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HEAVEN'S RESPONSE AT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



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HEAVEN'S RESPONSE AT

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger. Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising God and saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased.”” (Luke 2:8-14).

Heaven’s response to the birth of Jesus Christ was worship. A descending army of angels came and sang songs of praise and worship to God. Christmas is a call to worship God and His Son, Jesus Christ. The best gift we can give God is our worship because worship involves serving God.

What did God have to say about worship? God made it clear to Moses that worship belongs to God. God said, *“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.”* (Exodus 20:4-5a). That is why the first thing we do at church is to enter into a time of worship. Jesus’ response to Satan’s temptation in the wilderness

was, *“The Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”* (Luke 4:8). If we worship God, we will want to serve Him. True worshippers are servers. True worshippers get involved in doing things for the glory of God. They respond with action and obedience. Satan knew that if Jesus were to bow down in worship, Jesus would also serve him.

God created everything that He might receive glory and honor. John in Revelation said, *“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to*

receive glory and honour and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.” (Revelation 4:11). All things were made to declare God’s glory. Psalm 19:1 says, *“The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship.”*

God created us with the ability to worship. God enthrones Himself in our worship. His presence meets every need we may have. Satan desires to rob us of God’s provision and fulfilment in life. Only human beings can worship

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

because we have been created in His image with a body, soul and mind. When man sinned, man's soul was cut off from fellowship with God. Jesus came to redeem us by dying on the cross and restored our fellowship with God. Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "But the time is coming – indeed it's here now – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." David said, "Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again" (Psalm 42:5).

Worship ascribes worth. There are many ways we can worship and the Bible mentions some of them.

1. WE CAN WORSHIP VERBALLY

Psalm 26:7 says, "Singing a song of thanksgiving and telling of all your wonders." We sing in church because singing is a form of verbal worship to God. Moses and the children of Israel sang about what God had done, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he

has hurled both horse and rider into the sea" (Exodus 15:1). Testimonies can be a worship. Psalm 98:4 says, "Shout to the Lord, all the earth break out in praise and sing for joy!" When we shout to the Lord, we drown out the negative voice of Satan. Psalm 66:1 says, "Shout joyful praises to God, all the earth!" Psalm 47:1 says, "Come, everyone! Clap your hands! Shout to God with joyful praise!" The clapping of hands is not about making noise. If we really clap as unto the Lord, He is glorified.

We keep living the way we have been, living in our sicknesses, rejection, heartaches and unfulfilled needs because we have not learnt to enter into the presence of God through worship. In His presence are the provisions that meet our needs.

2. WE CAN WORSHIP WITH INSTRUMENTS

Psalm 33:3 says, "Sing a new song of praise to him; play skilfully on the harp, and sing with joy." Psalm 98:6 says, "With trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn. Make a joyful symphony before the Lord, the

King!" Psalm 47:5 says, "God has ascended with a mighty shout. The Lord has ascended with trumpets blaring." Musical instruments can be used for the glory of God.

3. WORSHIP CAN BE DEMONSTRATED

Psalm 95:6 says, "Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord, our maker." Kneeling is another form of worship. Psalm 150:4 says this, "Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes!" Dancing as a demonstration of praise unto God is scriptural. We need to understand that we do these not out of a form, but with meaning. There are some wonderful examples of this. Aaron's sister, Miriam danced before the Lord after crossing the Red Sea (Exodus 15:20) and so did David. 2 Samuel 6:14 says, "And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment." David said, "You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing." (Psalm 30:11). There is healing, deliverance and forgiveness when we enter into the presence of God



in worship. Let us worship God with our instruments, songs, testimonies and dance for He is worthy of our honor and praise.

4. WORSHIP BY THE LIFTING OF HANDS

Another form of worship can be found in Psalm 141:2, “Accept my prayer as incense offered to you, and my upraised hands as an evening offering.” The raising of hands is not a church religious form but has a biblical basis. The Bible talks about “lifting holy hands”. Our hands can express how we actually feel. When we raise our hands, it can be an act of surrender, reverence, humility or need. Holy hands, because we are redeemed and it is unto the Lord.

5. GIVING HONOURS GOD IN OUR WORSHIP

Psalm 96:6 says, “Honour and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.” The Bible says in Proverbs 3:9, “Honour the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.” Another form of

worship is bringing our wealth and what we have to Him. When we honour Him with what we have, He multiplies just like the five loaves and two fish. The Bible says, “Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full – pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.” (Luke 6:38). Our tithes and offerings opens the window of heaven to bless us and God will rebuke the devourer, who is a destroyer and a robber (Malachi 3:10).

Heaven comes down when we worship. Isaiah 6:1-3 says, “It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven’s Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!”” Worship brings God’s glory into our midst.

In heaven, there is a constant flow, unstoppable time and season of a continual worship. The Bible says in Revelation 19:1, “After this, I heard what sounded like a vast crowd in heaven shouting, “Praise the Lord! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God.” If we are uncomfortable worshipping here on earth, heaven will not be a happy place for you.

Worship makes us anointed witnesses. When the shepherds came and worshipped, they went out and told others the good news. When worshippers truly worship, they will go and tell of what God has done. Secondly, the wise men came to worship by bringing their gifts. True worshippers walk in obedience. After they worshipped, “When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.” (Matthew 2:12). Let us as born again believers make worship our lifestyle whether we are in church or regardless of the day or season we live in.

All Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation, unless otherwise stated.

天堂对基督降生的回应

文：古纳南主任牧师

「在伯利恒的野外有牧羊人，夜间值班看守羊群。有主的一个使者站在他们旁边，主的荣光四面照着他们，牧羊人就很惧怕。那天使对他们说：“不要惧怕！看哪！因为我报给你们大喜的信息，是关乎万民的：因今天在大卫的城里，为你们生了救主，就是主基督。你们要看见一个婴孩，包着布，卧在马槽里，那就是给你们的记号。”忽然，有一大队天兵同那天使赞美神说：“在至高之处荣耀归与神！在地上平安归与他所喜悦的人！”」（路2:8-14）。

天堂对耶稣基督降生的回应是敬拜。一队天兵同那天使从天而降唱赞美歌和敬拜神。圣诞节是一个敬拜神和他的儿子耶稣基督的呼召。我们可以给神最好的礼物是我们的敬拜，因为敬拜是服事神。

神对敬拜所要说的什么？神清楚地对摩西表明，敬拜是属于神。神说道：「不可为自己雕刻偶像，也不可做什么形像，仿佛上天、下地和地底下水中的百物。不可跪拜那些像，也不可事奉它们，因为我耶和华—你的神是忌邪的神。」（出20:4-5a）。这是我们在教会聚会时首先是进入敬拜的时间的原因。耶稣对撒但在旷野的试探的回应是：「经上记着：‘要拜主—你的神，惟独事奉他。’」（路4:8）。如果我们敬拜神，我们都会想服事他。真正的敬拜者是服事者。真正的敬拜者会为神的荣耀参与服事。他们以行动和顺服来回应。撒但知道如果耶稣要跪拜他，耶稣也要服事他。

神创造了万物，因而配得荣耀与尊荣。约翰在启示录中说道：「我们的主，我们的神，你配得荣耀、尊贵、权柄，因为你创造了万物，万物因你的旨意被创造而存在」（启4:11）。一切被造的都是为了宣告神的荣耀。诗篇19:1说：「诸天述说神的荣耀，穹苍传扬他手的作为」。

神创造我们具有敬拜的能力。神在我们敬拜中立宝座。他的同在能满足我们的每一个需求。撒但想要夺走神在我们生命中的供应和成就。只有人

类才能敬拜，因为我们是照着他的形像被造，有身体，灵魂和思想。当人犯罪时，人的灵魂与神的交通被断绝。耶稣来救赎我们，死在十字架上，恢复了我们与神的交通。耶稣和在井旁的撒玛利亚妇人说：「时候将到，现在就是了，那真正敬拜父的，要用心灵和诚实敬拜他，因为父要这样的人敬拜他。」大卫说：「我的心哪，你为何忧闷？为何在我里面烦躁？应当仰望神，我还要称谢他，我当面的拯救」（诗42:5）。

敬拜将价值归于神。我们有很多方式可以敬拜，圣经中提到了其中一些。

1. 我们可以用言语来敬拜

诗26:7说：「我好发出称谢的声音，述说你一切奇妙的作为。」我们在教会唱歌是因为唱歌是一种用言语敬拜神的形式。摩西和以色列人因神的作为向神唱歌说：「我要向耶和华歌唱，因他大大得胜，将马和骑马的投在海中」（出15:1）。见证可以是一种敬拜。诗98:4说：「全地都要向耶和华欢呼，要扬声，欢唱，歌颂！」当我们向主欢呼时，我们淹没了撒但的负面声音。诗66:1说：「全地都应当向神欢呼！」诗47:1说：「万民哪，你们都要鼓掌！用欢呼的声音向神呼喊！」鼓掌不是为了制造噪音。如果我们真的向主鼓掌，他就会得到荣耀。

我们一直以我们的方式生活，生活在我们的疾病，拒绝，痛苦和未被满足的需要中，因为我们还没有学会藉着敬拜进入神的同在中。在祂的同在中，有满足我们需要的供应。

2. 我们可以用乐器来敬拜

诗篇33:3说：「应当向他唱新歌，弹得巧妙，声音洪亮。」诗98:6说：「用号角和角声，在大君王耶和华面前欢呼！」诗47:5说：「神上升，有喊声相送；耶和华上升，有角声相送。」乐器可以用来荣耀神。

3. 敬拜可以被表明

诗篇95:6说：「来啊，我们要俯伏敬拜，在造我们的耶和华面前跪拜。」跪拜是另一种敬拜形式。诗篇150:4说：「击鼓跳舞赞美他！用丝弦的乐器和箫的声音赞美他！」跳舞是对神赞美的表明是符合圣经的。我们需要明白，我们不是出于一种形式，它是有意义的行为。圣经里有一些很好的例子。亚伦的姐姐米利暗，过了红海之后在主面前跳舞（出15:20）大卫也是如此。撒下6:14说：「大卫穿着细麻布以弗得，在耶和华面前极力跳舞。」大卫说：「你将我的哀哭变

为跳舞」（诗篇30:11）。当我们以敬拜进入神的同在中时，有医治，释放和赦免。让我们用我们的乐器，歌曲，见证和舞蹈来敬拜神，因为他是配得我们的尊荣和赞美。

4. 举起手来敬拜

另一种敬拜的形式可以在诗141:2中找到：「愿我的祷告如香呈到你面前！愿我的手举起，如献晚祭！」举起手不是教会的宗教形式，而是有圣经的基础。圣经谈到“举起圣洁的手”。我们的手可以表达我们的实际感受。当我们举起手时，可能是一种降服，敬畏，谦卑或需要的行为。圣洁的手，因为我们得救赎，这是为主做的。

5. 在我们的敬拜中奉献尊崇神

诗96:6说：「有尊荣和威严在他面前，有能力与华美在他圣所。」圣经在箴3:9说：「你要以财物和一切初熟的土产尊崇耶和华。」另一种敬拜形式是把我们的财富和我们所拥有的带给他。当我们用我们所拥有的尊崇他时，他就倍增它就像五饼和二鱼一样。圣经说：「你们要给人，就必有给你们的，并且用十足的升斗，连摇带按，上尖下流地倒在你们怀里；因为你们用什么量器量给人，也必用什么量器量给你们。」（路6:38）。我们的十分之一和奉献敞开通天的窗户来祝福我们，神会斥责那个吞噬者，他是破坏者和强盗（玛3:10）。

当我们敬拜时，天堂降临。赛6:1-3说道：「当乌西雅王崩的那年，我看见主坐在高高的宝座上。他的衣裳下摆遮满圣殿。上有撒拉弗侍立，各有六个翅膀：两个翅膀遮脸，两个翅膀遮脚，两个翅膀飞翔，彼此呼喊说：“圣哉！圣哉！圣哉！万军之耶和华；他的荣光遍满全地！”」敬拜将神的荣耀带到我们中间。

在天上，有一个不断的流程，不停的时间和持续敬拜的时期。圣经在启19:1说道：「此后，我听见好像有一大群人在天上大声说：“哈利路亚！救恩、荣耀、权能都属于我们的神。」如果我们不喜欢地上的敬拜，天堂对你来说不是一个快乐的地方。

敬拜使我们成为恩膏的见证人。牧羊人来和敬拜之后，他们就出去把好消息告诉别人。当敬拜者真正敬拜时，他们会去告诉人神所成就的事。其次，博学之士带着礼物来敬拜。真正的敬拜者有顺服的生活。他们敬拜之后「因为在梦中得到主的指示，不要回去见希律，他们就别的路回自己的家乡去了」（太2:12）。身为重生的信徒，让我们以敬拜为我们的生活方式，无论我们是在教会里，或无论我们生活在哪个时代或哪个季节。

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合本修订版。



RESPONS SYURGAWI SEMASA KELAHIRAN YESUS

Oleh Pendita Kanan Prince Guneratnam

Di daerah itu ada gembala-gembala yang tinggal di padang menjaga kawanan ternak mereka pada waktu malam. Tiba-tiba berdirilah seorang malaikat Tuhan di dekat mereka dan kemuliaan Tuhan bersinar meliputi mereka dan mereka sangat ketakutan. Lalu kata malaikat itu kepada mereka: "Di daerah itu ada gembala-gembala yang tinggal di padang menjaga kawanan ternak mereka pada waktu malam. Tiba-tiba berdirilah seorang malaikat Tuhan di dekat mereka dan kemuliaan Tuhan bersinar meliputi mereka dan mereka sangat ketakutan. Lalu kata malaikat itu kepada mereka: "Jangan takut, sebab sesungguhnya aku memberitakan kepadamu kesukaan besar untuk seluruh bangsa. Hari ini telah lahir bagimu Juruselamat, yaitu Kristus, Tuhan, di kota Daud. Dan inilah tandanya bagimu: Kamu akan menjumpai seorang bayi dibungkus dengan lampin dan terbaring di dalam palungan." Dan tiba-tiba tampaklah bersama-sama dengan malaikat itu sejumlah besar bala tentara sorga yang memuji Tuhan, katanya: "Kemuliaan bagi Tuhan di tempat yang mahatinggi dan damai sejahtera di bumi di antara manusia yang berkenan kepada-Nya" (Lukas 2:8-14).

Respons syurgawi terhadap kelahiran Yesus adalah penyembahan. Angkatan malaikat turun dengan nyanyian lagu pujian dan penyembahan kepada Tuhan. Hari Natal adalah seruan untuk menyembah Tuhan dan anakNya, Yesus Kristus. Pemberian terbaik yang dapat kita berikan Tuhan ialah penyembahan kerana penyembahan melibatkan pelayanan Tuhan.

Apa kata Tuhan tentang penyembahan? Tuhan menjelaskan kepada Musa bahawa penyembahan kepunyaan Tuhan. Tuhan berkata, "Jangan membuat bagimu patung yang menyerupai apapun yang ada di langit di atas, atau yang ada di bumi di bawah, atau yang ada di dalam air di bawah bumi. 20:5 Jangan sujud menyembah kepadanya atau beribadah kepadanya, sebab Aku, TUHAN, Tuhanmu, adalah Tuhan yang cemburu" (Keluaran 20:4,5a). Oleh sebab itu, yang pertama kita lakukan di gereja ialah masa penyembahan. Respons Yesus terhadap cobaan iblis semasa di padang gurun ialah, "Tetapi Yesus berkata kepadanya: "Ada tertulis: Engkau harus menyembah Tuhan, Tuhanmu, dan hanya kepada Dia sajalah engkau berbakti!" (Lukas 4:8). Jika kita menyembah Tuhan, kita mahu melayaninya. Para penyembah sebenar adalah pelayan-pelayan. Para penyembah sebenar melibatkan diri dalam kerja-kerja yang memuliakan Tuhan. Mereka bertindak dengan aksi dan ketaatan. Iblis ketahui bahawa jikalau Yesus menyembah dia, Yesus juga akan melayani dia.

Tuhan menciptakan segala-galanya agar Dia akan menerima kemuliaan dan kehormatan. Yohanes dalam Wahyu berkata, "Tiga setengah hari kemudian masuklah roh kehidupan dari Tuhan ke dalam mereka, sehingga mereka bangkit dan semua orang yang melihat mereka menjadi sangat takut" (Wahyu 4:11). Segala-galanya dijadikan untuk menunjukkan kemuliaan Tuhan. Mazmur 19:1 berkata, "Langit menceritakan kemuliaan Tuhan, dan cakrawala memberitakan pekerjaan tangan-Nya".

Tuhan mencipta kita dengan keupayaan menyembah. Tuhan ditakhtakan dalam penyembahan kita. Hadiratnya memenuhi setiap keperluan yang mungkin kita ada. Hasrat iblis merampas bekalan dan kepuasan hidup kita. Hanya manusia yang mampu menyembah sebab kita dicipta dalam imej Tuhan beserta tubuh badan, roh dan minda. Setelah manusia berdosa, roh manusia dipisahkan daripada jalinan bersama Tuhan. Yesus datang untuk menebus kita melalui kematianNya disalib dan menghidupkan semula jalinan kita bersama Tuhan. Yesus berkata kepada perempuan Samaria di perigi, "Men-

gapa engkau tertekan, hai jiwaku, dan gelisah di dalam diriku? Berharaplah kepada Tuhan! Sebab aku akan bersyukur lagi kepada-Nya, penolongku dan Tuhanku!" (Mazmur 42:5)

Penyembahan mempamerkan nilai. Terdapat pelbagai cara kita boleh menyembah dan Alkitab mencatat beberapa.

1. KITA BOLEH MENYEMBAH SECARA LISAN

Mazmur 26:7 berkata, "sambil memperdengarkan nyanyian syukur dengan nyaring, dan menceritakan segala perbuatan-Mu yang ajaib". Kita menyanyi di gereja sebab nyanyian adalah satu bentuk penyembahan kepada Tuhan. Musa dan orang-orang Yahudi menyanyi tentang apa yang Tuhan telah lakukan, "Baiklah aku menyanyi bagi TUHAN, sebab Ia tinggi luhur, kuda dan penunggangnya dilemparkan-Nya ke dalam laut" (Keluaran 15:1). Kesaksian juga merupakan penyembahan. Mazmur 98:4 berkata, "Bersorak-soraklah bagi TUHAN, hai seluruh bumi, bergembiralah, bersorak-sorailah dan bermazmurlah!" Semasa kita bersorak kepada Tuhan, kita melenyapkan suara-suara negatif Iblis. Mazmur

66:1 berkata, "Bersorak-sorailah bagi Tuhan, hai seluruh bumi!" Mazmur 47:1 berkata, "Hai segala bangsa, bertepuk-tanganlah, elu-elukanlah Tuhan dengan sorak-sorai!" Tepukan tangan bukan membuat bising. Jikalau tepukan kita kepada Tuhan, Dia dimuliakan.

Kita terus menjalani kehidupan seperti sedia kala, hidup dalam penyakit kita, penolakan, sakit hati dan keperluan yang tidak dipenuhi sebab kita belum pelajari mendekati hadirat Tuhan melalui penyembahan. Dalam hadirat-Nya terdapat bekalan yang memenuhi keperluan kita.

2. KITA BOLEH MENYEMBAH DENGAN PERALATAN

Mazmur 33:3 berkata, "Nyanyikanlah bagi-Nya nyanyian baru; petiklah kecapi baik-baik dengan sorak-sorai!" Mazmur 98:6 berkata, "dengan nafiri dan sangkakala yang nyaring bersorak-soraklah di hadapan Raja, yakni TUHAN!" Mazmur 47:5 berkata, "Tuhan telah naik dengan diiringi sorak-sorai, ya TUHAN itu, dengan diiringi bunyi sangkakala". Peralatan muzik boleh digunakan untuk kemuliaan Tuhan.

3. PENYEMBAHAN BOLEH DIDEMONSTRASIKAN

Mazmur 95:6 berkata, "Masuklah, marilah kita sujud menyembah, berlutut di hadapan TUHAN yang menjadikan kita". Melutut adalah satu lagi bentuk penyembahan. Mazmur 150:4 berkata, "Pujilah Dia dengan rebana dan tari-tarian, pujilah Dia dengan permainan kecapi dan seruling!" Tarian sebagai satu persembahan pujian kepada Tuhan adalah berasaskan Alkitab. Kita harus fahami bahawa perbuatan ini bukan satu kebiasaan saja, tetapi ianya bermakna. Terdapat beberapa contoh indah tentang ini. Miryam, kakak Harun menari di hadapan Tuhan setelah menyeberangi Lautan Merah (Keluaran 15:20), begitu juga Daud. 2 Samuel 6:14 berkata, "Dan Daud menari-nari di hadapan TUHAN dengan sekuat tenaga; ia berbaju efod dari kain lenan". Daud berkata, "Aku yang meratap telah Kau ubah menjadi orang yang menari-nari, kain kabungku telah Kau

buka, pinggangku Kau ikat dengan sukacita" (Mazmur 30:11). Terdapat penyembuhan, pembebasan dan pengampunan apabila kita memasuki hadirat Tuhan dalam penyembahan. Marilah kita menyembah Tuhan dengan peralatan, nyanyian, kesaksian dan tarian kerana Dia layak dipuji dan diagungkan.

4. MENGANGKAT TANGAN SEBAGAI PENYEMBAHAN

Satu lagi cara penyembahan terdapat dalam Mazmur 141:2, "Biarlah doaku adalah bagi-Mu seperti persembahan ukupan, dan tanganku yang terangkat seperti persembahan korban pada waktu petang". Mengangkat tangan bukannya bentuk kealiman gereja tetapi berasaskan Alkitab. Alkitab berkata akan "mengangkat tangan kudus". Tangan kita dapat mengekspresikan perasaan sebenar kita. Ketika kita mengangkat tangan, ianya bagaikan aksi penyerahan, keagungan, merendah diri atau berkeperluan. Tangan kudus, sebab kita telah dilunas dan ianya untuk Tuhan.

5. PEMBERIAN MENGAGUNGKAN TUHAN DALAM PENYEMBAHAN KITA

Mazmur 96:6 menyatakan, "Keagungan dan semarak ada di hadapan-Nya, kekuatan dan kehormatan ada di tempat kudus-Nya". Alkitab menyatakan dalam Amsal 3:9, "Muliakanlah TUHAN dengan hartamu dan dengan hasil pertama dari segala penghasilanmu". Satu lagi cara penyembahan ialah membawa kekayaan kita dan segala kita ada kepadanya. Jikalau kita agungkan Dia dengan segala kepunyaan kita, Dia menambah seperti lima buku roti dan dua ikan. Alkitab menyatakan, "Berilah dan kamu akan diberi: suatu takaran yang baik, yang dipadatkan, yang digoncang dan yang tumpah ke luar akan dicurahkan ke dalam ribaanmu. Sebab ukuran yang kamu pakai untuk mengukur, akan diukurkan kepadamu" (Lukas 6:38). Pemberian persepuluhan dan pemberian kasih membuka tingkap syurga untuk memberkati kita dan Tuhan menyangkal iblis, pemusnah dan perompak (Maleakhi 3:10).

Syurga akan turun apabila kita menyembah. Yesaya 6:1-3 menyatakan, " Dalam tahun matinya raja Uzia aku melihat Tuhan duduk di atas takhta yang tinggi dan menjulang, dan ujung jubah-Nya memenuhi Bait Suci.

Para Serafim berdiri di sebelah atas-Nya, masing-masing mempunyai enam sayap; dua sayap dipakai untuk menutupi muka mereka, dua sayap dipakai untuk menutupi kaki mereka dan dua sayap dipakai untuk melayang-layang.

Dan mereka berseru seorang kepada seorang, katanya: "Kudus, kudus, kuduslah TUHAN semesta alam, seluruh bumi penuh kemuliaan-Nya!" Penyembahan membawa kemuliaan Tuhan dalam kalangan kita.

Dalam syurga, terdapat pengaliran berterusan, masa tidak terhenti-henti dan musim penyembahan terus-menerus. Wahyu 19:1, ". Kemudian dari pada itu aku mendengar seperti suara yang nyaring dari himpunan besar orang banyak di sorga, katanya: "Haleluya! Keselamatan dan kemuliaan dan kekuasaan adalah pada Tuhan kita". Sekiranya kita tidak selesai membuat penyembahan di bumi ini, syurga tidak akan menjadi tempat yang menggembarakan kamu.

Penyembahan menjadikan kita saksi yang diurapi. Setelah gembala datang dan menyembah, mereka keluar dan memberitakan khabar baik itu kepada orang lain. Apabila penyembah-penyembah menyembah dengan penuh keikhlasan, mereka akan pergi dan mengkhabarkan kebaikan Tuhan. Kedua, orang-orang majus datang untuk menyembah dengan membawa pelbagai hadiah. Penyembah sebenar berjalan dalam ketaatan. Setelah mereka menyembah, "Dan karena diperingatkan dalam mimpi, supaya jangan kembali kepada Herodes, maka pulanglah mereka ke negerinya melalui jalan lain." (Matius 2:12). Marilah kita sebagai umat dilahir kembali melakukan penyembahan gaya hidup kita mahupun kita di gereja atau tidak kira hari atau musim kita lalui.

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dalam Versi Alkitab Terjemahan Baru, melainkan dinyatakan.





Calvary CARNIVAL 2017

FUN AND FOOD FEST FOR THE FAMILY!

By Lim Aileen



Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam declaring the opening of Carnival

Saturday, 28 October 2017 was a significant day for the many Calvarites and participating vendors who took part in Calvary Carnival 2017. As early as 6am on that serene morning, Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) was bustling with anticipation as vendors started setting up their stalls. People were already streaming in by 9am and with the release of multi-coloured balloons by Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam, and a shower of paper confetti, Calvary Carnival 2017 was official opened to visitors.

and exciting interactive games like giant inflatable outdoor games, Lock Down escape room, and a mechanical Rodeo bull simulator. Carnival participants worked tirelessly throughout the day, many of whom began their preparations weeks ahead of time to make enough volume to meet the appetites of the throngs of incoming visitors.



Carnival Organising Committee Chairperson, Annabel Lily, welcoming the participants

This year, Carnival was spread out over three levels of CCC where carnival-goers were treated to over 100 F&B stalls and food trucks, a bazaar selling an array of consumables, live entertainment, and exciting interactive games like giant inflatable outdoor games, Lock Down escape room, and a mechanical Rodeo bull simulator.

The day wound to a close at 5pm ending another successful Carnival. Calvary Carnival 2017 marks the largest yet carnival to date with 219 vendors playing host to about 10,000 visitors, made possible through the support of the proactive planning committee, partner vendors, and the many Calvarites who availed themselves. All glory to God!



Exuberant dance by Calvary Youth



Instrumental performance by Music & Creative Arts Ministry



Our Senior Pastors launching the Carnival



Bazaar stalls at Level B2



Meeting the clown



Orphanage attendees posing for a group photo with some of the committee



FOOD

Flavourful F&B stalls offering sumptuous food, both local and international satisfied the taste buds of many visitors.



GAMES

Fun and light-hearted games booths for all ages. Many enjoyed the games and prizes were won.





Stage performance by hilarious clowns



BAZAAR

Variety of bazaar stalls where many visitors got good bargain items.





Calvary CARNIVAL 2017

BOWLING FELLOWSHIP

By Melvin Wong

The Calvary Carnival Bowling was organized as a pre-Carnival event to promote the carnival spirit of fun and wholesome activity. On Saturday, 14 October 2017, 28 bowlers gathered at the Ampang Super Bowl, E-Curve.

It was not about competition but fellowship and getting to know one another. Eight first-timers were warmly welcomed and had an enjoyable time together with Calvarites. It was exciting observing how the bowlers would roll out

their bowling balls in style. Hi-fives were regularly given when a strike or spare is achieved by any bowler.

The bowling session came to an end after everyone completed three games. Prizes were given to the top male and female bowlers and the top three teams with the highest total scores.

Appreciate the organizing team for their fine efforts in putting this event together. Praise God for a wonderful fellowship!



Organising Committee Advisor, Peggy Low, presenting to the top male and female bowlers respectively



Organising Committee Chairperson, Annabel Lily, presenting prize to top team

SENT TO BLESS PASTORS AND CHURCH LEADERS IN MINDANAO

By Ervin Loh

Calvary Church sent a team of five, consisting of Associate Pastors Timothy Ong and David Seah, Ervin Loh, Steven Ng and Sulojana Kili to minister at the AG Mindanao Prayer Conference on 24-27 October 2017.

Pastor Timothy had the honour to kick off the conference. He encouraged the 200 Pastors and Church leaders in attendance to wait on the Lord who will provide the breakthrough, emphasising the need of "Rebuilding through Forgiveness". Steven Ng then shared his testimony on how he experienced his healing, when he chose to forgive those who hurt and let him down. Praise and thank God for touching the participants. They were hungry for the Word, and they just "absorbed" the Word from the way the participants responded to the altar call. Many were weeping as they were evidently touched.

The same night, Pastor David Seah spoke on "Answering Jesus' Prayer", based on John 17, where Jesus prayed for the unity of all who would believe Him and John 13, where Jesus exemplified humility and having a servant attitude, by washing the feet of His disciples. He stressed on the need for the Mindanao churches to be united. During the altar call, there was a powerful move of the Holy Spirit as the people hungered for the Lord. The team ministered the grace of God in prayer.

The second day of the conference began early in the morning at 5.30am with a morning watch led by the team. Both Pastors Timothy and David shared at the two day sessions respectively. They spoke on the need to receive healing and releasing forgiveness. Ervin Loh shared his testimony on persevering together in prayer with others for the healing of a close friend and his obedience and stepping out in faith when he sensed the God-given desire to do His work.



Joyful and exciting team

At the closing night session, Pastor Timothy spoke on "End Time Intercession", which is intercession ministry where heaven and earth become one, and that the church needs to be serious in prayer.

Praise and thank God for touching, healing and empowering the Mindanao Pastors and Church leaders at this conference. The team is privileged and grateful to God for the opportunity to serve at and be part of the conference. This missions trip has taught us:

- About gratitude and trusting in God. We saw the exuberance and fervency of the participants worshipping God at the conference venue that is in poor shape and lacking in basic amenities; it was an eye-opener. We cannot be, but grateful to God for the wonderful facilities we have at Damansara Heights and Calvary Convention Centre.
- God works marvellously as the people come with a hunger for Him and His Word, and to pray.

Thank you Church for sending and praying for us. We encourage you to go for missions, whenever the opportunity arises. Calvary Church is a Sending Church.

"Salamat Deus" (Thank God, in Tagalog).



Ervin sharing a powerful testimony



Pastor David preaching the Word of God



Sulojana praying for one of the participants



MEMBERSHIP INTAKE

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
praying for the new members

Congratulations to 28 Calvarites who were received as members on 29 October 2017 at the Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre. May you continue to be found faithful in this local body of Christ and be involved in serving the Lord.



WATER BAPTISM

Front Row (L-R):

Samantha Abigail Miranda
Frances Fatu Gbeway
Zoe Seow Zenyi
Glenie Chin Zhuo Ning
Julia Low Khing Yong

2nd Row (L-R):

Ethan Kiau Keng Hin
Esther Kiau Keng Yi
Josephine Chong Shin Yin
Michelle Loh Mun Teng
Joseph Chin Choo Leong

3rd Row (L-R):

Samuel Aaron Miranda
Seow Loo Vic
Mellisa Chia Yoon Foon
Ruby Chia Yoon Li
Thommy Kiau Soon Kiong

Back Row (L-R):

Nzewi Chima Samuel
Henry James Gbeway
Delcina Suah

Congratulations to 18 Calvarites who followed Christ in water baptism on 11 November 2017 at the Saturday Worship Service at Calvary Damansara Heights. The Lord bless your step of obedience in your journey with Him.

If you have not been water baptised, make sure you do so in obedience to the Lord. You can call the church office at 03-8999 5532 ext 434 or see any of the Pastors.

LIFE STORY

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS AND BLESSINGS TO EVERY GENERATION IN MY FAMILY

My name is Sin Jeak Ching, aged 87 and I want to thank God for His faithfulness and goodness to me and my family. It all started with my children, two sons and five daughters, who became believers. They used to bring home Christian tracts and Chinese sermon tapes from Calvary Church for both me and my husband, Ang Ling Choi. We were open to the gospel and we allowed our children to lay hands on us to pray whenever we were sick.

I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour in 1981 at age 52, and my husband, five years later. We faithfully attended Calvary Church (Chinese ministry). My husband went home to be with the Lord in December 2005.

GOD IS FAITHFUL AND HEALS

Shortly after I accepted Jesus Christ our Lord, I was admitted to hospital for a major surgery, to remove my left kidney. I did not wake up after the surgery. I was in a coma for two days and I had a vision of Jesus. I felt my bed was

lifted up into the heavens, and I saw a beautiful sea. When my bed was further lifted up, I saw Jesus, beautiful white roads, beds of beautiful flowers and plants and mansions. Then I met Jesus. He told me I was healthy and strong and I have not finished my task on earth, that my family needed me. He then waved His left hand and asked me to go back, telling me that I have many more years to live! (That was 35 years ago!) Then I felt my bed landed on the floor and I woke up immediately. At that very moment, my daughter, Jenny entered the room and she told me later, she saw me waving my hands and calling out to Jesus. It was that moment that I woke up from my coma after surgery. Praise and thank God for His healing and faithfulness.

A CARING CHURCH FAMILY

God is good, He has been my strength and joy since. I also enjoyed good health, apart from being hospitalised in August 2016 for a serious leg infection. I was greatly encouraged by Calvary Church Pastors, Chinese ministry leaders and Church members who visited me and prayed for me at hospital. Thank God for our caring Church family.

LOVING FAMILY

I am also grateful to the Lord for giving me loving children and grandchildren. One of my granddaughters, Michelle, faithfully accompanies me every Sunday to attend Church at Calvary Convention Centre (CCC). She is a treasure to me, helping me collect my interpretation ear-set and taking me out for meals.

I am honoured and blessed that God has called some of my family to full-time ministry. My second daughter, Jenny and her husband, Peter Chong were serving as Calvary's Outreach Pastors at Gemas between 1989 to 1996 and are still in full time ministry. My eldest son, Robert Ang has served full time in Calvary Church since 1982 (35 years) and my grandson, Eleazar, also, since 2006 (11 years).

I depend on our Lord and seek Him daily for His strength and new mercies every morning. God is faithful and a prayer answering God. Praise and thanks for His hand on my family and His grace that enables us each to grow individually and be a blessing to one another and the Calvary Church family. All Glory and praise to Him.



Madam Sin Jeak Ching (third from the right) with her family

SENIOR PASTORS PRINCE AND PETRINA GUNERATNAM
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF
WISH ALL OF YOU

*A Christmas Filled with
Love, Peace and Joy!*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2017

SATURDAY AT 5.00PM

Calvary Damansara Heights

- 02 Associate Pastor Raymond Yong
- 09 Associate Pastor David Seah
Water Baptism
- 16 Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng
- 23 Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 30 Associate Pastor Timothy Ong

SUNDAY AT 9.00AM

Calvary Convention Centre

- 03 Associate Pastor Steven Kum
- 10 Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 17 Associate Pastor David Seah
- 24 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Christmas Worship Celebration
- 31 Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
**Year End Thanksgiving Service
Membership Intake**



**GOOD
"KINGS"
COME IN SMALL
PACKAGES**
(A MUSICAL BY KIDSCAT)

**3 DECEMBER 2017
SUNDAY, 9.00 AM
CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE**

COME AND JOIN US FOR THIS FUN FILLED FAMILY MUSICAL!



*Celebrating
Jesus*

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, 24 DECEMBER 2017 | 9.00AM | CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)
CHRIST-CENTRED • EVANGELICAL • MISSIONARY
2 Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights, 50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam

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