

May 2022



**CANNING GARDEN METHODIST CHURCH**

# **FAMILY FOCUS**

**GROWING DEEPER IN CHRIST,  
IMPACTING &  
TRANSFORMING LIVES !**

..who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

CGMC Family Focus

1 Peter 2:24

WELCOME BACK TO CGMC  
**IN PERSON KIDS**

(7 - 12 years old)

SUNDAY 11AM - 12.30 PM  
SHEKINAH SANCTUARY



From 12 June \* Contact person: Mimi (013-5219850)

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**Together**  
**Again!**

**WORSHIP IN-PERSON | LIVESTREAM**

SATURDAYS 8:00 pm | SUNDAYS 8:45 am

BULLETIN HAS THE LINK TO REGISTER ATTENDANCE

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SATURDAYS 8:00 pm | SUNDAYS 8:45 am

WORSHIP IN-PERSON | LIVESTREAM

# MESSAGE from the Editor...

Shalom brothers and sisters in Christ,

May 2022 marked the time Malaysia moved into the endemic phase of COVID-19. It doesn't mean we are free from it, simply living with it.



As places reopened after almost 2 years of restricted movement and strict protocols, we had the opportunity to have a short retreat with the worship team members. It was a simple gathering at an apartment in Lumut. The place was rather lacking in facilities yet we had a great time of sharing from our hearts and lots of fun eating and playing together. Indeed, the people who joined made all the difference to the experience.



I feel so blessed to have experienced the sweet presence of the Lord, worshipping together with my sisters and brothers in ministry, and listening to everyone's testimonies of their faith journey. Thank you Lord for such a precious bonding time together!

-Wern Sze

Indeed a good bonding time together & God answered our prayers. We were glad that we joined this retreat and we really felt God's presence with us at all times. God surprised us when our son paid us a visit the very day we returned from the retreat & we got to spend quality time with our daughter before she migrated. All glory to God. Amen.

Michael & Elissa Wong



# CANNING GARDEN

## Methodist Church

### Worship Celebrations

#### SATURDAY

08:00pm English

#### SUNDAY

08:45am English

09:00am Chinese

10:30am Bahasa Malaysia

Sunday School (*English*)

Sunday School (*Chinese*)

03:00pm Youth Fellowship (*English*)

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## About Family Focus...

Family Focus is published 3 times a year (in January, May & September) under the Membership & Evangelism (M&E) Committee of CGMC, Ipoh.

It seeks to fulfill the church's theme of "Growing deeper in Christ, Impacting and transforming lives" by sharing Christ with each other and strengthening the community of Christ through writings and testimonies.

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We welcome you to submit your articles & testimonies to us for the coming issues.

Each article should preferably be less than 1500 words and can be submitted to any of the editorial team members above, to the church office or emailed to [cgmcpoh@gmail.com](mailto:cgmcpoh@gmail.com).

All articles should be accompanied by the author's full name, contact number and cell group where applicable.

We reserve the right to edit the articles, keep the articles for subsequent issues, or withhold the articles from publication.

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# MESSAGE from Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

As I write this article, I am in Oklahoma City visiting my daughter's family during my three-month leave. This is a short Sabbatical leave the TRAC grants her Pastors once every seven years. What a joy for both Anna and myself to see our family including the two grandsons whom we have not seen for over two and a half years. And what a treat, not having to think about ministry daily and weekly!

When I left CGMC for my leave, I was assured by our church leaders that all will be well and taken care of. I needed to just go, relax and enjoy myself. And, yes, I did feel confident that our church leaders will look after the congregation. I am sure that all our leaders and members will step up and do their best while the Pastor is away. Blessed is the Pastor whose congregation continue to function well without him!



**REV. DR. ANDREW TAN**

Pastor-in-charge  
Canning Garden Methodist Church

In our Methodist Church polity, the Conference sends the Pastors, designating one to be the Pastor-in-charge. He is responsible for all the administrative and spiritual work of the church. The LCEC helps him mostly with the administrative work through the Committees and the lay preachers with the spiritual work of leading worship and preaching. In our CGMC set-up we have also distributed the most basic congregational care of the members through the Cell Group with her Zone and Cell Leaders. Once these administrative, spiritual and caring ministries are functioning well, the Pastor can focus his energy in doing his most essential pastoral work i.e. preaching, teaching, leading and counseling.

At CGMC, I have been able to carry out my pastoral work despite my Conference responsibilities mainly because the church has capable and committed leaders. I have always stressed that leaders need to be good role models of how to do ministry so that the next level of leadership can step in and take over. We are always one leadership succession away from not knowing how to do ministry. We must also bear in mind that CGMC do not have full time Ministry Directors. So, we must all pull our weight in the responsibilities we shoulder.

The other concern I have is that CGMC raises her full-time ministry workers. We mustn't have the notion that the Conference will always send us a Pastor or Pastors. In any healthy church, she must be able to raise her own Pastors, full-time ministry worker and missionaries. So let us pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise for us such workers.

# MESSAGE from Rev. Yu Chiew Song

我们一生的年日是七十岁，若是强壮可到八十岁，  
但其中所矜夸的，不过是劳苦愁烦，转眼成空，  
我们便如飞而去。(Psalms诗90:10)

惑

我们的一生都去了哪里？  
值得一生的生活在哪里？

当局限在自己的世界里，  
使自己有限格局思维里，  
感到压抑感到无法跳脱！

悟

时间从来不语，却回答了所有问题，  
岁月从来不言，却见证了所有真心，  
时间拉开距离，也会证明所有所在。

重要的是我们对待时间的态度，  
我们以什么样的态度对待时间，  
时间就会给我们什么样的回应。

醒

生活时平平淡淡，  
一生里起起伏伏，  
顺境时一往无前，  
坎坷时柳暗花明。

不完美才会学习，继续努力，不停成长。  
不完美才是人生，与其完美，不如自在。



**REV. YU CHIEW SONG**  
Associate Pastor  
Canning Garden Methodist

尤秋松牧师 共勉之

求你指教我们怎样数算自己的日子、好叫我们得着智慧的心。(Psalms诗90:12)

# MESSAGE from Rev. Richard Leow

## Pelajaran Dari Pengalaman Aldersgate John Wesley.

### Apa Itu Hari Aldersgate Dalam Methodist Dan Apa Yang Berlaku?

John Wesley menulis dalam jurnalnya mengenai apa yang dia alami semasa berdoa di satu bilik Jalan Aldersgate, England : Aku merasakan kehangatan yang aneh di dalam batinku. Pendiri Methodisme, John Wesley setelah melayani 12 tahun sebagai pendeta, menyaksikan bahawa dia masih belum memiliki keyakinan akan kepastian keselamatan jiwa.

Hal ini kita ketahui dari sejarah dan khususnya dari buku hariannya dia menulis: Aku pergi ke Amerika untuk menobatkan orang-orang Indian, padahal aku sendiri belum mempunyai iman yang menyelamatkan. Siapa atau apa yang dapat melepaskanku dari hati yang busuk dan jahat ini? Aku cukup baik beragama, khususnya bila tidak ada persoalan. Aku boleh berbicara dengan baik, apalagi beriman bila tidak ada bahaya; tetapi ketika maut menatapku, maka hatiku gelisah. Apalagi aku belum boleh berkata, "Mati adalah keuntungan" (Filipi 1:21). Sampai titik ini John Wesley diliputi oleh kekurangan visi yang jelas mengenai panggilannya yang sesungguhnya.

Pada tahun 1738, di tengah pergolakan batinnya akan tidak adanya keyakinan keselamatan pada dirinya, dia mengunjungi satu tempat persekutuan doa di Jalan Aldersgate. Ini menjadi titik permulaan perubahan yang ajaib di dalam diri John Wesley yang berkesan kepada perubahan sosial, ekonomi dan politik di Inggris.

Tepatnya pada tanggal 24 Mei 1738, Wesley memperoleh pengalaman Aldersgate-nya yang terkenal itu, sehingga hari ini dijadikan satu hari didalam aliran Methodist, hari Aldersgate. "Saya merasakan kehangatan yang mendalam dalam batin saya," demikian dia menulis dalam catatan hariannya "Saya merasa benar-benar telah beriman di dalam Kristus, Kristuslah satu-satunya yang dapat menyelamatkan saya.

Suatu keyakinan telah dianugerahkan-Nya kepada saya; betapa dia telah mengangkat dosa-dosa saya, ya semua dosa peribadi saya, dan menyelamatkan saya dari hukuman dosa serta kematian." Wesley sekarang, telah mengalami apa yang tadinya berusaha dijelaskan oleh seorang kenalan yang bernama Bohler kepadanya.



**REV. RICHARD LEOW**  
Associate Pastor  
Canning Garden Methodist

Pemahaman doktrinal Wesley masih sangat lemah, dan kerananya emosinya pun masih sangat tidak stabil. Lapan bulan setelah peristiwa Aldersgate dia menulis, “Saya yakin bahawa saya bukan orang Kristian lagi sekarang. Saya memang pernah merasa menerima suatu pengampunan dosa, hingga batas waktu yang tidak saya ketahui. Tetapi, bahawa saya bukan lagi orang Kristian pada hari ini, saya meyakini sebagaimana halnya saya meyakini bahawa Yesus adalah Kristus.” Dalam kenyataannya, suatu karya anugerah telah dimulai dan akan mentransformasikannya dari seorang yang kalah perfeksionis menjadi seorang pengkhotbah anugerah.

Sebahagian transformasi tersebut terjadi melalui pertolongan George Whitefield. Whitefield pernah menjadi anggota The Holy Club, namun telah terlebih dulu mengalami pertobatan Injili sebelum Wesley. Penginjilan kelilingnya yang penuh kuasa itu telah mengoncangkan London dan Bristol. Whitefield dijadualkan meninggalkan Inggris dalam rangka penginjilan keliling wilayah jajahan Amerika, dan memerlukan seseorang yang bersedia mengambil alih pelayanan khotbah kelilingnya di dalam wilayah Inggris sendiri.

Pada bulan Mac 1739, Whitefield mendesak John Wesley yang dengan berat hati itu untuk berkhotbah di suatu tempat terbuka, kepada para pekerja kilang Kingswood di Bristol. Wesley pada awalnya menolak, kerana merasa “upaya penyelamatan jiwa itu merupakan suatu dosa, bila tidak dilakukan di dalam gereja.” Namun dia akhirnya berhasil menetralkan pandangannya mengenai apa yang disebutkan sebagai “metode yang hina” itu dan bersedia membawakan sebuah khotbah bertemakan “Roh Tuhan ada atas diri saya” bagi para pekerja kilang yang sangat bersemangat itu.

Roh Tuhan ada padanya mulai sejak hari itu sampai seterusnya untuk memberitakan Injil kepada orang miskin. Khotbahnya itu memperoleh sambutan yang luar biasa. Dan yang mengejutkan adalah Wesley sendiri merasakan keyakinan peribadinya terhadap Injil bertumbuh, ketika dia menyatakannya kepada orang lain. Bohler mengatakan, “Khotbahkan tentang iman sampai engkau memperolehnya; dan kerana engkau memperolehnya, engkau akan mengkhotbahkan iman.

Pertobatan Wesley sekarang menjadi lengkap. Dia bukan hanya mengalami kelahiran baru, namun juga telah menemukan tujuan hidupnya, yakni “untuk mengubahkan bangsanya, khususnya gerejanya, dan untuk memberitakan kebenaran Kitab Suci ke seluruh wilayah Inggris.” Pengalaman pertobatan John Wesley, memperbarui khotbah dan pelayanannya.

### **Berbagai pandangan tentang pengalaman Aldersgate.**

Pengalaman Aldersgate mendapatkan banyak penafsiran dari berbagai ahli-ahli teologi Wesley yang didasarkan pada pelayanan John Wesley. Di sini saya akan membagi secara sederhana pandangan dari Frederick Maser yang membahaginya dalam lima katagori utama.

**Pertama**, mereka yang menerima Aldersgate experience sebagai suatu titik balik atau perubahan yang penting dalam kehidupan Wesley.

**Kedua**, mereka menolak Aldersgate sebagai pengalaman perubahan, pengalaman perubahan ini terjadi sedikit lebih awal, sementara itu mereka mengakui hal yang penting dari Aldersgate adalah suatu krisis kerohanian dalam kehidupan Wesley. Setelah Pengalaman Aldersgate, dia juga merasakan kekecewaan di dalam dirinya meskipun di tengah perasaan sukacita yang dia alami. “Aku bangun dengan damai, tetapi tidak dengan sukacita.” (Jurnal, 28 Mei 1738). Bahkan dia mendapatkan dirinya beberapa hari kemudian berada di dalam tekanan kebimbangan, percobaan dan tidak ada sukacita (Jurnal, 7 Juni 1738). Pada tanggal 11 Juni 1738, delapan belas hari setelah pertobatannya, dia baru menyampaikan khotbah yang berjudul Keselamatan oleh Iman, berdasarkan Efesus 2:8 di depan Universitas Oxford.

**Ketiga**, mereka yang menolak bahawa Aldersgate memberi tekanan penting dalam kehidupan Wesley, malahan menegaskan waktu yang sedikit lebih awal, biasanya 1725, tak lama setelah dia merayakan ulang tahunnya yang kedua puluh satu, dia mengalami titik balik dalam motivasi hidupnya. Dengan pengaruh yang besar dari buku karya Kempis, *The Christian Pattern* dan buku karya Taylor *Holy Living and Dying*, dia mulai mengejar doktrin kesucian dan kekudusan yang menyeluruh dalam setiap aspek kehidupannya. Dalam buku *The Living Wesley*, penulis James H. Rigg menulis, “Ia sangat tergugah dalam kerinduannya yang dalam akan kekudusan yang sejati dan sejak saat itu ia mulai mencari kesucian Tuhan yang mutlak sebagai tujuan yang besar dalam hidupnya.”

**Keempat**, mereka yang menitikberatkan pada perkembangan kerohanian Wesley secara alami yang setahap demi setahap dan melihat Aldersgate sebagai salah satu tahap dalam proses pertumbuhan kerohanian Wesley.

**Kelima**, mereka yang percaya bahawa Aldersgate adalah salah satu dari banyak “perubahan” dalam kehidupan Wesley. Kita melihat Pengalaman Aldersgate yang digambarkan Wesley melalui catatan-catatan hariannya adalah suatu peralihan yang dramatis dalam kehidupannya. Seringkali dalam kronologi yang dibuat Wesley menyoroti tahun 1738 sebagai tahun yang penting, baik bagi kehidupannya maupun kebangunan Methodist. Pengalaman Aldersgate juga telah membawa John Wesley kepada berkhotbah di lapangan terbuka atas desakan dari George Whitefield. Sekali dia mengalami sensasi “khotbah lapangan”, tidak ada kata kembali lagi. Pengalaman ini membawa perubahan-perubahan dalam hidup dan pelayanan John Wesley.

Meskipun peristiwa Aldersgate sudah lama berlalu dengan berbagai pandangan dan pertentangan. Saya secara peribadi memaknai pengalaman Aldersgate dalam hubungannya dengan ini sebagai:

**Pertama**, membangun pengenalan jemaat CGMC untuk mengetahui dan mengalami Yesus dalam hidup peribadinya. Banyak jemaat yang mengerti dan mengetahui apa itu kekristianan, tetapi mungkin tidak banyak yang bertemu dan mengalami Kristus dalam hidupnya menerima Yesus sebagai Juruselamat. Ada banyak pengalaman iman yang telah dialami John Wesley, kekristianan bukan sekadar “teori” tetapi adalah perjumpaan dengan Tuhan.

**Kedua**, membangkitkan semangat pembaharuan hidup yang telah diusung oleh John Wesley dengan bergantung pada keseimbangan yang baik antara pengetahuan firman, mengalami Roh, disiplin pikiran dan perilaku Kristian yang kudus. Semua ini akan menyempurnakan hati dan memastikan pertumbuhan iman. Biarlah CGMC dapat menjadi gereja yang memelihara prinsip-prinsip doktrinal, tetapi juga dapat menerapkannya secara praktis dalam kehidupan sehari-hari dengan disiplin yang baik. Wesley pernah berkata, “Di mana pun doktrin dikhotbahkan, bila tidak ada disiplin, maka tidak akan ada dampak yang maksimal terhadap para pendengar.”

**Ketiga**, semangat John Wesley dalam penginjilan harus dapat dikobarkan kembali dalam CGMC. Semangat “Seluruh Dunia adalah Jemaatku” harus menjadi bahagian dari CGMC. John Wesley memiliki kasih yang sangat besar terhadap orang-orang yang terhilang, biarlah semangat itu juga boleh ada dalam setiap hati jemaat CGMC.

**Keempat**, pengalaman Aldersgate dan juga pengalaman-pengalaman hidup Wesley harus dapat disosialisasikan (dikhotbahkan) kepada jemaat CGMC, sehingga semangat ini dapat menjadi bahagian dari jemaat CGMC. Ibadah atau perayaan untuk mengingat pengalaman John Wesley ini perlu diadakan dilingkungan CGMC, sekaligus dijadikan kesempatan yang baik untuk mendidik jemaat tentang kemethodistan. Dengan demikian, tradisi-tradisi yang baik dari Methodist dibangkitkan dan dilestarikan. Dunia telah disentuh oleh karya John Wesley sampai dengan hari ini.

# GOD CANCELLED my cancer

~ Candy Lo (CG21)

*God is GOOD, a hiding place in tough times. He recognises and welcomes anyone looking for help, no matter how desperate the trouble.*

*Nahum 1:7 MSG*

## **Summary of Diagnosis of 8 months cancer (CA) journey:**

Aug -Sep 2021 from miscarriage of baby boy Asher 13 weeks to detection of triple negative breast cancer. (TNBC)

Oct 2021- May 2022: Had lumpectomy surgery, 6 cycles of Chemotherapy, 23 fractions of Radiotherapy, 8 cycles of Immunotherapy.

Alarmed by ultrasound scanned 21/4/2022 stated cancer to possible recurrent tumour to 5/5/2022 PET scan result, God declaring 100% NED (no evidence of disease).

## **Background**

I am a believer of Jesus for 20 years ago, baptised in year 2008 (14 years ago), age 42, mum of a boy age 8, with a loving supportive hubby blessed by God.

## **What was my storm?**

Aug 2021, our second baby boy went home with the Lord after my first trimester, we were devastated with baby Asher passing on. I have a natural miscarriage procedure and I technically give birth to a formed size beautiful baby, heartbroken yet God calms and comfort the storm in me.

## **Another storm, why me God?**

I discovered a lump on my right breast, no pain but something is there. During my post miscarriage check-up, I ask my gynae to help checked on it. After ultra-sounded my womb which was well, Dr Ng help to ultra-sounded my lump. He saw a shadow of 3cm and referred me to a surgeon. Dr Ng reassured me that is very common for ladies to have cyst, nothing to worry about. I was relieved yet he asks me go to a small operation to take it out. In view of pandemic and Asher's pass on, I have no mood whatsoever to go hospital again. But an inner voice prompted me to go look for surgeon for advice.

After much prayer for God's guidance, I am so blessed that I have an appointment with our brother from church, Dr Basel right the next day. Many good reviews on Dr Basel and I believe I am in good hand. Indeed, Dr Basel is so down to earth, he prayed for me during my visit in his clinic, God sent spokesman to share Jesus' love and comfort.

## **God detoured me**

Dr Basel called for a mammogram, which I never did before during my lifetime. His nurse told that KPJ's mammogram machine was downed for some time. Dr Basel was shocked and me too. I was thinking, God, is this a joke?

But selfless Dr Basel referred me to his best friend surgeon and ensure me she is good. Dr CP Chan, which is surgeon in Hospital Fatimah.

Finally, I realise, God granted me my heart desire as I prayed before hoping for a lady surgeon. God detoured me. the best news is Dr Basel made a call right away and secured an appointment like "Now". From Hospital KPJ to Hospital Fatimah and straight went to see Dr CP Chan, God directed me and guide me through.



**Double Chan's treatment**

Surgeon Chan is an experience breast surgeon, she called for a series of tests and scans gradually. Within a week, series of blood test, biopsy, CT scan brought horrible news to my family. I have officially joined into the family of Cancer, which to my working background, I whisper to God, "After years of servicing and claiming insurance for clients, do you want to bless me with self-claim experience? That really hilarious and painful, O God! But Lord, **you make all works together for GOOD for those who love you, I believe in You, (Romans 8:28)** I know I have no better choice, the BEST choice is to run to You, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30)

**Hidden angels**

God sent a few hidden angels doctors sis Li Fan, sis Adeline, Dr Lam KH, bro Dr Basel, Pastor Kok Moi, sis Felicia Lim, who helped a lot to decipher my report.

Their professional and expertise in interpreting the reports, gave me more perspective to my CA condition and what to expect. They are indeed ***"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*** (Proverbs 17:17) I thank God for sending angels like them to journey my storm together, enlightened and encouraged me a lot.

**Enduring treatments with Prayers Community**

God set so many people to pray for me. In His whispers to me, "Candy, you are NOT alone, you are my precious child, I have prepared you my people to journey with you. I am with you and I will never forsake you."

I have so much comfort and peace knowing brothers and sisters from KIDS and JKC ministry team, Call to Me intercessors, morning watch intercessor, Bible Study Fellowship sisters, Ladies Bible Study sisters, my Facebook friends, my dear hubby and Joshua boy who endlessly pray for me. I am so at peace and thrilled whenever I received their written and even voice prayers.

Special thanks to Pastors who covered me in prayers.



**Crying together**

*"Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out".*

*James 5:13-15 MSG*



**Mini ministry on the Love of God in me**

During the treatments, whenever I step into Hospital Fatimah, God reminded me that his shining light is in me and He is with me always. Though in Candy's suffering, you can carry my love around. I take action and prepare "our daily bread" mini book to share to my doctor, nurses and patients around. I always prayed hard hoping they would not reject God's love. Indeed, a lot receive it especially in moments of downcast, I did pray for a few and make some new friends. God is so so GOOD.

*“Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.””*

*Matthew 19:26 NIV*



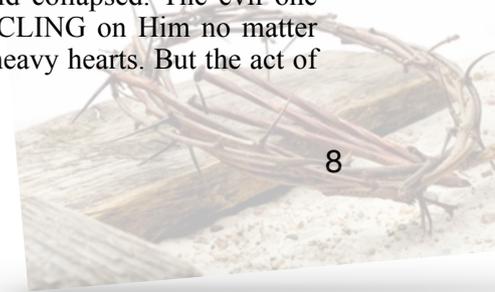
One of the side effects which seldom happen, hand burnt, called chemo leaked. Yet, God healed me in 2 weeks rather than 3 months as predicted by my Oncologist, even Dr Chan claimed, “It’s a miracle”.

*“I love you, God— you make me strong. God is bedrock under my feet, the castle in which I live, my rescuing knight. My God—the high crag where I run for dear life, hiding behind the boulders, safe in the granite hideout.”*

*Psalms 18:1-2 MSG*

**Storm again, bigger!**

21/4/22 Bad ultrasounds report come back stating possible recurrent tumour on the same spot had already been surgically removed and taken out on 26/8/21 (7 months ago). My world collapsed. The evil one messed up my mind again but God put me back to the right perspective to CLING on Him no matter what. I decided to break the news to the prayer team, and we all prayed with heavy hearts. But the act of prayers and running to God gave me peace in my heart.



**Unending reminder of His "rainbows" promises**

God sent so much rainbows (see photo) to visibly calm me all the time. Whenever I put my eyes and heart up to focus on God, the "suffering" seems so much lesser. God is Bigger! He made my problem from major to minor, from minor to none. **(This is the sign of the covenant I am making between Me and you ... Genesis 9:12)**



**Beautiful Rainbow reminds our family God is a God of Promise.**



**God won the battle for an underserving Candy**

*“God will fight the battle for you. And you? You keep your mouths shut!” \* \* \**

*Exodus 14:14 MSG*

5/5/22 Note the number 55 indeed is God's double grace. God prepared my heart way early to affirmed me that His grace is enough. (See photo) The most "gan cheong" (nervous) exam is ON in Sunway Medical Centre KL. The result? God announced loudly and ended my misery earlier than my doctor's plan. 100% PET scan passed and No Evidence of Disease (NED) found in my body. Those who knows my roller coaster journey broke into tears and rejoice with me!

**Hallelujah!!**

God is not a God of coincidence; He always shows us His grace and mercy is enough. 55 (double grace) was showed to me before my May 5,2022 PET scan in Sunway Medical Centre.



*“Why are you down in the dumps, dear soul? Why are you crying the blues? Fix my eyes on God— soon I’ll be praising again. He puts a smile on my face. He’s, my God.”*

*Psalms 42:5 MSG*



**The most prayer I prayed and claimed promise verses during my journey**

- o Lord, help me!
- o Our Father in Heaven
- o Not my will by Your will Lord
- o I am secure and I am a Child of God
- o God's grace is enough

**My praise to God**

I will bless the LORD who guides me;  
even at night my heart instructs me.  
I know the LORD is always with me.  
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.  
No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice.  
My body rests in safety.  
Psalm 16:7-9

**My conclusion**

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.”  
Psalms 40:1-3 NIV

**My mission**

“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”  
Acts 20:24 NIV

Though a few physical side effects after treatment like hair loss, nerve pain, lose appetite, back pain, lose taste bud, burnt hand due to chemo leak (See photo) yet, nothing beat the cancer good side effects. I have so much dependence on Jesus as God ensure me, He is my only eternal hope. My faith in Jesus grows stronger as He helps me even in my unbelief. The crave of material decrease tremendously. I found true rest in God. Because of God’s love, I have much love to share. I am more forgiving and slower in my anger now. Indeed, God have giving me a LIVING testimony to share and I am forever thankful.

**Words of Encouragement**

Big storms, small storms in life? No worry as God is in our boat. He is a God who can calm the storms. Only Jesus can calm the storms in me, in you and in us!

*Blessings. To God be the glory !!*



# TRIBES DURING OLD TESTAMENT PERIODS

~ Dr Philip Ho

## Before Abraham's time (earlier than 2100 BC)

After the flood Noah's sons went to different regions and their descendents became tribes.

*Japheth* went to Europe/Asia Minor and his descendents became the Greeks.

*Shem* was ancestor to the East Semitics which included the Hebrews, Chaldeans, Assyrians and Persians

*Ham* was the despised one as he had looked with disgrace on his father. Genesis 9:22 Ham broadcast his father's disgrace rather than covered his father's immodesty which is what his 2 brothers did. He was ancestor to Canaanites, Egyptians, Philistines, Tities and Amorites in Africa and Canaan (Canaan was the name of his grandson)

## Abraham's period(2100-200 BC)

Canaanites - Descendants of Ham.lived in Canaan.

Perrizites - possibly lived in villages as opposed to nomadic tribes.unable to find historical sources of information.

Hitites - lived in Northern Canaan from Abraham's time till Ezra.Children of Heth,son of Canaan,son of Ham,son of Noah. Esau married a Hitite. Uriah husband of Bathsheba was a Hitite. A fairly large and powerful kingdom.

Arameans - from Damascus (Syria) in North East mountains. Jacob married 2 Arameans and identified with them

Negev - region of Southern Canaan.Fertile region. Abraham lived here after being banished from Egypt. Moses sent scouts during the Exodus including Caleb and Joshua.

## Moses-Joshua-David's period(1446-1000 BC)

Anakites (sons of Anak) - tall people living in the Negev surrounding Hebron.Driven out eventually by Caleb.

Nephilim - Gen 6:1-4 Numbers 13:32-33 Ezekiel 32:22-27. Giants. Descendents of angels? Seth?

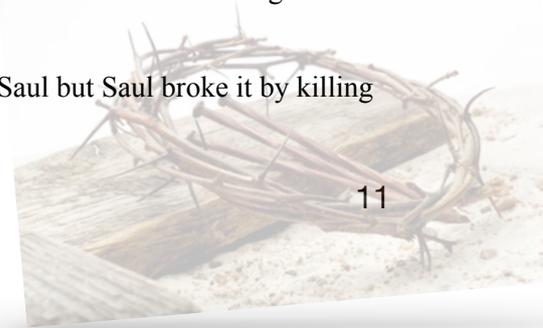
Moabites - descendents of Lot, nephew of Abraham. Genesis 13:11. Lot chose the Jordan plains toward the east while Abraham settled in the west near Hebron. The Moabs lived East of the Jordan river, around the Dead Sea. Ruth was a Moabite. They worshipped Chemosh and not Yahweh. King Solomon built a shrine east of Jerusalem to this god but was demolished by King Josiah later.

Edomites - descendents of Esau, brother of Jacob. They occupied the area south east of the Dead sea. Land of Mt Seir.

Ammonites - They occupied the land north of Moab,east of the Jordan river.Eventually defeated by Maccabeus in 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC. Harrassed the Israelites who were trying to rebuild the temple around 516 BC.An ammonite woman taken into the harem induced King Solomon to worship their god Malcom

Amorites - highland mountaineers in Canaan west of the dead sea. Descendents of Ham. Tall and great stature.

Gibeonites - descendents of Amorites who made a peaceful covenant with Saul but Saul broke it by killing some of them.



**Jebusites** - lived in the mountains surrounding Jerusalem and the city itself. Defeated by Joshua but not conquered. King David finally conquered Jerusalem and made it the City of David. Araunah the Jebusite sold the land to David that Solomon built the Temple on.

**Philistines** - inhabitants of Canaan. Abraham agreed to a covenant of kindness with Abimelech and Isaac continued with the treaty. There is a possibility that the Philistines of Genesis (Abraham's time) and the Philistines of Deuteronomy (Moses-Joshua's time) referred to different tribes. They probably came from the Mediterranean Sea and controlled 5 city states along the West coast of Canaan. Many battles with Israelites. Goliath was a Philistine giant defeated by David.

**Amalekites** - descendants of Amalek, grandson of Esau. They were a nomadic tribe that lived in Southern Canaan in the Negev. Haman in Esther is thought to have been a Amalekite. Related to Edomites through Esau. Some authorities think they may be descendants of Ham.

**Hebron** - a place in the West Bank. 3000ft above Sea level. Abraham lived in this region and bought the cave of Macpelah here as a family burial tomb. David moved his capital from Ziklag near the Philistine border to Hebron after Saul died. Later moved the capital to Jerusalem.

**Jerusalem** - has been civilized since 3000-4500 BC around the Gihon Spring. Occupied by Jebusites who called it Jebus. Mechizedek (Genesis) was King of Salem.

**Nabateans** - ancient Arabs living in Northern Arabia and Southern Levant. Converted to Christianity in Byzantine era. Capital was Petra, though there were already inhabitants from 7000 BC.

**East Semitic kingdoms**

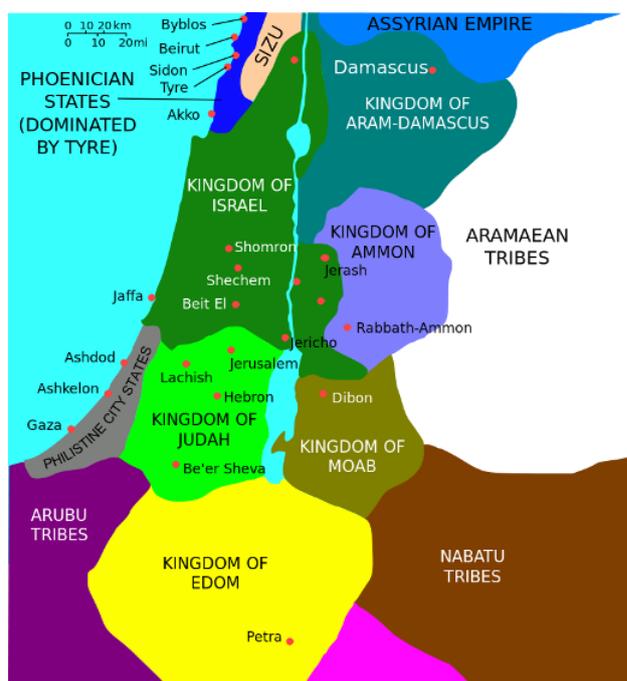
Sumer (3500-3000 BC) predates Abraham's story.

Akkadia (2300-2100 BC) Abraham probably came from this era/area in Ur.

Assyria (2500-620 BC) Conquered Northern Israel in 722 BC. Capital was Nineveh.

Babylon (1895-539 BC) Conquered Southern kingdom Judah in 586 BC

Medo Persia- (539-331 BC) Cyrus freed the Jewish exiles and allowed them to return home. The temple and Jerusalem were rebuilt during this period by Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah. Esther married King Xerxes (fifth king of Persia) and became Queen of Persia around 479 BC).



# JESUS CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

~ Aw Peck Chin (CG23/CG36)

## JESUS CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

(Matthew 21:12-17)

Below is my message, crystallised out of my meditation on the above Scriptures, given during the Holy Week morning reflection on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

My Message

*“ He is the Lord of lords, King of kings,  
God of gods,  
King of all the earth.”*

Our Lord Jesus is all of that and more!

For He is the Holy God and King!

Yet about 500 years before the Word made flesh

and came to dwell among us, Malachi 3:1-4 prophesied that God Almighty would send His messenger who would prepare the way before Him.

Suddenly, the Lord whom we are seeking would come to the Temple. But the Lord Almighty has warned,

*“Who can endure the day of His coming?” and “Who can stand when He appears?”*

For the Lord God warned that He would be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

*“He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,  
He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver...”*

Based on the prophesy of Malachi 3:1-4, the Jewish people expected the Messiah to come and purify the temple and the people of Jerusalem.

Jesus fulfils these expectations in a way the people never could have expected.

In His days the outer court of the temple was known as the court of the Gentiles, where Jesus and peoples of the then nations could meet with God in worship, praise and prayer. Instead, the temple authority and the priests, because of self-gains and profits, had allowed all sort of commercial activities of selling sacrifices and exchanging money in the guise of assisting people to worship God.

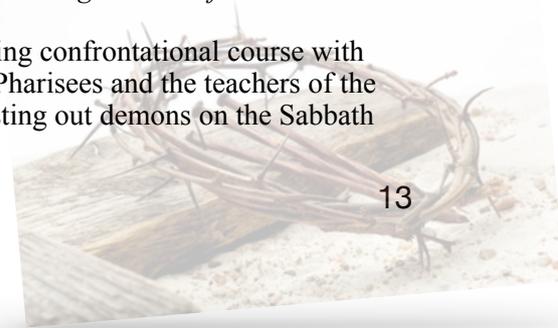
Jesus notices all these happenings in the temple, as He had been in and out of the temple many times, all these years, but in His last days, He took things in His own hands.

Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changes and the benches of selling doves.

In righteous anger He said to them,

*“It is written, My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it a den of robbers.”*

The Pharisees and the teachers of the laws have been on an increasing confrontational course with Jesus since the beginning of His earthly ministry with His disciples. The Pharisees and the teachers of the laws have accused Jesus for not observing the Sabbath by healing and casting out demons on the Sabbath and not observing the other ceremonial laws.



Now in cleansing the temple, Jesus is making a final break with Judaism, by taking the religious leaders in Jerusalem head-on. Jesus' bold action shows that He is the authoritative King. He is greater than the temple. Indeed, He is Lord of the temple and He has the right to do whatever He desire to protect the sanctity of the temple.

Jesus action must have shocked the Jewish leaders who pride themselves in religious practices at the temple. So to the Jewish leaders, Jesus' actions and claims are not only scandalous, but also blasphemous – claims that would lead them to crucify Him!

Let us learn the spiritual lessons of Jesus' cleansing the temple.

1. The first lesson is not to have a religious spirit like the Pharisees, as Jesus says in Matthew 5:20. "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven." Indirectly, Jesus is asking each one of us today, whether we still have a religious spirit.
  - Do you attend worship once a week, but live the rest of the week as you like?
  - Do you only pray when you have a need or concern?
  - You hardly read the Bible, what you know about Jesus is from the pulpit or what others tell you?
  - Do you base your confidence of your salvation only in your baptism and as a member of the church, but show little interest in any other discipleship?
2. The second lesson we learn is on corporate prayer. As Jesus was the head of the temple, He is now the head of the church, we are His body. Jesus, when He was on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears (Hebrews 5:7). His prayers were heard and answered, and He gave His life for our sins.
  - How are we treating Jesus' call for His house to be house of prayers for all nations?
  - Are you involved in any corporate prayer in church?
  - When the liturgist leads in intercessory prayer during worship service, do you participate in praying?
3. The third lesson we learn is, individually each of us is the temple as the Holy Spirit dwells in us.
  - As His temple, do you pray other than for your own needs and the concerns of your loved ones?

In this season of Lent, let us call on the Holy Spirit to help us reflect how Jesus cleansed the temple and speak to each one of us in our personal and corporate prayer life.



# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LAST SUPPER

~ Dr Wong Lai Yin

In the passage from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 26:20-30, Jesus is celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples, a meal they ate every year to remember God's deliverance from Egypt and at this meal He instituted the Last Supper. Exodus 12 tells us, for the first Passover, the Israelite homes were instructed to slaughter a spotless lamb and then put its blood above their doorposts. When God came in judgment on the homes of the Israelites and the Egyptians, He would put to death the firstborn son in any home that did not have blood over the doorpost. God provided the blood of a lamb, a substitute sacrifice, to save His people from the payment of sin. God's people would celebrate this meal every year, taking these lambs to be slaughtered. The Israelites would gather together in their homes and remember the original Passover night in Egypt.

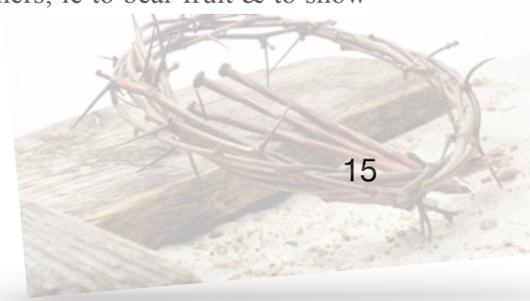
With that backdrop, Jesus refers to the cup in the Last Supper as signifying "My blood," which is "shed for many for the forgiveness of sins" (26:28). He is the Passover lamb (Exodus 12) who saves us with His blood. When His body was nailed to the cross Jesus the Lamb of God is our substitute sacrifice, and He died the death we deserved to die.

So, what does it mean for us now, when we celebrate the Holy Communion?

**Significance of the table:** For many of us gathering for a meal around the table especially on occasions like the Chinese New Year or Christmas is very important. The table is the place for intimacy. Around the table we discover each other. It's the place where we pray, where we communicate, where we eat and drink together. It is a place of smiles and tears, a place where children feel the tension between the parents, where brothers and sisters express their anger and jealousies, where accusations are made. Around the table we know whether there is friendship and community or hatred and division. Precisely because the table is the place of intimacy, do we approach the table (that is; partake of the Holy Communion) with reverence and awe that the Lord Himself calls us to a close & intimate relationship with Him? (Adapted from Henri Nouwen's devotional)

**Significance of the bread:** The bread used for communion signifies the body of Jesus, which was broken for us. Jesus said in John 6:48, "I am the Bread of life." And in verse 51 He said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." When He died on the cross He took upon Himself all our sins, our shame, our iniquity, our rebellion, our diseases, our pains and grief. As we take of the bread during HC we are reminded that we belong to the Body of Christ of which He is the Head. Where are you/I, in the Body of Christ?

**Significance of the cup/wine:** The wine represents His blood, which was shed to establish a new Covenant which brought the forgiveness of sins and sets us apart in holiness. In John 6:56 Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." And about remaining in Him Jesus went on to say in John 15:7-8, that if we remain in Him we will bear much fruit, showing ourselves to be His disciples. In the book by Henri Nouwen entitled "Can you drink the cup", the writer says that when we hold the cup (during Holy Communion) do we hold our lives and let our hearts grow and develop in care and love for one another and do we offer our lives to grow higher than this world that we see with our eyes. And when we drink the wine (for us, the grape juice) do we allow our lives to be poured out for others (as the wine is being poured out) to be friends, to be lovers and be a blessing to others; ie to bear fruit & to show that we are disciples of Jesus Christ.



After the meal Jesus predicted in Matthew 26:31-35 that Peter will disown Him three times, which he did much to Peter's own horror and sorrow. Peter, Judas and the other 10 disciples were with Jesus for three years ministering and eating with Him. By now they would have shared many meals together and especially this meal where Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. Judas as we know betrayed Jesus became remorseful and hung himself. Peter however repented and in John 21:15-19 Jesus reinstated Peter. Peter and the rest of the disciples went on to do great things for God. They learned and understood that Jesus' blood was shed for them for the forgiveness of their sins.

In CGMC we celebrate the Holy Communion once a month. Certain churches celebrate the Holy Communion every week. The Holy Communion is not just another ritual that we Christians observe. When we come for Holy Communion we come to the table of remembrance. It is a remembrance of His Love. It is a remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross for you and I.

The author Eugene Peterson writes, 'Without the Eucharist (also called Holy Communion or Lord's Supper) it is very easy to drift into a spirituality that is dominated by ideas about Jesus instead of receiving life from Jesus. The Eucharist says a plain 'no' to that. The Eucharist puts Jesus in His place, dying on the cross and giving us that sacrificial life. And it puts us in our place: opening our hands and receiving remission of our sins, which is our salvation.'



# LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL 7-12

~ Rev Dr Andrew Tan

Having preached the sermons on Daniel, I wish to summarize the lessons we have learned. The following are the lessons.

1. Don't give in to evil and tyranny. Don't let it change you to become evil like them. Instead, remain faithful to God.

Many who are tempted by evil give in to evil. Or they fight evil with a vengeful spirit. But that is not the teaching of Jesus, our Lord, who taught us instead to: "bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Lk. 6:28). How are we to do this when evil is so rampant? Daniel 7:9-14 teaches us that God will not only judge the evil (or the cruel beasts), but He also blesses the man who remains faithful to Him. We can remain faithful when we are convicted that God is sovereign and in control of our evil world, and that we who trust in God will be vindicated. The "son of man" figure receives an everlasting kingdom on our behalf. Knowing that we will be vindicated enables us to have hope to resist evil now.

2. When things are bad, it can get worse still. But even then, God is sovereign and in control.

Our bad situation can get worse, our suffering may seem endless, and our survival is not guaranteed. But evil will be judged. It cannot perpetuate endlessly. Although evil may seem invincible, but Daniel 8:24-25 says, "And he (the tyrant) will destroy to an extraordinary degree ... But he will be broken without human agency." God's power will destroy in the end.

3. Even when things are bad, constructive things can still happen in such dark times.

For most people, when the opposite camp is in control of an organization, they stay out and not engage in contribution to its welfare. But even under the evil regime, Jerusalem can still be built. Daniel 9:25 says "Jerusalem ... will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble." We must not withdraw during evil times but put ourselves forward to mend the little niches we can to make things better. As God's kingdom people, we must seize even the small opportunities given to us

4. When evil becomes terrible, don't give up because the end is near. Hang in for a little while more.

Daniel 9:27 tells us that "in the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice .... And ... he will set up an abomination that causes desolation." The 'seven' refers to the last week when evil will end and God's judgment will begin. Persevere for just a little while more in the midst of intense evil. When the night is darkest, it will dawn soon.

5. Persist in prayer during dark times. Receive God's strength and continue to do God's work.

In chapter 10, Daniel persists in prayer until there is a breakthrough and an angel comes to strengthen him. The angel explains that the reason for his delay was because the prince of Persia resisted him: "Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding ..., your words were heard, and I have come in response to them" (v12). Later the angel says to him, "Peace! Be strong now; be strong" (v19). The situation for Daniel did not change; evil still persisted. But he has been strengthened to continue his work.



6. We need to be able to see two views simultaneously: Although our world is chaotic and violent, God is sovereign and in charge.

Quite often we find ourselves on extreme ends: “either or.” We seldom hold the tension: “both and.” When we hold on to the two above seemingly opposite truths together, we will neither be naïve nor cynical about our situation. We will not excuse human responsibility because of divine sovereignty. And we will not excuse evil simply because good will be the ultimate outcome.

7. We need to walk wisely to the end in a dark and evil world.

The wise are people who have the end game in view and allow that view to influence their decisions. Daniel 12:10 says that “...the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.” The wicked are wicked because all they see is this present life. However, the wise understand that life continues beyond death. There will be the day of resurrection that will address all the injustices: “Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens ... like the stars for ever and ever” (10:2-3). The wise makes decision to resist evil, do what is right and strengthen the others because they see life beyond death to God who will reward them in the resurrection.

I hope this short summary will remind and refresh you of the messages you heard in the book of Daniel.



# KESAKSIAN TENTANG MUJIZAT TUHAN TERJADI

~ Bonie bin Modusik

Saya Bonie bin Modusik adalah seorang pegawai polis yang bekerja di Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Ibu Pejabat Kontijen Perak, di Cawangan D6B ( UNIT K9 ).

Pada bulan Januari tahun 2022, semasa saya bertugas bersama dengan rakan sekerja saya Tan Wei Hong, kami telah menerima satu panggilan kes orang hilang di Gopeng, Perak. Semasa dalam perjalanan ke tempat kejadian, saya dan rakan sekerja beranggapan mangsa yang hilang itu adalah orang asli.

Saya dan rakan sekerja sempat bergelak ketawa kerana belum pernah kami menerima panggilan kes orang hilang di hutan melibatkan orang asli kerana mereka sangat biasa dengan hutan. Setelah tiba di Balai Polis Gopeng kami mendengar taklimat ringkas daripada ketua polis Balai Gopeng dan mendapat tahu mangsa yang hilang adalah seorang lelaki berbangsa Cina, berusia 32 tahun. Selepas itu kami pun bergerak ke tempat kejadian bersama adik kepada mangsa. Setelah tiba di tempat kejadian, saya dan rakan setugas serta 5 orang asli memulakan tugas mencari mangsa. Dan ketika itu mujizat tuhan terjadi di dalam penugasan saya itu. Sedang saya dan rakan sekerja menjalankan penugasan mencari dan menyelamatkan, saya mendapat satu bisikan yang mengerakkan hati saya untuk berdoa kepada Tuhan, lalu saya pun berdoa dan mengangkat kedua belah tangan saya dan melihat ke langit. Ketika itu saya bersendirian. Di dalam doa saya, saya memulakan doa dengan DOA BAPA KAMI.

Dan dihujung doa saya, saya memohon agar Bapa yang disyurga memberi saya jalan agar dapat menemui mangsa. Setelah satu jam berlalu mencari mangsa sambil memanggil nama mangsa di tengah hutan, saya berasa kaku kerana sebelum itu kami tidak pernah bertindak sedemikian di tengah hutan. Puji Tuhan selepas dua jam setengah pencarian, sedang kami berehat di satu pokok yang tumbang ditengah-tengah perkuburan orang asli, saya dan rakan sekerja memanggil nama mangsa dengan harapan kami menemui mangsa. Tiba-tiba seseorang datang menghampiri kami, dan saya menganggap orang itu pada mulanya adalah orang asli yang turut serta dalam pencarian mangsa. Sebaliknya orang yang menghampiri kami itu adalah mangsa yang hilang. Saya tersenyum gembira dan mengucap syukur kepada Tuhan kerana dengan iman dan percaya, doa saya dinyatakan pada masa itu. Disini saya ingin menyatakan bahawa mujizat Tuhan masih terjadi saat ini ketika kita percaya bahawa kuasa doa itu sangat luar biasa dan tidak ada yang mustahil bagi Tuhan saat kita bersandar sepenuhnya kepada Dia!



# Through the Bible Through the year summary series ~ Part 1

~ Dr Philip Ho

## Summary of “Through the Bible Through the year”

### by John Stott Part 1

This is a wonderful book to read. It covers Genesis to Revelation with insights and a bird’s eye view of the bible. I shall cover the main points from this book in summary form in 9 parts. This issue of Family Focus will feature the first part from the Creation to the 10 Commandments.

#### The Creation (*Genesis 1*)

When God began His creative work, nothing existed except Him. Only He was there in the beginning, Only He is eternal.

The bible was never intended by God to be a scientific textbook. When God spoke it came to be -reference to God the Father, His Word and His Spirit.

The Egyptians and Babylonians at that time worshiped the sun, moon and stars; but the bible insists that they are not gods to be worshiped but the creation of the one true God.

We are created in God’s image (Gen 1:27)

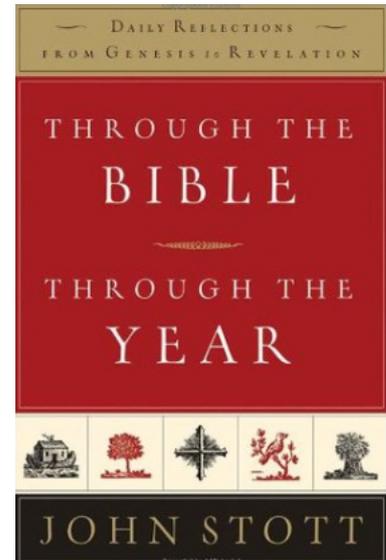
1. We are rational and self conscious.
2. We are moral, having a conscience that urges us to do what we perceive to be right.
3. We are creative.
4. We are social.
5. We have a spiritual faculty that makes us hunger after God.

***God’s plan was not only to create a homo faber (man the worker) but a homo adorans (man the worshiper)-for human beings are seen at their noblest when they are worshiping God.***

After enjoying the refreshment that rest and worship that Sunday brings, we should be eager for the beginning of the working week.

***Our work becomes a privilege when we see it as collaboration with God***-we need an authentic Christian philosophy of work. Work is not merely a means to earn a living. God has given us dominion over the earth which means delegated responsible stewardship. We are to take care of God’s creation and not to exploit it.

Originally Adam and Eve were given free access to all that is good, including the tree of life. The only prohibition was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Created in God’s image they already had a degree of moral discernment but they disobeyed God, with disastrous experience of evil.



## Human sexuality (Genesis 2)

Men and women are equal bearers of the divine image and equal sharers in earthly stewardship. Although sexes are equal they are different; equality is fully compatible with complementarity.

Solitude for prolonged periods is not good. We are social beings-friendship and companionship are precious gifts from God.

***Eve was not taken from the feet of Adam to be his slave, not from his head to be his lord, but from his side to be his partner, under his arm to be protected, and near his heart to be beloved.***

Marriage in the original biblical context was meant to be

1. Heterosexual
2. Monogamous (Old Testament characters practiced polygamy but monogamy was God's purpose from the beginning)
3. Committed
4. Public
5. Physical

## The Fall (Genesis 3)

God had given 3 instructions. A permission to eat freely of every tree in the garden; a prohibition to eat of one tree; a penalty for disobedience.

Adam and Eve doubted God's truthfulness, and denied the goodness of God. Satan twisted facts to make it seem that the permitted things were unsatisfying and the forbidden things seem desirable. ***Satan deceived humans to try and break free from a dependence on God.***

Sin is unwillingness to let God be God. It is a desire to live without God- to become like a god. ***It is a revolt against God's unique authority-it is an attempt at self deification.***

Sin resulted in embarrassment and Adam and Eve hid from God out of guilt. They shifted blame around and refused to take responsibility for the choices they had made. Their promised fruitfulness would now be accompanied by pain in childbirth as well as pleasure and the intended equal partnership between the sexes would result in discord, for Adam would now "rule" over his wife. The ground was now cursed and the cultivation of the soil would be an uphill struggle.

We often talk about man's search for God, but God is searching for man (Gen 3:8-9). God made garments of skin (presumably from a dead animal) to clothe Adam and Eve to replace the *leaves* they had used. This may be a hint to animal sacrifice needed to cover the guilt of sin.

Abel brought fat portions from a newborn lamb whereas Cain brought some fruits of the soil. When God looked with favour on Abel's offering and disfavor with Cain's, Cain became angry and in his jealousy he murdered his brother. When we bring our offerings we need to examine our hearts before the Lord.



**Covenant (Genesis 9-50)**

A covenant is a key biblical word which denotes a solemn promise of God in which he takes the initiative in undeserved mercy. *It is an agreement between God and human beings, initiated by his grace, founded on his promise and sealed with a sign.*

The tower of Babel is a Ziggurat in which man tries to aspire to heaven instead of filling the earth and subduing it. God scattered the people over the earth, obliging them to do what they refused to do voluntarily.

From Noah to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph we see God’s hand at work through people who are by no means perfect but still had a *faith that could see God’s promises even if some were not fulfilled in their lifetime.*

God wrestled with Jacob initially by love to conquer him but without success, then God touched and dislocated his thigh. With us too God begins gently and perseveres in love. But if we still resist, he resorts to more drastic measures .

*God wrestles with us in order to break down our stubbornness, we wrestle with God in order to inherit His promises.*

**Exodus (Exodus 1-19)**

God protected Moses even as a baby. He grew up in special circumstances being exposed to Egyptian and Israelite cultures. He chose to be mistreated along with the Jews rather than to enjoy the benefits of Egyptian royal ties. He learned that God’s will must be done only in God’s way. He fled to Midian for 40 years and had a fresh commission from God when He spoke to him from a burning bush near Mt Horeb/Sinai.

*It is best to respond to God’s call neither with extreme self confidence nor complete self doubt, but with a humble trust in the living God who equips those he calls.*

The 10 plagues were not all supernatural. They could even be called natural phenomena. The miraculous element lay in the timing.

For the Passover, God is the Judge as well as the Savior. Salvation was by substitution (first born lamb) and each family rescued by God was thereby purchased for God, their whole life now belonged to him.

At Mount Sinai, God gave them 3 gifts-a renewed covenant, a moral law and atoning sacrifices. Yahweh had set his love on the and chosen them not because of any merit in them but solely because he loved them.

**10 commandments (Exodus 20)**

The first 5 commandments deal with our relationship with God and God’s authoritative mediator (our parents). The second 5 commandments deal with our relationship to other people in the community.

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- 1.No other Gods before Yahweh
- 2.Make no idols
- 3.Not misuse the name of God
- 4.Keep the Sabbath to the Lord
- 5.Honor parents (who are representatives of God’s authority)

RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE

- 6.Do not murder
- 7.Do not commit adultery
- 8.Do not steal
- 9.Do not bear false witness
- 10.Do not covet



We break the first law whenever we give first place in our lives to anyone or anything other than God.

Generational sins can be transmitted physically (inherited genes), socially (in poverty caused by drinking and gambling), psychologically (tensions in an unhappy home) and morally (in behavior learned from a bad example).

***We misuse God's name whenever our behavior is incompatible with His character.*** To call God "Father" and mistrust Him or to call Jesus "Lord" and disobey Him: this is to misuse His name.

Luke tells us that it was Jesus' custom to attend the synagogue on the Sabbath day but He was entirely free from traditional rules and ordinances that had encrusted the Sabbath observance.

It is right and pleasing to Christ to honor and be obedient to parents who are God's representative of authority on earth especially to minors. Parents also have a duty not to exasperate their children.

We are commanded not to murder-which is the shedding of innocent blood.

Sex, marriage and family are all gifts from God but should be within the confines of a monogamous marriage. Jesus extended the prohibition of adultery to include our thoughts as well as our deeds.

False witness can be perjury, but can also take the form of slander, deliberate exaggerations and distortions of the truth in the home, neighborhood and the workplace.

Coveteousness is to theft what anger is to murder and lust is to adultery. You steal what does not belong to you when you covet it and allow your desires to overcome our conscience.

***In summary the Ten Commandments are an exposition of what it means to love God and our neighbor and they expose and condemn our sin.***



# BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP APRIL 2022

## English Congregation

### \* Profession of Faith



Chew Ait Jane

### \* Confirmation



David SeowJae Szen



Teng Geok Peng, Teresa



Koh Lee Shong, Gladys

### \* Transfer Membership



Khoo Eng Cheng



Choong Wai Seng



Chia Shi Ming

## Chinese Congregation

### \* Confirmation



Ho Zhan Le



Janice Ong Wei Wen

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Zafannya Low  
Mei San



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Raphael Virendra Roy



Raymond Chen Wei

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Sukwinder Singh A/L  
Pargat Singh



Sedarita Perawati



Rimma Agustina Sinaga



# Evangelism in Cell Groups

## Who's your ONE?

Collected your bookmark from your CG leader?

**Who's your ONE?**

1. Identify one of your closest relationships for each category.

2. Mark the person with the following symbols.

- +** SAVED
- x** LOST
- ?** UNKNOWN

**FAMILY**

**MEMBER**

**WORK**

**EXTENDED FAMILY**

**UNKNOWN**

CELL MINISTRY TRAINING 2022 (hybrid)		
DATE	TIME	MODULE
Sat, 04 June	2-4pm	1. Philosophy of CG Ministry
	4-6pm	2. Leadership in CG Ministry
Sat, 11 June	2-4pm	3. Leading in CG Meeting (Part 1)
	4-6pm	4. Leading in CG Meeting (Part 2)
Sat, 18 June	2-4pm	5. Cell Group Dynamics
	4-6pm	6. Cell Group Problems
Sat, 25 June	2-4pm	7. Caring for CG Members
	4-6pm	8. Service of CG Members

Register at: <https://forms.gle/wc3onzEPfVsXw1N17>

**Closing Date: 30 May 2022**

30 May 2022 Closing Date: <https://forms.gle/wc3onzEPfVsXw1N17>

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To **DISCIPLE** every member into Christian maturity and to be effective in the service of God.

To **EVANGELIZE** the city of Ipoh and to set up congregations in strategic areas.

To **TOUGH** a needy community with God's transforming love and justice.

To **SEND** Christian workers into the harvest fields and to be involved in missions.