

# CALVARYNEWS

A PUBLICATION OF CALVARY CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE 223

PP5911/11/2012(031323)



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# BLESSINGS IN BROKENNESS

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

**W**hen tragedy strikes us or when we face life's challenges, we tend to ask, "Where is God?" We assume that God is not powerful enough nor all-knowing, or else He would have prevented the tragedy from taking place. This is the natural way of thinking and not of a renewed mind. Paul the apostle said, *"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect"* (Romans 12:2). If we want to understand God and His ways, we need to have a mindset that is renewed by the Holy Spirit. Paul goes on to say, *"Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy"* (Ephesians 4:23-24). As born-again believers, we are new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). As a result, our attitudes and lifestyles are renewed and we no longer think and live the way we normally do.

Jesus said, *"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). We have not been promised lives free from hardships and problems. On the other hand, Jesus has promised us peace in the midst of our trials. There are blessings in brokenness. In every situation, we need to be faithful and persevere in obedience to God's standard of righteousness and holiness. Eventually, we will grow to be better and more precious, like gold that has been purified by fire. James encourages believers, *"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an*



*opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing"* (James 1:2-4). We will become who God has intended us to be by fulfilling God's purposes for our lives when our patience and endurance is fully developed in the process of going through the pain and struggle, rather than merely making the problem disappear.

Paul, a faithful servant of God, who brought the Gospel to the Gentiles, knew and understood what it was to suffer and go through trials. Paul shares his experience of brokenness, hardships, and the blessings of loving and serving God.

## 1. WE CAN COMFORT OTHERS BECAUSE GOD IS OUR COMFORT

Paul declared, *"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and*



*the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ. Even when we are weighed down with troubles, it is for your comfort and salvation! For when we ourselves are comforted, we will certainly comfort you. Then you can patiently endure the same things we suffer. We are confident that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in the comfort God gives us. We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 1:3-9).*

God has a purpose in allowing us to go through trials. We need to learn to rely on God, not on our own strength and abilities. The challenging situation God allows us to go through can be a means of blessing, comfort, and encouragement to somebody else. Having experienced the comfort of God ourselves, we are able to comfort others.

## **2. TRIALS WORK FOR OUR GOOD AS BELIEVERS WHO LOVE GOD**

Paul said, “*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them*” (Romans 8:28).

## **3. WE ARE SONS AND DAUGHTERS 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.' No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening – it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees"* (Hebrews 12:5-6, 11-12). As children of God, there is parental care and discipline over us by our Father who loves us. God's punishment is not out of anger or destructiveness, but His discipline is redemptive in nature. He desires that we grow in maturity and character. Therefore, He disciplines us to keep us from being lukewarm or deprived of His good plans and purposes for our lives. God works in ensuring that nothing stands in the way of His children enjoying His goodness and blessings.

Joseph is another example of one who went through a difficult time, as he had to face the hatred of his brothers. The Bible says, *"But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him. One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever"* (Genesis 37:4-5). Joseph also had to face the false accusation of Potiphar's wife, which resulted in him being imprisoned. The Bible says, *"When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled, she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. 'Look!' she said. 'My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to rape me, but I screamed. When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me.' She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. Then she told him her story. 'That Hebrew slave you've*

*brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me,' she said. 'But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!' Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained"* (Genesis 39:13-20). Despite Joseph's trials, God fulfilled His plan and purpose for Joseph's life. He was disciplined but not punished. The Bible says, *"Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.' Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, 'Kneel down!' So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt"* (Genesis 41:41-43). When his brothers discovered who Joseph was, Joseph said to them, *"Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people"* (Genesis 50:19-20).

As believers in Jesus Christ, allow God to discipline us as a Father disciplines His children. He may not immediately take you out of the situation, but when you are going through it, God says, *"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness"* (2 Corinthians 12:9). God's plans and purposes are far superior than our own. Let us live the born-again life by trusting Him in every situation.

Jesus never fails.

All Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation (NLT)

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# PROCLAIM GOD'S GOODNESS

BY SUNITA MATHEW

**D**eep gratitude comes from within. It can motivate us to make positive changes in our lives. Studies show people can consciously cultivate gratitude by literally counting their blessings one by one, jotting them down frequently. Even the world at large recognises this is how one can live a meaningful life.

In the Bible, we see various accounts of those who were unashamed in giving thanks to God. Two of these stories are of King David and of the ten lepers.

King David learned, even from his younger days, as seen in 2 Samuel 22:1-7 NIV, "David sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said: 'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my saviour – from violent people you save me. I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and have been saved from my enemies. The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears.'"

We see that David was not shy when it came to giving thanks to God, and never ceased to proclaim all God's wondrous works. For that, He was a man after God's own heart.

Next, we look at the ten lepers who went to Jesus and asked for healing. Luke 17:12-19 ESV reads, "And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.'"

When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, 'Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' And he said to him, 'Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.'" From this, we see that Jesus was pleased at a heart of gratitude.

Do you proclaim God's goodness in your life with such clarity that you shout His praises and thereby inspire others with your heights of gratitude everywhere you go? Some simple ways we can display gratitude and show a heart of thanksgiving are by:

- Making people feel wonderful; being positive in speech is indicative of a heart that overflows with goodness, and
- Giving open or free-flowing praise, which in turn encourages others to similarly proclaim God's blessing in their life.

What the Lord has done and continues to do for us is too good to be quiet about. Give Him thanks, let all those around us know about His goodness – it can be done in subtle or not-so-subtle ways, even in the way we carry ourselves. It will touch His heart to see how much we give Him praise, and it will definitely encourage others along the way!

"That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all Thy wondrous works" Psalm 26:7 KJV.





*Rev. Daniel sharing the Word of God*



*A time of praise and worship*

# RAYS OF HOPE

BY DEBBIE HONG, WILSON CHEONG, AND CHERILYN THONG

“A Ray of Hope” was the Chinese Evangelistic Meetings’ theme, held Saturday and Sunday, 21-22 September 2019. Both evenings began with a powerful, encouraging gospel song by the choir, and each evening, after a wonderful time of praise and worship, a testimony was shared. Both Jess Fen and Chan Sow Chan testified of God’s miraculous healing and comfort.

Two centre supervisors from the Peace Charis Home Christian Rehabilitation Centre run by Reverend Daniel Choo, Senior Pastor of Peace Charis Assembly of God, shared how powerfully and miraculously God transformed their lives, allowing their testimonies to impact others. While they were in life’s dark valley, God gave them hope. They received salvation, and were born again into a new life with God. He has shown His love and light through them to bless and mentor others, and they committed to serve God. Chua Gwo Keong shared about his wayward past, at one point being addicted to drugs for 20 long, lonely years. His

grandmother, who loved him dearly, passed away while he was in rehabilitation, and it devastated him to only be able to hear her last breaths on the phone. He testified if not for Jesus’ power, he would be in the grave or hospital. His mother, who prayed to all sorts of idols for his sake, has also accepted Christ.

Rev. Daniel shared God’s Word, and his story is a testimony of God’s amazing love too. The first evening, he used Mark 5:1-20, about Jesus restoring a demon-possessed man, to share that Jesus cherishes every life. On the second evening, he talked about the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-24). Freedom is not doing whatever the heart desires, rather, it is choosing not to do something when it is not beneficial or is detrimental. True freedom is knowing sinful actions bind us. The messages emphasised that whatever the circumstances, we can always trust in Him, because God is love. No matter the sin, our Heavenly Father is always waiting for us to return to Him, welcoming us with open arms.

Many responded for salvation and for personal needs. The Holy Spirit’s presence was evident, and many were touched. We praise and thank God for His marvellous work, for the 32 new visitors, and for the 11 who received salvation.

*Gwo Keong sharing his testimony through a dialogue with Pastor Lynda Choi, Rev. Daniel’s wife*



*All ears during the meeting*





Lim Chune Sin, Chinese Ministry Coordinator, addressing the attendees



The team from Peace Charis Assembly presenting a special number



The Chinese Language choir ministering with a song titled 'I Am Satisfied Because of You'

# 一线希望

文: 方迎春, 张维善, 汤玉华报道

教会中文部于2019年9月21日和22日, 星期六和星期日, 举办了中文布道会, 主题是一线希望。中文诗班为布道会掀开序幕, 献唱了一首富有能力和激励性的诗歌。每晚在美好的赞美敬拜时光后, 都有一位姐妹见证分享神奇妙的医治与安慰。

平恩戒毒康复中心的两名职员分享了上帝如何以祂的大能奇迹般地改变了他们的生命, 并用他们的见证激励其他人。当他们的人生陷入黑暗幽谷时, 是上帝给予他们希望。他们领受了救恩, 藉着上帝获得重生。祂向他们彰显了爱与光, 并借由他们祝福、教导他人, 他们从此决志事奉神。蔡國強分享了他迷失自我的过往, 因被毒癮控制而度过了既孤单又漫长的20年。当他仍在戒毒康复中心时, 爱他的祖母过世了, 他只能通过电话听到祖母咽下最后一口气, 令他伤心欲绝。他见证是周牧师的戒毒中心帮助他脱离黑暗的, 而这一切完全出于主耶稣的大能。如果没有耶稣, 今天的他若不是在医院, 就是在坟墓里。

周牧师分享了神的话语和他的人生经历。他的故事同样见证了上帝奇妙的大爱。第一天, 他藉着《马可福音》5:1-20耶稣如何恢复了一个被恶魔捆绑的人来分享耶稣眷顾每个生命。第二天, 他藉着《路加福音》15:11-24浪子回头的比喻来说明自由不是随心所欲, 而是能选择不去做无益或有害的事。真正的自由是知道犯罪行为会捆绑我们。牧师强调无论任何环境, 我们都可以信靠神, 因为神是爱。不管犯了什么罪, 我们的阿爸天父总是敞开双手等待我们回转, 归向祂。

好些人对救恩和个人需求的呼召作出回应。许多人深受感动, 圣灵的同在是明显的。我们为神奇妙的作为献上感恩和赞美, 感谢神带来了32位新访客, 也感谢神有11人决志接受救恩。



Responding to the altar call



Associate Pastors Peter Ong and Timothy Ong praying for the ministry of Rev. Daniel and his family



All smiles!



*Praising and worshipping the Lord*



*Pastor David beginning the seminar*



*Michael Loon giving the seminar participants a few instructions*

# THE CALL TO HARVEST

BY SHARON TAN

Over 300 participants attended this year's Life Group (LG) Seminar, held on Saturday, 28 September 2019 at Calvary Damansara Heights. LG leaders, hosts, and members gathered expectantly to hear what's in store for the LGs in the months ahead. After a rousing fellowship over breakfast, Associate Pastor David Seah commenced the opening session with a firm reminder that everyone is called to be a harvester.



*Peggy Low introducing the 3Sixteen programme*



*Carmen Chong explaining the 3Sixteen programme*



*Helen Read sharing her experience*





*Small group discussion*

He recalled the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with only two fishes and five loaves of bread, and that it was through the disciples' willingness to act in faith that the miracle of multiplication took place and they were able to feed each one to the point of overflow. Just like that, we too are called to be salt and light of the world, and to share the Gospel through well-placed strategy and Christ-centered partnerships.

With that, the 3Sixteen programme was introduced by the working team, led by Peggy Low, LG Sectional Leader, as a strategy for LG members to nurture, encourage, guide, and lead potential believers to Christ. This programme is a platform to demonstrate the love of Christ through cosy home environments conducted in a small group setting. Touching video testimonies were shared to encourage LG members to join upcoming training sessions. Helen Read

shared her own experience and testimony conducting a pilot 3Sixteen session recently, reaching potential believers and seeing one person accept Christ in the very first meeting.

Acting in faith to God's Word, LG members committed to participate in the programme despite the many challenges and time commitment involved. We look forward to God working in and through us to reach those who need Him the most, bringing hope to a dying world. Not by might nor by power, but by His Spirit!

**Join an LG today and be enriched! For more information, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 414.**



*Fellowship over breakfast*





*The children's worship team leading the congregation in praise and worship*

# ROAR! LIFE IS WILD BUT GOD IS GOOD

BY CHERYL KAM FOR CALVARY NURSERY CARE (CNC) AND PATRINA CHAN FOR CARPENTER'S WORKSHOP (CW)

It was amazing to see how the little children aged four years and below in CNC grasped the theme "ROAR! Life is Wild but God is Good" to be bold and to have faith.

It was a special day celebrating God's children, who came in their best safari outfits, super ready for an adventure with God! They ran into the nursery filled with so much joy seeing animals and balloons everywhere!

It was a blessing to see the children fellowshiping with one another, playing, and learning about God. The classrooms were decorated as the wilderness, with animals hidden at every corner. The children had their binoculars on, excitedly spotting the animals pictured on their safari map.

After the adventure, everyone gathered for snacks, happily munching on animal biscuits. Later, the teachers led a fun-filled worship, with lots of jumping and clapping. Everyone sang along praising Jesus.

Lastly, we watched an animated video, 'Roar', about Daniel in the lions' den. It was wonderful celebrating the children, and we are grateful to God for each and every child, all 112 of them. Praise the Lord!

The CW children were greeted by youth and young adults portraying animals as they entered the auditorium for a time of praise and worship with the adults. The church stood together as Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam prayed, affirming the children's value as God's precious gift to their parents and the



*The nursery care children with the CNC helpers*



*Break time!*



*The nursery care children entering the "safari"*



*Enjoying their time at the CNC Children's Day celebrations*



*"Look, a lion!"*



*"I spy, with my little eye..."*



Senior Pastor reading a passage of scripture



Sister Petrina sharing God's Word



The children singing a song of praise



Pastor Richard sharing about Daniel in the lions' den



Focusing real hard on the game



church. Senior Associate Pastor Petrina Guneratnam shared a sermon encouraging parents to proclaim God's goodness and greatness to their children through a stirring message in line with Children's Day.

Associate Pastor Richard Yun shared a message on Daniel in the lions' den with the nine-to-11-year olds before they adjourned for games. Eighty children responded for salvation, trusting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The five-to-eight-year old children enjoyed the 'Roar' animated video and later, many raised their hands to trust God and affirm that He is our refuge in times of trouble.

Praise God for an attendance of 103 visitors and a total of 512 CNC and CW children, and for 123 helpers from the Children's Ministry, Royal Rangers, Missionettes, and the Youth and Young Adults. Each one went back with a deeper appreciation for God's love, and a greater sense of their value and preciousness to their family and the church.



The young adults all ready to welcome the children



Playing charades



"I see you!"



"I've spotted all the safari animals!"





# BERKAT DALAM KEHANCURAN

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

**A**pabila tragedi menyerang atau di saat kita menghadapi cabaran hidup, kita sering bertanya, “Di manakah Tuhan?” Kita beranggapan bahawa Tuhan tidak cukup berkuasa atau maha mengetahui, kerana kalau tidak, sudah pasti Dia akan menghalang tragedi itu daripada berlaku. Ini adalah pemikiran semula jadi dan bukan pemikiran yang telah diperbaharui. Rasul Paulus berkata, “Janganlah kamu menjadi serupa dengan dunia ini, tetapi berubahlah oleh pembaharuan budimu, sehingga kamu dapat membedakan manakah kehendak Tuhan: apa yang baik, yang berkenan kepada Tuhan dan yang sempurna” (Roma 12:2). Sekiranya kita ingin memahami Tuhan dan caraNya, kita perlu mempunyai minda yang diperbaharui oleh Roh Kudus. Paulus terus berkata, “supaya kamu dibaharui di dalam roh dan pikiranmu, dan mengenakan manusia baru, yang telah diciptakan menurut kehendak Tuhan di dalam kebenaran dan kekudusan yang sesungguhnya” (Efesus 4:23-24). Sebagai orang percaya yang dilahirkan semula, kita adalah ciptaan baru di dalam Kristus (2 Korintus 5:17). Oleh itu, sikap dan gaya hidup kita telah diperbaharui dan kita tidak lagi berfikir dan hidup seperti yang biasa kita lakukan.

Yesus berkata, “semuanya itu Kukatakan kepadamu, supaya kamu beroleh damai sejahtera dalam Aku. Dalam dunia kamu menderita penganiayaan, tetapi kuatkanlah hatimu, Aku telah mengalahkan dunia” (Yohanes 16:33). Kita tidak dijanjikan kehidupan yang bebas daripada kesukaran dan masalah. Walaubagaimanapun, Yesus telah janjikan kita kedamaian ketika di dalam cobaan. Inilah berkat dalam kehancuran. Di dalam setiap situasi, kita haruslah setia dan tabah dalam ketaatan kepada kebenaran dan kekudusan Tuhan. Kesudahannya, kita akan bertumbuh menjadi lebih baik dan berharga, seperti emas yang telah diuji kemurniannya dengan api. Yakobus mendorong orang-orang percaya, “Saudara-saudaraku, anggaplah sebagai suatu kebahagiaan, apabila kamu jatuh ke dalam berbagai-bagai pencobaan, sebab kamu tahu, bahwa ujian terhadap imanmu itu menghasilkan ketekunan. Dan biarkanlah ketekunan itu memperoleh buah yang matang, supaya kamu menjadi sempurna dan utuh dan tak kekurangan suatu apa pun” (Yakobus 1:2-4). Dengan memenuhi rencana Tuhan di dalam kehidupan kita, kita akan menjadi seperti apa yang Tuhan maksudkan di saat kesabaran dan ketekunan telah berkembang sepenuhnya melalui proses kesakitan dan pergelutan, dan bukan hanya melenyapkan masalah tersebut.

Paulus, hamba Tuhan yang setia, yang membawa injil kepada bangsa-bangsa yang tidak mengenal Tuhan, mengetahui dan memahami maksud penderitaan dan melalui pencobaan. Paulus berkongsi pengalaman tentang kehancuran, kesukaran, dan berkat dalam mengasihi dan melayani Tuhan.

## 1. KITA DAPAT MENGHIBURKAN ORANG LAIN KERANA TUHAN ADALAH PENGHIBUR KITA

Paulus mengistiharkan, “Terpujilah Tuhan, Bapa Tuhan kita Yesus Kristus, Bapa yang penuh belas kasihan dan Tuhan sumber segala penghiburan, yang menghibur kami dalam segala penderitaan kami, sehingga kami sanggup menghibur mereka, yang berada dalam bermacam-macam penderitaan dengan penghiburan yang kami terima sendiri dari Tuhan. Sebab sama seperti kami mendapat bagian berlimpah-limpah dalam kesengsaraan Kristus, demikian pula oleh Kristus kami menerima penghiburan berlimpah-limpah. Jika kami menderita, hal itu menjadi penghiburan dan keselamatan kamu; jika kami dihibur, maka hal itu adalah untuk penghiburan kamu, sehingga kamu peroleh kekuatan untuk dengan sabar menderita kesengsaraan yang sama seperti yang kami derita juga. Dan pengharapan kami akan kamu adalah teguh, karena kami tahu, bahwa sama seperti kamu turut mengambil bagian dalam kesengsaraan kami, kamu juga turut mengambil bagian dalam penghiburan kami. Sebab kami mau, saudara-saudara, supaya kamu tahu akan penderitaan yang kami alami di Asia Kecil. Beban yang ditanggungkan atas kami adalah begitu besar dan begitu berat, sehingga kami telah putus asa juga akan hidup kami. Bahkan kami merasa, seolah-olah kami telah dijatuhi hukuman mati. Tetapi hal itu terjadi, supaya kami jangan menaruh kepercayaan pada diri kami sendiri, tetapi hanya kepada Tuhan yang membangkitkan orang-orang mati” (2 Korintus 1:3-9).

## 2. PENCOBAAN ADALAH UNTUK KEBAIKAN KITA SEBAGAI ORANG PERCAYA YANG MENGASIHI TUHAN

Paulus berkata, “Kita tahu sekarang, bahwa Tuhan turut bekerja dalam segala sesuatu untuk mendatangkan kebaikan bagi mereka yang mengasihi Dia, yaitu bagi mereka yang terpanggil sesuai dengan rencana Tuhan” (Roma 8:28).

## 3. KITA ADALAH ANAK-ANAK TUHAN

Alkitab 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 mengajar orang yang dikasihi-Nya, dan Ia menyesah orang yang diakui-Nya sebagai anak. Memang tiap-tiap ganjaran pada waktu ia diberikan tidak mendatangkan sukacita, tetapi dukacita. Tetapi kemudian ia menghasilkan buah kebenaran yang memberikan damai kepada mereka yang dilatih olehnya. Sebab itu kuatkanlah tangan yang lemah dan lutut yang goyah” (Ibrani 12:5-6, 11-12). Sebagai anak-anak Tuhan, adanya penjagaan and disiplin daripada Bapa yang mengasihi kita. Hukuman Tuhan bukan datang dari kemarahan atau kemusnahan, tetapi disiplinNya adalah dalam sifat penebusan. Dia menginginkan kita untuk bertumbuh dari segi kematangan dan watak. Oleh itu, Dia mendisiplinkan kita untuk mengelakkan kita daripada menjadi suam-suam kuku dan menghalang rencanyaNya di dalam kehidupan kita. Tuhan bekerja untuk memastikan tiada yang menghalang anak-anakNya daripada menikmati kebaikan dan berkatNya.

Yusuf adalah satu lagi contoh bagi orang yang melalui waktu sukar kerana dia harus menghadapi kebencian daripada saudara-saudaranya. Alkitab menyatakan, “Setelah dilihat oleh saudara-saudaranya, bahwa ayahnya lebih mengasihi Yusuf dari semua saudaranya, maka bencilah mereka itu kepadanya dan tidak mau menyapanya dengan ramah. Pada suatu kali bermimpilah Yusuf, lalu mimpinya itu diceritakannya kepada saudara-saudaranya; sebab itulah mereka lebih benci lagi kepadanya” (Kejadian 37:4-5). Yusuf juga harus menghadapi tuduhan palsu oleh isteri Potifar yang menyebabkan dia dipenjarakan. Alkitab menyatakan, “Ketika dilihat perempuan itu, bahwa Yusuf meninggalkan bajunya dalam tangannya dan telah lari ke luar, dipanggilnyalah seisi rumah itu, lalu katanya kepada mereka: ‘Lihat, dibawahnya ke mari seorang Ibrani, supaya orang ini dapat mempermainkan kita. Orang ini mendekati aku untuk tidur dengan aku, tetapi aku berteriak-teriak dengan suara keras. Dan ketika didengarnya bahwa aku berteriak sekeras-kerasnya, ditinggalkannyalah bajunya padaku, lalu ia lari ke luar.’ Juga ditaruhnya baju Yusuf itu di sisinya, sampai tuan rumah pulang. Perkataan itu jugalah yang diceritakan perempuan itu kepada Potifar, katanya: ‘Hamba orang Ibrani yang kau bawa ke mari itu datang kepadaku untuk

mempermainkan aku. Tetapi ketika aku berteriak sekeras-kerasnya, ditinggalkan bajunya padaku, lalu ia lari ke luar.’ Baru saja didengar oleh tuannya perkataan yang diceritakan isterinya kepadanya: begini begitulah aku diperlakukan oleh hambamu itu, maka bangkitlah amarahnya. Lalu Yusuf ditangkap oleh tuannya dan dimasukkan ke dalam penjara, tempat tahanan-tahanan raja dikurung. Demikianlah Yusuf dipenjarakan di sana” (Kejadian 39:13-20). Walaupun cobaan yang dihadapi Yusuf, Tuhan tetap memenuhi rencana dan tujuannya di dalam kehidupan Yusuf. Yusuf didisiplinkan tetapi tidak dihukum. Alkitab berkata, “Selanjutnya Firaun berkata kepada Yusuf: ‘Dengan ini aku melantik engkau menjadi kuasa atas seluruh tanah Mesir.’ Sesudah itu Firaun menanggalkan cincin meterainya dari jarinya dan mengenakannya pada jari Yusuf; dipakaikannya kepada Yusuf pakaian dari pada kain halus dan digantungkannya kalung emas pada lehernya. Lalu Firaun menyuruh menaikkan Yusuf dalam keretanya yang kedua, dan berserulah orang di hadapan Yusuf: ‘Hormat!’ Demikianlah Yusuf dilantik oleh Firaun menjadi kuasa atas seluruh tanah Mesir” (Kejadian 41:41-43). Apabila saudara-saudaranya mendapati siapa Yusuf sebenarnya, Yusuf berkata kepada mereka, ‘Janganlah takut, sebab aku inilah pengganti Tuhan? Memang kamu telah mereka-rekakan yang jahat terhadap aku, tetapi Tuhan telah mereka-rekakannya untuk kebaikan, dengan maksud melakukan seperti yang terjadi sekarang ini, yakni memelihara hidup suatu bangsa yang besar’ ” (Kejadian 50:19-20).

Sebagai orang percaya di dalam Yesus Kristus, benarkan Tuhan untuk mendisiplinkan kita seperti seorang Bapa mendisiplinkan anak-anaknya. Dia mungkin tidak serta-merta mengeluarkan kamu dari sesuatu situasi, tetapi di saat kamu melaluinya, Tuhan berkata, “Cukuplah kasih karunia-Ku bagimu, sebab justru dalam kelemahanlah kuasa-Ku menjadi sempurna” (2 Korintus 12:9). Rencana dan tujuan Tuhan adalah jauh lebih tinggi daripada rencana kita. Marilah kita hidup kehidupan yang telah dilahirkan semula ini dengan mempercayainya di dalam setiap situasi. Yesus tidak pernah gagal.

Semua petikan Alkitab adalah dari Alkitab Bahasa Indonesia.

# 在破碎中得祝福

文: 古纳南主任牧师

**当** 我们面临生活挑战或悲剧时，我们往往会问：“神啊，你在哪里？”我们突然想：神要是真的无所不知、无所不能的话，就不会让悲剧发生。这是很自然的想法，可是这不是我们应该有的想法。保罗说：“不要模仿这个世代，倒要借着心意的更新而改变过来，使你们可以察验出什么是神的旨意，就是察验出什么是美好的、蒙他悦纳的和完全的事”（罗马书 12:2）。若要认识神和他的道路，我们的心意要被圣灵更新。保罗接着说：“你们要把心灵更换一新，并且穿上新人。这新人是照着神的形象，在公义和真实的圣洁里创造的”（以弗所书 4:23-24）。如果有人是在基督里，他就是新造的人，旧事已经过去，你看，都变成新的了！（哥林多后书 5:17）结果，我们的态度和生活方式得到了更新，我们不再像往常一样思考和生活。

耶稣说：“我把这些事告诉你们，是要使你们在我里面有平安。在世上你们有患难，但你们放心，我已经胜了这世界”（约翰福音 16:33）。神从没向我们保证生活中不会遇到任何困难或难题。可是，耶稣应许我们在试炼中得平安，破碎中往往存有祝福。无论什么情况，我们都必须忠于神并坚持顺服于他的公义和圣洁的标准。最终，我们的生命将变得更好，更珍贵，就像从火里被炼净的黄金一样。雅各鼓励信徒：“我的弟兄们，你们遭遇各种试炼的时候，都要看为喜乐；因为知道你们的信心经过考验，就产生忍耐。但忍耐要坚持到底（‘坚持到底’原文作‘有完全的功绩’），使你们可以完全，毫无缺乏”（雅各书 1:2-4）。在经历痛苦和挣扎的过程中，我们不仅解决难题，同时也培养耐心和毅力，达成神在我们生命中设下的目标，最终长成神要我们成为的人。

保罗是神忠实的仆人，他把福音传给外邦人。他知道也理解为什么他要遭受苦难，经历考验。保罗分享了他破碎和艰辛的经历，也分享了爱神和侍奉神的祝福。

## 1. 我们能安慰人，因为神是我们的安慰。

保罗说：“我们主耶稣基督的父神是应当称颂的。他是满有怜悯的父，赐各样安慰的神。我们在一切患难中，神都安慰我们，使我们能用他所赐的安慰，去安慰那些在各样患难中的人。我们既然多受基督所受的痛苦，就靠着基督多得安慰。如果我们遭遇



患难，那是要使你们得着安慰，得着拯救；如果我们得到安慰，也是要使你们得到安慰。这安慰使你们能够忍受我们所受那样的痛苦。我们对你们的盼望是坚定的，因为知道你们既然一同受痛苦，也必照样同得安慰。弟兄们，我们在亚西亚遭受的患难，我们很想让你们知道。那时我们受到了过于我们所能忍受的压力，甚至活下去的希望都没有了，而且断定自己是必死的了；然而，这正是我们要我们不倚靠自己，只倚靠那叫死人复活的神”（哥林多后书 1:3-9）。神让我们经历考验是有目的的。我们须要学习依靠神，而不是依靠自己的能力。神让我们面临的挑战或许将成为他人的祝福、安慰和鼓励。当我们亲身经历了神的安慰后，我们也能安慰别人。

## 2. 爱神的信徒受试炼,是为了让我们得着好处

保罗说：“我们知道，为了爱神的人，就是按他旨意蒙召的人的益处，万事都一同效力”（罗马书 8:28）。

## 3. 我们是神的儿女

圣经上说：“你们又忘记了那劝你们好像劝儿子的话，说：‘我儿！你不可轻看主的管教，受责备的时候也不要灰心；因为主所爱的，他必管教，他又鞭打所收纳的每一个儿子。’但是一切管教，在当时似乎不觉得快乐，反觉得痛苦；后来却为那些经过这种操练的人，结出平安的果子来，就是义。所以，你们要把下垂的手和发软的腿挺直起来”（希伯来书 12:5-6, 11-12）爱

我们的天父在他的儿女身上给予了父母般的关爱并施予管教。神的惩罚并不出于愤怒或想要摧毁我们，神对我们的纪律要求是要救赎我们。他渴望我们在品格上成长成熟。因此，他管教我们，使我们不致成为不冷不热的基督徒，乖离了最初被造的目的，还与他美好的计划无分。神要确保他的儿女享受他的祝福与良善。

约瑟是另一个走过患难的例子。他经历了亲兄弟对他的愤恨。圣经上说：“约瑟的哥哥们见父亲爱约瑟过于爱他们，就恨约瑟，不能与他和气气地说话。约瑟作了一个梦，把梦告诉哥哥们，他们就越发恨他”（创世记 37:4-5）。约瑟也面对被波提乏的妻子虚谎指控，以致被囚禁。圣经上说：“妇人见约瑟把衣服留在她手里，跑到外面去，就把家里的人都叫了来，对他们说：“你们看，我丈夫带回家来的希伯来人想调戏我。他进到我这里来，要与我同睡，我就大声呼叫。他一听见我高声呼叫，就把衣服留在我身边，跑到外面去了。”妇人把约瑟的衣服放在她身边，等她的主人回家。她又用同样的话对他说：“你带回家来的希伯来人，竟进到这里来，要调戏我。我高声呼叫，他就把衣服留在我身边，跑到外面去了。”约瑟的主人听了她妻子对他所说的话，说：“你的仆人就是这样对待我。”他就非常生气。于是，约瑟的主人拿住约瑟，把他关在监里，就是王的囚犯被监禁的地方；约瑟就在那里坐监”（创世记 39:13-20）。约瑟虽然经历试炼，神却实现了他对约瑟的生命的计划和目标。约瑟不是遭受惩罚，而是经历了严格的培训。圣经上说：“法老又对约瑟说：‘你看，我任命你治理埃及全地。’于是，法老脱下他手上打印的戒指，戴在约瑟的手上；给他穿上细麻的衣服，把金项链挂在他的颈项上；又叫约瑟坐在他的副车，有人在他前面喊着：‘下。’这样，法老任命了约瑟治理埃及全地”（创世记 41:41-43）。当约瑟的兄弟发现他的身份时，约瑟对他们说：“你们不要害怕，我怎能代替神呢？从前你们有意要害我，但神有美好的意思在其中，为要成就今日的光景，使许多人的性命得以保全”（创世记 50:19-20）。

作为耶稣基督的信徒，让神像父亲管教孩子似的管教我们。当你身处困境时，他或许不会立刻帮助你脱离困境，他说：“我的恩典是够你用的，因为我的能力在人的软弱上显得完全。”所以，我更喜欢夸自己的软弱，好让基督的能力临到我的身上。（哥林多后书 12:9）神的计划和意念远远高过我们的意念。让我们活出重生了的生命，无论在什么情况下都完全依靠他。耶稣永远信实。

经文取自圣经新译本。



Rangers and their parents at the Council of Achievement

# ROYAL RANGERS COUNCIL OF ACHIEVEMENT

BY HAYLEY WONG

On Sunday, 29 September 2019, over 400 Rangers and parents gathered at the Multipurpose and Banquet Hall, Calvary Convention Centre for our 37th Council of Achievement (CoA) to recognise the Rangers for their hard work over the past year.

The theme of this year's CoA was "Christ's Character Conquers", and Chaplain Timothy Yee shared about how in our combat against sin, we need to depend on God. This is where good character comes in, and Royal Rangers is one such avenue where boys and girls are able to develop their character.

The most exciting part of CoA was the awards ceremony. The 'Character Pot' was introduced to convey what it takes for the Rangers to receive awards. Just as it takes many ingredients to make a delicious soup, the eight blue points on the Royal Rangers emblem represent characteristics every Ranger should embody: Alert, Clean, Honest, Courageous, Loyal, Courteous, Obedient, and Spiritual.

Rangers across the age groups received various awards they worked hard to achieve, and this CoA, there were Discovery Rangers who received their Gold Falcon Awards and Adventure Rangers who received their Adventure Bronze Medals on top of their general achievements.

The highlight was the presentation of the Gold Medal of Achievement (GMA), the highest award a Ranger can receive, to Lisha Gan. It takes many years of hard work, commitment, and determination, and she pulled through with God's help. Lisha's parents had the honour of pinning the medal onto her uniform, and she shared her testimony on how Royal Rangers has positively impacted her life; learning much through the programme and connecting with other Rangers, both locally and abroad. She sees herself happily serving the ministry long term, and hopes to continuously share her passion and pass on to her Rangers what her leaders have given her.

**Royal Rangers is for boys and girls six to 17 years old. Join us on Sundays, 11.30am at Calvary Convention Centre. For more information, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 408.**



GMA recipient Lisha Gan (second from left) with (left to right) David Peter, Council Chairman; Chin Yoke Yee, Senior Commander; Gan Tion Chew and Yeong Lai Kuin, Lisha's parents; and Jason Tan, Advancement Coordinator



Some of the Ranger Kids who received their awards



The Adventure Rangers who achieved their Adventure Bronze award



Discovery Rangers Wesley Lim and Julius Soo Hoo (second and third from left respectively) with their Gold Falcon award





Chow Sang Hoe answering question during the Q&A session with Jonathan Lim moderating



Michael Loon, Young Adults Coordinator welcoming the participants

# GOD AND/OR SUCCESS?

BY SHARON TAN

Despite the haze and an early 9.00am start on Saturday, 21 September 2019 at Calvary Damansara Heights, it was encouraging to see 85 young adults get together to worship God, listen, and interact as Chow Sang Hoe, Church Deacon and Managing Partner of Ernst & Young Advisory Services, shared his personal journey with us. He shared on whether it is really possible to have both an intimate relationship with God and career success.

He shared three lessons to help guide us. First, we need to love correctly, because we cannot serve two

masters. Secondly, the Lord is the one we should put first, we will find true joy when we do what He has created us to do. Lastly, we need to rely on the Holy Spirit, fellowshiping, praying, and seeking Him daily, meditating on His words daily, and resting on the Sabbath.

After Sang Hoe's message, an engaging time of Q&A took place to answer questions regarding the challenges faced by the young adults. The fellowship ended with an opportunity for the young adults to respond in re-aligning their perspectives, and later with an engaging time of connecting and networking over light refreshments.

**Join us for the next Young Adults Fellowship on Saturday, 2 November 2019 at 10.00am at Calvary Damansara Heights. For more information, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 442**



One of the participants asking a question



Listening intently



The young adults responding at the altar



The youth and young adults at the altar

# A REFRESHING TIME OF PRAYER AND WORSHIP

BY FAYTHE CHOW

It was a powerful night as 85 youth and young adults gathered in the main sanctuary of Calvary Damansara Heights on Sunday, 15 September 2019 for the Youth and Young Adults Prayer and Worship Emphasis.

The structure of the session creatively followed the structure of the Lord's Prayer. Beginning with hallowing God's Name through intimate worship, followed by the sharing of the Word by Timothy Yee, Youth Coordinator,

and a time of personal consecration, we finally brought our requests before the Lord.

Timothy shared a timely, heartfelt devotion from Colossians 1:9-12, which the youth and young adults reflected on and evaluated themselves in groups.

There was a great sense of unity as the youth and young adults came together at the altar to pray for the church and the nation. Many were on their knees as they prayed and worshipped the Lord wholeheartedly.

Hearts were renewed and minds were refreshed that very night. The youth and young adults were once again spurred to carry out the Great Commission and to have a deeper passion for the lost.

Many testified of having fresh encounters with God and a refreshing touch, which convicted them to live right before God. A youth also testified of how she had the opportunity to take a step of faith during this session to express her desire to draw closer to God.



Darren Here and Ivan Ten taking turns leading in a time of prayer



Praising and worshipping the Lord

# AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

**C**ongratulations to ten Calvarites who followed Christ in water baptism on 28 September 2019 at the Saturday Worship Service at Calvary Damansara Heights. The Lord bless your obedience in your journey with Him.

**Front Row (L-R):** Yong Jie Xin, Jayden Liew Hou En, Oluwasefemi Jessie Oluwafewasolami Adegeye  
**Back Row (L-R):** Yong Yean Ying, Joyce Chin Fui Yee, Hansen Tay Fong Kiat, Kylie Cheong Hui Boon, Pritchard Muzanarwo, Oluwasetimpe Babadayosoromi Adedapomola Adegeye, Kong Kit Yee

If you would like to take the step of obedience to the Lord and be water baptised, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 434, visit [calvary.my/water-baptism](http://calvary.my/water-baptism), or talk to any of the pastors.

## BABY DEDICATION

**O**n 13 October 2019, three babies were dedicated to the Lord by Senior Pastors Prince and Petrina Guneratnam at the Sunday Worship Service at Calvary Convention Centre.

They also prayed for the parents, that they will bring up their children in the ways of the Lord, and for blessing upon the grandparents.



Peter Leaw Coon and Mary Shen Wen Feng with their baby, Solomon Leaw Qu En, together with the grandmother



Barthalomew Stephen Sinit and Lynn Yap Choon Lin with their baby, Eitan Barthalomew



David Lim Wee Gin and Grace Lim Soo Yong with their baby, Ethan Lim Xuan Ern, together with the grandparents

If you would like to dedicate your baby, call 03-8999 5532 ext. 434, or speak to any of the pastors.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 2019

## Saturday, 5.00pm Calvary Damansara Heights

- 02** Associate Pastor Peter Ong  
Communion
- 09** Associate Pastor Richard Yun
- 16** Associate Pastor David Seah
- 23** Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng  
Water Baptism
- 30** Associate Pastor Raymond Yong  
Communion

## Sunday, 9.00am Calvary Convention Centre

- 03** Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam  
Communion
- 10** Associate Pastor Peter Ong
- 17** Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng
- 24** Associate Pastor David Seah

## ACTIVITIES

**02  
NOV**



**YOUNG ADULTS FELLOWSHIP**  
Saturday, 10.00am  
Calvary Damansara Heights  
Speaker: Senior Associate Pastor  
Petrina Guneratnam

**09  
NOV**



**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**  
Saturday, 1.00pm  
Calvary Damansara Heights  
Topic: Prodigal Son

**17  
NOV**



**CHINESE THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday, 11.30am  
Theatrette 1, Level B2,  
Calvary Convention Centre  
Speaker: Senior Associate Pastor  
Petrina Guneratnam

**23  
NOV**



**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION**  
Saturday, 1.00pm  
Calvary Damansara Heights

**24  
NOV**



**TAMIL THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP**  
Sunday, 11.30am  
Theatrette 2, Level B2,  
Calvary Convention Centre  
Speaker: Senior Associate Pastor  
Petrina Guneratnam

**24  
NOV**



**MISSIONETTES THANKSGIVING**  
Sunday, 11.30am  
Calvary Convention Centre

**24  
NOV**



**ROYAL RANGERS THANKSGIVING**  
Sunday, 11.30am  
Calvary Convention Centre



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