那遭各样患难的人]（林后1：4）现在既然一切都安排好了，我就安心的等待动手术日子的到来。

整个手术的过程八个小时。住院11天，得到亲朋戚友的关怀慰问，教会的牧师传道、主内弟兄姐妹的探访及代祷，你们的爱心 我将永铭心间。

靠主的恩典，我终于挨过了这最痛苦的三个月，康复虽然缓慢，但是指日可待。如今，我又回到教会的大家庭，兄弟姐妹的关心问候，使我感到无比的温馨。

这次的脊椎手术成功、要感谢有关的医生、护士、以及治疗师们的专业医术和友善，爱心和关怀。加上家人的照顾与支持，这一切都是神丰盛的恩典和怜悯。感谢主！

# 上帝知道我的需要

~ 许莲玉口述, 刘淑莲笔录 ~

**感谢**上帝, 我在去年六月有机会到云顶旅行。回来后, 在和邻居谈话的过程中, 发现自己的脚有水肿的现象。起初我去同济医院求诊, 感觉情况不妙。那时吃东西没胃口, 又很难消化, 肚子疼痛, 容易疲倦, 在忧虑不知何故的情况下, 我便通过综合诊所到中央医院去延医。

那时在紧急部门做过初步的身体检查后, 医生告诉我需要留医做进一步的体检。医生说体内的血液不流通, 都沉积在脚板, 需要打针使血液稀薄。同时我也发现我的颈项会肿, 医生说那是因为脚部水肿的关系, 他恐怕会影响子宫, 便建议安排X光扫描, 护士企图帮我插管, 可是却使我十分疼痛, 后来大医生来帮忙, 则完全不痛, 感谢主!

经过一番检查后, 赫然发现我子宫内的癌细胞已经扩散, 需要马上进行化疗。我虽然不信任医生, 但我知道我要把一切交托给上帝, 相信他一定会帮助我度过这些难关, 所以我就

任由医生们来医治我, 那怕是只有50%的成功机率。去年9月, 我便开始接受化疗。过程很辛苦, 经常呕吐和如厕, 全身乏力, 非常疲倦和渴睡。有了前车之鉴, 在接下来的化疗前, 我先服止吐药, 又做体操来帮助自己来度过这些疗程, 现在已全部完成了6次的化疗。感谢主在化疗期间与我同在! 尤其是在我晚上睡觉时, 我会感觉到主耶稣有几次来抚摸我那肿胀的双脚, 非常奇妙, 感谢耶稣!

后来再去复诊时, 医生起初说需要电疗, 我连忙求告天父上帝来帮助我, 后来医生竟说不用了! 感谢赞美主!

我现在每天早上起床后第一件事, 就是到窗口前向神祈祷, 从不间断。虽然患了病, 但我不埋怨, 我只知道我要坦然面对, 并且知道不论发生何事, 我仍然要赞美上帝, 哈利路亚!

2010年6月14日

凶猛的鳄鱼

## 2010年厦语诗班 “迪沙鲁四湾岛”一日游简讯

(续11页)

鸵鸟

雄纠纠的  
白色小公鸡

红菱

可可树

鳄鱼园

# 2010年厦语诗班 “迪沙鲁四湾岛”一日游简讯

摄影: 庄秀坤

本堂厦语诗班为了促进彼此之间有更好的沟通与交流, 特于8月28日组团到西马迪沙鲁四湾岛一日游, 参观当地的一些蔬果果园及小型动物园, 鳄鱼园等。同时也亲身体验一下那恬静安详的田园风光及纯朴悠闲的小镇生涯。共有四十位成员参加。以下是有关活动缩影:

因马头关口出境阅读器发生故障,行程延迟了一点半。



药草园



小型动物园



果菜园



果菜园 全体照



# REFLECTIONS ON FAMILY CAMP 2010

The family camp in June was a much needed respite from work for me. It was a cosy group of 50 who made their way to Batam for a relaxing 3-day camp with our camp speaker, Dr William Wan.

God was good to us, refreshing us with His word, challenging each of us personally and as a church to live out His unchanging purposes for us. There are certainly some takeaways which we as a church need to chew upon and address.

The relaxing pace of the camp also allowed time for reflection, for an unhurried time of worship and fellowship with one another.

*Nothing is impossible. Someone said in Feb 2010 that it will be impossible to organize a retreat camp within such a short time. But GOD of impossibilities showed the committee that it is possible with HIM.*

**The theme talks raised some interesting questions:**

- i) How can we develop a deeper love for God?
- ii) What has got us stuck as a church?
- iii) Where are we going?
- iv) What is the nature of our trip?

*What matters now is how we address these questions as a body.*

*Dr William Wan told the story of his professor (called Mule) who said that success is enabling people to climb on his back, to scale greater heights. Such a refreshing change from the world's ways of*

*advancement, by backstabbing other people, and grabbing glory for themselves! It reminded me of John the Baptist's aim: "He (Christ) must become greater; I must become less." John 3:30 (NIV)*

*The other thing I enjoyed about the camp was the rich conversations that I had with several campers, in a relaxed setting*

*It was a joy to see our young being entrusted with responsibility to lead in worship, and they all did so responsibly.*

*More importantly, everyone had a chance to share and hear the cry of many other hearts, especially the anxiety over our youths.*

*The theme talks challenge me to examine myself with regard to my relationship with my Lord and to my neighbours.*

*The small size of the group meant that we each had more opportunity to fellowship and interact with others in a more meaningful way as we had more time for each person.*

*The visit (and musical presentation) by the orphanage children was very special, and gave those of us who were not familiar with the ministry a first hand glimpse into God's work in the orphanage."*

*(Reflections from: Tan Sok Hong, Khoo Fun Ming, Kok Kar Wing, Carol Tan, Winnie Choo, Liew Cheng San, Liew Heng San Photo Taken by Joshua Khoo)*

English Congregation Family Camp 2010



# Reflections on English Congregation Camp

Kok Kar Wing

The theme talks challenged me to examine myself with regard to my relationship with my Lord and to my neighbours.

“Faithfulness” must refer to my covenantal relationship with my Lord for He is the object of my faith. At the personal level, the test is whether I live in such a way that I can be counted worthy of His calling (Ephesians 4:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12) so that Christ may be glorified – which is the life goal of the Church. Ezekiel 14:12-20, which mirrors the fourth seal of Revelation 6, tells me that faithfulness is a very personal thing; I cannot ride on anyone’s coat tail. At the institutional level (the body of Christ), the test is whether a church has done enough to fulfil the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20. If it majors on numbers at the expense of discipleship (“teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”) then it has failed to “make disciples”. Revelation 2 and 3 tell me that our Lord inspects the churches and the failure rate is high; my own view is that most have failed because of weaknesses in discipleship. Many churches in the US have become apostate. In Europe, where the great reformers and Puritans once lived, the pulse rate of the church is rather faint as well. I dare say they failed because of the lack of discipleship; not being rooted in Christ, they were swept away by the winds of change and the trends of the world. Is it not interesting that our Lord once asked, “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)

Our Lord says He will build the church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it (Matthew 16:18). Paul says God will make it grow (1 Corinthians 3:6) and Peter adds “through the sanctifying work of the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1:2). Hence church growth is not the work of the flesh but of God and His Spirit. Hence if we want to grow the church we should ask God. Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain (Psalm 127:1). Church growth, numerically and spiritually, depends on the Lord. We can be fruitful only if we are attached to the Vine and allow Him to work through us, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15). The life of the church is always that Christ lives in us and works through us. Hence we work out our salvation with fear and trembling (Philippians 2:12-13); I suppose those in leadership would do so more intensely for they will be held accountable (Hebrews 13:17).

At the end of the day, we have to ask: what is our point of reference? Is it God and His Word, or is it the trend of the world or the pragmatism of church growth gurus? When Paul says, “I have become all things to all men”, he also adds, “I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings” (1 Corinthians 9:22-23). He did this for the sake of the gospel; not a diluted or a distorted gospel, but the gospel which is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes (Romans 1:16). I would add: salvation from the penalty of sin, the power of sin and the presence of sin – it comes as a package. That is God’s way.

# Testimony of Joshua Tay

I would not be alive and well this day if not for the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Some of you may have known the incident that happened to me through the prayer requests other sources of information. However I shall tell you of the incident that happened to me on Friday 12 March 2010 - for the benefit of those who do not know.

While running at my school's annual cross country meet, I collapsed and went into unconsciousness. I was rushed to the A&E ward of Changi General Hospital to be treated for my condition.

I was diagnosed with acute kidney injury from having suffered an exertional heat stroke and because I was convulsing even under sedation, the doctor suspected that my brain could have swollen and ordered for an MRI scan.

In order for the MRI scan to show any distinct images better, a dye had to be introduced into my body system. However, the doctor warned my parents that there is a 1-in-5 chance of my kidney being permanently damaged by the dye. An alternative was to scan without the dye but the result may be unclear and vague.

Thanks to the prayers of those who had been praying for me, God gave my parents the faith not to risk my kidneys with the dye. They just prayed and believed in God that the normal MRI scan would give a clear image of my brain. True enough, the result even without the dye, was able to give the doctors a clear visual of my brain and better still, there was no swelling at all. Thanks be to God.

Another prevailing problem concerned my kidneys. During the run, I was unaware that I was pushing my endurance beyond my limit because I was too focused on winning the race. I did not realise that my kidneys could not accumulate and process the huge amount of lactic acid produced by my body which eventually led to severe kidney damage and the inevitable heatstroke.

The doctor described my kidney condition as "dire" and "severely damaged". Although huge amount of liquids were pumped into my body, my kidneys simply could not process them, which explained my low urine level during the first 2 days in hospital. After the seventh day in hospital, the doctor advised that I undergo dialysis. However dialysis is not recommendable for someone my age as it can lead to a permanent dependence as it does not allow the kidneys to heal completely.

Again we turned to the Lord for an alternative. Miraculously, through the prayers of all who had been praying for me, the following Monday morning, the

doctor brought good news that the toxic levels in my kidneys were going on a downward trend. I was also able to excrete the fluids out of my body with ease and regularity. God answers prayers.

Throughout my stay in hospital, I became more aware of God's presence. In times when I was lonely and needed company, God sent visitors to encourage and support me and when I experienced nausea and backaches and cried out to him, he heard my cries and brought comfort to me. In the stillness and quietness of the hospital room, He spoke to me through the Bible and encouraged me with powerful and awe-inspiring verses. For example, it says in Isaiah 40 verses 29-31, "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired or weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and they will soar like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint".

Therefore brothers and sisters in Christ, let me affirm that the Lord our God listens to the cry of His people - trivial or significant - and he answers prayers surely and appropriately. Some of you reading this may be facing challenges and difficulties. You may even be at wit's end and are desperate for solutions. However, remember that our Father above watches over us all the time and He never forsakes us. He knows and understands our trials and challenges. I encourage you to allow him to preside over your problems for He is a good God and he answers prayers. Keep on praying, have faith in Him and I assure you, He will carry you out of your miseries -vlike how he rescued me from death.

Today as I write to testify the goodness of our Lord, I wish to share with you that the doctor has given me a clean bill of health - my kidney has been restored 100% by the grace of God.

Lastly, I would like to thank the church and all church members who prayed for me during my ordeal. I am certain your prayers contributed significantly to my recovery. I would also like to thank all church staff and members who visited me during my stay in the hospital. Your presence gave me much strength and encouragement.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my greatest thanks and gratitude to God, for He listened to all our prayers and answered them one by one and He gave me a new lease of life so that I may be a living testimony for Him.

Thank you for reading my testimony. God Bless.

At the same time, while he was angry and exhausted by what the people had done, he prayed to God, “Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.” (Nehemiah 13:14)

**2. Improving provision for the Levites:** When Nehemiah found out that no one was providing for the Levites, causing them to return to the fields, he took action immediately. He instructed the people to follow the book of the law to provide for the Levites’ needs as required. Nehemiah held the temple and God’s servants in high regard. He cleansed the temple and changed the way the temple was run according to the requirements of the law.

**3. Consecrating the Lord’s Sabbath:** The Sabbath was originally intended to be an everlasting sign of the covenant between the Israelites and God. However, during Nehemiah’s time, Israel was allowing foreigners to trade and work. Infuriated, Nehemiah rebuked the nobles and forbade trading on the Sabbath. At the same time, he appointed Levites to guard the gate in order to keep the Sabbath Holy.

**4. Dealt with foreign marriages:** It was not to discriminate against foreigners, but if the Israelites were to marry them, their language, faith and values would be desecrated and diluted.

Nehemiah did not tolerate sin. Not only did he rebuke sin harshly, he urged the people to leave their lives of sin. The reason for his strong aversion towards sin was that he desired to build up the Israelites to be a people holy to the Lord, to set them apart to be His witnesses. Although he faced an insurmountable challenge, he stood fearlessly for holiness and righteousness, rebuking sin, setting the Israelites apart from the world as holy. From the Scriptures, we see a loyal and sin-hating Nehemiah who did not forget to seek God even when he was furious

over the temple’s desecration. He prayed numerous times when he was carrying out his duties. When he dealt with priests who married foreign wives, he prayed, “Remember them, O my God, because they defiled the priestly office and the covenant of the priesthood and of the Levites. So I purified the priests and the Levites of everything foreign, and assigned them duties, each to his own task.” (Nehemiah 13:29-30)

When Nehemiah completed his enormous tasks, he continued seeking God earnestly, praying, “Remember me with favour, O my God.” He understood that no matter what he did, if it were not done in God’s grace, it would be empty and futile.

From Nehemiah’s prayers, we can see his heart for serving God. His return to Jerusalem was not to make a name for himself, nor was it to leave a legacy. It was to obey the edict of God and to do His will. Therefore God granted Nehemiah grace and supported his ministry and work.

Nehemiah was willing to place his life in God’s hands, to complete God’s great work of salvation and to fulfil his will. At the same time, he was clear that a holy, spiritual life is to be lived out in our normal, everyday life, and not simply during worship services or celebrations when we take things much more seriously and then live the rest of our time as we desire.

Now that our church’s 120th anniversary celebration has come to a close, it does not mean that all work has ceased. Rather, it is a milestone indicating that we have embarked on a new journey. May we continue to remain one in God, to become His salt and light in bringing many more people to Him.



# Called and Set apart to be Holy

Pastor-in-Charge, Rev. See Ping Eik

Christians are recipients of God's grace, called from among the world to be pure and holy, to be a body used by God.

To be 'set apart', from a negative perspective, is that Christians are different from others; whereas to be 'holy', from a positive perspective, is the unique characteristic of Christians. Therefore when we are called to be 'children of God', we must demonstrate such qualities, so others can see the difference from our speech and behaviour; and can experience the 'fragrance of Christ' emanating from the very core of our beings.

Paul, in his second epistle to the Corinthians, illustrated to us the great disparity between light and darkness; Christ and Belial (another name for Satan); and God's temple and idols. Therefore all who are called to be God's children must be set apart from the world; be made pure and holy to serve God whole-heartedly. It is as the Lord had said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." (Jeremiah 1:5a). Zechariah also prophesied that in the Kingdom of the Messiah, all people shall proclaim the Lord's holiness.

If we Christians are to demonstrate that they are 'set apart to be holy', we must realise that it is not enough to be devout only during worship. The atmosphere of a worship service may cause us to feel being in communion with God and

this usually causes us to experience a sense of holiness. However, it is after the meeting, when we return to the routines and problems of life, that our real test begins. True faith and belief are thus distinguished by our behaviour and speech in daily life. Unfortunately, the Israelites failed miserably during Nehemiah's time – the people quickly forgot about God, incurring His wrath with their sinful lifestyles. They did it almost immediately after their praises and celebrations for having rebuilt the holy city.

Therefore Nehemiah immediately did the following:

1. Cleansing the temple: When Nehemiah was away, the priest Eliashib provided Tobiah, an Ammonite, a room that was formerly 'used to store the grain offerings and incense and temple articles, and also the tithes of grain, new wine and oil prescribed for the Levites, singers and gatekeepers, as well as the contributions for the priests' to live in. According to the Law of Moses, the Ammonites and Moabites were not allowed admission into the assembly of God, but then the Ammonite Tobiah was allowed to stay in a consecrated room of the temple! That went completely against Moses' Law!

When Nehemiah learned about that, he was greatly displeased. He got rid of Tobiah's furniture and ordered the rooms to be purified.

*continual page 15*

## TELOK AYER CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH.

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