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IMMANUEL GOD WITH US

IMMANUEL - GOD

The phenomenon of God becoming flesh is recorded in the Bible. John's Gospel tells us, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God" and "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:1;14).

The Apostle Paul confirms the incarnation, "who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:6-8). The purpose of the incarnation of God is to be (Jesus) the sacrificial lamb, for the remission of our sins (John 1:29). This is the foundation of our faith.

The Gospel of Matthew gives the account of how Jesus was born. "The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: 'Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—"God saves"—because he will save his people from their sins.' This would bring the prophet's embryonic sermon to full term: Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for

"God is with us"). Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus" (Matthew 1:18-25, The Message).

The Bible tells us the ministry of Jesus was to teach the Kingdom of God, demonstrate God's power to perform miracles and transform man's lives (Luke 8:1). Jesus had the power to forgive sin, He said to the paralytic man, "Son, your sins are forgiven you" (Mark 2:5). Many remarked at the miraculous works of Jesus and sought after Him.

A religious leader Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and declared to Him, "We know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him" (John 3:2). Over and over again, Jesus proved Himself Immanuel, God in our midst.

WITH US

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

When the time came for Jesus to fulfil the Father's will to be the Saviour of the world, the Bible says, "Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day" (Matthew 16:21). The disciples had depended on Jesus when they faced hardships, challenges and persecutions. They had witnessed first-hand the miracles Jesus performed and taught with the wisdom of God. They were not able to reconcile or accept how Jesus who demonstrated such divine power would be killed like a criminal at the hands of mere man.

Peter reacted and rebuked Jesus, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" (Matthew 16:22). We too can react like Peter, allowing our natural reasons to decide for us. Each time we react in the flesh, we give Satan the advantage to hurt us.

Jesus, immediately gave a sharp rebuke to Peter's response, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men" (Matthew 16:23). Jesus was wanting to do the will of God and Peter was attempting to persuade Him from going to the cross to redeem man by becoming the symbolic Old Testament Sacrificial Lamb once and for all. The Bible says, "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Therefore, whoever hinders us from doing the will of God are our adversaries, even if they have good intentions.

As long as Jesus was in the body (flesh and blood), He was limited. Being human, He could only be at one place at one time, and He is subject to the human lifespan. Dying on the cross did not mean that Jesus would not be with us. Jesus told His disciples,

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). He also told them, "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:15-18). Jesus promised that He will pray to the Father, who will send another helper. The word "another" means another exactly like Jesus. He would come, not in flesh and blood, but the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in our hearts and life, when we confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

This is why Jesus commanded us to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus promised us that He will be with us until the end of the age. The writer of Hebrews also says, "He will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrew 13:5, NIV).

Experiencing Immanuel is experiencing what the song writer says in this beautiful hymn, "I Serve A Risen Saviour":

***"He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives,
Salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart."***

You know you are not alone, when you face challenges or are in need. This is why the Christian life is exciting and victorious. The Bible says "we are more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37).

Christmas becomes even more wonderful when you understand Jesus abides in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus commanded His disciples before He went to heaven, saying, "... wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which' He said, 'you have heard from Me ...'" (Acts 1:4-5; Luke 24:29). His disciples obeyed and the Bible says, "On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was

filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability" (Acts 2:1-4, NLT). The evidence of a spirit filled believer is the speaking of other tongues.

Henceforth from the day of Pentecost, until we see Him face to face, we all can experience what the Bible says, "To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). You can be a witness to God's transforming power. You can receive the Holy Spirit and be His anointed witness. Ask God to cleanse you and fill you with the Holy Spirit. This Christmas, experience a new level of growth as God empowers you to live victoriously. God with us!

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



CHINESE EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS WITH REV. JIMMY TAN

By Suzanne Thong



Rev. Jimmy Tan sharing a lively message



Chinese congregation praising God in worship

On 15 & 16 October 2016 at the "Ticket to Life's Breakthrough", we were blessed by Rev. Jimmy Tan. His fun and jovial ministry of the Word was extraordinary and the congregation was very much engaged by his light-hearted manner.

Before the sharing of the message, Rev. Jimmy sang some Cantonese songs about the joy and freedom found when he, an ex-gambler placed his faith in Jesus. The congregation sang along and were blessed by these songs.

He shared from John 8:12 & 24 which says, "When Jesus spoke again to the people," he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.'

With his experience as a former gambler and having ministered to gambling addicts for more than ten years, Rev. Jimmy told many stories of gamblers who have been enslaved by sin. Many people turned to gambling and other addictions because of rejections they have faced, or found life to be unfulfilling, and it is only through believing in Jesus that they were set free. Praise God!

During these two nights of special meetings, there were 23 new comers with eight salvation and two rededicated their lives to the Lord.

中文布道会：陈镇国牧师

在2016年10月15日和16日举行的中文布道会中，陈镇国牧师 (Rev Jimmy Tan) 的服事带给我们很大的祝福。他风趣、平易近人的讲道很特出，会众因他轻松有趣的分享方式感到高兴。

陈牧师在分享信息之前，唱了一些关于赌徒在耶稣基督里生命得到释放和改变的粤语歌曲。会众也和他一起唱，而领受到这些歌曲的祝福。

陈牧师分享约翰福音8章12节：「耶稣又对众人说：『我就是世界的光。跟从我的，必不在黑暗里走，却要得着生命的光。』」和24节：「所以我对你们说，你们会死在自己的罪中，你们若不信我就是那位，就会死在自己的罪中。」

作为一位合格的戒赌辅导员，并已经在赌徒中服务超过10年，他强调赌博是罪的奴隶，而通过相信耶稣，人可以得到释放。许多人沉溺在赌博和其他种类的瘾癖是因为他们受到拒绝或不能在他们的生活中找到满足。

在这两个晚上的特别聚会中，有23位新来的朋友和有8位接受救恩进入神的国，并有两位将他们的生命重新奉献给主。

YOUNG ADULT CONNECT

INCREASING YOUR EMPLOYABILITY

By Sarah Tay

An individual's employability is very much determined by a person's personality, experiences and appearance. These thoughts were echoed by the panel of speakers, Martin Ng (Director, Deloitte SEA), Amy Tan (ex-Head of HR, Sabah Development Bank) and Lim Yen Yen (Recruitment Specialist, YL Genesis Resources).

The young adults gathered at the YA Connect on "Increasing Your Employability" on 29 October 2016 to explore what it takes to be an employee of choice. All three panellists shared their experiences and views on what goes through a recruiter's mind and what is the "IT"-factor when reviewing resumes.

A sample resume was discussed with the young adults, and the do's and don'ts in a resume were shared. Key pointers provided were

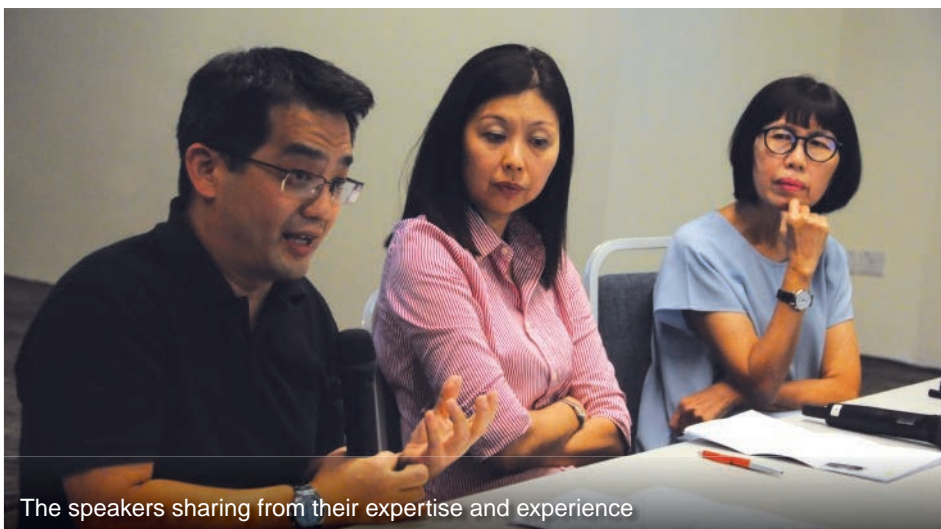


Young adults concentrating on the thoughts shared

- 1) to ensure that the font size is legible and sufficient spacing in between sentences;
- 2) use bullet points to highlight key experiences and job scope;
- 3) arrange experiences in a chronological order, with the most recent experience at the top.

But most importantly, to make sure the information given in the resume is relevant to the job they are applying for.

The panellists then shared their experiences on acing interviews. The young adults were advised to research on the potential employer beforehand, be confident, dress and present themselves professionally. Above all, they shared that the success of an interview or a job is ultimately God's will – if He closes one door, He will prepare another door that is even better. We just need to do our part in doing our best in our preparation, to glorify God in all that we do. Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng concluded the session by praying for those who were in the midst of looking for a job and encouraged the young adults to commit their plans and lives to God.



The speakers sharing from their expertise and experience

MEN'S SEMINAR

WINNING THE BATTLE FOR YOUR MIND

By Raymond Ow



The men concentrating on the message shared

The Men's Seminar on Saturday, 29 October 2016, "Purity – Winning the Battle for Your Mind" drew a packed audience with Dr. Larry Stockstill, author of the book "Model Man: From Integrity to Legacy".

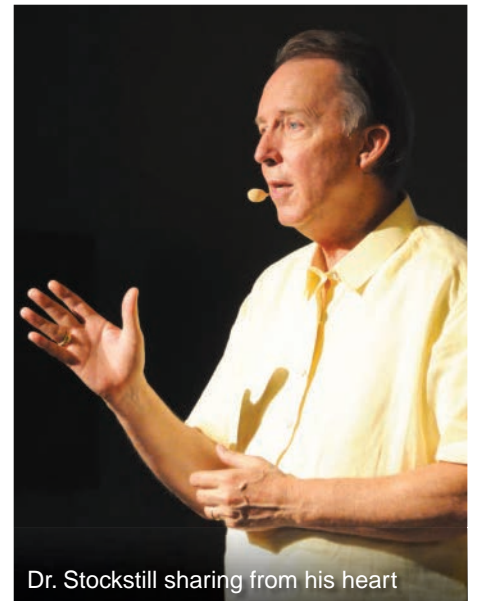
Just as in Exodus 19:12, 23 where the Lord asked Moses to "put limits for the people around the mountain, and set it apart as holy", the key to purity lies in establishing and defending the various "Borders", according to Dr. Stockstill. Defining a "Border" as 'The Beginning of Order', he expounded the importance of setting Borders for our Body, for our Relationships, for our Mind, our Spirit and for our Family.

Dr. Stockstill elaborated on setting borders for our body which include

our mouth, controlling our tongue, and guarding our eyes, for adultery begins with a lustful look as 2 Corinthians 10:5 reminds us to "Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ". He also urged us to draw borders around the four giants of Greed, Lust, Pride and Fear.

Taking the quote from Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts", Dr. Stockstill taught us to pray for self-control, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, for Proverbs 25:28 says, "A man who lacks self-control is like a city whose walls are broken down".

The subsequent Q&A session yielded an eager flow of questions from the floor, ranging from ways and techniques on how to handle



Dr. Stockstill sharing from his heart

pushing of borders and breaking of rules by our kids to questions on movie ratings, on overcoming fear and on elaboration of Samson's 3 key mistakes. Dr. Stockstill inspired and encouraged us in his answers with his own personal testimonies and lifestyle examples and advocated advice such as having accountability, re-articulate the reasons for establishing the border and its consequences, and arming ourselves against fear by using the Word and the Armour of God.

After a short tea-break, we were also treated to another interesting session by Dr. Stockstill on the seven lessons of marriage. These included, never doubting God's wisdom in putting married couples together (as in the story of Isaac and Rebekah), recognising that marriage is the school of character (for our wives know all about our idiosyncrasies), and that sex is the mirror reflecting a couple's relationship with each other (a fascinating domino theory).

CHURCH SUMMIT

By Pastor Carol Weller



Senior Pastor exhorting the participants

Three hundred Calvarites, comprising ministry leaders and servers, were blessed at the recent Church Summit on 26 & 27 October 2016 at Calvary Convention Centre with Dr. Larry Stockstill.

Through his inspiring and encouraging messages, Dr. Stockstill gave insights on the qualities of a disciple maker and how we can reach the goal of discipleship. Besides following the Spirit, being Word-centered and focusing on the Kingdom, a right attitude, good communication skills and even staying happily married and handling money correctly were just some of the qualities he emphasized.

We learnt how discipling is likened to parenting or 'fathering', that disciples are not mass produced but handmade. As disciple makers we need to build on relationships and be the right example to others. An enlightening fact was that discipleship is the root and secret to multiplication or growth and that fathering is the process by which we turn spiritual babies into reproducing sons.

On second day of the Summit, an interesting and refreshing insight into Dr. Stockstill's heart for ministry through a Q&A Session effectively handled by Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng. That session set the stage for a relaxed atmosphere contributing to a good and practical discussion at a workshop conducted to enable us to better tackle discipleship through different scenarios that were presented.



Participants paying close attention to Dr. Stockstill's message

The Summit ended with an exhortation from Associate Pastor David Seah reminding us that God rewards obedience followed by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam who led us through a meaningful time of reflection and prayer.

We went away with a sense that discipleship is not a project but a lifestyle, a labour of love that can only be effective through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit.



Pastor Chee Weng interviewing and Dr. Stockstill responding



Participants actively discussing different case study scenarios



Praying together in small groups



Engaging in lively discussion



Asking the Holy Spirit to ignite a fresh passion for God



Different ones sharing their insight
...Eddy Law



...Lina Lau



...Christopher Lim

IMANUEL - TUHAN BERSERTA KITA

Oleh Pendita Kanan Prince Guneratnam

Fenomena Tuhan menjadi manusia di rekodkan dalam Alkitab. Injil Yohanes memberitahu kita, "Pada mulanya adalah Firman; Firman itu bersama-sama dengan Tuhan dan Firman itu adalah Tuhan" dan "Firman itu telah menjadi manusia, dan diam di antara kita, dan kita telah melihat kemuliaan-Nya, yaitu kemuliaan yang diberikan kepada-Nya sebagai Anak Tunggal Bapa, penuh kasih karunia dan kebenaran" (Yohanes 1:1;14).

Rasul Paulus mengiyakan inkarnasi itu, "yang walaupun dalam rupa Tuhan, tidak menganggap kesetaraan dengan Tuhan itu sebagai milik yang harus dipertahankan, melainkan telah mengosongkan diri-Nya sendiri, dan mengambil rupa seorang hamba, dan menjadi sama dengan manusia. Dan dalam keadaan sebagai manusia, Ia telah merendahkan diri-Nya dan taat sampai mati, bahkan sampai mati di kayu salib" (Filipi 2:6-8). Tujuan inkarnasi Tuhan adalah untuk (Yesus), domba korban, menjadi pengampunan dosa kita (Yohanes 1:29). Ini adalah dasar iman kita.

Injil Matius menceritakan bagaimana Yesus dilahirkan. "Kelahiran Yesus Kristus adalah seperti berikut: Pada waktu Maria, ibu-Nya, bertunangan dengan Yusuf, ternyata ia mengandung dari Roh Kudus, sebelum mereka hidup sebagai suami isteri. Karena Yusuf suaminya, seorang yang tulus hati dan tidak mau mencemarkan nama isterinya di muka umum, ia bermaksud menceraikannya dengan diam-diam.

Tetapi ketika ia mempertimbangkan maksud itu, malaikat Tuhan nampak kepadanya dalam mimpi dan berkata: "Yusuf, anak Daud, janganlah engkau takut mengambil Maria sebagai isterimu, sebab anak yang di dalam kandungannya adalah dari Roh Kudus. Ia akan melahirkan anak laki-laki dan engkau akan menamakan Dia Yesus, karena Dialah yang akan menyelamatkan umat-Nya dari dosa mereka." Hal itu terjadi supaya genaplah yang difirmankan Tuhan oleh nabi: "Sesungguhnya, anak dara itu akan mengandung dan melahirkan seorang anak laki-laki, dan mereka akan menamakan Dia Imanuel" --yang berarti: Tuhan menyertai kita. Sesudah bangun dari tidurnya, Yusuf berbuat seperti yang diperintahkan malaikat Tuhan itu kepadanya. Ia mengambil Maria sebagai isterinya, tetapi tidak bersetubuh dengan dia sampai ia melahirkan anaknya laki-laki dan Yusuf menamakan Dia Yesus" (Matius 1:18 - 25).

Alkitab memberitahu kita bahawa Pelayanan Yesus adalah untuk mengajar Kerajaan Tuhan, mendemonstrasikan kuasa Tuhan untuk melakukan mukjizat dan mengubah kehidupan manusia (Lukas 8:1). Yesus mempunyai kuasa untuk mengampuni dosa, Ia berkata kepada orang yang lumpuh itu, "Hai anak-Ku, dosamu sudah diampuni!" (Markus 2:5). Ramai orang berkata-kata tentang kerja-kerja mukjizat Yesus dan mencari-cariNya. Seorang pemimpin agama bernama Nikodemus datang kepada Yesus pada waktu malam dan mengumumkan

kepadaNya, "Rabi, kami tahu, bahwa Engkau datang sebagai guru yang diutus Tuhan; sebab tidak ada seorangpun yang dapat mengadakan tanda-tanda yang Engkau adakan itu, jika Tuhan tidak menyertainya" (Yohanes 3:2). Berulang kali, Yesus membuktikan diriNya Imanuel, Tuhan berserta kita.

Apabila tiba masanya untuk Yesus memenuhi kehendak Bapa untuk menjadi Juruselamat dunia, Alkitab berkata, "Sejak waktu itu Yesus mulai menyatakan kepada murid-murid-Nya bahwa Ia harus pergi ke Yerusalem dan menanggung banyak penderitaan dari pihak tua-tua, imam-imam kepala dan ahli-ahli Taurat, lalu dibunuh dan dibangkitkan pada hari ketiga" (Matius 16:21). Pengikut-pengikutNya telah bergantung kepada Yesus apabila mereka menghadapi kesulitan, cabaran dan penganiayaan. Mereka telah melihat dengan mata sendiri mukjizat yang dilakukan oleh Yesus dan bagaimana Ia mengajar dengan hikmat Tuhan. Mereka tidak dapat memahami atau menerima kenyataan bahawa Yesus yang mendemonstrasikan kuasa Tuhan seperti ini boleh dibunuh seperti seorang penjenayah ditangan manusia biasa.

Petrus memberi reaksi dan mengherdik Yesus, "Tuhan, kiranya Tuhan menjauhkan hal itu! Hal itu sekali-kali takkan menimpa Engkau" (Matius 16:22). Kita juga boleh memberi reaksi seperti Petrus, dengan membenarkan sebab-sebab alamiah untuk membuat keputusan untuk kita. Setiap kali kita memberi reaksi dalam kedagingan, kita memberikan Iblis kelebihan untuk menyakiti kita.

Yesus, dengan serta merta mengherdik Petrus, "Enyahlah Iblis. Engkau suatu batu sandungan bagi-Ku, sebab engkau bukan memikirkan apa yang dipikirkan Tuhan, melainkan apa yang dipikirkan manusia" (Matius 16:23). Yesus mahu melakukan kehendak Tuhan dan Petrus cuba memujukNya daripada pergi ke salib untuk menebus manusia dalam menjadi Domba Korban Perjanjian Lama yang simbolik sekali dan untuk semua. Alkitab berkata, "Dan kerana kehendak-Nya inilah kita telah dikuduskan satu kali untuk selama-lamanya oleh persembahan

tubuh Yesus Kristus” (Ibrani 10:10). Maka itu, sesiapa yang menghalang kita dari melakukan kehendak Tuhan adalah musuh kita, walaupun mereka mempunyai niat yang baik.

Selagi Yesus berada dalam tubuh (daging dan darah), Ia terbatas. Dalam menjadi manusia, Ia hanya boleh berada di satu tempat pada satu masa sahaja, dan Ia tertakluk kepada jangka hayat manusia. Mati diatas salib tidak bermakna Yesus tidak berserta kita. Yesus memberitahu pengikut-pengikutNya, “Namun benar yang Kukatakan ini kepadamu: Adalah lebih berguna bagi kamu, jika Aku pergi. Sebab jikalau Aku tidak pergi, Penghibur itu tidak akan datang kepadamu, tetapi jikalau Aku pergi, Aku akan mengutus Dia kepadamu” (Yohanes 16:7). Ia juga memberitahu mereka, “Jikalau kamu mengasihi Aku, kamu akan menuruti segala perintah-Ku. Aku akan minta kepada Bapa, dan Ia akan memberikan kepadamu seorang Penolong yang lain, supaya Ia menyertai kamu selamanya, yaitu Roh Kebenaran. Dunia tidak dapat menerima Dia, sebab dunia tidak melihat Dia dan tidak mengenal Dia. Tetapi kamu mengenal Dia, sebab Ia menyertai kamu dan akan diam di dalam kamu” (Yohanes 14:15-18). Yesus berjanji bahawa Ia akan berdoa kepada Bapa, yang akan menghantar penolong yang lain. Perkataan “yang lain” bermakna yang lain sama dengan Yesus. Ia akan kembali, bukan dalam daging dan darah, tetapi Roh Kudus datang untuk berdiam dalam hati di dalam hidup kita, apabila kita mengakui Yesus Kristus sebagai Tuhan dan Juruselamat.

Itu sebabnya mengapa Yesus memberi perintah kepada kita, “Karena itu

pergilah, jadikanlah semua bangsa murid-Ku dan baptislah mereka dalam nama Bapa dan Anak dan Roh Kudus, dan ajarlah mereka melakukan segala sesuatu yang telah Kuperintahkan kepadamu. Dan ketahuilah, Aku menyertai kamu senantiasa sampai kepada akhir zaman” (Matius 28:19-20). Yesus menjanjikan bahawa Ia akan menyertai kita sehingga akhir zaman. Penulis Ibrani juga berkata, “Aku sekali-kali tidak akan membiarkan engkau dan Aku sekali-kali tidak akan meninggalkan engkau” (Ibrani 13:5).

Mengalami Imanuel adalah mengalami apa yang ditulis oleh penulis lagu dalam lagu kemenangan yang indah ini, “Aku Melayani Seorang Juruselamat Yang Sudah Bangkit”:

***“Ia hidup, Ia hidup,
Kristus Yesus hidup sekarang!
Ia berjalan bersamaku dan
berbicara bersamaku
Sepanjang jalan hidup
yang sempit.
Ia hidup, Ia hidup,
Keselamatan di beri!
Engkau menanya aku bagaimana
aku tahu Ia hidup?
Ia hidup dalam hatiku.”***

Kamu tahu kamu tidak keseorangan, apabila kamu menghadapi cabaran, ataupun dalam keperluan. Inilah sebabnya kenapa kehidupan seorang Kristian adalah menarik dan berkemenangan. Alkitab berkata “dalam semuanya itu kita lebih dari pada orang-orang yang menang” (Roma 8:37). Hari Krismas menjadi lebih bermakna apabila kamu memahami Yesus berdiam di dalam kita oleh kuasa Roh Kudus.

Yesus memberi perintah kepada pengikut-pengikutNya sebelum Ia kembali ke syurga, dan mengatakan, “...menantikan janji Bapa ‘yang demikian’ kata-Nya—‘telah kamu dengar dari pada-Ku. ...’” (Kisah Para Rasul 1:4-5; Lukas 24:29). Pengikut-pengikutNya mentaati dan Alkitab berkata, “Ketika tiba hari Pentakosta, semua orang percaya berkumpul di satu tempat. Tiba-tiba turunlah dari langit suatu bunyi seperti tiupan angin keras yang memenuhi seluruh rumah, di mana mereka duduk; dan tampaklah kepada mereka lidah-lidah seperti nyala api yang bertebaran dan hinggap pada mereka masing-masing. Maka penuhlah mereka dengan Roh Kudus, lalu mereka mulai berkata-kata dalam bahasa-bahasa lain, seperti yang diberikan oleh Roh itu kepada mereka untuk mengatakannya” (Kisah Para Rasul 2:1-4). Bukti seorang umat percaya yang dipenuhi dengan roh ialah berbicara dalam bahasa lidah.

Maka dari hari Pentekosta, sehingga kita bersemuka denganNya, kita semua boleh mengalami apa yang dikatakan dalam Alkitab, “Kepada mereka Tuhan mau memberitahukan, betapa kaya dan mulianya rahsia itu di antara bangsa-bangsa lain, yaitu: Kristus ada di tengah-tengah kamu, Kristus yang adalah pengharapan akan kemuliaan” (Kolose 1:27). Kamu boleh menjadi seorang saksi kepada kuasa Tuhan yang mengubahkan. Kamu boleh menerima Roh Kudus dan menjadi saksiNya yang diurapi. Minta Tuhan untuk menyucikan kamu dan memenuhi kamu dengan Roh Kudus. Pada hari Krismas ini, alamilah satu tahap pertumbuhan yang baru sebagaimana Tuhan memberi kamu kuasa untuk hidup berkemenangan. Tuhan menyertai kita!

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari versi Bahasa Indonesia melainkan dinyatakan.



以马内利 - 神与我们同在

文：古纳南主任牧师

神道成肉体的显现被记录在圣经中。约翰福音告诉我们：「太初有道，道与神同在，道就是神。」和「道成了肉身，住在我们中间，充充满满地有恩典有真理，我们也见过他的荣光，正是父独一儿子的荣光」（约1: 1, 14）。

使徒保罗证实了道成了肉身：

「他本有神的形像，却不坚持自己与神同等；反倒虚己，取了奴仆的形像，成为人的样式；既有人的样子，就谦卑自己，存心顺服，以至于死，且死在十字架上」（腓2: 6-8）。神道成肉身的目的是要成为（耶稣）牺牲的羊羔，为了除去我们的罪（约1: 29）。这是我们信仰的基础。

马太福音记载了耶稣如何降生。

「耶稣基督降生的事记在下面：他母亲马利亚已经许配给约瑟，还没有迎娶，马利亚就从圣灵怀了孕。她丈夫约瑟是个义人，不愿意当众羞辱她，想要暗地里把她休了。正考虑这些事的时候，忽然主的使者在约瑟梦中向他显现，说：“大卫的子孙约瑟，不要怕，把你的妻子马利亚娶

过来，因她所怀的孕是从圣灵来的。她将要生一个儿子，你要给他起名叫耶稣，因他要将自己的百姓从罪恶里救出来。”这整件事的发生，是要应验主藉先知所说的话：“必有童女怀孕生子；人要称他的名为以马内利。”（以马内利翻出来就是“神与我们同在”）约瑟醒来，就遵照主的使者的吩咐把妻子娶过来；但是没有和她同房，直到她生了儿子，就给他起名叫耶稣」（太1: 18-25）。

圣经告诉我们耶稣的事奉是要教导神的国度，显明神的能力行使神迹和改变人的生命（路8: 1）。耶稣有权力赦免罪，他对瘫子说：「孩子，你的罪赦了」（可2: 5）。许多人议论耶稣所行的神迹并寻求他。

有一个宗教领袖尼哥德慕夜里来见耶稣，对他说：「拉比，我们知道你是由神那里来作老师的；因为你所行的神迹，若没有神同在，无人能行」（约3: 2）。一次又一次地，耶稣证明了自己是以马内利，神与我们同在。

当耶稣要完成父的旨意成为世人的救主的时候到了，圣经上说：

「从那时起，耶稣才向门徒明说，他必须上耶路撒冷去，受长老、祭司长和文士许多的苦，并且被杀，第三天复活」（太16: 21）。门徒曾在面临艰难，挑战和迫害的时候依靠耶稣。他们亲眼见证了耶稣所行的神迹和用神的智慧教导。他们不能调和或接受显示这种神圣权力的耶稣如何将像一个罪犯，被交在人手被杀。

彼得作出反应和责备耶稣：「主啊，千万不可如此！这事绝不可临到你身上」（太16: 22）。我们也可以像彼得那样反应，让我们的自然理性为我们做决定。每次我们在肉体中作出反应，我们就留地步给撒但来伤害我们。

耶稣立即严厉地责备彼得的回应：「撒但，退到我后边去！你是我的绊脚石，因为你体会神的心意，而是体会人的意思」（太16: 23）。耶稣要遵行神的旨意，而彼得试图说服他不要为要救赎罪人走向十字架，成为旧约象征的牺牲羊羔仅只一次的献上自己。圣经上说：「我们凭着这旨意，藉着耶稣基督，仅只一次献上他的身体就得以成圣」（来10: 10）。因此，任何阻碍我们遵行神的旨意的，都是我们的敌人，即使他们有良好的意图。

只要耶稣在肉身（属血肉），他就有限制。作为人，他一次只能

在一个地方，并且受到人类生命的限制。死在十字架上并不意味着耶稣不会与我们在一起。耶稣告诉他的门徒说：「然而，我把真情告诉你们，我去对你们是有益的。我若不去，保惠师就不会到你们这里来；我若去，就差他到你们这里来」（约16：7）。他也告诉他们：「你们若爱我，就会遵守我的命令。我要求父，父就赐给你们另外一位保惠师，使他永远与你们同在。他就是真理的灵，是世人不能接受的。因为他们既看不见他，也不认识他；你们却认识他，因他常与你们同在，也要在你们里面。我不会撇下你们为孤儿，我必到你们这里来」（约14：15-18）。耶稣应许他会向父祈求，他会差派另一位保惠师。「另一位」一词是指另一个如同耶稣一样。他会来，不是以属血肉的身体，而是当我们承认耶稣基督为主和救主时，圣灵会来内住在我们的心和生命里。

这就是为何耶稣命令我们：「所以，你们要去，使万民作我的门徒，奉父、子、圣灵的名给他们

施洗，凡我所吩咐你们的，都教导他们遵守。看哪，我天天与你们同在，直到世代的终结」（太28：19-20）。耶稣应许我们他将会与我们同在直到世界的末了。希伯来书的作者也说：「他绝不撇下你，也绝不丢弃你」（来13：5）。经历以马内利，就是在经历歌曲作者在「我事奉永活救主」这美丽的赞美诗中所说的：

**「救主耶稣，今天仍然活着！
祂与我谈祂伴我走，同行生命窄路。
救主耶稣，祂赐你我救恩！
若问我怎知祂活着？祂今活在我心。」**

当你面临挑战或需要时，你知道你并不孤单。这就是为什么基督徒的生活是令人兴奋和胜利的。圣经上说：「我们已经得胜有余了」（罗8：37）。当你明白耶稣藉着圣灵的能力住在我们里面时，圣诞节会变得更加美好。

耶稣在升天之前吩咐他的门徒说：「…但要等候父的应许，就是你们听见我说过的。…」

（徒1：4-5；路24：49）。他的门徒都顺服，圣经上说：「五旬节那日到了，他们全都聚集在一起。忽然，有响声从天上下来，好像一阵大风吹过，充满了他们所坐的整座屋子；又有舌头如火焰向他们显现，分开落在他们每个人身上。他们都被圣灵充满，就按着圣灵所赐的口才说起别国的话来」（徒2：1-4）。一个被圣灵充满的信徒的凭据是说方言。

从五旬节以后，直到我们面对面看见他，我们都可以体验圣经所说的话：「神要让他们知道，这奥秘在外邦人中有何等丰盛的荣耀；就是基督在你们心里成了得荣耀的盼望」（西1：27）。你可以作为神改变大能的见证。你可以接受圣灵，成为他恩膏的见证人。祈求神洁净你，以圣灵充满你。在这个圣诞节藉由神赋权你过得胜的生活来体验一个新的成长水平。神与我们同在！

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合本修订版。



CALVARY SUNSHINE HOME

By Associate Pastor Richard Yun



Testimony of Kon Yoon How

In 2013 the specialist who attended to my mother in University Hospital told me about the Calvary Sunshine Home. I was hesitant then as I knew my mum would not agree to it.

Not too long after that, I had a lot of difficulties handling my 81 year old mum at home. Her condition got worse in early 2014 when she sometimes forgot the timing of her meals, her bath and all the unnecessary things which she was not supposed to do while I was at work. I prayed earnestly for help from God of what I should do with my mum and where should I send her to.

By the grace of God, I met a church friend at a Lent Prayer Session and she told me about this Centre which her mum was in and was always very happy there. Initially my mum refused to go though I persuaded her many times. She even asked my family members and I not to force her to go to the Centre. I continued to pray that one day she would agree to go.

Just after the Easter Service in Calvary Church in April 2014, we met Pastor Sally there and my mum finally agreed to go to the Centre. I want to praise and thank God for answering my prayers. In the beginning, it was a 3-days per week arrangement for my mum to go to the Centre so as to let her slowly get used to the place and the people. Each evening when I

fetches her, she would say she had a good day at the Centre. She commented that Pastor Sally and the workers were very nice to them and she was happy.

In 2015, I decided to send her daily as I felt it was better for her mental well-being to be with other people instead of feeling lost in the house alone. This year 2016, when the weekend comes, she would ask why she cannot go to the Centre. This goes to show that the Centre is such a joyful and peaceful place that my mum wants to go there everyday. Indeed, I would say Calvary Sunshine Daycare Centre has been such a blessing to them as well as to working people like me. I do not need to send my mum to the nursing home or worry about her at home when I am working. My mum enjoys herself with the chatting time, daily exercise, devotion session, tea cum talking time, napping hour, television time, birthday celebrations and all the other meaningful events organised and arranged for the elderly folks.

May God protect and bless them all. Last but not least, may God bring abundant blessings upon Calvary Sunshine Home as it continues to serve the community. Amen.

We thank God for the ministry of day-care for senior citizens at Sunshine Home and the staff who have been a blessing to families like Kon Yoon How. In her written testimony, she expressed her appreciation for the care given for her mother Madam Chong Foot Len, a believer from Full Gospel Assembly.

Together with Pastor Sally Leong and the staff, we thank Senior Pastor and Sister Petrina Guneratnam for the vision and investment for this ministry which has not only blessed our church members but those in the community too.

INFORMATION ABOUT CALVARY SUNSHINE HOME

Pusat Jagaan Calvary Sunshine (Registered name) is an extended ministry of Calvary Church. The home operates as a Christian Daycare Centre for the Elderly and Convalescing with daily activities, such as Devotions, Group Exercise, Social Interaction and Relaxation; Basic Nursing Care and Physiotherapy.

Enquiries are welcomed.

Contact person: Pastor Sally Leong
Address: 12 Jalan 8/1A,
Jalan Sungai Jernih,
Petaling Jaya
Contact number: 03-79542912,
016-2796792





A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

10 & 11 DECEMBER 2016,
SAT & SUN AT 5.00PM,
CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE

**WHERE THE VELVET ROPE STRETCHES,
WHERE DO YOU STAND?**

Catch a glimpse of that very first Christmas in Bethlehem! Be a part of the grand opening of the Falafel House where only the town's elite are invited. Sing-along to catchy songs and follow Mr. and Mrs. Boss through an especially lively restaurant launch carried by a 150-strong choir, dance troupe, KidsCAT and an entertaining drama cast.



Christmas Delight

Come with your family and friends to enjoy variety of bazaar stalls such as handmade origami bags, coconut oil, book and gifts, and F&B stalls like roast duck, baguette with turkey ham, authentic Christmas fruit cake and many more at Calvary Convention Centre on:

Saturday, 10 December 2016
2.00pm - 4.30pm and 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Sunday, 11 December 2016
11.00am - 4.30pm and 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Bring your kids to join fun and exciting colouring contest on Saturday, 10 December 2016 at 2.00pm - 4.00pm. Winners will get attractive prizes.

Christmas Service

Special presentation by Creative Arts and a Christmas message by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam on **"Heaven Response at the birth of Christ"** on:

Saturday, 24 December 2016
5.00pm at Calvary Damansara Heights

Sunday, 25 December 2016
9.00am at Calvary Convention Centre




SENIOR PASTORS PRINCE & PETRINA GUNERATNAM
TOGETHER WITH PASTORS AND STAFF WISH ALL CALVARITES

A Wonderful & Meaningful Christmas!

Be blessed by all the events this December and reach out in God's love.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2016

Calvary Damansara Heights Saturday at 5.00pm

- 03** Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng
Communion
- 10** Combined with Sunday Worship Service at
Calvary Convention Centre
- 17** Associate Pastor Richard Yun
- 24** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Christmas Worship Service
- 31** Combined with Sunday Worship Service at
Calvary Convention Centre

Calvary Convention Centre Sunday at 9.00am

- 04** Associate Pastor Steven Kum
Communion
- 11** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
- 18** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
Membership Intake
- 25** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Christmas Worship Service

Combined Prayer Meetings

Date: Fridays, 30 December 2016
and 6 January 2017
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Calvary Damansara Heights

Come seek the Lord together with the rest of the Calvary family on our LAST prayer meeting of 2016, and the FIRST prayer meeting of 2017. As we unite ourselves in prayer, we will see God move in an even greater way for the coming year. Bring your family and children along, Kids-On-Line will be going on concurrently.

Year End Thanksgiving Fellowship & Celebration

Date: Saturday, 31 December 2016
Time: 3.30pm
Venue: Calvary Convention Centre

Water Baptism

Date: Saturday, 17 December 2016
Time: 5.00pm
Venue: Calvary Damansara Heights



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)
CHRIST-CENTRED • EVANGELICAL • MISSIONARY
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Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam