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# Gospel *digital edition* Light

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上網版

## STAND FIRM IN GOD

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to serve the Lord

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# 2018 CHURCH THEME



## VISION

To be a Bible-believing Filipino-Chinese Church that develops Christ-glorifying Christians

## 異象

菲華教會 確信聖經  
培養門徒 榮耀基督

## MISSION

1. To prepare God's People for works of service through equipping, encouraging, and discipling.
2. To promote a Christ-like Church that loves and cares for one another.
3. To proclaim the Gospel to our Community and beyond

## 使命

裝備鼓勵 培訓門徒  
神的子民 盡職事奉  
促進推動 效法基督  
彼此相愛 互相關懷  
宣揚傳講 神的福音  
始於市鎮 直到地極

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# 靠主站穩

謝國智牧師

當

我們要靠主站穩的時候，總會面臨許多事情讓我們的信心動搖不定。

導致我們信心搖動的常常是別人的成見。而別人的成見通常是出於他們的背景、環境以及屬靈的程度而產生的。因此，一旦我們的行事為人或生活方式與他們不一樣的時候，他們的成見就表露出來。





再者我們工作的壓力以及惡劣的環境也是使我們站不穩的因素。當我們的工作出現力不從心的狀態時，便會產生疲憊、軟弱、束手無策的情緒。這時，惡魔便趁虛而入，攪擾我們的信心，在屬靈的爭戰中，我們往往站立不住。

感謝主！我們必當靠主站穩。M.R. Dehann曾說：「當別人散佈謠言毀謗你時，記得最重要的不是人怎麼說你，乃是天父怎麼看你。」

我們要靠主站穩，應該要注意下列幾個原則：

### **第一：我們要真正認識我們的神**

1. 祂的屬性-祂是信實、是剛強的，祂會拯救幫助我們。詩人說：「神是我們的避難所，是我們的力量，是我們在患難中隨時的幫助。」（詩篇46:1）
2. 祂的應許-祂的話語是可靠的，神所應許的祂必成就。民數記23:19說：「神非人，必不至說謊，非人子，必不至後悔。祂說話豈不照著行呢，祂發言豈不要成就呢。」大衛王做牧人時經歷過「我雖然行過死蔭的幽穀，也不怕遭害。因為你與我同在，你的仗，你的竿，都安慰我。」（詩篇23:4）五年前，筆者曾在 Cardinal Santos 醫院接受 Prostate Robotic 手術，親身經歷了上帝的同在，祂的大能、信實、慈愛賜與我出人意外的平安。感謝主！

### **第二：我們要真正成為神的兒女**

約翰福音1:12說：「凡接待祂的，就是信祂名的人，祂就賜他們權柄做神的兒女。」哥林多後書5:17也說：「若有人在基督裡他就是新造的人，舊事已過，都變成新的了。」

我們得了基督復活的生命後，就要把自己奉獻給主做活祭，他就心意更新而變化。羅馬書12:1-2說：「所以弟兄們，我以神的慈悲勸你們，將身體獻上，當作活祭，是聖潔的，是神所喜悅的。你們如此奉獻，乃是理所當然的。不要效法這個世界，只要心意更新而變化，叫你們察驗何為神的善良，可喜悅的旨意。」

我們有新的身份-神的兒子，又奉獻自己給主做活祭，他就不會倚靠自己，因為他離了主，他不能做甚麼了！「因為離了我，你們就不能做甚麼。」（約翰福音15:5b）

### **第三：主是我們在患難中隨時的幫助**

舊約但以理的三位朋友寧可違背尼布甲尼撒王的傳令也要堅守真道-每次聽見各樣樂器的聲音，就當俯伏敬拜王所立的金像，凡不俯伏敬拜的，必立時扔在烈火的窯中。（但以理書3:6-7）當沙得拉、米煞、亞伯尼歌被告時，王問他們：「有何神能救你們脫離我手呢？」

他們對王說：「尼布甲尼撒阿，這件事我們不必回答你。即便如此，我們所事奉的神，能將我們從烈火的窯中救出來。王啊，祂也必救我們脫離你的手。即或不然，王啊，你當知道我們決不事奉你的神，也不敬拜你所立的金像。」（但以理書3:16-18）

但以理的三位朋友靠主站穩，主在患難中使他們得到隨時的幫助。這也是歷世歷代許多信徒的經歷！他們有信心倚靠主，又加上了愛主的心。他們異口同聲說出保羅在羅馬書8:37-39的得勝頌詞——「然而靠著愛我們的主，在這一切的事上，已經得勝有餘了。因為我深信無論是死，是生，是天使，是掌權的，是有能的，是現在的事，是將來的事，是高處的，是低處的，是別的受造之物，都不能叫我們與神的愛隔絕。這愛是在我們的主基督耶穌裏的。」

#### **第四：我們不能讓事工使我們搖動**

哥林多前書15:58是我們事奉主應該有的態度與心志——「所以我親愛的弟兄們，你們務要堅固，不可搖動，常常竭力多作主工，因為知道你們的勞苦，在主裏面不是徒然的。」

親愛的同工們，我們受了培訓，成為主的門徒，我們在主所託付的教會事奉祂的時候，應該以保羅勸勉以弗所教會要達到「滿有基督長成的身量」為目標。

聖經說：「為要成全聖徒，各盡其職，建立基督的身體。直等到我們眾人在真道上同歸於一，認識神的兒子，得以長大成人，滿有基督長成的身量。使我們不再作小孩子，中了人的詭計，和欺騙的法術，被一切異教之風搖動，飄來飄去，就隨從各樣的異端。唯用愛心說誠實話，凡事長進，連於元首基督。全身都靠祂絡得合適，百節各按各職，照著各體的功用，彼此相助，便叫身體漸漸增長，在愛中建立自己。」（以弗所書4:12-16）

總之，我們靠主站穩不是用自己的力量、才幹、背景、學問等等，乃是完全靠著主的大能，就是祂復活的能力站穩。主的話有三方面的應許以及實踐的果效：

一：祂的權柄——使我們能完成大使命——「所以你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒，奉父子聖靈的名，給他們受洗。凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了。」（馬太福音28:19-20）

二：祂的聖靈——使我們能為祂做見證——「但聖靈降臨在你們身上，你們就必得著能力。並要在耶路撒冷、猶太全地，和撒瑪利亞，直到地極，作我的見證。」（使徒行傳1:8）

三：祂的祕訣——使我們能凡事都能知足——「我並不是因缺乏說這話，我無論在甚麼景況，都可以知足，這是我已經學會了。我知道怎樣處卑賤，怎樣處豐富，或飽足，或饑餓，或有餘，或缺乏，隨事隨在，我都得了祕訣。我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能作。」（腓立比書4:11-13）



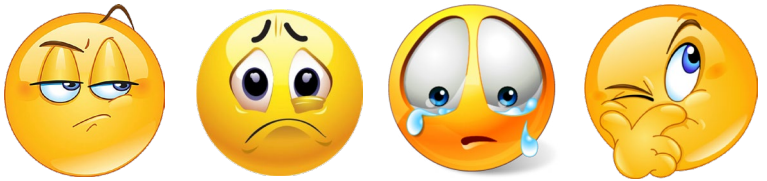
# 安全感

蒙愛者

## 年

長者，身體開始衰弱，不如青春時期強壯活潑，不需要別人的幫助。因此，好多長者很容易失掉自信，並缺乏安全感。下列乃缺乏安全感者之某些現象：

1. 怕人輕視丟棄
2. 否認自己軟弱
3. 否認自己無助
4. 輕易發怒埋怨
5. 隨便猜疑他人
6. 時常憂慮擔心



上帝應許做我們信徒的隨時幫助，記得上帝的話使我們好過日子：耶穌基督為大祭司體恤我們軟弱。「因我們的大祭司並非不能體恤我們的軟弱，祂也曾凡事受過試探，與我們一樣，只是祂沒有犯罪。所以我們只管坦然無懼地來到施恩的寶座前，為要得憐恤，蒙恩惠，做隨時的幫助。」（希伯來書4:15-16）。

我們可以靠耶穌為我們代求。「凡靠著祂進到上帝面前的人，祂都能拯救到底，因為祂是長遠活著，替他們祈求。」（希伯來書7:25）。

下列經文做我們隨時的倚靠：

1. 你想烏鴉，也不種也不收，又沒有倉又沒有庫，神尚且養活牠，你們比飛鳥是等地貴重呢！（路加福音12:24）

2. 耶和華說：『我以永遠的愛愛你，因此我以慈愛吸引你。』（耶利米書31:3）

3. 你不要害怕，因為我與你同在；不要驚惶，因為我是你的上帝。我必堅固你，我必幫助你，我必用我公義的右手扶持你。（以賽亞書41:10）

4. 應當一無掛慮，只要凡事藉著禱告、祈求和感謝，將你們所要的告訴上帝。上帝所賜出人意外的平安，必在基督耶穌裡保守你們的心懷意念。（腓立比書4:6-7）

5. 你要把你的重擔卸給耶和華，祂必撫養你，祂永不叫義人動搖。（詩篇55:22）

6. 主曾說：「我總不撇下你，也不丟棄你。所以我們可以放膽說：主是幫助我的，我必不懼怕，人能把我怎麼樣呢？」（希伯來書13:5-6）





# 務要謹慎

許玉英師母

# 保

羅說：「他們遭遇這些事，都要作為鑑戒，並且寫在經上，正是警戒我們這末世的人。所以，自己以為站得穩的，須要謹慎免得跌倒。」  
(林前10:11-12)



上帝呼召摩西領以色列出埃及，安排他的哥哥亞倫為他向法老說話（出4:14-15, 7:7）亞倫也成為摩西的禱告同伴（出17:10-12）他的姐姐米利暗當女先知，上帝大能帶領以色列人過紅海、走乾地後，手裏拿着鼓，眾婦女也跟她出去拿鼓跳舞歌頌上帝。（出15:20-21）摩西、亞倫、米利暗三位一家人都同心事奉上帝。

未到應許之地在曠野時，發生一件可悲的事，記載在民數記

12:1-16



12:1 米利暗和亞倫因摩西所娶的古實女子，就毀謗他。


12:2 他們發問為何上帝單與摩西說話而不與他們說話。

12:3 毀謗的話主聽見了，被毀謗的摩西卻沒什麼反應。

12:4-10上帝如何處理：

- 上帝呼召二人進前來
- 主稱讚摩西為他辯護
- 米利暗七天長大痲瘋
- 米氏恢復後民才前行

靈訓：

- 自我謹慎，持守本位
- 互相配搭，欣賞他人
- 忠心服侍，以主為樂
- 主必興旺，我必衰微 







# PALAWAN MISSION TRIP TESTIMONIES

## MY PALAWAN EXPERIENCE

---

*Lawrence Loel Ong*

*I*n every adventure, there is a story to tell and this is the story I want to tell. The Palawan mission trip that was planned way back 2017 during CGC Missions Week sparked the interest of us young professionals to go and experience the work that God has placed in the lives of these missionaries.

Meeting with the missionaries supported by CGC from all around the Philippines allowed me to get a glimpse of what it is like to go through difficulties and joy in serving the Lord, spreading the good news outside the walls of our comfort zones, and showing the love they have for the Lord and for the people who have not heard the good news.

During the said week, the missionaries shared their experiences both bitter and sweet, and how God's love, grace, presence, protection and provision kept them going to accomplish and finish what God has set before them. They admitted that it was not easy, but they would obediently continue to follow the command of the Lord no matter how difficult it was.

They experienced physical pains and ailments, emotional struggles of those difficult times, financial uncertainties that came with the work, and the cultural and language barriers that they had to face.



*Ma'am Levy Lim,  
wife of Pastor  
Philip of Ethnos  
Tribal School,  
had to position  
herself on top of  
their kitchen with  
her mobile phone  
on loudspeaker  
upside-down just to  
have reception  
and communicate  
with us.*



The testimonies they shared may sound like a walk in the park now for them, but have become reality and eye openers to us. Who would have known that it would be a testimony we would be living ourselves.

Preparing for the trip was a difficult one. It was easy to say "Let's go," but a different story to be actually ready for it. Through God's grace and intervention, the willingness of so many volunteers in the Young Professionals Fellowship, and the huge support of CGC's Mission Committee, and prayers of many members and other churches in Palawan, God's plan prevailed.

One of the problems we encountered during the preparation was communication. It was difficult since there was limited signal in the tribal areas the missionaries were stationed at. Another problem was how to go about with the preparation and planning of the itinerary since our days were limited and our immersion within the tribes was short.

The physical preparations for the long hike which was expected of us to accomplish during the travel was also something to think about. Financial support was also a huge consideration. The availability of willing people to go to the field was something to consider since they would have to take leaves from busy schedules and work.

The biggest problem that we were reminded of was the spiritual warfare and preparation that we had to face and take into full consideration. Since this is God's plan and will, God's enemy would take interest to foil and destroy it.

By God's grace, providence, and provision, His plan was accomplished in His name, in His time, and in His way. The itinerary kept changing even on the day of our trip and during the trip. It was made possible through meet ups and the involvement of many members.

Communication with missionaries was essential and extremely necessary to give us full detail of what needed to be done and needed to be prepared for the trip. We made a Messenger group for the missionaries to relay to give us instructions, encouragement and spiritual preparations for ready hearts as we embarked on this journey.

God has also made vacant many schedules of the Young Professionals, and He prevented any hindrances from causing any of our schedules to be cancelled. Physical preparations for the trip by way of jogging at Abellana readied us for the long hikes. Church members in different fellowships, friends from different churches, and pastors also prayed for this trip.

My experience at the two tribes in Palawan was absolutely worth the travel. It was an immersion that made me realize the beauty of going back to basics and experience the sureness of God's existence and presence in every little thing from the scenery I have seen, to the tribesmen and tribeswomen who praise and worship the God who has saved them from a previous life of false gods and beliefs.

The influence of Christ in the lives of the people in the tribes was clearly shown in how they responded with joy as we sang praise songs, and how they listened to God's love shared by the missionaries. The influence of Christ's love and the truth of His death and resurrection on the cross changed the old habits and beliefs of the people in the two tribes and thus they themselves saw the fruits of their faith in Christ by the slow but obvious progress in their communities.

One particular part of the tribe I loved was the children that brought me so much joy. The smiles on their faces and the feeling of welcome they shared to me was so true and sincere that it showed me how Christ has made an impact in



their lives. The praise songs we sang together showed how Christ brings them joy. Seeing them go to Sunday school also made me realize that even if they may have few materials and limited spaces, it did not stop them from worshipping God.

The children in the tribe invited us to play and chat and tour around their community. Swimming with the children in the river was also a way for us to bond with the kids and play with them. It was also a way for us to teach them hygiene and how we have to take care of our bodies, because it is not our own.

Getting to the Batak tribe was not simple, but took a leap of faith. Having to walk through rocky terrain and crossing 16-32 rivers under the heat of the sun was not easy. Blisters, bites, sunburns, and cuts, through both rainy and sunny weather, never-before seen foods and water with a metallic taste, were a few things we personally experienced.

Food ranged from the available products in the market to the freely-available vegetables and resources God provides from nature—from honey and grass ferns to grown crops that were planted and cultivated by the missionaries. Drinking water was available and ranged from filters, rivers, and wells to water bought in stores. Long car rides were also tiring but were a blessing to us since we needed to go to far places.

The experience in riding a carabao also brought us so much excitement that it was a rollercoaster ride in the outskirts of Palawan. It was an experience both uncomfortable and yet comfortable.

We got to stay at the tribes and homes of the missionaries. We slept under the protection of mosquito nets and bug repellents. The comfort of electric fans and air-conditioning units was not available; we had to fan ourselves a lot in the humid and hot weather.

Never getting hungry is something I was thankful for. We had good meals, and food was always personally prepared. There was always someone to talk to, and the hospitality they shared was a blessing; the fellowships we had truly personal and true. We shared a lot of laughter and experiences, and it was God's time well spent.



*One of the young adults of the Batak tribe leading Sunday Worship in their church.*



*Swimming, bathing, playing, and bonding with the tribe kids in the river.*



*Batak Tribe kids with their hygiene kits after we taught them to take care of their bodies for they belong to God.*



Meeting other missionaries and missionaries-in-training showed us their love for the Lord, and their determination for the word of God to reach many people as soon as possible. Their willingness to go through so many discomforts and struggles made me realize the extent of their obedience in the Lord for the knowledge of Christ and salvation to reach so many people. The calling that was given to them, they said “yes” to the calling, and sacrificed so much for the cross. It makes what I do at home and at church seem so little.



*Sleeping in Ethnos Tribal School under the protection of mosquito nets provided by the Lim missionaries*



*One of the adorable kids of the Maringit, Tagbanua tribe who wouldn't let go of me.*

I am truly blessed and thankful to these missionaries and ultimately to God for showing me a glimpse of a life not shackled in the comforts of these temporal world, but the eternal investment in Christ as He calls us to His real home.

They live a life for Christ, and sought to please and glorify Christ – an example I should follow. They opened my eyes to living a life in the name of Christ and desiring to have others live one as well. We are to make disciples of all nations, so why not start in our own nation?

In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

It indeed is a command and a calling, not just for missionaries, missionaries-to-be or pastors, but for all of us. It is a calling for us to obey the command and this is the realization I had. I make excuses but ultimately it boils down to me obeying and saying “yes.”

I always thought full-time means having to sacrifice everything, but it really isn't; it's taking part in the work that Christ has purposely left for us to accomplish and fulfill. Making disciples at home, church and work is what I can do.

I have no reason to say “no.” I have come to see the lives of a few who are willing to go out to the field, and some may see the fruits of the labor as slow, but I see the persistence in their love and obedience to the calling of the Lord even though they know it may take them years, it is evident that God will see them through the promise He will keep.

It was indeed a short and long wonderful trip in Palawan. It was a blessing to see joyful smiles in many faces as they worship Christ. There was beauty in the struggles shared. The fulfilling joy in sharing not just financially but also my time and presence as well is priceless. The grace of God in all these made it all the more bearable and sweeter in every single moment that I went through. 🙌

# A LIVING SACRIFICE

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Jacque Pono

I always feel happy and light-hearted when I sing or listen to worship songs. There's just a special feeling right after expressing myself through music and lyric, and praising the Lord for His love. Right before the trip to Palawan, I have learned the word LIVING SACRIFICE in the Bible.

## **Romans 12:1 (ESV)**

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

In short, there is a different kind of worship other than singing and attending Sunday Service: the true and proper one. Never have I imagined that God will use our mission to Palawan to explain and instill in me the power of the verse.

The journey was as much as physical as it is spiritual. Five hours of trekking during the hot May summer, crossing rivers 32 times with only the sound of our footsteps as company. I could only think of the fatigue, the thirst, the ache on my foot, and heaviness of the bag on my back. Yet I discovered that when your body tries to tell you to stop, something tells you to take another step towards your destination.

It was then that I remembered the 40% Rule: the Navy SEALs' secret to mental toughness. It states that when your body has reached its limit, that known limit is only 40%. You haven't really used up the rest of the 60%.

Thus, I wonder, where does the rest of the 60% come from?

I searched inside myself and asked this question: what keeps me going in this situation? As I continued the trek thinking that I have reached my limit, a slow realization dawned on me. I CAN PUSH THROUGH BECAUSE I KNOW MY PURPOSE.

I realized it was that voice that kept telling me to continue until I complete the journey. Right then, I concluded that reaching your physical limits can make you focus on mental strength. And perhaps, I thought to myself, in this journey the spiritual is being tapped as well when I drew strength from these verses: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." **Isaiah 43:2 (ESV)**

What we experienced was just a hint of a taste of a missionary's life. It was a small portion, but it tasted bittersweet. We were out of our comfort zones, literally having to let go of the familiar set-up of city life and all it entails. We were visitors meant to share and teach, but the journey turned out to be a meaningful lesson for us instead.

I can truly see why mission work is a transformative one that entails drawing on spiritual reserves to overcome any challenges. And of course, the heart of that abundant reserve is God Himself who graciously supplies the 60% and beyond.

Missionaries will often tell us of the lives they've touched. But they can never fully describe the exceptional feeling of being able to do the will of God in the most critical of tribulations. You really have to become a missionary to fully experience it. Their lives are indeed the perfect example of living sacrifices, who worship the Lord through the work of their hands, through the strong faith they build and hold on to each day.





The most beautiful thing I discovered during the trip was that each day transforms itself into a blessing. Be it the basic provisions or the realization of plans, everything is dependent on God's grace. We were well fed, well-sheltered, and thoroughly made to feel the simplicity of living in order to ultimately experience what it means to do mission work in a far-away place.

The experience helped me appreciate the simple things in life. Everything just becomes short of a miracle when you look at it. The cool rainy nights, the soothing currents of the river, the stories shared during the abundant healthy dinner, the laughter of small children, the warm eyes and smiles as we started conversations: all of it are intangible yet lasting. Even the struggle of speaking a common language becomes a worthwhile task as we focus on God's Word and His ministry.

Most of all, I truly admire the attitude of missionaries like Pastor Jo and Pastor Philip who graciously hosted us during this trip. They really have a different kind of faith compared to others since theirs is continually put to the test. They have to depend on God in practically everything.

Just imagine trusting God to lead you to a foreign land to make a difference in the lives of people who do not speak the same language and grew up in a different culture. I cannot imagine myself in this situation; yet, these wonderful people and missionaries did it. They took on the challenge because they knew what God whispered in their hearts. It's complete abandon to everything they've ever known because they know their reward at the end of the journey.

The ultimate goal is to realize God's greatest commandments: loving the Lord with all your strength, heart, and soul, and loving your neighbors as you love yourself. Both are beautifully realized in the mission work: loving God is obeying Him and loving your neighbors equates to sharing the good news of Salvation to the unbelievers.

The latter is also strongly connected to the Great Commission entrusted to us. The living sacrifice that the missionaries are exemplifying are definitely proof that God's love sustains whoever, whenever, wherever.

After this fulfilling journey, the dominant feeling I felt was humility. How can I humble myself in order to prioritize God in my life? Am I willing to permanently live out of my comfort zone to obey Him?

Well the rest is up to me, I guess. I encountered Jesus in this trip and He challenged me to be a living sacrifice.


Challenge accepted. 🏰



# MY TESTIMONY

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Tommy L. Tan

 It all started as a plan back in December 2017 when Pastor Philip Lim shared to us about the trials and joys of being in a mission. The planning began like a spark in the forest.

Slowly but surely it made impact. The mission trip to Palawan tribal communities was just a plan that God made possible. During the planning of the mission trip, I was adopted by nine Young Professionals to go with them as the youngest member of the team.

Last May 18 – 22, 2018, together we embarked on a challenge to visit some tribes of missionaries that our church is supporting in Palawan. The first tribe the team visited was the Batak Tribe in which the team had to hike for more than 4 hours and through over 16 rivers.

The second tribe the team visited was the Tagbanua Tribe, specifically the Maringits. We shared to them our knowledge on how taking care of our bodies through proper hygiene can glorify God because our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The team was able to give out hygiene kits and some other goods as well.

During the trip I was able to experience a “tip of the iceberg” of what the missionaries go through when they leave their safe zone, otherwise known as their comfort zone. Imagine, the missionaries have to start from scratch building their own places to stay and purchasing the land they want to stay in.

Hearing their testimonies from the time they arrived Palawan until the present, I was really amazed at how God really provides for them. Due to this, I have learned to trust God’s sovereignty more. I was able to witness the creation of God in Palawan and it reminded me of the verse in Psalm 19:

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
- <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Not to mention that while we were hiking, the team had to deal with blisters and wounds in our feet, while not knowing how close or far we are from all destinations. There, God reminded me about perseverance and to endure the temporary pain so that we may reach the goal.

Another thing I learned is that God can and will use anyone he chooses. The team was composed of five nurses, a chemical engineer, a businesswoman, a nutritionist, someone who speaks Tagalog very well, and then there’s me.

I consider myself not very adequate for the mission trip because for one, I do not speak Tagalog very well. I know the basics but not enough. I have not graduated college; thus I have no degree and am not officially part of Young Pro.

Yet God included me to be part of a team that was very passionate about this mission trip. Because of that, I was reminded of the following three verses in the Bible.

## **Isaiah 6:8 (NIV)**

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,  
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”  
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

## **Isaiah 52:7 (NIV)**

How beautiful on the mountains are  
the feet of those who bring good news,  
who proclaim peace, who bring  
good tidings, who proclaim salvation,  
who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

## **Romans 10:15 (NIV)**

And how can anyone preach unless they  
are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are  
the feet of those who bring good news!”

Indeed, the mission trip to Palawan was an eye-opener of God’s grace and mercy. An experience I will forever cherish in my heart. 🙏

# FIRST AND FOREMOST

## MY CBDTI EXPERIENCE

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*D'Spare*

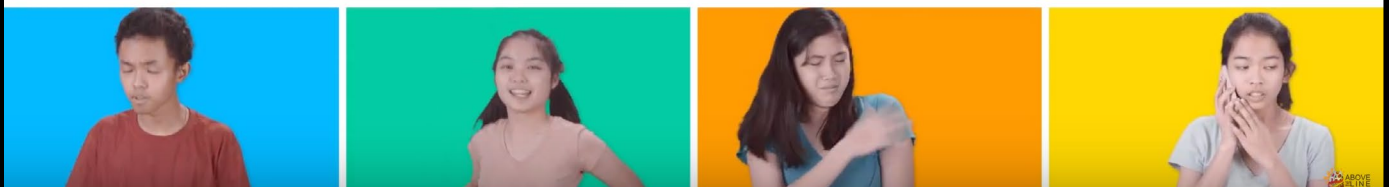


# 18th CBDTI

## YOUTH SUMMER CONFERENCE

### #PRIORITY

THEME: "CHRIST SUPREMACY"



As school days shifted to summer days, I find myself having practically nothing to do. Every day I would wake up late and dilly-dally on tasks given to me with no care at all. Priority-less, my days were filled with bumming around the house and sitting in the office of my parents and still, I was getting bored even with nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing to do. But how can I change my nothing into something?



It started when my *Ninang* (godmother) invited me to join this year's CBDTI<sup>1</sup> camp. I hesitated because I didn't have much experience with conferences or camps. I told my mom I will do anything she wants me to do except to join the said conference yet not any amount of pleadings could make my mom change her mind. With no options left, I grudgingly went.

This year, the CBDTI Youth Summer Conference was entitled "**PRIORITY**". It was the 18<sup>th</sup> CBDTI youth camp and was held at Leyte Park Resort Hotel in Tacloban City on May 28 to June 1, 2018.

When I arrived at the camp, I saw my Sunday school friends there and I also met a few acquaintances. The speakers and councilors spoke amazing truths from the Bible. The old and new songs we sung were awesome and refreshing. All my anxiousness began to fade away. Gradually, my days of nothingness soon became days filled with purpose and priorities. In this camp, there were a few important points which I want to share with you, my church mates...

1. First and foremost, I learned about the supremacy of Christ, which means Jesus having ultimate authority over our lives (Col 1:15-20). I also learned that true worship is not an action but also an attitude.
2. Secondly, you must show priority to God by attending Sunday Worship, by offering the best and by devoting our whole being to God. We must also spend time with HIM and we must always have time for HIM.

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1 A biennial youth conference, consisting of and alternately hosted by churches from Cebu, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Iacloban, and Iloilo City.


3. Thirdly, I also learned why we are tempted to sin (1 Cor.10:31) because we want to be accepted by the world (2 Tim 2:4 and Gal 1:10). We also want to avoid trouble (John 15:18-21) and to have our way in the world.

But because of these things, we may face consequences like our Christian testimony would be hurt or we will be lead to greater compromises (1 Kings 11:1) or God will withhold blessings from us.

In order to avoid sinning against God, we must spend time with the Lord. It means worshipping the Lord, and studying God's word. To conduct ourselves as servants of the Lord, we must first submit fully to the will of the Lord, be a faithful steward of the Lord, prioritize the interest of the Lord, give all the honor and praise to the Lord, seek to please the Lord above all else.

Overall, I learn that since God is divine in all things, we must prioritize Him above everything. We have to prioritize Jesus through worship, we have to prioritize Jesus through time, we have to prioritize Jesus through service, and we must prioritize Jesus through conviction.

To give time for the Lord, we must eliminate unessential things, maintain a simple lifestyle as well as by prioritizing and spend time with HIM. As school days are fast approaching, I began to realize the importance of prioritizing tasks and spending time with the Lord.

I thank God for  the opportunity to attend the camp this summer and it was something truly memorable and literally left MARKS that I could never forget. 🙏





# WHAT CBDTI MEANS TO ME

...To set my priorities right and discover 'faith improvising'  
**Ema (15)**

...I am assured that God called me to serve Him in the ministry.  
**Jethro (16)**

...To prioritize God in my life that I re-dedicated to live for Christ!  
**Jonathan (16)**

...Made me re-think my stale faith in Christ and drew me closer to God. The 'Apologetic' Workshop killed the doubt in my faith!  
**Dan (17)**

...My faith was renewed and my life will change from now on!  
**Julya (17)**

**Please pray for 11 CYF'ers who have expressed their hearts' desire to serve God in Full Time ministry. Pray that God will preserve their commitment and pray for wisdom to do follow-up work!**

## PRAISE & WORSHIP WITH THE CYFers



## DEDICATION NIGHT



## ACTIVITIES





# STAND FIRM TO TEACH

Charlotte Tan



Every now and then, we often find ourselves in a crossroad—a situation where an important decision or choice must be made. In my eighteen years of existence, one of the most difficult crossroads I've ever been in can be captured in five words: *what's your plan for college?*



Like every other 12<sup>TH</sup> grade student, it was finally time for us to say goodbye to high school; the thought of saying goodbye to a school that almost feels like home was heartbreaking—how much more planning for college?

Hence I sought for expert advice—I asked older friends and relatives who had been through college; and about 99% of them asked me the rhetorical question: *well, what do you want to do?*

I thought long and hard about that question and I realized the answer was simple: *I love to teach—I want to be a teacher.* With this realization, I began planning—I asked around about colleges and universities, I consulted with teachers, and I submitted the necessary documents and records for application, and I began to prepare for the renowned entrance exam.

Though it has only been a month since I submitted my application, I wouldn't be completely honest if I didn't say that was enough time for me to begin doubting myself. It was in that time of preparation that the questions got worse; conversations would often go like, *"What's your plan for college?"* they asked.

*"I applied for this certain university—I want to be a teacher."* I would answer, and it is often followed by a gasp or a *"Why??"* To be honest, some reactions weren't exactly uplifting. In fact, I began doubting my own desire to teach—I would ask myself if this is what I really want. Maybe I should just be an engineer or go to medical school, who knows?

Confused and lost, I told a good friend how I felt and she asked me, *"Did you pray about it?"* to which I defensively answered, *"Yeah, I did, I guess."* Funnily, it was the night before the entrance exam as I was forcing my brain to remember a handful of information, when I realized I haven't really talked to God about it.

So I prayed and prayed and prayed up to the very moment the test proctor announced we can finally open the questionnaire booklet, I kept praying to

God—it is my heart's desire to teach, but I honestly don't know if I should.

I asked God to give me a sign: if I pass the entrance exam, it'll mean He wants me to pursue teaching; and if I don't, I'll accept it. And truth be told, when I finished the exam I only felt confident about the English portion.

Months and months passed, but just like before, time didn't make things any easier. As the year 2017 came to an end, some of my batch mates caught on the what-should-I-do-for-college crisis and started asking questions out of panic like *"How many didn't apply yet?"*, *"Who applied to where?"*, *"You want to become a teacher? Why? You won't make much money with that, you know that?"*

Even though I wanted to help them with what I know, some of them weren't so helpful with me. After a while, I heard that the results for the entrance exam I took were to be released soon; I was reminded of the sign I asked from God, but after all mixed reactions I received, I told myself to keep my hopes low. With all those months of silence and doubt, I decided I should at least begin to prepare for another university in case things go south, when suddenly a friend chatted saying *"Congratulations! You passed!!"*

I cried immediately after seeing the results for myself. It felt like I just won the lottery. I knew then and there my prayers were answered and I was given a clear sign—God wanted me to teach.

Simply put, the answer or the path to the crossroad doesn't come easy. Sometimes there's just a huge sign telling you where to go or maybe no sign at all. Other times there are too many paths to choose from, but sometimes all the choices don't seem promising.

It's hard to read the future, but all we have to do is stand firm and trust in the Lord, because by the end of the day, He holds our future. Easier said than done, I admit, but worth it when all is said and done. 🙏



# UNWRAPPING GOD'S GIFT OF GRACE

Abigail Lim

*The Lord is compassionate and gracious;  
slow to anger, abounding in Love.*

*Psalm 103:8*

*W*hat can I say about God's grace? It is truly amazing and wonderful! I was fearfully and wonderfully made by God, ever since I was in my mother's womb. I was chosen by Him to be one of His adopted daughters, and predestined to be a light in this world full of darkness.

Do we know, or can find anyone like Him – a God that did not only define love, but perfectly demonstrate its meaning? Because of His great love for us, we were showered with favor and blessing that we don't deserve and earn. This is Grace, an undeserved, unmerited, and unearned favor of God shown towards us humans.

Born in a Christian family, one of the things we were "obligated" to do on Sunday was to go to church. I didn't really understand why we must go. All I do in church was to sit and pretend that I was invisible. I even believed that I really was invisible because nobody seems to talk or even notice me.

I was told that going to church is a must, but it took time for me to realize that this was not something we should do under duress. It should come to us heartily, because we wanted to, and because we needed to be in the presence of God and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Church helps us know God more – not treating Him merely like an occasional (and shallow) acquaintance but deepening our relationship with Him. Church can also bring us together with our fellow believers, allowing us to share our joys and burdens with them, and coming to Christ together in prayer.

I admit that when I was young, I did not appreciate the essence of going to Sunday School and attending church service. I always felt out of place during Sunday school; it was more of a torture for me than getting to know Christ. Church service was also boring; my friends and I usually ended up talking more than listening; not hearing a thing about what the Pastor or speaker said.

But God silently worked what He has planned for me. I eventually changed my outlook towards going to Sunday School and attending Church service. I was now excited to listen to my teachers' stories about how much God loves me, and what he did to show how much He loves you and me.

Even until now, I am still amazed by His Grace and love towards us. His gift of grace is the greatest gift I have ever received. And having him as God, Savior, Father, and especially, as a Best friend, is more than what I can ask for. He is my greatest treasure.

I always asked God these questions, which were inspired by the song, "Who Am I?" by Casting Crowns:

*Who am I, Lord?*

*That you would care to know?*

*That you would care to feel my hurts.*

*That you would look on me with love.*

*That you would calm the storm that is within me.*

*That you would never fail to always light my way.*

A sinner like me feels ashamed to be called His. Yes, I read His word, do devotion, go to Church, and do other things like attending fellowships that would help me be like Christ.

But sometimes, I am overwhelmed by Satan – his lies and deceptions seem so true and penetrate my soul.

I thank God that we have a counselor – the Holy Spirit – who is by our side at all times. Always ready to rescue us when we are attacked by Satan, and reminding us that Jesus Christ loves us so much that he died for our past, present and future sins.

Though I have sinned more than a thousand times and will continue to sin, The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in love. I am always caught by his grace. God did not give His gift of Grace just to me, but to all of us.

Ever since the beginning, from Adam, to John the Baptist, and to this very day, this gift is ready for those who are willing to accept it.

We can never understand why God shower us with this extravagant kind of gift. From infancy, it is rooted in our minds that in order for us to earn something, we must work hard for it.

That is why not all of us can accept this truth. In our society, we live in a merit-based system. You study hard, be on top of the class, then you will have a high paying job. When you have a high paying job, you will get a chance to save big and do business. When you now have your dream business, in order for it to grow and be successful, you invest your time and energy fully.

In the Bible, Noah found grace not because he was more righteous than the others; it was through God's unmerited favor that he and his family were saved from the flood.



Paul, a persecutor of those who believed in Christ, found and received God's grace. No matter who we are, and no matter how immense our wrongdoing, there is no sin too great for God's grace.

As God's word says, "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west so far has He removed our transgressions from us."

The Lord's love for us is immeasurable. From the creation of this world until its very end, His love never changes. God never changes.

To receive God's gift of grace, all we have to do is to unwrap it. It is already given; we don't have to do anything for it to be given to us. But sad to say, some churches believe that grace is not free – it should be earned. You have to add works for what Christ did on the cross in order for us to go to heaven.

For them, being good and making lots and lots of prayer will give you a passport to Heaven. This teaching is wrong. According to the Bible, Christ came here on Earth full of grace and truth. It is through Christ that we were freed from the bondage of sin. The law given to Moses lets us see how great a sinner we all are, and how much we needed a savior. Jesus could have condemned and judged us, but he chose to be crucified on the cross to save us all.

Unwrapping God's gift of grace means we have to confess that we are sinners. We must believe that Jesus Christ died for all our sins, and accept Him as our Lord and personal savior. Once we have done this, our old self will have gone, and a new self has come. This is how God's grace works. It saves, then transforms us to be Christ-like: a person who loves unconditionally; a person who is zealous for good deeds; a person who lives to please the father in heaven, and a person you can always rely on in times of need.

Will you choose to receive God's grace? I did, and I have received it. As Philip Yancey said, "Grace is a gift that costs everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient." I can also say that grace is more than what I deserve, and is better than what I have ever imagined.

For a person like me, who have opened and experienced God's gift, I can confidently say that you will never regret it if you do so. Even if you failed Him time and time again, know that He will never fail you.

When you encounter problems, when you believe, for a time, that Satan's lies and deceits are true, when you experience turmoil in life, God will pull you through it all. He will never give you problems that you can't handle. Rest assured that He will help you, just like what he did for me.

Ever since I was young, I struggled to be loved. I always feel that I have to be good and obedient so that those I love will love me more. It reached a point that I was so tired, I felt so exhausted because nothing happened.

But thank God, during that moment I realized his abounding love for me. He told me that I don't have to do anything and be someone I'm not, because He first loved me. It was a life-changing moment, for a Lord of lords and King of kings to love me unconditionally is more than what I could ask for.

Since then my life was never the same. Experiencing God and having a relationship with Him is all we will ever need and want. So choose God today, and you will never be the same again. You will know how splendid it is to have God in your life.

God has a lot in store for us – not just His gift of grace. Jesus himself is knocking at our door, waiting for us to let him in. Let us all be reminded once again of this memory verse in 1 Corinthians 2:9: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." 🙏

# BUSINESS LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Stevenson Q. Yu

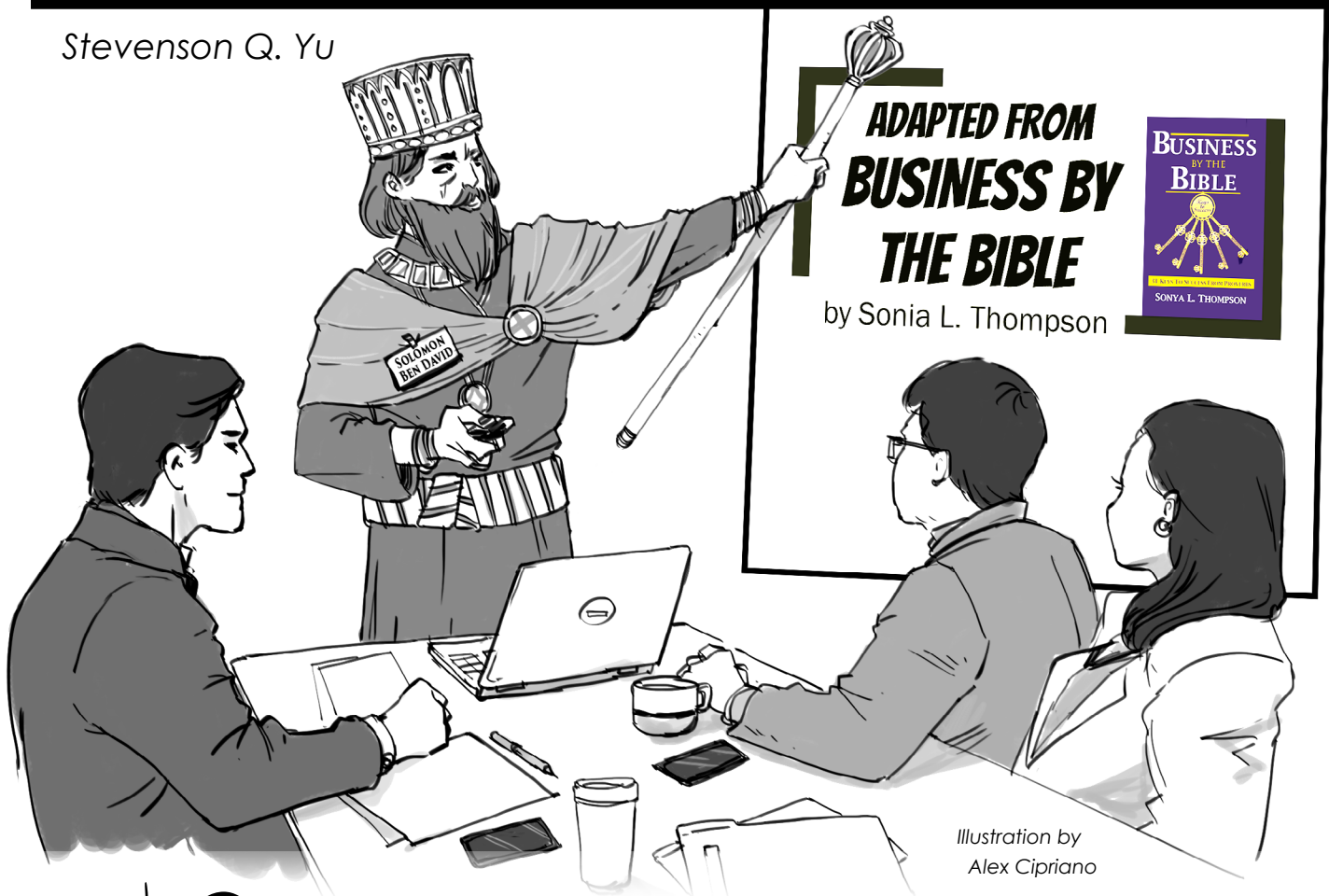


Illustration by  
Alex Cipriano

Dear reader, I know what you might be thinking. Business lessons? From the book of Proverbs?! Come on, what can writings from almost 3,000 years ago possibly teach us about business?

Yes, King Solomon is very wise, but he was writing as the king of Israel. Surely he did not have business in mind when putting down his wisdom in writing?

You might be surprised at how applicable Solomon's wisdom can be, even in a different situation and during another time period. Businesses today still apply what Sun Tzu taught 2,500 years ago in his Art of War. So why should the Bible be any different?

Are you still here? If you are, join us as we delve into the book of Proverbs and adapt its timeless wisdom for the business context!



# LESSON 1

## Avoid Enticement / Be Ethical

### PROVERBS 1:10

My son, if sinful men entice you, do not consent.



Many people think that the term “business ethics” is an oxymoron. This word means that two words that contradict each other, such as “cruel kindness” or “original copy” are joined together.

Can you really get ahead by being ethical? Isn't it so much easier to grow your business and become rich if you take shortcuts and cut corners?

Well, yes and no. In the short term, you can enrich yourself and your business by doing unethical things. Like cutting down on ingredients to save on cost. Maybe, diluting that cement with a little extra water. Or mixing chemicals into food to pass nutrition standards. Never mind if that is being mixed into baby formula.

But sooner or later, things done in secret are exposed pretty quickly. Today, everyone has a cellphone in their pocket that can take pictures. They can show these pictures, and even stream live videos, to the entire world.

It's not just the casual informant you should worry about. Hackers are everywhere. If you had a Yahoo e-mail address in 2013, your password is being sold online. If you were registered in Comelec's database in 2016, all your voter information was leaked to the whole world.

If you formed an offshore corporation for tax and estate planning before 2013, all of your details were stolen. In fact, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists placed all the leaked data into a website where anyone can access!

In sum, forget about being able to do bad things in secret today. It's getting very, very difficult to hide.

FOR NOTHING IS HIDDEN  
EXCEPT TO BE MADE MANIFEST;  
NOR IS ANYTHING SECRET  
EXCEPT COME TO LIGHT.

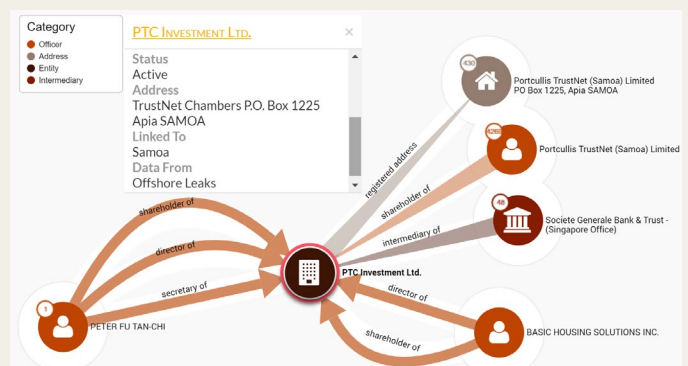
MARK 4:22 (ESV)



Eight-month-old **Cheng Aobing** suffers from kidney stones after drinking contaminated milk. Source: Reuters



An entire apartment building topples over in **Shanghai**  
Source: Cellar.org, via Twitter. Retrieved from  
<[https://twitter.com/Mc\\_Huge/status/2398819240](https://twitter.com/Mc_Huge/status/2398819240)>



Sample results from the **ICIJ Offshore Leaks Database**  
Retrieved from <<https://offshoreleaks.icij.org>>

## LESSON 2

### Be Vigilant

#### PROVERBS 4:23

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.



Worse, people are also a lot less forgiving today. Once a company is proven to have done unethical things, the punishment can be harsh and swift. I am not just talking about fines or prison sentences from the government. Companies with a bad reputation can find it hard to find people willing to, buy from, or work for them.

Furthermore, ethical companies are given more chances than unethical companies. Did you notice that people had a more violent reaction against United Airlines, when a dog died during a flight, compared to the reaction to Southwest Airlines when an engine exploded in mid-air and killed a person?

Why? Because Southwest had a good reputation and United Airlines did not. In 2017, a video was circulated where a man was beaten up and dragged out of a full United Airlines flight, because he refused to leave the plane that was overbooked. The incident made people see United Airlines as unethical, and they become less forgiving for the company's future sins.

The same is true in the Philippines. People are more critical when a particular department store chain is involved in a fire, compared to fires that happen in, say, national mall chains. Why? Because the mall was viewed as more ethical and therefore given more chances by the public.

Whereas, people are quick to accuse the local department store chain of wrongdoing. Even if the company is not actually guilty, it is in the position of having to prove its innocence. All because of bad behavior in the past.

So, what's the bottom line? In business, you should avoid enticement and stand firm in your principles. Not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it makes good business sense.

In the short term, your business *can* indeed gain from being unethical. But over the long run, the punishment<sup>1</sup> can be very severe when you get caught. And the chances of getting caught these days are very, very high.

1 Of course, there are other punishments for sinning. We are all aware of the wages of sin, and what could someone possibly gain if he gets the entire world but loses his soul in the process. But, since this is an article about business, we will stick mainly with business.

In this passage, Solomon tells us to “keep” our hearts with all vigilance. The word “keep” means to guard or protect it. Not just with vigilance, but ALL vigilance, over and above the other things you are guarding.

Why? Because everything you do, whether good or evil, depends on the condition of your heart. If you allow corruption to enter your heart, then you will do corrupt things. Here, Solomon used a beautiful metaphor of your heart pumping out life, just like a fountain.

So, how do we apply this to business? See, it takes a particular mindset to engage in business. If you listen to all the negative things everyone has to say, you'll never get started. Let us illustrate this with some negativity, shall we?

1. You want to start a new venture? The odds are against you. Around 80% of all new businesses fail in the first year.<sup>2</sup> The good news is: the longer a company stays in business, the more likely it will survive. But ultimately, nine out of ten new businesses will fail.<sup>3</sup>
2. You think you're a pretty good cook, and made the perfect fried chicken recipe that everyone would like. What makes you think you will succeed? Many companies already sell fried chicken, like Jollibee, Max's or Sunburst. They can easily squash you like a bug.

2 Keith Speights. (2017, May 21). Success rate: What percentage of businesses fail in their first year? USA Today. Retrieved from <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/small-business-central/2017/05/21/what-percentage-of-businesses-fail-in-their-first-year/101260716/>

3 Griffith, E. (2014, September 25). Startups are failing because they make products no one wants. Fortune. Com. Retrieved from <http://fortune.com/2014/09/25/why-startups-fail-according-to-their-founders/>



Let's say, your formulation is better. Can you then beat them in other areas? Areas such as good locations, hospitable hosts, access to suppliers of good-quality ingredients, and financial capital to expand your operations?

Even if the big boys don't try to drive you out of business, you can bet that once your food concept becomes popular, many people will try to imitate you. Remember the craze with bubble tea, donuts (think about the long lines with Krispy Kreme and J.Co), and frozen yogurt?<sup>4</sup> Sure, you may experience instant success, but you'll get instant competition. Once the fad dies down, what do you do?

3. So, you have this killer product that will revolutionize the [insert pain point] industry? Is this really the best time to launch? Assuming you can get your business started, the economic indicators are starting to fall.

There's a lot of bad things that can happen. High inflation. Peso devaluation. Trade wars. Maybe even real war, either in the Middle East (more expensive oil!) or against North Korea (nuclear annihilation!)

Needless to say, being in business requires you to have a good understanding of the situation. Then, you make decisive choices based on your analysis of the risks and rewards. But there is a LOT of negativity out there. Once you allow it to enter your heart, you start to fear and second-guess your decisions. That's when trouble starts to brew.

Edgar Sia II opened the first Mang Inasal branch in Iloilo at the age of 26 in 2003. Before this, he dropped out of college at 19 to start a laundry business (Mister Labada) and a photo-developing shop (Injap Color Express).<sup>5</sup>

- 4 Goody Feed Team. (2015, June 11). 5 food fads in Singapore that died quietly in the last few years... [Blog]. Retrieved May 28, 2018, from <http://goodyfeed.com/5-food-fads-in-singapore-that-died-quietly-in-the-last-few-years/>
- 5 Del Rosario, A. (2017, July 17). Success Story of Injap Sia: Youngest Billionaire in PH. Philippine Primer. Retrieved from <http://primer.com.ph/business/2017/07/17/success-story-of-injap-sia-youngest-billionaire-in-ph/>



**Edgar "Injap" Sia II** (standing) did not let negativity stop him from starting Mang Inasal. Today, he is a real estate mogul, partnering with Jollibee's Tony Tan Caktiong. Source: MyCityMySM.com

Most people will look at the crowded barbecued food segment<sup>6</sup> and conclude that Sia will fail. But, he persevered, and Mang Inasal grew. Eventually, it was acquired by rival fast-food giant Jollibee in 2010, making Sia at 34 the youngest billionaire in the Philippines.<sup>7</sup>

Regarding my third negative point, do you know that launching a business during a recession can be a smart move? A business that learns to survive on lean times can be more successful than one that gets fat first and must then take a crash diet.

Many successful companies launched during a recession. We have GE (1892), IBM (1896), General Motors (1908), Walt Disney (1923), Revlon (1932), Hewlett-Packard (1939), FedEx (1973), Apple (1975), and Microsoft (1975).

Apple itself is in the habit of launching products during recessions. The iPod was launched in 2001, after the Dotcom crash of 2000. The iPhone was launched in 2007, during the subprime crisis. The iPad was launched in 2010, when the world was still recovering from the 2008 recession.

To be clear, I am not saying that you should not listen to anything negative—this is also a mistake. You cannot afford to ignore all the bad news. You must be very selective in choosing what to pay attention to. Not just with great vigilance, but with ALL vigilance.

- 6 Edgar Sia: The man behind Mang Inasal. (2008, January 7). The News Today. Retrieved from <http://www.thenewstoday.info/2008/01/07/edgar.sia.the.man.behind.mang.inasal.html>
- 7 Phyllis Fang Savage. (2011, June 22). Edgar Sia's Fast-Food Cashout. Forbes Asia. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/global/2011/0718/philippines-billionaires-11-edgar-sia-mang-inasal-mr-bbq.html>

# LESSON 3

## Be Teachable

### PROVERBS 5:13-14

I did not listen to the voice of my teachers or incline my ear to my instructors. I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation.



**Warren Edward Buffett and William Henry Gates III**

Billionaires, bosom buddies and voracious readers.

Source: Getty Images via Inc.com

These two verses form part of an entire section in Proverbs where Solomon warned all young men against adultery. The adulteress will lead you astray, Solomon said, and cause you to lose your honor and even your life. Because you did not listen to your teachers, your life is ruined.

This is the same with business. As you build up your business and achieve a measure of success, there is always the danger that you stop listening to the counsel of your teachers and mentors. Either you start listening to yourself (thus becoming stagnant), or listen only to yes-men (who only tell you what you want to hear) or worse, conmen who would milk you for every centavo you have.

You should never stop learning, period. Admit that you don't know everything, and be willing to learn from all sources: customers, suppliers, peers, and even your employees. By learning new things, you learn to appreciate the world from a different perspective.

For example, learning more about how your industry works can help you see a new way of doing things. Or a new market opportunity you have not considered before. Or a new technology that make you unique from your competitors and provide you with an advantage in business.

Learning a new language lets you communicate with business partners from other countries, without the need of a translator. This helps you build trust.

Thanks to the Internet, you don't need connections to mentors and educators to be teachable. There are many online learning websites<sup>8</sup> that cover a wide variety of subjects. Not just business school topics, but even things like music, personal development, and foreign languages.

8 Top sites include Coursera, Lynda.com, Udemy, Khan Academy, and eDX. Some sites allow you to audit the courses for free, and you pay only if you want to receive a certificate of completion.

Warren Buffett, the CEO of Berkshire Hathaway and regarded as one of the best investors in the world, reads a lot. He spends 80% of his workday reading and thinking, going through 500 pages a day. He considers it as an investment, saying that all that knowledge builds up "like compound interest."<sup>9</sup>

In fact, Buffett's willingness to read hundreds of pages of financial statements every day gave him an advantage when it comes to choosing the right companies to invest in.

Bill Gates, another famous billionaire, is also a very wide reader. He has a blog <<http://www.gatesnotes.com/Books>> where he shares his reading list and reviews the latest books that he reads.

In 2010, Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, set a personal challenge to learn Mandarin. His wife Priscilla was Chinese, and he wanted to be able to talk to his wife's father and grandmother who spoke only Chinese. Four years later, the world was amazed when Zuckerberg talked *only* in Mandarin with Tsinghua University students during a 30-minute Q&A session.<sup>10</sup>

We live today in a world that moves at the speed of thought, with the situation changing every second. You have to be teachable and willing to learn, or risk being overtaken by someone who is.

9 Kim, L. (2015, May 19). You Did This as a Kid, but the Greatest Entrepreneurs Never Stopped. Retrieved June 1, 2018, from <https://www.inc.com/larry-kim/you-did-this-as-a-kid-but-the-greatest-entrepreneurs-never-stopped.html>

10 See [https://youtu.be/8Xpdhbk\\_2Rc](https://youtu.be/8Xpdhbk_2Rc) for the video, with accompanying subtitles. To be fair, Mark Zuckerberg's Mandarin was very clumsy. But this gesture was appreciated by the Chinese students, and this illustrates the willingness of Zuckerberg, who became a billionaire at the age of 23, to learn new things.



# LESSON 4

## Do Not Procrastinate

### PROVERBS 6:10-11

A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.



The first half of Proverbs 6 are Solomon's warnings against folly (mistakes). Verses 1-2 warn against being a guarantor for others' debts while verses 3-5 give advice on what to do if you are already a guarantor. Verses 6-8 admonishes the lazy man to be as industrious as the ant, while verses 9-11 warns him on the consequences of laziness. Finally, verses 12-15 describe of the fate of a wicked man, and what God considers wicked is described in verses 16-19.

It is a very human thing to procrastinate. In fact, this is a habit for Filipinos. Perhaps we learned this *mañana* habit from the Spanish. After all, *mañana* is a Spanish word for "tomorrow," clearly describing a habit of putting off things today that can be done tomorrow.

Because of this habit, even the most urgent of projects and tasks is put off for some other time. Of course, that other time never comes. Something always comes up to take up all our time. It is only when the last deadline approaches that we start working like mad. It is a habit I am guilty of. In fact, I procrastinated by not writing this article until *after* the May 31 deadline set by the Gospel Light editor!

Procrastination is never a good thing when thinking about starting a business. As the Chinese saying goes, 「種一棵樹最好的時間是十年前，其次是現在。」 In English, it means, "The best time to plant a tree is ten years ago; the next best time is today." If you're thinking about starting your business, you should not wait for all the stars to line up. We only have 24 hours in a day, and never enough time unless we really force ourselves to make time for it.

If you are already in business, then procrastination is also a very bad thing. Procrastinating on a project either leads to missed deadlines (and angry customers), or rushed, shoddy work (and angry employees – and even then, the customer may not be happy with the result.)

If an entire company procrastinates, it is called "inertia" – a term borrowed from Physics. This is a situation where a company does nothing to change with the times. By continuing to do what it has always done, it figuratively takes a nap while more agile competitors come in and rob it blind.

Look at Kodak. The company was the undisputed king of cameras. and was even the first to invent a digital camera. But it focused on its more-profitable film cameras, and so Kodak fell behind Nikon and Canon in digital cameras. Once people stopped using film because the cameras in their cellphones were good enough, Kodak was done for.

Speaking of cellphones, do you remember Nokia? Its cellphones were indestructible, with battery life measured in days. Nokia was the king of cellphones in the 1990s. The company was even among the first to introduce a smartphone with a touchscreen.

Falls to the floor



Break the screen

Falls to the floor



Break the floor

The Indestructible 3310 Meme.  
Source: Redditor u/Naysar

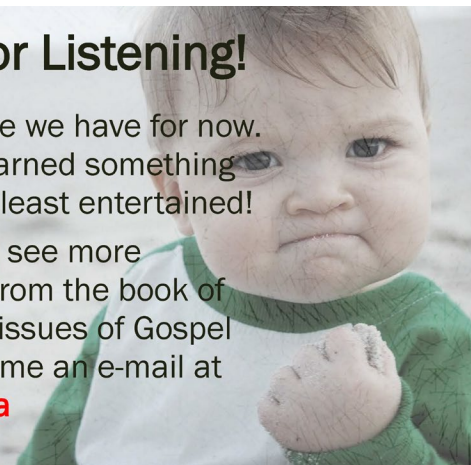
But Nokia neglected the customer's experience – its phones were not very easy to use and didn't have "Wow!" features. And so, Nokia died a slow and painful death to Apple and Samsung.

Don't be Kodak, Nokia, IBM, Friendster, or even the hare in the race with the turtle. Business today is ever-changing. If you stand still during the race, then don't be surprised when you are left with nothing. 🐢

## Thank You for Listening!

This is all the space we have for now. I hope you have learned something from it. Or were at least entertained!

If you would like to see more business lessons from the book of Proverbs in future issues of Gospel Light, please drop me an e-mail at [yu@Stevenson.asia](mailto:yu@Stevenson.asia)



# THAT ONE THING

Josephine Q. Yu

*What* is that one most important thing in your life? Is it wealth? Power? Fame? Knowledge? Family? Or sports? Let us take a look at that “ONE THING” most important in the lives of six people from the Bible, and learn spiritual lessons from them.

## 1. RICH YOUNG MAN: THAT ONE THING LACKING



A rich young man once approached Jesus and asked him, “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Since he was a pious man who already kept all the commandments, Jesus answered, “**One thing you lack**, go, sell everything you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” (Mark 10:21)

Jesus’ command contained five verbs – actions that must be undertaken if we want to follow Him:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Go        | An urgent command which demands immediate action |
| 2. Sell      | Relinquish of your possession                    |
| 3. Give      | Share with the poor                              |
| 4. Come      | An Invitation that requires acceptance           |
| 5. Follow me | Surrender of personal will                       |



It is not easy to follow Jesus – you pay a high price. Following him requires one to (Mat. 16:24):

1. Deny Oneself
  - a. Give yourself up
  - b. Give to the poor
  - c. Give in to the Lord
2. Take Up the Cross
  - a. Endure trials and tribulations
  - b. Undergo hardships
  - c. Encounter persecution
  - d. Share your time and talents

3. Follow Me
  - a. Forfeit your rights and privileges
  - b. Trust and obey

To be a follower, one must obey, submit, comply, conform and abide by the decisions of the leader. He loses the privilege to make his own decisions.

Jesus said to His disciples, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mat. 4:19) But that rich young man went away sad, unwilling to pay the price, because he had great wealth.

How about you? Are you willing to follow Jesus?

## 2. MARTHA: THAT ONE THING NEEDED

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When Jesus came to the house of Martha and Mary, Martha was very busy making preparations while Mary did nothing to help. She sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. Martha complained to Jesus and asked him to tell Mary to help her.

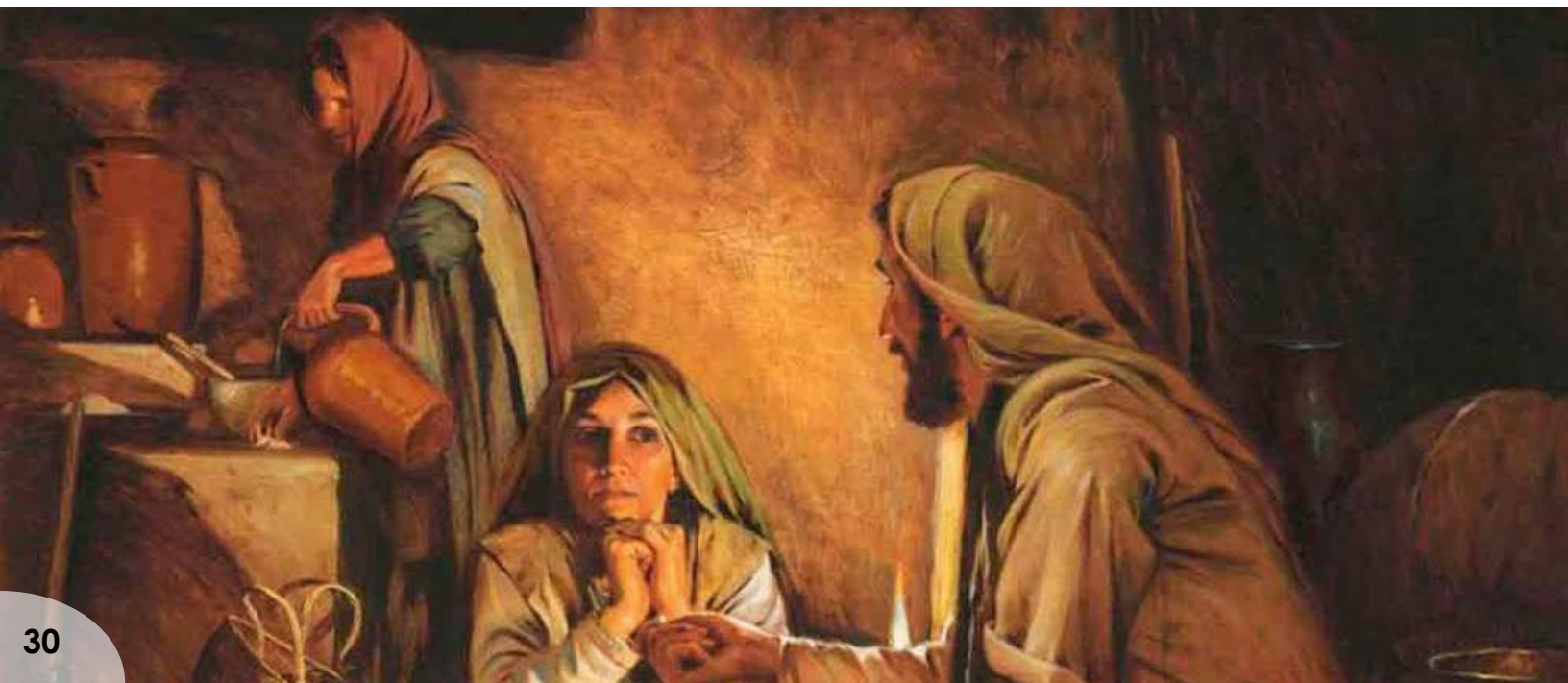
But how did Jesus reply? “*Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, **but only one thing is needed**. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.*” (Luke 10:41-42)

From Jesus' response, we know that all the preparation Martha was busy doing was not really important to Him; sitting and listening to His Word superseded any services and activities rendered to Him. In other words, God wants us to have a relationship and constant fellowship with Him.

Too often, we are inundated with church activities that we neglect our devotional time with Him. Yet Jesus said, “*I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from me, you can do nothing.*” (John 15:5).

Therefore, we must establish a relationship with God through prayer and reading His Word. Through prayer, we tell Him our needs, struggles, and problems, and seek wisdom and strength from Him. By reading His Word, we get God's message to us. “*Thy word is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path.*” (Psalm 119:105). His word is our life manual to guide us in our life's journey.

How is your relationship with God? Are you in fellowship with Him daily?



### 3. THE BLIND BEGGAR: THAT ONE THING TO KNOW

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While in Jerusalem, Jesus healed a beggar who was blind from birth. His healing style was very unique: He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, put it on the man's eye, and told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. That man did what Jesus said, and returned with full vision.

Many were surprised, but because the healing was done on a Sabbath day, the Pharisees investigated the matter.

They summoned the blind man and said: "We know that man was a sinner." (John 9:24) But the man replied: "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. **One thing I do know**, I was blind but now I see." (John 9:25)

Today, people have different kinds of sickness that need healing. Jesus is a fantastic healer – the greatest physician, in fact. He had cured all kinds of diseases and conditions: blindness, deafness, muteness, lameness, leprosy, paralyzation, high fever, bleeding, demon possession, and even restored the dead to life.

God is all-powerful. Nothing is impossible for Him. He performed miracles before, and He can do it for you today. He is a compassionate Lord. He will never leave you nor forsake you because He cares for you. All you need is real faith and trust in Him.

That blind man knew only one thing: that Jesus made him see. How about you? Do you know who Jesus is in your life?

### 4. DAVID: THAT ONE THING TO ASK OF THE LORD

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David was chosen by God to be the King of Israel. But before he became king, he encountered so many dangers. In Psalms, he recorded what he prayed to God to protect him from his enemies both from within and without.

Saul was jealous of him and tried to kill him. His own son Absalom also rebelled against him. David was always on the run, escaping and hiding from those who wanted his life. However, he got strength and comfort from the Lord.

No wonder he said, "**One thing I ask of the Lord, that is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty on the Lord and to seek Him in his temple.**" (Psalm 27:4)

David sought Him by dwelling in the house of the Lord and he received:

1. Protection    Keep me safe in times of trouble (Psalm 27:5a)
2. Security      Hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle (Psalm 27:5b)
3. Promotion    Set me high upon a rock (Psalm 27:5c)

Seeking God can rid us of fear, worries and burden. His grace and strength can sustain us to endure the trials of life. He is our rock, our refuge, and our fortress (Psalm 94:22).

And you? Do you want to seek Him?





## 5. PETER: THAT ONE THING NOT TO FORGET

The early Christians were in constant danger of persecution and had to be alert to false teachers. They anxiously waited for Jesus' return, waiting for so long that they became discouraged. That was why Peter constantly reminded them that Jesus will certainly keep his promise to come again. But it has to be in His time.

Peter said: ***"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends, with the Lord, a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare."*** (2 Peter 3:8-10)

In other words, Peter was reminding them: the one thing you should not forget is the Forthcoming of Christ. Since Jesus' coming is near, what must we do?

- Live a godly and peaceful life, spotless and blameless with good testimony to the unbelievers.
- Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord – Get to know Him better through the scriptures.
- Be alert and ready for his coming.



- Be prepared for judgment.

Both the Old and the New Testament of the Bible discussed judgment:

- Ecclesiastes 12:14: "God will bring every deed into judgment including every hidden thing whether it is good or evil."
- Psalms 96:10-13: "He will judge the people with equity, in righteousness, and in truth."
- Romans 14:12: "Upon his coming, each of us will give an account of himself to God."
- Hebrews 9:27: "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."

Therefore, judgment is a sure thing. Be careful what you say or do on Earth. Are you excited and eagerly looking forward to His coming?

## 6. PAUL: THAT ONE THING TO DO



Prior to his conversion, Paul was a devout Pharisee who led the persecution of Christians. One day, while on his way to Damascus, he met Jesus. From there on, he was converted and dedicated his life to preach the Gospel.

Throughout his ministry, he suffered hunger, thirst, cold, and was stripped naked. He was stoned, beaten with a rod, severely logged, and exposed to the elements to die. He encountered shipwrecks. He faced dangers in and from the desert, rivers, seas, bandits, own countrymen, Gentiles, city, country, and false brothers. (2 Corinthians 11:25)

While he was in prison, he wrote, “**But one thing I do**, forgetting what is behind, and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)

1. Forget what is behind (Past)

Free your mind from past mistakes, regrets, failures, hurts, hatred, grudges, misunderstanding, and discouragement. These are negative feelings that will ruin your body. It destroys your peace of mind and deprives you to enjoy your life fully. As the famous song in Disney's "Frozen" goes: “**LET IT GO, LET IT GO!**” So, by all means, forget what is behind and “**LET IT GO!**”

2. Straining towards what is ahead (Present)

Be a SOWER:

- S**hare the Gospel – Lead people to Christ
- O**bey His Commandments – Apply His words in your life.
- W**itness for Him – Be a light and salt to this world
- E**dify Fellow Christians – Encourage and build up one another
- R**estore Relationships – Patch up broken relationships

3. Press on beyond (Future)

- a. Assurance of eternal life  
Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ and accepts Him as his personal Savior has eternal life. (John 3:16)

- b. Promise of a Heavenly Home  
Jesus had promised that he is going to prepare a place in heaven for believers to live eternally with Him (John 14:2-3)
- c. Reward in Heaven  
Our rewards will be based upon the foundation we laid whether it is of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, clay, or straw (1 Corinthians 3:11-14)  
And he will render his reward to every man according to what he has done (Revelations 22:12)

What are the Rewards awaiting us?

- 1. Crown of Joy (1 Thes. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1)
  - Those who lead other to Christ, there will be rejoicing in heaven
- 2. Crown of Life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10)
  - Those who persevere under trials, sufferings and persecutions;
  - Those who love God;
- 3. Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)
  - Those who are willing to serve God's flock
  - Those who fulfill God's calling
  - Those who finish the work assigned
- 4. Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7-8)
  - Those who live a holy life
  - Those who long for His appearing
- 5. Incorruptible Crown (1 Cor. 9:24-25)
  - Those with self-controlled life (Subject to strict training)

Do you have the assurance of eternal life? Are you confident that you will have a place in heaven in the future? When you meet our Lord, how many crowns do you expect to receive from Him?

7. SUMMARY

In Summary, the Bible stated that most important “ONE THING” as follows:

1. That One Thing <b>Lacking</b>	<b>Rich Young Man</b>	<b>Follow Jesus</b>
2. That One Thing <b>Needed</b>	<b>Martha</b>	<b>Fellowship with God</b>
3. That One Thing <b>to Know</b>	<b>Beggar Born Blind</b>	<b>Fantastic Healing</b>
4. That One Thing <b>to Ask of the Lord</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>Focus on Him</b>
5. That One Thing <b>Not to Forget</b>	<b>Peter</b>	<b>Forthcoming of Christ</b>
6. That One Thing <b>to Do</b>	<b>Paul</b>	<b>Forget the Past</b> <b>Forward from the Present</b> <b>Foresee the Future</b>

Let us all remember that most important “**ONE THING**” so that we can live holy, joyful, victorious and meaningful lives pleasing to the Lord, and for the glory of God. 🙌



# 「一件事」

許郭錦繡

**你**認為人生最重要的「一件事」是什麼呢？是否金錢、權勢、名譽、地位、家庭、職業、體育、學問？現在讓我們從聖經的六位人物中、思考他們人生最重要的一件事、以供我們學習、並得到屬靈的功課。

## 二. 富有少年人：還缺少的一件

有一位有錢的青年人來到耶穌面前問祂說：「我當做什麼才可以承受永生？」

因為這青年人誡命都已遵守了、所以耶穌就對他說：「你還缺少一件、去變賣你所有的分給窮人、就必有財寶在天上、你還要來跟從我」（馬可10:21）。

耶穌的命令有包括五個動詞、也是跟隨耶穌需應採取的行動：

- |     |   |        |
|-----|---|--------|
| 去   | → | 遵令及時行動 |
| 變賣  | → | 放棄擁有的  |
| 分給  | → | 分送給窮人  |
| 來   | → | 願接受邀請  |
| 跟隨我 | → | 放棄己意   |

跟隨耶穌並非容易、應付出什麼代價？（太16:24）

1. 捨己 → 放棄自己、施捨窮人、捨交給主
2. 背起十字架 → 忍受試煉、經歷苦難、遭遇逼迫
3. 跟隨我 → 捨棄權利、交託順從

每位跟隨者應該肯順從、投服、依照、遵守、並符合領袖的決定、因為跟隨者沒有權利作自己的主張。

耶穌對門徒說：你若跟隨我，就可以得人如得魚一樣。（太4:19）。

可惜那位有錢的青年憂憂愁愁的離開、因為他的產業很多。

請問、你有願意跟隨耶穌嗎？

## 二. 馬大：不可少的一件

當耶穌來到馬大和馬利亞的家中、馬大忙着預備許多事、而馬利亞並沒有幫忙、她只坐在耶穌腳前聽祂的道、馬大就向耶穌交涉、要馬利亞來幫忙她。

但耶穌怎樣回答她呢？「馬大，馬大，你為許多的事思慮煩擾、但是不可少的只有一件、馬利亞已經選擇那上好的福份、是不能奪去的」（路10:41-42）。

從耶穌的回應、使我們知道、神所重視的並不是馬大為祂忙着所做的事奉、而是坐在祂腳前聽祂的道、比任何事工更重要！上帝喜愛我們與祂結連、時常和祂交通。

許多時候、為了忙着辦理教會各種的事工、以致忽略了靈修的時間、耶穌說：「我是葡萄樹、你們是枝子、常在我裡面的、我也常在他裡面、這人就多結果子、因為離了我、你們就不能作什麼」（約15:5）。

因此、我們應該和主建立關係、以禱告將我們的需要、掙扎、及問題告訴耶穌、向祂求討智慧、能力及幫助。同時也要閱讀聖經來領受神的話語、因為「神的話是我們腳前的燈路上的光。」（詩119:105）祂的話也是我們人生的指南。

你與主的關係如何？你有否每日與祂交通？

## 三. 生來瞎眼的人：有一件事我知道的

耶穌醫好了一個生來瞎眼的討飯人、祂的醫法非常的特殊、祂將唾沫和泥土混合、抹在瞎子的眼睛上、然後叫他往西羅亞池子裡去洗。這人遵照耶穌去洗、回頭就看見了。

許多人都希奇、那些法利賽人因耶穌在安息日治病、就開始查問、叫那生來瞎眼的人來對他說：「我們知道這人是個罪人」、但是那生來瞎眼的回答說：「祂是個罪人不是、我不知道、有一件事我知道、從前我是眼瞎的、如今能看見了」（約9:25）。

今天、我們每個人都有不同的疾病需要治療、耶穌是最偉大的醫生、祂曾經醫好各種的疾病、倒如：瞎眼、耳聾、啞子、殘廢、癲瘋、癱瘓、高熱、血漏、被鬼附着、而且又叫死人復活。

上帝是全能的、在祂沒有難成的事、以前祂行過神蹟、如今祂仍舊能行神蹟、祂是仁慈的主、祂必不捨棄了你、因為祂顧念你。只要你完全相信交託祂、祂必醫治你。

那瞎眼的只知道一件事、就是耶穌使他能看見。你呢？耶穌在你的生命中是誰？

## 四. 大衛：有一件事我求告主的

大衛被神揀選為以色列的王、但在他還沒有作王之前、他遭遇了很多的危險。詩篇有記載大衛向神禱告、求祂保護他脫離對外及對內的仇敵。

掃羅王妒嫉大衛、要將他打死、甚至他親生的兒子押沙龍也背叛他、迫趕他、以致大衛在外奔跑、投避、隱藏。然而、他從神得到力量和安慰。

所以他說：「有一件事、我曾求耶和華、我仍要尋求、就是一生一世住在祂的殿中、瞻仰祂的榮美、在祂的殿裡求問」（詩27:4）。

大衛在神的殿尋求神終於得到了：

保護      在患難中得保守  
            （詩篇27:5a）

保障      把我藏在祂帳幕的隱密處  
            （詩篇27:5b）



提拔 將我高舉在磐石上  
詩篇27:5c)

尋求神會使我們除去了懼怕、煩惱、和重担、因祂的恩惠和能力、能持守我們忍受

人生的試煉、神是我們的磐石、是我們的避難所、也是我們的高台。你有願意尋求上帝嗎？

## 五. 彼得：一件事不可忘記的

初期信徒遭受迫害和假先知的危險、他們盼望耶穌會快快再來、但是等候了很久、就開始灰心失望、因此彼得再三地提醒他們、耶穌必定成全祂再來的應許、但是應按照祂的時間。

彼後3：8－10：「親愛的弟兄啊、**有一件事你們不可忘記**、就是主看一日如千年、千年如一日、主所應許的尚未成就、有人以為是耽延、其實不是耽延、乃是寬容你們、不願有一人沈淪、乃願人人都悔改、但主的日子要像賊來一樣、那日天必大有響聲廢去、有形質的都要被烈火銷化、地和其上的物都要燒盡了。」

換句話說、彼得所提醒他們不可忘記的一件事、就是基督必定再來。

既然耶穌再來的日子已臨近，我們應該做什麼準備呢？

- \* 過着敬虔安然無可指摘、沒有玷污的生活、在無信人中有好的見證

\* 在主耶穌基督的恩典和知識上有長進、並多多的更認識基督

\* 警惕預備好祂的再來

\* 預備將來的審判

新舊約聖經都有記載到審判的事實：

\* 傳12:14—「因人所作的事、連一切隱藏的事、無論是善是惡、神都必審問」

\* 詩96:10-13—「祂要按公正、以公義和信實審判萬民」

\* 羅14:22—「我們各人必要將自己的事在神面前說明」

\* 來9:27—「按著定命人人都有一死、死後且有審判」

因為審判是必定有的、所以要留心你在世上一切所說的話和所做的事。你有否興奮的等候祂的再來？

## 六. 保羅：我只有一件要做的事

保羅原是一位虔誠的法利賽人、他常帶領人逼迫基督徒。有一天、當他在大馬色路中遇見耶穌、從那天開始、他就悔改終身奉獻為主宣道。

在他的事工上、他遭遇飢餓、口渴、受寒冷、赤身露體、被石頭打、受鞭打、被棍打、屢次冒死、他遇到船沉、也遭遇曠野、江河、海中、海賊、同族、外邦人、城裡和假兄弟的危險。  
(哥後11：25)

當他下監牢寫出腓立比書說：「**我只有一件事**、就是忘記背後、努力面前、向著

標竿直跑、為要得神在基督耶穌裡從上面召我來得的獎賞」(腓3:13-14)。

### ① 忘記背後→過去

要從心中除去一切的過錯、後悔、失敗、創傷、仇恨、懷怒、誤會、灰心。因為這些消極的情緒、對我們身體有損無益、奪去我們思想安寧。

《冰雪奇緣》電影有一首出名的歌「隨它吧」。我們應該學習將過去「隨它吧」。

## ② 努力面前→現在

要做一個撒種人的需要

- \* 傳播福音：引人歸主
- \* 遵守誡命：將主的話應用在生活上
- \* 作主見證：在世上為光與鹽
- \* 建立信徒：彼此鼓勵關照
- \* 恢復關係：調整破碎的感情

## ③ 預備等候→將來

- \* 將來有永生之確據  
凡相信耶穌接受祂為救主，就必得永生（約3:16）
- \* 將來有天家之應許  
耶穌到天為信徒預備了地方、使他們將來可以與祂同住（約14:2-3）
- \* 將來有在天堂之賞賜  
所得的賞賜是按照建造的工程、其根基是用金銀、寶石、草木、或禾稈而斷定（哥前3:11-14）。  
所得的賞賜也是照各人在世上所行來報應他（啟22:12）。

天上的賞賜是什麼？

- ① 喜樂的冠冕（帖前2:19-20，腓4:1）  
凡引人歸主的在天上要有大大的喜樂
  - ② 生命的冠冕（雅各1:12，啟2:10）  
凡忍受試煉、患難、迫害  
凡愛上帝的人
  - ③ 榮耀的冠冕（彼前5:4）  
凡願意牧養照管主的羊群  
凡成全神的呼召  
凡完成所託付的事工
  - ④ 公義的冠冕（提後4:7-8）  
凡過著聖潔的生活  
凡愛慕他顯現的人
  - ⑤ 不能壞的冠冕（哥前9:24-25）  
凡經過嚴格訓練有節制的生活
- 你有否永生的確據？你有把握將來在天堂有一個地方嗎？當你和主見面時、希望能得到幾個冠冕？

## 七. 摘要

總之，聖經中記載「一件事」如下：

(1) 還缺少的一件	富有的少年人	要跟隨耶穌	
(2) 不可少的一件	馬大	要與主交通	
(3) 要知道的一件事	生來瞎眼的人	奇妙的醫治	
(4) 求告主的一件事	大衛	要尋求上帝	
(5) 不可忘記的一件事	彼得	主必再來的期望	
(6) 我只有一件事	保羅	應該做的事	忘記背後→過去 向着前面→現在 預備未來→將來

希望我們將上述的「一件事」永銘於心、以供我們過着有聖潔、喜樂、得勝、蒙主悅納有意義的人生、歸榮耀給神！✝





# THE LOVE THAT WOULD NOT LET US GO

*E.S. Leung-Yao*

W

hen Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command,  
Causing man to fall into sin,  
God the Father did not disown His Creation.  
God removed them from the Garden of Eden  
Where the Tree of Eternal Life was  
To protect them from eternal death.  
To protect all mankind from eternal death.

When Jacob lied to his aging father,  
Robbed his twin brother of the firstborn blessing,  
Played deception games with his uncle for gain,  
And failed to treat his children equally.  
God the Father did not abandon him.  
When Jacob prayed desperately, wrestling with God,  
God renamed him, Israel, blessing him.

When David committed adultery and murder,  
Failed to discipline the misdeeds of his sons,  
God the Father did not give up on him.  
When David was grievously regretful,  
God the Father took away his sin,  
And David's heart worshipped God once again.  
God kept His promise to the House of David.

Simon Peter was at times impulsive, self-seeking, presumptuous,  
Cowardly, denied knowing Jesus the Christ, not once, but three times,  
Yet God the Father chose him of humble origins to be the leading disciple,  
When he received the Spirit of God, Peter was transformed from a reed to a rock,  
Courageous and immovable in the work that God set before him,  
In the face of persecution, Peter spoke the Gospel to crowds and religious leaders,  
Healed the infirmed, raised Tabitha from death--all in the Name of Jesus Christ.

When Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee of great learning, persecuted followers of Jesus the Christ,  
Pursuing, arresting, imprisoning and having believers put to death,  
God the Father did not end Saul's life; He humbled him.  
Saul acknowledged and prayed to the God whose followers he persecuted,  
God made him the chosen instrument for the salvation of the Gentiles, not only Jews.  
Saul, called Paul, with companions, undertook three missionary journeys,  
Established churches, authored many books of the New Testament,  
Explained doctrines and principles of Christian living.

Each of our stories may not be as dramatic as that of the Bible characters.  
But each of us has a story to tell,  
Of how the love of God the Father refuses to let us go our own way,  
Toward destruction with our arrogance, foolishness, laziness, immorality,  
Selfishness, stubbornness, weaknesses, wickedness.  
Before Him in humility, with a contrite heart and confession,  
He redeems and restores us;

And when we ask, empowers us with His Spirit to do great things for His Glory.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,  
That whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world,  
But to save the world through Him". (John 3:16, 17)  
"...I have come that they may have life and have it to the full". (John 10:10)  
O Love that would not let us go! 🙌





# 教

會能長進需要每一個信徒有聖潔的生活，並且有好的見證。耶穌在世的時候，每早晨天未亮的時候，就起來到曠野地方祈禱。（馬可福音1:35）

早晨天未亮的時候，這是靈修最好的時間，因為遍地都很安靜，咱能夠專心來聽上帝的話。

# 靈修

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雯華



首先咱要求聖靈安靜咱的心思意念，使咱有專一的心來親近上帝，先用1-2分鐘的時間默想上帝的本性。利未記11：44告訴咱，上帝是聖潔的，咱屬祂的人也必須要聖潔才能夠蒙上帝的悅納。上帝是公義的，滿有慈愛，滿有憐憫，無所不知，無所不在，無所不能的神，祂是創造宇宙萬物的主宰，是賜人平安，喜樂，智慧，能力的上帝，又賜聖靈住在咱的心裏，可做咱隨時的幫助。

所以當咱親近上帝時，咱必須要先自潔，求聖靈幫助咱省察自己。若有得罪著人，或是咱在言語行為上羞辱了上帝的聖尊名，咱要認罪，悔改，求主赦免咱的罪，使咱真正有清潔的心來親近祂。詩篇66:18「咱若心裏注重罪孽，主必不聽」。帖撒羅尼迦前書4:3「神的旨意就是要你們成為聖潔，遠避淫行。」

再下去，咱要存歡樂的心吟詩讚美上帝。詩篇33:1「義人哪，你們當靠主歡樂，正直人的讚美是合宜的。」詩篇89:1「我要歌唱耶和華的慈愛，直到永遠；我要用口將禰的信實傳與萬代。」詩篇47:6-7「你們要向神歌頌，歌頌；向咱主歌頌，歌頌。因為神是全地的王，你們要用悟性歌頌。」

咱用詩歌來讚美主，用詩歌來感謝主。詩歌真會幫助咱敬拜上帝，因為寫詩的人都有得到聖靈大大的充滿來寫這些詩。所以當咱唱這些詩歌時，咱會大大得到激勵，給咱有火熱的心敬拜上帝。

再下去是祈禱，祈禱是咱與上帝說話。上帝很愛聽咱屬主的人的祈禱。箴言15:8b「正直人祈禱，為祂所喜悅。」咱能夠與上帝，創造宇宙萬物的神說話，這實在是巨大的特權。閩南聖詩有一首詩題目「祈禱的時此時極好」我心脫離俗情煩惱，又可就近天父面前。將心所愛向主祈求。我曾遇著災禍艱難，祈禱的時會得平安，又我專心祈禱的時，會使魔鬼與我相離。

既然上帝喜歡正直人的祈禱，咱要自省，咱是不是正直的人呢？下列幾項會攔阻咱的祈禱。

1. 不尊重上帝（撒母耳記上2：30）
2. 缺少信心（希伯來書11:6）
3. 還有隱藏的罪（詩篇19:12-13）
4. 不按照主的旨意（約翰一書5:14-15）
5. 自高自大（箴言18:12）
6. 不愛他的妻子（彼得前書2:15-17）
7. 自私，不愛人，不喜歡幫助人（馬可福音12:29-31）
8. 貪愛世界（約翰一書2:15-17）
9. 不要饒恕人的過犯（馬太福音6:14-15）
10. 不關心人的靈魂（馬太福音28:18-20）

再下去咱要來讀聖經。讀聖經是上帝向咱說話。咱要仔細來讀，並且求聖靈開咱屬靈的眼睛使咱會看見祂律法中的奇妙（詩篇119:18）

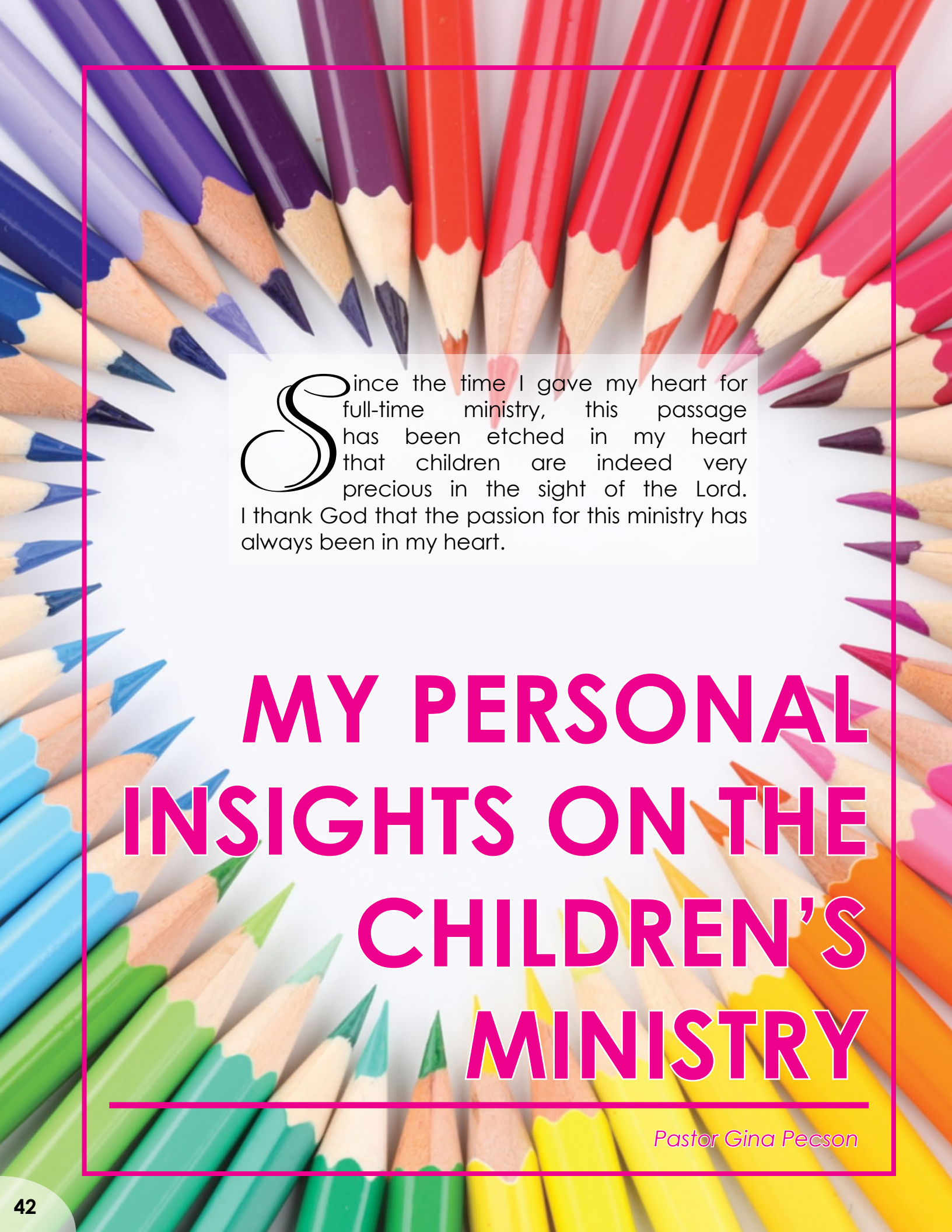
提摩太後書3:16-17「全部聖經都是上帝所默示的。在教訓，責備，歸正和公義的訓練各方面，都是有益的，v17為要使屬上帝的人裝備好，可以完成各樣的善工。」

上帝有很重要的話要藉著咱早晨靈修的時間對咱說，給咱知道祂的旨意，咱要注意聽。詩篇119:165「愛禰律法的人有大平安，甚麼都不能使他們絆腳。」上帝的話很寶貝。詩篇119:105「禰的話是我腳前的燈，是我路上的光。」

最後當咱吟詩，祈禱，讀經結束的時，咱要繼續保持安靜，用15-30分鐘的時間等候主。祂要對咱說話。

以賽亞書40:28-31「你豈不曾知道嗎？你豈不曾聽見嗎？永在的神耶和華，創造地極的主，並不疲乏，也不困倦，他的智慧無法測度。疲乏的，祂賜能力；軟弱的，祂加力量。就是少年人也要疲乏困倦，強壯的也必全然跌倒；但那等候耶和華的，必從新得力。他們必如鷹展翅上騰，他們奔跑卻不困倦，行走卻不疲乏。」👑





Since the time I gave my heart for full-time ministry, this passage has been etched in my heart that children are indeed very precious in the sight of the Lord. I thank God that the passion for this ministry has always been in my heart.

# MY PERSONAL INSIGHTS ON THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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*Pastor Gina Pecson*



Because of this, I thank God for the opportunity to help out in Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year. I know that VBS will always be a wonderful and memorable experience for children! They will always look forward to this event annually! Not only that, it has always been a great opportunity to share the Gospel to these children. Thus, the most important thing for VBS is that we teachers are able to share the most precious message of all, i.e. the love of Jesus, pointing the children to Jesus, our Savior who gives us strength and hope in life.

John W. Kennedy (2004) said, "Researcher George Barna, author of *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* (Regal Books, 2003), stresses the importance of children's ministry by contending that lifelong moral views are largely in place by adolescence."

"'What you believe at age 13 is pretty much what you're going to die believing,' Barna said. Research compiled by his Barna Group shows that children between the ages of 5 and 13 have a 32 percent probability of accepting Jesus ..."

Having this in mind, we believe that these young children who have come to the knowledge of our Lord and Savior can be a catalyst of change, just as how the Lord has been using our VBS team. By the way, do you know that 90% of our VBS team are all products of VBS? They were once kids who also joined VBS here. Isn't it amazing that it's their turn now to help out and share God's love to these kids?

## Matthew 19:14-15

- 14 But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."**
- 15 And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left.**

And because of this, we would like to thank all our church members who have given their talents, time, energy, and of course, their financial support. All of these resources are indeed important to make this VBS a special week for the kids.

For this year's VBS, there were a total of 145 registrants but on the average, only 110-120 were able to come and join with 10 teachers and 25 assistant teachers plus other staff as well.

Again, thank you very much for all your help and to our sisters from Sisters fellowship, thank you so much. Your presence really meant a lot to us.

What a great and victorious week! Let us all declare God's goodness and faithfulness for VBS 2018! Let us all rest for a while, coz VBS 2019 will soon be here before you know it! Let us all say, "Praise the Lord! To God be the glory!" 🙌





# BACK TO THE HOLY LAND — JERUSALEM

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*Ann Marie Su*

**S**halom! It's a pleasure to be a part of another Vacation Bible School – and seeing many kids come to enjoy God's presence in songs, stories and fellowship with other children for a whole week.

When we first met for initial planning, we had a hard time setting the date and coming up with the list of teachers.



However, after praying and deliberation, we finally decided to hold it towards the PCGS school opening since most of the children will be back from their vacation or will be done with summer classes. Thus, June 18-23, 2018 (Monday to Saturday) from 8:00-11:00 AM was set as the schedule for this year's VBS.

When we saw the material from the CSM (Church Strengthening Ministry) we immediately decided to use it: **BACK TO THE HOLY LAND – JERUSALEM**. It is quite fitting also since we are celebrating Israel's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a nation, and many have been to the Holy Land. Moreover, we also wanted the children to know about this blessed nation – the Land of God's chosen people.

So, the work began. We started registration by mid-March. By mid-May we had 100 early-bird registrants. Then a few more came in by June, until we reached a total of 147 registered children. We were able to invite 10 teachers and 36 assistants. Pastors Helen Sia and Alice Huang counseled some of the children – sharing the gospel to them more clearly.

We were so blessed that the Sisters' Fellowship sponsored the snacks for the whole week. The Lord had provided for the almost 200 people involved in this weeklong event. Jehovah Jireh!

Throughout this VBS, we had seen the hand of the Lord moving. The date was nearing and we still lacked Grade 5 teacher and a sub for Grade 3. During our final meeting, we were able to invite Brother Daniel Yam – the BSOP practicum to teach Grade 5 which he accepted without hesitation.

Erwina Chan, our song leader nearly did not make it because of work schedule, but she was able to make a bargain until she was free, not just to lead the songs, but also to substitute for Grade 3 while the teacher was out of town till the middle of the week. Then, when the Nursery class became too big, we had to get another teacher to handle the toddlers. The Lord readily gave us Krystle Ong who team-taught with Pastor Gina Pecson, the VBS Director.

We had some problems with decorating the sanctuary stage, which was a lot bigger than our usual venue. Then came Sia Boksuniu showing us the props of Jubilee Evangelical Church.

Oh, how we wished we could have the same here! Before we knew it, plans were made for the whole set of props to be sent here for us to borrow.

WOW!! Isn't our God amazing? We are very grateful for the JEC people who packed the many, many boxes of decors to be shipped freely to Cebu. Thanks also to those who facilitated and assisted in bringing the props and arranging them on stage.

On the day before VBS, Gina and I had the pleasure of doing the tour through each classroom and praying inside each room for the teacher and the students that they would be blessed as they joined the VBS. We did what we could do and committed the rest into God's hands. We knew and believed that He will work according to His will. We entrusted the whole week's activities to Him.

Finally, June 18 came. The staff arrived early for the morning devotion led by Sia Boksuniu. Then Erwina and her team led the singspiration. Siansi Gina then shared the Jewish symbol for the day. She talked about the Star of David, Mezuzah, Unleavened Bread, Menorah and the Shofar and how they could be relevant to us even if we are not Israelites. We learned the memory verse with Siansi Lily Young. After that, the children went to their respective classrooms where the teachers imparted their daily lessons from God's Word.

Day 1, the **Souvenir of Praise**, was based on the Story of Jesus' Coming as King – He gives us a reason to rejoice and praise Him.

Day 2, the **Souvenir of Courage**, was based from the Story when Jesus Cleaned the Temple – He wants us to stand up for what is right, just like He did.

Day 3, the **Souvenir of Strength**, was based on the Story of Jesus Healing the Man by the Pool – He renews our strength.

Day 4, the **Souvenir of Love**, was based on the Story of Jesus Washing His Disciples' Feet – He wants us to do for others as He has done for us.

Day 5, the **Souvenir of Hope**, was based on the Story of Jesus' Appearance to the Disciples and His Ascension to Heaven – He died and rose again to give us a brand-new hope. 🙏



# WHO IS GOD?

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J. D. E.

A year ago, I started to use a book called "God, What's Your Name?" This is a precept book for kids, which our own Sunday school teachers use. For many years before I was exposed to the inductive way of studying, I had been curious of all the names that the pastors, Sunday school teachers, and ministers used for God, but I never got around to answering those questions till now.

From this book, I've learned that God has many names and I'll be sharing some of them with you. But first, I'd like you to describe what you think about God in a notebook or paper and compare it to WHO God is according to the Bible.

The first name of God I learned is from Genesis 1:1: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth.' *Elohim* (el-oh-HEEM) is a Hebrew word which means "to fear" or "to revere." *El* from the word *Elohim* means "mighty" or "strong." This is the word that we use to refer to Almighty God. The *-im* ending is very important because it is a plural ending.

To understand this name of God, we must continue reading Genesis 1:2, which tells us that the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of waters. This is the Holy Spirit. We now cross-reference this with the New Testament (John 1:1-3,14), which tells us that 'in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' The "Word" in this verse refers to God's Son, Jesus Christ. From this, we deduce that *Elohim* – God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit, each had a part in the Creation.

The second name that I've learned is *El Elyon* (el el-YON), which means God Most High. This name was first used in Genesis 14, when a war between four kings resulted in the capture of Abraham's nephew Lot. As stated in Genesis 14:18-20, <sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup>He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup>And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.' Here, we can see that "God Most High" is described as Possessor or owner of both heaven and earth and that He will deliver our enemies into our hands.

Another name of God is *El Roi*, which means "God sees." This is revealed in Genesis 16:7-13 when Hagar ran away from Sarai, her mistress. Then the angel of the Lord told her to return to her mistress and submit to her authority, assuring Hagar that the Lord will greatly multiply her descendants and she would bear a son who will be called Ishmael.

From this, we can see that our God knows what we are going through. He sees when we are in distress, when we need help, and when we are in pain. God cares for us and He loves us. All we need is to turn to Him. He sees and knows what happens to us and will use the bad things for good.

Proverbs 5:21 says, 'For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He watches all his paths.'

The fourth name I learned is *El Shaddai* (el sha-DIE) meaning "God Almighty." We derived this name from Genesis 17:1-6. Abram was 99 years old when God renamed him Abraham and told him that He will make him the father of many nations.

In Genesis 12:4, Abram was 75 years old. Roughly 24 years had passed since God's promise, and Abram had been waiting all that time for God to give him and Sarai a child. Genesis 17:1 says, '1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless."'

In this passage, we see that Abram is weak, but God is strong. God was able to give Abraham a child and make him a father of a multitude of nations, even though Abram was past the age to father a child. God is *El-Shaddai*, our all-sufficient One. Proverbs 18:10 says that 'the Lord is our strong tower and the righteous, those who have believed and are cleansed by His blood, run to it and is safe.' 2 Corinthians 12:9,10 tells us, <sup>9</sup>And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.'

Yet another name for God, *Adonai* (a-doh-NIGH), was mentioned in Genesis 15:1-6. Abraham addressed God as "O Lord God." This name of God means "Lord." He is our LORD, Master, and Owner. What does it mean for God to truly be our *Adonai* – the Lord, Master, and Owner of our lives? Can we really say that Jesus is our Lord if we do not obey Him?

Malachi 1:6 says, "'A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?" says the LORD of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name. But you say, "How have we despised Your name?"' Look at what the Lord of hosts is asking, "If I am a master, WHERE is My HONOR?"



## 2 Corinthians 12:9

**“My grace is sufficient  
for you, for My power  
is perfected  
in weakness.”**

Now I ask you as I have asked myself, do you respect and honor Him as your Lord and Master, your *Adonai*? If God is to be Master and Owner of our lives, then we have to submit to whatever He asks us to do. We have to surrender our desires for God's. It is not about whether we have the skills set to do the task but rather the willingness to tackle whatever problem is thrown our way.

*Jehovah* is another name of God. This name of God is the most frequently-used name in the Old Testament. This name of God is also known in Hebrew as *YHWH*. Note that these are four consonants with no vowel. However, some people add the vowels “E”, “O”, and “A” and change “Y” to “J” and the “W” to “V” to get *Jehovah* (je-HOE-vah) while others add only the vowels “A” and “E” to get *Yahweh* (YAH-way).

This name is linked to a Hebrew verb *hâyâh*, which means “to be, to exist”. This name of God, whether *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*, implies a being who is absolutely self-existent. This means that God always is, was, and will be. He doesn't need anything outside of Himself. Nobody made God; rather, He is the Creator of all.

Look at Genesis 2:4. Here it says that the LORD God made earth and heaven. The name God in this verse means *Elohim*, which we had already tackled, but look at the word before it. It says LORD or *Jehovah* (*YHWH*).

Any time we see the name LORD in all capital letters, we must remember that this means *Jehovah*, the Self-existent One. Lord with a capital L, with the rest being lowercase, means that God is our Lord and master or *Adonai*. And just as how a master provides for his servants' needs, God will provide for our needs. This gives rise to another name of God, which is *Jehovah – Jireh*, or *the Lord will provide*, but this is for another time.

Remember that I asked you to list down WHO God is for you. Now compare it to what you've read:

1. Elohim: God the Creator
2. El Elyon: God Most High
3. El Roi: the God who sees
4. El Shaddai: God Almighty
5. Adonai: Lord, Master, Owner of our lives, and
6. Jehovah or Yahweh: the Self-existent One.

Are all the names we've learned listed in your paper? If they aren't, that's okay. I can honestly tell you that before I started reading this book, my knowledge of WHO God is was limited. And so, I impart this to you and hope that from now on, we will remember all of God's names and will be able to understand the Bible more as we read His word each and every day.

I look forward to imparting more of God's names to each of you, and hope that you have learned about WHO GOD IS according to the Bible. 🏰





# CHURCH EVENTS

*Pastor Rosaline Lim*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS (12.18.16)





# CHRISTMAS SUNDAY (12.18.16)



## INDUCTION OF DEACONS & DEACONESSSES (12.18.16)

*L*ected Elder Philip Yap, Deacons Lorenzo Ong Jr., George Tan, James Alekhine Tan, and Deaconesses Lili Gothong, Merry Lourdes Lee-Yu, Julie Tio, Christina Chia, and Kimberly Tee all begin their three-year term of service. 🙏





## CHILD DEDICATION (01.08.17)

Three children were dedicated to the Lord last January 8, 2017. They were Theo Gabriel Ong, Keith Alexander Te, and Liara Elise Lim. May God continue to guide, protect, and bless these little children. 🙏



## FIRST ENGLISH SERVICE (02.05.17)

The first English Service was held last February 5, 2017 from 8 AM to 9 AM. Rev. Vicente Sia delivered the message titled "Spiritual Blessings in Christ." 🙏







From top to bottom, left to right:

- ① Kinder 1: Kimberly Tee
- ② Grade 2: Elena Go
- ③ Kinder 2: Merry Lourdes Lee-Yu
- ④ English Bible Study: Rick Garingo
- ⑤ Toddlers: Irene T. Ong
- ⑥ Yayas: Rose Dagoc
- ⑦ Grade 8: Lili Gothong

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# CLASS OF 2017



From top to bottom, left to right:

- Grade 3: Susan Chua ⑧
- Grade 9: Ann Marie Su ⑨
- Grade 4: Catherine Chua ⑩
- Grade 1: Michelle Suarez ⑪
- Grade 7: Josephine Q. Yu ⑫
- Grade 5: Jenny Ting ⑬
- Nursery: Dolores Chan ⑭

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9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14





From top to bottom, left to right:

- ① Sunday School Teachers
- ② Grade 7: Josephine Q. Yu
- ③ Grade 10: Michele Po
- ④ Grade 11+: Gabriel Yap Jr.
- ⑤ Group photo with the Principal
- ⑥ Grade 6: Peter Suarez
- ⑦ Sunday School Sirens

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# PCGS SUNDAY (02.19.17)



*P*hilippine  
Christian  
Gospel School  
directress  
Dr. Wanda  
Po gave the message  
entitled "Commit to Pray"  
in both services. 🙏



# PCGS BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY (03.26.17)





# CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

## 101<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY (03.19.17)



ur church celebrated its 101<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary last March 19, 2017. Dr. Ricky Recodo gave the message entitled "The Strength We Need" based on Ephesians 3:14-21. 🙏





# RESURRECTION SUNDAY BAPTISMAL (04.16.17)



*F*our brothers and six sisters publicly announced their faith last April 16, 2017. They were Kevin Chia, Chloe Hsu, Granielle Bea Lao, Ben Yael Pecson, Dan Yael Pecson, Leonardo Ramin Jr., Nicole Kacy Tan, Ashley Uy, Jerisch Valenzuela, and Maegan Lauren Yap. 🙏



## TODDLER ROOM DEDICATION (04.23.17)









## MOTHERS' DAY (05.14.17)



## FATHERS' DAY (06.18.17)











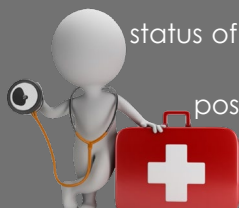
## IN OTHER NEWS...

06.11.17 Free medical check-up was given to church members who are 40 years old and above last June 11, 2017 after the Worship Service.

This annual activity is extended to our members in order to determine the general

status of one's health and check for other possible health concerns so they can

be treated early.



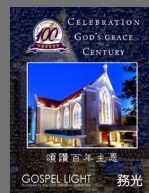
07.30.17 Our church celebrated Sacred Music

Sunday. Pastor Helen K. Sia gave the message entitled "Make Music in Your Heart!"



09.30.17 Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Lo (PCGS Batch of 1960) from Irvine Christian Center of Orange County worshipped with us.

11.12.17 Election of deacons and deaconesses for the term 2018-2020.



Gospel Light 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, in book-bound form, was distributed for the first time.

11.26.17 Book Sale organized by the Literature Committee led by Deaconess Mona Li was held for two consecutive Sundays. Rebates were given to members who bought Bibles, Christian books, and other items. 🙏



# ELEVATOR DEDICATION (07.16.17)





# MISSION EMPHASIS WEEK (09.13-17.17)



In September 13-17, 2017, our church held its annual Mission Emphasis Week. A revival meeting was held on the 16th. The event ended with a Worship Sunday where CGC-supported missionaries joined the service on the 17th. 🙏

## MUSIC NIGHT (10.27.17)



Covenant singers from Manila sang during our Music Night last last October 27, 2017. Glory to God. 🙏



When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around. – Willie Nelson

CGC Sister's Fellowship did it again for hosting the special thanksgiving service last November 23, 2017. They always walk an extra mile in serving God. It is always a joy to see them share their talents through singing and dancing for God.

The other fellowships also rendered their God given talents and gifts that evening to give praise and worship and adoration to our Almighty God.





A person who has a grateful heart gives his or her thanksgiving to God not just on Thanksgiving Day, but each and every day.

Being grateful means you know how to be contented with what you have and enjoy what is given to you.

Saying thank you sometimes is not easy when things in life are tough. But at the end of the day, if we still acknowledge who God is and what God has done for us, it will be easier for us to say "Thank You Lord for today." 🙏





# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY (12.10.17)





# CHRISTMAS CANTATA (12.17.17)

And on Earth ... Peace.

Last December 17, 2017 CGC Choir held a short Christmas cantata entitled "And on Earth... Peace."

Hearing the story of how our Savior was brought here on earth through songs and carols had a different effect.

It made our imagination wonder why a King was born in a lowly manger. Remembering the birth of Christ refreshed and reminded us of the grace bestowed upon us by our Father in heaven.

Thank you, Father God, for sending your Son. Thank you Jesus for saving us. Thank you Holy Spirit for enlightening us. 🙏





# INDUCTION OF DEACONS & DEACONESSSES (01.07.18)



## CONGREGATIONAL SUNDAY (01.28.18)



## PCGS SUNDAY (02.25.18)





## BAPTISMAL (04.01.18)



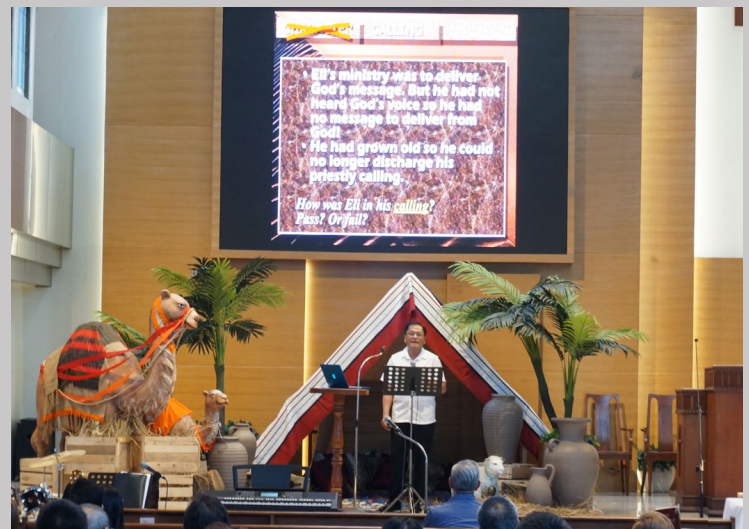
We have two brothers and two sisters who announced their faith publicly last

April 1, 2018. They are: Bro. Jronn Chan, Sis. Doris Go, Sis. Jamie Tan, and Bro. Jonathan Yu.

Let us continue to pray for them and at the same time guide and encourage them.

To God be the Glory! 🙏

## FATHERS' DAY (06.17.18)





Last June 18 to 23, 2018, our Christian Education Committee held its DVBS spearheaded by Pastor Gina Pecson. Around 170 children and staff joined the event. The theme was "Jerusalem: Back to the Holy Land."

It talked about five very-important qualities a Christian should have:

1. First is **Praise** – the heart to worship our King as He comes into our lives. This was portrayed in Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
2. Second is **Courage** – to stand up for what is right in God's eyes, not in the eyes of men, as how Jesus cleared the temple.



3. Third is **Strength** – when Jesus healed the man at the pool. Like Him, we should also do all we can to help both believers and non-believers.
4. Fourth is **Love** – love that Jesus showed his disciples as He washed their feet.
5. Last is **Hope** – hope that He will one day return to take us to the place He had prepared for us. 🕌











## CHILD DEDICATION (07.01.18)

These were the children who were dedicated last July 1, 2018: Amanda Celestine L. Dagoc, Azaniah Dorothy L. Dagoc, Caitlyn Monique Sy, Johann Sky Lee Yu, Matthew Sy, Pierce Leon Yap, and Sienna Jade Teyu.

May their parents continue to bring them up in the ways of the Lord so that they may grow in wisdom and love for Him.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." 🙏





# TEN MINUTES WITH GOD

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

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*Exclusive Digital Edition Content*

### **My Palawan Experience**

My experience in Palawan was absolutely worth the travel. It was an immersion that made me experience the sureness of God's existence in every little thing.

We got to stay at the tribes and homes of the missionaries. We shared a lot of laughter and experiences, and it was God's time well-spent.

The mission life is indeed a command and a calling, not just for missionaries, missionaries-to-be or pastors, but for all of us. Making disciples at home, church and work is what I can do. I have no reason to say "no."

### **A Living Sacrifice**

A missionary's life is a perfect example of a living sacrifice mentioned in Romans 12:1.

The trip to Palawan was just a small portion of this life, but the experience made me appreciate how miraculous the simple things in life really are.

After this fulfilling journey, the dominant feeling I felt was humility, and a challenge from Jesus to be a living sacrifice.

### **My Testimony**

During the trip, I experienced a "tip of the iceberg" of what the missionaries go through when they leave their comfort zone. I was really amazed at how God really provides for them.

God can and will use anyone he chooses. Even though I don't consider myself very adequate for for the trip, He chose to include me in a team that was very passionate.

The mission trip to Palawan was an eye-opener to God's grace and mercy, and is an experience I will cherish forever.

### **First and Foremost:**

### **My CBDTI Experience**

This year's CBDTI turned my summer days of nothingness into days filled with purpose and priorities.

I learned that God is divine in all things, and we have to prioritize Him above everything and through everything: worship, time, service, and conviction.

### **Standing Firm to Teach**

I want to be a teacher, but to be honest, some reactions were not exactly uplifting. It was only when I talked with a good friend when the response, "Did you pray about it?" made me realize I haven't really talked to God about it.



I prayed and prayed, and asked God to give me a sign: if I pass the college entrance exam, then He wants me to pursue teaching.

After months of silence, I finally got a chat from a friend, saying "Congratulations! You passed!" I knew then and there that God wanted me to teach.

It's hard to read the future, but all we have to do is stand firm and trust in the Lord.

### **Unwrapping God's Gift of Grace**

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It is hard to understand God's extravagant gift of grace in today's merit-based society. Though I have sinned and will continue to sin, I am always caught by God's grace.

This gift is ready for those who are willing to accept it. All we have to do is to unwrap it.

### **Business Lessons from the Book of Proverbs**

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- ❶ Avoid enticement and practice ethics in business, even if you think no one is watching.
- ❷ Be vigilant against negativity. If you allow fear to enter your heart, you second-guess all your business decisions.
- ❸ Be teachable and never stop learning. Otherwise you and your business will stagnate.
- ❹ Do not procrastinate. Business is cutthroat, and the slightest hesitation can prove fatal.

### **That One Thing**

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Let us take a look at that "ONE THING" most important in the lives of six people from the Bible, and learn spiritual lessons from them.

- ❶ The rich young man lacked one thing: willingness to follow Jesus.
- ❷ In her eagerness to be a host, Martha forgot one important thing: to fellowship with God.
- ❸ The beggar, blind since birth, knew this one thing: that his healing by Jesus was a miracle.
- ❹ King David asked God for only one thing: to focus solely on God.
- ❺ Apostle Peter reminded us not to forget of one thing: that the second coming of Christ is nigh.
- ❻ Finally, Apostle Paul wrote that there was one thing he could do: forget the past, and press on towards the future.

### **My Personal Insights on the Children's Ministry**

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Did you know that 90% of our VBS teaching team are all products of VBS? It's amazing that it's their turn now to help out and share God's love to kids attending our Vacation Bible School (VBS).

This year's VBS had a total of 110-120 attendees, with a staff of 10 teachers and 25 assistants. Thank you so much, everyone. your presence meant a lot to us.

Let us all say, "Praise the Lord! To God be the glory!"

### **Back to the Holy Land—Jerusalem**

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This year's theme from CSM Publishing, is quite fitting, as we celebrate Israel's 75<sup>th</sup> year as a nation this year.

Throughout the VBS, we had seen the hand of the Lord moving: schedules miraculously cleared, and props and décor were freely sent to us from the Jubilee Evangelical Church.

Wow, isn't our God amazing?! We did what we could, and committed the rest to God's hands, knowing and believing He will work according to His will.

### **Who is God?**

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Who is God to you? Did you know that God has many names in the Bible?

- ❶ *El Elohim* is what we call an "All-Powerful" tri-une God.
- ❷ *El Elyon* refers to "God Most High", who has dominion over all things.
- ❸ *El Roi*, or "God Sees", is an omnipresent and all-seeing God.
- ❹ *El Shaddai*, a name God called himself, speaks of an "Almighty God" whose grace is sufficient for our needs.
- ❺ *Adonai* is something intimate. God is our "Lord, Master and Owner," someone we have a personal relationship with.
- ❻ *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*, the "Self-Existent One", translates to LORD and is the most frequently-used name of God in the Bible. 🙏









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