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HONOURING MOTHERS

The Practicalities of Faith

Meeting the Needs
of the Community





THE PRACTICALITIES OF FAITH

BY YONG CHEE WENG

Our church theme for 2019 is Proclaim the Gospel ... Till He Comes! The word “gospel” means good news or good message. However, the Gospel can stop being good news to us when:

- a) We become too accustomed to it or take it for granted.
- b) We do not let it make a difference in our lives.
- c) We get bogged down with the dos and don'ts of religion and ministry.

We are particularly guilty of becoming too accustomed to the Gospel, and taking the Gospel for granted, because we live very blessed lives. Globally, many are

in extremely bleak situations. Refugees who are displaced involuntarily continue to suffer in the temporary places they relocate to. Women and girls are susceptible to human trafficking, prostitution, and child marriages. Can the Gospel help such as these? Do we just share about Jesus and tell them Jesus can help them out of the situation?

Do you really believe God can help people?

Do you really believe that God loves them enough to do so?

Is the Gospel practical for daily life, or is it just for spiritual matters? How practical is faith?

“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:28-34).

Does Matthew 6:33, so commonly quoted, actually work? Imagine a medium-sized pot (diameter of a dinner plate) with ten saplings in it, each about a foot in height. These plants are already two years old. Despite giving them water, fertilizer, sunlight, and taking good care of them, the plants are very small. By right, they should be six feet tall after two years, but they still look like saplings.



The pot represents our faith. Until the pot gets bigger, the individual plant will never grow bigger. It will never

reach its fullest potential, which is a big tree taller than a double-storey house. The size of your faith (the pot) determines how much you live life to the fullest. If you do not widen and deepen your faith, your life of faith will be stunted. People with stunted faith view the Gospel in a stunted manner, good only for their own salvation. They will not venture out to help the lost and needy due to their smallness of faith. There is no proclaiming of the Gospel. It is not that God is not able to save. It is because their faith (the pot) is too small.

When Jesus encourages us to *“seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you”* (Matthew 6:33), He asks for us to enlarge our pot (faith). We often resist because of the pain involved to break the pot or to be uprooted. When insects attack the plant or a storm comes, we cry out because the little plant is vulnerable. In the same way, we regularly cry out to God over small matters. However, the huge tree can withstand the challenges of life, not because of its greatness in itself, but because its faith (the ground) has made it strong. The huge tree is not only able to withstand problems, it is able to bear fruit and multiply, bringing blessings to the lost and the needy. Faith Promise giving is a practical way of enlarging our pot (faith). When you obey the Lord’s challenge to participate, you effectively break your old pot in exchange for a bigger one, and growth will come.

Another reason plants remain small is that there are too many plants sharing a single pot. Many times, Christians live off of the faith of others. Instead of going to God and searching the Bible yourself, you feed on the faith of others. When a situation happens, you ask the pastor to pray. When there is a problem, you go straight to your Life Group leader. When you need wisdom, you ask someone else. When wanting to evangelise, you get someone else to speak to the person in need of salvation. Is this always your initial action? If it is, you cannot expect your faith to grow.

Faith is practical. When your faith grows, you grow in every area of your life:

- In the book of Genesis, faith caused Joseph to rise above the circumstances of having been betrayed, beaten, sold, falsely accused, and imprisoned. Instead of turning into a bitter and vengeful man, he became a forgiving person who saved the very ones who got him into trouble in the first place. Due to Joseph's faith in God's promise, his entire family was saved from famine.
- The book of Exodus records the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. We often read it as a triumphant spiritual story. But to the Jews, in all practicality, Moses' faith in God freed them from slavery.
- The book of Judges records a constant cycle of Israel being oppressed by its enemies and getting into trouble because they forsook their faith in obeying God's word.
- The books of 1 and 2 Samuel tell of King David's kingdom growing in might and power because David was a man after God's own heart. God was pleased to bless him. The economy, politics, social welfare, and security hinged on King David's faith in his God and how he led the nation of Israel to put their faith in God.
- In the Gospels, Jesus constantly addressed daily needs. He was, and still is, very practical. In Jesus' hometown of Capernaum, due to the people's lack of faith in God's promised provision, few miracles were achieved.

- In the book of Acts, the church lived by sharing with one another, and no one was in need. Faith in Jesus compelled the early church to demonstrate their faith in practical living, and the Church grew numerically and spiritually.

Faith must be grounded in God's Word.

Do you really believe God can help people as He has promised?

Do you really believe that God loves people enough to help them?

God loves and cares for you. The Bible says, *"If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them"* (Matthew 6:30-32). The practicalities of faith means it is very practical to grow your faith. Read your Bible and pray every day. Participate in Faith Promise giving. Get involved in School of Christian Growth and Life Group. Start serving in church. Share Jesus with your colleagues and friends. Give to God's work. Faith is not some spiritual mystical experience. Faith without works is dead. It impacts your daily living. If you don't grow your faith, your daily living will be negatively impacted. You are called to be more than a small plant. You are meant to be a mighty tree, more than conquerors in Christ Jesus.

All Bible quotations are from the New International Version (NIV)

First row (L-R): Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, Chow Sang Hoe, Helen Elizabeth Leong
Second row (L-R): David Dev Peter, Ngeow Zoo Gin, Puan Chen Keck
Third row (L-R): Tam Kok Meng, Christopher Lim Hwa Seong

INTRODUCING THE 2019 BOARD OF DEACONS

BY LISA TOH

Stewardship Day was held on Friday, 26 April 2019 at Calvary Damansara Heights, and there was acceptance and appreciation for all the reports that testified of God's faithfulness and blessings upon Calvary Church. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam shared a devotion from Ephesians 4:14-20 and James 3:13-18 on how to live a born-again Christian life that will be a witness to our community and nation.

On Sunday, 28 April 2019, the deacons were installed and charged to office during the worship service at Calvary Convention Centre. We are certainly thankful for the spiritual, capable, and dedicated men and woman serving in the will and plan of God for Calvary Church. Let us uphold them in prayer, support them with love, humility, and unity, as Senior Pastor concluded with Ephesians 4:13, "we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

THE BOARD OF DEACONS AND THEIR PORTFOLIOS

David Dev Peter	- Church Secretary
Chow Sang Hoe	- Church Treasurer
Ngeow Zoo Gin	- Church Human Resources
Puan Chen Keck	- Church Business
Helen Elizabeth Leong	- Church Hospitality and Special Functions
Christopher Lim Hwa Seong	- Church Projects
Tam Kok Meng	- Church Administrative Affairs

Praying for the deacons at their installation



The congregation standing in prayer for the deacons



THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A FATHER



“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them” (Psalm 127:3, 5a NIV).

Fathers are biblically the head of the family, and they play an important role. Four fathers share with us what is the most rewarding thing about fatherhood, challenges they faced and how they overcame them, as well as what kind of legacy they would want to leave for their children.



Raymond with Mikaela (left) and Annika (right)

RAYMOND PETER

The most rewarding thing is watching two female versions of mini-mes running around the house. They are a reflection of God's goodness and faithfulness in my life. Having grown up with only brothers, having two girls has certainly changed the way I look at things at home now, and I am learning new things every day. My daughters are great teachers, and in all reality, I am the student!

I am blessed with a nine-to-five job, and hence have the opportunity to take the girls out to the playground on most days. For them, it is one of the happiest parts of the day, as they can let loose and run wild! I try not to miss this time with them.

We are called to be good stewards for God. He has blessed my wife Rowena and I with two wonderful kids, and while they are in our care, we intend to raise them in the ways of the Lord. My prayer for them every night is that they become a beacon for God, that others may see Him through their lives.

JEFFREY SAW

Simply enjoying my children's company as we chat about what is on their minds is rewarding to me. It makes me proud to have them discuss with me, and make decisions or conclusions that I consider mature and well thought out.

Finding the time to talk with each of my children can be challenging. With three kids, one-to-one time is sometimes a luxury, but it is important, as we get to talk about matters that are important to them, or about questions on their minds. Relationships are an important topic as they become teenagers, and even though we have been churchgoers all these years, inevitably the question comes up: Is God real?

Making time is largely managing priority, and it can be as simple as staying fit so that I do not get all tired on weeknights or during the weekends, and use that time for the kids.

Legacy is a big word, but if I have helped shape their character to be thoughtful, considerate, and to prioritise God and family, I would consider that a legacy for their lives.



Jeffrey with his children, Josiah (most left), Evelyn (second from right), and Sophia (most right)

AUGUSTINE YEW

The most rewarding thing about fatherhood is when God blessed my wife Angeline and I with three wonderful children: Catherine, Benjamin, and Dominic. This includes the opportunity to mould them as best as I can (Psalm 127:3, 5).



Augustine with his children, Benjamin (most left), Catherine (second from left), and Dominic (most right)

The need to be very consistent in parenting and to genuinely display godly examples as they grow up is a challenge. Also, to convince them that God's way of life is always worthwhile, and that if it works for me, it will work for them as well!

I recognise the need to set my priorities right, and it must be God, family, and work, in that order. With those priorities firmly in place, I can make decisions without adversely affecting one or the other. More importantly, I need to seek God's wisdom to show me how to better balance these priorities (James 1:5).

I also find it important to seek the counsel of spiritual leaders like my pastors, life group leader, and especially my wife, as they can observe and evaluate my effectiveness in the way I balance these priorities. I humbly and openly receive plus apply what they tell me.

I thank the Lord for the incredible gift of my three children, and the opportunity to share my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, beginning in their infancy, and to lay a foundation for their future (2 Timothy 3:15). My prayer is that they will always desire to fully seek and follow God's way through every decision and milestone in their lives.

JIMMY YAP

The most rewarding thing about being a father is to see my children brought up in such a way that their foundation is in the Lord. I find that very fulfilling. It gives me ease of mind that they have grown up in the right path. I strongly trust and believe that they are on the right track, and now that they are grown up, they know how to trust in the Lord.

Recently, my eldest son faced a difficult time, being accused of a crime he did not commit. It was a scary time for me and I thought to seek for legal counsel. Because it was a serious charge, we did not have the means to pay the lawyer fees necessary. My son told me, "Dad, we go by faith. I did not do anything wrong." Praise God, everything was cleared in court. It is very encouraging that my children are safe and sound in the Lord.



Jimmy (seated, fourth from left) with his family

When the children were in their teenage years, it was a challenging time as they grew up into young adults. The difficulty was that I, as their father, was sometimes unable to meet their needs. I really thank God that I was able to bring my children together, to sit at the dinner table, and work things out. At the same time, I was able to attend to their spiritual needs.

As a father and grandfather, the legacy I want to leave is to ensure my children and grandchildren's spiritual lives are sound by showing them a good example.



Beginning the session with praise and worship



Marilee sharing her life story

LEAVING A LEGACY

BY LEONG DEE PENG

Attended by 217 ladies, the Dimensions luncheon held on Saturday, 4 May 2019 began with vibrant worship, followed by a special number, “Leave a Legacy”, by Faith Tan and Joanna Bux. The lyrics “I want to leave a legacy that years from now they’ll see, that I lived only for the cause of Christ” set the tone for guest speaker Marilee Pierce Dunker’s sharing.

Marilee, gifted in storytelling, shared how her parents’ impactful legacy was birthed. The encounter with an abandoned child, beaten by her parents because she refused to deny her newfound faith in Christ, left an indelible mark on Dr. Bob Pierce. “What are you going to do about it?” That soul-searching question led to World Vision (WV) being birthed in 1950.

His prayer “let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God” and motivation from Philipians

3:13 “but this one thing I do” compelled him to action, feeding hungry stomachs and sharing the Gospel with them. Today, WV serves the poor in nearly 100 countries. The legacy of a visionary, compassionate father and a prayerful mother would shape Marilee’s own world vision.

Growing up, she dreamt of being an actress, but later felt the Lord’s leading to use her talents for His Kingdom. She spent most her life raising children, but at the age of 50, the Lord called her to be involved in WV. That was the beginning of a journey that would take her around the globe to be a voice for the poor and underprivileged. Marilee concluded with a reminder that following and responding to God’s call is a personal choice. Her inspiring, deeply convicting sharing started meaningful conversations over lunch, with some expressing a desire to serve God.

For more information on Dimensions, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 416.



Fellowship over a scrumptious lunch



Blood donation in progress



"This is where you sign..."

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

BY JANA PONNUDURAI

A total of 205 Calvarites and members of the public turned up at the recent Blood Donation Drive at Calvary Convention Centre (CCC). Of this number, 91 were visitors who saw the banner outside CCC.

This year's drive saw 128 successful donors heeding the National Blood Bank call to meet the blood supply shortage during the fasting month.

Ivan Yun and Natalie Seah both donated for the first time. Ivan, nervous initially, obeyed his parents' request and overcame his fear. Natalie too overcame her nervousness with her friends' encouragement.

Andy Wong said, "God blessed us with good health so that we can help others, and to donate blood is a noble thing to do. I'm glad that I'm able to fulfill His will."

Joanne Yee was compelled to donate because eight months ago, she lost her husband to an illness that needed a bone marrow transplant. She walked past the banner in church hesitant, until the Lord placed a desire in her heart to give back to society.

Elaine Peng, with type A blood and donating for the first time, feels it is important people help each other because we all may need blood ourselves one day. "My sister, a medical student, encouraged me to donate, to help others."

We thank everyone who supported this drive. May all of us who are able, continue to encourage others to do the same, to help save lives with a pint.



All smiles...



The five and six-year-olds presenting "Take My Hand"



Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng sharing a message from her heart



Amelia Huey (age five) and Alvin Abraham (age six) presenting a poem together

HONOURING MOTHERS

BY SHARON TAN

It was a joyful morning as the Calvary family celebrated Mother's Day together on Sunday, 12 May 2019 at Calvary Convention Centre (CCC). The children from Calvary Kids were dressed colourfully as they gathered on stage to sing and dance, expressing their love to their mothers, and for some, their grandmothers too!

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam called all mothers and their spouses to the altar, and with

Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, prayed for them before a memento was distributed to all mothers present.

Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng then shared a message titled "A Tale of Two Sons", on how Isaac favoured Esau over Jacob, while Rebekah favoured Jacob over Esau, negatively impacting their actions as adults. It was a reminder of how Christian parents are to reflect His image, raise and produce a godly heritage, as well as multiply and extend the influence of Christ's rule throughout the earth. Many were touched as they committed themselves to the Lord through prayer, both at their seats and at the altar.



Watch Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng's full message on our YouTube channel @calvaryone



Amanda Kate (age nine) presenting a poem



"Take my hand, lead me on"



"Mommy, there is nothing like your love"



The seven to 11-year-olds presenting "Better Than the Best Things"

Mothers receiving their memento at CCC



Mothers were also recognised at the Saturday Worship Service at Damansara Heights

Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam praying for the mothers and their spouses



MEMPRAKTIKKAN IMAN

OLEH YONG CHEE WENG

Tema gereja kita untuk tahun 2019 adalah Beritakan Injil ... Sehingga Dia Datang! Kata "Injil" bererti khabar baik atau berita baik. Namun, Injil dapat berhenti menjadi khabar baik bagi kita ketika:

- Kita menjadi terlalu terbiasa atau menerima begitu saja.
- Kita tidak membenarkan ia membuat perbezaan dalam hidup kita.
- Kita tersekat dengan peraturan keagamaan dan pelayanan.

Kita khususnya bersalah kerana menjadi terlalu terbiasa dengan injil dan menerima injil begitu saja kerana kita menjalani kehidupan yang sangat diberkati. Secara global, banyak yang berada dalam situasi yang sangat suram. Pelarian yang terusir tanpa rela terus menderita di tempat-tempat pemindahan sementara mereka. Wanita dan gadis terdedah kepada perdagangan manusia, pelacuran, dan pernikahan kanak-kanak. Dapatkah Injil membantu seperti mereka ini? Apakah kita hanya berkongsi tentang Yesus dan memberitahu mereka bahawa Yesus dapat membantu mereka keluar dari situasi tersebut?

Adakah kamu benar-benar percaya Tuhan dapat membantu orang lain?

Adakah kamu benar-benar percaya bahwa Tuhan cukup mengasihi mereka untuk melakukannya?

Adakah Injil berguna untuk kehidupan sehari-hari atau hanya untuk masalah rohani? Bagaimanakah bergunanya iman itu?

"Dan mengapa kamu kuatir akan pakaian? Perhatikanlah bunga bakung di ladang, yang tumbuh tanpa bekerja dan tanpa memintal, namun Aku berkata kepadamu: Salomo dalam segala kemegahannya pun

tidak berpakaian seindah salah satu dari bunga itu. Jadi jika demikian Tuhan mendandani rumput di ladang, yang hari ini ada dan besok dibuang ke dalam api, tidakkah Ia akan terlebih lagi mendandani kamu, hai orang yang kurang percaya? Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir dan berkata: Apakah yang akan kami makan? Apakah yang akan kami minum? Apakah yang akan kami pakai? Semua itu dicari bangsa-bangsa yang tidak mengenal Tuhan. Akan tetapi Bapamu yang di sorga tahu, bahwa kamu memerlukan semuanya itu. Tetapi carilah dahulu Kerajaan Tuhan dan kebenarannya, maka semuanya itu akan ditambahkan kepadamu. Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir akan hari besok, karena hari besok mempunyai kesusahannya sendiri. Kesusahan sehari cukuplah untuk sehari" (Matius 6: 28-34).



Adakah Matius 6:33, yang begitu sering diungkap, benar-benar berkesan? Bayangkan sebuah pasu berukuran sederhana (sebesar ukurlilit piring makan) dengan sepuluh pohon muda di dalamnya, masing-masing setinggi sekitar satu kaki. Namun, tumbuhan ini sudah berumur dua tahun. Meskipun memberi mereka air, baja, sinar matahari, dan menjaganya dengan baik, tumbuhannya sangat kecil. Sebenarnya, mereka harus tumbuh setinggi enam kaki setelah dua tahun, namun mereka masih kelihatan seperti pohon muda.

Pasu itu mewakili iman kita. Sekiranya pasu tidak bertambah besar, tumbuhan masing-masing tidak akan pernah tumbuh lebih besar. Itu tidak akan pernah mencapai potensi sepenuhnya yang sepatutnya merupakan pohon besar lebih tinggi dari rumah dua lantai. Ukuran iman kamu (pasu) menentukan seberapa banyak kamu menjalani hidup dengan maksimal. Jika kamu tidak memperluas dan memperdalam iman kamu, kehidupan iman kamu akan terhambat. Orang-orang dengan iman yang terhambat memandang Injil dengan cara terhambat, hanya berguna untuk keselamatan mereka sendiri. Mereka tidak akan berani keluar untuk membantu yang terhilang dan punyai keperluan kerana iman mereka yang kecil. Tidak adanya pemberitaan Injil. Bukannya Tuhan tidak dapat menyelamatkan. Itu adalah kerana iman mereka (pasu) terlalu kecil.

Ketika Yesus mendorong kita untuk “carilah dahulu Kerajaan Tuhan dan kebenarannya, maka semuanya itu akan ditambahkan kepadamu” (Matius 6:33), Dia meminta kita untuk memperbesar pasu (iman) kita. Kita sering menolak kerana rasa sakit yang terlibat untuk memecahkan pasu atau dicabut. Ketika serangga menyerang tumbuhan atau badai datang, kita berteriak kerana tumbuhan kecil itu tidak bertahan. Dengan cara yang sama, kita selalu berseru kepada Tuhan tentang hal-hal kecil. Namun, pohon besar dapat menahan tantangan hidup, bukan kerana kebesarannya sendiri tetapi kerana imannya (tanah) telah membuatnya kuat. Pohon besar tidak hanya mampu menahan masalah; ia dapat berbuah dan berlipat ganda, membawa berkat bagi yang sesat dan yang memerlukan. Pemberian Janji Iman adalah cara praktikal untuk memperbesar pasu (iman) kita. Ketika kamu mentaati cabaran Tuhan untuk melibatkan diri, kamu secara berkesan memecahkan pasu lama kamu dan menukarkannya dengan yang lebih besar dan pertumbuhan akan datang.

Sebab lain mengapa tumbuhan tetap kecil adalah kerana ada terlalu banyak tumbuhan yang berkongsi dengan satu pasu. Sering kali, orang Kristen hidup bergantung kepada iman orang lain. Daripada pergi ke Tuhan sendiri dan mencari sendiri Alkitab, kamu bergantung kepada iman orang lain. Ketika suatu masalah berlaku, kamu meminta pendita untuk berdoa. Ketika ada masalah, kamu langsung pergi ke Ketua Kelompok Sel kamu. Ketika kamu memerlukan hikmat, kamu bertanya kepada orang lain. Ketika ingin menginjil, kamu meminta orang lain berbicara kepada orang yang memerlukan keselamatan. Apakah ini selalu tindakan awal kamu? Jika ya, kamu tidak dapat mengharapkan iman kamu bertumbuh.

Iman itu praktikal. Ketika iman kamu bertumbuh, kamu bertumbuh di setiap aspek kehidupan kamu:

- Dalam buku Kejadian, iman menyebabkan Yusuf bangkit atasi situasi dikhianati, dipukul, dijual, dituduh dengan palsu, dan dipenjara. Daripada menjadi lelaki yang pahit dan pendendam, ia menjadi orang yang pemaaf yang menyelamatkan orang-orang yang dulunya membawa masalah kepadanya. Kerana iman Yusuf adalah dalam janji Tuhan, seluruh keluarganya diselamatkan dari kebuluran.
- Buku Keluaran mencatat penghijrahan orang-orang Yahudi dari Mesir. Kita sering membacanya sebagai kisah kemenangan rohani. Tetapi bagi orang Yahudi, dalam segala pratikalnya, iman Musa dalam Tuhan membebaskan mereka dari perhambaan.
- Buku Hakim-hakim mencatatkan kitaran berterusan orang Israel yang ditindas oleh musuh-musuhnya dan mendapat kesukaran kerana mereka meninggalkan iman mereka dalam mentaati firman Tuhan.
- Buku-buku 1 Samuel dan 2 Samuel menceritakan tentang kerajaan Raja Daud yang tumbuh dalam kekuatan dan kekuasaan kerana Daud adalah seorang yang berkenan pada hati Tuhan sendiri. Tuhan senang memberkatinya. Ekonomi, politik, kesejahteraan sosial, dan keselamatan bergantung pada iman Raja Daud kepada Tuhannya dan bagaimana ia memimpin bangsa Israel untuk menaruh iman mereka kepada Tuhan.

- Dalam Injil, Yesus senantiasa menangani keperluan sehari-hari. Dia dulu dan masih hingga kini sangat praktikal. Di kota kelahiran Yesus di Kapernaum, kerana kurangnya iman orang-orang terhadap perbekalan yang dijanjikan Tuhan, sedikit sahaja mukjizat dicapai.
- Dalam kitab Kisah Para Rasul, gereja hidup dengan berkongsi satu sama lain dan tidak ada yang kekurangan. Iman kepada Yesus memaksa gereja dahulu untuk mendemonstrasikan iman mereka dalam kehidupan praktikal dan Gereja bertumbuh secara dalam angka dan rohani.

Iman harus didasarkan pada Firman Tuhan.

Adakah kamu benar-benar percaya Tuhan dapat menolong orang seperti yang telah Dia janjikan?

Adakah kamu benar-benar percaya bahwa Tuhan cukup mengasihi orang untuk dapat menolong mereka?

Tuhan mengasihi dan peduli padamu. Alkitab berkata, “Jadi jika demikian Tuhan mendandani rumput di ladang, yang hari ini ada dan besok dibuang ke dalam api, tidakkah Ia akan terlebih lagi mendandani kamu, hai orang yang kurang percaya? Sebab itu janganlah kamu kuatir dan berkata: Apakah yang akan kami makan? Apakah yang akan kami minum? Apakah yang akan kami pakai? Semua itu dicari bangsa-bangsa yang tidak mengenal Tuhan. Akan tetapi Bapamu yang di sorga tahu, bahwa kamu memerlukan semuanya itu” (Matius 6:30-32). mempraktikkan iman bererti sangat praktikal untuk menumbuhkan iman kamu. Baca Alkitab kamu dan berdoa setiap hari, libatkan diri dalam pemberian Janji Iman, dalam Kelas Pertumbuhan Kristen dan Kelompok Sel, mulailah melayani di gereja, kongsikan Yesus dengan rakan-rakan kamu dan memberi kepada pekerjaan Tuhan. Iman bukan untuk beberapa pengalaman mistik rohani. Iman tanpa perbuatan adalah mati. Ianya membawa kesan pada kehidupan sehari-hari kamu. Jika kamu tidak menumbuhkan iman kamu, kehidupan sehari-hari kamu akan membawa kesan secara negatif. Kamu dipanggil untuk menjadi lebih dari sekadar tumbuhan kecil. Kamu bermakna untuk menjadi pohon yang kuat, lebih dari pemenang dalam Kristus Yesus.

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari terjemahan Bahasa Indonesia, melainkan dinyatakan.

信仰实践

文: YONG CHEE WENG

教

会2019年的主题是“传扬福音...直到主再来”。福音指好消息。然而，福音不再是好消息，如果：

- a) 我们对福音太习以为常或是把它视为理所当然。
- b) 我们不让福音改变我们的生活。
- c) 我们还停留在宗教条规上的种种可为与不可为。

我们都非常愧疚，知道自己生活极为蒙福，以至对福音太习以为常，甚至把它视为理所当然。全球有太多人在极度恶劣的环境里生活着。流离失所的难民被迫在那临时搭建的收容营里煎熬度日。妇人和女孩对人口贩卖、被迫卖淫及童婚现象毫无招架之力。福音能解决这些问题吗？只是靠着传扬福音，并告诉他们耶稣可以拯救他们，就能帮助他们脱离困境吗？

你真的相信神可以拯救他们吗？

你真的相信神的爱可以帮助他们脱离困境吗？

在日常生活中，福音实际吗？还是它不过是属灵层面上的信仰？信仰究竟有多实用？

「何必为衣服忧虑呢？试想田野的百合花怎样生长，它们不劳苦，也不纺织。但我告诉你们，就是所罗门最威荣的时候所穿的，也比不上这花中的一朵。田野的草，今天还在，明天就投进炉里，神尚且这样妆扮它们；小信的人哪，何况你们呢？所以不要忧虑，说：‘我们该吃什么？喝什么？穿什么？’这些都是教外人所寻求的，你们的天父原知道你们需要这一切。你们要先求他的国和他的义，这一切都必加给你们。所以不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑，一天的难处一天当就够了。」(马太福音6:28-34)

马太福音6: 33常被世人引用，可是它真的实用吗？想象一下，一个中等大小的花盆（直径约晚餐碟子一般），里面种有10棵树苗，每一棵树苗大概有一尺高。这是栽种了两年的树苗，你给它们充足的水分、肥料、阳光，悉心照料着，可树苗依然十分矮小。一般来说，经过两年的栽培，树苗应该长成6尺高的大树，可是它们依然还是矮小的树苗。

花盆代表了我们的信心。除非盆子变成大盆，否则植物不会长得更大。它永远都不会长成一棵有两层楼高的大树，即使它本来可以生长成大树。你信心的大小(栽种的盆)

决定你活得有多丰盛。如果你既不扩展又不让信心扎根，你的信心就会停滞不前。人的信心一旦萎缩了，就会连带把福音视为有限的、没有什么大作为的，一味地停留在自己的救恩层面。基于他们的小信，他们不会为丧失与饥渴的灵魂冒半点险。神有拯救的大能，然而人们的小信却成了传扬耶稣救恩的绊脚石。

当耶稣鼓励我们“你们要先求他的国和他的义，这一切都必加给你们。”(马太福音6:33)时，他教导我们要增大我们的盆(信心)。我们常常抵抗，不愿意承受连根拔起、打破旧盆的痛苦。当植物遭受虫害或暴风雨来临时，我们大声哀哭，那矮小的植物是如此不堪一击，正如我们经常为了生活的琐事呼求神一样。反观茁壮的大树可以面对环境艰巨的挑战，屹立不倒，不是因为树木本身壮大，而是深入地里的茂密树根(信心)使它茁壮。大树不只能承受狂风暴雨而屹立不倒，它还能开花结果，传播种子，把祝福带给丧失饥渴的灵魂。信心奉献就是一个我们可以实际操作增大花盆(信心)的方法。当你顺服上帝的呼召并参与奉献，你就是把你旧有的小盆打破，换成一个更大的盆，继续茁壮成长。

植物一直停滞不成长的另一个原因是，太多的植物种植在同一个盆里。基督徒经常依赖他人的信心，不愿意亲自寻求神并研读圣经，反倒依靠其他人的信心来喂养自己。当出现状况时，要求牧师为你祷告。当遇上困难时，又毫不犹豫直接去寻找小组组长的帮忙。当需要智慧时，就询问别人。当要向某人传福音，也让其他人去跟他分享福音。如果以上这些都是你一向所做的，那么，你的信心没有办法成长。

信心需要实践。当你的信心成长了，你生命的每个层面也会随之成长。

- 创世纪里记载，约瑟虽然遭受背叛，殴打，贩卖，诬告甚至被监禁，他依然靠着信心得胜。他没有成为一



个苦毒寻求报复的人，而是成为一个愿意饶恕别人的人，甚至还帮助那些陷害他的人。后来又因为约瑟对神应许的信心，神让他全家免于饥荒之苦。

- 出埃及记记载了犹太人逃离埃及的事迹。我们经常把它看成灵命得胜的故事。可是对于犹太人，那是基于摩西对神的信心行动方才使他们脱离埃及的奴役。
- 士师记记载了以色列人因为不遵行神的话语离弃神，而不断地被敌人欺压并深陷困境。
- 撒母耳记上、下叙述大卫追随神的心意，神让大卫的王国有能力且日渐强盛。神喜悦大卫并大大祝福他。国家的经济、政治、社会福祉和安危，都取决于大卫王对神的信心，以及他如何带领以色列全国人民信靠神。
- 在福音书中，耶稣多次提到我们日用的饮食。他一直很关心我们的需要。耶稣在他的家乡迦百农没有行很多神迹，因为人们对神应许的供应缺乏信心。
- 使徒行传记载说，教会透过信徒一起生活，彼此分享，因而没有人缺乏。初期教会信徒透过现实生活体现对耶稣完全的信心，以致教会人数倍增，信徒灵命成长。

信心必须建立在神的话语上。

你真的相信神能像他所承诺的那样帮助你吗？

你真的相信神的爱足以帮助人吗？

神爱你，祂关心你。圣经说：「田野的草，今天还在，明天就投进炉里，神尚且这样装扮它们；小信的人哪，何况你们呢？所以不要忧虑，说：‘我们该吃什么？喝什么？穿什么？’这些都是教外人所寻求的，你们的天父原知道你们需要这一切。你们要先求他的国和他的义，这一切都必加给你们。所以不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑，一天的难处一天当就够了」(马太福音6:30-32)。信仰实践便是以实际行动让信心成长。每天读经祷告，参与信心奉献，参与小组，上信徒成长课程，参与事奉，与你的同事分享耶稣和奉献给神的工作。信仰不是经历任何神秘属灵的体验。信心没有行为是死的。它直接影响你的日常生活。如果你的信心不增长，你的生活也会直接受负面影响。你的呼召不仅仅成为一棵矮小的植物。你是一棵茁壮的苍天大树，在基督里得胜有余。

圣经经文摘自圣经新译本。



Councilman David Peter opening with a prayer



Beginning with the Rangers' pledge

MOVING UP AND FORWARD!

BY WILFRED ANG

The Royal Rangers held their Graduation on Sunday, 28 April 2019 for the Rangers moving up the age groups (known as outposts). When a Ranger reaches the maximum age for their outpost, they graduate to the subsequent one, where they continue in the programme experiencing more exciting and challenging activities inculcating the Rangers' aim for the total development of a young person physically, spiritually, mentally, and socially.



Council Chairman Eddy Law presenting the Adventure Bronze to (L-R) Daniel Ong, Danial Wong, and Hon Yuen Neng

The four outposts in Royal Rangers:

- Ranger Kids (RK), ages six to eight years
- Discovery Rangers (DR), ages nine to 11 years
- Adventure Rangers (AR), ages 12 to 14 years
- Expedition Rangers (ER), ages 15 to 17 years

Those who have earned their awards were also presented with their certificates and medals. Among the notable awards was the Gold Trail Award, achieved by five RK: Russell John Paul, Justin Ng, Rafael Wong, Jeremy Wong, and Garreth Loh; while the Adventure Bronze Award was achieved by four AR: Daniel Ong, Hon Yuen Neng, Isaac Bong, and Danial Wong.

Eddy Law, the Royal Rangers Council Chairman, then announced the leadership for each outpost, and invited the respective Outpost Commanders to receive their new group of Rangers. Seventeen RK moved up to DR, 16 DR went on to AR, and ten AR graduated to ER.

We thank the Lord for His guidance throughout the year, and His blessings on everyone involved in the ministry.

Royal Rangers is for boys and girls six to 17 years old. Join us on Sundays, 11.30am at Calvary Convention Centre. For more information, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 408.



Expedition Ranger Lisha Gan leading the Rangers' Code



Outpost Commander Ong Soon Aun receiving and welcoming the graduating Rangers to Adventure Rangers



Junior Clubs presenting the finale medley



Senior Clubs presenting the special number "Heartbeat"

CELEBRATING GOD'S GOODNESS AND FAITHFULNESS

BY ANJULI PHANG

The Missionettes celebrated another year of God's goodness and faithfulness at their 38th Annual Awards Celebration on Sunday, 28 April 2019 with an attendance of 382 comprising parents, pastors, family, and friends. A total of 120 girls and boys received badges and awards, among which 24 were presented with Honours Awards.

The ceremony started with a wonderful time of worship led by the Friends Club girls. The Honour girls presented a human video and dance entitled "Awesome God" followed by humorous, touching testimonies shared by the graduating girls. They spoke of the many fun activities, memorable moments, struggles, lessons learnt, and quality friendships forged during their ten to 17 years in the programme. Completing the journey together heightened the sense of joy and accomplishment. Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng also shared a short, encouraging reminder on the five-fold purpose of Missionettes.



Sister Petrina with Gold Medal recipient Jamie Guneratnam



Sister Petrina presenting the Gold Medal to Natalie Seah

This year's Awards was extra special as Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam presented the Gold Medal of Honour, the highest award in the Missionettes programme, to the first two recipients, Jamie Prince Guneratnam and Natalie Seah.

The joyous occasion concluded with special numbers presented by the Senior Club girls entitled "Heartbeat", and a lively finale medley of "Everybody Everywhere" and "It's About Love" by the Junior Clubs. All praise and glory to God for a wonderful and meaningful celebration!

Missionettes is for girls from three to 17, and boys from three to five years. Join us on Sundays, 11.30am at Calvary Convention Centre. For more information, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 416.



Sweet adorable Honour Daisies



Honour Girls with Missionettes Sponsors and Helpers



Proud parents with Honour Girls

BOLDLY DECLARING THEIR FAITH

Congratulations to 13 Calvarites who followed Christ in water baptism on 27 April 2019 at the Saturday Worship Service at Calvary Damansara Heights. The Lord bless your step of obedience in your journey with Him.



Front row: Tan Ah Yau @ Palaniapan, Irene Han I Ling, Hannah Yee Jia Hui, Jenny Ho Yoke Leng

Middle row: Purnjono A/L Churia, Victoria Sasikala A/P Ramiah, Lee Lay Kheng, Jean Chan Li Hwa, Piano Ching Siew Kham

Back row: Stephen Sarjit Singh, David Stephen Rashwinjit Rai, Jared Chang Kin Guan, Yong Soon Thong

If you would like to take the step of obedience to the Lord and be water baptised, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 434, visit calvary.my/water-baptism, or talk to any of the pastors.

BABY DEDICATION

On 5 May 2019, two babies were dedicated to the Lord by Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam at the Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre.

They also prayed for the parents, that they will bring up their children in the ways of the Lord.



Carlo and Daisy Licup with their baby, Jeremiah Cruz Licup



Vincent and Amanda Khoo with their baby, Hansley Khoo Wen Xuan

If you would like to dedicate your baby, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 434, or talk to any of the pastors.

GOD RESPONDS TO OUR PRAYERS FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG

Many have found answers to their prayers at the Prayer Tower. Some received words of comfort, others experienced God's refreshing touch to their spirit. Many left knowing the Lord has healed them. God certainly hears when we pray.

The Prayer Tower intercessors have been praying along with church members for their loved ones and friends' salvations, and have received many testimonies.

Janice has been praying for her parents' salvation, and her father received Jesus as Lord and Saviour during Easter. He attended church on Sunday, 5 May 2019 with his wife, who also received Jesus. Praise God for the salvation of Janice's parents.

We prayed for the salvation of souls during our Tuesday night prayer. Siew Keng shared that her friend, a potential believer, is now much more open to Christianity after the Easter presentation, though she has not yet accepted Christ.

We have been praying for my mum's salvation on Tuesday nights, and have tried for years to bring her to church, but were unsuccessful for various reasons.

My mum started attending a nearby church since this past Chinese New Year. Church members from that church have been bringing her to their Saturday church activities and Sunday services, and she is very happy with what has been happening to her.

Recently, my second brother and his family visited our mother after at least three years, having avoided her as she has not been easy, and they were fearful of her. She has been longing for them, and when they finally visited, my mum attributed it to Jesus bringing them back to her.

She has confessed that Jesus is God, but has not yet truly accepted Him as her personal Saviour. We believe God for it to happen very soon.
- Max

Calvary Prayer Tower ■ www.calptower.org ■ calptower@gmail.com ■ 03-8999 1642

FATHER'S DAY SERVICE

SUNDAY

9.00AM

16 JUNE 2019

CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE

SPEAKER: SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

WORSHIP SCHEDULE JUNE 2019

Saturday, 5.00pm Calvary Damansara Heights

- 01** Dr. Joseph Castleberry
Communion
- 08** Associate Pastor Steven Kum
- 15** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
- 22** Associate Pastor Richard Yun
Water Baptism
- 29** Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

Sunday, 9.00am Calvary Convention Centre

- 02** Dr. Earl Creps
Communion
- 09** Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 16** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Father's Day
- 23** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
- 30** Associate Pastor Richard Yun

ACTIVITIES

**08
JUN**



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, 1.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights
Topic: Disciple: Who Am I?

**09
JUN**



TAMIL FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, 11.30am
Theatrette 2, Level B2,
Calvary Convention Centre
Speaker: Associate Pastor Peter Ong
Topic: Reaping What You Sow

**22
JUN**



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, 1.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights
Topic: Disciple: Who Am I?

**22
JUN**



WATER BAPTISM

Saturday, 5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights

*Closing date for submission of application:
Sunday, 9 June 2019*

**23
JUN**



CHINESE FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, 11.30am
Theatrette 1, Level B2,
Calvary Convention Centre
Speaker: Rev. Victor Lee
Topic: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus,
No Turning Back, No Turning Back



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

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Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam

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