

Image credit: ABDUL LATIF RAZAK © 123RF.COM

CALVARYNEWS

A PUBLICATION OF CALVARY CHURCH

JULY 2020

ISSUE 231

PP5911/11/2012(031323)



Facing Threats

Celebrating Fathers

Thanking God for Providence

FACING THREATS

BY SENIOR PASTOR PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Satan is a robber, destroyer, and murderer. Jesus said, *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life"* (John 10:10). We have been facing a deadly threat, the Covid-19 virus, where millions are affected around the world and thousands have died from it. We have yet to find a vaccine to fight it. We thank God for the Bible, God's Word, that teaches us how to face the challenges of threats.

King Jehoshaphat's threat and how he overcame it is a vivid lesson that we can learn to face whatever threats we may face (2 Chronicles 20).

1. KING JEHOSHAPHAT AND HIS GOD-GIVEN NATION FACED A MILITARY THREAT

The Bible said, *"After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat. Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already at Hazazon-tamar'"* (2 Chronicles 20:1-2). King Jehoshaphat faced a military threat, whereas we are faced with a virus threat that has become national and global. The virus has brought fear and anxiety. It has created economic and social disruption to the usual norms of work and lifestyle.

2. KING JEHOSHAPHAT RESPONDED TO THE THREAT WITH PRAYER AND FASTING

We can either let the threat hold us victims or be overcomers by going to God in prayer. The Bible said, *"Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah"* (2 Chronicles 20:3 NIV). The points in Jehoshaphat's prayer teaches us how to pray to be an overcomer in the face of threats.

a) Praying as a congregation

The Bible said, *"So people from all towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek the Lord's help. Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard at the Temple of the Lord"* (2 Chronicles 20:4-5). We need to pray together as a church. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus said, *"For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them"* (Matthew 18:20). God commands His blessings where there is unity (Psalm 133).

b) He made God bigger than the threats

Jehoshaphat prayed, *"O Lord, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you!"* (2 Chronicles 20:6). God is bigger and more powerful than any threat we may face.

c) He recounted God's promises

The Bible said, *"O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? Your people settled here and built this Temple to honour your name. They said, 'Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war, plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honoured. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us'"* (2 Chronicles 20:7-9). Jehoshaphat recognised God's faithfulness in the past and acknowledged God as a Promise-Keeper to His people. God honours faith and will never fail us!

d) He told God the threat

Jehoshaphat said, *"And now see what the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir are doing. You would not let our ancestors invade those nations when Israel left Egypt, so they went around them and did not destroy them."*

Now see how they reward us! For they have come to throw us out of your land, which you gave us as an inheritance” (2 Chronicles 20:10-11). The countries that threatened Israel were ungrateful. They were threatened to be thrown out of their own land. When we pray, let us be clear in presenting our challenges and problems to God.

e) He came in humility before God

Even though he was a king, he was humble enough to acknowledge he needed help. He prayed, *“O our God, won’t you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help”* (2 Chronicles 20:12). The Bible says, *“The Lord mocks the mockers but is gracious to the humble”* (Proverbs 3:34). Similarly, with the virus threat, we are powerless and helpless. Let us have faith in our God. He is more than able to help us in every situation.

f) They prayed as a family

The Bible said, *“As all the men of Judah stood before the Lord with their little ones, wives and children...”* (2 Chronicles 20:13). Despite social distancing as the new normal, we can

pray as a family. This strengthens the congregation to be a united family. If you are not praying as members of your biological family, this is a wake up call to do so.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE IN RESPONSE TO THEIR PRAYER

This was very much like a Pentecostal prayer meeting. The Bible said, *“the Spirit of the Lord came upon one of the men standing there. His name was Jahaziel son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite who was a descendant of Asaph. He said, ‘Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the Lord says: Do not be afraid! Don’t be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God’s. Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the Lord’s victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the Lord is with you!’ Then King Jehoshaphat bowed low with his face to the ground. And all the people of Judah and Jerusalem did the*





same, worshipping the Lord. Then the Levites from the clans of Kohath and Korah stood to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud shout” (2 Chronicles 20:14-19). Similarly, as we face our threats, may we not neglect prayer and fasting, for God answers our prayers. Thank God for the Holy Spirit for He still works today!

4. OBEDIENCE MUST FOLLOW PRAYING

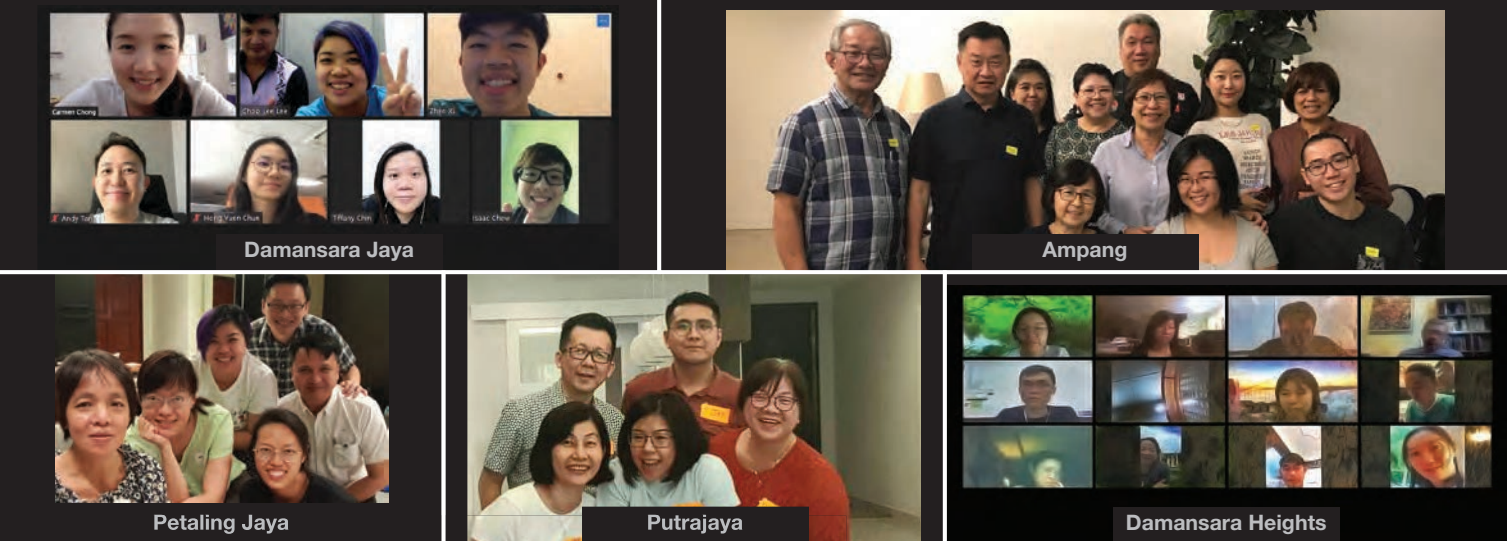
After praying, Jehoshaphat and the Israelites acted in faith. The Bible said, *“Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, ‘Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.’ After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the*

Lord and praising him for his holy splendour. This is what they sang: ‘Give thanks to the Lord; his faithful love endures forever!’ (2 Chronicles 20:20-21). As a result of their faith and obedience, God said, *“Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you’”* (2 Chronicles 20:15, 17 NIV).

5. PRAYER AND OBEDIENCE WILL MAKE US PROSPEROUS VICTORS

When God gives us victory, He also prospers us beyond measure. The Bible said, *“King Jehoshaphat and his men went out to gather the plunder. They found vast amounts of equipment, clothing, and other valuables—more than they could carry. There was so much plunder that it took them three days just to collect it all! On the fourth day they gathered in the Valley of Blessing, which got its name that day because the people praised and thanked the Lord there. It is still called the Valley of Blessing today. Then all the men returned to Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat leading them, overjoyed that the Lord had given them victory over their enemies. They marched into Jerusalem to the music of harps, lyres, and trumpets, and they proceeded to the Temple of the Lord. When all the surrounding kingdoms heard that the Lord himself had fought against the enemies of Israel, the fear of God came over them. So Jehoshaphat’s kingdom was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side”* (2 Chronicles 20:25-30). Therefore, let us face our challenges with prayer, fasting, faith, and obedience. The battle is the Lord’s.

All Scripture references are taken from the New Living Translation (NLT), unless otherwise stated.



Courageous members of five LGs with their guests before and during the MCO

WHEN COURAGE LEADS TO ACTION AND BLESSINGS

BY ANNABEL LILY

The 3Sixteen working team is so encouraged to hear testimonies of how lives are being impacted, transformed, and blessed through 3Sixteen. Here are three testimonies.

NEWFOUND COURAGE

I have always had trouble sharing my faith with non-believers. Where do I begin and how deep or far should I go? And then there is fear that people might assume that I am some religious nutcase. However, with 3Sixteen, I have a structured programme, a guided approach on delivering the Good News step by step and prompting the non-believer to open up and evaluate their worldviews and ideologies.

During the Movement Control Order (MCO), I mustered the courage to invite several colleagues to 3Sixteen. Whilst they watched the evangelistic video, my heart

jumped the moment they expressed their discovery of God's truths. I know their hearts were open to my witnessing, and am believing for their salvation to take place soon!

- Andy Tan, Potential LG Leader

FROM COMPLACENCY TO ACTION

I am convicted that I want my life to make a difference. I wish the same for my Life Group (LG) members, so together we committed to the 3Sixteen programme. We can have the tendency to be complacent in reaching out, so this is one way we can help potential believers experience God as a LG.

We had two guests who came for three 3Sixteen sessions before the MCO. They watched the evangelistic videos, heard our salvation testimonies, and was open to be prayed for. We are so glad for the opportunity to sow!

- Lee Bee Peng, LG Leader

BLESSED!

I witnessed one of the LGs conducting a 3Sixteen session, and was encouraged by the leadership of the 3Sixteen hosts. They took great initiative, care, and were very hospitable. They even had gifts for the guests! The screening of the evangelistic video and the open discussion was handled so well. I was blessed attending it, and see great potential for this small group evangelism!

- Philip Tan, LG Sectional Leader



God sends daily opportunities to us to positively impact lives around us individually, in small groups, and as a church. 3Sixteen equips you and other like-minded believers with the right tools and fuels your courage into action. We invite you to participate in 3Sixteen training. Please seek assistance from your LG leader, or call us at 03-8999 5532 ext. 442.



Meeting together for advancements



BREAKING BARRIERS

BY DAVID GAN

The Royal Rangers had their very first online meeting on Saturday, 6 June 2020. Many were excited, and were dressed in their Rangers T-shirt, eager to meet online on that Saturday morning, while the leaders were anxious about managing the session.

Both classes started with a devotion, leading to a Bible study and merit advancements. Some of the Rangers took some time to warm up, but by the end of the session they were back to their interactive selves. There was a Ranger who expressed that he missed his friends, while another said he did not want to leave the online meeting.

There were a total of 65 Discovery Rangers, 45 Ranger Kids, and 26 leaders in two separate online classes that Saturday. The attendance exceeded our expectations.

Although we are not able to meet physically, thanks to technology we have the capacity to be able to serve Him in this new way of doing things. The Royal Rangers follow a mentoring process of “hear-see-do-teach”, and we are grateful that the ministry is still able to function despite not being able to be with the Rangers in person.

All glory to God for a wonderful and meaningful first meeting!

Join the next Ranger Kids (ages 6-8) and Discovery Rangers (ages 9-11) online meeting, happening on Saturday, 4 July 2020! For more information, call 03-8999 5532.

Just some of the Rangers and leaders



CELEBRATING FATHERS

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR RICHARD YUN

"Thank you for praying with me."

"Daddy, I appreciate you for loving Mummy and I."

*"Thank you for loving, guiding, and cooking for me.
I love your roast pork the most!"*

*"I want to thank you for working hard to provide
for the family."*

"I appreciate you for teaching me how to skateboard."

It is always heartwarming to hear what our children have to say, and good for us as parents to be reminded of what our children value most in their relationship with us. A few of the Calvary Kids appreciated their fathers with words of affirmation, appearing with their fathers in a short video presentation for Father's Day this year. The fathers also shared with their children what makes them proud, affirming to their children that they are seen and loved.

Drawing from Proverbs 1:8-9, this Father's Day the Calvary Kids learnt about listening to instructions from their fathers, and how their father figure is a source of wisdom to look to. It was also emphasised how important it is to remember their parents' teachings.

Before the session ended, all fathers were prayed for, that God's wisdom, guidance, and favour will be upon them as they continue to trust in Him.

We are thankful that in these times, God has provided new ways for us to keep connected in worship, God's Word, and in prayer. Thank you, all Calvary Kids teachers, helpers, and parents!

If you would like to find out more about the Calvary Kids Ministry for your child, [drop us an email](#).



Siblings Amanda and Alvin song leading

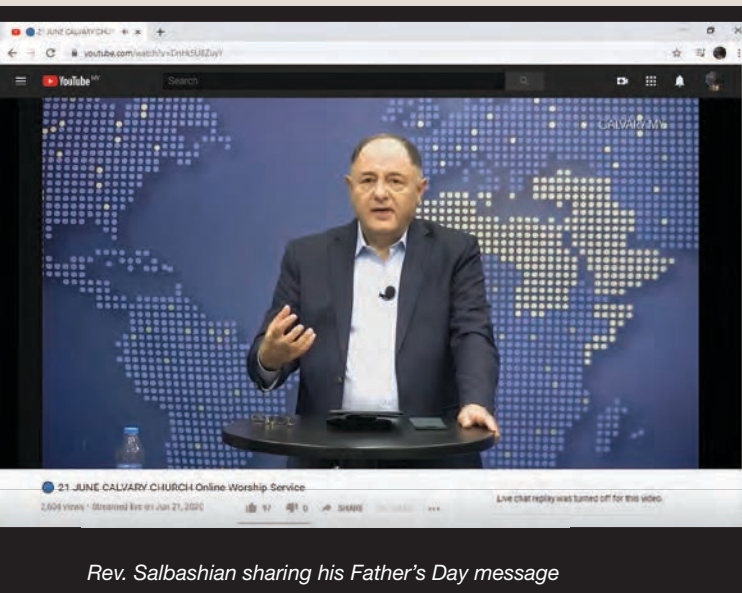


Some of the toddlers singing along during praise and worship

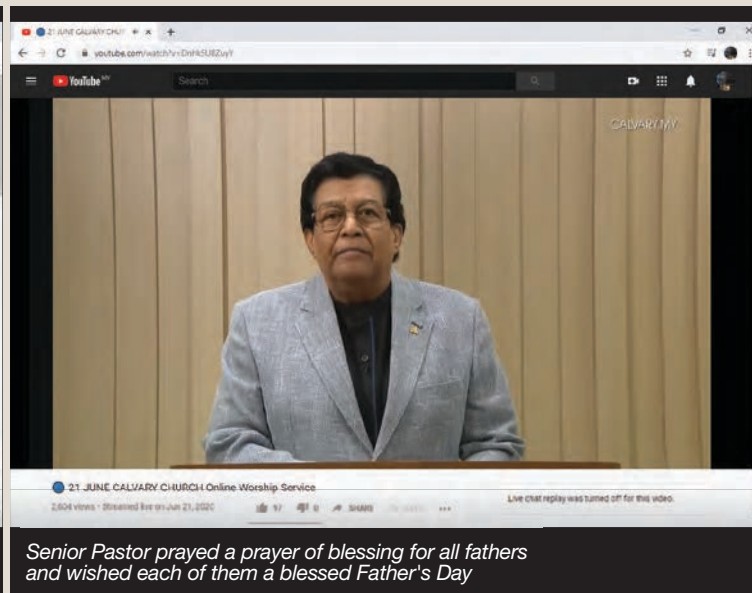


The Calvary Kids and their fathers appreciating each other





Rev. Salbashian sharing his Father's Day message



Senior Pastor prayed a prayer of blessing for all fathers and wished each of them a blessed Father's Day

GOD, OUR PERFECT FATHER

BY LISA TOH

On Sunday, 21 June 2020, we recognised all fathers and father figures on Father's Day, with the men's choir presenting a special number titled "Rise Up, Men of God" during our online worship service.

Reverend Dikran Salbashian from Jordan shared a message exhorting all fathers based on the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32, titled "The Perfect Father". He highlighted that this parable teaches us some of the characteristics of our perfect Heavenly Father.

The father in the parable was accessible and listened to his son, giving him the freedom of choice. The father waited for the son's return, showing mercy and forgiveness when he did. Our Heavenly Father is accessible, always ready to listen to us. He gave us free will, and waits patiently for His children to return to Him, merciful and forgiving.

Rev. Salbashian reminded us that we are living in a generation in need of more godly fathers, and encouraged all fathers to seek His grace to be empowered to be more like Him.

Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam concluded the service wishing all fathers a blessed Father's day, and prayed for blessing, protection, and grace to be upon each father.



Watch Rev. Salbashian's message again on our YouTube channel!

FATHERHOOD: A JOURNEY

A father leads his family. "The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him" (Proverbs 20:7 NKJV).

Three fathers share with us how being a father has changed them, what the journey has taught them, and how they have been drawn closer to God. They also share a moment with their children that they cherish.

Gan Tion Chew

Being a father has helped me to see, experience, and understand God's unconditional love, and this journey has taught me to continue to love. Our Heavenly Father God is my role model, and that helps me draw closer to Him. I cherish the funny moments when all my kids share their opinion about my English after leading in corporate prayer in church.



Mark Thomas

I was very ambitious, wanting to do and accomplish so many things for Jeremy, but realised I could not. I could not live up to the superhero image I thought I needed to be. I could not do it all. Then again, I did not need to. These things were more for me than they were for him, to live up to the expectations of family, friends, and society. I only needed to be myself, as fearfully and wonderfully made by my Father in heaven as he is, and surrender everything else to our Father God.



Each time I arrive home, Jeremy greets me at the gate if he is home. The joy expressed erases all the day's successes and failures. I am not cherished for the things I have done, nor the things I have achieved; I am loved for just being present with him. I think this remains the best lesson ever for me, and the most important one to teach to my son. As God is ever-present in our lives, He too enjoys us seeking and being in His presence.

I spend more time being in God's presence. This allows me to know God our Father more intimately and in so doing, allows me to draw closer to Him.

There are many moments I cherish with my son. One that stands out is when he was water baptised in the sea, even though he does not quite fancy swimming in the sea.

John Lim

One's goals and priorities in life change as we realise the gravity of raising a dependent life and our accountability to God for this task.

Fatherhood teaches me to value my own parents more as we start to understand and empathise with their challenges in raising us, and learn from their resolve and patience.



As parents, we will often see our children insisting on their own way and being very wise in their own eyes, even though their naive ignorance is obvious in ours. With a very small child this is easily corrected, but as they grow into teenagers and young adults, parents often face the challenge of seeing their children insist on their own way, even though we clearly see that they are making unwise choices.

This helps us reflect on the times when we ourselves fail to trust our Heavenly Father's wisdom and goodness, depending instead on our limited foresight and fallible evaluation of what is best for our lives. How foolish we must look in His eyes and how we must hurt Him when we insist on going our own way! Let us learn to have the humility of a small child, laying down our own will to trust a Father who is all-knowing, all-wise, and all-good, and place our lives in His all-powerful hands.

It was memorable when my daughter was born, as are all the little moments when she melts my heart.

MENGHADAPI ANCAMAN

OLEH PENDITA KANAN PRINCE GUNERATNAM

Setan itu perompak, pemusnah, dan pembunuh. Yesus berkata, “Pencuri hanya datang untuk mencuri dan membunuh dan membinasakan; Aku datang, supaya mereka mempunyai hidup, dan mempunyainya dalam segala kelimpahan” (Yohanes 10:10). Kita sedang menghadapi ancaman maut, iaitu virus Covid-19, yang telah menjejaskan jutaan manusia di seluruh bumi dan ribuan manusia telah mati akibat virus tersebut. Kita masih mencari vaksin untuk melawan virus itu. Namun kita bersyukur kepada Tuhan untuk Alkitab, yakni firman Tuhan, yang mengajar kita bagaimana untuk menghadapi ancaman tersebut.

Ancaman kepada Raja Yosafat dan bagaimana dia menghadapinya merupakan pengajaran yang jelas yang boleh kita pelajari untuk menghadapi apa juga ancaman yang melanda kita (2 Tawarikh 20).

1. RAJA YOSAFAT BERSAMA KERAJAAN BANGSANYA YANG DIBERIKAN OLEH TUHAN MENGHADAPI ANCAMAN KETENTERAAN

Alkitab berkata, “Setelah itu bani Moab dan bani Amon datang berperang melawan Yosafat bersama-sama sepasukan orang Meunim. Datanglah orang memberitahukan Yosafat: ‘Suatu laskar yang besar datang dari seberang Laut Asin, dari Edom, menyerang tuanku. Sekarang mereka di Hazezon-Tamar,’ yakni En-Gedi” (2 Tawarikh 20:1-2). Raja Yosafat menghadapi ancaman ketenteraan, sedangkan kita berhadapan dengan ancaman virus di peringkat nasional dan global. Virus tersebut telah membawa kepada ketakutan dan kekhuatiran. Ia telah menimbulkan gangguan secara ekonomi dan sosial terhadap norma kerja dan gaya hidup yang normal.

2. RAJA YOSAFAT MENGHADAPI ANCAMAN TERSEBUT DENGAN DOA DAN BERPUASA

Sama ada kita boleh membiarkan ancaman menjadikan kita mangsa atau menjadi seorang pemenang dengan datang kepada Tuhan di dalam doa. Alkitab berkata, “Yosafat menjadi takut, lalu mengambil keputusan untuk mencari Tuhan. Ia menyerukan kepada seluruh Yehuda supaya berpuasa (2 Tawarikh 20:3). Kandungan doa Yosafat mengajar kita bagaimana untuk berdoa agar menjadi seorang pemenang dalam menghadapi ancaman.

a) Berdoa secara satu jemaah

Alkitab berkata, “Dan Yehuda berkumpul untuk meminta pertolongan daripada Tuhan. Mereka datang

dari semua kota di Yehuda untuk mencari Tuhan. Lalu Yosafat berdiri di tengah-tengah jemaah Yehuda dan Yerusalem di rumah Tuhan, di muka pelataran yang baru” (2 Tawarikh 20:4-5). Kita perlu berdoa bersama sebagai sebuah gereja. Di dalam injil Matius, Yesus berkata, “Sebab di mana dua atau tiga orang berkumpul dalam nama-Ku, di situ Aku ada di tengah-tengah mereka” (Matius 18:20). Tuhan memerintahkan rahmat-Nya di mana ada kesatuan (Mazmur 133).

b) Dia menjadikan Tuhan lebih besar daripada ancaman tersebut

Yosafat berdoa, “Ya Tuhan, Tuhan nenek moyang kami, bukankah Engkau Tuhan di dalam sorga? Bukankah Engkau memerintah atas segenap kerajaan bangsa? Kuasa dan keperkasaan ada di dalam tangan-Mu, sehingga tidak ada orang yang dapat bertahan melawan Engkau” (2 Tawarikh 20:6). Tuhan itu lebih besar dan lebih berkuasa dari apapun ancaman yang kita hadapi.

c) Dia mengingatkan semula janji-janji Tuhan

Alkitab berkata: “Bukankah Engkau Tuhan kami yang menghalau penduduk tanah ini dari depan umat-Mu Israel, dan memberikannya kepada keturunan Abraham, sahabat-Mu itu, untuk selama-lamanya? Lalu mereka mendiami tanah itu, dan mendirikan bagi-Mu tempat kudus untuk nama-Mu. Kata mereka: Bila sesuatu malapetaka menimpa kami, yakni pedang, penghukuman, penyakit sampar, atau kelaparan, kami akan berdiri di muka rumah ini, di hadapan-Mu karena nama-Mu tinggal di dalam rumah ini. Dan kami akan berseru kepada-Mu di dalam kesesakan kami, sampai Engkau mendengar dan menyelamatkan kami” (2 Tawarikh 20:7-9). Yosafat mengenali kesetiaan Tuhan di masa lalu dan mengakui Tuhan sebagai Pemegang Janji kepada umat-Nya. Tuhan menghormati iman dan tidak akan menggagalkan kita.

d) Dia memberitahu Tuhan mengenai ancaman tersebut

Yosafat berkata, “Sekarang, lihatlah, bani Amon dan Moab, dan orang-orang dari pegunungan Seir ini! Ketika orang Israel datang dari tanah Mesir, Engkau melarang mereka memasuki negerinya. Oleh sebab itu mereka menjauhinya dan tidak memusnahkannya. Lihatlah, sebagai pembalasan mereka datang mengusir kami dari tanah milik yang telah Engkau wariskan kepada kami” (2 Tawarikh 20:10-11). Kerajaan bangsa yang mengancam Israel tidak bersyukur. Mereka diancam untuk dibuang keluar dari tanah milik mereka sendiri. Apabila kita berdoa, kita haruslah jelas dalam menyampaikan cabaran dan masalah kita kepada Tuhan.

e) Dia datang dengan rendah hati di hadapan Tuhan

Walaupun dia seorang raja, namun dia cukup rendah hati untuk mengakui bahawa dia perlukan

pertolongan. Dia berdoa, “Ya Tuhan kami, tidakkah Engkau akan menghukum mereka? Karena kami tidak mempunyai kekuatan untuk menghadapi laskar yang besar ini, yang datang menyerang kami. Kami tidak tahu apa yang harus kami lakukan, tetapi mata kami tertuju kepada-Mu” (2 Tawarikh 20:12). Alkitab berkata, “Apabila Ia menghadapi pencemooh, maka Ia pun mencemooh, tetapi orang yang rendah hati dikasihani-Nya” (Amsal 3:34). Serupa dengan ancaman virus ini, kita tidak berkuasa dan tidak berdaya. Marilah kita letakkan iman di dalam Tuhan kita. Sesungguhnya, dia lebih dari mampu untuk menolong kita di dalam setiap situasi.

f) Mereka berdoa sebagai sebuah keluarga

Alkitab berkata, “Sementara itu seluruh Yehuda berdiri di hadapan Tuhan, juga segenap keluarga mereka dengan isteri dan anak-anak mereka” (2 Tawarikh 20:13). Walaupun penjarakkan sosial menjadi kebiasaan baru, kita masih boleh berdoa sebagai sebuah keluarga. Ini akan menguatkan jemaah dan menyatukan kita sebagai keluarga. Sekiranya kamu tidak berdoa sebagai ahli dalam keluarga kamu, inilah masanya untuk bangun dan bertindak.

3. ROH KUDUS MEMBALAS DI DALAM DOA MEREKA

Sama seperti kebaktian doa Pentakosta. Alkitab berkata, Lalu Yahaziel bin Zakharia bin Benaya bin Matanya, seorang Lewi dari bani Asaf, dihindangi Roh Tuhan di tengah-tengah jemaah, dan berseru:

“Camkanlah, hai seluruh Yehuda dan penduduk Yerusalem dan tuanku raja Yosafat, beginilah firman Tuhan kepadamu: Janganlah kamu takut dan terkejut karena laskar yang besar ini, sebab bukan kamu yang akan berperang melainkan Tuhan. Besok haruslah kamu turun menyerang mereka. Mereka akan mendaki pendakian Zis, dan kamu akan mendapati mereka di ujung lembah, di muka padang gurun Yeruel. Dalam peperangan ini tidak usah kamu bertempur. Hai Yehuda dan Yerusalem, tinggallah berdiri di tempatmu, dan lihatlah bagaimana Tuhan memberikan kemenangan kepadamu. Janganlah kamu takut dan terkejut. Majulah besok menghadapi mereka, Tuhan akan menyertai kamu.” Lalu berlututlah Yosafat dengan mukanya ke tanah. Seluruh Yehuda dan penduduk Yerusalempun sujud di hadapan Tuhan dan menyembah kepada-Nya. Kemudian orang Lewi dari bani Kehat dan bani Korah bangkit berdiri untuk menyanyikan puji-pujian bagi Tuhan, Tuhan Israel, dengan suara yang sangat nyaring. (2 Tawarikh 20:14-19). Serupa dengan itu, apabila kita menghadapi ancaman, janganlah kita mengabaikan doa dan berpuasa, karena Tuhan menjawab doa kita. Bersyukur kepada Tuhan bagi Roh Kudus yang masih bekerja sehingga ke hari ini.

4. DOA HARUSLAH DIKUTI DENGAN KETAATAN

Selepas berdoa, Yosafat and penduduk Israel bertindak dengan iman. Alkitab berkata, “Keesokan harinya pagi-pagi mereka maju menuju padang gurun Tekoa. Ketika mereka hendak berangkat, berdirilah Yosafat, dan berkata: ‘Dengar, hai Yehuda dan penduduk



Yerusalem! Percayalah kepada Tuhan, Tuhanmu, dan kamu akan tetap teguh! Percayalah kepada nabi-nabi-Nya, dan kamu akan berhasil! Setelah ia berunding dengan rakyat, ia mengangkat orang-orang yang akan menyanyi nyanyian untuk Tuhan dan memuji Tuhan dalam pakaian kudus yang semarak pada waktu mereka keluar di muka orang-orang bersenjata, sambil berkata: 'Nyanyikanlah nyanyian syukur bagi Tuhan, bahwasanya untuk selama-lamanya kasih setia-Nya!' (2 Tawarikh 20:20-21). Hasil dari iman dan ketaatan mereka, "Tuhan berfirman, 'Camkanlah, hai seluruh Yehuda dan penduduk Yerusalem dan tuanku raja Yosafat, beginilah firman Tuhan kepadamu: Janganlah kamu takut dan terkejut karena laskar yang besar ini, sebab bukan kamu yang akan berperang melainkan Tuhan. Dalam peperangan ini tidak usah kamu bertempur. Hai Yehuda dan Yerusalem, tinggallah berdiri di tempatmu, dan lihatlah bagaimana Tuhan memberikan kemenangan kepadamu. Janganlah kamu takut dan terkejut. Majulah besok menghadapi mereka, Tuhan akan menyertai kamu'" (2 Tawarikh 20:15, 17).

5. DOA DAN KETAATAN AKAN MENJADIKAN KITA PEMENANG YANG BERHASIL

Apabila Tuhan memberikan kita kemenangan, Dia juga akan memakmurkan sehingga tidak terkira. Alkitab berkata, "Lalu Yosafat dan orang-orangnya turun untuk menjarah barang-barang mereka. Mereka menemukan banyak ternak, harta milik, pakaian dan barang-barang berharga. Yang mereka rampas itu lebih banyak dari pada yang dapat dibawa. Tiga hari lamanya mereka menjarah barang-barang itu, karena begitu banyaknya. Pada hari keempat mereka berkumpul di Lembah Pujian. Di sanalah mereka memuji Tuhan, dan itulah sebabnya orang menamakan tempat itu Lembah Pujian hingga sekarang. Lalu pulanglah sekalian orang Yehuda dan Yerusalem dengan Yosafat di depan. Mereka kembali ke Yerusalem dengan sukacita, karena Tuhan telah membuat mereka bersukacita karena kekalahan musuh mereka. Mereka masuk ke Yerusalem dengan gembus dan kecapi dan nafiri, lalu menuju rumah Tuhan. Ketakutan yang dari Tuhan menghinggapi semua kerajaan negeri-negeri lain, ketika mereka mendengar, bahwa Tuhan yang berperang melawan musuh-musuh Israel. Dan kerajaan Yosafat amanlah, karena Tuhannya mengaruniakan keamanan kepadanya di segala penjuru" (2 Tawarikh 20:25-30). Oleh itu, marilah kita menghadapi cabaran dengan berdoa, berpuasa, beriman dan ketaatan. Sesungguhnya, pertempuran itu empunya Tuhan.

Semua rujukan Alkitab adalah dari Alkitab Bahasa Indonesia, melainkan dinyatakan.

面对威胁

文：古纳南主任牧师

撒旦是强盗、毁坏者和谋杀犯。耶稣说：“贼来了，不过是要偷窃、杀害、毁坏；我来了，是要使羊得生命，并且得的更丰盛”（约翰福音 10:10）。我们面临着新冠病毒死亡的威胁，全世界数百万人被感染，数十万人丧生。至今仍未成功研发新冠病毒疫苗。感谢神赐下圣经，神的话语，教导我们如何面对威胁。

约沙法王的威胁和他如何克服它是一个生动的功课，我们可以学习来面对我们可能面临的任何威胁（历代志下 20章）。

1. 约沙法王与神赐给他的国面临军事威胁

圣经上说：“后来，摩押人、亚扪人和一些米乌尼人，一同来攻击约沙法。有人来向约沙法报告说：‘从海的对岸，就是从以东，有大军前来攻击你；现在他们在哈洗逊·他玛。’哈洗逊·他玛就是隐·基底”（历代志下 20:1-2）。约沙法王当时面临军事威胁，犹如我们现在正面临着波及全国乃至全球的病毒威胁。病毒使人们感到恐惧和焦虑，也对经济和社会造成影响，致使人们在工作和生活习惯上得接受新常态。

2. 约沙法王以禁食祷告应对威胁

我们可以选择被威胁击败成为受害者，或向神祷告克服威胁成为得胜者。圣经上说：“于是约沙法害怕起来，定意要寻求耶和华，就在犹大全地宣告禁食”（历代志下 20:3）。约沙法王的祷告教导我们如何在面对威胁时成为得胜者。

a) 会众同心祷告

圣经上说：“于是犹大人集合起来，寻求耶和华的帮助；犹大各城中都有人出来寻求耶和华。约沙法就在犹大和耶路撒冷的会众中，站在耶和华殿的新院子前面……”（历代志下 20:4-5）身为教会的肢体，我们要同心聚集祷告。在马太福音中，耶稣说：“因为无论在哪里，有两三个人奉我的名聚会，我就在他们中间”（马太福音 18:20）。当弟兄姐妹同心合一，神所赐的福就要临到（诗篇 133）。

b) 他视神比威胁强大

约沙法王祷告说：“耶和华我们列祖的神啊，你不是天上的神吗？你不是统治万国的吗？你手中有大能大力，没有人能抵挡你”（历代志下 20:6）。神大有能力，他比我们面临的任何威胁更强大。

c) 他数算神的应许

圣经上说：“我们的神啊，你不是曾经把这地的居民从你的子民以色列人面前赶走，把这地赐给你的朋友亚伯拉罕的后裔永远作产业吗？他们住在那地，又在那里为你的名建造了一座圣所，说：‘如果



有灾祸临到我们，无论是刀剑、刑罚、瘟疫、饥荒，我们在急难的时候，站在这殿和你的面前，向你呼求，你必垂听和施行拯救，因为你的名是在这殿内”（历代志下 20:7-9）。约沙法知道神已经应许他们，并向他的子民宣告神是守诺者。神是信实的，他的话语永不落空！

d) 他把威胁告诉神

约沙法说：“现在这里有亚扪人、摩押人和西珥山的人，从前以色列人从埃及地出来的时候，你不许以色列人侵犯他们。那时，以色列人就离开了他们，不除灭他们。现在你看，他们怎样报复我们；他们要来把我们和你赐给我们承受产业的土地赶出去”（历代志下 20:10-11）。威胁以色列的国不心存感恩。神的子民被威逼从自己的土地上被赶出去。我们祷告时，要清楚地告诉神我们面临的挑战和困难。

e) 他谦卑来到神面前

虽然他身为国王，他依然谦卑承认需要帮助。他祷告说：“我们的神啊，你不惩罚他们吗？因为我们没有力量抵挡这来攻打我们的大军；我们也不知道该作什么；我们的眼睛只有仰望你”（历代志下 20:12）。圣经上说：“他讥笑那些好讥笑的人，却赐恩给谦卑的人”（箴言 3:34）。同样的，面对病毒，我们无能为力。让我们坚定信靠神。任何情况下，我们都是我们的帮助。

f) 他们一家人一起祷告

圣经上说：“那时全犹大的人，连他们的婴孩、妻子和儿女，都站在耶和华面前”（历代志下 20:13）。尽管我们须要保持社交距离作为新常态，但我们可以与家人一起同心祷告。同心祷告将坚固会众，成为团结的一家人。如果你不曾以家庭成员的身份同心祷告，这一次就是唤醒我们的警钟。

3. 圣灵回应他们的祷告

这就好像五旬节祷告会一样。圣经上说：“当时，耶和华的灵在会众中临到利未人亚萨的后裔，玛探雅的玄孙、耶利的曾孙、比拿雅的儿子、撒迦利亚的儿子雅哈悉；他就说：“全犹大的人、耶路撒冷的居民和约沙法王啊，你们要留意！耶和华这样对你们说：‘你们不要因这大军惧怕和惊慌，因为战争的胜负不是在于你们，而是在于神。明天你们要下去攻击他们，他们会从洗斯的斜坡上来，你们必在耶鲁伊勒旷野东面的谷口遇见他们。犹大人和耶路撒冷的人哪，这次你们不必出战，只要稳守阵地，站立不动，看耶和華為你们施行的拯救。’你们不要惧怕，也不要惊慌；明天要出去攻击他们，耶和华必和你们同在。”于是约沙法面伏于地，全犹大的人和耶路撒冷的居民都俯伏在耶和华面前，敬拜耶和华。哥辖子孙中和可拉子孙中的利未人，都站起来高声赞美耶和华以色列的神。”同样的，当我们面对威胁时，坚持祷告和禁食，因为神回应我们的祷告。感谢神赐下圣灵，他今天仍然在动工！

4. 祷告了还要顺服

约沙法和以色列人祷告后，凭信心行事。圣经上说：“第二天早晨，众人清早起来，出发到提哥亚的旷野去；他们正出去的时候，约沙法站起来，说：‘犹大人和耶路撒冷的居民哪，你们要听我的话；信靠耶和华你们的神，你们就必坚立；信靠他的先知，你们就必亨通。’约沙法和人民商议好了，就指派向耶和华歌唱的人，使他们身穿圣洁的服饰，走在军队的前面，赞美耶和华，说：‘你们要称颂耶和华，因他的慈爱永远长存’”（历代志下 20:20-21）。因为他们凭信心服从，神说：“全犹大的人、耶路撒冷的居民和约沙法王啊，你们要留意！耶和华这样对你们说：‘你们不要因这大军惧怕和惊慌，因为战争的胜负不是在于你们，而是在于神。犹大人和耶路撒冷的人哪，这次你们不必出战，只要稳守阵地，站立不动，看耶和華為你们施行的拯救。’你们不要惧怕，也不要惊慌；明天要出去攻击他们，耶和华必和你们同在”（历代志下 20:15, 17）。

5. 祷告和顺服使我们成为昌盛的得胜者

神让我们得胜的同时，也赐给我们繁荣昌盛。圣经上说：“约沙法和他的人民就来掠夺敌人的财物，在尸首中见许多财物、衣服和珍宝。他们剥脱下来的，多得不能携带；因为掠物甚多，所以掠夺了三天。第四日，他们聚集在比拉迦谷，在那里称颂耶和华，因此那地方名叫比拉迦谷，直到今日。事后，犹大和耶路撒冷所有的人，在约沙法率领下，都欢欢喜喜回耶路撒冷去了，耶和华使他们因胜过仇敌欢喜快乐。他们拿着琴瑟和号筒来到耶路撒冷，进了耶和华的殿。世上列国一听见耶和华战败了以色列的仇敌，就都惧怕神。这样，约沙法的国得享太平，因为他的神使他四境安宁。”让我们以祷告，禁食，信心与顺服面对挑战。上帝才是这场战争的主帅。

圣经经文摘自新译本圣经。

THANKING GOD FOR PROVIDENCE

BY EUNICE GOH / ASHWIN PAUL

Praise the Lord for blessing me with a caring sister who helped me during this Movement Control Order (MCO). I got to know Lilean Ang through serving in Calvary Rainbow Assembly.

I am at the senior age of 72, without a computer at home, and I do not drive. She helped me to apply for the staff subsidies and small business grant offered by the government for my florist shop. She patiently explained the requirements, helped me fill in the forms, sent them to me for my signature, and submitted the applications to the department for me. She did beyond just telling me how it was done. Furthermore, she blessed me with cakes and bread that she made.



Praise the Lord that both the staff subsidies and small business grant have been approved by the government! The funds are really a blessing during this challenging time! Thank God for His love and care to me!

All glory to God!

Eunice Goh, Calvary Book Corner

My journey in the Audio Visual Ministry began in 2014 when I was asked by Eleazar Tan if I would serve in the Sunday worship services as camera operator. I was also encouraged by Joshua Indran to learn and manage the soundbox at Damansara Heights, and that is how I started attending Friday prayer meetings. I thank God for encouragement from my brothers in Christ, Joshua and Jay Arvind.

Recording and editing videos is time consuming, and as an undergraduate I worried if I would be able to complete my assignments and cope with studies. At one point, I thought of holding off serving in the ministry to focus on my studies. Surprisingly, in 2018 I took up more responsibilities and got involved with teaching the Myanmar refugee kids at the Puchong outreach led by Pastor Phang Wai. Although I worried about my studies, I did not stop putting my faith in Jesus, trusted the Lord, and continued serving. I continued trusting this verse where Jesus said “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself” (Matthew 6:34a NIV).



Praise God, I managed to complete my degree without any extensions in March 2020, just before the MCO was announced. It was not a walk in the park, with struggles along the way, but I can boldly say God was and always is guiding and leading my path.

Even in this season, I am glad to be involved with the Calvary Youth and Young Adults Ministry producing videos for online services, reaching more people through these videos. I hope my testimony in some way encourages you and increases your faith in Jesus Christ. Whatever we go through in life, remember to never stop glorifying or trusting Him.

All glory and honour to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ashwin Paul, AV Ministry



WE ARE READY TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO CHURCH

The past few months have dramatically changed our world. The way we live and go about our daily lives has taken on new priorities, with an emphasis on community health and safety.

We are all looking forward to coming back to church to worship together as a congregation, but the church too must adapt to this new normal.

As we prepare to resume our church services, we have developed procedures in accordance with directives from the government to ensure the health and safety of all Calvarites.

These procedures involve three main areas;

Enhanced Safety and Hygiene

At all entrances, we will conduct temperature checks and provide sanitiser to all entering the church. Contact tracing registration will also be mandatory, as is the use of face masks.

Before each service, disinfection will be carried out, and public spaces will be frequently cleaned. In all restrooms, hand soap is available. Please make use of them.

Touch Point Minimisation

To minimise physical contact, doors will be kept open before and after services. The use of escalators is encouraged to minimise contact with elevator buttons and to avoid crowded, confined spaces. Please remember to maintain a physical distance of one (1) meter at all times.

While we are glad to see you back at church, greet one another without physical contact.

Offering bags will be handled only by the ushers, and communion emblems will be served in individually sealed packages.

Density Reduction

To accommodate the reduction of worshippers in each service because of physical distancing requirements, multiple worship services will be held. We will have the Saturday Worship Service in Damansara Heights at 5.00pm, and two Sunday Worship Services in Calvary Convention Centre at 8.00am and 11.30am.

Prayer will be at your seats, and not at the altar. All non-essential activities are to be reduced or modified to avoid crowds. You are encouraged to leave immediately after the service. For the time being, there will not be any children's ministries or other ministry activities, which will continue online.

Those that are high risk, feeling unwell, or unable to attend our worship services can continue with our online Sunday Worship Service that will be streamed at 8.00am.

At this time, please note that these procedures are still evolving and subject to authorities' requirements. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to welcoming you at our worship services.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JULY 2020

05
SUNDAY

9.00am
Online Worship Service
Associate Pastor Steven Kum

12
SUNDAY

9.00am
Online Worship Service
David Sumrall
Mission Emphasis

18
SATURDAY

5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights
Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Communion

19
SUNDAY

8.00am & 11.30am
Calvary Convention Centre
Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
Communion

25
SATURDAY

5.00pm
Calvary Damansara Heights
Associate Pastor Chan Lee Peng

26
SUNDAY

8.00am & 11.30am
Calvary Convention Centre
Associate Pastor Timothy Ong



RESUMPTION OF CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES

We are delighted to announce that with the implementation of the Recovery Movement Control Order, we are able to resume our physical worship services for all Malaysian citizens.

There will be three worship services beginning on the third weekend of July:

- 5.00pm worship service
at Calvary Damansara Heights
on Saturday, 18 July 2020
- 8.00am worship service
at Calvary Convention Centre
on Sunday, 19 July 2020
- 11.30am worship service
at Calvary Convention Centre
on Sunday, 19 July 2020

Our Wednesday Morning Watches and Friday Prayer Meetings will be incorporated into our worship services.

On page 15, you will find the necessary information when attending physical worship services. You can also find this information on the church website at calvary.my.

We look forward to seeing you face-to-face soon!

**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

1 Jalan Jalil Perkasa 1, Bukit Jalil, 57100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



 +603-8999 5532

 calvary.my

 email@calvary.org.my



  calvarykl



  calvaryone