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God's Formula to
Receive

Created for Good
Works

Mothers, God's
Gift to Us

GOD'S FORMULA TO RECEIVE

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments. A testament is a will or covenant that bears witness to actual events or facts. The authors of the Bible bear witness to God's will, covenant, dealings with His people, Christ's ministry, and the work of the Holy Spirit. The 'Old' Testament does not mean it is outdated and 'New' is for the current times. It means that the authors of the Old Testament were the prophets before Christ and the New Testament means the authors were the apostles of Christ. Therefore, they are both relevant testaments, then and now. The Bible says, *"Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear"* (Matthew 24:35).

Both the Old and New Testaments teach us that the formula to receive from God is to be a giver. In the Old Testament, God said, *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!'"* (Malachi 3:10). In the New Testament, Jesus said, *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full — pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back"* (Luke 6:38). The Bible exhorts us to bring and give our tithes and later on mentions offerings into the storehouse, which is the temple or church. To bring and give is intentional giving and not on the spur of the moment.

1. GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS IS ACKNOWLEDGING AND HONOURING GOD AS OUR CREATOR AND WE BELONG TO HIM

The Bible says, *"Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you*

produce. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). The Bible says, *"So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.' Then God said, 'Look! I have given you every seed-bearing plant throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. And I have given every green plant as food for all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, and the small animals that scurry along the ground — everything that has life.' And this is what happened"* (Genesis 1:27-30). Therefore, we belong to Him. The Apostle Paul said, *"If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord"* (Romans 14:8, NIV).

2. GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOD IS OWNER AND WE ARE STEWARDS

We are God's stewards, to work by taking care of the earth. The Bible says, *"The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the Lord God warned him, 'You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden — except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die'"* (Genesis 2:15-17). God set one tree apart, for Adam and Eve to know and remind them that everything they have was created and given by God. They are to be stewards of God's blessings. The forbidden tree symbolised the tithe, which was set apart or sacred. It belongs to God and we are stewards of His creation.

In the New Testament, using the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches the requirement of



stewardship (Matthew 25:14-30). Therefore, when we bring and give our tithes and offerings, we acknowledge God's ownership and blessings. He provided the means to have what we have. Hence, we tithe and give offerings as wise stewards of His blessings.

3. WHEN WE FAIL TO TITHE, WE STEAL OR CHEAT WHAT BELONGS TO GOD

God warned His people through the Prophet Malachi about the consequences of stealing what belongs to God. He said, *"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me"* (Malachi 3:8-9).

A tithe means a tenth. It is a portion set aside of what we have earned or made as a profit by God's blessings. It is holy and sacred because it belongs to God. The Bible says, *"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the*

fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy" (Leviticus 27:30). Similarly, in other occasions in the Bible, God set apart a portion of the spoil, when He gave them victory over their enemies to remind them He was the source of their victory. For example, after winning the battle at Jericho, God said, *"Do not take any of the things set apart for destruction, or you yourselves will be completely destroyed, and you will bring trouble on the camp of Israel. Everything made from silver, gold, bronze, or iron is sacred to the Lord and must be brought into his treasury"* (Joshua 6:18-19). However, God revealed to Joshua, Israel's defeat for the city of Ai. God said, *"Israel has sinned and broken my covenant! They have stolen some of the things that I commanded must be set apart for me. And they have not only stolen them but have lied about it and hidden the things among their own belongings. That is why the Israelites are running from their enemies in defeat. For now Israel itself has been set apart for destruction. I will not remain with you any longer unless you destroy the things*

among you that were set apart for destruction” (Joshua 7:11-12). In the same way, if we fail to give our tithes and offerings to God, we rob Him and face severe consequences.

Tithes is significant in several ways:

- a. **A tithe is not a gift, but a payment.** It is not a gift because it does not belong to us.
- b. **A tithe cannot be designated because it does not belong to us.** It belongs to God's storehouse, the Church.
- c. **A tithe is not proportionate giving, like how paying taxes is.**
- d. **The tithe is to acknowledge and honour God as our Creator and Provider.**

4. WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY WHEN WE GIVE HIM OUR LEFTOVER

God said through Malachi, *“Go ahead, beg God to be merciful to you! But when you bring that kind of offering, why should he show any favour at all?” asks the Lord of Heaven's Armies. ‘How I wish one of you would shut the Temple doors so that these worthless sacrifices could not be offered! I am not pleased with you,’ says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, ‘and I will not accept your offerings”* (Malachi 1:9-10). The pagan philosophy is to give to seek for favour. However, as believers in Jesus Christ, we give to honour God and not to receive honour.

5. FINALLY, GOD CALLS US TO CONSIDER OUR WAYS

God said through the prophet Haggai, *“Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your panelled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?’ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways! You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.’ Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may*

take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the Lord. ‘You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit” (Haggai 1:3-10, NKJV).

Therefore, let us consider our ways, recognising God as our Creator and Provider by being wise stewards of all He has given us. God's formula to receive, regardless of our situations, is to be a cheerful giver. May we bring and give our tithes and offerings to God honestly and faithfully. Let us walk in obedience in our giving, for obedience commands blessings while disobedience results in a curse. The Bible says, *“If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God. The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. Then all the nations of the world will see that you are a people claimed by the Lord, and they will stand in awe of you. The Lord will send rain at the proper time from his rich treasury in the heavens and will bless all the work you do. You will lend to many nations, but you will never need to borrow from them”* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 8, 10, 12).

All Scripture references are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT), unless otherwise stated.

CREATED FOR GOOD WORKS

BY ANNABEL LILY

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)

Even though Covid-19 created an environment fraught with despair and fear across the globe, one thing that surged is the sense of community that is altruistic in nature. We humans are innately wired to care. That is the way we were created by God, in Christ. It does not take grand gestures to make a difference in someone's life. A simple text, phone call, or a timely gift is all it takes. The 3Sixteen working team has been catching up online and also reaching out to others:

"The Lord impressed upon my heart to bless my neighbours, a family, with groceries since I was out buying food for myself. They were pleasantly surprised and grateful to receive it."

- **Peggy Low**

"During the Movement Control Order (MCO), I made it a point to call at least three people every day because I was concerned for their wellbeing. I decided to call on relatives and friends to ask about their lives, and if possible, to pray for them. I called my distant uncle and aunty who reside in Washington, USA, whom I have not contacted for a while. Being in their late 80s and 90s, I was worried for their health as they are especially vulnerable. I also called friends and church members, specifically those who are elderly."

- **Tim Cheng**

"The day I had to leave the office because of the official announcement of the MCO, I offered some protective masks to my colleagues who did not have any. I also sent food to a friend who was struggling and assisted her in managing her finances."

"In chatrooms with family and friends who are non-believers, I offered prayer for everyone as I wanted to spread the love of God to them."

- **Carmen Chong**



The 3Sixteen working team in one of its regular online meetings. **First Row (L-R)** Peggy Low, Coordinator, with her team members Carmen Chong, **Second Row (L-R)** Tim Cheng, Wong Kun Yen, and Annabel Lily

"I made a welfare call on behalf of my brother to his tenant, and found out he did not have any food in his house. My family and I had the opportunity to purchase some essential food items for him."

- **Wong Kun Yen**

"During this time, my life literally revolved around caring for my aged parents. Adjustment to a new yet temporal way of living was especially hard on my father, who at the age of 82 years is very mobile and independent. I thank God for the overflowing grace that saw me through in caring for them. Through this, I actually became closer to my father."

"I have also been in touch with my childhood friend who I seldom contact, as she lives in another state, to let her know that I am here for her and show her the love of God especially as her sister passed on just before the MCO."

- **Annabel Lily**

We thank God for technology that allows us to connect with anyone, anywhere, anytime. It is a critical time when we are realising the aftermath of Covid-19's destruction, and how many lives are affected by it. This is an opportune time to reach out, share the Good News, and where opportunity arises, lead people into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ!



We welcome you to join us to participate in 3Sixteen. Please seek assistance from your Life Group leader. Alternatively, email [Associate Pastor David Seah](#) or [Michael Loon](#).



Angeline and her husband, Dr. Augustine (left on the second row) in a LG meeting, with a loved one and a friend residing overseas tuning in

JOYFULLY CONNECTED!

BY ANGELENE YEW

I have pioneered and led my Life Group (LG) for a year, and during the Movement Control Order, had to conduct LG meetings via a video conferencing platform. Praise God, these are some of the many benefits and blessings:

1. More families and friends who once were hindered due to distance, traffic congestion, and home obligations, can be reached;
2. My brother, Andrew, who now resides in Bangkok, is also able to attend the LG meetings;
3. My members and I are reaching friends overseas as the LG meetings have no geographical constraints.

My LG, which had an average of five persons, has now ballooned to ten. Hallelujah!

These online meetings have also nudged us to be more creative and use visual aids that enhance the lessons provided by the church.

Isaiah 43:19 “For I am about to do something new. See I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness, I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”

God is good, and especially in the most tough conditions. He provides ways for us to experience Him anew, spread the Good News, and be overcomers.

Thank you, Senior Pastors and Pastors, for giving me the opportunity to serve as a LG leader and to experience His blessings!

We are created to relate, connect, and be a blessing! Take advantage and belong to a Life Group today! For more information, [click here!](#)

Alternatively, email [Associate Pastor David Seah](#) or [Michael Loon](#).

GOD IS EVER FAITHFUL

BY JESSICA TEO / SOPHIA CHAN

It has been a challenging time for me during this Movement Control Order (MCO). I have had to bring my business back home fully, handle housework and cook for the family, and take care of my three kids at the same time.



However, God is good. He let us experience healing at home. In one of the Sunday services, my husband's cracked foot was healed. His foot had been having deep cracks and he had not been able to walk properly. During worship, he felt a hot sensation and received healing right then. As for me, my thumb has been very sensitive and must not touch water often. I was worried that it would worsen with washing and cooking, but God healed my thumb. For a person who does not know how to cook, God lent skills to my hands to prepare good food for my family.

I prayed for God to bless me in my business, but God chose to show me where He wants me to serve, which is at home. When I felt discouraged, God sent the person I was discipling to share worship songs with me to encourage me.

I know I should put my focus on where God has placed me, let go, and let God.

Jessica Teo, Discipleship Ministry

The MCO changed our plans this year. My first concern was reaching out online to our Calvary Nursery Care (CNC) kids, as toddlers are not meant to sit still in front of a screen. I thank the Lord He impressed upon me how to teach toddlers about the mothers in the Bible.

I am not a tech-savvy person and have zero animation knowledge. All glory and praise to God for His wisdom and creativity. After days spent planning, drawing the story board, illustrating, digitising, narrating, and selecting music, our very first Mother's Day animation for Calvary Kids was produced.

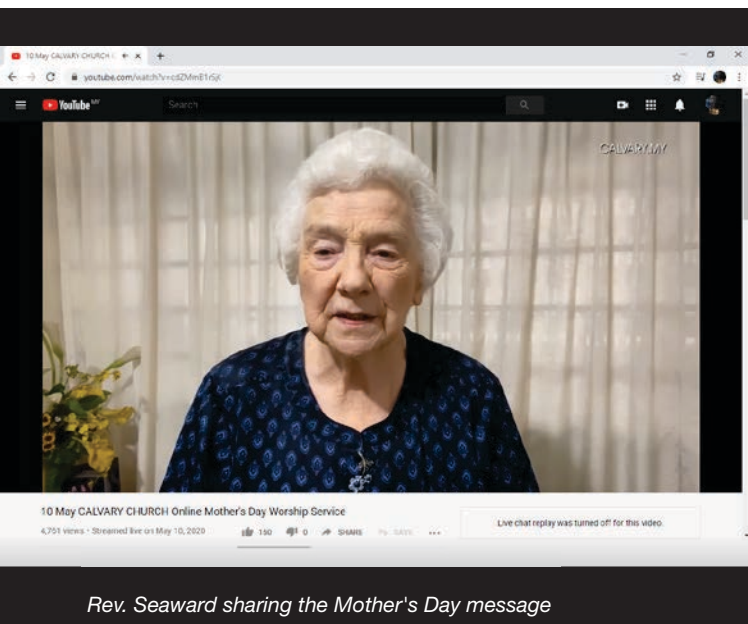
Part of the animation created for the CNC toddlers



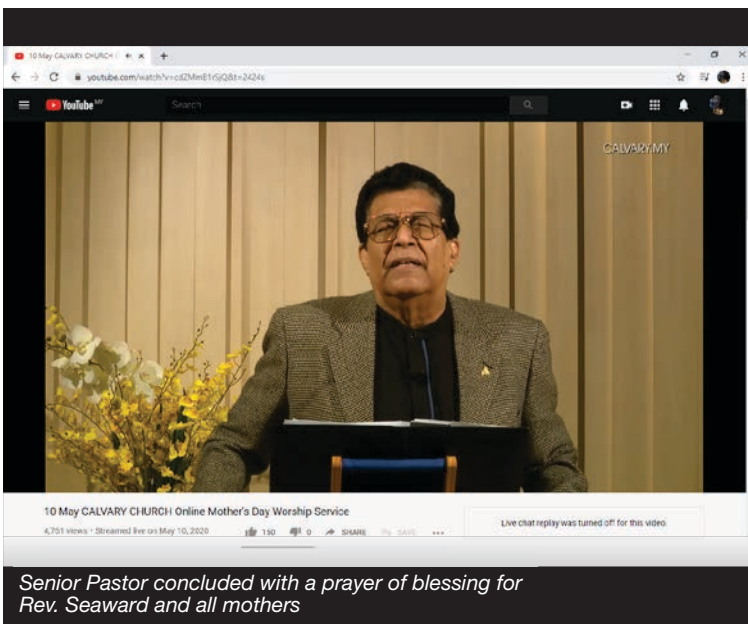
This experience taught me that when we avail ourselves to be used by the Lord, He will inspire new gifting, talents, and knowledge for us to reach out to our kids. With God, all things are possible.



Sophia Chan, CNC teacher



Rev. Seaward sharing the Mother's Day message



Senior Pastor concluded with a prayer of blessing for Rev. Seaward and all mothers

MOTHERS, GOD'S GIFT TO US

BY EE LAINE TAN

On Mother's Day, we remember and honour our mothers, mothers-to-be, spiritual mothers, and motherly figures who have sacrificed one way or another for us throughout our lives.


Our Mother's Day online worship service on Sunday, 10 May 2020 started off with a special number sung by our One Voice Choir, titled "A Mother's Faith", describing the extent and the faith of a mother's love. A long-time friend to our church from Singapore, Reverend Margaret Seaward, shared a message on "What is Greater Than A Mother's Love" to remind us to honour our parents, highlighting Ephesians 6:2-3, the first commandment in the Bible that comes with a promise from God.

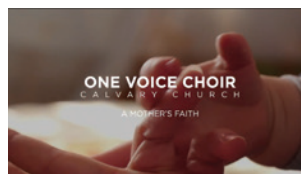
She also shared her experience growing up with her God-fearing mother, who influenced her positively and instilled the reality of God through the teaching of God's Word and by leading an exemplary life.

Above all, Rev. Seaward reminded us that mothers are a gift from God, and though we may inevitably be separated by either death or distance, we should always remember to let our mothers know we

appreciate, honour, and dearly miss them through words and actions, especially when technology is so easily available to us with simple text messages and phone or video calls.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam wished all mothers a blessed Mother's Day before concluding the service with a prayer of blessing for all mothers.

 Watch Rev. Seaward's message again on our YouTube channel! [Click here!](#)



You can listen again to the special number sung by the One Voice choir [here](#).

Tune in to our Father's Day Worship Service online on Sunday, 21 June 2020! Dr. Dikran Salbashian will be blessing us with a Father's Day message. Join us at 9.00am on our [YouTube channel](#).

CALVARY KIDS SURPRISE MOTHERS

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR RICHARD YUN

"She always bakes us cakes"
"She likes to pray, drive, and cook."
"I love her food, it's yummy."
"She always hugs me."

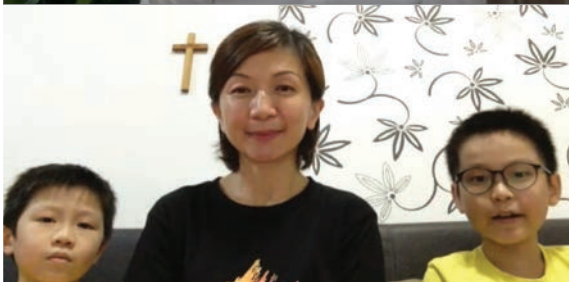
For Mother's Day this year, some of the Calvary Kids surprised their mothers with a lighthearted video on what they think of and love about their mothers.

After a time of praise and worship followed by a Bible lesson, mothers who were watching along with their kids were in for a treat! The kids appeared on screen, speaking candidly about their mothers. The fathers had helped to put together this surprise, working together with the teachers.

The session ended with a prayer for all mothers, for them to continually be blessed as they raise their kids.

Thank you Calvary Kids' teachers, helpers, and parents ministering together during this time. We appreciate all of you!

The Calvary Kids Ministry provides resources for Bible lessons and meets with the kids via video conferencing on a weekly basis. If you would like to find out more for your child, drop Associate Pastor Richard Yun an [email](#).



RUMUS TUHAN UNTUK MENERIMA

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Alkitab dibahagikan kepada Perjanjian Lama dan Baru. Perjanjian adalah wasiat atau perjanjian yang menjadi saksi peristiwa atau fakta sebenar. Para penulis Alkitab memberi kesaksian akan kehendak, perjanjian, hubungan dengan umatNya, pelayanan Kristus, dan karya Roh Kudus. Perjanjian 'Lama' tidak bermaksud ia sudah usang dan 'Baru' untuk zaman sekarang. Ianya bermaksud bahawa pengarang Perjanjian Lama adalah para nabi sebelum Kristus dan Perjanjian Baru bermaksud para pengarang itu adalah para rasul Kristus. Oleh itu, kedua-duanya adalah bukti yang berkaitan, dulu dan sekarang. Alkitab mengatakan, "Langit dan bumi akan berlalu, tetapi perkataan-Ku tidak akan berlalu" (Matius 24:35).

Kedua-dua Perjanjian Lama dan Baru mengajar kita bahawa rumus untuk menerima dari Tuhan adalah menjadi pemberi. Dalam Perjanjian Lama, Tuhan berfirman, "Bawalah seluruh persembahan persepuluhan itu ke dalam rumah perbendaharaan, supaya ada persediaan makanan di rumah-Ku dan ujilah Aku, firman Tuhan semesta alam, apakah Aku tidak membukakan bagimu tingkap-tingkap langit dan mencurahkan berkat kepadamu sampai berkelimpahan" (Maleakhi 3:10). Dalam Perjanjian Baru, Yesus berkata, "Berilah dan kamu akan diberi: suatu takaran yang baik, yang dipadatkan, yang digoncang dan yang tumpah ke luar akan dicurahkan ke dalam ribaanmu. Sebab ukuran yang kamu pakai untuk mengukur, akan diukurkan kepadamu" (Lukas 6:38). Alkitab menasihati kita untuk membawa dan memberikan persepuluhan kita dan kemudian menyebut tentang persembahan ke gudang, yang merupakan bait atau gereja. Membawa dan memberi adalah pemberian yang dilakukan dengan sengaja dan bukan dengan sikap yang lalai.

1. MEMBERI PERSEPULUHAN DAN PERSEMBAHAN KITA ADALAH MENGAKUI DAN MENGHORMATI TUHAN SEBAGAI PENCIPTA KITA DAN KITA ADALAH MILIKNYA

Alkitab mengatakan, "Muliakanlah Tuhan dengan hartamu dan dengan hasil pertama dari segala penghasilanmu, maka lumbung-lumbungmu akan diisi penuh sampai melimpah-limpah, dan bejana pemerahanmu akan meluap dengan air buah anggurnya" (Amsal 3:9-10). Alkitab mengatakan, "Maka Tuhan menciptakan manusia itu menurut gambar-Nya, menurut gambar Tuhan diciptakan-Nya dia; laki-laki dan perempuan diciptakan-Nya mereka. Tuhan memberkati mereka, lalu Tuhan berfirman kepada mereka: "Beranakcuculah dan bertambah banyak; penuhilah

bumi dan taklukkanlah itu, berkuasalah atas ikan-ikan di laut dan burung-burung di udara dan atas segala binatang yang merayap di bumi." Berfirmanlah Tuhan: "Lihatlah, Aku memberikan kepadamu segala tumbuh-tumbuhan yang berbiji di seluruh bumi dan segala pohon-pohonan yang buahnya berbiji; itulah akan menjadi makanamu. Tetapi kepada segala binatang di bumi dan segala burung di udara dan segala yang merayap di bumi, yang bernyawa, Kuberikan segala tumbuh-tumbuhan hijau menjadi makanannya." Dan jadilah demikian (Kejadian 1:27-30). Oleh itu, kita adalah milikNya. Rasul Paulus berkata, "Sebab jika kita hidup, kita hidup untuk Tuhan, dan jika kita mati, kita mati untuk Tuhan. Jadi baik hidup atau mati, kita adalah milik Tuhan" (Roma 14:8).

2. MEMBERI PERSEPULUHAN DAN PERSEMBAHAN KITA ADALAH MENGAKUI BAHAWA TUHAN ADALAH PEMILIK DAN KITA ADALAH PELAYAN

Kita adalah pelayan Tuhan untuk bekerja dengan menjaga bumi. Alkitab mengatakan, "Tuhan mengambil manusia itu dan menempatkannya dalam taman Eden untuk mengusahakan dan memelihara taman itu. Lalu Tuhan memberi perintah ini kepada manusia: "Semua pohon dalam taman ini boleh kaumakan buahnya dengan bebas, tetapi pohon pengetahuan tentang yang baik dan yang jahat itu, janganlah kaumakan buahnya, sebab pada hari engkau memakannya, pastilah engkau mati" (Kejadian 2:15-17). Tuhan mengasingkan satu pohon, agar Adam dan Hawa mengetahui dan mengingatkan mereka bahawa semua yang mereka miliki telah diciptakan dan diberikan oleh Tuhan. Mereka harus menjadi pelayan akan berkat Tuhan. Pohon terlarang melambangkan persepuluhan, yang dikhususkan atau kudus. Itu milik Tuhan dan kita adalah pelayan akan ciptaanNya.

Dalam Perjanjian Baru, dengan menggunakan perumpamaan tentang talenta, Yesus mengajar tentang syarat pelayanan (Matius 25:14-30). Oleh itu, apabila kita membawa dan memberikan persepuluhan dan persembahan kita, kita mengakui akan hakmilik dan berkat Tuhan. Dia menyediakan cara untuk memiliki apa yang kita ada. Oleh itu, kita memberi persepuluhan dan memberikan persembahan sebagai pelayan berkatNya yang bijak.

3. APABILA KITA GAGAL UNTUK MEMBERI PERSEPULUHAN, KITA MENCURI ATAU MENIPU APA YANG ADALAH MILIK TUHAN

Tuhan memperingatkan umatNya melalui Nabi Maleakhi tentang akibat mencuri apa yang adalah milik Tuhan. Dia berkata, "Bolehkah manusia menipu Tuhan? Namun kamu menipu Aku. Tetapi kamu berkata: "Dengan cara bagaimanakah kami menipu Engkau?" Mengenai persembahan persepuluhan dan persembahan khusus! Kamu telah kena kutuk, tetapi kamu masih menipu Aku, ya kamu seluruh bangsa!" (Maleakhi 3:8-9).

Persepuluhan bermaksud satu persepuluh. Ini adalah satu persepuluh bahagian yang diketepikan daripada apa yang telah kita perolehi atau hasilkan sebagai keuntungan dari berkat Tuhan. Ia kudus dan suci kerana



itu milik Tuhan. Alkitab mengatakan, “Demikian juga segala persembahan persepuluhan dari tanah, baik dari hasil benih di tanah maupun dari buah pohon-pohonan, adalah milik Tuhan; itulah persembahan kudus bagi Tuhan” (Imamat 27:30). Demikian pula, dalam peristiwa lain dalam Alkitab, Tuhan mengasingkan sebahagian dari barang rampasan, ketika Dia memberi mereka kemenangan atas musuh-musuh mereka untuk mengingatkan mereka bahawa Dia adalah sumber kemenangan mereka. Sebagai contoh, setelah menang pertempuran di Yerikho, Tuhan berfirman, “Tetapi kamu ini, jagalah dirimu terhadap barang-barang yang dikhususkan untuk dimusnahkan, supaya jangan kamu mengambil sesuatu dari barang-barang yang dikhususkan itu setelah mengkhuskuskannya dan dengan demikian membawa kemusnahan atas perkemahan orang Israel dan mencelakakannya. Segala emas dan perak serta barang-barang tembaga dan besi adalah kudus bagi Tuhan; semuanya itu akan dimasukkan ke dalam perbendaharaan Tuhan” (Yosua 6:18-19). Namun, Tuhan menunjukkan kepada Yosua, sebab kenapa Israel tewas untuk kota Ai. Tuhan berkata, “Orang Israel telah berbuat dosa, mereka melanggar perjanjian-Ku yang Kuperintahkan kepada mereka, mereka mengambil sesuatu dari barang-barang yang dikhususkan itu, mereka mencurinya, mereka menyembunyikannya dan mereka menaruhnya di antara barang-barangnya. Sebab itu orang Israel tidak dapat bertahan menghadapi musuhnya. Mereka membelakangi musuhnya, sebab mereka itupun dikhususkan untuk ditumpas. Aku tidak akan menyertai kamu lagi jika barang-barang yang dikhususkan itu tidak kamu punahkan dari tengah-tengahmu” (Yosua 7:11-12). Dengan cara yang sama, jika kita gagal memberikan persepuluhan dan persembahan kita kepada Tuhan, kita merampas dariNya dan akan menghadapi akibat yang teruk.

Persepuluhan penting dalam beberapa cara:

- a. **Persepuluhan bukanlah pemberian, tetapi satu pembayaran.** Ia bukan pemberian kerana ianya bukan milik kita.
- b. **Persepuluhan tidak boleh diagihkan kerana ianya bukan milik kita.** Ianya adalah milik gudang Tuhan, iaitu Gereja.
- c. **Persepuluhan bukannya memberi secara perkadaran, seperti membayar cukai.**
- d. **Persepuluhan adalah untuk mengakui dan menghormati Tuhan sebagai Pencipta dan Pembekal kita.**

4. APA YANG TUHAN KATAKAN APABILA KITA MEMBERI SISA KITA

Tuhan berkata melalui Maleakhi, "Maka sekarang: "Cobalah melunakkan hati Tuhan, supaya Ia mengasihani kita!" Oleh tangan kamulah terjadi hal itu, masakan Ia akan menyambut salah seorang dari padamu dengan baik? firman Tuhan semesta alam. Sekiranya ada di antara kamu yang mau menutup pintu, supaya jangan kamu menyalakan api di mezbah-Ku dengan percuma. Aku tidak suka kepada kamu, firman Tuhan semesta alam, dan Aku tidak berkenan menerima persembahan dari tanganmu" (Maleakhi 1:9-10). Falsafah penyembah berhala adalah memberi untuk mencari nikmat. Namun, sebagai orang percaya kepada Yesus Kristus, kita memberi untuk menghormati Tuhan dan bukannya untuk menerima penghormatan.

5. AKHIRNYA, TUHAN MEMANGGIL KITA UNTUK MEMPERHATIKAN KEADAAN KITA

Tuhan berfirman melalui nabi Hagai, "Maka datanglah firman Tuhan dengan perantaraan nabi Hagai, bunyinya: "Apakah sudah tiba waktunya bagi kamu untuk mendiami rumah-rumahmu yang dipapani dengan baik, sedang Rumah ini tetap menjadi reruntuhan? Oleh sebab itu, beginilah firman Tuhan semesta alam: Perhatikanlah keadaanmu! Kamu menabur banyak, tetapi membawa pulang hasil sedikit; kamu makan, tetapi tidak sampai kenyang; kamu minum, tetapi tidak sampai puas; kamu berpakaian, tetapi badanmu tidak sampai panas; dan orang yang bekerja untuk upah, ia bekerja untuk upah yang ditaruh dalam pundi-pundi yang berlobang! Beginilah firman Tuhan semesta alam: Perhatikanlah keadaanmu! Jadi naiklah ke gunung, bawalah kayu dan bangunlah Rumah itu; maka Aku akan berkenan kepadanya dan akan menyatakan kemuliaan-Ku di situ, firman Tuhan. Kamu mengharap banyak, tetapi hasilnya sedikit, dan ketika kamu membawanya ke rumah, Aku menghembuskannya. Oleh karena apa? demikianlah firman Tuhan semesta alam. Oleh karena rumah-Ku yang tetap menjadi reruntuhan, sedang kamu masing-masing sibuk dengan urusan rumahnya sendiri. Itulah sebabnya langit menahan embunnya dan bumi menahan hasilnya" (Hagai 1:3-10).

Oleh itu, marilah kita memperhatikan keadaan kita, mengakui Tuhan sebagai Pencipta dan Pembekal kita dengan menjadi pelayan yang bijak dari semua yang telah Dia berikan kepada kita. Rumus Tuhan untuk menerima, tanpa mengira situasi kita, adalah menjadi pemberi dengan sukacita. Semoga kita membawa dan memberikan persepuluhan dan persembahan kita kepada Tuhan dengan jujur dan setia. Marilah kita berjalan dalam ketaatan dalam pemberian kita, kerana ketaatan memerintahkan berkat sementara ketidaktaatan menghasilkan kutukan. Alkitab mengatakan, "Jika engkau baik-baik mendengarkan suara Tuhan, Tuhanmu, dan melakukan dengan setia segala perintah-Nya yang kusampaikan kepadamu pada hari ini, maka Tuhan, Tuhanmu, akan mengangkat engkau di atas segala bangsa di bumi. Segala berkat ini akan datang kepadamu dan menjadi bagianmu, jika engkau mendengarkan suara Tuhan, Tuhanmu: Tuhan akan memerintahkan berkat ke atasmu di dalam lumbungmu dan di dalam segala usahamu; Ia akan memberkati engkau di negeri yang diberikan kepadamu oleh Tuhan, Tuhanmu. Maka segala bangsa di bumi akan melihat, bahwa nama Tuhan telah disebut atasmu, dan mereka akan kagum kepadamu. Tuhan akan membuka bagimu perbendaharaan-Nya yang melimpah, yakni langit, untuk memberi hujan bagi tanahmu pada masanya dan memberkati segala pekerjaanmu, sehingga engkau memberi pinjaman kepada banyak bangsa, tetapi engkau sendiri tidak meminta pinjaman" (Ulangan 28:1-2, 8, 10, 12).

Semua rujukan Alkitab adalah dari Alkitab Bahasa Indonesia, melainkan dinyatakan.

神赐福的方程式

文: 古纳南主任牧师

圣经分为旧约和新约。约是见证事实或事件的遗嘱或盟约。圣经的作者见证神的旨意，神与人立约，神与他子民的交往，基督的事工和圣灵的工作。“旧”约并不表示它已经过时，“新”约也不一定指当下。旧约的作者是基督诞生之前的先知，而新约作者则是基督的使徒。因此，新旧约相互关联，都属于过去和现在。圣经上说：“天地都要过去，但我的话决不会废去”（马太福音 24:35）。

旧约和新约教导我们，要从神那里得着福气的方程式是成为一个给予者。旧约圣经中，神说：“万军之耶和华说：‘你们要把当纳的十分之一，全部送入仓库，使我家中有粮；借此试验我，看我是不是为你们敞开心窗，把福气倒给你们，直到充足有余呢’（玛拉基书 3:10）。新约圣经，耶稣说：“要给人，就必有给你们们的；并且要用十足的升斗，连按带摇，上尖下流地倒在你们怀里；因为你们用什么升斗量给人，就必用什么升斗量给你们”（路加福音 6:38）。圣经劝告我们把十一奉献和其他奉献送入仓库，就是神的殿或教会。奉献是有预备、诚心地奉献，不是头脑一热的冲动。

1. 献上十一奉献和其它奉献，承认神是创造者，

我们属于他，尊他为神。

圣经上说：“你要把你的财物，和一切初熟的农作物，敬奉耶和华。这样，你的仓库必充满有余，你的榨酒池也必盈溢新酒”（箴言 3:9-10）。圣经上说：“于是，神照着自己的形象创造人；就是照着他的形象创造了人；他所创造的有男有女。神就赐福给他们，对他们说：‘要繁殖增多，充满这地，征服它；也要管理海里的鱼、空中的鸟和地上爬行的所有生物。’神说：‘看哪！我把全地上结种子的各样蔬菜，和一切果树上有种子的果子，都赐给你们作食物。至于地上的各种野兽，空中的各种飞鸟，和地上爬行有生命的各种活物，我把一切青草蔬菜赐给它们作食物。’事就这样成了”（创世记 1:27-30）。因此，我们属于主。使徒保罗说：“我们若活着，是为主而活；我们若死了，是为主而死。所以，我们无论活着或是死了，总是属于主的人”（罗马书 14:7 下-8）。

2. 献上十一奉献和其它奉献，承认神是主人，我们是管家。

我们是神的管家，神吩咐我们管理全地。圣经上说：“耶和华神把那人安置在伊甸园里，叫他耕种和看守那园子。耶和华神吩咐那人说：‘园中各样树上的果子，你都可以吃；只是那知善恶树的果子，你不可吃；因为你吃



的时候，你必要死”（创世记 2:15-17）。神把一棵树分别出来，并提醒亚当和夏娃，他们所拥有的一切都是神创造，也是神给予的。他们是蒙神的祝福成为神的管家。而那棵禁树则象征了十一奉献，是被分别为圣，属于神的，而我们是他创造物的管家。

在新约圣经，耶稣透过三个仆人的比喻，教导关于对管家的要求（马太福音 25:14-30）当我们献上十一奉献和其它奉献，表示我们承认神的所有权，并感谢他的赐福。我们所拥有的都是他供应的。让我们献上十一奉献和其它奉献，在他的祝福中成为精明的管家。

3. 不归还十一奉献，等于偷窃或欺骗本属于神的财物。

神透过先知玛拉基警告他的子民关于偷窃神财物的后果。他说：“人怎可抢夺神之物呢？你们却抢夺属我之物，竟还问：‘我们抢夺了你的什么呢？’就是抢夺了当纳的十分之一和当献的祭物。你们要受严厉的咒诅，因你们全国的人都抢夺了属我之物”（玛拉基书 3:8-9）。

十一奉献是指从神祝福我们的工资或盈利中抽出十分之一来归还给神。这是圣洁、神圣的，因为它本属于神。圣经上说：“地上的一切，无论是地上的种子或是树上的果子，十分之一是耶和华的，是归给耶和華為圣的”（利未记 27:30）。

圣经在其他场景中也提到，当神赐给他们力量战胜敌人时，神把战利品的一部分分别出来，以提醒他们他才是胜利的源头。举个例子，在战胜耶利哥城后，神说：“不过你们要谨慎，不可取那当毁灭的物，恐怕你们贪心，取了那当毁灭的物，就使以色列营成为当毁灭的，使以色列营遭遇灾祸。可是，所有的金银和铜铁的器皿，都要归耶和華為圣，存入耶和华的库房中”（约书亚记 6:18-19）。

当以色列人进攻艾城战败时，神告诉约书亚其原因。神说：“以色列人犯了罪，违背了我吩咐他们的约定，因为他们取了那当毁灭的物，他们偷窃，并且说谎，又把那当毁灭的物放在自己的物件中。所以，以色列人在他们的仇敌面前站立不住，在他们的仇敌面前转身逃跑，因为他们成了当毁灭的。如果你们不把那当毁灭的物从你们中间除掉，我就必不再与你们同在了”（约书亚记 7:11-12）。同样的，如果我们不将自己的十分之一和奉献祭给神，我们就是抢夺他的财物，将面临严重的后果。

关于十一奉献的几个重点：

- a. **十一奉献不是礼物，是归还给神**，因为十一奉献并不属于我们。
- b. **十一奉献不能作为某项事工的特定奉献**，因为十一奉

献并不属于我们。十一奉献属于教会，神的仓库。

- c. **十一奉献不是按比例奉献，好像赋税那样。**
- d. **十一奉献是一个举动，承认并且尊神为我们的创造者和供应者。**

4. 当我们献上的是剩余之物，神怎么说。

神透过玛拉基书说：“现在，你们要向神求情，好使他恩待我们。这污秽的祭物，既是你们经手献的，他还能悦纳你们吗？万军之耶和華说：‘真愿你们当中有人把殿门关上，免得你们在我的坛上徒然点火。’万军之耶和華说：‘我不喜欢你们，也不从你们手中收纳礼物’”（玛拉基书 1:9-10）。异教徒的哲学是献祭祈求神明达成心愿。但是，作为耶稣基督的门徒，我们献祭是要荣耀神而不是祈求荣耀。

5. 最后，神叫我们反省自己的行为。

于是，耶和華的话临到哈该先知说：“这殿宇仍然荒废，岂是你们住在有天花板的房屋的时候吗？”现在万军之耶和華这样说：“你们要反省自己的行为。你们撒的种多，收割的却少；你们吃，却吃不饱；你们喝，却喝不足；你们穿衣服，却穿不暖；得工钱的，却把工钱放在破袋里。”万军之耶和華这样说：“你们要反省自己的行为。你们要上山取木材，建造殿宇；我必因此喜悦，并且得荣耀。”耶和華说：“你们期望丰收，反倒歉收；你们收到家里的，我就吹去。”为什么呢？万军之耶和華说：“因为我的殿宇荒废，你们各人却为自己的房屋奔驰。所以，因你们的缘故，天就不降甘露，地也不出土产”（哈该书 1:3-10）。

因此，让我们反省自己的行为，认识神是我们的创造者和供应者，作他精明的管家管理他所赐给我们的一切。无论我们处在什么境况，领受神祝福的唯一途径是乐于给予，这是神赐福的方程式。愿我们诚实忠心地将自己的十分之一奉献和其它奉献献给神。让我们顺服于神，乐于奉献，因为顺服得着祝福，不顺服则带来诅咒。

圣经上说：“如果你实在听从耶和華你的神的话，谨守遵行他的一切诫命，就是我今日吩咐你的，耶和華你的神必使你超过地上所有的民族。如果你听从耶和華你的神的话，以下这一切福气必临到你身上，必把你追上。在你的仓房里和你手所办的一切事上，耶和華必吩咐福气临到你；在耶和華你的神赐给你的地上，他必赐福给你。地上万民见你被称为耶和華名下的人，就必惧怕你。耶和華必为你打开他天上的宝库，按时降雨在你的地上，在你手里所作的一切事上赐福给你；你要借贷给许多国的民，却不会向人借贷”（申命记 28:1-2, 8, 10, 12）。

圣经经文摘自新译本圣经。

KEEPING CONNECTED

BY MICHAEL LOON

The Youth and Young Adults Ministry (CYA) has been keeping connected through social media. We thank God that we are able to minister the Gospel creatively during the Movement Control Order (MCO).

CY Online

Calvary Youth (CY) Online is a monthly online engagement for youths aged 12-23 launched on 9 May 2020, with video testimonies from our young people and relevant messages shared through innovative means for the season. CY Online launches a monthly theme for the Youth Ministry, which is further discussed in the Youth Life Groups and Teens Small Groups.

CYAA Virtual Prayer Meeting

With the church not being able to meet physically for prayer meetings, we met virtually for prayer bi-weekly. This included a time of worship, reflection on the Word, and personal prayer/testimony sharing in breakout groups. Many who attended were refreshed as the presence of God was just as evident and fresh.

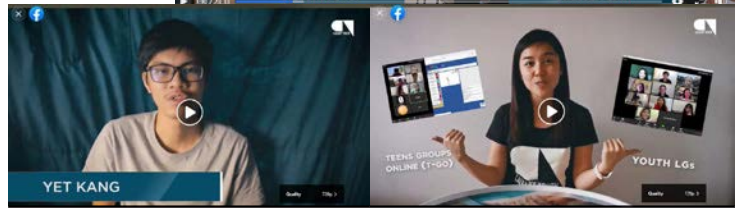
CYAA Life Groups

The Youth and Young Adults Life Groups have been regularly meeting on Zoom throughout the MCO, providing spiritual care through the sharing of the Word, prayer, and testimonies. If you are keen to be part of a Life Group, Direct Message us on Facebook or Instagram.

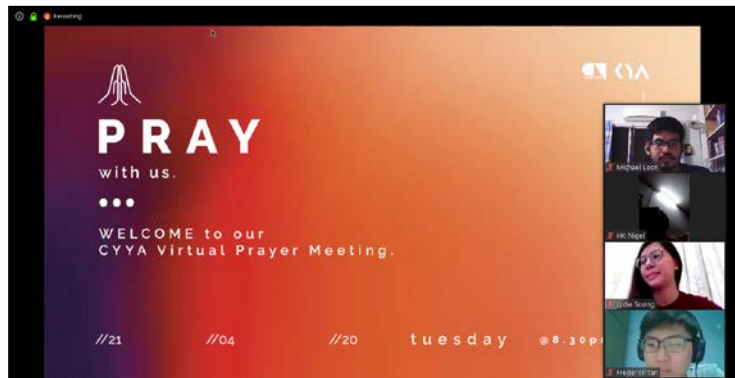
Other Social Media Engagements - We also engage through video testimonies and stories, online games competitions, weekly devotional sharing on social media by CYAA leaders, and interactions with our Sunday Worship Service sermon content. Tune in to our social media platforms to stay updated on these exciting avenues!

The next CY Online is happening on Saturday, 6 June 2020, at 1.00pm on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

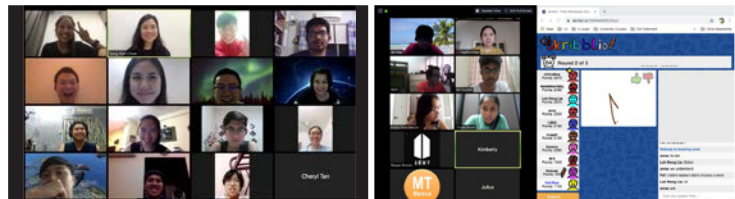
Join in the CYAA Virtual Prayer Meetings on Tuesdays, 9 and 23 June 2020, at 8.30pm. Find the Zoom links on our Instagram bio at [@calvaryyouthmy](#) and [@calvarychurchya](#)



CY Online



CYAA Virtual Prayer Meeting

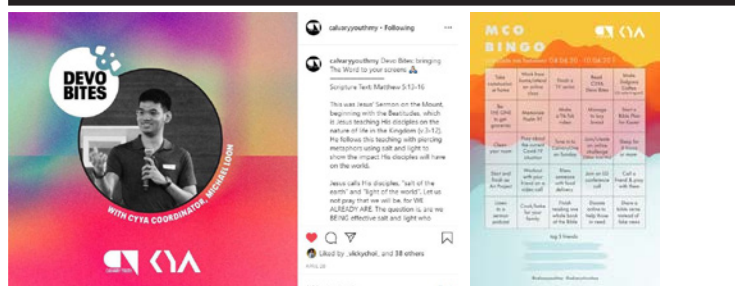


The CYAA Life Groups continue to meet online

Having fun with online games!



An encouraging testimony from a young adult



DevoBites, short devotionals from Michael Loon, CYAA Coordinator

Bingo on Instagram!



Two of our interpreters, Felisa Foo (left) and Steffi Tham, joyfully recording the translation

GOD DRAWING US BACK TO HIMSELF

BY MARK THOMAS

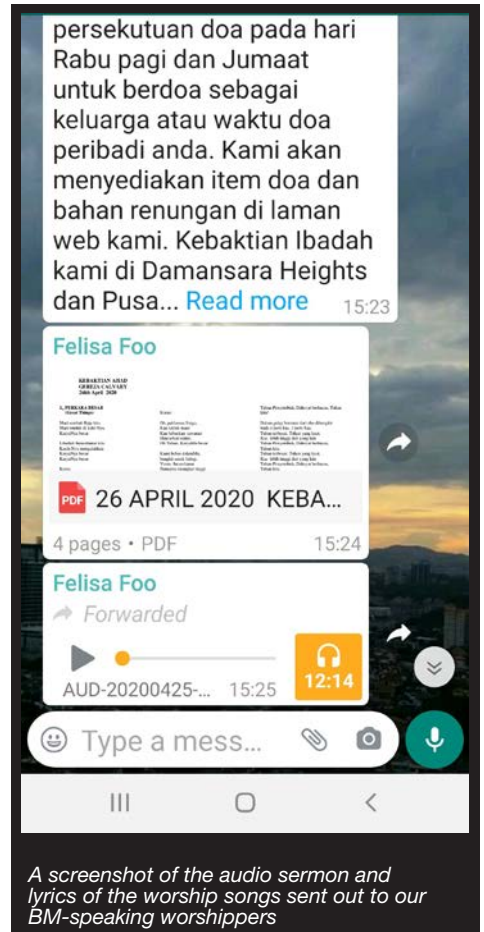
The Movement Control Order (MCO) seemed to halt the planned physical activities by the Bahasa Malaysia (BM) Ministry, but God is still at work. Before the MCO, there was translation done at Calvary Convention Centre for the worship and sermons on Sundays.

Now, the recorded audio of the sermon outline in BM, together with the translated lyrics and text of the worship songs and the sermon outline, are sent out electronically to our BM-speaking worshippers.

Many have testified of being blessed, drawn closer in their relationship with God, and enriched in their spiritual life. One even shared that she forwarded the audio-recorded sermon to her family back in her home country to bless them.

In what appeared to be a setback, God used to draw His people closer to Him, blessing them and making them a blessing!

Tuhan memberkatimu.



A screenshot of the audio sermon and lyrics of the worship songs sent out to our BM-speaking worshippers

If you would like to receive the audio recording of the sermon outline in BM every Sunday, kindly [email](#) your request to the BM pastor, Associate Pastor David Seah.

Jika anda ingin menerima rakaman audio khutbah yang diterjemahkan ke dalam BM setiap hari Ahad, sila [kirimkan emel](#) permintaan anda kepada Pastor BM, Associate Pastor David Seah.

CALVARY CHURCH ONLINE



Sunday Worship Service Online
9.00am
[Calvary Church YouTube Channel](#)



To get in touch, drop us an *email*, or use the *online My Response card*. Tell us what has been happening in your life.



As you continue to keep your Wednesday mornings and Friday evenings for prayer, a weekly prayer guide is available on the church [website](#).



If you desire to be part of a Life Group, find out more about being part of one at the [website](#).



If you have a request for prayer, drop us a line any time between 7.00am - 7.00pm daily!

The Prayer Tower hotlines

+6016 2201 057
+6014 2043 275

You can also visit the [Prayer Tower website](#).



Listen to sermons while on the go! You can find our podcasts [here](#).



As you give your tithes and offerings online, you can choose to do so via online banking, or through the Touch 'n Go eWallet platform.



Find out more about giving online or obtaining receipts for tax purposes [here!](#) Please note that giving through the Touch 'n Go eWallet platform is not eligible for tax exemption.

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You can bring your offering, tithes, and Faith Promises in person to the church office during office hours, or mail your cheques, addressed to CALVARY CHURCH, to the church office.



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