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逆境

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因爲世界經濟不景,各行業都在走下坡。曾經雄霸世界的美國三大汽車廠,現在正面臨破產。在中國,正當人人都在談論好日子,講究名牌汽車、羅衣享受、美酒佳餚的時候,又怎會料到有許多工廠會突然關閉,發達的時運那麼急速的消逝呢?其實先人早已說過,好景不常在、好花不常開,只是我們沒有好好的牢記在心上。

逆境是自然的現像,社會的循環,和人生的一部分。俗語說:

"人無千日好,花無百日紅。" 遊境是肯定會來臨的,問題只是在什麼時候會來,和既然來了,我們要怎樣去應付。 曾經向神求智慧的所羅門王說: "你要保守你的心,勝過保守一切。 因為一生的果效,是由心發出。" (箴言 4:23)

意思是說,如果你的心被打 敗了,外面一切也會跟著全部垮 台。如果你的心還未死,外面的一 切雖然已經垮台,總有一天,你會 捲土重來,再創天下。所以當你面 對逆境的時候,悲哀固然是常情, 但是切勿悲哀過度,和悲哀過長。 如果你這樣做,你會心灰意冷,志 氣消沉,甘願作一個失敗者。

那麼,我們要怎樣去面對逆境呢?聖經教導我們,要凡事交託給創造天地萬物和我們的真神。大衛是在以色列歷史之中最多人愛戴的君王。他一生愛神愛人,寫詩作歌,留給後世一個美好的榜樣。然而,他的一生不知經歷了多少逆境。他說: "當將你的事交託耶和華,並倚靠祂,祂就必成全。" (詩 37:5) 如果你正面對逆境,爲什麼不效法大衛,把你一切的困難交在神的手上呢?耶和華神昨天怎樣

我們中國人有一句老話,鼓勵了所有炎黃子孫在中華大地上生活了五千多年。這句話就是:

看顧大衛,今天也必看顧你。

"天無絕人之路。" 在自然的世界裏面,上天讓一個可怕的逆境來到,目的是要叫地上的生靈和萬物將來有更美麗的好境。 古語也說: "風霜之威,天之殺物,正以成物;禍患之降,天之阳人,正

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Inside this issue:

劉廣華牧師 1

Pastor Linus 3

施亭竹傳道 5

許錦根執事 7

陳偉倫執事 8

Cathy Yeung 11

以諾長者團契 15

李欣 17

Apple Woo 19

Josefina Lai 21

陳可蘭 22

徐少靖 24

欣然 25

高琳 29

何艷 30

朱廣龍 31





『珊瑚泉之宪』

以成人。" 逆境過去,就是好境了。

一九七二年,美國尼克森總統訪問中 國。當他返回美國的時候,記者們問他說:

"總統先生,您是第一個美國總統訪問中國。中國有五千年燦爛的文化,您可否跟我們分享一下您在中國所學到的呢?"尼克森總統毫無猶疑的回答說: "我在中國學到兩個中文字,就是危機。意思是說,危險就是機會。"下面是一個好例子。

一八七二年,有一個熱浪侵襲美國加利福尼亞州,結果把加州所有的葡萄都烤乾了。一百多年前的美國農夫,幾乎每一個都是基督徒。面對這個突然而來的災難,他們不但沒有怨天尤人,反而向神禱告說: "賞賜的是耶和華,收取的也是耶和華。耶和華的名是應當稱頌的。"(約伯記 1:21) 他們把乾葡萄拿到農人市場去賣給商人。商人替這些乾葡萄出了一個廣告,說: Peruvian Delicacies 秘魯美食。結果人人喜歡,讚口不絕。從此,葡萄乾(Raisins)就風行全球。

心理學家說,當一個人面對逆境的時候,他就很容易沮喪。當他沮喪的時候,他對什麼都會失去興趣。首先對他的寵物失去興趣,跟著對他所愛的人失去興趣,最後連對自己也失去興趣。結果,奮鬥的力量完全失去,向前的心志完全消滅。 更有些人還可能會自尋短見,自殺斃命,一了百了。所以面對逆境,剛剛交託神還不夠,更要倚靠祂。

世上雖然有許多我們可以倚靠的人,可惜他們也會遭遇患難,和我們一樣。筆者讀大學的時候,有一位教授,是美國甘乃迪總統的同窗。他在班上對我們說: "我計劃發展一項研究工作,請甘乃迪總統幫忙。總統已經答應了我,當他訪問德薩斯州之後,就會來加州訪問。到時,他會抽時間來跟我見面。"萬料不到,當甘乃迪總統訪問德州的時候,竟然在達拉斯城(Dallas)遭人暗殺了。聖經告訴我們:

"你們不要倚靠君王,不要倚靠世人。 他一點

不能幫助。他的氣一斷,就歸回塵土。他所打算的,當日就消滅了。" (詩 146:3-4)我們唯一可以倚靠的,就是耶和華神。只有祂能夠成全我們的心願。

交託神和倚靠神的意思,並不是天天坐 在家裏祈禱,什麼事都不做。相反的,一個真 正交託神和倚靠神的人,他一定會採用積極的 行動來面對逆境。 我們不是在那裏等著逆境過 去;我們乃是站立起來,勇往直前,向著逆境 衝過去。聖經有一個非常精彩的例子。

當摩西帶領以色列人離開埃及,來到紅海邊沿的時候,突然發現法老王親自帥領全埃及最精銳的軍隊從後面追來。 這正是前無去路,後有追兵,大禍臨頭。當時有一句流行的話,說: "誰敢抵擋法老呢?" 意思是說,法老天下無敵,敢抵擋法老的人必定死無葬身之地。以色列民面對這個絕境厄運,從少到老,都在那裏捶胸痛哭,向耶和華神禱告哀求。連偉大的摩西都不知道怎樣做,也只好向神禱告。就在這個時候,神對摩西說: "你爲什麼向我哀求呢?你吩咐以色列人往前走!" (出埃及記 14:15) "活的聖經" (The Living Bible)這樣翻譯: "Quit praying and get the people moving! Forward,march!"意思是說: "快停止禱告,帶領全民前進!前進,進!"

結果摩西依照神的吩咐,向海伸杖,紅海的水就立刻分開,以色列民就勇往直前,走在紅海的乾地上,平平安安的走到對岸。當以色列全民都到了紅海的另一邊的時候,神叫海水復合,淹沒了在後面追趕的法老全軍。從此古埃及的國勢衰落,歷代不起。法老代表絕境,世界上可能真的沒有人能夠抵擋法老,但是絕對沒有一個法老可以抵擋耶和華神。

主耶穌說: "在世上你們有苦難,但你們可以放心,我已經勝了世界。" (約翰16:33下)感謝神!我們所跟隨信靠的,是一位得勝的救主。

Page 3 『珊瑚泉之宪』

Sowing and Reaping

(Adapted from a sermon , Jan. 18 , 2009)

Pastor Linus Lau

You are driving home at the middle of the night. You see a house on fire. What do you do? Stop and knock on the door, yell and make all kinds of noise to wake people up? Or you say, "Well, people are sound asleep. Let's not disturb them. Besides, I don't want to get involved." And so you drive on and just let the people burn to death. You wouldn't do that, would you?

Yet, that's exactly what many Christians do. We know the danger that people are facing. They are without God and without hope. They are walking the path that leads to eternal fire. They are our neighbors, our friends, and our families. Yet we don't want to disturb them from their slumber. We are too busy with our own lives. We are too busy with church. We just can't be bothered right now. Perhaps next week, or next year, or someday. Someday.

The disciples who lived with Jesus had the same kind of attitude – the *someday* attitude. And Jesus had to correct that attitude (John 4:35): "No, the time is now. Harvest time for the kingdom of God is anytime."

Lord of the Harvest

In the Gospel of John, Chapter Four, we see that Jesus and his disciples were passing through a village in Samaria, and he stopped by a well to talk to a Samaritan woman. Now , the disciples did not like to be there in a hostile place. The Samaritans and the Jews did not like each other. And so these New Testament Jonahs were probably thinking they were wasting their time. These people didn't deserve to be saved. We shouldn't be preaching here, especially not to a foreign woman. The Jews had a law that forbade men to talk with women in public, not even to one's own wife. (I bet some of you husbands would love that law). But the Lord broke the tradition and led the Samaritan woman to a saving faith. Still, the disciples were mumbling and making excuses. They were reluctant to cross the social, economic, and racial barriers.

Are we guilty of the same? We don't want to have relationship with our Chinese communities because we think they are deeply entrenched in unbelief and superstition. We make all kinds of excuses and try to isolate ourselves, with the

excuse that we should be set apart from the rest of the world. But what did Jesus say? Although we are not of the world, we are in the world. And so while we are in the world, we need to engage the unbelievers with the hope of witnessing to them. After we've been Christian for a while, we run the danger of having only Christian friends, and we fail to impact the dying world for Christ. But the Lord of harvest said, "Look stop making excuses. You think these people are not ready to receive the gospel? Look Up! See all the people that you thought were not interested? Here they come already. They are white for harvest" (John 4:35).

The opportunity for a great harvest is never greater than now. The economic crisis has plunged many people into anxiety and even depression. We could say that "O, they don't even have jobs. They wouldn't be interested in spiritual things. Let's wait till the economy turns around." But what is the real need in everybody's heart? Sometimes our physical problems open up our hearts to our spiritual problem. When you look out there, what do you see? Do you simply see a lot of people who are not interested? Or do you see a lot of prospects who need Christ? We have to go and sow, so that they will know their real need. When we trust and obey the Lord of harvest, we will see a great harvest.

Love of the Harvest (4:28-30)

How did this white harvest come about? The woman, as soon as she was saved, was so thankful that she wanted to take part in the business of harvesting. She dropped everything to go and tell others, and so these people were coming to see what the excitement was all about. A sure sign of our salvation is that we cannot stop talking about lesus

Do you talk to people about Jesus? You will if you love the Lord of the Harvest. And if you love the Lord of the Harvest, you will love the harvesting of lost souls. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). There are all kinds of love in this world, but none can compare with the love that our Lord has given us. He laid down his life to pay for our sins on the cross.

What are you willing to lay down for the love of our kinsmen? We are becoming more and more visible in the community , and people are watching



us. When they look at us, will they be attracted to Christ? Or will they say, "If these are the Christians, then I don't need to become one." For the love of the harvest, what are you willing to give up?

Law of the Harvest (4:36-38)

When you love the Lord of harvest and love his harvest, then you will keep the Law of the harvest (4:36-38). What is the law of the harvest? First of all, harvesting is not a solo performance. Harvesting is team work. Our team leader of course is our Lord, who sowed the most important Seed (John 12:24). His death and resurrection has launched the great harvest that will last until He comes again. We are given the privilege to be partners with Him in this great ministry. Some of us will sow, and some of us will reap, but we will all share the same reward.

It never amazes me how gracious our God is. We are such unworthy servants who are only doing our duty. Yet, our Lord pays us wages for doing our duty. What are those wages? I don't know. The Bible doesn't specify. But I can assure you that they will exceed our wildest imagination. But I'm not even thinking that far ahead. I think of the reward that we receive even in the here and now.

There is joy in sowing, and there is joy in reaping. Whenever we see somebody come to Christ, we should rejoice together, because it is a team effort. Some of you have already talked to that person about Christ, perhaps performed some deeds of kindness, or perhaps had shown her such a sweet Christian life, so that at the right time and place, God uses somebody else to call that person into His kingdom.

But to be effective in our sowing and reaping, we must do it with tears (Ps. 126:5-6). We weep because our Lord weeps for lost souls. If you preach the gospel with a judgmental kind of spirit, you will never win anybody to Christ. But when you preach with compassion, with genuine tears in your heart, the Holy Spirit will touch hearts.

Go sow in tears, and you will reap with rejoicing.

Loss of Harvest (Jer. 8:20)

If we are not willing to sow, then we will not reap. That is the law of the harvest. And if we do not reap, then there will be a great loss (Jer.8:20).

The harvest is passing us very rapidly right here in Coral Springs. There are about 5,000 Chinese in the Broward County, and only 300 of them are in our church. The harvest is passing for 4,700 of them. Where is our urgency? Many of them are aging and will probably leave the world without ever hearing the Good News that could bring them eternal life.

Last Wednesday night I was summoned to officiate at a funeral service. I have never seen so many old Chinese people gathered in one place. I felt the urgency. I preached the cross with all my heart. And I went home and wept. "Lord, will the harvest be past for these kinsmen of mine? Lord, have mercy on them."

Conclusion

One autumn night many years ago, in Alberta, Canada, there was a young farmer who went out walking in the fields with his wife and their 5-year old son. It was close to the time of harvesting. Under the beautiful moonlight and soft breeze, the wheat fields looked like a golden ocean waving back and forth. As they were walking through the wheat fields enjoying the beautiful night, they started talking about their dreams and plans, and they lost track of time. Then all of a sudden they realized that their little boy was no longer behind them. So, they started calling out his name, and even went different directions, hoping to find him quickly. They started to panic because the cold night was settling in, and the boy could be in danger of freezing to death.

So the husband went back to the village to get some help. Right away, a couple of hundred people followed him back to the fields to help find the boy. But after a few hours, they still couldn't find him. Finally, one man said, "I think there is a better way. Let's organize a human chain. Let's all join hands to form one line and then sweep across these fields." So up and down they went when suddenly there was a cry, "I found him." Everybody rushed over to see the little boy. But it was too late. He had already died of exposure to the cold night. There was much weeping and wailing and the father was heard saying, "Why didn't we join hands together sooner?

Brothers and sisters, God has prepared us for a time and place such as this. Before us is a large harvest field that is white. Many of our kinsmen are hopelessly lost in the field. They will perish forever if we don't go and bring them to Christ. This is our mission. It is time we join our hands together, before it is too late.

Page 5 『珊瑚泉之宪』

我的見證

施亭竹傳道

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祂呼召我屬於祂

我出生於新竹,台灣。成長於一個非基督教的家庭。從小家中拜祖先,香火不斷。我從十二歲起就不斷的問一個問題,『人活著的意義是什麼?』在人的智慧、佛教、哲理中尋找了十年,卻始終沒有答案。1992年輔仁大學畢業後,我來到美國俄亥俄州立大學攻讀碩士學位。次年開始參加哥城華人基督教會每個星期五的查經班,接觸基督教信仰。我從聖經的真理中發現,只有宇宙萬物間的唯一真神能給人生活的終極意義,也只有祂在我探索真理的漫長歲月中,在無盡的愛中爲我默然安排認識祂的道路。經過兩年不間斷的查經之後,我接受耶穌基督爲我的救主,成爲神家中的兒女。

祂呼召我爲祂捨棄

1995年,我搬到波士頓繼續攻讀鋼琴演奏博士並加入波士頓郊區華人聖經教會繼續在屬靈上成長。隔年,神藉著唐崇榮牧師拜訪波士頓時的主日講道,對我發出全人奉獻的挑戰。當時他以這首自譜自寫的詩歌來激勵會眾。

無論何處去我心已備妥,主你帶領絕對絕對無差錯; 助我更順從更背主十架,主你帶領絕對無差錯。 在文明大城市或在深山野林,眾靈魂同樣寶貴在主眼中。 無論何處去我心已備妥,主啊助我愛神心所愛。

我首次對神說:『主啊!我願意把一生獻給祢,被祢使用。』當時我開始在兒童事工方面事奉,而後擔任教會及詩班司琴。波士頓的十年重新調整了我的價值觀及人生觀。讀博士班的不順利把我原有對自己在音樂上的驕傲和野心都磨掉。神又教我看見,世上沒有一件工作比事奉萬王之王來的更有終極和永恆的價值。從2002年起,神開始使我極度渴慕明白敬拜的真意,在帶領會眾音樂敬拜時,不單單看見許多會眾對敬拜的冷漠,也體會自己在神學裝備上的不



『珊瑚泉之宪』

足。特別是當我訓練新的音樂同工時,深深的體會到,若要有效的培養新同工,就不能只是在 技巧上裝備他們,而是要在生命上牧養他們。放眼望去,北美華人教會在敬拜觀念以及方式上 有很大的缺乏和需要,我開始向神祈求,叫我在世上作忠心的僕人,好叫我向神交帳時,主會 說: 『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 25:21〕 當我終於拿到博士學位時,我知道是神允許我離開這個 操練了我十年的學校,我從只想快快拿到博士學位,改變成渴望事奉神;從追求世俗的肯定, 到尋求天國的獎賞。

祂呼召我敬拜祂

畢業後我花了一年時間在西雅圖,除了工作以外,也迫切尋求神的帶領。當時已經知道自己遲早會到神學院進修,但是,一方面因爲才剛畢業,覺得沒有力氣又開始唸書,另一方面又覺得好不容易拿到的博士學位,若不用它來工作個幾年,好可惜。心想,事奉神也不一定是要全職的,況且我所渴望事奉的方向,基本上很難找到全職的工作,因此,既然我都是要用教琴來養活自己,也許應該考慮先帶職事奉,然後再慢慢轉成全職。

然而,一天早上靈修時正好讀到腓利比書3章13-14節;

弟兄們、我不是以爲自己已經得著了·我只有一件事、 就是忘記背後努力面前的、向著標竿直跑、要得神在 基督耶穌裡從上面召我來得的獎賞。

神清楚的向我顯明,凡在場上賽跑且跑的好的,沒有一個是三心兩意,往兩個方向跑的。要事奉祂就要專一。神用這段經文再次更新對我的呼召,並釐清我對全職事奉的猶豫。我於是決定進入美南浸信會神學院接受進一步裝備,主修敬拜。並於 2008 年 12 月,取得敬拜碩士學位。神在我心中一直放著一個對敬拜的渴望和負擔。渴望我能天天住在至聖所與神交談,與祂親密同行,又渴望那些飢渴如我一般的人也能天天嘗到與神同在的甘甜,更渴望帶領那些還不知可以到神面前來解渴的人,在真實的敬拜中被神重生、更新。經過兩年半在神學院的學習,雖知道我還有很多的不足,但神用各樣的方式叫我看見,在凡事上倚靠祂才是一切事奉的基礎。好像當耶穌呼召西門彼得和安德烈時,祂說:『來跟從我,我要叫你們得人如得魚一樣。』〔馬可福音 1:17〕神向人的呼召,是要在關係上、喜好上、價值上徹底改變我們原有的優先次序。使教會事工產生果效的秘訣,是做耶穌基督的真實跟隨者。惟願我一生忠心跟隨主,愛祂之所愛,行祂之所行。在地上時,將人們帶到神面前成爲真實的敬拜者,當末日與主面對面時,能與眾聖徒一同永遠的讚美主。

『珊瑚泉之名』

生命的倒計時

許錦根執事

最近一段時間,連續為幾位離世的 主内姐妹主持追思禮拜,感慨很多。本來, 我們 302 福音堂就是中老年弟兄姐妹居 多數,我帶的另外一個查經班更都是七十 以上的老人,他們逐漸進入人生的最後階 段也是正常的,但最近離世的,卻都是年 龄并不很大的,一位63歳,一位67歳, 還有一位(我的外甥女)只有38歲○而且 都是突然離世的:一位從患病到逝世才 兩個小時(腦溢血);一位在一個月前還 在我們聚會時搶先站起來背誦金句,好端 端的一個姐妹突然患了一種怪病離開了 世界;而我那才38歲的外甥女,更是在 幾秒鐘的瞬間閉上眼睛的 ○大家在感嘆生 命脆弱的同時,也在思考我們這些還存留 生命的人,究竟應該如何生活?

我們不要浪費了神給我們的日子, "總要趁著還有今日"來愛他,事奉他,也 "總要趁著還有今日"來愛弟兄姐妹,愛家人,愛教會正如一位弟兄説的,如果我們今天沒有愛主,沒有活出神要我們活出的樣式來,我們就浪費了今天這一天!??因為這一天在神面前就沒有價值。

我們 302 一位事奉主幾十年的老弟 兄曾語重心長地說過,他那些年他應邀在 許多弟兄姐妹追思禮拜上講道,其中是 一部分在地上缺少為主做的見證,以是 一部分在地上缺少為主做的見證時他 別用保羅在《提摩太後書》那著名的 是有 一生,甚至連《啓示錄》14 章 13 節那段經文("從今以後,在主 章 13 節那段經文("從今以後,在主 神會一生的勞苦,作工的果效也隨著 他們。"。)也不敢用,因為坦率地說稱 實應該引起我們深思。

舊約《出埃及記》中神對摩西說,你將百姓從埃及領出來之後,你們必在這山上侍奉我。如果舊約以色列人"出埃及"是預表新約基督徒得救的話,那麼每一個被神救贖的兒女,一得救就要有侍奉主的責任感。可惜,現在的許多人并不明白這個道理,使得不少教會都有一種"二



『珊瑚泉之宪』

八現像"??百分之二十的人出來事奉百分之八十的弟兄姐妹。(我不知道珊瑚泉教會弟兄姐妹在事奉這個數字是否已經倒過來了,至少我們 302 還存在著。)彼得所說神的兒女人人都是"有君尊的祭司",幾乎只是一句口號,而不是人人渴慕努力去實現的現實。因為如果清楚明白自己是侍立在永生神面前的祭司,就決不可能還是像過去那樣生活,像以往那樣處事為人。這種狀況不改變,教會的興旺的路就變得很長也很難。

《傳道書》9章10節說: "凡你手當作的事,要盡力去作,因為在你所必去的陰間,沒有工作。" 記得倪桥聲弟兄寫過一首詩: 《到了天上再也沒有十字架》。 "天上雖有無比榮耀的冠冕,但無十架可以跟從","進入安息,就再也尋不到疲倦,再無机會為他受苦;再也不能為他經過試煉,再為他舍棄何幸福"; "主,我羡慕早日看見你臉面,那是實在好得無比;但是我也不願免去你試煉,失去如此交通甜蜜"。我們 302 弟兄姐妹唱的時候,許多人都是淚流滿面。是的,到那時你想要再為主吃苦,委身奉獻給主,已經沒有机會了,與其將來後悔今天錯過机會,不如趁著還有今天,好好愛主、竭力為主,把最好的年華奉獻給主,使我們的一生在主面前有價值,被主紀念,被主數算。

肢體成長和合一

陳偉倫執事



在美國的華人教會,大多數都是來自各地的華人信徒組成。大家有不同的文化背景,說不同的語言:英語,國語,粵語等。信徒來自的階層也不同:有高學歷的學者,專業人士,管理階層,商人,從事不同行業的。信徒們都很有愛心、熱心和恩賜。當信徒一起在教會大家庭事奉的時候,正因爲大家的背景不同,同工之間看法不同,各人的需要也不同,大家必須彼此接納和彼此同心才能使教會的肢體成長和合一。

在教會肢體成長的過程中,我們會遇到各樣不同的"絆腳石"。這些"絆腳石"會影響教會肢體成長。讓我們看看聖經怎樣教導我們提防這些"絆腳石":主耶穌說:「你們不要論斷人, 冤得你們被論斷。因爲你們怎樣論斷人,也必怎樣被論斷。你們用甚麼量器量給人,也必用甚 麼量器量給你們。爲甚麼看見你弟兄眼中有刺,卻不想自己眼中有梁木呢?你自己眼中有梁木, 怎能對你弟兄說: '容我去掉你眼中的刺'呢?你這假冒爲善的人!先去掉自己眼中的梁木,



『珊瑚泉之宪』

然後才能看得清楚,去掉你弟兄眼中的刺。」 (太七: 1-5)

我曾聽過一位香港的牧者很有趣的講解這段經文。大家知道什麼是梁木嗎?梁木是用來承托屋頂的木材。一般的梁木比一個成人的高度還要長。試問一條梁木怎麼可能放進一個人的眼裡呢?攜帶著一條梁木是很吃力的。如果真的有一根梁木在眼前,那就真是什麼也看不見了!主耶穌用這夸大的比喻是要我們知道當我們批評別人的時候,我們往往看不見自己的問題更大。主耶穌稱論斷人的人為 "假冒為善 ",是因為論斷人者常常會抬高自己,很有自信的抓到別人的軟弱,他們不知自己是沒有善意,和沒有愛心。

我們看看聖經怎樣述說被論斷者應有 的態度: 保羅說『人應當以我們爲基督的執 事,爲神奧秘事的管家。所求於管家的,是 要他有忠心。我被你們論斷,或被別人論斷, 我都以爲極小的事,連我自己也不論斷自 己。我雖不覺得自己有錯,卻也不能因此得 以稱義,但判斷我的乃是主。所以時候未到, 甚麼都不要論斷。只等主來。他要照出暗中 的隱情,顯明人心的意念。那時各人要從神 那裡得著稱贊。』(林前 4:1-5) 保羅在討論論 斷的事,他先指出被論斷者應有的態度。保 羅說:我被你們論斷,或被別人論斷,我都 以爲極小的事。只是「極小的事」而已!當 一個人不幸被論斷,他可選擇將極小的事變 成極大的事,作出反擊,做成肢體之間的爭 執和破壞肢體的關系。但是保羅教導我們將

人看為極大的事看為小事。當別人對自己有 所批評時,我們當議卑的自我反省及檢討。 可能自己真的在某些地方作錯了或作得不 夠完全。要是自己真的沒有錯,我們也要像 保羅一樣說「我雖不覺得自己有錯,卻也不 能因此得以稱義」。不要爲自己伸冤,作出 反擊的論斷。不然本來自己的眼是沒有刺 的,突然又長出一根大木頭來!

聖經提醒我們「嫉妒是骨中的朽爛」嫉 妒的心理會吞食我們基督徙屬靈的生命。當 一個人嫉妒的時候,他就不喜歡看別人的比 自己好。以下的例子都是出於嫉妒人的心:

- 1. 爲什麼他的家境比自己好?
- 2. 爲什麼他的事業比自己成功?
- 3. 我在教會事奉比他還多,爲什麼他的恩賜多過於我?
- 4. 爲什麼他的兒女唱歌和彈琴,比自己的兒女好?

所謂嫉妒,就是我們不同意神選擇將 某樣東西給別人,而不給我們。「其實明天 如何,你們還不知道。你們的生命是甚麼 呢?你們原來是一片雲霧,出現少時就不見 了。你們只當說:主若願意,我們就可以活 著,也可以做這事,或做那事。」(雅各書 4:14)

我們可知道在世上所擁有的一切都是神給我們的恩典。

我曾聽過一位傳道人的見證,他在年輕的時候曾坐過牢。他說年輕時候的他,什麼東西他也想擁有。他嫉妒家境比他好的朋友。所以他選擇去偷竊。最後因偷竊罪要坐



Page 10

『珊瑚泉之宪』

车。他說當他嫉妒時,他不會珍惜他已擁有 的東西。到了失去了一切的時候,他才曉得 珍惜他曾擁有的東西。但可惜已太遲了。

保羅說:「敬虔加上知足的心便是大利 了 ;因爲我們沒有帶甚麼到世上來 ,也不 能帶甚麼去。只要有衣有食 ,就當知足 。」 (提前六 8)

主耶穌要我們知足,也給了我們一條 新命令:「這些事我已經對你們說了,是要叫 我的喜樂存在你們心裡,并叫你們的喜樂可 以滿足。你們要彼此相愛,像我愛你們一 樣;這就是我的命令。」(約翰福音:15)主耶穌 要我們彼此相愛如同他愛我們一樣。這樣的 愛,是一種舍己的愛,沒有嫉妒的愛。

在舊約聖經的約拿單身上,我們能看 到無嫉妒,愛弟兄的愛。

「約拿單愛大衛如同愛自己的性命, 就與他結盟。約拿單從身上脫下外袍,給了 大衛,又將戰衣、刀、弓、腰帶都給了他。」 約拿單是掃羅王的兒子,他本是他父親王位 的承繼人。他父親掃羅王嫉妒大衛的成就, 要把大衛殺死。約拿單可以跟他父親一樣嫉 妒大衛,出賣他的好朋友。但是他沒有這樣 做。反而他謙卑自己,愛護他的弟兄。(撒母 耳記上 18)

「掃羅的兒子約拿單起身,往那樹林 裡去見大衛 ,使他倚靠神得以堅固,對他 說:不要懼怕!我父掃羅的手必不加害於 你;你必作以色列的王,我也作你的宰相。 這事我父掃羅知道了」(撒上 23:16)

主耶穌愛我們爲我們舍己,顯明了舍

己的愛。目的是要我們知道神是多麼的愛我們。

「神差他獨生子到世間來,使我們借著他得生,神愛我們的心在此就顯明了。不是我們愛神,乃是神愛我們,差他的兒子爲我們的罪作了挽回祭,這就是愛了。親愛的弟兄阿,神既是這樣愛我們,我們也當彼此相愛。」(約翰一書4)

保羅這樣的勸勉我們:「所以,在基督 裡若有什麼勸勉,愛心有什麼安慰,聖靈有 什麼交通,心中有什麼慈悲憐憫,你們就要 意念相同,愛心相同,有一樣的心思,有一 樣的意念,使我的喜樂可以滿足。凡事不可 結党,不可貪圖虛浮的榮耀;只要存心謙 卑,各人看別人比自己強。各人不要單顧自 己的事,也要顧別人的事。你們當以基督耶 穌的心爲心。」(腓 2:1-5)。凡事謙虛、溫 柔、忍耐,用愛心互相寬容,用和平彼此聯 絡,竭力保守聖靈所賜合而爲一的心。」(弗 4:1-3)。

願我們聽從神的話語,在教會的大家 庭裡彼此同心,心存謙卑,竭力爲教會肢體 成長和合一而努力。



『珊瑚泉之宪』

2008:A year in review in the Children's Ministry Cathy Yeung

It has been an incredible adventure this year at CBC-CS with the Children's Ministry! We have been blessed by so many brothers and sisters who have a heart for the children's ministry and have contributed in so many ways. We want to thank all the brothers and sisters for taking the call to be teachers and helpers for our Scooters, Lil' Church, Jr. Church and Sunday School programs. It has been especially great to see so many brothers involved with teaching and being role models for our young boys, and we encourage more fathers to come and serve with us. We also have brothers and sisters who inconspicuously serve the ministry by keeping our classrooms tidy, greet children, fight for us spiritually on their knees, provide snacks and supplies for the classes, pass out name tags, prepare tea and soups for me and Ms. Carmen! We see your heart, and we want to take this moment to let you know how much we appreciate you!

We're also excited that 2008 marks the year that our children have space to spread out and make the original church building our own. We now have a designated baby area called "Lil' Church" (only because our toddlers refuse to be called "babies"!) for children ages 0-3 and for children with special needs.

We are also grateful to our heavenly father who has brought so many new parents and children to our family, and has given us the opportunity to share God's love with them. This is our continued prayer: that each child who comes through our doors will be loved and ministered to. And through the joy and love of all those who faithfully serve him, we see God's power and mercy in the changed lives of our children. Through the combined efforts of our church family, I have witnessed young children, once shy and reserved, become confident and joyful as they play and talk with their friends about the Bible stories they learned. I have stood from afar to watch the modeling and friendships form between the youth and the children. I have witnessed our children's love for God in the consecration of themselves when they choose to sit apart from their friends during worship. I see their eyes

light up when we read a passage of scripture and they "get it". I have watched the older children become less self-centered, step up into servant-leader roles as they become serious about their fellowship planning, serve others before themselves, and set up for worship without being told. And I was encouraged by KCFC when they unanimously chose to give up a party so they could use their funds to support a mission project instead. In addition, the children have raised almost \$1,000 to help many families in third world countries through our Fight Malaria Compassion International Campaign. I can see a desire and hunger for the things of God growing in our children and I am excited to see how God will continue working in them.

I believe that God not only works in the hearts of these children, he works in the hearts of his people, and uses the youth, parents and church "uncles" and "aunties" around them to model and exemplify the God-centered attitudes for children to learn and follow. Over this past year, our training department held a series of workshops to help equip our parents and adults to better train and relate with their children. The small discussion style workshop used the book "Feather Boy" by Nicky Singer as the backdrop for these discussions. During VBS, we invited pastor's wife, Mrs. Tam, who is renown in her field of Christian family counseling to be the keynote speaker. And from these workshops, a parenting support group has started to further encourage these families.

Our youth, no less, were having spiritual adventures of their own. During the summer, they had an opportunity to spend 5 days in Daytona, attending a conference called "Student Life". The theme of the conference was "The Way" and drew young people from all over the States filling about 7,000 seats. The speaker was powerful and challenged students to contemplate the magnificent sovereignty of God and how they would seek his glory. Our youth came back bonded, humbled and challenged to "make God famous".

The highlight of 2008 for me came during VBS. This year's VBS was different than in previous years. It was as if God was using this small children's program to be the meeting place where all of the different



Page 12

『珊瑚泉之光』

tracks and journeys juncture. It provided a family workshop for parents and kicked off the parenting discussions. It followed Student Life and gave them an opportunity to proclaim his glory to the next generation. It reached into the community and brought new families through our doors and gave us a chance to share the gospel with them. During the weeks preceding VBS, we praised God for his wisdom and sovereignty as he brought the various details together like pieces of a jig-saw puzzle: from the decoration, set-up and practices by the young people to the moms who brought food and encouragement to keep us energized to the detailed coordination by the adults for the parents' workshop. We prayed daily for 100 children to join us at VBS and our daily average was 101.5. The week of VBS was truly a celebration of God's sovereignty, from the devotional and worship times, to the fellowship experiences, and to the sharing of the gospel with children and adults. And then as a culmination of what we had learned and experienced, Dat preached in the English service, a reminder of God's sovereignty and throne. I am convinced that this was not planned by any human mind.

After VBS, I thought to myself, "Now what? How will God sustain this peak?" In September, we split up the children's services to have Lil' Church (Toddlers to Kindergarten) and Jr. Church (Elementary) worship services which allowed the Elementary students to get into a series from the book of Daniel whose central theme is God's power and sovereignty. This year, we have ten Children's Ministry Leaders, each responsible for a different aspect of ministry. Our task this year is to train and equip them for the growth of the ministry.

Children's Ministry Director: Cathy Yeung Lil' Church Director: Chia-Li Chen Administrative Assistant: Jamie See

Special Events Child care: Sandra Hung

AREAS OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

Children's Ministry Assistant/Budget Mgr: Carmen Chang Elementary Curriculum & Programming: Cathy Yeung Lil' Church Curriculum & Co-worker Schedule: Flora Wang KCFC Coordinators: Cathy Yeung & Marlegrecy N'ovec Scooter Coordinators: Carmen Chang & Peihua Hsu Sunbeam (Fridays ages 0-3): Flora Wang VBS: Carmen Chang & Heather Shih Special Events Liaison: Bonnie Simo Teacher-Trainer Advisors: Renee Shih / Marlegrecy N'ovec Family Counseling/Training: Renee Shih Leadership Team Counselor: Bonnie Simo

As God continues to work in our church family and through our leadership, we see evidence of this fruit in our children. And now as we prepare ourselves for the season of grace and compassion, we commemorate the act of humility of Christ as he left the Father and the splendor of heaven to step down into a world of sin and misery with a story presentation from the children: an imaginary story based on the truth of God's great glory and mercy upon mankind.

Alleluia and Amen.

(Epilogue)

When I set out to summarize our children's ministry activities over the past year, I realized that every event or activity involved another fellowship, ministry or parents either to serve, be served or with whom we are partnered. I found it difficult to report only on the activities of the children because the activities on their own were meaningless. But as I began to tell of the glory of God, the little pieces of our activities fell together to form a meta-narrative. This reminds me that our lives and activities are interwoven as part of God's great plan and only when all is said and done, can we see the artistry of God and how everything falls into place according to his will. And as God's children, as we surrender ourselves for God's glory, the bigger picture becomes clearer and there is meaning in our suffering and joy. Praise God.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God." - Psalms 90:2



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『珊瑚泉之宪』

VISION FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Cathy Yeung

VISION STATEMENT

To see our children worship the Sovereign God and pursue His holiness, through their joyful obedience and walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

MISSION

- To impart a sense of awe in our children for God's Sovereignty and Grace;
- To share with our children, the truth of God's eternal plan of salvation for his believers
- To nurture and encourage the desire in our children to find joy in following, serving and obeying our Lord Jesus Christ (to whom all authority in Heaven has been given), through formal teaching, informal teaching and modeling;
- To provide a safe and fun environment for our children to practice the Biblical principles they have learned through fellowship, play and classes.
- To bestow the burden upon our children to "preach the gospel to all the nations"

PHILOSOPHY OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We consider children, youth and adult ministry to be equally important.

Children's Ministry must involve the family.

Children's Ministry must involve the recruiting and training of qualified and capable volunteers.

Children must be encouraged to participate in the life of the church family.

Children's gifts must be encouraged, celebrated and expressed.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS

GOD IS CENTRAL IN ALL PARENTING & TEACHING OF CHILDREN

God is the goal of our teaching (Deut. 6:2)

God is the source of our teaching (Deut. 6:4,5)

God is the main character in all of our teaching (Deut 6:17, 18)

CHILDREN MUST LEARN TO FEAR AND LOVE THE LORD

(Deut. 4:10; 4:40; 6:4.5; 11:22)

PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCIPLINING THEIR CHILDREN

(Deut. 4:40; 4:26) The church's role is to equip, support & encourage the parents

Page 14

『珊瑚泉之末』

PROGRAMS

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays 9:00 am - 10:15 am

Grade: Toddler age to 5th grade (6th graders participate in the English Service)

Levels: Toddler (ages 2-3) / Grades PreK-K-1 / Grades 2 thru 5

Focus: Bible knowledge / skills

JUNIOR CHURCH: Sundays 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Grade: Newborns to 6th grade

Levels: Newborns - Age 1 / Toddler (ages 2-3) / PreK-K / Elementary

Focus: Worship / Praise / Catechism

KIDS CLUB PROGRAMS: Fridays 8:00 pm - 9:45 pm

Grade: Newborns to 6th grade **Levels:** KCFC - Ages 8 thru 12

Scooters - Ages 4 thru 7

Sunbeams - Newborns thru Age 3 Focus: Fellowship / Application / Service

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Vacation Bible School (Ages 2 to 6th Grade) Children's Presentations / Musicals Children's participation in Church-wide outreach programs Family Musical Night



Deuteronomy 11:18-25

Ψ Ψ

Ψ Ψ

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 20 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, 21 so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the Lord swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth. 22 If you carefully observe all these commands I am giving you to follow—to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways and to hold fast to him—



『珊瑚泉之宪』

以諾團契簡報

感謝主保守和帶領弟兄姐妹参加以諾團契。團契不知不覺成立十年了,在這十年,團 契成員不斷增加、不斷興旺。大家都知道以諾團契成員都是年長的弟兄姊妹,他們對團契非 常關心、熱心。主內弟兄姊妹互相扶持,互相愛護。在團長的帶領下,每次聚會大家都踴躍 參加。還帶些食物與大家一同分享,像生活在一個大家庭裡,很溫馨的感覺。同時還探訪身 體軟弱的弟兄姊妹。

每次聚會均分別請來牧師、執事、師母及一些弟兄姊妹和我們分享他(她)們的見證,講解神的話語及讀經心得。使我們獲益良多,更加深了對神的認識;更深刻認識我們所信的主耶穌基督對我們的愛。

我們希望今後有更多年長的弟兄姊妹來參加我們的團契聚會。

願主保守你們・願主與你們同在!

教會 珊瑚泉之光將在 2009 年中秋節教會聚會時增加作詩比賽。詩格體為 7 字 4 句。敬請弟兄姊妹靈感詩興臨到時寫下你的詩,到時投稿參與。比賽細節將在 7/5/2009 出版的珊瑚泉之光上詳述。中秋節前,出版部會將稿件寄給劉廣華和劉勝培兩位牧師和許錦根執事作裁判。比賽結果的前五名(每人最多一首得獎詩)獲獎詩將刊登在 9/27/2009 出版的"珊瑚泉之光"上。并且屆時將由劉胜培牧師在中秋節聚會中頒獎。僅以示例之用,朱廣龍弟兄寫了小詩三首。僅供大家參考。

春花秋月神創造, 回首往事主恩高。 忘記背後向前跑, 仰望恩主樂滔滔。

貪戀世界幾時休, 暮地回首又中秋。 痛苦失望何處求, 唯願恩主來搭救。

明月高掛寄深情, 夢縈神州故鄉親。 縱隔干山又萬水。 我心依然中國心。

『珊瑚泉之光』

教會什感

黃健騰

還記得當區執事夫人托我投稿於今期的家訊時,我一口答應了,其實這不是什麼一樁的事. 但對我這少看書及執筆的人來說,那支筆要寫起來會是很重的. 我答應得這麼快,起初我覺得我有很多話可說,但執筆起來,良久亦寫不出什麼來! 只覺得教會最近發生了很多事,但所發生的都是好事.

早在去年四月份,有金蘋果讀書會,是教導父母怎樣與孩子溝通,四個同工家庭的父母負責備課,有三個家庭的孩子大部份都是很小,而他們父母已懂得培養工作,日後,他們孩子的生命花朵會是很美的,而另一家庭的父母,他們的女兒已是少年人了,而他們亦甘願擺上時間及精神去備課及參與,這是難得的,而我們的研討聚會仍然繼續,有意的可以參與,詳情可找施蘊芬姊妹.

在去年八月初,我們有 "天父心,父母情"的親職講座,有譚師母在我們當中講及教養子女的挑戰,其間亦帶到夫妻間的相處之道及問題,這是個非常好的題目,因為我們要想組織基督化家庭,同心事奉及敬拜,以致傳道,我們必定要有好的夫妻關係,與子女之間亦要有好的關係,而子女之間亦要相處和睦.

到了十一月感恩節那天,我們路加團契(粵語)與馬太團契(國語)分道揚驃,但是同心事主,各出其謀,務求吸引更多新人聽福音.

十二月份是有聖誕福音話劇音樂晚會,對像是聽講英文的新人,楊嘉恩姊妹早在兩個月前已帶同一些同工不斷的練習及採排,務求要神的工作做到最好.

在今年一月二十六日是我們中國人的農曆新年,教會一些有唱歌天份的弟兄姊妹組成了一個粵曲福音晚會,引領兩人歸主,中國,香港及台灣有著不同的文化差異,但當天晚上,馬太國語團契那種同心事主的精神是難能可貴的.

二月二十一日,"謝師宴",亦是主日學老師安排及了解工作的一天,很感謝他們對我們孩子的辛勞,他們是孩子認識神及了解福音的啓蒙老師,是幫助孩子建立基礎的重要一環.

在數月前的一天,興致大發,想砌一幅拼圖(puzzle),在未砌之先,先看看那盒面上色彩鮮艷,層次分明的美麗圖畫,當把拼圖每一塊都放在桌上面時,沒有一塊我是覺得美麗的,有黑色,灰色,啡色,淡綠色,泥黃色…等,就算有一些是顏色鮮明的,又會覺得太過鮮色了! 心裡就有點懷疑,這些小塊砌出來,會是好看嗎?

我們要知道,神對每一個人都有不同目的及安排,都預備了一幅美麗的人生圖畫.每個人,包括基督徒,在生活上都有高低起跌,會行過死蔭的幽谷,但我們只要倚靠著神,奔走祂為我們預備的道路,就好像拼圖一樣,我們今天或有一段時間的際遇是黑的(死蔭幽谷),明天是灰的或是啡色的(那些暗色都泛指不好),也會走到光明處(就是顏色鮮明的),就是這樣進進出出,去行人生的路,便交織了神為我們預備的美麗人生圖,這圖畫是用來裝飾神的殿,榮耀神的名.

『珊瑚泉之宪』

檀香扇

李欣

在江南長大的人都會知道檀香扇,因其物美價廉、容易收藏,是家庭主婦的喜愛。有的人家還有檀香櫃,富貴人家還會有檀香床。由於檀香樹本身就稀少,況且不容易成材。所以大多都做成檀香扇。從小我就喜歡媽媽開箱整理衣物的時候,因爲這時就能聞到檀香味兒。聞過檀香味兒的人都知道,它淳厚,濃意直沁肺腑,讓人心曠神怡;回味無窮。所以許多家庭都會在清掃過後點燃一只檀香,讓室內空氣變得清香。

兩年前回國時,我和女兒去秀水街購物,那 裡琳琅滿目的商品确實很吸引人。我在選了其它 商品後就去找檀香扇。忽然我女兒叫我說是找到 了檀香扇,我赶快過去一看,是假貨,我對女兒 說這不是檀香扇。而賣主二話沒說,就收起了扇 子。等我們走遠了,女兒問我你怎麼一下就看出 是假貨呢?我跟她說:"你聽過如何識別假鈔 的方法嗎?"她說:"聽過,就是記住眞鈔的所 有特徵。"我說:"對!"因爲我女兒也很喜歡 檀香扇,我就同她一起找眞檀香扇。奇怪,在秀 水街我們沒有找到眞檀香扇。後來我們在天津買 到貨眞價實的檀香扇,我就用這個實例講給女兒 聽。從檀香木的顏色、紋理及密度、香味兒與假 貨對比,使她對檀香扇有了更多的認識。

我們既是母女又是主內姐妹,我和女兒常常有讀經體會的交流。在講認識眞檀香扇時,我們又說到眞假基督徒。眞正得救的人就像眞檀香扇,他(她)的香氣是固有的、發自內心,經久不衰。就如《雅歌》中所寫"你的膏油馨香;你的名如同倒出來的香膏,我以我的良人爲一袋沒藥,常在我怀中。"使徒保羅也說過"感謝神!常率領我們在基督裡夸胜,并借著我們各處顯揚那因認識基督而有的香氣。因爲我們在神面前、無論在得救的人身上、或滅亡的人身上、都有基

督馨香之氣。"(林後 2 : 14-15)而假檀香扇木質軟、輕。香味兒是後噴上的,不出幾天就沒了。就像假基督徒,外表很是好看,也會積極參與教會事工,也會說屬靈的話語。但就是沒有得到救恩的質——聖靈。所以就不會有聖靈果子的特點。2 月27日劉勝培牧師在講專題中也提到,真正得救的人會努力追求聖潔,"你們要追求與眾人和睦、并要追求聖潔,非聖潔沒有人能見主。"(來 12 : 14)"這樣、凡好樹都結好果子、惟獨壞樹結壞果子。好樹不能結壞果子、壞樹不能結好果子。凡不結好果子的樹、就砍下來、丢在火裡。"(太 7 : 17-19)

在此我用改革宗的經典著作《基督徒眞僞辯》 (William Guthrie 1620-1669 改革宗經典出版社 1999 年)一書的第五章來做個總結(建議有興趣的弟兄 姐妹讀一下這本書)

五、真假基督徒的差別

你或許會說,"可是,還有許多人體驗過劇烈的 改變,但他們仍沒有新生命。我怎能知道自己不是那 類人呢?"

不錯,一個人能看似基督徒而裡面并沒有新生命。這很可悲,但卻是真實的,我在此章想解釋的正 是這問題。我相信,真基督徒跟表面像基督徒的人之 間一定有差別。

首先,這兩種人有時看來非常相似。一個人看起來像基督徒卻沒有真正被改變和更新是存在的。例如,真基督徒與那些僅只貌似基督徒的人都能擁有很多真知識。正如 希伯來書 6 : 4 論道,"他們已經蒙了光照"。其次,一名僅僅貌似基督徒的人,甚至可能對基督教的教訓感到振奮不已。就像種子撒在石頭地上的比喻所說,他能 歡喜地領受神的話(馬太福音 13 : 20)。第三,他可能會改變自己的生活方

Page 18

『珊瑚泉之宪』

式,遠離罪,為人處事規規矩矩,比別人好,正如 法利賽人的樣子,"神啊,我感謝 你,我不像別 人"(路加福音 18 : 11)。第四,他贊同基督的教 訓,就像約翰福音 7 : 46 議論耶穌的那些人,他 們說,"從來沒有像他這樣說話的!"許多人 是這 樣,卻還不是真某督徒。

同樣,貌似基督徒的人談起話來也能酷似真基督徒。第一,他們談論福音;第二,他們向別人承認自己的惡(撒母耳記上 26 : 21);第三,他們因自己的罪而自卑(列王記上 21 : 27);第四,他們會打聽神要求他們去做的事(以賽亞書58:2);第五,他們會暫時地與基督徒聯合,并與他們同工(如底馬);第六,他們捐錢給神和他的教會(使徒行傳 5 : 1-2)。許多人都做了這一切,但他們不是真基督徒。

貌似基督徒的人也能體驗到與真基督徒差不多的經歷。比如:第一,他們也能悲痛她意 識到自己的罪,正如猶大所說,"我賣了無辜之人的血是有罪了"(馬太福音 27:4)。第二,他們會因神的話而戰兢。當他們聽到關於神的聖潔,關於他將來的 審判、過節制及聖潔生活的布道時,他們可能會感到驚惶恐懼。當保羅向腓力 斯傳道時,他甚是恐懼(使徒行傳 24:25)。第三,他們或許能得到一點平安和宁 靜,并指望基督拯救他們。第是恐懼(使徒行傳 26:25)。第三,他們或許能經歷到生活的革新,改變明顯。第五,這一切持殊的經歷似乎表示他們是屬神的人(希伯來書 6:4-5)。然而,一 個人盡管領受了這一切,但他仍可能是與神隔絕的人,沒有得到新生命的祝 福。

那樣的人甚至會有很像聖靈在真基督徒身上作 救贖之工的一些感受。第一,他們能有一種"信", 卻不是真基督徒。比如,西門"也信了,旣受了 洗,就常與腓利在一處,看見他所行的神跡和大異 能,就甚驚奇"(使徒行傳 8 : 13)。第二,他們 也能有一種"懊悔",或在神的面前有驚奇和恐懼的 感覺。我說,聖靈賜給真基督徒的一切都能被不是 真基督徒的人模仿。

我相信,他們也很可能會有非常類似真基督徒 那樣的經歷。他們能體會一點聖靈的能力在他們裡 面作工,但沒有真被改變為新造的人。這就是希伯 來書作者所說的意思,他說,蒙光照而明白了一些 真理、當過天恩、與聖靈有分、當過神善道、覺悟來世權能的人,如果離棄真道,就不能叫他們從新懊悔(希伯來書6:4-5)。

既然非基督徒看起來也能酷似真基督徒,那麼 我們怎麼分辨呢?

一個重要的區分是,真基督徒的心得到了改變和更新。這事決不會在單單貌似基督徒的人身上發生。真基督教始於我們的心,她是思想、願望、情感的一個深刻變化。 以西結說,神要賜給他百姓內心,代替石心(以西結書 36 : 26)。他的意思是,神要改變他們的舊思想和舊情感,并改變他們的意志,使他們願行神的旨意。此 外,真基督徒明白,只有耶穌基督才能滿足他們,為了他值得拋棄一切。他們也知道,"天國好像實貝藏在地裡,人遇見了就把它藏起來,歡歡喜喜地去變賣一切所 有的,買這塊地"(馬太福音 13 : 44)。

第二個區分是,不是真基督徒的人可以改變他們生活的方式并聲 稱他們是新人,但這些不是來自一顆新心或取悅神的願望。相反,他們的心裡常常另有目的。或許他們想要引人注目,受人稱贊。或許他們希望逃避神對他們罪的怒 氣。或許他們希望自己擺脫一些麻煩,或從罪疚的良心中得釋放。不管怎樣,他們的目的都不是為了取悅神。只有真基督徒才甘願討神的喜悅。只有重生的人才會"先求他的國和他的義"(馬太福音6:33)。

第三個區分是,非基督徒不願真正地讓基督作他 們的朋友和伴侶。

第 四個區分是,不是真基督徒的人錯誤地以為, 他們只要了解一些關於基督的真理,為罪難過,行善等 等便能得救了,這是說,他們想要立自己的義(羅馬 書 10 : 3)。他們以為這些舉動--也許再加上神的一 些幫助--就能賺取神的赦免了。但沒有一個真基督徒會 那樣想。每一個基督徒都知道,唯有借著耶穌基督和他 的作 為,他才能到父神那裡。

基督教有三大重要和必不可少的要素。第一大要素,基督徒意識到自己是罪人,是失喪的和與神隔絕的人(因為基督降世為要尋求和拯救失喪的人),倒空自己一切所謂的義,破碎自己的心;第二,基督徒完全堅信耶穌基督是失喪之罪人的唯一 救主;第三,基督徒全心全意地歸向耶穌基督,行他的旨意,取悦他。你能說,"是的,這三大要素在我身上是确實的"嗎?若是這樣,那麼你就是一個真基督徒。

Page 19

『珊瑚泉之字』

A KEY WITNESS

Apple Woo

If you were a Christian 'which one do you think would be easier to serve 'a Christian boss 'or a non-Christian one? Before you give me the answer 'let me share with you a story printed two weeks ago 'the headline for the West Palm Beach paper read 'Bookkeepers Believed Priest was Skimming from Church". One of the bookkeepers is a Christian 'who had thought that working for a Catholic Church would be a good place to serve God. But two months later 'that bookkeeper learned there were procedures of improprieties handling the offerings by the priest and other employees. The priest told the bookkeeper what the amount should be written on the deposit slip without seeing the deposit bag 'and the deposit bag was prepared by the mother and daughter as the administrators and finally approved by the priest 'but the banker called and claimed that there was discrepancies occurred. In addition 'there were too much loose monies set in the drawer without recording them 'but everyone seemed to take as they wish. The bookkeeper felt that everyone wanted her to participant to take money when needed without accounting for it. This implicating that someone might be stealing 'and this put the bookkeeper in a very difficult situation. What was she to do? So 'if you were this bookkeeper 'what would be the right attitude to approach this situation?

Everyday life has its ups and downs, but is there any meaning in life when we go through trials? A servant and a follower of Jesus Christ, James stated that the right attitude to approach trials is to remain patient and joyful. According to James 1:1-4:

¹"James , a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ , To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings. Trials and Temptations

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds,

³because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

not lacking anything. Who do you trust when you have been experiencing tremendous distress in trials? Should you "trust your own instinct" or "trust God"? Each trial is a test to reveal your faith 'whom you trust – God or yourself', and how much you really know your God. Furthermore, how do know your God is whom you really trust, without any doubt so that you can go full force to rely on God completely? During the process in trial, the believer is demonstrating his or her faith by acknowledging who God is. Trial allows God to unite you with HIM so that you can be sure who God really is.

James encourages any Christian who is going through trials to consider them as good things. It is because his or her faith will increase by having a better picture of God's characters. The purpose of various kinds of trials is to know that they worked perseverance so that believer must remain in trials to finish the good work.

What does perseverance mean? To persevere is to endure and to remain steadfast under pressure in spite of difficulties in the face of trials. By going through trials with perseverance and endurance 'a believer pursues his faith inwardly and outwardly so an image of God that reflects God's character as godliness. Once his faith becomes strong 'the believer will not be lacking of any anything. Because the trials cause him or her to understand who God really is so that he or she will be willing to obey and to follow God. Abraham was called the Father of Faith because when God asked him to sacrifice his only son 'he obeyed without question. Eventually God stopped Abraham's sacrifice of his son and rewarded his faithful servant.

Imagine if you do not know God, can you think of some of God's characteristics that God should have? God is powerful, wise, righteousness, loving, patient, sovereign, omniscient, faithful and just. But how you know God

⁴Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete,

does have all these characteristics if you do not know what He has done for you and me? In John 3:16,"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Without sin occurred 'God and people are closely walked and communicated together on earth. But we were disobeyed when God comment not to do 'but we did it anyway. Our sinful nature caused us to terminate the relationship with God. God HIMSELF who loves you and me so much that He sent his one and only Son Jesus to save us.

Jesus is God in human form that holds the power of resurrection in life. Jesus was born without sin through the Virgin Mary, and being suffered under the Pharisees and was crucified in one of the most crucial death punishment as that ever happened in human history on the cross, but on the third day, Jesus rose again.

Once you believe in Jesus, one of the end results is a deeper personal relationship with God. Jesus serves as a bridge between God and you so that you can come boldly before God, knowing that God is caring and loving, your sins are forgiven, and your relationship with Him is being restored. Despite sometimes in life, believer fall into temptation, and being tempted by evil or own sinful nature desire, God will rescue those persevered believer in faith and would be counted worthy of the kingdom of God for whichever you may suffered. Therefore, as further scripture on James 5: 7-12 stated:

⁷Be patient , then , brothers , until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. too , be patient and stand firm , because the Lord's coming is near.

⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

¹¹As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

¹²Above all , my brothers , do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes , and your "No," no , or you will be condemned.

In verse 7 ', James reminds the believers on Lord's faithfulness and His imminent return. Therefore ', James encourages believers to be patient 'and to stand firm of their faith. As the example of the farmer that James used 'the farmer waited their harvest time even though he is not capable of controlling the weather ', the harvest time will come with the season. In the Bible 'the book of Genesis states that God created seasons for the earth so we know there is a time for everything. Life has many seasons that God has the intention to create everyone's life unique. Another example is the patience and longsuffering of Job. Despite loosing his family ', his wealth ', and his own health ', Job did not sin against God ', but he patiently waited and endured long suffering. That is perseverance. As the result ', God blessed Job and he lived an abundant life. In verse 11 ', James draws the conclusion that "the Lord is full of compassion and mercy".

In my earlier example of the trial of the bookkeeper, she quit eventually in just a several months of working. Although her intention at the beginning to serve God was right, she did not know God well enough. After the trials, the bookkeeper experienced now what James said one can be matured and completed. How would I know? It is because I was that bookkeeper. (Reference page attached) If I had not gone through this trial, I would not know God is the bigger part of my life. Now, I experienced the purpose and benefit of trials as explained by James.

God is living, real, and true. God can use any Christian, you or me, in a place that seemed comfortable to work but is actually full of trials and temptations. Anyone who believes shall see God's glory. God actually declares HIMSELF and reminds people that He is LORD of Lords, KING of all Kings, and one day he will surely come back to judge this earth according to his righteousness. But are we ready? If not, how then could we take our own stand in front of God's throne of judgment?

Page 21 『珊瑚泉之老』

蒙恩得救

Josefina Lai

感謝主,多蒙神的揀選,賜我一個重生得救的機會。我是中國出生,在一個拜祖先及迷信的家庭長大,藉著爺爺在南美洲工作關係,我在很小的時候和家人移民到委內瑞拉生活。有一次回港探親時,認識了惠忠(Ricky),在委內瑞拉結了婚。之後,一同努力的爲家庭子女們辛勞工作,以爲物質能滿足一個人的需要。但心裡總是還缺一些東西似的。回想下來源就是我們沒有尋求能賜與平安,掌管一切的造物主。

1989年全委內瑞拉國大暴動,是前所未有的,不滿政府貪污和腐敗,很多的不法之徒到處擴掠,之後建築物被放火,大多的工商業都無不幸免,很多華僑一夜之間失去了他們勞力得來的一切,有些因他們對抗而受到傷害,政府爲息民憤幾日後才正式出軍隊鎭壓。

過後我們帶著孩子們到多倫多生活,因翁姑當時已移民加拿大,感謝神,祂是要我們因禍得福,祂讓我們和已信了主的老爺,奶奶每逢星期日一起去守禮拜和上主日學,在求學時,我在委國就讀天主教學校,所以對主耶穌有所認識,而 Ricky 亦像迷途的羊被主尋回。(原來在嬰兒時,被他信了主的父母行了奉獻禮)。

我們沒有在加國安定下來,大半年後重回委國生活,但福音的種子已繫種在我們心裡,除了工作以外,到一家教會開始聚會,地點就是在牧師的不到千尺的公寓房裡面,人數約 30 人,雖然地小人少,但主的榮光沒有減少,祂的愛充滿整個宇宙,看見每個參加者,都彼此眞誠相待,以愛相連。牧師,師母更對我們深切的關懷,他們一家四口,是從溫哥華來委國事奉,當時心裡在想,一個生活在加國的人,怎能帶著太太和兩個未滿十歲的兒子,到沒有法治和生命沒有保障的地方工作,在他們的身上更看見主愛的偉大,在眞道的引領下,我很快向神認罪悔改求神赦免一切的不義,接受主耶穌爲我個人的救主,一生交托祂掌管。

丈夫和我在九二年七月五日受浸,一同在眾人面前口裡承認,心裡相信耶穌基督是我們生命的主。隨後父母和兒子們都先後受浸歸入主的名下。信主後,眼看委國治安都是每況愈下,但神的國度大大擴展到很多的城市,很多都有了自己的堂址,雖然牧師被差回加國事奉,眼看神的事工可能受阻。豈不知這是我小信人的想法,原來主籍此呼召更多的弟兄姊妹,站起來將一生奉獻給主,建道神學院亦在巴拿馬開設了學院,方便中南美洲的神學生,大大加添了我對神的信靠。

在神的引領下,我和家人能來美國定居,孩子們都能受到更好的學習機會,也安排了我們在祂的教會裡事奉,神是信實的,凡信靠祂的人,必不至缺乏。

詩篇 23:1-6

耶和華是我的牧者,我必不致缺乏。他使我躺臥在青草地上,領我在可安歇的水邊。他使我的靈魂甦醒,爲自己的名引導我走義路。我雖然行過死蔭的幽谷,也不怕遭害,因爲你與我同在;你的杖,你的竿,都安慰我。在我敵人面前,你爲我擺設筵席;你用油膏了我的頭,使我的福杯滿溢。我一生一世必有恩惠慈愛隨著我;我且要住在耶和華的殿中,直到永遠。

齊來榮耀神

陳可蘭

我於 1998 年從中國廣東省移民到美國佛羅裡達州。於 2008 年 1 月間蒙神賜福,得愛主之士胡劍慈女士的引領,以及黃騰彪、黃巧芬夫婦二人的秉力扶持,讓我有機會認識神。於同年 4 月 6 日受浸,正式納入主耶穌基督名下,成爲基督徒。

我信主爲期將快一年,但已屆古稀之黃昏歲月。回顧這一年來,我苦於身處美國,不懂 英文,不會駕車,可謂是弱勢之族,兼且垂垂老矣!

聖經說: 『你們或吃或喝,無論做什麼,都要爲榮耀神而行。』〈歌林多前書 10:31〉

誠然我在榮耀神的事工上,自問虧欠甚多,無奈異常,愧疚不已。在這焦躁、困惑而又不知所措的情況下,我又想起聖經中神的話語:『他求告我,我必應允他;他在患難中,我必與他同在;我必拯救他,使他得尊榮。』〈詩篇 91:15〉因此我便向神求告:『祈求神賜給我爲神所悅納和使用我的恩典。』最近神垂聽了我的禱告,並賜給我"寫歌"的勇氣和靈感,讓我順利地寫了《齊來榮耀神》和《讚美父、子、聖靈》(註)這兩首歌曲。願這兩首歌曲能蒙神所喜愛和悅納。同時也成爲弟兄姊妹們都能唱、愛唱和常唱的歌曲。藉此,務求能充分、有力、永久、和完美無瑕的榮耀、敬拜、和讚美獨一的直神!

敬請讀者贈以寶貴意見,秉力支持,互相效力,齊來榮耀神!謝謝!

(註):《讚美父、子、聖靈》歌譜將在下一期珊瑚泉之光刊出





『珊瑚泉之宪』

國語、粤語

齊來榮耀神

陳可蘭作詞作曲

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『珊瑚泉之宪』

302 福音堂見聞

徐少靖

感謝神在中國農歷新年能讓我回上海看望父母,并有机會兩次看望 302 福音堂弟兄姊妹,下面 是我的所見所聞:

- 7 · 對主欲度: 不少人是坐兩部車,路上花費一個多小時來的,但沒有遲到的。保持了敬拜前 背誦聖經金句習慣,302 中從八,九十歲高齡,到二十多歲弟兄姐妹,無論年老年少都能背誦, 敬拜是 從背誦神的話開始。
- **2 同心令一 •** 以許執事家的困難為例,全教會為他們家禱告,有的弟兄姐妹甚至絕食禱告。 以一家的難處為全教會的難處,以一家的喜樂為全教會的喜樂。
- **3,彼此相愛**:302 有個姐妹主日總是一個人為 40 多人做午餐,,一大鍋湯,6 個菜,大家吃得喜樂,她做得喜樂。這位姐妹說如果在家請客,做 10 個人的飯菜,她都會覺得累,但在教會裡為神做工,再多也不累。吃完飯,她把多余的打包,分給單身的弟兄姐妹帶回家,并對他們說:"主耶穌愛你,下次一定再來。"多麼溫馨的話語,讓人感覺這是一個溫暖的家。

在那裡我有机會親耳聽到何艷的姐妹的見證,我早在"珊瑚泉之光"去年第四期讀過她的文章,但這次身臨其境使我感受更深刻,她坦言自己悖逆的過去,和如何被神翻轉的生命;在她最悖逆的時候,幾乎得了憂郁症,她的母親不斷地為她禱告,神終於垂聽,於是發生了整個生命翻轉的神跡!這實在是個神跡,從一個不懂得愛他人的女孩,現在竟承擔起愛那些慕道友的責任,從各個方面進行關怀;在她的影響下不少人歸向主。

另外我還見到兩位專程來聽何艷姐妹見證的姐妹,她們非常年輕只有30歲左右的,一位在上海的浦東陸家嘴帶領著一個高級白領的查經班。另一位在上海的西部帶領著一大批白領基督徒,她在婚姻破碎,人將要絕望時,被神拯救後,很快被神得著、使用,她們從3個人開始,現在每周固定25個人左右,最近她還接受主的呼召,奉獻自己讀神學。這一切讓我感到大陸教會的興旺,更讓我看見神自己在中國大陸的工作,正興起一批年輕的,高學歷的弟兄姐妹為他做工,滿怀激情地傳揚福音,在世人面前作美好的見證。

302 福音堂從今年三月起分上下午兩堂,下午事奉由年輕人負責。目的是吸引更多的人來參加。

感謝神讓我們珊瑚泉華人浸信教會有這等福氣,在神這一偉大的事工中有份,302 弟兄姐妹對於珊瑚泉弟兄姐妹最大的感謝是你們為他們禱告,最大的希望和要求也是繼續為他們禱告。

『珊瑚泉之宪』

求什麼,什麼就會來嗎?

302福音堂欣然姐妹

親愛的艷:看你和土豆的對話,他提的一個問題引起我的思考:"求什麼,什麼就會來嗎?這樣的呼聲,又如何達成呢?""求什麼,什麼就會有?無神論者都會提出這樣的問題來 爲難我們,而我們也不能接受這樣的觀點。"

我覺得這個問題一定要想淸楚,也要講淸楚。否則,它會絆倒很多人。我翻閱了四福音 書裡神有關這方面的教導,思想了二天,理了三方面的思路供你參考。剛才寫文章前,我又跪 下禱告,求神讓我寫下他認爲對的話。

剛寫了一句,就接到爸爸從醫院打來的電話,他興奮的告訴我,驗血報告表明:他對乙 肝已產生抗體。就是轉陰了!醫生說,這非常不容易,很多人治療好多年也轉不過來。感謝 主!當我們一心想著神的國和神的義時,我們所要求的他也給我們了。

"求什麼,什麼就會來嗎?"

在這個世界上,稍有生活經驗和社會閱歷的人看這個問題都會知道答案是否定的。因為 人的欲望無窮,而被要求者的能力、資源有限,所以有"欲壑難填"這句話。就是三歲小孩也 知道,最最愛他,願意用生命來保護他的爸媽,既無法,也不會滿足他所有的要求。

但我們翻開聖經,确實可以在四福音書上看到我們全能的神向我們做的庄嚴承諾: "凡是你們禱告祈求的,無論是什麼,只要信是得著的,就必得著。" (馬可福音 11 章 24 節)

"你們祈求,就給你們;尋找,就尋見;扣門,就給你們開門。" (路加福音 11 章 9 節)

"你們奉我的名無論求什麼,我必成就,叫父因兒子得榮耀,你們若奉我的名求什麼,我必成就。"(約翰福音 14 章 13.14 節)

"你們若常在我裡面,我的話也常在你們裡面;凡你們所願意的,祈求就給你們成就。"(約翰福音 15 章 7 節)

"不是你們揀選了我,是我揀選了你們;并且分派你們去結果子,叫你們的果子常存,使你們奉我的名,無論向父求什麼,他就賜給你們。"(約翰福音 15 章 16 節)

神是信實的,他的話沒有一句虛謊。天地都要廢去,只有他的話永遠長存。如何理解神的話?如何向神求?求什麼?

我想到從三方面回答本文題目所提的問題。

一、誰可以向神求?

神愛我們每一個人,但不是每一個人在當下都可以向神求。因爲當你還沒有認識那位創

『珊瑚泉之宪』

造天地海和其中万物的永生神,還沒有因信歸入他的名下時,你的靈是沉睡的,你和神溝通的渠道是關閉的。所以我們可以看到,耶穌在四福音書中五次寶貴的應許,都是對著他的門徒說的,并不是對不認識他的百姓說的。

當年在伊甸園裡,亞當違背了神的吩咐: "只是分別善惡樹上的果子,你不可吃,因爲你吃的日子必定死"。但我們看到他在"吃的日子" 肉體并沒有死,神對亞當夏娃的罪嚴厲宣判後,還用皮子給他們作衣服穿。亞當後來還生兒養女,活到九百三十歲。那什麼在他違背神命令時死了?就是他的靈。罪從一人進入世界,人類從此有了死亡。這死亡有二重意思,一是肉體,二是靈。

神爲人類犯罪而沉睡閉塞的靈痛心,他派獨生子耶穌道成肉身來到世上喚醒人的靈。他 說:"我住在至高至聖的所在,也與心靈痛悔,謙卑的人同居;要使謙卑人的靈蘇醒,也使痛 悔人的心蘇醒。"

這是我們普天下正直善良謙卑的勞苦大眾的福音,也是所有曾經犯罪但已痛悔認罪人的福音!因爲我們至高至上的神就在你身旁,他愛你,要救你!只要你心裡相信神,口裡承認耶穌爲你的救主,打開心門讓聖靈進入,你的靈就會蘇醒,你可以向神祈求,你的禱告就能蒙神垂聽。

二、我們求什麼,就能得著?

當我們初信主的時候,就像孩子回到久違的父母身旁,什麼都想說,什麼都想求。雖然幼稚,但主憐憫我們是吃奶的嬰孩,常常應允我們。所以有一種說法:初信的人禱告很靈的!當開始我們和弟兄姐妹一起背主禱文時,不覺得這是在求什麼,而是禱告結束的儀式,背得順溜,卻沒有想過他深刻的含義。

當我們屬靈的年歲漸長,當我們認真讀聖經,看到主禱文是耶穌親自教門徒怎樣禱告祈求時,心裡就會涌上一陣陣感激的熱浪。

主耶穌說: "你們禱告的時候,要說:我們在天上的父,願人都尊你的名爲聖。願你的國降臨。願你的旨意行在地上如同行在天上。我們日用的飲食,今日賜給我們。免我們的債,如同我們免了人的債。不叫我們遇見試探,救我們脫離凶惡。因爲國度、權柄、榮耀全是父的,直到永遠。"

主耶穌實在是言簡意賅,把我們該求什麼才能得神恩賜、蒙神成就,講得淸清楚楚。我 理解他的話分四個層次:

<u>1.前三句講神的名,神的國和義。</u>這第一層次是我們求的重點。神的兒女爲神而活,沒有這一切,所有的就都無意義了。

2.第二句是第二層次,也是我們很關心在意的。其實主耶穌在二千多年前就說過: "你

『珊瑚泉之宪』

們不要求吃什麼,喝什麼,也不要挂心。你們必須用這些東西,你們的父是知道的。你們只要求他的國,這些東西就必加給你們了。"(路加福音 12 章 29 - 31 節)但他體諒我們的軟弱,所以還讓我們爲生活爲健康等祈求。

3.第三句是第三層次,講的是我們與旁人的關系。因爲我們有自私,驕傲,爭競,妒忌,等等的毛病,所以人際關系常常緊張,人與人之間往往不能坦然相對。若不是藉著基督的愛和公義、饒恕,小到夫妻關系,同學、同事、朋友、鄰居關系,大到政党、國家、民族關系,單靠法律制裁,社會力量,國際力量,又能從根本解決問題嗎?

4.第四句是第四層次,講的是我們與這個世界的關系。當今世界物質文明發達,但缺少信仰,拜金主義毒害著人們的心靈。對權力、金錢、美色、享受的貪欲,引發了多少罪惡!誘惑和試探無處不在,勢單力薄的良心往往抵擋不住。

主耶穌知道我們本不過是塵土,他指點我們爲保有一顆善良的心而祈求。他說過,若不是擁有像孩子一樣的單純天真,我們就不能進神的國。他喜悅我們過簡單的生活,保持平靜的心情。他說: "你們要謹慎自守, 免去一切的貪心;因爲人的生命不在乎家道豐富。" 當我們聽神之道而遵守時, 他就會救我們脫離凶惡。

仔細想想不是這樣嗎?當我們不去爭名奪利圖虛榮,貪不義之財,不去股市投机,不搞婚外戀,不大吃大喝,日夜顛倒,遠離賭博吸毒嫖娼,我們的生活一定會穩定很多,我們的身體一定會強壯很多,我們的心態一定會健康很多。

最後結尾宣告神是全能榮耀的主。現在我們把主禱文溫習了一遍,就可以淸楚看到,所 有我們該求的內容,主耶穌都爲我們想到了。我們按著他的指導而求,就能蒙神垂聽,就能得 著。反之,你爲一己私欲而求,神一定是掩面不聽的。

三、我們如何向神求?

神在聖經雅各書 4 章 2、3 節上說:"你們得不著,是因爲你們不求。你們求也得不著,是因爲你們妄求。"這清楚地說明:

- 1、我們得不著是因爲我們不仰望主,不倚靠主。而掌管宇宙万物万事的主早就宣告: "不是倚靠勢力,不是倚靠才能,乃是倚靠我的靈方能成事。"
- 2、當我們憑著內體的需求和喜好,憑著私欲而求,就是妄求。而一切違背神旨意的祈求都是不蒙神垂聽的。

所以,我們在向神祈求之先,先要認真省察我們內心的所求所想是否合乎神的公義。我

們一般所求的事分二類:

- 一類是爲主做工的事,如教會的事奉,兄弟姐妹的服侍,福音的傳講等等。
- 一類是爲自己及家人靈命長進,病得醫治,夫妻關系,教育子女,工作,家庭事務等等。

無論為哪一類事求,首先都要擺正與神之間的關系。主耶穌是万王之王,掌管宇宙生命的神,我們要怀著謙卑順服的心來求。"主啊,你要我為你做什麼?"

神有他的主權,即使我們求的完全合乎正道,神也不一定馬上應允,因爲"他的意念高過我們的意念"。他知道什麼時候答應我們是最好的。在這樣的時刻,我們要安靜等候,學會忍耐的功課,而不是憑自己小聰明去想辦法,憑自己血氣去行事,干扰了神的計划。

其次是禱告祈求要恒切。恒切的禱告磨煉我們的心志,是我們的必修功課。要爲作成主的工而多多祈求,少爲自己的事祈求,這是主喜悅的。

3、要使自己所求的蒙神悅納,就要親近神,倒空自己的罪,天天自潔。神是聖潔的, 我們自知有罪卻不認罪,罪就把我們和神的關系阻隔了,讓我們無法和神親近了。 聖經上說: "義人祈禱所發的力量,是大有功效的。"因爲義人是淸心的人。"你們親近神, 神就必親近你們"。思想一下做一個親近神,爲神所喜悅的兒女是何等有福的事啊!

小結以上三點:我們已信耶穌得重生,怀著謙卑順服的心,求神的國神的義及一切天父所允許我們求的,并以信靠忍耐的心安靜等候,主耶穌就應允我們: "使你們奉我的名,無論向父求什麼,他就賜給你們。"因爲我們信的神是又真又活的神,在他沒有難成的事。希伯來書上說"義人因信而生",我們憑信心而求,憑信心而行,我們就擁有從神而來的喜樂平安。在他裡面不僅有順利時身心靈的愉悅,也有經歷苦難病痛時的坦然面對。因爲神就是愛。他不會撇下我們,直到我們在天堂與他相會。

最後,讓我們以聖經以弗所書三章 16 至 20 節的話語來指導我們向神祈求并結束本文。 "求他按著他豐盛的榮耀,藉著他的靈,叫你們心裡的力量剛強起來。使基督因你們的信,住 在你們心裡,叫你們的愛心有根有基……基督的愛是何等長闊高深,并知道這愛是過於人所能 測度的,便叫神一切所充滿的,充滿了你們。神能照著運行在我們心裡的大力,充充足足地成 就一切,超過我們所求所想的。"

阿門!



『珊瑚泉之宪』

主我感謝你

302福音堂高琳姐妹

神怎麼帶領你,你就怎麼帶領他們。他們是指誰呢?我不知道?神會把人帶到我這裡或把我帶到他們中間。神指的教會只有一個,不是一個建筑物裡,也不是一群聚在一起的人,神指的是跟隨者,是順服者,是討神喜悅的。昨接美國的姐電話-她說在十幾年前我在禱告時一個很清楚的聲音進來_你可以去你妹也可以來_這是在她心裡盼望已久的,自從神成為我的救主的這一刻,她流淚滿面因主重新把一個妹妹給了她---主對她說的話她激動的在教會裡分享給大家。但回應她的是冷笑和諷刺,因在過去的日子裡我被美領館拒簽八次了。一直到2004年我簽證下來去開畫展時,我姐對人講的這些話成為現實。一切在神的手中!今天的我更知道主是又活又真的!他時刻在我身邊,我的心思意念他都知道,他完全超越了我---我是屬主耶穌的!全智的上帝!我來到你的面前尋求你的引導。洗淨我屬世的,內體,眼目的情欲。這些都會把我牽引離開你的旨意。約翰壹書 2 : 15-17 不要愛世界和世界上的事。人若愛世界,愛父的心就不在他裡面了。

因為凡世界上的事,就像肉體的情欲,眼目的情欲,并今生的驕傲,都不是從父來的,乃是從世界來的。 主啊!你豐富的智慧和知識!你的判斷,何其難測,你的道路何其難尋!給我勇氣跟隨你信心的道路,不害怕,因你賜給我的:不是懼怕的心,乃是剛強,謹守的心。賜我你的能力,用愛充滿我,驅除所有的懼怕,不憑眼見,只憑信心而行。 因此,主請向我清楚顯明你的道路,向我說,主會在我心裡運行,使我渴慕和成就你的美意。

靠著主耶穌的寶血必得胜! 主耶穌的寶血洗淨我們! 要叫他們的心得安慰,因愛心互相聯絡,以致豐豐足足在悟性中有充足的信心,使他們真知 神的奧秘就是基督;歌羅西書 2 : 2 你們要謹慎,恐怕有人用他的理學和虛空的妄言,不照著基督,乃照人間的遺傳和世上的小學,就把你們擴去。歌羅西書 2 : 8 但現在你們要棄絕這一切的事,以及惱恨、忿怒、惡毒、毀謗,并口中污穢的言語。不要彼此說謊,因你們已經脫去舊人和舊人的行為,穿上了新人。這新人在知識上漸漸更新,正如造他主的形像。 歌羅西書 3 : 8-10

主在尋找那用心靈誠實敬拜他的人---

羅馬書 12:1 所以弟兄們,我以一神的慈悲勸你們,將身體獻上,當作活祭,是聖潔的,是一神所喜悅的;你們如此事奉,乃是理所當然的。

我的主,我敬拜你,将我的生命交托給你因為你是進入永生的惟一道路,你是上帝住在我裡面的真理和生命。離開主我什麼都不能做,因為我清楚惟獨依靠你。 主是我想擁有和需要的一切。我感謝你,因你實在偉大!

路加福音 15 : 21-24 兒子說:'父親!我得罪了天,又得罪了你;從今以後,我不配稱為你的兒子。'父親卻吩咐仆人說:'把那上好的袍子快拿出來給他穿,把戒指戴在他指頭上,把鞋穿在他腳上,把那肥牛犢牽來宰了,我們可以吃喝快樂。因為我這個兒子是死而复活,失而又得的。'他們就快樂起來。

『珊瑚泉之老』

讀《沒藥山》的啟示

302福音堂何艷姐妹(現回法國居住)

《沒藥山》,一本默默無聞的小書,沒有標價,沒有作者,卻是我一生至今所讀的書中叫我眼淚最多流的一本!

我的靈知道這是一本聖靈同在,與主同在的小書。蒙恩的罪人哪,雖然死了,卻仍在説話!

我知道主在對我說話,在激勵我,在挑旺我心中對他的愛!

陽光裡,也許狂風吹,

平靜中,也許風浪起,

主啊,求你看顧,求你引領,求你恩惠永不離,

為你受苦 我心樂意。

主啊,叫我嘗嘗你所喝的杯,

好叫我在你的性情裡也有份。

我這個罪人本不配得,

可你竟然深愛,

萬千人裡把我撿選,

縱然,這個世界要把我棄絕,

我心卻依然甘甜 實在甘甜,

因你恩膏滿了我心,

有你作我恩友,

我心滿足!全然滿足!

(何艷姐妹的這首詩,是她用心血寫的,發自肺腑。在所謂的"成功神學"嚴重 侵入國內不少年輕基督徒心靈之時,許多人追求今生看得見、摸得著的祝福,而不願為 主完全擺上,為主受苦,她卻甘心情願走十字架的路,也向周圍朋友傳十字架的福音。 言為心聲,她這樣寫,事實上她也正是這樣做的。許錦根執事註)

《沒藥山》可以在網絡上閱讀 http://www.cctmweb.net/mysh/mysh-ct.htm

『珊瑚泉之老』

仰望 蒙福

朱窟龍

記得劉廣華牧師曾經把詩篇和箴言給我們作過一個非常簡潔的主題總結:詩篇-教導信徒如何仰望父神,箴言-教導信徒如何處世為人。這些年來,在鄙人的學習成長過程中,實在得益良多。後來,在電腦网絡上搜尋發現,在所有聖經書卷中,"仰望"兩字在詩篇中出現次數最多。詩人說:"以雅各的 神為幫助、仰望耶和華他 神的、這人便為有福。"(詩篇146:5),也有譯成"這人便蒙福。"

我們教會"珊瑚泉之光"便是一群仰望蒙福之弟兄姊妹與你分享他們見證的文字樂園。 鄙人十五歲就離開家父慈母在外求學求職,此後回家次數不多,在 1970/1980 年代的中國, 通訊技術非常落後,一般平民百姓的遠程通訊主要以書信為主。記得收到家父回信的第一句話 常常是"見信如見面"。後來當我仔細思想的時候,發現文字不僅能傳遞我們的心聲,而且還 能傳遞我們的面容。"千裡姻緣一線牽。""此時無聲胜有聲。"我想很多弟兄姊妹都或多或 少經歷體驗過這種文字信息的能力。文字會說話,文字會傳情,文字會映出你的笑臉。弟兄姊 妹,在教會裡能夠讓所有弟兄姊妹都聽到你作見證的机會不多,可是,我們還有另外一個机會 可以讓你與眾弟兄姊妹朋友見面說話分享你的見證。那就是我們教會每個季度出版的"珊瑚泉 之光"。

"珊瑚泉之光"今年走進了第五個年頭,我們感謝許錦根執事的開創,王毅弟兄的承傳。目前我們出版部共有六位同工:孫月蘭姊妹,主要分管講國語弟兄姊妹的征稿;施冠雯姊妹,主要分管設計,排版與出版;李亦為弟兄,主要分管稿件審閱;馬如蝶姊妹,主要分管講粵語弟兄姊妹的征稿;周岩弟兄,主要分管講英語弟兄姊妹的征稿;朱廣龍弟兄,主要分管總協調與302福音堂聯絡;他們的電郵地址如下:

孫月蘭姊妹 sunflower3491@prodigy.net 施冠雯姊妹 jamie.see@cbccs.org 李亦為弟兄 yli_lgan@hotmail.com 馬如蝶姊妹 connieauy@yahoo.com 周岩弟兄 hitmaneric@gmail.com 朱廣龍弟兄 guanglongzhu@yahoo.com

但願弟兄姊妹鼎力相助此項事工,一同實現本刊宗旨"傳揚福音,見證基督"。我們會在禱告中記念你們,讓我們一同守候,仰望,蒙福,直到主再來的日子,願神祝福重用大家。

珊瑚泉華人浸信教會

Chinese Baptist Church Of Coral Springs

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稿例

◎本刊歡迎投稿,內容以靈修、分享、見證、新事物介紹、生活隨筆、詩詞等等爲主。字數以不超過兩千字爲佳。

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