

Giving
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For
GOD'S Best



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GIVING YOUR BEST FOR GOD'S BEST

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR PETER ONG

“Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, ‘Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. Then God said, ‘Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you...’ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, ‘Abraham! Abraham!’ ‘Here I am,’ he replied. ‘Do not lay a hand on the boy,’ he said. ‘Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son’” (Genesis 22: 1–2; 9–12).

IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT WE HOLD ON TO THINGS THAT ARE PRECIOUS AND IMPORTANT TO US.

It could be our time, family, friends or possessions. To give up that which is precious is challenging and at times even deemed foolish. But whatever we hold on to dearly may actually hinder us from experiencing something far better. This is true that when we are willing to give up what is most precious and valuable in obedience to God, we will experience God's best for us.

The unique account of Abraham sacrificing Isaac in Genesis 22:1–19 is a good example of this. No matter how demanding the challenge, when we obey in faith to do God's will, we can receive God's best for us.

to obey God in this instance. When you think about it, God's demand was just absurd. But note how Abraham responded when tested. Yes, the request was beyond his understanding, but Abraham realised there must not be any compromise. If God speaks and challenges you, do not be afraid to obey. When you are willing, whatever you give in obedience to God's will, will be exchanged with God's best.

Because Abraham was willing to obey God and sacrifice Isaac there were far reaching consequences. God said to Abraham, **“By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son—blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies”** (Genesis 22:16–17). God told Abraham that because he obeyed, he would be

called the father of faith of many nations. There is the enlarging of faith. Through that experience Abraham realised he could trust God not just for some areas in his life, but for every area of his life. It was not easy for Abraham to obey as it meant he had to kill his own son. But he obeyed. As a result, today, Abraham is considered our father of faith.

In John 6:8, a little boy was willing to give up his precious lunch, 5 loaves and 2 fishes. It was estimated that some 20,000 people were fed on 5 loaves and 2 fishes! This is taking into account the accompanying family members of the 5,000 men. Just imagine the impact on the faith of the little boy from that day onwards. This boy would have grown up knowing that whatever he gives to God, He could multiply it to bless many.

It is demanding and challenging to obey God in the area of giving, but when you act in faith, your faith is enlarged as you experience God's best!

1 IT ENLARGES YOUR FAITH.

The account started with God testing Abraham. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac as a burnt offering. It was extremely challenging for Abraham

2 IT BREAKS THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Sometimes what God challenges us to give seems unreasonable. It was unreasonable for Abraham to be asked to sacrifice Isaac but he obeyed. He went against human reasoning and feelings. God honoured his act of faith.

For instance, in the area of serving the Church with our time and talents. Some reason that they can use their time or talent to do more and give to God's work. But it is not necessarily so. God may challenge you like He did to Abraham. Give Him your precious time and talents to serve Him. Act in faith. Put Him first. Dare to break the impossibilities so that your faith will not be stifled. When you break your impossibilities, God will open doors of great opportunities and blessings. A ram was provided for Abraham's sacrifice and he learnt that God honours faith. Break your impossibilities to experience God's possibilities.

3 IT ESTABLISHES GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND GOD'S PURPOSE.

At the end of this encounter, God told Abraham, **"I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice"** (Gen 22:17-18). God's purpose was seen and established.

How could God ask Abraham to kill his own son? We who have hindsight know that it is against God's nature for Abraham to kill Isaac. Just as he was about to slay his son, he heard the sound of a ram. God is always on time. The ram was the sacrifice. It was a very good ending to this story and earned Abraham a place in the list of men and women of great faith. The Bible says, **"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac,**

"To give up that which is precious is challenging and at times even deemed foolish. But whatever we hold on to dearly may actually hinder us from experiencing something far better"

and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called,' concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense" (Hebrews 11:17-19). Abraham had come to a place in his walk with God where he was able to trust and believe God, not only as a God of miracles but also a God who is faithful.

If you are asking, "How do I know that it is God who is challenging me?", note that Abraham was very clear in hearing what God said to him. You also need to be very clear, otherwise confusion will come. Jesus says, **"My sheep know my voice"** (John

10: 4). Then you know that whatever happens, you have the assurance and confidence and will not doubt.

Some struggle in their lives because they have not surrendered what God wants them to surrender to Him. Whatever it may be, do not withhold from God what you deem precious. Let your heart be open to Him. Ask God to speak to you. Wait before Him. If it takes a longer time, wait until you know that it is God who is challenging you to this step of faith.

When God challenges you to give your best to Him, do it. He will give you His best! It will result in you seeing and experiencing His blessings, power and miracles in your life. The Bible says, **"If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land"** (Isaiah 1:19). +



CREATIVE AND INSPIRING SPONSORSHIP OF CCC SEATS

BY JANA PONNUDURAI



From Top: CCC Seats | Counters on Sunday for Sponsoring a seat



To Sponsor, go by the counter after Sunday services at all locations.

For more information call the CCC Secretariat @ 2095 9659 or email calcc@calvary.org.my

THE 'SPONSOR A SEAT' PROGRAMME LAUNCHED ON 28 OCTOBER 2012 PROVIDES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE A PARTNER OF THE CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE(CCC) BY SPONSORING ONE OR MORE SEATS IN THE CCC AUDITORIUM AND IN SO DOING BUILD A LEGACY FOR OUR FUTURE GENERATION.

Praise God, since the launch three weeks ago, more than 500 seats have been sponsored. The Facilities Sponsorship Programme (FSP) Team would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all who have contributed. We believe that God is moving in a marvelous way and are excited that many more have indicated their interest.

GOAL OF THE FSP TEAM

As we keep our eyes on the Lord and fill our minds with His Word, we are reminded of His promises, goodness and His great works. These promises have kept the FSP team going since mid 2012 to present a suitable action plan.

Our goal is simple — to raise funds to furnish the CCC's auditorium, our new Sanctuary.

WHY SPONSOR?

There are many reasons why one should consider sponsoring:

1. You are giving a place for a potential believer to hear the Gospel.
2. Believers can be nurtured into the fullness of Christ through church ministries.
3. There are opportunities to develop believers to be lay leaders, pastors and workers for Christ through seminars and conventions.
4. Other churches could also be blessed by having seminars and meetings here.
5. Reaching out to the discouraged, weary and lukewarm Christians through revival meetings is another reason.

Whatever your reasons, we would like to encourage you that your sponsorship is to give glory to God. It is a seat where an unbeliever will sit one day and be reminded that a faithful person supported a giving church.

We have three categories of sponsorship. These will appear on a tag that will be visibly placed on the seat at

the Auditorium. The first category is for an individual, an organisation or group and the seat will be tagged as '**Sponsored by...**'. The second category is especially unique. This category allows one to honour a loved one whether still here or departed and the seat will be tagged as '**In Honour of ...**'. For those who wish to remain anonymous, this category is for you. The seat will be tagged as '**Blessed by a sponsor**'.

FULFILLING GOD'S VISION

The Facilities Sponsorship Committee is planning for an **Open Day** at the CCC to allow you the opportunity to visit our new Sanctuary. On this day, sponsors will also have the benefit of selecting their sponsored seat or seats of choice.

As the seats are being fitted one by one, we are beginning to see God's vision for this church coming to past and a sense of great awe overwhelmed us. And as the numbers are being attached to each individual seat in each row, we begin to experience a miracle taking form and God's overpowering joy fills each one of us.

Greater things are yet to come. ✚

A CALL TO 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG



DON'T MISS THE NEXT PRAYER EMPHASIS!

CALVARITES WERE CALLED TO PRAY INDIVIDUALLY, WITH THEIR FAMILIES, LIFE GROUPS AND AS A CHURCH FAMILY OVER THE 21-DAY FAST AND PRAYER FROM 21 OCTOBER – 10 NOVEMBER 2012.

Many made the effort to gather in unity to “Magnify Him & Declare His Salvation” on the Fridays, 26 October, 2 & 9 November and to pray for our Church and nation, Malaysia. We prayed in small groups as well as corporately as different ones led in prayer.

Many shared how this 21-Day Fast and Prayer have led them into experiencing God.

ENABLED TO FAST

In her experience of fasting, the longest that Teresa Tan has been able to manage thus far is seven days. Initially, she was hesitant to participate in the 21-day fast as she was afraid she would have stomach upsets. She shared with a friend who encouraged her, “The Lord be your strength.” And indeed God was her strength. She was able to fast two meals a day and God has seen her through thus far.



From Top: Closing corporate prayer at altar at Friday Prayer Meet | Praying in a small group at Friday Prayer Meet

SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY STRENGTHENED

During the 21-day fast, Mrs Cheong who is aged over 80, fasted even though she was on holiday with her family. She prayed that God would keep her well and give her strength to do so. She thanked God that through it all, she was able to fast without any physical difficulty and even had the strength to go for a long walk in the botanical garden.

EMPOWERED TO BE A WITNESS

Tan Kiat Beng saw the power of God at work as she sought to “Magnify God,

Declare His Salvation” which is our theme for the 21-day fast and pray. She met Andrew at a store and found out that he had not personally invited Jesus into his heart though he had been baptized as a child. She had the opportunity of leading him in the sinner’s prayer and Andrew testified that he felt God’s peace. Incidentally, his children attend our outreach at Taman Desa.

REAPING A PLENTIFUL HARVEST

During the 21-day fast, the Chinese ministry fervently prayed, fasted and followed up on those who were saved during the Chinese Evangelistic Event (CEE) held in September. Reaping the harvest of prayer, they saw an increase in their recent monthly fellowship held on 28 October. There were 31 new visitors (twice the usual number of visitors in the monthly fellowship). Eight of the new believers who were saved at the CEE brought five new friends to the fellowship. And three of these friends accepted the Lord that Sunday. In addition to this, another two new believers saved at the CEE have been bringing five new friends to our Sunday worship services regular. ✚

MEMBERIKAN YANG TERBAIK UNTUK YANG TERBAIK DARIPADA TUHAN

OLEH PENDETA SEKUTU PETER ONG

“Setelah semuanya itu Tuhan mencoba Abraham. Ia berfirman kepadanya: ‘Abraham,’ lalu sahutnya: ‘Ya, Tuhan.’ Firman-Nya: ‘Ambillah anakmu yang tunggal itu, yang engkau kasihi, yakni Ishak, pergilah ke tanah Moria dan persembahkanlah dia di sana sebagai korban bakaran pada salah satu gunung yang akan Kukatakan kepadamu...’ Sampailah mereka ke tempat yang dikatakan Tuhan kepadanya. Lalu Abraham mendirikan mezbah di situ, disusunyalah kayu, diikatnya Ishak, anaknya itu, dan diletakkannya di mezbah itu, di atas kayu api. Sesudah itu Abraham mengulurkan tangannya, lalu mengambil pisau untuk menyembelih anaknya. Tetapi berserulah Malaikat TUHAN dari langit kepadanya: ‘Abraham, Abraham.’ Sahutnya: ‘Ya, Tuhan.’ Lalu ia berfirman: ‘Jangan bunuh anak itu dan jangan kauapa-apakan dia, sebab telah Kuketahui sekarang, bahwa engkau takut akan Tuhan, dan engkau tidak segan-segan untuk menyerahkan anakmu yang tunggal kepada-Ku” (Kejadian 22:1-2; 9-12).



IA ADALAH KEBIASAAN BAHAWA KITA BERPEGANG KEPADA PERKARA-PERKARA YANG BERTERHARGA DAN ADA KETIKA JUGA DIANGGAP BODOH.

Tetapi apa sahaja yang kita pegang erat sebenarnya boleh menghalang kita daripada mengalami sesuatu yang jauh lebih baik. Ini adalah benar apabila kita sanggup menyerahkan apa yang paling berharga dan bernilai dalam ketaatan kepada Tuhan, kita akan mengalami yang terbaik daripada Tuhan untuk kita.

Pengalaman unik Abraham mengorbankan Ishak dalam Kejadian 22:

1-19 adalah satu contoh yang baik. Tidak kira betapa hebat tuntutan cabaran itu, apabila kita taat dalam iman untuk melakukan kehendak Tuhan, kita boleh menerima yang terbaik daripada Tuhan untuk kita.

1 Ia memperbesarkan imanmu.

Pengalaman itu bermula dengan ujian Tuhan kepada Abraham. Tuhan menyuruh Abraham mengorbankan anaknya, Ishak sebagai korban bakaran. Ia amat mencabarkan bagi Abraham untuk taat kepada Tuhan dalam hal ini. Apabila

kamu berfikir tentang hal itu, permintaan Tuhan tidak masuk akal. Tetapi perhatikan bagaimana Abraham menyahut apabila diuji. Ya, permintaan itu adalah di luar pengertiannya, tetapi Abraham sedar dia tidak seharusnya ada sebarang kompromi. Jika Tuhan berfirman dan mencabar kamu, jangan takut untuk mentaati. Apabila kamu sanggup, apa sahaja yang kamu berikan dalam ketaatan kepada kehendak Tuhan, akan diubahkan kepada yang terbaik daripada Tuhan untuk kita.

Kerana Abraham bersedia untuk mentaati Tuhan dan mengorbankan Ishak

ia telah mencapai kesan yang mendalam. Tuhan berfirman kepada Abraham, **“Aku bersumpah demi diri-Ku sendiri—demikianlah firman TUHAN—karena engkau telah berbuat demikian, dan engkau tidak segan-segan untuk menyerahkan anakmu yang tunggal kepada-Ku, maka Aku akan memberkati engkau berlimpah-limpah dan membuat keturunanmu sangat banyak seperti bintang di langit dan seperti pasir di tepi laut, dan keturunanmu itu akan menduduki kota-kota musuhnyanya”** (Kejadian 22:16–17). Tuhan memberitahu Abraham bahawa disebabkan dia taat, dia akan dipanggil bapa iman kepada banyak bangsa. Iman telah diperbesar. Melalui pengalaman itu Abraham menyedari bahawa dia boleh mempercayai Tuhan bukan hanya untuk beberapa bahagian di dalam hidupnya, tetapi bagi setiap bahagian hidupnya. Ia bukan mudah untuk Abraham mentaati kerana ia bermakna dia terpaksa membunuh anaknya sendiri. Tetapi dia taat juga. Hasilnya, hari ini, Abraham dianggap bapa iman kita.

Dalam Yohanes 6:8, seorang budak kecil bersedia untuk menyerahkan makan tengah harinya, 5 buku roti dan 2 ekor ikan. Ia telah dianggarkan bahawa kira-kira 20,000 orang telah diberi makan 5 buku roti dan 2 ekor ikan itu! Ini mengambil kira ahli keluarga yang disertai oleh 5,000 orang lelaki. Bayangkan kesan daripada iman budak kecil itu untuk hari yang seterusnya. Budak lelaki ini akan membesar mengetahui bahawa apa yang dia berikan kepada Tuhan, Dia boleh menggandakannya untuk memberkati banyak orang.

Adalah dituntut dan mencabar untuk mentaati Tuhan dalam hal memberi, tetapi apabila kamu bertindak dalam iman, imanmu diperbesar sebagaimana kamu mengalami yang terbaik daripada Tuhan!

2 Ia menghancurkan kemustahilan. Kadang-kadang apa yang Tuhan cabar kita untuk memberi seolah-olah tidak masuk akal. Ia adalah tidak masuk akal untuk meminta Abraham mengorbankan Ishak tetapi dia mentaati juga. Ia menentang pemikiran dan perasaan kemanusiaan. Tuhan menghormati perbuatan imannya.

Sebagai contoh, di dalam bahagian pelayanan untuk Gereja dengan masa dan bakat kita. Ada yang memberikan alasan

bahawa mereka boleh menggunakan masa atau bakat mereka untuk melakukan dan memberikan dengan lebih kepada kerja-kerja Tuhan. Tetapi ia tidak semestinya begitu. Tuhan mungkin mencabar kamu sebagai mana Dia lakukan kepada Abraham. Berikanlah Dia masa dan bakatmu yang berharga untuk melayaniNya. Bertindaklah dalam iman. Utamakanlah Dia. Berani menghancurkan kemustahilan supaya iman kamu tidak akan dihalang. Apabila kamu menghancurkan kemustahilanmu, Tuhan akan membuka pintu rahmat dan kesempatan yang besar. Seekor domba jantan telah disediakan sebagai korban bagi Abraham dan dia telah belajar bahawa Tuhan menghormati iman. Hancurkan kemustahilanmu untuk mengalami yang mungkin bagi Tuhan.

3 Ia meneguhkan kedaulatan dan tujuan Tuhan.

Pada akhir pertemuan ini, Tuhan memberitahu Abraham, **“Maka Aku akan memberkati engkau berlimpah-limpah dan membuat keturunanmu sangat banyak seperti bintang di langit dan seperti pasir di tepi laut, dan keturunanmu itu akan menduduki kota-kota musuhnyanya. Oleh keturunanmulah semua bangsa di bumi akan mendapat berkat, karena engkau mendengarkan firman-Ku”** (Kejadian 22:17–18). Tujuan Tuhan telah dilihat dan diteguhkan.

Bagaimanakah Tuhan boleh meminta Abraham membunuh anaknya sendiri? Walau kita yang kurang pengetahuan adalah menentang sifat Tuhan bagi Abraham untuk membunuh Ishak. Semasa dia sedang bersedia untuk membunuh anaknya, dia terdengar bunyi seekor domba jantan. Tuhan sentiasa tepat pada masanya. Domba jantan itu adalah sebagai korban. Ia adalah kesimpulan yang sangat baik untuk cerita ini dan Abraham memperolehi sebuah tempat dalam senarai lelaki dan wanita yang beriman besar. Alkitab mengatakan, **“Karena iman maka Abraham, tatkala ia dicobai, mempersembahkan Ishak.**

la, yang telah menerima janji itu, rela mempersembahkan anaknya yang tunggal, walaupun kepadanya telah dikatakan: “Keturunan yang berasal dari Ishaklah yang akan disebut keturunanmu.” Karena ia berpikir, bahwa Tuhan berkuasa membangkitkan orang-orang sekalipun dari antara orang mati. Dan dari sana ia seakan-akan telah menerimanya kembali” (Ibrani 11:17–19). Abraham dalam perjalanannya dengan Tuhan telah sampai di tempat di mana dia mampu mempercayai dan percaya kepada Tuhan, bukan sahaja sebagai Tuhan bermukjizat tetapi juga Tuhan yang setia.

Jika kamu bertanya, “Bagaimana saya akan tahu bahawa ia adalah Tuhan yang mencabar saya?”, perhatikan bahawa Abraham dengan jelas dalam pendengarannya apa yang Tuhan katakan kepadanya. Kamu juga perlu menjadi sangat jelas, jika tidak kekeliruan akan datang. Yesus berkata, **“Domba-domba saya tahu suara saya”** (Yohanes 10:4). Maka kamu akan tahu bahawa apa jua yang berlaku, kamu mempunyai jaminan

dan keyakinan dan tidak akan ragu-ragu.

Ada yang bergumul dalam kehidupan mereka kerana mereka tidak menyerahkan apa yang Tuhan mahu mereka serahkan kepada-Nya. Walau apa sahaja pun, jangan menahan daripada Tuhan apa yang kamu anggap berharga. Biarkan hati mu terbuka kepada-Nya. Mintalah Tuhan untuk berfirman denganmu. Nantikankah di hadapan-Nya. Jika ia mengambil masa yang agak lama, tunggu sehingga kamu tahu bahawa ia adalah Tuhan

yang mencabarmu ke langkah beriman ini.

Apabila Tuhan mencabar kamu untuk memberikan yang terbaik kepada-Nya, lakukanlah. Dia akan memberikan kamu yang terbaik dari-Nya! Ia akan menjadikanmu melihat dan mengalami rahmat, kuasa dan keajaiban-Nya dalam hidupmu. Alkitab mengatakan, **“Jika kamu menurut dan mau mendengar, maka kamu akan memakan hasil baik dari negeri itu”** (Yesaya 1:19).

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari Terjemahan Baru, melainkan dinyatakan sebaliknya.

GOD—GIVEN PRIVILEGE TO SHARE HIS LOVE!

BY GAN CHEW, EVANGELISM COORDINATOR

ONE DOES NOT NEED THE GIFT OF EVANGELISM TO REACH OUT TO

LOST SOULS. Every believer is given the privilege to be a witness for Christ. Praise and thank God for the works He has done through the Evangelism Team (E-Team) who have embraced evangelism as a lifestyle, committing each Wednesday to pray for souls and going out each Saturday to bring Good News to the lost.

Thank God for souls saved each year. More than 200 accepted the Lord through the E-Team this year, out of which more than 50 have visited our church this year. We also thank God for His hand upon our discipleship efforts. Currently, more than 30 are attending Calvary Church regularly and five have been water baptised.

Be blessed by the testimonies of some E-Team members. ✚

The Lord has anointed you to
preach the good news to the poor...
(Isaiah 61:1)

JOIN THE E-TEAM!

For more information please call
03-209 21778 / 209 33946

- E-Team Prayer (**Wednesday 7–9 pm**)
@ Prayer Tower, Damansara Heights
- E-Team Prayer (**Saturday, 3–4 pm**)
@ Berean Bungalow, Damansara Heights
- Sharing the Good News of salvation
(**Saturday, 4–6 pm**) @ at various venues
including hospitals—transport provided

Enriched and Encouraged in Sharing the Good News

BY ALICE GOH

I joined the Evangelism Team (E-Team) more than 10 years ago. We go out every Saturday to share the Gospel at different areas and hospitals as well. I notice that in the hospitals, many patients look at us despairingly, but once they accept the Lord, their countenance become one of joy. I also notice that there are many people eager to hear the Good News and the hope in Jesus. Praise God for a very enriching and encouraging experience each Saturday sharing the love of Jesus to the needy.

Knowing God More Through the E-Team

BY AGNES CHEW

I always have the desire to share the Good News with the lost. Thank God for the Evangelism Team. Since I joined the team four years ago, I now have the boldness to share the Gospel. I rejoice seeing different ones experiencing the reality of God after they make a decision for Christ and finding hope in Jesus.

IN PICTURES — THE E-TEAM IN ACTION



Clockwise from Top Left: The E-Team praying before going out on Saturday | E-Team reaches out two by two at a hospital | Some 'fruits' of the E-Team praying on their way to Pusat Aktiviti Calvary Cheras (PACC) | E-Team prays for the sick at a hospital | E-Team provides transport for both children and adults to PACC

Empowered By God To Share

BY LUKE LONG

I am so glad to be part of the E-Team as I find that my relationship with our Lord has deepened and my faith much strengthened. I enjoy the time of waiting on the Lord with the E-Team. God never fails to minister to us in one way or another each Wednesday night. Besides praying for salvation of souls, discipling of new believers, we pray for one another and we make time to share our testimonies of how God has blessed and touched us individually and through our reaching out.

Gan, the E-Team coordinator is a great encouragement to each of us through his leadership, prayers and exhortations.

I joined the Evangelism Team two years ago. On Wednesday evenings we will gather to pray earnestly for the lost at Prayer Tower and go out to the harvest field every Saturday afternoon. It is an adventure with the Lord each time I go out to share the Good News.

Before joining the E-Team, I led my two sons, both at very young ages, to accept Christ. But sharing with others is scary for me. Most people we reach out to on Saturdays do not speak English. I remembered asking the E-Team coordinator how to share in other languages or dialects because most of the people we

reach out to on Saturdays do not speak English. He smiled and told me not to worry, "Open your mouth and share, the Holy Spirit will help you."

I started sharing in my broken Cantonese, Mandarin and Bahasa. To my amazement, words that I have heard used by preachers in evangelistic meetings I had attended before, came back to my memory and become alive in me. Even more miraculously, people started nodding their heads to accept Jesus. The rest is history and now I can't find myself anywhere else on Saturdays, but to go out with the e-Team sharing the love of Christ.

这些事以后，神考验亚伯拉罕，对他说：“亚伯拉罕！”他说：“我在这里。”神说：“你要带你儿子，就是你所爱的独子以撒，往摩利亚地去，在我指示你的一座山上，把他献为燔祭。”

…他们到了神指示他的地方，亚伯拉罕在那里筑坛，把柴摆好，绑了他儿子以撒，放在坛的柴上。亚伯拉罕就伸手拿刀，要杀他的儿子。耶和华的使者从天上呼唤他说：“亚伯拉罕！亚伯拉罕！”他说：“我在这里。”天使说：

“不可在这孩子身上下手！一点也不可伤害他！现在我知道你是敬畏神的人了，因为你没有把你的儿子，就是你的独子，留下不给我。”(创22:1-2; 9-12)

我们对宝贵和重要的东西抓住不放，这是很自然的。这可能是我们的时间，家庭，朋友或财物。要放弃那宝贵的东西，是具有挑战性的，有时甚至被视为很愚蠢。但是无论我们抓住不放的是什么东西，它实际上可能会阻碍我们经历更美好的东西。这是真实的，当我们遵从神愿意放弃最宝贵和最宝贵的东西时，我们将经历到神要给我们最好的东西。

在创22:1-19关于亚伯拉罕牺牲以撒的独特记载是一个很好的例子。无论多么苛刻的挑战，当我们凭信心顺服遵行神的旨意的时候，我们就可以领受神的最好。

1 它扩大你的信心

这叙述是以神考验亚伯拉罕开始。

神要亚伯拉罕献上他的儿子以撒为燔祭。在这种情况下亚伯拉罕要顺服神是非常具挑战性的。当你想想看，神的要求是荒谬的。但请注意当受到考验时，亚伯拉罕是如何回应。是的，这要求是超出了他的理解，但是亚伯拉罕明白，不能有任何的妥协。如果神向你说话和挑战你，不要害怕去顺服。当你愿意时，你遵照神的旨意给的无论是什么，将与神最好的作交换。

因为亚伯拉罕愿意顺服神，并献上以撒为燔祭，这产生了影响深远的后果。神对亚伯拉罕说：“你既行了这事，没有留下你的儿子，就是你的独子，我指着自已起誓，我必多多赐福给你，我必使你的后裔大大增多，如同天上的星、海边的沙。你的后裔必得仇敌的城门”(创22:16-17)。神告诉亚伯拉罕，因为他顺服，他会被称为多国的信心之父。这是扩大的信心。藉着这经验，亚伯拉罕意识到在他的生活中他不只是可以在一些领域信靠神，而是他可以在生活的每一个领域信靠神。亚伯拉罕要顺服不是一件容易的事，因为这意味着他不得不杀自己的儿子。但是他顺服了。因此，今天，亚伯拉罕被称为我们的信心之父。

在约6:8，一个小男孩愿意献出自己五饼二鱼的美好午餐。据估计，约有20,000人以五饼二鱼为食！这是把5000人的随行家庭成员算进去。试想一下从那天起，对这小男孩的信



为神的最好， 献上自己最好的

文：王福海牧师

心产生的影响。这个男孩长大后知道，无论他给神什么东西，祂可以倍增来祝福许多人。

在奉献上要顺服神是富有挑战性和高要求的，但是当你凭信心行动时，你的信心就被扩大，且经历神的最好！

2 它打破不可能的事

有时神挑战我们要奉献似乎是不合理的。要求亚伯拉罕献上以撒，这是不合理的，但他顺服了。他违反了人的逻辑思维 and 感情。神尊敬他的信心的行动。

例如，在使用我们的时间和才干服事教会方面。有些人的理由是他们可以利用自己的时间或才干做更多的事，来奉献所得给神的工作。但它不一定是这样的。神可能会挑战你像祂挑战亚伯拉罕那样。奉献给祂你的宝贵的时间和才干来服事祂。凭信心行动。把祂放在首位。敢于打破那不可能的事，以致你的信心不会被抑制。当你打破你不可能的事，神将为你打开巨大的机会之门和祝福。神为亚伯拉罕的燔祭提供了一只公绵羊，而且他得知神是尊敬信心的。打破你不可能的事来经历神的可能性。

3 它建立神的主权和神的目的

在这遭遇的结束时，神告诉亚伯拉罕说：“我必多多赐福给你，我必使你的后裔大大增多，如同天上的星、海边的沙。你的后裔必得仇敌的城门，并且地上的万国都必因你的后裔得福，因为你听从了我的话”(创22:17-18)。神的目的被启示和建立。

神怎么会要求亚伯拉罕杀自己的儿子呢？我们有后见之明知道要亚伯拉罕杀死以撒，这是违反神的性情。就在他要杀他的儿子的时候，他听到一只公绵羊的声音。神永远是按时的。公绵羊就是那燔祭。对这个故事是一个很好的结局，并使亚伯拉罕被列入信心伟人名单中。圣经说：“因着信，亚伯拉罕被考验的时候把以撒献上，这就是那领受了应许的人甘心把自己独生的儿子献上。论到这儿子，神曾说：“从以撒生的才要称为你的后裔。”他认为神甚至能使人从死人中复活，意味着他得回了他的儿子。”(来11:17-19)。亚伯拉罕在他与神同行中已经到了一个地方，在那里他能够信靠和相信神不仅是一位行奇迹的神，也是一位信实的神。

如果你问：“我怎么知道这是神在挑战我呢？”，请留意亚伯拉罕是很清楚的听到神向他说话。你也需要很清楚知道，否则将会混乱。耶稣说：“我的羊认得我的声音”(约10:4)。然后你知道无论发生什么事，你有保证和信心和不会怀疑。

有些人他们在生活里挣扎，因为他们没有献出神要他们向祂献出的东西。不管它是什么，不要不给神你认为是宝贵的东西。让你的心向祂敞开。祈求神向你说话。在祂面前等候。如果需要更长的时间，等候直到你知道是神在挑战你踏出这信心的一步为止。

当神挑战你把最好的献给祂时，要做。祂会把祂最好的给你！这将导致你看到和经历到祂的祝福，能力和奇迹在你生命中。圣经说：“你们若甘心听从，必吃地上的美物”(赛1:19)。

以上经文是采用和合本修订版。

十二月份

中文聚会 与小组圣诞欢庆联合

申请浸礼及会籍
浸礼及会籍课程
日期：8-12-12 (六)
时间：下午一点半

浸礼聚会
日期：9-12-12 (日)
时间：上午十点半
地点：加略山教会 (大堂)

LIVING IN EXPECTATION OF CHRIST'S COMING

BY PASTOR CAROL LIM



[CALVARITES WERE TREATED TO A WONDERFUL TEACHING ON “LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF HIS COMING” BY OUR HONORARY PASTOR, REV. DR. DELMER GYNES AT THE TWO-PART SERIES OF THE RECENT SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH \(SCG\) OPEN SESSIONS HELD ON 12 AND 19 OCTOBER.](#) The main thrust of Pastor Guynes’ teaching was focused on how we are to respond to the prophecies concerning Jesus’ coming, rather than merely knowing about them. The Church needs to be awakened to a greater awareness of the soon return of Jesus.

Be encouraged by some highlights of the first session by Pastor Guynes.

Everyone wants to know when

For 2,000 years, Jesus’ second coming has been said to be very soon. After Jesus went away, there have been many signs and even prophecies fulfilled, but Jesus

hasn’t come yet. Christians expected and anticipated when that day would be. Everyone still wants to know when. It is important that we understand the imminence (nearness) of His coming. But God’s intention is that we do not get so focused on when. Just like every prophecy in the Bible came to pass when it was time, Jesus will come when the Father says it is time. Jesus said, “No one knows the day nor the hour, not even the Son. Only the Father knows the time of His coming!” The fact that nobody knows when Jesus is coming does not compromise the prophetic Word that He is coming.

Everything you have believed and experienced in your Christian life was prophesied

Significant events were long prophesied in the Bible before they came to pass.

For instance the virgin birth of Christ was prophesied about 1,000 years before it came to pass. And the place where Jesus was born was prophesied over 500 years ago. God is not in a hurry. He commits Himself to the prophetic word. If He says it will happen, it will happen. He will keep His Word.

Understand how God wants us to respond to this prophecy

It is important to understand the prophetic intent beyond the prophetic message.

The prophetic word is given to govern the way we live so that when He comes, we are ready. If it is today, or 50 years from now, we are to live that distance anticipating His return. Prophetic teaching helps us live soberly and in a godly way in the midst in this present evil and corrupt world.

(Please go to page 13)



Jerry Loon and wife Heather flanked by their sons, Michael (left) & Mark (right).

GOD IS REAL AND HE IS A PROMISE KEEPING GOD

Jerry Loon was addicted to drugs in the 1970s. He lived only for heroin and got into trouble with the law. Upon his release from prison, he experienced God and life took on a new meaning. It has been almost 30 years now and he is still walking in God's ways.

This is the story of how God changed Jerry's life.

BY JERRY LOON

I WAS RAISED IN A TYPICAL CHINESE BUDDHIST FAMILY, WHERE MY FATHER SPENT MOST OF HIS DAYS WORKING, FENDING FOR THE FAMILY OF 2 BOYS AND 4 GIRLS. My mother was a housewife, taking care of all the domestic affairs of the household. Thus I grew up quite independently, without much teaching or guidance.

I was educated in a missionary school and therefore was exposed to a little bit of Christianity since young but never took anything seriously. In my early years, I did well and was always among the top students until early secondary, when I got involved in triad activities and gangsterism. For survival's sake, my father was linked to some triads and at a tender age, I was

exposed to such activities, though I did not actively participate in them till my teens.

One thing led to another, and before I knew it, I soon became a notorious tyrant in my neighbourhood and hometown; I terrorised my family and whoever stood in my way. As a result of triad activities, I was often on the wrong side of the law. But that was not the worst of it. Things took a really bad turn for me that I did not foresee.

In the early 70's, a new substance called "heroin" made its appearance in Malaysia and being "macho", I tried it and quickly became addicted. I found out the painful way the consequences of heroin addiction. From a "macho" tyrant, I was eventually reduced to being the "scum" of society, leading a lonely life of crime and cheating to support my habit. As the years went by,

things got worse: family relationships became strained; friends avoided me; life was meaningless. I lived only for heroin.

Finally in 1982, I got into trouble with the law again and had to serve a one year prison term. Meanwhile, one of my sisters got saved and started sending me Christian tracts and shared Jesus with me at every opportunity. My mind and heart were very hardened

then, so I dismissed what she said as a waste of time. Little did I know that God was working in the background to deliver me.

Upon my release in 1983, just to please my family, I reluctantly agreed to try out a Christian rehabilitation centre in Petaling Jaya. The first two months were sheer confinement, boredom and meaningless. We had to do Christian activities like personal devotions and Bible study everyday.

I was restless. I was 31 years old, with

no saving, jobless and there seemed to be no future for me. Thus I planned to get out of that place. But God stepped in.

One morning, during devotion I could sense someone else present in the room. I was fearful and suddenly a still small voice said to me, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33). I have never experienced

something like this before, I was shaken but this was the turning point of my life! From that day onwards, my stay at the centre took on a new meaning. I committed myself to finding out more about the source of that still small voice. As I opened myself to God, His Holy Spirit started the work of conviction concerning sin, righteousness and judgment in me. I realised that my problem was not drug addiction but SIN. And that began my journey with our Lord. I took it a day at a time, holding on to the very promise of God and praise God, by

His grace, completed the rehabilitation programme.

After I left the centre, a church member got me a job in a reputable car service centre. God granted me favour and soon I was my boss' trusted assistant. Step by step, God kept His promise to help me. I moved up the corporate ladder rather quickly. Not only that, but He enriched my personal life in wonderful ways. He blessed me with a wonderful wife, Heather, whom I married in 1987. We have two lovely boys and a beautiful home, great in-laws and a fantastic extended family.

It has been almost 30 years now since those early days. God has really worked out His promise to keep me faithful! I am still seeking His kingdom and His righteousness; I am still walking in His way. Truly, God is real and He is a promise-keeping GOD. All we need to do is fervently and faithfully seek Him. We will find everything we need in Jesus. Praise the Lord. ✚

Note: Currently Jerry Loon is serving full time in Calvary Church.

"I was 31 years old, with no saving, jobless and there seemed to be no future for me. Thus I planned to get out of that place. But God stepped in...."

Living In Expectation Of Christ's Coming

(Continued from page 11)

Paul taught, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good work" (Titus 2:11-14).

The grace of God teaches us about complete salvation. The fact that you have received the grace of God is a message in itself and part of that message is the prophetic message. It teaches us about holy living and His return. Salvation is more than getting saved. Through grace we are redeemed from all iniquity. Grace

requires and provides a new way of life and "death" to the old life. Pastor Guynes shared that his life was totally changed when he got saved. His language, mannerisms and ambitions were changed. The prophetic teaching teaches us to deny the ungodly, worldly and lustful in life and focus on higher and better things.

Paul uses the analogy of the husband and wife to speak concerning Christ and the Church. "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

"This is the prophetic destiny of every believer. Jesus is coming for you, His Church. And He wants you to be ready."

Paul's emphasis is on Jesus loving the Church greatly. Husbands will give themselves for their wives, like Christ gives Himself to His bride, the Church. The prophecy is that Jesus is coming for His church to Himself like a bride without wrinkle and blemish. Spiritually, Jesus is preparing you, washing and cleansing you and ironing out all the wrinkles in your life. In ironing clothes, getting the wrinkles out takes a lot of heat. Sometimes the heat God applies is too hot and we squirm. But we have to be in such a position so that He can make us completely perfect.

This is the prophetic destiny of every believer. Jesus is coming for you, His Church. And He wants you to be ready. He is not taking something wrinkled and unclean. Ask God to help you keep this prophetic word burning in your heart. He will come and as we wait for Him, we will find grace to live for Him. "We know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3). When Jesus comes you shall be like Him and be as He is. ✚



26 BAPTISED IN WATER

PRAISE THE LORD FOR THE 26 INDIVIDUALS WHO FOLLOWED THE LORD IN WATER BAPTISM ON 11 NOVEMBER AT THE 10.30AM AND 5PM WORSHIP SERVICES AT DAMANSARA HEIGHTS.

1ST ROW
Left to right

Ng Jun Shen
Lee Mei Yan
Daniel Teh Wei Chian
Karsten Yap Wei Jun
Joshua Yap Wei Jien
Leong Weng Kit
Chong Geraint

2ND ROW
Left to right)

Ng Jin Han
Ng Sue Zenn
Happy Emmanuel Mwakasaka
Ong Lian Hio
Sick Jock Bee
Chang Onn Jeu
Petrina Chong Pik Fong

3RD ROW
Left to right

Elaine Koh Yoke Wooi
Joe Ng Sau Mun
Sonnya Hoo See Wan
Jessyln Quah Shuh Jing
Janice Tong Kai Qing
Chang Mien Jeu

BACK ROW
Left to right

Chang Foong Jeu
Isaac Yap Wei Jie
Ezzine Gideon
Daniel Tong Kai Yang
Vincent Khoo Ting Seong

Not in picture
Noelle Hew Xin Ru

**Next
Water Baptism**

**Water Baptism and
Membership Class**
8 December, 2012
Saturday, 1.30pm

Water Baptism Service
9 December, 2012
Sunday, 10.30am

DEC 20
DEC 12

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Damansara Heights

SUNDAY
8.00 AM/
10.30 AM

Damansara Heights

SUNDAY
5.00 PM

Cheras

SUNDAY
9.00 AM

Damansara Perdana

SUNDAY
10.30 AM

02

Holy Communion



Senior Associate Pastor
Petrina Guneratnam

Associate Pastor
Raymond Yong

Associate Pastor
Richard Yun

Associate Pastor
Richard Yun

09

Associate Pastor
David Seah

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong

Associate Pastor
Steven Kum

Associate Pastor
Steven Kum

16

Associate Pastor
Richard Yun

Associate Pastor
Raymond Yong

Associate Pastor
David Seah

Associate Pastor
David Seah

23



COMBINED CHRISTMAS SERVICE

10 am at Dewan San Choon, Wisma MCA, Jalan Ampang
Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

30

Associate Pastor
Timothy Ong

YEAR END THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Senior Pastor
Prince Guneratnam

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong



*"... Good News of Great Joy...
A Saviour Has Been Born To You...!
(Luke 2:10-11).*

Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam
wish all Calvarites and friends
A Blessed Christmas!

May God's Joy be our gift this Christmas
and bring us close to each other in our homes
and Church family.

We invite you to join us for all the special
services planned for you and family.



CHRISTMAS HOME CELEBRATION 2012

"...Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full" (Luke 14:23).



The respective LGs will be hosting a celebration from **1 – 31 December**.

There will be carol singing, ice-breaker games, testimonies and food. All are welcome.

Registration counters will be opened on 25 November & 2 December at all our Church Services.

01



**SAT 3PM
HAPPILY FOREVER AFTER**

Children's Evangelistic Event
presented by KidsCAT
Venue: Damansara Heights

02



CHILDREN'S PARTY

Concurrent with worship services at all locations

05 – 09

**VBS —
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

5–8 December
9am–5pm
Damansara Heights

9 December
Concurrent with worship services at all locations



10–13

**CALVARY YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULTS CAMP 2012**



Venue: Shahzan Inn, Fraser's Hill
Speaker: Rev. Chadwick Mohan

15

SAT, 3PM – 5PM

**CALVARY YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULTS
CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

Venue: Damansara Heights

Christmas
Around
The World



16



CHILDREN'S PARTY

Concurrent with worship services at all locations

22 & 23

SAT & SUN, 5PM



Venue:
Dewan San Choon,
Wisma MCA
Jalan Ampang,
Kuala Lumpur

Come with your friends
and enjoy the creative
presentations & heart-
warming messages!

23 DEC, 10am

**COMBINED
CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
SERVICE**

At the same venue

8.30am –
Christmas Fellowship

If you have kids
aged 5–11 they
will enjoy the
Children's Party
held concurrently

Nursery care for
children aged 8
months–4 years
will be provided

The service is
concurrently
interpreted into
Cantonese and
Bahasa Malaysia.

30

SUN, 5PM

YEAR END THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Come with a testimony!



CHILDREN'S PARTY

Concurrent with worship services at all locations



CALVARY CHURCH

(Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED | EVANGELICAL | MISSIONARY

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