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# Gospel *digital edition* Light

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## PRACTICAL DISCIPLESHIP

### **MAKING DISCIPLES**

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new disciples

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# Gospel Light

## digital edition

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VOLUME 24, DECEMBER 2015  
PRINTED IN CEBU CITY

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# DISCIPLESHIP 102: *Making Disciples*

Rev. Un Hock Wee



**W**hat must a Church do? What is its ultimate goal and duty? It's no other than to... GO and MAKE DISCIPLES!!!

## **I. GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES**

Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

If we read our English Bible, it looks like there are four verbs. They are:

- GO
- MAKE DISCIPLES
- BAPTIZING
- TEACHING

But the original Greek Bible contains only one verb: the word "GO".

This was the last word of Jesus to the disciples. Jesus was about to go and be with his Father in heaven, and he left a parting word with his disciples. Often, when people are about to leave us, their last words are the most important, for they come from the heart and the words they say are well thought out. The very last word that Jesus said is, "I want you to GO and make disciples."

### **A. WE HAVE TO GO OUT**

How can they (unbelievers) have Christ, if we don't go out? How can they hear, if we don't

preach about Christ? How can they know, if we don't tell them?

Romans 10:14 says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

We have to go out and tell. We have to go out and reach them. We have to go and bring them to know the Lord. If we don't invite them, they will not come.

We Chinese are very particular when receiving an invitation. When we see the invitation, we pay special attention to the intended recipient of the invitation. If the invitation was written to the whole family, then we can bring our children to join the party. If the invitation was written to the Mister and Missus, then only the father and mother can attend.

How much more important this is when sharing the gospel! We have to personally invite them. We have to look for ways to bring them to know the Lord.

### **B. WE HAVE THE BEST NEWS**

We have the best news, because we have the Good News. The Good News is about the great love of our God Creator who sent His own Son to die for our sin, and the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ



over death. No other god has done such great thing – sacrificing Himself for His subjects. Without Him, we will not have joy and peace in our lives. People need the Lord and only Jesus Christ can change and set us free from sins. Christ is the only hope and assurance for us to have eternal life.

## **II. HOW SHOULD WE DO IT?**

### **A. BRING PEOPLE TO KNOW CHRIST**

We have to tell them the love of God and why God sent his Son, Jesus Christ. We have to tell them that the main reason why Christ, the Son of God, came to die for us is because there is no other way for us to become His children. Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

Tell them about the LOVE OF GOD.

Tell them why Christ has to become a human being.

Tell them we are born sinners.

Bring them to accept Christ into their lives.

### **B. BAPTIZE THEM**

If a person came to understand why God sent Jesus and why Christ had to obey and must become human, then the person will commit his life through baptism.

Baptism is not to inherit salvation. Rather, it is a commitment and a public declaration or confession that a person understands and commits his life to Christ. Jesus himself set an example for us to imitate for He let John the Baptist baptize Him.

If we are baptized in a Church, we make the church our spiritual family. The church will help us grow, and in return, we should love and serve our church.

### **C. CONTINUE TO NURTURE**

Teach them – The training continues on. Help them to grow to the point that they can stand on their own. At the same time, our church will be in the right focus and direction.

The process does not stop after baptism, We must continue to nurture the new believers, and over time, disciple them so that they can grow and become effective followers of Christ.

### **III. RESULT: AS THEY MATURE, THE DISCIPLES CAN BECOME DISCIPLERS SO THAT THEY CAN ALSO DISCIPLE OTHERS.**

Over the generations, people will come to know Christ, grow and improve each year.

### **Conclusion**

Let us look for prospects to nurture and disciple.

Last year, we encouraged people to read the whole Bible. This year, we go to the next level and that is to study God’s Word. It will help us to grow and be able to help others grow as well.

No other mandate is more important in this world that we should prioritize than to fulfill God’s mandate, i.e., Christians are to GO and MAKE DISCIPLES.

# 聽命與順從

許郭錦繡

## 要

如何知道神的命令？在舊約的時代、神藉着先知將祂的話傳給百姓、當耶穌降世為人時、祂本身將祂的律例及典章教導人、在現今的世代、有神所默示的聖經來指引、教訓、督責、訓誨、使人歸正。

耶穌的食物、就是遵行父的旨意來完成祂的工(約4:34)、作祂門徒的人、也必須效法耶穌、遵守神的誡命。主說：「有了我的命令又遵守的、這人就是愛我。」(約14:21)「不愛我的人就不遵守我的誡命」(約14:24)。可見、神將愛祂和遵守祂的誡命並行、這就證明祂多麼重視人能夠遵守祂的命令！

然而、我們對神的命令如何來遵守呢？從聖經的人物中、他們對神的命令有三種不同的反應：(一)沒有順從、(二)部份順從、(三)完全順從。讓我們在他們的身上學習如何聽命與順從。

### (一) 沒有順從

#### 亞當 / 夏娃

##### 上帝的吩咐：

「園中各樣樹上的果子、你可以隨意喫、只是分別善惡樹上的果子、你不可喫、因為你喫的日子必定死。」(創2:16-17)

蛇引誘夏娃吃了神所吩咐她不可吃分別善惡樹上的果子、亞當也聽了夏娃

的話、吃了禁果。結果罪進入人類中、一切受造之物都敗壞了。人類的靈性、道德、思想、情感、肉體都受了影響。人遭遇患難、病痛、憂傷、和死亡的痛苦、因為人與神已經隔絕、失落了交通。

### 沒有順從的結局：

蛇受咒詛、它必用肚子行走、終身喫土(創3:14)。女人懷胎及生育的苦楚加增、並受丈夫的管轄(創3:16)。男人必終身勞苦、才能從地裏得喫、並汗流滿面才得餬口(創3:17-19a)。人類必經死亡、並要歸於塵土(創3:19b)。亞當夏娃被趕出伊甸園(創3:23)。

#### 參孫

##### 上帝的吩咐：

「你必懷孕生一個兒子、不可用剃頭刀剃他的頭、因為這孩子一出胎就歸神作拿細耳人、他必起首拯救以色列人脫離非利士人的手。」(士13:5)

神揀選參孫來拯救以色列人脫離非利士人的手、但是他有一件需要遵守的、就是要保守『不可用刀剃他頭』的秘密。可惜、參孫受了色情的誘惑、就將心中所藏的都告訴了大



利亞、以致他受苦、走上了死亡的道路。

### 沒有順從的結局：

非利士人將他拿住、剝了他的眼睛、帶他下到迦薩、用銅鍊拘索他、他就在監裏推磨(士16:21)。並要在非利士人獻祭神的宴樂中戲耍他。(士16:25)最後參孫傾覆神室、與非利士人同歸於盡(士16:29-30)。

## (二) 部份順從

### 摩西 / 亞倫

#### 上帝的命令：

「你拿着杖去、和你的哥哥亞倫招聚會衆、在他們眼前吩咐磐石發出水來、水就從磐石流出給會衆、和他們的牲畜喝。」(民20:8)

以色列百姓因為沒有水喝、就攻擊摩西、上帝叫摩西和亞倫招聚會衆、在他們眼前吩咐磐石發出水來。摩西就招聚會衆、但他沒有遵照上帝所說的：『吩咐磐石發出水來』、他拿杖擊打磐石兩下、摩西只順從一半、以致神不容許他和亞倫進入所應許的迦南地。

#### 部份順從的結局：

「因為你們不信我、不在以色列人眼前尊我為聖、所以你們必不得領這會衆進我所賜給你們的地去。」(民20:12)

## 掃羅王

#### 上帝的命令：

「現在你要去擊打亞瑪力人、滅盡他們所有的、不可憐惜他們、將男女、孩童、喫奶的、並牛羊、駱駝和驢盡行殺死。」(撒上15:3)

萬軍的耶和華差遣撒母耳吩咐掃羅王去攻打亞瑪力人、將所有的全部滅盡、但掃羅王和百姓卻憐惜亞甲 - 亞瑪力人的王、也愛惜上好的牛、羊、並一切美物、不肯滅絕、只殺盡凡下殘瘦弱的(撒上15:9)。因此耶和華對撒母耳說：「我立掃羅為王、我後悔了、因為他轉去、不跟從我、不遵守我的命令。」(撒上15:11)當撒母耳去找掃羅王的時候、聽見牛叫羊鳴的聲音、掃羅王還找出理由說、是百姓要獻給耶和華的。撒母耳回答說：「耶和華喜悅燔祭和平安祭、豈如喜悅人聽從祂的話呢？聽命勝於獻祭、順從勝於公羊的脂油。」掃羅因只部份的順從、上帝不喜悅他、便揀選比他更好的人來接繼他、最終他就失去了王位。

#### 部份順從的結局

「...因為你厭棄耶和華的命令、耶和華也厭棄你作以色列的王。」(撒上15:26)

「...如此、今日耶和華使以色列國與你斷絕、將這國賜與比你更好的人。」(撒上15:28)

### (三) 完全順從

#### 挪亞

##### 上帝的命令：

「凡有血氣的人、他的盡頭已經來到我面前、因為地上滿了他們的強暴、我要將他們和地一併毀滅、你要用歌斐木造一隻方舟、分一間一間的造、內外抹上松香。」(創6：13 - 14)

因為人的罪惡貫滿遍地、上帝就後悔造了人、祂要將所造的人和走獸、並昆蟲、以及空中的飛鳥、都從地上除滅。(創6：7)。神便命令挪亞造了方舟、凡神所吩咐的一切、挪亞都照樣行了。因此上帝使他全家和那些與他同在方舟裏的都得存活。

##### 完全順從的結局：

「凡地上各類的活物、連人帶牲畜、昆蟲、及空中的飛鳥都從地上除滅了、只留下挪亞和那些與他同在方舟裏的。」(創7：23)

#### 亞伯拉罕

##### 上帝的命令：

「你要離開本地、本族、父家、往我要指示你的地去。」(創12：1)

當上帝呼叫亞伯拉罕要離開本地、本族、父家、到神要指示他的地去時、他沒有究問許多的問題。例如：要去什麼地方？行程有多久？應帶上什麼？途中是否安全？要怎樣生活？他只以完全的交託、遵照神所吩咐的、

憑信心去實行。結果神不但祝福了他、而且稱他為『信心之父』。

##### 完全順從的結局：

「我必叫你成為大國、我必賜福給你、叫你的名為大、你也要叫別人得福、為你祝福的、我必賜福與他、那咒詛你的、我必咒詛他、地上的萬族都要因你得福。」(創12：2 - 3)

「我要將這地賜給你的後裔。」(創12：7)

#### 亞伯拉罕

##### 上帝的命令：

「你帶着你的兒子、就是你獨生的兒子、你所愛的以撒、往摩利亞地去、在我所要指示你的山上、把他獻為燔祭。」(創22：2)

有一天、上帝呼叫亞伯拉罕、叫他將以撒獻給祂為燔祭、次日清早、亞伯拉罕便起來照着神所吩咐的去做。「亞伯拉罕到了神所指示的地方、就在那裏築壇、把柴擺好、捆綁他的兒子以撒、放在壇的柴上、伸手拿刀要殺他的兒子...天使便說：你不可在這童子身上下手、一點不可害他、現在我知道你是敬畏神了、因為你沒有將你的兒子、就是你獨生的兒子、留下不給我。」(創22：9 - 10、12)神就為亞伯拉罕預備了一隻公羊作祭物。因他完全的順從、神賜福給他、使他子孫如同天上的星、海邊的沙、他也成了『多國之父』。



### 完全順從的結局：

「論福、我必賜大福給你、論子孫、我必叫你的子孫多起來、如同天上的星、海邊的沙、你的子孫必得着仇敵的城門、並且地上萬國都必因你的後裔得福、因為你聽從了我的話。」  
(創22：17 - 18)

如今，上帝吩咐你要做的是什麼？就是要遵守祂的話語、照祂的旨意而行、祂在世有給我們最大的誠命、在祂未升天之前祂也留下最大的使命、要我們完完全全的遵守。

### 最大的誠命

「你們要盡心盡性盡意愛主你的神、這是誠命中的第一、且是最大的。其次也相做、就是要愛人如己。」(馬太22：37 - 39)

「你要盡心盡性盡意盡力愛主你的神、其次就是說、要愛人如己。再沒有比這兩條誠命更大的了。」(馬可12：30 - 31)

#### 盡心盡性盡意盡力愛主你的神

- 心 - 靈性
- 性 - 性感
- 意 - 意念
- 力 - 氣力

盡心盡性盡意盡力愛主你的神 (出20：3 - 11；申5：7 - 15)

- 不可有別的神
- 不可跪拜偶像
- 不可妄稱主名
- 當守安息日

要愛人如己 (出20：12 - 17；申5：16 - 21)

- 當孝敬父母
- 不可殺人
- 不可姦淫
- 不可偷盜
- 不可作假見證
- 不可貪戀人一切所有的

### 最大的使命 (馬太28：19 - 20)

「所以你們要去、使萬民作我的門徒、奉聖父聖子聖靈的名給他們施洗、凡我所吩咐你們的、都教訓他們遵守、我就常與你們同在、直到世界的末了。」

- 去 : 廣傳福音
- 作主門徒 : 學主樣式
- 給他們施洗 : 引人歸主
- 教導人遵守神的教訓 : 守主誠命

如果你是屬神的兒女、你對上帝的誠命應如何的遵守呢？有三種的選擇：(一)沒有順從、(二)部份順從、(三)完全順從。沒有順從的結局是痛苦及死亡、部份順從的結局是失去了神的同在及恩福、完全順從不但得主喜悅、而且也蒙神祝福、你要選擇什麼呢？願挪亞及亞伯拉罕作我們的榜樣來完完全全的順從祂！

# Pray, and Let God Worry\*

Erben des Königs



In this world, every one of us undergoes a case of “Just when”. Just when we had spent a lot of money on a top-of-the-line gadget, a better model arrives. Just when we encounter good opportunities, our health starts to deteriorate. Just when something is going the way we think they’re supposed to be, we are abruptly thrown in a deep dark pit of abandonment.

Or perhaps just when we begin to realize God’s loving salvation towards us, people around us reject the truth and some even threaten our lives because of our new found faith. This leads us to worry.

Worry makes a sunny day turn gray. Worry tugs the basement of your heart with unending possibilities. Worry might be one of the worst feelings in the world. Worry takes your attention from the One who created you. Worry is from the evil one. Most of all, worry should bring you down to your knees.

Only when you’re on your knees do you feel worry silently slipping away from your thoughts and from your heart. When you are in the throne of God, when you are there bowing down to the King of Kings, worry ceases to exist.

Worry may turn into faith. Worry can change into trust. Worry could transform into hope.

But the best way to banish worry is by praying. Worry comes when there is no peace in your heart and the only way to have peace from God is to pray.

So often, as Christians, we are tossed into an ocean of dilemma, faced with different sets of problems that seem too much to bear. Thankfully, we have the word of God which is very much alive as its promises never fail to comfort us during times of trials.

One of the Bible verses I’ve learned by heart is found in Philippians 4:6-7, which says, “Do not be anxious about ANYTHING but in EVERYTHING by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus.”

The verse before this states that we must rejoice in the Lord always, no matter what happens in our life. Why? Simply because He is near. Near means he’s with us and/or he is coming real soon!

Then it continues on by saying we shouldn’t be anxious about ANYTHING and that includes everything that happens in our lives. The trials, the triumphs, and even the teeny tiny details of life - from small issues to the big ones.

But how do we go about life not worrying about ANYTHING? It’s our human nature to worry. We worry too often that we don’t even notice that we are already worrying. There is a cliché that goes, “If you pray, do not worry. But if you worry, you did not pray.”

The verse continues with, “by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, we can present our requests to God.” Isn’t that amazing? So, we can just give our burden



to Someone who wants to carry them for us? Just like that? No more prodding or pleading like we do to our earthly parents? Of course! Because it says in 1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your cares upon him who cares for you.” He wants you to give your burdens into His loving arms.

I believe that our God has a specific reason why He allows hardships to happen in our lives. Our God doesn't change His direction on what He has intended to give us. His foreknowledge that is declared in the Scriptures and implied in His absolute perfection means He would not make a judgment that He knew already He would change. It is a divine decision made before we even knelt down to pray.

So, why do we need to pray about it? It is because we need to understand that when we pray, it is not a means for man to change the counsel of God but a means of allowing God to change our perspective on things.

You see, in our prayer to God, we do not tell God what changes we want to make. It's actually having a closer relationship with Him so that more and more, we will be able to grasp the change He wants us to make. He already knew the end since the beginning, so how can our prodding change His mind?

As we pray and present our requests to God, we shouldn't forget to thank Him. God always notices the grateful heart. Why? Does He have an ego problem? No, but we do. Gratitude lifts our eyes off the things we lack so that we might see the blessings we possess.

Lastly, after all these, then you'll have peace from God which guards your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Personally, I thought I had peace during the times when I just finished a series of test or when there were no damaged relationships between my family and relatives or during the time I was on holiday relaxing in the summer heat or in the cool winter night. But no, that's not real peace.

I never knew true peace until during the hopeless moments of my life. When I didn't know what to do and I didn't know how to move on from the pains of yesterday, I give it all to God and I gradually felt peace as I learn to give all my burdens to Him, knowing He surely cares. That, for me, is real peace.

Peace is the feeling of happiness despite hardships and sufferings in your life.

Peace knows that God is there holding your hands, and all is taken cared of.

Peace comes when we can learn to let go and be vulnerable – and simply trust God.

Peace is further exemplified in the Prince of Peace, with arms stretched out, open to envelope us in His majestic love. How He lavished on us, an everlasting love!

And lastly, peace is knowing, that at the end of the day, whatever wrong you have committed or whatever right you have achieved, you will always be the Heir of the One True King. That's a promise and a satisfaction that emanates only from the One who gave you life. Don't lose hope, just PRAY and let God worry.

\* *“Pray, and let God worry.” - By Martin Luther.*



# Behind the Scenes: A Special Feature

Stevenson Q. Yu

*Our Church's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is almost upon us! As of this article's writing, barely over a hundred days remain before we celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event. In this special feature, we'd like to share some of the special preparations that were made to help make the celebration truly something to remember!*

## Behind "A Hundred Years More"

What is composed first: the melody or the lyrics? Which order of composition can create a more memorable song?

In truth, it depends. Some songwriters prefer to compose the lyrics first, while others get inspiration for the lyrics from the melody. Only a very select few composers can write both simultaneously.

There is better development of ideas if the lyrics are written first, because the song has a clear direction, and a central theme or idea. The song becomes memorable *because* of its lyrics.

On the other hand, writing the music first creates a clear, memorable musical hook. The lyrics might be forgettable, but the tune tends to stick in your ear for days to come.

Most traditional hymns are written as poetry first, and are later paired with a melody. Quite a lot of the early English hymns are written using a poetry system called "common meter", whose stanzas consist of four lines that alternate between *iambic tetrameter* and *iambic trimeter*.

Don't be scared of the technical terms. An *iamb* is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. A *tetra* meter consists of four of these iambs (eight syllables), and a *tri* meter consist of three iambs (six syllables).

Consider this very familiar hymn:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found.  
Was blind, but now I see.*

Read it without singing. How many syllables are there for each line, and how are the words stressed? Probably like this (*capital letters indicate a stressed syllable*): a-MA-zing GRACE how SWEET the SOUND that SAVED a WRETCH like ME.

"A Hundred Years More" is written in common meter partly to pay homage to "Amazing Grace," which relates to our Centennial Theme of "God's Grace." The other purpose is to reflect on the past. Cebu Gospel Church is the second-oldest Protestant Chinese church in the Philippines, so it felt appropriate to use a traditional type of song.

Did you know that common-meter melodies are interchangeable? If you ever get tired of the anniversary hymn's melody, you can use the tune of "Amazing Grace" to sing it. Or maybe the first opening song of *Pokémon*, or even "I Just Can't Wait To Be King" from the *Lion King*!

The anniversary hymn is reproduced in the next three pages, both in English and Chinese (with pinyin pronunciations added). This is followed by a behind-the-scenes view behind every verse, including the author's intent. I hope you enjoy it!




# A HUNDRED YEARS MORE! 再發光百年!

ENGLISH LYRICS: STEVENSON Q. YU

漢文填詞：許郭錦繡


MUSIC: JOVELYN Q. YU

15




The works of man a - lone will pass with - out the hand of  
We shout for joy to you, oh Lord, and come with joy - ful  
fán rén suǒ móu wèi jīng shén shǒu bì rán chéng wéi xū  
凡人所謀未經神手必然成為虛  
zhǔ ā , wǒ mén xiàng nǐ huān hū , hū hǎn kuài lè shī  
主啊，我們向你歡呼，呼喊快樂詩


20




God. His love and grace make all things last, through Je sus' pre - cious  
song. Your grace through your re - dee - ming word makes all the weak ones  
kōng ; jiè zhuó yé sū bǎo xiè ēn ài shǐ wàn wù yǒng cháng  
空；藉着耶穌寶血恩愛使萬物永長  
24 gē . jiè nín ēn diǎn jiù shù huà yǔ shǐ ruò zhě biàn gāng  
歌。藉祢恩典救贖話語使弱者變剛



blood. This year - our hun - dredth Ju - bi - lee we de - di - cate to  
strong. You made us, Lord; we are Your sheep. We join Your courts with  
cún . jīn nián jì nián yí bǎi zhōu nián wǒ mén xiàn gěi jī  
存。今年紀念一百週年我們獻給基  
28 qiáng . nín zào wǒ mén shì nín dì yáng , wǒ mén rù yuàn zàn  
強。祢造我們是祢的羊，我們入院讚



Christ. A hun - dred years, our C G C stood hum - bly o'er the skies!  
praise. We pray You bless our Church and keep us till the end of days.  
dū . yí bǎi nián lái , wǒ mén jiào huì qiān bēi zhàn zài tiān kōng !  
督。一百年來，我們教會謙卑站在天空！  
33 měi , qiú nín zhù fú wǒ mén jiào huì bǎo shǒu zhí dào mò le .  
美，求祢祝福我們教會保守直到末了。



We ce - le - brate a hun - dred years, and fill our hearts with praise. Our  
What grace, oh Lord, Thy love dis - played. Much grea - ter than our sin. Such  
wǒ mén qīng zhù yí bǎi zhōu nián , xīn lǐ chōng mǎn zàn měi . fā  
我們慶祝一百週年，心裏充滿讚美。發  
zhǔ ā , nín ài zhāng xiǎn ēn diǎn chāo guò wǒ mén zhòng zuì . wú  
主啊，祢愛彰顯恩典超過我們眾罪。無



voi - ces ring with glad - some cheers, a joy - ful noise we raise. And  
 match - less grace that will not fade. A grace that cleanse with - in. How  
 chū gāo xìng huān hū shēng yīn chàng chū xǐ lè de gē chōng  
 出 高 興 歡 呼 聲 音 , 唱 出 喜 樂 的 歌 . 充  
 42 bǐ ēn diǎn yǒng bú shuāi tuì ēn diǎn cóng nèi jié jìng zì  
 比 恩 典 永 不 衰 退 . 恩 典 從 內 潔 淨 . 恩

in this grace-filled Ju - bi - lee, that we all share as one. Our  
 pre - cious did that grace ap - pear! Grace, 'tis a char - ming sound! Un -  
 mǎn ēn diǎn de yī bǎi nián , gòng tóng hé yī fēn xiǎng shī  
 滿 恩 典 的 一 百 年 , 共 同 合 一 分 享 . 詩  
 46 diǎn xiǎn míng hé dēng bǎo guì ēn diǎn měi miào shēng yīn wú  
 典 顯 明 何 等 寶 貴 恩 典 美 妙 聲 音 . 無

song re - sounds from sky to sea. We've on - ly just be - gun!  
 boun - ded grace that drives off fear: His grace that did a - bound!  
 gē xiǎng liàng cóng tiān dào hǎi , xiàn zài cái dé kāi shǐ !  
 歌 響 亮 從 天 到 海 , 現 在 才 得 開 始 !  
 xiàn ēn diǎn chú qù jù pà : fēng fù ēn diǎn jiā zēng !  
 限 恩 典 除 去 懼 怕 : 豐 富 恩 典 加 增 !  
 50

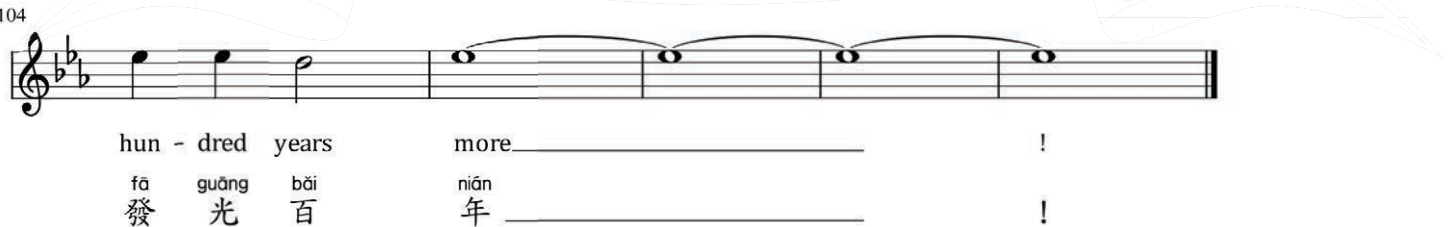
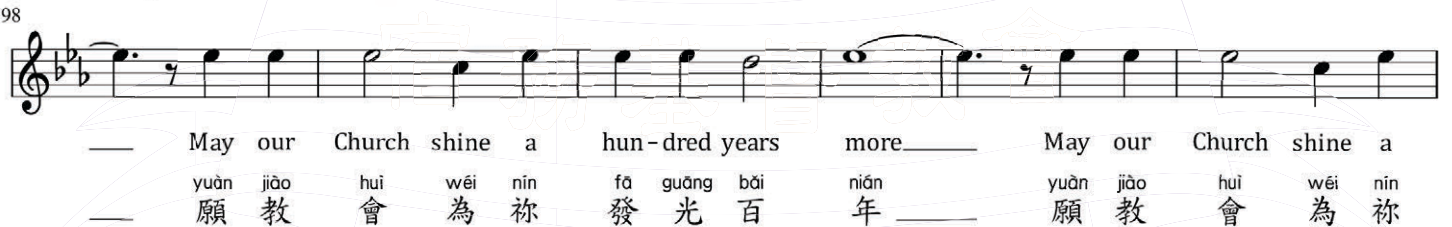
*Chorus:* One hun - dred years she stood faith - ful and true! May Ce - bu  
 fù gē : yī bǎi nián tā chí shǒu zhǔ de zhēn dào ! sù wù jī  
 副 歌 : 一 百 年 她 持 守 主 的 真 道 ! 宿 務 基  
 55

Gos - pel Church glo - ri - fy You On - ly You know, oh  
 dū jiào huì yuàn róng yào nín zhǐ yǒu nín zhī dào ,  
 督 教 會 願 榮 耀 祢 只 有 祢 知 道 ,  
 60

Lord, what lies in store May our Church shine a hun - dred years more We  
 zhǔ wèi jiàn jiāng lái yuàn jiào huì wéi nín fā guāng bǎi nián zhǔ  
 主 , 未 見 將 來 願 教 會 為 祢 發 光 百 年 主  
 67

May those who for a fam' ly search, be gui - ded by Your Grace. And  
 yuàn yī qiè shǔ nín de jiā tíng , měng nín ēn diǎn yīn dǎo nín  
 願 一 切 屬 祢 的 家 庭 , 蒙 祢 恩 典 引 導 . 祢





# Overall Song Structure

- Four **stanzas**, plus a **coda** are written in the common meter (also called the Hymnal Standard).
- **Chorus** does not follow common meter.
- Each stanza has eight lines, alternating between iambic tetrameter (eight syllables) and iambic trimeter (six syllables)
- Alternating lines will rhyme; the rhyming scheme can be written as ABABCD CD.

## COMMON METER SONGS

- *Amazing Grace*
- *America the Beautiful*
- *Auld Lang Syne*
- *Australian National Anthem*
- *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*
- *I Like to Teach the World to Sing*
- *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
- *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*
- *There is a Fountain*
- *There is a Green Hill Far Away*

# STANZA 1

The works of man alone will **pass** ◦  
 Without the hand of **God**.  
 His love and grace make all things **last** ◦  
 Through Jesus' precious **blood**.  
 This year – our hundredth **Jubilee**,  
 We dedicate to **Christ**.  
 A hundred years, our **CGC** ◦  
 Stood humbly o'er the **skies!**

**Fact #1**  
 "Pass" has two meanings: to progress (pass a test) or to die (pass on). This stanza assumes the second meaning, which is confirmed by the third line: only God can make things last...

**Fact #2**  
 It was too hard to fit "Cebu Gospel Church" in common meter, so ultimately "CGC" was used instead.

**Fact #4**  
 Contracting syllables in the middle of a word is called "syncope". It had to be done for the sake of the rhyme!

**Fact #3**  
 The initial draft used the word "proudly" instead, but the Council requested that our song be more "humble."

**Fact #5**  
 This isn't a perfect rhyme, but I challenge you to find something better that rhymes with Christ!

**ABOUT STANZA 1**

The introductory stanza must quickly explain what we are celebrating, and why we are celebrating it. We look back at the last hundred years and what truly facilitated our Church: salvation through Jesus' precious blood.





## STANZA 2

We celebrate a hundred **years**,  
 And fill our hearts with **praise**.  
 Our voices ring with gladsome **cheers**.  
 A joyful noise we **raise**.  
 And in this grace-filled **Jubilee**  
 That we all share as **one**.  
 Our song resounds from sky to **sea**.  
 We've only just **begun**!

### ABOUT STANZA 2

Having explained the basis for our celebration, the focus turns towards expressing our gratitude to the Lord. With voices ringing with cheers, praise-filled hearts, and resounding songs, hopefully the criteria of "joyful noise" was fulfilled!

#### Fact #6

Technically, although there is only one sky, there are many seas. Technically, this should be "ocean", but then it would no longer rhyme with "Jubilee," right? Poetic license, what a wonderful thing!

### ABOUT STANZA 3

This stanza pays homage to Psalm 100, and is essentially a rephrasing of it (with the exception of lines 3 and 4. Why Psalm 100? Because we're celebrating 100 years. The fact that it is a celebratory psalm makes it even better to use!

## STANZA 3

We shout for joy to You, oh **Lord**.  
 And come with joyful **song**.  
 Your grace through Your redeeming **word**  
 Makes all the weak ones **strong**.  
 You made us, Lord; we are Your **sheep**.  
 We join Your courts with **praise**.  
 We pray You bless our Church and **keep**  
 Us till the end of **days**.

## PSALM 100 (NIV)

- 1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the Earth.
- 2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.



### ABOUT STANZA 4

Since "God's Grace" is our central theme, I wanted to pay homage to all the hymns about God's grace. This stanza, which had many revisions, is the final result.

## STANZA 4

What grace, oh Lord, thy love **displayed**.

Much greater than our **sin**.

Such matchless grace that will not **fade**.

A grace that cleanse **within**.

How precious did that grace **appear!**

Grace, 'tis a charming **sound**.

Unbounded grace that drives off **fear**:

His grace that did **abound**.

### Grace Hymnal # 197 WHAT GRACE, O LORD

By: Ivy Balchin From: Stanza 1

What grace, o Lord thy love displayed.  
When all men's sins on Thee were laid

### Grace Hymnal # 258 GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN

By: Julia Johnston From: Refrain

Grace, grace. God's grace.  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within.  
Grace, grace, God's grace  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

### Grace Hymnal # 228 WONDERFUL GRACE OF JESUS

By: Haldor Lillenas From: Refrain

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,  
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;

### Grace Hymnal # 257 AMAZING GRACE

By: John Newton From: Stanza 2

How precious did that grace appear!  
The hour I first believed!

### Grace Hymnal # 1041 UNBOUNDED GRACE

By: John E. Walvoord From: Stanza 1

Unbounded grace, it reached to me,  
When hope was gone from view;

### Grace Hymnal # 256 HIS GRACE ABOUNDETH MORE

By: Kate Ulmer From: Stanza 1

Tho' I had sins without number,  
His grace unto me did abound.

### Grace Hymnal # 262 GRACE, 'TIS A CHARMING SOUND

By: Philip Doddridge From: Stanza 1

Grace, 'tis a charming sound,  
Harmonious to mine ear;



# CODA

May those who for a fam'ly **search**

Be guided by Your **Grace**.

And find a vibrant, thriving **Church**

Bathed in Your radiant **Face**.

What we and generations **past**

Have built up with Your **Light**.

Oh Lord we pray for centuries to **last**

In witness to Your **Might!**

### Fact #7

This is the second *syncope* in the hymn. While one might interpret this as a literary "cheat," the use of the word "family" improves the sentiment, don't you think?

### Fact #8

The structure here is intentional. Each of the six-syllable lines end with reference to one of God's traits.

### ABOUT THE CODA

While originally written as a stanza, this was eventually turned into a coda to serve as a musical "bridge" to the finale. Having finished with the homages and lookback to the past, we now focus our view to the future, with a prayer for CGC to last for centuries...

### Fact #9

This line has ten syllables, instead of eight, so that the melody can transition to a higher key more naturally. Alternatives that were considered include: "Lord God we pray", "We-e-e pray", "We a-all", and "All of us pray."

Unlike the rest of the anniversary hymn, the chorus does not follow common meter. Instead, it generally consists of ten-syllable lines, like a sonnet. The reason for the difference is the melody of the chorus was written first. Since it is going to be sung repeatedly, the chorus must have a catchy tune, right?

# CHORUS

One hundred years she stood faithful and **true**.

May Cebu Gospel Church glorify **You**.

Only You know, oh Lord, what lies in **store**.

May our Church shine a hundred years **more!**

### Fact #10

The different meter made it possible to finally put "Cebu Gospel Church" in the lyrics!

### Fact #11

Even though the chorus was written to match the music, this phrase eventually became the title of the song. It's interesting how things turned out.



# Left on the Cutting Room Floor

Writing is an iterative process. It's very possible to spend a day writing a few pages, only to rip them up and start over from scratch the next day. "A Hundred Years More" was no exception. Most of the design goals, including the use of common meter, have been established early on, but there were several verses that didn't quite make it. This is their story.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7  
(NIV)

<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.

◦ We fight the good fight, run the **race**,  
With faith through every **mile**.  
Believe His word and trust His **grace**.  
Enough for every **trial**.

The progression of these four lines is very good, but the verses had no bearing with the hymn's intended direction

GRACE UPON GRACE

By: Sandra McCracken  
From: Chorus

Grace upon grace,  
Every sin repaired.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

HEBREWS 4:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The word "upon" did not follow the proper meter

◦ Grace upon grace we have **received**.

Through faith, not works, You **save**.

'Tis grace to help in times of **need**.

For fearful to be **brave**.

The initial draft, "For cowards to be brave," was somewhat controversial.

This was considered far too "obvious"

◦ Amazing grace! How sweet the **sound**.

Through clear blue skies it **soars**.

We ask from He all things **abound**.

For grace to trust Him **more!**

Did not rhyme with "more", but verb must agree with subject...

Grace Hymnal # 257  
AMAZING GRACE

By: John Newton From: Stanza 1

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound.  
That saved a wretch like me.



Grace Hymnal # 514

'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

By: Louisa M. R. Stead From: Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!





# Behind the Anniversary Medallion

## FRONTAL VIEW

VERSION 1



Initial attempt, based on line art.

VERSION 2



Let's incorporate the architect's SketchUp!

VERSION 3



How about an isometric "1916-2016"?

VERSION 4



"Front view is better for coins than perspective."

FINAL



Shrink the building, and add the year. Perfect!

The medallion was created to serve as a prize for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competitions (Creative Art, Essay, and Photography). The design went through many rounds of revision. The final version has a 1.5 inch diameter and is <sup>5</sup>/<sub>32</sub> inch thick. The obverse, which shows the Church building, is gold-plated, while the reverse has a silver base.



Photography by Sidney Po

## BACK VIEW

VERSION 1



Initial attempt, based on jpeg files of the logo.

VERSION 2



Let's incorporate the vector logo images!

VERSION 3



How about a bit more color?

VERSION 4



Too much color! What if we emphasize "100"?

FINAL



Meh. Revert to version 2 and keep the text.



# Listen And

**H**ow can we know God's command? In the Old Testament times, God revealed His word to the people through the prophets. When Jesus was on Earth, He Himself taught His laws and precepts to the people. Today, we have the Bible to teach, rebuke, correct and train us in righteousness.

The food of Jesus was to do God's will and finish His work (John 4:34). As His disciples, we should imitate Jesus in obeying God's command. Jesus said, "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me" (John 14:21); "He who does not love me will not obey my teachings" (John 14:24). For Jesus, loving God and obeying His commands always go hand in hand. That means OBEDIENCE is very important to God.

However, how do we obey His commands? From the people in the Bible, we can see the three different ways of how they responded to God's command: (1) disobedience; (2) partial obedience; and (3) total obedience.

Let us learn from them on how to listen and obey God.

## DISOBEDIENCE

### ADAM/EVE

#### God's Command

*"You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it, you will surely die."* (Genesis 2:16-17)

Eve succumbed to the temptation of the snake. She ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam also listened to Eve and ate the forbidden fruit. What was the result? Men fell into sin. All creations of God were condemned and were under the slavery of decay and deterioration. All men are affected spiritually, morally, mentally, emotionally and physically. Everyone encounters sufferings, sickness, sorrows and pain of death because all are separated from God and are out of fellowship with Him.





# Obey

Josephine Q. Yu

## Result of Disobedience

The serpent is cursed above all the livestock and all the animals. It will crawl on its belly and eat dust all the days of its life (Genesis 3:14). Woman shall experience increased pain in childbirth and be ruled by her husband (Gen. 3:16). Man will go through painful toil with the sweat of his brow before he can eat the plants of the field (Gen. 3:17-19a). Everyone will die and return to dust (Gen. 3:19b). Adam and Eve were driven out from the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:23).

## SAMSON

### God's Command

*"You will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."* (Judges 13:5)

God had chosen Samson to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the Philistines. But there was one important command that he must obey. He must not divulge to anyone the secret that no razor may be used on his head. However, Samson was lured by Delilah and he told her everything. As a consequence, he suffered and died.

### Result of Disobedience

The Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes, and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain (Judges 16:21). During their festival to Dagon, they brought Samson out for entertainment (Judges 16:25). At the end, he brought down the temple's central pillars and died together with the Philistines (Judges 16:29-30).

## PARTIAL OBEDIENCE

### MOSES/AARON

#### God's Command

*“Take the staff, you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.”* (Numbers 20:8)

There was no water for the people to drink so they quarreled with Moses. The Lord commanded Moses and Aaron to gather the assembly and speak to the rock, and it would pour out its water.

Moses gathered the people together, but he did not “speak to the rock” as God had instructed. Instead, he took his staff and struck the rock twice. Moses only obeyed partially. As a result, God did not allow Moses and Aaron to enter the promised land of Canaan.

#### Result of Partial Obedience

”Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.” (Numbers 20:12)

### KING SAUL

#### God's Command

*“Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”* (1 Sam. 15:3)

The Lord sent Samuel to tell Saul to attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belonged to them. But Saul and the people spared Agag, King of the Amalekites and the best of the sheep and cattle. They were unwilling to destroy

everything completely. They only destroyed those that were despised and weak (1 Sam. 15:9). Then the Lord said to Samuel, “I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and had not carried out my instructions.” (1 Sam. 15:11)

When Samuel went there, he heard the bleating sound of sheep and the lowing sound of cattle. Saul tried to justify by saying that those were being kept to sacrifice to the Lord. Samuel answered him, “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of the rams.” (1 Sam. 15:22).

Saul only partially obeyed. God was not pleased with him. So, God chose someone better than Saul to be the king. Saul ultimately lost his throne.

#### Result of Partial Obedience

*“...Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king.”* (1 Sam. 15:26)

*“The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors - to one better than you.”* (1 Sam. 15:28)







## TOTAL OBEDIENCE

### NOAH

#### God's Command

*"I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an Ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out."* (Gen. 6:13-14)

Because man's wickedness had filled the earth, the Lord was grieved that He had made man on Earth. He wanted to wipe out mankind from the face of the Earth – men and animals and creatures that moved along the ground, and birds of the air. (Gen. 6:7). So the Lord told Noah to build an Ark. Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

As a result, only his family and those with him in the Ark survived.

#### Result of Total Obedience

"Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the Ark." (Gen. 7:23)

### ABRAHAM

#### God's Command

*"Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."* (Gen. 12:1)

When God said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you". Abram did not ask any question such as, "Where will I go? How long will it take to reach there? What should I bring? Is it safe to travel? What will be my livelihood there?"

Abram completely trusted in the Lord and obeyed what God had said. He did it through faith. As a result, God not only blessed him, he was called the “Father of Faith”.

### **Result of Total Obedience**

*“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

(Gen. 12:2-3)

*“To your offspring, I will give this land.”*

(Gen. 12:7)

## **ABRAHAM**

### **God’s Command**

*“Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you.”* (Gen. 22:2)



One day, God called Abraham to offer Isaac to him as a burnt offering. The next morning, he got up and followed what God had told him to do. “When they reached the place, Abraham built an altar, arranged the wood and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.

When he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son, the angel of the Lord said: Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

(Gen. 22:9-10, 12). Instead, God had prepared for him a ram as a substitute for burnt offering.

Because Abraham had totally obeyed, God blessed him with descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. He also became the “Father of All Nations”.

### **Result of Total Obedience**

*“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies and through your offspring, all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”*

(Gen. 22:17-18)

Today, what has God commanded you to do? It is to obey His Word and do His will. While on Earth, He gave us The Greatest Commandment. Before He ascended to heaven, He left us with the Greatest Commission. He wants TOTAL OBEDIENCE from us.



## THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and Greatest Commandment. And the second is like this: Love your neighbor as yourself.”*(Matthew 22:37-39)

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Mark 12:30-31)

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength:

- **Heart** spiritual
- **Soul** emotional
- **Mind** mental
- **Strength** physical

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Exodus 20:3-8; Deut. 5:7-12)

- No other gods
- Do not worship idol
- Do not misuse God’s name
- Keep the Sabbath day holy
- Love your neighbor as yourself (Exo. 20:12-17; Deut. 5:16-21)
- Honor your father and mother
- You shall not murder
- You shall not commit adultery
- You shall not steal
- You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor
- You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor

## THE GREATEST COMMISSION



*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* (Matt. 28:19-20)

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Go                    | to preach the Gospel  |
| Make disciples        | to follow Christ      |
| Baptizing them        | to lead people to Him |
| Teaching them to obey | to follow God’s laws  |

### God’s Command

If you are a child of God, how are you going to obey His laws? You have three choices: disobedience, partial obedience, and total obedience.

The consequences of disobedience are suffering and death. Partial obedience deprives you of God’s presence and God’s blessings. Total obedience pleases the Lord, and you will enjoy His bountiful blessings.

What will be your choice? May Noah and Abraham serve as our examples to **TOTALLY** listen and obey HIM!

# 敬畏主和認識主

楊壽峰



「全能全知全美善，至公至義至仁慈」的名聯是康熙皇帝的杰作。這聯簡述基督教的神學真理。

清康熙皇帝（1654 - 1722）八歲登基，在位六十一年，是中國歷史上在位最長的君王。他奠下了清朝興盛的根基；開創出康乾盛世的大局面。是一位英明的君王，偉大的政治家。康熙皇帝熱心探討基督真道；在國事紛繁之際，不吝利用時間學習聖經等書籍，還常和那些遠涉重洋而來的外國傳教士談道。

康熙皇帝為了紀念耶穌基督被釘死十字架上，曾寫下一首吸引人的七言律詩，名叫「基督死」，人稱之為「康熙十架歌」也稱為「十架頌」。

## 十架頌

功成十架血成溪，百丈恩流分自西。  
身列四衙半夜路，徒方三背兩番雞。  
五千鞭撻寸膚裂，六尺懸垂二盜齊。  
慘慟八垓驚九品，七言一畢萬靈啼。

這首七言律詩，雖只有八句五十六字，但卻將耶穌從被捕到殞命的主要情節描

繪得淋漓盡致。（摘自大紀元文化網）

箴言9：10說，「敬畏耶和華是智慧的開端，認識至聖者便是聰明。」敬畏主和認識主的基本原則如下：

## 一．應當聖潔

神愛世人，甚至將祂的獨生子賜給他們，叫一切信祂的不至滅亡反得永生。神差祂的兒子降世，不是要定世人的罪，乃是要叫世人因祂得救。凡接待祂的，就是信祂名的人，祂就賜他們權柄作神的兒女。人因信稱義之後，聖靈就內住在他們心裡，使他們成為神的殿。神的殿是聖潔的，因此我們應當追求聖潔。

## 二．要愛主愛人

馬太22：35 - 40，「主耶穌對那律法師說：『你要盡心，盡性，盡意，愛主你的神；這就是誠命中的第一，且是最大的。其次也是相仿，就是要愛人如己。這二條誠命是律法和先知一切道理的總綱。』」



在舊約申 6：4 - 9，摩西也教訓以色列人要愛主。「以色列人阿，你要聽。耶和華我們的神是獨一的主。你們要盡心，盡性，盡力愛耶和華你的神。我今日所吩咐你的話都要記在心上，也要懇勸教訓你的兒女。無論你坐在家裡，行在路上，躺下起來，都要談論。也要繫在手上為記號，戴在額上為經文。又要寫在你房屋的門框，並你的城門上。」

### 三．行為正直遠離惡事

在詩篇 15：1 - 2 大衛王問主說，「耶和華阿！誰能寄居禱的帳幕，誰能住在禱的聖山；就是行為正直，作事公義，心裡說實話的人。」聖經中說大衛王是合神心意的人，當然是行為正直的人。但在伯 1：1 說，「烏斯地有一個人名叫約伯；那人完全正直，敬畏神，遠離惡事。」大衛王雖是行為正直的人，卻沒有遠離惡事。

在撒下 12：9 - 12 節記載拿單明斥其罪，「你為甚麼藐視耶和華的命令，行祂眼中看為惡的事呢？你借亞捫人的刀，殺害赫人烏利亞，又娶了他的妻為妻。你既藐視我，娶了赫人烏利亞的妻為妻，所

以刀劍必永不離開你的家。耶和華如此說，我必從你家中興起禍患攻擊你；我必在你眼前，把你的妃嬪賜給別人，他在日光之下就與他們同寢。你在暗中行這事，我卻要在以色列眾人面前，日光之下報應你。」因此弟兄們，我們應以上面的歷史事實為鑑誡；就不但要行為正直，還要遠離惡事。

### 四．讀經祈禱認識主

聖經是上帝的話，是神在文字上啟示給人的文字記錄。全本聖經六十六本都是聖靈感動人的默示。原稿是完全沒有錯誤的。

在提後 3：16 - 17 說，「聖經都是神所默示的，於教訓，督責，使人歸正，教導人學義，都是有益的。叫屬神的人得以完全，預備行各樣的善事。」因此基督徒應當天天讀經，日夜思想，養成好的靈修習慣。一生過著成聖的生活。

祈禱也是靈修的重要部分。簡單的說，祈禱就是基督徒和上帝在交談。我們無論大小事都可以告訴上帝；困難的事求祂幫忙，為我們成就的事應當感恩。如此讀經禱告操練，就會過更認識主的生活。



# Those Beautiful Eyes

Deaconess Jocelyn Po

Now he (David) was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance..." (1 Samuel 16:12)

**A**s I was studying the life of David, my attention was caught on these three words... with beautiful eyes. Other translation said beautiful countenance. Let me focus on the beautiful eyes.

The eyes. During court hearings, especially when witnesses are to testify, we are to look at their eyes such that the witnesses are not allowed to cover their eyes with shades or sunglasses. From the movement of their eyes, I get a glimpse or hint if they are making up stories or telling the truth.

This is, of course, aside from their other physical movements. Once in a while, when the witnesses are so carried with their testimonies and tend to talk to the people in the courthouse, I always remind them to look at me. In so doing, I also pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom.

More often, when my eyes lock with the eyes of the accused, some would start to just talk even to the surprise of the prosecutor and myself. Some would start to cry and cover their faces. Some would try to peep in between their covered hands to look at me. Then, it would be my turn to twist my eyebrow or sharpen my looks with some lip movement.





Drama... real court drama. And mind you, it's all by God's grace that I have the strength to do these things for many years now.

One time, I heard from people that if a person had killed someone, they would lose that glow in their eyes. But up to this moment, I still cannot figure the reason why.

However, I had this experience of talking to an accused whom I heard had killed several people. The word killed is quite kind, it's more like assassinated/murdered several people. I talked to him but there was nothing different with his eyes from the many people I see in church. Wonder why??? Maybe because many of us have kept hatred in our hearts that we have secretly murdered our fellow brothers. Now this is not drama.

Those eyes. When I am more relaxed and funny, I tend to talk nonsense of the things I observed from people's eyes. One time I got the surprise of my life when two of my husband's friends wore sunglasses during a dinner party, even if it was at the wee hours of the night. I thought they got sore eyes but no, they were afraid that I would see their eyes. And true enough, I read them correctly.

The "beautiful eyes" is so significant to me. And that's what David got. If you are bad inside, your eyes will reveal it. Many people thought that they can hide their true selves by being good Christians outside and all evil inside. That is simple acting.

It might work for a while, but not for long. Aside from the Lord who is all-seeing and all-knowing, our eyes always reveal the truth about us. For what the lips can hide, the eyes will reveal. That is precisely why the eyes are considered the windows of our soul.

For David to have those beautiful eyes, whether actual beauty or otherwise, it is easy to believe that he got those beautiful eyes because he got a beautiful heart that truly loved God. He was humble and devoted to the Lord, his Shepherd.

David cared for his family and the people around him even if nobody was watching him. He never holds a grudge on those instances when his family, particularly his father, did not consider him to be of any importance. He was still faithful, and loved his father.


In the ordinary and mundane things in life, he showed himself faithful and excellent. His love and devotion for God was unquestionable. That is most probably the reason why he got those beautiful eyes ... simply because of his beautiful heart.

I hope to see more beauty in the eyes of my fellow brothers and sisters as we also try to see things in the beauty of God's compassionate eyes. Let me then "see this world through Your eyes, dear Jesus" that my eyes may reflect such beauty for people to see.



# True Disciple: A Journey to Eternity

Heir of the King



I can't keep my thoughts off today's journey. The biggest star dawned bright and sunny. Squinting to have a better view, I bent over to look outside the window of the tall bus I'm riding on. The sight of the blurring of the endless strip of green grass blending with the strong concrete infrastructure beside it was exactly what I felt about this day – speeding away. The ride is so fast at this point that I can only try not to blink so I won't miss a minute of it.

At this moment, all other elements inside the bus, including perpetual chatter and buzzing phones, silenced. Like old friends from a thousand wonderful moments, the memories gathered. Has it been two years? The 36th FCCF conference was beginning. I know I couldn't miss it. Not now, not ever.

I began to love camps the summer I turned thirteen. It was when I truly began to see Christ and felt His presence in my life. Ever since then, I learned so many things during camps and retreats as it revives my spiritual life.

The FCCF conference this year was like any other conference I've attended but what strikes me most was the title: "True Disciple." It was a fairly simple heading yet it connotes a deeper sense of significance. Being a disciple is different from being

a Christian. It is going beyond labeling oneself.

There are three things that I've learned on becoming a true disciple of Christ.

**The Price of Self-Denial.** This is one of the hardest price one chooses to pay. There's a famous line that says, "Life begins at 40." But for me, I believe that life starts at the end of one's own comfort zone. If you decide to follow Jesus, there must be something you must give up. Denying one's self involves loss because unless you are separated from something, you cannot be attached to another thing. Choosing to die in flesh but living in Spirit may be a challenge for all of us.

Many of you might be like me. There are many things I refuse to take responsibility for the fear of not being able to do what I have committed. Well, that's just for some things but what about a life-long responsibility? I often find myself wondering if I'm brave enough to handle the **Price of a Life-Long Responsibility**. This means that we should live every moment as a follower of Jesus Christ.

When you interact with your family, friends, neighbors, salesmen, vendors, helpers, do they know that you are a disciple of Christ? Our actions must show Christ-like behavior. The life you live should come as an automatic response.



The world is constantly bombarding the thoughts of the people today; hence, Rev. Stephen Tan (one of the speakers in the camp) reminded us that we are the cross-bearers of this generation.

**The Price of Identifying with Christ.** I remember a story about a man who carries with him a six-inch nail in his right pocket every day. The nail is so long that sometimes it stuck out of his pocket or often times, he gets pierced if he isn't careful. People around him were wondering what his reason was for it and one day, someone asked. He answered that it reminds him of the PRICE that God had paid for Him. Isn't that a wonderful reminder?

Often times, we forget what God did for us. Instead, we grumble of the things God didn't give us. We think of how much we lack and we forgot how much we already have. Let's us look at the glass half full and not half-empty. Do not complain of the heavy price of discipleship unless you counted the cost of our salvation. If Jesus went beyond his limits to save us from our own sins, without any of our efforts, shouldn't we be at least grateful of the salvation and grace he freely gave us by following and being His disciples? To be identified with Christ is a personal decision.

These three prices that we have to pay for Christ struck me most. It makes me realize how shallow my understanding of becoming a disciple is. It's more than being a Christian - it's doing what God wants me to do. Give up the comfort. Take up your own cross. Follow Him. Be a disciple and make one.

When I look back, everything was a blur of colors - many shades. Some memories filled with red - the first day when everyone was meeting each other. Others, blue - the laughter of new friends finding common ground. Still quite, mostly green - the blossoming of friendship. On one occasion, gray - the faces of the delegates as they talked with their counselors. Mostly orange - the voices of the speakers who firmly expressed their points during theme messages. Few, white - the innocence and radiance of new believers.

Through these different hues, I see God's promises etched out in the skylines of the youths' lives. Every person has their own troubles and worries, but God has brought them together and allowed them to join this retreat for a special purpose, only He knows.

As I was on my way back home to reality, I look back to one of the most surreal five days of my life. I reminisce the lessons I've learned, knowing that I will put them into good use and they will be a part of the box of memories I keep inside the storage room of my heart.

Our life's goal is important but what matters most is our daily journey in life. These camps, which I treasure a lot, are a part of my journey. Someday, I will meet my God face to face but while I'm still on earth, I shall savor the time I spend with Him here in this world.

Enthusiasm fills up my chest as I proudly serve Him as His Heir in this dark world. I realize, it is not about today but it's about tomorrow's journey with the Creator of our Universe.



# 最要緊只有一件事 (要親近上帝)

雯華

路加福音 10 : 38 - 42

馬大請耶穌和祂的門徒來她家裡吃飯。耶穌到馬大的家裡時，馬大請耶穌和祂的門徒在客廳坐後，就到廚房去預備午餐。

馬大的妹妹馬利亞在廚房把她所應該要做的工做完以後，就去親近耶穌，在主的腳前聽祂講道。

馬大因為馬利亞放下她自己一個人在廚房做工，感覺她受人忽略，無人關心她。所以她去找耶穌抱怨。v 40 b : 「主啊，我妹妹放下我自己一個來侍候，禱不理嗎？請吩咐她來幫助我。」

其實不是馬大的工作太多使她抱怨，乃是她的心情紛亂。很可能她是沒有靈修的人。

所以 v 41 主回答她：「馬大，馬大，你為許多事操心忙碌，但是最重要的只有一件，馬利亞已經選擇了那上好的福分，是不能從她奪去的，她曉得要來親近主。」

咱有時會覺得很奇怪，某某兄弟或是某某姊妹是基督徒，有常常來作禮拜，也有參加團契，為什麼他的脾氣這樣壞呢？很小的事就要與人打架，而且很愛論斷人。如果你深入的認識他，就會發現他是沒有靈修的人。

Wiersbe 牧師曾經說：當他在牧養教會時，曾對一些遇著問題的會友談道。當他問他們最近靈修的情形如何？他們都是低著頭，承認他們因為工作太忙沒有靈修，





沒有時間親近主。沒有讀聖經，也沒有祈禱。無怪他們會遇著問題。

咱作基督的門徒，每日早晨必須用充分的時間來親近上帝，求聖靈充滿咱，保護咱。不然的話，咱的對敵魔鬼是非常厲害。牠是大有能力，是控制全世界的靈（約翰一書5：19）。咱絕對不是牠的對手。

現在咱要來觀察，耶穌在世時的靈修習慣，馬可福音1：29 - 35；v 3 2那天晚上，有許多人把害病的和被鬼附著的人都帶到耶穌的面前，v 3 3全城的人都聚集在門前。v 3 4耶穌醫好了各樣的病，也趕出許多的鬼，那天晚上，耶穌實在很忙碌，很遲才可休息。有可能是半夜才去睡覺。v 3 5但是次日早晨，天還沒有亮，耶穌照舊很早起床，自己一個人到曠野地方在那裡祈禱。耶穌在這時候與天父有親密的交通。天父賜祂智慧和能力。無怪咱的主耶穌有這樣大的能力能夠醫治各樣的病和趕出各種的污鬼。耶穌雖然很忙碌，很遲才可睡，但是祂不發一句的怨言，上帝賜祂充分的力氣。祂是甘心樂意為人服務。

如果事奉主使你不快樂，或是成為你的重担，那麼你的事奉是有問題的。希望你能夠用時間親近神。

如果咱很出力為主傳福音，很出力幫助窮人，又參加教會許多聖工，但是沒有時間親近主，那麼咱會很快灰心，好像馬大很快失志。

既然親近上帝是很重要，咱要向主耶穌學習。（馬可1：35）

1. 清早，天未亮的時要起床。
2. 咱要親近上帝，最好是自己一個人。
3. 到安靜的地方禱告。
4. 咱要首先吟一首詩，預備心敬拜上帝。
5. 祈禱

A 頌讚  
C 認罪悔改  
F 饒恕人  
T 感恩  
S 祈求

當咱祈禱的時，聖靈感動咱要赦免某某人，雖然他得罪了咱，咱要願意赦免人（馬太6：14）

6. 留心讀上帝的話語，並且要讓祂對咱說話。
7. 求聖靈充滿咱，賜咱屬靈的智慧與能力來處理事。
8. 最後要穿戴神所賜全副的軍裝才能抵擋魔鬼一切的詭詐。（以弗所書6：10 - 18）

最後，在約翰12：1 - 2馬大再一次請客。這次，馬大的人客有耶穌與祂的十二學生，馬大的弟弟拉撒路與妹妹馬利亞總共十五人。她自己一個伺候比以前更多的，但是一句的怨言都沒有聽見了。因為她得到主的勸勉，她學著親近上帝的秘訣。



# Sow a Wind, Reap a Whirlwind

Deaconess Jocelyn Po

**W**ell, we know that Bogo had been badly hit by typhoon Yolanda last November 8, 2013. Even now, one can still see the telltale signs of that horrible and monstrous storm.

Beside the beach house where I stayed, I saw some felled coconut trees which were not spared by Yolanda's destructive anger (*kamangtas*). There were also many trees still standing and despite their mangled appearance as manifested by their drooping leaves and battered trunk, they stood tall, slowly bearing fruits.

What caught my attention were two coconut trees that were lying on the ground, even as portions of their roots remained firmly anchored on the ground like outstretched hands. Although most parts of the base were exposed to the elements, there were still a few roots at the side from where the trees fell that were still rooted, continuing to get nourishment from the ground.

Something struck me as I was looking at this sight. I was reminded of the verses that I studied that morning. I was reading about God's love and righteous judgment: the story of David.

Hosea 8:7 says, "*They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.*"

Galatians 6:7: "*Do not be deceived. God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*"

Galatians 6:8: "*The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*"

Many a time, we are like these trees. A whirlwind of life circumstances come mostly as consequences of our sins. Like the wind of temptation, it comes fanning our thoughts and watering our hearts with forbidden excitements and pleasures like the innocent droplets of rain. When not careful, the wind slowly becomes a storm, and the innocent droplets start to drown us with a flood of lust and guilt. Then, our reputations will be beaten badly by the whirlwind of shame. What used to be whispered will become a byword spoken openly with contempt.

Standing strong is never an option. We must stand strong, tall and deeply rooted with our faith in God's words and God Himself. We may falter and fall, but we must be brave enough to stand up from where we have fallen. Others just fall and die. Others, badly beaten by the consequences of their sin, repent and are like the fallen trees that still strive to grow.

Although difficult to redeem a lost reputation, as with the fallen trees, life must go on even if going on becomes tough and a struggle. Worse still, its appearance will constantly be a reminder of its defeat and struggle to survive again.



Many Christians, myself included, used to think that if we sin, God still loves us and is faithful enough to forgive us all our sins, PERIOD. Well, as we see from the Bible and Bible stories, God surely forgives sin because He loves us so much and does not want anybody to perish. But, the consequences of the Sin must be paid.

Just as Hosea 8:7 says, “*Sow a wind and reap a whirlwind,*” the consequences of sin ALWAYS outweigh the fleeting pleasure of sin manyfold. Galatians 6:7-8 tells us not to be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Many young people (and also the not-so-young) succumb erroneously to 1 John 1:9. But just like David, the Bible also warns us that what we sow, we reap. Even nature upholds this simple principle: plant a banana, reap a banana. Plant mangoes, reap mangoes. Just as one seed can make us harvest hundreds and a thousand-fold of fruits, so can one sin cause one to reap a thousand fold of sorrows. And vice-versa, one faithfulness can also cause one to be blessed a thousand-fold, even down to your descendants.

Yes, there is repentance, but sin always leaves an indelible mark in one’s life. David sinned in secret. In the eyes of his people, he looked okay, maybe with a little tête-à-tête between those who knew about his sin. But God cannot be mocked. What one sows in secret, one will reap in the open. What is done in secret will be shouted from the rooftops.

In fact, the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1:6 states that David was the father of Solomon (his mother

was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). Some translations simply say, “David was the father of Solomon from Uriah’s wife.” Why not just skip Uriah? I guess we know why: the indelible mark of sin. In fact, David’s rooftop evening affair had its rooftop consequence via his own son Absalom lying with David’s concubines in broad daylight. Even worse, David and the many others with him witnessed it, though from a distance, when he fled from his son.

Jacob’s act of deceiving his brother also brought him years of being deceived by his own father-in-law Laban, and the constant fear of his brother Esau’s vengeance.

Again, as I looked at the fallen trees with their helpless trunks that strived to grow by anchoring their roots on whatever ground they could hold on to, and redeeming themselves by the evidence of some new leaves growing freshly on them, I was once again awakened by the simple truth of sowing and reaping... that consequences always outweigh the single seed of sin that is sown.

For when one sows the wind, he must be ready to reap the whirlwind! God forgives those who truly repent because He is a God of LOVE but nonetheless, the consequences must be paid.

Consequences outweigh many times over the single sin like fruits harvested from a single seed.

Do NOT be deceived, God will never be mocked. The Omniscient God cannot be mocked.

The Devil is like a roaring lion looking for who he may devour. Let us then be sober, be vigilant, and do not be deceived!!!



# 屬靈長途賽跑

蕭必忠長老



經文：希伯來書 12：1 - 3  
保羅愛用運動員與基督徒作對比。  
基督徒的人生好像長途賽跑的運動員。

每一位參加  
員都是  
家的特  
才。

每一  
動員  
望能  
到金  
他的國  
榮、他們的  
在奧林匹克 ( O l y m p i c ) 運動會的書  
上。能夠成為世界著名的人。



賽跑的運動  
他們國  
選 人  
位 運  
都 希  
夠 得  
牌、為  
家 爭 光  
名字能夠寫

這些運動員大多數從少年時就對賽跑有特別的興趣、而且有特長。

在這眾優秀的運動員中、要得到金牌實在不容易。

運動員除了要遵守訓練所有的規則以外、他們自己要有嚴厲紀律自己。

**1. 要參加賽跑的人、必須有平安的心、不與人冤仇、不與人打架。不然的話、他沒有心跑、他的良心會來攪擾。**

基督徒對人對神必須要有好的關係、咱的生活才有平安。

詩篇 29：11 b 耶和華必賜平安的福給祂的百姓。

咱不但要與人與神和好。並且要愛神愛人。  
( 馬可 12：30 - 31 )

求主幫助咱會真正愛人。特別是家裡的人或是教會內的兄弟姊妹更要愛、這樣咱才能夠稱為主的門徒。( 約翰 13：34 - 35 )

基督徒的夫婦、必須要彼此相愛。夫婦之間要相敬如賓、不可太隨便。說話要有禮貌、要輕聲說、三思而後言、傷感情的話一句都不要出口、要學習忍耐。保持有好感情、這樣才能夠有好的見證、能夠榮耀上帝的聖名。

這實在很容易說、但是不容易做。咱沒有辦法靠咱自己、因為咱是很軟弱的。咱必須要依靠聖靈來幫助咱 ( 羅馬書 8：26 )。你若是一禮拜才讀聖經、那麼你是軟弱的信徒。

咱要謹守儆醒、因為咱的對敵魔鬼、牠是這世界的王、牠會用盡方法來破壞咱與兄弟姊妹的感情、使咱衝突、爭論、打架、使教會分裂、恥辱上帝的聖名 ( 約翰 10：10 )。甚至牠會利用咱最親的人來攻擊咱、使咱無平安 ( 伯 2：9 - 10 )。

所以咱要小心、不要給魔鬼利用、反要多多祈禱。用愛心幫助軟弱的兄弟姊妹。



## 2 · 早睡早起、身體好、睡眠要充足才有能力賽跑。

有好的睡眠才有健康的身體、事奉主的人必須要有健康的身體。因為咱的身體是聖靈的殿（哥林多前書 6：19 - 20、3：16 - 17）

## 3 · 運動員必須注意喝吃與社交、因為這些會影響他身體的健康。

俗語說：「病是從口入、災是從口出。」

起初人的食物記載在創世記 1：29 「神說：看哪、我將遍地上一切結種子的菜蔬、和一切樹上所結有核的果子、全賜給你們作食物。但人貪吃、隨便吃、吃豬、吃牛、吃蛇、吃猴、因此才生病。

## 4 · 運動員必須要常參加訓練班（專題講座）、求上進。

上帝有時藉著人對咱說話。咱要很細心、基督徒必須參加教會的團契與赴屬靈的聚會求進步。咱在主內一同研究神的話、互相勉勵。不可停止聚會（希 10：25）停止聚會的人、他們的靈火會漸漸消滅。咱要與愛主的兄弟姊妹作伴、使咱能夠從他們的身上學習屬靈的功課。俗語說「近朱者赤、近墨者黑」。咱如果常與牧師傳道作伴、不知不覺會學著很多屬靈的功課。

## 5 · 運動員每日有固定的時間訓練自己。

基督徒每早晨必須有固定的時間靈修。靈修是基督徒一個很重要的時間。是咱與上帝交通、也是咱從上帝取得智慧與能力的時間。

每早晨要有固定的時間、自己一個人來親近上帝。耶穌在世時、於天未亮的時候起來、

到曠野地方去、在那裡禱告（可 1：35）。靈修時要做什麼呢？用詩歌頌讚祂、感謝祂的慈愛與憐憫、細心讀祂寶貝的話、在靈裡與祂交通、並且把咱的心思意念向祂陳明、等候祂回答。

耶穌在世時是以人的身份、不是以神的身份。魔鬼要耶穌用祂神的身份。如果耶穌用神的身份、那麼祂就沒有辦法為世人的罪來替死在十字架、咱到今日仍還在罪惡中受魔鬼控制。既然耶穌是以人的身份來世間、為什麼祂有這樣大的能力會醫治人呢？瞎子會看見、聾子會聽見、啞吧會說話、癲瘋的得清潔、癱子會行路。有權柄趕鬼、又有權能叫拉撒路從死裡復活呢？耶穌從那裡得祂的能力呢？聖經告訴我們祂是靠著聖靈和祈禱。祂每早晨天未亮的時、用充分的時間親近天父、從天父那裡得到智慧和能力。

耶穌在約翰福音 14：12 - 14、「我實實在在的告訴你們；我所作的事、信我的人也要作、並且要作比這更大的事。因為我往父那裡去。你們奉我的名無論求甚麼、我必成就、叫父因兒子得榮耀。」

證明耶穌以上所說的話、請看使徒行傳 3：1 - 10 使徒彼得醫好癱腿乞丐。

## 6 · 運動員必須脫下非必要的重擔、使他輕鬆能夠跑得快。

基督徒必須脫去各樣的重擔、脫去容易纏累咱的罪、靠著聖靈的大能大力除去咱內體的情慾、過著聖潔的生活。避免社交。不要效法這個世界（羅馬書 12：2）、無論在教會內或是在社會上、都能夠為主發光。引導人來信耶穌。



## 7 · 當要賽跑時、運動場坐滿了觀眾。這給運動員加倍興奮要賽跑。

基督徒為主傳福音也好像長途的賽跑、因為在這段人生中。咱會遇著許多的試煉、咱須要有屬靈輔導者的勉勵、引導與幫助、使咱的信心得到剛強、會忠心到底。咱有從前的牧師、傳道、長老、執事所留下很寶貝的生活、能夠做咱的好模型。

## 8 · 運動員在賽跑的時候、眼睛必須注目在標桿、不可以看東看西、因為這會影響他跑的速度。

你們曾參加賽跑嗎？

基督徒必須有屬靈的眼光。知道咱在世間的日子是很短暫、世上萬事轉眼都成空、求主賜咱智慧能夠多多追求屬靈的事、注目在為咱信心創始成終的主耶穌。

## 9 · 忍耐：既然這是長途的賽跑、實在不是容易的事、在這段長途的路程。有些路是不平坦的、有些路是石頭地、有些路有水溝、



有些路是有荊棘的。有些運動員開始跑時很興奮、跑很快。但是到半路、會疲倦、會跌

倒、看見別人跑得較快就灰心失志。不再繼續跑了。但是有些運動員、雖然遇到這些試煉會跌倒、可是他們再起來、不灰心繼續跑。

有一些初信主的人、起初很火熱。參加團契又赴很多教會的聚會、但是因為沒有聖靈在他們心裡、遇著艱難時、或是與教會的兄弟姊妹的意見有衝突時、就不再赴會了。這是對敵魔鬼最歡喜的。

忍耐是聖靈賜給信徒特別的能力、能夠忍受人的譏笑、苦難、痛苦和危險、使他們有快樂的心繼續為主做工。

如果咱是五十歲以上的人、咱都曾經歷過人生的鹽、酸、苦、甜的滋味、也明白雅各書所講「咱若落在百般的試煉中、都要以為大喜樂」、因為苦難會使咱更愛親近上帝。因為咱沒有別的倚靠。上帝常常藉著苦難造就祂的百姓。生命中的考驗能幫助咱發展基督徒堅強的品格。

為什麼有一些運動員、在賽跑的時候、雖然跌傷、但是他們並不灰心、再起來、繼續向標桿直跑呢？原因是他們都希望能夠得到獎賞、能為國家爭光榮、能夠得到大批的錢財、又會成為世界很出名的人。

為什麼主耶穌能夠忍受十字架的苦難呢？是因為那擺在前面的喜樂、就輕看羞辱、忍受了十字架的苦難（希伯來書 12：2 b）。耶穌知道天父的旨意、就是要祂為世人的罪來死在十字架、使凡相信主耶穌的人、罪得赦免。靈魂得到永生、這才能夠完成天父的救贖。滿足天父的心意、榮耀上帝的聖名、能夠與上帝同坐寶座（啟示錄 3：21）。



咱為主做工、咱的勞苦、咱的犧牲在主裡不是徒然的（哥林多前書 15：58）

使徒保羅能夠做咱很好的模範（哥林多後書 11：22 - 33）使徒保羅為什麼有這樣強的心志、要為主傳福音呢？因為那擺在他前面的喜樂、他也輕看羞辱、他攻克自己的身體、叫身體服從他。他為主受了很多逼迫、吃了很多苦、甚至很多次有生命的危險。但是他不懼怕、不灰心。他繼續為主傳福音。忠心到底（哥林多後書 4：16 - 18）。

咱不要忘記、咱住世間不過是暫時而已。好像做客人。摩西在詩篇 90：10 講得很好「咱一生的年日是七十歲、若是強壯可到八十歲；但其中所矜誇的、不過是勞苦愁煩、轉眼成空、阮便如飛而去。」不多久、咱都要離開這個世界到天父那裏去受審判。在那時、主要問咱說「我賜給你七十年、八十年、九十年的時間在世間、你有為我做甚麼呢？」意思是說、你有引導人來信耶穌、導他們歸在主的名下嗎？但願主能對咱說「好、你這又良善又忠心的僕人。你在不多的事上有忠心、我要把許多事派你管理；可以進來享受你主人的快樂（馬太 25：23）。」

保羅因為有這種的願望、所以他一生很出力的傳福音、忠心到底、引導失喪的人來信耶穌、使他們歸在主的名下、榮耀主的聖名。將來在審判時、會得到主的稱讚、並且能夠



與主同坐寶座。永遠享受天堂的快樂。（啟示錄 3：21）

### 10 · 獎賞

在屬世的賽跑、只有一個運動員可得金牌。

但是在屬靈的賽跑、每一個基督徒、若是真正為主傳福音、引導失喪的人來信耶穌、使他們歸在主名下、忠心事奉主到底。當審判的時、咱都會從主得到冠冕、與主同坐寶座、在天堂享受永遠的快樂。





# Extra! Extra!

Compiled by Pastor Rosaline Lim



## *Induction of Newly-Elected Deacons & Deaconesses (January 4, 2015)*



## *Congregational Sunday*

Congregational Sunday was held last January 18, 2015 at the Grand Convention Center, concomitant with Mandaue Gospel Church's 9th Anniversary Celebration.

**Dr. Gerardo Lisbe Jr.** was the main speaker and the topic was about "Clinging to Orthodoxy and Orthopraxy." Christian life is a spiritual battle and we

must hold firmly to faith with the Biblical truth as our basis and hold tightly to good conscience with right practice and behavior.

**Orthopraxy** (ὀρθοπραξία, pronounced ortho-praxia) is a neo-classical compound word means correct practice and conduct. In contrast, **orthodoxy** emphasizes correct faith and belief.



## *Child Dedication*

One of the greatest gifts a parent could ever receive is a bundle of joy from heaven above—a baby.

Last February 1, 2015, **Pierre Liam Yap** was dedicated to the Lord. May his parents raise him to be a God-fearing man.



## *PCGS Sunday (February 15, 2015)*





## *CGC 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (March 15, 2015)*



## *Baccalaureate Service (March 22, 2015)*





## True Disciple (Ephesians 2:8-9)

On May 18-22, 2015, FCCF held its 36<sup>th</sup> Nationwide Youth Conference in Caliraya Resort Club. Around 400 participants from various cities and provinces in the Philippines joined the youth conference.

Dr. David Cheung and Rev. Stephen Tan were the main speakers. Special topics were also conducted by pastors from other churches, and each church was asked to present a special number.

A team-building group game enabled members from different local churches to mingle and just have fun with each other.

From our church, two young people accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, twenty-three rededicated their lives for Christ and seven offered their lives for full time ministry. May we continue to pray for them that God may use them for His glory.



Winning group for Photography





## Daily Vacation School “Scar Force”

From June 1 to 5, 2015, the Christian Education Committee conducted a Daily Vacation Bible School for kids ages 3 to 12. Praise God, there were around 120 to 130 who attended “Scar Force.”

Let’s continue to remember them in our prayers that God may speak to these children and they would come to know the Real Saga, the True Force!



## “I Am”

Last June 5, 2015, the Grace Christian Church Choir, led by Rev. Stephen Tan, and in cooperation with the three Chinese churches here in Cebu (Bethany Church, Cebu Gospel Church, and Living Christian Church) held a one-night choral concert entitled “I AM” at Calla Hall, JCentre Mall.





## Mission Week 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our Church Mission celebrated its 50th anniversary last September 17-20, 2015. Rev. Vicente Sia was the main speaker for the theme, “A Heart for Missions.” We are grateful to God for His unending provision and for the opportunity to serve Him. To God be all the Glory!

This year, the missionaries experienced a different mission week. They had a factory tour at Profood International Corp, visited Cebu Trick Art Museum in J Centre Mall, and of course went to OMF, a privilege given to them every year to update the books and materials they could use in their ministries.

Then, we had a night for the missionaries to share the ups and downs of their ministries and how God watched over them for the past years while serving Him.

The Mission Committee also invited the other organizations we are supporting and requested them to set up a display about their ministries.

Another great highlight was for the missionaries to join the JLY medical mission where they shared the Gospel using the Evangelism Cube. They also had the opportunity to learn the new EE (Evangelism Explosion) way of sharing God’s word, at the same doing on-the-job training.





# Literature Committee Centennial Contest

In line with our Church's upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Literature Committee sponsored three one-of-its-kind contests based on the Centennial Theme, "God's Grace." The contests were open to all eligible members and regular Sunday School attendees.

The following winners (first place and runners-up, respectively) were awarded during Literature Sunday on November 15, 2015. For Creative Arts: Phoebe Joy Uy and Lawrence Ong; for Photography: Peter Suarez and Kenneth Tee; and for Essay-Writing: Catherine Mae Chua, Josephine Yu and Charlotte Tan.

Congratulations to all participants! May you continue to use your talents to serve the Lord and give Him glory!

## CREATIVE ARTS



**PHOEBE JOY UY**  
FIRST PLACE



**LAWRENCE ONG**  
RUNNER-UP

## PHOTOGRAPHY



**PETER SUAREZ**  
FIRST PLACE



**KENNETH TEE**  
RUNNER-UP

## ESSAY-WRITING



**CATHERINE MAE CHUA**  
FIRST PLACE



**CHARLOTTE TAN**  
RUNNER-UP



**JOSEPHINE Q. YU**  
RUNNER-UP



# Rededication Sunday (November 22, 2015)





# Thanksgiving Night

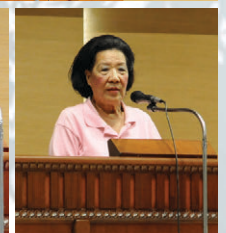
The Youth Committee was given responsibility for handling this year's special Thanksgiving Service, which was commemorated on November 26, 2015.

Compared to previous years, the Youth Committee did the Thanksgiving service a bit differently — something new.

The program flow was praise and worship, followed by prayer, message and then praise. Part 2 was sharing the talents and testimony of various church members.

**Pastor Jay Banzuelo** was the speaker for the night. His message, *“Rest in God’s Promise,”* referenced Psalm 4.

According to the message, God’s promise included five important blessings: the blessing of enlargement, the blessing of encouragement, the blessing of His enablement, the blessing of enlightenment, and last but not least, the blessing of enjoyment.





## CYF 67<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The grace of God has been so abundant to the youth fellowship. The Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF) has been in existence since I could remember. I have been joining it until now... from elementary, high school to college ... from a member, to an officer and now a counselor. Time flies so fast! :)

Pastor Jay Banzuelo was the speaker that night, and he shared with us about the dangers of social media. The topic was not just fitting for the kids but for everyone, including adults who are into social media.

In lieu of celebrating its 67<sup>th</sup> anniversary on November 27, 2015, the youth enjoyed the *boodle fight* dinner with the church workers and counselors. To the church leaders who came and supported the youth—thank you! We are ever grateful for you!

Three years from now, we will be celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> year. In spite of the ups and downs, God's grace, mercy and guidance have been sufficient to sustain CYF and keep it going strong.

May God continue to bless, guide and watch over our youth and the people involved. To God be the Glory!





## *Baptismal (December 6, 2015)*

One of the greatest commandment of Christ was the Great Commission: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”*

As Christians, it is our responsibility to spread God’s Word and teach them to everyone who is searching and hungry for His Word. Our work is to plant the seed and it’s the work of the Holy Spirit to make it grow.

Baptism is important not because it gives you salvation nor forgives your sin as what a lot of Christians misunderstood. Baptism plays an important role in the life of a Christian because it is a public declaration that you belong to God’s family.

Praise God for the following eighteen who were baptized: John Raphael Garcia, Patricia Ellis Corominas, Nigel Owen Ong, Malcom Ryan Ong, Caroline Joan Tan, Rennae Ellana Ong, Kelly Chia, Erin Ashley Po, Lorraine Belle Ang, Marc Peterson Suarez, Samantha Joy Su, Leeian Ashley Yap, Jasmine Collen Kaye Go, Eanna Joel Cañada, Ema Justee Cañada, Darynne Sacha Ong, Jennica Mae Tan, and Danica Yankee.

Let us continue to pray for these newly-baptized Christians, that they may live a life pleasing to God, have the hearts of a servant, and be the church’s future spiritual leaders.

As we all hope for, may they also hear God say to them, *“Well done my good and faithful servant.”*











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