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朱台深牧師

雅典知名的雄辯家Demosthenes狄摩西尼斯，自小立志成為偉大的演說家，相對於一位成功的演講者，他所擁有的全都是負面條件，因為患有口吃，說話聲量又小如蚊蚋，第一次演講時就被觀眾以噓聲轟下台；更嚴重的是：左肩罹患先天性的肌肉痙攣，使他不由自主地隨時抽動，越刻意控制，肩膀就抽動得越厲害，連臉部也跟著抽搐，嚴重影響外貌形象，這些負面條件，竟然都沒有挫折了狄摩西尼斯的意志。換成你、我，也許早就找個藉口，放棄作白日夢了。

幾經失敗之後，仍然朝著心中的理想前進，他下定決心：沒有把自己訓練好就不要見人，甚至削去了半邊頭髮以宣示決心（狄摩西尼斯大概是史上第一位留龐克頭的知名人士）。每天清晨醒來，他跑到海邊對著大海演說，海浪聲音很大，但他使盡力氣，試圖壓過海浪聲來訓練自己的音量；他又一邊爬山、一邊練習演說，來訓練自己換氣；回到家，在舌下含顆小石頭，面對著鏡子說話，藉以控制舌下的肌肉運動；光這幾項訓練，就已經讓人佩服狄摩西尼斯過人的意志力了。

只是，他如何克服左肩先天性的痙攣呢？古人懸梁刺股，以發憤向學；越王句踐臥薪嘗膽，以惕勵國事；狄摩西尼斯則在天花板上吊把劍，劍身抵

住肩頭，一旦左肩抽動時就會觸及劍尖，以致受傷流血，這種種的刻苦己心，終於讓他成為很棒的演說家。

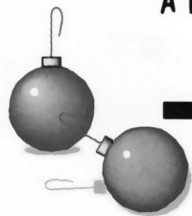
世人憑著意志力來實踐理想，都可以如此努力地克服困難，神的兒女豈不當有更大的心胸氣度？！若是別人可以靠肉體完成夢想，神的兒女更可以攻克己身、叫身服我了（腓立比書三章4節）。只是我們不單單只在肉體上操練、努力，我們更可以靠著愛我們的主，在所有的事上得勝而有餘了（羅馬書八章37節）。

「好樣的」狄摩西尼斯不僅沒有好條件，更是擁有「完全負面條件」，但他選擇用正面態度來達成目的，如果這人沒有肩膀的問題、講話大舌頭，他或許會成為一個演說家，但只是一個平凡的演說家。然而，正因為他轉化了先天負面條件，超越了自卑、勝過了怨嘆，終於成為一個偉大的演說家、政治家。

成功的人，生命中都有軟弱，卻選擇依靠主過勝的一生，亞伯拉罕、摩西、大衛、彼得、保羅都是，你、我也可以成功勝利！正視你生命中的負面條件，依靠主善用它、克服它，然後，帶著喜樂、勇氣，興奮地昂首高歌，向前奔跑！



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教會消息 Church News

七月十七日 - 傅蘇蘭芬姊妹蒙主恩召，安息主懷。

七月卅一日 - 好消息衛星電視台開始放映。

八月廿三日 - 王施秀鸞姊妹榮歸天國，安然見主。

八月廿八日 - Roy Versoza 牧師主持“亞波羅計劃”密集領袖訓練。

九月十四至十七日 - 舉行第四十屆宣道週，主題為廿一世紀宣道的挑戰，由朱台深牧師與陳廷安牧師主持培靈佈道會。

九月廿五日 - 舉行主日學 / 主日學教師主日，由吳李欣然執事報告主日學事工。

十月三至七日 - 教會主持“耶穌愛你”運動，於宿務埠中舉行音樂佈道，醫療佈道及街童事工。

十月六日 - 林松泰兄弟安息主懷，召見主面。

十月十三日 - 謝偉光博士主持夫婦領袖訓練。

十月十三日 - 鄭吳秋影姊妹永息主懷，與主同居。

十月廿一日 - 葉健全兄弟蒙主恩召，歸回天國。

十月廿三日 - 舉行敬老主日，由青年組贈送禮物予年長兄姊，表示敬意。

十月廿八日 - 蕭娥冷姊妹榮歸天家，安然見主。

十月廿八日 - 楊永鎮兄弟蒙主恩召，永息主懷。

十一月廿二至廿七日 - 為下列兄姊舉行聖洗：蔡傳琛治，蔡楊玉霞，王楊嘉齡，李麗莎，李玉媚，黃玲玲，黃瓊瓊，楊雅真，黃嘉菁，黃嘉寧，林立才。

十一月廿四日 - 舉行感恩聚會，由各團契獻出節目，同頌主恩。

Jul 17 - Sis. Deanne S. Po rested in our Lord

Jul 31 - Premier broadcast of Good TV

Aug 23 - Sis. Ong Sy Siu Luan went home to be with our Lord

Aug 28 - Leadership module entitled, "Project Apollos" conducted by Rev. Roy Versoza

Sep 14-17 - 40th Mission Emphasis Week with Rev. Stephen Chu & Rev. John Ong speaking on the theme, "Mission Challenge In the 21st Century"

Sep 25 - Sunday School / Sunday School Teacher's Sunday with Dea. Lili Gothong reporting on the Sunday School ministry

Oct 3-7 - "Jesus Loves You" ministry consisting of musical concerts, medical missions and children outreach program in Cebu

Oct 6 - Bro. Philip Lim rested in the Lord

Oct 13 - Leadership Training for couples by Dr. John Tze

Oct 13 - Sis. Elisa Go found rest in the Lord

Oct 21 - Bro. Francisco Yap went to be with the Lord

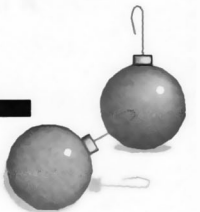
Oct 23 - Respect the Aged Sunday with the Youth Committee giving out special tokens to elderly members

Oct 28 - Sis. Doroteo Siao went to our heavenly home to be with the Lord

Oct 28 - Bro. Donato Yu rested eternally in the Lord

Nov 22-27 - Baptism of Sheji Fu Tsai, Rosita Yu Chua, Caridad Yunam, Liesha Mae Dacules, Stacy Mae Chan, Nicole Uytengsu, Stephanie Uytengsu, Cathy Lynn Yu, Phoebe Joy Uy, Kate Chonalyn Uy, Patrick Brian Lim

Nov 24 - Thanksgiving Service with different fellowships rendering praises to the Lord





GROWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

REV. ALBERT ONG

Man was made by God not only as a physical being but, also a social being possessing soul and spirit. Man is the crown of God's creation. God made man more special than any other things on this earth and made him to enjoy life in this world He made. But we know that because of Sin, this has been greatly distorted from its original plan. However, by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, your sins are forgiven and God puts in you a new nature that is Christ Himself. This new nature needs to be nourished that it may bear fruit. Building your relationship with Christ is a "win-win" situation. You always gain in wisdom and knowledge as you know the Lord more. This wisdom and knowledge must also be converted into action in our daily life through our relationship with other people. How we treat others reflects our relationship with the Lord. As Christians, we know that our goal in life is not only to be saved, but to grow and be more like Jesus Christ.

As we talk about our relationship with others, the word "neighbor" comes in view. How is our relationship with our neighbors? To be a neighbor to good people is never a hustle and it's even enjoyable. If you have neighbors who are generous and kind, you have to be praising God for them. You are blessed. But, what if you have neighbors who make your life uncomfortable, can you still be a "good" neighbor to these people? As a Christian, what must be our attitude towards our neighbor?

Let us look at the word "neighbor" in the Bible. There are two Hebrew words that are most often found where English versions read "neighbor" in the Old Testament. The first is "saken" which simply indicates inhabitants of neighboring areas, whether they are friendly or unfriendly. The second is the key word "rea" the basic idea of which is that of having something to do with one another. This means neighbors are persons who in some way contact me and affect my experience. The noun "rea" appearing some 187 times in the Old Testament, has a very broad application. It is used both of the close friend and the chance acquaintance. Though sometimes it seems to indicate relationships between members of the covenant people (e.g., Lev. 19:18-32), it was used to indicate a fellow Israelite (Ex. 2:13) and also the Egyptian oppressors in early times (Ex. 11:2).

In Luke 10: 25-37, Jesus was asked the

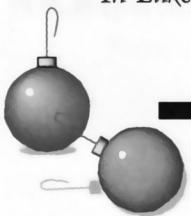
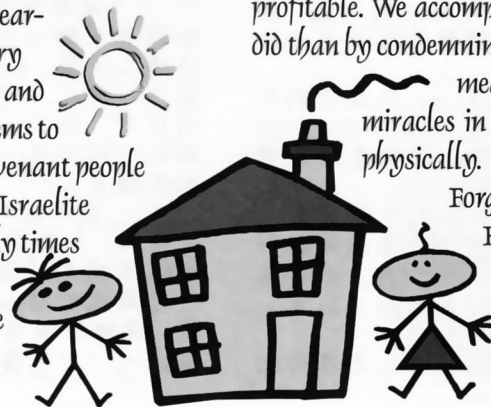
question, "Who is my neighbor?" This question came up due to the broad use of the word "neighbor." Instead of answering technically, Jesus used a story to answer the question. During the time of Jesus, there was no farmhouse scattered around the agricultural area of Palestine. There were only a few people in the villages around. So, the roles and privileges of a neighbor are very important in those days. What are the roles of a neighbor?

Helpfulness is the first role of a neighbor. Proverbs 27:10, "Do not forsake your friend and the friend of your father, and do not go to your brother's house when disaster strikes you - better a neighbor nearby than a brother far away." How can you go to your neighbor for help if you are not in good terms with them? You don't need gifts or talents to be a helpful neighbor. What you need is a BIG HEART like that of the Lord. Never expect a return of the help you gave to somebody, just do it for the Lord. The Lord will be the one to bless you for what you do to others in His name.

Friendliness is a good thing and always pleases the Lord. Mt. 5: 9 reads, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." Being a friend to our neighbors will open the door for the gospel. "Friendship evangelism" is one of the most effective methods of evangelism. It may take some time, but it is a sure win situation. Jesus was even labeled as "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Mt. 11:19) because He came to seek and to save the lost. Do you have non-Christian friends? It's sad if you don't.

Sincerity is what really makes true friendship. Romans 13:10, "Love does no harm to its neighbor ..." There are times that the easiest thing to do is to "leave them alone" and the hardest is to "speak the truth in love." We often hear people complain about their neighbors, but when they benefit from them they just kept quiet. That is not fair. Praising our neighbors for the good they did is always profitable. We accomplish more by praising them for the good they did than by condemning them of something wrong. To be sincere also

means being forgiving. A forgiving spirit works miracles in your life spiritually, emotionally, and even physically. "A happy man is a forgiving man." Forgiveness frees us from the slavery of hatred. Forgiving others sincerely allow people to see God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Be a neighbor God wants you to be.





默想耶穌降生的事迹

白鶴

日月如梭，韶光易逝，彷彿在瞬息之間，一年一度的聖誕節又將臨近。普世的人都在準備迎接這個節日。尤其是各超市商場，已經開始播出聖誕歌曲；同時也開始陳列五花八門的聖誕裝飾品來兜攬生意。當我們看到這種局面，不由得感迷離愴怳。藉此我們且說主耶穌降生的記載吧。

基督耶穌降生不在耶路撒冷—聖城，卻降生在伯利恆微小的地方。不降生在華貴的王宮裡，卻生在簡陋的客店裡；沒有在華貴的搖籃，卻是在粗俗的馬槽裡。這正是神超卓的智慧，為要祂作世人的表率。

在舊約末期，雖有事奉的殿，有事奉的制度，也有事奉的祭司，並有傳統的禱告。但不能使神滿足。神榮耀的兒子—耶穌基督，本來在天上至高之處，尊貴無比，不受時空的限制，為拯救世人的緣故，順從父神的安排，竟穿上肉身、甘受限制、棄絕榮寵、為愛世人、成全救贖，不與神同等為強奪，反而虛己，成為奴僕的形像，甘受世人的侮辱。但祂卻為世人帶來屬靈的生命、屬靈的亮光、屬靈的愛。

在耶路撒冷有一個人名叫西面，這人又公義又虔誠，素常盼望以色列的安慰者來到，又有聖靈在他身上……他受了聖靈的感動，進入聖殿，正遇見耶穌的父母抱著孩子進來……西面就用手接過祂來，稱頌神說：『主阿，如今可以照禱的話，釋放僕人安然去世……』。西面給他們祝福，又對孩子的母親馬利亞說：『這孩子被立，是叫以色列中許多人跌倒，許多人興起』（路二：25-35）

西面對彌賽亞的亮光特多，他知道彌賽亞是主的「救恩」、是「外邦人的光」；彌賽亞是作房角石、也是作絆腳石。他能得見基督，使他得以償受他的宿願，在他心靈裡的滿足和歡樂，自然表現在他言談之中。

在福音書裡面，牧人和漁夫特別得到神所喜悅，因為他們在選民中，過著潔身自愛清白的生活。不拘與世俗同流合污。滿有摩西、大衛的風骨。他們的思想單純，可能他們在期望彌賽亞早日降臨。由此「有主的使者，站在他們旁邊，主的榮光四面照著他們，牧人甚是懼怕。天使就對他們說，不要懼怕，我報給你們大喜的信息……在大衛的城裡，為你們生了救主，就是主基督」（路二：9-11）。

主知道將大喜信息報給他們，他們必能歡然接受，又能親往朝見聖嬰，為基督的誕生作見證。我們可以想像到，牧人前往朝見聖嬰之時，心中是多麼的迫切；他們見了聖嬰之後，心中是多麼的歡樂。他們更熱烈的反應，自動地、熱切的、將所聞所見傳開。他們既然已證實了天使的信息，便獻上讚美，將榮耀歸於真神！

「……約翰在曠野裡，神的話臨到他，他就來到約旦河一帶地方，宣講悔改的洗禮，使罪得赦。」（路三：2-3）「這約翰身穿駱駝毛的衣服、腰束皮帶、喫的是蝗蟲野蜜。」（太三：4）

先鋒施洗約翰遵從神的命定，不在充斥著嘈雜、詭詐、汙俗的大城市裡露面；卻喜愛在寧靜、單純的曠野生活。他不倚靠政治的權勢，不倚靠宗教的權勢，不倚靠社會的力量。唯獨遵守神的旨意，決志經歷艱難、孤單、隱藏的十字架征塵。

他身穿駱駝毛的衣服，操守簡潔不奢華。志在與世

界分別出來。腰束皮帶，塑成奴僕的形像，願受約束限制；吃蝗蟲野蜜，過著信心的生活，並拒絕享受。完成神所託付的職事。

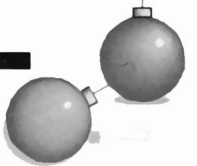
主說：「跟隨我的，就不在黑暗裡走」。這是基督耶穌親自教訓我們，若是願意得到真理的亮光，脫離內心的黑暗，就該效法祂的生活和行為。所以我們應該要默想基督耶穌和施洗約翰的生活。不要為擅長才幹自鳴得意，卻寧願讓知識使我們更加謙卑和謹慎。我們若追求且倚靠會朽壞的財富是虛空；貪圖名和攀高位也是虛空；隨從肉體的慾望來勞力是虛空；而且將來必定為它遭受重罰之苦。

前劍橋大學的板球將C. B. STUDD，從澳洲凱旋後不久，忽逢他的哥哥G. B. STUDD疾病，他親自侍奉湯藥，親眼看見一個人臨終時的狀態。不禁心中默想，有所感觸。當他自省的時候問自己說：「如果今日死亡的人不是哥哥，而是我自己，我見主面時，有甚麼可以獻上？我曾做甚麼來幫助世界改善呢？」想到這裡，他覺滿腔羞愧，記得童年時也曾獻心給主，如今竟冷淡下去。聖靈感動他，便重新奉獻，對主說：「主阿，無論禱派我往那裡，我必前往。」

在禱告中，祂清楚明白神心意要他到中國傳道，他就搭輪先到的上海，沿揚子江直上到湖北、四川各地。有一天，重慶的英國領事通知他，因他的父親EDWARD臨終時，遺囑分給他二萬五千英磅的家產，叫他回國接受遺產。他祈禱後，決志願繼續在中國工作，並把父親給他的遺產分給救世軍、內地會MULLER的孤兒院、慕翟先生的神學院及其他幾個教會機構。至於他自己，一分錢也不留存。他結婚後，照樣與他夫人在中國內地為主工作。過著貧窮勞苦的生活，直到他體力不能支持，才返英休息一年。

他身體雖未復原，仍踏上征程，到印度佈道。擔任聯合教會牧師六年。以後又到非洲中部最困難工作的地方，傳道二十年。他的生活與番人打成一片，教導他們讀書、寫字、禱告、守律法。最後在一九三一年，他死在非洲的樹林中，留下一個輝煌的榜樣。許多英、美的青年人，因為他的好榜樣，受感動而奉獻為主工作，繼續他所留下偉大宣教事工。

在希伯來書十二章一至四節說：「我們既有許多的見證人，如同雲彩圍著我們，就當放下各樣的重擔，脫去容易纏累我們的罪，存心忍耐、奔那擺在我們前頭的路程，仰望為我們信心創始成終的耶穌。祂因那擺在前面的喜樂，就輕看羞辱、忍受了十字架的苦難，便坐在神寶座的右邊……你們要思想免得疲倦灰心。」





Growing in Christ

MONA LI

As year 2005 comes to an end, let us all take a short break from the holiday rush and ask ourselves this question: how much have I grown in Christ the past year? Early part of the year, we devoted our time in knowing how to grow in our relationship with Christ Himself. During mid-year, we focused our attention in learning how to grow in Christ through our relationship with our own family and relatives. In the last part of the year, we centered our attention in experiencing how to grow in Christ through our relationship with other people.

Our church has just concluded a weeklong 'Jesus Loves You' ministry together with Christian brothers and sisters of Bangor Baptist Church from Maine, U.S.A. As I watched from the sideline, I marveled at how much time, money and effort were poured into this ministry and all for the glory of God. It was heartwarming to see how brethrens from local churches extended their helping hands in various tasks of this operation. As thousands of people were ministered through the medical missions, the outreach programs and the evangelistic concerts, the singular beautiful thing was that people involved in this ministry also grew in Christ through their interactions with people. When operation JLY came to an end, everybody felt good about the success of the ministry. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have ministries of this magnitude more often? While it took us decades to do the first one, I can see the next one in the horizon - perhaps in a year's time when we celebrate God's enduring faithfulness to our church throughout 90 years! In the meantime, let us not be content with our spiritual attainments for there is still much work to be done. Let us continue spreading the good news on smaller scales, at work with our colleagues and in school with our schoolmates. Let us not forget the people in our neighborhood and neither should we forget our house helpers and drivers who live within our own households. Let us ask ourselves these questions: Is my life a living

testimony of God's great love? Do other people want to know more about Christ from what they witness in me? Can people tell that I am a Christian?

Often, plants are used to symbolize spiritual growth. While it takes only a few minutes to plant a seed, it takes years of loving care for the seed to grow into a strong and healthy tree. Similarly, while it takes a miracle of a moment to be saved, it takes a lifetime to grow into spiritual maturity. To attain spiritual maturity, we need to feast on God's words through daily Bible reading. Our roots should go deep into the underground streams of God's words. We also need to pray unceasingly and cultivate a good prayer-life. The journey is long and sometimes it becomes treacherous because of human frailty. As we travel along spiritual pathway, we occasionally stumble and get waylaid by worldly things. Praise God for He is infinitely patient. Like a doting Father, He looks upon our weaknesses with tender mercy and steadfast love. I have been reading the Bible the past 10 months to fulfill a new year's resolution. There were times when I took the easy route and scanned through passages in the Scriptures that I found tedious and shamelessly called it devotion. After a long and difficult day at work, sometimes I became so weary that I shortcut my way past prayer time and quiet moments with the Lord. Despite all these lapses, I can still say with confidence that my spiritual roots are more deeply anchored in Christ today than it was a year ago. I have renewed my resolution of reading through the whole Bible again this coming 2006 and by doing so, I will slowly but surely grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Amen and amen.





THE PRICELESS POSSESSION WE CAN GIVE

REV. UN HOCK WEE

As parents, what is the best gift we can give to our children? Is it a good education for them to have a good career in the future? As children, what is the best gift we can give to our parents? Is it respect and obedience so that they will be pleased? As husbands, what is the best gift we can give to our wives? Is it love and faithfulness? As wives, what is the best gift we can give to our husbands? Is it obedience and submission? What kind of gift can we give to people whom we love that will last for a lifetime? Is it house-and-lot or even all of our possessions? Is there any gift that can last for eternity?

As Christians, what is our most important role? Is it to bear a good testimony? Of course it is. Christians are expected to shine for Christ. Is it to help the poor and the most neglected people? We should lighten up their burdens in life. Is it to serve the Lord and give our very best? Is it to worship and glorify God in our life?

What is the most important business God gives to Christians? Is it to establish churches or to bring souls to God? Is it to preach and lead people to know Christ? The best gift we can give to God and the only gift that we can bring to heaven are the souls of people through preaching God's Word.



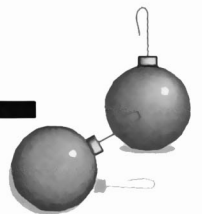
We must be like the parents of Moses. They belonged to the tribe of Levites who were responsible for offering sacrifices and teaching the Israelites the meaning of righteousness and how to live it. They were the ones keeping, guarding and protecting the law.

The parents of Moses, Aaron and Miriam brought them up to know the Lord. As a result, Aaron, the elder brother of Moses, became the first priest in Israel while his sister Miriam was the one who assisted them in their ministry. Moses was the one God used to bring the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

There is no better gift than to bring our children to the Lord. We have to pass down to them our knowledge of God and the love of Jesus in our life. Let them see that we love the Lord through our actions and help them understand that our purpose in life is to glorify Him. As Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." Bringing our children to the Lord is not only our responsibility as parents but also a command from the Lord. Deuteronomy 6:7-9 states, "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Leading people to the Lord is not only the responsibility of the pastors and parents, it is also every Christian's responsibility. Matthew 28:18-20 says, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." The Bible also says that he who wins souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30b). Last but not least, it is written in Romans 10:15 that "beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."

Let us be diligent in evangelism and in bringing souls to God!





為甚麼我赴姊妹會

吳王愛真

家母一生忠心虔誠赴姊妹會，使我深受感動與嚮往。家母逝世後，隨著她的步伐和腳蹤，我也參加姊妹會，一瞬眼已廿五年(1980-2005)。

聚會時間是週二下午三時至五時。起初我將商店生意交給店員，但對她們的工作難免不能放心。據店員稱，我不在時，生意還異常好，而她們非常忙。神的安排真奇妙，使我在這段時間中能安心赴會。

有一次，與距離我們三間店的鄰舍發生火災，內心忐忑深慮。既擔心會受波及，又恐涉嫌縱火。於是我衷心祈禱，求主憐憫保守。神的奇跡再顯現，使敝店無恙。事後才知道是消防員的噴水，才倖免回祿之劫，花了一筆小餐費來報答他

們的辛勞是值得的。後來我查看保險單，為了節省保險費，我們僅保全部貨物三分之一的額數，而火災的前兩天又入新貨。

當我第一次參加姊妹會的探訪，對象是舍弟唯一的女兒。她因一時的意氣，對她的母親說話失態，不敢回家。經探訪與勸說，她終於誠意向她的母親認錯及道歉。在神的祝福下，現已轉就任職空姐，工作清高，待遇又豐。她聲稱是聽姑母的話。

讓我以喜愛的金句來互相勉勵：「你要認識神，就平安，福氣也必臨到你。神既然不愛惜自己的獨生子，為我們的罪死，豈不把萬物白白地賜給我們。」



The Fear of Aging Without My Beloved Mother

HELEN TIAN

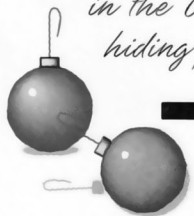
One morning while I was combing my hair, I noticed strands of white hair becoming more visible to my naked eye. Pulling them out would probably make me bald. I remember my mom telling me never to dye my hair when it turned grey (just like my mom). So I follow what she said and let it remain the way it was.

Still single, I believed God had a plan for me. I was able to serve and be with my mom up to the last breath of her earthly life. I have no regrets whatsoever; after all, everything happens for a reason.

The fear of aging can strike a person at any stage of life. I do not deny the fact that sometimes, I fear spending the rest of my life alone. At one time, great fear gripped me and I asked myself, "What if I stop being useful? Who will take care of me then?" After a while, another thought comforted me, "How can I lose my faith in the One who created me?" God has been my hiding place and my refuge through the years;

surely He will take care of me! Suddenly my mom's favorite passage which is inscribed in her tombstone came to mind, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3) This passage gives me comfort and peace of mind.

My relationship with God has never been a burden for me but rather a pleasant source of inspiration as I go through my daily life. God has promised, "I will keep watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever." (Psalm 121:8) Knowing all these things gives me the assurance that indeed, I am not alone. God has always been there for me. Thank you Lord!





和睦同居

小山

經文：詩篇133篇

每隻工蜂常常準備餵養另外一隻蜜蜂，有時甚至不同窩的蜜蜂。互相餵養是蜜蜂生存的一種特性。牠們是一種社會的昆蟲。工蜂餵養不能自己尋吃的蜂后，又供養那些有用的雄蜂和幼蜂。

在冷天，蜜蜂擠成群來取暖。天氣熱時，搗動牠們的翅膀來使蜂窩暢冷舒服。當牠們成群出飛的時候，一些探子蜂就被差飛到四周去找，可供牠們定居的地點。那些探子蜂回來時，用跳舞來表達牠們已找到希望可住的地點，然後牠們一同來選擇決定要到那處去。牠們被稱為社會昆蟲是因為牠們分工合作，而且團結一致。

這也是詩篇133篇的主旨，就是上帝的子民和睦同居在主裡面有合一的見證。詩篇133篇是詩篇120-134篇的15篇上行詩中之一。以色列人的一切男丁每年三次要上耶路撒冷向耶和華守節，就是除酵節，七七節和住棚節(出23:14-17；申16-16)。他們每年上耶路撒冷到聖殿朝見上帝；就是吟這些上行詩。上聖殿有15個台階，由祭司帶領吟唱這15篇上行詩直到上帝的面前。詩篇133篇是大衛王作的一篇讚美的詩歌，讚美上帝子民的合一。經過多年的爭戰後，以色列的長老來到希伯崙見大衛王，他就在希伯崙耶和華的面前與他們立約。他們就膏大衛作以色列王(撒下5:1-3)。

一、主裡合一的見證(詩133:1)

詩人在第一節說：「看啊！弟兄和睦同居是何等的善，何等的美！」是的，主內的弟兄姊妹和睦同居是理所當然的。但是事實並不是這樣。我們如果觀察初期的教會，你會發現哥林多教會的弟兄們中間，彼此爭競、分爭、結黨，甚至互相訴訟於外邦人的法庭(林前6:1-8)。使徒保羅勸以弗所的教會要在聖靈裡面合一(弗4:16)。又勸加拉太的弟兄們不要相咬相吞(加5:15)。甚至他所愛教會，腓立比教會的友阿爹和循都基姊妹不能同心(腓4:1-3)。

但主耶穌在約翰福音第17章的臨別禱告，就是要我們基督徒合而為一。主內合一的要素，乃是根據同一的屬靈生命為基礎，就是弟兄彼此和睦相處的見證，叫外人看出我們是上帝的兒女，是主的門徒。

弟兄和睦同居的見證在上帝的眼光中看為甚麼呢？弟兄和睦同居的見證，在上帝看來是善與美，到底多善多美呢？詩人量不出來，也形容不出來，只能說：何等的善！何等的美！

二、好像貴重的油(詩133:2)

第二節：「這好比那貴重的油，澆在亞倫的頭上流到鬚鬚，又流到他的衣襟。」詩人說是用貴重的

油來澆在祭司亞倫的頭上。這油為什麼貴重呢？因為這油是聖膏油，是特別製造的。是耶和華曉諭摩西用上品質的香料製造的。就是流質的沒藥(Myrrh)6公斤、肉桂(Cinnamon)3公斤、菖蒲(Cane)3公斤和桂皮(Cassia)6公斤；又用橄欖油(Olive Oil)一加侖，按作

香之法製造的。(出30:22-25)這聖膏油澆在祭司亞倫的頭上，流到他的鬚鬚，又流到他的衣襟，也流到他的胸牌。這胸牌繡著以色列十二支派的名，象徵著亞倫的完全分別為聖代表以色列的十二支派事奉上帝。同樣，上帝子民的和睦同居也使以色列人成聖。

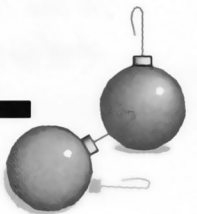
如果有人長久與亞倫相近，他身上膏油的香氣一定會傳到那人的身上。同樣，今天你如果到很多人在抽煙的餐館，你出來後也會有煙味存在你的身上。但亞倫身上的香氣是在外表，是暫時的。感謝讚美主，基督徒比亞倫更加有福，我們如果被聖靈充滿，這屬靈貴重的油所發出的屬靈的香氣是永不會消失的。



三、好像黑門山的甘露(詩133:3)

第三節：「好比黑門山的甘露降在錫安山，因為在那裡有耶和華所命定的福，就是永遠的生命。」主耶穌曾帶彼得、雅各、約翰上黑門山。主在山上改變形像，臉面明亮如日頭、衣裳潔白如光(太17:1-2)。彼得到了黑門山好像是到了另一個世界，使他樂而忘返不願意下山。黑門山的甘露是在黎明前慢慢地降下。這豐富的露水降下錫安和其周圍，使花草樹木得到滋潤欣欣向榮。

美國有名的Pittsburgh Pirate棍球隊之領隊Willie Stargel，被他的隊員稱為“Pops”，因為他無論在球場裡或在球場外都是一位好領袖。在1979年，他領導這棍球隊得到第二次的世界冠軍。他們這隊的綽號叫“The Family”，因為他們隊員之間關係良好，有團結的精神同心合意彼此合作。同樣，基督徒如果有合一的好見證，就好比黑門山的甘露徐徐下降，使四圍許多過著犯罪生活作惡不信的人，好像枯萎的花草得到滋潤而活過來。他們因為看到基督徒的好見證樂於慕道，也會得到耶和華所命定的福，就是永遠的生命。





DESERT TIMES

PDL

"REMEMBER HOW THE LORD YOUR GOD LED YOU ALL THE WAY IN THE DESERT THESE FORTY YEARS, TO HUMBLE YOU AND TO TEST YOU IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN YOUR HEART, WHETHER OR NOT YOU WOULD KEEP HIS COMMANDS."

— DEUTERONOMY 8:2

There are times in our lives when God leads us into the desert in order to let us find out what is in our hearts. These times can be very difficult and humbling. Desert times may mean limited supplies of food and water or simply a financial crisis. It may also mean a different environment in which a family or an individual transfers to a foreign land. It may be a personal struggle where there is scarcity of real friends and hope that makes life so hard.

I remember a friend of mine once shared with me about a relationship with a guy that had gone sour. Both of them were Christians and faithfully serving in the ministry of their respective churches. They thought their relationship was God-given and indestructible. However as months passed by, sin slowly poisoned their hearts that consequently gave away their relationship.

"BUT EACH ONE IS TEMPTED WHEN HE IS CARRIED AWAY AND ENTICED BY HIS OWN LUST. THEN WHEN LUST HAS CONCEIVED, IT GIVES BIRTH TO SIN; WHEN SIN IS ACCOMPLISHED, IT BRINGS FORTH DEATH."

— JAMES 1:14-15

Sin always results in some form of death. Sin caused my friend's relationship to die and along with it, her self-esteem. After the breakup, her world fell apart. She was so devastated that she attempted suicide. But God is merciful and forgiving. God had other plans for her life despite her suicide attempt. Soon God's grace, hope and strength filled her life. For a time, she didn't understand why she had to go through such painful experience; maybe it was a consequence of sin. However God's purpose is beyond any consequence for it is written in Romans 8:28, "... we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Today, she is a well respected leader and a youth counselor of her church. During one

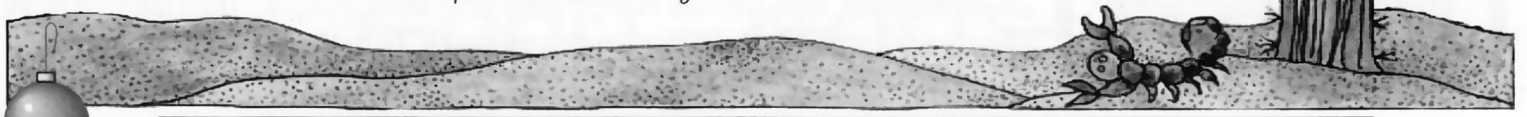
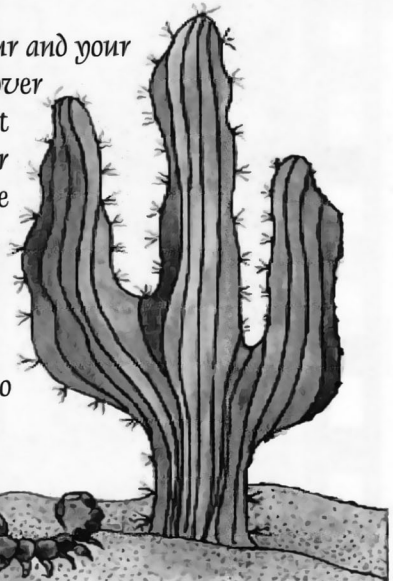
of our recent conversations, she confessed that if it wasn't for her past experience, she wouldn't be able to understand and counsel the youths with the same experiences without a hint of condemnation and self-righteousness. It was indeed a humbling experience for her.

Desert experiences teach us unique lessons. What desert experience has He brought into your life lately? Perhaps it is a lean time in business. Perhaps it is a family feud. Whatever it is, when God decides to bring new discipline into our lives by bringing us into the desert, do not fear for the Lord declares in Jeremiah 29:11, "...I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Let us put our hope and our faith in God. It may be hard for you to just give it all up to Him. But hey, that is what you really need to do. God will always make a way where there seems to be no way. He will never forsake you nor forget you.

Sometimes it is in our lowest moments and darkest hours that we are able to find the truth that will carry us forward and help us live better lives. Maybe this is because it is in these moments when we are "truly free" and we no longer hold on to anyone or anything that is worldly. Maybe because it is in these moments that we become as diamonds that go through a fiery furnace before our true color is allowed to shine. If we only learn to accept and, more importantly, "let go" of our very selves; then, God's grace and mercy will shine through us and His will shall be done.

So when things go sour and your world seems to tumble all over you, do not fear and do not despair. Trust in the Lord your God and let Him be the source of your strength. Let these desert experiences bring hope and true meaning into your lives just as it did to countless people thousands of years ago as written in the bible.





Take a Quick Look at the Missions

PASTOR ALFIE P. BUGTAI

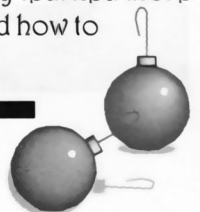
To oversee the missionaries is a humbling ministry and yet a big responsibility. Therefore, I take it as a noble challenge in supervising the missionaries. It is a great privilege to minister to them, listen to and learn with them. I was greatly honored to witness the amazing work and power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of each missionary. People came to Christ and opened their houses for a Bible studies. Some followed Him in water baptism, surrendered, and renounced their idols.

A feeling of excitement electrified my heart when visiting the missionaries for the first time. It was like an escapade. I did not know what experience I would go through but I knew this was what God wanted me to do. It was not my purpose to catch them doing wrong but to look for ways on how we could be involved and help in their ministry.

At the start, I was amazed at their passion to the cause Jesus had started but then I found out there was more than what met the eye. It was their passion to Jesus Christ. They did not care how far they walked as long as the Gospel was preached to the people. Hiking on a mountain was exhilarating but when you reached and met the people there, sharing the Gospel was even more breathtaking. Some missionaries asked and paid their neighbors to take care of their children while they were away and having Bible study. There were lots of sacrifices on the part of the missionaries. I understood then, when we are called to the service of Christ, service is not what we do for Him but what we are to Him.

Looking for means to help the missionaries in their cause, we conducted a Vacation Bible School for children last summer in ten mission fields. With the assistance of the eleven Bible school students from Visayas Alliance School of Theology, we were able to reach 874 children. Every time the VBS team left the church, it was an emotional moment. Parents shook our hands and gave thanks for teaching their children. Children watched us leave with tears in their eyes as they waved goodbye. The response of the children and parents were the inspiration for the team to herald another week of VBS to another area. Although the team was tired, the expectation and anticipation of the power of God and His faithfulness was so great. Consequently, more Bible studies were opened and more children attended Sunday school. Surprisingly, after the VBS, not only children came to Christ but children also brought their parents to Christ. God was faithfully using the VBS program to make a difference in the lives of the children.

Last September 15-18, 2005 was the Cebu Gospel Church annual mission emphasis week. Once again, the missionaries met together for a four-day affair and for a time of refreshment from their hectic busy schedule. During the emphasis week, they learned many things from the lecturers. They learned more about accountability and financial management. They also learned how to





teach children in creative ways. It was lots of fun. The missionaries were encouraged and touched by the lecturers. Their learning could be seen in their new and changing approach to their lives and ministry.

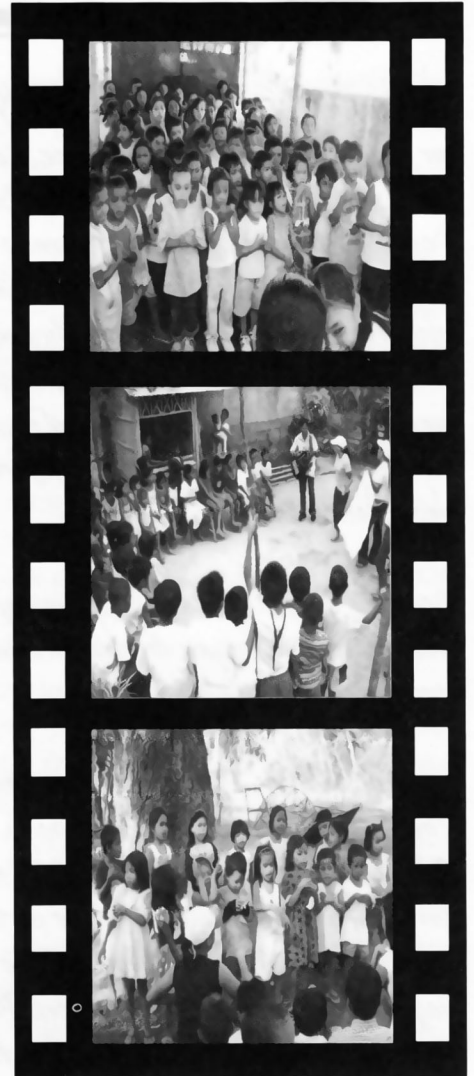
Who are the missionaries today and where are they?

In the province of Cebu, there are three fields of mission:

- (1) Reverend Rene Villanueva and family - Toledo City, Cebu;
- (2) Pastor Alberto Tobias - Dumanjug, Cebu;
- (3) Reverend Antonio Marohomsalic and family - previously in Compostela, Cebu but presently assigned to Tudela, Camotes Island, Cebu. Compostela is now an established church after five years of pioneering work and now has a pastor ministering to the people there.

In Leyte, we have:

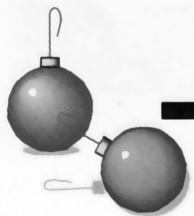
- (4) Reverend Rolando Duero and family - Villaba, Leyte;
- (5) Pastor Apollo Ybanez and family - Ormoc City, Leyte;
- (6) Pastor Jonathan Nablza and family - Hilongos, Leyte;
- (7) Reverend Freddie Guinang and family - previously in Bato, Leyte but now assigned to Matalom, Leyte. Bato now is an established church. They already own a lot and a building.
- (8) Reverend Abner Emia and family - Sogod, Southern Leyte.
- (9) Pastor Jose Monares and family - San Vicente Island, Northern Samar;
- (10) Pastor Ricky Deniola and family - Iloilo City.
- (11) Reverend Ferdinand Minguillan and family - Bicol region.
- (12) Miss Rosalinda Ng - working with the Surigao Gospel Church; and
- (13) Miss Perlita Tan - ministering to the Kalagan Muslims in Davao del Norte.



These 13 persons and families responded to the call of God. They know well that the task can be overwhelming and not easily done without their physical presence. They dedicate their lives to the glory of God, not for a certain organization. Jesus Christ is the most important factor of the triumph in mission. He is the anchor that keeps them grounded as well as the compass that keeps them going in the right track. They know that it is not what they do for Christ that counts, but what He does through them. Therefore, it is not a question whether the missionaries are doing their part or not. Instead, we ask ourselves, "Are we doing our part?" Each of us is challenged to take hold and carry out the Great Commission.

Ministering to the missionaries is a life-changing experience. It is neither about them nor about the ministry that has been entrusted to them but the faithfulness of God in each of their lives. It is all about God and His working power through those who are faithful to him.

GOOD - GOD = 0





"Jesus Loves You" Ministry

JANE JANE ONG

Held on Oct 3-7, 2005, the "Jesus Loves You" ministry is a project of our church together with the Bangor Baptist Church of Maine, USA. A total of 46 Americans, led by Dr. Jerry Mick, the Senior Pastor of Bangor Baptist Church, came to do missions, each equipped to touch the hearts of people through their various gifts. Some came to minister to the needs of people through their music, others taught while yet others assisted in the medical missions. Together with volunteers from our church, headed by Deacon Nixon Po, it was awesome to see God working through us to touch the lives of countless people and get the message across that "Jesus loves them".

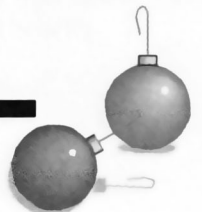
Basically, the Jesus Loves You Ministry was subdivided into three areas: the medical mission, the children's outreach and the evangelistic concerts.

Medical Mission. Five continuous days were spent on medical mission. The first two days were held in Minglanilla, the third and fourth day in Consolacion and the last day at PCGS to service the needs of the surrounding community. For this, we partnered with Open Hands Ministry to help us with the planning of how to go about a project of this magnitude and providing us with doctors. Bangor Baptist Church on the other hand provided boxes of medicines which they brought with them from the US and quite a number of nurses who formed part of the team. We were able to provide medical, dental and optical treatments to 4,735 patients in those 5 days. It was so moving to see people lining up as early as 7:00 in the morning to be able to get treated. Before each person consulted with a doctor, he had to go through a one-on-one counseling session. What was truly amazing is that out of the total number of patients treated, 2,620 accepted Jesus Christ to be their personal Savior and 1,529 are willing to attend Bible study. Praise the Lord!

Children's Outreach. From the street children of Cebu City to the port kids to the children of Ermita, Carbon and Lorega, everyone was blessed. Around 120 kids attended each morning and they all responded enthusiastically to the songs, puppet show, games, arts and craft activities hosted by the Americans from Bangor Baptist Church. Bottles of vitamins were also given to the kids. In the afternoons, it was the turn of the students in different schools to be blessed through praise and worship songs and evangelistic puppet shows. Not only were the children blessed, but also the volunteers. Everyone experienced joy from seeing the grateful and happy faces of the children.

Evangelistic Concerts. There were three performances on different venues by the Maine Connection, the singing group of the Bangor Baptist Church. It was a sight to see people of different ages (from teens to the elderly) on the stage. Not only that but it was so wonderful to see the group use different instruments to worship our God. Among the instruments used were: saxophone, clarinet, flute, accordion, trumpets, etc. The first performance held at the Grand Convention Center blessed the Christian audience. PCGS was the venue of the second performance. I was told that one student who was contemplating of committing suicide was so touched and moved by the message of the concert. Praise God indeed! The culminating night was held at Cebu Coliseum on Oct. 7. It was just amazing to see people come forward during the altar call to accept Jesus Christ and even so much more with special needs prayed with Dr. Mick. Seeing people from all walks of life coming forward, some with tears in their eyes, was truly the work of the Holy Spirit moving in the hearts of the people.

After months of preparations, what we thought was a near impossible task to do is finally over and a huge success! PTL! As we enter our 90th Founding Anniversary next year, we thank God for giving Cebu Gospel Church the vision to move forward and do greater things for Him!





短短的故事

蒙奇恩

(一) 兩種讀法

一位文學家和一老牧師同被一位財主邀赴筵席。席間有人題議，要請文學家誦讀詩篇廿三篇。文學家答應下來，但是堅持老牧師也讀一遍。因為文學家精通文學，讀法出眾，當



快則快，當慢則慢，當高則高，當低則低，誦讀起來，如同音樂，非常動聽。讀畢掌聲如雷，無不稱讚他的讀法。繼之老牧師也讀一遍。讀後一無掌聲，但是個個眼中流淚。於是文學家站起來說：「我的讀法比牧師好，我年青，聲音響亮，停頓分明；牧師年老，門齒剝落，發音不清。但我所得著的，

只是你們的掌聲，你們的稱讚；而他所得著的，乃是你們的心，你們的淚。這是甚麼緣故呢？無他，因我所認識的，只是詩篇廿三篇中的字句；而他所認識的，乃是詩篇廿三篇的那位牧者。」我們若能更深認識基督，就能為祂作出更美好的見證。

(二) 加爾博士利用花生

黑人科學家加爾博士，自幼生長在美國南部，常勸黑人同胞，除了種棉花，再種其他農作物。這樣，若是棉花歉收，不致完全失望。後來終於說服他們種花生。出乎預料，花生收成太好，除了食用，剩餘甚多。他們便去請教加氏。加氏是個虔誠的基督徒，便去求神賜他智慧，叫他知道利用這些花生。神垂聽他的禱告，叫他發現花生不但可以榨油，還可作麵包，咖啡，雪糕，牛奶，假漆，染料，藥品等等百種以上的用途。後來他應邀出席美國國會的一個特別會議。主席問他：「加爾博士，你怎能發明這許多東西呢？」加氏回答說：「我是從一本古書上學來的。」「甚麼書？」「聖經。」「聖經裡面有論花生麼？」「沒有，但是聖經叫我認識了那位創造花生的神。我求祂賜我智慧，祂便指示我怎樣利用花生。」

(三) 十三點

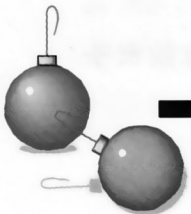
三百年前，在德國柏林，發現一個少女屍體，被槍擊斃。有兩位軍人亞利斐和威廉，平常和這少女往來，偵探便指他們二人是嫌疑犯。他們都不承認，於是總軍長叫人拿來戰鼓和骰子二粒，對二嫌疑犯說：「你二人將骰子擲在鼓上，骰子上面點數多的釋放，點數少的槍斃，以了此案。」亞利斐先擲，骰子二粒，上面都是六點，心裡暗喜說：「骰子每面最多不還六點，我擲二粒上面都是六點，他必定不能比我再多，所以我必得釋放，他必死無疑了。」擲畢退下，威廉來擲。威廉是一度誠的基督徒，未擲之前，跪下高聲禱告說：「主啊，你知道我不是殺這少女的人，亞利斐因為聽說她昨日下午六時和我訂婚，因而嫉恨殺了她，求主在眾人面前為我伸冤。」禱告完畢，擲下骰子，一粒骰子上面有六點，另一骰子裂為兩半，一半上面有六點，一半上面有一點。亞利斐看見了，面如土色戰抖不止。總軍長再審問他，他不敢不承認了。現在這二粒骰子，仍然藏在柏林荷肯所離博物院裡面，另有牛皮一塊，將這二骰子的來歷詳細記載。諸位如有機會到達柏林，請到該院，請求管理人引導，去看這二粒骰子。由此可知道宇宙之中確有神在鑒察是非，能瞞人，不能瞞神，隱藏的必被顯露出來！



(四) 相片上的遺囑

有一財主晚年生了一子，特別俊美，父母非常愛他。三歲那年，忽然生病，不久死了。母親思子情切，也病死了。父親遭此不幸，精神錯亂，不久也死了。地方官來拍賣他的家具，至終賣到一張小兒的相片，無人願要。一位老人出了高價買了回去。這位老人乃是他家的老僕人，買去留作記念。回家之後，打開鏡子，打算擦淨玻璃，看見相片後面寫道：「誰得著我兒子的相片，我一切的財產都歸他。」結果，僕人得著主人的一切。「人有了神的兒子，就有生命。」（約壹五：12）

選摘自福音和造就故事兩書。





一罐「續命水」

小星光

一夜風雨咆哮吹打後，大地開始平靜下來。初陽自雲霧的帷幕跨出纖細的玉腿，舉步輕盈，環視四方受蹂躪的生態，發出她柔和的溫暖，憐憫的撫慰，涵蓋受創的花草樹木，鳥兒蜂蝶，振奮牠們求生的慾望，抖擻勇敢抓住生機。清晨起身，到屋外查看，有否遭到損壞？在草地上的低窪躺臥著一條虎口大，橙色的鯽魚在翻滾著，將積水拌成泥漿，嘴一張一翕，掙扎拖延殘生。看樣子是昨夜大雨，魚池溢滿時「偷渡」出境的浪子，結局和人間的浪子一樣悲慘。所幸的，是被及時發現，才逃脫此劫。被遣回的「游子」，好像珍惜牠的再生，顯得特別活躍天矯。其樂真的是「如魚得水」。植物無水滋潤，也會乾枯凋萎。人體有百份之七十八是水份，一星期絕糧勉強能挺得住，在同一條件下缺水難望能活著。記載在路加福音16章19至24節：一個死去的財主在陰間的火焰裡受盡痛苦，要求亞伯拉罕差遣拉撒路蘸點水涼一涼他的舌頭；顯示人死了，靈魂還會枯渴。令人聯想到美軍在越南受挫敗時，許多富裕的南越人乘船逃亡，成為名盛一時越南船民。這些船民多數是富有人家，有時受海賊□殺，有的船被風浪沖破，葬身魚腹，有的斷糧缺水，做了餓殍。還有身纏萬貫富商，擲巨款向同船人要買半口唾沫給他垂死愛女。

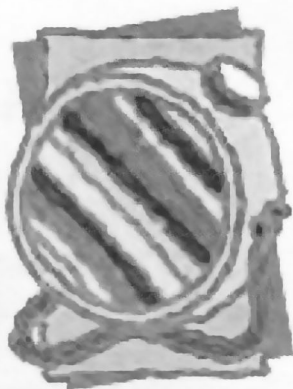
下面是一則郵輪發生海難的軼聞。事情發生在二十世紀五十年代，川航歐洲港口的一艘郵輪取名詹姆斯號，已經航行了十幾天，乘客聽再半天就可到達目的地。這個宣佈給疲憊搭客大大振奮，雀躍歡笑。大家都望早點和家人團圓。有人開始收拾行李，互相打招呼，有的互換名片，相約再見。

大副杰克遜的心也甜蜜蜜翹首嬌妻，和兒子馬上就可依偎在自己的懷抱裡。他興奮捧起掛在胸前的水罐「咕咚」喝了兩口。又摸摸口袋裡要給兒子的禮物。

俗語說：「樂極生悲」。這時，身後傳來嘈雜聲。杰克遜回頭一望，船艙竟冒出股股的濃煙。隨著是驚惶失措的乘客從船艙蜂擁向甲板。沒有等杰克遜反應過來，烏煙已撲面席捲過來，更糟的，刮著大風浪。詹姆斯號也搖來晃去得很厲害，乘客嚎哭驚嚷，四面亂跑。誰也聽不見杰克遜大聲呼叫「大家冷靜」、「不要慌」。一個個跳入大海，被巨浪席捲或吞沒消失。

情形非常危急，杰克遜跑到船舷旁解放一隻救生艇，在海裡救出六個人。但正要救第七個人時，救生

艇卻被一個巨浪沖去有十多米遠。就在這個時候詹姆斯發出一聲震耳的爆炸聲，隨即帶著逗留船上的人都沉到海底。七個人緊緊抓住救生艇，蜷曲坐臥著，海浪猛烈推搡，任憑它搖晃，不知目標的飄蕩，直到第二天的下午，海面才平靜。七個幸存者，張目四望，海天茫茫，都不知身在何方。六個乘客特別是拳擊手道格拉斯，他怒視和發怨言，對杰克遜和詹姆斯咒咀，要求傾家蕩產給他賠償。



杰克遜劫平和，冷靜對大家說：「請少說話，保留體力，我們不知甚麼時候才能被人家救起，而我們現在也沒糧食，和淡水。」

在靜默中，道格拉斯一眼瞥見杰克遜胸前的水罐，又氣呼呼地說：「你脖子上的水罐裡裝的不是淡水嗎？你想獨佔它嗎？如果是的話，我會將你撕碎。」杰克遜看了看胸前的水罐，小心地搖了搖，對大家說：「給我們生命構成威脅的不是沒有食物，而是沒有水。這裡只有一罐水，它是我們生命的最終保障，是續命的水，只有到了生理極限的時刻，才能動用它。」說著，杰克遜自腰間掏出一把左輪手槍繼續道：「或許，我們馬上就會口乾舌燥，我們都會找這罐水的主意……但是女士們，先生們要明白，在遠遠沒有到我們生理極限，不到萬不得已的時候，誰敢動它，我會斃了他」。再堅持一會兒，你就能喝到「續命水」。

救生艇繼續在海面上漫無目的地隨波逐流。第三天早上，旭陽一出來，雖然驅散夜間的寒冷，一下子，再給人感受到熱烘烘、毒辣辣。艇上的人都被曬得出油。愛麗斯夫人突然暈厥過去，大家搖晃著呼喚她。愛麗斯乾裂的嘴唇，一張一合，低微聲叫著：「水...水」。

杰克遜摟著愛麗斯的脖頸，貼近她的耳邊，輕聲說：「夫人，現在還不是最危險時刻，你不能動這罐水，我相信你現在能忍受得住。」

在一旁的道格拉斯大叫道：「甚麼？這還沒有到時候？你是想渴死愛麗斯夫人嗎？」說著就來搶水罐。

杰克遜迅速放下愛麗斯，從口袋裡掏出手



槍來大喝道：「別動！你敢過來，我就一槍打死你！」



道格拉斯被黑洞洞的槍口鎮住了，呼呼地喘氣，咬牙切齒：「我看你是想趁天黑時獨吞這罐水，記住，我會讓你死得很難看。」

愛麗斯時而昏過去，時而醒過來，惟一句話就是：「水...水...」但這絲毫沒有打動杰克遜，他握著手槍，護著水罐也只說一句：「愛麗斯再堅持，到需要的時候，我會喂你水的。」

第三個黑夜來到了，救生艇還是漫無目的地漂流著。七個人也分成兩陣營。杰克遜守著神志不清的愛麗斯，驚慌的道格拉斯和另外四個人，則始終虎視眈眈地盯住杰克遜，只要一絲機會，他們就會沖過去奪取這個自私鬼的水罐。顯然的，他們已經視杰克遜為公敵。道格拉斯說：「大副先生，我會監視你整夜的，如果敢動一口水，我就要擰斷你的脖子。」

道格拉斯和杰克遜就這樣對峙一個黑夜。

第四天來臨，風平浪靜，太陽一露面就發威力，愛麗斯已發不出聲音。偶然張合紫黑的干裂嘴唇，可是杰克遜依然不為所動。中午時分，又有兩人昏厥過去。他們清醒過來第一句的話就是懇求給點兒水喝。

但冷酷杰克遜還是那句話：「還沒到你們最需要水的時候，你們還能頂得住。」

下午的時分，克勞林實在忍受不住鑽心的飢渴，捧起海水就喝，杰克遜大叫：「不能喝！」他起身想拉開克勞林，道格拉斯見狀撲了過來，想奪水罐。杰克遜趕緊回轉身，用槍頂住道格拉斯的額頭，兇狠地盯著道格拉斯說：「想找死嗎？」道格拉斯只好退了回去。這當兒，克勞林喝下好幾口海水，杰克遜痛苦而又無奈地說：「克勞林，你會送命的。」

第五個晚一臨，大家渾身癱瘓得像一堆稀泥。道格拉斯和杰克遜仍舊對峙著。半夜的時候，道格拉斯敗下陣來，他抵擋不住疲倦，叫醒一個同伴，繼續監視杰克遜，自己倒頭睡去。

當第六個清晨來臨時，他們發現，克勞林已經死了。悲哀和絕望讓救生艇上的人們傷心地哭了。可是，因體內缺水，誰也流不出滴淚珠來。

道格拉斯質問杰克遜：「克勞林都渴死了，這還沒有到最需要淡水的時候嗎？是你害死克勞林！」

杰克遜反駁道：「克勞林是自己殺了自己，他本來可以像愛麗斯夫人一樣挺過來，但他喝了海水...請相信我，我們都沒有到最需要的時候，我們還可以堅持。」道格拉斯無力地罵了一句：「大壞蛋」又挪近身子，緊緊盯著杰克遜。

中午的時候，所有的人都倒下了。他們像將渴死的魚一般，無力張翕著嘴。只有道格拉斯還能發出「水...水.....」的聲音，不過他和同伴一樣，已沒了動彈的氣力。杰克遜已斜躺在船幫上，手槍落在一旁，他的雙手緊抱著水罐，但已沒有氣力打開水罐，喝那「續命水」了。

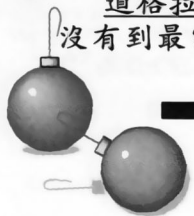
就在夜幕降臨時，忽然傳來了汽笛聲。接著兩道刺眼的燈光掃射到救生艇上，他們慶幸被救援的海輪發現。仿佛有一股力量注入大家的體內，他們終於發出微弱的聲音：「救...」杰克遜啞咕了一聲：「感謝上帝！」頭一歪就昏厥過去。

道格拉斯哆嗦爬到杰克遜跟前，拽過那只水罐，想灌個痛快。但他感覺水罐太輕，好像沒有水。道格拉斯晃著水罐，仍沒聽見罐裡有甚麼動靜，擰開水罐蓋兒，將水罐朝下，還是沒有一滴水....

救生艇的六個人都得救了。當杰克遜醒來時，發現他們都在醫院裡，道格拉斯正望著他。杰克遜朝道格拉斯點點頭，道格拉斯還以友好的一笑說：「大副先生，你是否知道，你守著的那個罐裡根本沒有一滴水。」

杰克遜笑著說：「我早就知道裡面沒有水，但我給你們虛構了一個希望，有了這個希望，你們才會不斷地對自己說：『我總會喝到那罐水的，我能堅持住。』你們自始至終沒有喝到水，但你們的心靈被水滋潤了。如果你們知道水罐裡沒有水，你們會覺得沒有希望，會被絕望打敗，生命就會在心靈死亡後消失。」停了停，杰克遜又說：「不過道格拉斯先生，你是否知道，那把手槍是永遠也射不出子彈的，因為它是我給兒子買的玩具。」

一場海難，六條生命，就是有冀望，同一個信念，相信有一罐淡水，給他們點燃生命火焰，才能抵受及戰勝惡劣的處境，最終獲救。歸結起來，是因信得救。朋友，你是否知道宇宙間還有一種生命水，喝了永不會再口渴，因它要在你裡頭成為泉源，直湧到永生，只要你信，接受耶穌為救主，祂就會賜給你永生活命的水。你可查考約翰福音四章13-14節。耶穌回答說：「凡喝這水（普通水）的，還要再喝；人若喝我所賜的水，就永遠不渴。我所賜的水，要在他裡頭成為泉源，直湧到永生。」





SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERYDAY

LORENZO CASTRO, PCGS CHAPEL & MINISTRY COORDINATOR

In this age of information where everything seems knowable & attainable and where predictability & manageability are supremely valued, it is invigorating, at times disquieting, to encounter phenomena that refuse to conform to our neatly categorized expectations. From simple quirks of nature like four-leaf clovers, albino elephants and ball-shaped lightning, to fascinating specimens of human peculiarities like teenage geniuses with PhD's, politicians with integrity and women unmindful of their looks - these 'bumps' are welcome diversions from the general flatness of our daily experiences. Such oddities tend to shake our imaginations and sometimes, like the tragic collapse of the World Trade Center, shatter our false sense of security. Other times, they warm our hearts and like the heroic ordeal of the late Martin Burnham in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf, crystallize our hopes - in this case, the hope that faith can remain unbending even in the face of death.

These and others like them are simply things that you don't see everyday. They are also, more often than not, things we should not ignore. At the very least, they come as bracing reminders that for all our knowledge and technology, we do not really have everything figured out - not the world, not life and certainly not God. As the Lord declared... *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isa 55:9) It is rather sad to see many areas in our 'religious' life operating contrary in principle to the basic reality that we can never control nor fully predict how God will choose to move in this day and age. I fear that most of us in church may be assuming to have a sufficient grasp on the ways of God that our relationship with him has become so mechanical and transactional - devoid of any sense of wonder and mystery. We have made God predictable. We have made Him small.

In sharp rebuke against this spiritually impoverishing tendency, is not the Scripture loaded with accounts after surprising accounts of God's creative sovereignty? Were not most of the individuals whom God chose to use, plagued with questionable qualifications and evident eccentricities? - unlikely candidates for anything great? Did not our Lord Jesus Himself portray the miraculous regenerating work of the Spirit as like

the wind that blows where it wills - merely disclosing its power, never its origin? Does not God's Kingdom flourish in the most unusual places and in the most astonishing & unforeseen ways?

God delights in surprising us. He is a master in spontaneity and creativity. Just read through the Bible & through Church history and you will see Him time and time again breaking barriers and shattering expectations - working wonders in the lives of His people throughout the ages. And He is still marvelously at work today, even in our school.

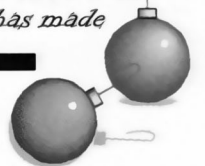
"I have observed the transformation of some of my schoolmates - they have stepped up in sharing the Good News to others and have encouraged even non-believers by their testimony about how God has been working miraculously in their daily lives. No matter how tempted they were to cheat during exams, they would really stand firm, flee from the temptation and decide not to. They are also learning to be patient and persistent in their other school works - I mean, they would do their school projects cheerfully as if doing it for the Lord Himself!"

—Y.G.R. 4th year student

That may not seem much to most of you and that is probably because you have not really had a problem with cheating or struggled with schoolwork; but, for beleaguered students presented with an opportunity to 'get away with it', those decisions border on the miraculous. God is still in the business of changing lives and He is doing it one precious heart at a time. As long as we let Him, He can use our ordinary lives to extraordinarily impact other lives. And He is not limited to personal one-on-one means.



"PCGS is one of the factors as to why I chose to follow Christ. There are plenty of temptations in school: peer pressures, study issues, etc. - and if you are not strong in Christ, these will overcome you. The school has made



me more discerning in making decisions. A lot of people here positively influence me in the things I do. So our school is definitely one of the training grounds for my growth in Christ."

—A.L.O.Ist year student

"So what's the big deal?" you ask, "Things like that happen everyday." Well, yes. They do occur everyday but not here. At least, not in this way. You see, these are but snapshots of the much bigger picture of what's spiritually going on in school. A case in point, one 2nd year student, N.U., commented that when calls for repentance and commitment were made during our Revival Rally on the last day of our High School Christ Emphasis Week last September, she and another classmate wanted to move from their places in the chapel pews in order to kneel on the aisles before the Lord, but cannot do so because the open spaces were already occupied by other students kneeling, weeping and crying out to God. "The two biggest guys in our batch already beat us to the spot - and they were praying and sobbing." That's something you don't see everyday.

God is definitely at work. Take for example the case of a few primary level boys enthusiastically bringing their friends over to the Student Affairs Office and sincerely inquiring how they could be assured of their salvation - a few days after quite a number of them responded to the altar call during an evangelistic concert (especially significant when you consider that they walked a long way from their second floor seating to go to the front of the stage). How about the case of one new pupil who recently accepted Christ, the only believer in their family, who expressed his ardent desire to become a pastor and serve God in the ministry? or how about the junior and senior high school students who are spending a good portion of their short lunch breaks in voluntary prayer groups? or the story of some 12-13 year-old freshmen who organized their own weekly after-school Bible study and discipleship group - a movement fueled by a devotion for Christ best exemplified by J.M., who, on the eve before joining the Boy's Scout's Jamboree on the Internet - an on-line marathon event where scouts from all over the world would meet and chat for hours on the net - asked his parents to pray for him so he could share Jesus Christ and win souls in the said event? "The Lord has placed a fire in me to win souls for Him... and it's becoming greater." Or how about students and teachers coming to school at 5:30 in the morning to participate in a no-academic-credit (and no-overtime-pay) student-organized prayer walk to join hearts in interceding for the nation?

These are just some of the rumblings of what a number



of us here in school believe to be a mighty wave of the Spirit's outpouring that's coming our way. God is indeed drawing these young people to a deeper relationship with Him so He can greatly manifest His life-transforming power through them. For those who desire its fulfillment, it is a joy to anticipate. For those with eyes to see, it is a spectacle to behold-- something you don't see everyday.

"I want to have a real JESUS lifestyle... that, Jesus will be seen in everything I do. I want to grow deeply, desperately, 'freakishly' in love with him... in other words, in my life, He must increase and I must decrease. I pray that PCGS students and teachers would come to truly love God and serve Him faithfully... to the end."

—A.S. 4th year student

We still have a long way to go and a great responsibility to bear both as a school and as the church primarily responsible for the school - to make sure we do not, by ignorance, neglect or by disobedience, miss out on God's mighty work. And although He has a few surprises up His sleeves, one thing is for sure: *There is no genuine revival without genuine repentance... and there is no genuine repentance without earnest prayer* -- soul-searching, gut-wrenching, earth-shaking prayer. Prayer fueled by an unrelenting passion to see God glorified no matter what the cost - that shrinks not at the thought of sacrifice and bids lesser loyalties be quiet. "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 'I will be found by you,' declares the LORD" (Jer 29:13-14) Oh for the day when we as a church would shake off our religious pretensions like the filthy rags that they are, humble ourselves, turn from our wicked ways, actually seek His face more than anything else and plead the Spirit rain down on our parched & weary souls once more. Now, that's something you don't see everyday. And I don't know about you, but as for me, that's something I definitely look forward to.

COME, LORD JESUS. COME.





擴張神國，扮好己色

王郭筱穎師母

曾經有人說，世界共有三個“國”：

- 一、撒旦的國：是一個黑暗的國，專門從事破壞，欺騙之事。
- 二、上帝的國：一個美麗的國，給人心靈平安，真正的喜樂，使人生命有意義，為使萬人得救，與神和好，做主門徒。
- 三、我的國：“我”是國王，不需要神的幫助，也不需要禱告，因我有智慧、能力，是一個以自我為中心的國。

這使我聯想到今年本教會最後四個月的主題，它是注重於“人與人之間的關係”這題目上。耶穌在被賣的那一夜特別為門徒禱告，也為我們禱告，使我們都能合而為一，正如祂與父合而為一那樣。這讓我們看到“一個基督徒的人際關係若有問題，肯定祂與神之間的關係也必定有問題”，因為神的本意是要我們與人和好，與神和人合一事奉。並非要我們堅持己見來演獨腳戲。同樣的，教會若不能合一，相信裡面的人一定是太注重於“我”這一個字上。所以一個基督徒的人際關係可說是與祂屬靈光景有直接的關係。

我們應認定基督為教會之元首，認清自己的責任，以禱告為念，引人歸主，以神的方法完成祂所托

付我們的責任。並且要心胸寬大，勿記人之過。因為工作是工作，私怨是私怨，對事不對人。如果我們把私人的恩怨帶到聖工上，那神的國度必受虧損，就是再大的成就，在神面前仍是一堆雜草。

神非常的祝福我們華人教會，在人才上，資源上都豐豐富富的賜給我們，但願我們能夠好好的使用它，用以擴張神的國度。但願我們能讓神大開我們屬靈的眼界，把屬靈的眼光放遠一點，心胸開闊一點。要知道，神的心是要我們“去，使萬民做我的門徒，奉父，子，聖靈的名給他們施洗，凡我們吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守，我就常與你們同在，直到世界的末了”（太28:19-20）。

神要我們建立“祂的國”，神的心意是要以“祂”為首。親愛的弟兄姊妹，有金，銀，寶石與草木禾稻的工擺在我們面前，我們願意選那一個呢？希望普天下教會的增長或增加是因我們活生生的見證吸引更多的人歸主而加增。



心算巧曆（二00六年）每月常數

初陽

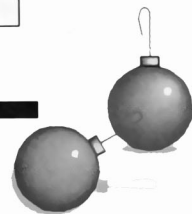
流光似機器齒輪，不斷向前旋轉，帶走了每分、秒的時刻，將一切舊事陳述都收入歷史的行囊，收集在往事的倉庫裡，供給將來有一天的查考或追蹤。

二00五年距年終僅有剩下不足一個月。年中

有幸能在八月會刊登載一篇「心算巧曆」的使用法，現在年屆尾聲，再提供2006年十二個月的新「常數」，以便有興趣的會友可繼續使用巧曆。新年的「常數」如下：

陽月	正	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	十一月	十二月
曆份	月	月	月	月	月	月	月	月	月	月	月	月
二每 0月 0常 六數 年	6	2	2	5	0	3	5	1	4	6	2	4

（明年07，如環境容許，初陽會再度提供新年每月常數。）





2005 年姊妹團契—都是恩典

黃約麗傳道

筆者受托寫姊妹團契今年傳福音事工報告。要述說上主在本團契所成就的，心中希望自己是個快手筆。使一切好處榮耀歸主耶穌。不好的讓我們提醒自己繼續學習。以至不斷殷勤為主結果子。

姊妹團契是教會的一雙手，準備好帶領華僑社區的婦女們認識上主耶穌，做祂的門徒。我們透過一些活動以達到這些目標。列舉如下：學習基本要道，唱詩禱告，聆聽專題講座，分享見證，分享讀經心得，職員敬職聚會，牧師訓言，每年舉行一次郊外退修會，團契周年慶典。每星期二下午三時即團契時間，領受真道，禱告和報告完畢有茶敘，供建立契友間友誼，培養主內健康的關係。茲分享團契生活四點：

一.互助：

甲. 姊妹團契和其他團契有美好聯繫。有一位姊妹在其父病重時，弟兄團契不斷去探訪安慰鼓勵其父。她看見信主的人對於死失的事上不是絕望，而是歸回天家，有一天要復活。她很是受感動，參加了姊妹團契。決志離開偶像，要服事那又真又活的上帝。那就是姊妹團契在今年復活節結的一粒新葡！

乙. 姊妹團契每年參與教會的兒童事工，今年也不例外，姊妹們出錢出力使兒童佈道成功。

二.工課：

今年團契主題採取教會的主題：「在基督裡長進」。我們今年正在彼此相愛的成長中。彼此相愛是上主對祂門徒的命令，並且還是主的門徒之標誌。(約翰 13:34-35)

六十左右人的團契有時不免意見不同，這個時候就是學習彼此相愛的機會。

團訓常常提醒我們：路加1:46-47「我心尊主為大，我靈以上帝我的救主為榮。」我們來團契大前題是要榮耀上帝，其次是歡歡喜喜的來服事上帝，祂會救我們脫離傷害。

三.生命：

今年相繼有五位契友離世歸天。這情形是空前的。有的在場久病中，學習到再不怕過孤單的生活。有的生命改變，有美好品德才離世。有的很突然的就這樣走了。有的在極其痛苦軟弱，好像約伯在痛苦中說自大的話，但可喜的是她最後求告主名。感謝主！這些人使我們感觸到：

1. 生命寶貴，不要虛度一生，要熱心事主
2. 生命短暫，要趁早把握永生
3. 上帝對我們生命有主權，要以祂為樂
4. 在天上多了五位可愛的姊妹們，在本團契我們失去了得力的同工。我們需要新人。那麼我們應該多做個人佈道，引人歸主，多結新葡....

四.前瞻：

今年十一月的感恩節我們再期望結一些新葡。十二月選舉新職員，敬請代禱。

除了以上四點，姊妹團契於今年六月派四位代表參加華福在東馬來西亞主持的第二屆世界華人婦女宣道會議。

代禱事項：

1. 求上主使每一個門徒在基督裡長進
2. 求上主使我們在自己家裡見證有力
3. 求上主使我們禱告進步





A Treasury of Poems

LAWRENCE GARCIA



A BEAUTY UNSEEN

There is a beauty unseen
That is hidden to an eye so keen
It is not an earthly thing that I speak about
But a gift from the heart doth sprout.

This beauty is unknown to man
And unless you believe,
know this beauty you never can
This beauty of course is the very reason we live
And from our Father this gift He doth give.

This gift that I speak of is eternal life
With God in heaven where there is no strife
God offers it freely just ask and receive
This new found beauty is ours if we just believe.



CHILDHOOD

Childhood is a thing that is most dearly cherished
Childhood is a thing that will cling to us.....
until we perish
Both joy and sadness it may bring
Celebration and trials to us it may fling.

Childhood is things that we all share
With friends and family.....here and there
It shows us things that were not taught
And gives us experience that cannot be bought.



TOMORROW

You are always a time away,
In the same day we can never stay,
We never know what you will bring,
For the future holds a mysterious thing.

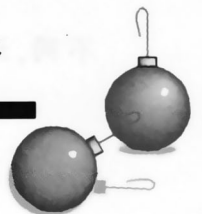
You leave us unknown treasure,
Sometimes sorrow, sometimes pleasure,
We long for you when each day dawns,
And think of you when at night we yawn.



A TREE LIKE ME

I am a tree
A tree is me
So much like a tree I can be.
I stand proud and tall
I will not fall
And I will only go
when time will crawl.

I once was dust
I was like rust
But life is now in me.
I stand unmoving
I stand erect
Forever will I stand
in God's house well kept.





MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE
LITERATURE COMMITTEE!



宿務基督教會
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