

# Ebenezer

**APRIL 2019 ISSUE**

SUNGAI-WAY SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

Philippians 2:10-11 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



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# A word from Pastor!

So fast 3 months have passed coming into 2019. Not sure about your particular situation but I am sure quite a few New Year Resolutions made in good faith and sincerity would have since fallen by the proverbial way-side mainly due to the ever present 'tyranny of the urgent' as well as a matter of self-control and discipline.

Whatever and however that maybe, it is my constant hope and prayer as your Pastor that the desire and commitment to read through the entire Bible by Being With Jesus will continue to be a resolution that you keep even as we enter the final home stretch of our 3 years marathonic endeavour together as a Church Family.

In any marathon race, the starting is by far the easiest when we are all fresh, excited, eager and focused on running the race. It's as we progress in the race, when our body starts 'complaining' and each step needs that extra effort that we start to have second thoughts if we can still carry on or to give up. It's times like this where we need the assistance and encouragement of our fellow runners to help us to carry on and not give up.

This is where, the importance of being part of a Discipleship Group, meeting and sharing each week, can help to sustain and even refresh us spiritually to carry on **Being With Jesus** when the going gets tough. God continues to speak through His Word, different ways to different people and that's the innate beauty and freshness of the Living Word. Those who are going through a spiritually dry period of their life can be refreshed by the sharing of another so that they are revived in the Lord and vice-versa. This is one of the key benefits of being part of a Church Family and Community to see that all of us run the marathon race of life and finish well in the Lord. No matter what the world says or thinks, we are our brothers & sisters' keeper.

This is where as a Church Family, we strongly urge each one of you who regularly worships with us Sunday after Sunday and if asked will happily count SSMC as your 'home church', to officially take up Church membership with us and also be part of a Discipleship Group where life touches life, refining and polishing one another to finally become the shining gem that God wants us to be.

Being part a Discipleship Group is so important to our own individual spiritual life and corporately to the spiritual life and health of the SSMC Church Family that as your Shepherd I want each and everyone to be linked up and connected with a Discipleship Group for mutual encouragement and companionship.

Lastly as we read through the Old Testament Major and Minor prophetic books, I must confess that they are not easy to read and at times even harder to understand and apply. But hidden within these books are so many precious truths and promises that we need to know and even appropriate for our own life and walk with our Lord. So once again in our marathonic endeavour to read through the whole Bible Chronologically as a Church, as we are into the final lap, persevere on and do not give up but aim to finish well and finish strong. And it helps if we run with the companionship and fellowship of like minded believers so that we can all Celebrate the Life that we have in Him.

All Glory, Praise and Honor to Him who sits on the Throne.

In His service,  
Ps Dr Ng Swee Ming

**ASK PASTOR**

We have a column where you get the chance to ask Pastor for his views on any issue. Drop us an email at [ssmc.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:ssmc.pastor@gmail.com)! We look forward to your input and questions.

# Things to Give Thanks to God for 2018

BY MATTHEW TEE

The year 2018 has just passed us by.

I came to realize how God has led me and my family through last year.

Some highlights in 2018 which I wish to thank the Lord were:

I started work in Brunei at the end of 2016 and I gave thanks to God for opening an opportunity for me to work and connect with a wonderful church in Brunei (through a sister in SSMC). During the 2017 watchnight service, I asked for God's direction in my job for year 2018 as I was facing challenges and uncertainty in my job and family matters. God is ever faithful and true enough, He answered my prayer. God enabled my wife to work and join me in Brunei for about 6 months. Also, He made possible for my daughter (from Melbourne) to be with us for 3 months in Brunei. We enjoyed our holiday and had a good bonding time.

Another praise item is God's perfect guidance. My wife and I had to apply for a US and Canadian Visa to attend our son's graduation in June 2018. These applications seemed difficult for us as we had no idea on how to get it done in Brunei. The application for the Canadian Visa was found to be most troublesome as all submission certificates including our marriage certificate needed to be translated into English and endorsed by a notary public/court in Brunei. At the same time, our original certificates were kept in our PJ home. However, by God's grace we managed to get these applications done and interviewed for the US visa just in the nick of time in Brunei. Praise God as we were successfully granted both US visas and multiple entry visas to Canada and managed to buy the air-tickets on time.

God's provision for multiple entry visas to Canada was another example of God's goodness as this enabled us to save some money.

We finally had our 5-week holiday in Canada and US with both of our children joining us (Grace was able to come after getting her US visa from Melbourne. Praise God for this). The day we left Toronto was also our son's first day at work. We thank God for His perfect timing. God is good and He has always in store a wonderful plan ahead of us.

Back to our PJ home in July 2018, we had planned for our home renovation and the Lord guided us to find a reasonably priced and fair contractor. Finally, praise God for a good home renovation done within a month. It was a stressful time during the renovation as we could not stay in.

In the meantime, I received a call to enquire whether I was interested to consider a project management job in Myanmar. After much deliberation and prayers, I decided to embark for an initial period of time in Myanmar and then decide whether to stay longer or otherwise. After an initial 7 weeks over there, my wife joined me. We are still waiting upon God for His direction and purpose in Myanmar.

Praise God for His goodness and faithfulness in seeing us through in 2018. His perfect timing and plans for me and my family continue to amaze us.

We believe there could be more life changes and personal transformation for us in 2019 as we face uncertainties and challenges ahead. However, we will have no fear of the future as promised in Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you."

# Why Malaysia?

BY EDWARD ONG

The call is to make disciples of all nations. We are commanded to make every people group, every nation a follower of Christ. So that all the peoples of the earth may know the Lord alone is God and there is no other. The fulfilment of the great commission is too big for any one person, organization or nation. If we want to affect global change, we need a global movement. A global harvest of souls can only be accomplished by the global body of Christ working together.

A body has many parts. Each part has a role to play. If we look at it from that perspective- with Christ as the head- then each nation (i.e. each people group / geographic region) has a different role to play. I've often wondered: What is Malaysia's role in leading to Christ's return? How do we (the Malaysian church) prepare the way of the Lord- nationally and globally?

Do not think that the Malaysian church exists to only affect changes in Malaysia. Or that the church exists to only serve its community. We are part of a bigger plan. Jesse never saw the potential in his youngest son, i.e. that David would one day be king over Israel. And that his life and writings would inspire generations of believers. Likewise, may the Lord open our eyes and give us understanding of His plans and purposes for this beautiful land. Since the earliest of times, our people have helped shape the destiny of nations. For example:

**1** The first person to circumnavigate the globe was Enrique of Malacca. He was taken as a spoil of war and renamed Enrique from whatever his original name was. He followed Magellan back to Europe, and subsequently to the latter's search for a westward passage to the East Indies, where he served as an interpreter for the Spaniards. Magellan died in Philippines. We do not know if Enrique made the last 1000 or so miles back to Malacca, or if he did, when he did it. Antonio Pigafetta, scholar and crew member of Magellan's ship, wrote that the slave was one of the reasons Magellan was able to successfully convince the King of Spain to finance the expedition. Among other things, the King was fascinated by Enrique's skin colour and ability to speak several different languages fluently.

**2** When Admiral Cheng Ho visited this region, he bypassed Temasek- a so-called thriving port- and landed instead in Melaka. Melaka wasn't a great port but offered safe passage in cooperation with the orang-orang laut. Also, Melaka had not one but 4 Syahbandars (officers in charge of port administration) to maintain peace and order. The manuscript 'Undang Undang Melaka dan Undang Undang Laut' dictated the code and conduct of behaviour. The laws weren't set in stone, but changed according to the times.

**3** The concept of unity, harmony, and cooperation has been a running theme in our country's history since way back. Long before Barisan Nasional- and even before Pakatan Harapan- was formed, political parties have embraced and understood this concept. Dr Burhanuddin Al-Helmy, Kongres Partai Kebangsaan Melayu Malaya ke-2 was quoted in Melaka, December 1946:

*Di atas robohan Kota Melaka,  
Kita dirikan jiwa merdeka  
Bersatu padulah segenap baka  
Membela hak keadilan pustaka*

This was shortly after the surrender of Japan in August 1945, and the formation of the Malayan Union in April 1946. Our coat of arms, revised 1948, showed symbols representing the 11 states of the Federation of Malaya along with the motto "Unity is Strength". Today, it is written as *Bersatu Bertambah Mutu*.

**4** ZOPFAN (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality) was first proposed by the Malaysian parliament in 1968 as the 'neutrality of Southeast Asia guaranteed by the three great powers including Communist China'. It was endorsed at an ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting in 1971.

**5** Live Aid, a super-concert featuring 75 of the biggest names in music- broadcasted live to an estimated audience of 1.9 billion from 150 nations- to alleviate the famine in Ethiopia, was co-founded by a Malaysian businessman. It was a concert that made headlines everywhere, an event that changed the music world. And it happened because a Malaysian, Tan Sri Ananda Krishnan, and Bob Geldof put up USD750,000 in seed money and a USD1mil letter of credit to get the massive concert rolling. This news went viral in Nov 2018 and you may have already read about it.

Why Malaysia, Lord? Why did You call forth a people group called Malaysians for such a time as this? If there is only one church on earth, what part does the Malaysian congregation play in welcoming the glorious return of your Son? These questions may seem rhetorical. Perhaps I am trying to understand how the body of Christ works from a human and somewhat limited- perspective. What's clear is that God left the 99 to look for the 1 that wandered off. He poured out His love and mercy on this land when we didn't deserve it. He fought battles we didn't know we were fighting. His hands shaped our nation's history, and will shape our nation's future.

If we are able to grasp the bigger picture, we will know how to pray strategically. If we understand our nation's gifts and calling, we will know what is it we have/ ought to do, and to teach others the same. May the Lord show us Malaysia from His perspective. May He give us an understanding of countries from a biblical worldview. This I know is true: We were created for His glory. We are called to be history makers. Whether we realise it or not, our lives- what we do- influence the destiny of nations. He has brought us out of darkness to be part of His body to usher in and witness the greatest harvest in history. And the subsequent establishment of the greatest government the world has ever known. Everything begins and ends with and in God. And so, come, Lord Jesus.



# From Nope to HOPE



BY DANIELLE FOO

At 17 years of age, there have been countless times where I have been tempted to give in to the world and give up on what God says because the fire is too much for me to contain. Since I was 14, I've learned to keep my faith and hope even when it wasn't the easiest task. Though I grew up in church and had my faith grounded in the word of God since I could remember, the enemy still would test me, especially as I entered into my teenage years.

I always struggled with insecurities and doubts on what my purpose is. At times, I would get so lost and defeated by not having the ball in my court, I would break down and even blame God for what He puts me through. The recurrent thoughts of being purposeless and even "worthless" would bring a wave of sadness over me too many times. Those times really tested my faith because at the time, NO would seem to be the easier, more realistic option, than to keep persevering and saying YES to God when it feels like I'm running empty. When the clouds in my life became dark and grey, it would be hard for me to say I have confidence in the Lord and I will still wait on Him and hope in Him. It seemed to me that when I said yes to God, I was saying yes to more suffering, yes to more hurts, yes to more disappointments and yes to more rejections.

Studies and school weren't the easiest thing for me and unlike Asians who actually live up to being "brainy" or "smart", I wasn't that. If I'm being honest, many times I would say no to God because I somehow managed to define the weight of what God wanted to do through me and use me for, by how smart and bright I was. Even now, it still is a trouble to be confident in the hope I have in Christ, when the world rejects me and says no to my abilities or ideas.

But I've also learnt that there is more to the story. When I say yes to God, I say yes to His word. I say yes to His truth. I say yes to His prophecies. And I say YES to Him. The crushing and pressing moments of life aren't meant to hurt me, but they are meant to fulfill what God has called me to do from the moment I say yes to Him. The hope and faith I have in God to trust that He is still good and faithful is the zipline that carries me through and over the ocean of doubt, feelings of rejection or hopelessness I face and brings me to the other side where I see that the pressing in becomes worth it. When God says yes to something, the world's no could and would not change His word if we have hope in what He says, no matter how hard it gets.

I hope that as I grow up, I'll learn to say yes to God and His will for my life, whatever that may be and whatever storms it will take to shape me to the woman He has created me to be. I hope to keep my eyes on the end goal and not be discouraged by the "NOs" I hear, but say YES and AMEN to His promises and truth. I acknowledge that in this broken world, I will face rejection and be turned down for things that I want. But I also acknowledge that my hope in God is not one that is redundant, and it will bear fruit in His timing. I, myself, will not be able to handle the fire God puts me in, but with His hand on my life, I get to be refined and changed by His grace, for His glory, if I say yes to Him.

I've seen God break through in my life – in studies, family and relationships. I've had rough times in all of them, but I chose to say yes to Him even when it did not make sense at all. Now I'm off to college, pursuing the course I want to do, while having a God-centered support system that points me back to God and His faithfulness every time. It was not an easy journey and it still isn't the easiest, but with God on my side, I know and have HOPE that things will turn out better than I ever thought it could be, because of Him.

Malachi 3:3 (ESV)

*He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.*



# Thunderstorms... The Cool... Being the Pedestrian

BY CHARIN TEH

## 1. Thunderstorms

I love thunderstorms. From the 41st floor of my office building, the gathering clouds in the darkening sky is quite a sight to behold! Reading Isaiah reminds me of this sight.

We hear the rumbling of thunder in the failed coalition between Israel and Syria (Isa 7-8; 2 Ki 16; 2 Chr 28) and Judah's failed alliance with Egypt (Isa 19-20; 2 Ki 17-18) as we interspace our reading with 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles. We see the imminent dark clouds of the impending judgement of the Assyrian army, the siege coming upon Judah and Jerusalem, the destruction of Samaria and the rising superpower, Babylon. We know the storm is coming.

Now God calls His people to court; the defendant is in the stands, the judge at the Bench and the charges are read. The sin of the people of God: Forsaking the covenant. They have forgotten the redemption of their forefathers and replaced Him with cheap expressions of worship. It is no surprise that social injustice, cynical leaders and idolatry are not uncommon. God pronounces judgement: Israel and Judah will be conquered and exiled but God will also punish the nations who oppress them.

## 99. The Cool

I love thunderstorms. Not simply because they are magnificent displays of God's power but more for the wonderful cool that comes after the pelting has finally stopped. With the fields now watered by the Master Gardener, it looks like life can begin again and all is well and right with the world. That is, after a thunderstorm.

But reading through Isaiah so far hasn't exactly been that kind of thunderstorm. In fact, it often feels more akin to the Malaysian February weather where late afternoon's dark clouds promise the much-desired downpour but never fully delivers on the promise of the storm that is big enough to provide sustainable respite from the stifling humidity. And so, the cool never truly comes permanently.

One may wonder why the cool is so desirable. We forget that it is in the cool that mankind first discovered fellowship and communion with God. But one fateful day, when the first man and woman heard God walking in the garden, as He probably did with them many times before (at least I would like to think so), they hid.

Gen 3:8 And (Adam and Eve) heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

They hid because they had sinned.

Even if they could not fully comprehend how universally altering their sin was, at the very least, they knew that they somehow could not face Him. This was the same LORD who created the world; the same LORD from whom they had received dominion to rule over every fish of the sea, every bird of the air and every living thing that moves on the earth; the same LORD who provided every herb that yields seed and every tree that bears fruit for their sustenance and enjoyment. And yes, these were the very same trees they now tried to hide amongst!

In other places, this cool of the day translates into wind or breath or spirit. This cool is God's presence drawing near for it is His Spirit who convicts of sin and takes the first steps to call us to repentance and reconciliation. We may be a people of broken covenant but our God is not for if we are faithless, He remains faithful—for He cannot deny Himself (2 Tim 3:13). This is the narrative of God's story.

In Isaiah, we'll watch as God lays out His salvation plan in chapters 40-55. But until Christ returns and we live under His reign and rule, that perfect cool of the day, we'll continue living in the February rains, seeing in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now we know in part; then we shall know fully, even as we have been fully known (1 Cor 3:12).

## 999. Being the Pedestrian

I love thunderstorms. However, if you have ever chosen walking as a means of transportation, then you'll know or at least be able to imagine that being caught in a thunderstorm is not fun for the pedestrian. Your feet are inevitable drenched and no one's to stop that speeding vehicle from driving right through a puddle with no thought for the innocent pedestrian who gets sprayed and soaked, now less presentable than ever, if at all they reach their destination. Or perhaps if you've ridden a motorcycle, you would know that it isn't easy nor pleasant to navigate through the rain and wind especially when you, unlike the safe passenger of in a car, do not have the luxury of a 'visor wiper'.

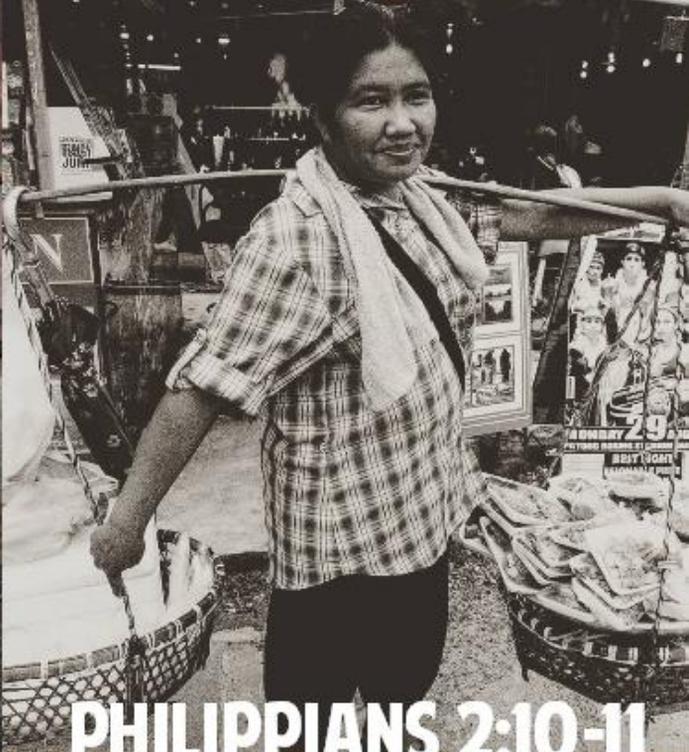
The point is, we would only admire a thunderstorm if we were not directly exposed to its elements. The people of God in Isaiah's day were never spared from the judgement. They were carried into exile and there, wondered how they could ever sing in the midst of their circumstances (Psa 137:4). In those moments, it was the faithful proclamation of the prophets that give them vision of hope.

It would be foolish to think that the human race has left the depths of its depravity because even in today's modern world, we are still prone to make little of God by our decisions and priorities. Thankfully, God is merciful and though our humbling may not be our decision, it becomes our freedom to see Him pull the carpet from under us and teach us to rest in His hands alone.

As we live in the already-and-not-yet, may we find that He gives us a sensitivity to sin, increases our capacity to feel great and large things, gives us vision to behold His majesty, patience in the waiting and courage in the fight against every thought which lures us to selfishness, discontentment and a failure to believe that He is a good God. For there is no day where His fountain of mercy does not flow and never a season desolate of His goodness.

One day there will be a final judgement (Isa 56-66) and we will sing in adoration with all the saints who have first put their hope in Christ. For in hearing the word of truth and believing in Him, we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory (Eph 1:12-14).

*When all Thy mercies, O my God,  
my rising soul surveys,  
transported with the view,  
I'm lost in wonder, love, and praise.  
- Joseph Addison -*



Photos by Lilaine Lai

## PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11

**10 THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH AND UNDER THE EARTH.**  
**11 AND EVERY TONGUE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**

# Kini Bebas Untuk Selamanya

KESAKSIAN DARI  
MARCONI, KEBAKTIAN BAHASA MALAYSIA (KBM)

Pada 15hb March 2019 jam 11.45pm saya telah diputuskan dalam nama Tuhan Yesus Kristus dari kuasa kegelapan (azimat) yang selama ini saya pernah guna pada masa lalu. Sebelum itu saya ingin ceritakan pada petangnya sebelum mula Cara Mengkaji Alkitab (CMA) lebih kurang jam 8pm. Rio dan isterinya nampak diri saya macam tidak selesa dan mereka berdua nampak saya seperti marah-marah dan pada waktu itu pun saya rasa macam tidak mahu adakan CMA di rumah saya. Tetapi saya teruskan sahaja pembelajaran CMA. Setelah habis pembelajaran CMA. Pastor Peter mengajak saya berbual dan saya duduk sebelah Pastor.

Pastor berbual dengan saya mengenai firman Tuhan dan pada masa ini juga Pastor Peter mengatakan kepada saya adakah kamu percaya Yesus Kristus sebagai Juruselamat kamu? Adakah kamu sudah siap untuk menyerahkan segala-galanya kepadaNya? Dan saya mengatakan Ya saya siap. Pastor Peter dan Ibu Mary dan rakan sepelayanan dan adik saya sendiri menjadi saksi dan berdoa untuk doa pemutusan. Di sini saya membuat kesaksian tentang saya diputuskan hubungan dari kuasa kegelapan. Sebelum saya membacakan firman Tuhan di 1 Yohanes 4:4. Diri saya macam memberontak dan saya merasa sangat marah dan tidak selesa dan hendak lari dan tidak mahu untuk didoa dan tidak mahu untuk membaca firman itu. Pada masa itu juga saya nampak adik berkata buka hati kau sebanyak 3 kali dari itu juga saya merasa sangat marah. Pada masa pemutusan itu. Saya telah mendapat penglihatan dari Tuhan Allah.

Ketika itu saya melihat diri saya berada di dalam ruangan yang sangat gelap dan saya melihat satu cahaya yang sangat terang muncul di hadapan saya. Dia berjubah putih dan cahayaNya sangat terang dan tanganNya terbuka didepan saya. Muka Dia tidak dapat dilihat kerana cahayaNya itu sungguh terang. Saya terus menangis dengan memeluk Pastor dan sekali lagi saya merasakan Tuhan Yesus Kristus menyentuh belakang saya dan saya terus menangis di bahu Pastor Peter.

Setelah habis pemutusan itu dan apa yang telah Dia perlihatkan kepada saya, saya merasakan diri saya bebas daripada segala-galanya dan saya merasakan diri saya sangat tenang sampai saya tidak berkata-kata. Saya merasakan juga diri saya

sudah dibaharui oleh kasih Tuhan yang begitu besar. Pada waktu itu juga saya mendengar pintu diketuk sebanyak 3 kali bukan saya sahaja yang mendengar pintu rumah saya diketuk tetapi Feddis dan isterinya serta adik saya juga. Saya tidak mempedulikan kerana dalam fikiran saya mungkin jiran sebelah. Tetapi pintu diketuk masih bermain di fikiran saya kerana jika ada jiran sebelah masuk rumahnya, saya pasti boleh dengar pagar besi itu berbunyi. Tetapi saya tidak mempedulikannya kerana sekarang ini saya sudah punya Tuhan yang Maha Kudus dan Mahasuci. Di sini saya sangat bersyukur kepada Dia iaitu Tuhan Allah, Yesus Kristus kerana dengan kasih karuniaNya Tuhan kepada hidup saya begitu besar.

1 Yohanes 4:4 (AVB)

Namun demikian, anak-anakku, kamu milik Allah. Kamu telah menewaskan nabi-nabi palsu itu, kerana roh yang ada padamu lebih berkuasa daripada roh yang ada di dalam dunia.



## Safe Haven

BY SARAH YONG

A safe haven that brings you the peace you so long for. A safe haven that will heal your brokenness and help you understand that there is someone who would keep your heart safe for as long as you shall live. The kind of love that would understand your heart's vulnerable whispers and expand your capacity to love in return. The kind of love that will surround, build, grow and change every single thing around in powerful, indescribable ways. The kind of love where you're unafraid to fail, learn and wear your flaws on your sleeves. I have caught a glimpse of that kind of love in this safe haven.

And so I will walk, trusting that the kind of love is always there,  
That will lead me here,  
That I am not  
Alone.

# WORLD GENERATION GATHERING

UNITED PRAYER RISING - GLOBAL

INDONESIA 2019

13 of us of all generations took a trip to encounter God in Jakarta: our eyes were opened and our lives changed. It wasn't merely a conference. It was an encounter with God, we wanted to join Him in what He is doing in the nations. We went with that mindset. We responded, we saw, we encountered. Some youths got around to penning down their thoughts to share... what a transforming God we have.

## BY ARRY MAZAIL

This is my first trip to Jakarta. My purpose to go for this trip was because I wanted to experience and to learn more about God. When I was there, my first thought was how much I looked forward to hearing from God at this conference.

Many powerful things were said and what impacted me the most were the following:

- We will have a second birth. And giving birth is not easy, not cheap, but giving birth requires durability, consistency and preparation.
- We as sons and daughters of Christ fight not for victory but from victory. The young generation is not standing on a low platform, but they are standing on a high platform.
- If you are filled with evil and darkness, then the darkness will shape how you pray. But if you are filled with Father's love, the darkness will not be formed.

My life was changed since God touched my heart during this conference.

### FAMILY

"ONE GOD, ONE BODY,  
ONE FATHER"  
(COL 3:15)

### DESTINY

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS  
THIS"  
(ESTHER 4:14)

### MISSIONS

"AN ARMY TERRIFYING  
WITH BANNERS"  
(SONG 6:10)

## BY MATTHEW WONG

I was initially persuaded by my parents and leaders in church to participate in this prayer conference. But I decided that I wanted to experience something new hence I agreed to join this trip. I was amazed by the number of Christians who gathered in Indonesia for the conference.

It opened my eyes to see God's plan at work and how the young generation will rise up and spread the fire of God all over the world. I was deeply touched when we were praying for each country that attended the conference. It was just wonderful to see God's people praying passionately for the different nations.

### VISION "UNITED PRAYER RISING" - UPRISING

The **UPRISING** is a global gathering of those who **dare to believe** that prayers are heard, of those who believe **their voices matter**, and that with one voice, the course of **history can change**. We will gather those who will speak the heart of **God into being**. With so many overwhelming issues, we are gathering those whose reality is not just seen with the human eyes, but those who know that **there is a Kingdom that has come and is coming**.

*We will gather. We will pray. We will see change in our regions and our nations.*

It was a change to be surrounded by Christians all the time and not being shy about the Gospel. I was moved by the way the people worshipped during worship sessions because they really sang their hearts out and were fully focused on worshipping God.

I was even more amazed during the Solemn Assembly where we worshipped and prayed non-stop for 6 hours. Even though it was late, everyone still had the fire in them to keep praising and worshipping. The sermons shared during the conference were new to me.

Coming back, I realized that sometimes I wasn't focused on God during worship and prayer sessions. I felt that I needed to stop thinking and just put down everything and worship God without being distracted.

I would really encourage everyone to just worship and obey Him with all your might and soul because I've seen many people at the conference who were willing to lay down their lives before God and to respond to his calling. Sometimes we are too focused on our personal calling that we forget about God's calling for us. If another Uprising Prayer Conference is held in the future, I greatly encourage more to just go and experience something different.

**BY ASHER WONG**

When I first heard about the trip, I was excited as I have not heard or been to such an event. Those who went for the previous conference told me of their great experience and my youth leaders encouraged me to go.

On the first day of the conference, I was so amazed that everyone there was worshipping freely and unashamed. I did not hold back but instead just released myself to worship God. It wasn't just people singing songs, it was people experiencing God and praising Him! I had not felt so alive and on fire for God.

Through one of the sessions I learned that everything from the Kingdom is received and not achieved. I used to think that we have to pray hard and read the Bible so that we can be with God and hear Him. I did not know that we as sons and daughters of Christ fight battles from victory and not for victory. My orphan spirit that thought I needed to be more "holy" so that I can be with God was completely removed. I felt so close to God and so far away from the worldly things.

**WE ARE HERE  
FOR SUCH A  
TIME AS THIS.  
WE CAN MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE!**

There was a 24-hours prayer room where people worshipped non-stop throughout the day. On the third day, I spent half my meal time to just go before God in humility and speak to Him. My time at the prayer room was such a great experience.

What touched me the most was the Solemn Assembly that took place for 6 hours at the Jakarta Stadium. Everyone was jumping, singing, kneeling and crying their hearts out to the Lord. I remember standing with my youth leaders, holding hands and raising our hands together to the call for the younger generation!

It was a call to stand firm and stand against the enemy. The speaker said "The enemy is not out just to hurt you, he is out to kill you. Because if this generation awakens, there will be the greatest revival the world has ever seen." I was greatly impacted and I was ready for revival.

Though I'm back home in Malaysia, I am changed from the inside out. As much as I am young, I believe I can still make a difference. Because if our God is for us, who can be against us?



**BY SARAH YONG**

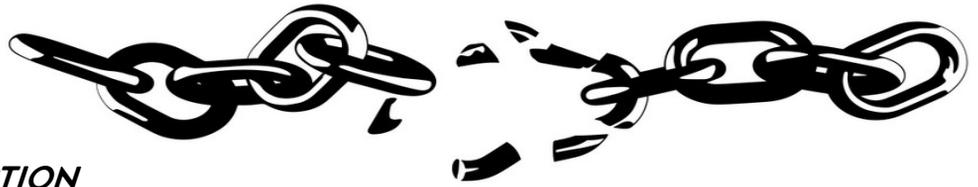
During World Global Generation in Jakarta, I was able to experience the greatness of the kingdom of God in a larger context. The Holy Spirit and the glory of God is being revealed and manifested in every nation.

I learned that to be able to experience the fullness of God, one of the key things is prayer. Prayer does not only bring breakthroughs, it can birth things into existence and bring down the fire of God. When we're empowered by prayer, it can change the destiny of the church and our nation. We must have the boldness to speak to the soul of darkness. I believe that we are entering the greatest spiritual warfare where the darkness is on the move in the spiritual realm. We need to win the battle in the spiritual realm to win the physical one. Fasting and humbling ourselves before the Lord has to happen. We need to repair our worship, repair our prayers.

As we are united among the body of Christ, we begin to understand the heart of God. Together with sincere motives, we want to see the glory of God being revealed in SSMC. We offer our sacrifices. Yes, the word sacrifice is painful. We have to pay the price. Remember that God has already shown us a level of sacrifice that goes beyond. What is the most expensive thing to us? Are we willing to lay it down at the altar? There is a greater life in exchange for ours. This is what it means to follow Jesus.

# Is it about us or Is it about God?

EDITOR'S PICK



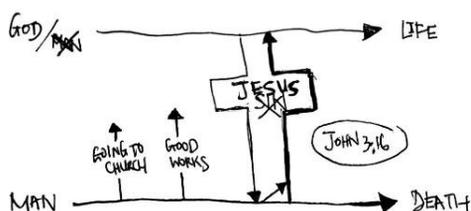
## A MORNING REFLECTION

A comfort zone is called a comfort zone for simply one reason: it's comfortable. It's what we know. It's what we are used to. It's what we like. But as followers of Christ, we aren't called to a life of comfort as we know it. Just take a look at the Bible. Was there ever a story about someone that made a difference by staying in their comfort zone?

Let's see... well firstly, we have Moses (Exo 3-4), who arguably needed a lot of coaxing to go and he wasn't particularly excited to go at the end either, but he OBEYED. Next, let's look at Gideon (Judges 6). He didn't think he measured up to expectations, but he OBEYED.

And then we have Esther. Now, this lady has always been a real gem in my book. I remember reading Esther over and over again as a kid during sermons in church (oops, haha!). First, she was taken away from her people to become queen. As regal and wonderful as that sounds, I'm pretty sure it wasn't all fun and that was only the first part. Once she probably got comfortable as queen, she then had to make another move (Est 4-7) that would risk everything that she had, in a sense, worked for. And though God was not specifically mentioned throughout the book, we all know one thing: she OBEYED.

That's what we are called to: a life of obedience (2 John 1:6). But then again... what does this really mean to us?



Recently at Incense Arise, it was brought up that there are 3 things that are holding a lot of us back from coming to God and from living a life with freedom in Christ – Control, Image and Unworthiness.

As someone that can be pretty anal about things, I love being in control. I want to be able to plan ahead. I want to know what's happening, when and how it's happening. But living and walking with Jesus means **RELEASING** that control (Matt 6:33), **ALLOWING** Him to take control (Gal 2:20) and **RESTING** in Him (Matt 11:28) instead of running around like a headless chicken. And that's scary, but necessary.

When it comes to image, let's be real: nobody likes to look stupid or weak. You know those exercises where you're supposed to list your strengths and weaknesses? Most people will have a long list for strengths, but very few would actually write much in the weakness section. But following Jesus doesn't make sense sometimes. We will look stupid. To the world, at least. But we know better right? (Ps 118:8) So why live like we don't?

Thirdly, the whole issue of unworthiness. These are simply **LIES** from the devil. There is zero substance to it (James 4:7). When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He cemented the way for us to God. You know how we're taught to draw the John 3:16 diagram to share about Christ? Where the 2nd line that forms the cross go from man to God? I think we need to draw that in our hearts. Everyone is made worthy (John 3:16). Whether we feel it or not.

So, what happens next? We live... **RECKLESSLY** as it may seem. Now, did that word spark something? Last year, a huge controversy erupted over the song "Reckless Love". Many people felt that using the word "reckless" to describe God's love was... for lack of a better term, reckless. While I sometimes view this kind of arguments as unnecessary, I couldn't help thinking... "But... isn't it true? That God's love **IS** seemingly reckless?" Let me explain why. If we are looking at it from the world's perspective, God loving us.. us lowly humans, despite all the times that we reject Him, we forget Him, we ignore Him, we only remember Him when we're in bad times... that's just reckless, isn't it? It's not a good investment at all. Also, releasing control of our lives... won't that seem reckless to the world? Not caring about what people think of us... doesn't that sound reckless? Believing that we are worth something, when the whole world says or tells us we aren't... isn't that reckless?

So, while I probably won't be voting for the song to be sung at church, it really was a good reminder of how different the world's perspective and God's perspective can be. And how vital it is for us to see things from His perspective. It's never meant to be about us, **IT'S ABOUT GOD**. So... plug in. Stay connected (John 15:5). Listen. Obey. And be amazed.

*"Never measure God's unlimited power by your limited expectations."  
Our Daily Bread, 3 Aug 2016*



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< **IN**  
>> **FORTH**

MARK 3:14B-15

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