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**IS LIFE WORTH LIVING
AS A BELIEVER IN CHRIST?**



IS LIFE WORTH LIVING AS A BELIEVER IN CHRIST?

When one talks about incentives, it is to encourage and spur us to accomplish our plans, purposes and goals. The world is getting more evil and to live the Christ life is a challenge. God has given us an incentive to live a life of faith and to walk not after the flesh but led by the Spirit. Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to empower us to live successfully and to look for His soon return.

The Bible gives some clear indications of Christ's return; **"When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away. Then he said to them: 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. But before all this, they will seize you and**

persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry before hand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life'" (Luke 21:9-15, NIV). The indications are to prepare us ahead of time of the perilous events that will occur in the end times. We are already seeing such signs happening all over the world today. Jesus says, **"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your**

redemption is drawing near" (Luke 21:28, NIV). The encouragement is, to keep trusting, believing, obeying, living the Christ life as a testimony inspite of the challenges we face as Christians. It is worth living as a believer in Christ, because our redemption draws near!

The Bible says, **"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Christ Jesus"** (Titus 2:13). "Hope" in Greek means a confident expectation, a knowing so, it is not in vain and being sure of. The blessed hope refers to the imminent, personal and pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to expect with confidence, the glorious hope of meeting Jesus, when He comes again. This is our incentive. Jesus can come any moment of any day. Live in the light of His soon return. The Bible says, **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the**



By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

hour in which the Son of Man is coming” (Matthew 25:13). The world can offer earthly wealth, which cannot be taken when we die. Job said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21).

Judas thought the 30 pieces of silver were a good incentive to betray Jesus, after which, the Bible says he was overcome by guilt and bitterness. He threw away the silver and hung himself. Think of the pop and movie stars, who have fame and future and crowds scream their name in excitement, yet when they died, they died a miserable death. What sadness and what hopelessness in spite of all their worldly wealth, they died in vain. As a contrast to Polycarp, a church archbishop who said, “Four scores and 10 years, I lived and walked with Jesus and He has done me no wrong. How can I deny Him

now?” He was burnt to death at the stake for refusing to deny his faith. Polycarp believed it was worth living for Jesus and also to die for Jesus.

Let’s look at Moses, **“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible” (Hebrews 11:24- 27).** Moses saw it was more worthy to be committed to God in his faith. He saw this invisible God and was willing to suffer and be disgraced to be called the people of God. May we have faith in Christ’s soon return, worthy to live and serve Him.

THREE REASONS TO BE CONFIDENT OF CHRIST’S SOON RETURN.

Firstly, Jesus Himself said He was coming again. He said, **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also” (John 14:3).** It is an affirmative statement, “I will come again.” Secondly, His angels reconfirmed His coming again, **“Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven’” (Acts 1:9-11).** Thirdly, the apostles, over

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and over again, proclaimed the return of Christ. The Bible says, **“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words”** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

BELIEVERS WHO HAVE THIS BLESSED HOPE SANCTIFY THEMSELVES

The Bible says, **“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 works” (Titus 2:11-14). Believers who have this hope live in holiness and righteousness looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. John the apostle says, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”** (1 John 3:2-3). We who hope to live with Him forever and ever must grow in grace and purity, for we shall see Him as He is. Therefore, we are to live as the salt and light of the world.

Obeying the Great Commission will hasten the soon return of Christ. The Bible says, **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come”** (Matthew 24:14, NIV). This is why Calvary Church is a missions minded Church and our motivation and incentive is to give, pray and go. When the Church fails to be missions minded, we fail in our purpose to exist.

CHRIST’S COMING RELATES TO EVERY BELIEVER

‘When we get to heaven, we will have an immortal body. The Bible says, **“For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven,**

an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ... For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. which will not die nor wrinkle” (2 Corinthians 5: 1;3 NLT) and continues to say, **“because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life”** (2 Corinthians 5:3-4, NIV).

To a child of God, death is not a stumbling block, it is changing our earthly address to a heavenly address. When we die we shall be with Christ. This was Paul’s preference, to be with Christ, hence he was inclined towards death! Paul says, **“For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better”** (Philippians 1:23). No matter what we have to endure on earth, it is worth living for Christ and serving Him.

Jesus can return anytime. Let this truth of His second coming be your incentive in aligning your life with Jesus. Dedicate yourselves to God completely and manage your time, finance and work in the light of eternity. Start today.

All Bible quotations are in the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.

BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

By Jana Ponnudurai

On Sunday, 26 June 2016 the Social Concern Ministry held its annual Blood Donation Drive. This is part of the ministry's aim to create greater awareness of the importance of unconditional giving amongst our people and to meet the needs of the community.

Out of 161 persons that came forward to donate, 58 are from the general public who knew about the event through either the wall banner at Calvary Convention Centre, newspaper listing or announcement on the radio. This year's drive saw many new donors and a total of 112 were successful donors.

Dr Syazwan Syrin Ibrahim, the medical officer of National Blood Bank (Pusat Darah Negara, PDN), expressed her appreciation to Calvary Church for organizing the Blood Donation Drive yearly. She said the facilities and setup at Calvary Convention Centre were ideal for the event held. She further commented that the donors who came were happy to donate and were very enthusiastic.

All praise and glory to God for a successful event!



Blood donation at CCC



Husband and wife, Anita and Abraham George who donates regularly, believe that it is another way to contribute to the community and also encouraged their children to donate.



Father and son, Park Dong Jin and Joshua Park, were glad that they were able to donate and be a blessing.



Father's Day Service



Special number by the men's choir



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam sharing the Father's Day message



Fathers being prayed for



Receiving the Father's Day gift

By Victoria Choi

Fathers are precious gifts from God to all of us. We were very privileged to be able to celebrate and honour them at the Father's Day Service on Sunday, 19 June 2016 at Calvary Convention Centre.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam shared a convicting message entitled 'A Man in Christ Makes a Good Father'. A real man in Christ is to reject passivity and to assume responsibility. He highlighted this through the comparison between the first Adam and the second Adam (Jesus Christ). Men are to imitate Jesus who accepted the responsibility to do the will of His Father, to teach and save the lost and to love the Church, which is the bride of Christ.

"But there is one thing I want you to know: The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the

head of Christ is God." (1 Corinthians 11:3) This verse exhorts man to lead his wife and household with courage. Biblical manhood was never made to be burdensome. God designed it to be liberating and rewarding.

Senior Pastor together with Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam extended a heartfelt prayer to all fathers with their spouses during altar call.

Associate Pastor David Seah then acknowledged all fathers present and each of them received a memento. The congregation were blessed by 30-strong men's choir who presented a special number entitled "Always Enough".

MISSIONS EMPHASIS

DR. JAMES MAROCCO

By Michael Loon

From 24-26 June 2016, we were once again brought to awareness of the calling we have for missions through the Missions Emphasis weekend themed "Today is the Day of Salvation".

We were glad to be inspired by Dr. James Marocco, the Senior Pastor of King's Cathedral & Chapels, in the missions that God has involved us in.

It was absolutely apt that Dr. Marocco started with a message on the necessity and importance of prayer in the life of a thriving church at the Friday Missions Prayer. He repeatedly emphasizing the phrase "but I prayed..." as was noted in Luke 22:31-32 and Acts 12:5. It meant that there is always hope in prayer. He urged us to commit ourselves to prayer, individually and corporately. The church touches the world through the intensity of her prayer. Such a powerful platform to kick-off the weekend!

At the Faith Promise Services on Saturday in Damansara Heights and Sunday at Calvary Convention Centre, Dr. Marocco encouraged our participation in the Faith Promise giving. He laid down his thoughts by using Exodus 12:31-36 to show that blessings are indeed promised to God's people. God is in the business of blessing and favoring His people, because He is a just and good God. Before we were given the opportunity to renew our Faith Promise pledges, Dr. Marocco concluded that the key for God's supernatural provision is His vision for our lives.

Overall, we were truly inspired to go beyond ourselves in what was again another memorable and impacting weekend.



Dr James Marocco sharing the Missions Emphasis message



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam encouraging the congregation to make a Faith Promise pledge



Calvarites participating in Faith Promise giving



IS WITH
CCO

ANOINTED WITNESSES

TODAY *is the day of* SALVATION

2 Corinthians 6:2



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, Pastors, Deacons, Elders and Mission Committee praying for the Faith Promise partners at Calvary Convention Centre



Congregation seeking the Lord



Dr James praying together with the men

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

By Associate Pastor Richard Yun

Low Thiam Siew and Harshad Rai shared powerful testimonies at the Men's Breakfast Fellowship on Saturday, 25 June 2016 that blessed 70 participants and gave glory to God.

We were then inspired by Dr. James Marocco's sharing entitled "Honour Begins at Home". He encouraged the men to restore and create a culture of honour. It starts by honouring God, praise Him for who He is and what He has done and by obeying Him. The honour also starts in the home which Dr. Marocco expounded so aptly and clearly from Ephesians 6:1-4.

The men responded for prayer for God to help us build homes and Church where honour is embraced. Yes, it is not easy to change culture but we will change it one family at a time... together!

Low Thiam Siew's testimony



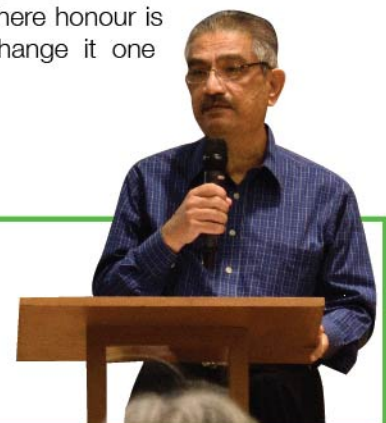
"After the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997, I lost all I have and my debt kept piling up. But God is good and faithful. He provided for my needs as I cried out to Him daily, just like Jacob wrestled with the Angel.

In 2002, I left the corporate circle in my career. After fasted and prayed for 40 days and additional 21 more days with my wife, God directed me to go back to my original business and I obeyed. Four years later I was debt free. It sounded so simple but I shed bottles of tears. And I learned a lot about faith and how to trust Him with all my heart.

Towards the end of 2015, the Lord spoke to me to focus on my ministry in the church. Now, I go to KL General Hospital with the E-Team every Saturday. Recently, I joined the Orang Asli Jahut mission trip. The joy was indescribable.

One thing I learned, not my will but God's will be done. Be the man... honour God!"

Harshad Rai's testimony



"I lost all my family members and was left to fend for myself at a very young age. To me the gods were very unfair. I faced betrayal, disrespect, faithlessness, hopelessness and hatred.

These baggage carried with me even after I got married. As a young couple, we faced difficulties in making ends meet. We were not believers then but my wife prayed a lot with her only Christian sister for my salvation. I would have been the last person on earth to accept Christ but a miracle came during one of my teaching assignments in Sudan, after which I became a believer in Jesus.

Life as a Christian was still full of hurdles. I had debts amounting to almost half a million, but Jesus helped me settle all of them. I have 5th-stage kidney disease but I have no fear as I have a Mighty God who can and will save me. I will trust him and honour Him for the rest of my life."



Kids renewing their Faith Promise pledge



Kids filling-up the Faith Promise cards



Pastor Carol Weilar sharing the message

KIDS' MISSIONS

By Pastor Quek Lee Siu

Praise the Lord! On Sunday, 26 June 2016, 74 kids were awarded for their faithfulness in giving of Faith Promise (i.e. Coin Box), serving and praying from January – June 2016.

Indeed the right time is now and today is the day of Salvation! The kids were taught on "The Faith Promise of Hannah" from 1 Samuel 1: 1-11, 20-26; 2:18-21. They learned that Hannah had **Faith** to asked God for a Son and **Promised** to dedicate it back to God. God blessed her

Faith by giving her a son and she kept her **Promise** to God by dedicated him back to God. Because Hannah kept her **Faith Promise** God blessed her with more sons.

The kids were challenged to give and have faith in God to bless and provide for them. All glory to God, 232 kids excitingly participated in the July – December 2016 Faith Promise pledge and Coin Faith.

WATER BAPTISM



Praise the Lord for 12 that followed Him in water baptism on 18 June 2016

1st Row (L to R)

Adam Lim Beng Wei, Tiffany Law Gin Wen, Matthew Tan Jin Hui, Annabelle Lim Ming Jin

2nd Row (L to R)

Lim Sook Ling Charlene, Cecila S. Espiritu, Lim Sook San Caesha, Venisri a/p Jeyaraman

3rd Row (L to R)

Park Do Ah, Low Lei Ling Ariel, Daniel Chew Khoh Jin, Enoma Omorodion

If you believe in Jesus and want to be baptised in water to declare your faith, call the Church at 03 8999 5532 ext. 434 to sign-up for our next Water Baptism Service.



ADAKAH HIDUP INI BERBALOI SEBAGAI UMAT KRISTUS?

Oleh Pendita Kanan Prince Guneratnam

Apabila seseorang berkata tentang insentif, tujuannya menggalak dan mendorong kita untuk mencapai rancangan, tujuan dan matlamat. Duniawi menjadi semakin kejam dan kehidupan mempamirkan Kristus amat mencabar. Tuhan telah memberi kita insentif kehidupan dalam iman dan berjalan bukan dalam daging tetapi dalam roh. Yesus telah membekalkan Roh Kudus untuk membolehkan kita alami kejayaan kehidupan dan menjangka kepulangan-Nya yang semakin hampir.

Alkitab memberi beberapa petunjuk akan kepulangan Kristus; **“Dan apabila kamu mendengar tentang peperangan dan pemberontakan, janganlah kamu terkejut. Sebab semuanya itu harus terjadi dahulu, tetapi itu tidak berarti kesudahannya akan datang segera.”** Ia berkata kepada mereka: **“Bangsa akan bangkit melawan bangsa dan kerajaan melawan kerajaan, dan akan terjadi gempa bumi yang dahsyat dan di berbagai tempat akan ada penyakit sampar dan kelaparan, dan akan terjadi juga hal-hal yang mengejutkan dan tanda-tanda yang dahsyat dari langit. Tetapi sebelum semuanya itu kamu akan ditangkap dan dianiaya; kamu akan diserahkan ke rumah-rumah ibadat dan penjara-penjara, dan kamu akan dihadapkan kepada raja-raja dan penguasa-penguasa oleh karena nama-Ku. Hal itu akan menjadi kesempatan bagimu untuk bersaksi. Sebab itu tetapkanlah di dalam hatimu, supaya kamu jangan memikirkan lebih dahulu pembelaanmu. Sebab Aku sendiri akan memberikan kepadamu kata-kata hikmat, sehingga kamu tidak dapat ditentang atau dibantah lawan-lawanmu. Dan kamu akan diserahkan juga oleh orang tuamu,**

saudara-saudaramu, kaum keluargamu dan sahabat-sahabatmu dan beberapa orang di antara kamu akan dibunuh dan kamu akan dibenci semua orang oleh karena nama-Ku. Tetapi tidak sehelaipun dari rambut kepalamu akan hilang. Kalau kamu tetap bertahan, kamu akan memperoleh hidupmu” (Lukas 21:9-19). Petunjuk-petunjuk ini terlebih awal mempersiapkan kita untuk mengalami peristiwa kesukaran yang akan berlaku di akhir zaman. **“Apabila semuanya itu mulai terjadi, bangkitlah dan angkatlah mukamu, sebab penyelamatanmu sudah dekat”** (Lukas 21:28). Galakannya ialah terus percaya, kekalkan iman, taati, amalkan kehidupan Kristus sebagai satu kesaksian walaupun menghadapi pelbagai cabaran sebagai umat Kristian. Kehidupan sebagai umat dalam Kristus berbaloi kerana penebusan kita kian dekat!

Alkitab mengatakan **“dengan menantikan penggenapan pengharapan kita yang penuh bahagia dan penyataan kemuliaan Tuhan yang Mahabesar dan Juruselamat kita Yesus Kristus”** (Titus 2:13). “Pengharapan” dalam bahasa Yunani bermakna jangkaan tetap, mengetahui bahawa, ianya bukan sia-sia dan yakin sangat. Penggenapan harapan merujuk kepada kepulangan Yesus Kristus yang pasti, peribadi dan pra alaf. Kita harus menjangkanya dengan penuh kepastian, harapan unggul menemui Kristus, apabila Dia kembali. Inilah insentif kita. Yesus akan kembali bila-bila masa maupun hari. Hiduplah dalam cahaya kepulanganNya yang semakin hampir. Alkitab mengatakan, **“Karena itu, berjaga-jagalah, sebab kamu tidak tahu akan hari maupun akan saatnya”** (Matius 25:13). Duniawi boleh menawarkan kekayaan, yang tidak mampu dibawa apabila kita mati. Ayub berkata, **“Dengan telanjang aku keluar**

dari kandungan ibuku, dengan telanjang juga aku akan kembali ke dalamnya. TUHAN yang memberi, TUHAN yang mengambil, terpujilah nama TUHAN!” (Ayub 1:21).

Yudas menjangka bahawa 30 kepingan perak baik sebagai insentif mengkhianati Yesus, yang kemudiannya, Alkitab mengatakan dia dikuasai keinsafan dan kemurungan. Dia melempar kepingan perak dan menggantung dirinya. Imbas kembali penyanyi dan pelakon terkenal, yang ternama dan mempunyai masa depan gemilang, dan disanjung penonton yang menjerit nama mereka dalam keghairahan, malahan apabila mereka mati, dahsyat kematian mereka. Amat sedih dan tiada pengharapan walaupun mempunyai kekayaan dunia, sia-sia kematian mereka. Berbanding dengan Polycarp, padri besar sebuah gereja yang berkata, **“Sembilan puluh tahun, aku hidup dan berjalan dengan Yesus dan Dia tidak bersalah terhadap aku. Bolehkah aku menafikanNya?”** Dia dibakar hidup-hidup sehingga mati kerana enggan berpaling dari imannya. Polycarp percaya hidupnya untuk Yesus berbaloi, dan juga kematiannya untuk Yesus.

Mari kita melihat pada Musa. **“Karena iman maka Musa, setelah dewasa, menolak disebut anak puteri Firaun, karena ia lebih suka menderita sengsara dengan umat Allah dari pada untuk sementara menikmati kesenangan dari dosa. Ia menganggap penghinaan karena Kristus sebagai kekayaan yang lebih besar dari pada semua harta Mesir, sebab pandangannya ia arahkan kepada upah. Karena iman maka ia telah meninggalkan Mesir dengan tidak takut akan murka raja. Ia bertahan sama seperti ia melihat apa yang tidak kelihatan”** (Ibrani 11:24-27). Musa sadar

ianya lebih layak berkomited kepada Tuhan dalam iman. Dia sedar akan Tuhan yang ajaib ini dan rela mengalami kesengsaraan dan dimalukan bergelar orang kepunyaan Tuhan. Biarlah kita mempunyai iman dalam kepulangan Kristus, layak untuk hidup dan melayani Dia.

TIGA SEBAB UNTUK YAKIN AKAN KEPULANGAN KRISTUS

Pertama, Yesus sendiri berkata Dia akan kembali semula. Dia berkata, **“Dan apabila Aku telah pergi ke situ dan telah menyediakan tempat bagimu, Aku akan datang kembali dan membawa kamu ke tempat-Ku, supaya di tempat di mana Aku berada kamupun berada”** (Yohanes 14:3). Ini pernyataan pengesahan, **“Aku akan datang kembali.”** Kedua, malaikat-malaikat mengesahkan kedatanganNya semula, **“Sesudah Ia mengatakan demikian, terangkatlah Ia disaksikan oleh mereka, dan awan menutup-Nya dari pandangan mereka. Ketika mereka sedang menatap ke langit waktu Ia naik itu, tiba-tiba berdirilah dua orang yang berpakaian putih dekat mereka, dan berkata kepada mereka: ‘Hai orang-orang Galilea, mengapakah kamu berdiri melihat ke langit? Yesus ini, yang terangkat ke sorga meninggalkan kamu, akan datang kembali dengan cara yang sama seperti kamu melihat Dia naik ke sorga’** (Kisah Para Rasul 1:9-11). Ketiga, para rasul, kerap kali mengumumkan kepulangan Kristus. Alkitab menyatakan, **“Selanjutnya kami tidak mau, saudara-saudara, bahwa kamu tidak mengetahui tentang mereka yang meninggal, supaya kamu jangan berdukacita seperti orang-orang lain yang tidak mempunyai pengharapan. Karena jikalau kita percaya, bahwa Yesus telah mati dan telah bangkit, maka kita percaya juga bahwa mereka yang telah meninggal dalam Yesus akan dikumpulkan TUHAN bersama-sama dengan Dia. Ini kami katakan kepadamu dengan firman Tuhan: kita yang hidup, yang masih tinggal sampai kedatangan Tuhan, sekali-kali tidak akan mendahului mereka yang telah meninggal. Sebab pada waktu tanda diberi, yaitu pada waktu penghulu malaikat berseru dan sangkakala TUHAN berbunyi, maka Tuhan sendiri akan turun dari sorga dan mereka yang mati dalam Kristus akan lebih dahulu**

bangkit; sesudah itu, kita yang hidup, yang masih tinggal, akan diangkat bersama-sama dengan mereka dalam awan menyongsong Tuhan di angkasa. Demikianlah kita akan selama-lamanya bersama-sama dengan Tuhan. Karena itu hiburkanlah seorang akan yang lain dengan perkataan-perkataan ini” (1 Tesalonika 4:1-18).

UMAT-UMAT KRISTIA YANG MEMPUNYAI BERKAT HARAPAN INI MENYUCIKAN DIRI MEREKA SENDIRI

Alkitab menyatakan, **“Karena kasih karunia Tuhan yang menyelamatkan semua manusia sudah nyata. Ia mendidik kita supaya kita meninggalkan kefasikan dan keinginan-keinginan duniawi dan supaya kita hidup bijaksana, adil dan beribadah di dalam dunia sekarang ini dengan menantikan penggenapan pengharapan kita yang penuh bahagia dan penyataan kemuliaan Tuhan yang Mahabesar dan Juruselamat kita Yesus Kristus, yang telah menyerahkan diri-Nya bagi kita untuk membebaskan kita dari segala kejahatan dan untuk menguduskan bagi diri-Nya suatu umat, kepunyaan-Nya sendiri, yang rajin berbuat baik”** (Titus 2:11-14). Kita yang mempunyai harapan ini terus hidup dalam kekudusan dan kebenaran, bertumpu kepada berkat harapan dan kemunculan Tuhan yang Maha Agung dan Juruselamat Yesus Kristus. Yohanes para rasul mengatakan: **“Saudara-saudaraku yang kekasih, sekarang kita adalah anak-anak Allah, tetapi belum nyata apa keadaan kita kelak; akan tetapi kita tahu, bahwa apabila Kristus menyatakan diri-Nya, kita akan menjadi sama seperti Dia, sebab kita akan melihat Dia dalam keadaan-Nya yang sebenarnya. Setiap orang yang menaruh pengharapan itu kepada-Nya, menyucikan diri sama seperti Dia yang adalah suci”** (1 Yohanes 3:2-3). Kita yang mahu hidup bersama Dia selama-lamanya mesti bertumbuh dalam kasih karunia dan kesucian, sebab kita akan melihat Dia seperti diriNya sendiri. Oleh itu, kita harus hidup umpama garam dan cahaya dunia.

Mentaati Amanat Agung akan mempercepatkan kepulangan Kristus. Alkitab menyatakan: **“Dan Injil Kerajaan ini akan diberitakan di seluruh dunia menjadi kesaksian bagi semua bangsa, sesudah itu barulah tiba kesudahannya”**

(Matius 24:14). Ini sebabnya Gereja Calvary mengamalkan pemikiran misi dan motivasi serta insentif kita ialah memberi, berdoa dan pergi. Apabila gereja gagal mempunyai pemikiran misi, kita gagal menunaikan matlamat kehidupan.

KEPULANGAN KRISTUS MELIBATKAN SEMUA PENGANUT

Apabila kita ke syurga, kita akan memperoleh tubuh badan yang kekal. Alkitab menyatakan, **“Karena kami tahu, bahwa jika kemah tempat kediaman kita di bumi ini dibongkar, Tuhan telah menyediakan suatu tempat kediaman di sorga bagi kita, suatu tempat kediaman yang kekal, yang tidak dibuat oleh tangan manusia... sebab dengan demikian kita berpakaian dan tidak kedapatan telanjang”** (2 Korintus 5:1;3) dan terus berkata, **“sebab dengan demikian kita berpakaian dan tidak kedapatan telanjang. Sebab selama masih diam di dalam kemah ini, kita mengeluh oleh beratnya tekanan, karena kita mau mengenakan pakaian yang baru itu tanpa menanggalkan yang lama, supaya yang fana itu ditelan oleh hidup”** (2 Korintus 5:3-4).

Bagi anak Tuhan, maut bukan satu batu sandungan, ianya adalah mengubah alamat duniawi kepada alamat syurgawi. Apabila kita mati, kita akan berada bersama Kristus. Ini adalah pilihan Paulus, berada bersama Kristus, oleh itu dia lebih cenderung akan kematian! Paulus berkata, **“Aku didesak dari dua pihak: aku ingin pergi dan diam bersama-sama dengan Kristus -itu memang jauh lebih baik”** (Filipi 1:23). Tidak kira apa yang perlu kita bertahan di dunia, ianya berbaloi hidup untuk Kristus dan melayaniNya.

Kepulangan Yesus bila-bila masa. Jadikan kebenaran kepulangan kali keduaNya insentif kamu dalam mengatur hidup kamu bersama Kristus. Dedikasi diri kamu sepenuhnya kepada Tuhan dan uruskan masa, kewangan dan bekerja dalam cahaya kekelalan. Mulai hari ini.

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari Alkitab Indonesia melainkan dinyatakan.

为基督而活 的生命是否有价值？

(文：古纳南主任牧师)

激励是为了鼓励并推动我们完成我们的计划，目的及目标。世界变得越来越邪恶，基督徒生活也变得更具挑战。神激励我们凭信心而活并且顺着圣灵而行不放纵肉体的情欲。耶稣赐下圣灵赋予我们能力，让我们活得更有果效并盼望耶稣的再来。

圣经清楚的说明基督的再来：“你们听见打仗和扰乱的事，不要惊惶，因为这些事必须先有，只是末期不能立时就到。当时耶稣对他们说、民要攻打民、国要攻打国、地要大大震动、多处必有饥荒瘟疫、又有可怕的异象、和大神迹、从天上显现。但这一切的事以先、人要下手拿住你们、逼迫你们、把你们交给会堂、并且收在监里、又为我的名拉你们到君王诸侯面前。但这些事终必为你们的见证。所以你们当立定心意、不要预先思想怎样分诉，因为我必赐你们口才智慧、是你们一切敌人所敌不住、驳不倒的。连你们的父母、弟兄、亲族、朋友、也要把你们交官，你们也有被他们害死的。你们要为我的名、被众人恨恶。然而你们连一根头发、也必不损坏。你们常存忍耐、就必保全灵魂。”（路加福音21：9-15）。这经文提前预备我们有关末世将要发生许多危险的事。我们已经看见这些事情在世界各地正在发生。耶稣说“有这些事、你们就当挺身昂首，因为你们得赎的日子近了。”（路加福音21：28）。激励我们的是继续依靠，相信，及顺服。即使基督徒将面对各种挑战，但我们仍然活出基督的生命见证。为基督而活的生命是有价值的，因为我们的救赎临近了！

圣经说“等候所盼望的福、並等候至大的神、和我们救主耶稣基督的荣耀显现（提多书2：13）。”“盼望”希腊文原意为：对期待的事有所确信，知其然的事，不是徒然无效的，是有把握的。所盼望的福是指主耶稣基督即将在千禧年前的再来。圣经说“所以你们要做醒、因为那日子、那时辰、你们不知道。”（马太福音25：13）。世界能带给我们是属世的财富，是我们死时不能带走的。约伯说“我赤身出于母胎、也必赤身归回，赏赐的是耶和华，收取的也是耶和华。耶和华的名是应当称颂的。”（约伯记1：21）

犹大以为30块钱是出卖耶稣很好的奖励，之后，圣经却说他被内疚及苦毒吞噬了。他把银钱丢在殿里，出去吊死了。试想一些流行音乐歌手或影视明星他们虽然拥有名气和未来，粉丝兴奋地高喊他们的名字，然而，他们的死却是悲惨的。即便他们拥有世上的财富，仍然

如此悲伤，如此绝望地死去。与一个教会的大教主斐利的对比之下，他曾如此说“这90年以来，我与耶稣同行，祂从未亏负我。如今，我岂能否认祂呢？”他因为拒绝否认自己的信仰而在火刑柱被烧死。教主斐利相信为耶稣而活，和为耶稣死是有价值的。

让我们看看摩西的生命“摩西因著信、长大了就不肯称为法老女儿之子。他宁可和神的百姓同受苦害、也不愿暂时享受罪中之乐。他看为基督受的凌辱、比埃及的财物更宝贵。因他想望所要得的赏赐。他因著信、就离开埃及、不怕王怒，因为他恒心忍耐、如同看见那不能看见的主。”（希伯来书11：24-27）。摩西看见在他的信仰里委身于神是有价值的。他看见这无形的神，并愿意受苦、受耻辱被称为神的子民。让我们坚信基督的再来，相信为祂而活并事奉祂是有价值的。

坚信基督再来的三个因素

第一，耶稣自己应许祂的再来。祂说，“我若去为你们预备了地方、就必再来接你们到我那里去。我在那里、叫你们也在那里。”（约翰福音14：3）。这是一个确信肯定的陈述句，“我就必再来。”第二，祂的使者重申祂的再来，说了这话、他们正看的时候、他就被取上升、有一朵云彩把他接去、便看不见他了。当他往上去、他们定睛望天的时候、忽然有两个人、身穿白衣、站在一旁、说、加利利人哪、你们为什么站著望天呢。这离开你们被接升天的耶稣、你们见他怎样往天上去、他还要怎样来（使徒行传1：9-11）。第三，使徒也重复地宣称基督的再来。圣经说，“论到睡了的人、我们不愿意弟兄们不知道、恐怕你们忧伤、像那些没有指望的人一样。我们若信耶稣死而复活了、那已经在耶稣里睡了的人、神也必将他与耶稣一同带来。我们现在照主的话告诉你们一件事、我们这活著还存留到主降临的人、断不能在那已经睡了的人之先。因为主必亲自从天降临、有呼叫的声音、和天使长的声音、又有神的号吹响。那在基督里死了的人必先复活。以后我们这活著还存留的人、必和他们一同被提到云裡、在空中与主相遇。这样、我们就要和主永远同在。所以你们当用这些话彼此劝慰。”（帖前4：13-18）

拥有这份有福盼望的基督徒会自洁

圣经说“因为神救众人的恩典、已经显明出来、教训我们除去不敬虔的心、和世俗的情欲、在今世自守、公义、敬

虔度日。等候所盼望的福、並等候至大的神、和我们救主耶稣基督的荣耀显现。他为我们舍了自己、要赎我们脱离一切罪恶、又洁净我们、特作自己的子民、热心为善。”（提多书2：11-14）。有这盼望的信徒活在圣洁与公义里，等候所盼望的福及我们救主耶稣基督伟大的荣耀显现。使徒约翰如此说：“亲爱的弟兄阿、我们现在是神的儿女、将来如何、还未显明。但我们知道主若显现、我们必要像他，因为必得见他的真体。”凡向祂有这指望的、就洁净自己、像祂洁净一样。（约翰一书3：2-3）。我们盼望与祂永远同活就必须恩蒙恩典及清洁上有所长进，因为我们将与祂面对面。因此，我们活着应该成为世界的盐和光。

服从大使命将使基督的再来加速提前。圣经说“这天国的福音、要传遍天下、对万民作见证、然後末期才来到”。（马太福音24：14）。这也是为什么加略山教会是一间有宣教异象的教会，推动我们的就是奉献，祷告和行动。当教会没有看见宣教的异象，那我们的存在就是失败的。

基督的再来与每个信徒都有关系

当我们回到天堂的时候，我们将得着不朽的身体。圣经说，“我们原知道、我们这地上的帐棚若拆毁了（是指当我们死后会离开我们的肉体）、必得神所造、不是人手所造、在天上永存的房屋。我们在这帐棚里叹息、深想得那从天上来的房屋、好像穿上衣服。倘若穿上、被遇见的时候就不至于赤身了。”（哥林多后书5：1-3）圣经继续说“我们在这帐棚里、叹息劳苦、并非愿意脱下这个、乃是愿意穿上那个、好叫这必死的被生命吞灭了。”（哥林多后书5：4）

作为神的儿女，死亡并不是我们的绊脚石，死亡只是把地上的地址改为天上的地址。当我们离世时，我们将与基督同在。这是保罗的盼望，与基督同在，因此他更倾向于死。保罗说“我正在两难之间、情愿离世与基督同在。因为这是好得无比的”。（腓利比书1：23）无论我们在世上面对的困难时什么，为基督而活并事奉祂是有价值的。

耶稣将随时再来。让祂的第二次再来能够作为我们的鼓励为耶稣而活。把自己完全献上给神，在永恒的眼光里管理你的时间，金钱和工作。就从今天开始！



CALVARY LIFE GROUP (LG) SEMINAR

By Chelsea Chin and Jonathan Lim



Joyful responses from the participants



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam sharing a convicting message



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam sharing on "Building Stronger Relationships"



Thought-provoking discussions

One hundred and fifty LG leaders and potential leaders gathered in Calvary Church Damansara Heights on 5 July 2016 and began the seminar with a spirit-filled worship.

The first plenary session on "Thriving Through Storms" was shared by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam. He encouraged all present to hold on to God's promises. God has a greater purpose than what we can be and possess on earth. Despite life's challenges, the grace of God will sustain us! Handouts on biblical theology for suffering, written by Senior Pastor, were given to each participant.

Associate Pastor David Seah, the LG Pastor, then encouraged us to apply what we have heard, in our life and leadership. The challenge to reach and to disciple our communities remain as great, but the Lord's power in us, is greater.

The following morning, after satisfying fellowship over breakfast and heartfelt worship, we were blessed by Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam on ways to build stronger relationships with God, with oneself and with family members as well as with the family of God. She also highlighted that in the LG ministry, more than what we are doing, God is interested to see whether we are becoming more like Him.

A lively group discussion was held where we were given real-life scenarios of relational conflicts to discuss and learn biblical principles and practical ways from one another.

An impactful video interview with Dr. James Marocco was played on "Breaking Growth Barriers in LG". He encouraged us to pray for our LGs daily, be bold, set goals and be willing to engage in reaching new people weekly. Pastor Carol Weller then summed up the content, and challenged all to create a new engaging culture in Calvary Church, that was received with a resounding amen from all!

The Seminar was concluded with a declaration of faith led by Pastor David and a prayer of blessing by Senior Pastor.

All of us were refreshed, empowered and challenged to do greater things, not by might, nor by power but by His Spirit. That is the mark of a thriving people!

Service Schedule **August 2016**

Calvary Damansara Heights
Saturday at 5.00pm

06	Communion Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
13	Water Baptism Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng
20	Associate Pastor Richard Yun
27	Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

Calvary Convention Centre
Sunday at 9.00am

07	Communion Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
14	Associate Pastor Richard Yun
21	Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
28	Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng

中文团契
CHINESE
FELLOWSHIP

Date : Sunday, 28 August 2016
Time : 11.30am
Venue : Theatre 1, Level B2, CCC
Speaker : Associate Pastor Peter Ong

BAHASA
MALAYSIA
FELLOWSHIP

Date : Sunday, 28 August 2016
Time : 11.30am
Venue : Room b1.03, Level B1, CCC
Speaker : Felisa Foo

WATER
BAPTISM

Date : Saturday, 13 August 2016
Time : 5.00pm
Venue : Calvary Damansara Heights



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Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam