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Why Be A Preacher?

By: Isaac Pang

Amidst the many goals of a Christian, our final ultimate goal is to return to heaven and to meet the Lord. Ever since we were reborn in the name of the Lord, He has become the core of our lives and His words serve as a counsel and strength to us. By the guidance of the Lord, I received this opportunity to undergo training at our church theological seminary. Through this, I will be able to serve as a servant of God in the future. Currently, I am studying at the theological seminary in Taiwan, and I would love to share with you why I chose to be a preacher.

Compelled by a sense of commission

Generating a sense of commission from daily life awareness.

► **In the subway:** Once while taking a subway in Kuala Lumpur, I put my phone away and lifted up my head to observe the surroundings. This happened during office hours, so the carriages were packed with neatly-dressed passengers. In my heart, I was thinking, how do they differ from me? Why did I receive the hope of salvation, waiting for the Lord's second coming, yet others are just living in vain, awaiting the last station of life - God's judgment of wrath? If they are able to hear the gospel of salvation, then they can also receive the same eternal hope as I have. But, who is willing to forsake himself and follow the Lord to preach the gospel of salvation? At that instance, I remembered that the Lord once told His disciples: "Do you not say, there are yet four months, then comes the harvest? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see the fields are white for harvest." The fields are ready for harvest, what are we still waiting for?

► **A preacher's silhouette:** I had the impression that there is always a shortage of preachers in Malaysia, no matter whichever church I attend. If I happened to be at the same church for a longer period of time, I could only glimpse a preacher's silhouette after two months, at best. Most preachers are unable to fully focus on one or two churches, as their workload is spread over various churches. Although the church and her divine work continue to grow and propagate, the number of preachers is on the decline at the same time. The Lord once told His disciples: "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matt 9:37-38) Whenever I hear this verse, my heart seems to ignite, and I am compelled to go out and work for the Lord. Although I once tried to suppress this resolution, yet in the end I was deeply saddened and could not be joyful.

Cultivating a sense of commission from experiences in life

► **The abundant grace of the Lord:** Thank the Lord, I grew up in a warm and blissful family since I was young. Every member of my family shares this one common faith. Thank God for His grace, that since my parents were able to reap the beautiful fruits of their labor, our family lacked no physical necessities. I did not understand until I entered adulthood, that it is indeed a great grace to have a family with robust faith. I remember the times when my parents were ill, how they were healed after consistent prayers from our family members. As a matter of fact, every setback in life serves as a mark of grace. The experience of God's grace in my life was also a starting point in learning to be thankful. To be able to serve the Lord today is all the more a chance for me to repay His grace.

► **Motivated by the love of the Lord:** Being away from home for eight years, I have received many opportunities to serve in the church. While I was still studying in Kuala Lumpur, I participated and served in the church youth affairs. While serving, I experienced the love and guidance of God, which became my motivation to serve. Once, during Holy Communion, I deeply experienced God's omnipotence and I was unable to hold back my tears. This fervor continues to grow in my heart and allows me to understand that the Lord has offered up everything for me - so now what shall I offer to the Lord?

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Thank the Lord, this sense of commission became a source of motivation in my service to the Lord, and with this, I slowly journeyed on the path of servitude. My zeal to serve God came from daily experiences: the acts, love and grace of God.

QUESTION

I spent five years training to be a Chinese Medical Physician. Why did I decide to enroll at the theological seminary after just one year of working?

► **God is the one who bestows time:** At times while attending memorial services, I ponder the questions regarding life and death. There are two points in time in a person's life that are predestined by God: the time of birth and the time of death (Refer to Acts 17:26). Nobody has the authority to rule over life and death, or to hold the power to retain life. Everything is in the hands of God. In fact, we do not even know what will happen tomorrow. Every new day of our life is an opportunity given by God. Since it is God who bestows time, it is understandable if we offer up our time to Him.

► **Opportunities are present now:** "Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong...but time and chance happen to them all." (Ecclesiastes 9:11) I once thought to myself, why don't I wait for a few more years before enrolling at the theological seminary? After contemplation, I affirmed that the present is the best time. Of course, other reasons included parental support, personal health, the freedom from financial or family burdens and the lack of preachers in the church. Therefore, I resolved to offer up myself, and registered at the theological seminary in February 2018. By the merciful grace of the Lord, I successfully enrolled at the theological seminary and I started lessons in September 2018.



Reach Out To Jesus

By: Shin May Tan
True Jesus Church Melbourne
(Melbourne Senior Youth Class (MSYC))

Hallelujah! In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I testify.
Let me first introduce myself. I am a Malaysian who is currently studying at the University of Melbourne, Australia. Thanks be to the mercy of God for giving me the opportunity to be formally baptized on the 1st of April 2018, hence becoming a child of His ever since.

I also thank Him for His mercy and love, allowing me to share with our brothers and sisters how His grace was given to me during my journey in pursuit of education.

At the beginning of university studies, I recalled praying for my university exams and class timetable for a long time. I did not ask for much, and told God I only needed a pass for my subjects as well as good lecturers and classes. While registering for classes, I was not able to get the desired time blocks, which frustrated me because I had previously spent a lot of time planning the timetable, which I had targeted for my new schedule. So, when reality did not match my expectations, I felt out of place at heart. However, thank God that the classes I was placed in turned out to be taught by one of the best teachers in Commerce! Many students were desperate to swap classes during the first week, but unfortunately they couldn't find available spots. The allocated teachers were good; hence, all the places had been snatched up. This was the first grace that God gave me - good teachers for my subject.

For a long time, I tried finding ways to "double ace" in both my education and faith. I understood that I should always prioritise my faith, but there were times when I thought - if I spared the time attending church, I would probably have more time to study. Yet, wasn't giving consideration to both the right thing to do? Thank God, for all things are possible with Him (Matthew 19:16). Before starting university, God sent a sister and an R. E. Senior Youth teacher to talk with me on how to manage school and faith. This sister testified how God took care of her education in her academic career. She told me that there is just one secret: only trust in Jesus. The R. E. teacher told me instead: "No matter what we do, we should do it for God. When He sees you studying hard for Him, believe that He will surely bless you. You can definitely achieve success in both education and faith, but there is one condition - you must be clear that everything we do should be for God, that we may glorify Him rather than man". Thank God, this was the second grace He gave me - the understanding that be it work, school or other matters, we must always be humble and trust in God; in all things to seek to glorify Him and to do it all for Him.

I believe that many of us may find it difficult to succeed simultaneously in education and faith. In the year that I was striving for this goal, I myself have faced many matters that troubled me, but I am thankful for God's mercy which helped resolve these issues. Not only this, but He also blessed me with helpful friends during my second year. I think of myself as a natural dimwit, and I truly admire other students who can understand lectures easily. I remember being so unhappy with my lack of intelligence that I told God about it. Thank God that after revising my notes, I found that I could actually understand everything the very next day. In my heart, I knew very well that this was not me suddenly becoming smart. Rather, I knew for sure it was God who helped me. He hearkened to my prayer and understood my hardships.

While I was chasing my goal, the one thing I feared the most was failing my exams. If I failed, my parents would be disappointed in me. Here, I would like to thank God for giving me such forbearing parents, because I have been studying nonstop to the point of compromising my health. Since they are in Malaysia and I am overseas, there is actually nothing they can do but to constantly worry for my wellbeing. Before my return to Melbourne this year, my parents told me: "It is good enough to just pass your subjects. What is most important is your health." It is inevitable that I would fall sick whilst overseas, but thank God that after praying, I would be healed immediately the next day. Once I was very ill, and our church brethren



were concerned for me. But, I was healthy again the following day, and all of them exclaimed: "God must really love you! Just yesterday we saw you, and we thought that you would be sick for the next two to three weeks. Little did we know you would be cured so quickly! What a miracle!" I really thank God for His mercy, and this is also one of the many graces I was blessed with - fast recovery so that I am able to study diligently without any worries.

The final grace that I've received from God is my results. Back then, I would always cry the night before my exams, because I worried that I won't be able to pass. But this time I had a completely different attitude, I felt calm, I understood that I had tried my best, and I should leave the rest to God. As expected, I achieved the highest score I have ever gotten since I started Uni. I remember when I told my parents this good news, they were both very happy!

Thank God for giving me a timetable that I never wanted from the start, when in reality it was the best timetable, because the allocated teachers turned out to be the best ones. Thank God for making me understand that all things should be done for Him, that we should glorify Him rather than man. Even in studies, I ought to have the

same attitude. Thank God for giving me friends that are willing to help me in my studies. Thank God that I am not so intelligent, so that in this way I can constantly rely on Him in all matters. Thank God for giving me understanding parents - they had the choice of having high expectations of me, but chose not to. Thank God for healing me whenever I fell ill, for giving me a healthy body to continue studying. Thank God for giving me peace of heart to face my exams. Lastly, I thank God for helping me in countless situations where He could have turned away, but did not. He has also prevented my parents from being disappointed in my results. He has taught me that faith and education can be nurtured at the same time - only trust in God and, in all things, to believe, hope, and endure.

For those who are reading this article, if you are disappointed with, or are troubled about your studies, I hope this testimony will be able to help you. If you're ever discouraged, remember this: "When you get discouraged, just remember what to do - Reach out to Jesus, He's reaching out to you." (Hymn 524)

May all glory be given unto God.





My Experiences In TJC Hong Kong

By: Katrina Song
Senior Youth Class
True Jesus Church Hong Kong



Our family moved to Hong Kong about 4 years ago, and as a family, we have been blessed with many new experiences. I had attended RE classes regularly back in my home church in Subang Jaya, and I was excited and curious to learn more about how RE classes are run in True Jesus Church Hong Kong. Attending Religious Education classes in Hong Kong was something new for me and I would like to share my experience as a RE student in HK.

The structure of RE classes are similar to that of Malaysia: Nursery, Kindergarten, Lower Primary and Upper Primary classes take place during Sabbath service from 2 to 3:30pm, whilst Junior Youth, Intermediate Youth and Senior Youth classes are held after Sabbath service from 4 to 5:30pm.

I am currently attending the Senior Youth Class and there are approximately 15 students in the class. In the Senior Youth Class, we have regular student-led bible study, and at each time, 2 students will be given half an hour each to share a bible passage of their choice. Constructive feedback will be given by the RE teacher after each session. I find this is beneficial to the youths in helping them develop a better understanding of the Bible scriptures besides training them to lead a bible study. I also learnt that conducting a bible study is not easy as it requires good knowledge of the Bible.

During our normal lessons, we will study individual books of the Bible. For example, we learn about the author of the book, when it was written and why it was written. This method of studying the Bible allows us to increase our knowledge and understand God's words.

Sometimes, we have in-depth study of a chapter of a book, analysing the meaning behind each verse. We once studied 1 Corinthians 13, where we discussed about the importance and characteristics of love. Love is something that we all lack in the eyes of God, and in that chapter, we learned how to incorporate more

love in our lives. Throughout the lesson, we were also given the opportunity to share our own experiences or testimonies referencing to the topic of discussion. This allowed the youths to relate to real life problems and issues that people face.

At the start of each new year, there will be a lesson allocated to us to discuss about our individual goals for the year. This helps us set clear spiritual goals and targets that we want to achieve in the year ahead. Besides that, we also discuss about goals we had made in the past year and review our achievements. This is a good opportunity not only for us to reflect on the past year and be thankful to God for His blessings, but to also look ahead on how to improve ourselves spiritually in the following year.

As RE students we spend most our week in school and only in church on Sabbath, therefore it is sometimes difficult for us to develop church friendships. Therefore, the REU team organises joint class activities and games once every 2 months, where the Senior Youth Class joins the Intermediate and Junior Youth Classes. Youths from these three groups are mixed together to form separate teams. This combined class activity is usually organised and led by the senior youths. This activity promotes fellowship between youths of different age groups and strengthen the bond of friendship among them.

One of the more interesting initiative that was implemented recently, was the Buddy Mentoring System, where each student was assigned a buddy. Usually an older student would be paired with a younger student and activities would then be held for buddies to get to know each other better. In this system, the older buddy will look out for the younger buddy in church and they will share past experiences, support each other in faith and even help with issues in school. For example, if a certain youth does not come to church without informing, the

buddy will check on him to make sure he is fine. By doing so, each buddy pair is able to support each other better and grow in faith together.

I have been assigned a buddy who is 3 years younger than I am. Since the both of us can speak English, we can communicate easily. I took the initiative to talk to her through Whatsapp, which allowed me to get to know her better. I learnt about her hobbies and what her typical school day was like. During exam periods, we encouraged and supported each other which kept the motivation level up.

As most of the students in the Senior Youth Class are fluent in both languages, they are encouraged to help out with the interpretation of sermons. Therefore, occasionally we carry out training in interpretation from Mandarin to Cantonese and vice versa during lessons. This will prepare the youths to be ready for the divine work in the future. Thank God, I have been able to help to play the piano for the Lower Primary REU classes.

The bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." Thank God for continuing to guide me in my journey faith and also providing me the opportunity to experience Religious Education in another country. May all glory and thanks be unto the Lord.



A Trip To Pulau Langkawi

By: James Tay
Cheras Church



In the name of Jesus I write. On the 14th of September 2018, twenty youths of True Jesus Church Cheras embarked on a 3-day trip to Pulau Langkawi.

On the surface, our travelling party seemed like a ragtag group – with a mix of students and working youths. Among our party were also youths from overseas. This was a good opportunity for our local youths to show our hospitality. We may feel more comfortable just mingling among ourselves. But let us not forget Apostle Paul's exhortation, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ ... There is neither Jew nor Greek, ... you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3: 28). As we have been baptized in the same baptism, been redeemed by the same blood and call upon the same God, let us put our differences aside and "... as we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6: 10). Isaiah also curtly warns us, "And not hide yourself from your own flesh" (Isaiah 58: 7b). It was encouraging to see the youths putting these words into practice by trying to make our foreign counterparts feel at home by mingling with them and making sure their needs were taken care of.

As a city-dweller, yours truly thoroughly appreciated the planned schedule which included healthy doses of outdoor excursions. Island-hopping was exhilarating. Our helmsman seemed bent on taking us on a rough ride as he steered our boat into oncoming waves at speed on purpose. Thank God that He kept our lives, electronics and breakfast intact after that bouncy ride. Later that evening, we ascended 660 metres above sea level by cable car to reach the Skybridge of

Mount Machinchang. According to promotional material, the Skybridge supposedly offers "unbelievable views... of the Andaman sea and its islands, and even some parts of Thailand". We saw none of that. Alighting the cable car, we were shrouded in cloud and fog. The eye could only see several metres ahead before meeting a sheet of white fog. Although the place was sorely missing a view, it was still quite an experience. At the Skybridge, it was chilly and quiet. The only sound was the soft but constant whoosh of the wind in our ears occasionally interrupted by our muffled voices. It was calming compared to the sharp noises common in the city.

On one occasion, we were met with a test of our mettle. Duty-free chocolate shopping! Before us at the HIG store were aisle upon aisle of duty-free chocolates. It was tempting to splurge like there was no tomorrow. But being of sound mind, we held back and exercised self-control. It was hilarious to hear some youths reminding themselves out loud of which chocolates were intended for acquaintances and were not for self-consumption. This is good, as it showed signs of maturity among the youths. "gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5: 23).

All too soon the end of our trip to Langkawi came upon us! Before we knew it, we were stuck in a jam travelling back to Cheras, Kuala Lumpur. Thoughts of the daily grind back at work or university at the back of our minds. However, thank God for His protection and guidance throughout our trip, thank God for precious memories and fellowship with fellow brethren in Christ. "in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5: 18).



Marks Of Grace From The Tertiary Years

By: Stefanie Shee
TJC Penang



Marks of grace from the tertiary years.
In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I share.

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven..." – Ecclesiastes 3: 1

Three years ago, I came to the Central Region to further my studies. In the blink of an eye, three years have passed, and now I preparing my farewell. By the grace of God, I was exposed to many different events, and I would love to share my experiences with all.

Washed ashore in a boat – God's beautiful will

At first, I didn't regard it as God's will for me to step into this new place; but God saw ahead and preplanned this path specifically for me – His will is indeed beautiful.

I came to Kuala Lumpur in 2015. Coincidentally, when I first arrived, most brothers and sisters were on their semester break (including those studying in the same university). Therefore, I was all alone, with no familiar faces in this new environment. I was quite clueless at that time, and inadvertently came those typical complaints and murmurs. Firstly, I felt homesick; it also dawned on me that I would not be able to attend services for a couple of weeks due to classes scheduled on weekends. Fine! It was a little hiccup but I tried my best to accommodate. Then came the last straw; I accidentally cut my fingernail with a peel cutter. Oh! The pain was throbbing and it really hurt! I felt sad, alone, and deprived of my mother's loving attention. With no one physically around, my sole reliance left was God. That's also how I started learning to rely more on Him.

My God truly loves me. If I had never left my comfort zone, never experienced loneliness and all these so-called 'unfortunate events', I would never have learnt to rely on Him completely. I guess these "unfortunate events" exercised more profits than losses. As I drew closer to Him, my relationship with God slowly improved. Certainly, according to His will, every arrangement is beautiful and is for our own good.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. – Jeremiah 29 :11-12

Seeking a solid assurance: Prayers - a solid foundation

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4: 6-7

Being in an unfamiliar environment and coupled with "unfortunate" events, I felt quite disappointed and depressed. Initially, I was fearful of many things, including being alone in the whole unit (all housemates were on semester break). Thus, in came those wild and dark imaginations. With no one to rely on, I committed all to prayers. Thank the Lord God, He heard my prayers, strengthened and restored me to my usual jovial state. That was also how I learnt to entrust everything to prayers.

We knew that we had to be diligent to survive, therefore my course mates and I often strived hard in our studies. However, there was still a difference between them and me. I often see my course mates fighting endlessly over their studies. Some struggled really hard in "digging" for tips even though they were already well-prepared for exams; some memorized the whole textbook, some revised from dawn till the wee hours of morning, having less than 6 hours of sleep and repeating the whole cycle again. Honestly speaking, they were sincerely more diligent than I. Sometimes I even doubted myself for being so tranquil. I never burnt the midnight oil, I didn't purposely hunt for tips and neither did I memorize every single line in a textbook! Yet, I faced the same pressures, strived hard in my studies and knew that I had tried my very best. I just entrusted everything to prayers and was at ease. My coursemates often couldn't comprehend

how I was able to remain optimistic in difficult situations. This is because I have a solid foundation which in turn leads to a solid assurance. Sadly, this is something my course mates lacked. How blissful I am that Jesus is my blessed assurance. I have been a believer since young; unfortunately, it took me so long to finally understand the importance of prayers. Prayers are not meant only for seeking assurance, it is also a means of improving our relationship with God and understanding His will. Even though it took me years to realize it, but thankfully, God still had mercy on me and hearkened to my prayers. Praise the Lord God!

If you are a new tertiary student in a new environment, fret not. Amidst your initial confusions and difficulties, remember to first build up a strong foundation for yourself. Seek comfort, strength and guidance through prayers. By standing on this strong foundation, you will definitely have sufficient courage, strength and assurance to continue the road ahead of you.

"The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth." – Psalm 146:18

Adapting to the new environment – Making new choices

When I first attended university, I had to adapt to a new environment; this was definitely something not easy. Though I attended classes daily with my course mates, I still felt lonely because we seemed to be on different wavelengths. I didn't share their interests and pursuits, and therefore I never had that sense of belonging. But thank God, He provided several course mates who were very kind and understanding and respected my faith. They never forced me to indulge in their worldly pursuits and neither did they discriminate me even though I seemed to be quite "different" from them. Many a times, I was unable to join their leisure activities/outings as I was juggling a tight schedule between studies, church and divine work. Nevertheless, they never excluded me from their group. Moreover, they volunteered to replace my research duties on Saturdays because they knew I had to go to church, even though they had to go the extra mile to do so. They were considerate and sympathetic friends sent by God. Where can I still find such good university peers in this current era? The Lord had mercy on me and I am blessed for He heard my pleas! He knew that I wouldn't have survived being a loner in the university and thus sent them to accompany me. For this, I pray that God will have mercy on my friends, remember the love they have showered upon me, and also bring them to the eternal hope.

From another perspective, many felt that I was a fool for not making more connections in the university. After all, isn't university life the most exciting and interesting part of our lives? We are young and energetic, there are no restraints, no supervisions and we are capable of making our own decisions. However, from a spiritual perspective, we are different from the world. We are a chosen race, a consecrated nation, specifically redeemed by His blood (1 Peter 2:9-10). We should never forget that we cannot serve God and the world. The enjoyments of the world can only gratify our desires temporarily, but the words of God last forever.

So now, what's your choice?

"Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart." – 2 Timothy 2:21-22

Interacting with the local members – we are one family in the Lord

At first, I wasn't that keen in conversing with the local brethren. I tend to be unfriendly and shy in unfamiliar environments, but thank God again for His grace. The local members here were very friendly and earnest in initiating a conversation although I wasn't that enthusiastic. I appreciate their efforts; even the more senior members, made the effort to mingle with us, the "younger ones" (even though we may appear to be childish at times). Other than that, they were also willing to provide advice especially in terms of servitude in a tender and subtle manner. I was amazed because it never crossed my mind that the youths can also be friends with senior members, regardless of age. Furthermore, they were also very concerned about our well-being and some even prepared homemade soups to ease our "homesickness". Sometimes, they even purchased supplements and medications when we were ill. Consequently, we (the outstation youths) felt a sense of belonging. How blessed and fortunate we were to receive kindness and love. What good deeds have we done to be deemed worthy of these? None! But we were treated like family members. They taught us the meaning of love and a non-repayment service. May God remember their love and labor.

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." – Acts 20:35

"And the king will answer, and say to them, assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." – Matthew 25: 40

Fighting against the wild beasts – a spiritual struggle

As inhabitants dwell in their own compounds, so do the 'beasts' dwell in the wilderness. Today, we are also living in a world under the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).

If the inhabitants are not vigilant enough, they might fail to notice the beast drawing nearer and lurking around their compounds - waiting to attack. Similarly, when we are not sober-minded, the devil like a roaring lion, prepares to devour us. (1 Peter 5:8).

It seemed that everything was perfectly fine as I continued to climb upwards in my faith. But as my faith grew, so did complacency. Our vigilance decreases, and this gives way to Satan's slyness. It first started off with unnecessary rumors and slowly it evolved into exaggerated assumptions and deceitful words. Being complacent and not alert, I became blinded by deceptions. I forgot about my true goal in faith and started losing my direction. Progressively, I was swallowed up by my own ignorance, pride, self-centeredness and self-justification, and even went ahead in severing a few relationships. All these were the cunning schemes of the devil and sadly to say, I was foolish enough to fall into his trap. As I struggled hard to submit to the Holy Spirit, the devil also continued to provoke resentment in my heart. Never have I felt so confused, helpless and insignificant. It was truly a tough warfare between good and evil.

Away into the woods – meditating, reflecting, realizing and learning

Thank the Lord that I received the opportunity to help out in the Short-Term Theological Course. In those three weeks, I was equipped with the words of God daily. Briefly, I was extricated and relieved from worldly cares and was able to meditate deeply and reflect properly in prayers - undisturbed. By the Lord's love and mercies, He hearkened to my prayers and cleared my doubts. At the same time, my iniquities and weaknesses were made known, and I realized that the evil one had gained a foothold on me, even though I proclaimed to be a servant of God. How ashamed I was to even acknowledge this fact! Even though I have transgressed and disregarded the Holy Spirit's reminders, my Lord never gave up on me. He corrected my misconceptions and restored my weakened spirituality. How unworthy am I to receive this great love of His! Praise the Lord for His endless mercies!

Nobody wants to experience bad times or receive chastisements, but the Lord disciplines out of love and it is for His children's (us) benefits. (Hebrews 12:10-11; Job 5:17-18, Proverbs 3:11-12). Hence, I am thankful because if these grievous events did not happen, I would not have realized how merciful and loving my God was towards me. I would have continued to dwell in pride, complacency and negligence; I have fallen short of my Lord's expectations. Moreover, I also realized the horrible consequences an unbridled tongue can bring forth. The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things and is capable of crushing one's spirit (James 3:5; Proverbs 15:4). Frequently, due to our own ego, pride and speculations, we unknowingly allow our tongue to be a tool for the devil to disrupt the

harmony and unity in the church. This brings forth incorrect assumptions, misunderstandings, lies, hatred, anger, jealousy, pride, self-righteousness, self-justification and personal warfare- characteristics alien to our Lord. We often deem that the usage of the tongue is a manifestation of love, since open rebuke is better than hidden love (Proverbs 27:5). However, simultaneously we also forget to be alert and contradict God's initial intentions. We succumb to our own physical emotions, and go beyond the borderline, surpassing God's supremacy. Sadly, we still think that we are doing a favor to the Lord and have fulfilled His will.

What is the true definition of love? Let us never forget how we are able to love in the first place. Love in Christ isn't propelled by humanly thoughts, choices, judgments, or emotions. But rather, we love because God first love us without any prerequisite. (1 John 4:19).

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends." – 1 Cor 13:4-8

Sailing off from shore in a yacht – saying my goodbyes

As mentioned in Ecclesiastes, there is always a time for everything. Three years ago, it was a time to say hello, and now, three years later, it is time to say goodbye. My journey in this place has come to an end. No matter what had happened, whether pleasant, bitter, bittersweet or sorrow- I count them all as a sweet blessing from God. Three years ago, I came here in a small boat, without having much; but thank the Lord, now I am leaving in a yacht that holds a little increase in possessions – spiritual lessons, growth and experiences. As I journey onward to the different islands, I hope that I will continue to grow, gain more spiritual knowledge and increase the size of my boat. – if God willing, a cruise ship?

I am reluctant to depart from here; it holds a whole lot of memories. Only if God be willing, I will surely return again to this beautiful place. I will definitely miss everyone. But life goes on, and I can only pray that everyone will be fine in Christ. For now, the path still remains dreary, the skies foggy and the future unclear. But, never mind that, for I know my Lord, my God will always be with me- no matter where I am sailing to.

Just as how He was in the past.

May all glory, praise and honor be given unto Him.



An Open Letter From A Mother

By: Lee Wai Han, Petaling Jaya Church

Dearest Son,

An open letter may take you by surprise. One of David's psalms teaches us that "The Lord is my strength and my shield;And with my song I will praise Him." (Psalm 28:7) God has been with us through ups and downs, and hence I would like to share with our brothers and sisters-in-Christ some thoughts and challenges encountered in our parenting journey, for mutual encouragement; it is a journey undertaken from the day that God gave you as an invaluable gift to Dad and Mum up till now. And personally for Mum, it's for me to gain further strength in parenthood.

Mum is not an educationist, nor am I experienced in parenting. I am a mother to a teenager going through the puberty phase; constantly facing issues and challenges in the course of his adolescence journey. However, the most unshaken belief within me is "Children (including you) are a heritage from the Lord." (Psalm 127:3) Therefore, your upbringing must also be guided by the presence and the words of God.

Son, you are a gift from the Lord as it was not an easy process for Mum to conceive. During my pregnancy, I made sure that I had sufficient rest after work, while Dad was occupied with his work, divine services and household chores. However, one thing Mum did not neglect was the time spent in choosing an appropriate name for you. Mum had read that a name, besides carrying the expectations that parents have of a child, also reveals some characteristics represented by its meaning.

Dad left the decision entirely to me. I had cold feet as this was such a great responsibility. Mum prayed about it, and decided on your Chinese name. It means 'respect' and 'humility' as Mum considered these great virtues to have as individuals. It was a struggle for your English name, though. Thank God that we kept this book, "Who's Who in the Bible," which was a gift from our church brethren. Mum did have some basic guiding principles - the name should be unique, and will not represent any wicked characters in the Bible. While I was flipping through the book, it opened at a page with the name 'Joshah' and my eyes were drawn straight to it. Mum loved the name, as Joshah means "gift of the Lord." Nonetheless, I was not submissive enough. I looked through the entire book to make sure that this was the name that I wanted.

Joshah is a truly unique name as it only appears once in the Bible (I Chronicles 4:34). Son, having gone through your upbringing phases thus far, you are unique indeed. In fact, all children in the Lord are unique. In addition to being the heritage from the Lord, they are treasure in God's eyes, as all have been redeemed by His precious blood. This further reinforces the responsibilities that Dad and Mum have in your upbringing. Apart from providing you with good education, both religious and secular, we consider it equally important to instill in you the right values in life in accordance with biblical teachings.

Son, one thing that makes you unique is that you have taught me not just the practical aspects of parenting, but the spiritual aspects too. After you could utter your first words, I would put your hands together and say "Pray! Pray!" before each feed to teach you gratitude to God. There was this night when Mum and Dad were so tired that Mum woke up only to hear you repeating the word 'milk.' The next thing I knew, you were uttering "Pray! Pray!" to get our attention for your feed. This further reinforced the teachings in the Bible on parenting: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Son, let's remember to thank God that He has gifted you with the good ability to quest for knowledge and understanding. Mum is also thankful for your Dad's passion in reading, and that he has cultivated that as a hobby in you. "There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel." (Proverbs 20:15) Just let's also not forget that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments." (Psalm 111:10) Having the knowledge of Christ Jesus and doing his commandments will lead us into his salvation. Paul said "...I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord..." (Philippians 3:8).

We thank God that He has provided us with a great helper as a childminder

when you were a baby, toddler and child. With both Dad and Mum spending long hours at work, it was a challenge to enforce the same values and principles in your upbringing with the childminding arrangement. Thank God that though you do have your own opinions, you are an obedient child. Hence, having a childminder to instill the same life values was still possible in your childhood, even though some empowerment to the childminder and regular reinforcement were required from time to time.

Touching on the matter 'discipline', the Bible has mentioned this in a number of verses:

- ▶ *"The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother." (Proverbs 29:15)*
- ▶ *"He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly." (Proverbs 13:24)*
- ▶ *"Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul." (Proverbs 29:17)*

The word 'discipline' often makes one think of the rod or cane. For Mum, it means punishment to correct attitude or behaviour. Son, while Dad and Mum placed focus on discipline, you may recall that we hardly used the cane in your upbringing, as you accept reasoning better than caning. This is another aspect of parenting that Dad and Mum have learned while raising you, for which we are thankful. Mum puts this as 'Knowing Your Child.' After instilling the right values, Mum believes that it is also vital to know the environment in which you live and the peers you are growing up with. The other key aspect is communication, which includes both speaking and listening within the family, in school and in church with the Religious Education teachers. The Bible has aptly taught us parents on these various elements of parenting – "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." (Colossians 3:21)

After setting these parameters since you were young, of which adjustments were required from time to time during the upbringing process, one factor of paramount importance is for parents to lead by example. It is like a crab teaching its young to walk straight. When a little crab asked its mum to show how to walk straight, no matter how hard the mother tried, it could only walk sideways. This is because the mother crab was used to it, and it had become a habit. And habits are hard to break.

A good example in modern-day life will be the mobile phone or gadget usage. Have we lamented the hours that our child spends on the phone each day? Do we take time to reflect on this? Has it become a habit of ours to stay connected on the phone and spend increasingly more time on the phone or gadgets? On the contrary, have we spent sufficient quality time getting to know our child, praying and showing concern for his spiritual growth, reading the scriptures and participating in divine services? For us Christian parents, how wonderful it is that we have "God as our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1) This "help" includes getting rid of any die-hard habits. Let's pray for strength to "cast all our care upon Him, for He cares for us." (1 Peter 5:7) Actions speak louder than words. I believe that a family needs to be together to prepare to face the challenges of a teenager going through the puberty and adolescence phase in this current fast-moving society full of various challenges and temptation.

After your 6 years of primary education in Chinese, Dad and Mum decided to invest in your education and learning by sending you to a private school. Having walked with you closely on your childhood journey, Dad and Mum realised that your preferred learning style is kinaesthetic learning. Since you were young, you have demonstrated that you do not enjoy rote learning. You learn more effectively via understanding and conceptualising, instead of memorising. Son, please remember this, Dad and Mum's investment in your education is like what the proverb says, "You feed a man for a day by giving him a fish; whilst you feed a man for a lifetime by teaching him how to fish." Therefore, the knowledge and skills you acquire are for you to glorify God and edify man in your deeds. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) For what do we have that we did not receive? We have indeed received abundant grace and blessings from God, therefore we ought to remember to walk as children of light and bring glory to God's name.

Learning in an open environment with different approaches, however, poses its challenges. From an individual's perspectives on values and principles, we thank God that the new school adopts and enforces very similar values to those that Dad and Mum have; and that the religious and values education imparted to you since a young age have helped us greatly during this transitional period. Son, Dad and Mum must, however, admit that there was one aspect of your learning that we had overlooked in our hectic life after you had spent a few months in the new school.

As you enjoyed learning in this school, you desired to do well too. Nonetheless, you deserved a good after-school learning environment at home, and family support to help you after a long day at school. As Dad and Mum were engrossed in the demands of our work, you were so thoughtful that you put such pressures upon yourself. Thank God for a mother's instinct to be able to sense it. Mum was at the crossroad then, and needed to make a decision. I was standing on one road, i.e., the present situation that I and the entire family were in; and facing three other roads for us to move forward. These three roads were Faith, Family and Career. To Mum, I needed to choose two out of the three options.

Thank God that it was God's words that helped Mum to choose and decide. The most profound ones included sermons with titles 'Little Jesus Grew Up' (and spent time in the temple) and 'To Manage the Lord's Inheritance'. Yes, Son, Mum's workplace then was full of challenges, but what Mum was considering giving up was a job desired by many. The pull factor was, however, definitely stronger as God had given us His heritage; was it not my responsibility to mentor and guide you, particularly by using the words of God to encourage you and strengthen your faith?

Although some alternate arrangements were suggested by my bosses in the interim period to relieve me of some of the work responsibilities, I decided to resign from my full-time job. I could have waited a few more months for the work performance bonus payment, but some biblical phrases kept flashing in my mind. I was worried that I might change my mind. And the biblical teaching of how Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back to Sodom and Gomorrah served as a reminder to me too. This timing might not look good to many, but its benefits have definitely outweighed its drawbacks. One of them happened right on the first day after I became

In Jesus name, I bear testimony,
My name is Yeak Li Chuen, from TJC Bercham.

Looking back, my son, Yeong Heng's birth has always remained clear in my mind. Even though thirteen years had since passed, whenever I reminisce about it, I am filled with immense gratitude. When I was four days past the expected delivery date, I headed to the hospital in the morning to induce labour. Halfway through the procedure, the baby ingested meconium (the first faeces of an infant). Therefore, an emergency operation was required, otherwise the infant's life would be in danger. After the operation, I tried to get as much rest as I could and then got ready to see my baby the following day.

The following day, after having had my breakfast, a nurse told me to go to the Nursery Room; but, I was not able to find my baby in the Nursery Room and the nurse then directed me to the next room. There, I noticed my name on the infant's incubator. Then, I saw my son; several tubes were inserted into his body and another tube was inserted into his mouth to help him breathe. The moment I saw my son fighting for his dear life on his own in the incubator, I cried out! I felt utterly helpless and broken. After I calmed down a little, I said a silent prayer and pleaded to God to help me through this difficulty. Then, I returned to the Nursery Room to learn how to bathe and breastfeed the baby. I really envied the other mothers – they could personally bathe and breastfeed their babies. Only then did I realise that being able to give birth to a healthy child is also a form of grace.

Before my delivery, my only request was that God gives me a healthy child. I rebuked myself for not praying enough and why did God not listen to my prayers. I prayed incessantly pleading to God to save my son. I know that the one who gives is the Lord, and the one who takes back is also the Lord. I told the doctor, "I am determined that whatever happens to my son, I will trust Jesus to the end."

On the morning of the third day, I was discharged, but my son remained warded. We applied to be transferred to a government hospital. Apart from my family's prayers, I also requested the church members to pray

the stay-at-home mum. Son, if you can still remember, I picked you up from school. I recalled you happily chatting and smiling in the car. When I asked why were you so happy, your response was simple, yet fulfilling – 'as I can finally spend more time with you.'

Son, Dad and Mum have been around to lend you a hand whenever required. While you continue on your journey through life, please always remember your status as God's precious child. 'My sons, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands.' (Proverbs 3:1) Paul exhorted us that 'all things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.' (1 Corinthians 10:23) Please pray steadfastly for God's guidance and for strong self-discipline in keeping and practicing the words of God.

We are God's precious children who have been redeemed by our Lord Jesus with His blood. If we were to neglect these important teachings on discharging the responsibilities entrusted to us as parents, how do we face the Lord when He comes again? Besides approaches to teaching our children via our words, actions and discipline, let us not forget the most crucial element of parenting, i.e., pray for our children's upbringing, their faith, and their learning. May God grant us the spiritual power and wisdom in this parenting journey.

May all glory be given to our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen!



with the hope that my son would recover and be discharged soon. Finally, after six days, my son was discharged. The doctor reminded me that if my son showed any abnormalities, we would need to bring the special card should he require treatment

Thank the Lord, my son is thirteen years old today. The mighty hand of the Lord has protected him till this day. Never once was he hospitalised again. Thank the Lord for His abundant grace – I shall never forget it. Hence, this is my testimony of God's grace.

By:
Yeak Li Chuen, TJC Bercham



Being A Christian Parent

By: Vivian Wong

In the name of the Lord Jesus I share my experiences as a Christian parent. First of all, I am not sure if being a parent for almost 10 years qualifies me to share my experience. There are surely parents whose decades of experience surpass my parenting encounters. However, I do believe that as we share our experiences, there's always something to learn as we mutually edify each other.

My son Matthew will be turning 10 this year. He is a happy kid, loves to tell jokes, loves tennis, soccer, basketball and rock-climbing, is competitive when playing sports and more specifically during bible quizzes, enjoys playing the piano but violin, not so much, has a love-hate relationship with maths and dislikes reading. Matthew loves school, but if you ask him what his favourite day of the week is, he would tell you it's Saturday because that's the day he meets with all his best friends in church. I am glad that Matthew enjoys going to church and that his closest of friends are those from church.

As we bring up our children in a Christian household, it is important that we bring them to church regularly, talk to them about the word of God, imply God's teaching through everyday events, read the Bible and pray together and most importantly, remind them to marry in the Lord. Yes, even though Matthew is only close to 10 years old, I have been implanting in his mind that he should always marry a girl from church. It is not too young to start this indoctrination, if you don't mind the word. Deut. 11:19 tells us that "You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up." Hence,



if it's the word of God and it is the right thing to do and if that's what we want for our children, why not start early?

The same method (early indoctrination) was used for attending bible camps. When he was in Lower Primary, we started to prep him up for Bible camp, which he would have to attend when he gets to Upper Primary. As a RE teacher myself, I have often seen how RE students struggled to attend their first bible camp or short-term theological seminar and how, unfortunately, some pulled out and some did not last out the camp. As one who has grown up a Christian attending bible camps and theological seminars, I am a believer in these camps. The camps enhance one's spiritual growth and set a firm foundation of faith in preparation for the morally tumultuous world as one steps into adolescence and eventually, adulthood.

Like any kid staying away from home for the first time, it was a bit of a worry for Matthew at first but he manned up and in the end was very much looking forward to staying in church and spending the next three days with his friends learning the word of God and praying. To begin with, Matthew was not one who could concentrate during prayers. He was very fidgety during prayers and often opened his eyes to look around, true to his curious and inquisitive self. He struggled with baths as sometimes his towel or dry clean clothes would fall onto the wet bathroom floor. He battled with waking up early for morning prayers. He forced himself to chomp down food that he was usually picky about. Staying in church was a far cry from the comforts of home, but my little boy was a champ and he soldiered on and learned life's lessons through the little mishaps. Then on a cold Tuesday morning while he was at the camp, I received a WhatsApp message from a bible camp counsellor who delivered to me the very joyful news that Matthew had received the precious Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord, I was overcome with joy. The news brought tears to my eyes as I read my work emails without comprehension. That night, I went to church and congratulated Matthew. Matthew told me that all he did was empty his mind as the preacher had told them to and then he was able to concentrate and eventually he started speaking in tongues. He was very happy to receive the Holy Spirit together with some of his other friends. I am so glad that God has given Matthew the Holy Spirit to teach and guide him in his journey of faith.

There is no greater gift a parent can give to his child than to bring him close to God so that he can walk with God all his life and finally obtain eternal life. Remember that our children are a heritage from God (Ps. 127:3) and that God has given us this task to care for them. Our goal as Christian parents is to enable our children to reunite with their Father in heaven. When this goal is achieved, we can then face God without fear as we would have completed our task well as a Christian parent raising a Christian child, who would return to the bosom of God.

May God grant all parents the wisdom and patience to raise God-fearing children. All glory to Him. Amen.

Matthew at Gardens by the Bay,
Singapore- December 2018

An Appreciation to the Martha Group, PJ

By: Rachel Yee
Junior Youth Class, P.J Church

There's truly nothing that brings us together like food,

Sharing the joy and goodness just lightens the mood,

Flavourful happiness compacted into a bite,

From mee goreng to cake made so soft and light.

Thanks to your generous service in the Lord,

We can delight in your food as one accord,

Our Church hopes to express enough gratitude,

As our Lord God showers you with blessings in the multitude.

Yes your food brings wondrous harmony to us all,

Fresh fruit, sushi, fried kuey teow, porridge and fish-balls,

From Asam laksa to chocolate cake and more,

And every bite of delicacies galore.

We are brought closer together, in the name of our Lord Jesus,

Building bonds with each other as you continue to feed us.

We pray for another blissful year to come, Full of love, blessings, companionship and fun,

As one body of Christ you are an important body part,

We couldn't do without you and from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you so much for the lovely memories,

For you work tirelessly like factories,

With all that said, I think my message is pretty clear,

May the Lord God bless you and Happy New Year!

Unity

By: Jeremy Toh
Intermediate Youth Class
Subang Jaya Church

One day during the youth theological training course, I fell sick and had a mild fever. I thought that it was nothing and continued with my lessons. But shortly after, my fever got worse and I had to rest in the sick bay. After a short rest, I went down to join in the activities, but I was too ill and weak to do anything, so I just sat at the dining area, day dreaming for nearly an hour.

The preacher saw my condition and told me to take a rest in the dorm, but I was too tired and lazy to get up. I told him that I'd be fine there.

Soon, I got bored and thought of getting my book from the classroom to draw. It took me a lot of effort just to get there, and by the time I got there, I was exhausted. I dragged myself towards my seat and laid down on the chairs as if they were beds. After that, I got up and attempted to get my drawing book, but I got exhausted again, so I fell asleep on the table.

I had no energy at that time, my head was hot and my limbs felt weak, I felt like giving up on everything. Soon, someone entered the room and saw me. I faintly heard him say: "why is he sleeping here?" He touched my neck and said:



"Woah! That's really hot! Hurry and call a faci!"

A facilitator came with a thermometer and woke me up; at the time I had a 40-degree fever. A friend standing by saw this and hurriedly went out to tell everyone.

I saw my friends slowly walking in, worriedly looking at me. And they started to pray. I was touched when I saw my friends gathering to pray for me, but what really got to me was when I looked behind me, there were so many people gathered to pray that the classroom was not big enough to accommodate everyone there (almost

half of the students were there). I felt the love of the brothers and sisters as they prayed earnestly for me, how they gathered together with just one simple call.

Subsequently, I was sent to the hospital, but when I got there, my fever was gone, and my temperature was only 36.7 degrees.

I thank God for this testimony, because He has shown me both His love and the love of my brothers and sisters, and for reminding me that I am not alone.

Amen

Youth Participation in the Kuantan Evangelical Service

By: Jayden Ho
Junior Youth Class, Klang Church



On 21st December, 12 youths assembled in Klang Church at 8.00am. Before we started our journey, we prayed for God's guidance and a safe trip to Kuantan Prayer House. When I reached the prayer house, I was curious to know how many members there were. It turned out that there were more members than I expected. There were 11 members. There is a family of 5 - a husband, wife, 2 kids and a baby. The wife and 2 kids are members of the church but the husband and the baby are not baptized yet. We attended the Sabbath Day and Evangelical Service with the members there. The Evangelical Service was conducted by Pr Hosea Hoo and 25 people attended the service. After the Evangelical Service, we went to search for a suitable place for baptism and then had dinner at a restaurant.

On Sunday morning, at 7:30am, we started our journey to the beach for the water baptism. I was surprised that the husband had agreed to the baby to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. While the baptism was conducted, we sang hymns. After the baptism, we headed back to church. Though the baptism was brief, we thank God's grace and salvation for adding one more member to the flock. Then the foot washing sacrament was conducted. After the sacrament, we cleaned the prayer house, packed up and made our return journey home.

I believe that God will take care of the members and the people there so that they will grow strong in faith and be deeply rooted in His truth. I hope that the husband will be added into God's flock soon.



Voluntary Program Report

By: Amanda Kwek Qian Hui
Intermediate Youth Class, Klang Church

Hallelujah in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ I share my experiences in this year's Voluntary Program.

After having attended the Fourth Year Theological course for 9 days, 7 of the students participated in the Voluntary Program. Three brothers, Bro Daniel Vasan from Kajang Utama, Bro Daniel Ng from Bahau and Bro Brendon Tan from Penang were assigned to follow Pr Hosea Hoo in this program. They served in the Central Region. Two sisters, Sis Lim Chai Juen from Port Dickson and Sis Wong Xin Zhen from Klang were assigned to follow Pr Nehemiah Ooi in the Northern Region whilst the remaining two, Sis Sim Shu Qing from Botanic Church and I followed Pr Nahum Lim, and we served in the Southern Region.

After cleaning up, we left to begin our training in this Voluntary Program; but Sis Shu Qing and I remained in Olive Garden, Port Dickson Church. Sis Shu Qing spoke a sermon during the Friday night service. After the service, we would receive feedback from Pr Nahum who helped us improve on our weaknesses. Sis Shu Qing and I would take turns to interpret and speak sermons. We left Port Dickson on 12th of January for Batu Pahat Prayer House. It was a three hour journey to Batu Pahat. I thank God that I managed to revise my sermons without feeling dizzy on the way there. We partook the Holy Communion there. Before visiting the different churches, Pr Nahum would brief us about the history of the churches as well as what we have to take note of our visits there.

After Batu Pahat, we headed straight to TJC Skudai, where Sis Shu Qing and I were supposed to remain for the rest of the Voluntary Program. The area there was awfully quiet during the night and it seemed dangerous for only two girls to stay alone in the church without the presence of any adults. So, Pr Nahum's father suggested that we should stay at his house instead for our safety. We accepted the offer gladly! The preacher's family had to do a lot of cleaning to prepare a room for us and they did their best to make it clean and dust-free because both of us have very sensitive nose. We really appreciated their help.

We would begin the day with a simple breakfast in the house before leaving for church. At church, we would have a bible study and prayer before doing anything. After that, we will prepare our sermons, our sharing and laundry. The churches in the southern part of the Southern Region do not have any services on weekdays except for Friday night services and Saturday Sabbath Services. So, we would follow the preacher to visit some members from the churches and learn how to care for the members.

As for our meals, we mostly had lunch and dinner at the preacher's house, where his wife, Sis Eve Chou would cook for us. She would ask us what we would like to eat for dinner and it would be served on the dining table the very next day! Sis Shu Qing would then always try to finish the food on the table, so she ate more than I did! We even got to eat glutinous rice balls even though winter solstice is over, all because I was craving for it. This Voluntary Program was not only about work since we had some time to relax and play. We got to meet up with our brethren from the same batch of the Short-Term Theological Course, like Bro Foo Wen Tao and Sis Chok Min Hui. It was nice catching up and reminiscing about the great time we had together in Port Dickson. We visited some museums in Johor and that was quite fun.

I actually learned a lot from this Voluntary Program. I learned that it requires a lot of effort to do God's work. The most stressful moments were the times we had to prepare our sermons. It was terrifying as it was the first time that we actually stood on the pulpit to deliver a sermon. A lot of thoughts and worries flew across my mind: "what if I said the wrong thing", "what if I interpreted the bible wrongly" and "what if the believers did not understand the message that I was trying to tell them". There were too many 'what if!' But then, Pr Nahum taught us not to worry too much and pray more to ask God for His guidance and let Him put His words in our mouths. We still had to do our part in preparing our materials, but in the end, we just had to rely on God. Besides that, I was also very worried about visiting members during the weekdays. The awkwardness was unbearable

for Shu Qing and I because we didn't know how to converse with them since we did not really know the members there. Thank God, the members were very friendly and that helped to shake off the awkwardness.

Apart from these, it was also like a wake-up call and an eye opener. I thought that I was really comfortable living within the Central Region, where it is always crowded with people - I never feel lonely. So, I didn't really expect to see the lack of manpower in the Southern Region. I thought they were just like us. In reality, they do lack workers because most of the members have decided to move to the Central Region to either pursue their studies or work. Some churches lack REU teachers to teach the children, while some are lacking in pianists and interpreters. This shows that we need to have more workers willing to go to other regions to help in divine work and many more training programs for members in other regions to take up God's work. That way, everyone can improve more and God's only true church can grow. Although the True Jesus Church has passed a 100 years since its establishment, there is much more to be done.

Though this Voluntary Program was short, I really learned a lot from this program. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the GA and also Pr Nahum's family for taking us in and taking good care of us during these 14 days. It was truly a blessing to be able to join this program, and of course, I would encourage the younger batch of students to join too. Trust me, you won't regret it. I am also eager to apply the things I have learnt from this program in church activities.

My sharing ends here, may all glory be given unto God.



Youth Theological Training Seminar —What It Teaches Me

By: Jason Chong, Intermediate Youth Class
Petaling Jaya Church

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus I share.

Thank God that I was able to graduate from the Youth Theological Training Course (YTTC) in the 40th Batch on December 16th, 2018. Hence, I would like to share my personal experience during these three years at the YTTC.

Before my first year at the YTTC, I was very immature and irresponsible. I skipped Sabbath services and did not carry out my church duties well. During the first year at the YTTC, I was constantly rebuked and lectured by preachers, facilitators and fellow course mates. During the course, I learnt that if we called ourselves 'Christians', we should act like one! I pondered and meditated on the sermons and then I changed my attitude. I began to act with maturity and responsibility. I felt really good. Not only did I make more friends, I also felt a lot closer to God. When the course ended, I really felt a big change in myself, as if a cog had finally fitted into the hole in my brain!

I was really looking forward to the start of the second year at the YTTC. It was more like I was looking forward to meeting my friends rather than to learn the Word of God. The first week went by without much excitement or enthusiasm. Then the preacher spoke about the purpose of the theological course, that we were there to learn the Word of God and not merely to meet our friends. I pondered and meditated on the matter. I really felt guilty and realized that fellowship without God is like leaving your most beloved friend behind and going to movies without him. So I started to take the lessons seriously. Even though I still slept in class, I learnt many things. When I have fellowship, I put Jesus first.

Then came my third and final year at the YTTC. I went with a heavy heart, as it was to be my last year at the YTTC. A lot of worrying thoughts came to my mind: "I will not be able to come back to Olive Garden again", "I will not be able to see my friends again". But, as I continued studying during the course, I learnt that even as I worried over these issues, God has a plan that we will soon meet again. During the personal evangelism class, something stirred in me and a new way opened for me to continue to learn and serve God.

It was quite depressing that the enrolment for the YTTC kept decreasing. In the first year, we had 41 members, but the numbers dropped to 40 and 35 during the second year and third year, respectively. Even though one of our batchmates has left the church, we still have 35 soldiers to continue serving God.

Even though the sorrows linger, we can still bring about a change. If you see your friends falling, help them and bring them back to church and to God. Ask them to attend the theological course, it will strengthen their faith and increase their Bible knowledge.

My sharing ends here. All glory to God, Amen!

What The Youth Theological Training Course Means To Me.....

By: Wilson Hee, Intermediate Youth Class
Petaling Jaya Church

Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus, I share.

As a graduate of the 2017 Youth Theological Training Course (YTTC), I would like to share a few words and thoughts.

Many would think that the YTTC is a nightmare, because one would have to hand over one's phone and all sorts of electronic devices for three weeks, meaning one would be separated from the world! However, with this rule, we would truly be able to draw closer to God, we will not be affected by any worldly issues, and we can truly calm our hearts and mind to worship God and learn His words. The preachers prepared the lessons for us and taught us wholeheartedly in order to prepare us to be Christian Soldiers to fight for the Lord, and to preach the gospel to others, as well. The YTTC allows us to learn what we are not able to learn during REU lessons and allows us to learn more about the truth to build up a strong foundation.

Besides spiritual food, we can also make spiritual companions during this course, for we all know that two is better than one. Along this journey of faith, we must have companions to walk with as our support. The YTTC has given me the opportunity to meet brothers and sisters from the whole of Malaysia, especially from Sabah and Sarawak. I treasure those times of fellowship with each other during the three years of YTTC - for we learnt, ate, and played together. The YTTC is also a place to build our personality and attitude. I noticed some changes in my beloved friends throughout this course. We have learnt to be more loving, forgiving and responsible.

I hope that my dear juniors, who are still in this course and who will graduate, will pay full attention during the lessons and never forget the teachings that are important for us to preach the gospel and put on the Armour of God. Never forget the rebukes as well, because that will make us better children of God. Besides, remember the wonderful and memorable times together with your brethren. Whenever you face difficulties in life, I am sure they will always be there for you, to give you a helping hand and a pair of listening ears. Companions in Christ are always better than the companions you have in the society. Try to keep in touch with everyone, care for one another and pray for each other's needs, especially the ones who are weak in faith. Whenever I feel lost in life, I would recall the memories of being together especially during hymnal singing. Most importantly, find a sense of belonging in the church and among your brethren. For those who have graduated, remember to always shine for the Lord, take part in more divine work, serve God with all your heart, strength, mind and soul, no matter in what aspect.

My sharing ends here, all glory be given to GOD. Amen.

TESTIMONIES

(Bercham Church)

By: Lim Yuan Tong

In Jesus' name, I testify. My name is Lim Yuan Tong, 16 years old this year. I am from the True Jesus Church, Bercham. This testimony is on how my family came to believe in the Lord.

More than 40 years ago, my grandparents gave my father (Lim Mun Kiat) a Buddha pendant at the age of 2 or 3 years, as they believed that the pendant could protect him. However, whenever my father wore it, he would have a fever; therefore they stopped putting on the pendant for him.

When he was 6 years old, grandma brought my father to a fortune teller. The fortune teller claimed that my father would only live up to the age of 10. My grandparents were terrified, so the fortune teller suggested that they place various idols at home. But, they doubted the claims of the fortune teller, so they did not follow his instructions. The fortune teller also instructed my grandma to put a silver anklet on my father. They obeyed, but the silver anklet on my father's foot was lost in less than a day. My grandma bought another one, but that was also lost the following day. They had even replaced the lost anklet with one that was thicker and tougher, yet that too went missing days later. This occurred several times, which made my grandma doubt whether idols could really help extend her child's life span.

At that time, my granduncle was a believer of the True Jesus Church in Sungai Petani. When the church conducted a spiritual meeting, he brought grandma and the family to attend. During the prayer, grandma was greatly moved by the Holy Spirit. Subsequently, the whole family attended church services regularly. Grandma always prayed earnestly for the Holy Spirit at home though she was yet to be baptized. One day, while she was praying for the Holy Spirit, she was determined in her heart that she will not stop praying until she was granted the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden, a bright light shone from above and she received the Holy Spirit. After that, she brought her whole family to be baptized, including my grandfather's family, who were originally believers of the Baptist Church.

Now, my father is already aged 47. Thank the wonderful grace of God for bringing my entire family to believe in Him. May all glory, power and honour be given unto God, Amen.

By: Kong Jun Yi

In Jesus name I testify. This testimony is about the process of how my family came to believe in the Lord. My name is Kong Jun Yi, 15 years old this year. I am from True Jesus Church, Bercham.

My grandfather is Dn Luke Kong. He was originally a believer of another denomination. Once, while he was reading the bible, he noticed scriptures having recordings of the Holy Spirit, however he could not feel any existence of the Holy Spirit in his original church. Grandpa also asked his pastor then, but the pastor could not give him a correct answer.

Once, he passed by the True Jesus Church, he stopped by and walked into the chapel. Upon entering the hall, he felt peaceful in his heart as he listened to the believers singing hymns. This incident allowed him to experience the existence of God. Subsequently, my grandfather began truth seeking in the True Jesus Church. Thank God for bringing my grandfather to True Jesus Church. Amen.

By: Phoebe Chan Yi Shin

I am Phoebe Chan Yi Shin, 15 years old this year, from Bercham Church and my late grandfather is Chan Kim Fatt.

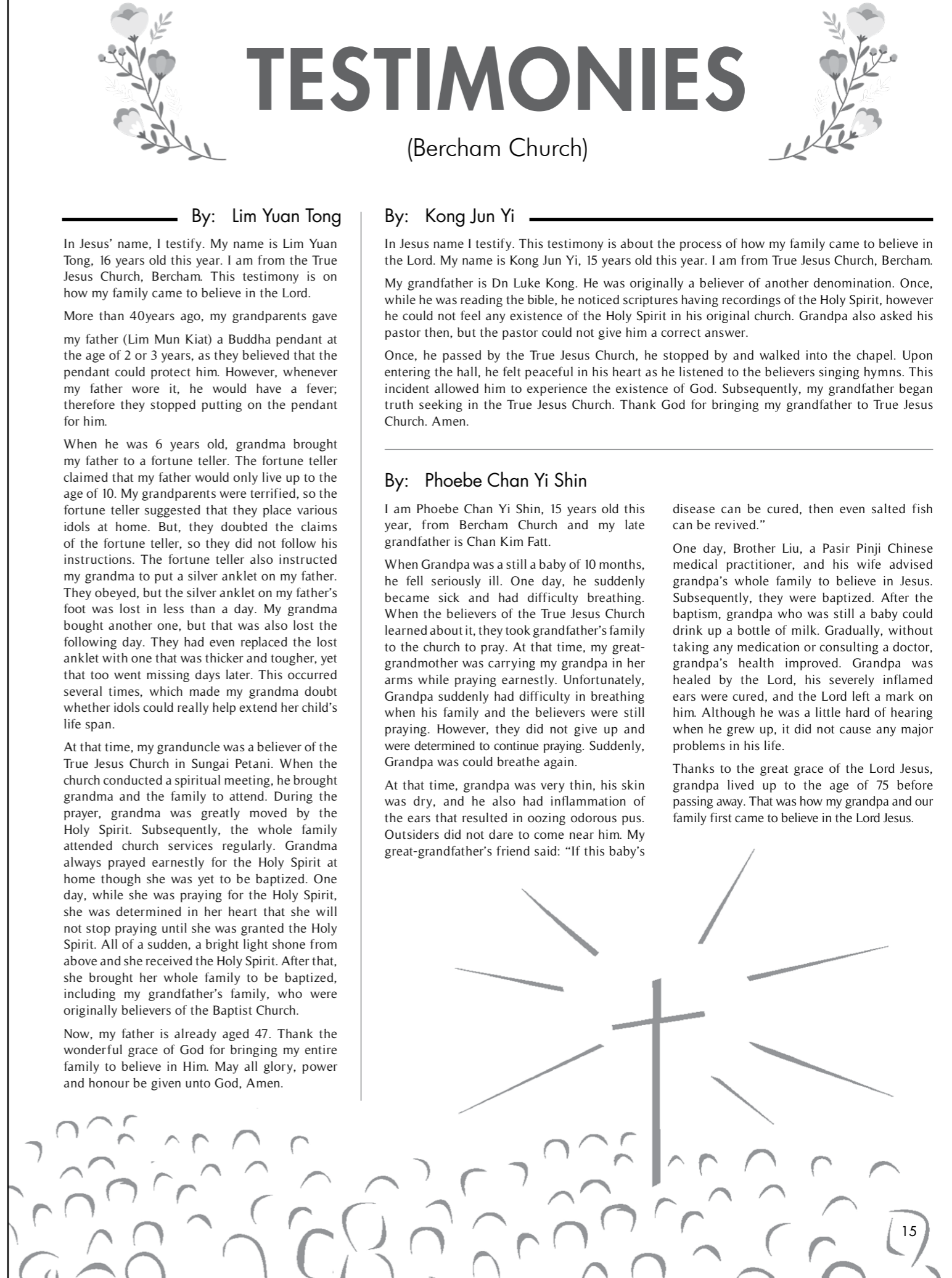
When Grandpa was a still a baby of 10 months, he fell seriously ill. One day, he suddenly became sick and had difficulty breathing. When the believers of the True Jesus Church learned about it, they took grandfather's family to the church to pray. At that time, my great-grandmother was carrying my grandpa in her arms while praying earnestly. Unfortunately, Grandpa suddenly had difficulty in breathing when his family and the believers were still praying. However, they did not give up and were determined to continue praying. Suddenly, Grandpa was could breathe again.

At that time, grandpa was very thin, his skin was dry, and he also had inflammation of the ears that resulted in oozing odorous pus. Outsiders did not dare to come near him. My great-grandfather's friend said: "If this baby's

disease can be cured, then even salted fish can be revived."

One day, Brother Liu, a Pasir Pinji Chinese medical practitioner, and his wife advised grandpa's whole family to believe in Jesus. Subsequently, they were baptized. After the baptism, grandpa who was still a baby could drink up a bottle of milk. Gradually, without taking any medication or consulting a doctor, grandpa's health improved. Grandpa was healed by the Lord, his severely inflamed ears were cured, and the Lord left a mark on him. Although he was a little hard of hearing when he grew up, it did not cause any major problems in his life.

Thanks to the great grace of the Lord Jesus, grandpa lived up to the age of 75 before passing away. That was how my grandpa and our family first came to believe in the Lord Jesus.



Native Counseling Camp 2018

By: Sim Shu Qing
Intermediate Youth Class, Botanic Church

Hallelujah, in the name of Jesus Christ I share my experience at the Native Counseling Camp. The Native Counseling Camp was held from 16th of December 2018 to 23rd of December 2018 in Ipoh Church. Thank the grace of the Lord, the camp ended smoothly and all the students departed from the church in tears. At the beginning of the camp, some of the students were determined not to return the following year, but when the time came for them to say goodbye, they were unwilling to leave. The objective of this camp is to assist the students academically and to build a strong foundation for them in the hope that they will be able to study independently after the end of camp. The number of students increased by eight compared to last year, the ages of the targeted students were around 9 to 13. The camp had a total of 15 workers and 17 students. Sis. Phei Chien was in charge of the camp, as in the previous year.

The camp was conducted fully in Bahasa Malaysia. From my time at camp, I was able to see that the church needs more Malay-speaking workers, as we have more and more native members. Also, many Sabahans attend services in West Malaysia, where they come to work. Hence, there is a high demand for Malay-speaking workers, speakers and interpreters to assist in the divine work of the church. I also realized how speaking fluently in Malay could be a great help to the church. I used to hate and ignore Bahasa Malaysia, thinking that I would be finally free from it after SPM, but God has His plans. So, I would like to encourage all the brothers and sisters who are still studying to master speaking in Malay as it would be a great help to the church. As I was not very fluent in speaking Malay, it was hard to draw closer to the students. Even though I could not communicate very well with them, the students were always willing to share their stories with me. By exchanging our stories, we were able to get closer to each other. The children were always cheerful and bright, showing the innocence and intelligence a child should have. Despite the language barrier, I thank God for giving me the strength to complete the divine work. I also thank God for giving me a chance to serve Him at this camp. I am very grateful to all the brothers and sisters who helped and tolerated me throughout camp. Even though this camp was organized to help the native students, it edifies the workers just as much as it edifies the students. Through my camp

experience, I have learned how to serve God better and what I can do to better serve in the future.

I was invited by a sister to help at the camp after I finished my SPM. I knew that the camp was conducted fully in Malay, but I did not expect to speak a lot since I was required to teach music theory only. On the morning of 14th of December, workers from the central region departed from Petaling Jaya to Ipoh Church. We reached there in the afternoon and started to prepare the dormitories for the students and workers. For the next two days, facilitators were briefed on the syllabus they were required to teach the students and they also prepared their teaching materials. On 15th of December, all the workers departed from Ipoh Church to attend the Sabbath service in Tapah Church. We went there not only to visit our students but also to take a look at their living environment so that we may better understand them. It was my first time there and I did not know what to expect. They shouted Sis. Eunice's name from above as soon as we came out of the car. The members and the children were very welcoming, they even had a children and adult choir presentation for us. The place was better than I had imagined, they had most of the facilities like toilets, a place to cook, fans, etc. The place where the Sabbath service was held was a very stable wooden house; it was quite comfortable and chilly, as it was surrounded by trees. However, the members' houses were less comfortable. They had only one small space for everything, they ate and slept at the same place. Many of them were cramped in a small house. I felt guilty for being so ungrateful for what I have - the children there do not have the chance to receive a good education, but I had freely received it for so many years and did not cherish it.

When the children first arrived at Ipoh Church, we welcomed them and introduced ourselves. The students were first briefed on the rules of the camp and basic daily routines, such as how they should brush their teeth, comb their hair, cut their nails, etc. In the morning, the students had four academic classes, which were Bahasa Malaysia, English and Mathematics. Each facilitator was in charge of 2 to 3 students according to their levels to accelerate the progress in the classes. On the first day, we had a small assessment for each subject

to ascertain the students' level so that the teachers can know what to expect in class. To make the class more interesting, facilitators prepared games or fun teaching materials to engage the students during lessons and also to help them understand better. All the workers were doing their best to provide the best for the students. We constantly included this matter in our prayers, knowing that God would guide us in this divine work. In the afternoon, the students would then attend classes that were more relaxed, namely music class, basic life skills class, religious education and sports. Music lessons were taught in the hope that at least one of them could serve in the church in the future. As for the basic life skill class, the students could choose either cooking or sewing as their lesson program for the duration of the camp. Surprisingly, 5 out of 6 boys chose sewing and all the girls chose cooking. The objective of these classes was to provide an alternative way to earn money in the future. The students were generally good in cooking, we just needed to brush up their skills and teach them the correct method to use a knife, wok, etc.

Bro. Brendon Tan and I were in charge of the evening hymnal session. We followed Sis. Christine Guok's suggestion to teach the song titled "Kasih yang Mempersatukan Kita". We thought that one song would be enough for one session; we did not expect them to know how to sing that song. But, apparently, most of the students could sing that song very well already. So we had to change our plans. I invited Sis. Yoke Chuan and Sis. Rachel to explain the lyrics of the song to the students and I proceeded to teach the next song. For the next few days, we tried to teach them actions and movements, as well as interactive activities to liven up the atmosphere. Other than getting to praise the Lord with their beautiful voices, they each received a present from EA, which was a harmonica. Each of them got a harmonica, and Bro. Kalil was in charge of teaching them how to play the harmonica. Even though they could not play any hymns yet, we hoped they could go back and continue to learn based on what they had been taught. I asked them to practice singing the hymns I had taught them, and I often heard them singing loudly in the toilets. However, they were shy to sing in front of others. During the closing ceremony, they had to present a few hymns in the front. They sang sweetly but softly, and we could see that they were shy.

The students were always ready for sports sessions, to which they looked forward. Different facilitators prepared the activity for sports time each day. For eight days, they played tug of war with water balloons, popping balloons, dodgeball and so on. All the facilitators and workers would join in and play, so in just a few days, we got close to the students. We slept, ate, played, prayed and studied with them. For the first two nights, we had to help some of them to wash their hair, as they had head lice. It took us all two to three hours to wash eight of them, it was indeed very tiring, but we hoped that they would feel better after we washed their hair. This was an eye-opening experience for us, too, and it was also my first time helping others to wash away the lice from their hair.

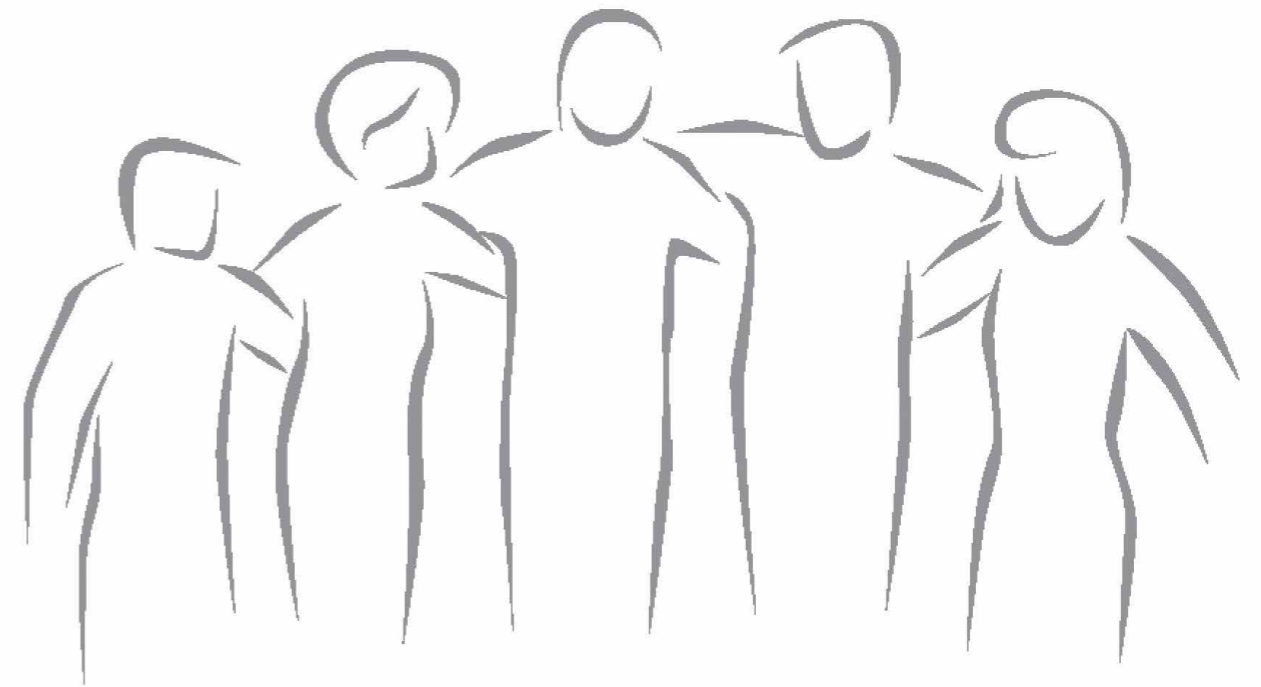
On the 22nd of December, we had a bonfire at night for our farewell party. The children ran around the campfire, holding hands and singing hymns that they knew. Sis. Maggie and the workers prepared our food, such as tom yum seafood, chicken wings, bacon, potatoes, and

drinks. Everyone enjoyed themselves as it would be the last night they would spend together.

On the last day, we took the students out to visit a few historical places in Ipoh. Each student was assigned to one worker to prevent any of them getting lost during the outing. We visited the Dewan Bandaraya Ipoh, the herbal tea museum and the old streets of Ipoh. The outing took us the whole morning. After the tour in the herbal tea museum, we were treated to a few cups of herbal tea. The facilitators enjoyed the tea, whereas the students disliked the bitter taste of the herbal tea. As we walked along the busy streets, we bought some treats for the students. Around 11.00, we went back to Ipoh church and had our closing ceremony. As we were watching the video made by Bro. Seth, many of us were in tears, all of us were reluctant to say goodbye. Before we adjourned for our lunch, each facilitator gave the students the presents they had bought the day before. Some of us had gone out the day before to buy some presents for the students. We had gone to the two-ringgit

shop, hoping to buy something practical and useful for them. Most of us bought things like notebooks, pencil cases and stationaries while Sis. Phei Chien bought water bottles and other very practical items. Bro. Chi Yang even wrote very delicate English notes for the students to read. We hoped that by giving all these presents, the students would be motivated to study harder.

After lunch, we sent the students back to their respective homes and started cleaning the church. We had our postmortem in the evening and ended our work. We thank God for His guidance throughout the camp that we were able help the native students academically. We will also continue to pray for them, so that they may progress faster. Thank the grace of God, I was able to experience the love of God at the camp, the love of God is greater than the universe, than our skin color. Race will never separate us from the love of God. May all glory be given unto God, Amen.



Looking Forward To The Growth Of A Child

By: Dn. Matthias Ho
Klang Church

Growing is a necessary process in life. Every parent would above all want their children to grow and to follow the direction which would enable them to achieve their expected goals. On the other hand, the children would prefer to grow up in a stress-free environment, to be able to do as they please, to be lacking in nothing. As children of God, what are our hopes in the process of growing up? What kind of growth is in accordance with the Bible, and pleasing to God? There are several characters in the Bible whose growing processes are worthy for us to emulate.

1 Samuel – Growing up before God

After he was weaned, young Samuel was sent to the temple to be consecrated to the Lord for the rest of his life. This was a vow his mother had made to the Lord. Even though he was separated from his mother, Samuel did not make a fuss. On the contrary, he was obedient and submissively learnt to serve in the temple. Once a year, his mother made a little robe for him, and he learnt as he grew before the Lord.

The child Samuel “grew in the presence of the Lord.” (1 Sam. 2:21) In our current vicious society, the heart of man is exposed to many temptations. Furthermore, the advancement in social media impedes us from completely preventing our children from being exposed to all sorts of negative information. Only by allowing our children to grow in the Lord, to learn and be acquainted with the words of God from a young age, by letting the words of God be carved into their hearts at all times, will they be able to preserve themselves during times of temptations or difficulties by recalling the words of God.

“Now the young man Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and also with man.” (1 Sam. 2:26) A child growing in the Lord will learn how to revere God and also to love man. God will surely always abide with a person who is pleasing to Him and to man. “And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and did let none of his words fall to the ground.” (1 Sam. 3:19)

2 Daniel – Preserving holiness and purity

Daniel was exiled to Egypt during his youth. He resolved not to defile himself with the king's banquet and wine. “But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favour and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs.” (Daniel 1:8-9) Young Daniel was placed in an environment full of glory and splendour, with the temptations of fame and status before him. However, Daniel chose to preserve himself, permitting himself to grow in God's holiness. He could not contend against being captured to Egypt, nor did he enter the palace of his own free will. Even though we cannot control environmental factors, we can make a decision: will we be compromised by the environment, or should we continue to keep God's words? For this, we need to have an understanding of God's teachings, and to know how to consecrate ourselves. At the same time, we ought to have faith in God, truly believing that He will open a way for those who are willing to preserve the truth in unfavourable situations.

From the above biblical examples, we know that the foundation of a child's faith should be built up from a young age. Every person around the child, including the parents and religious education teachers, as well as the child himself, will need to strive hard towards this goal. Only by allowing the child to build a relationship with God, can we properly entrust him into God's hands, just like Timothy. Timothy was well-versed with the Bible from a young age, and he owed his genuine faith to his grandmother and mother. He grew up to be a good co-worker to Paul.

3 David – A growth abundant in experiences of faith

David helped his father tend the sheep during his youthful days. In the many days of tending the flock, he lived a life full of God's abidance. God became David's personal God. “But David said to Saul, ‘Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God.’ And David said, ‘The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the Lord be with you!’” (1 Sam. 17:34-37) From these experiences, David knew that it was God who enabled him to prevail over the lion and the bear. His practical experiences permitted him to be deeply rooted in faith. This was the foundation for him to challenge Goliath courageously. Let your children experience and be familiar with the difficulties in life, lead them to the path of prayer and trust, bring them up to learn how to witness God's guidance and works. All these experiences will help them build a strong foundation for their faith when they grow older. God is not just the God of the parents, but He is also the God of our children.

4 Lord Jesus – Growing equally in wisdom and stature to gain favour with God and man

“And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.” (Luke 2:40, 52)

The child Jesus sat among the teachers in the temple, listening and questioning at the same time. He continuously pursued spiritual knowledge. In a child's growing process, not only should he attain secular knowledge and technical skills, but more importantly, he should also gain understanding of the Bible and spiritual knowledge. Allow the words of God to fill us, only then can we attain salvation and wisdom in life. In the future, when this child grows up, he will be able to discern right from wrong and will not be easily tossed by the wind of heresies.

Passing on Our Faith

Pr. Fang I-Ju



“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6) Children are a gift from God and a heritage that God has entrusted to us; God wants man to multiply according to His image and to raise up the next generation to be godly. Therefore, the essence of upbringing is to guide our children to walk on the right ‘Path,’ which is the ‘Path of Faith’. In this regard, how do we pass on our faith?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! ...And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-7) This is a commandment that God clearly gave the Israelites, for them to obey, remember, keep and follow. God also wanted them to lead by example and to pass on this model of faith. Faith is life and we must have faith integrated into our life in bringing up children. Let us be diligent in the following aspects:

Set up a model in life: Arrange time for drawing near to God

When Jesus was 12 years old, he went to Jerusalem with his parents to keep the feast of the Passover according to custom. After the feast ended, all had returned, but the boy Jesus remained in the temple. He sat in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions (Luke 2:41). After the baby Jesus was born, and when the days of purification were completed, his parents brought him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord according to the law. We can see their devotion to God, and the servitude sustained in their daily lives, in the upbringing of the child. They brought their child to Jerusalem every year for the feast of the Passover, according to custom, and for him to draw near to God. Do parents nowadays emulate the example set by Jesus' parents? Although we do not keep the feasts of the Old Testament, do we bring our children to church for weekly Sabbath services and religious

education classes? Do we schedule the various church-organized activities like the biannual spiritual meeting, annual bible camp, and theological course in our calendar and encourage our children to attend?

There are parents who place high importance on academic studies and pack their children's daily schedule with many extra tuition classes as they wish for their children to have a better life. Nonetheless, it is a pity that they neglect to arrange time for their children to draw near to God. Faith is something we can treasure the most and is for us to pass on. Therefore, parents need to set up a model of faith when our children are still young for them to learn to draw near to God. Not only do we need to set it up for them, but it is also for ourselves too, so that parents and children can walk together on this ‘Path of Faith’.

The need to teach them (Luke 2:46-48)

We can imagine how anxious Jesus' parents were when they saw him sitting in the midst of teachers, asking them questions while listening to them. However, they did not immediately rebuke him. Instead, they observed his words and actions. They were astonished when they saw the amazement of those who heard Jesus' understanding and answers. When Jesus' mother asked why he had acted so to worry them, Jesus' answer was, “Did you not know that I must be about my Father's business?” Although his mother did not understand his response, she kept this in her heart. Mary knew that Jesus was not an ordinary child, she was not angry with the child's attitude which seemed rebellious; neither was she arrogant about the child's smart responses. She remained committed to her responsibility as a parent and continued to bring her children before God. She did that not just with the eldest child, Jesus, but with her other children, James and Jude, too. As recorded in the Book of Acts, James raised important issues at the Jerusalem Council on whether circumcision

was necessary for the Gentiles who believed in Jesus and whether these Gentiles were required to keep various Jewish laws (Acts 15: 13-20). In the Book of Jude, Jude called himself ‘a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James’ at the beginning of the epistle. We can see that Jude had also inherited a good faith at home (Jude 1).

We must try our best in bringing up our children, in admonishing and disciplining them. This is not an easy task, but if we set our mind on praying and entrusting the upbringing of our children to God, He will surely open a way for us. “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4) It is clearly written in the Book of Ephesians that we should look after and discipline our children with the teachings of the Lord, which means to follow the Lord's footsteps, and nurture more love in our Lord. God will surely give us the wisdom, confidence and ability for this task and our children will have a heart to be taught, ears to listen to His words and strength to practise and do His words.

What Have I Done Now? Is There Not A Cause?

By: Pr Nahum Lim

A battle between the Israelites and the Philistines should have been an appropriate stage for the king and warriors to showcase their bravery and combat skills. Especially for King Saul, victory in previous battles had enabled him to sit comfortably on the throne. However this was not the case in the battle recorded in 1 Sam 17. King Saul was denied the usual feel-good atmosphere because of the presence of ... erm... only one enemy. That man was the Philistine warrior – Goliath. In a ‘cold weapon’ era when guns and missiles had not yet been invented, victory was determined by bravery, body size, combat experience, and the weight of weapons and armour. Goliath was about three meters tall. He could just stretch out his arm to stop anyone getting close to him. His breastplate was heavier than many of our sisters. His heavy spear could pierce through any armour. So melee attacks would not work at all. How about long range shooting? He had a shield bearer! What more hope did the Israelites have against him? We can all understand how desperate and helpless the Israelites were when they had to encounter this formidable tower on the battle field. It was an impossible mission. It was nothing but certain death! This clearly explains why the host of Israelites, including their ever-victorious king, forgot about their responsibilities as soldiers and protectors of the people. This feeling of incompetence justifies dereliction of duty, which we actually have to strive to fulfill. Their status as king and soldiers could no longer serve to remind them of their responsibilities.

Then what was the status of David when he first appeared at this stage? He was a boy who delivered food, and a messenger. He was not obligated to confront the fear that scared everyone away. He could have just done what he was tasked and flee for his life without needing to take a risk. However, we may not always need a status to remind us of who we really are. Even though David was not personally insulted, he took the humiliation of the Israelites as something personal. The failure of others in fulfilling their responsibilities made him ponder what he should do at that very urgent moment. A sense of unity and collective responsibility allowed him to consider his current status. This is something that we all should learn from. Ordained ministers and church executive committee members are responsible for taking good care of the flock. There may be many experienced and established workers in our church as well. However, that does not mean that we have no roles to play in church. A status is an indicator of the responsibilities attributed to it. Nonetheless, the responsibilities are not derived merely from that status but also from our relationship with God and His children. Since we are part of the body of Christ, whatever the situation is, we are part of it. We can't say it is none of our business.

It is inevitable that some may question whether David was a wiseacre. He truly did not have the appropriate status to be directly involved in a

battle. Can you imagine a Food Panda delivery boy sneaking into a board of director's meeting and chairing it? Do you expect that all will listen to him and be motivated when he shouts “Avengers Assemble!” as loud as Captain America? No! That is why David was belittled and criticized by his elder brothers. Nevertheless, when Saul was informed of David's spiritual character and background, he and others no longer doubted David's competence. We should also let no one despise us for our youth, but instead set the believers an example in our spiritual virtues and strengths. Our pursuit in spirituality and wisdom will sooner or later convince others that we are indeed ready for greater responsibilities.

We often hear many say “with great power comes great responsibility.” Goliath was a man of war from the time of his youth. Having survived battles since a young age proved that he was good in fighting. We also learn that he possessed formidable weaponry. Could David be a match for this opponent? Saul's weaponry should have been the best in the nation of Israel. However, David did not find them suitable due to his smaller body frame. It left him without proper protection. The weapons that David had with him were a stick, a sling and five smooth stones. The stick may be handy to bully cats and dogs. But... a giant? To hurl a stone from a sling with the projectile motion accurately calculated is not an easy task. We don't always do well in our physics tests even after studying many past years' papers, given the fact that our lives are not threatened. How could David have calculated it with such composure when he was running towards Goliath? It is very common for a slinger to miss on the first few attempts. Even if David was lucky enough to have been able to hit Goliath's body, given the heavy and well-protected armour and the shield that Goliath had, the smooth stone would never have been able to penetrate armour and hurt Goliath, unlike arrows or javelins. If David could not hit Goliath's face at the first attempt, a pierce by Goliath's javelin or spear would doubtless send the unprotected David to his ancestors. It was as simple as that. Nonetheless, it was a spiritual warfare where triumph is decided not by physics but by metaphysical factors. What David truly relied on was the name of the Lord of hosts. The stone that miraculously killed the dreadful giant was a sign of God's answer to David's faith. This faith will also equip us with the capability to fulfill our responsibilities when we are called to do His work. Therefore, let us be brave in the face of challenges and difficulties!

It is all about how we regard our responsibility. The lack of status, recognition and personal competence is not an excuse to flee from the call of duty. If we truly treasure our relationship with God and our brethren, and are willing to pursue improvement in spirituality, and rely on God always, the fulfillment of responsibility will be a blessed enjoyment!

我来岂 没有缘故吗？

吕那鸿 传道

以色列人和非利士人之间的战争应该是适合君王们和勇士们展现他们的勇武和战技的舞台。特别是对于扫罗王而言，他在之前的战役所取得的胜利，让他能够稳坐在自己的宝座上。然而，这却不是记载在撒母耳记上17章的情况。那一贯的自我感觉良好的气氛被某些敌人的存在所否决了…… 嗯……是被一个人否决而已。那个人是非利士的勇士歌利亚。在枪炮和飞弹还没有被发明的冷兵器时代，胜负取决于勇气、身形、战斗经验和武器和盔甲的质量。歌利亚身高大概三公尺。他的手臂之长，可以在任何人靠近他之前触及每一个人。他的胸甲比我们很多姐妹还要重。他沉重的枪可以穿透任何盔甲。所以与他近战是没有有效的。那么从远程射击他呢？他竟然还有人为他持盾牌呢！那我们有什么对付他的指望啊？我们都能够理解以色列人在战场上需要面对这座所向披靡的高塔时，内心是何等的焦虑和无助。这是不可能的任务。必死无疑！这自然也解释了为何以色列的军队，包括他们那过去战无不胜的君王，都忘记了自己作为战士和人民守护者的责任。对自己无能为力的恐惧会“鼓励”我们，以为不去承担我们应该要去拼搏的责任好像也没有什么大不了。他们那君王和士兵的身份已经无法再让他们想起自己的职责。

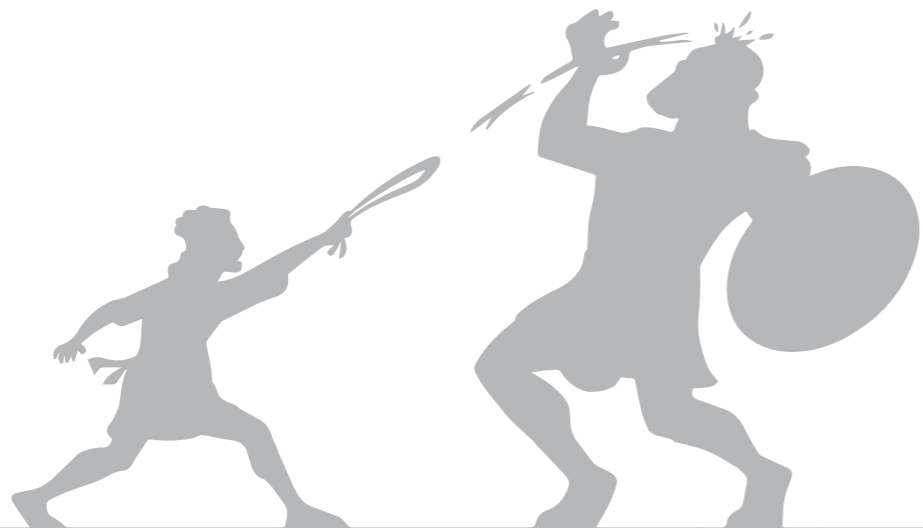
那么大卫在这舞台初次登场时有什么身份？他是送食物和消息的小伙子。对于那令大家都逃跑的恐惧，他没有非面对不可的责任。他可以仅仅完成自己被托付的任务后，就赶紧逃命，不需要以身犯险。可是，我们不一定只需要身份来提醒自己究竟是谁。即使大卫没有被直接辱骂，他把以色列人的羞辱当成是自己的。别人的失责让他寻思自己在这非常时刻需要做些什么。合一的精神和集体的意识，让他不会拘泥于自己平常的身份。这是我们都需要向他学习的地方。圣职人员和教会的职务会有照料羊群的责任。我们的教会里也会有不少有经验和广受认同的工人。但是，这不意味着我们在教会没有自己需要扮演的角色。身份是对其连带责任的提醒。可责任不仅仅来自于身份，也在乎我们与神以及祂儿女的关系。既然我们是基督身体的一部分，无论当前的需要是什么，我们都要参与其中。我们不可说这与我们无关。

难免的一定有人会问大卫是不是假厉害。他确实不具备被认可的身份。你能够想象食物快递的年轻小伙子溜进去去董事会去主持会

议吗？当他如美国队长般高呼“复仇者集结”，你会预期所有人都听从他的话，并且得到激励？不会的！这就是为什么大卫会被他的哥哥们小看和嘲讽。然而，当扫罗得知大卫属灵的个性和经历，他和其他人不会再怀疑大卫的能力。我们也不应该让人小看我们年轻，而要在我们的属灵美德和长处显出榜样来。我们在灵性和智慧的追求，迟早能说服其他人，让他们知道我们已经准备好承担更大的责任。

我们常听见许多人说“能力越大，责任越大”。歌利亚从年轻就是战士。他从年轻就能在战场上存活到现在，表现出他作战的能力有多强。我们也知道他拥有可怕的作战装备。大卫真的能应付他的对手吗？扫罗的配备应该是全以色列国最好的。但是，因为大卫的体格太小，所以这些配备都不适合。这就让大卫没有正常的防护。大卫的武器是杖、机弦和五颗光滑的石子。这杖用来欺负小猫小狗应该还蛮称手的，但是要对付一个巨人就……？要准确的计算弹道运作并用机弦来发射石子不是件容易的事。我们看了那么多往年的考题，在生命无虑的情况下，都不一定能够常常在物理考试有很好的表现。大卫要如何奔向歌利亚时，还能够冷静的计算？以机弦为武器的人没有办法在前几发就命中是很常见的事。就算大卫很幸运，能够打中歌利亚的身体。当我们考虑到歌利亚有那些厚重且周全的防护装备，我们也知道大卫的光滑石子不可能像箭矢或标枪那样穿透铠甲并伤害歌利亚。如果大卫不能在首发就命中歌利亚的脸部，歌利亚以铜戟或铁枪随手一刺，就能毫无悬念地让没有防护的大卫去见他的列祖列宗了。完蛋了。但事情其实就是这么简单。可是，这是一场胜利由物理之外的因素所决定的属灵战争。大卫真正所依赖的是万军之耶和華的名。能够奇妙的杀死可怕巨人的石子，是神对于大卫信赖的回应。这信靠也能在我们被神呼召来参与祂的任务时，使我们能装备好足以完成责任的能力。所以，让我们勇敢的面对困难与挑战！

我们如何看待我们的责任是很重要的事。缺乏身份、认同以及个人能力，不是我们逃避呼召的藉口。假设我们真的珍惜我们跟神以及弟兄姐妹的关系，并愿意追求在灵性的进步，且常常依靠神，完成责任将会是蒙福的享受！



信仰的传承

方顛茹



箴廿二16)「教养孩童，使他走当行的道，就是到老他不偏离。」孩子，是神赐给我们的礼物，也是神所託付的产业，要人们生养敬虔的下一代，能照著神的形像一代一代繁衍下来。因此，教养的基本精神，就是带领孩子走当行的「道」，也就是走在「信仰」的路上。那麼，我们要如何将信仰传承下去？

「以色列啊，你要听。耶和华我们神是独一的主...我今日所吩咐你的话，都要记在心上，也要殷勤教训你的儿女，无论你坐在家裏，行在路上，躺下，起来，都要谈论。」(申命记六4-7)这是神晓谕以色列人的命令，要他们听从、铭记、谨守、遵行，更要他们以身作则，将信仰模範传承下去。信仰即是生活，教养子女必须将信仰融入生活，我们可以从以下几点来努力：

在生活中设立一的模型：安排与神亲近的时间

主耶稣在十二岁时，照著每年节期的规矩，与父母同上耶路撒冷守逾越节，守满了节期，众人都回去了，只有耶稣仍留在圣殿，在教师中间一边听一边学习(路二41)。主耶稣的生身父母在婴孩耶稣出生後，满了洁净的日子，就带著他到耶路撒冷，要按照律法献上，可见他们对神的虔诚，而这样的事奉态度也在教养孩子的日常生活中持续，每年按照节期带著孩子到耶路撒冷，与神亲近。

现代的爸妈是否向耶稣的父母看齐呢？我们虽然不守旧约节期，但教会每週的安息日聚会、宗教教育课，是否都带孩子来到教会参

需要教他们(路二46-48)

当耶稣的父母看到他坐在教师中间，一边听一边问时，焦急的心情可想而知，但他们并没有马上衝上去喝斥他一番，而是观察他的一切言行。当他们见到众人对耶稣的发问和应对啧啧称奇时，他们也感到希奇；当耶稣母亲问他为何让大人伤心时，耶稣回答「岂不知我应当以我父的事为念吗？」，母亲虽不明白，却把一切的事都存在心里。马利亚知道耶稣不是普通的孩子，但她并没有因孩子看似叛逆的态度而生气，也没有因为孩子的聪明应对而得意，她仍然坚持著教养的本分，努力将孩子带到主前。不只是长子耶稣，也包括了其他孩子，雅雅各和犹大。雅各在使徒行传记载中，为著外邦人信主应否受割礼及遵守种种犹太律法，在耶稣撒冷会议中提出重要发言(徒十五13-20)；而在犹大书中，犹大在书信开头即自称是「耶

加？再来，半年一次的灵恩会(属灵节期)，以及一年一度的儿童圣经营、神学训练班等...教会的各样活动，我们是否都註记在行事曆上，鼓励孩子报名参加？

有些父母期望孩子未来有好的生活，很重视学业，安排了许多补习，把孩子的时间填满，却忘记甚至忽略了安排孩子与神亲近的时间，实在可惜。我们最珍惜最能传承永久的，其实就是信仰。因此，父母要从孩子小时就设立一个信仰的模型，让他学习亲近神，不但为他设立，也为自己设立，要父(母)子(女)同行。

稣基督的僕人，雅各的兄弟犹大。」，可见他也传承了良好的家庭宗教信仰(犹1)。

我们当竭力教养训诲与管教孩子，这虽然不是一件容易的事，但我们若有心，在教养的事上常祷告交託神，神必会为我们开路。「你们做父亲的，不要惹儿女的气，只要照著主的教训和警戒，养育他们。」(弗六4)以弗所书说得清楚，要照著主的教训来管教孩子，意即是要跟著主脚踪行，在主爱中涵养更多爱心，主必使我们智慧、有信心、有能力，让我们的孩子有受教的心、听道的耳，以及行道的脚。

期待孩子的成长

Dn. Matthias Ho
Klang Church

成长是每个生命必经的过程，为人父母者更希望自己孩子的成长，能够朝着他们期待的方向或目标。而孩子们，则想要一个没有压力，没有物质缺乏，随心所欲的成长。身为天父的孩子，我们会希望有什么样的成长？什么样的成长，是附合圣经的，是神所喜悦的？圣经中记载了一些人的成长经历，值得我们学习他们的榜样。

1 撒母耳的成长 - 在神面前的成长

因为母亲的许愿，小小年几的撒母耳，断奶后就被送到殿里，终身归于神。撒母耳并没有因为要与母亲分开而哭闹，反而乖巧顺服的在圣殿里学习服侍。他母亲一年一次的为他做一件小外袍，他就在神前面一面学习一面长大。

孩子撒母耳，“在耶和華面前渐渐长大”(撒上2:21)。现今的世代邪恶，社会上有许多诱惑人心的事。又因为网络媒体发达，我们无法完全的避免孩子接触到这一些负面的资讯。唯有让孩子在主里长大，从小学习并认识神的话语，使神的话语刻在他们的心板上，在遇到试探或遭难的日子，或可以让他们想起神的话，得以保守他们。

“孩子撒母耳渐渐长大，耶和華与人越发喜爱他”(撒上2:26)。在主里成长的孩子，会懂得敬畏神，亲爱人。在生活当中，得神和人的喜爱。神也必定常与他同在。“耶和華与他同在，使他所说的话，一句都不落空”(撒上3:19)。

2 但以理的成长 - 持守圣洁的成长

少年时被掳到埃及，立志不以王的膳和王所饮的酒玷污自己。

“但以理却立志不以王的膳和王所饮的酒玷污自己，所以求太监长容他不玷污自己。神使但以理在太监长眼前蒙恩惠，受怜悯。”(但1 :8-9) 年少的但以理，处在王宫荣华富贵的环境里，又有名利地位摆在前面诱惑，却选择了保守自己，让自己在神的圣洁里成长。但以理被掳到埃及是他不能抗衡的，被选进王宫也不是他的选择。虽然环境因素不是我们所能掌控，但我们的心却是可以作出对应的抉择，我们是选择与环境妥协或是持守神的道呢？这需要我们对神道理的认识，懂得分别为圣。同时也出于对神的信心，深信神必会为一个愿意为持守真理而面对困境的人开路。

从以上圣经中的例子，孩子的信仰基础必须从小建立。而每一位在他周遭的人，父母长辈，宗教教员，包括孩子本身，都要往这方向努力，让孩子与神建立了关系后，就能好好的把他交托在神手中。就像提摩太，从小明白圣经，心里有外祖母和母亲所传给他的无伪之信，长大了，成为保罗的好同工。

3 大卫的成长 - 充满信仰体验的成长

少年时为父亲放羊。在许多放羊的日子当中，过著体验神同在的生活。神成为了大卫自己的神。

“大卫对扫罗说：你仆人为父亲放羊，有时来了狮子，有时来了熊，从群中衔一只羊羔去。我就追赶它，击打它，将羊羔从它口中救出来。它起来要害我，我就揪着它的胡子，将它打死。你仆人曾打死狮子和熊，这未受割礼的非利士人向永生神的军队骂阵，也必像我脱离这非利士人的手。扫罗对大卫说：你可以去罢！耶和華必与你同在。”(撒上17:34-37)生活的经历让大卫知道是神的帮助，他才能胜过狮子和熊。这切实的信仰体验让他的信仰深深的扎根，成为他日后勇敢挑战哥利亚的依据。让孩子参与并认识生活中遇到的困境，并带领他们参与祷告和交托，使他们学习体会神的带领和作为，这些信仰体验，将会为他们建立日后信仰的坚固的根基。而神再也不只是父母亲的神，也是孩子的神。

4 主耶稣的成长 - 智慧与身量并重，神和人喜悦的成长

“孩子渐渐长大，强健起来，充满智慧，又有神的恩在他身上，智慧和身量，并神和人喜爱他的心，都一齐增长”(路2:40, 52)

孩童耶稣在圣殿里，坐在教师中间，一面听，一面问。专心不断的追求属灵的知识。孩子的成长过程，除了学习世上的知识，生活的技能，更重要的是学习圣经里属灵的智识。让神的话语充满我们，生命中有得救的智慧。成大长人，能够分辨是非，不被异教之风吹来吹去。

原住民辅导营2018

沈舒晴
中级班，博大宁教会

哈利路亚，奉主耶稣圣名分享我在原住民辅导营的經歷。原住民辅导营是在十二月十六日至二十三日二零一八年，于怡宝 真耶稣教会举行。感谢主的恩典，辅导营能顺利完成，所有的学员都留著泪离开教会。在辅导营刚开始的时候，许多学员都决定明年不会来参加，但在要离开时他们都非常不捨。这辅导营的目的是为了加强他们的学业，为他们建立稳固的基础，希望他们回去后能继续独立学习。今年的学员比去年的学员多了八位，学员的年龄是九至十三岁。辅导营总共有十五位工作人员和十七位学员。原住民辅导营由佩娟姐妹 来负责，就如去年。

这原住民辅导营全程以国语为主。通过这次的辅导营，我看见了教会的需要。因为我们有着越来越多的原住民信徒，教会需要更多能善言马来语的工人。从这辅导营，我发现原来善于马来语对圣工会带来很大的帮助。我以前非常讨厌马来文，经常忽略它，以为考完马来西亚教育文凭考试后就可以摆脱国语。但神有祂美好的旨意。所以我想鼓励那些还在念书的弟兄姐妹们，趁还来得及赶紧学好马来文，以后能为主做圣工。因为我并不善于说马来语，要与学员拉近关系是不容易。虽然我并不能与他们沟通得非常通顺，但学员们都非常热情与积极地和我分享他们的故事，这样拉近了我们之前的距离。孩子们都非常开朗，他们表现出孩子该有的天真和聪明。虽然我遇上语言的沟通障碍，但感谢神赐我力量完成这份圣工，也感谢神赐我服侍祂的机会。这辅导营是为了那些原住民的孩子而举办的，但是它不只是造就了学员们也造就了所有的工作人员。通过这次的原住民辅导营，我学习了如何侍奉神，也学习了该如何做才能在未来的日

子做出更好的侍奉。

我之所以会来协助这辅导营是因为一位姐妹的邀请。我知道这辅导营会全程以马来文为主，但我并没有想到自己会需要开口说许多话，因为我只是被通知要教音乐课而已。在十二月十四日的早晨，中区的工作人员从八打灵教会出发到怡保教会。中午抵达后，我们就开始准备学员与工作人员的寝室。接下来的两天协调员将被受训关于学员的学习课程，也给他们时间准备教材。在十二月十五日，全体工作人员出发到打巴教会参加安息日聚会。我们专程到那里不只是为了要探访我们的学员，也是为了提前瞭解他们和他们的生活环境。就在我们刚下车时，从远处传来了呼叫Eunice姐妹的声音。那里的信徒和小朋友都非常热情，他们的诗班也献唱了几首诗歌。那个地方比我想象中好许多，他们都有基本的设施，比如厕所，厨房和风扇。在我们聚会的地方是一间稳固的木屋，非常舒服和清凉，因为我们被树林包围。但信徒的住处并非如此舒适，他们只有一个小小的空间。在那空间就是他们吃，睡，活动的地方，而且还需要与许多人一挤在一起。我感到惭愧，因为我从来都不珍惜我所拥有的一切。我多年来所白白接受的好教育是他们眼中遥不可及的东西，他们没有机会受完善的教育。

当孩子们抵达怡保教会时，我们欢迎他们也向他们介绍自己。早上学员们将上四堂学业课，也就是马来语，英语和数学。每位协调员需要负责两到三位学员。学员是以第一天小考的分数来分组，以便教学进度能更快。为了让教学更有趣，协调员和老师会准备有趣的游戏和教材，让学生能更加投入去学习。所有的工作人员都尽心

尽力预备最好的给学员。我们都常常将这份圣工的事放在祷告里交给给神，因为我们知道神会在这份圣工上带领我们。在下午学员会继续上比较轻松的课，比如音乐课，生活技能课，宗教教育课和运动。让学员们上音乐课是希望至少他们其中一位以后能在教会侍奉，当司琴。关于生活技能课，学员们能选择上烹饪课或者裁缝课。出乎预料的是，六个男孩有五个都选择裁缝课而所有的女生都选择烹饪课。这生活技能课的目的是为了让他们以后能有些谋生的技能。学员大致上都煮得不错，我们只需要改正他们，叫他们如何正确地使用刀子，锅和其他的厨房用具。

我和陈弟兄负责教诗颂时间。我们用郭姐妹所提议的一首国语诗，“Kasih yang Mempersatukan Kita”，来教学员们唱。我们原以为一堂诗颂时间一首诗就够了，但是我们并没有预料到大多数的学员都会唱那首诗了。所以我得必须改变计划，我邀请张姐妹和拉结姐妹来帮我解释那首诗歌的意思，然后我继续教下一首诗。在接下来的几天，我们教他们配歌的动作也引用小活动让气氛更活泼。除了唱诗赞美神，他们也用总会送他们的口琴来赞美神。每位学员的都有一把口琴，Kalil弟兄负责教他们吹口琴。虽然他们还无法吹出一首完整的诗歌，但我们希望他们回去后会继续练习。我吩咐学员们让他们在休息的时候练习唱我所教的歌，我也常常听见他们在厕所里唱。但是让他们在大家面前唱，他们会非常害羞。他们在闭幕典礼必须献唱几首诗歌，但因他们害羞的缘故，他们唱得比较小声。

运动时间永远都是学员们最期待的时段。每天的活动都是由不同的协调员准备。

这八天里，他们都玩了许多游戏，有拔河，爆气球，躲避球还有其他游戏。所有的工作人员也都会与他们一起玩游戏，所以在短短的这几天我们与学员们亲近了许多。我们一起与他们睡觉，吃饭，玩耍，祷告和上课。前两晚，我们都必须帮一些学员们洗头髮，因为他们头髮里有许多虱。我们用了大概两到三小时才洗完了八位学员的头髮，虽然很累，但我们希望他们能在洗头后感到比较舒服。这对我们来说也是一种新的体验，这是我第一次帮别人洗去头髮上的虱。

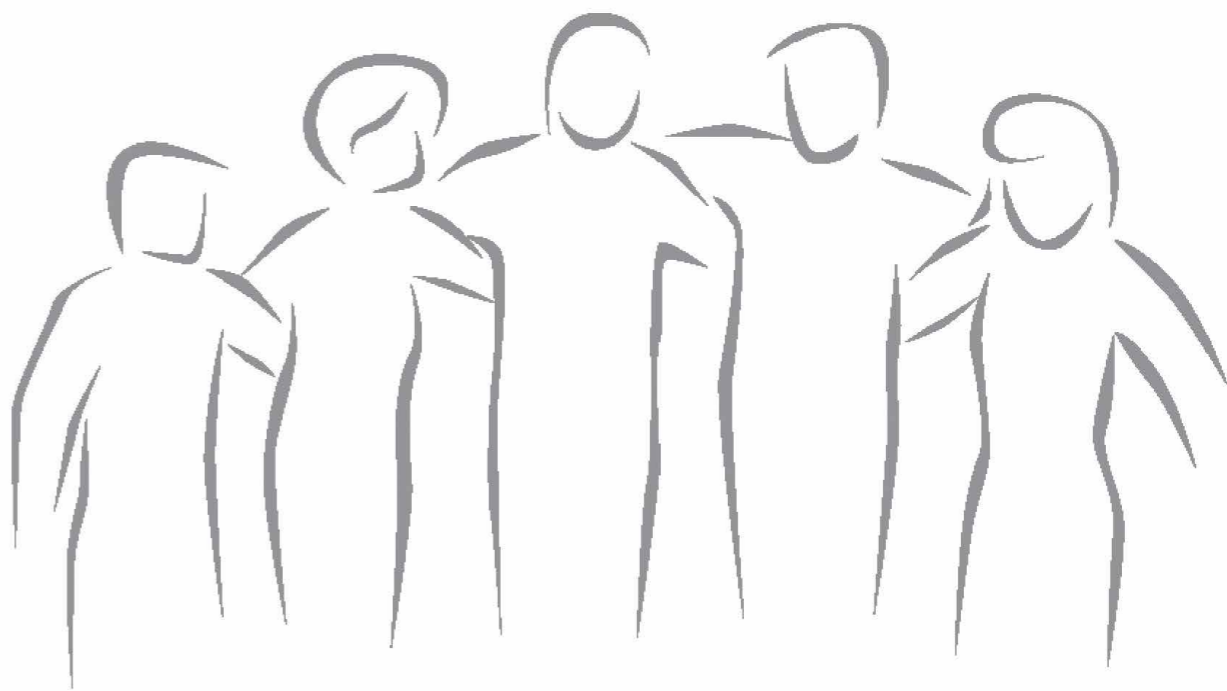
在十二月二十二日，我们办了营火会当作我们的告别会。孩子们绕著营火跑，边握著手边唱著诗歌。Maggie姐妹与其他的工作人员为我们准备了许多食物，比如酸辣海鲜，烧烤鷄翅膀、培根、番薯及饮料。大家都尽情地享受在

一起的最后一晚。

最后一天，我们带学员们出外参观怡宝的历史景点。每位学员都被分派给一位工作人员看顾，以免在出游时遗漏了哪一位学员。我们参观了市政厅，何人可博物馆还有怡保的老街。我们用了一整个早上来参观这些地方。参观了何人可博物馆后，他们请大家喝几杯不同口味的何人可茶。工作人员都非常享受地喝，而学员们都不喜爱茶里苦涩的味道。当我们穿梭在繁忙的老街上，我们也不忘买一些小吃给学员们。大概在早上十一点，我们返回怡保教会举行闭营礼。当我们在看Seth弟兄所做的影片，许多人的眼睛都湿了，大家都不捨得离开。在我们还没有吃午餐前，每位工作人员将礼物分给学员们。我们在前一天出门买了不少的礼物给学员们。我们买的都是笔记本，铅笔盒还

有文具，而佩娟姐妹买了水瓶和比较实际的东西。吕弟兄还画了一本非常精緻的英文小册子让学生回去读。我们希望送了学员们这些礼物后，他们会有动力读好书。

午餐后，我们把学员们送回他们各自的住处，然后开始打扫教会。打扫后，我们开始做检讨会。我们感谢神一路的带领，让我们顺利地完成了这辅导营，使我们能帮助原住民学生的课业。我们也会继续为他们代祷，希望他们能进步得更快。感谢主的恩典，从这原住民辅导营我体会到神的爱，神的爱比宇宙还伟大，不同的种族和肤色不能使我们与神的爱隔绝。一切荣耀都归于神，阿门。



青年神学 训练研讨会 -它教会了我什么？

Jason, 中级班
八打灵教会

哈利路亚，我大声奉耶稣的名，分享。

感谢神，我能够于2018年12月16日从第40届青少年神学训练课程（YTTC）毕业，因此，我想分享我在YTTC这三年的个人经历。在我加入YTTC的第一年之前，我非常幼稚和不负责任，我总会跳过安息日聚会和不将教会的工作办好。在第一年YTTC期间，我经常受到传道人，协调员和同伴们的斥责和教训。在课程中，我学习到如果我们称自己为“基督徒”，为何我们却没有基督徒的行为呢？我思念和思考所听的道理，之后我改变了态度，开始以成熟和责任心行事，我感觉很好，不仅是我因此结交了更多的朋友，并且我也感觉到更亲近了神。当课程结束时，我真的感受到自己有了很大的变化，就好像一个齿轮在我脑中终于找到了其正确的位置！

当时我确实很期待第二年YTTC的开始，但我更像是期盼着与朋友相遇而不是学习神的话。第一周是白白地度过，没有太多的兴奋或热情。然后，传道人讲述了神学课程的目的，即我们主要是学习神的话，而不仅仅是见我们的朋友。我在这个事情上思念和思考，我感到非常愧疚，没有神同在的团契就如扔下你亲爱的同伴，自己一个人看电影去了。因此我开始认真对待神学课程。即使我仍然在课堂上睡觉，但我依然学到很多东西，每当有团契时，我会把耶稣放在第一位。

接着到来的是YTTC第三年，也是最后的一年，我的心情很沉重，许多令人担忧的念头出现在我脑海，例如“我将无法再回到橄榄园”，“我再也看不到我的朋友”等等，但是当我继续在课程中学习时，我明白了虽然我担心这些事情，其实神早已安排好同灵们很快再次相见的计划。在个人布道班里，有些事情激动了我的内心，给我开辟了一条新的道路，使我可以继续学习和侍奉神。

YTTC也有令人忧伤的事，在第一年的学生列队里，我们曾有41位成员，第二年人数下滑到40位，第三年再进一步掉到35位，尽管列队里有同伴们离开了教会，但仍留下35位精英继续服侍神。尽管这忧伤挥之不去，但是我们可以做出改变的，如果你看见你的战友们跌倒，帮助他们，带领他们归向神而不是仅仅归向教会，鼓励他们参加神学课程，这不但会坚固他们的信仰并且可以增加他们的圣经知识。

我的分享到此，愿所有荣耀归于神，阿门！

青年神学 训练班 对我来说意味着什么。。。

Wilson Hee, 中级班
八打灵教会

哈利路亚，奉耶稣的名我在此分享。

作为2017年青少年神学训练班（YTTC）的毕业生，我想分享几句话和想法。

许多人会认为YTTC就像一场噩梦，因为人们必须将手机和各种电子设备交出来三个星期，这意味着一个人将与世隔绝！然而，有了这个规则，我们才真正能够更接近神，我们不会受到任何世界问题的影响，我们可以真正平息我们的心灵和思想来敬拜神并学习祂的话语。传道们为我们准备了课程，并全心全意地教导我们，好让我们成为基督的精兵，为主争战，并将福音传给别人。YTTC让我们可以学习在REU课程中我们无法学习到的东西，并让我们更多地了解真理，以建立坚实的基础。

除了属灵的食粮，我们也可以在这个过程中成为属灵的同伴，因为我们都知道两个人总比一个人好。在这个信心旅途中，我们必须有一起同行的同伴与我们相互支持。YTTC让我有机会见到来自整个马来西亚的兄弟姐妹，特别是来自沙巴和沙捞越州的同灵。在为期三周的三年中，因为我们一起学习，吃饭和玩乐，所以我特别珍惜同灵彼此团契的时间。YTTC也是建立我们个性和态度的地方。在整个课程中，我注意到了我心爱的朋友们的一些变化，大家都学会了更多的爱，更多的宽容和更多的责任感。

我希望将要毕业或仍然在课程中的晚辈同学们，在学习的时后要全神关注，永远不要忘记对传福音工作有很重要的教训，要披上神的盔甲和不可忘记谴责，因为这会使我们成为神更好的儿女。此外，记住与弟兄们一起度过的美好难忘的时光，当你面对生活中的困难时，我相信他们总会在你身边，为你伸出援助之手和一双倾听的耳朵。基督里的同伴总会比你在社会中的朋友更好，尽量与每个人保持联系，彼此关心并为彼此的需要代祷，特别是那些信心软弱的同灵。每当我在生活中感到迷茫时，我都会在我们所唱过的赞美诗中回想起这些回忆，最重要的是，要在教会里和众弟兄姐妹当中找到归属感。对于那些已经毕业的人，记住要永远为主发光，参与更多的圣工，在任何方面都要尽心尽力尽性尽意地服侍神。

我的分享到此，愿所有荣耀都归于神，阿门。



见证

(巴占教会)

林苑瞳

奉主耶稣圣名作见证。我是林苑瞳。今年16岁。来自巴占真耶稣教会。我要作的见证是我家信主的过程。

在40多年前，爷爷奶奶为了保爸爸（林文杰弟兄）平安，在他两岁时，给他戴上佛牌。但每一次戴上佛牌后，爸爸都会发烧，因此就不再给他佩戴。六岁那年，奶奶带他去算命。算命先生说，爸爸只能活到十岁。爷爷奶奶非常恐慌，算命先生提议他们在家里摆置不同的偶像。他们质疑这种做法，所以没这么做。算命先生也吩咐奶奶给爸爸佩戴一条银脚链。他们听从了，可是系在脚上的银链子不到一天就不知去向。奶奶再买了一条让他戴上，但隔天同样又掉了。换一条比较粗，比较坚固的银脚链，可是几天后也一样弄丢了。奶奶不禁心想：“偶像真的可以帮助加长孩子的寿命吗？”

当时，叔公是信徒，属双溪大年真耶稣教会。教会举办灵恩会时，他带着奶奶一家人去参加。奶奶祷告的时候，圣灵大大感动。之后，他们一家人便常到教会聚会。奶奶未受洗，在家常常求圣灵。一天，她求圣灵，带着求不到圣灵就起身的心志祈求。突然，一道强烈的光从上照下，她就在当时受圣灵。她带着全家去受洗，包括爷爷的家人（浸信会信徒）。

如今，我的爸爸已经47岁了。感谢神的鸿恩，带领我们全家信主。

愿一切荣耀，权柄，尊贵归主名，阿门。

江俊毅

奉主耶稣圣名作见证。我要作的见证是我家是如何信主的。我是江俊毅。今年15岁。来自巴占真耶稣教会。

我的爷爷是江路加执事。爷爷原本是一个其他教会信徒。在他阅读圣经时，发现圣经记载着有关圣灵之事，但是在那间教会没有感受到圣灵。爷爷也问过他们的牧师，可是牧师也没有给他正确的答复。

有一次，他路过真耶稣教会时，他停下脚步，走进教会里。他进到会堂时听到信徒唱诗觉得很安宁。他感受到神。过后，爷爷就来教会慕道。感谢神带领爷爷到真耶稣教会，阿门。

曾祎晨

我是曾祎晨，今年15岁。我的教会是巴占教会，我的爷爷是曾锦发。

爷爷小时候，大概10个月大时得过重病。有一天，他突然病发，呼吸困难。真耶稣教会的信徒得知后便带爷爷一家到教会祷告。当时曾祖母抱着爷爷迫切地祷告，但很不幸，爷爷在家人和信徒祷告时突然断气。他们却仍不放弃，坚持继续祷告。突然爷爷又有了呼吸。

那时候的爷爷瘦得像皮包骨，皮肤也干巴巴的，耳朵又发炎，常流出有臭味的浓水，外

人都不敢靠近。曾祖父的朋友说：“这孩子的病若能被治好，咸鱼也会翻身。”一天兵如港中医师，刘弟兄两夫妇就劝爷爷一家信耶稣。之后他们便受洗了。洗礼一完毕，还是个婴儿的爷爷就能把一瓶奶喝完。渐渐地，再也没吃药，没看医生的情况下，爷爷的病情有了好转。蒙主医治的爷爷，严重发炎的耳朵被治好了，主为爷爷留下印记，长大后他的耳朵虽有点不灵光，但对爷爷的生活没带来什么大问题。

感谢主耶稣的大恩典，爷爷活到了75岁才离世。以上是我家爷爷信主的经过。



同心合意/团结

陶志宣
中级班, 梳邦教会

在青年神学·训练班的某一天, 我忽然病倒了并有轻微的发烧。起初我以为是小事就继续上课。但不久之后, 发烧加激, 因此我就回寝室休息。经过短暂的休息之后, 我到楼下参加活动, 但我的身体当时是非常的虚弱导致我不能参与任何的活动, 故此我只好坐在餐厅作无边的遐想将近一小时。

传道目睹我的请况就嘱咐我到寝室休息, 但我当时感到非常疲乏并且慵困。我就告诉我在那儿稍事休息就可以了。

不久之后, 因为无所事事而感到很闷, 我就决定到课室取一本书来绘图。它耗费了我许多精力才到达课室, 当我踏入课室时已经是精疲力竭了。我拖着满蹒的脚步来到我的座位并伏在椅子上有如它是我的床垫。过后, 我起身并尝试拿出我的绘画本, 但我的脑子感到混沌, 於是我又伏在桌上睡觉。

当时我已经全身无力, 我的头感到非常的热而四肢乏力。我已经不想再做什么事了。不久



之后, 有人进教室并目睹我的情况。我似乎听见他说: “他为何在此睡觉呢?” 他就触摸我的颈部: “哇! 非常的烫热! 快叫辅导员来!”

辅导员火速的拿着温度计来到我身边并尝试叫醒我, 当时我的温度是高烧40度。站在身旁的朋友见此情况就匆忙的出去告知其他同学。

过后我看见我的朋友们逐一的进入课室并神色忧伤。过后他们就开始祷告。当我看见我的朋友们聚集一起为我祷告时, 我的内心非常感

动。但让我惊讶的是当我回头看时, 我看到人头涌涌, 整个课室被挤得水泄不通 (差不多半数的学生都在那儿)。只通过一个信息, 所有人都恳切的为我祷告, 当时我能够感受到弟兄姐妹们的爱心。

过后, 我被送到医院。当我们抵达医院时, 我的温度已经下降并回复到36.70度。

感谢神的医治, 我由此可看出神的爱及弟兄姐妹们的心, 也让我知道我孤单。阿们。

青年到关丹协助布道会

何文涛
初级班, 巴生教会



于十二月二十一日, 早上八点, 我们共12人集合在巴生教会, 准备前往关丹协助布道会。出发前我们向神祈祷, 让我们一切顺利, 平安到达关丹的祈祷所。当我们抵达祈祷所时, 我好奇知道会有多少位信徒, 而人数是超过我的预想。那里共有十一位信徒, 包括五口之家, 有一名丈夫、妻子、两位小孩和一个婴孩。其中母亲和两位孩子已接受洗礼成为教会信徒。只是父亲和那位婴孩却还未接受本会的洗礼。我们在祈祷所与当地信徒守安息日并举行了布道会。布道会是由何西阿传道主领, 总共有25人出席。布道会后, 我们就四处寻找可以洗礼的地方。之后我们就到一家餐馆享用晚餐。

于星期日早上七点半, 我们出发到海边进行洗礼。我感到很惊讶因那位爸爸同意让婴孩接受洗礼。洗礼进行的时候, 我们一同唱诗。进行圣礼后我们就回教会。虽然洗礼进行的极快, 但感谢主的恩典, 藉着祂的救恩把更多的羊领进羊圈。在教会也施行了洗脚礼, 接着我们就清洗教会, 之后才收拾回去。

我相信神会眷顾并带领关丹的信徒, 能坚强并在信仰上有坚固的根基。我希望那位爸爸能在将来也进入羊圈。



志愿工作报告

郭谦慧
中级班, 巴生教会

哈利路亚奉主耶稣圣名分享我在今年志愿工作的经验。经过了九日第四年的神学训练班, 七位学员紧接着参加这志愿工作。其中三位是弟兄, 分别是来自加影先锋镇的但以理弟兄, 来自马口的吴洛谦弟兄和来自巴央巴汝的陈德仁弟兄。何何西阿传道带领着这三位弟兄在中区侍奉。来自波德中的林彩君姐妹和巴生的黄歆真姐妹跟随尼希米传道到北区侍奉。最后一组就是来自博大宁的我, 郭谦慧和沈舒晴姐妹跟随吕那鸿传道在南区进行侍奉。

两组的学员在打扫完毕后就出发前往各自的区域, 我和沈舒晴姐妹却在波德申橄榄园开始了这份工作。舒晴姐妹在当日星期五的晚间聚会分享了她的道理。在聚会过后, 那鸿传道都会给我们一些评论好让我们可以进步我们的缺点。我和舒晴姐妹会轮流翻译和讲道的工作。我们在一月十二日离开了波德申, 花了三小时的车程抵达峇株巴辖的祈祷所。感谢主让我在这路程当中可以复习我的讲义却没感到头晕。我们在那里享了圣餐。在未探访当地的教会时, 传道分享了有关当地教会的历史给我们听, 以及探访时应该注意的事项。

探访了峇株巴辖后我们便前往士古来教会, 我和舒晴姐妹在这段志工时本应居住在士古来教会但是由于夜晚时非常宁静, 对于我们两位姐妹在没有大人的陪同下也比较危险。因此吕那鸿传道的父亲便建议我们居住在传道的家。我们乐意的接受了这邀请。传道的家人替我们清理了就寝的房间也竭尽全力让房间零灰尘因为我和舒晴姐妹都有非常敏感的鼻子。我们非常感激他们的辛劳。

在还未前往教会, 我们享用了简单的早餐。到了教会, 我们会先查经和祷告。之后我们会准备讲义, 分享和清理。南区的教会只有有星期五的晚间聚会和星期六的安息日聚会。所以我们会在平日跟随传道探访教会信徒以及学习如何来关心信徒。

在饮食方面, 午餐都会在外面享用而传道娘, 禧慧姐妹会为我们准备晚餐。传道娘都会问我们喜欢吃什么, 然后我们所说的菜肴就会在晚餐时出现。舒晴姐妹都会尝试把桌上的菜肴吃完因此她都会吃得比我多。虽然冬至已过但我们竟然还可吃到汤圆因为我实在太想要吃了。在这段时间里, 我们不只是在做工而已, 我们也有时间来休闲和享乐。我们有机会和符文涛弟兄和卓恣荟姐妹, 短期神学训练班的同学会一会。与他们叙旧和述说当年一起在波德申的回忆实在是很好。我们也参观了柔佛的一些博物馆让我们大开眼界。

我在这次的志愿工作里学习了许多, 我学习到了为主做工需要非常多的精力。最苦难的时候就是准备讲义。第一次站在讲台上传达道理让我很害怕。脑海里一直担心着万一我说错了, 万一我翻译错圣经和万一他们不明白我所要表达的信息。脑子里实在是出现了太多的“万一”。传道告诉我们不必担心太多, 反而应该多祷告, 求神带领把他的话语放入我们嘴里。我们还是需要做好我们准备的工作不过到最后我们还是依靠神。此外, 我们因为探访的工作感到疲惫, 我和舒晴姐妹感到非常的尴尬因为我们不认识那里的信徒所以不知道该说什么。感谢神信徒都非常亲切让我们不必那么尴尬。

除此之外, 这一次的志愿工作也让我看到了不同的情景。我觉得我在中

区的生活非常舒服, 人群很多所以我不觉得孤独。然我意外的是南区的教会是非常缺乏人力的。我以为他们和我们一样。现实中, 他们缺乏工人因为多数的人都会来到中区求学或做工。有些教会缺乏宗教教育老师教导小孩子, 一些就缺乏钢琴师, 一些缺乏翻译员。这显示了我们需要非常多的乐意的工人到别的区域协助当地的圣工, 也需要更多的训练以便更多人可以肩起神的工作。这样大家方可进步和神的独一无二教会才能成长。虽然真耶稣教会建立了100年但还是很多的工作未完成。

虽然这志愿工作的时间不长, 但是我从中学了非常多。在这里我想感谢总会以及那鸿传道的家人在这边十四天里把我们照顾得很好。有机会参加这个工作是个非常大的祝福, 我也鼓励较小的神学班学员也参加这工作。相信我, 你绝不会后悔。我也诚心希望我在这工作时所学习到的东西可以应用在教会活动里。

我的分享到此, 愿一切荣耀归于主。



给予八打灵马大服侍组的感激

Rachel Yee
少年班，八打灵教会

确实没有什么可以像食物一样把我们聚集在一起，
分享喜乐和良善使心情轻松愉快，
满是味道的开心压缩成一口，
从炒面到蛋糕制作如此的柔软轻盈，
感谢您在主内的慷慨服侍，
我们可以合一的在你们食物里得到喜悦，
教会愿表达无限的感激，
正如我们的主神在众人中祝福您们，
是的，您的食物将美妙的和谐给予了众人，
新鲜水果，寿司，炒粿条，粥和鱼丸，
从亚参叻沙到巧克力蛋糕等，
和每一口的美味佳肴，
在耶稣的名下我们更加紧密地靠近，
彼此的紧密关系也因您不断的喂养得到建立，
我们祈求另外一个幸福的一年，
充满爱，祝福，陪伴和乐趣，
在基督身体您是一个重要的肢体，
我们离不开您，这是从我们内心深处发出的感言，
因为您像工厂一样不知疲倦地工作，
因此我们非常感谢您所给予的美好回忆。

愿神祝福您，新年快乐！

作为一个基督徒父母

Vivian Wong

奉主耶稣圣名分享我身为基督徒父母的经历。首先，我不确定作为父母将近10年的我是否有资格分享我的经验。有几十年经验的父母肯定能够取代我的养育经历。然而，我确实相信，当我们分享我们的经验时，总会学习到一些东西因为我们可以互相造就对方。

我的儿子马太今年将满10岁。他是一个快乐的孩子，喜欢讲笑话，喜欢网球，足球，篮球和攀岩，在体育运动方面很有竞争力，而更具体地说是在圣经问答比赛的时后，喜欢弹钢琴但并不很喜欢小提琴，对于数学有着爱恨交织的关系并且不喜欢阅读。马太喜欢上学，但如果你问他一周中最喜欢的是哪一天，他会告诉你星期六，因为那天他在教会可以遇见他最好朋友。我很高兴马太喜欢去教会，他最亲密的朋友都是来自教会的朋友。

当我们的孩子在一个基督徒的家庭成长时，我们要经常把他们带去教会是重要的，与他们谈论神的话语，通过日常的事件，暗示他们神的教训，与他们一起祷告和阅读圣经，更重要的是提醒他们嫁娶主内。即使马太只不过将近10岁，但我一直在他的脑海里注入他必须娶来自教会的女孩。如果你不介意这词语，我认为这年龄开始灌输并不会太早。申命记11:19告诉我们，“也要教训你们的儿女，无论坐在家，行在路上，躺下，起来，

都要谈论。”因此，若这是神的话，这是正确的做法若我们希望我们的孩子如此，为什么不早点开始。

关于参加圣经营也需要使用同样的方法（早灌输）。当他在幼年班时，我们已经开始为他参加圣经营做准备了，因为当他上少年班时必须参加圣经营。作为一名宗教教员，我经常看到宗教学员如何挣扎参加他们第一次圣经营或短期神学研讨会，不幸的是，有些人退出了，有些人却半途而废没有完成圣经营的整个课程。作为一个参加圣经营和神学研讨会成长的基督徒，我是相信这些营里的培训可以提升信徒属灵的成长，并在他们还未迈向青春期而最终成年之前奠定了坚实的信仰基础，且为面对这个道德动荡的世界做准备。

就像任何第一次离开家庭的孩子一样，一开始时马太有点担心，但是他准备好了后，非常期待留在教会，并在接下来的3天里和他的朋友一起学习神的话语和祷告。刚开始时，马太不是一个可以在祷告时集中精神的人。他在祷告时非常烦躁和经常睁开眼睛环顾四周，这确实为他好奇和好奇的自我。他在洗澡时会挣扎因为有时候他的毛巾或干净的衣服会掉落在潮湿的浴室地板上。他为早祷会早起而奋斗。他强迫自己啃下他通常挑剔不爱吃的食物。住在教会里与家里舒适的生活相距甚远，但是我的小男孩是个冠军，他如士兵迈向前方，他借着小小的意外事件中吸取了生活上的教训。然后在营地的一个寒冷的星期二早上，我收到了一个来自圣经营地辅导员传递给我的一个非常喜乐的WhatsApp信息，即马太领受了宝贵的圣灵！赞美主，我欣喜若狂。当我在阅读我工作的电子邮件时，这个消息无可理解的让我眼泪汪汪。那天晚上，我去教会并祝贺马太。马太告诉我，他所做的只是掏空他的思绪如传道告诉他们那样，然后他便能够集中注意力，最终他开始说方言了。他很高兴与他的一些朋友一起领受圣灵。我很高兴神赐给马太圣灵教导和引导他的信仰旅程。

父母可以给予他们的孩子更大的礼物，无非就是让他亲近神，这样他就可以终身与神同行，最终获得永生。请记住，我们的孩子是神所赐的產業（诗篇127: 3），并且神赐给我们这个任务来照顾他们。我们作为基督徒父母的目标是让我们的孩子可以在天堂与父天团聚。当这个目标实现时，我们就可以坦然无惧的面对神，因为我们已经完成了我们作为一个基督徒父母的任务，养育了一个基督徒的孩子，将来可以回到神的怀抱。

愿神赐予所有父母智慧和耐心养育敬畏神的孩子。愿一切荣耀都归于祂。阿门。



Matthew at Gardens by the Bay,
Singapore- December 2018

母亲写的一封公开信

李慧娴, 八打灵教会

亲爱的儿子,

你对这封公开信或许感到惊讶。大卫的一首诗如此教导我们, “耶和华是我的力量, 是我的盾牌; 我必用诗歌颂赞他。” (诗28: 7)。不论我们处在顺境与逆境时, 神都与我们同在。因此, 我想从神把你赐给爸妈为一份无价的礼物时, 及对你成长的一些感想和境遇, 与主内弟兄姐妹分享共勉。对妈妈个人来说, 这是让我在亲子教育上得着更大的力量。

妈妈不是一名教育家, 在教育子女方面也没有经验。我只是有一个正值青春期的儿子、不时面对孩子成长之问题与挑战的妈妈。然而, 让我坚定不动摇的信念是“儿女(包括你)是耶和華所賜的产业。” (诗127: 3)。因此, 教育你的事上必须有神的同在、并由神的话来带领。

儿子, 由于妈妈怀胎不易, 所以你是神赏赐给爸妈的一份礼物。在怀孕期间, 妈妈确保下班后有充分休息; 而爸爸分别为工作、教会事奉与家务忙碌。但是, 妈妈没有忽略在为你取名字的事上费心思、动脑筋。妈妈曾经读过一篇文章 - 一个名字, 除了带着父母对一个孩子的期望外, 它也会透过其意思展示某些特性。

在这事上, 爸爸让妈妈作决定。这重大的责任, 让我心惊胆跳。妈妈因此为这事祷告; 先为你取了华文名字 - 敬谦。妈妈认为孝敬谦卑乃是一个人重要的品德。但是, 替你想个英文名字却不是件容易的事。感谢神, 有教会弟兄姐妹送了这本书 - 《圣经名字录》给我们。妈妈有一些基本的引导概念, 即它是独特、但却不是圣经中邪恶人物的名字。当我把这本书打开之际, 约沙 (Joshah) 这名字就展现在我的眼前。约沙是“主的恩赐”的意思, 让妈妈爱上这名字。可是, 我却不顺服。我把整本书看完, 以确定这是我要为你取的名字。

约沙 (代上4: 34) 在圣经只出现一次, 它的确是独特的。儿子, 在你走过这段教养路上, 你确实是独特的。事实上, 所有在主里的孩子都是独特的。除了是主所赐的产业外, 在神的眼中, 因藉着祂的宝血所救赎, 你们都是珍宝。这更让爸妈觉得, 在教养你的事上责任重大。除了提供你良好的教育, 包括宗教教育与属世的教育; 我们认为在生活中, 按照圣经的教导, 为你灌输正确的价值观也极其重要。

儿子, 其中一个让你独特的地方, 是教养你的事上, 我学习到不只是实践方面, 更在属灵方面上了宝贵的课程。当你牙牙学语说出第一个单字后, 我就会在还没有喂奶前, 握住你的双手说“祷告”; 这乃教导你感谢神。有一晚, 妈妈爸爸都累了, 妈妈只听到你叫“牛奶! 牛奶!” 的尾声。接下来, 我就听到你叫“祷告! 祷告!”, 以引起我们的注意。这事迹更加强了圣经关于教养的指导, “教养孩童, 使他走当行的道, 就是到老他也不偏离。” (箴22: 6)。

儿子, 我们感谢神, 因祂让你在追求知识和理解上有良好能力。妈妈也感谢爸爸, 他喜欢阅读, 也将这培养为你的兴趣。“有金子与许多珍珠, 惟有知识的嘴乃为贵重的珍宝。” (箴20: 15)。只是我们别忘记, “敬畏耶和华是智慧的开端, 凡遵行他命令的是聪明人。” (诗111: 10)。认知有关主耶稣基督的知识, 并遵守祂的诫命将引领我们到救恩的道上。保罗说, “。。。我也将万事当作有损的, 因我以认识我主基督耶稣为至宝。。” (腓3: 8)。

我们也感谢神, 祂赐给我们一个得力的助手为你在幼儿和孩童时的保姆。当爸妈长时间耗费在办公室里, 托保姆在教育事上用相同的价值观与原则是有挑战性的。感谢神, 虽然很多事上, 你都有主见, 但你是一个听话的孩子。因此, 在你未踏入青春期时, 还可以让保姆在生活上的灌输同样的价值观; 只是我们在这事上必须经常授权于保姆, 并言行一致、赏罚分明。

谈到‘纪律’这事, 圣经里有包括以下章节的教导:

“杖打和责备能加增智慧; 放纵的儿子使母亲羞愧。” (箴29: 15)

“不忍用杖打儿子的, 是恨恶他; 疼爱儿子的, 随时管教。” (箴13: 24)

“管教你的儿子, 他就使你得安息, 也必使你心里喜乐。” (箴29: 17)

‘纪律’一词经常让人联想到棍子或藤鞭。对妈妈来说, 这是一项纠正态度或行为的惩罚。儿子, 虽然爸妈重视纪律, 你应该记得在教养事上, 我们很少用藤鞭来惩罚你, 因为用话语教诲你, 远比鞭打来的有效。这是在教养你的路程中, 爸妈所学习到的另一门功课, 感谢神。妈妈称之为‘认识你的孩子’ - 当竖立正确的价值观后, 妈妈相信认识你的成长环境及所相处的同学朋友是同等重要的。另一关键要素是家人之间及与学校和教会宗教教育教员, 包含诉说与聆听的“沟通”。圣经已贴切地教导我们家长有关教养的这些元素 - “你们作父亲的, 不要惹儿女的气, 恐怕他们失了志气。” (西3: 21)。

当从小在教养过程中须经经常调整的这些尺度设立之后, 另一最重要的因素是家长须以身作则。这就像一只螃蟹教导孩子如何走路, 它想教孩子往前直走。当孩子要求妈妈示范时, 无论妈妈如何尝试, 它仍然是横着走, 因为螃蟹妈妈已经习惯了。习惯成自然; 习惯一旦养成了, 就很难改变。

在当今时代一个很好的例子就是使用手机或平板电脑。我们是否时常为孩子每天花长时间在手机上而诉苦? 我们为这思考了吗? 那我们自己用在手机或平板电脑上的时间是否也越来越长? 一机在手是否已成一个习惯? 我们是否已不能过抽离手机的生活? 反过来说, 我们有没有用足够与有素质的时间认识我们的孩子、关心他们的属灵成长、为他们的灵性祷告、读圣经、参与事奉? 身为基督徒的家长, “神是我们的避难所, 是我们的力量, 是我们在患难中随时的帮助。” (诗46: 1), 这是多美妙的。这“帮助”包括摆脱任何顽固的习惯。且让我们祷告祈求力量, 也“。将一切的忧虑卸给神, 因为祂顾念你们。” (彼前5: 7)。身教勝於言教。我相信在这瞬息万变、充满各种危机诱惑的时代, 一个家庭必须一起准备应对一名青少年所面对的青春成长期之挑战。

在你六年的华文小学教育过后, 爸妈决定投资在教育与学习上, 送你去一间私立学校。陪你走过童年的路程, 让我们了解通过动觉来学习是你比较喜欢的学习方式。你自小已显示不喜欢死记硬背的学习, 对你比较有效的学习方法是通过理解和概念化。儿子, 请记住, 爸妈认为这项在教育上的投资, 就像古言, “授之以鱼, 不如授之以渔。”。与其把一条鱼给你, 让你能解一时之饥 (却不能解长久之饥); 倒不如教会你捕鱼的方法, 让你永远有鱼吃。因此, 学习到的知识和技能是让你在所作为上荣神益人。“你们的光也当这样照在人前, 叫他们看见你们的好行为, 便将荣耀归给你们在天上的父。” (太5: 16)。我们有甚麽不是领受的呢? 我们确实从神领受了丰厚的恩典和福气, 因此我们行事为人就当像光明的子女, 将荣耀归给主名。

然而, 在开放的环境以不同的方式学习是有挑战的。在个人的价值观与原则, 我们感谢神, 这所新学校采纳实施与爸妈相似的价值观; 而你从小接受的宗教教育与价值观, 让我们在这过渡时期获益不浅。儿子, 爸妈却必须承认, 你在这新学校几个月后, 我们因为生活忙碌而忽略了你在学习上的另一个需要。

当你喜爱在这所学校学习之际, 你也期望把书读好、有好的成绩。不过, 一整天在校后的放学时间, 你应该回到一个良好学习及有家庭支援的居家环境。当爸妈被各自工作的需求所纠缠时, 懂事的你将这些压力扛在自己身上。感谢神, 让我有身为母亲的本性及及时觉察到。妈妈当时

处在十字路口, 并须要做一个决定。我站在一条路上, 即我或全家人处着的现有状况; 面对让我们前进的其他三条道路。这三条道路是信仰、家庭与事业。对妈妈来说, 我必须从三项选择当中, 选择两项。

感谢神, 是神的话语让妈妈做这个选择、决定。对我影响深刻的包括题为‘耶稣长大了’ (并在圣殿里学习) 与‘管理主的产业’的道理。是的, 儿子, 妈妈当时的工作场所确实充满挑战, 但是妈妈所要考虑放弃的乃是一份多人想望的工作。只是当时的‘拉动因素’肯定更强大, 因为神已将祂的产业赐给我们; 难道督导带领你, 特别是用神的话鼓励你、坚固你的信仰不是我的责任吗?

虽然我的老板们提出了在那过渡时期的一些替代安排, 以舒缓妈妈的工作, 我仍然决定辞去我的全职工作。我或许可以等多几个月、等拿到年终工作绩效奖金后才辞职, 可是一些圣经章节却一直浮现在我的脑海里。我担心我会改变主意。而圣经有关罗得的太太回头往所多玛和蛾摩拉看时, 就变成一根盐柱的教训, 对我也是一个提醒。对很多人来说, 这或许不是一个好时机, 但是对我们来说, 绝对是利多于弊。其中一利就在我成了居家妈妈后的第一天出现。儿子, 如果你还记得 - 放学后, 我接你回家, 你在车里开心地与我谈天说地。我问你为什么这么开心时, 你的回答虽简单, 却令人满足 - “因为我终于可以有更多的时间和妳在一起!”。

儿子, 在你有需要时, 爸妈一直都在你身旁协助你。当你在这人生旅程走得更远时, 请常记住你身为神宝贵儿女的身分。

奉主耶稣圣名做见证:

小妹姓名名丽春, 现属巴占教会。犹记得我儿子永恒出生的情景, 历历在目。虽已过13年, 回想起来感恩还是感恩。当我预产期已过了4天, 我们早上去医院催生, 医生在催生半途时, 婴孩吃了胎粪, 马上要开刀, 不然有生命危险。开刀后, 我尽量争取时间睡觉, 准备明天去看婴孩。

第二天, 吃过早餐, 护士叫我去婴儿室洗澡。到了婴儿室, 我寻找儿子的婴儿车, 找不到, 我问护士, 护士带到隔壁房的保温箱前, 我看到我的名字。原来儿子在保温箱里, 身上插了几个管子, 嘴巴也有吸管。当我看到儿子在保温箱里独自为自己的生命努力奋斗着, 我却爱莫能助, 我心痛如刀割, 哭成泪人。等心平静后, 我默祷, 求主帮助我度过这难关。过后我回到婴儿室学习如何为婴孩洗澡和授乳。我真羡慕其他妈妈, 可以亲手为婴儿洗澡和授乳。原来要生产一个健康的孩子也是一种恩典。

未生产前, 我只祈求神赐给我一个健康的孩子。我自责自己祷告不够, 为什么神没有垂听我的祷告。我一直不停祷告, 求主救我儿子, 明白了赏赐是耶和华, 收取也是耶和华。我对医生说: “我下定决心, 无论儿子将要发生任何事, 我要依靠耶稣到底。”

第三天早上, 我出院了, 儿子还需要留医, 我们也为儿子办转院手续去政府医院。除了家人带到外, 也请求教会代祷, 为了儿子可以地医治, 并早日出院。在医院住了六天后, 终于儿子出院了。医生有交代如果婴儿有不妥, 带这特别卡来就医。

“我儿, 不要忘记我的法则。你心要谨守我的诫命。” (箴3: 1)。保罗勉励我们“凡事都可行, 但不都有益处。凡事都可行, 但不都造就人。” (林前 10: 23)。 时时恒切祷告、祈求神的带领, 并有扎实的自律, 来持守与行出神的话语。

我们是由主耶稣救赎的神宝贵儿女。如果我们忽略这些重大训诲, 而没有履行所托付我们身为父母的责任, 那主再来时, 我们该如何面对主? 除了以言教、身教、鞭教的方法来教导我们的孩子外, 且让我们不要忘记教养的关键要素, 即为我们孩子的成长、信仰、及学习祷告。愿神赏赐我们在这教养路上的属灵力量与智慧。

愿一切的荣耀归于我们的主耶稣基督, 阿们!



感谢主, 直到今天儿子以13岁, 神大能的手保护到如今。未曾进过一次医院。感谢主鸿恩, 我不敢忘记, 特记录为主写蒙恩见证。

谢谢!

哈利路亚! 一切荣耀归于天上的真神。阿们。

叶丽春, 巴占教会



大学时期 恩典的记号

许美恩
檳城教会



往都无法理解我为什么面对烦恼时还可以那么乐观。因为我有那个从那稳固基础所产生出来的稳固担保。可惜，我的同学缺少了这样东西。我能够拥有耶稣为我的担保是我的福气。我从小就信主，但遗憾的是，我花了那么久的时间才领悟到祷告的重要性。祷告不只是个寻求确信的地方，也是个方法来改善自己和神之间的关系，来明白祂的执意。虽然我花了那么多年才明白这个道理，但感恩的是，神还对我有怜悯而垂听了我的祷告。赞美主神！

若你是个在新环境中的初级大学生，别忧虑。在这最初混乱的困境之中，要记得先为自己立下个稳固的基础。到祷告里寻求力量，安慰和引导。当你站在这稳固的基础中，你必定能够拥有足够的勇气，力量和确信来延续你在前的行程。

“凡求告耶和华的，就是诚心求告祂的，耶和華便与他们相近”。
- 诗 145:18

在这新的岛上适应自己 - 作出新的选择

一始步入大学时，我需在新的环境里适应自己。这并不是个简单的事情啊。我每天和同学一起都上课，但其实我内心还是觉得孤单因为看起来，我都跟他们站在不一样的轨道上。我并没有什么兴趣来跟随他们追求世界上的潮流和享受，也未曾从哪里得到归宿感。但感谢主，祂赐给我几位善良和谅解的同学，而且他们也很尊重我的信仰。他们从不逼我沉溺与他们世上的追求，也不因我跟他们的“区别”而拍侧我。由于很多时候因自己忙碌与学业，教会和圣工，因此无法参与他们的休闲活动/郊游。可是他们没有从这朋友圈子里排除我。他们知道我拜六要去教会而自愿的顶替了我在当天的研究工作，即使那个格外的工作。他们这又体贴和谅解的朋友必定是神派来的！在这现今的时代，我又能如何寻找到那么好的大学同伴呢？主听见了我的呼求就怜悯了我！祂知道我无法一个人行走大学的道路，就遣差他们来陪我。！我祈求神能够怜悯我的朋友们，纪念他们曾对我的爱心，而也带他们到那永恒的盼望。

从另一个角度来看，很多人都认为不在大学建立更多的联系是个愚昧的做法。毕竟我们一生中最刺激和有趣的时刻不就是大学生活吗？我们年轻又有活力，我们没有约束，不再被监督，也有权利为自己做决定。但从属灵的角度上，我们与这世界有差异。我们是被拣选的族类，是个圣洁的国度，被祂的宝血而赎回来的子民（彼前 2:9-10）。我们不可忘记我们不能在同一个时间里侍奉世界和神。世上的享受只能暂时满足我们的欲望，但那从神而来的话语却能长存。

现在你的选择又是什么呢？

“人若自洁，脱离卑贱的事，就必作贵重的器皿，成为圣洁，合乎主用，预备行各样的善事。你要逃避少年的私欲，同那清心祷告主的人追求公义，信德，仁爱，和平”。- 提二 2:21-22

和当地居民交流 - 在主里我们是一家人。

一开始时，我没有什么兴趣和当地的同灵们交流。我通常在不熟悉的环境中特别的害羞和不友善。但感谢神，当地的同灵们都友善，即使我不是很热情，但他们也很恳切的主动向我交谈。我特别欣赏他们的付出，尤其当比较老的前辈们努力的来我们班年轻人打成一片（虽然我们有时候也很幼稚）。除此之外，他们很乐意的给予劝勉，尤其是在侍奉上的劝勉。大多数给都是以个温柔和纤细的方法来和我们说。对我而言是个吃惊的事。因我从没想过青年们也可以与大人平等的交谈，无论之间年龄的区别是多少。此外，他们也很关心我们的康乐。有些甚至会煲汤来安慰我们的“相思病”。当得知我们生病时，还特地为我们购买药物和补品。因此，我们（外地来的青年）拥有了归宿感。能够领受这些爱心和好意，真是我们的福气。我们难道做了什么好事而使我们在这资格领受这一切呢？并不是！但我们固然还是被视为家庭里面的一份子。他们教诲了我们什么是爱和不求回报的侍奉。愿神会永远纪念他们的爱心和劳苦。

“我凡事给你们作榜样，叫你们知道应当这样劳苦，扶助软弱的人，又当纪念主耶稣的话，说：施比受更为有福”。- 使徒行传20:35

“王要回答说：我实在告诉你们：这些事你们即作在我这兄弟中一个最小的身上，就是作在我身上了”。- 马太 25:40

和岛上的野兽争斗 - 属灵上的挣扎。

在同一个岛上，居民就居住在自己的院子里，野兽也居住在深处。今日我们也居住在恶者掌权之下的世界（约一 5:19）。

当居民不警戒时，他们看不见野兽正在前进和潜伏院子的周围，等待时机来抨击。同样的，当我们不遵守时，魔鬼就如同吼叫的狮子，偏低游行，准备要立即的来吞吃我们（彼前 5:8）。

一开始，在我继续在信中仰望高处行，一切都看起来很好看。但在信仰增长的同时，自满也随着增长。警戒心开始减少，最后就开了条路给撒旦的诡秘。首先是由不必要的传闻，到后来慢慢进化为夸张似的推论和欺诈的话语。因自己的自满感和不警觉，不知不觉就让诡计蒙蔽了自己的双眼。我忘了自己信仰真真的标杆，开始迷失了方向，也逐渐被自己的无知，傲气，自我中心和自我审判而吞吃了。这还不止，我还继续前进来断绝一些关系。这一切都是魔鬼狡猾的阴谋，而很遗憾的是，我因自己的愚昧跌入了这陷阱。我努力拼搏的来顺从圣灵，但同时魔鬼也继续的激起心中的愤恨。我从未那么的困惑，无助和渺小。这真的是个艰苦的善与恶战争。

到树林里去 - 沉思，反思，得知和学习

感谢主遇到了机会到短期神训班帮忙。在那三个礼拜，我每一天都以神的话而装备自己。我也暂时脱离了世俗的烦恼而能够在祷告中专心的沉思和反思。蒙主的爱和怜悯，祂垂听了我的祷告，解答了我的疑惑。同时，我也意识到了自己的罪孽和软弱。我即使表明自己是神的仆人，但我已经留了地步给那恶者。这事实令我无比的羞愧！虽然我违背和无视了圣灵的提醒，但我的主从不放弃我。祂修正了我错误的概念，也修复了我虚弱的灵性。我是有多么不配得来领受祂的大爱！感谢赞美主因祂无数的怜悯！

没有人是想要遭受患难或来接收严惩。但主的管教是出于爱和对祂儿女(我们的)益处（希12:10-11，约5:17-18，箴言3:11-12）。因此我非常感恩。若这悲痛的事件从未发生，我不会知道我的神有多么的爱和怜悯我。我会继续的待在自傲，草率和自满里。我已亏欠了主对我的指望。此外，我也领悟了一个没约束舌头而产生出来的可怕后果。舌头在百体里是最小的，却能说大话，也有能力使人心碎（雅3:5，箴言15:4）。很多时候我们因自己的自尊，自傲和推断，无形中的让舌头成为了魔鬼的工具来毁坏教会的和谐和团结。这带来了错误的推断，误区，谎言，怨恨，怒气，妒忌，骄傲，自义和自我审判，和与主无份的个人征战。我们都常常以为，动用了舌头就是个爱的表现。这当然也没错，因为当面的责备，强如背地的爱情（箴言27:5）。可是往往我们也在同一个时间

内忘了要警醒和节制，违背了神最初的意图。我们屈服于自己肉体的情绪，跨过了界限，超越了神的主权。更可悲的是我们还以为自己帮了神个大忙，成全了祂的执意。

爱的真谛是什么？让我们都别忘记，一开始我们是怎么去爱。主里的爱不是被人的思想，决策，评估和情绪来推动。反而，我们爱因神先爱我们（约一 4:19）。

“爱是恒久忍耐，又有恩慈；爱是不嫉妒，爱是不自夸，不张狂，不作害羞的事，不求自己的益处，不轻易发怒，不计算人的恶，不喜欢不义，只喜欢真理；凡事包容，凡事相信，凡事盼望，凡事忍耐。爱是永不止息”。- 哥前13: 4-8

乘坐游艇，从岛起航 - 离别说再见

正如传道书所说的，凡事都有定期。三年前是问候的时刻，而现今，三年后是个道别的时刻。我在这岛上的路程已告一段落。无论这里发生过什么事情，不管是甜的，苦的，又苦又甜的，或是悲伤的 - 我都把它记下为神甜蜜的祝福。

三年前，我并没有拥有很多财物，只是乘坐个小船就上岸了。但感谢主，我现今要乘坐游艇离开，因我的产业 - 属灵教训，成长和经历小幅增加了。当我向往生命不同的岛行程时，但愿我也能够继续的成长，增添属灵知识和扩散我的船的大小。主若愿意，总可以扩大到个游轮吧？

我好舍不得离开这装满好多回忆的岛。只要主愿意，我一定会返回这美丽的岛。我必定会很怀念这里的每一个人。但无论如何，日子还是要延续，而我也只能祈求每个人在主里都安然无恙。到目前为止，前面的路是沉闷的，天空是以雾笼罩的，前途也是模糊的。不过没关系，无论我往着那个方向浮游，我的主，我的神必定与我同在。

正如当初一样。

愿一切荣耀，颂赞和尊贵都归给祂。



兰卡威岛之旅

郑弟兄
蕉赖教会



在2018年9月14日，来自真耶稣教会蕉赖教会的20位青年开始了三天的兰卡威岛之旅。

从外表来看，我们的旅行团队似乎是杂兵团 - 是由学生和社青所组成的。团队当中也有来自国外之青年。这也是给予本地青年款待客人的好时机。我们大家都能相处的乐也融融。但是让我们不要忘记保罗的劝勉：“你们受洗归入基督的。。。并不分犹太人、希利尼人，。。。在基督耶稣里都成为一了(加3: 28)。因为我们都是同受一洗，被同样的血所救赎，并向同样的神呼求，让我们把不同的成见搁置一旁，並有机会就当向众人行善，向信徒一家的人更当如此 (加 6: 10)。以赛亚也简略的警告我们“不要不顾恤自己的骨肉(赛58: 7下半段)。我们看到青年们能实践圣经的教导並尝试让这些海外的访客有宾至如归的感觉而感到欣慰。

身为城市青年，我们诚心的感谢主办单位细心的规划有关行程並涵括了许多健康因素的短途旅程。环岛行是令人振奋的其中一项节目。我们的舵手似乎有意让我们经历一些有惊无险的画面诸如他把小艇以惊人的速度面对迎面冲来的大浪等。感谢神保守我们的性命，这项有惊无险的活动消耗了我们所享用的大部分早餐。当天傍晚，我们在海拔660公尺以上乘坐缆车抵达Machinchang山的人行天桥。根据所收到的促销资料，有关人行天桥应该可以让我们浏览难以置信的景观，诸如安他曼

岛及周围的岛屿，甚至泰国的部分边界都能一览无余。但是我们当时看不到任何所描述的景观。当我们从缆车下来时，周遭都布满了雾及云。我们的视线只能在濛濛大雾中看见几公尺外的事物。虽然我们错过了如此美丽的景观，但也不失为难得的经验。在人行天桥上是非常的寒冷及平静的。我们所能听见的只是嗖嗖的风声夹杂着我们谈话的声音。它比城市的喧闹声来得更宁静。

过后，我们面对了一项气概的考验。购买免税的巧克力！在HIG的店铺走道旁放了一系列的免税巧克力。我们随意的挥霍就好像明天就是世界末日般。但是当冷静下来，我们开始自我节制。我们看见一些青年大声的提醒自己这些巧克力只是买给朋友而不是自己享用的。。。大家都嘻嘻哈哈的闹成一团。这显示出青年们已经达到成熟的阶段“温柔、节制。这样的事没有律法禁止(加 5: 23)。

很快的我们的旅程就结束了！在我们还未察觉的当儿，我们已经塞在通往蕉赖、吉隆坡的路上。我们的脑海中再次浮现出每日所要面对的大学的课业或职场的工作。然而，感谢神的眷顾及带领整个行程，感谢神给予我们与主内同灵联谊的美好回忆。“凡事谢恩；因为这是神在基督耶稣里向你们所定的旨意(帖前 5: 18)。



我在香港的体验

Katrina Song
真耶稣教会、香港教会



我的家庭在四年前迁居香港，也在此有许多新的体验。我在家乡时都定时到梳邦教会参加宗教教育课程。而香港教会的宗教教育班，我则是抱着非常期待的心情及充满好奇的想知道他们的课程如何的进行。参加香港教会的宗教教育班对我而言是一项新的体验而我要在此分享身为宗教教育学员的感受。

他们的宗教教育系与马来西亚的体系相同，设有幼儿班、幼稚班、幼年班及少年班。他们是在安息日下午2:00-3:30在聚会时间上课。而初级班、中级班及青年班则在安息日聚会后在4:00-5:30。

我目前参加青年班而班上共有15位学员。每次上课时都会由两位学生轮流来带领查经，他们每人可以在半个小时分享自己所选择的圣经章节。教员则会在每一项查经分享之后给予一些建设性的意见。我觉得此项查经让我们受益匪浅；除了让我们学习如何带领查经之外，也协助我们更了解圣经。我也觉悟带领查经并不是一项轻而易举的事因为它需要丰富的圣经知识。

我们的课程普遍上是查考圣经的每一卷书。举例，我们晓得某经卷的作者、在何时完成有关经卷以及它的历史背景。此查经方式有助于增加我们的圣经知识及更明白神的话语。

我们偶尔会深入的查考某一经卷，详细的分析每一经节的背后意义。我们曾查考哥林多前书第十三章，此经卷着重于爱的特质及重要性。爱是我们每个人在神的眼睛中所缺乏的，我们可由此章经文学习如何把爱实践在日常生活中。在查经的过程中，我们也会乘机分享和有关经

文相连的个人体验或见证。由此让青年门把真实生活中的问题及所面对的课题与涉及的经文作联想。

在每个新的一年之始，我们会被分配一个课程既是让我们讨论及规划今年的个人目标。由此让我们能拟定清晰的属灵目标及志向，而我们会朝着目标前进並努力达致。除此之外，我们也会讨论去年所制定的目标並检讨我们的成果。这是我们回顾及省察往年的一个好机会，同时也感谢神的祝福，与此同时，我们也期盼在新的一年里如何在属灵方面提升自己。

身为学生，我们大部分的时间都消耗在校园中而只有安息日才到教会。故此，我们有时很难与教会的弟兄姐妹们建立友谊。故此，宗教教育系每两个月就会举办各班联合活动或园游会，通常都是青年班的青年与初级班和中级班的学员联合举行。来自此三班的学员混合一起分成三队。此联谊活动通常由青年班主办。此活动有助于巩固青年们彼此的情谊並促进团契。

最近我们也推行了一项有趣的新节目，既是伙伴导师制度。每一个学生将会被配予一位伙伴。通常年长的学生将与比较年幼的学生匹配。过后，我们将进行游戏以便伙伴们能彼此更深入的认识。在此制度中，年长的学员将会在教会照顾比较年幼的学员並彼此分享过去的经验，在信仰上彼此扶持，甚至在课业上协助他们。举例，倘若有一位青年无缘无故无法来参加教会的聚会，他的伙伴将会联络他並确保他的安全。故此，每一对青年都能彼此支持对方並在信仰中相扶相携的成长。

我的伙伴是一位比我年轻三岁的同灵。因为我们双方都会讲英文，因此我们在沟通上没有嫌隙。我会主动透过手机短讯来更了解她。我晓得她的嗜好以及她的学校生活。在考试季节，我们彼此鼓励支持使得我们的友谊更益发增长。

事因大部分青年班的青年们都会双语，他们被鼓励协助翻译的事工。因此，我们有时课程是翻译训练，既是由中文翻译成广东话及反之亦然。此训练可以协助青年们为教会未来的事工做好准备功夫。感谢神，我也成为幼年班的宗教教育课之司琴。

圣经在箴言22:6 曰“教养孩童，使他走当行的道，就是到老他也不偏离。感谢神在我的信仰旅程中不断的引领我並让我有机会在另一个国家体验他们的宗教教育课程。愿一切的荣耀与感谢都归于父神。



求告耶稣

陈欣媚
墨尔本真耶稣教会
(墨尔本高级班)

哈利路亚奉主耶稣作见证

首先向大家介绍一下我的背景。我是马来西亚人，在墨尔本大学读书并蒙神的怜悯让我有机会在2018年4月1号正式受洗成为主耶稣名下的儿女。

感谢神的怜悯与慈爱让我有机会向各位弟兄姐妹们来细说神在我求学之路上给予我的恩典。

记得在开学之际，为了学校考试和安排课表的事情祷告了很久。我记得我只是跟神求说自己每个科目只要及格就好，然后也希望我的讲堂和课堂老师是好的就行了。非常感谢神，一开始在抢课堂的时候没有让我拿到我想要的时间 - 我真的很沮丧因为我在抢课堂之前花了很多时间来安排我的新课表，并以此为我的目标，所以当看到现实与理想不符合的时候，我心里真的感觉很不平衡。不过呢，真的很感谢神！因为其实我被安排到的课表和班级都是我们商科系里教得最好的老师！很多学生在开学的第一周都想要换到我的班级里，但都没得换，因为是好的老师所以名额已经满了。这是神给我的第一个恩典-让我有非常好的老师来教导我的课业。

一直以来我都在想要怎么样让信仰和学业“双赢”。我明白凡事都要以信仰为先，但有时候我真的怀疑-如果我抽掉去教会的时间，估计会让我有更多的时间来读书吧。那我又要兼顾信仰和学业，这样真的可以吗？感谢神，凡事在神都能。记得在开学之前，神让一个姐妹和教会的高级班宗教教育老师来跟我聊聊关于大学和信仰兼顾的问题。这个姐妹向我见证了神怎么在她的大学生涯照顾她的学业-她说秘诀只有一个就是要信靠神。宗教教育老师则告诉我：“我们无论做什么都要为神而做。相信神看到你为了祂而用功读书，神一定会祝福你的。信仰和学业是可以双赢的-但是条件是你一定要清楚凡事都是为神，我们要追求的是凡事荣神益人啊！”感谢神，这个也是神给我的第二个恩典-让我明白不管是工作，是学业等等，我们凡事都要谦卑信靠神；凡事都要追求荣神益人和凡事都要为神。

在追求学业和信仰双赢这个目标，我相信各位或许会觉得有很多困难。在追求这个目标的这一年，我自己本身也遇到很多困扰我的事情但是感谢神的怜悯都一一解决了。也感谢神让我在大二这一年遇到了很多个很愿意帮助我学习的朋友。我天资愚钝，每次都羡慕那些一听就懂的学生。感谢神的怜悯，因为我记得有一次因为我很不开心自己太愚钝就跟神祷告说自己的困扰，第二天起来再读一遍我居然都看得懂。我心里非常清楚不是我自己忽然变聪明，我心里非常明白是神垂听我的祷告，知道我有困难，帮了我。

在追求目标当中，我其实最怕的是自己考试会不及格。因为如果我不及格的话，我爸爸妈妈会很失望。在这边我要感谢神赐给我非常宽容的爸爸妈妈，因为之前一直拼命读书到自己的健康一直出状况。他们人在马来西亚，我又在外国，所以其实也做不了什么，只能一直担心下去。今年当我要回去墨尔本之前，爸爸妈妈告诉我：“只要及格就好，健康最重要。”在外地读书我当然还是会生病，但是感谢神每次生病只要我一祷告第二天就会马上好了。有一次因为当天病得很严重，教会弟兄姐妹看到就很担心，但是第二天我康复了，教会的弟兄姐妹就说：“哎哟！神真的很爱你！我们昨天看你以为你要病上至少两三个星期，但是没想到你这么快就好了！奇迹！”真的很感谢神怜悯，这个也是神给我的恩典之一，让我快速康复可以后顾之忧地努力读书。

最后一个恩典就是我的成绩。记得以前我每次考试之前我每天晚上都会哭，因为怕自己会不及格。这次考试心态完全是不一样的。这次考试我的心是完全平静的，因为明白自己尽了最大的努力，剩下的就交托给主了。果然这次的考试成绩是我进大学以来，考得最好的。记得自己打电话想爸爸妈妈报好消息的时候，爸爸妈妈都很开心。

感谢神给了我一个我不想要的时间表，但实际上是最好的时间表因为被安排到的老师是教得好的老师。感谢神让我明白凡事都要为神而做，荣神益人，我读书也当有这样的态度。感谢神让我有很多愿意帮助我学习的朋友。感谢神让我天资愚钝，所以事事都可以依靠祂。感谢神给我一个宽容我的爸爸妈妈-他们有权利对我要求高，但是他

们并没有。感谢神在我生病的时候医治我，让我有健壮的身体继续努力读书。感谢神给我一个平安的心来面对考试。最后感谢神愿意帮我，凡事神可以拒绝，但这次神并没有，除了让我在成绩上不让我的爸爸妈妈失望，也让我有那个信心-信仰和学业是可以兼顾的，只要信靠神，凡事相信，凡事忍耐，凡事盼望。

在读这篇文章的你，若在为学业烦恼或灰心失望，望这篇文章可以帮助你 - 若灰心失望，切记“莫灰心失意，祂必永远不离开。求告知主耶稣a，祂必拯救帮助。”（赞美诗524）

愿一切的荣耀归给天上的真神。



为何要成为一位传道人？

冯大勇

基督徒的一生有许多目标，但我们生命最终的目标，就是回到天国，与主相聚。自从我们重生归入主耶稣的名下，他就成为了我们生命的中心。主的话也成为我们生活的力量和引导。蒙主的引领，小弟有机会接受教会神学院的训练，日后成为主的仆人。目前小弟在台湾就读神学院，愿意与同灵分享为何想成为一位传道人。

使命感的催逼

从生活的察觉，产生使命感

▶ **乘坐着地铁：**有一次在吉隆坡乘坐地铁的时候，小弟刚好放下手机抬头观看周围的人。当时是上班的时间，车厢中站满了许多衣着整齐的人。小弟在心里思考着，他们与我有什么不一样呢？为什么我能够有得救的盼望，等候主的再临；而他们却只能生活在人生的虚空中，等待生命的最后一站：“神愤怒的审判”呢？如果他们能听得救的福音，便有机会与小弟一样，拥有永生的盼望。但有谁愿意放下自己，跟随主耶稣传扬得救的福音呢？小弟便想起主曾经对门徒说：“你们岂不说，到收割的时候还有四个月吗？我告诉你们：举目向田观看！庄稼已经熟了，可以收割了”（约四35）庄稼已经熟了，我们还在等什么呢？

▶ **传道的身影：**在记忆中，不管到本国的那一个地方参加聚会，小弟都可以察觉到传道工人的短缺。若在同一地方聚会，有时经过了两个月才能够看见传道人的身影。传道工人因为负担多个教会，无法把时间专注在一两个教会。随着教会的增长，圣工的推展，传道人是越来越缺乏。主耶稣也对门徒说：“要收的庄稼多，做工的人少。所以，你们当求庄稼的主打发工人出去收他的庄稼。”（可九37-38）每当听见有人分享这句经文，小弟的心便如火燃烧，催逼着小弟当出去为主做工。小弟曾尝试压抑着这一份心志，但却因此深感悲伤，无法在生活中喜乐起来。

从生活的体验，培养使命感

▶ **主的恩满溢：**感谢主，小弟在一个幸福温馨的家庭长大，每一个家庭成员都拥有同一份信仰。蒙神的恩待，小弟的父母能够从劳碌中得到美好的果效，让家里衣食充足毫无缺乏。长大以后小弟才明白，能够有信仰健全的家庭是极大的恩典。记得每一次父亲或母亲患病的时候，接着一家人同心的代求，他们都能从病患中得着医治。生活有许多的点点滴滴，其实都是主恩典的记号。在生活中体会到主的恩典是小弟感恩的开始。今天能够服侍主更是小弟报答主恩的机会。

▶ **主的爱激励：**在离乡背井的八年中，小弟在教会中有很多学习服侍的机会。在吉隆坡求学的时期，参与了许多教会青年的事工。在侍奉的过程中，体验到主的爱和引领一直成为小弟侍奉的动力。在一次教会举办的圣餐礼中，小弟深深的体会到主爱的伟大以致流泪不能自制。这一份感动持续在心中成长，让小弟渐渐地明白主为我付出的一切，如今我可以为主付出什么呢？



感谢主，为主工作的使命感成为服侍主的动力，小弟的脚步就渐渐的走上服侍的道路中。从生活中累积对神的感动，体验神的爱与恩典，让小弟一直能够持有火热的心侍奉神。

问题

用了五年余的时间学习成为一位中医师，为何在毕业工作一年后选择报考神学院呢？

▶ **时间是神赐的：**间学习成为一位中医师，为何在毕业工作一年后选择报考神学院呢？

时间是神赐的：在偶尔参加同胞离世的追思会时，小弟也曾思考生死的问题。人的一生有两个时间点是神预先定下的，那就是出生和离世的时间（参考：使十七26）所以人没有权利掌管生死，更不能把将自己的生命留住，因为这一切都掌握在神的手中。其实明天如何，我们还不知道，生命的每一天都是神所赐的机会。时间既然是神所赏赐的，那么如果我们把时间奉献给神，也没有什么难理解的地方。

▶ **机会是当下的：**我又转念，见日光之下，快跑的未必能赢，力战的未必得胜；所临到众人的，是在乎当时的机会（传九11）小弟曾想为何不在等几年后在报考神学院。经过深思后，小弟认定当时就是最佳的时机。其原因是：父母亲的支持、个人身体健康、暂时没有家庭或经济负担、以及教会传道工人缺乏。因此，立下心志决定献身，并于二零一八年的二月份报考神学院。蒙主施恩，顺利考上神学院，也在九月份开始神学院的学习。

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