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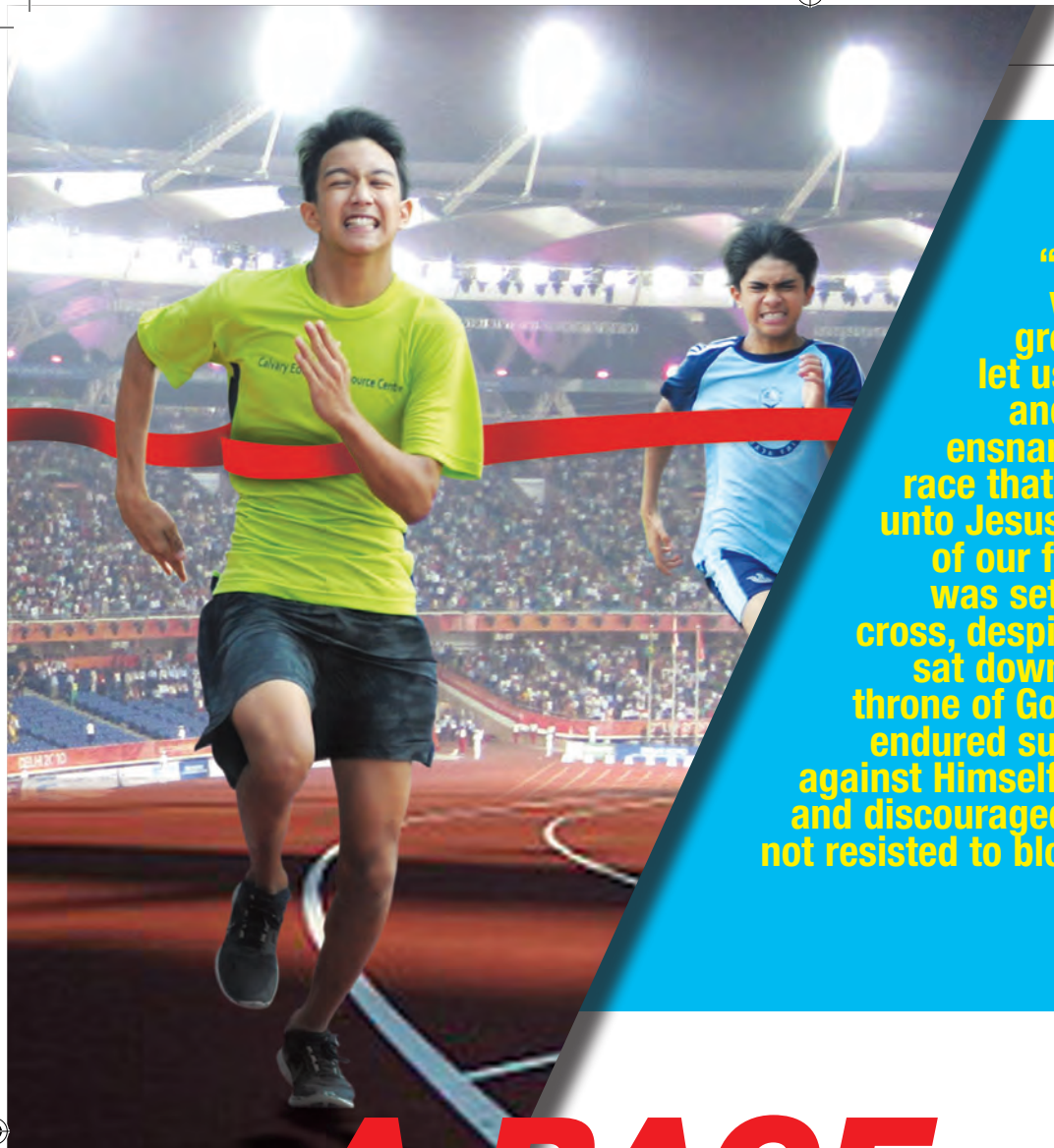
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I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE

**A Race
To Win
- Part 2**

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SPECIAL EASTER REPORTS INSIDE!



“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin”
(Hebrews 12:1-4).

A RACE TO WIN

(PART 2)

By SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

The Christian life is a race to be run and a fight to be fought. We are called to run, to win and to fight the good fight of faith! The Apostle Paul described his life journey as such, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”** (2 Timothy 4:7). It is a challenge of every believer to fight the good fight of faith and to finish the race. When we stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ we want to hear Him say, **“Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord”** (Matthew 25:21).

We are not the only ones running the race. The Bible says, **“We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses”** (Hebrews 12:1). This cloud of witnesses are the heroes of faith who ran the race successfully and now provide us the motivation and encouragement we need. The writer of Hebrews mentioned 17 separate individuals and states that

time and space do not allow him to list all who had ran the race before us. He also described what some of them had to face to win the race (Hebrews 11:32-40). The Christian race can cause us to be weary and bring discouragement. The race is challenging and there is the temptation to quit. But consider what Jesus had to face. The Bible says, **“... Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him ...who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls** (Hebrews 12:2-3). He endured the cross, the shame, hostility, hatred and misjudgement. The exhortation is to look to Jesus when the going gets tough. He endured and is now exalted and sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus promised us His grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9) and the Holy Spirit will empower us (Acts 1:8).

The writer of Hebrews tells us how we can be successful.

First, He says, **"Let us lay aside every weight"**.

WEIGHTS are not sins, but are the extra baggages that we carry which hinders us from running to win, living a testimony for God. For example, to join the Royal Malaysian Police force, one has to fulfill certain criteria to be able to discharge one's duties well. One of these criteria is the weight issue. An overweight cop will not be physically fit. This is true in the spiritual sense. When you are not disciplined spiritually, then you will not be spiritually fit and in shape to live for Jesus and to run the race. We must understand the importance to put off unnecessary weights that hinder us as explained in Part One of this message.

There are also requirements for policemen to be promoted. One of them is to run some 2.4 kilometers within a specified time limit, depending on age and gender. This shows it is important for the policeman to maintain physical health and fitness, as his promotion depends on it. The discipline we face in life is to make matured believers and prepare them for heaven.

Another area of **DISCIPLINE** that needs endurance is a change in lifestyle. Before you were born again, you led a worldly lifestyle. You did what you liked, went where ever you wanted to go and made decision at your own will. But as a born again believer, Jesus Christ is the Lord of your life, you live to obey and please Him and that takes discipline. A change in lifestyle requires endurance. It takes effort and time when we try to put off weights and sin that so easily besets us because we are creatures of habit. Endurance is needed to press on, in spite of the pain and struggles that come with living a victorious Christian life.

PATIENCE is having the will power not to give up, when disciplined by circumstances. The word "patience" is not passive but active. To be patient is to have a spirit of perseverance. You take life by the horns and rise up to the occasion by not gravitating to carnal desires. Endurance is having the strength to stay on the course until you win!

The Bible says, **"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"** (Romans 12:12). There is hope in your patience and you can rejoice in that hope. It is said of the bulldog, when it bites, it does not let go because of the way its nose is structured. You too can persevere and win.

The Bible also says very clearly, **"By your patience possess your souls"** (Luke 21:19) and to **"... count it all joy when you fall into various trials"** (James 1:2). James was talking to believers when he said, "... knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." Then God's work in you will be perfected and completed. "Half baked" believers are those who lack patience and endurance because they fail to understand that God has called us to run the race and fight to win. Winning makes you perfect and complete in the will and plan of God in your life.

Let us look at Jesus, who endured the cross, despised the shame and the hostility from sinners.

1. **He was born to an unwed mother** (Matthew 1:18-19).
2. **He was born in a stable, the worst of conditions** (Luke 2:7).
3. **He was born to poor parents** (Luke 2:24).
4. **Having His life threatened as a baby** (Matthew 2:13).
5. **He was the cause of unimaginable sorrow** (Matthew 2:16). King Herod was fearful that there was a king to be born. And he decreed that every child under the age of two needed to be killed.
6. **He fled from where He was to a land that was foreign to Him** (Matthew 2:13).
7. **He was from a place called Nazareth, that was insignificant** (Luke 2:39). Today it is a tourist place because there is a little landmark there to indicate Jesus' birthplace.
8. **His father died when He was a youth** (Matthew 13:53-58). Nothing is really mentioned of Jesus until He was thirty. We hear about His birth, baptism and his ministry when He was thirty.
9. **He had no home to even lay His head** (Matthew 8:20; Luke 9:58).

10. **He was hated and opposed by the priests and scribes** (Mark 14:1-2).
11. **He was charged with insanity** (Mark 3:21).
12. **He was charged with demon possession** (Mark 3:22).
13. **He was rejected, hated and opposed by audiences to whom He spoke** (Matthew 13:53-58; Luke 4:28-29).
14. **He was betrayed by a close friend** (Mark 14:10-11, 18). He had chosen twelve and one of them betrayed Him.
15. **He was left alone, rejected and forsaken by all His friends** (Mark 14:50).
16. **He was tried before the High court of the land with false charges against Him** (John 18:29-35).
17. **He was executed by crucifixion, the worst possible death** (John 19:16). He died a criminal.

Jesus had a race to run. He disciplined Himself, endured the cross, shame and hostility. And He triumphed. Today, He is sitting down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Let us run the race and be faithful, keeping our eyes on Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith.

You may have many goals in life, but the ultimate goal is to be like Jesus. God is calling the Church to run the Christian race to win and to fight the good fight of faith. Paul says, "As it is written: **'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord**" (Romans 8:36-39).

All Bible quotations are from the New King James version.



THE STORY

A Fresh Take On Jesus : He Came For



Photographs by: David Tan, Henry Tai, Ler Mei Yee & Matthew Lee
Main Narrator: Lyndon D'Oliveiro (Middle Row, 3rd Right)
Other Narrators: Sophia Abraham, Abigail Gomez, David Peter (Top Left, L to R)



ORY

For You



Main: "The Story" production team group photo with Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam

*Top left & 2nd Row: Narrators,
Delightful dance by trio
3rd Row: (L to R) Followers of
Jesus; Jesus being flogged; Main
narrator
Bottom Row: Choir and soloists
singing
Left: Pastor Lawrence Khong
Below: Jesus crucified*



"The Story", a musical presented on Good Friday, 18 April 2014 at Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) was produced by the 150-strong Music and Creative Arts team of Calvary Church.

The musical tells the story of Jesus. The opening act begins with declaring that Jesus came to love, to heal and to serve. He came to redeem, to renew and to save you.

Clever use of the media, crisp storyline by narrators, anointed singing and strong support from the creative team facilitated an authentic and vivid presentation that touched many. Praise God for the whole cast who were blessed with a freshness and sincerity.

At the close of the musical, Rev. Lawrence Khong preached on "The New Covenant - AHA! It's A Deal". The message that Jesus came to redeem and to save was reinforced.





SPECIAL TOUCH OF GOD AT CCC

Praise God for His favour and anointing upon every service!

Calvary Church had much to rejoice over the Easter weekend, 18-20 April at the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC).

The Church family came out in full force for both the Good Friday service and Easter Sunday morning worship service. And the three evangelistic presentations were packed to the hilt. A total of 19,151 were in attendance with the highest attendance of 5,441 for the Sunday night performance. There were 731 altar call responses (152 for salvations, 244 for rededication and 335 for other needs).

Praise God for this wonderful cause for rejoicing. At the Easter Sunday morning service, Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam declared that this is the very reason CCC was built, to impact the city of Kuala Lumpur, the nation and beyond. Truly, Calvarites are grateful for the Lord's faithfulness and favour upon us as a church.

The Good Friday service marked our first anniversary at CCC. We had a beautiful service and were blessed by "The Story", a musical presented by The Music and Creative Arts Team and the message by Rev. Lawrence Khong entitled, "The New Covenant – AHA! It's a deal".

The new covenant which Jesus created through His crucifixion and resurrection opened the way for man to have a relationship with God. This is a deal we cannot refuse. Why? Firstly, Jesus brought us freedom from the bondage of sin. Secondly, salvation is free because Jesus paid the price for our sin with His own blood. Thirdly, the covenant is forever because Jesus conquered death through His resurrection!

During altar call, many responded to the invitation to receive Christ as Saviour while believers were encouraged to renew our commitment to Jesus. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed for all respondents at the altar.

Clockwise from top left:
 "He's Alive" dance and song number; Senior Pastor praying for altar respondents; Senior Pastor welcomes all present; Pastor Guynes shares the Easter message; Pastor Khong preaches at close of each presentation of "Star of Wonder"; Music & Creative Arts Team's exuberant "Happy Day" presentation; Worship ensemble leading in worship; Church family worshipping our risen Lord





OVER THE EASTER WEEKEND

At each of the **three evangelistic presentation** of "The Star Of Wonder", the auditorium was packed. The audience enjoyed the magical presentation of faith, hope and love and the inspiring Gospel message by Pastor Khong. He shared that no matter how well our bodies and souls are taken care of, we will face emptiness and darkness because the spirit part of our being which is God-made can only be fulfilled by Him! Jesus is the light of the world. He can conquer all darkness in our lives. At the close of each presentation, opportunity was given to respond for salvation and many did.

On **Easter Sunday morning** there was great rejoicing as Calvarites gathered to worship and praise our risen Lord. The Music and Creative Arts team presented part 2 of the musical, "The Story" on the resurrection which included two lively songs and dance.

Honorary Pastor Dr. Delmer Guynes' message, "He Became Like Us That We

Might Become Like Him" was powerful and enlightening. Jesus was God who became a mortal limited man to die on the cross for our sin. But He conquered death and resurrected. He revealed Himself to His disciples and followers in His resurrected body in the forty days preceding His ascension. Paul understood this truth, and was much encouraged that when Jesus comes again, He will change our weak mortal bodies into glorious and incorruptible bodies (Philippians 3:20-21). This is our destiny through faith in Jesus who is our redeemer.

At the altar call, Senior Pastor prayed that we will move forward and rise to a higher level in our faith. May we continue to experience the resurrection power of Jesus and be transformed for His glory and be a testimony for Him.





STAR OF WONDER

An Uplifting Magical Presentation On Faith, Hope And Love

The magical presentation "Star of Wonder" played to good audiences at the Calvary Convention Centre at all three performances on 19-20 April, 2014. Young and old, the audience thoroughly enjoyed the repertoire of breathtaking illusions performed by the father and daughter team, Rev. Lawrence Khong and Priscilla Khong.

An exciting opening dance number provided an impressive start and the sense of wonder heightened with the unfolding of each act. It was a treat for the audience to see world class illusions executed.

This magical presentation is unlike any other. For one, the magician is a pastor and an eloquent one at that. A dynamic preacher Pastor Khong shares an inspiring Easter message through the illusions, dance, song, testimonies and his knack for down to earth illustrations with humour. The Biblical themes of faith, hope and love were well driven home.

At the close of each production, the Good News was shared and many responded to the invitation for salvation.

Photographs by : Joe Lin, David Tan, Henry Tai and Matthew Low

Production : A collaborative effort between Calvary Church and Gateway Entertainment
(an arm of Faith Community Baptist Church, Singapore).



*Top: Auditorium packed;
Bottom: Good altar response
at every production;
Right pg: Captivating
repertoire of illusions by
talented duo, Pastor Khong
and daughter Priscilla
(bottom: Calvarite "bunnies")*





Dimensions Extended 'Uniquely ME'

BY ESTHER WONG



Clockwise from top left:

Illustrating the temperaments through a skit; Sister Petrina giving the closing exhortation; Ladies enjoying fellowship and food at the pre-workshop breakfast; Liao Qui Lin explaining the characteristics of the temperaments; Amy Tan leading the ladies through the worksheet; Pastor Lee Peng sharing a message on "The Spirit Controlled Temperament"; Ladies being ministered to at the altar



"Know yourself, know others and make your uniqueness work for you" - the tagline on the promotional slide reads.

With this in mind, 108 ladies attended the Personality Profiling workshop on Saturday 29 March, 2014 with a sense of anticipation. It was a delight to see the teenagers, young adults and adults equally blessed in the session. More than 50% of the participants present had their first 'feel' of a Dimensions event.

The morning began with a delicious breakfast of Nasi Lemak from Village Park. After a time of worship led by Oi Ying and the worship team, Pastor Shereen Wong introduced the workshop facilitators comprising Amy Tan, an experienced Human Resources manager, Carol Weller, a lay counsellor and Liao Qui Lin, a certified trainer in the DISC Personality Assessment.

Carol began with a brief history of the Four Temperaments theory dating back to 400 BC with Hippocrates that was further developed by Christian psychologists over the years. The personality temperament test for the workshop was based on materials by well-known Christian author Tim La Haye. Having distinguished the difference between temperament, character and personality, Amy then led the ladies through the temperament test.

Qui Lin gave a vivacious presentation on the four basic temperaments that drew much laughter and delight from the ladies as they saw themselves in the characteristics of the Sanguine, Choleric, Melancholy and Phlegmatic.



The ladies were thoroughly entertained by a hilarious skit illustrating the four different temperaments in action. There was not a single lady present who could not relate to at least one of these characters. Following the test, the ladies had a fun time sharing the temperament combination that was uniquely theirs.

Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng shared a short devotion on the Spirit-Controlled Temperament. She explained that we should not just accept the weaknesses of our respective temperaments, but allow the Holy Spirit to work within us and change us from the inside out. A constant feeding of our minds with the Word of God and complete yielding to the Holy Spirit are vital to cultivating the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Who we are at the end of the day is more important than what we do because who we are will determine the success of what we do.

In closing, the ladies were given an opportunity to respond at the altar to trade in their weaknesses for a Spirit-controlled temperament and be who God has intended them to be, captivating in their own unique ways. The theme song chosen by the worship team, 'Divine Exchange' aptly captured the essence of the workshop objectives.

Senior Associate Pastor Sister Petrina Guneratnam concluded with prayer for the ladies and a final encouragement to them to keep coming for the future Dimensions Extended events.

Praise God for opening the eyes of the ladies and letting them embrace the different personalities God has created to bring colours to our beautiful world.

Three Babies Dedicated to the Lord

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam dedicated three babies to the Lord on 24 February 2014 at the Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre (CCC). He together with Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam then prayed for the parents that they will bring up their children in the nurture and the ways of the Lord.



K.K. Abraham & Cynthia Tham
with baby Alvin
John K.
Abraham



Wong Chee Weng & Crystal
with baby Ezekiel
Wong Yong Shun



Jason Tan & Wei Chee
with baby Michelle Tan
Yu Ann



“Karena kita mempunyai banyak saksi, bagaikan awan yang mengelilingi kita, marilah kita menanggalkan semua beban dan dosa yang begitu merintangi kita, dan berlomba dengan tekun dalam perlombaan yang diwajibkan bagi kita. Marilah kita melakukannya dengan mata yang tertuju kepada Yesus, yang memimpin kita dalam iman, dan yang membawa iman kita itu kepada kesempurnaan, yang dengan mengabaikan kehinaan tekun memikul salib ganti sukacita yang disediakan bagi Dia, yang sekarang duduk di sebelah kanan takhta Tuhan. Ingatlah selalu akan Dia, yang tekun menanggung bantahan yang sehebat itu terhadap diri-Nya dari pihak orang-orang berdosa, supaya jangan kamu menjadi lemah dan putus asa. Dalam pergumulan kamu melawan dosa kamu belum sampai mencururkan darah” (Ibrani 12:1-4).

PERLUMBAAN UNTUK KEMENANGAN

Oleh PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

(Bahagian 2)

Kehidupan Kristian adalah satu perlumbaan yang perlu ditandingi dan perjuangan yang perlu diperjuangkan. Kita dipanggil untuk berlari, untuk menang dan untuk bertanding dalam pertandingan iman yang baik! Rasul Paulus menggambarkan perjalanan hidupnya seperti, **“Aku telah mengakhiri pertandingan yang baik, aku telah mencapai garis akhir dan aku telah memelihara iman”** (2 Timotius 4:7). Ia adalah satu cabaran bagi setiap penganut beriman untuk bertanding dalam pertandingan dengan baik dan untuk mengakhiri perlumbaan itu. Apabila kita berdiri di hadapan Takhta Penghakiman Kristus kita mahu mendengar-Nya berkata, **“Baik sekali perbuatanmu itu, hai hambaku yang baik dan setia; engkau telah setia dalam perkara kecil, aku akan memberikan kepadamu tanggungjawab dalam perkara yang besar. Masuklah dan turutlah dalam kebahagiaan tuanmu”** (Matius 25:21).

Bukan kita sahaja yang satu-satunya bertanding dalam perlumbaan. Alkitab

mengatakan, **“Karena kita mempunyai banyak saksi, bagaikan awan yang mengelilingi kita”** (Ibrani 12:1). Awan besar saksi-saksi ini adalah wira-wira beriman yang berjaya dalam perlumbaan dan kini memberikan kita dorongan dan galakan yang kita perlukan. Penulis Ibrani menyebut 17 orang individu berasingan dan menyatakan bahawa masa dan ruang tidak membenarkan dia menyenaraikan semua yang telah bertanding dalam perlumbaan terdahulu. Dia juga menyifatkan apa sebahagian daripada mereka terpaksa hadapi untuk memenangi perlumbaan itu (Ibrani 11:32-40).

Perlumbaan Kristian boleh menyebabkan kita menjadi letih dan membawa kekecewaan. Perlumbaan itu adalah mencabar dan terdapat godaan untuk berhenti. Tetapi pertimbangkanlah apa yang Yesus terpaksa hadapi. Alkitab mengatakan, **“...Yesus tekun memikul salib ganti sukacita yang disediakan bagi Dia, yang sekarang duduk di sebelah kanan takhta Tuhan. Ingatlah selalu akan Dia, yang tekun menanggung bantahan yang sehebat itu terhadap diri-Nya dari pihak**

orang-orang berdosa, supaya jangan kamu menjadi lemah dan putus asa (Ibrani 12:2-3). Dia bertekun menanggung dengan memikul salib, hinaan, permusuhan, kebencian dan ketidakadilan. Pengajaran ini adalah untuk kita memandang kepada Yesus apabila menghadapi kesukaran. Dia telah bertekun dan kini dimuliakan dan sedang duduk di sebelah kanan takhta Tuhan. **Yesus berjanji kepada kita bahawa kasih karunia-Nya adalah mencukupi** (2 Korintus 12:9) dan **Roh Kudus akan memberi kuasa kepada kita** (Kisah Para Rasul 1:8).

Penulis Ibrani Memberitahu Kita Bagaimana Kita Boleh Berhasil.

Pertama, Dia berkata, **“Mari kita mengenyahkan setiap beban”**.

Beban bukanlah dosa, tetapi bagasi tambahan yang kita pikul yang menghalang kita daripada bertanding untuk menang dalam hidup dengan bersaksi untuk Tuhan. Sebagai contoh, untuk menyertai pasukan Polis Diraja Malaysia, seseorang perlu memenuhi syarat-syarat tertentu untuk menjalankan tugasnya dengan sempurna.

Salah satu daripada syarat-syarat ini adalah isu berat. Seorang anggota polis yang berat badannya berlebihan tidak sesuai dari segi fizikal. Ini adalah benar dalam pengertian kerohanian. Apabila kamu tidak berdisiplin dalam kerohanian, maka kamu tidak sesuai dari segi kerohanian dan kehidupan untuk Yesus dan bertanding dalam perlumbaan. Kita mesti memahami kepentingannya untuk mengurangkan berat tambahan yang menghalang kita seperti yang dijelaskan dalam Bahagian Pertama mesej ini.

Terdapat juga syarat-syarat kenaikan pangkat bagi anggota polis. Salah satunya adalah berlari sepanjang 2.4 kilometer dalam had masa yang ditetapkan, mengikut umur dan jantina. Ini menunjukkan bahawa ia adalah penting bagi anggota polis untuk mengekalkan kesihatan fizikal dan kecergasan, di mana kenaikan pangkat bergantung kepadanya. Disiplin yang kita hadapi dalam hidup adalah untuk memantapkan orang yang beriman dan menyediakan mereka untuk ke syurga.

Satu lagi bahagian **disiplin** yang memerlukan ketekunan ialah perubahan dalam cara kehidupan. Sebelum kamu lahir baru, kamu hidup dalam cara kehidupan duniawi. Kamu bertindak melakukan dengan sesuka hati, pergi ke mana yang kamu mahu dan membuat keputusan mengikut kehendakmu sendiri. Tetapi sebagai orang yang beriman dilahirkan semula, Yesus Kristus adalah Tuhan dalam hidupmu, kamu hidup untuk mentaati dan menyenangkan hatiNya dan itu memerlukan disiplin. Perubahan dalam cara hidup memerlukan ketekunan kerana ia memerlukan usaha dan masa apabila kita cuba mengurangkan beban dan dosa yang begitu mudah menimpa kita disebabkan kita adalah manusia biasa. Ketekunan perlu berterusan walaupun sakit dan pergumulan yang disertai dengan kehidupan Kristian yang berkemenangan.

Kesabaran adalah penguasaan keazaman yang tidak berputus asa, apabila didisiplin oleh keadaan. Perkataan “kesabaran” bukan pasif tetapi aktif. Bersabar ialah mempunyai semangat ketekunan. Kamu berpegang kuat pada kehidupan dan bangkit bersama keadaan dengan tidak tertarik kepada keinginan nafsu. Ketekunan adalah memiliki kekuatan untuk kekal dalam perjalanan sehingga kamu mencapai kemenangan!

Alkitab mengatakan, **“Bersukacitalah dalam pengharapan, sabarlah dalam kesesakan, dan bertekunlah dalam doa!”** (Roma 12:12). Terdapat harapan dalam kesabaranmu dan kamu boleh bergembira dalam harapan itu. Ada dikatakan mengenai anjing ‘bulldog’, bahawa apabila ia

menggigit, ia tidak akan melepaskan disebabkan oleh cara hidungnya distrukturkan. Kamu juga boleh bertahan dan menang.

Alkitab juga mengatakan dengan jelas, **“Kalau kamu tetap bertahan, kamu akan memperoleh hidupmu”** (Lukas 21:19) dan **“... anggaplah sebagai suatu kebahagiaan, apabila kamu jatuh ke dalam berbagai-bagai pencobaan”** (Yakobus 1:2). Yakobus sedang berbicara dengan orang beriman apabila dia berkata, “... sebab kamu tahu, bahwa ujian terhadap imanmu itu menghasilkan ketekunan”. Barulah kerja Tuhan dalam kamu akan disempurnakan dan dilengkapkan. Orang yang beriman “separuh masak” adalah mereka yang kurang bersabar dan bertahan kerana mereka gagal memahami bahawa Tuhan telah memanggil kita untuk bertanding dalam perlumbaan dan berjuang untuk kemenangan. Kemenangan membuatkan kamu sempurna dan lengkap dalam kehendak dan rencana Tuhan untuk hidupmu.

Mari kita melihat Yesus yang tekun memikul salib, mengabaikan kehinaan dan permusuhan daripada orang-orang berdosa. Hari ini, Dia duduk di sebelah kanan takhta Tuhan.

1. **Dilahirkan daripada ibu yang tidak berkahwin** (Matius 1:18-19).
2. **Dilahirkan dalam kandang kuda, keadaan yang paling teruk** (Lukas 2:7).
3. **Dilahirkan kepada ibu bapa yang miskin** (Lukas 2:24).
4. **Hidupnya terancam apabila Dia masih seorang bayi lagi** (Matius 2:13).
5. **Menjadi punca kesedihan yang tidak dapat dibayangkan** (Matius 2:16). Raja Herodes ketakutan bahawa terdapat seorang raja yang akan dilahirkan. Dan dia menitahkan bahawa setiap kanak-kanak di bawah usia dua tahun harus dibunuh.
6. **Terpaksa dipindah dan beralih ketika masih seorang bayi. Melarikan diri dari mana Dia berada dan berlari ke tanahair yang asing bagi-Nya** (Matius 2:13).
7. **Dipelihara di sebuah tempat bernama Nazaret yang tidak penting** (Lukas 2:39). Hari ini ia adalah tempat pelancongan disebabkan terdapat tanah petanda kecil di sana yang menunjukkan tempat lahir Yesus.
8. **Mempunyai seorang bapa yang meninggal dunia dalam usia muda** (Matius 13:53-58). Tiada apa-apa yang disebut mengenai Yesus sehingga Dia berumur tiga puluh tahun. Kita mendengar mengenai kelahiran, pembaptisan dan pelayanannya apabila Dia berusia tiga puluh tahun.

9. **Tidak mempunyai tempat tinggal untuk meletakkan kepala -Nya** (Matius 8:20; Lukas 9:58).
10. **Dibenci dan ditentang oleh para imam dan ahli Taurat** (Markus 14 :1-2).
11. **Dianggap sebagai tidak siuman** (Markus 3:21).
12. **Dianggap sebagai dirasuk setan** (Markus 3:22).
13. **Ditolak, dibenci dan ditentang oleh mereka yang hadir semasa Dia berbicara** (Matius 13:53-58; Lukas 4:28-29).
14. **Dikhianati oleh semua sahabat karibNya** (Mark 14:10-11, 18). Dia telah memilih 12 dan salah satu daripada mereka telah mengkhianati Dia.
15. **Ditinggalkan sendirian, ditolak dan ditinggalkan oleh semua sahabatNya** (Markus 14:50).
16. **Dibicarakan di hadapan mahkamah tinggi di tempat itu dengan tuduhan yang palsu terhadap-Nya** (Yohanes 18:29-35).
17. **Dihukum mati dengan penyaliban, kematian yang paling buruk** (Yohanes 19:16). Dia mati sebagai seorang penjenayah.

Yesus mempunyai satu perlumbaan untuk berlari, Dia memperdisiplinkan diriNya, menanggung pemikulan salib, hinaan dan permusuhan. Dan Dia telah menang. Marilah kita berlari dalam perlumbaan dan setia, memandang kepada Yesus sebagai pengarang dan penyempurna iman kita.

Kamu mungkin mempunyai banyak matlamat dalam kehidupan, tetapi matlamat yang utama adalah untuk menjadi seperti Yesus. Tuhan sedang memanggil GerejaNya untuk bertanding dalam perlumbaan Kristian untuk kemenangan dan berjuang dalam perjuangan dengan iman yang baik. Paulus berkata, “Seperti ada tertulis: **“Oleh karena Engkau kami ada dalam bahaya maut sepanjang hari, kami telah dianggap sebagai domba-domba sembelihan. Tetapi dalam semuanya itu kita lebih dari pada orang-orang yang menang, oleh Dia yang telah mengasihi kita. 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 8:36-39).

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari versi Terjemahan Baru.

赢得赛跑(二)

文：古纳南主任牧师

「我们既有这许多的见证人，如同云彩围着我们，就当放下各样的重担，脱去容易缠累我们的罪，存心忍耐，奔那摆在我们前头的路程，仰望为我们信心创始成终的耶稣。他因那摆在前面的喜乐，就轻看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦难，便坐在神宝座的右边。那忍受罪人这样顶撞的，你们要思想，免得疲倦灰心。你们与罪恶相争，还没有抵挡到流血的地步」(来12:1-4)。

基督徒的人生是一个赛跑和一场争战的人生。我们被召要跑完，要赢得赛跑和打那美好的信心之仗！使徒保罗如此描述了他的人生旅程，「那美好的仗我已经打过了，当跑的路我已经跑尽了，所信的道我已经守住了」(提后4:7)。这是每一个信徒的挑战，要打那美好的信心之仗，并跑完当跑的赛程。当我们站在基督的审判台前，我们想听到祂说：「好，你这又良善又忠心的仆人。可以进来享受你主人的快乐」(太25:21)。

我们不是唯一在赛跑的人。圣经上说：「我们既有这许多的见证人，如同云彩围着我们」(来12:1)。这些如同云彩围着我们的见证人，是成功地跑完当跑的赛程的信心英雄，并现在供给我们所需要的动力和鼓励。希伯来书的作者提到17位不同的人士，并指出时间和空间不容许他列出所有在我们之前已经跑完赛程的人。他也描述了其中一些人为要赢得赛跑必须面对的事(来11:32-40)。

基督徒的赛跑能令我们疲惫和导致气馁。这场赛跑是充满挑战，和有要放弃的引诱。但思想耶稣必须面对的事情。圣经上说：「...耶稣就轻看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦难，便坐在神宝座的右边。那忍受罪人这样顶撞的，你们要思想，免得疲倦灰心」(来12:2-3)。他忍受了十字架的苦难，羞辱，顶撞，仇恨和判断不公。这里的劝勉是当事情变得艰难时要仰望耶稣。祂忍受了苦难，现在被高举，坐在神宝座的右边。耶稣应许我们祂的恩典够我们用(林后12:9)，圣灵会赋予我们能力(徒1:8)。

希伯来书的作者告诉我们如何能成功。

首先，他说，「让我们放下各样的重担」。重担是不是罪行，而是我们背负的额外包袱，它阻碍我们赢得赛跑，不能在生活中为神作见证。例如，要加入马来西亚皇家警察部队，一个人必须符合某些标准，才能有效地履行其职责。其中的一个标准是体重的问题。一个超重的警察在体格上是不健康。在属灵观念上这是真实的。当你没有属灵的纪律生活，那么你就不会在灵命上保持健康为耶稣而活，并赢得赛跑。我们必须明白放下不必要和阻碍我们的重担的重要性，正如在这个信息的第一部分里所解释的。

关于警察的晋升也有必要条件。其中之一是按年龄和性别，要在规定时限内跑完大约2.4公里的路程。这说明警察必须保持身体的健康和健壮是重要的，因为他的晋升取决于它。我们生活中面对的纪律是要使信徒成熟，并为他们做好进入天堂的准备。

另一个需要存心忍耐的纪律领域是改变生活方式。

在你重生之前，你过著一个世俗的生活方式。你做你喜欢的事，去你想去的地方。以你自己的意愿做出决定。但作为一个重生的信徒，耶稣基督是你生命的主，你活著是要顺服祂和讨祂的喜悦，这是需要纪律的。生活方式的改变需要存心忍耐，因为当我们试图放下重担和容易缠累我们的罪，它需要努力和时间，因为我们是受习惯支配的人。存心忍耐是向著目标直跑，尽管有因过得胜的基督徒生活而来的痛苦和挣扎。

耐心是有不放弃的意志力，当遇到环境磨练时。「耐心」这词不是被动的而是主动的。耐心是有坚忍的精神。你勇敢的面对当前生活的困难和起来面对挑战，不受肉体的欲望牵引。存心忍耐是有坚持跑到终点的能力，直到你赢了！

圣经上说：「在指望中要喜乐；在患难中要忍耐；祷告要恒切」(罗12:12)。在你的忍耐中有盼望，你可以在盼望中有喜乐。据说叭喇狗，当牠咬人时，牠是不会放开的因为这是牠鼻子的构造。你也可以坚忍下去并获胜。

圣经也说得很清楚：「你们常存忍耐，就必保全灵魂」(路21:19)。并以「...你们落在百般试炼中，都要以为大喜乐」(雅1:2)。雅各是在向信徒说话当他说：「...因为知道你们的信心经过试验，就生忍耐」。那么神在你里面的工作将会完全和完成。「不成熟」的信徒是那些缺乏耐心和忍耐的人，因为他们不明白，神呼召我们要来跑完当跑的路，并打哪美好的仗。胜利使你在神对你的生命中的旨意和计划完全和完成。让我们来看看耶稣，祂忍受了十字架的苦难，轻看羞辱和忍受罪人这样的顶撞。今天，祂便坐在神宝座的右边。

- 1) 祂是由一位未婚妈妈所生(太1:18-19)。
- 2) 祂出生在一个在马槽里，最坏的环境(路2:7)。
- 3) 祂出生于贫穷父母的家庭(路2:24)。
- 4) 当婴孩时，祂的生命受到威胁(太2:13)。
- 5) 成为难以想象的悲痛的原因(太2:16)。希律王害怕有一位君王就要诞生。于是他下令每个凡两岁以下的男孩都要被杀。
- 6) 当婴孩时，祂需要搬迁。从祂所在的地方里逃离，并逃往一个陌生的国家(太2:13)。
- 7) 在一个微不足道，名叫拿撒勒的地方长大(路2:39)。今天，它是一个旅游景点，因为在那里有一个地标指示耶稣诞生的地点。
- 8) 在祂少年时期，祂的父亲去世了(太13:53-58)。没有提到耶稣的事迹，直到祂三十岁。我们听到有关祂的出生，洗礼和祂的事工是在祂三十岁的时候。
- 9) 祂甚至没有家，没有枕头的地方(太8:20；路9:58)。

- 10) 祂被祭司和文士憎恨和反对(可14:1-2)。
- 11) 祂被控告癫狂(可3:21)。
- 12) 祂被控告有恶魔附身(可3:22)。
- 13) 祂被祂所教导的听众厌弃，憎恨和反对(太13:53-58；路4:28-29)。
- 14) 祂被一位亲密的朋友出卖了(可14:10-11，18)。祂拣选了十二位门徒和其中一位背叛了祂。
- 15) 留下独自一人，祂被祂所有的朋友厌弃和离弃(可14:50)。
- 16) 祂在衙门受审，以假的罪名指控祂(约18:29-35)。
- 17) 祂被钉死在十字架，最残酷坏的死亡(约翰19:16)。祂是以罪犯被处死。

耶稣有当跑的路，祂自己有纪律生活，忍受了十字架的苦难，羞辱和顶撞。祂获胜了。让我们赛跑，并忠心，仰望为我们信心创始成终的耶稣。

你可能在生活中有许多目标，但终极的目标是要成为耶稣的样式。神呼召教会要赢得基督徒的赛跑，为真道打那美好的仗。保罗说：「如经上所记：我们为的缘故终日被杀；人看我们如将宰的羊。然而，靠着爱我们的主，在这一切的事上已经得胜有余了。因为我深信无论是死，是生，是天使，是掌权的，是有能的，是现在的事，是将来的事，是高大的，是低处的，是别的受造之物，都不能叫我们与神的爱隔绝；这爱是在我们的主基督耶稣里的」(罗8:36-39)。

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合本。

中文团契

观赏影片(粵)：生命是奇迹
人生最大的奇迹是找到盼望！

请携带朋友一起来发现什么是我们最大的恐惧，并学习如何克服它！

日期：25-5-14(日)

时间：早上十一点半

地点：CCC, 影剧院1, B2
(敬备茶点招待)

申请浸礼及会籍

浸礼及会籍课程

日期：14-6-14(六)

时间：下午一点

地点：加略山教会

浸礼聚会

日期：14-6-14(六)

时间：下午五点

地点：加略山教会(大堂)

报名截止日期：4-5-14

2014 SERVICE SCHEDULE

DAMANSARA HEIGHTS

Saturday ■ 5.00pm

CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE

Sunday ■ 9.00am

MAY

Associate Pastor
Steven Kum

* **MAY 3**

Senior Pastor
Prince Guneratnam

* **MAY 4**

Associate Pastor
David Seah

MAY 10

Mother's Day
Guest Speaker
Dr. Sung-Hae Kim Cho

MAY 11

Associate Pastor
Richard Yun

MAY 17

Deacons Installation
Senior Pastor
Prince Guneratnam

MAY 18

Associate Pastor
Raymond Yong

MAY 24

Membership Intake
Associate Pastor
David Seah

MAY 25

* Holy Communion

Associate Pastor
Peter Ong

* **MAY 31**

TAMAN NEGARA ADVENTURE!

Organized by the **Royal Rangers**



Bring your family for this adventure to Malaysia's premier national park. Some highlights:

- Feast your eyes on God's splendid creation.
- Explore our primary forest.
- World's longest suspended canopy walk.
- Spot indigenous flora, fauna, butterflies and birds in the park.
- Boat cruise.

Date : 27 – 29 July 2014

Sunday to Tuesday

(Note : 28 & 29 July are Hari Raya holidays.)

Venue : Mutiara Taman Negara Resort

For more information and registration forms, please visit

www.calvary.org.my/rr

STEWARDSHIP DAY

16 MAY (FRIDAY)

AT 7.30PM

**DAMANSARA HEIGHTS
SANCTUARY**

CHINESE FELLOWSHIP

MAY

25 MAY (SUNDAY) 11.30AM

CANTONESE MOVIE

"LIFE IS A MIRACLE"

(Greatest miracle in life is hope from hopelessness!)

VENUE

CCC Theatre 1, B2
(Refreshments will be served)

BAHASA MALAYSIA FELLOWSHIP

MAY

25 MAY (SUNDAY) 11.30AM

SPEAKER

FELISA FOO

TOPIC

VICTORIOUS LIFE IN JESUS
(HIDUP BERKEMENANGAN
DALAM YESUS)

VENUE

ROOM 10, LEVEL 4, CCC

WATER BAPTISM & MEMBERSHIP CLASS

DATE : 13 JUNE 2014 (SAT)

TIME : 1.00PM

**VENUE : DH, WORSHIP
NURSERY**

WATER BAPTISM SERVICE

DATE : 13 JUNE 2014 (SAT)

TIME : 5.00PM

VENUE : DH, SANCTUARY

**CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF
FORMS: 4 MAY 2014, SUNDAY**

Celebrating WOMEN

Luncheon in conjunction with Mother's Day

HIGHLIGHTS:
Various special
numbers

DATE : 10 MAY 2014 (SATURDAY)

TIME : 11.00AM TO 1.00PM

VENUE : MULTI-PURPOSE HALL, BASEMENT 2 @ CCC

Open to All

Registration begins on 25 April 2014



**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER FOR LUNCHEON
AND MOTHER'S DAY SERVICE**

Dr. Sung-Hae Kim Cho is President of Hansei University and wife of Dr. David Cho, Pastor Emeritus of Yoido Full Gospel Church, Seoul, Korea.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

JOIN CHURCH FAMILY TO
HONOR AND CELEBRATE
ALL MOTHERS

**SUNDAY 9.00 AM
MAY 11, 2014
CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE**

HIGHLIGHTS :

Special presentation of video, songs
and poems by CW kids



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

CHRIST-CENTRED | EVANGELICAL | MISSIONARY

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Tel: 03- 8999 5532 email@calvary.org.my