

CALVARY NEWS

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Calvary Church
Called to Freedom
LIVE • LOVE • SERVE
Galatians 5:13



THE MARVEL OF GOD'S LOVE

A Woman's Health
and Wellness

Recognizing
Our Preciousness
in the Lord

A Rejuvenating Run

THE MARVEL OF GOD'S LOVE

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

The Bible uses types and symbols to communicate spiritual truths. For example, in the Old Testament, the sacrificial lamb represents the Lamb of God (John 1:29), who is Jesus Christ. He sacrificed His life to pay the penalty for sin. The pillar of clouds by day and the pillar of fire by night represented God's presence in leading the children of Israel to the Promised Land. In the New Testament, Jesus taught by parables about the Kingdom of God. These parables are earthly stories to help us understand what the Kingdom of God is like. Jesus' parable about the fig tree represents the nation of Israel (Luke 21:29-30). Jesus spoke of Himself being the Good Shepherd and we are like sheep (John 10:11).

I would like to use this method of typology of the Christmas tree to help you understand how much God loves you. It is truly God's marvellous love. May we learn some spiritual lessons from the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree is the first thing we want to have in decorating our homes for Christmas.

FIRST, THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS CHOSEN

When you look for a Christmas tree to buy, you pick the tree that you like. In a similar manner, God chose you because He first loved you. The Bible says, *"We love Him because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19 NKJV). God loves you unconditionally, in spite of who you are and what you have done. We are God's most treasured possession. The Bible says, *"for he who touches you touches the apple of His eye"* (Zechariah 2:8). God loved you from the time of conception. The Bible says, *"You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous – how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!"* (Psalm 139:13-17). Out of His love, He chose you to come into the knowledge of His salvation. The Bible says, *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9 NKJV). The enemy wants to rob us of the truth that God loves us.

SECOND, THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS BOUGHT

In the Bible, death speaks of separation from God who is life. The Bible says, *"for all have sinned and*



fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 NKJV) and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). In order for God to save you from death that separates us from God, He paid the penalty for sin which is to die on our behalf. The Bible says, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:20 NKJV). Jesus was born to fulfil God’s love for you. The Bible says, “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God” (1 Peter 1:18-19). Life is found in the blood. When Jesus’ blood was shed on the cross, His life was given so that we might have eternal life (John 3:16-17).

THIRD, THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS PRUNED AND SHAPED

The trees are pruned for fruitfulness. Believers are disciplined and shaped so that we portray the testimony of one who has been born again and has become a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Jesus tells us that God the Father is the gardener of the vineyard. He says, “*I am the true grapevine, and*

my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more” (John 15:1-2). With God’s help we must be willing to cut off the sinful nature and put on the new nature. Paul says, “Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him” (Colossians 3:9-10). Pruning is also another process of discipline by our Heavenly Father, as the Bible teaches us, “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. As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn’t we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a

few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness" (Hebrews 12:5-10). There is no spiritual maturity of Christ-likeness without discipline. The Bible says, "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27 NKJV).

FOURTH, THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS DECORATED

The Christmas tree is decorated with ornaments to celebrate the new life we have in Christ. God also desires that we carry a beauty that is not of the flesh but of the Holy Spirit, to be a testimony of God's saving grace. He decorates us with the fruit of the Spirit that makes us attractive and effective witnesses. The Bible says, "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things!" (Galatians 5:22-23). We have Christ's gifts as He lives in us and we are called to be His salt and light of the earth using these gifts.

FIFTH, THE CHRISTMAS TREE HAS A STAR AT THE TOP

It was the Star that guided the wise men to the place where Jesus was born, in Bethlehem of Judea. In the same way, the Bible says, "Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads

into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative – that is, the Holy Spirit – he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you" (John 14:16-17, 26).

FINALLY, THE CHRISTMAS TREE HAS A DESIGNATED PLACE

The tree is not placed at random in the house. The place is decided by the head of the house. Similarly, we are planted by the Lord. The Bible says, "... That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3 NKJV) and "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted" (Matthew 15:13).

So it is with us, we are chosen, bought, disciplined, led and planted by the Lord. He plants you where you have a ministry for the Lord. If you have not found your place of ministry, ask, seek and knock. The Lord will show you. Believers who fail to find their place of ministry in the Body of Christ will not mature and find fulfilment. Let us be His Christmas tree this Christmas season and lead many to the Lord's saving grace. Let us proclaim the gospel till Jesus comes!

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



Attendees waiting to hear and learn from Dr Goh



Dr Goh sharing insightful tips on a woman's wellbeing

A WOMAN'S HEALTH AND WELLNESS

BY PASTOR CAROL WELLER

"Health and Wellness is a continuum. The beginning affects the end. All is not lost. It is never too late to start. Today's the day. Choose. Act. What you do now is an investment for when you are 70."

These were the opening words by Dr Goh Huay Yee, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, who was the speaker for the Dimensions' health talk on Saturday, 6 October 2018. 190 women spanning from 20 to 70 years of age filled Theatre 2 at Calvary Convention Centre.

The event began with breakfast and uplifting worship. Covering diet and lifestyle choices that could greatly impact a woman's health, memorable quotes from

Dr Goh included, "Eating what stands on one leg is better than eating what stands on two legs which is better than what stands on four legs" and "the whiter the bread, the sooner you'll be dead!"

The importance of regular exercise, "at least five days a week", was a point she stressed at many intervals as a factor that makes our heart more youthful and lowers the risks of cancer, diabetes and other diseases. Good relationships, faith, mental and intellectual stimulation also contribute to strengthen our immune system and life-long wellbeing.

She also gave practical and helpful information on medical tests, common medical and gynaecological issues, and mental health such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Many women came away informed and inspired, especially to start regular exercise routines. The talk ended with a time of prayer at the altar for those who had health challenges.

All ladies are welcome to join our weekly Dimensions Worship Service on Tuesdays, 10am at Damansara Heights and monthly Dimensions meetings on Saturdays, 10.00am at Calvary Convention Centre.



Pastor Carol introducing the speaker



Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng concluding with prayer



A hearty time of fellowship



Reverend Lawrence sharing powerful truths



Attendees responding to the altar call

我们在主里 无比珍贵

文：黎翠萍，方迎春，汤爱馨

2018年9月22日和23日，星期六和星期日，共有293名成年人参加了以“你是无价之宝”为主题的中文布道会。两个晚上都以儿童管弦乐队四重奏与合唱团演唱的中文福音歌曲揭开序幕。看着一些非华裔孩童唱着中文歌曲来歌颂上帝的荣耀，那画面真叫人感动。

王福海牧师和翁有福牧师分别在第一个和第二个晚上欢迎来宾们出席聚会，并带领大家作开始祷告。恩典基督中心主任牧师兼马来西亚神召会总会秘书长，叶贵棠牧师阐述了我们在神眼中是何等的珍贵。他强调，我们如果真的珍惜生命和耶稣在十字架上为我们所做的一切，我们必然也觉察到自己有多珍贵。叶牧师还提醒大家，成功远没有健康、平安、智慧和盼望来得重要。神对成功的标准是我们在耶稣里过着丰盛的生命（约10:10）。

两晚的聚会结束以前，有许多人回应呼召到台前接受祷告。他们都得到医治和释放，圣灵的同在明显地运行在每个人身上。我们赞美神，两场聚会共有26个新朋友，更有13个人接受了救恩。

当成年人蒙恩领受祝福的当儿，有32名孩童参加了专为他们设计的节目，包括圣经课和富趣味的灯笼游行。中文会众齐心协力地付出使聚会顺利地进行，愿将一切荣耀都归于神。

RECOGNIZING OUR PRECIOUSNESS IN THE LORD

BY MEGAN LAI, DEBBIE HONG AND THONG OI SHIANG

On Saturday and Sunday, 22 and 23 September 2018, 293 adults attended the Chinese Evangelistic



Thong Oi Shiang introducing the guest speaker





Special performance by a children's orchestra ensemble and choir

Meetings themed “You are Precious”. Both evenings began with a Chinese Gospel song performance by a children’s orchestra quartet and choir. It was enthralling to see some non-Chinese children singing a Chinese song for God’s glory.

The guests were welcomed and the meeting begun with prayer led by Associate Pastor Timothy Ong on the first night and Associate Pastor Peter Ong, on the second. Reverend Lawrence Yap, Senior Pastor of Charis Christian Centre and General Secretary of the Malaysian Assemblies of God, shared and illustrated clearly that we are precious in God’s eyes. He stressed that if we truly valued our lives and what Jesus did on the Cross for us, we would recognize our preciousness. Reverend Lawrence also reminded everyone that success is not as important as health, peace, wisdom or hope. God’s standard of success is that we are living the fullest life in Jesus Christ (John 10:10).

Many responded to the altar for healing and deliverance. The presence of the Holy Spirit was unmistakable. We praise God for the 26 newcomers and 13 who received salvation during these meetings.

While the adults were being blessed, 32 children took part in programmes developed for them, including Bible lessons and a fun lantern parade during both nights. Truly, all glory to God for the united efforts of the Chinese congregation which ensured these meetings went smoothly!

欢迎大家来参加我们在每个月的最后一个星期天，上午11时30分的中文团契。若知详情请联络 03 - 8999 5532。

Join the Chinese Fellowships on the last Sunday of each month, 11.30am at Calvary Convention Centre. For more information, call 03 - 8999 5532.



Warm fellowship over delicious food after the meetings

CALVARY CHURCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

IN THIS FINAL SERIES, WE ARE FEATURING SOME PASTORS WHO WERE HOME-GROWN FROM OUR OWN CHURCH. THEY SENT IN THEIR TESTIMONIES AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES TO THEIR HOME CHURCH.



Rev. Peter and Jenny

Our heartiest congratulations to Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam, and Calvary Church on the occasion of your 50th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, 28 October 2018. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Calvary Church for supporting us in our theological study in Bible College of Malaysia from 1986 to 1988 as well as the building project of the outreach work in Gemas First Assembly.

We also thank God for your pastoral counsel and encouragement that helped us faithfully serve the Lord for the past 30 years in our ministry. We also praise and thank the Lord for blessing us with two lovely grown up daughters and their husbands. May God bless you and the Church for the great work you have done for His glory.

Reverend Peter Chong and Jenny Ang
(Itinerant Ministers)



Rev. Isaac (fourth from the left) and family

I thank God for my home church, Calvary Church. Calvarites who served at the Inter School Christ's Ambassadors (ISCA) in Ulu Klang, brought me to ISCA where I met Lydia, my wife of 42 years. From there we were connected to Calvary Church where we grew spiritually. It was in a worship service in the Church where I felt the powerful love of God and where I also received the call of God to full-time ministry. Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam sent us to Bible College of Malaysia and Calvary Church supported us even when we were pastoring in Johor Bahru. We were also grateful to Calvary Church for giving Penang Christian Centre (PCC) substantial help when we bought our first building in 1989. Congratulations on your 50th anniversary!

Reverend Isaac Chan and Lydia Cheong
(Penang Christian Centre)

Congratulations Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam, Pastors, Board of Deacons and members of Calvary Church, as you celebrate 50 years of God’s faithfulness and goodness. Indeed, great is His faithfulness! Thank you for your ministry, investment, love, care and nurturing in my life from the moment I was born again in 1979 and all throughout my time in Christ’s Ambassadors and the Library ministry.

I have grown much as a Christian and also developed a passion to serve God through my involvement and commitment in the Church. It was also through this that eventually in 1981, I had a call to serve God full-time. After struggling for one or two years, I finally answered God’s call by going to Bible College of Malaysia in 1983 to be trained.



Rev. Chiew Yee (second from the left) and family

I walked into Calvary Church about 42 years ago, a young born-again Christian from Sarawak. I received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and made life very difficult for the pastors and Youth Pastor at that time. They must be wondering whether it was worth the investment. Praise God, it was! God called me into full-time ministry. I went to Bible School, got married in Calvary Church and have been pastoring for the last 26 years. Even though I have moved on, Calvary Church is home. Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam, Pam and Jim Guneratnam, Associate Pastor Peter Ong and Associate Pastor Steven Kum, thank you for your faithfulness, perseverance, determination and unwavering faith in the mighty God that we serve. The best is yet to come!

Reverend Ting Chiew Yee
(Glory Assembly of God, Pandan Indah)



Rev. Marianne (third from the left) and family

After three years of training, I graduated in 1985 and married Christopher Mun and we were then sent to Calvary Church, Sibul, Sarawak to pastor the work there. After seven years, we returned to Seremban in 1992 and since then we have been pastoring Tabernacle of Worship until now. I am who I am and where I am today because of the good work that Calvary Church has invested in my life. Thank you again and may God’s blessings continue to be upon you!

Reverend Marianne Chow
(Tabernacle of Worship, Seremban)



Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam sending-off the 5km runners

A REJUVENATING RUN

BY SHARON TAN

It was a cool morning on Saturday, 3 November 2018, as 1,260 excited participants gathered at the Calvary Convention Centre (CCC) for the Bukit Jalil CCC Half Marathon 2018. There was tangible excitement in the air as vendors set up their booths and the first of the 21km runners trickled in slowly at 4.30am. This year, a new 21km category was introduced as we recognized there were a great number of runners looking to train and challenge themselves in this category and there are only a select number of 21km routes organised in the Klang Valley each year.

The sky soon brightened and the day's events kicked off with an energetic warm-up session conducted by Fitness First. At 5.30am, the 21km runners were flagged off with a loud bang! Soon the 10km, 5km and 3km category runners started arriving and the plaza was filled with the colourful, vibrant t-shirts of

both participants and crew. After another warm-up session, the 10km runners began their run at 6.45am which was quickly followed by the 5km category and the special 3km Family Run just for Calvarites and their families.

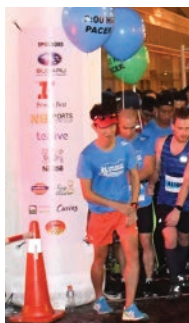
The event ended on a high note with Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam awarding the top five winners for the 21km Men's Veteran and 21km Men's Open categories. Associate Pastor Peter Ong and Bukit Jalil CCC Half Marathon 2018 Organizing Committee Chairman, Benjamin Ong, then took turns to present the prizes for the top five winners in the 21km Women's Veteran and 21km Women's Open categories, and the top three winners for the Men's and Women's Open 10km categories.



Runners in a warm-up session



10km runners setting off





Runners pacing themselves along their routes



Running enthusiastically



Calvarites enjoying the 3km Family Run



Excited and joyful runners

Truly, we praise God for a wonderful turnout of runners of which most were from the surrounding public community. The intention to bring the community together to encourage a healthy lifestyle and to demonstrate God's love was truly reflected with Calvarites taking up most of the serving duties such as assisting with race kit collection, being part of the water station crew, route marshals and handing out goodie bags and finisher medals.

Indeed, what a great testimony it is to have been able to organise an invigorating activity for the community!



We made it!



Helpful volunteers cheering and giving out drinks



Senior Pastor awarding the 21km Men's Veteran Category winner



Handing the prize to the 21km Men's Open Category



21km runners heading out for their run



Benjamin handing the winner of the 21km Women's Open Category her prize



Pastor Peter presenting the prize to the 21km Women's Veteran Category winner

KEAJAIBAN KASIH TUHAN

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Alkitab menggunakan jenis dan lambang untuk komunikasi kebenaran rohani. Sebagai contoh, dalam Perjanjian Lama, domba korban mewakili Anak Domba Tuhan (Yohanes 1:29), yang adalah Yesus Kristus. Dia mengorbankan hidupnya untuk membayar hukuman dosa. Tiang awan di siang hari dan tiang api di malam hari melambangkan kehadiran Tuhan dalam memimpin anak-anak Yahudi ke Tanah Perjanjian. Dalam Perjanjian Baru, Yesus mengajar dengan perumpamaan tentang Kerajaan Tuhan. Perumpamaan-perumpamaan ini adalah kisah-kisah duniawi untuk membantu kita memahami seperti apa Kerajaan Tuhan itu. Perumpamaan Yesus tentang pohon ara melambangkan bangsa Yahudi (Lukas 21: 29-30). Yesus berbicara tentang diri-Nya sendiri sebagai Gembala yang Baik dan kita seperti domba (Yohanes 10:11).

Saya ingin menggunakan cara tipologi pohon Natal ini untuk membantu kamu memahami betapa Tuhan mengasihi kamu. Itu benar-benar kasih Tuhan yang luar biasa. Semoga kita belajar beberapa pelajaran rohani dari pohon Natal.

Pohon Natal adalah hal pertama yang ingin kita miliki dalam mendekorasi rumah kita untuk Natal.

PERTAMA, POHON NATAL ADALAH DIPILIH

Ketika kamu mencari pohon Natal untuk dibeli, kamu memilih pohon yang kamu sukai. Dengan cara yang sama, Tuhan memilih kamu kerana Ia lebih dahulu mengasihi kamu. Alkitab berkata, "Kita mengasihi, karena Tuhan lebih dahulu mengasihi kita" (1 Yohanes 4:19). Tuhan mengasihi kamu tanpa syarat, tidak kira siapa kamu dan apa yang telah kamu lakukan. Kita adalah milik Tuhan yang paling berharga. Alkitab berkata, "sebab siapa yang menjamah kamu, berarti menjamah biji mata-Nya--:" (Zakaria 2:8). Tuhan mengasihimu sejak masa pembuahan. Alkitab berkata, "Sebab Engkaulah yang membentuk buah pinggangku, menenun aku dalam kandungan ibuku. Aku bersyukur kepada-Mu oleh karena kejadianku dahsyat dan ajaib; ajaib apa yang Kaubuat, dan jiwaku benar-benar menyadarinya. Tulang-tulangku tidak terlindung bagi-Mu, ketika aku dijadikan di tempat yang tersembunyi, dan aku direkam di bagian-bagian bumi yang paling bawah; mata-Mu melihat selagi aku bakal anak, dan dalam kitab-Mu semuanya tertulis hari-hari yang akan dibentuk, sebelum ada satupun dari padanya. Dan bagiku, betapa sulitnya pikiran-Mu, ya Tuhan! Betapa besar jumlahnya!" (Mazmur 139:13-17). Karena kasih-Nya, Dia memilih kamu untuk datang ke pengenalan tentang keselamatanNya. Alkitab mengatakan, "Tuhan tidak lalai menepati janji-Nya, sekalipun ada orang yang menganggapnya sebagai kelalaian, tetapi Ia sabar terhadap kamu, karena Ia menghendaki supaya jangan ada yang binasa, melainkan supaya semua orang berbalik dan bertobat" (2 Petrus 3:9). Musuh ingin merompak kita dari kebenaran bahawa Tuhan mengasihi kita.

YANG KEDUA, POHON NATAL DIBELI

Dalam Alkitab, kematian berbicara tentang pemisahan dari Tuhan yang hidup. Alkitab berkata, "karena semua orang telah berbuat dosa dan telah kehilangan kemuliaan Tuhan," (Roma 3:23) dan "Sebab upah dosa ialah maut" (Roma 6:23). Agar Tuhan menyelamatkan kamu dari kematian yang memisahkan kita dari Tuhan, Dia membayar hukuman dosa iaitu dengan mati bagi pihak kita. Alkitab mengatakan, "Sebab kamu telah dibeli dan harganya telah lunas dibayar: Karena itu muliakanlah Tuhan dengan tubuhmu!" (1 Korintus 6:20).



Yesus dilahirkan untuk memenuhi kasih Tuhan untuk kamu. Alkitab mengatakan, “Sebab kamu tahu, bahwa kamu telah ditebus dari cara hidupmu yang sia-sia yang kamu warisi dari nenek moyangmu itu bukan dengan barang yang fana, bukan pula dengan perak atau emas, melainkan dengan darah yang mahal, yaitu darah Kristus yang sama seperti darah anak domba yang tak bernoda dan tak bercacat” (1 Petrus 1:18-19). Kehidupan didapati dalam darah. Apabila darah Yesus dicurahkan di salib, hidupNya diberikan supaya kita dapat memiliki kehidupan kekal (Yohanes 3:16-17).

KETIGA, POHON NATAL DISUNTING DAN DIBENTUK

Pokoknya disunting untuk menghasilkan buah. Orang-orang percaya disiplin dan dibentuk supaya kita menggambarkan kesaksian seseorang yang telah dilahirkan kembali dan telah menjadi orang baru (2 Korintus 5:17).

Yesus memberitahu kita bahawa Tuhan Bapa adalah tukang kebun anggur. Dia berkata, " “Akulah pokok anggur yang benar dan Bapa-Kulah pengusahanya. Setiap ranting pada-Ku yang tidak berbuah, dipotong-Nya dan setiap ranting yang berbuah, dibersihkan-Nya, supaya ia lebih banyak berbuah” (Yohanes 15: 1-2). Dengan pertolongan Tuhan kita harus memotong sifat dosa dan mengenakan sifat baru. Paulus berkata, “Jangan lagi kamu saling mendustai, karena kamu telah menanggalkan manusia lama serta kelakuannya, dan telah mengenakan manusia baru yang terus-menerus diperbaharui untuk memperoleh pengetahuan yang benar menurut gambar Khaliknya” (Kolose 3: 9-10). Penyuntingan juga merupakan proses disiplin lain oleh Bapa Surgawi kita, sebagaimana

Alkitab mengajar kita, “Dan adakah kamu melupakan kata-kata yang menggembirakan yang Tuhan bercakap dengan kamu sebagai anak-anaknya? Dia berkata, “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 menghajar orang yang dikasihi-Nya, dan Ia menyesah orang yang diakui-Nya sebagai anak.” Jika kamu harus menanggung ganjaran; Tuhan memperlakukan kamu seperti anak. Di manakah terdapat anak yang tidak dihajar oleh ayahnya? Tetapi, jikalau kamu bebas dari ganjaran, yang harus diderita setiap orang, maka kamu bukanlah anak, tetapi anak-anak gampang. Selanjutnya: dari ayah kita yang sebenarnya kita beroleh ganjaran, dan mereka kita hormati; kalau demikian bukankah kita harus lebih taat kepada Bapa segala roh, supaya kita boleh hidup? Sebab mereka mendidik kita dalam waktu yang pendek sesuai dengan apa yang mereka anggap baik, tetapi Dia menghajar kita untuk kebaikan kita, supaya kita beroleh bagian dalam kekudusan-Nya” (Ibrani 12: 5-10). Tidak ada kedewasaan rohani dari kesamaan dengan Kristus tanpa disiplin. Alkitab berkata, “supaya dengan demikian Ia menempatkan jemaat di hadapan diri-Nya dengan cemerlang tanpa cacat atau kerut atau yang serupa itu, tetapi supaya jemaat kudus dan tidak bercela” (Efesus 5:27).

KEEMPAT, POHON NATAL DIHIAS

Pohon Natal dihiasi dengan perhiasan untuk meraikan kehidupan baru yang kita ada di dalam Kristus. Tuhan juga mahu kita membawa keindahan yang bukan dari daging tetapi dari Roh Kudus, untuk menjadi kesaksian tentang rahmat keselamatan Tuhan. Dia menghiasi kita dengan buah Roh yang menjadikan kita saksi-saksi yang menarik dan berkesan. Alkitab berkata, “Tetapi buah Roh ialah: kasih, sukacita, damai sejahtera, kesabaran, kemurahan, kebaikan, kesetiaan, kelemahlembutan, penguasaan diri. Tidak ada hukum yang menentang hal-hal itu” (Galatia 5:22-23). Kita mempunyai karunia Kristus seperti Dia hidup di dalam kita dan kita dipanggil menjadi garam dan cahaya bumi menggunakan anugerah-anugerah ini.

KELIMA, POHON NATAL DIHIAS DENGAN BINTANG DIATASNYA

Itu adalah Bintang yang memberi petunjuk kepada orang-orang bijak ke tempat Yesus dilahirkan, di Betlehem di Yudea. Dengan cara yang sama, Alkitab berkata, “Firman-Mu itu pelita bagi kakiku dan terang bagi jalanku” (Mazmur 119:105). Yesus berkata, “Aku akan minta kepada Bapa, dan Ia akan memberikan kepadamu seorang Penolong yang lain, supaya Ia

menyertai kamu selama-lamanya, 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 14:16-17, 26).

AKHIRNYA, POHON NATAL ADA TEMPAT YANG KHUSUS BAGINYA

Pokoknya tidak diletakkan secara rawak di dalam rumah. Tempat itu diputuskan oleh ketua rumah. Begitu juga, kita ditanam oleh Tuhan. Alkitab berkata, “... Supaya orang menyebutkan mereka “pohon tarbantin kebenaran”, “tanaman TUHAN” untuk memperlihatkan keagungan-Nya” (Yesaya 61:3) dan “Setiap tanaman yang tidak ditanam oleh Bapa-Ku yang di sorga akan dicabut dengan akar-akarnya” (Matius 15:13).

Begitu juga dengan kita, kita dipilih, dibeli, disiplin, dipimpin dan ditanam oleh Tuhan. Dia menanam kamu di mana kamu mempunyai pelayanan untuk Tuhan. Jika kamu tidak menemui tempat pelayanan kamu, tanya, cari dan ketuk. Tuhan akan menunjukkan kepadamu. Orang percaya yang gagal mencari tempat pelayanan mereka di Tubuh Kristus tidak akan matang dan mendapat kepuasan. Marilah kita menjadi pohon NatalNya pada musim perayaan ini dan memimpin ramai orang ke rahmat Tuhan. Marilah kita memberitakan injil sehingga Yesus datang!

Semua petikan Alkitab berasal dari Alkitab Bahasa Indonesia, melainkan jika dinyatakan.

上帝奇妙的爱

文：古纳南主任牧师

圣经使用预表和象征来传达属灵真理。例如，在旧约中，献祭的羔羊代表神的羔羊(约1:29)，耶稣基督。他牺牲自己的生命为我们赎罪。白日的云柱和黑夜的火柱代表神的同在，带领以色列人来到应许之地。在新约圣经中，耶稣用比喻教导人认识神的国。这些比喻是世上的故事，帮助我们了解什么是神的国。耶稣关于无花果树的比喻是代表以色列国(路21:29-30)。耶稣说自己是好牧人，我们都如羊(约10:11)。

我想用圣诞树作为比喻的方法来帮助你了解神是何等爱你。这真是神奇的爱。愿我们能从圣诞树学到一些属灵的功课。

圣诞树是我们过圣诞节时要用来装饰我们的家的第一件物品。

首先，圣诞树是被拣选

当你想买一棵圣诞树时，你会挑选你喜爱的圣诞树。同样地，神拣择你是因为他先爱你。圣经上说：「我们爱，因为神先爱我们」(约一4:19)。不管你是谁，不管你做了什么，神无条件地爱你。我们是神最宝贵的产业。圣经上说：「碰你们的就碰他自己眼中的瞳人」(约2:8)。当你仍在母腹胎中时，神就已爱你了。圣经上说：「我的肺腑是你所造的，我在母腹中，你已编织我。我要称谢你，因我受造奇妙可畏，你的作为奇妙，这是我心深知道的。我在暗中受造，在地的深处被塑造；那时，我的形体并不向你隐藏。我未成形的体质，你的眼早已看见了；你所定的日子，我尚未度一日，都在你的册子写上了。神啊，你的意念向我何等宝贵！其数何等众多！」(诗139:13-17) 出于他的爱，他拣选你来认识他的救恩。圣经上说：「主没有迟



延他的应许，就如有人以为他是迟延，其实他是宽容你们，不愿一人沉沦，而是人人都来悔改」（彼后3:9）。敌人想要夺去神爱我们的真理。

其次，圣诞树是买来的

在圣经中，死亡指的是与生命的神隔绝。圣经上说：「因为世人都犯了罪，亏缺了神的荣耀」（罗3:23）和「因为罪的工价乃是死」（罗6:23）。为了让神把你从使我们与神隔绝的死亡中拯救出来，他为我们偿还罪的刑罚，就是要替我们死。圣经上说：「因为你们是重价买来的。所以，要在你们的身上荣耀神」（林前6:20）。耶稣降生就是为了成全神对你的爱。圣经上说：「你们知道，你们得以从你们祖先传下来虚妄的行为中救赎出来，不是靠着会朽坏的金银等物，而是凭着基督的宝血，如同无瑕疵、无玷污的羔羊的血」（彼前1:18-19）。生命是在血中。当耶稣在十字架流血的时候，他为我们舍命，叫我们得永生（约3:16-17）。

第三，圣诞树是被修剪和塑造

树为多结果子而被修剪。信徒被管教和塑造，这样我们就能描绘一个已经重生的人的见证，并且成为一个新造的人（林后5:17）。耶稣告诉我们，父神是葡萄园的园丁。他说：「我就是真葡萄树，我父是栽培的人。凡属我不结果子的枝子，他就剪掉；凡结果子的，他就修剪干净，使枝子结果子更多」（约15:1-2）。在上帝的帮助下我们要脱去有罪的性情，穿上新人的性情。保罗说：「不要彼此说谎，因为你们已经脱去旧人和旧人的行为，穿上了新人，这新人照着造他的主的形像在知识上不断地更新」（西3:9-10）。修剪也是我们天父的另一个管教过程，就如圣经教导我们，「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。”

为了受管教，你们要忍受。神待你们如同待儿女。哪有儿女不被父亲管教的呢？管教原是众儿女共同所领受的；你们若不受管教，就是私生子，不是儿女了。再者，我们曾有肉身之父管教我们，我们尚且敬重他，何况灵性之父，我们岂不更当顺服他而得生命吗？肉身之父都是短时间随己意管教我们，惟有灵性之父管教我们是要我们得益处，使我们在他的圣洁上有份」（来12:5-10）。没有管教，就没有基督样式的属灵成熟。圣经上说：「好献给自己，作荣耀的教会，毫无玷污、皱纹等类的缺陷，而是圣洁没有瑕疵的」（弗5:27）。

第四，圣诞树被装饰

圣诞树上挂满了装饰品，以庆祝我们在基督里的新生命。神也希望我们身上带着不是属肉体的美，乃是属圣灵的美，作为神救赎恩典的见证。神用圣灵的果子装饰我们，使我们成为有吸引力和有效的见证人。圣经上说：「圣灵的果子就是仁爱、喜乐、和平、忍耐、恩慈、良善、信实、温柔、节制。这样的事没有律法禁止」（加5:22-23）。我们有基督的恩赐，因他住在我们里面，藉着这些恩赐，我们被呼召成为他的盐和地上的光。

第五，圣诞树顶有一颗星

正是这颗星指引着智者来到耶稣降生的地方，在犹太的伯利恒。同样地，圣经上说：「你的话是我脚前的灯，是我路上的光」（诗119:105）。耶稣说：「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。但保惠师，就是父因我的名所要差来的圣灵，他要把一切的事教导你们，并且要使你们想起我對你们所说的一切话」（约14:16-17, 26）。

最后，圣诞树有一个指定的地方

这棵树不是随意放在房子里的。这个位置是由房子的主人决定。同样地，我们是由主栽植的。圣经上说：「“称他们为“公义树”，是耶和華所栽植的，为要彰显他的荣耀」（赛61:3）和「耶稣回答：“一切植物，若不是我天父栽植的，都要连根拔出来」（太15:13）。

我们也是这样，我们是蒙主拣选、买来、管教、引导和栽植的。他将你栽植在你为主事奉的地方，如果你还没有找到你事奉的位置，祈求，寻找，和叩门。主必指示你。没有基督的身体里找到事奉的位置的信徒将不会成熟，也不会得到满足。让我们在这个圣诞节作他的圣诞树，带领许多人认识主的救赎恩典。让我们传扬福音直到耶稣再来！

以上经文是采用中文圣经和合本修订版。

我的信心

一个生命的故事和见证：陈阳秀

我天性纯良，谦卑而乐观。待人接物，胸怀坦荡。无不良嗜好，生活很简单。身为主妇，日理三餐；练就一身厨艺，赢来赞赏。平日喜爱阅读旅游，因崇尚自由，全无宗教信仰。

两年前因幼子道彦骤逝，使我顿失所依。内心深处的微小意念，只想随着他的足迹，仰望祈求主的扶持与牵引。唯有信靠主，与主同在，祂必顾念我，给我信心与关怀，找到心灵的慰藉；同时也延续我对天国的孩子一份无尽的爱。

在我阅读圣经和听道的过程，天父敞开我的心门，让我对主的认识逐渐加深，强大了信主的意念。团契的聚会让我分享无数的奇妙恩典，主的仁慈厚爱，丰盈满溢我的每一天。

我要感谢 Chow Sang Hoe 的查经小组接纳我成为事奉主的一份子。主赐我平安喜乐，正是主的仁爱大能传递的正能量，让我感受前所未有的温暖和力量。我愿以主为依归，事奉主，紧靠主，见证所有恩典荣耀与主的永垂不朽！

Hallelujah!

DECLARING HER FAITH IN CHRIST

A LIFE STORY AND TESTIMONY BY CHUNG CHEE YING

As a housewife, I was a humble, optimistic and open-minded person in the way I related to people. I led a simple life, cooking three meals a day. I enjoyed sharing food with other people and was appreciated. I also enjoyed reading and travelling. I was not committed to any particular religion.



Two years ago, I lost my youngest son, Lim Tow Yen, unexpectedly. I was left devastated and lost but there was a desire to follow in my son's footsteps of following Jesus. I trusted in Jesus and I accepted Him as my Lord and personal Saviour in August 2017 to be a part of God's family.

Reading the Bible and listening to sermons, God has opened my heart to know Him more and increased my desires to trust Him. Through Chow Sang Hoe's Life Group, I heard many testimonies on the amazing grace and love of God. I experienced the grace of God and found overflowing joy in daily life.

He has blessed me with peace, joy, warmth and strength beyond anything that I have experienced in life. From now on, I want to rely on Him, serve Him, and be a witness for His glory!

WATER BAPTISM

Front Row L-R: Samson Soo Hoo Ming Syuen, Tiffany Soo Hoo Nuo Fei, Julius Soo Hoo Hoong Yik, Josh Chong Wen Kang

2nd Row L-R: Jessica Teo Siok Khim, Soo Hoo Yoon Hun, Chung Chee Ying @ Chan Yong Sow, Lee Pui Yin, Leong Yeu Ying, Cherilyn Thong Nyook Wah, Tan May Theng

Back Row L-R: Edmund Lee Siu Mun, Stanley Chong Poh Keong, Khristelle Jane A. Tigon, Chadwick Chihana, Boum Sopiatha Aksorncharern, Low Shermund



Congratulations to 17 Calvarites who followed Christ in water baptism on 20 October 2018 at the Saturday Worship Service at Calvary Damansara Heights. The Lord bless your step of obedience in your journey with Him.

For enquiries and to obtain water baptism forms, please contact 03-8999 5532.

MEMBERSHIP ACCEPTANCE

Congratulations to 41 Calvarites who were received as members on 23 September 2018 at the Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre. May you continue to be faithful in this local body of Christ and be involved in serving the Lord.





PRAYER BREAKTHROUGH

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR TIMOTHY ONG

“Here’s what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won’t be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense His grace.” (Matthew 6:6 MSG)

READ FROM PEOPLE WHO EXPERIENCED GOD IN THE PRAYER TOWER CLOSETS

“The Prayer Tower closet provides a conducive and focused environment for me to communicate with God about my challenges. It helps me to truly encounter God’s grace and feel comforted.” – **Phan**

“God showed me that if I expect Him to do the extraordinary; I have to pray out of the ordinary. Coming to the Prayer Tower is part of doing ‘out of the ordinary’. All the cost and time needed to spend time with the Lord is my way of showing Him I am serious in seeking Him and putting Him first before my own businesses and errands. Recently, I felt depressed due to my businesses’ sudden slow down but God revealed that I had the power through Him to bind this spirit of depression. Instantly, I was lifted up and that dark depressive spirit left me. There is power right there in the Prayer Tower closet!” – **Paul**

“Thank God for His provision and providence upon my family. Throughout my time in the prayer closet, I experience His peace and presence as I seek Him.” – **Patrick**

“Spending time in the Prayer Tower closet has always been enriching. I came with my prayer requests especially for my physical healing. I ended up worshipping and loving Him and knowing His sovereign will for my life is really what matters most.” – **Peter**

“My daughter, her boyfriend and I had a big misunderstanding a while ago. We met at the Prayer Tower where we had a word of prayer before we started our discussion. When we entered, we were filled with anger and unforgiveness but by the end of the discussion, we only felt happiness and peace. Praise God for His divine intervention!” – **Regina**

Read more about God’s wondrous works and miracles in our testimony page on our website at www.calptower.org

THE PRAYER TOWER CLOSETS ARE OPEN FOR YOU

- 5.00am to 10.00pm daily
- No booking required (attendance log in required)

Share with us your testimonies by writing to us at calptower@gmail.com when God answers your prayer!



CHILDREN'S DAY

(For children ages 11 and below)

SUNDAY, 9 DECEMBER 2018 | 9.00AM
CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE



OPERATION 3:17

(A Musical by KidsCAT)

Christmas is coming! Join Colonel Mylaw and his troop in an operation to bring Christmas gift boxes to the poor. However, they wanted the gifts for themselves. Come and find out what happened and see this humorous yet action packed musical put together especially just for you!

Co-organised by



Christmas Worship Services

Extended Worship Services that illustrate Jesus' arrival to the world through worship songs and special numbers. Join us to experience the true meaning of Christmas — the birth of the Saviour.

Saturday, 22 December 2018, 5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights

Sunday, 23 December 2018, 9.00am
Calvary Convention Centre



CHRISTMAS FEST

Sunday, 23 December 2018, 11.30am - 2.00pm
The Plaza, Calvary Convention Centre

Join the Calvary family for a time of warm fellowship as we celebrate Christmas together. There will be food trucks, food stalls, fun and interactive activities for adults and kids.



CHRISTMAS @ Calvary Book Corner

There's something for everyone!

Visit us for a wide selection of Bibles, Christian books, music-CDs, DVDs, inspirational art, trendy jewelry and accessories, greeting cards, seasonal and specialty gifts



Level 1, Auditorium Block, Calvary Convention Centre,
1 Jalan Jalil Perkasa 1, Bukit Jalil, 57100 Kuala Lumpur
Open on Mondays to Fridays 9.00am to 4.00pm, Sundays 11.00am to 1.30pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2018

Saturday, 5.00pm Calvary Damansara Heights

- 01** Associate Pastor David Seah
Communion
- 08** Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng
- 15** Associate Pastor Peter Ong
Water Baptism
- 22** Associate Pastor Timothy Ong
Christmas Worship Celebration
- 29** Combined with Year End
Thanksgiving Service on
30 December 2018 at
Calvary Convention Centre

Sunday, 9.00am Calvary Convention Centre

- 02** Guest Speaker
Communion
- 09** Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng
Children's Day
- 16** Associate Pastor Steven Kum
- 23** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Christmas Worship Celebration
- 30** Associate Pastor David Seah
Year End Thanksgiving Service
Membership Acceptance



**SENIOR PASTORS
PRINCE AND PETRINA GUNERATNAM
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE PASTORS
AND STAFF WISHES YOU**

*A very blessed
Christmas filled
with Peace,
Love and Joy!*

ACTIVITIES

Tamil Ministry Christmas Evangelistic Meeting
Sunday, 16 December 2018, 11.30am
Theatrette 2, Level B2, Calvary Convention Centre
Speaker: Associate Pastor Yong Chee Weng

COMBINED PRAYER MEETING
Monday, 31 December 2018, 7.30pm
Calvary Damansara Heights



CALVARY CHURCH (Assemblies of God)

2 Jalan Damansara Endah, Damansara Heights,
50490 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Senior Pastor Rev. Tan Sri Datuk Dr. Prince Guneratnam

CALVARY CONVENTION CENTRE

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