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Christmas, God's Plan

Graduating with Honours

End 2020 as Overcomers
Through Witnessing



CHRISTMAS, GOD'S PLAN

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Christmas is God's idea. The four Gospels in the Bible teach us that Christmas was God's plan for the salvation of mankind and teaches man about the Kingdom of God. The world has commercialised the celebration of Christmas.

1. **God told Adam and Eve His plan.** In their presence, He said to the serpent, *"And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike [crush] your head, and you will strike his heel"* (Genesis 3:15). Mary's offspring was Jesus and the serpent striking His heel referred to Jesus' crucifixion. The crucifixion is the penalty of sin Jesus paid to redeem mankind. There is coming a day when Jesus will crush the head of the serpent, who is God's arch enemy.
2. **God spoke of His Christmas plan to bless all the peoples on earth through Abraham.** God said to Abram, *"Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you"* (Genesis 12:1-3). Regarding the genealogy of Jesus, the Bible says, *"This is the record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham"* (Matthew 1:1).
3. **God spoke of His Christmas plan to the Prophet Micah.** The Prophet Micah predicted that a Saviour would be born in the city of Bethlehem. He said, *"But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are*

only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf" (Micah 5:2). This prophecy was fulfilled when the angels announced to the shepherds, *"Don't be afraid! 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!"* (Luke 2:10-11).

4. **The Gospel of Luke in the New Testament tells us the beginning of the fulfillment of God's plan through the announcement of Jesus' birth.** The Bible said, *"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured woman! The Lord is with you!' Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 'Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favour with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!'"* Mary asked the angel, *"But how can this happen? I am a virgin."* The angel replied, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God"* (Luke 1:26-35). Mary, a woman and a virgin, gave birth to Jesus as promised. Jesus was not born from the seed of man. Therefore, He was sinless and was worthy to forgive man of his sins.
5. **God spoke of His Christmas plan to Joseph that Jesus would be a descendant of King David.** The Bible said, *"As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. 'Joseph, son of David,' the angel said, 'do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she*

will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-21). It was impossible for man to pay the penalty of sin with good works. Therefore, God's provided us a Saviour who will redeem us from sin.

6. Christmas is God's idea because the Bible says, *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). He was not willing that any of us should perish. The Bible said, *"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent"* (2 Peter 3:9).

Christmas is God's idea of Good News that will bring great joy to all people. Therefore, Christmas is to be celebrated. The Bible gives us five reasons to celebrate Christmas:

1. *We celebrate Christmas because God sent us a Saviour and provided us the forgiveness of our sins.* The angel said to Joseph, *"And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."* The Apostle Paul proclaimed, *"Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight - something the law of Moses could never do"* (Acts 13:38-39). Through the coming of Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection, we can receive salvation by grace through faith. The Bible says, *"God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it"* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, we celebrate Christmas because of our salvation.
2. *We celebrate Christmas because we have received eternal life.* When man sinned against





God, we lost fellowship with God. However, when we put our faith in Jesus for our salvation, Jesus said, *"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life"* (John 5:24).

3. *We celebrate Christmas because God has promised to be with us.* Jesus is called Immanuel. The Bible says, *"Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God*

is with us" (Matthew 1:23). We do not live alone because Jesus said, *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you"* (John 14:16). God also said, *"I will never fail you. I will never abandon you"* (Hebrews 13:5). Therefore, we celebrate Christmas because Jesus is with us in every situation.

4. *We celebrate Christmas because God is for us.* This is why the Apostle Paul declared, *"So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"* (Romans 8:1-2, 31). We celebrate Christmas joyfully because we have been made right with God and we now have fellowship with Him.
5. *We celebrate Christmas because we do not have to fear.* Through His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has conquered death, which is man's greatest fear. The Bible records 365 "fear nots", one for each day of the year. Paul says, *"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:38-39).

The Christmas celebration is not a license, reason or excuse to compromise our faith and to sin. Instead, may this Christmas be a season of rejoicing and the sharing of the good news. Let us be His witnesses and believe God for many to be saved.

All Scripture references are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT)

DEMONSTRATING 3SIXTEEN

BY ANNABEL LILY

The 3Sixteen Working Team caught up with two groups that completed their 3Sixteen training in September 2020. They are currently actively running the 3Sixteen sessions. Here are their stories:



Judy Ong

Judy Ong's guest, Yang Yoke Ping, is a former varsity friend who accepted the Lord many years ago. Yoke Ping acknowledges the love of God but she needed the encouragement in her walk with Him. Judy noticed she was especially captivated and intrigued by the series of videos that introduced the basics of the Christian faith 3Sixteen uses in its sessions. The videos helped Yoke Ping in the open discussions to examine her own perceptions of life and where God fits in it. The environment that the hosts created for her was so comfortable that she was able to share her deep thoughts and feelings freely, especially in her quest to restore her relationship with God. Judy shared her profound prayer for her friend, *"It's my personal prayer that God will bless and honour her efforts in this journey in 3Sixteen sessions to rededicate her life to Jesus so that she can experience love in a fresh new way."*

All glory to God alone for this small group evangelistic programme."

In 3Sixteen, trainees are taught to engage in meaningful dialogues and help stir conversations towards God. The videos are a powerful tool to challenge the guests' worldview through open discussions.



Jerry Wong, Carmen Chong, and Choo Lee Lee

Two guests, Zhen Xi and Yee Yie, already accepted the Lord in the first 3Sixteen sessions hosted by Jerry, Carmen, and Lee Lee.

They decided to keep the momentum going by starting a new series of online sessions, and were very encouraged that both Zhen Xi and Yee Yie have been faithfully attending them, particularly Zhen Xi, who has been very open from the very beginning to experience the Christian worldview, and has been very responsive to the open discussions with complete candour. Carmen shared, *"My husband Jerry and I planned a trip to Sabah. I was so touched that in one of our meetings, Zhen Xi mentioned that we should be prayed for. I really believe God is working in Zhen Xi's life. As of now we are praying and helping him in his commitment to walk deeper with the Lord and to go for water baptism. Truly we have been privileged and blessed to be hosts to them. May all glory be onto our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The 3Sixteen Ambassadors understand the crucial role they play and how important it is to emulate the lifestyle of the Lord to their potential believing guests. A prayer lifestyle is the bedrock of 3Sixteen. In this instance, we have a guest who initiated prayer for the hosts.



We urge you to take action. With so many uncertainties in this broken world, it is the right time to grab hold of someone's hand and point them to the Cross. 3Sixteen will help you get started systematically and strategically to reach out to your loved ones. For more information about 3Sixteen training, please speak to your Life Group leader or [call us at the office](#).

NATAL, RENCANA TUHAN

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Natal adalah idea Tuhan. Empat Injil dalam Alkitab mengajar kita bahwa Natal adalah rencana Tuhan untuk menyelamatkan umat manusia dan mengajar manusia tentang Kerajaan Tuhan. Dunia telah mengkomersialkan perayaan Natal.

1. Tuhan memberitahu Adam dan Hawa rencanaNya. Di hadapan mereka, Dia berkata kepada ular itu, "Aku akan mengadakan permusuhan antara engkau dan perempuan ini, antara keturunanmu dan keturunannya; keturunannya akan meremukkan kepalamu, dan engkau akan meremukkan tumitnya" (Kejadian 3:15). Anak Maria adalah Yesus dan ular yang menyerang tumitNya merujuk pada penyaliban Yesus. Penyaliban adalah hukuman atas dosa yang Yesus bayar untuk menebus umat manusia. Akan datang suatu hari ketika Yesus akan menghancurkan kepala ular, yang merupakan musuh utama Tuhan.
2. Tuhan berbicara tentang rencana NatalNya untuk memberkati semua orang di bumi melalui Abraham. Berfirmanlah Tuhan kepada Abram: "Pergilah dari negerimu dan dari sanak saudaramu dan dari rumah bapamu ini ke negeri yang akan Kutunjukkan kepadamu; Aku akan membuat engkau menjadi bangsa yang besar, dan memberkati engkau serta membuat namamu masyhur; dan engkau akan menjadi berkat. Aku akan memberkati orang-orang yang memberkati engkau, dan mengutuk orang-orang yang mengutuk engkau, dan olehmu semua kaum di muka bumi akan mendapat berkat" (Kejadian 12:1-3). Mengenai salasilah Yesus, Alkitab berkata, "Inilah silsilah Yesus Kristus, anak Daud, anak Abraham" (Matius 1:1).
3. Tuhan berbicara tentang rencana NatalNya kepada Nabi Mikha. Nabi Mikha meramalkan bahawa Juruselamat akan lahir di kota Betlehem. Dia berkata, "Tetapi engkau, hai Betlehem Efrata, hai yang terkecil di antara kaum-kaum Yehuda, dari padamu akan bangkit bagi-Ku seorang yang akan memerintah Israel, yang permulaannya sudah sejak purbakala, sejak dahulu kala" (Mikha 5:2). Nubuatan ini digenapi ketika para malaikat mengumumkan 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" (Lukas 2:10-11).
4. Injil Lukas dalam Perjanjian Baru memberitahu kita permulaan dari pemenuhan rencana Tuhan melalui

pengumuman kelahiran Yesus. Alkitab berkata, "Dalam bulan yang keenam Tuhan menyuruh malaikat Gabriel pergi ke sebuah kota di Galilea bernama Nazaret, kepada seorang perawan yang bertunangan dengan seorang bernama Yusuf dari keluarga Daud; nama perawan itu Maria. Ketika malaikat itu masuk ke rumah Maria, ia berkata: "Salam, hai engkau yang dikaruniai, Tuhan menyertai engkau." Maria terkejut mendengar perkataan itu, lalu bertanya di dalam hatinya, apakah arti salam itu. Kata malaikat itu kepadanya: "Jangan takut, hai Maria, sebab engkau beroleh kasih karunia di hadapan Tuhan. Sesungguhnya engkau akan mengandung dan akan melahirkan seorang anak laki-laki dan hendaklah engkau menamai Dia Yesus. Ia akan menjadi besar dan akan disebut Anak Tuhan Yang Mahatinggi. Dan Tuhan akan mengaruniakan kepada-Nya takhta Daud, bapa leluhur-Nya, dan Ia akan menjadi raja atas kaum keturunan Yakub sampai selama-lamanya dan Kerajaan-Nya tidak akan berkesudahan." Kata Maria kepada malaikat itu: "Bagaimana hal itu mungkin terjadi, karena aku belum bersuami?" Jawab malaikat itu kepadanya: "Roh Kudus akan turun atasmu dan kuasa Tuhan Yang Mahatinggi akan menaungi engkau; sebab itu anak yang akan kau lahirkan itu akan disebut kudus, Anak Tuhan" (Lukas 1:26-35). Maria, seorang wanita dan seorang perawan, melahirkan Yesus seperti yang dijanjikan. Yesus tidak lahir dari benih manusia. Oleh kerana itu, Dia tidak berdosa dan layak untuk mengampuni dosa-dosa manusia.

5. Tuhan berbicara tentang rencana NatalNya kepada Yusuf bahawa Yesus akan menjadi keturunan Raja Daud. Alkitab berkata, "Tetapi ketika ia mempertimbangkan maksud itu, malaikat Tuhan nampak kepadanya dalam mimpi dan berkata: "Yusuf, anak Daud, janganlah engkau takut mengambil Maria sebagai isterimu, sebab anak yang di dalam kandungannya adalah dari Roh Kudus. Ia akan melahirkan anak laki-laki dan engkau akan menamakan Dia Yesus, karena Dialah yang akan menyelamatkan umat-Nya dari dosa mereka" (Matius 1:20-21). Mustahil bagi manusia untuk membayar hukuman dosa dengan perbuatan baik. Maka, Tuhan memberi kita Juruselamat yang akan menebus kita dari dosa.
6. Natal adalah idea Tuhan kerana Alkitab berkata, "Karena begitu besar kasih Tuhan akan dunia ini, sehingga Ia telah mengaruniakan Anak-Nya yang tunggal, supaya setiap orang yang percaya kepada-Nya tidak binasa, melainkan beroleh hidup yang kekal" (Yohanes 3:16).

Dia tidak ingin sesiapa diantara kita binasa. Alkitab berkata, "Tuhan tidak lalai menepati janji-Nya, sekalipun ada orang yang menganggapnya sebagai kelalaian, tetapi Ia sabar terhadap kamu, karena Ia menghendaki supaya jangan ada yang binasa, melainkan supaya semua orang berbalik dan bertobat" (2 Petrus 3:9).

Natal adalah idea Tuhan tentang Khabar Baik yang akan membawa sukacita besar bagi semua orang. Karena itu, Natal harus dirayakan. Alkitab memberi kita lima sebab untuk merayakan Natal:

1. Kita merayakan Natal kerana Tuhan mengutus kita seorang Juruselamat dan memberikan kita pengampunan atas dosa-dosa kita. Malaikat itu berkata kepada Yusuf, "Ia akan melahirkan anak laki-laki dan engkau akan menamakan Dia Yesus, karena Dialah yang akan menyelamatkan umat-Nya dari dosa mereka." Rasul Paulus menyatakan, "Jadi ketahuilah, hai saudara-saudara, oleh karena Dialah maka diberitakan kepada kamu pengampunan dosa. Dan di dalam Dialah setiap orang yang percaya memperoleh pembebasan dari segala dosa, yang tidak dapat kamu peroleh dari hukum Musa" (Kis 13:38-39). Melalui kedatangan Yesus Kristus, kematian dan kebangkitanNya, kita dapat menerima keselamatan oleh kasih karunia melalui iman. Alkitab berkata, "Sebab karena kasih karunia kamu diselamatkan oleh iman; itu bukan hasil usahamu,

tetapi pemberian Tuhan, itu bukan hasil pekerjaanmu: jangan ada orang yang memegahkan diri" (Efesus 2:8-9). Oleh kerana itu, kita merayakan Natal kerana keselamatan kita.

2. Kita merayakan Natal kerana kita telah menerima hidup yang kekal. Ketika manusia berdosa terhadap Tuhan, kita kehilangan persekutuan dengan Tuhan. Namun, ketika kita menaruh iman kita kepada Yesus untuk keselamatan kita, Yesus berkata, "Aku berkata kepadamu: Sesungguhnya barangsiapa mendengar perkataan-Ku dan percaya kepada Dia yang mengutus Aku, ia mempunyai hidup yang kekal dan tidak turut dihukum, sebab ia sudah pindah dari dalam maut ke dalam hidup" (Yohanes 5:24).
3. Kita merayakan Natal kerana Tuhan telah berjanji untuk menyertai kita. Yesus disebut Imanuel. Alkitab berkata, "Sesungguhnya, anak dara itu akan mengandung dan melahirkan seorang anak laki-laki, dan mereka akan menamakan Dia Imanuel" --yang berarti: Tuhan menyertai kita" (Matius 1:23). Kita tidak hidup sendiri kerana Yesus berkata, "Aku akan minta kepada Bapa, dan Ia akan memberikan kepadamu seorang Penolong yang lain, supaya Ia menyertai kamu selamanya" (Yohanes 14:16). Tuhan juga berkata, "Aku sekali-kali tidak akan membiarkan engkau dan Aku sekali-kali tidak akan meninggalkan engkau" (Ibrani 13: 5).



Oleh kerana itu, kita merayakan Natal kerana Yesus menyertai kita dalam setiap situasi.

4. Kita merayakan Natal kerana Tuhan ada untuk kita. Inilah sebab mengapa Rasul Paulus menyatakan, "Demikianlah sekarang tidak ada penghukuman bagi mereka yang ada di dalam Kristus Yesus. Roh, yang memberi hidup telah memerdekakan kamu dalam Kristus dari hukum dosa dan hukum maut. Ia, yang tidak menyangkan Anak-Nya sendiri, tetapi yang menyerahkan-Nya bagi kita semua, bagaimanakah mungkin Ia tidak mengaruniakan segala sesuatu kepada kita bersama-sama dengan Dia?" (Roma 8:1-2, 31). Kita merayakan Natal dengan sukacita kerana kita telah dijadikan benar dengan Tuhan dan kita sekarang memiliki persekutuan denganNya.
5. Kita merayakan Natal kerana kita tidak perlu takut. Melalui kematian dan kebangkitanNya, Yesus Kristus telah mengalahkan kematian, yang merupakan ketakutan terbesar manusia. Alkitab mencatat 365 "jangan takut", satu untuk setiap hari dalam setahun. Paulus berkata, "Sebab aku yakin, bahwa baik maut, maupun hidup, baik malaikat-malaikat, maupun pemerintah-pemerintah, baik yang ada sekarang, maupun yang akan datang, atau kuasa-kuasa, baik yang di atas, maupun yang di bawah, ataupun sesuatu makhluk lain, tidak akan dapat memisahkan kita dari kasih Tuhan, yang ada dalam Kristus Yesus, Tuhan kita" (Roma 8:38-39).

Perayaan Natal bukanlah satu lesen, sebab atau alasan untuk berkompromi dengan iman kita dan untuk berdosa. Sebaliknya, semoga Natal ini menjadi musim bersukacita dan berkongsi berita baik. Marilah kita menjadi saksiNya dan percaya kepada Tuhan agar ramai orang diselamatkan.

Semua rujukan Alkitab adalah dari Alkitab Bahasa Indonesia.

圣诞——神的计划

文: 古纳南主任牧师



诞是神的主意。圣经四福音书教导我们，圣诞是神拯救人并教导神国度的计划。可是世界把圣诞给商业化了

1. 神告诉亚当和夏娃他的计划。当着他们的面，神对蛇说：“我要使你和女人彼此为仇，你的后裔和女人的后裔，也彼此为仇，他要伤你的头，你要伤他的脚跟”（创世记3:15）耶稣是马利亚的后代，蛇要伤他的脚跟，是指耶稣要被钉十字架。为了救赎人类，耶稣付上代价为罪受惩罚，被钉在十字架上。在即将到来的那一天，耶稣要伤蛇的头，也就是神的首号敌人。
2. 神讲述他的圣诞计划，他要透过亚伯拉罕赐福给地上的万族万民。耶和華对亚伯兰说：“你要离开本地、本族、父家，到我指示你的地方去。我必使你成为大国，赐福给你，使你的名为大，你也必使别人得福，给你祝福的，我必赐福给他；咒诅你的，我必咒诅他；地上的万族，都必因你得福”（创世记12:1-3）。关于耶稣的家谱，圣经上说：“大卫的子孙，亚伯拉罕的后裔，耶稣基督的家谱”（马太福音1:1）。
3. 神告诉先知弥迦他的圣诞计划。先知弥迦预言将有一位救主诞生在伯利恒。他说：“伯利恒以法他啊！你在犹太诸城中虽然细小，必有一位从你那里出来，为我作以色列的统治者；他的根源从太初，从亘古就有了”（弥迦书5:2）。当天使向牧羊人宣告时，这预言就实现了。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”（路加福音2:10-11）。
4. 新约圣经路加福音告诉我们，神的计划从宣告耶稣诞生开始。圣经上说：“到了第六个月，天使加百列奉 神差遣，往加利利的拿撒勒城去，到了一个童贞女那里，她已经和大卫家一个名叫约瑟的人订了婚，童贞女的名字是马利亚。天使进去，对她说：“恭喜！蒙大恩的女子，主与你同在！”她却因这话惊慌起来，反复思想这样祝贺是甚么意思。天使说：“马利亚，不要怕！因你已从 神那里蒙了恩。你将怀孕生子，要给他起名叫耶稣。他将要被尊为大，称为至高者的儿子，主 神要把他祖大卫的王位赐给他，他要作王统治雅各家，直到永远，他的国没有穷尽。”马利亚对天使说：“我还没有出嫁，怎能有这事呢？”天使回答：“圣灵要临到你，至高者的能力要覆庇你，因此那将要出生的圣者，必称为 神的儿子”（路加福音1:26-35）。童贞女马利亚蒙应许生了耶稣。耶稣不是人的后裔。因此，他是无罪的，配得赦免人的罪恶。

5. 神跟约瑟讲述他的圣诞计划，耶稣将成为大卫王的后裔。圣经上说：“他一直想着这些事，主的使者就在梦中向他显现，说：‘大卫的子孙约瑟，只管放胆把你的妻子马利亚迎娶过来，因为她怀的孕是从圣灵来的。她必生一个儿子，你要给他起名叫耶稣，因为他要把自己的子民从罪恶中拯救出来’”（马太福音1:20-21）。人不可能透过行善免去罪的刑罚。因此，神赐给我们一位救主救赎我们脱离罪恶。
6. 圣诞是神的主意，因为圣经上说：“神爱世人，甚至把他的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信他的，不至灭亡，反得永生。”（约翰福音3:16）他不愿意我们任何人灭亡。圣经上说：“主决不耽延他的应许，像有些人以为他是耽延的一样；其实他是宽容你们，不愿有一人灭亡，却愿人人都悔改”（彼得后书3:9）。

圣诞是神的主意，是要给全人类带来喜乐的好消息。因此，我们要庆祝圣诞。圣经告诉我们庆祝圣诞的五个原因：

1. 我们庆祝圣诞因为神赐给我们一位救主和赦免我们的罪。主的使者向约瑟显现，说：“她必生一个儿子，你要给他起名叫耶稣，因为他要把自己的子民从罪恶中拯救出来”（马太福音 1: 21）。使徒保罗说：“所以弟兄们，你们当知道，赦罪之道是由这位耶稣传给你们的。在你们靠摩西律法不能称义的一切事上，信靠他的人就得称义了”（使徒行传13:38-39）。借着耶稣基督的诞生、死亡和复活，使我们靠着恩典和信心得蒙救赎。圣经上说：“你们得救是靠着恩典，借着信心。这不是出于自己，而是 神所赐的；这也不是出于行为，免得有人自夸”（以弗所书2:8-9）。因此，我们庆祝圣诞是因为我们得着了救恩。
2. 我们庆祝圣诞因为我们得着永生。当人犯罪，我们失去了与神的相交。当我们相信耶稣为我们的救主时，耶稣说：“我实实在在告诉你们，那听见我的话又信那差我来的，就有永生，不被定罪，而是已经出死入生了”（约翰福音5:24）。
3. 我们庆祝圣诞因为神承诺与我们同在。耶稣也叫以马内利。圣经上说：“必有童女怀孕生子，他的名要叫以马内利。以马内利就是‘神与我们同在’的意思”（马太福音1: 23）。我们不孤单，因为耶稣说：“我要请求父，他就会赐给你们另一位保惠师，使他跟你们永远在一起”（约翰福音14:16）。神也说：“我决不撇下你，也不离弃你”（希伯来书13:5）。因此，我们庆祝圣诞是因为无论什么情况，耶稣都与我们同在。
4. 我们庆祝圣诞因为神为我们着想。使徒保罗宣告：“所以现在，那些在耶稣基督里的人就不被定罪了；因为生命之灵的律在基督耶稣里使我自由，脱离了罪和死的律。既是这样，我们对这一切还有甚么话说呢？神若这样为



我们，谁能敌对我们呢？”（罗马书8:1-2,31）我们欢庆圣诞，因为我们已经与神和好，得以与神相交。

5. 我们庆祝圣诞因为我们不再惧怕。耶稣基督的死和复活已经战胜死亡，人类最大的恐惧。圣经记录了365个‘不要惧怕’，每一天使用一个，足矣。保罗说：“因为我深信：无论是死、是生，是天使、是掌权的，是现在的事，是将来的事，是有能力的，是高天的、是深渊的，或是任何别的被造之物，都不能叫我们与 神的爱隔绝，这爱是在我们的主耶稣基督里的”（罗马书 8:8-39）。

欢庆圣诞佳节可不是放下信仰原则或纵欲犯罪的理由、借口。反之，圣诞节是欢庆并分享好消息的时节。让我们为神作见证，并相信神许多人会得救。

圣经经文摘自新译本圣经。



Girls Only Graduates with the proud Sponsors who have nurtured them over the years

GRADUATING WITH HONOURS

BY HON YEE NENG

The Missionettes held a ceremony for three graduating girls who successfully completed the requirements of the programme with honours on Sunday, 6 September 2020, attended by the girls' families and the Sponsors who were instrumental in mentoring them over the years.

It was a joyous occasion for Honour Girls Abigail Gomez, Christy Teh, and Hon Ai Neng, who graduated from the Girls Only Club, the highest grade-level club in the Missionettes programme for girls ages 14 to 17. Sponsor Leonella Gonzales introduced the girls and presented them to receive their Honour Awards. The girls shared their testimonies and recounted the fun activities, memorable sleepovers, godly friendships, and valuable lessons learnt throughout the programme. Following the charge given by Coordinator Katherine Lee, they each pledged to uphold the truths of God's Word and to reflect and glorify God in every part of their lives.

Hon Ai Neng, who joined Missionettes when she was three years old, was awarded the Silver Medal of Honour, while Abigail Gomez, who has been in the programme for the past 16 years, received the Gold Medal of Honour from Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng. This is the highest award in the Missionettes programme, and is presented to a Girls Only Graduate



Hon Ai Neng with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hon Woei Loon, brother, Yueh Neng, and sister, Yee Neng, who was also a Medal of Honour recipient



Abigail Gomez with her mother, Sponsor Lina Lau, and sister Alicia, who was also a Medal of Honour recipient



Christy Teh with her mother, Tang Chow Peng

who has attained honour awards for all the five Missionettes clubs excluding Rainbows for ages 3-4.

Although it was a short celebration, it was nonetheless sweet and memorable as we celebrated God's goodness and faithfulness over the girls' lives in and through the Missionettes programme.

Missionettes is for girls ages 3-17 and boys ages 3-5. For more information, [send us an email!](#)

EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE

BY LAURA LIM

From 13 September - 18 October 2020, the Discipleship Ministry (DM) had their second training for 2020, and twenty-three church members availed themselves to be trained.

Pastor Susan Tan headed the training with six team members, and the trainees were attentive and rapt taking in the lessons and its application in their walk with Jesus. A series of group discussions saw active participation. Seventeen committed to serve in DM, answering God's call to make disciples of all nations.

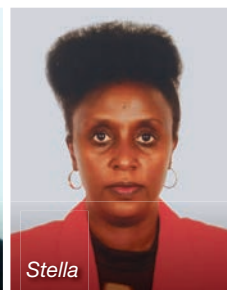
A refresher course, "Faith & Fire", specially planned to refresh, equip, and empower the DM team members to serve with zeal, passion, and enthusiasm in discipling was taught by Helen Read, DM team leader. It was intense reverberating of God's heart for His children and for His Kingdom. It was like standing below the cascading cool refreshing streams of living water, bringing to remembrance and underscoring what is vital in being a disciple of Jesus, and at the same time stirring commitment in discipling someone and bringing the love and reality of God to the lives of those whom He brings in our midst.



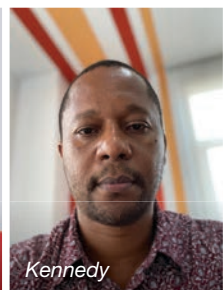
Caesha



Teresa



Stella



Kennedy

TRAINEES' TESTIMONIES:-

"The training equipped me to be a good disciple and discipler of the Lord Jesus Christ and to maintain a firm relationship with our Heavenly Father. I have started to be more concerned for other's needs and have found my calling to serve in the DM, thankful for the opportunity to be used by Him to bless others."

- **Caesha Lim Sook San**

"I feel challenged to make a difference to love, care for, and disciple new believers to follow Jesus. I look forward to serve with the committed team and in partnership with the Holy Spirit."

- **Teresa Tan**

"I have developed confidence in God; learning to surrender with the hope that His purpose for my life may be accomplished. I am happy and ready to serve God because He who is in me is greater than he who is in the world."

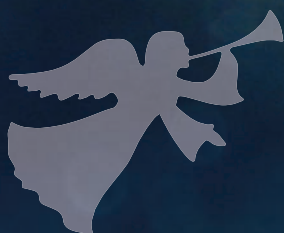
- **Stella Kamugisha**

"I am grateful to have been encouraged to cultivate good habits of the heart through consistent spiritual discipline. I have begun the journey and look forward to the steps and milestones that will strengthen me to mentor others to serve the Lord."

- **Kennedy Komba**

All said and done, the new recruits are excited to put their training to practice.

We invite you to be part of the Discipleship Team! [Contact the church office.](#)



*Online Christmas
Worship Service*

Sunday, 20 December 2020
8.00am



*Online Christmas
Day Devotional*

Friday, 25 December 2020



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

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

END 2020 AS OVERCOMERS THROUGH WITNESSING

BY TIM CHENG



It is the time of the year most believers prepare to celebrate Christmas and reach out.

Despite the doom and gloom that the world espouses because of Covid-19, believers take comfort in the knowledge that God is on His throne, He is still in control, and the Gospel remains the only vaccine a desperate and dying world needs.

GODec 2020, short for Go December and GOD in December, is the response for believers to seize the opportunity during the year end and the Christmas season to share good tidings in both word and deed in small group settings at home or via virtual platforms.

It was encouraging to have 185 Calvarites who responded to be equipped as winsome witnesses through virtual trainings held in November. The trainings were conducted by Associate Pastor Richard Yun, Associate Pastor David Seah, and the GODec team.

The clarion call to be witnesses is not confined to a handful, but it is to all believers, regardless of age, gender, and language. God did not save us from year 2020, but saved us for 2020 and beyond. We encourage you, end 2020 as an overcomer by connecting with your loved ones, neighbours, and friends.

If you missed the training, you may request for the training video by [emailing us](#). The GODec team will get in touch to assist you.



Thumbs up to a good and fruitful training



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