

WHO AMONG YOU FEARS THE LORD?

Trust & Obey

ISAIAH 50:10

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Trust & Obey

ISAIAH 50:10

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

The cross symbolises godly fear and obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. The Bible says, “who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:7-8).

The cross to the world, is a picture of shame and weakness. Sin brings shame. Parents understand that, and they nurture their children to be proud parents. It is the same in the family of God. The Bible says, “And have you forgotten the encouraging words God spoke to you as his children? He said, ‘My child, don’t make light of the LORD’s discipline, and don’t give up when he corrects you. For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child’” (Hebrews 12:5-6, NLT).

To the believer, the Bible says, “we preach Christ crucified, ... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1: 23-24). Paul explains, “In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ” (Colossians 2:11). In the Old Testament, God’s chosen people were identified by the physical mark of circumcision. The New Testament believer is circumcised “not by hands”, but by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul declares, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20) and “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:7, NLT). Our identification as a believer is our changed lifestyle, of Christ likeness.

The water baptism of the believer symbolises the work of our salvation. Paul says we are “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12). To live the Christ life, you must identify yourself dead with Christ, and live a life that is in

obedience to the will of God. Jesus Christ is the ultimate role model of a God-fearing and obedient life to the will of God.

Paul says, “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it” (Colossians 2:13-15). The cross breaks the power of Satan over us and the power of sin in our life. We are redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, to live as more than conquerors in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:33-37).

Submit to Christ and do not let the members of your body continue to sin, but make the members of your body to glorify God by the power of the cross.

“To be God-fearing and obedient to God is to deny yourself, and take up the cross and follow Jesus” (Matthew 16:24).



Life is not a bed of roses. Job says, "Yet man is born to trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7) and "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1). Some people think to live a life without fearing God and obeying the will of God is more enjoyable and pleasurable. I once thought so, at the age of 12 as a believer. The world seemed to have so much to offer and I have missed out on life. Yes, Satan makes sin look like fun, enjoyable and full of pleasures. Do not be fooled by Satan.

It is important to know, not all hardship, persecution and suffering is because we carry the cross of Jesus Christ.

1. To suffer is not because you are spiritual.

You can suffer because of your disobedience to God. For instance, Jonah suffered in the belly of a large fish (the Bible does not say it was a whale) because of disobedience. The children of Israel suffered in the wilderness because of their rebellion and hardness of heart. They did not fear God nor obeyed Him. Is your suffering out of obedience?

2. To prosper is not necessarily, you are spiritual.

In the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), the rich man lived well, enjoying sumptuous food daily and clothed in finery. When

he died, he found himself tormented in hell. When he looked up, he saw Lazarus (a poor beggar who had begged for food at his gates) being held by Abraham in heaven. The rich man discovered that He disobeyed God in his lifetime.

In the parable of the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18-23), the ruler asked, "How can I have eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "You still lack one thing. Are you willing to give up everything?" The ruler was very rich and had status. He was not willing to obey, and left disappointed. Let not your prosperity hinder you from obeying God.

3. Not all sacrifices are acceptable to God.

Saul's sacrifice was not acceptable to God because he disobeyed God. The prophet Samuel said to him, "... Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, submission is better than offering the fat of rams" (1 Sam 15: 22, NLT). It was much easier for Saul to offer sacrifices on God's altar than to obey His command. Obedience is more challenging than sacrifice, it requires denial of self.

God detested the sacrifices of the disobedient children of Israel. The Bible says, "He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a

dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations, So will I choose their delusions, And bring their fears on them; Because, when I called, no one answered, When I spoke they did not hear; But they did evil before My eyes, And chose that in which I do not delight" (Isaiah 66: 3-4). Sincere and conscientious obedience to the will of God is more pleasing and acceptable to God than all burnt-offerings and sacrifices.

4. Doing more than you should, does not make you spiritual.

Serving God out of obedience is essential, there is no substitute for obedience. Jesus tells the Parable



of the Talents to emphasise the importance of faithfulness. “The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together’” (Matthew 25:21, NLT).

SELF DENIAL IS REQUIRED IN THREE AREAS

1. We Fight a Life-long Battle against Sin.

Unless you deny your self, this material body loves the things of the world (1 John 2:15). The victory over the flesh is the Cross. The secret is to identify yourself with Christ on the Cross. We must repent, when we sin and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Have a consistent prayer life, seek Christian fellowship by attending Church to strengthen your faith and to mature in Christlikeness. The Bible says, “... denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:12). This requires discipline.

2. Our Warfare is Spiritual.

As long as we live for Jesus, Satan will confront us with all kinds of temptations. The Bible says, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

God has equipped us through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The Bible says:

a. “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

b. “Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be

able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Ephesians 6:13).

c. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

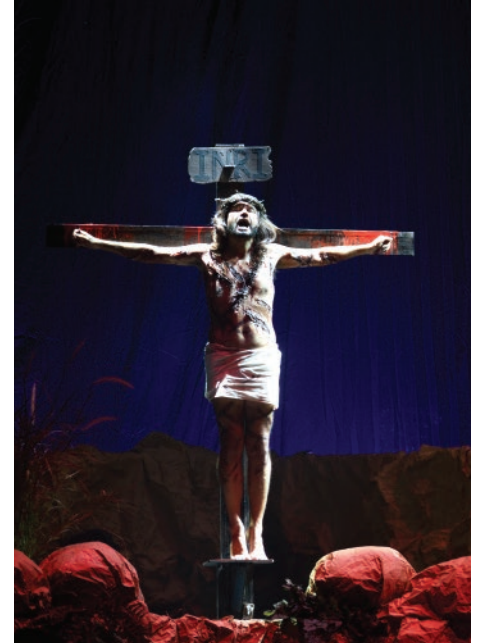
d. “Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you” (1 Peter 5:8-10).

3. We Live in a Sinful World.

The world hated Jesus and crucified Him on the cross. His death was to redeem you as a sinner. The world hates you when you take up the cross and follow Jesus. The Bible warns, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world” (1 John 2:15-16). Fear God, trust and obey to live a victorious life over the power of sin.

Jesus’ secret of success was His love for God, His Father. He says, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgement is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me” (Jesus 5:30). You can love God because of what Jesus accomplished on the cross for you.

When you love God with all your heart, soul and might, His love fills you and nothing in the world



will entice you or draw you away from God. Married couples will remember how they only had eyes for their spouses in the early years of their marriage. The Bible says when one falls in love, one has dove eyes (Song of Solomon 1:15). Doves have eyes only for their mates. When spouses know they are loved, they are secure and unthreatened by any possible temptation. Your love for God will make you turn from the love of the world.

The Bible says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments” (Psalm 111:10). The fear of God was Joseph’s secret of being a victor in all his temptations and challenges. Joseph told his brothers, “Do this and live, for I fear God” (Genesis 42:18). Abraham’s fear of God motivated him to obey God when he was asked to sacrifice his son (Genesis 22:12). The fear of God propels you to obey Him and He will not fail you.

Fear God and obey Him with love, zeal and faith. Follow the example of Jesus, take up the cross and deny yourself. You will experience the power and wisdom of the cross.

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

A LIFE-TRANSFORMING JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

By Veronica See

On 18-28 November 2016, 79 Calvarites and friends journeyed to the Holy Land under Journey to Jerusalem 3 (J2J3). The participants had been greatly blessed in so many ways throughout the trip and their testimonies affirmed it. God's awesome presence was so evident, leading and guiding us.

These are some areas for which we are grateful and appreciative of what God did.

- We thank the Lord for granting us journey mercy and bringing all of us back safely.
- We were so blessed with the wonderful cool and nice weather throughout the trip.
- God worked in an amazing way, there was one salvation response.
- Five were water baptised for the first time and another 36 participated in an experiential water baptism at the Jordan River.
- Five received the baptism in Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues during the Friday Prayer time.
- Three committed to serve in Ministry when they return from the trip.

We had enriching and inspiring worship and devotion in the mornings before starting the day's planned activities. The participants were so encouraged and spiritually strengthened each day by the sharing of God's Word.



All smiling for a group photo

Here are some testimonies from the participants:

Pastor Shereen Wong thanked God for answered prayer for the salvation of Karen Ker (sister-in-law) and Kerry (Karen's sister). In the J2J3, they took the step of obedience in following the Lord by being water baptised in the River Jordan. All glory to God!

Tan Mee Su shared that the trip definitely made the Bible come alive, both historically and spiritually. The trip has made her feel closer in her journey to seek the Lord.

Jennifer went on the trip with pain in the left thigh and was coughing at night. She thanked God that the pain seems to have disappeared during the trip and likewise for her cough. Praise the Lord for healing.

There was much bonding among the participants and many new friendships were established. Truly, as expected, many returned from J2J3 not being the same. God have done something marvellous in each of their lives. Praise God for an awesome life-changing journey!



First time water baptised (L-R: Benjamin Siew Sau Chee, Karen Ker Chooi Hoon, Kerry Ker Chooi Seong, Angie Wong Phui Keet, Bernard Low Jarn Yoong) with Associate Pastors Chris Lee and Raymond Yong



Experiencing Holy Communion at the Holy City

DEDICATION OF BCM KEY MAGAZINE

TO SENIOR ASSOCIATE PASTOR PETRINA GUNERATNAM

BCM Key Magazine is the official annual yearbook produced by Bible College of Malaysia (BCM). Each year they dedicate the magazine to a faithful servant of God in honour of their service unto the Lord.

In line with the school's theme this year "Built to Stand" (Isaiah 43:1-7), our very own Senior Associate Pastor

Petrina Guneratnam received the honour of having the school magazine dedicated to her on 26 November 2016 for her faithful service to the Lord that stands till today as a testimony of God's faithfulness to His servants.

Below is the full interview from the magazine:



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam receiving the dedication magazine from Rev. Ng Kok Kee, President of BCM

How long have you been in full-time ministry?

This is my 51st year. In other words, I graduated from the then known Bible Institute of Malaysia (BIM) 51 years ago. None of you were born yet right? :)

You wrote a book, what was the inspiration behind?

2015 marked my 50 years in full- time ministry.

The book "Glimpses of His Glory" is written out of my deep gratitude to God who saved, called and entrusted a single ordinary girl to do His will. It is written as a witness to young people to respond to full-time ministry that God is faithful. The proceeds from this book will go to "Petrina Giaw Guneratnam Education Fund," a foundation to assist pastors' children to further their education in universities, for I believe ministers' children should have the same opportunity to pursue their dreams like all others.

How would you describe yourself in ministry?

There are two words that I could describe about myself. One is “faithfulness.” I may not have done great things, or made a name for myself, but I can say that I have been faithful to all that He has entrusted to me. The second is “fulfilment.” It is such an honour to serve the King of kings.

Is there a point in your life where you feel like giving up but at the same time expected to be an encouragement?

From my experience, during the time of my deep disappointment, someone would come to help. In responding to encouraging them with God’s promise, I am encouraged just by sharing with conviction and confidence that Jesus Never Fails. How true it is...“He who refreshes others themselves be refreshed.” (Pro 11:25) I am married to a man who is strong and single-minded. There are two words that are not in our minds and vocabulary— “impossible” and “divorce”. So there is no such thing as quitting. That is why we are both still strong and moving forward. In the process of building Calvary Convention Centre, I walked through ‘hell,’ I am emotional by nature. But through it all, my husband stood firm and focused on the vision God gave to us. In 2009, in the midst of all the challenges, he was elected the Chairman of World Pentecostal Fellowship, the first Asian to lead this world fellowship of 600 million Pentecostals and Charismatics. Then in 2010, His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong bestowed upon him the second title “Tan Sri”— a significant recognition by our government. God our Father is Righteous and Sovereign. On one hand, He allows trials to break us; on the other hand He blesses us. The blessing enables us to go through the breaking. Remember, “when you go through hell, don’t stop, you are heaven-bound.” Your tests will be your testimony of victory.

What do you think about Bible school education?

Bible school education is necessary. It is the foundation that helps launching one into the ministry. I am grateful for my training in BCM. Many people asked me, “What keeps you serving God fervently after so many years?” For me, every day is a new experience of learning, growing in faith, staying in



love with Jesus. Every day you learn something fresh. Education and life experiences never get old. That is why I am still very enthusiastic, I learn a lot from young people as well.

51 years, can we look at 60 years?

I don’t know! As long as I am alive, I will serve the Lord. When I turn 70, I will ask God for 10 more healthy strong years to serve Him, so perhaps we can look at 60.

Any advice for all the graduates?

There is the “perfect” will of God and there is the “permissive” will of God. It is up to us whether we want to be in His perfect will or His permissive will. Choose to be in His Perfect Will and you will prosper in all your ways. Isaiah 1:19 say, “If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land...” Secondly, maintain a vibrant loving relationship with God. Daniel 11:32 say, “...but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” (KJV)

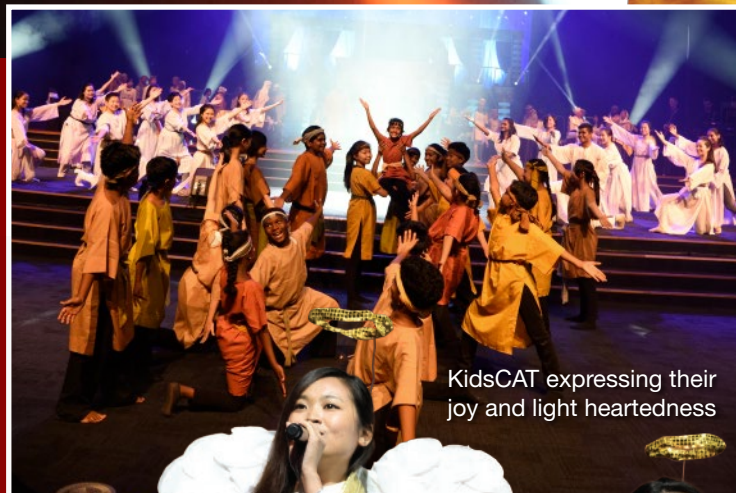
CHRISTMAS EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS “THE VELVET ROPE”

By Lim Ai Leen

Mr. & Mrs. Boss
welcoming their guests to the
Falafel House's grand re-opening

On 10 and 11 December, Calvary Convention Centre was abuzz with hundreds of people seen gathering in the halls awaiting the opening of the much anticipated Christmas musical, “The Velvet Rope”.

Both evenings attended by 5,730 people were blessed with a light-hearted praise and worship of Christmas carols. As the music simmered down and Mr. and Mrs. Boss entered the stage, the musical began with the grand opening of the doors to the Falafel House revealing a stunning double-storey restaurant teeming with waiters and guests singing and dancing to the opening song. The musical tells the story of an exclusive by-invite-only event that takes place on the same night that the Messiah is born. Mr. and Mrs. Boss are seen turning away anyone who did not have an invite to juxtapose the main point of the story that is the significance of the birth of Jesus Christ; that from that first Christmas Day onwards, God wants each and every one of us to be able to come into His presence regardless of our circumstances.



KidsCAT expressing their joy and light heartedness



Angels proclaiming good tidings of joy they are bringing



Shepherds dancing and rejoicing that a King is coming to town



Guests enjoying each other's company at the Falafel House



Choir and dancers posing gracefully



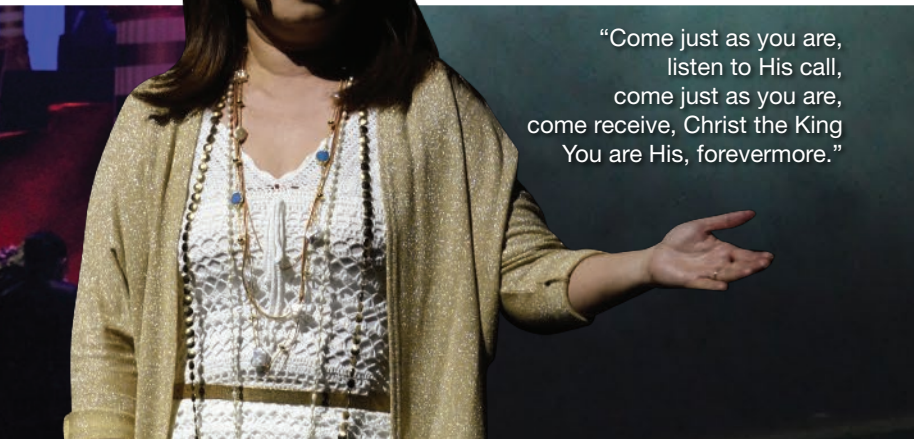
Nobel guests taking turns to order delicious food such as chocolate cheese cake



Three kings announcing that they are looking for the Saviour



Innkeeper sharing about his busy schedule at Bethlehem Inn



"Come just as you are, listen to His call, come just as you are, come receive, Christ the King You are His, forevermore."



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam leading the respondents in receiving Jesus into their hearts

CHRISTMAS EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS "THE VELVET ROPE"



Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng (left) and Associate Pastor Richard Yun (right) shared provoking thoughts on each evening respectively. Their insightful words saw 41 receiving Jesus as their Lord and Saviour for the very first time and 21 responded for rededication, and 218 for other needs. Praise the Lord!



Altar workers immediately following up on the respondents



Soloists singing joyful celebration of hope and love

All celebrating the born of the Child of Bethlehem



Production team with Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam



Mr. & Mrs. Boss joining the nativity scene



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY CONTEST 2016

By Jana Ponnodurai

If Jesus were born in a different country what would the Nativity scene look like? Well, at Calvary Church, seven teams participated in the 2016 Christmas Nativity Contest themed "Recreating the Nativity Scene from Around the World", representing Malaysia, Iceland, China, Japan, Korea, Sweden and Hawaii. Each team demonstrated true originality in their displays, culminating creative ideas and talented skills and wowed the congregation with their version of the Nativity scene. After a week's display, Calvarites voted for the winning teams after the Sunday Worship Service at CCC on 11 Dec 2016. We thank the Lord for the teams' effort and labour of love, and congratulations to the winning teams.



CHINA



MALAYSIA



SWEDEN



JAPAN



ICELAND



HAWAII



KOREA

CHRISTMAS DELIGHT

by Pastor Tabitha Ong



Myanmar friends promoting decorative items from their country

The Christmas Delight took place on 10 and 11 December 2016, which complemented the Christmas Musical “The Velvet Rope”, in the CCC Plaza that filled with much joy and festive cheer.

There was a huge variety of delectable foods and desserts; both local and international, and a large array of craft and Christmas gift items on sale. Calvarites brought along their families, friends and guests to shop and dine with one another before and after the musical presentation.

The kids thoroughly loved and enjoyed the coloring contest on Saturday afternoon. The top three winners of each age category went back home with prizes, and the rest received a participation gift.

We appreciate all the vendors and all of you who came and supported us! It was a great weekend indeed!



Beautiful Christmas plants and flowers for sale



Kids concentrating on their colouring



Variety of delicious food and desserts being sold



Calvarites smiling at curious customers

你们当中有谁是敬畏耶和華

信靠 和顺从

赛 50:10

文：古纳南主任牧师

十字架象征主耶稣基督对父神的虔敬和顺从。圣经上说：「基督在他肉身的日子，曾大声哀哭，流泪祷告，恳求那能救他免死的神，就因他的虔诚蒙了应允。他虽然为儿子，还是因所受的苦难学了顺从」（来5:7-8）。

对世界来说十字架是耻辱和软弱的图像。罪带来耻辱。为人父母者明白这点，他们培育他们的孩子成为自豪的父母。在神的家也是一样。圣经上说：「你们又忘了神劝你们如同劝儿女的那些话，说：『我儿啊，不可轻看主的管教，被他责备的时候不可灰心；因为主所爱的，他必管教，又鞭打他所接纳的每一个孩子。』」（来12:5-6）。

对信徒，圣经上说：「我们却是传被钉十字架的基督，…基督总是神的大能，神的智慧。」（林前1:23-24）。保罗解释说：「你们也在他里面受了不是人手所行的割礼，而是使你们脱去肉体情欲的基督的割礼」（西2:11）。在旧约中，神的选民是按割礼的肉身标记被识别出。新约的信徒受的割礼不是以人手所行，而是受圣灵的能力藉著信基督耶稣。保罗宣告说：「我已经与基督同钉十字架，现

在活着的不再是我，乃是基督在我里面活着；并且我如今在肉身活着，是因信神的儿子而活；他是爱我，为我舍己」（加2:20）和「所以，若有人在基督里，他就是新造的人，旧事已过，都变成新的了」（林后5:17）。我们作为信徒的身份是我们改变的生活方式，有基督的样式。

信徒的浸礼象征我们救恩的工作。保罗说我们：「既受洗与他一同埋葬，也就在此礼上，因信那使他从死人中复活的神的作为跟他一同复活」（西2:12）。要活出基督的生活，你必须认同自己与基督同死，并且过一个顺从神的旨意的生活。耶稣基督是对神敬虔和顺从神旨意的生命的最终典范。

保罗说：「你们从前在过犯和未受割礼的肉体中死了，神却赦免了你们一切的过犯，使你们与基督一同活过来，涂去了在律例上所写、敌对我们、束缚我们的字据，把它撤去，钉在十字架上。基督既将一切执政者、掌权者的权势解除了，就在凯旋的行列中，将他们公开示众，仗着十字架夸胜」（西2:13-15）。十字架打败了撒但辖制我们的权势和罪在我们生命中的力量。我们被羔羊的宝血救赎，在基督耶稣里过得胜有余的生活（罗8:33-37）。

要顺服基督，不要让你的肢体继续犯罪，但要使你们的肢体靠十字架的能力荣耀神。

要成为敬畏神和顺从神就是要舍己，背起自己的十字架来跟从耶稣（太16:24）。

生活不总是那么顺顺利利。约伯说：「人生出来必遭遇患难，如同火花飞腾」（伯5:7）和「人为妇人所生，日子短少，多有患难」（伯14:1）。有些人认为在生活中不用敬畏神和顺从神的旨意是更加美好和愉快。12岁那年作为一个信徒，我曾经也这样认为。世界似乎可以提供诸多乐趣，而我已错失了人生的美好。是的，撒旦使罪看起来更有趣，美好和充满乐趣。不要被撒旦愚弄。

重要的是要知道，不是所有的困苦，迫害和痛苦是因为我们背着耶稣基督的十字架。

1. 受苦不是因为你属灵。

你会因为你不顺从神而受苦。例如，约拿在一条大鱼的腹部受苦（圣经没有是说它是鲸鱼），是因为不顺从。以色列的子民在旷野中受苦因为他们的叛逆和心的刚硬。他们不敬畏神，也不听从他。你是因顺从而受苦吗？

2. 兴盛未必一定，你是属灵的。

在财主和拉撒路的比喻（路16:19-31）中，财主生活得很好，每天享受丰盛的食物，穿着精致

的衣服。当他死了，他发现自己
在阴间受痛苦。当他举目，他望
见拉撒路（一个可怜的乞丐，曾
在他的门口讨饭）在天堂在亚伯
拉罕怀中。财主发现他在他的一
生中没有顺从神。

在年轻富有的官的比喻中（路
18:18-23），有一个官问：「我
该做什么事才能承受永生？」耶
稣对他说：「你还缺少一件事。
你愿意放弃一切吗？」那官非常
富有和有地位。他不愿意顺从，
而失望地离开。不要让你的富裕
阻止你顺从神。

3. 不是所有的献祭都是被神悦纳的
扫罗的祭牲不被神悦纳因为他
不顺从神。先知撒母耳对他说：「
看哪，听命胜于献祭，顺从胜于
公羊的脂肪」（撒上15:22）。
扫罗在神的祭坛上献祭比遵从
神的命令容易得多。顺从比献
祭更具挑战性，它要求舍己。

神憎恶不顺从的以色列子民的
献祭。圣经上说道：「至于那些
宰牛，杀人，献羔羊，打断狗
颈项，献猪血为供物，烧乳香，
称颂偶像的，他们选择自己的
道路，心里喜爱可憎恶的事；
4我也必选择苦待他们，使他们
所惧怕的临到他们；因为我呼
唤，无人回应；我说话，他不
听从；反倒做我眼中看为恶的
事，选择我所不喜悦的事」（赛
66:3-4）。真诚和认真地顺
从神的旨意比所有的燔祭和祭
牲更得神喜悦和悦纳。

**4. 做比你应该的更多，
不会使你属灵。**

顺从神的事奉是至关重要的，
没有顺从的替代品。耶稣讲按
才受托的比喻要强调忠心重要
性。「主人说：『好，你这又善
良又忠心的仆人，你在少许的
事上忠心，我要派你管理许多
的事，进来享受你主人的快乐
吧！』」（太25:21）。

在三方面需要舍己

1. 我们打一场终身对抗罪的战斗。

除非你舍己，这物质的身体喜
爱世界上的东西（约一2:15）。
胜过肉

体的是十字架。秘诀是你要与
在十字架上的基督认同。当
我们犯罪时，我们必须悔改和
被圣灵充满（弗5:18）。有
一个一致性的祷告生活，参加
教会寻求基督徒团契以坚固你
的信心，并成长成熟有基督的
样式。圣经上说：「…除去不
敬虔的心和世俗的情欲，在今
世过克己、正直、敬虔的生活」
（多2:12）。这需要操练。

2. 我们的争战是属灵的

只要我们为耶稣而活，撒但就
会以各种各样的试探与我们对
抗。圣经上说道：「因为我们的
争战并不是对抗有血有肉的人，
而是对抗那些执政的、掌权的、
管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空
灵界的恶魔」（弗6:12）。

神已经通过耶稣基督和圣灵装
备我们。圣经上说：

a. 「但圣灵降临在你们身上，
你们就必得着能力，并要在耶
路撒冷、犹太全地和撒玛利亚，
直到地极，作我的见证」（徒
1:8）。

b. 「所以，要拿起神所赐的全
副军装，好在邪恶的日子能抵
挡仇敌，并且完成了一切后还
能站立得住。」（弗6:13）。

c. 「因为我们争战的兵器本不
是属血气的，而是凭着神的能力，
能够攻破坚固的营垒。我们攻
破各样的计谋，和各样拦阻人
认识神的高垒，又夺回人心来
顺服基督」（林后10:4-5）。

d. 「务要谨慎，要警醒。因为
你们的仇敌魔鬼，如同咆哮的
狮子，走来走去，寻找可吞吃
的人。你们要用坚固的信心抵
挡他，因为知道你们在世上的
众弟兄也正在经历这样的苦难。
那赐一切恩典的神曾在基督里
召了你们，得享他永远的荣
耀，在你们暂受苦难之后，必
要亲自成全你们，坚固你们，
赐力量给你们，建立你们」（彼
前5:8-10）。

3. 我们住在一个有罪的世界

世界讨厌耶稣，把他钉在十字
架上

。他的死是为了你作为罪人救
赎你。当你背起十字架，跟从
耶稣，世界就恨你。圣经上道
说：「不要爱世界和世界上的
东西，若有人爱世界，爱父的
心就不在他里面了。因为凡世
界上的东西，好比肉体的情欲、
眼目的情欲和今生的骄傲，都
不是从父来的，而是从世界来
的」（约一2:15-16）。敬畏
神，信靠并顺从过一个胜利的
生活，胜过罪的权势。

耶稣成功的秘诀是他对神，他
父的爱。他说：「我凭着自己
不能做什么。我怎么听见就怎
么审判，而我的审判是公平的，
因为我不寻求自己的意愿，只
寻求差我来那位的旨意」（约
5:30）。你可以爱神因为耶
稣在十字架上已为你成就的事。

当你尽心，尽性和尽力爱神时，
他的爱就充满你，世界上没有
什么能引诱你或使你远离神。
已婚夫妇会记得他们在新婚时
期，他们只看他们的配偶。圣
经上说，当人爱上一个人时，
他有鸽子的眼睛（歌1:15）。
鸽子只有看它们的伴侣的眼睛。
当配偶知道他们被爱，他们就
有安全感，不受任何可能的诱
惑的威胁。你对神的爱会让你
转离对世界的爱。

圣经上说：「敬畏耶和华是智
慧的开端，凡遵行他命令的有
美好的见识」（诗111:10）。
敬畏耶和华是约瑟在他所有的
试探和挑战中成为胜利者的
秘诀。约瑟告诉他的兄弟说：「
我是敬畏神的，你们这么做就
可以活」（创42:18）。亚伯
拉罕对耶和华的敬畏促使他
在他被要求献上他儿子的时候
顺从神（创22:12）。敬畏神
促使你顺从他，他不会让你失
望的。

敬畏神和用爱，热心和信心
顺从他。跟随耶稣的榜样，背
起十字架和舍己。你将会体验
到十字架的能力和智慧。

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合
本修订版。

Percaya & Taat

YESAYA 50:10

Oleh Pendita Kanan Prince Guneratnam

Salib melambangkan rasa takut yang saleh dan ketaatan kepada Tuhan Yesus Kristus kepada Tuhan Bapa. Alkitab mengatakan, "Dalam hidup-Nya sebagai manusia, Ia telah mempersembahkan doa dan permohonan dengan ratap tangis dan keluhan kepada Dia, yang sanggup menyelamatkan-Nya dari maut, dan karena kesalehan-Nya Ia telah didengarkan. Dan sekalipun Ia adalah Anak, Ia telah belajar menjadi taat dari apa yang telah diderita-Nya" (Ibrani 5:7-8).

Salib bagi dunia, adalah satu gambaran rasa malu dan kelemahan. Dosa membawa rasa malu. Orang tua memahaminya, dan mereka mengasuh anak-anak mereka untuk menjadi ibubapa yang bangga. Ini adalah sama dalam keluarga Tuhan. Alkitab mengatakan, "Dan sudah lupakah kamu akan nasihat yang berbicara kepada kamu seperti kepada anak-anak: "Hai anakku, janganlah anggap enteng didikan

Tuhan, dan janganlah putus asa apabila engkau diperingatkan-Nya; karena Tuhan mengajar orang yang dikasihi-Nya, dan Ia menyesah orang yang diakui-Nya sebagai anak" (Ibrani 12:5-6).

Kepada umat Kristian, Alkitab mengatakan, "tetapi kami memberitakan Kristus yang disalibkan.... Kristus adalah kekuatan Tuhan dan hikmat Tuhan" (1 Korintus 1: 23-24). Paulus menerangkan, "Dalam Dia kamu telah disunat, bukan dengan sunat yang dilakukan oleh manusia, tetapi dengan sunat Kristus, yang terdiri dari penanggalan akan tubuh yang berdosa" (Kolose 2:11). Dalam Perjanjian Lama, umat pilihan Tuhan diidentifikasi dengan tanda fizikal sunat. Umat Kristian dalam Perjanjian Baru disunat "bukan oleh tangan", tetapi dengan kuasa Roh Kudus melalui iman dalam Kristus Yesus. Paulus mengumumkan, "namun aku hidup, tetapi bukan lagi aku sendiri yang hidup, melainkan Kristus yang hidup di dalam aku. Dan hidupku yang kuhidupi sekarang di dalam daging, adalah hidup oleh iman dalam Anak Tuhan yang lah mengasihi aku dan menyerahkan diri-Nya untuk aku" (Galatia 2:20) dan "Jadi siapa yang ada di dalam Kristus, ia adalah ciptaan baru: yang lama sudah berlalu, sesungguhnya yang baru sudah datang!" (2 Korintus 5:17). Identifikasi hidup kita yang sudah berubah, iaitu seperti Kristus.

Pembaptisan air seorang umat Kristian melambangkan karya keselamatan kita. Paulus mengatakan kita "karena dengan Dia kamu dikuburkan dalam baptisan, dan di dalam Dia kamu turut dibangkitkan juga oleh kepercayaanmu kepada kerja kuasa Tuhan, yang telah membangkitkan Dia dari orang mati" (Kolose 2:12). Untuk menjalani kehidupan Kristus, kamu harus mengidentifikasi diri kamu mati dengan Kristus, dan hidup yang taat kepada kehendak Tuhan. Yesus Kristus adalah tauladan utama satu kehidupan yang takut akan Tuhan dan taat kepada kehendak Tuhan.

Paulus mengatakan, "Kamu juga, meskipun dahulu mati oleh pelanggaranmu dan oleh karena tidak disunat secara lahiriah, telah dihidupkan Tuhan bersama-sama dengan Dia, sesudah Ia mengampuni segala pelanggaran kita, dengan menghapuskan surat hutang, yang oleh ketentuan-ketentuan hukum mendakwa dan mengancam kita. Dan itu ditiadakan-Nya dengan memakukannya pada kayu salib: Ia telah melucuti pemerintah-pemerintah dan penguasa-penguasa dan menjadikan mereka tontonan umum dalam kemenangan-Nya atas mereka" (Kolose 2:13-15). Salib memecahkan kuasa Iblis atas kita dan kuasa dosa dalam kehidupan kita. Kita ditebus oleh darah Anak Domba, untuk hidup sebagai lebih daripada penakluk dalam Kristus Yesus (Roma 8:33-37).

Menyerahkan kepada Kristus dan jangan biarkan anggota tubuh kamu terus berdosa, tetapi gunakan anggota badan kamu untuk memuliakan Tuhan dengan kuasa salib.

“Untuk takut akan Tuhan dan taat kepada Tuhan adalah untuk menafikan diri kamu, dan mengambil salib dan mengikuti Yesus” (Matius 16:24).

Hidup bukan katil mawar. Ayub mengatakan, “melainkan manusia menimbulkan kesusahan bagi dirinya, seperti bunga api berjolak tinggi.” (Ayub 5:7) dan “Manusia yang lahir dari perempuan, singkat umurnya dan penuh kegelisahan” (Ayub 14:1). Seseorang orang berfikir untuk menjalani kehidupan yang tanpa takut akan Tuhan dan mentaati kehendak Tuhan adalah lebih menyeronokkan. Saya pernah berfikir begitu juga, pada usia 12 sebagai umat Kristian. Dunia seolah-olah mempunyai banyak untuk menawarkan dan saya telah terlepas daripada kehidupan yang seronok. Ya, Syaitan sentiasa menjadikan dosa kelihatan seperti menyeronokkan dan penuh dengan kenikmatan. Jangan tertipu oleh syaitan.

Adalah penting untuk mengetahui, tidak semua kesusahan, penderitaan adalah kerana kita menanggung salib Yesus Kristus.

1. Menderita bukan kerana kamu bersifat kerohanian.

Kamu boleh menderita kerana ketidak-taatan kamu kepada Tuhan. Sebagai contoh, Yunus menderita dalam perut ikan besar (Alkitab tidak mengatakan bahawa ia adalah ikan paus) kerana ketidak-taatan. Orang Yahudi menderita di padang gurun kerana pemberontakan dan kekerasan hati mereka. Mereka tidak takut akan Tuhan dan tidak taat kepada-Nya. Adakah penderitaan kamu datang daripada ketaatan?

2. Untuk Berjaya, kamu tidak semestinya bersifat kerohanian.

Dalam perumpamaan Orang Kaya dan Lazarus (Lukas 16:19-31), orang kaya hidup dengan baik, menikmati makanan mewah setiap hari dan berpakaian cantik Apabila dia meninggal dunia, dia mendapati dirinya disiksa di dalam neraka. Apabila dia melihat ke atas, dia melihat Lazarus (seorang pengemis yang telah merayu makanan di pintu gerbang) yang ditahan oleh Abraham di syurga. Orang kaya mendapati bahawa dia tidak taat kepada Tuhan dalam hidupnya.

Dalam perumpamaan pemimpin muda yang kaya (Lukas 18:18-23), pemerintah "Guru yang baik, apa yang harus aku perbuat untuk memperoleh hidup yang kekal?" Jawab Yesus, "Masih tinggal satu hal lagi yang harus kaulakukan, juallah segala yang kaumiliki dan bagi-bagikanlah itu kepada orang-orang miskin, maka engkau akan beroleh harta di sorga, kemudian datanglah ke mari dan ikutlah Aku." Pemimpin itu sangat kaya dan berpangkat tinggi. Dia tidak rela taat dan meninggalkan Yesus dengan hati kecewa. Jangan biarkan kekayaan menghalang kamu daripada mentaati Tuhan.

3. Bukan semua korban diterima oleh Tuhan.

Pengorbanan Saul tidak diterima oleh Tuhan kerana dia tidak taat kepada Tuhan. Nabi Samuel berkata kepadanya "... Dengar! Sesungguhnya, mendengarkan lebih baik dari pada korban sembelihan, memperhatikan lebih baik dari pada lemak domba-domba jantan" (1 Sam 15: 22). Adalah lebih mudah bagi Saul mempersembahkan korban di atas mezbah Tuhan daripada taat kepada perintah-Nya. Ketaatan adalah lebih mencahar daripada pengorbanan, ia memerlukan penafian diri.

Tuhan membenci pengorbanan anak-anak Yahudi yang tidak taat. Alkitab mengatakan, "Orang menyembelih lembu jantan, namun membunuh

manusia juga, orang mengorbankan domba, namun mematahkan batang leher anjing, orang mempersembahkan korban sajian, namun mempersembahkan darah babi, orang mempersembahkan kemenyan, namun memuja berhala juga. Karena itu: sama seperti mereka lebih menyukai jalan mereka sendiri, dan jiwanya menghendaki dewa kejiwaan mereka, demikianlah Aku lebih menyukai memperlakukan mereka dengan sewenang-wenang dan mendatangi kepada mereka apa yang ditakutkan mereka; oleh karena apabila Aku memanggil, tidak ada yang menjawab, apabila Aku berbicara, mereka tidak mendengarkan, tetapi mereka melakukan yang jahat di mata-Ku dan lebih menyukai apa yang tidak Kukehendaki" (Yesaya 66: 3-4). Ketaatan yang ikhlas dan teliti kepada kehendak Tuhan adalah lebih menyenangkan dan berkenan kepada Tuhan daripada semua korban bakaran dan korban sembelihan.

4. Melakukan lebih daripada apa yang kamu harus, tidak membuat kamu lebih rohani.

Melayani Tuhan kerana ketaatan adalah penting, tidak ada pengganti untuk ketaatan. Yesus menceritakan perumpamaan tentang wang untuk menekankan pentingnya kesetiaan. "Maka kata tuannya itu kepadanya: Baik sekali perbuatanmu itu, hai hambaku yang baik dan setia; engkau telah setia dalam perkara kecil, aku akan memberikan kepadamu tanggung jawab dalam perkara yang besar. Masuklah dan turutlah dalam kebahagiaan tuanmu" (Matius 25:21).

PENAFIAN DIRI DIPERLUKAN DALAM TIGA ASPEK INI

1. Kita Berlawan satu Pertempuran Sepanjang Hidup dengan Dosa.

Melainkan kamu menafikan diri kamu, badan jasmani ini suka akan perkara-perkara di dunia (1 Yohanes 2:15). Kemenangan ke atas kedagingan ialah Salib. Rahsianya ialah untuk mengidentifikasikan diri kamu dengan

Kristus di atas Salib. Kita mesti bertaubat, apabila kita berdosa dan diurapi dengan Roh Kudus (Efesus 5:18). Mempunyai kehidupan doa yang konsisten, cari persekutuan Kristian dengan menghadiri Gereja untuk menguatkan iman kamu dan untuk matang dalam Kristus. Alkitab mengatakan, "...Ia mendidik kita supaya kita meninggalkan kefasikan dan keinginan-keinginan duniawi dan supaya kita hidup bijaksana, adil dan beribadah" (Titus 2:12). Ini memerlukan disiplin.

2. Pertempuran kita bersifat rohani.

Selagi kita hidup untuk Yesus, Syaitan akan menggoda kita dengan semua jenis godaan. Alkitab mengatakan, "karena perjuangan kita bukanlah melawan darah dan daging, tetapi melawan pemerintah-pemerintah, melawan penguasa-penguasa, melawan penghulu-penghulu dunia yang gelap ini, melawan roh-roh jahat di udara" (Efesus 6:12).

Tuhan telah melengkapi kita melalui Yesus Kristus dan Roh Kudus. Alkitab mengatakan:

a. "Tetapi kamu akan menerima kuasa, kalau Roh Kudus turun ke atas kamu, dan kamu akan menjadi saksi-Ku di Yerusalem dan di seluruh Yudea dan Samaria dan sampai ke ujung bumi" (Kisah Para Rasul 1:8).

b. "Sebab itu ambillah seluruh perlengkapan senjata Tuhan, supaya kamu dapat mengadakan perlawanan pada hari yang jahat itu dan tetap berdiri, sesudah kamu menyelesaikan segala sesuatu" (Efesus 6:13).

c. "karena senjata kami dalam perjuangan bukanlah senjata duniawi, melainkan senjata yang diperlengkapi dengan kuasa Tuhan, yang sanggup untuk meruntuhkan benteng-benteng. Kami mematahkan setiap siasat orang dan merubuhkan setiap kubu yang dibangun oleh keangkuhan manusia untuk menentang pengenalan akan Tuhan.

Kami menawan segala pikiran dan menaklukkannya kepada Kristus," (2 Korintus 10:4-5).

d. "Lawanlah dia dengan iman yang teguh, sebab kamu tahu, bahwa semua saudaramu di seluruh dunia menanggung penderitaan yang sama. Dan Tuhan, sumber segala kasih karunia, yang telah memanggil kamu dalam Kristus kepada kemuliaan-Nya yang kekal, akan melengkapi, meneguhkan, menguatkan dan mengokohkan kamu, sesudah kamu menderita seketika lamanya" (1 Petrus 5:9-10).

3. Kita Hidup Dalam Dunia Yang Berdosa.

Dunia membenci Yesus serta menyalibkan dia di atas salib. Kematian Dia adalah untuk menebus kamu sebagai orang berdosa. Dunia membenci kamu apabila kamu mengambil salib dan mengikuti Yesus. Alkitab memberi amaran, "Janganlah kamu mengasihi dunia dan apa yang ada di dalamnya. Jikalau orang mengasihi dunia, maka kasih akan Bapa tidak ada di dalam orang itu. Sebab semua yang ada di dalam dunia, yaitu keinginan daging dan keinginan mata serta keangkuhan hidup, bukanlah berasal dari Bapa, melainkan dari dunia." (1 Yohanes 2:15-16). Takutlah kepada Tuhan, percaya dan taat untuk menjalani kehidupan yang menang keatas kuasa dosa.

Rahsia kejayaan Yesus ialah kasih-Nya kepada Tuhan, Bapa-Nya. Dia berkata, "Aku tidak dapat berbuat apa-apa dari diri-Ku sendiri; Aku menghakimi sesuai dengan apa yang Aku dengar, dan penghakiman-Ku adil, sebab Aku tidak menuruti kehendak-Ku sendiri, melainkan kehendak Dia yang mengutus Aku" (Yohanes 5:30). Kamu boleh mengasihi Tuhan kerana apa yang Yesus telah capai di atas salib untuk kamu.

Apabila kamu mengasihi Tuhan dengan segenap hati, jiwa dan kekuatan, kasih-Nya memenuhi kamu dan tidak ada apa-apa di dunia akan

menggoda kamu atau menarik kamu jauh dari Tuhan. Pasangan yang berkahwin akan ingat bagaimana mereka hanya mempunyai mata untuk isteri-isteri mereka pada tahun-tahun awal perkahwinan mereka. Alkitab mengatakan apabila seseorang jatuh cinta, seseorang itu mempunyai mata merpati (Kidung Agung 1:15). Merpati mempunyai mata hanya untuk rakan-rakan mereka. Apabila pasangan tahu mereka dicintai, mereka berasa selamat dan tidak terancam oleh mana-mana godaan. Cinta kamu untuk Tuhan akan menjadikan kamu berpaling daripada cinta kepada dunia.

Alkitab mengatakan, "Permulaan hikmat adalah takut akan TUHAN, semua orang yang melakukannya berakal budi yang baik. Puji-pujian kepada-Nya tetap untuk selamanya" (Mazmur 111:10). Takut akan Tuhan adalah rahsia Yusuf menjadi pemenang dalam semua godaan dan halangan. Yusuf memberitahu saudara-saudaranya, "Buatlah begini, maka kamu akan tetap hidup, aku takut akan Tuhan" (Kejadian 42:18). Ketakutan Abraham terhadap Tuhan memotivasikannya untuk menaati Tuhan ketika dia diminta untuk mengorbankan anaknya (Kejadian 22:12). Takut akan Tuhan mendorong kamu untuk mentaatinya dan Dia tidak akan membuat kamu gagal.

Takut kepada Tuhan dan mentaatinya dengan kasih, semangat dan iman. Ikuti tauladan Yesus, memikul salib dan menyangkal diri sendiri. Kamu akan mengalami kekuatan dan kebijaksanaan salib.

Semua petikan Alkitab dipetik daripada Alkitab Terjemahan Baru melainkan dinyatakan.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE JANUARY 2017

Water Baptism

Date: Saturday, 18 February 2017

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Calvary Damansara Heights

Closing date for submission of application: Sunday, 22 January 2017

Calvary Damansara Heights Saturday at 5.00pm

07 Associate Pastor Raymond Yong

14 Pastor Maury Davis
Missions Emphasis

21 Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng

28 Associate Pastor Steven Kum

Calvary Convention Centre Sunday at 9.00am

01 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Communion

08 Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng

15 Pastor Maury Davis
Missions Emphasis

22 Associate Pastor Steven Kum

29 Associate Pastor Richard Yun

MISSIONS EMPHASIS

Trust & Obey

PROCLAIM

Good News | Freedom | The Lord's Favour
Isaiah 61:1-2

Pastor Maury Davis is the Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Nashville Church in Madison, Tennessee, USA. As a teenager, he was involved with drugs and crime. In the middle of a robbery, he committed a murder. While in prison for 8 years, he accepted Christ. Over the years, a tremendous transformation took place in his life, a testament to God's power that can change us and overcome our limitations.

After 40 years in ministry, Pastor Davis has built a faithful congregation, a weekly television show, and an international ministry which has constructed over 2,000 churches. He is a powerful preacher who not only preaches grace but lives by God's grace. He knows what it's like to be limited by self, and how to get beyond it.



Pastor Maury Davis
Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Nashville Church
in Madison, Tennessee, USA

Don't miss this opportunity to build your faith for 2017.

Friday, 13 January 2017 @ 7.30pm
Calvary Damansara Heights

Saturday, 14 January 2017 @ 5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights

Sunday, 15 January 2017 @ 9.00am
Calvary Convention Centre

SENIOR PASTORS PRINCE AND PETRINA GUNERATNAM, ASSOCIATE PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSES AND CHURCH STAFF WISH YOU

Blessed 2017



First row (L-R): Associate Pastor Raymond Yong & Cheong Pui Ling, Associate Pastor Yong Chee Wang & Pastor Quek Lee Siu, Associate Pastor Richard Yun & Chooi Oi Ying, Associate Pastor Peter Ong, Jim Guneratnam & Amelia Lee, Senior Pastors Prince & Petrina Guneratnam, Associate Pastor Chris Lee & Pam Guneratnam, Associate Pastor Steven Kurn, Associate Pastor Timothy Ong & Samantha Sam, Associate Pastor David Seah & Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng

Second row (L-R): Joshua Indran, Eleazar Tan, Pastor Susan Tan, Pastor Shereen Wong, Tan Choon King, Jenny Sekwsthan, Lee Foong Ling, Pastor Carol Weller, Pastor Tabitha Ong, Jason Sia, Cheah Siew Ying, David Tan, Chon Yan Li, Timothy Yee, James Tai, Phang Wai Marudu, Alice Lee, Yee Yuet Hoh, Chin Yoke Yee, Angela Aw

Third row (L-R): Katherine Lee, Pastor Carol Lim, Faith Lim, Simon Yap, Jerry Loon, Robert Ang, Mantarasan, Wendy Foo, Pastor Sally Leong, Rita Ho, Justine Tan, Woong Suh Shian, Yip Wai Leng, Ho Swee Mei, Lucy Tan

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Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam

