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Gospel Light

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VISION

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

MISSION

To prepare God's People for works of service through equipping, encouraging, and discipling.

To promote a Christ-like Church that loves and cares for one another.

To proclaim the Gospel to our Community and beyond.

APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



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Find What Is Lost

BY: REV. VICENTE YU SIA

The theme for Cebu Gospel Church's in 2024 is "Reignite (our faith), Reroot (in God's way), Resolve (with renewed commitment), and Recharge (through the Lord's strength)."

We live our lives in pursuit of something of significance or of value. As we journey along, we cross paths with opportunities that may be of more value; we embark on them and thus give up to our initial pursuit. We go through the winding roads where we get lost, tangled up, frustrated and exhausted leading to despair. What can be done to get back on track?

We need to regain, recapture, reclaim, recoup, retake what was lost. ("Re" is a prefix frequently used with the meaning "again" or "again and again" to indicate repetition.) Perhaps, we may have lost our passion for God. We need to find it again.

Our 2024 theme exhorts us to Reignite, Reroot, Resolve and Recharge. It is crucial for us to:

- Reignite our passion for God
- Be Rerooted in God's infallible Word
- Resolved to be filled with the Holy Spirit as we become a blessing to others
- And always remember to be Recharged by the source of love, light, hope, redemption, mercy, truth, who is our God, our loving Father

失而復得

作者：謝國智牧師

宿 務基督教會2024年的主題是「重燃信念、重扎主道、重新決志、靠主得力」。

人生路程中，我們開始是帶著自己認為寶貴的東西生活。後來無意中卻放棄、丟失了這寶貴的東西，反而帶著自己認為更寶貴的東西走上了人生彎曲。困苦、迷失、喪志、挫敗，甚至悲觀厭世的絕路。

我們應如何重新拾起當初所忽略、所放棄的寶貴東西呢？

本會 2024 年主題勸勉我們：

- 重燃信念，恢復對上帝的熱情
- 重扎主亙古不變的真道
- 重新決志，被聖靈充滿，成為別人的祝福
- 靠主得力，讓慈悲父神的信、望、愛光照我們

Reignite the fire

BY: PASTOR BOYET LISBE

The theme for 2024 is “Reignite. Reroot. Resolve. Recharge.” And this article will focus on the first aspect, which is, Reignite.

We all know that life is so complex. There are so many things to think about, to consider day after day. The challenges that we face from time to time may overwhelm us. And sometimes we just go through the motions of life just to survive and we find it difficult to thrive.

With everything that is going on, we could lose our spiritual passion, our sense of direction, focus, and purpose for living. We may attend church regularly but don’t have the passion to worship God, to listen and obey His Word, and to reach out to others.

That is why there is a need for us to be reignited spiritually. It was part of our intention to reignite our passion for the LORD, first and foremost. That God’s Spirit would work mightily in our hearts so that we would truly love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

A reignited passion for the Lord is reflected in this prayer,

*“Dear Lord, whatever it is I desire,
may I desire you more.
Whatever I seek,
may I seek You more.
Whatever I love,
may I love You more.”*

*May You be more to me
- than anything in this world.”*

(Author unknown)

Aside from our passion for the Lord to be reignited, we also want God to reignite our passion for His Word. As Evangelical Christians, we believe that the Bible is the final authority for faith and practice. And so we value God’s word in our lives.

A reignited passion for God’s Word will reflect what the psalmist says in Psalm 119:97-98: “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.”

It is our desire that Sunday after Sunday we always come to church excited to listen to the preaching of God’s Word no matter who the preacher is. This is how much we value and respect God’s word in our lives.

But we are not just listeners of the Word, we are also doers of the Word. As James reminds us, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22 NIV).

As much as we want to be passionate to love God and his Word, we also know that God wants us to be passionate in reaching the lost, those who have no relationship with Jesus Christ yet. King Jesus has given us the Great

Commission in Matt. 28:19-20 commanding us to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The making of disciples include sharing the gospel of Christ to the lost so that when they believe in Christ, they will start their journey of following Christ.

We learn from Scripture that God wants to have a very big family. And He wants to use us, his redeemed people, to tell others about the love of God, the salvation that Christ offers to anyone who repents from sins and believes in Christ’s sufficient work on the cross as payment for their sins. And it is our prayer and desire that each member of CGC has been reignited to reach the lost whether here in our country or outside the country, or wherever the Lord leads and empowers us.

Here’s the thing: when we lose our passion for the LORD, we will also lose our passion for His Word and for the lost. But if we’re truly passionate for the Lord, we will also be passionate for His Word and for the lost. And if these things are not true of us, please examine yourself to see whether you are in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

The LORD bless us and keep us all. Amen.

FIVE YEARS OF FAITHFUL MINISTRY:

Church Planting in Sogod, Southern Leyte

BY: REV. VICENTE C. OLAYVAR JR.

Over the past five years, our church, Sogod Community Fellowship, has been dedicated to nurturing the spiritual and physical well-being of the children and families in Sogod, Southern Leyte. Through weekly feeding program and Bible teaching, we have witnessed God's transformative work in the lives of many. Our mission has been clear: "To spread the love of Christ, disciple new believers, and reach out to our community with the hope of the Gospel".

Feeding Program and Teaching

Every Saturday, we gather to feed the children of Sogod. This initiative is not just about providing meals, it is an opportunity to build relationships and share the Word of God. As a pastor, we have the privilege of teaching the children each week, imparting Biblical lessons that resonate with their lives. We aim to instill a sense of hope and purpose, showing them that they are valued in the eyes of God.

The joy on the children's faces as they receive both nourishment and spiritual instruction is immeasurable. Many of these children come

from challenging backgrounds, and our program provides a safe and nurturing environment. In addition to physical nourishment, we engage them in activities promoting learning, creativity, and teamwork. Through stories, crafts, and games, we communicate essential Christian principles that they can carry with them as they grow.

Mobilizing New Members

As we've grown, so has our congregation. Mobilizing new members has been crucial in our ministry. We encourage every member to get involved in our activities, serving in various capacities—whether it be cooking for the feeding program, leading Bible studies, or organizing community outreach efforts. This not only helps the church function more effectively but also fosters a sense of ownership and belonging among our members.

I actively disciple these new members, guiding them in their faith journey. Through small group leadership training, we prepare them to take on responsibilities within the church. This apprenticeship model

not only builds their confidence but also ensures that the church remains vibrant and active, rooted in the teachings of Christ.

Reaching the Community

Our commitment to the community extends beyond our weekly programs. We engage in house-to-house Bible studies, reaching out to families who may not yet know Christ. These intimate gatherings provide an opportunity for deeper conversation and connection. By sharing the Gospel in their homes, we demonstrate our commitment to meeting people where they are, addressing their spiritual and physical needs.

Every Sunday, we gather for worship services where our members lead praise and worship. This not only enhances their spiritual growth but also encourages them to use their gifts for the Lord. It's a beautiful sight to see our congregation actively participating in worship, lifting their voices in praise, and celebrating the goodness of God together.



Ministering to Older Women

In addition to our focus on children, we have recognized the importance of ministering to older women in our community. These women often carry the burdens of their families and need support, encouragement, and companionship. Our feeding program includes them, and we also provide food packs and clothing donations from friends and fellow Christians. These acts of kindness not only meet their physical needs but also create a sense of community and belonging.

We believe that every generation has something to offer the church. By involving older women in our programs, we create an environment where they can share their wisdom and experiences, enriching the faith of younger generations. This intergenerational approach fosters unity and love within the church body.

Expanding Our Reach

As we celebrate five years of ministry in Sogod, we are excited about the future. We are exploring new areas for church planting, collaborating with new members and disciples from our fellowship. Our vision is to extend the reach of the Gospel beyond Sogod and impact more communities with the love of Christ.

Every journey comes with its challenges. Our travels to these new areas require reliable transportation and we earnestly pray for travelling mercies to reach these areas. Every new community is an opportunity for us to share the hope of the Gospel and witness lives transformed by Christ.

Prayer and Support

We recognize the importance of prayer in our ministry. We continually seek wisdom and good health from the Lord as we navigate the complexities of church planting and community outreach. Our prayer is that God will guide us, strengthen us, and provide for our needs as we strive to fulfill the Great Commission.

As we reflect on our journey, we are grateful for the support we have received from friends, family, and fellow believers. Your prayers and contributions have played a significant role in sustaining our ministry. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of children and families in Sogod, and we are excited to see how God will continue to work in and through us.

Conclusion

The past five years of ministry in Sogod, Southern Leyte, have been filled with challenges and victories, joy and sorrow, but above all, growth—both spiritually and numerically. We are reminded that our work is not in vain and that every child fed, every prayer prayed, and every heart touched is a testament to God's faithfulness.

As we look to the future, we are committed to continuing our mission of discipleship, outreach, and community engagement. With God's guidance, we will strive to be a beacon of hope in Sogod and beyond, reaching lives with the message of His love. Thank you for joining us on this journey, and we ask for your continued prayers and support as we embark on the next chapter of our ministry.

Blessings to you all!

Every journey comes with its challenges. Our travels to these new areas require reliable transportation and we earnestly pray for traveling mercies to reach these areas. Every new community is an opportunity for us to share the hope of the Gospel and witness lives transformed by Christ.

Church Planting:

Building Gospel-Centered Communities

BY: REV. RANDOLF B. BAYO (MEDELLIN GOSPEL MOVEMENT)

Church planting is about fostering a genuine community that reflects the gospel's transformative power. As Steve Timmis puts it, it's a community shaped by the Spirit, modeling the reign of Christ and inviting others into this fellowship through the gospel. Our journey began in 2019 when we initiated church planting efforts in Medellin, Cebu. The following year, amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we successfully launched the Gospel Movement in Medellin. Our mission is clear: to establish disciple-making churches throughout the region by focusing on intentional disciple-making.

Reaching Our Communities

Our movement is dedicated to actively engage with the communities around us. We conduct weekly values formation sessions during the flag-raising ceremony at the Medellin Municipal Hall, which fosters a sense of community and shared purpose. Additionally, we hold Squad Weekly Interactive Meetings (SWIM) at the Medellin Police Station and facilitate spiritual enrichment sessions at the local military camp. Our campus ministry reaches several schools in Medellin, allowing us to connect with students and their families.

A key part of our outreach strategy is identifying "men of peace" in each community. These individuals help us initiate new outreach efforts and host Discovery Bible Studies through life group meetings. By building authentic relationships, we create opportunities for spiritual growth and community engagement.



Enriching Our Church and Supporting Others

Our church is committed to the principle of making disciples who make more disciples. We believe in a multi-generational approach to discipleship, where each person is empowered to share their faith with others. To strengthen our church, we have established a "Follow Me" group that consists of church leaders and willing members. In this group, participants receive training to deepen their spiritual lives, learn effective evangelism strategies, and gain skills for leading small groups. This training empowers them to start their own Discovery Bible Studies.

Furthermore, we extend our training efforts to other pastors and church workers through a Theology by Extension program at the Baptist Theological College. Our church has become a hub for training disciple-makers, utilizing resources such as T-Net (Training Network for Disciple Making Pastors and Churches)

and the Disciple Making Center (DMC). As Matt Chandler aptly states, "Our goal is not a church planted but a church planting – a church planting more churches." This intentional approach to disciple-making offers a tremendous opportunity for both individual and collective growth.

Engaging in Small Groups

One of the most fulfilling aspects of our ministry is our commitment to small groups. Our trained leaders are successfully initiating their own Discovery Bible Studies, creating intimate spaces for study and prayer. After each worship service, it has become our custom to gather in small groups for prayer, reinforcing our sense of community and shared faith.

Some groups meet at different times to accommodate members' schedules. For example, Pastor Randolph leads a men's group, while Lory oversees a children's group. Other life groups are managed by trained church leaders who host meetings in their homes or nearby locations. This approach

not only fosters community but also keeps costs low, ensuring everyone can participate.

Enlarging the Movement

Our initiatives have allowed us to plant multiple churches and establish numerous outreach efforts within five years. We revitalized a church in Dalingding, Daanbantayan, and started a new community of believers in Medellin.

An encouraging aspect of our work is the role children play in inviting their families to church. Every Sunday morning, we hold a breakfast ministry that provides children with a healthy meal. These children often invite their parents and grandpar-

ents to join them at church, which has led to families attending worship together.

By reaching out to fathers and creating family-oriented programs, we have seen more families coming together for worship. This holistic approach not only strengthens our church community but also reflects the gospel's message of unity and love.

Conclusion

In conclusion, our church planting efforts in Medellin, Cebu are centered around creating vibrant, gospel-centric communities. Through intentional disciple making, we actively reach out to our neighborhoods, enrich our

church, and support other congregations. Engaging in small groups fosters deep connections and spiritual growth, while our outreach initiatives have led to the establishment of new churches and revitalized communities.

As we continue this journey, we remain committed to living out the gospel and inviting others to experience the transformative power of Christ in their lives. Together, we are building a community that reflects God's love and grace, extending our reach further into our communities and nurturing future generations of believers.

From Vision to Reality:

Igniting the Spark of a New Church Planting Movement

BY: PASTOR HERMELO SENO (CENTER POINT CHURCH, LAMAC, CONSOLACION)

Center Point Church (CPC) is a Christ-centered, community-oriented, and mission-driven local body of Christ. The journey to planting this church began with a prayer drive.

We visited three potential locations, driving and praying for God's guidance. This process led to the creation of a prayer framework we call the "5 P's":

- 1. Place:** Identifying where God wanted us to plant the church. We considered three areas: Consolacion, Liloan, and Compostela.
- 2. Partners:** Seeking individuals who would join, invest in, and commit to the kingdom work.
- 3. Person of Peace:** Finding people God had prepared to receive us and our mission.
- 4. Peso:** Praying for God's financial provision to sustain the ministry.



- 5. Plan:** Developing a strategy to reach the community effectively.

God, faithful to His promises, led us to Barangay Lamac, Consolacion—a strategic and populous area with adults, children, and young people eager for engagement. Over the past two years, we've witnessed God working

through various initiatives to bless this community.

Community Impact

One significant initiative is a livelihood project supporting parents in earning a sustainable income. A mother participating in the pro-

gram shared her gratitude, saying she not only gained practical skills in livelihood, health education, and gardening but also grew spiritually through small group Bible studies and values formation sessions.

Our gardening project has been another blessing, allowing families to harvest fresh vegetables for their daily needs. We also emphasize health education to promote physical well-being.

The most vital aspect of our ministry is Values Formation. Adults engage in small groups to study God's Word, pray, and encourage one another. Meanwhile, children participate in Bible classes and a feeding ministry, nurturing their spiritual and physical growth.

Answered Prayers

From the very beginning, we entrusted CPC to God, relying on prayers from many faithful partners. We are especially grateful for the guidance of mentors like Pastor Ricky

Recodo and Pastor Mike Wells, who have been instrumental as spiritual leaders and counselors.

We also acknowledge the unwavering support of Cebu Gospel Church, whose generosity and prayers have greatly sustained this mission. By God's grace, CPC has grown in its three years, with families regularly attending worship services and church leaders committed to discipleship training. Many are now leading small groups and outreach programs, strengthening relationships within the community and beyond.

A Growing Vision

We are also partnering with fellow workers in Christ from northern Cebu, equipping them for discipleship-making. Although challenges and struggles arise, we press on, assured that our prayer warriors stand with us and that we serve a faithful God. One of our life verses, Joshua 1:9 (NIV), reminds us of God's unwavering presence:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

God has answered our prayers for the place, people, partners, provision, and plans, confirming His calling for us as church planters. Today, CPC is actively engaged in discipleship and gospel outreach, continuing to pursue the vision entrusted to us by the Lord.

We are profoundly grateful to Cebu Gospel Church for their partnership in this church planting journey. Your

support, prayers, and love have been a constant source of encouragement.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.

Your Missionary Planters, Pastor Hermelo, Madelyn, Rhema Sophia, and Mike Gabriel Seno

Port Christian Center

BY: PASTOR RAMON MALAGAR DILAO

Every December, we hear the sound of the children singing "We are the Boys, We are the Girls of the Port Christian Center..." They come to visit us to thank us for supporting them through our work in Missions.

Port Christian Center focuses on evangelizing children who have reached the age of accountability, accepted the Lord into their hearts as their Savior, and have been baptized. The youngest member is a little boy who is 10 years old.

Over the past three years, 18 members have been baptized at El Theological College, where the ceremonies are held.

Port Christian Center holds Bible studies every Tuesday night for adult and young members. The center also organizes feedings every Thursday and Saturday evening, where volunteers, including sponsored members, teach and serve food to the children and help with cleaning afterward. Additionally, we have our Lunch Fellowships before the start of Sunday School and Divine Worship.

As we prepare for presentations, the children are offered music and voice lessons. Led by Pastor Ramon Dilao who teaches a wide variety of instruments, ranging from string to wind instruments—a gift from God that he has willingly shared with the children

of the Port Christian Center since its inception.

We plan to form a new group at the Port Christian Center, composed of alumni who have graduated from college and gone on to achieve success with God's guidance and the sponsorship of the Port Christian Center.

We pray that this new group will embody the spirit of Christians who have achieved newfound success in life and will continue to inspire the children of the Port Christian Center.

Port Christian Center is located at 422 Quezon Boulevard, Pier 1, Barangay San Roque, Cebu City

Bridging Cultures:

Mission Work Among Tribal Communities

BY: JOSEPH DEMAFELIS

Palawan, often referred to as the “Last Frontier” of the Philippines is a home to unique blend of cultures primarily influenced by indigenous groups such as the Tagbanua, Batak, and Palaw’an. These communities face numerous challenges including limited access to education, health-care and economic opportunities. By God’s grace, we stand in the gap to provide support focusing on holistic development to bring the gospel and flourish in the community.

The last frontier of the Philippines needs our attention. Compared to 20 years ago, it is becoming more and more urbanized. New migrants are coming, some good and some not so good influencers.

Our ministry among the natives is as crucial as the outreaches in the city and slums areas. We are praying for a fruitful ministry of empowering the needy, undeveloped and underprivileged villages that are mostly indigenous people in the northern part of Palawan.

Their languages are endangered due to discrimination and disrespect by the lowlanders. But we know how precious they are in God’s sight. We are aiming for a Batak and Tagbanua Caruray New Testament that will eventually be used to evangelize as well as to deepen the devotion of the believers.



Crossworld Mission - Palawan exist to know God and make Him known. We want to see tribal communities flourishing and displaying passionate love for God who will reach out to other tribal communities to love God also.

Our core values spells **LOVE** which means: Living a life that embodies the love of God to others. Obedience to the great commission and the great commandment. Vision for a great harvest for God’s glory and Excellence of every believer.

Our strategies also spell **PEACE** which means: Promoting reconciliation that will lead to church planting, Equipping leaders, Assisting the poor, Caring for the sick and Educating the next generation.

We are reaching out to new communities, the seaside and mountainside villages. People’s way of living is simple and indigenous. They rely on the provision from the sea and while farmers raise animals and plant root crops and rice. Most of them can hardly send their children to school

but we are praying for provision. We are facilitating for some livelihood projects for the community to bridge them to other community stakeholders. Through these projects, we can build rapport to the families within the community enabling us to form Bible study group meetings in the houses and tree shades.

This December 2024 is the first year anniversary of our church in Decala, Caruray, Palawan. Praise God for the tribal leaders we disciplined as a jump-off of our church planting endeavor. Few weeks ago, the two successive typhoons destroyed our meeting place and washed out the trees on the shore that serves as our shelter during Bible studies. We are praying for a “kubo” and some benches or chairs to house our Bible study group.

As I minister to the Tagbanuas in the new church planting area, my wife is doing discipleship with the elders and families in the Batak village. Our discipleship thrust this year is “becoming big by being small.”

Reminiscence

Cordova Evangelical Fellowship 2024



Newly Opened

Year 2024 has been a year of expansion in the ministry. Despite the financial constraint, the Lord has been our provider in opening doors of opportunity to share the love of Jesus to children and adults of Brgy. Gabi.

The Lord has shown us week after week that His provision is sufficient, even when we are growing in numbers every week and our budget is still the same. We have been blessed with the commitment of our young people, who are willingly giving their time to teach these children holistically. They also teach our other outreach in Brgy. Ibabao.

Help us to continue to pray that these mothers and children will soon rise up and will have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ!

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all of creation."



Puso Notebook

The Puso Notebook is a 14-week interactive guide designed for young people, aiming to help them address emotional and spiritual challenges. It features timely lessons and activities that focus on healing the heart, tackling issues like personal identity, relationships, peer pressure, and family dynamics.

We have started this journey with 9 youths and we praise and thank the Lord for allowing us to connect to these youth. They are given a safe place to open up and we can address what they are going through and encourage them through scriptures and proper guidance, support system and just friendship.

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.



New Place

For the past years, CEF has been worshipping in the Brgy. gym, however, with conflicts of Brgy. events we had to move place.

We are now gathering in a place that is too small for our growing family, but despite the space the Lord has continually bless CEF with members growing spiritually and being a blessing to their neighborhood.

We are continuing to ask for your prayers that we will acquire a place or church lot so that our ministry will reach more people for our Lord Jesus Christ. As of now we cannot cater any more people due to our limited space.



Company Bible Studies

Being a Pastor doesn't end at the pulpit. Pulpit ministry is just one ministry our CEF Pastor does. Every Monday and Tuesday, our Pastor has a Company Bible Study with approximately 30 to 40 men.

We praise and thank the Lord for this opportunity to share His word to these hardworking men. Some of these men only hears the Word during their Bible Study. We also thank the 2 companies that allows us to have these Bible studies during office hours.

Please continue to pray with us that these men will continue to grow spiritually and those that have not accepted Christ will do so and have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. As well as for the Lord's blessing to pour out in this two companies.

2 Timothy 4:5

But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.





Prison Ministry

One of the company that our Pastor ministers to does prison ministry through out the year. This is one ministry that is often left out and churches doesn't really get involved into. We praise and thank the Lord for the opportunity that has given to CEF to be a part of this ministry outreach in partnership with Janice Minor Export, one of the company Bible study.

These prisoners or what they called PDL (Person Deprived of Liberty) hears the gospel and experience the love that is from our Lord Jesus Christ. After sharing the word there is also sharing of blessings to these PDL.

Let us continue to pray for these men that even though their families hasn't visited them for how many years they will continue to feel the love and presence of the our Lord Jesus Christ despite their situation.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.

Planting Grace in Cebu

BY: JESSON & EARLYN JOY MISSE (GRACE FELLOWSHIP CARCAR)

Church planting is deeply rooted in Scripture. Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 commands His followers to "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." This is the foundation of the church of this church planting project here in Carcar City.

The main focus of this church planting project is not only the internal growth but also to extend its reach to areas where the Gospel is not yet preached or where the presence of a thriving church community is lacking.



Our church, Grace Fellowship Carcar has a clear and compelling vision to see lives transformed by the Gospel. The church has been actively involved in ministry, discipleship, and outreach within the Carcar community, seeking to live out the truth of God's Word in every aspect of life.

Ministries: Sunday afternoon we have children's outreach or feeding ministry to 3 areas (Dapdap, Takdog, and Valencia). We have also house church every Sunday afternoon, take care by men in the church. We have discipleship and bible study every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Saturday. We have also Campus ministry every Thursday night in CTU Barili. We have Person with Disability (PWD)

ministry once a month. This church planting project will not grow and succeed without a committed and well-equipped team. Grace Fellowship Carcar has assembled a core group of leaders and volunteers who will take on key roles in the church (they are homegrown leaders). This team has diverse gifts, such as preaching (we have now two homegrown preachers), teaching, evangelism, and worship leading.

The church planting project of Grace Fellowship Carcar is very grateful and thankful to the Lord for Cebu Gospel Church in their prayers and financial support. Thank you for helping us faithfully in our journey in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Please continue to uphold us in your prayers. Our prayer is to plant new churches in a strategic location within Cebu, fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel.



My first

CBDTI EXPERIENCE

BY: TRISHA SOPHIA BOK

I've always heard heartfelt stories from fellow church members about their experiences at CBDTI. They spoke of building lifelong friendships, connecting with others who shared their faith from across the Philippines, and how the camp became the highlight of their summer. Having never joined before, I was thrilled to hear there would be a camp this year. The thought of finally experiencing something so cherished by the ahias and achis in church filled me with excitement. I eagerly anticipated deepening my faith, forming meaningful connections, and creating memories to last a lifetime.

However, just days before the camp began, I faced an unexpected trial that shook my faith. It was a moment of heartbreak and confusion, leaving me questioning why God would allow such pain in my life. The excitement I once felt for the camp was replaced by apathy and discouragement. For the first time, I deeply questioned God's purpose for me. Why, I wondered, had He allowed me to face such a challenge? I felt abandoned, drowning in self-pity, and resentful at the thought of attending a camp meant to bring me closer to a God I struggled to trust.

On the first day of camp, I arrived at the venue feeling unmotivated, a shadow of the person who had eagerly awaited this experience just

weeks before. But I tried to keep an open mind, praying for God to work in me and turn things around.

Throughout the five days, I found myself genuinely enjoying the camp. One of the most impactful moments was the outreach program on the second-to-last day. We ventured into communities around Bacolod, singing songs, teaching lessons, and sharing God's Word. It was humbling to see how small acts of service could bring joy and hope to others. In these often-overlooked communities, I saw how God's Word reaches even the most remote places. Despite limited resources and modest living conditions, the people were eager to hear about God's love. Their joy and openness reminded me that the Gospel transcends barriers—whether of language, geography, or circumstance.

One of the most powerful lessons came from our main speaker, Pastor Stephen Tan. He spoke about how we often complain about life's unfairness. As I met people in Bacolod who faced challenges of their own, I realized how true this was. Many of them lived in humble conditions, yet their faith was unwavering. Their willingness to listen and embrace the Gospel despite their struggles was inspiring.

I saw how I had been doing exactly what Pastor Stephen warned against—grumbling about my own struggles. But through his message,

I began to see my trials differently. God wasn't punishing me; He was strengthening me. He allowed me to face hardships not out of resentment but out of love, teaching me to rely on Him fully. This realization tied deeply to the camp's theme: living as an authentic Christian.

Growing up in a Christian family, attending a Christian school, and being active in church, I thought I was living authentically. But I wasn't. I saw the cracks in my faith—I skipped church when I felt lazy, followed worldly ways, and doubted God's plans. I was a hypocrite, claiming to live a life of faith while my actions said otherwise.

And yet, God met me where I was. He saw my struggles and used this camp to rekindle my relationship with Him. Through the messages, the fellowship, and moments of quiet reflection, my eyes were opened to His grace. I understood that authenticity in faith isn't just about appearances—it's about aligning every decision, every thought, and every action with God's will.

As I left CBDTI, I carried with me a renewed commitment: to trust God more deeply, especially in struggles, and to stop relying on my own strength. This camp reminded me of His unfailing love and how He uses even our lowest moments to draw us closer to Him.



Nurturing Our Intimacy With God

BY: PASTOR ROSALINE LIM

Nowadays, many Christians have lost their passion to God, as their inner desire or motivation to have that intimacy with God is missing. Last February, I had the opportunity to attend the IDMC (Intentional Disciple Making Churches) conference and the theme was “Cultivating Your Inner Life”.

The speaker mentioned 5 compositions that define our “inner life”. These are: inner compulsion, inner conscience, inner conviction, inner compass, and inner composure. Each of these aspects has an effect in our relationship with Christ. Please allow me to share.

First, **inner compulsion** talks about our “dark side” and the “empowering side”. The “dark side” refers to the addiction of the soul which takes our attention away from the Lord while the “empowering side” refers to our hunger for God, the desire to know Him more.

I believe that everyone of us has something on our hands that takes our time away from God. Both young and old, aside from spending our time in school or at work, we have a lot of time watching dramas, playing on our phones, reading novels and list goes on. These take away our time from Jesus.

In fellowships or in worship services many of us are bowing our heads not because we are praying or taking notes but rather playing or reading from our phones or checking our facebook feed. Only a few people really seek and want to know more and be intimate with God. This is because we are caught up with what the world offers rather than what God has instore.

Second, **inner conscience** talks about our conscience—knowing what is right from what is wrong. Seeing or knowing Christians who turn a blind eye just to please or cover up someone or whatever their reasons is would speak a lot about their integrity. Our inner conscience helps us to be on the right track with God - without it what would become of us.

Third, **inner conviction** talks about our belief—what we hold on to and our conviction - what holds on to us. Our conviction says a lot about what we are and who we are. What we believe is like a legacy, the upbringing our parents or grandparents left us with which we now hold on to as we grow older.

Fourth, **inner compass** talks about our discernment—seeking knowledge on what is good or bad, true or false, based on our our Biblical foundation.

If what we know about God and His word is shallow, we become an easy target to Satan’. Christians need to keep growing instead of being stagnant. Discernment and the use of our inner compass are critical in our Christian journey. Hence why it is importantly to both “sharpen” our ability to discern as well as “calibrate” our inner compass.

Fifth, **inner composure** talks about the wisdom—to know what to do and have the strength to do it. This last one is more challenging as godly wisdom has become expensive and rare commodity. Many knows a lot, but wisdom is scarce. A smart person knows what to say but a wise person knows whether to say it or not.

In conclusion I would like to quote our speaker: “Intimacy with God is our deep redemptive journey. Is our knowing, trusting, loving, and serving God and our surrender to Him meaning falling in love with Jesus again?” How much do you love Jesus?

“If you want to be of use to God, maintain the proper relationship with Jesus Christ by staying focused on Him & He will make use of you every minute you live—yet you will be unaware, on the conscious level of your life, that you are being used by him.”

Oswald Chambers



2024's theme is "Reignite. Reroot. Resolve. Recharge."

Reroot

BY: ALVIN RIVAL

Unbelievers need to have new roots in Christ, which starts at conversion. But for believers, each one is expected to deepen their roots as they continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and relate with Him and His people in concrete ways.

Roots remind us of the parable of the sower in Matthew chapter 13 verse 21a that says, "But since they have no root, they last only a short time". Time is a good determiner, in this side of life, providing some "hints" of one's faith foundation in the Lord. Life will hit us on all sides in different degrees, threatening one's faith... our faith in God. How does a believer respond to the different circumstances thrown at him/her? Jeremiah 17:7-8 give us some clues:

⁷ "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

HEALTHY ROOTS = HEALTHY TREES

Spiritual roots are like the deep roots of a strong tree. The tree with strong roots that is continuously nourished, enabled to grow, stand strong, endure harsh winds, and weather and have resilient branches that open up to bear fruit.

New spiritual roots begin when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ, our conversion, but it should not stop there. A new believer must continue to deepen that relationship in Christ through the diligence in nourishing oneself in the word, constantly studying God's word. Jesus describes a wise builder in Matthew 7:24-25.

²⁴ "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock."

Strong spiritual roots play a key role in the survival and health of a plant, it provides stability, keeping it from being blown away or washed away. They tap into the water needed for sustenance and find nutrients a plant needs to stay alive and produce fruit. Likewise, a Christian who not only, nourishes himself with the Word but also practices what He has read will be stable in his faith in Christ and will be able to face difficult life circumstances.

If you are waiting to be spoon-fed, to shy away from "meatier" topics or get spiritual food from the weekly sermons at church (regardless of how it was preached) then there is a good chance that your spiritual roots are shrinking—leaving you undernourished.

It is our desire that we grow in our faith, it is possible that we've been Christians for many years but has never grown up spiritually, we desire that you grow some stability in your faith in Christ and begin "re-rooting" in the Lord through the diligence of studying His word not on a Sunday but in a regular daily basis.

Keeping in touch with the Lord through prayer. 2 Peter 1:5-8,10 says:

⁵ *"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;*

⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

⁷ and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ *Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble."*

Strong spiritual roots not only make us strong amid adversity. Like a healthy tree, it provides shade, shelter, and fruit that those under it can enjoy. Likewise, believers strong in the Lord are an encouragement to others, able to serve and minister to other's needs for they receive proper nourishment from the Lord and are to share it.

Psalm 1:2-3

² *"but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. ³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."*

Let us develop a deep-rooted trust and faith in the Lord...not just simply to survive but to bear fruit that God expects and to be a blessing to others.

The Lord Bless You.



A Life He Saved

BY: JESSAMINE GO

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,*

⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

⁵ For just as sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1: 3 – 5 (NASB)

There comes a time in our lives when we feel as if the world is against us, and all we want to do is to lock ourselves in and shut out the world. I've done this for most of my life—it was one of the many mechanisms I had drilled into myself but had stopped using over the years.

When I had problems as a child, I would bury myself in books of mysteries, romances and fairy tales. It was my personal haven to imagine a world where everything was perfect.

Although the characters in the stories faced adversity, I always knew there was a happy ending at the end of it all.

It was one of my favorite mechanisms to go inside a book and read it for hours and hours a day just to push reality out of my mind. As they say, "Out of Mind, Out of Sight."

After years of believing in our loving Savior, I felt that way once again. The feeling of wanting to shut the world

out and go back to the perfect, peaceful world I've created in my mind all those years.

On July 30, 2015, the day before my grandmother's burial, my family hosted a mass that included the blessing of my grandmother's coffin. I stayed quietly inside the adjoined room that led to the kitchen and a twin-spaced bedroom, where I opened my notes to study for the exams coming that following week.

I was so ready to give up, but God saved me. He saved me from wallowing in self-pity, closing in on myself, and hiding behind the shadows. I was saved from going back to the way I was before. I could feel the walls building up, but He tore it all down with one go.



I had only started to read the first page of my notes when my mother suddenly stormed into the room. She angrily shouted at my sister and me about how we should have been outside in the mass to wait for the part of my grandmother's blessing. As usual, she blamed us for disrespecting their religion and told us how bad children we were.

I was offended that they didn't seem to care that I was studying for my exams; and worse, that they accused me of disrespecting their religion. I started to feel tears forming in the corner of my eyes. However, I held it in and rushed out of the room as soon as the mass was over, but my mom found me and started shouting at me and my sister again.

That morning, my sister had already pounded the wall three times. She proceeded to punch the wall of the funeral home's comfort room four more times. Things went downhill after that. I always felt that my own parents didn't understand me, and I thought I was fine with that.

Still, every hurt bubbled to the surface every night, and the tears just wouldn't go away. No matter how many times I tried to hold them in, the tears kept flowing. The aching, which had nothing to do with the almost constant headaches I'd been having that day, was painful and heavy. I felt as if my heart was being torn and crumpled over and over until there was nothing left. The anger I had bottled and tucked away in the corner of my mind, for fear of what I might do, opened. And that is when all hell broke loose.

I was ready to give up. The defense mechanism that I had built up through the years activated. I was starting to tell myself to shut down, lock up every single emotion I have, and practically be a robot. "Do everything that they want," I would say. "Don't feel anything."

These were circulating in my head, and I felt even more down when they started blaming the church. I was so ready to give up, but God saved me. He saved me from wallowing in self-pity, closing in on myself, and hiding behind the shadows. I was saved from going back to the way I was before. I could feel the walls building up, but He tore it all down with one go.

St. Peter Funeral Home provided us with a tribute. Along with it came the song "Blessing" by Laura Story, a video entitled "A Father's Love Letter," which was about how tears and sorrow can be a blessing in disguise, and a compilation of verses from the Bible that talks of God's love, His strength and mercy and the comfort He brings, respectively.

I also found that someone explained to my mother why we were inside the room and not at the mass. She understood then and there, but the damage had already been done. I cried and cried in plain sight yet hid it all at the same time. No one had noticed. Even when I tried to suppress the tears and the heavy ache, they were still visible.

After the tribute ended, I had fully cried all my tears out, but the heavy burden was still there. I thank God that anger hadn't exploded—if it did, then I have no idea what I would have

done, and that is terrifying enough. However, God was gracious and answered my prayer. You see, I had asked for a miracle that night, and instead of giving me one, He gave me three: Assurance, Comfort and most importantly my Life—something I truly didn't deserve and with what was going through my head.

I wouldn't be here. I'm the sort of girl who comes prepared. I always have medicine in my bag for headaches, allergies, fevers, and even coughs and colds. You can only imagine how many pills were in my bag. I'm pretty sure I wouldn't be here any longer if He hadn't intervened at the right time.

Whether you're a parent, a teenager, or even a child, you need to know that what you say to others will hurt them. You might think that it's just words, but that could be the reason why that person you hurt never wakes up again.

Here's another piece of advice: always express your feelings to someone, whether they are good or bad. Don't bottle it all up and let it fester and grow, because it wouldn't do you any good. I know this makes you more vulnerable, but it's better to be open with our feelings than to let the emotions build up until you can't take it anymore and explode.

Heed my advice and take it from someone who has experienced it. Always remember: God is our Comfort and our Strength.

Unshakable

The 27th CCOWEF (Chinese Congress on World Evangelization Fellowship) Young Professionals Conference

SPEAKER: REV. STEPHEN TAN
(GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
OF THE PHILIPPINES)

VENUE: MISIBIS BAY RESORT, CAGRARAY ISLAND,
BACACAY, ALBAY PROVINCE, BICOL REGION

DATE: OCTOBER 8-11, 2024

COMPILED BY: ANGELA JAMIE TAN



TOMMY TAN

In 2023, I was blessed to attend the CCOWEF conference as a camper. During this time, I had the opportunity to learn various things and meet new people. I returned for the CCOWEF 2024 conference with the same mindset, but this time, I was no longer a regular attendee. Instead, I participated as an officer. As the Logistics Head, my responsibilities included organizing transportation for the campers and managing the technical aspects of the sessions.

My expectations for the conference remained consistent: I hoped to meet new people and further explore the theme of being Unshakable in the face of life's challenges, remaining steadfast by being rooted in God's Word.

As a first-time Logistics Head, I quickly realized how disorganized I was in planning. I encountered issues such as misspelled names and confusion in assigning transportation groups. However, I was blessed with a team of officers who demonstrated great patience and support, helping me navigate these challenges. Through careful planning, collaboration, and prayer, we were able to make the conference a success.

The camp also provided an opportunity to connect with like-minded believers. I learned that while we each face

our own unique challenges, we are all reminded to focus on the greatness of our God. During the first session, we were encouraged to remember that "Our God is so big, what can He not do?" This powerful reminder reinforced the truth that God is bigger than our problems and that He is always able to help us through life's hardships. Another session that deeply resonated with me was on "Being Content with Christ."

One of the most thought-provoking sessions for me was about how to answer questions from non-believers without relying on Scripture. For example, we discussed how to address questions like "How can I know there is a God?" or "Where did the universe come from?" without directly referencing the Bible. This session challenged me to critically think about how to communicate my faith in a way that is accessible to those who do not share the same belief.

The CCOWEF 2024 conference will always hold a special place in my heart. The interactions with new friends, the lessons from each session, the stories shared by the speakers, and the late nights spent playing games and talking until 3 a.m. will remain cherished memories. These experiences will continually remind me of the core messages we received: "Our God is so big, what can He not do?" and "Being content in Christ." Serving as an officer at the conference was both a challenge and a blessing, and I am grateful for the opportunity.

HANNAH BELLE GO

At first, I hesitated in joining CCOWEF because I am an introvert. It was mom who pushed me to join not only to mingle and meet new friends but more so to hear God's Word from the conference speaker, Dr. Stephen Tan. Without a doubt, I am happy and blessed to have participated. I enjoyed meeting new friends, having fellowship with other believers, and getting to mingle with Bok-su. The conference refreshed me and renewed my way of thinking because indeed the Lord is unshakable. It reminded me of God's promises that there is nothing that He cannot do for me and that He is bigger than my problems. We will undergo trials and struggles but God is always with us every step of the way leading us to the right path and direction. Indeed, He is in control.

KARL CABRILES

The days are so uncertain and sometimes we need a reset button from everything happening around us. Joining CCOWEF was that reset button for me. This conference has been an amazing experience because the lessons we learned in every session were both very applicable and timely. It may sound like CCOWEF only prioritizes the sessions, but I have come to realize that there are so many opportunities to interact with everyone else in the camp. And as you interact with the other delegates, you realize that the camp is a safe space for believers.

Personally, I've attended numerous camps, however, CCOWEF has been one of my favorites because it helped strengthen my faith. I also got to meet with a lot of people who are also serving in the ministry. Overall, I highly encourage other people to join this conference to meet with fellow believers and to help grow with one another.

JOHN EDGAR FELIPPE HONORIDEZ

Although I attended this conference before and knew what to expect, it was still a fun experience that also helped me grow as a Christian. CCOWEF was able to create a conference of full importance – from a theme that was relevant to our world's current situation to an environment where Christians of different churches were able to gather and grow in the Lord together. As this was open to as young as young professionals, it also served as a break and a way for all of us to share our different experiences regarding work

and faith. Overall, it may seem like another conference, but it's still a great avenue for Christians to learn and connect to one another.

JOMARI LAMBOJON

CCOWEF 2024 was a defining experience, one that spoke directly to my season in life. The camp theme, "Unshakable," resonated deeply as it addressed questions and struggles, I had been reflecting on in my faith and daily life.

Four months prior, I had committed to attending without knowing what my circumstances would be by then. At the time, I viewed it as an opportunity to rest— a chance to reset amidst the challenges of a hectic and uncertain

season. My intentions were simple: to see Mt.

Mayon and hopefully, gain clarity for the questions pressing on my heart.

Little did I know how impactful this experience would be for me.

Impactful not because it taught me something entirely new, but because it reminded me of profound truths I needed to revisit and see in a clearer light.

Through the sessions, worship, and fellowship, these truths stood out to me:

God's Sovereignty and Timing

I was reminded that God's plans are always perfect— neither late nor early. This renewed my conviction to stop second-guessing His will and instead embrace the present with trust. The future, no matter how uncertain, is already held firmly in His hands.

Finding Strength in Brokenness

One of the most profound reminders was how God works through our imperfections and weaknesses. His light shines brightest in the cracks of our brokenness. While I may not always understand His plan, CCOWEF reminded me that where brokenness exists, His grace and presence abound even more powerfully.

Contentment in Christ

The camp challenged me to stop comparing my life to others. It's easy to feel inadequate or left behind, but CCOWEF reminded me that God's grace is sufficient and His plans for me are unique. I learned to rest in gratitude rather than demand or expect more, trusting His sovereignty over my life.

The days are so uncertain and sometimes we need a reset button from everything happening around us. Joining CCOWEF was that reset button for me. This conference has been an amazing experience because the lessons we learned in every session were both very applicable and timely.



Beyond the powerful truths shared, the connections I made were equally impactful. Seeing young people from different churches united in faith and purpose encouraged me deeply. It reminded me that our walk with God is not a solitary journey— we are part of a larger body working together for His glory.

CCOWEF wasn't just a retreat or a break from routine; it was a recalibration— a moment to step back, reflect, and be renewed in my faith. As I return to my daily life, I hold on to the conviction to remain "unshakable" amidst challenges, uncertainties, or doubts, trusting that God is in control and that He is working all things for His glory.

BRITTANY LAO

This CCOWEF 2024 was my first time attending the camp. I never expected how different this camp would be compared to all the other camps I have joined— from the theme lessons, people, and the activities.

During this time, I was going through a lot of things in my mind and life— especially adjusting and shifting to the adulting season after college. A lot of questions ran through my mind. Everything was shaky. I never expected that the theme for this camp would be very timely to what I was going through in life: "Unshakeable".

I learned that life should not be understood because of what's going on around the world and our individual sit-

uations. These things can make us easily go out of track and forget that there is a God that is bigger than our problems. Sometimes we tend to forget this because of how our minds spiral downwards when faced with a challenge. It was a good reminder that there is a God who is bigger than our problems and who can fight alongside us. The problems that we have in our lives and chasing worldly

satisfaction and praise in this world will not satisfy us, but a never-ending battle within.

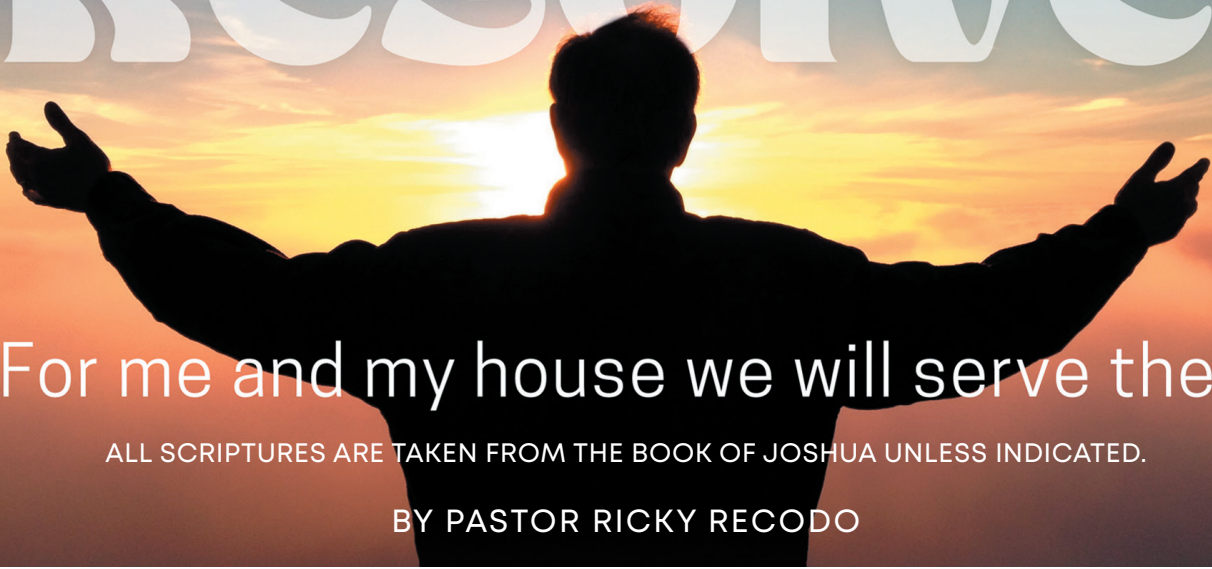
But this session has reminded me that we can never satisfy ourselves with worldly things since we will be chasing more of it. But having contentment of how God has provided us with his grace to let us trust Him more.

Although saying it is much easier than integrating it into our lives, these are such good reminders to us especially of what's going on with our lives in this world. May these reminders be applied to our life slowly until they become our comfort in God.

I got to meet different people throughout this camp with different perspectives in life and God's Word which really helped me open my mind more and realize that there is more in life. This camp has made me refresh my thoughts spiritually. I am grateful for this camp and am happy to have met new people and friends. Hopefully, this will help me remember that in the highs and lows of life, although it may be hard, there is hope in God.

**I was re-
minded that God's
plans are always per-
fect—neither late nor early.
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ent with trust. The future, no
matter how uncertain, is
already held firmly in
His hands.**

Resolve:



As For me and my house we will serve the Lord.

ALL SCRIPTURES ARE TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA UNLESS INDICATED.

BY PASTOR RICKY RECODO

Joshua's story is one of unwavering commitment and resolve to trust and obey God, even when the odds seemed impossible. His journey invites us to reflect on our own walk with God, reminding us that faith often requires standing firm when the path ahead is unclear.

Joshua's first major test came when he led the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death (1:1-2.) The task was daunting, and Jericho—a fortified city with towering walls—seemed unconquerable. Yet Joshua followed God's unusual command to march around the city for seven days, trusting in His promise (6:2-5). As a result, the walls of Jericho fell (6:20). We often face our own "Jerichos"—situations that seem insurmountable or where God's instructions defy logic. Joshua's resolve challenges us: Will we trust God's promises, even when they do not make sense? Faith means stepping forward even when the outcome is unclear. Joshua's confidence came from God's word: "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors." (1:6). His example encourages us to hold on to God's promises, even when we cannot see the result.

A striking moment occurred when five kings allied against Israel, creating overwhelming number of enemies (10:5). Joshua marched into battle with faith, and in response, God made the sun stand still, ensuring Israel's victory (10:12-14). This shows us that when we stand firm in faith, God meets us with His miraculous power, providing what we need to overcome life's biggest challenges

(Exodus 14:14). I assume you are facing battles today. When the odds are against you, do you react with fear or faith? Joshua's life reminds us that God fights for us when we trust Him. Bold steps of faith allow God to work powerfully, just as He did for Joshua, "who put foreign armies to flight." (Hebrews 11:32-34).

Joshua's strength did not come from military skill but from his commitment to God's Word. From the start, God instructed him to meditate on the Law day and night (1:8). Joshua's dedication to Scripture was key to his success and the spiritual health of those he led. His life reminds us that our spiritual strength is deeply connected to our engagement with God's Word. In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to neglect time with God's Word. But Joshua shows us the importance of making Scripture the foundation of our lives. How might things change if we committed ourselves to regularly meditating on God's Word? Ps 1:2-3)

As Joshua neared the end of his life, he gathered the Israelites to renew their commitment to God. He boldly declared: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (24:15.) His words challenge us to make a clear choice in our own lives (Deuteronomy 30:19). Joshua's life encourages us to renew our resolve, trust in God, and stand firm in faith. Like Joshua, we can confidently face challenges, knowing that God is with us every step of the way. May we, too, resolve and declare: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."



RAIN. This is the time of the year when we experience so much of it. It just pours - in the morning, in the afternoon or at night. Thank God many times it comes late at night till the early dawn. When I wake up to start a new day, I always thank God for cleaning the air. The best part is that I do not have to get wet walking in the rain as I travel to Sitio Dubai, Sudtunggan, Lapu-Lapu City for the Muslim Literacy Program.

Some people love the rain, others just do not like it, as it becomes inconvenient to go around our daily grind. But like it or not, life must go on.

When OM started the ministry in Sitio Dubai, I was assigned to spearhead it. For three days a week, I travel from my house to Lapu-Lapu City for at least 2 hours, taking four rides - a bus or jeepney and then a tricycle. Oh, and not forgetting the 25-minute walk I took to get to the main road. This is why it is very important for me that it does not rain in the morning. Thus, every night I would pray and ask God for it. And sure enough, God answers my prayers. Since the day we started early last year up until present, I have never gotten wet on my way to Sitio Dubai.

As such, I always give thanks to God, even boasting that he is indeed so good and faithful. Since then, I have

always trusted He will do it again and again. I was certain He will never fail me. True enough, even if the day were cloudy, He would hold up the rain whenever it was time for me to travel from 6:30 am to about 9:00 am until I reach the madrasah, where we hold our classes with the children.

Until one day, a friend showed me a video from the series called "The CHOSEN." In one of the conversations between Jesus and James (who has a problem with his leg and could not walk normally). He asked, "Master, why didn't You heal me?" Jesus replied "... because I trust you." He continued, "Little James, in the Father's will, I could heal, and you will have a good story to tell. But there are already dozens, hundreds and even thousands more. I believe that even if I do not heal you, you will live to show people you can be patient with what you are suffering here on earth, knowing that one day it will all be gone in eternity. Few are entrusted with this. Not many can understand this. James, I love you... the Lord gives, and He takes away.

I thought I understood what I just saw. But God wanted me to learn something, and He allowed me to experience it personally.

The following day, when I woke up, it was raining. As usual, I prayed and

asked God to make it stop. As I was leaving the house, it was still drizzling. I continued to beg to the Lord. But as I walked along, it kept pouring. Then I remembered the video the day before. It was as if the Lord spoke right to me, "Ann, I could stop the rain as I always did every time you asked Me to. But if today I choose not to do it, what is it to you? Will you still be happy serving Me? Will you still say I am a good God? Will you stop believing, loving, and serving Me because I did not give you that for which you prayed?"

Suddenly, I was embarrassed before my Lord and Savior. I realized I have been selfish all along. I assumed that being a child of God, He will always answer YES to me, especially since I am sacrificially serving Him. But that very day, God made me learn a very precious lesson from His natural visual aid. Right then and there, I affirmed in my heart that no matter what the circumstance may be, rain or shine, I will serve Him faithfully. As I walked on, the rain stopped and I said to myself, "walking in the rain to serve my Heavenly Father is not so bad after all.

Indeed, GOD IS GOOD!

Psalm 121: 8 The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.



I grew up in a religious family where going to church is a regular part of life. As a child, I knew about God, but I didn't think too deeply about Him—I just went with the flow. Deep down, though, I often felt a heaviness in my heart. I followed whatever my parents told me to do, but at one point, I started to hate going to Sunday school, and my family had no idea how I felt.

Things changed when our school held a program called Bible Week. It was during this program that I truly felt God's presence for the first time. I realized how lukewarm my faith had been, and throughout that week, I began to understand who the God really is. Around that time, in grade 4 or 5, I made the decision to accept Christ into my life.

One verse that became especially meaningful to me is Psalm 18:2: "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." This verse carved itself into my heart because I often felt so down, pretending to be happy and strong in front of others. It reminded me that I did not have to carry everything on my own. It speaks of God as a source of strength and protection, a fortress when you feel vulnerable, a deliverer when you're overwhelmed, and a refuge when you need a safe place to rest your weary heart. Pretending

to be happy can be exhausting, and it's okay to acknowledge your struggles. I think that time I really failed most of the test and I feel so useless and always studies harder than any others. But because of that verse I got encourage on that on it was really miracle I got to honor list for the first time.

After that Bible Week, I can see God really guiding me and showing me that he is there. One of the most surprising ways God worked in my life was when my best friend who was Buddhist invited me to join a Bible study. She was my closest friend, and I never expected someone from a different faith to invite me to something like this. But God used her to draw me closer to Him, and through that, I began to learn more about God. From that moment on, I could clearly see God working in my life. I felt a significant shift in myself, and I could tell that my perspective on life had changed. I no longer saw things the same way as before and I found a deep joy and strength in God that I had never experienced before.

The decision to get baptized came after many things happened that made me want to take this step. It wasn't an easy decision; it took me a long time to make up my mind because it felt heavy. I prayed a lot because of this. But I realized that life is short, and if I do not do it now, then when? So, I decided that baptism

would be my way of publicly declaring what God has already done in my heart.

My journey to this moment has been filled with challenges, doubts, and questions. Life has tested me in ways I never expected, and there were times when I felt overwhelmed and uncertain about where I was headed, especially this year. I often questioned my purpose and wondered if I had the strength to keep moving forward. As a believer, the challenges were particularly hard. But in those moments of doubt, I began to sense something greater which is an invitation to trust, even when I didn't have all the answers. The trials I faced pushed me to seek God more deeply and recognize that I don't have to carry my struggles on my own. Through it all, I've felt His presence and guidance, even when I didn't fully understand it. Its all by faith and by prayer.

Getting baptized is my way of saying "yes" to God, even in the face of uncertainties. It's my commitment to let Him lead my life and acknowledge that I am no longer bound by fear, shame, or doubt. Through baptism, I am leaving behind my old self and rising to live a new life with Christ. This step of faith is not about being perfect, but about surrendering to the One who is. It's about the trust I have in God as my refuge and Savior, and I am ready to move forward in His grace and purpose.



Hello everyone, I am Cai Shao Hang and I would like to share a short testimony on how I got to know God and why I decided to get baptized.

Ever since I was a kid, I have been blessed to be surrounded by my Christian family and friends. I would always be excited to go to church every Sunday, because for me church is a place to know God more and I cannot deny part of the reason is also the friends that I have there. My friends and I would always play games like hide and seek or tags after our Sunday classes, so yeah it is a fun place for me.

Not only would I attend Sunday school classes, but I would also always join bible studies during lunch in school. Having to join these activities gave me a chance to meet these wonderful people and it also secured my faith in the Lord. I was determined to know the Lord more and can't help but wonder on how great our God is.

Then Covid-19 pandemic affected all of us. Everyone was stuck at home with nothing to do. It was a hard hit for me, especially knowing that this pandemic affected so many people from all around the world and I was infected with the virus numerous times during the pandemic.

I realized how God protected me during the pandemic, when I caught the Covid-19 virus 3 times, and nothing happened to me. The Lord was always by my side protecting me all along. I knew that I fell for the devil's trap, and I needed to put my trust in the Lord again.

I wondered why the Lord allowed this to happen - why does the Lord allow bad things to happen to us? Slowly, my faith and trust started to slip away.

Nearing the end of the pandemic, I learned why the Lord allowed bad things to happen to us. It is so we can strengthen our faith in Him and continue to grow in Him. I realized how God protected me during the pandemic, when I caught the Covid-19 virus 3 times, and nothing happened to me. The Lord was always by my side protecting me all along. I knew that I fell for the devil's trap, and I needed to put my trust in the Lord again.

Since then, I have met many kind people that stayed by my side and supported me, through them I felt the warmth of God's love. I decided to publicly declare my faith in Christ to everyone, because I want to continue to grow in God's love and stay by the Lord's side.

I have been blessed to be given a new life and I will do my best to grow not just as a person but also as a child of God. Through my experience, I want all of us to be aware that God is always with us even in difficult moments of our lives. We need to stay strong and remain faithful to him.



Recharge

FROM GOD AND FOR OTHERS

BY: PASTOR DEREIK PO

Acts 2:42

“And they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

The concept of Recharge is a vital addition to the themes of Reignite, Reroot, and Resolve. While these traits are commendable on their own, as believers, we cannot fully embody them without the recharging power of the Spirit. In the Bible, the idea of recharging is closely related to the concept of renewal.

We see this in Isaiah 40:31, where the Lord renews our strength, enabling us to soar like eagles. The Hebrew word for renew conveys the idea of restoring something that was lost. Similarly, recharging our lives and faith is only possible when we draw from a source that gives freely—God Himself. If we attempt to recharge through worldly means, relationships, activities, or events, we end up filling ourselves with emptiness.

To truly understand renewal or recharging, the Bible emphasizes coming earnestly before God. This is why the Psalms are filled with imagery of being in God’s presence or at His feet, expressing a longing to draw closer to Him. It is in this closeness that we are filled with His Spirit. Prayer and devotion are therefore essential, as they bring us nearer to God.

Likewise, worship and fellowship are expressions of our internal relationship with God made visible to the world around us. Being with fellow believers reminds us that our lives and time are not meant solely for ourselves.

This serves as both a caution and an encouragement: never forsake fellowship with God and with His people. One without the other is

incomplete and can hinder spiritual growth.

On a personal note, I often struggle with thoughts of ending my service to God, wishing for an escape from life’s burdens or the suffering yet to come. I know many of us can relate. In these moments of doubt, I turn to Boksu (pastor) not necessarily for advice but to share the weight of my burdens. He, too, wonders why God has not taken him after 50 years of ministry, yet he always leaves me with the same words: “God is not finished with us.”

Whenever he says that, my complaints fade. I cannot fully explain it, but hearing a man of such faith, filled with the Spirit and love for God’s people, always reignites my faith, keeps me grounded, and strengthens my resolve.



Jesus Cares

BY HEIR OF THE KING

Who can fathom
Your loss and despair;
When darkness engulfs,
With much pain to bear.

Who can grasp
Your sorrows with no end;
When sadness suffocates,
And yet, time doesn't mend.

Jesus knows your pain –
The unspoken depth of grief;
Through insurmountable hurt,
He will stay and never leave.

So whatever you are facing
Take it to Him in prayer.
Whenever troubles weigh heavy,
Remember that – Jesus cares.

“Casting all your anxieties on
Him because He cares for you.”

1 Peter 5:7

News

Congregational Sunday

JANUARY 28, 2024

Cebu Gospel Church Congregational Sunday welcomed our new members: Trisha Sophia Bok, Emmanuel Brodeth, Joan Marie Clemence Brodeth, Genabell Lim De Leon, Warlyn Gallaza, Lara Amber Po, Eduardo Pua, and Ruby Yap. God is truly good and faithful to us. Our new members responded to serve God and be a part of CGC family.



Elder Daniel Ong, Trisha Sophia Bok, Joan Marie Clemence Brodeth, Emmanuel Brodeth, Genabell Lim De Leon, Eduardo Pua, Lara Amber Po, Ruby Yap (Not in Photo : Warlyn Gallaza), Elder Frank Sy, Rev. Vicente Sia

Rededication of newly-renovated church office

FEBRUARY 04, 2024

Indeed blessed by the Lord God Almighty for His provisions. The church office was renovated last September 2023 and completed around the end of January 2024. Last February 4, 2024, we rededicated the newly renovated church office to the Lord for His glory and the good of all.



WE ARE FAMILY

CGC 108th Anniversary

FAMILY FUN DAY

Last March 17, 2024 was the 108th birthday of Cebu Gospel Church. The church held a simple family fun day at PCGS were games, special number and a sumptuous lunch was provided.

Everyone had their own share of laughter, and chit chats with friends and other church goers they have not seen for a while. This simple gathering allowed us to catch up with each other and bond. It is such a blessing to spend even just a short time with each other.



UNWINDING TIME

Pastoral Staff Retreat

JUNE 17 – 18, 2024, FOG HOUSE BUSAY

The first pastoral staff retreat was held last June 17 to 18 2024 at Fog House Busay. It was a good experience spending time with the other pastors. Getting to know them more, gaining insights through their experiences in life, specially in their ministries -how God guided, watched over, protected and provided for them.

Listening to all stories they have shared, we see who God is in their lives. God's faithfulness to his children is indeed amazing.

The pastoral staff thanks CGC for giving them the opportunity to experience this refreshing retreat. To God be the Glory!



Light of the World

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 15 – 19, 2024

Theme of the DVBS was "STELLAR". As Jesus is the light of the world, we who are His follower should do the same. Like the moon and stars in the night sky, they shine in the darkest time; and the sun shines brightly for us.

How much more we as God's children should also shine our light to those who are in the darkness. Be the light in this dark world to show the love of Jesus to those who are in need.

Young or old, God uses each one of us to shine for Him. Let us continue to shine for Lord.

Medical Check Up

JUNE 30, 2024

BY THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A medical check-up for the all members ages 40 years old and above was held last June 30, 2024



80th Birthday of Sia Boku

OCTOBER 12, 2024

We thank God for sending Rev. & Mrs. Vicente Sia to Cebu Gospel Church. He has been a great help to CGC and has been an encourager inspiring all of us. A cool boku, as some may describe him.

Last October 12, 2024 Sia Boku celebrated his 80th birthday with his CGC family and his immediate family. It was truly a memorable day for Rev. Sia as he was in for a surprise. CGC secretly flew in his son and his family from Manila early that morning. The facial expression on Bok Su was priceless. The surprise celebration organized by the church council was successfully launched. Thank you very much Rev. Vicente Sia for serving with us for the last 8 years and more to come. You've been a blessing to us and I also believe even to those who are not here in the church. To God be the Glory!



REIGNITE, REROOT, RESOLVE, RECHARGE

Mission Week

OCTOBER 15 – 20, 2024

Praise God for our 12 missionaries who attended our 58th mission week last October 15 to 20, 2024. Rev. Philip Co, our mission speaker shared to CGC as well as to the missionaries who have called to plant churches here in the Philippines. Through his message, the missionaries were blessed and inspired.

Let us continue to pray for our Mission ministry as well as for the ministries of our partner missionaries and their families. May they be the beacon of their ministry and reach out to those who need Christ in their life.



Baptisms

AUGUST 25, 2024 – SPECIAL BAPTISM

Thank God for the newly baptized and they are: Kurt Dominic Yu, Keith Dominic Yu, Princess Tan, Princess Ting, Jarryd Chan, Kenzi Li, Matthew Sy, and Duane Wong.

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 – THANKSGIVING SUNDAY BAPTISM

Praise God for the newly baptized and they are: Clement Gothong, Shao Hang Cai, Yi Chen Cai, and Kyle Brent Pareja. Please put them in your prayers that they will continue to grow maturely in their spiritual lives, that they will also have the heart to serve God and be faithful to Him no matter what.

Front Row: Clement Gothong, Shao Hang Cai, Rev Vicente Sia, Brent Pareja, Yi Chen Cai.

Second Row: Elder Gilbert Yap, Elder James Young, Elder David Tan, Elder Daniel Ong, Elder Gabriel Yap, Pastor Dereik Micah Po and Mrs. Helen Sia





Thanksgiving Service

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

A special Thanksgiving Service was held at Cebu Gospel Church together with daughter church, Mandaue Gospel Church. IT was a night to give thanks and remind ourselves how the Lord has blessed us.

Each fellowship presented their special number and shared their testimonies declaring how God blessed, protected, guarded and guided them for the year 2024.

The testimonies shared, whether with positive or negative impact, surely express their gratefulness to God. These are manifestations of God's sufficient grace in their lives.

g young naway,
tikaway,
ing Dios ay buhay.

ipaisan pa
itaa
Lahat ay mag



Mission Exposure

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2024

Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) kids had their mission exposure in Cordova with Pastor Zander last Nov. 23, 2024; while the Young Professional Fellowship (YPF) members visited Pastor Bayo in Medellin & Pastor Ocampo in Bogo for their mission exposure last Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 2024.

Updates on T-Net

BY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Praise God for giving our church the opportunity to learn about Training Network (T-Net). It helped our missionaries and some members in their ministry of discipleship

Christmas Sunday

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Our Cebu Gospel Church Choir rendered a short Christmas cantata with Rev. Steven Guest as our guest speaker. He shared the Word of God entitled Advent Hope and talks about the birth of Christ and the second coming of Christ. We should anticipate the second coming

CGC Web Design Contest

BY STEPHANIE UY

Cebu Gospel Church recently held a web design contest for the church’s current webpage. We were delighted to find out that God gave us five young creative artists who entered the contest: Jomari Lamboion, Kyle Yu, Ema Justee Cañada, Jan Mishka Du and Bill Zhang. After much deliberation from the judges, the winner, Jan Mishka Du, was announced on December 15, 2024, during our joint service in church.

The contestants were awarded with prizes from a generous donor. We praise God for giving us the blessings of creative minds and generous hearts.

Join us on Sunday!

CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

Watch Live

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Welcome to Cebu Gospel Church

A Community United in Faith, Hope, and Love

CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

100 Years

宿務基督教會

A Church Rooted in Faith

Cebu Gospel Church is a Christian community dedicated to proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. For over one hundred years, we have been a spiritual home for individuals and families in Cebu, providing a place of worship, learning, and service. Whether you're new to faith or looking for a deeper relationship with God, you'll find a welcoming environment here.

FIND A COMMUNITY

Come Worship With Us

We are located along Osmeña Blvd., beside Cebu Doctors' University Hospital.

Join us every Sunday!

• English Service - 8:00 AM

• Bilingual Service - 9:30 AM

• Online Livestream - available on our YouTube channel

WATCH LIVESTREAM

Cebu Doctors' University Hospital

Cebu Gospel Church

CDUH Medical Arts Building 2

Cebu Doctors' University Health

Map date 12/2024

Upcoming Special Events

Each event is an opportunity to deepen our faith, strengthen our community, and share the love of Christ with others. Mark your calendar, invite friends and family, and be part of something meaningful!

Cebu Gospel Church

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

NOVEMBER 21, 2024 | 9:30 AM

JOINT Christmas SERVICE

DECEMBER 17, 2024 | 9:30 AM

WELCOMING THE YEAR 2025

NEW YEAR SERVICE

JANUARY 6, 2025 10:30 AM

GET NOTIFIED FOR EVENTS

REIGNITE 重燃信念

RESOLVE 重新決志

RECHARGE 靠主得力

REEROOT 重扎主道

CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

Watch Live

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Who We Are: Cebu Gospel Church

A Christ-Centered Community in Cebu

About Us

Cebu Gospel Church was founded in 1916 as part of the Filipino-Chinese Christian community in Cebu City.

Cebu Gospel Church's mission aligns with the Great Commission, the mandate given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 to "go and make disciples of all nations." Cebu Gospel Church strives to fulfill this through discipleship, outreach, and the establishment of a Christ-centered community.

Statement of Faith

Based on biblical teachings; the church emphasizes discipleship and community service.

Vision

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

Mission

1. To prepare God's People for works of service through equipping, encouraging, and disciplining.

2. To promote a Christ-like Church that loves and cares for one another.

3. To proclaim the Gospel to our Community and beyond.

異象

菲華教會 確信聖經
培養門徒 榮耀基督

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

Tithes and Offerings

Supporting God's Work, Growing in Generosity

Your tithes and offerings help support our church's ministries, outreach programs, and community services, enabling us to spread the love of Christ in Cebu and beyond. Through your generosity, CGC can continue to grow and serve.

Chinabank

Cebu Gospel Church

171-045441-4

BDO

Cebu Gospel Church Inc.

090778034369

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." - 2 Corinthians 9:7

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

Lives Transformed by Faith

Stories of Hope, Growth, and Community at Cebu Gospel Church

Discover how God is working in the lives of our church family. From finding hope and healing to building lasting connections, these personal testimonies reveal the impact of faith and fellowship at Cebu Gospel Church.

Finding Hope and Healing

g professional, balancing work and faith felt found friends who share my values, mentors who and a deeper understanding of how my work is a ing. CGC has become a spiritual home that keeps me grounded and growing."

Jean-Dale Du, Church Member

Finding Hope and Healing

"I came to Cebu Gospel Church during a difficult season in my life, seeking peace and direction. Through the worship services and the support of the church community, I found healing and a renewed sense of hope. CGC has shown me what it means to truly trust in God, and I'm now more connected to my faith than ever."

- Jan Mishka Du, Church Member

Finding Hope and Healing

"Our family started attending CGC's bilingual service and it has been transformative for us all. In our community, we experienced God's love through every sermon, fellowship. Cebu Gospel Church truly feels like a home where everyone can grow in Christ."

- Maria Du, Volunteer at CYF

DISCOVER MORE TESTIMONIES

Fellowship Schedules

Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF)

CYF offers high school students a space to build strong Christian foundations through Bible-based teachings and fellowship with peers.

FRIDAY | DINNER AT 5 PM, FELLOWSHIP AT 6 PM

JOIN NOW

Thrive

Thrive is a fellowship for senior high and college students, helping them grow in faith through Bible studies, discussions, and community activities.

SATURDAY | DINNER AT 5 PM, FELLOWSHIP AT 6 PM

JOIN NOW

Gospel Light

December 2024 | 33

Personalities Involved in the Nativity Story

聖誕的人物



BY JOSEPHINE Q. YU

作者：許郭錦繡

We often associate the advent of the yuletide season with Christmas gifts, parties, decorations, cantatas, reunions, vacations, caroling, programs, Santa Claus and other related activities. Very few of us understand the real significance of Christmas, nor do we know who was instrumental in its creation. Therefore, allow me to introduce the personalities involved in this nativity story for our learning and warning.

每當聖誕季節，我們所思想的往往是聖誕禮物、宴會、佈置、合唱、團圓、旅遊、頌歌、節目、聖誕老人及有關聖誕的活動。很少了解聖誕真正的意義，而且也不懂得是誰引起其創造。所以現在讓我來介紹聖誕的人物，以供我們學習及警戒。



ANGEL GABRIEL

- His name means "God is my strength".
- He explained the dream of the vision to Daniel. (Daniel 8:15-26; 9:21-27)
- He appeared to Zachariah and foretold the advent of John the Baptist. (Luke 1:11-20)
- He appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary as his wife. (Mat. 1:20-25)

His Role in Christmas: The Annunciator of Christ's birth

Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive a son of God by the Holy Spirit to be named Jesus. (Luke 1:26-32)

Lesson to learn: We should be willing to accept the work that God had entrusted us to do, and serve Him faithfully.



天使加百列

- 他名的意思是「上帝是我的力量」。
- 他為但以理解釋異像之夢。（但8:15-26; 9:21-27）
- 他向撒迦利亞顯現，並預言施洗約翰之誕生。（路1:11-20）
- 他向約瑟顯現，並叫他娶馬利亞為妻子。（太1:20-25）

聖誕的角色：基督降生的報訊者：
蒙神差遣，宣告神言。

他宣告馬利亞要被聖靈投孕生聖子名叫耶穌。（路1:26-32）

學習的功課：我們應該願意接受神所托付我們的工作而忠心去做。（撒12:24）

JOSEPH

- He was Jesus' earthly father and Mary's husband.
- He was called a descendant of David – a God-fearing, honorable, gentle, honest, righteous, and faithful man.
- He married Mary in obedience to God's command. (Mat. 1:20-24)
- He was a hard-working carpenter.
- He was last mentioned when he and Mary lost track of Jesus, and ultimately found him in the temple listening to the teachers. (Luke 2:41-52)

His Role in Christmas: The Obedient One of Christ's birth

Joseph took Mary to be his wife in obedience to the Lord's Command through Angel Gabriel. (Mat. 1:18-24)

Lesson to learn: We must obey God's command and submit to His will. (Prov. 3:1-2)



MARY

- She was a Jewish woman from Galilee in Nazareth.
- She was the wife of Joseph, the earthly mother of Jesus, and the cousin of Rebekah, the wife of Zechariah, the priest.
- She was obedient to God's will and willing to be conceived by the Holy Spirit and to give birth to the Holy Son, Jesus.
- Her reputation and life were at risk if she was conceived before marriage. Joseph might abandon her and people would stone her to death.
- She was mentioned twice in the Bible – first, at the wedding feast in Cana and second, when Jesus was crucified on the cross at Calvary.

Her Role at Christmas: The Offeror of Christ's birth

Mary offered her body to fulfill God's plan of salvation. The Holy Spirit will come upon her and the Most High will overshadow her. And she will give birth to the Holy Son of God. (Luke 1:26-35)

Lesson to learn: We must offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God. (Romans 12:1)

約瑟

- 他是耶穌在世之父、馬利亞之丈夫。
- 他稱為大衛後裔、敬畏神、可敬、溫和、誠實、公義、又忠實。
- 他順服神的吩咐將馬利亞娶為妻。(太1:20-24)
- 他是一個勤勞的木匠。
- 最後提到他是當他們找不着耶穌，才發現他在聖殿與教師在聽問。(路2:41-52)

聖誕的角色：基督降生的順服者：

遵照主令，順服神意。

他順服主神籍着利百加的吩咐把馬利亞娶為妻子。(太1:18-24)

學習的功課：我們要遵守祂的命令，並順服祂的旨意。(箴3:1-2)

馬利亞

- 她是在那撒勒加利利的猶太女子。
- 她為約瑟的妻子，是耶穌在世之母親，也是祭司撒加利亞之妻利百加之表妹。
- 她順服上帝的旨意，願意被聖靈投胎，生了聖子耶穌。
- 她在婚前而懷孕，會傷害了她的名譽及生命，約瑟會棄絕她，而眾人會用石頭打死她。
- 聖經有記載她兩次：第一次是在迦那的婚宴，第二次是當耶穌被釘在十字的各各他山上。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的獻身者：

獻身為主，尊主為大。

她獻上己身願意被聖靈投胎生了聖子。(路1:46-50)

學習的功課：我們要將我們的身體當活祭獻給上帝，讓祂使用。(羅12:1)

Angels

- When Jezebel was about to kill Elijah, Elijah fled for his life to the wilderness. There, an angel touched him, saying, "Get up and eat!". (1 Kings 19:5-8).
- When Daniel was in the lions' den, God sent His angels to seal the lions' mouths. (Dan. 6:22)
- After Jesus was tempted by the devil, the devil left Jesus and angels came and attended him. (Mat 4:11)
- When Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, an angel from heaven appeared and strengthened Him. (Luke 22:43)
- An angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. (Luke 2:8-12)
- When the Apostles were imprisoned, an angel of the Lord opened the prison door during the night and brought them out of prison. (Acts 5:19)
- An angel of God stood by Paul by night and said to him, "Do not be afraid, for you will surely stand before Caesar." (Acts 27:23-24)
- An angel of God came to Cornelius and told him to send someone to Joppa, and to ask Simon (Peter) to come to his house. (Acts 10:3-6)

Their Role at Christmas: The Messengers of Christ's birth

The angels brought the glad tidings to the shepherds. (Luke 2:8-12)

Lesson to learn: There are many who have not yet come to know the true God. We need to act as God's messengers and spread the Gospel to them. (Matt. 28:19-20)

天使

- 當耶洗別欲殺害先知以利亞，以利亞逃命到曠野去向耶和華求死，有一位天使拍他說：「起來，喫罷！」。(列上19:5-8)
- 當但以理在獅子坑中，神差遣使者，封住獅子的口。(但6:22)
- 當耶穌受魔鬼試探後，魔鬼就離開耶穌，有天使來伺候祂。(太4:11)
- 當耶穌在客西馬尼禱告時，有一位天使，從天上顯現，加添祂的力量。(路22:43)
- 一位天使向牧羊人宣佈耶穌的降生。(路2:8-12)
- 當彼得被囚，主的使者，夜間開了監門，領他出監。(徒5:19)
- 神的使者夜間站在保羅身邊，對他說：「不要害怕，你必定站在該撒面前」。(徒27:23-24)
- 有一個使者進到哥尼流那裏，告訴他打發人往約帕去，請那稱呼彼得的西門到他家裏去。(徒10:3-6)

聖誕的角色：基督降生的主使者：

報大喜信，關乎萬民。

他將喜信報傳給牧羊人。(路2:8-12)

學習的功課：天下有很多人還沒有認識真神，我們需要將福音向他們傳開。(太28:19-20)



Shepherds

- They were considered unclean, uneducated, lowly, and despised by society. But the sheep represent Jesus as the Lamb of the world.
- The angels gave them a direct sign of the birth of Christ.

Their Role at Christmas: The Witnesses of Christ's birth

The shepherds immediately went to Bethlehem to see Jesus. They glorified and praised God. (Luke 2:8-20)

Lesson to learn: We must seek the Lord and praise Him. We must be witnesses of Christ with good testimonies for His glory. (Ps. 27:4)

牧羊人

- 他們在社會上被人認為不潔、卑微、未受教育、受人看輕的人。但是羊代表耶穌是世界的羔羊。
- 天使向他們直接啟示基督的降生。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的見證者：

尋見耶穌，榮神益人。

他們就立刻往伯利恆去看耶穌，歸榮耀讚美神。(路2:8-20)

學習的功課：我們要尋求耶和華耶穌，為主作美好的見證，榮耀祂的聖名。(詩27:4)

The Magi

- They came from the East to worship the King of Judah.
- They brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus.

Their Role at Christmas: The Worshipers of Christ's birth

The Magi fell down and worshipped Jesus. They presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Mat. 2:9-12)

Lesson to learn: We must worship God wholeheartedly and offer our wealth, time, and talents to Him. (Prov. 3:9-10)

博士

- 他們是從東方來敬拜猶太的王。
- 他們帶黃金、乳香、沒藥獻給耶穌。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的敬拜者：
敬拜讚美，獻上禮物。

他們俯伏拜耶穌、並拿黃金、乳香、沒藥為禮物獻給祂。（太2:9-12）

學習的功課：我們應該誠心敬拜讚美主，將我們的財物、時間、才幹獻給祂。（箴3:9-10）



King Herod

- He was called Herod the Great.
- He had 3 sons: Archelaus, Herod Antipas, and Philip.
- He ordered all the boys 2 years and under in Bethlehem to be killed.

His Role at Christmas: The Destroyer of Christ's birth

King Herod was disturbed, and told the Magi to find the child and report to him. But the Magi were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod. When King Herod realized he was outwitted by the Magi, he was furious and gave orders to kill all the boys, which were two years old and under in Bethlehem and within its vicinity. (Mat. 2:3-16)

Lesson to learn: Three Bible stories illustrated the consequences of jealousy. First, it drove Cain to kill his brother Abel. Second, it made Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery to Potiphar, Pharaoh's captain of the guard. Third, jealousy and fear caused Herod to order the massacre of all male boys in Bethlehem aged two and under. Jealousy leads to anger, anger breeds hatred, and hatred ultimately results in death. Therefore, we should never harbor jealousy in our hearts. (Phil. 2:3)

希律王

- 他又稱為大希律王。
- 他有三個兒子：何基勞、安提帕期、及希律二世。
- 他命令把所有在伯利恆城裏二歲以內的男孩都殺盡了。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的毀滅者：
嫉妒之心，行奸惡事。

他心裏不安，吩咐博士尋到那小孩應回報，但博士因為在夢中被主指示，沒有回去見希律王，希律王被博士愚弄，發出大怒，便下令凡兩歲以內所有在伯利恆城裏的男孩全都殺盡了。（太2:3-16）

學習的功課：聖經中有三個故事表明嫉妒的效果：①該隱謀殺了亞伯；②約瑟的哥哥將他出賣給法老王的內臣護衛長波提乏為奴；③希律王下令把伯利恆城裏所有兩歲以內的男孩都殺盡了。嫉妒引發憤怒，憤怒產生怨恨，怨恨的結果是死亡。所以，我們絕對不可存有嫉妒之心。（腓2:3）

Simeon

- He was a righteous and godly man in Jerusalem, and he was able to meet Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in the temple.
- He hoped to meet Jesus before he died.
- After he met Jesus, he asked God to let him rest in peace.
- He considered Jesus to be the light of the Gentiles and the glory of the Jews.

His Role at Christmas: The High Hope of Christ's birth

When Simeon's hope of seeing the child was fulfilled, he asked the Lord to dismiss him in peace. (Luke 2:25-32)

Lesson to learn: The signs of Christ's second coming are earthquakes, pestilence, famines, wars, lightning, thunder, and hailstorms. All these events are happening now. Therefore, we must watch and pray. Be prepared to meet the Lord anytime. (Matt. 24:44)

西面

- 他是一位在耶路撒冷正直又敬虔的人，他在聖殿裏與約瑟，馬利亞及耶穌會面。
- 他盼望在未死之前可以遇見耶穌。
- 當他和耶穌會面後，就請求上帝讓他安然離世。
- 他認為耶穌是外邦人的光，也是猶太人的榮耀。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的盼望者：
儆醒禱告，仰望見主。

他見到嬰孩的盼望成全了，求主讓他安然去世。（路2:25-32）

學習的功課：主再來的預兆有地震、瘟疫、飢荒、爭戰、閃電、雷震、冰雹等等，現在這些事情已開始發生了，證明主再來的日子已近，所以我們應該儆醒禱告，預備心見主面。（太24:44）



Anna the Prophetess

- She was an elderly woman of the tribe of Asher.
- She was widowed after seven years of marriage until she was eighty-four years old.
- She worshipped fasted and prayed day and night without ever leaving the temple.

Her Role at Christmas: The Minister of Christ's birth.

She gave thanks to God and spoke about the Child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)

Lesson to learn: Every believer should attend church worship service regularly, and have a daily devotion with God through Bible reading and prayer. (Col. 4:2)

女先知亞拿

- 她是年長屬於阿舍支派的婦女。
- 她結婚七年後就守寡到八十四歲。
- 她永不離開聖殿而日夜敬拜，禁食與禱告。

聖誕的角色：基督降生的事奉者：
日夜事奉，禁食禱告。

她感謝上帝，並將這孩子的事對一切盼望耶路撒冷得救贖的人傳講。（路2:36-38）

學習的功課：每一個信徒應該經常參加教會聚會，每日靈修，藉著讀聖經及禱告與主交通。（西4:2）

John the Baptist

- He prepared the way for Jesus.
- He preached the message of repentance, confession, and baptism.
- He was a humble man who said, "I baptize you with water, but there is one coming who is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to untie his sandals, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16)

His Role at Christmas: The Preparer of Christ's birth

John the Baptist preached repentance in the wilderness, prepared the way for the Lord, straightened His path, and baptized Jesus. (Mat 3:1-17)

Lesson to learn: Let us emulate John the Baptist's virtues of faithfulness, humility and courage. Faithful to His work, humble to all the people, and courageous enough to preach God's message.



The people mentioned above are deeply involved in the greatest and most wonderful story ever told – the Nativity. May these personalities from the story of the first Christmas inspire us to serve, obey, offer, proclaim, witness, worship, hope, and cultivate the virtues of faithfulness, humility, and courage, so that we, too, can become part of the story. Let us do our role in expanding the kingdom of God.

In conclusion, since "Jesus is the reason for the season", CHRISTMAS stands for:



施洗約翰

- 他為耶穌預備道路。
- 他傳講悔改、認罪、及洗禮的信息。
- 他是一個謙卑的人，他說：「我是用水給你們施洗，但有一位能力比我更大的要來，我就是給他解鞋帶也不配，他要用聖靈與火給你們施洗」。(路3:16)

聖誕的角色：基督降生的預備者： 忠心謙卑，勇敢傳道。

他在曠野傳悔改的信息，預備主的道，修直祂的路，並為耶穌施洗。(太3:1-17)

學習的功課：我們要效法施洗約翰忠心、謙卑和勇敢的品德，忠心為主做工、對眾人謙卑，並勇敢傳揚主的信息。

上述的人物成為耶穌基督誕生中最偉大且奇妙的故事。願這些聖誕人物鼓勵我們事奉、遵守、奉獻、宣揚、見證、敬拜、盼望，並培養忠心、謙卑及勇敢的品德，使我們也能成為聖誕故事的一份子。願我們善用自已的角色，來擴展上帝的國度。

總之，因「耶穌是這季節的原因」，「聖誕」是代表：

基督
至聖者
救贖者
以馬內利
救主
三位一體
彌賽亞
受膏者
神的兒子



2025 THEME



The 2025 theme, Pursue, Persist, and Prevail, encapsulates a powerful and purposeful journey in the Christian faith. It builds upon the 2024 theme of Re-ignite, Re-root, Resolve, and Recharge, taking the next steps in a faithful walk with Christ.

The 2024 theme focused on renewal, awakening a deeper desire for God, and setting a strong foundation for a lasting faith. Re-ignite called believers to rekindle their love for God, Re-root invited them to establish deep roots in the faith, Resolve encouraged a firm commitment to persevere, and Recharge was about being continually empowered by the Holy Spirit. This created a cycle, where each action led to the next, a continual process of renewal and growth.

With that foundation laid, Pursue, Persist, and Prevail answers the question: What's next? It emphasizes the ongoing nature of faith—faith that doesn't stop at renewal but actively moves forward. These three words are more than a call to action; they are a framework for a Christian life that endures to the end.

1. Pursue – Faith is not passive; it requires a desire to actively seek God, to chase after His will, and to draw near to Him. The Christian is called to prioritize the pursuit of God's presence, His will, and His purpose for their lives.

2. Persist – Faithfulness is a long journey, and persistence is key. Much like the resolve of 2024, persist highlights the need for endurance, especially when faith feels mundane or repetitive. It's about staying committed despite challenges, knowing that the reward of being a faithful servant is worth the effort.

3. Prevail – Ultimately, the Christian journey leads to victory. The word prevail reminds believers that, despite the struggles of life, those who remain faithful will experience ultimate triumph with Christ. This isn't just about surviving; it's about overcoming and being victorious in the Lord.

In keeping with the 2024 theme's emphasis on faithfulness and renewal, the 2025 theme suggests that

faith is an ongoing, active pursuit. As followers of Christ, we aren't simply meant to start the journey—we continue with purpose and perseverance. And in the end, we will prevail because Christ has already won the victory for us.

To deepen the understanding of this theme, the Epistles of 1 and 2 Peter serve as a fitting foundation. Peter's letters are full of encouragement to continue in the faith, to endure suffering with hope, and to look toward the promised victory in Christ. They speak to the Christian's call to pursue holiness, to persist in trials, and to prevail in the hope of salvation.

In summary, Pursue, Persist, and Prevail is not just a theme but a call to action for every believer. It's a simple yet profound reminder that, having re-ignited and re-rooted our faith, we are now to actively pursue God's will, persist in faith through trials, and ultimately prevail in the victory Christ has secured for us. The alliteration of the theme is intentional, making it memorable and easy to internalize, while its meaning is rich with theological depth and practical application.



Ten Minutes with God

Executive Summaries of Gospel Light 32

FIND WHAT IS LOST

Our church's 2024 theme, Reignite, Reroot, Resolve, and Recharge, encourages believers to rediscover what may be lost in their spiritual journey.

Re-ignite: Rekindle passion for God.

Re-root: Anchor deeply in God's infallible Word.

Resolve: Commit to being Spirit-filled and a blessing to others.

Recharge: Draw strength from God, the source of love, hope, and truth.

失而復得

我們教會2024年的主題是重燃信念、重扎主互、重新決志、靠主得力，鼓勵信徒在屬靈旅程中找回失落的方向。

重燃信念：重新點燃對上帝的熱情。

重扎主互：深深紮根於上帝無誤的話語中。

重新決志：致力於被聖靈充滿，成為他人的祝福。

靠主得力：從上帝——愛、希望與真理的源頭汲取力量。

REIGNITE THE FIRE

The theme word "Reignite" emphasizes the need to rekindle our spiritual passion amidst life's complexities. Many of us may lose focus, attending church without genuine worship, love for God's Word, or a heart for the lost. Reigniting our passion for the Lord is essential, as reflected in this prayer:

"Dear Lord, whatever it is I desire, may I desire You more... May You be more to me than anything in this world."

A reignited passion for the Lord leads to renewed love for His Word, as seen in Psalm 119:97-98, and obedience to its teachings (James 1:22). This passion extends to fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), reaching the lost and making disciples for God's expanding family.

If passion for the Lord, His Word, or the lost wanes, we must examine our faith (2 Cor. 13:5). True passion aligns all aspects of our lives with God's purpose.

MY FIRST CBDTI EXPERIENCE

Attending my first CBDTI camp was a transformative journey. Initially excited to deepen my faith and form meaningful connections, I faced an unexpected personal trial just days before camp, leaving me questioning God's purpose and feeling distant from Him. Despite arriving unmotivated, the camp rekindled my faith.

The outreach program profoundly impacted me as I witnessed the joy and openness of Bacolod's communities despite their challenges. Pastor Stephen Tan's message reminded me that hardships aren't punishments but opportunities for growth in faith. This realization aligned with the camp's theme of living as an authentic Christian.

Through the fellowship, teachings, and reflection, I recognized my hypocrisy in faith and embraced God's grace. The camp renewed my commitment to trust Him fully, especially in struggles, and live authentically by aligning my actions with His will. It was a powerful reminder of God's unfailing love and transformative presence.

NURTURING OUR INTIMACY WITH GOD

Many Christians struggle with intimacy with God, distracted by worldly pursuits. The IDMC conference emphasized cultivating the “inner life” through five aspects:

- **Inner compulsion:** Balancing distractions with a hunger for God.
- **Inner conscience:** Maintaining integrity and discerning right from wrong.
- **Inner conviction:** Holding firm to faith and beliefs.
- **Inner compass:** Using Biblical discernment to navigate life.
- **Inner composure:** Exercising wisdom and courage in actions.

Intimacy with God is a journey of knowing, trusting, and loving Him, requiring focus and surrender. As Oswald Chambers notes, staying centered on Christ allows God to use us meaningfully.

RE-ROOT

Spiritual roots are essential for both new and seasoned believers. For unbelievers, roots in Christ begin at conversion. For believers, faith must deepen through consistent engagement with God’s Word, prayer, and application of biblical truths. Matthew 13:21 warns that without roots, faith falters under pressure, while Jeremiah 17:7-8 illustrates that trust in the Lord sustains and nourishes believers, like a tree planted by water.

Healthy spiritual roots provide stability, resilience, and fruitfulness. Strong roots are developed by daily study of Scripture, not relying solely on sermons or avoiding deeper spiritual topics.

Deep roots enable Christians to withstand adversity, remain productive in God’s work, and provide encouragement and blessing to others. As Psalm 1:2-3 reminds us, those rooted in God’s Word will prosper and bear fruit, fulfilling His purpose for their lives.

A LIFE HE SAVED

There are moments in life when everything feels overwhelming, and shutting out the world seems like the only solution. I lived much of my life this way, burying myself in books and hiding my emotions. However, one night during my grandmother’s wake, a family conflict left me feeling deeply hurt, misunderstood, and ready to give up entirely.

I was overwhelmed with anger, sadness, and the temptation to shut down emotionally. But in that dark moment, God intervened. Through a tribute at the funeral home featuring the song “Blessing” and the video A Father’s Love Letter, God reminded me of His love, comfort, and mercy. That night, I prayed for a miracle, and He gave me three: assurance, comfort, and the saving of my life.

God taught me to express my emotions and lean on Him for strength. He remains my Comfort and Strength, always intervening at the right time.

RESOLVE

Joshua’s story of unwavering faith and resolve demonstrated the importance of trusting and obeying God even in the face of impossible odds. When tasked with leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, Joshua followed God’s commands despite the daunting challenge of Jericho. His faith in God’s promises led to victory, showing us that stepping forward in faith, even when outcomes are unclear, invites God’s power into our lives.

His life teaches us that bold faith allows God to work powerfully on our behalf. Joshua’s strength came not from military skill but from his commitment to meditating on God’s Word. As he neared the end of his life, Joshua boldly declared, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord,” urging us to renew our resolve to trust and serve God in all circumstances.

TESTIMONIES

Even though it rains frequently, I thank God for always holding it off during my travels to Sitio Dubai for the Muslim Literacy Program. Since this ministry began, I’ve prayed every night for dry mornings, and God has faithfully answered, ensuring I never got wet on my way to serve.

I watched a scene from The Chosen where Jesus tells James that trust in God is not dependent on receiving what we ask for. The following day, it rained despite my prayers. As I walked in the rain, I felt God asking, “Will you still serve Me even when I don’t grant your request?” This moment revealed my selfishness, assuming God would always say yes because I was serving Him.

That day, I learned a precious lesson: rain or shine, I will serve Him faithfully. Truly, God is good!

* * *

Growing up in a religious family, I knew about God but didn’t feel deeply connected to Him. As a child, I went through the motions, even resenting Sunday school. However, during a school Bible Week in grade 4 or 5, I experienced God’s presence for the first time, realizing my faith had been lukewarm. I decided to accept Christ, finding strength in Psalm 18:2, which reminded me that I didn’t have to bear life’s burdens alone. This verse gave me encouragement during struggles, even helping me achieve my first honor list placement.

God continued to guide me, surprising me through my Buddhist best friend who invited me to a Bible study. This deepened my relationship with Him and brought profound joy and strength. After much prayer and reflection, I chose baptism to publicly declare my faith. It symbolizes leaving behind my old self and embracing a life led by Christ, trusting Him completely in all things.

* * *

Growing up surrounded by Christian family and friends, I loved attending church every Sunday—not only to know God more but also to spend time with my friends. Church and school Bible studies strengthened my faith and filled me with awe for God’s greatness.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic challenged me deeply. Being infected with the virus multiple times, I questioned why God allowed such hardships. Over time, I realized these trials were meant to strengthen my faith. Despite the struggles, God protected me, and I saw His hand at work. I experienced the warmth of God’s love through the support of kind people around me.

Now, I am publicly declaring my faith through baptism, committed to growing in God’s love and trusting Him even in difficult times.

RECHARGE

The Bible connects recharging to renewal, as seen in Isaiah 40:31, where God restores our strength to soar like eagles. True renewal comes only from God, not from worldly means that leave us empty. To recharge, we must earnestly seek God through prayer and devotion, drawing closer to Him to be filled with His Spirit.

Worship and fellowship are vital expressions of our relationship with God, reminding us that our lives are not meant solely for ourselves. Neglecting fellowship with God or His people can hinder our spiritual growth.

In moments of doubt, I am reminded that “God is not finished with us.” This truth reignites my faith, keeps me grounded, and strengthens my resolve to continue serving Him.

PERSONALITIES INVOLVED IN THE NATIVITY STORY

The story of the first Christmas includes key personalities who played instrumental roles in the birth of Jesus.

Angel Gabriel announced Christ’s birth, teaching us to accept God’s work. **Joseph**, obedient to God, showcases the importance of faith and submission. **Mary** selflessly offered her body to fulfill God’s plan, reminding us to be living sacrifices.

Angels acted as messengers of good news, inspiring us to spread the Gospel. **Shepherds** witnessed Christ’s birth and praised God, demonstrating humility and devotion. The **Magi** worshipped Jesus with gifts, urging us to honor God with our resources. Conversely, **King Herod**, driven by jealousy, sought to destroy Christ, cautioning against envy.

Simeon and **Anna** exemplified hope and devotion, while **John the Baptist** prepared the way for Jesus, modeling humility and faithfulness. These personalities involved in the Nativity Story inspire us to serve, worship, and embody virtues that we can use to spread the kingdom of God.

聖誕的人物

第一個聖誕節的故事包含了一些在耶穌誕生中扮演重要角色的人物。**天使加百列**宣告基督的降生，教導我們接受上帝的工作。**約瑟**順服上帝，展現了信心與順服的重要性。**馬利亞**無私地獻上自己的身體，完成上帝的計劃，提醒我們成為活祭。

天使作為傳遞好消息的使者，激勵我們傳揚福音。**牧羊人**見證了基督的降生並讚美上帝，表現出謙卑和虔誠。**東方博士**敬拜耶穌並獻上禮物，敦促我們用資源尊崇上帝。而**希律王**因嫉妒驅使試圖摧毀基督，提醒我們警惕嫉妒之心。

西面和亞拿展現了盼望與虔敬，而施洗約翰為耶穌預備道路，模範了謙卑與忠誠。這些參與聖誕故事的人物激勵我們去服務、敬拜，並實踐美德，將上帝的國度傳揚開來。

2025 THEME

CGC’s 2025 theme, Pursue, Persist, and Prevail, builds on the foundation of the 2024 theme, which emphasized renewal and faithfulness. While Re-ignite, Re-root, Resolve, and Recharge focused on rekindling faith, establishing deep roots, committing to perseverance, and being empowered by the Spirit, the 2025 theme moves believers forward in their spiritual journey.

Pursue calls Christians to actively seek God’s presence, will, and purpose. **Persist** emphasizes endurance in faith, especially during challenges, while **Prevail** reminds believers of ultimate victory through Christ. Together, these steps reflect an ongoing, purposeful, and triumphant faith.

Rooted in the teachings of 1 and 2 Peter, the theme encourages perseverance through trials, pursuit of holiness, and hope in salvation. We hope this inspires believers to move beyond renewal, embracing a life-long, victorious walk with Christ.



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