

digital edition
**GOSPEL
LIGHT**

vol.
23
jul
2014

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

宿務
基督
教會
會刊
務光
上網版

SPOTLIGHT ON

**PERSONAL
DISCIPLESHIP**

Discipleship:
Following Jesus 2

Pursuing Intimacy with God 6

Special Feature: Know the Apostles 10

主編：教會文字組
發行：宿務基督教會

*Published bi-annually by the
CGC Literature Committee*

Table of Contents

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<i>Discipleship: Following Jesus</i>	2
<i>Pursuing Intimacy with God</i>	6
<i>Know the Apostles</i>	10
<i>Just Like Jesus</i>	40
<i>The Surigao Mission</i>	44
<i>Science and Faith</i>	47
<i>A Memorable Camp</i>	48
<i>How's Your Clout?</i>	49
<i>Anything But Safe</i>	50
<i>Operation: Jesus Loves You</i>	
<i>Report on School Supplies Distribution</i>	52
<i>On Wrinkles and White Hair</i>	54
<i>Church News</i>	55

KNOW THE APOSTLES

A Gospel Light Feature

Peter	12
Andrew	14
James the Greater	16
John	18
Philip	20
Bartholomew	22
Matthew	24
Thomas	26
James the Lesser	28
Simon the Zealot	30
Jude	32
Judas Iscariot	34
Matthias	36
Paul	38

CHURCH NEWS

Christmas	
Congregational Sunday	55
98th Anniversary	56
PCGS @ 66	
Baccalaureate Service	56
Truerassic Park	
Baptismal	57
Junior Camp "Just Like Jesus"	58
CCOWE Sunday	
Mother's Day	
Father's Day	59
Cebu Gospel Church	
98th Anniversary Picture	60

Discipleship: Following Jesus

Reverend Un Hock Wee

Text: John 8:31-32

*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said,
“If you **hold** to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

SALVATION	DISCIPLESHIP
Salvation is FREE and “without price” (Rom. 6:23; Isa. 55:1), although salvation is certainly <i>not</i> cheap (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 1 Cor. 6:20)	Discipleship is COSTLY and the cost must be counted (Luke 14:25-33)
Salvation takes place in an INSTANT of time (Acts 2:47)	Discipleship is a LIFE-LONG PROCESS (John 8:31; Matthew 28:19-20)
Salvation is BELIEVING Christ (Acts 16:30-31)	Discipleship is FOLLOWING Christ (Matt. 4:18-22) and learning from Him (Matt. 11:29)
Salvation involves CHRIST loving me (Rom. 5:8; Gal. 2:20; John 3:16)	Discipleship involves ME loving Christ (Matthew 10:37)
A saved person is a BELIEVER (1 John 5:1)	A disciple is a LEARNER (the word <i>disciple</i> means “a learner, student, pupil, adherent”)
Being saved involves TRUSTING (Eph. 1:13)	Being a disciple involves TRAINING (Matt. 28:19-20)
Emphasis on WHAT GOD HAS DONE (1 Cor. 15:3-4)	Emphasis is on WHAT MAN MUST DO (Luke 14:25-33)
Source: A Comparison and Contrast Between SALVATION and DISCIPLESHIP, The Middletown Bible Church < http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org/doctrine/saldis.pdf >	

This passage contains four important points:

I. TO BELIEVE: “To the Jews who had believed him”

Jesus is speaking specifically to those **Jews who believed on Him**. The word *believe* is taken from the Greek word πιστεύω (pisteuó, pronounced as *pist-yoo'-o*), which means “**to have faith**.” Thus, to believe

means **TO HAVE FAITH** in Christ. And followers and disciples of Christ, we must **RESPECT** and **honor** God. Our lives must show that we are the students of CHRIST JESUS.

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin, which is a council of learned rabbis. Despite his position, he was **ready to take his relationship** with Jesus to another level. It wasn't that

easy – it never is. What would people think of him if Nicodemus went public as a follower of Jesus? To think that this learned man would admire this... homeless carpenter-turned-rabbi from a nothing town called Galilee? He would lose his position in the Sanhedrin and his **reputation as a religious leader**. That's why he went to see Jesus at night. He was initially a secret admirer of Jesus – a position that cost him nothing. But bringing it to the next level – becoming a professed follower – came with a high price tag. It always does. (Source: "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman)

Still, something changed within Nicodemus. We could see it in John 7:40-51, where Nicodemus actually defended Jesus from the accusations of his fellow Pharisee. He asked his colleague, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

Later, in John 19:38-41, when Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body, Nicodemus provided seventy-five pounds worth of myrrh and aloes – expensive burial spices fit for a king. Both men wrapped Jesus' body, together with the spices, in strips of linen, which is in accordance with Jewish burial customs. Our lives and beliefs must be the same as Nicodemus – we must live what we believe, and our belief must reflect Christ.

To believe also means **PUTTING YOUR TRUST**—entrusting one's spiritual well-being, and give ourselves to Christ so HE will manage our lives. This is the belief displayed by the boy who placed his trust in a complete stranger:

A young lady was sunbathing on the beach when a little boy in his swimming trunks, carrying a towel, came up to her and asked her, "Do you believe in God?"

She was surprised by the question but she replied, "Why, yes, I do."

Then he asked her: "Do you go to church every Sunday?"

Again, her answer was "Yes!"

He then asked: "Do you read your Bible and pray every day?"

Again she said, "Yes!" By now her curiosity was very much aroused.

The little lad sighed with relief and said, "Will you hold my money while I go swimming?"

Source:

<http://www.sermoncentral.com/illustrations/sermon-illustration-gordon-curley-humor-trust-77519.asp>



II. CONTINUE IN GOD'S WORD: "Hold to my teaching"

In the King James Version (KJV) of our verse, Jesus considered the Jews who "continue in my word" as his disciples. In the Roman Catholic New Jerusalem translation, the text was rendered as "if you make my word your home." *Jesus said, "Make my word your home."* What does it take to make a home? Is it the same "home" as when I say Cebu Gospel Church is my home, or when I say that my family is my home?

First, let us look at the Greek. The word "continue" in the KJV was the word μένω (menō, pronounced as me'-nō). This word is used in the Greek New Testament to describe the relationship between every believer and Christ, and has three possible meanings:

1. **"TO STAY"**: this is the normal use of menō, and is a verb used to express someone living at a location (Luke 1:56). We should let God stay in our lives, and not let Him go out of it.
2. **"TO REMAIN"**: this is used to describe the spiritual condition of people – those who don't believe are remaining in spiritual darkness (John 12:46)
3. **"TO ABIDE"**: this means to **follow** and **obey** to the end, and describes God's relationship with His followers (John 6:56). When you abide by God, you do His Will and follow what He says. (Source: "Greek Thoughts: Meno Part 2: To Remain, to abide, to stay", StudyLight.org, <http://www.studylight.org/language-studies/greek-thoughts/index.cgi?a=136>)

A true Christian and disciple will thus **STAY, REMAIN, and ABIDE** with Christ. He will live in God's house **FOR LIFE** – on a **permanent basis**. This reminded me of a sister in Christ who confided that she did not want to leave her house, and sell it off, even if she's alone.

If we can make a commitment to make our earthly home a permanent dwelling, how much more should we treat the word of God? As disciples of Jesus Christ, we should **make the word of Jesus as our home**, and **live with Christ** so that people will **see His work** in our lives. Only then can we perform God's charge for us to help the people He entrusted to us, and help them find their own homes in the word of Jesus.

III. KNOW THE TRUTH

What is Truth? In these times, it is becoming very hard to distinguish between the truths left to us by Jesus, and the so-called truths espoused by man-made religion. How can we tell the difference?



RELIGION	CHRIST
Summed up in one word: DO . Man must follow rituals and do different things in order to please God and earn His favor.	Summed up in one word: DONE . Christ has already died on the cross to save sinful man (John 19:30). It is done; we need only BELIEVE .
Man tries to BRING HIMSELF to God by human effort (good works, rituals, traditionalism, sacraments, etc.). "My parents practice religion, so I should do it too."	Christ BRINGS US to God, thanks to His sacrifice on the cross (1 Peter 3:18). We can't go to Him; He came to us.
No certainty: "I am hopeful I will be saved." "I think I will be saved." "I feel that I will be saved. Maybe."	Absolute certainty: "I know I am saved right now." As 1 John 5:13 states, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you have eternal life."
The religious man is busy DOING SOMETHING in order to be saved.	The saved man is not working (Romans 4:5) but is RESTING upon the finished work of Another. He believes that he is already clean.
Portrayed in Genesis 3:7 as Adam and Eve covering themselves with FIG leaves, "a terrible covering" according to Isaiah 64:6.	Salvation is portrayed in Genesis 3:21 as garments of animal SKIN God provided for Adam and Eve through shedding of blood, "a perfect covering" according to Revelations 19:8.

IV. SET FREE: "will set you free"

Our verse culminates with a statement that the truth will set us free. Once you discover the truth, my friend, you are free! But what exactly are we being set free from?



A. SATAN'S BONDAGE

John Chapter 8 recounts the story of a woman accused of committing adultery. Her accusers had gathered around her and were ready to stone her to death. This was the punishment prescribed in Jewish Law – the Law of Moses – as penalty for her sin. She was deep in Satan's bondage, but Jesus set her free!

George Barna, a market research specialist who studies the religious beliefs and behavior of Americans, once surveyed Christians who identified themselves as "born again". One of the questions was: The devil or Satan is **not a living being**, but a **symbol** of evil. Do you strongly agree, disagree, or have no knowledge of the statement?

About half of all respondents either agreed that Satan was merely symbolic (43%) or had no knowledge of the matter (5%)! This brings to mind the words of Charles Baudelaire, a French poet, who wrote “La plus belle des ruses du diable est de vous persuader qu'il n'existe pas” – the finest trick of the devil is to persuade you that he does not exist.

Satan himself knows that his power is **not inherent** in himself, but **permitted** (Romans 13:1), limited, and controlled by God (Job 1:12; Job 2:6). He is **not assured of success**, but is surely doomed (Revelations 20:2-3). Satan knows full well that there is **no ultimate victory** for him. Hence, the need to resort to tricks.

Praise the Lord, for 1 John 4:1 states that “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.” Satan is undoubtedly powerful, but he can and will be vanquished.

B. SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

A spiritually-blind person cannot understand why God offered His son to die for our sin. Accordingly, he doesn't have any desire or appetite for God's Word, and doesn't want to know the truth – much less seek it. Because of this, spiritually-blind people cannot free themselves with their own effort. In fact, we do not know we are sinners until we come to know Christ.

Only Jesus can set us free from bondage and blindness by revealing to us the way and the truth to God. Knowing the truth will lead us to understand God's will and leadership in our lives, giving us the ability to differentiate right from wrong and be set free from spiritual blindness.

C. SUPERSTITIOUS BELIEFS

Superstition is the belief of supernatural causality – one event leads to the cause of another without a natural process that links the two. It stems from lack of knowledge and a fear of the unknown. Superstitious beliefs often attribute good luck and bad luck to seemingly inconsequential things.

For example, the Chinese ascribe meanings to many numbers. The number eight (八, pronounced as *bā* in Mandarin and *baat*³ in Cantonese) is considered the luckiest number, because it sounds similar to the word for wealth (發, pronounced as *fā* in Mandarin and *faat*³ in Cantonese). This belief is so strong that car license plates with a series of 8s cost over a million Hong Kong dollars. It is also the reason why companies with 168 or 368 in their names exist in Cebu.

Freedom from superstitious beliefs means freedom from ignorant human beliefs that are passed from one generation to the next. Through Christ, we become free from the shackles imposed by an obsessive focus on “lucky” and “unlucky”.

CONCLUSION:

Our Church Theme for this year is “Discipleship 101.” Why 101? It is because we have a two-year plan to focus on being Disciples of Christ. Discipleship 101 focuses on personal growth. Next year, our theme shifts to Discipleship 102, which focuses on leading others to be Disciples of Christ.

Let us feast on God's Word. Last year, we encouraged our members to read the entire Bible in one year. We now go to the next level, and study God's Word in depth, so that we can grow and in turn help others to grow?





Pastor Eric Chan

⁹ Now for some time, a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria...
¹² But when they (Samaritans) believed Philip as he preached the Good News of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women.
¹³ Simon himself believed. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw...
¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money
¹⁹ and said: "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!
²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.
²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps He will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.
²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."
²⁴ Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."
²⁵ When they had testified and proclaimed the Word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the Gospel in many Samaritan villages.

Acts Chapter 8
 New International Version

How many people have we met who, despite having heard of the Gospel or even confessed faith in Christ yet, don't seem to be living in intimacy with the Lord? Time and again, we are exposed to materials whose purpose is lead a person to be intimate with God. And yet, the truth is that intimacy with God cannot be guaranteed by any Christian material alone. In fact, not everyone who reads the Bible will turn out to be a Christian, much less be intimate with God. Worse, there are some people who, like Simon the sorcerer, claim faith in Jesus Christ but continue to let wickedness reign in their hearts. The Scriptures said, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

This article delves into the pursuit of intimacy with God. **Genesis 1:1** begins with an affirmation that God exists. Through His unique action of speaking, the universe and every created being came into existence from nothing (Gen. 1:1, cp. Ps. 33:6; 148:5; John 1:1-2; Heb. 11:3). However, the existence of creation merely hints towards a Divine Creator; we are left with no definition of the person, or the being of the One who created everything. David, in **Psalm 19** says, ¹"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. ²Day after day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge ... ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening

the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever...”

In **Psalm 19:7**, the word “simple” is translated from the Hebrew word פְּתִי (transliterated as pēthiy; Strong's H6612). In English, this word refers to people who are seducible, or “foolish.” By “making wise the simple”, the psalmist implies a need for “simple” people to RECOGNIZE the authority of “the Law of the LORD, the Scriptures, that one's soul may truly be revived.”

But wait! Didn't I say earlier that *not everyone who reads the Bible will turn out to be a Christian*? There is no contradiction here. The preaching of the Gospel, or the reading of Scripture, represents the outward call of God – the revelation of God's TRUTH. There is a second component in a person's quest for intimacy with God. The Lord Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in SPIRIT and TRUTH, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him (John 4:23, ESV).

In **Acts 16**, Paul visited Philippi and engaged a group of women in the city. One of them, a woman identified as Lydia from the city of Thyatira, was a worshipper of God. THE LORD OPENED HER HEART to pay attention to Paul's message. She and her entire household were baptized. Without a doubt, God must take the initiative in making Himself known to us.

In Paul's epistle to the Corinthians, he tells them, “Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age, who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory... *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So, also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*”

On the other hand, the unknown writer of the epistle to the **Hebrews** said, “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.”

The second component towards intimacy with the Lord is God Himself. He must initiate the means to awaken our spirit, so that we may seek Him, and long to know Him more and more in our daily lives. The Bible says, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified.”¹

Did you notice something missing from the sequence of God's Grace in salvation? In Romans, Paul spoke of predestination, justification and glorification; sanctification was left out. Sanctification is “the process by which a person is being made holy, resulting in a changed lifestyle for the believer.”² Predestination, justification and glorification are all works of the Triune God – God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the work of the Spirit in partnership with the believer. Thus, Paul said in **Philippians**, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, *that He (the Holy Spirit) who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the Day of Jesus Christ.*” Being sanctified by the Spirit is a lifetime process for all believers, allowing us to change and live in intimacy with the Lord. What is the role of the believer in the

¹ Romans 8:28-30, ESV

² “Sanctification,” Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

sanctification process? Paul said, in 1 Thessalonians 5:19, that we should “not quench the Spirit.”

How can someone “quench” or “extinguish” the Spirit of God? The answer is also in the Scriptures. I quote from **2Timothy 3:1-5**: “You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will LOVE ONLY THEMSELVES AND THEIR MONEY. They will be BOASTFUL AND PROUD, SCOFFING AT GOD, DISOBEDIENT TO PARENTS, and UNGRATEFUL. They will CONSIDER NOTHING SACRED. They will be UNLOVING and UNFORGIVING; they will SLANDER OTHERS and have NO SELF-CONTROL. They will be CRUEL and HATE WHAT IS GOOD. They will BETRAY THEIR FRIENDS, BE RECKLESS, BE PUFFED UP WITH PRIDE, and LOVE PLEASURE RATHER THAN GOD. THEY WILL ACT RELIGIOUS, BUT THEY WILL REJECT THE POWER THAT COULD MAKE THEM GODLY.”

David was a sinner, but he repented and turned to the Lord. Peter denied the Lord three times, but he sought the love of the Lord, persevered, and obediently served the Lord. Before the Lord changed his name to Paul, Saul fought against Christianity. When he was rebuked by Christ, he repented and wholeheartedly followed Jesus notwithstanding persecution and rejection – even from fellow believers – even to the extent that he was martyred for his faith. The list goes on and on. Today, we also have people faithful to the Lord's call and endeavor. Like the other heroes of faith, whether listed in **Hebrews 11** or many unnamed others, we must also cling on the Words of the Scripture. After Paul had explained the sequence of salvation from **Romans 1-11**, he concluded with these words: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, but BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”³

Without real SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION,

there can be no intimacy with God. No one can live a double-life; that is, conforming to the world and at the same time hoping to seek intimacy with the Lord. The Bible says, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”⁴

Similarly, if we claim faith in Christ and are followers of the Lord, we must do as Joshua, the successor of Moses, said and did: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”⁵ **Intimacy with God is the fruit of our unwavering faithfulness and obedience in following the Lord.** The LORD God made His move – He predestined, justified, and will glorify us; so we should also do our part in the process of sanctification. The Apostle Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”⁶ Simply put, *obedience to the Lord Jesus is the formula towards intimacy with God.*

The Old Testament Scriptures gave us several stories where we may learn to live for Christ. Allow me to cite Jacob, the son of Isaac, who was chosen by God over the firstborn – his twin brother Esau. If you read through the story, you will find out that Jacob was no better than Esau. He was a cheater concerned only of himself over others, and a deceptive man, among other things. And yet, God said, “Jacob I loved, Esau I hated.” (Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:13)

I personally don't understand why God would choose Jacob over Esau, except that the Bible explained “*in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of*

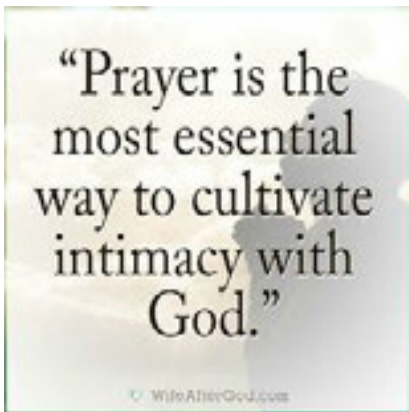
³ Romans 12:1-2, ESV

⁴ James 1:5-8, ESV

⁵ Joshua 24:15b, ESV

⁶ 1 Corinthians 11:1, ESV.

⁷ Romans 9:11, ESV



Him who calls.”

Instead of trying to contest the Scripture, I would rather submit to that simple and clear statement, knowing that it is actually God who has personally spoken through the apostle

Paul in *Romans*. With that in mind, I can move on and peacefully see God's grace and mercy when He chose Jacob over Esau.

Come to think of it, I was no better than Esau when God's grace and mercy was showered upon me at the moment of my conversion. Although I was transformed, I am still Esau as I follow Christ's leadership. Shouldn't we all be concerned of that, rather than debating against why God chose Jacob over Esau? After all, the Lord said that His thoughts are not man's thoughts; neither are man's ways His ways (Isaiah 55:8). Focus not on what was not revealed in Scripture, for the Bible says, “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”(Deuteronomy 29:29). Although we may not fully comprehend with our finite minds, we must accept what God has spoken clearly to us. For only through obedience in God and trusting in His words can we develop *intimacy with Him*.

In conclusion, here are some ideas that could help us to pursue intimacy with God:

- **Recognize** that the Scriptures are the sole and only authoritative for truth, the Word of God.(1Thessalonians 2:13; 2Timothy 2:14-15 and 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:20-21)
- **Read** the Scriptures even while listening to sermons.(Acts 17:11-12)
- **Refrain** from the ways of the world and the love of money.(Romans 12:1-2; 1John 2:15-17;

Hebrews 13:5).

- **Respond** with thankfulness to God, even when times are rough, the Lord is working out something good in your life.(Romans 8:28-30)
- **Resist** the temptation of wresting control from God; let the LORD God be God in your life. Jacob finally learned this lesson after his many misadventures and trials in life.(Genesis 32:24-30).
- **Remove** or stay away from bad influences; that may include people or vices.(1Corinthians 5:1-8)
- **Remain** faithful and obedient to the Lord, and His words, even amidst practical suggestions but in reality contradicts Scripture. Don't rationalize the teachings from the Bible nor compromise the integrity of the Scriptures or the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. (Matthew 4:1-11; Exodus 20:7)
- **Renounce** your hidden sins, confess and ask for God's forgiveness.(1John 1:8-10)
- **Rely** on the Lord, His promises and words at all times, whatever He has spoken will come to pass.(Proverbs 3:5-6 and 16:2-3,9; Isaiah 55:6-11; Matthew 5:17-20)
- **Rest** not on your own strength, wealth nor abilities, for there is only One giver of all things: the Sovereign Lord. (Deuteronomy 8:10-18; Ephesians 2:8-10; John 19:7-11)

Salvation is a free gift from God, but there is a cost for DISCIPLESHIP. Jesus said, “Whoever does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me (Matthew 10:38; 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 14:27). He also said, “Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life (John 8:12b). Lastly, Jesus also said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.” Only by practicing true discipleship can we succeed in pursuing intimacy with the Lord.

Know the Apostles

The Twelve Apostles, in Victoria, Australia

English version by Stevenson Q. Yu

Chinese translation by Josephine Q. Yu

An apostle of Christ is a disciple who was personally chosen by Jesus to be with him, and serve as his personal representative as a part of his inner circle. While Jesus had many disciples, only twelve were privileged to be called apostles.

However, the distinction between an apostle and a disciple is not that clear. For example, the book of John uses both words interchangeably. To discern the difference between the two, let us examine the etymology of both words.

The word “apostle” comes from a Greek term *apóstolos* (ἀπόστολος), which means “one who is sent away”. In English, the most direct translation is messenger or emissary. There is activeness associated with the word.

In contrast, the word “disciple” originates from the Latin term *discipulus*, which means a “pupil” or a “learner”. This word has a more passive connotation, since being a pupil or learner requires a lot of listening to the teacher.

The theme of our church for the next two years is Discipleship. This year, we look inward (Discipleship 101) to spiritually strengthen ourselves. In the next step (Discipleship 102), we are tasked with leading others to become disciples themselves.

Anyone can be a disciple of Jesus as long as they are willing to learn from him. However, the door to becoming an apostle of Christ is closed to anyone living today, right? What does the Bible say about it?

How do you become an apostle? The criteria is given out in Acts 1:21 by Peter. Whoever replaces Judas Iscariot as the twelfth apostle should have been a disciple from the very beginning: from Jesus’ baptism until he ascended to heaven. Only two disciples (Justus and Matthias) met these strict conditions.

But is this the only valid way to gain for apostleship – and become a representative of God to the world? Note that the Bible is silent on whether Matthias is a legitimate apostle or not.

Let’s look at another biblical figure for the answer: Paul of Tarsus is widely considered to be the Apostle to the Gentiles. His tireless efforts helped transform Christianity from a small Jewish sect into a great world religion. In fact, his doctrine of justification by faith, and not through works, was the foundation for the Protestant movement.

Although Paul never met Jesus in the flesh, he was personally chosen by God to be an apostle (Acts 9:15). If Paul, the man who approved of Stephen’s stoning and zealously persecuted the early Christians, could become an apostle, then anyone can strive for apostleship too!

In this special feature, we invite you to explore the Biblical apostles. Who were they, and what were they like? Most importantly, what did they do with their lives? You might be surprised with what lessons we can learn from the godly yet flawed men who lived and died some two thousand years ago.

認識使徒

十二使徒岩，澳大利亞維多利亞州

英文版作者：許宏恩

中文版翻譯者：許郭錦繡

使徒是一位由耶穌親身揀選、與祂同在一起、也是祂的代表人、而且也是屬於祂內圈中的一份子。耶穌有許多的門徒、但可配得稱為祂的「使徒」只有十二位。

然而、「使徒」和「門徒」之間的差別並不大清楚。例如、約翰福音常把「使徒」和「門徒」通用。為要分辨兩者之間的差異、讓我們來思考其文字的語源。

「使徒」是來自希臘文 *apóstolos* (*ἀπόστολος*)、意思是「被差者」。英語的翻譯是「報信者」或「密使」。這是動性的字文、含有動作在其中。

相反的、「門徒」是來自拉丁文 *discipulus*、意思是「學生」或「學者」。這是被動性的字文、因做一個學生或學者需要肯沉默傾聽。

本教會在這兩年內的主題是「門徒訓練」。我們今年是注重向內充實靈命、明年是追求向外領人成為門徒。

只要願意向主學習、任何人都可以成為耶穌的門徒。但是活在現代的人、是否還可以成為基督的使徒嗎？

一個人要怎麼樣成為使徒？使徒行傳1:21有寫出要選出馬提亞來代替加略人猶大的條件、就是：「他從開始就必須是一個門徒：自耶穌受洗一直到祂升天、這條件有限又嚴格、只有兩位（那叫巴撒巴又稱呼猶士都的約瑟和馬提亞）才有資格符合彼得的的要求。

但是彼得選擇使徒的要求、是否適合做神使者正確的條件？聖經對於馬提亞的揀選並沒有舉出贊同或反對。

讓我們來察看聖經另一個人物來作參考：大數的保羅被稱為「外邦人的使徒」。因他竭力不倦廣傳福音、使基督教從一個小小的猶太派變成了偉大的世界宗教。事實上、保羅「因信稱義、不藉行為」的教義、也成了基督教救恩的基礎。

雖然保羅未曾在肉體上遇見耶穌 但是神却親自揀選了他成為使徒（使徒行傳 9:15）。如果一個曾經贊同用石頭打死司提反、又強熱迫害初期教會信徒的人可成為一個使徒、那麼任何人也可以努力爭取呀！

在這務光的特寫、願我們共同來研討聖經中十二個使徒、他們是誰？他們像誰？最重要的是：在他們的人生中他們做了什麼？他們是生死在二千年前、為人正直虔敬、却有瑕疵缺陷、但我們還是可以向他們學習呀！

KNOW THE APOSTLES

1 PETER

ALIASES	Simon, Cephas
OCCUPATION	Fisherman
HOMETOWN	Bethsaida
NAME MEANS	Simeon (שִׁמְעוֹן), Hebrew for "God has heard" Cephas (כִּיפָא), Aramaic for "rock" Petros (Πέτρος), Greek for "rock"
RELATIVES	John/Jonah (father), Andrew (younger brother), unnamed wife, unnamed mother-in-law

Peter, originally called Simon, is one of Jesus' first disciples. Among the twelve, he received the most "screen time" in the Gospel. He was neither the wisest nor the wealthiest, but in any list naming the twelve apostles, Peter's name always comes first.

Peter was a fisherman in Bethsaida, and was recruited by his brother Andrew. Peter belonged to Jesus' inner circle. Together with the brothers James and John, he saw many events the others did not. These included Jesus' Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and Jesus' Agony at the Garden of Gethsemane.

Notable Actions

Peter's aggressiveness made him a natural spokesman for the group. He acted without thinking, which often led to his embarrassment: when Jesus wanted to wash his feet, he declined, and later overdid it by asking Jesus to wash his hands and head (John 13:5-9).

Peter was the first apostle to declare that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16). His trust in Jesus allowed him to be the only apostle who dared to walk on water; this faith however was not unshakeable, causing him to sink. He was the only apostle to physically defend Jesus when he was being arrested.

Though loyal and devoted, fear made him deny Jesus three times in one night. He made up for it after Jesus ascended. Peter, James (the brother of Jesus) and Paul later became early Christianity's pillars. Peter is said to have written *1 & 2 Peter*, and, according to tradition, was the eyewitness source for the Gospel of *Mark* (Mark the Evangelist was Peter's traveling companion and translator).

Death

Tradition says that Peter was crucified in Rome on 64 or 67 AD, during Nero's purge. He requested to be crucified upside-down, saying that he wasn't worthy to die in the same way as Jesus.

Lessons Learned

Peter is a brash man of action whose foot is sometimes in his mouth. Despite his many failings (Peter publicly denied him three times), Peter was still used by Jesus as the foundation to build his Church.



ST. PETER

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

Peter is dressed in papal vestments, as befits the first pope of Christianity. He is depicted as holding a pair of keys, because according to tradition, Peter holds the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gospel Light Feature

認識使徒 彼得

壹 務 先 特 寫



別名	西門，磯法
職業	漁夫
家鄉	伯賽大
名字語源	Shi'mon「שִׁמְעוֹן」希伯來文意為「神已經聽見」 Cephas「כִּיפָא」希臘文意為「磐石」 Petros「Πετρος」阿拉姆文意為「磐石」
親屬	約翰（父），安得烈（弟） 無名：妻子，岳母

彼得原名為西門、是耶穌首次所召其中之一的門徒。在十二個門徒中、他是最出名又常被提及的、他並不是最聰明或最富有的、但每當講到十二使徒時、彼得的名常排於首位。

彼得是在伯賽大當漁夫、他的弟弟安得烈介紹他來認識耶穌。彼得屬於耶穌的內圈、所以雅各、約翰和他都有見到別人所沒有見到的事故、這包括耶穌改變形像（太 17:1-3）、耶穌叫睚魯的養女復活（可 5:35-43）、以及耶穌在客西馬尼園的憂傷（太 26:37）。

傑出的作為

彼得勇敢的性格無形中就成了十二個門徒中的發言人。他未想先說、以致困窘了自己。當耶穌要為他洗腳時、他立刻拒絕了、但再過片時、便叫耶穌連他的手和頭都要洗（翰 13:5-9）。

彼得是第一個使徒宣告耶穌就是基督、是永生神的兒子（太 16:16）。他是唯一的門徒有信心勇敢從船上跳下在海上行走、然而、當他的信心動搖時、就快下沉了（太 14:29-31）。當耶穌被逮捕時、他也是唯一的使徒動刀要保護耶穌（翰 18:10）。

彼得雖然忠心又有熱誠、但是「懼怕」令他在一夜間否認耶穌三次。耶穌升天以後、他就獻身事主、為祂宣揚福音、以彌補他過去對主的虧欠。後來彼得、雅各（耶穌的兄弟）和保羅都成為早期基督教的柱石。除了寫彼得前後書、他也是馬可福音的傳統見證人。（傳道者馬可是彼得的旅伴與翻譯員）。

死亡

按照傳統、彼得於公元六十四或六十七年、在尼祿帝王迫害信徒之期間、被釘死於羅馬、他要求將他顛倒而釘、因為他說他不配得同耶穌被釘的方式一樣。

學習的功課

彼得是個實幹家、做事積極又迅速、以致言行不謹、雖然他是一位卑微的漁夫、也曾經否認耶穌三次、但是耶穌仍舊使用他成為教會的柱石。

聖彼得

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

彼得被描繪穿著教皇法衣做天主教的第一任教皇。他拿着一對密鑰，因為根據其傳統，彼得持守着天國的鑰匙。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

2 ANDREW

ALIASES	none
OCCUPATION	Fisherman
HOMETOWN	Bethsaida
NAME MEANS	Andreas (Ανδρέας), Greek for “manly”
RELATIVES	John/Jonah (father), Peter (older brother), unnamed sister-in-law

Before he followed Jesus, Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist. When John proclaimed Jesus as the “lamb of God”, Andrew went off to speak with Jesus for a day. He evidently liked what he heard, because the first thing he did was to find his brother Simon, and tell him that he had found the Messiah.

Andrew was Jesus’ first disciple. Like his brother Peter, he was a fisherman in Bethsaida. Both siblings dropped their fishing nets and followed Jesus when he called them to be fishers of men.

Andrew belonged to the group of disciples that acted as councilors and served as prayer partners for Jesus. However, he was not part of the exclusive inner circle which consisted of Peter, James, and John. When Jesus sent out the twelve to preach the gospel, Andrew was paired with his brother Peter.

Notable Actions

Andrew was the bringer of things to Jesus. He brought to Jesus his brother Simon, who became one of Jesus’ favorite disciples. When Jesus had to feed the five thousand, John 6:8-9 states that it was Andrew who brought the boy with five barley loaves and two small fish to Jesus’ attention.

During the Passover before Jesus’ death, some Greeks wanted to see Jesus. They approached another disciple with a Greek name (Philip). Andrew was the one Philip approached to bring the Greek gentiles to Jesus (John 12:22).

Death

According to tradition, Andrew was martyred in Achaia, Greece, in the 1st Century AD. He was tied by the Greeks to an X-shaped cross, and probably died of suffocation or dehydration.

Lessons Learned

Even though he was the first-called, Andrew was not part of Jesus’ inner circle. He did not mind, and continued to serve Jesus wholeheartedly. Andrew was the supportive and approachable “big brother” who brought things to Jesus: his own brother, the boy with the bread and fish, and the Greeks who wanted to meet the Lord.



ST. ANDREW

Jose de Ribera (1616)

Andrew is depicted with a Gospel book and pointing to a fish (he brought the boy with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to Jesus). The background shows a saltire (X-shaped cross). Tradition says Andrew was crucified on it.



認識使徒 安得烈

貳 務光特寫

別名	沒有
職業	漁夫
家鄉	伯賽大
名字語源	Andreas「Ανδρέας」希臘文意為「男子氣」
親屬	約翰（父），彼得（哥），無名氏（嫂）

安得烈還沒有跟隨耶穌之前、他已是施洗約翰的門徒了。當施洗約翰宣告耶穌是「上帝的羔羊」、安得烈就去找耶穌與他面談。因為他歡聽耶穌所說的話、就找他的哥哥西門（彼得）、告訴他他已找到彌賽亞了。

安得烈是耶穌的第一個門徒、他和哥哥彼得在伯賽大都是漁夫。當耶穌要叫他們得人如魚一樣、兩兄弟就放下漁網去跟隨耶穌。

安得烈是使徒群中的顧問、也是耶穌的禱告伴。然而、他並沒有屬於耶穌的內圈（彼得、雅各、約翰）。當耶穌差派十二門徒去傳福音、安得烈和哥哥彼得常配合在一起。

傑出的作為

安得烈是一位使者、他將他的哥哥西門帶到主前、後來西門就成了耶穌所愛的門徒之一。當耶穌給五千人吃時、安得烈將一個有五個大麥餅和兩條小魚的男孩帶來給耶穌（翰6：8 - 9）。

最後在逾越節耶穌未死之前、有幾個希利尼人想要見耶穌。他們就去見一位有希臘名字的腓力、腓力就同安得烈帶他們去見耶穌（翰12：22）。

死亡

按照傳統、安得烈於公元一世紀在亞該亞希臘殉難、他被希臘人綁在X形的十架上、可能因窒息或脫水而死。

學習的功課

安得烈是第一位被召的門徒、也是一位肯支持鼓及幫助人的人、他並不屬於耶穌的內圈、但他是可接近的大哥、願意把他自己的哥哥彼得、那有五個餅兩條魚的男孩及那些欲見耶穌的希利尼人都帶到耶穌的面前。



聖安得烈

何塞·德里貝拉（一六一六年）

安得烈被描繪一手帶福音書、另一手指著一條魚（他將有五個餅和二條魚的男孩帶給耶穌）。背景顯示了一個X形十字（X形交叉）、根據傳統、安得烈在那十字架被釘。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

3 JAMES THE GREATER

ALIASES	James the son of Zedeebe, Boanerges
OCCUPATION	Fisherman
HOMETOWN	Capernaum
NAME MEANS	Iacomos (Ἰάκωβος), Greek form of Ya'aqov (יאָקֹב) Hebrew for "to follow" or "supplant" Βοανηργες, Greek meaning "Sons of Thunder"
RELATIVES	Zebedee (father), Salome (mother), John (younger brother), Joseph (uncle), Mary (aunt), Jesus (cousin)

James and his brother John were among the earliest followers of Jesus. Much like Peter and Andrew, the fishermen were preparing their nets in their boat when Jesus called them. They dropped everything and left their father Zedeebe to follow him.

James was part of the group of disciples that acted as councilors and served as prayer partners for Jesus. As members of Jesus' inner circle, he witnessed several events that the others did not. These events included Jesus' Transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and Jesus' Agony at the Garden of Gethsemane. James was usually paired with his brother John when Jesus sent out the twelve to preach the gospel.

James was a cousin of Jesus through his mother's side. His mother Salome was likely the wife of Zedeebe and the sister of Jesus' mother Mary (see Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, and John 19:25).

Notable Actions

James, together with his brother John, had fiery temperaments and could be rash and callous. When Jesus was not welcomed by a Samaritan village, the brothers wanted to burn the village to the ground (Luke 9:51-54). Jesus rebuked them for it, and gave them the nickname Boanerges ("sons of thunder") because of their temper.

The siblings (or their mother in another account) had once overstepped boundaries and requested that Jesus grant James and John favored positions in his kingdom, by his right and left side.

Death

James was the first apostle to be martyred for his faith. His death is recorded canon in Acts 12:1-2. He died in Jerusalem, 44 AD, after King Herod Agrippa I ordered his execution with a sword.

Lessons Learned

James' life is a vivid illustration that God does not play favorites. He was one of Jesus' closest disciples, but he was the first apostle to be martyred. Still, his death held some meaning. According to tradition, James' testimony so moved his accuser Josias that he converted to Christianity, and both men were killed together.



ST. JAMES THE GREATER
Peter Paul Rubens (1612)

James is shown with his traditional pilgrim attributes: a hat and a staff. He also carries a Gospel book under his right hand. He is depicted as younger than most of the other apostles, because he was the first to be martyred.

Gospel Light Feature

認識使徒 長雅各

參 務 先 特 寫

別名	西庇太的兒子雅各，波阿內格
職業	漁夫
家鄉	迦百農
名字語源	Iacomos「Ιάκωβος」希臘語形 Ya'aqov「יאָקֹב」 希伯來文意為「跟隨」或「取代」 Βοανηργες, 希臘文意為「雷鳴之子」
親屬	西庇太(父)，撒羅米(母)，約翰(弟) 約瑟(姨丈)，馬利亞(姨媽)，耶穌(表兄弟)

雅 各和他的弟弟約翰是其中最早跟隨耶穌的門徒。就像彼得和安得烈、他們在船上捕網時、耶穌呼召了他們、他們立刻捨了船、別了父親西庇太、跟着他走了(太4:21-22)。

雅各是使徒中的顧問、也是耶穌的禱告伴。因他屬於耶穌內圈之一、所以曾經見到許多別人未見之事、這包括耶穌改變形像(太17:1-3)、耶穌叫睚魯的養女復活(可5:35-43)、及耶穌在客西馬尼園的憂傷(太26:37)。當耶穌差遣十二使徒往外傳道時、雅各通常是和他的弟弟約翰配搭。

雅各是耶穌的表兄弟、他的母親撒羅米是西庇太的妻子、也是耶穌的母親馬利亞的姊妹(太27:56、可15:40、翰19:25)。

傑出的作為

雅各和他弟弟約翰性情強暴、粗心大意、堅硬又冷酷。當撒瑪利亞村民不接待耶穌時、他們兄弟倆人想要吩咐火從天上降下來燒滅他們(路9:51-54)。耶穌就責備他們、並因他們的脾氣稱他們為「雷鳴之子」。

兄弟二人(甚至其母親)對主有過份的要求、要耶穌在他的國度裏賜他們特別的座位、就是一個坐在耶穌左邊、另一個坐在右邊(太20:20-21)。

死亡

雅各是門徒中第一位的殉道者。他於公元四十四年、在耶路撒冷希律王亞基帕後下令用劍將他刺死、使徒行傳第十二章一至二節有記錄他的死亡。

學習的功課

雅各的人生、舉例說明神沒有偏待人、雖然是耶穌其中最寵愛的門徒、但他也是第一的門徒守道而喪生、雅各的死是有意義的、根據傳統、他的見證感化了控告他的人何西亞成為基督徒、可惜後來兩人都一同殉道而死。

聖長雅各

彼得·保羅·魯本斯(一六一二年)

雅各被描繪著他傳統朝聖的象徵：一頂帽子和一條棍。他右手也帶著一本福音書。他是第一個使徒殉道者、除了加略人猶大以外、他顯示比其他門徒更年輕。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

4 JOHN

ALIASES	Boanerges, Beloved Disciple, The Evangelist
OCCUPATION	Fisherman
HOMETOWN	Capernaum
NAME MEANS	Johannes (Ἰωάννης), Greek form of Yohanan (יהוה) Hebrew for "God is gracious" Βοανηργες, Greek meaning "Sons of Thunder"
RELATIVES	Zebedee (father), Salome (mother), James (older brother), Joseph (uncle), Mary (aunt), Jesus (cousin)

When John is mentioned in the Gospels, he is usually connected with his brother James. They were both fishermen who worked with their father Zedebee. When Jesus called, they dropped everything and followed him. According to tradition, John is the youngest of Jesus' apostles: he was only 17 when he joined.

As a member of Jesus' inner circle, John experienced many things that the rest did not. Although he was usually partnered with his brother James when they were sent out to preach the gospel, Jesus eventually paired him with Peter. John and Peter were sent to prepare for the Last Supper (Luke 22:8), and they were the first two disciples who went to Jesus' empty tomb (John 20:2-3).

Throughout the Gospel of John, there are references to an anonymous "disciple whom Jesus loved." Scholars believe that this is actually a reference to John himself. Today, John is often called the "Apostle of Love" because his writings focus on the subject of love.

Notable Actions

John possessed the same brashness and fiery temper as his brother James. Both were nicknamed *Boanerges* by Jesus, and both tried to petition for a favored position in Jesus' kingdom. John was also elitist when he, acting for the other apostles, stopped a man from casting out demons because he was not one of them (Mark 9:38).

Although John did not witness the trial, he was the only apostle who attended Jesus' crucifixion. In John 19:25-27, Jesus entrusted his mother Mary and John to each other while he was dying on the cross. Later, John wrote the Gospel of *John*, the epistles *1 John*, *2 John* and *3 John*, and the apocalyptic book of *Revelations*.

Death

John is uniquely the only apostle who did not die prematurely. He passed away of old age in Ephesus (Turkey) between 89-120 AD.

Lessons Learned

John started as a fiery young man who wanted to raze a village to the ground; he was also intolerant of outsiders. But Jesus' influence and focus on his "beloved disciple" changed him for the better. John's life shows us that complete transformation is possible with God. It can even turn a man of thunder into an apostle of love.



ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE
Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

John is often mentioned as the disciple whom Jesus loved. He is depicted with a goblet, referring to the legend that someone tried, but failed, to kill him with poisoned wine. John is the only apostle who died a natural death.



認識使徒 約翰

肆 務 先 特 寫



別名 波阿內格，耶穌所愛的門徒，傳道者
職業 漁夫
家鄉 迦百農
名字語源 Iohannes「Ἰωάννης」希臘語形 Yohanan「יְהוָה יָחִיד」希伯來文意為「耶和華是仁慈的」
 Boanerges, 希臘文意為「雷鳴之子」
親屬 西庇太(父)，撒羅米(母)，雅各(哥)
 約瑟(姨丈)，馬利亞(姨媽)，耶穌(表兄弟)

當 福音書提到約翰時、往往有他的哥哥雅各在內。他們兩人都是漁夫與父親西庇太共同工作。當耶穌呼召他們時、他們就放棄了一切、跟隨了耶穌。根據傳統、約翰是耶穌最年輕的使徒、因他加入時只有十七歲。

約翰是耶穌內圈之一的成員、所以經歷了很多其他門徒所未經歷的事故。他通常和他的哥哥雅各一同出去傳福音、但耶穌曾經將他和彼得配合在一起。在逾越節、耶穌打發彼得和約翰為他預備筵席(路22:8)、他們也是使徒中最首先往墳墓去、看見了耶穌的空墓(翰20:2-3)。

約翰福音書常提到一位隱名「耶穌所愛的門徒」、學者們相信這就是指約翰本人。如今、約翰經常被稱為「愛的使徒」、因為他所寫的大都是以「愛」為主題。

傑出的作為

約翰和他的哥哥雅各有同一樣火熱的脾氣、所以耶穌稱他們為「波阿內格(雷鳴之子)」。他們兄弟兩人要求將來在國度裏讓一個坐在耶穌的右邊、另一個坐在耶穌的左邊(可10:35-37)。約翰為人果敢、當他看見一個不是跟從他們的人趕鬼時、就禁止他們(可9:38)。

雖然約翰沒有親眼看見耶穌的受刑和審判、但是當耶穌被釘十字架時、使徒中只有他站在耶穌的旁邊、而且耶穌將他的母親馬利亞託付給約翰(翰19:25-27)。後來約翰寫了約翰福音、約翰一書、約翰二書、約翰三書和啟示錄。

死亡

唯一沒有殉難的使徒是約翰、他於公元八十九至一百廿年間在以弗所(土其)安然去世。

學習的功課

約翰起初是位易怒火性的青年人、他不但不能容納外人、而且要把全城市用火燒滅。但當耶穌對這位「祂所愛的門徒」所賜下的注視及施出的影響、完全的把他改變了、約翰的生平、證明神可以將人完全的改變、因祂使一個「雷鳴之子」成了「愛的使徒」。

聖約翰使徒

彼得·保羅·魯本斯(一六一一年)

約翰常被稱為「耶穌所愛的門徒」。他被描繪手上舉起一個高腳玻璃杯、傳史中說有人試用毒藥放入他酒杯中、希望他中毒而死、但却失敗了。約翰是唯一的使徒安然離世。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

5

PHILIP

ALIASES	None
OCCUPATION	Fisherman (high likelihood)
HOMETOWN	Bethsaida
NAME MEANS	Philippos (Φίλιππος), Greek for “friend of horses”
RELATIVES	No information

Philip was among the first disciples Jesus recruited from the town of Bethsaida. After Jesus called him, Philip sought out his friend Bartholomew to tell him the Messiah had been found. Although not specifically named, he likely witnessed Jesus’ first miracle: the changing of water into wine at the wedding in Cana.

Philip belonged to the group of apostles that managed people and events, much like how deacons function today. He is usually paired with his friend and recruit Bartholomew when the apostles are sent out to spread the gospel.

Notable Actions

Given his hometown, it is likely that Philip was a disciple of John the Baptist, just like Andrew. Both men were probably familiar with each other. They had purely Greek names, and Philip was the apostle who was first approached by the Greeks who wished to see Jesus.

Jesus tested Philip in the feeding of the five thousand when he asked him where they can buy enough bread to feed the crowd. Philip failed, and answered that it would take over half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for them to take a bite (John 6:5-7).

Philip did not fully understand the nature of Jesus’ divinity, and asked Jesus to show them the Father (John 14:8-14) and that it would be sufficient for them.

Death

Philip died at Hierapolis (Turkey) in 80 AD on orders by Emperor Domitian, who was persecuting the Christians. According to tradition, he was first crucified, and then stoned to death.

Lessons Learned

Philip is a low-key apostle who takes time to research before acting. In many ways, he has the exact opposite personality of the fiery Peter, James, and John. Although often criticized for his pessimism in the feeding of the five thousand, his actions reveal that he has a deliberate and analytical mind. Every group of disciples need someone like Philip to ground them in reality.



ST. PHILIP

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

This is part of a series of portraits Rubens made for the duke of Lerma. Philip is shown carrying a cross, because according to tradition, he was crucified with it in Phrygia, Anatolia (now modern-day Turkey).

Gospel Light Feature



腓力

伍·務·先·特·寫

別名	沒有
職業	漁夫
家鄉	伯賽大
名字詞源	Philippos 「Φίλιππος」希臘文意為「馬的朋友」
親屬	沒見聞

在 伯賽大城中、腓力是耶穌所呼召最早的門徒、他認識耶穌後、便告訴他的朋友巴多羅買說他看見了彌賽亞、雖然沒有詳細的記載、大概他有看見到耶穌的第一個奇蹟：就是在迦拿婚筵把水變成酒。

腓力在使徒中是屬於管理人事的、就好像今天的執事一樣。當使徒被差派出去傳道、他通常與他的朋友巴多羅買配合同行。

傑出的作為

因為他的家鄉是伯賽大、所以很可能和安得烈一樣、也是施洗約翰的門徒、兩人也許彼此已熟悉。他們有純粹的希臘名字、所以希利尼人都接近腓力、請求他幫助他們去見耶穌（ 翰 1 2 : 2 1 ）。

在餵飽五千人的神蹟中、耶穌曾經試驗腓力、問他從那裏買餅叫這些人吃、腓力 答說：「就是廿兩銀子的餅叫他們各喫一點也是不穀的」（ 翰福音 6 : 5 - 7 ）。

腓力不大明白耶穌的神性、他叫耶穌將父顯給他們看、他們就知足了。（ 約翰福音 1 4 : 8 - 1 4 ）。

死亡

當時圖密善皇帝迫害基督徒、在公元八十年、他下令將腓力在希拉波利斯（ 土 其 ）殺害、傳統記載他是首先被釘十字架、然後再用石頭打死他。

學習的功課

腓力是位平凡做事三思而後行的使徒、在許多方面、他和強烈的彼得有相反的品格、在耶穌給五千人吃飽的神蹟中、有人批評他的思想頗為消極、但他的行動却顯示出他具有靈敏又銳利的頭腦、門徒羣中正需要有這種能面對現實的腓力。



聖腓力

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

這是魯本斯為萊爾馬公爵繪畫的肖像之一、腓力帶着十字架、因為根據傳統、他在弗里吉亞（今土耳其）被釘於此十架。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

6

BARTHOLOMEW

ALIASES	Nathanael
OCCUPATION	No information
HOMETOWN	Cana, Galilee
NAME MEANS	Bartholomaios (Βαρθολομαίος), Greek form of bar-Tôlmay, Aramaic for “son of a plowman” Netan’el (נְתַנְאֵל), Hebrew for “God has given”
RELATIVES	No information

When we first encounter Bartholomew (also called Nathanael in the Gospel of John), his friend Philip was excitedly telling him that the prophesied Messiah has been found. Bartholomew was quite skeptical, wondering if anything good has come out of Nazareth (John 1:46).

He quickly changed his tune when he met Jesus. The Lord greeted Bartholomew as “an Israelite in whom there is no deceit,” adding that he saw Bartholomew sitting under a fig tree before Philip called him (John 1:47-48). Bartholomew’s questions were answered; he believed, and followed Jesus ever since.

Like his friend Philip, Bartholomew was part of the group of apostles that catered to people and events like the deacons of today. When Jesus sent out his apostles in pairs to evangelize Judaea, Bartholomew was paired with Philip.

Notable Actions

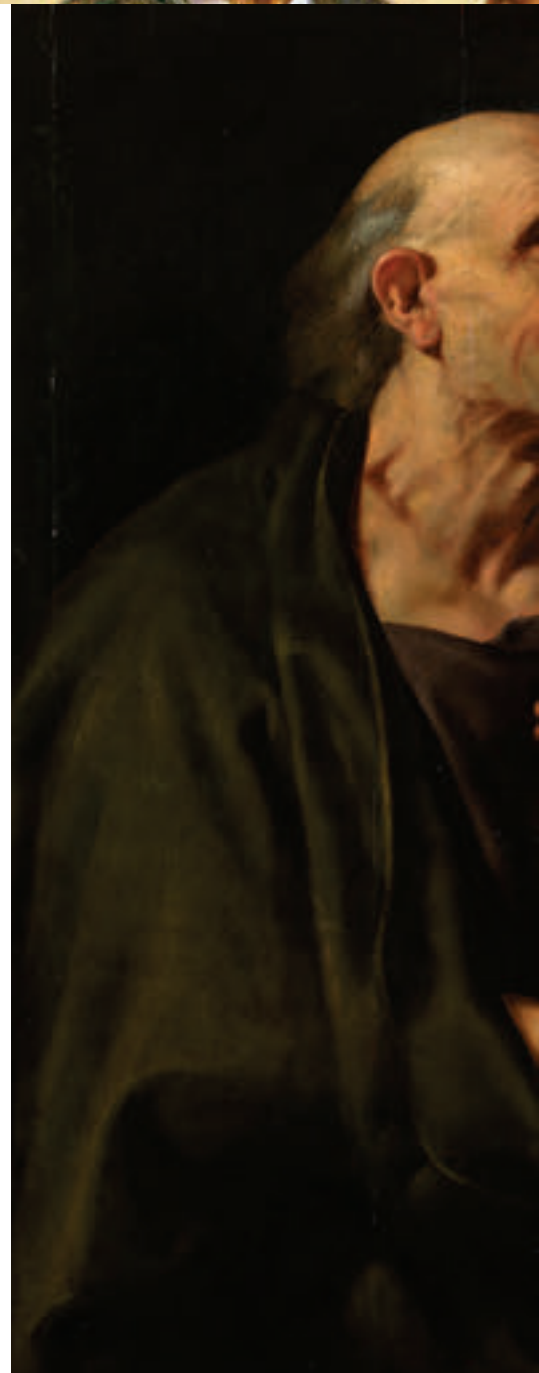
The Bible does not specify any further actions by Bartholomew. Although he deserted Jesus during his arrest, trial and crucifixion, Bartholomew returned and saw Jesus after resurrection. Together with the other remaining apostles, he received the gift of tongues on Pentecost. Bartholomew is said to have ventured as far as India as a missionary, and left behind the gospel of Matthew during his travels.

Death

According to tradition, Bartholomew’s death was particularly painful. After he antagonized King Astyages, co-regent of Armenia, he was flayed alive (his skin was removed from his body while he was still living). He was then beheaded after he survived the flaying. He died in Albanopolis (Armenia) at around the First Century AD.

Lessons Learned

Jesus complimented Bartholomew as a man without deceit—a less charitable description today would be naïve or tactless. He said what came to mind immediately, that nothing good came out of Nazareth. Yet his selection as one of the apostles shows that God uses people of all kinds, even blunt, naïve men like Bartholomew.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW
Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

Little else is written about Bartholomew after his personal recruitment by Jesus. He is shown here holding a knife, which is a reference to how he died. According to one account, he was skinned alive.

Gospel Light Feature

認識使徒 巴多羅買

陸 務 先 特 寫

別名	拿但業
職業	沒見聞
家鄉	迦拿，加利利
名字語源	Bartholomaios「Βαρθολομαίος」希臘語形 bar-Tōlmay 阿拉姆文意為「耕田人的兒子」 Netan'el「נתן־אל」希伯來文意為「上帝賜給」
親屬	沒見聞

首次在聖經被提到的巴多羅買（約翰福音書中又名拿但業）、是當他的朋友腓力很興奮地告訴他說他已經找到了彌賽亞、但巴多羅買有點懷疑地問：「拿撒勒還能出什麼好的麼？」（翰 1：46）。

耶穌看見巴多羅買來、就指着他說：「看哪、這是真以色列人、他心裏是沒有詭詐的」（翰 1：47）、耶穌並告訴巴多羅買說：「腓力還沒有招呼你、你坐在一棵無花果樹底下、我就看見你了」（翰 1：48）、巴多羅買因此就相信了、從然就跟隨了耶穌。

正如他的朋友腓力、巴多羅買是門徒中迎接人及管理事務的、與現在作執事的一樣。每次耶穌差遣使徒去猶太地方傳福音、巴多羅買和腓力常是配合在一起的。

傑出的作為

聖經沒有記載巴多羅買有任何其他的活動。當耶穌被捉受刑和被釘時、他離棄了耶穌、但當耶穌復活以後、他有再和耶穌會面、而且同其他的使徒在五旬節領受說方言的恩賜。巴多羅買有前往印度傳教、並在他的旅途中將馬太福音書留下。

死亡

按照傳統、巴多羅買死亡是特別痛苦的。因他反抗亞美尼亞的攝政阿斯提阿格斯國王、他身體的皮膚被剝離、然後大約於公元一世紀在阿爾巴諾波利斯（亞美尼亞）、被斬殺。

學習的功課

耶穌稱讚巴多羅買是一個心裏沒有詭詐的人、依現代的形容詞就是天真無機智不圓滑的人、他隨時說出他心所想的：「拿撒勒還能出什麼好的麼？」但他仍舊被選為門徒、這證明上帝願意使用各樣的人、就如巴多羅買那麼坦白直率的人。

聖巴多羅買

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

除了耶穌親身呼召巴多羅買以外、聖經中很少提到了他。在這圖中、他有拿着一把刀、指明他是怎麼樣而死。有些傳統記載他是活活的被剝了皮。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

7 MATTHEW

ALIASES	Levi
OCCUPATION	Publican (tax collector)
HOMETOWN	Capernaum
NAME MEANS	Mattiyahu (מתיאִהוּ), Hebrew for “gift of God” Levy (לֵוִי), Hebrew for “attached to”
RELATIVES	Alphaeus (father) Not related to James, son of Alphaeus

Matthew is an unlikely disciple for Jesus. The first disciples were fishermen: men from the lower class who were not well educated. In contrast, Matthew is a publican. Specifically, he works as a customs officer who pays the Romans in advance, and collects taxes from travelers to reimburse himself.

Taxpayers are hated by the Jews because they were notoriously corrupt. In order to enrich themselves, they collected more taxes than what was actually owed. There is no reason to believe that Matthew is any different from the rest. The fact that he was a Jew made things worse: to his fellow Jews, Matthew was a traitor who collaborated with the Romans.

Jesus’ choice of Matthew as a disciple was an interesting one. The Pharisees immediately criticized him for mingling with tax collectors and sinners. But, the decision emphasized Jesus’ mission to reach the sinners and the shunned.

Notable Actions

As a Jewish tax collector, Matthew was hated by everyone. But his skills made him uniquely qualified to be a disciple. His job required him to keep accurate records and be a good observer of people. This eye for detail would no doubt prove useful when he wrote his Gospel many years later. Matthew was also a man of means (he threw a farewell banquet for his fellow tax collectors at his house) and likely helped to finance the ministry of Jesus. Matthew later wrote the gospel of *Matthew*.

Death

According to tradition, Matthew was martyred at Nadabah, Ethiopia on 60 AD. The native Ethiopians attacked and killed the missionary with a halberd.

Lessons Learned

Matthew is the last person you would expect to be an apostle. He likely lied and cheated to enrich himself, and his fellow Jews thought of him as a traitor. His decision to follow Jesus teaches us that so long as you are willing to make the effort, you can be redeemed.



ST. MATTHEW

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

Catholic tradition states that Matthew was axed to death with a halberd: a long pointed spike that has an axe head attached at the base. This is the weapon Rubens depicts Matthew as holding on his right hand.

認識使徒

馬太

榮 務 先 特 寫

別名	利未
職業	稅關人
家鄉	迦百農
名字詞源	Mattityahu 「מַתִּיתָיָהוּ」 希伯來文意為「耶和華的恩賜」 Levy 「לֵוִי」 希伯來文意為「附屬」
親屬	亞勒腓（父），與亞勒腓的兒子雅各無關係

馬 太好像真不適合成為耶穌的門徒、因為耶穌首先所揀選的門徒是漁民、是屬於下等階層沒有受過良好教育的人。相反的、馬太是一個稅吏、他的工作是替人民先付稅給羅馬帝國、然後才向人民來收取的。

收稅員是猶太人所憎恨的、因為他們非常腐敗、為要自己致富、常向人民收取超過實在應該付還的數額、馬太也不在於外。更惡劣的是、猶太人認為他是一位通敵的人、因為他是一個與羅馬人合作的猶太人。

耶穌選擇馬太為門徒是特殊的、當法利賽人看見了、就隨時批評耶穌與稅吏和罪人混雜在一起、但耶穌作這決定、是強調他所要完成的使命、就是要救罪人和那些被人避絕之人。

傑出的作為

因為馬太是個稅吏、所以猶太人特別怨恨他、但他的才能和資格正適合於做一個門徒。他的工作需要具有記錄的學識、而且懂得觀察人。這些細節無疑的在他後來寫馬太福音書有很大的幫助。馬太也是一個有手段的人（他在家裏為眾稅吏們設備告別宴會）、這可能也幫資助耶穌的事工。馬太後來寫馬太福音書。

死亡

按照傳統、馬太於公元陸零年在 N a d a b a h、埃塞俄比亞殉道、埃塞俄比亞人用戟擊打殺死了他。

學習的功課

最使我們想像不到的是、為什麼馬太能成為一個使徒、他可能有採用欺騙及詭詐的方法致富、所以全猶太人都把他當着一個「賣國賊」、他堅決要跟隨耶穌、教導我們無論是任何人、只要願意付出代價、就必蒙救贖。

聖馬太

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

按天主教的傳統、馬太被戟砍死。戟：是一枝尖長的穗具有斧子頭貼在底下。魯本斯描繪馬太右手持着這個武器。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

8

THOMAS

ALIASES	Didymus, Doubting Thomas
OCCUPATION	Carpenter (according to tradition)
HOMETOWN	Galilee
NAME MEANS	Taoma (Θωμας), Greek form of Toma (ܛܘܡܐ), Aramaic for “twin” Didumos (Διδυμος), Greek for “twin”
RELATIVES	No information

Thomas’ act of doubting Jesus’ resurrection, unless he could see and touch Jesus’ wounds, is so memorable that the phrase “doubting Thomas” has entered the dictionary as a skeptic who refuses to believe anything without direct personal experience.

But the Biblical Thomas was more than just a doubter. Yes, his faith was initially limited to what he could personally see and touch, but the Gospels mentioned key incidents where he displayed devotion and courage in the face of death threats.

Notable Actions

John 11 recounts the well-known story of Lazarus and how Jesus raised him from the dead. What many people miss in the story is that the other apostles were afraid to go to Bethany because the Jews had tried to stone Jesus a while back. Thomas courageously encouraged everyone to follow him (John 11:16).

Thomas also longed to remain with Jesus. When Jesus told his disciples he would be leaving them to prepare a place for them, Thomas fretted that they don’t know where he was going, and therefore did not know the way. This allowed Jesus to answer with the very famous phrase in John 14:6: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Death

His doubts eventually erased, Thomas helped spread the gospel to faraway lands. According to tradition, he was killed at Chennai, India in 72 AD. Local priests, angered at his proselytizing, had him speared, tortured with red-hot plates, and burned alive.

Lessons Learned

Thomas is the quintessential twenty-first century man who believes in the scientific method, which is a process of learning through observation and experimentation. He is derided for being a doubter, but his inclusion among the apostles only strengthens the group’s intellectual credentials. This is not a group of ignorant fishermen, but a team with a critical thinker and a scientific mind. In fact, Thomas’ confession of faith after facing his doubts (“My Lord and My God!”) is made stronger by his insistence on direct observation.



ST. THOMAS

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

All of the paintings of the apostles made by Rubens show them with an item connected with their deaths. Thomas is shown with a spear because according to tradition, he was martyred after being speared and then burned alive.

Gospel Light Feature

後使徒認識

多馬

務先特寫



別名 迪杜馬，懷疑的多馬
職業 木匠（按傳統）
家鄉 加利利
名字語源 Taoma「Θωμας」希臘文語形 Toma「Διδυμος」阿拉姆文意為「雙胞胎」
親屬 Didumus「Διδυμος」希臘文意為「雙胞胎」沒見聞

除 了親自看見耶穌或親手摸到他的釘痕、多馬絕不相信耶穌從死裡復活。因此、在字典中有「懷疑的多馬」這名詞、代表一個人如果沒有自己親身經歷過的事、就不會相信的。

但是、聖經中的多馬不僅是一個懷疑者。是的、他起初的信心實是限於所能親自看到和摸到的、但福音書中有記載、他曾經遇到死的威脅、但仍然表現出真誠和勇敢。

傑出的作為

約翰福音十一章述說耶穌使拉撒路從死裡復活這個奇蹟的故事。很多人沒有發覺到的、是在不久以前、猶太人在伯大尼要用石頭打死耶穌、所以其他使徒們非常害怕、不敢再到那裏去、只有多馬很勇敢地鼓 大家跟隨耶穌一同 去伯大尼。

多馬很 愛和耶穌在一起、當耶穌告訴門徒他將離開他們去為他們預地方時、多馬焦急又擔憂、因他們不知道耶穌要到那裏去、所以不知道從什麼途徑走。 耶穌就用一個很著名的經文 答說：「我就是道路、真理、生命、若不藉著我 沒有人能到父那裡去」（翰14：6）。

死亡

最後、多馬就沒有「懷疑」了、他幫助把福音傳播到遙遠的地方。根據傳統、他於公元七十二在金奈、印度、因他傳教、激怒了當地的神父、就用矛刺他 用燒板施酷刑、將他活活的燒死。

學習的功課

多馬是在廿一世紀時代具有科學的理智：就是以觀察及實驗來學習。在使徒中有稱為「多疑者」在內、更加強地據證這團體不只是限於第一世紀無知的漁夫、乃是一群具有判斷能力、科學思想及高深學識的人、多馬堅持以直接的觀察、需要親身見到摸到主他才除去懷疑、確証了他的信心說：「我的主、我的神」。

聖多馬

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）所有魯本斯所繪畫使徒的肖像、顯示着令他們死亡所用的的武器。多馬在畫中舉着矛，因為根據傳統，他不但被矛刺傷、而他被火活活地着、殉道而死。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

9

JAMES THE LESSER

ALIASES	James, son of Alphaeus
OCCUPATION	Tax collector (according to tradition)
HOMETOWN	Capernaum
NAME MEANS	Iacomos (Ἰάκωβος), Greek form of Ya'aqov (יאַעֲקֹב), Hebrew for "to follow" or "supplant"
RELATIVES	Alphaeus (father), Mary (mother) Not related to Matthew, whose father is also called Alphaeus

James, son of Alphaeus, also called James the Lesser, is not necessarily less great than James, son of Zedebee. He is either shorter or younger than the other James; thus the moniker "Great" and "Less" is used to distinguish the two. Despite having fathers named Alphaeus, James was probably not related to Matthew since the brotherly link would otherwise be mentioned in the Bible.

There are multiple Jameses in the New Testament, and two of them are disciples: the "Greater" son of Zedebee and the "Lesser" son of Alphaeus. But the most prominent James is James, the brother of Jesus. He led the early Christian church in Jerusalem and wrote the book of James. Catholics believe that Mary remained a virgin, so they consider this James to be Jesus' cousin instead of his brother. Because the father is no longer Joseph, they conclude that he must be the same person as the apostle James the Lesser. Some scholars believe that both men are different; this is the stance that this article adopts.

When Jesus sent out the apostles to spread the gospel, James was paired with Jude. Traditionally, he is said to have partnered with Matthew in their missionary work, after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Notable Actions

Although debated by scholars, some believe that James the Lesser is the first disciple who witnessed the risen Christ (1 Corinthians 15:7). James is not mentioned elsewhere in Scripture, other than appearing in a list of apostles. Although not explicitly named, James saw Jesus after Resurrection, and received the gift of tongues during Pentecost.

Death

According to tradition, James was stoned and then clubbed to death in 62 AD at Jerusalem. He was finished off with a fuller's hammer; his death was instigated by the Jewish priests.

Lessons Learned

James is an obscure man who worked in the background. But he did not let the lack of recognition affect him; after all, not everyone is suited to be a Peter or a Paul. James worked quietly to do God's work. The violence of James' death betrays the passion of his enemies, and testifies to his quiet yet steadfast passion.



ST. JAMES THE LESSER
Peter Paul Rubens (1613)

The lesser James was supposedly stoned and then clubbed to death with a fuller hammer—a tool used in metalworking. According to some legends, James was killed with his own tool, the same instrument he is holding in this painting.

Gospel Light Feature

認識使徒 小雅各

致 務 先 特 寫

別名	亞勒腓的兒子雅各
職業	收稅員（根據傳統）
家鄉	迦百農
名字語源	Iacomos「Ἰάκωβος」希臘文語形 Ya'aqov「יַעֲקֹב」希伯來文意為「跟隨」或「取代」
親屬	亞勒腓（父）馬利亞（母） 馬太的父親也叫亞勒腓、但馬太和小雅各沒有親戚關係

亞勒腓的兒子雅各、又稱小雅各、他並是不比西庇太的兒子（大）雅各更微小、他只是比較矮小又年輕、因此 綽號「大」和「小」是用來分別他們兩人。雖然他們的父親和馬太的父親同名、但他們並沒有血統的關係、否則、聖經就會提及的。

在新約的聖經中、有許多人名叫「雅各」。其中二位就是西庇太的兒子（大）雅各和亞勒腓的兒子（小）雅各、他們都是耶穌的門徒、此外、還有一個比較著名的雅各、就是耶穌的兄弟（加 1：19、可 6：3、太 13：55 - 56）、他帶領初期在耶路撒冷初期的教會、也是雅各書的作者。因為天主教相信馬利亞仍舊是處女、所以他們認為那比較著名的雅各不是耶穌的同母的兄弟而是表兄弟、因為他的父親不是約瑟、所以他們的結論是：著名的雅各就是小雅各、但是有些學者相信他們不是同一個人、這也是這文章所採納的。

當耶穌打發使徒去傳福音時、雅各和猶大常配合在一起。據傳統、耶穌升天後、他和馬太在宣教事工是同工的。

傑出的作為

因學者有不同的意見、經過辯論後、有的相信（小）雅各是第一個使徒見證了復活的基督（林前 15：7）。此外、除了他的名有記載在使徒中、聖經再也沒有提到（小）雅各。雖然沒有明顯地提供、雅各是有見證耶穌復活、也在五旬節領受說方言的恩賜。

死亡

按照傳統、雅各於公元六十二年被人扔石頭、然後用鐵鎚砸死、他的死亡是由猶太祭司煽動的。

學習的功課

雅各是個隱藏在背後工作的人、雖然他沒有像彼得或保羅那麼著名、這對他並沒多大的重要、他仍舊安靜為主做工。他的慘死、顯示敵人的恐怖、也見證他靜默的情態。

聖小雅各

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一三年）

小雅各是被人扔石頭、以鐵鎚砸死。據古談、雅各在這幅畫中所拿着的、就是他喪生的工具。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

10 SIMON THE ZEALOT

ALIASES	Simon the Cananaean, Simon the Canaanite
OCCUPATION	Revolutionary
HOMETOWN	no information (<i>Simon was not from Canaan</i>)
NAME MEANS	Shi'mon (שִׁמְעוֹן), Hebrew for "God has heard" Zelotes (ζηλωτής) & Kananaios (Κανανίτης) are both Greeks form of Qannâ (קַנְיָא), Hebrew for "Zealot"
RELATIVES	no information

Simon is one of the more obscure disciples of Jesus. The only thing we know about Simon is that he was a Zealot (the Gospel authors included this detail to distinguish him from Simon Peter). Tradition says Simon was the groom at the wedding in Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle of turning water to wine.

As a member of the Zealot sect, Simon wanted to resist Roman rule and establish independence for Judaea by force. Since he hated the Romans, it was probably very hard for him to be in the same team as Matthew, a Jewish "traitor" who collected taxes for the Romans!

Simon was probably a member on the outer periphery of the apostolic team that managed worldly affairs. Jesus paired him with Judas Iscariot when the apostles were sent out to preach the gospel. After Judas killed himself, tradition paired Simon with the apostle Jude in further missionary work.

Notable Actions

The Bible is silent about Simon's actions—he only appeared in a list of names in the Gospels. He was physically present with the other apostles in the upper room of Jerusalem after Christ has ascended to heaven (Acts 1:13), and received the gift of tongues on the Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). He lived according to the Great Commission, and served as a missionary in Egypt and Persia.

Death

There are conflicting accounts for Simon's death. Catholic tradition state that he was killed in Syria (now modern-day Lebanon), together with Jude, by an angry mob. He was crucified, and then sawed in half in 65 AD. According to Eastern Orthodox tradition, Simon died peacefully of old age in 107 AD.

Lessons Learned

Simon belongs to a sect that combines fervent patriotism with religious fanaticism – a very explosive combination. As an apostle of Jesus, he was forced to work alongside a tax collector who worked for the Romans. The fact that he didn't murder Matthew testifies that impulses can be curbed and people can change for the better.



ST. SIMON

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

Rubens painted the twelve Apostles, as commissioned by the Duke of Lerma. In this painting, Simon the Zealot is holding a saw in his left hand. According to tradition, he was killed after being sawed in half.

認識使徒 奮銳黨的西門

務先特寫

別名 強熱派的西門，迦南人西門
職業 革命家
家鄉 沒見聞 (西門不是迦南人)
名字語源 Shi'mon「שמון」希伯來文為「神已經聽見」
Zelotes「ζηλωτής」與 Kananaïos「Κανανιτης」
是希臘語形 Qannâ「קנא」希伯來文意是「奮銳黨」
親屬 沒見聞

在 耶穌門徒中、比較少提起的就是西門、屬於西門、我們所知道的是他一位信仰過度的熱心者、(四福音的作者將這特徵把他和彼得分別出來)。據傳統記載、當耶穌在迦拿行第一次神蹟將水變為酒時、西門就是那位婚宴的新郎。

因西門是屬於強熱的黨派、他抵擋羅馬帝國的管轄、欲以武力來建立猶太地的獨立。因為他懷恨羅馬人、所以要和馬太同作一夥實在是不容易的、尤其馬太是被稱為「猶太人的賣國賊」、因他為羅馬帝王向猶太人收稅！

西門在門徒羣中管理世務、耶穌把他和加略人猶大配合一同出去傳福音、後來加略人猶大自殺後、傳統記錄他和猶大繼續宣道的工作。

傑出的作為

對於西門的行動、聖經是沉默的、他的名字只有出現在福音書中。當耶穌被接上升後、他有和其他門徒一起在耶路撒冷的一間屢房(使1:13)、並在五旬節領受說方言的恩賜(使2:1-4)、他遵照神的大使命、後來前往埃及和波士那裏去作宣教士。

死亡

西門的死亡有不同的記載、根據天主教的傳統、他與猶大在敘利亞(現今的黎巴嫩)被一群暴徒殺害、於公元六十五年將他釘在十字架上、並將身體鋸成一半。但根據東正教的傳統卻記載、他於公元一百零七年安然去世。

學習的功課

西門是屬於熱愛國家加上強熱宗教一個容易爆發的教派、因為他是耶穌的門徒、不得不應該和為羅馬帝國的收稅員同工、他沒有謀殺馬太就證明任何人都可以重新改變。



聖西門

彼得·保羅·魯本斯(一六一一年)

魯本斯受萊爾馬公爵的委託、畫了十二個使徒的肖像。在這幅畫中、西門左手拿一把鋸子、根據傳統的記錄、他被人用鋸子將他切成一半)。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

11 JUDE

Gospel Light Feature

ALIASES	Thaddeus, Lebbaeus, Judas not Iscariot
OCCUPATION	Farmer
HOMETOWN	Galilee
NAME MEANS	Ioudas (Ιουδας), Greek form of Yehudah (יהודה), Hebrew for "God is Praised" Thaddaios (Θαδδαῖος), Greek for "Brave heart" Lebbaeos (Λεββαῖος), Greek for "Courageous"
RELATIVES	James (father)

Jude's name is a variation of "Judah", and is an alternative spelling of "Judas". To distinguish him from Judas Iscariot, he was called Jude, Thaddeus, or Lebbaeus. He was the only Apostle to have three names in the Gospels.

Scholars are divided whether Jude the Apostle is the same as Jude, the brother of Jesus. Catholics believe Mary remained a virgin, and consider the Apostle to be Jesus' cousin, and the author of the epistle of Jude. Other Christians, including most Protestants, believe that Jude the Apostle is a separate person from the brother of Jesus.

Jude was probably a member on the outer periphery of the apostolic team that managed worldly affairs. When Jesus sent out the Twelve to spread the gospel, Jude was paired with James son of Alphaeus. Tradition often paired Jude with Simon the Zealot during their subsequent missionary activities.

Notable Actions

Jude had a brief appearance in John 14:22, asking Jesus at the Last Supper why he would only show himself to the Apostles and not to the world after he is resurrected. Jude witnessed Jesus' ascension to Heaven, and received the gift of tongues on the Pentecost. According to tradition, Jude founded a church in Edessa (modern day Turkey), and worked with Simon the Zealot in Syria and Persia.

Death

According to tradition, Jude was martyred with Simon the Zealot in Syria (Lebanon) on 65 AD. He was crucified by an angry mob, and his head was bashed in with a club.

Lessons Learned

After Judas' betrayal, Jude is saddled with a name that no Christian wanted to have. Many in his position would have become discouraged at being associated with a traitor. In fact, Catholics consider him the patron saint of last resort, because they don't want to pray to him until they have prayed to all the other saints. Still, Jude's martyrdom proves that he overcame the stigma associated with Judas, and persevered with his belief to the bitter end.



ST. JUDE THADDEUS
Georges de la Tour (1624)

The Apostle Jude is shown here with his usual attribute: the halberd. Tradition has it that he was crucified and then clubbed to death with a halberd.



拾壹 務先特寫



別名 達太，利貝烏，不是加略人的猶大
職業 農民
家鄉 加利利
名字語源 Ioudas 「Ιουδας」希臘語形 Yehudah 「יהודה」希伯來文意為「神被稱讚」
 Thaddaios 「Θαδδαιος」希臘文意為「勇敢的心」
 Lebbaios 「Λεββαιος」希臘文意為「勇敢」
親屬 雅各（父）

猶 大的名稱是「Judah」的易體字、也是「Judas」的另一種寫法。為要和加略人猶大分別出來、他又被稱為猶大、達太、或利貝烏、他是唯一有三個名字的使徒。

使徒猶大是否是耶穌的兄弟？學者有不同的意見。天主教相信馬利亞仍舊是一個在室女、所以認為猶大是耶穌的堂兄弟、也是猶大書的作者。但是其他的信徒、包括大多數的基督徒、認為使徒猶大是另外一位、不是耶穌的兄弟。

猶大在使徒中管理世務、當耶穌差派十二個使徒傳福音、猶大和亞勒腓的兒子雅各常配合在一起、根據傳統、後來猶大是和奮銳黨的西門一同出去宣道。

傑出的作為

約翰福音第十四章廿二節有提到猶大、當時他問耶穌說：「主阿、為什麼要向我們顯現、不向世人顯現呢？」。猶大有見證耶穌升天、並在五旬節聖靈降臨時得說方言的恩賜。按照傳統記載、猶大在埃及（現今土耳其）設立教會、並與奮銳黨的西門在敘利亞和波斯同工。

死亡

根據傳統、猶大與奮銳黨的西門於公元六十五年在敘利亞（黎巴嫩）殉道。他被一群憤怒的暴徒將他釘在十字架上、然後以戟撞破他的頭。

學習的功課

自從加略人猶大出賣耶穌後、沒有基督徒愛「猶大」這名字、猶大因此也被連累、因他的名有帶着「叛奸者」的印記、因此、在聖徒中、天主教將他排在最後的一位、除了所有聖徒已求盡了、他們不願意向他禱告。但他的殉道證明他勝過了和加略人猶大名字聯關的恥辱、他持守信仰直到最難受的終點。

聖猶大

喬治·德拉·圖爾（一六二四年）

使徒猶大在這裡顯示他慣有的象徵：戟、傳統認為他被釘在十字架上後、再以戟打死了他。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

12 JUDAS ISCARIOT

ALIASES	The Traitor
OCCUPATION	No information
HOMETOWN	Kerioth
NAME MEANS	Ioudas (Ιουδας), Greek form of Yehudah (יהודה), Hebrew for “God is Praised” İş-Qrîyôth (איִשְׁקָרְיֹוֹת), Hebrew for “Man of Kerioth”
RELATIVES	Simon (father)

Judas Iscariot needs no introduction. He was obsessed with money, and betrayed Jesus Christ to his enemies for 30 pieces of silver (the price of a slave) and sealed his betrayal with a kiss.

Modern opinion on Judas is somewhat divided. While some see him as a traitor destined for Hell, others see him as a sympathetic figure who had no choice but was predestined to damnation. His actions set in motion the events that would lead to Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection; if he didn’t betray Jesus, then there would be no salvation for humanity.

Judas belonged to the team of Apostles that managed the group’s worldly affairs and dealt with money issues. He was placed in charge of the group’s finances, and kept the group’s money bag. John mentioned that Judas often stole from the funds.

Notable Actions

In John 12, Judas objected to the use of expensive perfume to anoint Jesus’ feet, arguing that the perfume could be sold and the money given to the poor. He was not actually concerned about the poor; he wanted the money for himself.

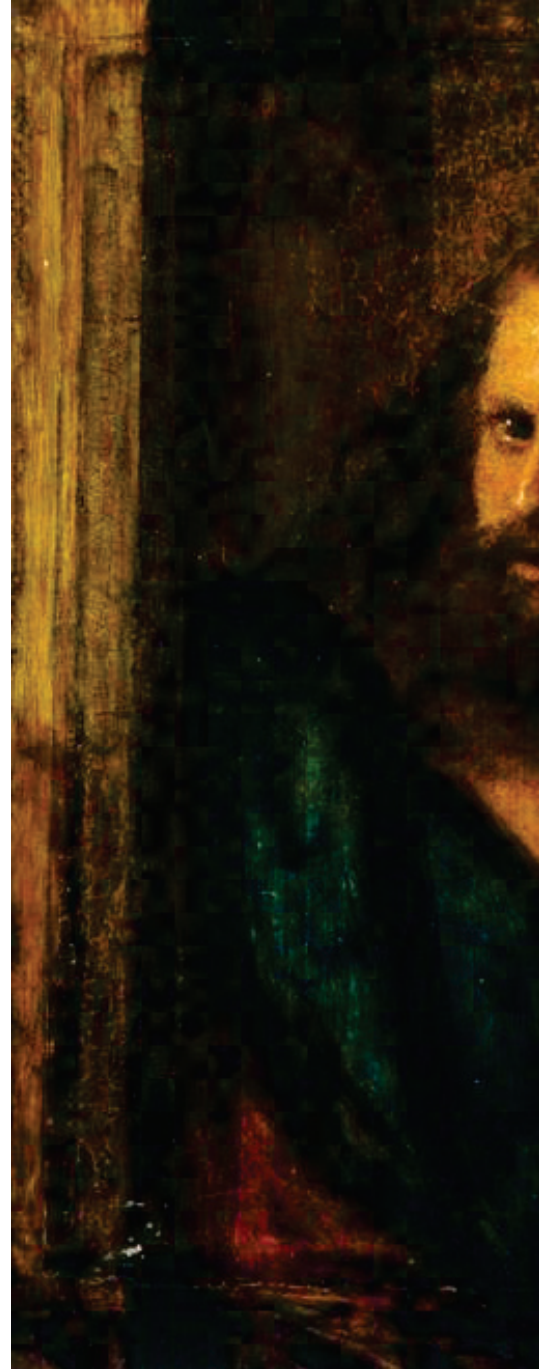
The Bible suggests that Judas suffered demonic possession twice: once when he arranged with the chief priests to betray Jesus (Luke 22:1-6) and again when Jesus handed him the bread during the Last Supper and told him to quickly do whatever he was about to do (John 13:26-27).

Death

Filled with remorse after the betrayal, Judas committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree. His body later fell off, burst open, and spilled all his entrails on the ground.

Lessons Learned

The name “Judas” is forever associated with a traitor. He was the first Apostle to die, and the only one not considered a saint by any Christian denomination. Judas’ life is a cautionary demonstration that even a man who was personally chosen by Jesus and witnessed all his miracles could still stumble and lose his way.



JUDAS ISCARIOT

William Etty (date unknown)

William Etty is a British painter best known for painting classical nudes. This painting of Judas Iscariot is an oil painting on board canvas, owned by the Museums Sheffield.

Gospel Light Feature

後使認識 大猶人略加

務光特寫

別名	叛徒
職業	沒見聞
家鄉	加略
名字語源	Ioudas 「Ιουδας」 希臘語形 Yehudah 「יהודה」 希伯來文意思是「神被稱讚」
親屬	Îš-Qrîyôth 「אישקריות」 希伯來文意為「加略人」 西門(父)

加略人猶大不大需要多大的介紹。他是一位非常重視金錢的人 願意以三十個兩銀出賣了耶穌給他的敵人。甚至以口吻來作出賣耶穌的記號。

現代的人對猶大有不同的意見。有些人認為他是一位不忠的叛徒、該受地獄的死刑、但是另外有些人卻把他當作一可憐、無可選擇、被預定沉淪的人、他們認為猶大的行動成全了耶穌的受釘和復活、所以這些人說：「如果他若沒有背叛耶穌、那麼、人類豈可得到救恩呢？」

猶大是使徒中的財政、他負責管理所有金錢的收入與支出、約翰有提述他是個賊、常取錢囊裏所存的(翰 12:6)。

傑出的作為

加略人猶大極反對馬利亞將珍貴的香膏破開來膏抹耶穌的腳、他辯論說這香膏可以出售卅兩銀來賙濟窮人、其實、他並不是真正掛念窮人、乃因為他 愛自己得到那些錢(翰 12:5-7)。

聖經有記載撒但入了加略人猶大兩次、首次是當他去和祭司並守殿官商量怎樣把耶穌交給他們(路 22:1-6)、其次是當他同眾門徒和耶穌守最後晚餐時、耶穌蘸一點餅遞給他、耶穌便叫他快作他所要作的事(翰 13:26-27)。

死亡

猶大出賣耶穌後、就後悔、自己出去吊死了、他的身體掉下裂開、內臟向外流出。

學習的功課

「猶大」這名字永遠和「叛奸者」聯系在一起、他是第一個使徒去世、也是唯一没有被任何基督教徒稱為「聖」的使徒、猶大的人生警告我們、一個人雖然是被耶穌揀選、又見證到祂的神蹟、也會跌倒、走上錯路。

加略人猶大

William Etty (日期未知)

William Etty 是一位英國的畫家、他繪畫古典的裸體最有名。這幅加略人猶大的圖畫是油畫於帆布、謝菲爾德博物館是圖畫的物主。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

13 MATTHIAS

ALIASES	None
OCCUPATION	No information
HOMETOWN	No information
NAME MEANS	Matthaios (Ματθαῖος), Greek form of Mattityahu (מתתיהו), Hebrew for “Gift of God”
RELATIVES	No information

Except for his election to replace Judas Iscariot, we know almost nothing else about Matthias the Apostle. His only mention was in Acts 1:23-26, when the remaining apostles nominated two candidates (Joseph called Barsabbas aka Justus, and Matthias) and cast lots to select the new apostle to join the eleven.

Why did the early Christians decide to replace Judas? There is a symbolism to the number twelve in Israel. There were twelve tribes and twelve disciples. And in Luke 22:30, Jesus promised that when he returns, the twelve apostles will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes.

The Bible itself is silent on the selection of Matthias as an Apostle: there is neither support nor criticism. God did not instruct Peter to replace Judas. If salvation is opened to the Gentiles, the number twelve won't be an important detail. In fact, Paul's later validation as apostle to the Gentiles implied that it is Paul and not Matthias who was the twelfth apostle in Revelations 21:14.

Notable Actions

As one of the two qualified candidates, Matthias was there with Jesus from the very beginning. He witnessed Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, and followed him through his ministry. He also saw the risen Christ before he ascended to Heaven. So although he was not personally selected by Jesus, he persevered in his belief like the rest.

Death

There are conflicting traditions of his martyrdom. One account says he died in 80 AD in Colchis (Georgia) due to crucifixion. Another says he was stoned and beheaded in Jerusalem.

Lessons Learned

Matthias was not handpicked by Jesus, but was selected through luck. Although he wasn't part of the original team, we can't question his dedication—he was part of Jesus' extended entourage from the beginning. Matthias' example (he worked and died for the cause) shows us that ultimately the issue is not *when* we are chosen, but *that* we are chosen. What kind of disciple will we be: a Judas or a Matthias? That is entirely up to us.



ST. MATTHIAS

Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

The axe Matthias holds in his left hand refers to the way he died. In one of the accounts of his death, he was stoned and then beheaded in Jerusalem.

認識使徒 馬提亞

拾參 務光特寫

別名	沒有
職業	沒見聞
家鄉	沒見聞
名字語源	Matthaios「Ματθαίος」希臘語形 Mattiyahu「מתיתיהו」希伯來文意思是為「耶和華的恩賜」
親屬	沒見聞

除了馬提亞被選入代替加略人猶大外、幾乎沒有人認識他。只有在使徒行傳第一章二十三節中、提及要由他和巴撒巴又稱呼猶士的約瑟、以搖籤的方式、搖出他和十一個使徒同列。

為什麼早期的信徒決定要有人代替加略人猶大呢？也許是「十二」這號數在以色列民中有深意的豫表、以色列有十二個支派、耶穌有十二個門徒。而且當主再來時、耶穌應許十二個使徒將坐在他的席上喫喝、並且坐在寶座上、判斷以色列十二個支派（路 22：30）。

聖經沒有分外地贊成反對揀選馬提亞作為使徒此事、不過、上帝並沒有吩咐使徒選出一位來代替加略人猶大。如果救恩是開放給外邦人、「十二」這號數將不再是分外重要了。其實、耶穌本身以超自然的方法來選擇呼召保羅作外邦人的使徒、這就證明保羅才是合法的第十二使徒、而不是馬提亞。

傑出的作為

作為兩個合格的候選人之一 馬提亞自開始就與耶穌在一起、他見證耶穌受施洗約翰的洗、並一直在耶穌事工上跟隨着他。在基督未升天之前、他也見過復活的主。所以、雖然他沒有親自被耶穌所選召、但他却像所有的使徒一樣、堅持他的信仰。

死亡

他的殉道有不同傳統的記錄、一部份人說他於公元八十年在科爾基斯（格魯吉亞）被釘十字架而死、另外一部份的人說、他是被人投擲石塊、然後在耶路撒冷被斬殺。

學習的功課

馬提亞不是耶穌親自揀選的、而是由搖籤的方式被選、雖然他不屬於耶穌的內圈、但是無疑的、他有供獻委身、自開始就和耶穌在一起。馬提亞事主為主而死的榜樣、使我們知道最重要的不是何時被揀選、乃是我們是已經被揀選。你願意做什麼樣的使徒：猶大或馬提亞？這就由你自己選擇吧！

聖馬提亞

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

馬提亞手中所拿着的斧頭、是指人取用此工具來斬殺他。按照去世的記事、他是被石頭砸死、然後在耶路撒冷受斬殺。

KNOW THE APOSTLES

14 PAUL

Gospel Light Feature

ALIASES	Saul, Apostle to the Gentiles
OCCUPATION	Tent-maker
HOMETOWN	Tarsus
NAME MEANS	Paulus, Latin for “small” or “humble” Sha’ul (שאול), Hebrew for “asked for” or “prayed for”
RELATIVES	Unnamed: Pharisee father, mother, sister, nephew Kinsmen: Andronicus, Junia, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater

Paul is the only Apostle who didn’t meet Jesus in the flesh, but encountered him while traveling to Damascus. He was implacable and zealous. Before his conversion, he took a leadership role in persecuting the believers of Christ.

Paul was born to a well-off family in the prosperous trading hub of Tarsus. He studied under the tutelage of Gamaliel, a well-respected rabbi. He was well-educated and had a sharp mind that enabled him to debate priests on an equal footing. He inherited Roman citizenship from his father, a status he often exploited later in his ministry.

Notable Actions

After his conversion, Paul traveled extensively and planted several churches in Asia Minor (Turkey) and Europe (Greece and Macedonia) during three missionary journeys. He was eventually arrested and sent to Rome for trial after he appealed to Caesar.

The book of Acts closes during his two-year arrest in Rome. Post-Biblical sources state that Paul was acquitted and made a final missionary journey to Spain and Britain, before being martyred.

Paul is one of the most important figures in the early church. Fourteen out of the twenty-seven New Testament books are traditionally attributed to Paul, although only seven books are undisputed (*Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon*) and one is discredited (*Hebrews*).

Death

Paul was one of the victims when Emperor Nero cracked down on Christianity. As a Roman citizen, he had the right to a quick death. Instead of being crucified like the rest of his fellow believers, Paul was beheaded with a sword in Rome on 65 AD.

Lessons Learned

Paul was a Pharisee, and zealously persecuted the early Christians before he converted. Despite his past, he later became one of the giants of the early church. Paul’s life beautifully illustrates redemption: he accepted Christ, his sins were washed away. He became a shining beacon that spread the message of salvation to the Gentiles.



ST. PAUL
Peter Paul Rubens (1611)

The items Paul is holding refer to Ephesians 6:17, where he speaks of the **sword of the spirit**, which is the **word of God**. The sword also refers to how Paul died: he was beheaded with a sword.



認識使徒 保羅

拾肆 務光特寫

別名	掃羅，向外邦人的使徒
職業	製造帳棚
家鄉	大數
名字語源	Paulus 拉丁語為「小」或「謙遜」 Sha'ul 「שׂאול」 希伯來文意思是「所求的」或「祈求的」
親屬	無名：法利賽人的父親，母親，姊妹，堂兄弟 親族：安多尼古，猶尼亞安，路求，耶孫，所西巴德

保羅是唯一未曾親身見過耶穌的使徒、他是在前往大馬色途中遇到耶穌。雖然他具有難以和解的性情、但卻是滿有熱誠的人。在他還沒有改變之前、是迫害基督信徒的領導者。

保羅出生於貿易繁榮的大數城中。因他家庭富有、經受教於一位蒙人敬重的拉比迦瑪列。他不但有高深的教育、也有敏銳的頭腦與祭司辯論。因他父親是羅馬籍民、所以就繼承了羅馬公民之權利、也經常在他的聖工上利用這身份。

傑出的作為

保羅四處奔走 在他三次宣教的旅 中、在小亞細亞（土 其）和歐洲（希臘和馬其頓）設立了許多的教會。最終他被逮捕、就上告於該撒、往羅馬去受審。

使徒行傳記載保羅在羅馬受禁兩年、根據聖經後期的資源、保羅以無罪被釋放後、又往西班牙和英國去、作最後宣教的旅 、然後才殉道離世。

保羅是早期教會最重要人物之一、據傳統記載、新約廿七書信中、他是十四本書的作者。不過、確實無疑是他所寫的只有七本如下：（羅馬書、哥林多前書、哥林多後書、加拉太書、腓立比書、帖撒羅尼迦前書、和腓利門書）。沒有確證他為作者的是希伯來書。

死亡

尼祿王為羅馬皇帝時、大大的迫害所有的基督徒、保羅是其中一位受了迫害的。然而、因為他是羅馬的籍民、擁有「快速死亡」之權利。沒有像其他的信徒被釘在十字架上、而是於公元六十五年以劍被斬頭而死。

學習的功課

保羅是一個法利賽人、在他還沒有改變以前、他熱烈地迫害基督信徒、但是後來他却成了初期教會的偉人。保羅的生平例證救贖：他接受基督、他罪被洗淨、他成為亮光照耀着、把救恩的信息傳播給外邦人。



聖保羅

彼得·保羅·魯本斯（一六一一年）

這幅畫是根據以弗所書第六章十七節、保羅談到了**聖靈的寶劍、就是神的道**。在這圖畫中，他右手持劍，左手拿着一本書。

Just Like Jesus

Ann Marie Su

From April 21 to 24, 2014, children from Grades 1 to 6 attended the 13th Junior Camp held at the Cebu Gospel Church premises. This year's theme, "Just Like Jesus," was based on Ephesians 5:1. Thirty-three children joined the 4 Days/3 Nights stay-in event.

Brother Lorenzo Castro conducted sessions during the morning, while Sister Meriam Chicote spoke during the evening sessions. Both emphasized who Jesus is and how we could imitate Him.

Each day started with a dance exercise, followed by the kids' morning shower. A hearty breakfast is served to feed their physical bodies, followed by the Devotion time for some spiritual feeding too.

After a short break, everyone assembled for the message, and then broke off into groups for the special sessions. One of these sessions was a seminar on First Aid, conducted by volunteers from the Emergency Rescue Unit Foundation (ERUF). A nutritious lunch preceded a two-hour siesta time and time for Counseling.

This year, one of the highlights of the camp was the song and dance workshops. Professional Christian

song and dance instructors were invited to motivate the children to display their singing and dancing talents for the Lord. Indeed, they were so happy with what they learned that they did not protest when we announced that they will have to perform during Sunday worship service.

After a healthy dinner at 6 PM, we gathered again for the evening message. After they drank their spiritual milk, everyone prepared to go to bed. Lights-out occurred at 9:30 PM.

Praise and thank our good Lord that all campers were safe and healthy during the camp. Nobody got sick or hurt, and the kids were so cooperative in observing the house rules.

During the third night, we had another camp highlight – the most awaited dedication and campfire. The children were given time to prepare what they wanted to share, and they gladly did so. We ended the night by barbecuing some marshmallows to make *smores*. They enjoyed it so much!

The following are testimonies from some campers. I hope you will enjoy reading them and be blessed!





Joe Madeline Lee Yu

In this camp, I learned to imitate God and know more in His Word. I learned about the meaning of PLANT, STONE, PRECIOUS STONE and PAPER. I also learned a lot of new songs. I learned first aid from the ERUF. Finally, I learned that Jesus' disciples greatly changed. I wanna be like Jesus in that He showed kindness even to the people who have hurt Him.

Angela Jaime Tan

In this camp, I learned to be responsible. I also know how to do the ERUF First Aid a little. I learned how to sing FAIREST LORD JESUS. I can imitate Jesus by being kind and patient. I thank God for letting us learn more about Him. I also made some friends. Indeed, I thank the Lord for this camp.

Maegan Yap

God helped me to be brave. I learned that Jesus is very important to our lives and I want to follow and imitate Jesus everyday. I learned to be loving, kind and forgiving. I want to imitate Jesus because He has a good character. Next time, I still want to join the Junior Camp because it's fun. We get to play and learn more about God. I am thankful for my friends and teachers. Thank You!

Glory Limchiu

In this camp, I learned to be independent. I learned to be truthful and honest in everything we do, and that we should praise God with all our hearts. We need to know Him in order to have a relationship with Him. I also learned that instead of forcing our beliefs on others, we need to pray for them and wait for an opportunity to share the Gospel to them. My counselor also taught us to change the G of Gadgets into GOD, the C of Charger into CHRIST and the B for Book into BIBLE. I also learned that God is a very passionate and forgiving God.

Eliana Ong

I learned a lot of things in this year's camp. I learned to put away every form of hatred. We should always be kind and tender to one another. I learned that we should live a life with love. Also, I learned that we are God's dearly loved children so we should be just like Him.

Pauline Ang

This is my third time to join the Junior Camp. I learned that we must lead a life with love in a way we should have patience with other people. Just like in 1 John 4:8, GOD IS LOVE. I learned that we ought to know God and we can do this by being ATTENTIVE. I also learned that we must forgive others, just as God has forgiven us – He is full of kindness, tenderness and forgiveness. Lastly, I will end

with our memory verse found in Ephesians 5:1: “You are the children that God dearly loves.”

Jennica Tan

It has been three days and two nights since we all have arrived for our Junior Camp. I have learned so much. I thank God for our speakers for spending their time with us to teach us how to become just like Jesus. I learned that God takes sin seriously. And that Jesus took our punishment we deserved – knowing that we are all sinners and have fallen short of His glory so our punishment is death. But Jesus died so that we will have eternal life if we believe in Him. I also learned how we must understand who He really is, as revealed in His Word, the Bible. I learned that God is love. In our morning devotions, I learned that we must walk in life, so that we may be just like Jesus. Jesus showed His love for us by dying on the cross that we may be cleansed from our sins. I thank God that He gave me new friends to meet – also nice *Siansis*, *Ahias* and *Achies* – because they helped me with the things I needed. I thank God for the yummy food too. I thank God for being gracious to all of us. Hope to see you all in the next camp!

Leeian Yap

This is my second time to join the Junior Camp. I learned to be just like Jesus – loving, caring and sharing kindness to other people. I learned to spend more time with God, rather than playing gadgets and reading books. My counselor

said why not change the G of Gadgets into GOD, the C of Charger into CHRIST, and the B for Book into BIBLE? The camp was very fun and memorable. I changed a lot by walking in God's steps and being like Christ.

Caroline (CJ) Tan

In PCGS, graduates always have a retreat before school ends. To those who do not know what a retreat is, it is actually a camp like this... except it's just with our own classmates and teachers in school. Well, we had ours last March. An important lesson I was reminded of (I am reminded because I did it before) is DEVOTION. And hey, it's the same message during this Junior Camp. I think God is really pushing me. YES! I know it's good for me... I shall do it and have discipline. I thank God for this: helping in the kitchen, taking care of my siblings and myself, spending time with friends and many more, so THANK YOU, LORD!

Kyler Tee

I learned to not sin. I learned that you could have the Holy Spirit. I learned that Jesus loves us so much – that He died on the cross to wash away our sins. I learned to obey God and Jesus.

Isaiah Tan

I learned about the 4 Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I also learned about the plant, the stone, the precious stone and the paper. I learned to be good. Me and my classmate are being funny.



I learned to love my sisters and I will promise not to box my sisters, CJ and Jamie.

Emma Canada

I am happy to be in this thirteenth Junior Camp. Today, I have learned a lot more about following and being just like Jesus. I learned new songs and met new people. I learned also about Jesus. He was full of kindness, tenderness and forgiveness, and led a life full of love. I also learned that when you are bored, you just read God's Word and pray. I am thankful for a lot of things – for the *Achie*s who played with us, the counselors who have been working, and the janitors who did all the chores. The speakers have also helped me about the four objects, verses, discoveries and safety measures. They have also taught me the difference of God and us – He is pure, we are greedy; He is peaceful, we are hassled. But just like Jesus, we throw away all our bitterness inside and keep love and kindness in our hearts.

Eanna Canada

I have learned and did many things in the camp. Some of the things I learned is to be imitators of God. I also learned how important eating vegetables is – even if you hate it, eat it. What I learned from our speaker are the 4 objects – plant,

stone, precious stone, and paper. My favorite parts in the camp are the workshops, counseling time, siesta and eating. I also learned many songs. For our gadgets, I learned about changing the letters of the gadgets and change it to God. If you like books, make it to Bible, and charger to Christ. Now I learned to walk just like Jesus. This camp was awesome!

Lorraine Ong

In this year's camp, I learned a lot of wonderful things. Our theme is JUST LIKE JESUS. We must follow Jesus' example. I learned to love everyone even the ones who are bad to me. I need to get rid of every form of hatred. I also learned that God is so gracious to us – He gave up His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us sinners so we could go back to Him. I need God's help in order to follow Jesus' example for I cannot do it alone.

Darynne Ong

The important thing I learned in this camp is to LOVE – we must love those people who we do not like. God is kind so we must also be kind. We can show people that we are God's children by caring for them, not hurting them and by imitating God. We must be a good example so that people will see us as God's children.



The Surigao Mission

Prepared by: Yongyong

“Heart to Help at God's Appointed Time”

PLACE Surigao Gospel Church
PASTOR Rosalinda Ng (Neit)
PARTNERS Dr. Wanda Po & Merry Lourdes L. Yu



Every time we were scheduled to travel to Surigao, our flights were threatened by typhoons; either the departure flight or returning flight would invariably be cancelled. It was a test of faith. But thanks be to our great God, who makes all things work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)



It is a great joy to know the kind and warm-hearted people of Surigao Gospel Church 😊



During Our Visit...



July 21, 2013
Dr. Wanda Po shared God's Word entitled "The H.E.A.R.T. of a Repentant Sinner", which was based on Luke 7:36-50.

October 6, 2013

The second visit was very challenging for me because I had to present the gospel to the Sunday School children using the Wordless Book.

On Sunday, Dr. Po shared the message entitled "Man's Duty", based on 1 Chronicles 28:9-10.



February 2, 2014

Dr. Po shared her message on "A New Beginning", which is based on Luke 19:1-10. I was also given the privilege of sharing my life testimony with the congregation.



**Our Latest Visit was from
April 7-13, 2014**

During the first few days of the visit, we held our Vacation Bible School with the theme "TRUERASSIC PARK." For three days, we studied the Bible with the Sunday School children, as well as non-Sunday School kids who were friends and relatives of Surigao Gospel Church members.



On Palm Sunday, Dr. Po shared "The Significance of Jesus' Entry to Jerusalem", which is based on Matthew 21:1-9. The congregation received a clearer understanding of the importance of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem before His crucifixion.





Science and Faith



Florence Pauline Basubas

The debates between science and faith have been raging on for a long time. In school, we are repeatedly told that science is the most reliable form of knowledge about the world because it is based on testable hypotheses. At church, we learn that religion, by contrast, is based on faith. For science, a healthy skepticism is a professional necessity; in religion, having belief without evidence is regarded as a virtue.

Both sides are passionately dedicated to one thing – the truth. The problem is that it has reached the point of no communication, just bomb-throwing across the barricades. This is bad for many reasons and it's getting worse. It's bad for science, because it undermines science education and career choices for a significant proportion of our young people. It's bad for faith too, because it puts people in the unhealthy position of relying on science everyday while simultaneously regarding it with grave suspicion. Most of all, it's bad for children because they learn the truth in the basic institutions of the school and the church. Right now, a young person tuning in to these battles of science and religion is bound to be confused between the choices.

In an age of false teachings and deception, children are at risk of becoming confused about the truth. That is why this year's Daily Vacation Bible School is all about the Truth Quest, where children learn the truth not only in God's Word, but also how Science gives it sense. In four days, they learn how science (man's wisdom) supports the Bible (God's Word), while being taught that the truth in God's Word is still greater than man's wisdom. Through daily memory Bible verses, they can stand firm and defend what they believe against hollow worldly arguments.

Children were taught that truth can be learned through the Scientific Method: which is structured by

defining the problem, formulating hypotheses, conducting experiments, and reaching a conclusion. Still, there are things that can't be learned through this method, because science is not the only answer. There's so much we can't touch with science because it isn't meant to be measured. That's why children are also taught to ask in order to receive, seek in order to find, and knock so the door would open. They are taught that the truth is in God's Word, and if we stand for what's right, His Word will free us. Unlike science, faith is trusting in something that is reasonable, after all the evidence has been weighed up and could not be measured.

We don't have to make a choice. Both science and religion have a common ground – faith. Science doesn't overthrow the Bible, and faith doesn't require rejecting science. Science is a reliable way for us to understand the world God has made and to study His Word. Faith helps us discern what is right and wrong when we try to learn things through science.

Faith is the very sum and substance of life. Without faith, human beings cannot achieve anything. If we observe all the greatest endeavors carried out in this world, we find that faith was invariably the sole driving force behind them. Without faith, everything is impossible. After all, faith is a belief not based on proof. You can't see it. You can't hear it. You can't smell it. You can't feel it. You just simply believe.





A Memorable Camp

Pastor Wayne Chua

How do we define “memorable”? When we see something very funny, maybe in a picture or a video, we can say it's memorable. When we experienced something wonderful for ourselves, we can say it's memorable. When we receive an expensive gift from other people, then it's memorable. But God let us realize that there are times when good things happen: to our brothers and sisters in Christ, to our friends, and to our youth in the church; these could also be memorable. Sometimes, we need to look at other people and refrain from looking at ourselves. Because sometimes, good memories comes from the events of people's lives. One example of that is the CBDTI camp 2014.

This year's CBDTI (Cebu, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Tacloban and Iloilo) was memorable. Not because it was fun, but because it was, in a way, a reunion for our brothers and sisters in Tacloban City. They were the ones who suffered most of the wrath of typhoon

Yolanda last November 2013. The camp serves as the venue to reunite them after they were separated. Thank God for this opportunity!

The schedule was smooth and everything was according to plan. Even though we lacked manpower, the camp was successful and we owe this to God Almighty, who, by His grace and mercy, sustained this camp up to the end. Better still, our very own campers from Cebu Gospel Church decided to be full-time ministers in the future. Praise the Lord for the number of students who are willing to serve God full-time!

Indeed this camp was memorable. There are times that we think that something is only memorable when we are having fun, or when something happened to us that's worth remembering. But as God revealed to us in the camp, there are times that when good things happen to other people, it could also become memorable for us. To God be the Glory!!!



How's Your Clout?



Christopher Tio

Technology has truly been amazing. It is easy to take for granted the tremendous strides that technology has made, unless one looks back at how things used to be done even a decade or two ago. It wasn't too long ago when the sight of a numeric keypad on a landline phone was already very “high-tech”, and “cable TV” could only be viewed through humongous personal satellite dishes that transformed one's backyard into a miniature NASA monitoring station.

I remember the days when a cellular phone could also perform a dual function as a personal defense weapon: a handy club to protect one's self with. Consider how heavy movies used to weigh – borrowing five movies in Betamax or VHS format filled a whole knapsack – today, it easily fits on a keychain flash drive.

The height of technology then was watching the United States put a man on the Moon. The concept of personal technology was almost non-existent – I don't think Game & Watch counted!

Technology today has become deeply ingrained in our daily lives. We take for granted that our cellular phones now has more power than a very large PC a few years ago, and with better picture-taking ability than a professional studio camera.

But for me, the biggest evidence on how technology has taken over our lives, and at the same time blended into the background, is how we let the whole world peek into our personal lives. Every single moment, action, thought, or sometimes even dinner is posted for the whole world to see.

We now cannot imagine how we could go

through life without checking what is happening on Facebook, posting our latest adventures or artsy pictures on Instagram, shouting out with Twitter, or sharing conniving or secret moments via Snapchat.

This isn't limited to the young and carefree – even working professionals and businessmen now need to establish a digital life. One only has to look at how businesses and corporations use technology in social media to advertise, to promote, to move ahead, as well as to stay connected to their stakeholders.

One of the seeming prerequisites of establishing a corporate career or running a business nowadays is to have a social media presence. Many businessmen and corporate executives use social media to promote their companies, products, services and even themselves.

There is even a service called Klout, which measures one's social media and web presence. In some high tech sectors in the United States, the degree of your “klout” (a play on “clout” which means social influence) will determine whether or not one gets hired. So yes, there are people that actually post and post, using all forms of social media to increase their clout and increase their chances for getting hired for that dream career.

And then there is LinkedIn. As of April 2014, more than 300 million people use LinkedIn. Think of LinkedIn as a Facebook of your professional career. It is a chance for one's peers, competitors, headhunters to see how accomplished one's career has become. Every professional success or moment is documented for

Continued on page 51



Anything But Safe

Heir of the King

There comes a moment in everyone's life, a moment for which that person was born. That special opportunity, when he seizes it, will fulfil his mission – a mission for which he is uniquely qualified. In that moment, he finds greatness. It is his finest hour.

Sir Winston Churchill

You are living in this temporal world.

You are created by God to be a human being, for a **mission** greater than the universe.

This **mission** requires you to be a risk taker – daring and fearless. Of course, every **mission** is likely to be difficult.

Yet the result of this **mission** you were called to undertake will outlive you. And it might be the only legacy you will leave on this Earth. This **mission** isn't easy. It is anything but safe. Jesus Christ didn't die to make our lives comfortable. His death shows us His great love for us. His resurrection gives us an eternal hope.

As we live on this Earth every day, we must pursue the **mission** He called each and every one of us to do. Everyone has a different **mission**. You are who you are, where you are, and what you are right now, because God has a greater plan in mind for you. You have been planted where God wants you to be for a divine reason. He has a purpose for our existence.

You are not an accident. You bounce from circumstances to circumstances in your life that you have no control of. And you might think of all the trials and hardships you went through, and wonder how a fair God could allow such to happen.

But you just can't see it. Spiritual blindness is caused by disbelief in your Creator. Put on your spiritual glasses, and you will see that God always

plants his best seeds in the worst soil. You see, God is preparing us for that **mission**! In His course of preparation, stumbling blocks are a common obstacle in all the roads we are to take, because they bring out the best in people.

Take for example Joseph in the Bible. He was sold by his own brothers, accused of something he didn't do, and thrown into prison for many years. Yet he became the second in command in all of Egypt. When discouraged and tempted, Joseph did what is pleasing to God: do the right thing, and be the right person wherever he was planted. God gave him power and wisdom to help Pharaoh rule Egypt. Otherwise, his family would have died of starvation and so would the other people. It was anything but safe.

Being on a **mission** requires careful decision-making.

There are decisions that can make or break you. Human as we are, making the right decisions are the hardest things to do. No matter how we try to avoid it, there are always risks involved. Risk comes with choice.

The risk for Queen Esther in the Bible was no less than her own life if she spoke out to the King. During a crisis that threatens to kill her whole clan, Esther was tempted to be silent and to not speak to avoid any extra trouble for herself.

Many times, we feel the same way. You think that telling the truth puts you in the risk of failing the trust that others placed upon us. But it's the right decision, because one lie always leads to another lie. You think confessing to your teacher that you actually stole something in the classroom puts you at risk of suspension or worse, being grounded by your parents. But it's the right decision because it wakes you up from the slumber of deception prompted by the evil one.

Queen Esther thought that being silent wasn't a God-honoring decision. Her cousin Mordecai made one of the most life changing statements in the Bible when he said, "For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Est. 4:14)

Queen Esther embraced her **mission**, to do the right thing and be the right person whether she lives or dies. It was her defining moment, her finest hour. The fate of all Jewish people rested on her hands. It was her chance to shine. God placed her where He wanted her to be. It was anything but safe.

In the fictional world of comics, Superman's mission is to use his superhuman abilities for the benefit of mankind. Batman's mission is to fight and stop criminals in Gotham City. Iron Man's mission is to make the world a safer place to live. The mission of the X-Men's Professor Charles Xavier is to train young mutants to use their powers for the benefit of humanity, and to prove that they can be heroes who deserve to live like normal people.

But how about us? How can this **mission** of ours benefit us? God did not make you for your own benefit, but for someone else. God placed you in your school not for yourself, but for your hurting friends. God placed you in your home not for yourself, but for your unbelieving family members. God placed you in your workplace not for yourself, but for your troubled co-workers. Who knows? Perhaps you were made a neighbor, a friend, a cousin, a Sunday school teacher, a call center agent, a government official, or an employer for such a time as this.

Queen Esther was placed where she was because God had a purpose in her life. Joseph was placed where he was because God had a purpose in his life. God placed you where you are today because He has a purpose for your life. Whether you come from a broken family or an almost perfect one, there is no coincidence—only divine providence.

The question now is: "Are we willing to make the right decision to go and be His disciple, and courageously take up His **mission** for you in this life?" After all, we are anything but safe in this temporal world unless anchored in His loving arms.



...How's Your Clout (continued from page 49)

everyone to see and congratulate. A well-managed LinkedIn account has helped many people go on to achieve greater heights, most of the time, in newer and better jobs and careers.

But if we do a survey of Christians online, would it be as easy to determine one's identity, character, achievements or moments that define our Christian faith? Doesn't it make you wonder, pause and reflect on how the world really perceives us? Do our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social media accounts provide a peek into our faith?

As we journey through our lives and our digital world, let's take the occasion to do our part to help people come to see the Lord. The power of social media allows us to broadcast throughout the world, to

all our followers, friends, and contacts on how Jesus has come into the world to save us, and more importantly how he has personally come into your life to save you. By doing this, we just might touch one more soul to come and know his Lord and Savior. We would also have vastly increased our clout with the Lord.





Operation: Jesus Loves You Report on School Supplies Distribution

James Young

About 3,000 years ago, the wisest man who ever lived wrote that we should train up a child in the way he should go, so that when he is old, he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6). Taking these words to heart, our Mission Committee and its outreach arm “Operation: Jesus Loves You” (JLY for short) has been ministering to children through its weekly Bible lessons and feeding program.

We praise God for the dedicated Bible teachers who volunteered their time to teach every Saturday or Sunday. Although the work is not easy, we are heartened by the reports of alumni from our earliest batches already helping to teach the next generation. Some have even committed their lives to serving God full-time by entering the seminary. Praise the Lord!

This year, JLY decided to help out the kids by distributing school supplies, especially to the attendees of the Vacation Bible School sponsored by our Missions Committee. Three pilot areas were selected: Sitio Nipa, Brgy. Antipolo, Medellin (the municipality of our church planter Pastor Edison Villanueva), Sitio Camoboan in Tabogon (area of Pastor

Jeffrey Solosod), and Camotes Island (territory of Reverend Antonio Marohomsalic).

The school supplies comprised of notebooks, pad papers, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, crayons, ball point pens, and gospel tracts placed in a colorful bag. In partnership with the Christian Youth Fellowship, a repacking night was held last May 21 in the church auditorium. With God's help and the sweat equity of our youth, we were able to repack more than 600 bags and segregate them to their respective academic level.

On the daybreak of Saturday, May 24, 2014, the joint JLY/CYF Team set out from Cebu Gospel Church to go up north to the municipality of Medellin. The team was composed of Bro. Nixon, Bro. Alex, Bro. Boboy, Bro. Gilbert, Bro. James, Bro. Carl, Sis. Michele, Sis. Ann Marie, Sis. Jessamine, and Sis. Jasmine. Pastor Edison warmly welcomed us in his seaside church, as the kids waited eagerly to receive their bags.

The morning heat was sweltering, but the smiles on the faces of the children made it all worthwhile. After Medellin, our two-car convoy proceeded to



Tabogon, where the children were already assembled in the covered basketball court. With Pastor Jeffrey's help, we lined up the kids and were able to distribute the bags in a pretty organized manner.

Having finished with our tasks for the day, we dropped by Borussia Restaurant in Sogod for a late lunch at around 3 PM. In between hearty servings of freshly baked bread, sausages, schnitzels and pizzas, we discovered that the German owner is a Christian. He had many Bibles and Christian books in his house, and there was even a church located within his compound. Praise the Lord!

A week later, on May 31, 2014, another JLY/CYF Team set off for Danao City, this time comprising of Bro. Henry, Bro.Alex, Bro.Nixon, Bro.Boboy, Bro.James, Bro.Kenly, Bro.Carl, Sis.Orlena, Sis.Elizabeth, and Sis.Michele. We loaded our church L-300FB on the RO-RO barge, and sailed towards the azure waters of Camotes Island. We were met there by our hardworking and affable missionary Reverend Marohomsalic, who had planted three churches and regularly conducts child outreach ministries in the municipalities of Poro, San Francisco and Tudela within the island.

He already had all the children assembled in their church in Tudela, and we distributed the packs to 308 children. We also had a good taste of the famous Filipino hospitality when they prepared a delicious lunch for us consisting of native chicken soup (tinola),

grilled chicken, fruit salad and fresh coconut juice. Serving the Lord has its own rewards indeed. Praise God!

On a side note, we were also able to inspect the reconstruction of their children's ministry house at the rear of the church in Tudela, which we funded through the support of our Taiwan ministry partner, the Chinese Christian Relief Association (CCRA). The CCRA and our Mission Committee are currently implementing a fourteen-church repair and rebuilding program to assist churches that were destroyed by Typhoon Yolanda. We do need your continuous prayers as the Mission Committee and the JLY Team continue to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria – to God alone be the glory!



Operation Jesus Loves You Team



The happy children with their school supplies.



CGC youth volunteers packing the supplies.

On Wrinkles and White Hair



Lele Me



Why would women lie about their age?" goes a TV commercial. This lady then answered, "Because when you're old, they replace you with younger ones."

This statement is very true most of the time.

Whether in the workplace or at home, and even in marriages, this statement holds true no matter how beautiful a wife is (or handsome a husband "was"). I heard one actress say that marrying an actor was like a daily beauty contest. She eventually bowed out – it was difficult to keep up with younger contestants while you either remain the same or grow old.

Yes, we grow old, and become vulnerable in many ways. Even Cyrus "the Virus" and Maria "the Bacteria" know it. When we grow old, we start to be replaceable. No one is an exception.

And so, I argue that penicillin is not the world's greatest invention. Ehhmmmm... No! No!? No? Surely you (and all those metrosexual guys over there) would agree with that the greatest invention in the world is drumroll... HAIR DYE! Followed by briefs and bras. Reason: The former instantly keeps you looking young, while the latter two help defy gravity along the way. (Censored!)

On the other hand, I enjoy looking at my white hair and even the wrinkles as well. They seem to be more prominent these days. Now that I prefer to stunt their inexorable approach, they have decided to pop up more quickly like unexpected guests. I used to be

able to count my white hairs or pinpoint my wrinkles on one hand. But now, they are the obvious majority while the remaining (and precious!) black hair and smooth skin have become the unseen minority.

Solution? HYDRATE, HYDRATE AND HYDRATE! Hydrate until your stomach bloats with fluid, but never forget the most important thing of all... HAIR DYE!

On a more serious note, wrinkles and white hair are great gifts and reminders. They remind us of our impending expiry dates. It may be sooner than we expected, or it may be four hundred bottles of hair dye away. Only the FATHER knows when.

However, we have these "Significant Signs"™ of time to remind us that we don't have ALL TIME. Every strand of white hair and every wrinkle is shouting back to us that time is running out. Whether we dye our hair every week or moisturize our whole body with tons of gallons of Olay, we can never silence them. They will never stop telling us the truth: warning us that our hydration and hair dye days will soon be over.

My wrinkles and white hair
I thank you, Lord, for them!
For when they start to show
I know that soon, I'll go.

How soon? Nobody knows.
But this I know is true:
My wrinkles and white hair
Prepare me, Lord, for You.

I pray as Moses prays
Teach me to count my days
To You, I sacrifice
A heart that's just and wise.

Amen.

Church Events



Christmas!

It's the season when people get busy with shopping, giving gifts, parties, reunions and other things. In our minds, we know that reason for Christmas is to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. But as we celebrate the holiday, we tend to forget the true meaning of Christmas. There is simply so much that is happening around us, and we can get carried away in the activities. Last Christmas on December 22, 2013, the Church Choir vocalized beautiful Christmas songs that help remind us that we are celebrating this holiday season only because of Jesus Christ.

Congregational Sunday

Sermon by Reverend Stephen Tan
Written by Pastor Rosaline Lim



Reverend Tan's sermon, "When God Makes Us Wait," is the first powerful message I've heard since the year began. Here are some points he shared with us, for those who haven't heard his message:

1. It is good to wait—a restless heart leads to a reckless life. God wants us to learn to wait, which is something that's hard for us to learn.
2. To remember to rest in the Lord (Psalm 37:7)—don't allow the successes of wicked people to bother us. We should rest and not worry. If we rest, the onus is on God and not on us to act. We should allow God to work & do the "hi" thing. Many people become anxious and worry when they rest. We should not take control or worry if the situation is not within our control. Learn to rest in the Lord. The inability to wait is the reason why most of us are spiritually shallow.
3. Spending time in reading God's word while waiting—to help draw closer to him. He wants us to wait so that we will grow closer to Him. Meditate on God's word while remembering His promises.
4. Lastly, remember that God has not forgotten you (as Prophet Micah says)—the problem with waiting is that we feel we are forgotten. God answers our call at His own perfect timing, so just wait. Knowing everything is under His control, we should learn to relax with God for God doesn't want us to worry. Once we realize this, we will and can see the importance of "WAIT".

One of the problems of our church today is that many people are anxious about their desires. They want things to be done for them, and their desires followed ASAP. When things don't turn out as expected, they start pointing out faults and decide that blaming others is the best solution.

We should all learn to wait, pray, encourage, and show care and sincerity with each other.

Church Events



98th Anniversary

Cebu Gospel Church celebrated its 98th Founding Anniversary last March 9, 2014. The church invited Rev. Florentino Lim to speak during the Worship Service. His sermon, entitled "Total Combat to God", was taken from Romans 12:1. A group photo of the church members together with the deacons, deaconesses, elders and pastors was taken after the service (see page 60).

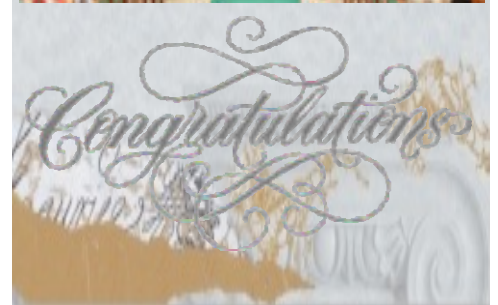
May the Lord continue to use Cebu Gospel Church to further His kingdom, particularly to those who haven't heard about the Good News in Cebu City.

Philippine Christian Gospel School @ 66

To cap the week-long founding anniversary celebration, different student groups from PCGS rendered special numbers during the Worship Service last February 16, 2014. PCGS students, parents, faculty and staff were in attendance that Sunday.



The graduating students of PCGS for schoolyear 2013-2014 and their parents packed the church during their Baccalaureate Service last March 23, 2014 at Cebu Gospel Church. Pastor Jebo Banzuelo gave a very appropriate message for the graduates, entitled "Prioritizing God". His sermon was taken from Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.



Church Events



TRUERASSIC PARK VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Written by Pastor Rosaline Lim

Last March 31 to April 4, 2014, the Church held a Daily Vacation Bible School for kids between age 3 to 12. A total of 176 children, ranging from toddlers to grade schoolers, joined the DVBS. The theme for this year's DVBS was "True-rassic Park". The five-day module is a creation adventure which used dinosaurs as teaching tools, to let kids learn the differences between Science and Faith, Creation and Evolution, and God's plan for Salvation.

Baptismal

Written by Pastor Rosaline Lim

According to Matthew 28:19, Jesus charged His apostles with baptizing new disciples "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

In keeping with the apostolic charge, four new members came to know and dedicate their lives to Christ. Joining God's family last April 20, 2014 are Gembert Ang, John Edgar Honoridez, Maria Fe Honoridez and Jeremy Ryan Tio.



Church Events

Junior Camp "Just Like Jesus"

Written by Pastor Rosaline Lim

The Christian Youth Fellowship for Elementary students held a Junior Camp last April 21-24, 2014 at the Cebu Gospel Church premises. 33 kids joined the camp – 22 girls and 11 boys.

The camp's theme, "Just Like Jesus", was drawn from Ephesians 5:1-2, in which Paul exhorted the Ephesians to "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (NIV)

The invited speakers pontificated about how to emulate Jesus. There were group sessions to allow the kids to interact with each other. Other activities kept the camp interesting in between sermons, with ERUF giving instruction on basic first aid, and singing and dancing workshops to help kids develop and discover their God-given talents.

The zenith of the camp was of course the campfire during the last night, with toasting of marshmallows and making s'mores (roasted marshmallow sandwiched between two graham crackers and a chocolate layer) punctuating the giving of testimonies.

Praise God, for five children accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Over twenty rededicated their lives to God, pledging to reread the Bible and join Sunday School and CYF Elementary.



Church Events



CCOWE Sunday

Sermon by Reverend Joshua Ting

In Reverend Ting's message entitled "How to have a Holistic Church," he gave some principles that can help guide the church and help it from whatever predicament it finds itself in.

Principle No. 1: Being ROOTED DOWNWARD means the church should have a strong foundation with God's Word, not just by head knowledge but by heart. Thus, the church should be biblical in all of its ways, not just in the spur of the moment or when needed, but all of the time, whether we like it or not.

Principle No. 2: GROWING UPWARD means that believers should be transformed in their lives. They should live lives that lead others to Christ, and serve as an encouragement to others whether they are believers or nonbelievers. Many of us have been Christians for so long that our actions, words, and thoughts would speak for themselves and play a part in how others perceive us. It's our call.

Principle No. 3: BUILDING INWARD means that love is a choice and learn to let go. The church should and must be a community of love: a refuge for people who are hurting or lost. A place where believers can escape to and feel secure. Jesus demonstrated His love by sacrificing His life for us. He selflessly thought about us and wanted us to benefit eternally and unconditionally, no matter what we have done. His love for us cannot be fathomed by anything. As the beneficiary of His love, it is also our duty to expand and share it to others.

Principle No. 4: EXPANDING OUTWARD means asking God to work in you in order to bring others to Him. Allow Jesus to shine in our lives that others may see Him in you and give glory to Him.



Mother's Day

Cardinal Gaspard Mermillod, the bishop of Geneva in the 1880s, once said, "A mother is she who can take the place of others but whose place no one else can take."

The world celebrated Mother's Day last May 11, 2014. All mothers are unique. Each mother has her own style and method of teaching, disciplining, bringing up, and showing love to her children, and for this we are grateful to our mothers.

They might not be perfect, but our mothers do their best to be there for us, whether they understand our situation or not. They constantly pray for us, asking that we are protected through God's grace and mercy in all the things we do.

To all the mothers out there, thank you very much for your love and prayer. Happy Mother's Day!



Way back in 1909, after hearing a Mother's Day sermon, Sonora Smart Dodd told her pastor at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church in Spokane, Washington that fathers should also have a similar holiday honoring them.

She initially suggested June 5, the birthday of her father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran who solely raised his 6 children. The pastors didn't have enough time to prepare their sermons, thus, the celebration was deferred to June 20. It was only in the year 1972 when Father's Day was signed into a law by then Pres. Richard Nixon, declaring the third Sunday of June as permanent national holiday.

Our church, together with the rest of the world, celebrated Father's Day last June 15, 2014. Rev. Terence Lim delivered the message and a simple token of appreciation was given to all fathers in attendance for their leadership, hardwork, sacrifices and love for their respective families.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving me a unique father. Bless him, guide him and protect him at all times. Amen.





宿務基督教會
CEBU GOSPEL CHURCH

<http://www.cebugospelchurch.com/gospellight>