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THE PRICE AND COST OF CHRISTMAS

Understanding Dementia

Anchored in Christ



THE PRICE AND COST OF CHRISTMAS

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Christmas has become a commercialised celebrative occasion. It has also become a national holiday in many countries, including Malaysia. This is one of the reasons Christmas has lost its true meaning. Christmas is about what the angels said to the shepherds: *“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognise him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.”*

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those who, God is pleased’” (Luke 2:10-14).

Christmas is about Jesus Christ; His birth, death, resurrection, and the price He paid to make the journey to be our Saviour. The apostle Paul’s writing to the church in Philippi says, *“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something*



to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). Paul says Jesus was God, but gave up His deity, so that He could be human and become our Saviour. This He did in obedience to His Father's will for the salvation of mankind, fulfilling the righteousness of God. Paul said, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23).

The prophet Isaiah says, *"Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm? My servant grew up in the Lord's*

presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for our own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. I will give him the honours of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels" (Isaiah 53:1-12).

Isaiah says the coming of Jesus Christ to be our Saviour was God's plan for man's good. He said, *"But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and*





cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands" (Isaiah 53:10). We may find it hard to comprehend, but the Bible says, *"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts"* (Isaiah 55:8-9). Therefore, as born-again believers, let us live by faith and not by sight, trusting Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, so that our sins can be forgiven and we can have the hope of eternal life. The Bible teaches us the many blessings of God's good plan; why Christmas. Here are some:

1. WE ARE MADE RIGHTEOUS IN JESUS CHRIST.

Paul said, *"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

2. WE CAN BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

The Bible says, *"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn – not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God"* (John 1:12-13).

3. WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS IN JESUS CHRIST.

The Bible says, *"Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us"* (Romans 8:37 NKJV).

4. WE ARE MADE HEIRS AND JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST.

Paul said, *"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering"* (Romans 8:17).

May we celebrate Christmas with a right spirit and in truth of the Gospel. Let us worship Jesus Christ and love Him, with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. May our celebration be a testimony and witness of God's plan of good news, that we need a Saviour, and not just to be religious.

All Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation (NLT), unless otherwise stated

SHARING CHRIST WITH OTHERS

BY LAURA LIM

Through the Discipleship Ministry (DM), I connected with Lisa Yee after Sunday Worship Service on 6 October 2019 at Calvary Convention Centre and learnt that her daughter, Vun Vun, was hospitalised. Together with Alice Goh who serves in DM and the Evangelism Team (E-Team), we visited Vun Vun at the hospital, and prayed for God's divine healing upon her.

While we were there, we also visited another Calvarite, Annie Yeen. Together with a few other Calvarites who were visiting at the same time, we prayed for a successful operation and speedy recovery for Annie. Before we left the ward, Lisa requested that we pray for Madam Chai Thai, who was scheduled for an operation the next day. She had received salvation through the E-Team a day earlier.



(Left to right) Lisa, Alice, and Laura

While all this went on, an Indian family were observing us. We felt led by the Holy Spirit to share Jesus Christ with them. Praise the Lord for His salvation, grace, and mercy upon Sinnamah and her two daughters! What a joy! We prayed for Sinnamah, who was scheduled for an operation too.

We thank God for Calvarites from various ministries coming together to proclaim the Gospel, and the privilege to minister to others. Where two or three are gathered in His Name, there the Lord is with us (Matthew 18:20). May the Lord be glorified through our lives and our witnessing!

WATER BAPTISM

Congratulations to 18 Calvarites who followed Christ in water baptism on 26 October 2019 at the Saturday Worship Service at Calvary Damansara Heights. The Lord bless your obedience in your journey with Him.



Sitting (L-R): Yap Kah Hui, Jimmy Yap Teck Kong, Lillian Theng Siew Ng, Sherly Heng Southi Inthavong Phetvinda, Mike Tan Soon Chin, Jane Benjaporn Tan, Caroline Lim Shiong Yin, Alvice Bazil Mushi

Standing (L-R): Desmond Chay Zi Yeong, Kingston Tan Jie Sheng, Chang Ee Wen, Clarice Chew Yee Xi, Jayden Chew Yee Zhe, Lewis Tan Hong Yu, Jane Tan Jie Ern, Agnes Tan Jie Ying, Janna Pang Jia En, Teow Jia Hee

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 speak to any of the pastors.



One of the training sessions for 3Sixteen this Christmas

3SIXTEEN

BY ANNABEL LILY BANKS

The 3Sixteen programme was launched in September 2019, and is in essence an evangelistic and discipleship programme meant to help Life Groups fulfil the Great Commission.

The programme allows potential believers to explore life's big questions with the use of videos and conversations revolving around life, faith, meaning, and ultimately, God. It is a place where the hosts demonstrate the love of God and where meaningful friendships can develop and thrive, especially for like-minded people on the same journey seeking for answers to life's pivotal questions.

The programme kicked off with three pilot groups, and here are some of the results:

1. Helen Read and her partner hosts were overjoyed when one guest responded to the invitation to accept the Lord as her Saviour. Another guest remarked that she was so touched by the love and friendship demonstrated by the hosts that she looked forward to coming to the other 3Sixteen sessions.
2. Sally Ooi, a pilot group host, had a guest who came with a severe headache. She was prayed for and instantaneously healed. After that experience, she was eager to accept the Lord,

and during prayer, she felt an overwhelming peace come upon her.

3. In Thor Beng Choun's group, the first 3Sixteen session flowed very well from ice breaker to open discussions with sharing of testimonies. One of his guests returned to the second session, was touched, and accepted salvation and prayer.

God is truly a great economist. The 3Sixteen hosts themselves are seeing their personal walk with Him enriched. In fact, one participant testified that after coming to the 3Sixteen training, God restored her love for prayer.

The 3Sixteen programme is currently on Cycle One. The participants, having completed their training, will be starting the 3Sixteen sessions with their guests soon. Cycle Two will start from January to March 2020, and Cycle Three from April to June 2020.

For all who would like to excel in soul-winning, you are invited to participate in 3Sixteen's 2020 Cycles. Please seek assistance from your Life Group Leaders or call us at 03-8999 5532 ext. 442.



Guests and hosts gather around at Helen's first 3Sixteen session



Beng Choun's 3Sixteen session that included children



Sally (first on the right) with the other guests engaged in vibrant conversations

VESSEL FOR GOD

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR RAYMOND YONG

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:28 KJV).

We praise God the Visitors' Lounge has hosted 378 visitors thus far in 2019, and 63 received Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Every weekend, we look forward to visitors joining us to experience the hospitality of the church, and we are reminded to “share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality” (Romans 12:13 NIV). We thank God for a faithful, dedicated team who connect with the visitors after service, getting to know them, how the Word of God has blessed them, sharing the ministries of the church with them, and praying for their needs. The Bible tells us, “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2 NIV).

Many visit church because someone invited them. Every one of us have family, friends, and colleagues within our circle of influence to whom we can extend an invitation to come for our worship services.

Here are just a few stories from the Visitors' Lounge:

Vilva Subramaniam and Ragaf attended Sunday service on 18 August 2019. Vilva invited her brother, Loganathan Subramaniam, and his wife, Racheal Lee, to church on 8 September 2019. Both Logan and Racheal gave their hearts to Jesus!



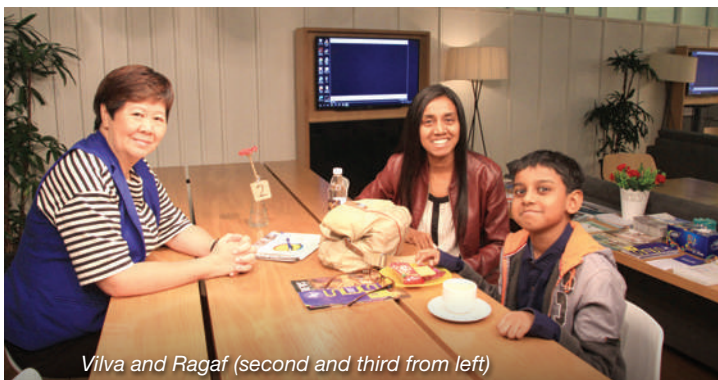
Alice (seated, third from left)

Shieh Yee Shien invited her friend, Alice Chong, to church on 15 September 2019. Alice accepted Jesus into her life, and on the very next Sunday, brought her husband Cheng Kok Leong to church. He too received Jesus into his life. They are now faithfully attending church with their children.



Tammy (first from left)

Tammy Yong and her four boys attended church on 24 February 2019 on an invitation from her kindergarten colleague, Maureen Trinidad. Tammy accepted Jesus, and she with her four boys now attend church faithfully.



Vilva and Ragaf (second and third from left)



Logan and wife, Racheal (second and third from right)



Associate Pastor Richard Yun praying for the young adults who stepped forward for altar call



Sister Petrina sharing her thoughts

ANCHORED IN CHRIST

BY SHARON TAN

The last Young Adults Fellowship for the year was held at Calvary Damansara Heights on Saturday, 2 November 2019. It was a heart to heart session with Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam, and her message entitled “Anchored in Christ” was a short encouragement to the young adults who attended to continue to seek Christ above all else, and to desire to live within His will in all our endeavours, whether we are working in the secular world or in full-time ministry.

Sister Petrina accepted Christ at 15 and entered full-time ministry three years later. She spoke of her rich encounters with Christ through her personal journey, a life evident of God’s blessing, joy, and fulfilment in the Lord. She also shared her greatest challenges faced in the building of Calvary Convention Centre, and how God provided for both the church’s needs and her own.

The Q&A session saw meaningful questions about recognising God’s will in our lives and putting Him first in all we do. The session concluded with the young adults coming forward, responding to the altar call to surrender and commit themselves to doing God’s will and accomplishing His purposes in their lives.



Michael Loon, Young Adults Coordinator, welcoming the young adults



Jonathan Lim moderated the Q&A session



Fellowshipping over food

For more information on Calvary Young Adults, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 442.



A packed session

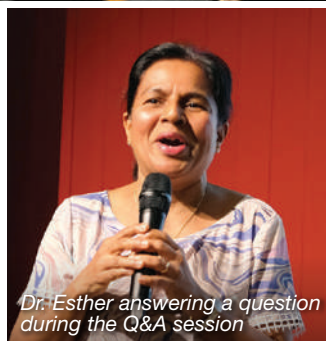
UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

BY HEATHER LOON

The talk on Saturday, 26 October 2019 at Calvary Convention Centre was well attended by about 300 men and women. We were given a very enlightening, witty account on dementia by Professor Dr. Esther Ebenezer, consultant psychiatrist and Professor in Psychiatry at the UniKL Royal College of Medicine Perak, who established the Dementia Daycare Centre in Ipoh.

The term dementia describes a set of symptoms including memory loss, mood changes, and problems with communication and reasoning. Dementia is not a natural part of growing old, but is caused by diseases of the brain, most commonly Alzheimer's.

We learnt there are three stages of dementia and interestingly, women are more prone to the disease because they generally live longer. There are preventive measures that can and should be taken early, as pathological changes leading to dementia start years before symptoms are obvious. Early detection and



Dr. Esther answering a question during the Q&A session



Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng thanking Dr. Esther for an enlightening talk



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam praying for Dr. Esther and her ministry to patients with dementia

treatment, together with a balanced diet, regular exercise, cognitive training, and vascular risk control can slow down the onset of dementia.

Dr. Esther emphasised the importance of care givers, especially family members of dementia patients. Training of caregivers and creating a strong support system are essential to provide effective care for the different stages of dementia. Care giving requires creativity and intelligence, and there are simple, enriching activities that can bring great joy to dementia patients.

The session ended on an encouraging note, with prayer by Associate Pastor Richard Yun for those facing challenges caring for loved ones with dementia.



Spending some time in prayer

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

HARGA DAN KOS KRISMAS

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Hari Krismas adalah perayaan yang disambut secara komersial. Ia telah menjadi cuti kebangsaan di kebanyakan negara, termasuk Malaysia. Oleh sebab itu, Hari Krismas telah kehilangan makna sebenarnya. Hari Krismas adalah seperti apa yang dikatakan oleh para malaikat kepada para gembala: “Lalu kata malaikat itu kepada mereka: ‘Jangan takut, sebab sesungguhnya aku memberitakan kepadamu kesukaan besar untuk seluruh bangsa. Hari ini telah lahir bagimu Juruselamat, yaitu Kristus, Tuhan, di kota Daud. Dan inilah tandanya bagimu: Kamu akan menjumpai seorang bayi dibungkus dengan lampin dan terbaring di dalam palungan.’ Dan tiba-tiba tampaklah

bersama-sama dengan malaikat itu sejumlah besar bala tentara sorga yang memuji Tuhan, katanya: ‘Kemuliaan bagi Tuhan di tempat yang mahatinggi dan damai sejahtera di bumi di antara manusia yang berkenan kepada-Nya’” (Lukas 2:10-14).

Krismas adalah tentang Yesus Kristus; kelahiran, kematian, dan kebangkitanNya serta pengorbanan yang dijalani olehNya untuk menjadi Juruselamat kita. Surat Paulus yang ditulis oleh Paulus kepada jemaah Filipi berkata, “yang walaupun dalam rupa Tuhan, tidak menganggap kesetaraan dengan Tuhan itu sebagai milik yang harus dipertahankan, melainkan



telah mengosongkan diri-Nya sendiri, dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba, dan menjadi sama dengan manusia. Dan dalam keadaan sebagai manusia, Ia telah merendahkan diri-Nya dan taat sampai mati, bahkan sampai mati di kayu salib (Filipi 2:6-8). Paulus berkata bahawa Yesus adalah Tuhan, tetapi Dia menyerahkan kedudukan ketuhananNya supaya Dia boleh menjadi seorang manusia untuk menjadi juruselamat kita. Ini adalah dilakukan dalam ketaatan kepada kehendak BapaNya untuk keselamatan umat manusia, demi memenuhi kebenaran Tuhan. Paulus berkata, “Sebab upah dosa ialah maut; tetapi karunia Tuhan ialah hidup yang kekal dalam Kristus Yesus, Tuhan kita” (Roma 6:23).

Nabi Yesaya berkata, “Siapa yang percaya pada pesan kita? Kepada siapakah Tuhan mengungkapkan lengannya yang kuat? Hamba saya tumbuh di hadapan Tuhan seperti tunas hijau yang lembut, seperti akar di tanah yang kering. Tidak ada yang indah atau megah tentang penampilannya, tidak ada yang menarik kami kepadanya. Dia dihina dan ditolak - seorang lelaki yang berduka, berkenalan dengan kesedihan yang paling dalam. Kami memungguni dia dan memandang ke arah lain. Dia dihina, dan kami tidak peduli. Namun kelemahan kami yang dia bawa; kesedihan kitalah yang membebani dia. Dan kami pikir masalahnya adalah hukuman dari Tuhan, hukuman untuk dosa-dosa kita sendiri! Tetapi dia tertikam oleh pemberontakan kita, dihancurkan karena dosa-dosa kita. Dia dipukuli sehingga kita bisa menjadi utuh. Dia dicambuk sehingga kami bisa disembuhkan. Kita semua, seperti domba, telah tersesat. Kami telah meninggalkan jalan Tuhan untuk mengikuti jalan kami. Namun Tuhan menanggung dosa kita semua. Dia ditindas dan diperlakukan dengan kasar, namun dia tidak pernah mengatakan sepatah kata pun. Dia dituntun seperti anak domba ke pembantaian. Dan seperti seekor domba yang diam di hadapan para pencukur, dia tidak membuka mulutnya. Dihukum secara tidak adil, ia dibawa pergi. Tidak ada yang peduli bahwa dia mati tanpa keturunan, bahwa hidupnya terpotong di tengah-tengah. Tetapi dia dipukul karena pemberontakan umat saya. Dia tidak melakukan

kesalahan dan tidak pernah menipu siapa pun. Tapi dia dimakamkan seperti penjahat; dia dimasukkan ke dalam kuburan orang kaya. Tetapi itu adalah rencana Tuhan yang baik untuk menghancurkannya dan membuatnya sedih. Namun ketika hidupnya dipersembahkan untuk dosa, ia akan memiliki banyak keturunan. Dia akan menikmati umur panjang, dan dicapai dengan kesedihannya, dia akan puas. Dan karena pengalamannya, hamba-Ku yang saleh akan memungkinkan banyak orang untuk dianggap benar, karena dia akan menanggung segala dosa mereka. Aku akan memberikan kepadanya kehormatan dari seorang prajurit yang menang, karena ia membongkar dirinya sendiri sampai mati. Dia termasuk di antara pemberontak. Ia menanggung dosa banyak orang dan menengahi untuk pemberontak” (Yesaya 53: 1-12).

Yesaya berkata bahawa kedatangan Yesus Kristus sebagai Juruselamat adalah rancangan Tuhan untuk kebaikan umat manusia. Dia berkata, “Tetapi Tuhan berkehendak meremukkan dia dengan kesakitan. Apabila ia menyerahkan dirinya sebagai korban penebus salah, ia akan melihat keturunannya, umurnya akan lanjut, dan kehendak Tuhan akan terlaksana olehnya” (Yesaya 53:10). Mungkin sukar untuk difahami tetapi Alkitab mengatakan, “Sebab rancangan-Ku bukanlah rancanganmu, dan jalanmu bukanlah jalan-Ku, demikianlah firman TUHAN. Seperti tingginya langit dari bumi, demikianlah tingginya jalan-Ku dari jalanmu dan rancangan-Ku dari rancanganmu” (Yesaya 55:8-9). Oleh demikian, sebagai seorang yang beriman, kita haruslah hidup dengan penuh iman dan percaya bahawa Yesus Kristus adalah Juruselamat kita, supaya dosa kita diampuni dan kita boleh memiliki harapan hidup yang kekal abadi. Alkitab mengajar kita bahawa banyak berkat (misalnya Krismas) adalah dari rancangan baik Tuhan seperti berikutnya:

1. KITA MENJADI ORANG YANG BENAR DALAM YESUS KRISTUS.

Paulus berkata, “Dia yang tidak mengenal dosa telah dibuat-Nya menjadi dosa karena kita, supaya dalam Dia kita dibenarkan oleh Tuhan” (2 Korintus 5:21).

2. KITA BOLEH MENJADI ANAK TUHAN MELALUI YESUS KRISTUS.

Alkitab menyatakan bahawa, “Tetapi semua orang yang menerima-Nya diberi-Nya kuasa supaya menjadi anak-anak Tuhan, yaitu mereka yang percaya dalam nama-Nya; orang-orang yang diperanakan bukan dari darah atau dari daging, bukan pula secara jasmani oleh keinginan seorang laki-laki, melainkan dari Tuhan” (Yohanes 1:12-13).

3. KITA ADALAH LEBIH DARIPADA PEMENANG DALAM YESUS KRISTUS.

Alkitab berkata, “Tetapi dalam semuanya itu kita lebih dari pada orang-orang yang menang, oleh Dia yang telah mengasihi kita” (Roma 8:37).

4. KITA DIJADIKAN WARIS DAN PEWARIS DENGAN KRISTUS.

Paulus berkata, “Dan jika kita adalah anak, maka kita juga adalah ahli waris, maksudnya orang-orang yang berhak menerima janji-janji Tuhan, yang akan menerimanya bersama-sama dengan Kristus, yaitu jika kita menderita bersama-sama dengan Dia, supaya kita juga dipermuliakan bersama-sama dengan Dia” (Roma 8:17).

Semoga kita menyambut Krismas dengan rohani yang betul dan kebenaran dalam Injil. Marilah kita bersama-sama menyembah Yesus Kristus dan mengasihiNya dengan segenap hati, roh, pikiran, dan kekuatan kita. Semoga perayaan kita akan menjadi satu kesaksian dan menyaksikan rencana berita baik Tuhan bahawa kita memerlukan seorang Juruselamat dan bukan hanya sekadar beragama.

Semua petikan Alkitab berasal dari Alkitab Indonesia.

圣诞节的 代价与价值

文：古纳南主任牧师

圣诞节是一个商业化的庆祝活动。它已是许多国家的公共假日，包括马来西亚。这是其中一个原因导致圣诞节失去其真正意义。圣诞节实质上与天使对牧羊人说的话有关：“天使说：‘不要怕！看哪！我报给你们大喜的信息，是关于万民的：今天在大卫的城里，为你们生了救主，就是主基督。你们要找到一个婴孩，包着布，卧在马槽里，那就是记号了。’忽然有一大队天兵，同那天使一起赞美 神说：‘在至高之处，荣耀归与 神！在地上，平安归与他所喜悦的人！’”（路加福音 2:10-14）

圣诞与耶稣基督的故事有关。他降世，死亡并复活，为救赎付上了代价。使徒保罗写给腓立比教会的信上说：“他本来有 神的形象，却不坚持自己与 神平等的地位，反而倒空自己，取了奴仆的形象，成为人的样式；既然有人的样子，就自甘卑微，顺服至死，而且死在十字架上。”（腓立比书 2:6-8）保罗说，耶稣是神，他放下神的身份，降世为人，成为我们的救主。他服从天父的旨意，为救赎人类成就神的公义。保罗说：“因为罪的工价就是死，但 神的恩赏，在我们的主基督耶稣里，却是永生。”（罗马书 6:23）

以赛亚先知说：“谁会相信我们所传的？耶和华的膀臂向谁显露呢？他在耶和華面前如嫩芽生长起来，像根出于干旱之地；他没有佳形，也没有威仪，好叫我们仰慕他；他也没有美貌，使我们被他吸引。他被藐视，被人拒绝，是个多受痛苦，熟悉病患的人。他像个被人掩面不看的人一样；他被藐视，我们也不重视他。原来他担当了我们的病患，背负了我们的痛苦；我们却以为他受责打，被 神击打和苦待了。然而他是为了我们的过犯被刺透，为了我们的罪孽被压伤；使我们得平安的惩罚加在他身上，因他受了鞭伤，我们才得医治。我们众人都如羊走迷了路，各人偏行己路；耶和華却把我们众人的罪孽，都归在他身上。他被虐待，受痛苦的时候，他并不开口；他像羊羔被牵去屠宰，又像羊在剪羊毛的人



面前寂然无声，他也是这样不开口。他受拘禁和审判以后被带走；至于他那个世代的人中，有谁想到从活人之地被剪除，被击打，是因我子民的过犯呢？虽然他从来没有行过强暴，他的口里也没有诡诈，人还是使他与恶人同埋，但死的时候与财主同葬。耶和華却喜悦把他压伤，使他受痛苦；耶和華若以他的性命作赎罪祭，他必看见后裔，并且得享长寿；耶和華所喜悦的，必在他手中亨通。他受了生命之苦以后，必看见光明，并且心满意足；我的义仆必使许多人因认识他而得称为义，他也必背负他们的罪孽。所以，我要使他与伟大的人同分，他必与强盛的均分掬物，因为他把自己的性命倾倒，以致于死。他被列在罪犯之中，却担当了多人的罪，又为罪犯代求。”（以赛亚书 53:1-12）

以赛亚说，神为我们的缘故，让耶稣基督降世成为救主。他说：“耶和華却喜悦把他压伤，使他受痛苦；耶和華若以他的性命作赎罪祭，他必看见后裔，并且得享长寿；

耶和華所喜悦的，必在他手中亨通。”（以赛亚书 53:10）我们凭自己的意念很难理解，可是圣经告诉我们：“耶和華说：‘我的意念不是你们的意念，你们的道路也不是我的道路。天怎样高过地，我的道路也怎样高过你们的道路，我的意念也怎样高过你们的意念。’”（以赛亚书 55:8-9）因此，身为重生的基督徒，让我们凭信心不凭眼见，相信耶稣基督是我们的救赎主，饶恕我们的罪，给我们永生的盼望。圣经教导我们，神透过圣诞的计划给我们带来许多祝福：

1. 我们在耶稣基督里称义。

保罗说：“神使那无罪的替我们成为有罪的，使我们在祂里面成为神的义。”（哥林多后书 5:21）

2. 我们借着耶稣基督得以成为神的儿女。

圣经上说：“凡接受他的，就是信他名的人，他就赐给他们权利，成为神的儿女。他们不是从血统生的，不是从肉身的意思生的，也不是从人意生的，而是从神生的。”（约翰福音 1:12-13）

3. 我们靠着耶稣基督得胜有余。

圣经上说：“但靠着爱我们的那一位，我们在这一切事上就得胜有余了。”（罗马书 8:37）

4. 我们与基督同作后嗣。

保罗说：“既然是儿女，就是后嗣；是神的后嗣，也和基督一同作后嗣。我们既然和他一同受苦，就必和他一同得荣耀。”（罗马书 8:17）

让我们以符合福音真理的方式和正确的心态庆祝圣诞节。全心、全性、全意、全力地爱耶稣基督，敬拜他。愿我们借着欢庆圣诞佳节，向世人见证神，传扬他的好消息。让世人知道，我们需要的不只是宗教信仰，而是一位救主。

经文摘自新译本圣经

PRAYER AND THE FULFILMENT OF GOD'S PROMISE

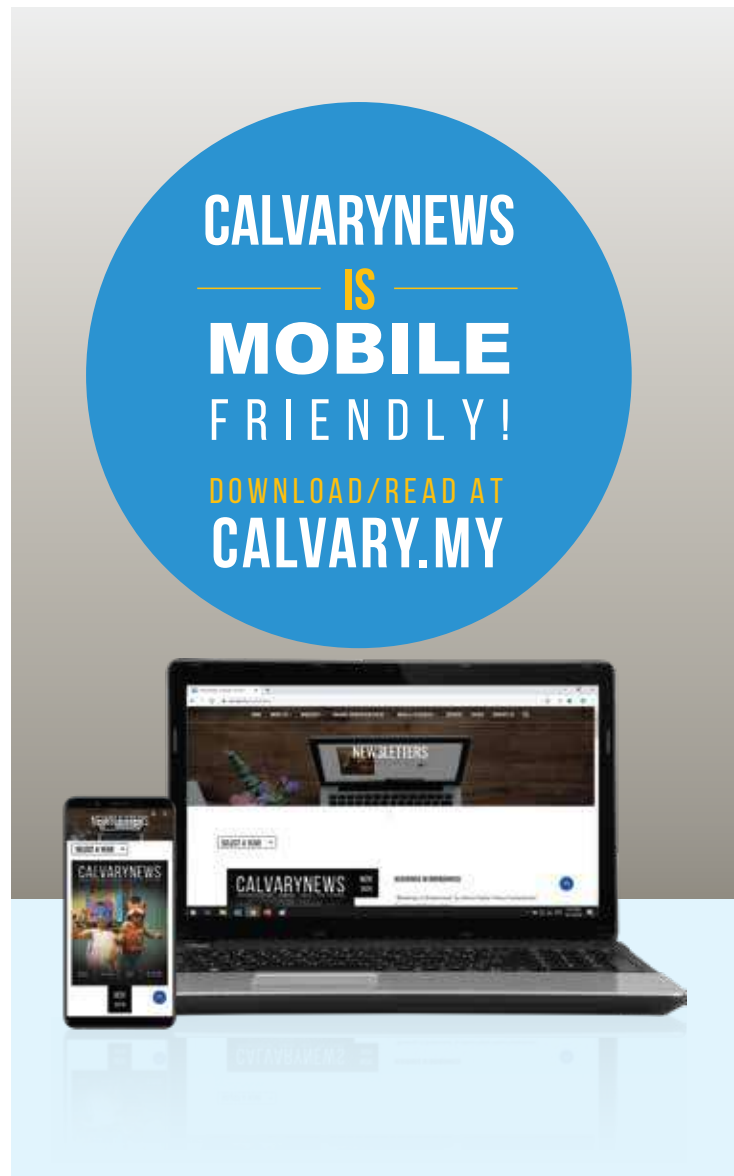
BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG

If we are going to impact our families, our nation and our world in these critical days, prayer is where it begins. When we pray, we hold on to the promises of God's Word. We watch and pray, waiting and longing expectantly for God's promises to be fulfilled.

“And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

‘Lord, now You are letting
Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation
Which You have prepared before
the face of all peoples,
A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel.’”
(Luke 2:25-32 NKJV)

- Simeon paid attention to the Scriptures. He knew the promise concerning the Messiah and he looked forward to His appearing, “I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight” (Psalm 119:174 NKJV).
- The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen mankind's salvation.
- Simeon was led by the Spirit to the temple (Luke 2:27) and there he saw the Christ child! He was overjoyed, and he rejoiced in the fulfilment of God's promise.



- His words declared and affirmed the Good News! Christ, the promised Messiah has come to be a light to the Gentiles and the glory of God's people, Israel.

Spend time in prayer this Christmas.

Like Simeon, rejoice in His coming during this Christmas season and every day throughout the year, looking ahead to the fulfilment of God's promise that this Christ child will soon return as the coming King!

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

A musical spectacular of fun and excitement for the whole family

7 DECEMBER 2019
SATURDAY
5.00PM

8 DECEMBER 2019
SUNDAY
5.00PM

**CALVARY
CONVENTION
CENTRE**

Free Admission



THE STAR OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Worship Service

Join us to experience the true meaning of
Christmas — the birth of the Saviour.

25 December 2019

Wednesday, 10.00am

Calvary Convention Centre

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam



ACTIVITIES

**01
DEC**



BAHASA MALAYSIA THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, 11.30am
Theatrette 1,
Calvary Convention Centre
Speaker: Associate Pastor
David Seah
Topic: Bersatu Dalam Kesyukuran
(Unite in Thanksgiving)

**21
DEC**



WATER BAPTISM

Saturday, 5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights
*Closing date for submission of application:
Sunday, 9 December 2019*

New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Service

Let us come together for a time of celebration and
express our gratitude to God for the year that was.

31 December 2019

Tuesday, 8.30pm

Calvary Convention Centre

Speaker: Associate Pastor Steven Kum

WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2019

Saturday, 5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights

- 07** Combined with Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre
- 14** Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 21** Associate Pastor Richard Yun
Water Baptism
- 28** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong

Sunday, 9.00am
Calvary Convention Centre

- 01** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Communion
- 08** Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 15** Associate Pastor Richard Yun
- 22** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
- 29** Associate Pastor David Seah



**SENIOR PASTORS
PRINCE AND PETRINA GUNERATNAM
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PASTORS
AND STAFF WISH YOU**

*A very
blessed
Christmas
filled with
Peace, Love,
and Joy!*



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