

The Light of Coral Springs 珊瑚泉之光



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主啊,教我禱告!

當主耶穌在世上的時候,門徒沒有求祂教他們講道,也沒有求祂教他們讀經,卻求祂教他們禱告,可見禱告何等的重要。路加福音第十一章記載:「耶穌在一個地方禱告。禱告定了,有個門徒對祂說:求主教導我們禱告,像約翰教導他的門徒。」(路加福音 II:I)這個門徒很可能是彼得,十二門徒之首。他不是代表他個人對主講話,乃是代表眾門徒請求主教他們禱告,因爲他說:「求主教導我們禱告。」

主耶穌沒有遲疑,立刻開口教導他們怎樣禱告。祂說:「你們禱告的時候,要說:我們在天上的父〔有古卷只作父 阿〕,願人都尊你的名為聖。願你的國降臨。願你的旨意行在



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地上如同行在天上。」(路加福音II:2)

「我們在天上的父」, 或「父啊」, 說明主教導我們奉祂的名向天父禱告,不 是奉祂的名向祂禱告。在約翰福音16:23, 祂說得更清楚:「你們若向父求什麼,祂 **必因我的名賜給你們**。」我曾經聽過不少 人在禱告的時候,不停的在呼喊耶穌的名 字,最後又奉耶穌的名結束。這好像是很 動聽,很感人,卻是沒有照著主的教導去 禱告。「耶穌」是神的兒子降世爲人的名 字,當年跟隨耶穌的門徒都親眼看見耶穌, 可以隨時隨地向耶穌禱告。然而,主卻教 導他們奉祂的名向天父禱告。祂的意思不 是說,祂比天父低一等。祂的意思是說, 這是禱告的規矩,連祂自己也守規矩向天 父禱告。我們身爲耶穌基督的門徒,怎可 以不守祂所定下的規矩呢?

天父垂聽我們的禱告,不是因爲我們配得什麼,而是因爲我們奉耶穌的名。相反的,如果我們禱告不奉耶穌的名,天父就不會把我們所求的賜給我們。禱告有兩種。第一種是私禱;第二種是公禱。在私禱的時候,你可以不開口。但是在公禱的時候,如果是你領禱,你一定要開口,

而且每一句話都要清楚,讓和你一起禱告的人聽得明明白白。因為你是在帶領他們向天父禱告。 在結束的時候,你一定要奉主耶穌基督的名。這不但讓人知道你已經禱告完畢,而且向人見證你是一個信靠主名的人。

今天有許多新派牧師傳道 帶領人禱告,在結束的時候只說 「阿們」,有些甚至連「阿們」 也不說。更有些在取巧,說「在 基督裏」,英文叫做In Christ, 從來不說奉耶穌的名。最令人不 解的事就是,教會的主任牧師和執事們都不出聲更正。這就等於默認了禱告不奉耶穌的名是可以接納的。我很擔心下一代將會受到影響,以後禱告都不奉耶穌的名。奉主名禱告是屬主的人最基本的表現,不奉主名禱告的牧師傳道,我十分懷疑他們的生命,他們可能還沒有得救。如果他們真的已經得救,那爲什麼不奉耶穌的名禱告呢?

「**顏你的旨意行在地上如同行在天** 上」,意思是說,願天下所有神的兒女都 遵行神的旨意,天國早日在人間實現。神 的旨意有兩種。第一種是神對普世的旨意,

> 就是神願萬人得救,明白眞道 (提摩太前書2:4)。第二種 是神對每一個人的旨意,所以 我們一生一世都要追求明白和 遵行神的旨意。因爲神說:

> 「天怎樣高過地,照樣,我的 道路高過你們的道路,我的意 念高過你們的意念。」(以賽 亞書55:9)信徒一生最大的悲 劇,就是不知道神的旨意,在 世上只是憑著自己的私慾而 行。第二大的悲劇,就是明明 知道神的旨意,卻沒有完全遵



照神的旨意而行。

「我們日用的飲食,天天賜給我 們。」(路加福音II:3)「日用的飲食」 希臘原文又可以翻譯爲「每日之糧」。 信徒每日之糧有三種,就是靈魂的糧食, 精神的糧食,和身體的糧食。很可惜, 有許多信徒天天只是在追求身體的糧食 和精神的糧食、完全與世人沒有分別。 世人所追求的,就是酒色財氣、名利地 位、完全沒有想到要追求靈魂的糧食。 爲什麼呢?因爲他們的靈魂死在罪惡過犯 之中,他們不認識神,所以行事爲人, 隨從今世的風俗, 順服在空中掌權的魔 鬼(以弗所書2:I-2)。可是, 我們信徒 是重生得救的新人,是神的兒女。我們 要從世人當中分別出來,我們要追求屬 靈的糧食,好讓我們屬靈的生命不停生 長,一直長成基督的身量,滿有基督的 樣式。

「赦免我們的罪,因為我們也赦 **免凡虧欠我們的人。」**(路加福音 II:4a) 信徒所犯的罪是本罪,不是原 罪。當我們接受耶穌基督做救主的時候, 我們的原罪,就是由始祖亞當夏娃遺傳 下來的罪,和我們在信主之前所犯的本 罪,都已經被主的寶血洗淨了。可是, 我們信主之後、仍然會犯罪。所以我們 每天都要認罪悔改,不只是在主日崇拜 的時候才這樣做。我們日常所犯的罪, 若等到主日崇拜的時候才承認, 那就太 遲了。因爲我們的罪可能已經萌牙開花, 結出罪果,傷害了自己和別人,叫主的 名大大蒙羞。因此我們要天天在神的面 前省察自己、認罪悔改、重新得力、過 榮神益人的生活。

「不叫我們遇見試探,救我們脱

離兇爲。」(路加福音II:4b)這是信徒 要過得勝生活最初步的禱告。等到信心 增加,靈性進步的時候,我們就要求神 賜給我們能力勝過試探,對付兇惡。初 期門徒就是一個最好的例子。讓我們看 看彼得,十二使徒之首。他起初信主的 時候,非常軟弱。他曾經揚言,眾人都 會跌倒, 他卻不會。不料只過了幾個時 辰, 他竟然三次不認主。主耶穌復活升 天之後, 門徒聚集在一起恒切禱告, 結 果聖靈降臨, 靈性大大復興 (參讀使徒 行傳I-2章)。從此他們就過著得勝的生 活、把福音傳遍羅馬世界、帶領千萬人 歸向基督、爲主作了美好的見證。今天 聖靈已經住在我們心裏。我們要靠著聖 靈,對付試探和罪惡,甚至對付到流血 的地步(參看希伯來書12:4)。否則、神 就不會大大的使用我們。因為神是聖潔 的,絕對不會使用污穢的器皿。

禱告是我們信徒一生一世都要學習的屬靈功課。我們越懂得禱告,生活就越有意義,事奉就越有力量,對人就越有愛心,家庭就越蒙福,教會就越興旺。讓我們都虛心俯伏在主的面前,懇求主說:「主啊,教我禱告!」



If God Knows Everything, Why Should I Pray? Pastor Scott Ryan

If you actually stop and think about it, why do we pray? Of course you would probably answer something like, "God commands it " This is true, but think about this: if God knows and controls everything, why do we ask God to answer prayers? He has already ordained every single instant of time in the whole universe, and God's sovereign will is unchangeable (Ps. 33:11; Eph. 1:11; Lu. 4:27-28). God knows exactly what will happen not only tomorrow but also a hundred years from now (Ps. 90:4; 2 Pet. 3:8). What is the point of requesting God to do a certain action if he already knows what will happen!? Even Jesus himself says, "For your Father knows what you need before you ask him" (Matt. 6:8b). Can I change God's mind?

Before I answer this question, let's first do a quick overview of prayer from the Bible. Jesus tells his followers throughout the gospels to pray. Jesus models prayer for us (Matt. 14:23) and shows us how to pray in what is known as *The Lord's Prayer* (Matt. 6:9-15). The early church devoted itself to prayer (Acts 2:42). Throughout Paul's epistles, he calls on the church to pray. The Bible makes clear that God answers prayer (Matt. 21:22; Lu. 11:9-13; John 16:23-24; 1 John 5:14-15) (but he answers it his way, not necessarily our way).

Talking to God is a great privilege, and we are eternally grateful that through Jesus' blood, he opened the way to the

Father. Because of Jesus, those of us who have placed our faith in him for salvation can stand in the throne room of our Father. When we pray, we are speaking directly to God, and it is like we are right before his throne. The author of Hebrews shows that because our hearts have been washed clean by the blood of Jesus, we have full assurance to stand in the presence of our awesome and holy Lord. Praying to God is a great privilege wrought by the blood of the Lamb.

What does prayer look like in reality? Many Christians use the ACTS prayer method when praying. The ACTS method is an acronym. The letter "A" is for Adoration, "C" is for Confession, "T" is for Thanksgiving, and "S" is for Supplication. If we use this ACTS prayer, we praise God, repent of sins, offer thanksgiving, and make requests of God. But turning to our question at hand, why do we petition God if he already knows what he will do?

First, this question can be partly answered by looking at a similar question. If God knows everyone who will be saved throughout time, and he knows the future, then why should we share the good news with others? The future is set in stone, and certain people will come to a saving faith through Christ. These people will be saved, so why do we need to go out and share the gospel? God knows everything that happens in this universe all at once — he sees the past, present, and future in one moment. He

has complete control over his universe, yet we are called by God to go into the world, preaching the gospel and urging people to turn to Christ (Matt. 28.18-20).

The answer to these two questions is basically the same. We must hold in tension the fact that God is absolutely sovereign over the universe yet we as humans still have responsibility to follow God. To put it another way, we can say God has ordained everything thing in this universe according to his will, and he has even ordained our sharing the gospel or praying to accomplish his ends. There is a degree of mystery at this point, but it is helpful to say that God not only ordains the "ends" of what he accomplishes in this universe (and that's everything) but he also ordains the "means" of accomplishing those ends. Regarding the example of sharing the gospel, we can say that God knows those who will be saved (therefore it is unchangeable), yet the way he accomplishes the "end" of salvation for individuals is by the "means" of Christians sharing the gospel with the lost. He desires the church to carry out the message of his gospel – what a privilege it is for us to take the gospel to the world!

The evangelism example is similar to our topic of prayer. God knew a thousand years ago that I would be praying for a certain item today in 2012, and he knew a thousand years ago how he would answer that prayer. Yet just like the evangelism example above, God accomplishes his ends through the means of our prayer. He has ordained not only the fulfillment of my prayer but he has also ordained my very act of praying to

accomplish his ends! Again, there's mystery here, but God works through our prayers. If we don't pray, God doesn't have to do anything for our non-requests. Just like in evangelism, if we do not share the gospel with the world, people do not get saved. The Bible is clear that salvation comes only through the hearing of the gospel and believing in it (Rom. 10:13-15). If we do pray, the Bible tells us that God will answer. God may not answer the way we would like him to answer, but he will answer. The fact that he answers should give us great joy in prayer! God allows us the privilege to petition him to do certain things, and we know that he will answer. He may say "yes" to our request; he may so "no;" he may delay; and he may give an answer that is completely unexpected, but he will answer. This is why we should ask all things according to his will.

The fact that God listens to and answers our prayers should give us great joy and a deep thankfulness that God is working. Even if we do not see an answer to the prayer that we hoped for, we must remember that God is working all things together for good to those who love him (Rom. 8:28). Therefore, the fact that he works through our prayers should give us great confidence to pray constantly, fervently, and expectantly.



神兒女的權柄 - 禱告 王同樂執事

"然而人未曾信他、怎能求他呢·" (羅10:14上),不信的人,不知道所求的對 像是誰,也不知道如何去求,但神的兒女因 著耶穌基督的寶血,可以坦然無懼的來到神 的寶座前,向神祈求,向神禱告,這是神給 祂兒女的特殊權柄,但是我們常常忙於地上 的事,而疏忽了這特殊的權柄,實在很可 惜。

我剛信主時不曉得如何禱告,除了聖經上的主禱文之外,又找不到什麼禱告的範例,就留心聽弟兄姐妹的禱告。我發覺。說 明神的話語禱告時,就特別覺得有力。 是一說"我們若照他的旨意求甚麼, 就們若照他的旨意求甚麼, 我們。"(約壹 5:14 上),所以當神的話常 在我們的裏面,成為我們的話,我們就能常 在我們的意味。若是照 一种的話來禱告,如此禱告就容易蒙神垂聽。若是照 的話禱告常成為妄求。 詩告的其不 時的話,所以我們禱告的基礎就是聖經。

"主耶和華以色列的聖者曾如此説、你們得救在乎歸回安息。你們得力在乎平靜安

"你們站著禱告的時候、若想起有人得 罪你們、就當饒恕他、好叫你們在天上的 父、也饒恕你們的過犯。 你們若不饒恕 人、你們在天上的父、也不饒恕你們的過 犯。"(可11:25-26),神要我們不祇是為自 己求也要為人代求, 特別是為那些曾經得罪 過我們的人, 願意在主裏饒恕為他們代求。 人與人之間的分爭, 常常起於彼此不肯饒 恕,以至於失去很多得神賜福的機會。"約 伯為他的朋友祈禱、耶和華就使約伯從苦境 轉回、並且耶和華賜給他的、比他從前所有 的加倍。"(伯42:10),約伯願意為那三個 在他遭難時責備他的朋友祈禱, 結果約伯心 裡傷痛得到醫治, 便從苦境轉為極大的祝 福。神要我們藉著禱告,去學習饒恕人,所 以禱告的真諦就是在主裏願意饒恕人為人代 求。

最後以耶穌在客西馬尼園的禱告作為 範例,來體會神的心意。在客西馬尼園裡, 耶穌第一次禱告說:"我父阿、倘若可行、 求你叫這杯離開我。然而不要照我的意思、 只要照你的意思。"(太 26:39), 耶穌是神的 兒子, 在地上也是完全的人, 跟我們一樣不 願遭受肉體的痛苦, 求神拿去十字架的苦 難。然而耶穌的禱告並沒有停在那裡, 繼續 求神 "不要照我的意思、只要照你的意 思。"這才是禱告的關鍵和本質。禱告不是 求自己的意思, 而是求神的意思。

耶穌"第二次又去禱告説、我父阿、這杯若不能離開我、必要我喝、就願你的意旨成全。"(太 26:42),耶穌的禱告已經不再為自己的肉體求,而是求執行神的意旨。 "耶穌又離開他們去了。第三次禱告、説的 話還是與先前一樣。於是來到門徒那裏、對他們說、現在你們仍然睡覺安歇吧。時候到了、人子被賣在罪人手裏了。 起來、我們走吧。看哪、賣我的人近了。"(太 26:44-46),當耶穌第三次禱告完全確定神的旨意後,就願意甘心順服神的旨意走上十字架。

禱告的功效是要讓我們的生命被改變, 願意完全降伏於神的主權之下,順服神的旨 意。我們藉著禱告向神祈求,我們也藉著禱 告去了解神的旨意,但是當完全了解神的旨 意之後,我們是否也能像耶穌基督一樣,甘 心順服神的旨意,背起十字架來跟隨祂呢?



夜間天上充滿繁星,不停閃爍,對我們 發出媚笑。在那無窮無盡宇宙,神管理一切運 行,神真是偉大。

神創造萬物以養人,五穀解決人糧食, 更創造世外桃園,以供世人亨受,晨光和晚霞, 嬌艷絕倫,鳥兒歌聲悦耳動聽,山水之美使人 有應接不暇之感。而人回報神的恩德,是污染 環境,殺戮可愛動物,水不能飲,空氣不能吸, 更有荒唐言,人是猴子所演變。神愛世人,恩 信得義,但一次又一次傷神的心,自然災害頻 繁,聰明的您告訴我,是自然規律,愚笨的我 悄悄告訴您,是否神的憤怒?世人並無一德以報 神。

未信的您為名為利而奮鬥,學業是投資, 名利是利潤,金錢是收獲,徒勞一生,名利並 獲時,一切都是虛空,這不是結果,空虛才開 始。在詩經30篇第10節 "我的生命爲愁苦所消 耗,我的年歲爲嘆息所曠廢,我的力量因我的 **罪孽衰敗,我的骨頭也枯干"**, 萬事無一令您 驚奇再沒有喜樂,權力只有令您腐敗,更漠視 朋友感受, 眾叛親離, 感覺無限孤獨和寂寞。

現信神的我,生活改變,凡事都謙卑, 凡事都祈求,凡事都感恩,神的力量已經溶注 在"謙卑""感恩"和"祈求"裡,只有力行, 處事無往而不利,得益良多,以前的我信賴自

已努力到的成敗,到頭卻是無限惆悵,現與主同行,無憂無慮,成敗不重要,在過程中與神的相要,無人了解其中味。則,但願我能用文字表刻,但願我能用文字表達出靈魂深處的禱告。



警醒什麼? 郭宇清

2012年第一天下午,聽到Linus牧師的證道:應當警醒禱告。觸動我很深的是主耶穌即將步上十字架的前夕,在客西馬尼禱告。主耶穌在經歷一場風暴,他即將要爲我們的罪,去承受公義的父神的烈怒。而門徒們卻昏昏而睡。

對我,一個家庭主婦,能從中學到什麼呢?我的靈命在昏昏欲睡嗎?警醒什麼呢?該爲什麼禱告呢?盡管不情願搬家,也學習順服,在Chattanooga查城重新安家。一轉眼已經有七個月了。這期間,也一直並正在經歷許多的思想風暴:如何接受與心愛的教會及弟兄姊妹的感情上的分別;學習如何離開自己服事順手的comfortzone;認識新教會的弟兄姊妹們;新的服事方向,等等。

很感謝神的是,他帶我慢慢理清了優先次序,因先生John的焦慮症,我學習到了,做爲一個在家姊妹,我的首要任務是服事家庭。很感謝神的預備,去年底我發現了Amy Wong黃巧芬姊妹借給我的一本好書:合神心意的女人。那時正好是John的狀態最差的時候,也是我最痛苦彷徨、不知所措的時候。神就借一位姊妹的口告訴我,你要改變!

改,改什麼?怎麼改??有一些建議,要聽從嗎?突然地,心裡出現一個警醒,這些方法會不會讓我們追求世界的一些精神放鬆的方法而偏離對神的倚靠呢?而什麼是神指導給我的改變方向呢?什麼是適合我的個性的改變呢?沒錯我知道要幫助先生分擔一些生活事務,可有些事不是一天兩天就可以接手的;有些事根本就不是我的強項,可能扛起來後自己就先垮了,更別提照顧家人了。

禱告求神開路吧。突然,好像眼就開了,當我再拿起《合神心意的女人》這本書時,看到神在字裡行間不停地給我說話!我明白了我最迫切要改變的是我對家人、家事的態度!盡管樂意當家庭主婦,我卻沒有認真做家務活,經常在先生下班前急急忙忙整理床鋪;一些個人的事上,先生總是自己做,我就認為這是老外獨立的習慣,等等。當然這其中也各有原因,婚後很快就懷孕、生子,開始幾年是手忙腳亂地學習如何為人

母,Matthew大一點後,John就開始不斷地出差,我倆幾乎就沒時間好好談過話,生活中很多重大決定都是在電話裡商量的。好像自從婚後的蜜月旅行後,我們一下變成了與世人無異的老夫老妻了。我也沒像熱戀時那樣關心他的生活需求,思想的交流更是因爲忙忙碌碌的節奏而消失了。我就是盡量把家務用最短的時間做好,然後用充足的時間做自己喜愛的事。

作者在書中分享了神給我們做妻子的安排。在創世紀,神造亞當後,又用亞當的一條肋骨造了夏娃,因為神說: "那人獨居不好,我要為他造一個配偶幫助(a helper!)他。"馬丁路德也說過: "作妻子的要讓她的丈夫喜歡回家。"

原來做神給我們的妻子職分是幫助丈夫。 妻子的職分是原來做好家中的每一件家務事都是 在事奉丈夫、事奉子女,以此來事奉神。

仔細想想,盡管樂於做家庭主婦,其實自己也誤認爲家務事沒意義,是不得不做的事;不能體現自身價值。認爲時間用在多爲教會做事,才是正事。而沒有認識到將神交給我的家務事做好,就是建立基督化家庭的一塊基石,而基督化家庭不僅僅是全家有查經及共同禱告的生活,神要我用做家務事將他的道活出來,而不僅僅是口教導孩子聖經。感謝神,他帶領我辨明了改變的方向!

分享一段書中的內容:"檢視一下你的內心,對於你稱之爲家的重要地方,你的心態如何?你正在禱告,並且警醒仰望神所應許的榮耀嗎?每天早上當我晨更時,我會走遍全家,爲每一個房間禱告。在廚房中,我祈求使我在裡面所做的每一件事,都能表現出我對家人的愛。我所有的食譜都很長,因爲我加進了聖靈的九種果子:一撮仁愛、一把忍耐,等。我禱告祈求,每一個房間都能充滿神的愛和保護。這樣,也讓我對家事有新的看見,家事不再只是工作。我甚至會在打掃浴室時,開心得唱起歌來。"

藉著禱告,神賜我愛心和忍耐去服事先生。細節很瑣碎,比如,因爲他睡眠不好,就根據他的胃口隨時調整飯菜;記住他的各樣行程以方便提醒他或爲他預備。新房子出現各樣狀況,我

學會自己去找人處理。但最重要的是我有了服事的態度以後,我說話的態度也改變了,以前總是習慣了責備或抱怨,有些事上堅持自己想法,只想把事做好,卻忽略了生活的重點:家人的感受。現在學會了沉默是金,或說關心體貼的話、安慰人的話(因為我得到了說話的指引:要說造就人的話及不要惹兒女怒氣)

還令我驚喜的是,我多年的晚睡晚起的習慣改變了,這使我們家的生活變得美好,與John的休息時間同步了,早上自然就早醒了,居然可以把John和Matthew的午餐做好,還可以一家人一起說笑著吃早餐!不再是Matthew孤零零地吃早餐,而我轉來轉去準備他的午餐;也不用再十萬火急地送Matthew上學。不匆忙也就心平氣和得多了,和Matthew少了許多爭執。

這裡再分享書中的一段:"我若心裡注 重罪孽,主必不聽(詩篇六十六:18)我深恐我 的罪孽和過犯使神掩面不聽我為兩個女兒的祈 求。不論是口不擇言、發泄怒氣不順服丈夫所作 的家庭計劃等等,任何短暫的罪中之樂都無法與 我孩子的永生救贖相比。身爲母親,我所求的遠 遠隨意發泄所帶來的短暫快感。我向神要的,是 兩個寶貴的靈魂!我的行爲關系著兩個女兒永生 的命運!"

感謝神,他也垂聽了我近乎絕望的呼求:我無意中打給一位好友,結果這個家庭也有類似經歷,分享了他們的經驗,介紹John吃一種保健品(SAM-E)。我們幾乎是迫不及待地買來一試,兩天下來,效果出乎意料地好!John的狀態好多了,那天下班後還送我一束花,感謝我的照料!

終於,我第一次眞心地爲搬家而感謝神,感謝他使我改變。原來,一個合神心意的女人,都會觀察家務,**拒絕閒懶**(箴言三十一章)。這不是媽媽的教導,不是丈夫的要求,而是神給我們姊妹們的呼召!感謝神讓我看到改變自己後的美好成效,因爲我所愛的人因我的服事而得益。以前熱戀時總想爲對方付出生命,而神不需要我們的愛這麼極端,祂教導我在細水長流的生活中,甘心改變自己,放棄自己的一些喜好、習慣和想法,來表達我對先生的愛,使我們的愛常常保鮮。感謝神!

書中一段分享:彼得前書3:1:你們作

妻子的妻順服自己的丈夫;這樣若有不信從道理的丈夫,他們雖然不聽道,也可以因妻子的品行被感化過來。換句話說,不論丈夫是否爲基督徒,也不論他是否順服神,我們對丈夫順從所流露出的福音信息,遠較我們口裡說的一切話寶貴而有力。

John終於好一些,而自從搬家後就出現的 不適應教會的問題又凸顯出來:教會整體靈命很 新,沒有屬靈長輩,馬牧師去年到任半年後血液 病復發(只有神才能醫治的病);想做事奉,沒 有團隊,甚至沒有同工;對於我們家來說,從教 會得到的餵養很不足。我非常的掙扎,除了事奉 家庭, 難道我就這樣在教會中無所作爲嗎?豈不 很快變成不冷不熱的溫水??特別是在Facebook上 看到珊瑚泉教會的弟兄姊妹們熱火朝天的事奉圖 片,很失落。要不要換教會?難過呀!當時的內 心矛盾與John的病,還有連綿冬雨的陰冷天氣混 在一起,我甚至出現憂鬱的狀況,打開滿滿的冰 箱,想不出做什麼飯;原來已經適應在起伏彎曲 的山路上開車,現在居然會量車;去教會變成很 不開心的事,甚至連我最喜愛的翻譯的事奉也不 願做,只想到一個沒有人認識的教會,靜靜地聽 道、唱詩,不用跟任何人交談,不用服事。我也 害怕接電話,特別害怕要我去幫忙的,因爲我覺 得好累。收到一位久未碰面的朋友的來信,托我 幫一個人,我一下子把那卡片拋得遠遠的,好 怕!別總是說有事找宇清、宇清又不是神、她垮 了!!當時的情況就是這麼糟糕。

我甚至不願意禱告,因爲我覺得神無非就是要讓我順服,而我不服:我順服,離開了我的comfort zone,可目前的zone也太不comfort了!很感謝神,在我幾乎要遠離神的時候,他用Amy黃巧芬姊妹開導我,Amy用她特有的溫柔的聲音,很堅決地勸我:"不行的,阿清,你要禱告!神也是慈愛的呀,祂愛你!你也可以跟神撒嬌,讓他安慰你的難處嘛!"然後她又在電話中爲我做了長長的愛心禱告。終於,我的心不再硬,慢慢地平靜下來。

可是,要服事嗎?看到教會有很多需求卻無法得到滿足,心裡很不安,可一個人能做什麼?有次在BSF(國際查經團契),當我與一位美國姊妹分享時,她居然說:"你可以在中國教會有很大的服事!因爲你看到了大家看不到的需

求!"大家相信嗎,當時我的第一反應是,

(甚至身體已擺好了姿勢)拔腳就跑,一直跑到 珊瑚泉教會!那裡才有依靠!

開玩笑,我,何德何能,要擔起這副重擔?!我知道我的定位是在協調支持,跑腿,但絕沒有掌控大局的頭腦。而John的健康也是一個考量,很奇怪的,好幾次我們決定要去參加教會的團契時,他就會臨時出現狀況,最後都是決定留在家裡。我不僅覺得自己無才,而且擔子已經夠重了。英語同聲翻譯的學習已夠我忙的了。

可是,內心的掙扎很難受,終於神提醒我打電話給Betty姚姊妹。這位我所敬重的屬靈姐姐,幾個問題就打斷了我的退路:我說教會餵養不夠。Betty說:"其實當你的靈命成長到一個階段,要懂得自己找糧食,我可以爲你提供一些很好的網站。而去教會,不只是求餵養,是要去做事。"我又說:沒有同工。她思考了一下,問我:"有沒有一個或兩個人可以爲你禱告?"我說有兩個。然後 Betty說:"那就好了,聖經說,只要有兩三個人奉主的名聚會,主就與你們同在。你要在那裡服事。我會爲你禱告的。"

就這樣,我認爲不可解決的難題,神籍 著Betty的回答就化解了。那,就試試看吧?同 時,John的情形也好了許多,我覺得可以跟他說 一些重話了,就把和Betty的對話跟他講了。接 著我們就開始討論,神也給我看到可以嘗試的第 一步, John也提出一些方法。我才驚喜地發現, 哇,原來神早就預備了一位同工,就是這位老 兄,我的良師益友!我看到迷失的地方,卻不會 引用經文去帶領(太依賴被餵養的後果,我是要 獨立找糧食了!),因爲馬牧師生病,會有相當 一段時間無法參與團契,除他以外,又沒有其他 靈命深一些的帶領人。而John對經文那麼熟悉, 並且這個中文團契的文化水平很高,英文都很 好,現在John可以暫時填補這個斷層。通過與 John的討論, 我也明白了, 神也沒有說讓我們在 教會領導, 而是在團契中造就爲神做事的人。 John也很有智慧地爲我們的服事禱告,讓我們每 次只爲一件服事去求神的帶領,這樣就不會被太 大的擔心憂慮壓垮。我們夫妻可以共同服事(當 然,這要看John的狀況而定,求神醫治、保守和 帶領),成爲知己知彼的同工,彼此扶持,共同 成長,太好了!

經過幾番大起大落的折騰後,我不得不 說,感謝神!若沒有這次搬家,我就沒有機會認 識到,自己對服事的認識有多膚淺,要神準備好 團隊和前線衝鋒隊員,我就跟在後面跑;以爲爲 教會做事才是服事,忽略了家事;還以爲只有向 不認識神的人傳福音才是唯一目標。卻沒料到神 讓John加入到服事華人的團隊中,給我們一個全 新的服事方向,就是從每個家庭的基督化開始, 爲神造就他的工人。

從BSF的查經學習到,保羅已經在帖撒羅尼迦前書3:3教導,**我們受惠難是命定的**。他自己為此做了見證。我們在成聖過程中,也就是與一件件的罪分離開來的過程中,從外在環境到肉身包括情感上,會有許多磨煉,無論在順境或逆境,都可能使我們受誘惑跌倒。要站立得穩,信心堅定,我們的勞苦才不至於徒勞。BSF的講者還分享這麼一段:專注在神,不要與人比。因爲與人比時,你要麼會覺得自己太好,要麼覺得很差。只有神對我們最明瞭。

感謝Linus牧師的新年證道,要我們警醒,對我來說,就是從每一件家務事到教會的服事,都要警醒自己的所做所爲有沒有偏離合神心意的方向,靈命是否因太安逸而陷入昏睡,或因不如已意而抗拒成長。我要爲此警醒,並且不住地禱告,凡事謝恩。

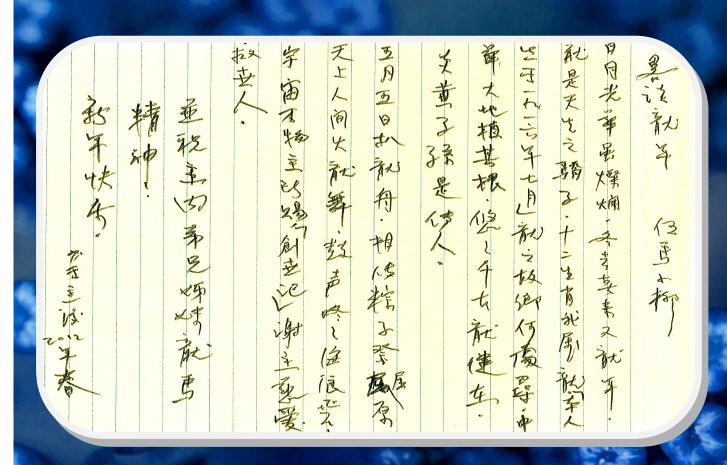
回頭看,在我抱怨連天的時候,我並沒有注意到,其實神已爲我預備了餵養的地方,就是BSF,在那裡我很有得著,並與來自不同教會的美國姊妹們有美好的交流和學習,也彼此代禱;而華人教會的姊妹們在我因情緒低落不能服事時所表達的寬容和關愛,傳遞了神無處不在的愛。

而且在我親愛的母會,親愛的電話密友如栩,親愛的高揚,在我的家事處理上給了許多有益的勸解;屬靈姊姊Amy和Betty的愛心忠告使我不使至迷失;還有Susie和明哲一家的指導,好多人爲我們的禱告,更把神的祝福不停地送上。

John、Matthew和我也爲大家,爲親愛的 Linus牧師和Bonnie師母時時禱告。求神開路,今 年的Memorial Day長周末,可以與大家一聚。眞 的好想念大家!

我每逢想念你們就感謝我們的神。阿

門!



《他的臉面,祂的天使常看見》 (His Angels His Countenance Always Behold) 這是倪桥聲弟兄寫的很多詩歌中的一首。部分仿作如下(《聖徒詩歌》第373首):

祂的臉面, 祂的天使常看見, 但不認識祂的大愛; 祂的聖徒雖然認識愛無限, 卻未看見祂的豐采。 他們不久也要看見祂臉面, 認識祂的榮耀光明; 但馬利亞曾看見祂的淚眼, 知道祂心痛的情形。

我們快要完全知道我們主,已往從未如此知道;但是今日醫治傷心的摸撫,不是上面感覺得到。 那日雖有無窮無盡的讚美,卻無流淚迫切禱告,卻無傷心痛苦所得的安慰,也無困難所生倚靠。

天上雖有無比榮耀的冠冕,但無十架可以順從; 祂爲我們所受一切的磨碾, 在地才能與祂交通。 進入安息, 就再尋不到疲倦, 再無機會爲祂受苦, 再也不能爲祂經過何試煉, 再爲祂舍棄何幸福。

哎阿!爲祂,機會已是何等少,所有機會快要過去,機會無多,爲祂,蒙羞和受嘲,爲祂,再來分心、分慮。 不久就無誤會、怒罵與凌辱,就無孤單、寂寞、離別;我當寶貝這些不久的祝福,我藉這些與祢聯結。

主,我羡慕早日看見祢臉面,那是實在好得無比;但是,我也不願免去祢試煉,失去如此交通甜蜜。 求祢怜憫,使我充滿祢大愛,不顧一切爲祢生活;免祢仆人今天急切望將來,將來又悔今天錯過。

願望 - 詩篇119篇169-176節

鄭敏舜執事

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過年我們常祝福人心想事成, 講到 心想事成大家都喜歡, 如果真的可以想什 麼都成有多好對吧?我們常常有很多的願 望,有些是可以立定心志達成,有些卻不 是靠自己努力就行。在詩篇 119 篇 169-176 節中我們可以看到詩人也有許多願望跟祈 求, 160-170 節詩人說"耶和華啊!願我的 呼求達到你面前;求你照著你的話賜我悟 性。願我的懇求達到你面前;求你照著你 的應許拯救我。"詩人希望他的呼求懇求 能達到神的面前, 但他先求的卻是神照神 的話語賜他悟性,為什麼呢?我們禱告的 時候大多數的時候我們是心裡已經有個底 然後把我們所希望的帶到神的面前, 但我 們是不是真的知道我們求的是什麼呢?我 們所求的是按神的心意嗎?我發現不經常 是,有人也許會說"不不不我不一樣,我 每次禱告都是求神的旨意成全",的確求 神的旨意成全是沒錯的, 但我們的態度是 什麼?我想有些弟兄姊妹可能跟我經常有 的態度一樣很被動甚至有點阿Q, 態度是 "反正是神掌權又不是我,當然就看神怎 麼辦就只能那樣了",還是我們是主動去 尋求神的旨意, 贴近神的心意?這裡詩人 求神説"求你照著你的話賜我悟性",詩 人知道神的心意是讓人可以認識神, 而神 的心意是藉著他自己的話也就是聖經已經 向我們顯明, 因此要有悟性就要讀神的 話。

1。祷告悟性是來自神的話

今年教會的主題是 "應當警醒、禱告",我們常聽到弟兄姊妹說"我不知道怎麼禱告",或是"禱告好像對空氣說話,也不知道神有沒有聽到",詩人這裡

給我們很好的建議--求神讓我們有悟性, 但是這悟性又需要從神的話語而來, 所以 需要讀聖經。古人說"三日不讀書便言語 乏味面目可憎",如果一般的書就有如此 影響,那三日不讀聖經會變成什麼?我自 己就深刻體會,一旦我間斷幾天沒讀經, 我對人耐心就減少, 作事效率也降低, 最 糟的是心裡的罪念很容易就起來, 受到撒 旦的引誘也特別多, 真的是很實際的。如 果有人從來也不讀神的話那可能沒什麼感 覺,因為對他來說沒有神話語是個常態, 但一旦嚐過在神的話語裏跟神親近的經歷 就知道差別很大; 常常也有弟兄姊妹説 "我知道讀經很重要,我也讀啊,查經也 查呀, 但怎麼就沒什麼感覺, 也不覺得有 多了什麼悟性, 禱告還是一樣平平淡淡 "。我沒辦法告訴你怎樣一定可以有悟 性,因為那是神自己話語的能力,不過我 可以提幾個常見的問題大家可以想想自己 有沒有類似的問題盡量避免。

A. 不把自己的意思讀進聖經

年多的時間神就是沒有讓君華懷孕, 那段 求神祝福求不到禱告沒有蒙應允的經歷很 痛苦,不過感謝神祂沒有讓我們離開祂, 我們還是固定聚會固定靈修讀神的話語也 繼續禱告,有一天君華早上靈修讀經後打 電話到學校給我,她說"我想沒希望了 ",我說"怎麼了?",她說"我今天讀 經讀到哈巴谷書3章17-18節, '雖然無花 果樹不發旺、葡萄樹不結果、橄欖樹也不 效力、田地不出糧食、圏中絕了羊、棚内 也沒有牛。然而我要因耶和華歡欣、因救 我的 神喜樂。'你看神説結不出果,仍 然要喜樂, 結不出果就是生不出小孩嘛, 我看是沒希望了。過了兩天我靈修讀到詩 篇113篇,第9節説"他使不能生育的婦人 安居家中、為多子的樂母。你們要讚美耶 和華。"我馬上打電話給君華,跟她說

"你看我讀到神說不生育的要為多子的樂母,所以你一定會生小孩的,還會生很多個"。這就是將自己的處境讀進聖經當中,心裡有個問題找聖經經文當作解答,心裡有個問題找聖經經文當作解答,你相根簽或是訴字算命沒是不分數。 算命的問你求什麼,同樣的籤因為問不人樣的事就有不一樣的解釋,這不是我們讀聖經的態度。

B. 不替別人讀神的話

C. 不拿神的話當檢查別人的工具

詩篇119篇當中有許多經文大家都很 熟悉, 第105節很多人都會背"你的話是 我腳前的燈是我路上的光", 所以神的話 是照明我前面的道路, 讓我知道如何走在 正路上, 但很多基督徒背經文是背得挺流 利,但應用上就變了,就變成為"你的 話是我頭上的探照燈, 照亮別人身上的黑 暗",拿神的話當成是檢查別人的標準, 這不是悟性, 再次強調讀神的話是要替自 己讀,讓自己有悟性更認識神。誰最容易 犯這樣的毛病?站講台的, 教主日學的, 带查經的, 以及教會的領袖們, 當站在教 導的角色上是需要將聖經真理講明, 有時 遇到實際問題也是需要用真理來檢視弟兄 姐妹所行的,但要強調的是我們第一要緊 的是先讓真理檢視我們自己, 讓神的話先 光照我們。其實不只是教會的領袖,相信 每一個在座的都有類似的問題, 曾聽過有 人對另一個姊妹說"聖經不是說要愛人如 己嗎?你怎麼那麼沒愛心,一點忙都不肯 幫",或是爸爸對孩子很兇的說"你們兄 弟吵吵吵在吵什麼?吵到我看球賽都不能 好好看, 你們還彼此亂發脾氣, 你們不知 道耶穌說對弟兄動怒就跟殺人一樣嗎?" 要舉例舉不完, 盼望我們都能求神的話使 我們有悟性, 讓神的話先對我們自己有功 效而不是成為指正別人的工具, 也明白神

在聖經中向我們的應許,讓我們貼近神的 心意,也能像詩人所求"願我的懇求達到 你面前;求你照著你的應許拯救我"。

2. 讚美是因神自己和祂的話

接下來171-172節說"願我的嘴唇湧 出讚美的話,因為你把你的律例教導了 我。願我的舌頭歌唱你的話語,因為你的 一切命令都是公義的。" 這裡詩人盼望有 能力讚美神,但不是讚美神給了他什麼恩 典或祝福, 而是因為學習了神的律例, 他 歌頌是因神的話與命令是公義的, 詩人還 是沒離開他的焦點, 他知道他敬拜讚美神 是因為神就是神, 是因為神的公義聖潔的 本性,是因為神設下律例為了要人可以存 活, 讓人可以來到神的面前, 讓人可以認 識他跟他建立關係, 而這些對神的認識都 是從神的話而來。很多時候我們感謝神讚 美神因為神賜給我們許多的祝福, "感謝 神因為你讓我在這經濟不景氣的時候不僅 有工作還加薪""感謝神賜給我們漂亮的 房子跟車子""感謝神給我們可愛的小 孩""感謝神賜給我們這個教會建築 物",這些禱告都沒問題,但是我們要經 常想想檢視一下我們讚美的到底是神的祝 福還是神自己?世紀頌讚詩歌本第300首 "主自己"第一段歌詞説"前所要是福 祉,今所要是主;前所要是感覺,今要主 話語。前所要是恩賜, 今要賜恩主; 前我 尋求醫治,今要主自己",也許我們信仰 出奇想要的都是神的祝福, 但隨著靈命增 長對神認識增加, 我們應當更渴慕的是神 自己, 這裡詩人就是明白這點, 他讚美是 因為神自己。我發現很多基督徒,包括我 自己, 真的是不會讚美神, 平常也缺乏操 練,每次禱告會讚美Adoration就是同樣幾 句,而且説沒兩句就變成祈求,神在聖經 中啓示祂的屬性那麼多也那麼奇妙, 重點 是我們有沒有去瞭解。不知道大家在團契

小組有沒有玩過一個遊戲叫優點大轟炸, 一次一個人站出來,大家就用幾分鐘拼命 不斷說那個人的優點,有些人大家都熟, 說起讚美的話很容易,有時候有些人大家都熟 就不熟悉,真的沒什麼好說,僵在那裡沒 什麼好讚美的很尷尬,弟兄姐妹,我們對 神說不出讚美的話是不是因為我們把神就 當作一個認識但不熟的朋友?是不是因為 我們對神的認識還是不夠所以說不出口?

3. 祷告以神為中心

接下來三節經文詩人發出請求(v173-175)"願你的手幫助我,因為我選擇了你 的訓詞。耶和華啊!我渴慕你的救恩,我 喜歡你的律法。求你容我活着,可以讚美 你; 願你的典章幫助我", 詩人求神幫 助但仍然環繞著聖經, 強調他親近神的話 知道神的屬性及神的能力, 這樣的認識幫 助我們知道怎麼禱告, 也怎樣將主權交給 神。經常我們禱告所專注的只是我們眼中 的問題, 我聽過有姐妹這麼說"有啊, 我 有禱告求神幫助我跟我先生的關係,但是 你不知道啦, 我們家那死鬼有多可惡, 怎 麼講也不聽死性難改啦",有時我們目光 只注目在自己的問題, 而不是定睛在為我 們信心創始成終的耶穌, 好像也禱告但是 想到的還是自己。這星期我讀到一個靈修 材料有個很好的提醒 "Look at your problems in the light of God's power instead of looking at God in the shadow of your problems o " "在神 大能的光中來檢視你的問題,而不是在你 問題的陰影下來檢視神"。 這裡詩人在 求神幫助,他說"願你的手幫助我""願 你的典章幫助我",但詩人強調的是因為 神的訓詞,是神的救恩,是神的律法,最 重要的是求神讓他存活所以可以讚美神, 所以我們要檢視的是我們的禱告是以我為 中心還是以神為中心的祈求, 而想要以神 為中心就脱不了對神話語的認識,要多認

識明白神的話就能多瞭解神的心意。

4. 不忘記神的話, 求神尋回迷羊

兩年多前我們全家回台灣探親,有 一天跟以前在我們教會的之俞姐妹碰面吃 飯,飯前我們就帶著一群孩子到一個小公 園玩,公園中有一個monkey bar,小孩就 盪啊盪的玩,大人們就坐在邊上聊天,小 孩們本來一格一格盪過去玩得很開心,之 俞兩個女兒個子不大可是玩monkey bar很 厲害所以他們開始一次盪雨格, 我們家兒 子安安看到兩個女生一個跟他同年一個比 他還小都能做了, 所以他也要試, 那一幕 現在還經常在我眼中重播, 我就看著他很 用力的飛出去換手兩次, 然後要抓第三次 的時候抓不緊整個人摔了下來, 因為轉身 體加上向前擺, 所以頭的側面著地, 本來 我想地上有橡膠墊應該還好,可是安安待 在地上大概十秒鐘都沒動, 後來起來後叫 痛我就把他抱過來,接著他開始時哭時笑 語無倫次, 我的醫學訓練告訴我:沒有外 傷也沒有特別的症狀,應該是輕微腦震 盪,沒事;但身為爸爸看到自己小孩不對 勁還是擔心,剛好跟我們一起的一個弟兄

是一位醫生, 他就開車載我跟安安到他醫 院的急診室。在車上我抱著安安他在我懷 中重複的問說"What happened?我們要去 哪裡?"一下哭一下笑,也一直要掙扎開, 非常irritated and restless, 我一邊安撫他一邊 把他抱得緊緊的,一邊也跟神迫切禱告。 正在那時候我腦子裡面突然轟隆發出一個 聲音, 我相信是聖靈直接對我說話, 祂 説"你不也是這樣?你明明就在我安全的 膀臂裡但你不也常常想掙扎掙脫,就像你 兒子要掙脫你安全的呵護?你應該在我裡 面要有平安但卻常常是irritated and restless",我一聽到那聲音就愣住。是的, 有多少時候我們已經在神的恩典當中我們 卻要掙扎掙開神的膀臂, 要隨自己的意 思?明明知道神要我們不要效法這個世界, 只要心意更新而變化, 但卻我們自己卻對 神說"神你等等,等我再享受一下這世界 带給我的刺激再說",或是明明已經知道 神説"我的恩典夠你用"我們卻拼命用我 們的方式在尋找保障, 我們被這世界沖擊 成腦震盪自己也不知道。這裡詩人懇求説 "如果我這樣,求你尋找我,因為我沒有 忘記你的命令",我們都在不同的時候都 犯了這個過錯,我們都還在學習交托、學 習將生命的主權交給神, 詩人也是如此, 但我們知道我們的神是恆久忍耐又有恩 慈,只要我們跟詩人一樣向神呼求, 祂是 願意來尋找我們的, 問題是我們可以跟詩 人一樣說"我沒有忘記你的命令"嗎?還 是我們連神的話都遠離?

親愛的弟兄姊妹,新的一年你立下什麼願望?不管我們有什麼願望,我們看到讀神的話讓神的話常在我們心中是多麼重要,我們禱告仰望向神祈求都離不開祂的話。如果你的新年願望中沒有包括立下心志好好讀聖經,希望你讀了今天的經文後就加上去,讓學習認識神的話成為我們生命中最重要的一件事。

願你們平安 ^{梁明哲}

我將這些事告訴你們,是要 叫你們在我裡面有平安。在世上,你們有苦難;但你們可以放心,我已經勝了世界。約翰福音書第十六章33節

弟兄姊妹「平安」,這樣的話是基督徒常用的問候語,你知道聖經中「平安」二字的意義嗎?華人常說平安就是福!沒有人不喜歡這樣的福氣,那真正的平安到底是什麼呢?長命百歲、健康發財、安居樂業、身份到手、或是…,是的,一點沒錯!這些都是平安所帶來的福氣,但是若有一種比這些平安更深入的,你喜歡嗎?

讓我們看看馬太福音書第一章 21 節,耶穌基督降生之先天使向約瑟宣告一件事,說:「她將要生一個兒子,你要給他起名叫耶穌,因他要將自己的百姓從罪惡裡救出來」。基督徒都知道聖經所規範的「罪惡」,絕不僅是說你這個人小偷小摸、騙人坑人、搶劫放火···等,外在的罪惡行徑而已。說的卻是指人無法滿足神公義的要求,更無法滿足祂原來創造時所賜給人的尊貴與榮耀,這種從生命裏層所發出的虧缺狀態就稱為罪了!解決這種在人生命中虧缺是祂降生的目的。

由此看來「平安」的意義真的並沒有那麼膚淺,而是與那位創造者建立一種無虧缺的緊密關係,是屬於創造者與被造物之間的生命連結關係,在我們一起學習「警醒,禱告」之際,祈求那賜生命的源頭加倍祝福,使我們真知道祂的心意,因為耶和華說:「我知道我向你們所懷的意念是賜平安的意念,不是降災禍的意念,要叫你們末後有指望」(耶二十九:II)。

下回當有人問候你平安、或牧師說兄弟姊妹平安時,請你仔細回想我有真平安嗎?我與神的關係如何?因為這真平安是耶穌基督用生命所換取的,雖是無價,但絕非廉價!在受難節期的前夕,讓我們一起思想,共同享受耶穌基督深深的問候:「孩子們,願你們平安!」

聖經婚姻原則之微博分享篇 上海生命泉福音堂 - 薛潔姊妹

2012年1月17日

今天分享聖經婚姻原則之 "夫妻不可分 房"。經文如下: "夫妻不可彼此虧負,除非兩 相情願,暫時分房,為要專心禱告方可;以後 仍要同房,免得撒但趁著你們情不自禁,引誘 你們。" 《哥林多前書7:5》聖經提供了生活 方方面面、大大小小的指導。

撒但是魔鬼的名字,世間一切聖潔的源頭是神,一切污穢的源頭是撒但。家庭這最小的組織單元是撒但最常攻擊的目標,因婚姻本是神的心意。經文告訴我們夫妻絕不可分房,除非是爲專心禱告暫時分房。所以不要因事業發展等理由長期夫妻分居兩地,不然比起所得到的失去或付出的代價會更大。

問:婚姻是神的心意怎麼理解呢?神怎樣定義婚 姻?

答:神創造亞當,認為男人獨處不好,取其肋骨造了夏娃來幫助亞當,婚姻是一男一女與神所立的契約,男女在婚姻中通過相互學習來活出神的性情。

問:爲什麼是一男一女呢?

答:一個男人獨居不好,所以造了一個女人幫助他。既然神造男人知道男人的不足,當然再造就是一個互補的幫助者咯,就是女人!所以女人更精細,當然也更脆弱。

問:可是爲什麼不是兩個或更多的女人來幫助 一個男人呢?

答: 因爲那第三方只能是神呀,婚姻才能形成 堅固的三角,因爲婚姻是神的心意,Covenant, 契約!

他人轉發評論:現在知道了,爲什麼老 外對於中國人長期分居兩地的情況覺得不可思 議,爲什麼比中國窮得多的國家都有一方長期 出差配偶同行的待遇,人家有宗教信仰,我們 是無神論.....

他人轉發評論:事無巨細,神都通過聖 經教導我們。

他人轉發評論:沒有信仰的民族很多時 候往往就沒了道德底線。

2012年1月19日

今天分享聖經婚姻原則之 "丈夫要愛妻子,妻子要順服丈夫"。經文如下: "你們作妻子的,當順服自己的丈夫...妻子也要怎樣凡事順服丈夫...你們作丈夫的,要愛你們的妻子...如同愛自己的身子,愛妻子便是愛自己了。" 以弗所書5:22-28。婚姻中要學的兩個最重要的功課就是愛和順服!

比起妻子丈夫更多學愛的功課;比起丈夫妻子更多學順服的功課。丈夫對妻子的愛,按照聖經要到舍命的地步;妻子順服丈夫,按照聖經要凡事順服這包括了對丈夫錯誤決定的順服。現今不幸的婚姻究其根本原因可歸納爲作丈夫的對妻子不夠忠誠不夠完全的愛;作妻子的永遠想操控丈夫根本不能夠凡事順服。

許多婚姻的失敗,是婚姻中的雙方太以自己為中心,只希望對方為自己付出、改變。可婚姻中真實的愛,是自己要不斷學習接納、包容對方,爲對方委身、改變。唯有雙方都如此努力,婚姻才會美滿、穩固、幸福!夫妻因愛上帝而更加彼此相愛;因敬畏上帝而更加彼此尊敬;因仰望上帝而更加彼此珍視。

問:這是聖經裡我最不認同的一點。以前要妻子順服丈夫,因爲古代人普遍女的不受教育,不拋頭露面,見識短,所以聽丈夫的多半沒錯。可現在不一樣了呀,聖經也應該與時俱進吧?

答:順服不等同於讚同;妻子明知是丈夫錯,

完全可以將自己的意見、建議提供給丈夫,但 家裡做決定的按照神的心意應當是男人;所以 如果丈夫在聽取了智慧之妻的建議後仍做了愚 蠢的決定,那麼這個時候,身爲妻子的要先順 服下來,而不是爲此指責命令辱罵擊打丈夫。

問: 丈夫和妻子在婚姻中有什麼不同的職份呢?

答:丈夫是妻子的頭;妻子是丈夫的幫助者。 對於一個家庭要做的決定而言,妻子可以提供 建議,但決定應當由丈夫來做。丈夫做錯了, 妻子要先順服;但智慧之妻正是那個幫助丈夫 做出正確決定的人。

2012年2月3日

今天分享聖經婚姻原則之 "妻子是丈夫的幫助者。" 經文: "耶和華說:那人獨居不好,我要為他這一個配偶幫助他。"《創世紀》2:18 那人是指亞當,即說亞當獨居不好,亞當是一個男人,即男人獨居不好。聖經沒有一個地方說女人獨居不好,聖經只說男人獨居不好。

因為神知道他所造的男人在個性上品格上需要有一個女人來幫助他成全他,所以神才設立婚姻。神爲男人造一個女人,是神精心的設計。聖經啓示,女人是神創造的最高峰,所以神給女人一個非常艱巨的任務,幫助一個很難被幫助的男人。是神把那個女人帶到男人的面前!

問:那神父呢?

答:基督徒傳道人/牧師都是可以結婚的,婚姻 是神的祝福,除非特別有單身恩賜,比如像聖 徒保羅。

問:所以女人是爲男人而生嗎?

答:很好的問題。男人、女人都是為上帝而生!神在造了夏娃以後,當夏娃睜開她的眼睛,當她看這個世界的時候,她眼中第一個所看見的是她的神,不是亞當。幫助亞當是神對夏娃的旨意。

神的能力在我們的軟弱中被顯現--拘留所事工記實 甘惠琳

今年一月十四日是個非常特殊的日子。至少在我的個人生命中。這一天,奉Broward Transitional Center Chaplain Gomez 的委托,我和另外四位珊瑚泉教會的弟兄姐妹一起,來到Broward Transitional Center (拘留所),和裡面的華人同胞們一起慶祝中國的龍年。因著時間緊(只有一個小時),規定嚴(不能帶進去任何的物品),我們在反復思考之後,決定帶進去一件特殊的禮物一神的福音。我們用詩歌的形式向我們的同胞們宣揚神的愛。

雖然我們都有滿腔的熱情投入到這

項事工之中,但因著時間緊,從開始到實施,只有三個星期,其間又因正好遇上和談和新年,教會活動繁多,所有的工之的。 都被用在教會的聖誕和時間只有事工人的。 如上這是我們可以準備的時間只有事工人的。 如上這是我第一次參與組織這樣的事工之間, 之間不完的。 如中有底的。加之Broward Transitional Center有填不完的表格,數不清的推薦信,到 去那裏。最後,在找到了Tony,廣龍,

Shirley和李欣四位弟兄姐妹作為同工後,

情況才有了根本的改變。我們在彼此代禱中,互相鼓勵,放下自己,盡心盡力做好我們能做的,把余下的一切交托在神的門沒想到神最後賜給我們的是"我有意見,人心都沒有意見,人心都沒有意見,人心都沒有意思,其不不過的。他賜給我們三個新的生命。與對我們的事工都於喜若狂。聖經告訴我們:"當喜歌唱"。今天,我願和眾弟兄姐妹一起歌唱。

經過短暫的籌備工作後,這一天終 於到來。所有參與事工的弟兄姐妹都准時 來到我們的聚集地- 教會。Tony和我在 2:30 就來到教會的詩班房進行彩排, 配樂 和領詩歌。隨後,李欣姐妹,廣龍弟兄和 Shirley 姐妹於3:30准時出現, 我們在一起 進行了最後的彩排, 禱告後, 心高彩烈地 出發去拘留所。雖然由於路上堵車使我們 遲到十分鍾,但神為我們開路。Chaplain Gomez已經做好一切準備工作迎接我們的 | 到來。我們一下車子,隨即就順順利利地 通過安檢來到拘留所内的Chapel。 這時, 男同胞們已安靜在此等候, 稍過片刻, 女 同胞們也在一位女獄警的帶領下來此相 聚, 我們的聚會就在彼此問候, 相互介詔 各自的溫馨的氣氛中開始。我們共選了四 首歌曲。"全新的你","一件禮物", "因你與我同行"和"全然向你"。從 我們開始唱第一首歌"全然向你",我 看到我們的同胞們都非常認真地和我們一 起唱,有幾個姐妹都感動的流了淚。 看 到他們如此投入, 我們的弟兄姐妹也深受 感動,越唱越有勁。

在我們結束了前面三首歌後, 接著

是廣龍弟兄給予他在神家與神同行的經歷 分享。他從他如何認識神開始, 講到與神 同行所得到的恩典和福分, 進而向同胞們 介詔了神的本性和大能及他在我們每個人 生命中的計劃和旨意、原來只安排十分鍾 的分享, 廣龍弟兄用了近三十分鍾, 不斷 地傳揚神的信息,一遍又一遍地呼招同胞 們來領受神所賜的寶貴禮物-主耶穌基 督。當有一個弟兄站起來時, 我們的心也 跟著歡喜快樂,一回兒,又有一個姐妹站 了起來, 我們的心激動的快跳出胸膛, 但 我們盡量控制著我們的情緒; 當又一個弟 兄站了起來願意將他的生命歸向主時,李 欣和Shirley姐妹都高興地流下了欣喜之 淚。聖經告訴我們: "當地上有一個罪人 得救, 眾天使在天上歡喜歌唱"。今天, 在我們面前竟然有三位罪人得救(Bonnie 師母在向會眾報告這一喜訊時, 用了得救 比例60%,因為在場的共有五位未信主的, 其中三人信了主), 我們真的是無法用任 何言語、歌聲來表達我們内心的歡樂之 情, 唯有眼淚流出了我們的高興之情。

在世上為祂做美好的見證。

在我們回教會的車上, 我們所有參 與這一天與拘留所同胞共慶新年事工的五 位弟兄姐妹都非常興奮, 我們在一起分享 神的愛, 為我們能親自見證神的國度而獻 上感謝。對我本人而言, 我也深深地為弟 兄姐妹們為神的國度所發出的熱情而深受 感動。特別是當我得知Tony弟兄和Shirley 姐妹都擁有自己的餐館,他們在禮拜六, 餐館生意最繁忙的時候, 仍然把神的工作 放在第一位,不僅花了整整一個下午和傍 晚的時間來參與神的福音工作, 而且, 從 一開始, 他們就把自己全然獻上, 幫助我 一起選歌, 制定計劃, 排練等一切的細 節, 甚至於詩歌朗誦的情緒表達等等都一 一探究, 使我學到了一個很好的功課, 那 就是什麼叫做"全然獻上,為神的國度 奉獻自己。"廣龍弟兄和李欣姐妹也全 身心地投入與這項事工。 我們在事奉的 過程中一同感受到神的大能, 那就是當我 們整個團隊一心一意追求神的國度,在祂 裡面合一時, 神的大能就得以顯現在我們 的事工中, 祂就可以藉著我們每一個人來 成就祂自己的國度。

當我們回到教會時,教會的龐大的 停車場就只有孤零零的四部車。雖然這天 的天氣有點涼,可我們每一個弟兄姐妹的 心都很熱。因為我們感受到主的光照在我 們的生命中,也親眼看到祂的光又照亮了 三顆黑暗的心,使他們得以走出黑暗,來 到祂光明的國度,成為光明之子。

從教會開車回家的路上,我好激動。恨不能趕緊到家,和我的先生一起分享這特大的喜訊。要知道,自從我信主重 生得救後,在領受神所賜的新生命的恩典

一年前, 我第一次隨同劉牧師及路 加團契其他的弟兄姐妹一起參與了拘留所 同胞的事工。那一天, 我們剛到拘留所的 大門口, 就遇到一位來自大陸的同胞姐妹 在哭泣;一進到拘留所裡面,當一位來自 上海的姐妹得知我也來自上海時,她情不 自禁地向我哭訴她的不幸遭遇。這二個悲 痛欲絕的姐妹, 讓我難過不已, 卻又無能 為力,另外那些同胞雖然境況不同,但他 們對他們所處境況的失望或絕望之情,深 深地打動了我的心。在我為她們的境況擔 憂的時候, 我想到靠我個人, 很難更多地 為她們排憂解難, 唯有主耶穌才是她們的 希望和盼望。我當即向劉牧師表達了我的 心願-我願意奉獻自己,去向她們傳揚耶 穌基督救贖的真理。今天, 我已被批准為 Broward Transitional Center 的宗教信仰志願 者義工。我知道憑我自己不能為主成就什 麼。我只願神能使用我,使我成為祂的器 四,來成就祂的救贖,成就祂的國度。也 願我們珊瑚泉教會的弟兄姐妹繼續支持我 的這項事工,使這項事工能榮耀神自己的 名。

美麗的月蘭 許錦根執事

月蘭姐妹外表美麗,心靈更美麗。在月蘭剛被天父接回天家那一天,我正在加州女兒家,一位曾在珊瑚泉浸信教會服侍的姐妹給我電話,說到她看過一個見證,是一位曾因車禍經歷死蔭幽谷又被搶救回來的牧師寫的。作者說自己到過天堂,在天堂裡見到了他以前曾爲一位老弟兄追思禮拜,沒有想到在天堂裡,他是那麼的英俊瀟灑。牧師後來在這位老弟兄的家看到他的照相簿,原來這弟兄年輕時就是那樣的。牧師說,在天堂的眾聖徒,都是他們在世時最美的形態,在天堂的眾聖徒,都是他們在世時最美的形像。少靖和思彤都曾痛心地告訴我,她們探訪月蘭時,原先那麼美麗的月蘭被疾病折磨得不成樣子。聽了這牧師的見證,我們可以放心了,將來在天家,我們見到的一定還是那樣美麗的月蘭。

我和月蘭第一次接觸是一次爭執。那是 2000年的感恩節前夕,我剛剛被選爲馬太團契的 主席,月蘭則是司庫。我給月蘭電話提出請她買 禮品代表馬太團契送給一位老姐妹,月蘭很驚 訝, 爲什麼這樣做?說這事需要大家討論的。於 是我和月蘭發生激烈的爭執,我以爲作爲團契主 席, 這點 "決定權" 都沒有?後來, 我分別和其 他幾位弟兄交通, 才意識到月蘭的做法是對的, 我則不經意地把世俗的領導做法帶到了神家。我 真誠地請月華向月蘭道歉, 並也從中看出她實在 是一位很有原則的姐妹。後來燕玉對我說起她向 月蘭學習插花藝術時的交往,了解到她在周六下 午去教堂插花,爲次日主日敬拜作準備,十多年 如一日從未間斷, 我更感到這是一位對神家的事 工有責任心的好姐<mark>妹,因此,2003年3月我被按</mark> 立爲執事,教會安排我負責宣道事奉後,燕玉向 我推荐了最好的參與服侍的人選就是月蘭,我當 時心想的也是她。

教會宣道部建立後立即開展的就是拘留所的事奉——向當時被關押在南弗州拘留所的大陸偷渡來美的人傳福音,月蘭、月華姐妹倆積極參加了這個服侍。她們倆主要是通過教拘留所裡大

陸的難民學習英語來傳福音,這是一個需要花時間、精力和金錢的事奉。月蘭有好多次都是下班立即趕來,然後要九、十點鐘才能回家吃晚飯。有一次是主日下午,我敬拜回家休息後突然想起那天是她們去拘留所服侍,便去電話詢問,別人與一方,我很有點遺憾和埋怨拘問,因此白跑了一趟。我很有點遺憾和埋怨拘留,當局爲何事先不告訴她們,但月蘭只是輕輕一笑的情,沒有關系"。後來牧師告訴我,她們在拘留所外面整整等候了兩個多小時才被告知當天不能探訪的。也就是說,加上路程花費的時人,有整整等候了兩個多小時才被告時間,是整不動的。也就是說,加上路程花費的時人,有學得到過她送的聖經,那上面有她絹秀的題問,那上面有她絹秀的題言:"聖經都是神的話。願神的話成爲你的幫助、力量。願神祝福你!珊瑚泉華人浸信教命"。

我在珊瑚泉時,教會舉行過三次福音佈道會,宣道部爲籌備作了許多工作,我因常常回大陸,這些前期的工作就主要靠月蘭聯合少靖、丁太太等姐妹去做。記得有一次,爲了能讓教會的詩班在南弗州科技教育文化協會的春節聯歡會上唱福音讚美詩,把"耶穌愛你"的福音在這個中國人的傳統節日高聲唱出來,月蘭事先幾個月特別在家裡舉行"派對",邀請當時的那個協會主席去她家作客,使牧師有機會向他傳福音並把詩班的演唱事定下來。每次佈道會前,她和月華、少靖、思彤等姐妹到各個華人常去的餐館、超市和其他點張貼海報,忙得不亦樂乎。

月蘭愛神的家,也愛神家的人,她所關心的弟兄姐妹和幕道友常常超出地域的觀念—她對大陸同胞靈魂得救有很深的負擔。我曾親眼目睹她不遺餘力向一位蔣姓同事播撒福音的種子的情形,這位先生是來自大陸的。她的態度之耐心,語言之誠懇,我常自嘆不如。對於那些曾經來過我們教會又回大陸的,不論是否在這裡信主,她關懷的工作都隨他們的腳蹤。我寫這篇紀念文章

Single Si

時,我們已經離開珊瑚泉六年,燕玉卻還數點得出月蘭關懷過的人的名字,一長串哪!

2005年,牧師要求宣道部負責出版教會的屬靈刊物《珊瑚泉之光》,我分別邀請一位弟兄和一位姐妹作幫助,都被婉言相拒。我雖知月蘭已經擔負了不少事工,但最後不得不請她出來,她一口答應,並認真做好每期的編輯工作。雖然文字編輯不是她的強項,但幾乎每一篇文稿她都認真檢查、修改。有些文章被牧師修改得已面目全非,她就把文稿仔細謄清。我離開後,廣龍弟兄負責主編,相信他們一定也有很好的配搭。

月蘭姐妹的個性率直認真,因此在服侍中也免不了曾受過一些傷害,但她從不埋怨。她離世前不久我曾和她通過電話,談到一起服侍中往事,她心中充滿感恩。頓時我想起了這樣一首詩:"天上雖有無比榮耀的冠冕,但無十架可以跟從,進入安息;就再尋不到疲倦,再無機會爲主受苦;爲主的機會已是何等少,所有機會快要過去***。"

每當我唱起這首倪桥聲弟兄所填歌詞的讚美詩《到了天上再也沒有十字架》,我都會熱淚盈眶,無法唱到最後一節。今天寫這篇紀念月蘭的文章,心中又一次唱起來,是啊,我們必須珍惜現有的今天,甘心服侍主,好好爲主活著,不要"今天急切望將來,將來又悔今天錯過。"



INCORRUPTIBLE INSIDE OF A CORRUPTED GENERATION

Rosangela Horvath

Unfortunately, to live a sanctified life today is not an easy decision, especially if you are living in countries where promiscuity is called a mistake, and immoral actions are called faults. Also, the newer generation living in metropolitan areas is confused with many principles that do not match the word of God; as a result of this situation, we can see parents who have to work, leaving their kids in school or at home. By the time those parents come home tired, and everybody is expecting dinner, the family doesn't have an opportunity to spend time together, to share love and quality time. Unfortunately, these circumstances result in broken families and a generation which is compromised by many factors like this one. For example, according to Center of Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. has twice as many pregnant teenagers as the U.K. and Canada: in addition, the State of Florida is number

Genesis 6: 1-13

"Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be

six on pregnant teenagers in the nation.

one hundred and twenty years." There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."

Days ago, I was reading at the Center of Disease Control website (cdc.gov), and I was surprised by the fact that one in four teenage girls have their first sexual encounter between the ages of 13 and 14. Also, one in four sexually active teenagers between the ages of 14 and 19 have Sexual Transmission Diseases (STD). The question is: how can we help our teens to move far from these ways?

Psalm 119: 9-11

"How can a young man cleanse his way?
By taking heed according to Your word.
With my whole heart I have sought You;
Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You."

Unfortunately, we all have an inclination to do corrupt things This is the old man inside that takes people to act according to greed and selfishness and leads down a mistaken road.

Ephesians 4:22-24

"that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

Everything is pure for those who are pure in heart, those who have Jesus in their heart, and those who have been forgiven. However, for those without Jesus in their heart and those who are corrupted, nothing is pure, their mind and spirit are contaminated by Satan.

Titus 1:15

"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."

Also, as a sinner, people have inclination to get involved or attracted by friends who have some kind of influence, not necessarily because they are good friends, good classmates, or help anyone to grow, but because of their corrupted mind and bad habits.

I Corinthians 15: 33-34

"Do not be deceived: "Evil companies corrupt good habits. Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame". How can a person have an incorruptible life in this corrupted world? The answer is: by the Grace of God, like Noah did it. All provisions for Noah's ark were provided by God.

Genesis 6:8

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD".

Genesis 6:14

"Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch."

What does this pitch represent in a Christian's life? The pitch was used to seal Noah's ark. There are two elements, consequently and simultaneously, operating in our lives for the man's interior and exterior purification. The love of Christ, who died for our sins at the cross, purifies our lives, and the pitch is His blood to seal us with His Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 9:14

"how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

You will enter on the Ark to preserve yourself alive.

Genesis 6:18

"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark—you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you."

Genesis 7:16

"So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in."

Enter into the body of Christ, baptized by His death and His resurrection. By His death He makes our corrupted life to be dead in Christ, and by His resurrection allow us to live a new life which is incorruptible.

Romans 6:3-6;

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death. Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His

resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

We need to be covered by the incorruptibility of the resurrection of Christ to live a pure life that is pleasant in the eyes of our Savior! But, for that it is necessary to enter the Ark, like Noah did with his family. They had the grace of salvation, and the eternal pact was concluded in Christ. Noah and his family could enter the ark because they obeyed and trusted in God. This is exactly the kind of faith we need to have for our lives.

I Corinthians 15:50-54

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

It is true that the Grace of God by Jesus Christ is the only door to enter into heaven. But when the Lord closes that door, where will you be? He is the only one who has the Key of David which opens a door that nobody can close. However, when He closes the door, nobody can open it. His door is open, waiting for your decision to invite Jesus to live in your heart and live an incorruptible life.

Revelations 3:7

"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens".

配合教會今年主題—"警醒,禱告",編輯部採訪了一些 弟兄姊妹,每一位都回答三個同樣的問題:

To synchronize the church theme of 2012 – "Watch, Pray", the chief editor interviewed few brothers and sisters, each one of them was asked for three exact same questions:

一、如有弟兄或姊妹問你,教會每個禮拜三晚上有禱告會,每逢每個月的第一個禮拜三特別請全教會弟兄和姊妹來一起禱告,我從來沒有去過,你是否可以和我分享一些這方面的情況?

1. If one brother or sister is asking you, there is a prayer meeting every Wednesday's night at 8:00PM at church, especially, the first Wednesday of each month is the church-wide prayer meeting, I have never been there, can you share your experiences and opinions?

Pastor Scott Ryan – Let me first just say – prayer is sort of the power of the church, the energy of the church. When we get on our knees before God, he wants his church to pray, and he does answer prayer. The Bible says that God will listen and answer prayer. Now, he doesn't always say yes to our prayers, sometimes he says no, sometimes he delays or gives us a different answer, but he does listen to people and work through our prayer, which is a great gift. We as a church, when we come together on Wednesday night, I believe there is a special power in a group coming

together. The spirit is uniting us, as a group. Matthew 18:19-20 says, "19 Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." We are praying together, worshiping him. God works and will answer and work in our church. If we didn't do this, I believe our church would be less godly, and God wouldn't necessarily bless us. He does work through prayer. We don't have to tell God the future; he already knows. But he wants his children to come to him and increase our faith.

So coming together on Wednesday nights as one body is a terrific privilege, it's a God given privilege, and basically, what we do is follow an ACTS type of prayer. It's an acronym for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. Those four items are a great way to pray and we go through those four items as a group and it really focuses on God and helps confess sin. Sometimes we pray for each other and for the church. And we sing together, to praise and glorify God through songs. It's a very special and warm time for the church. It builds unity. On Wednesday night, for those who come, I feel unified to my brother and sister. We're more together as a church.

I encourage you to come out to our Wednesday night prayer meetings.

施亭竹傳道-教會禱告會是一個很美的聚會。弟兄姊妹相聚有同一目的、同一使命,就是同心合意在禱告中與神相遇,並以禱告來爲教會的方向、事工、及教會肢體中間的需要守望。既是屬靈爭戰的前鋒、又是後備!除此之外,一起聚集來禱告的弟兄姊妹們因爲固定的在禱告中相交,就會建立起屬靈的默契,雖然大家的年齡背景懸殊很大,然而大家因著主基督的呼召和愛,當我們爲同一件事迫切禱告時,那種同心仰望神、放下自己個人喜好的呼求,就激勵彼此互爲一肢體的信心。不但如此,這樣一起聚集的禱告所帶來的勇氣和精神,可以鼓勵每日的個人禱告,不要懈怠、不要灰心,因爲有許多弟兄姊妹也正在爲此禱告。

區煒文執事-首先這個禱告會是很重要的,正如大家所知道的,所有神國的事工是由禱告 先開始的。平時我們多是自己個人的禱告,可是大家在一起禱告也是非常有必要的,正如 使徒行傳2:42記載早期教會,基督徒常常一同團契,擘餅及禱告。因爲這樣做,不但在 神的面前,將我們所需所求的告訴神,而且可以警醒自己。我們教會今年的主題是警醒, 禱告。所以來參加這個禱告會,我們個人可以學到很多東西。再者若是一些遇到困難及挑 戰的弟兄姐妹能來參加禱告會,聽到別人爲他代禱,祈求,一定會得到鼓勵與幫助。

王同樂執事 - 一般的禱告會基本上是我們教會所有的弟兄姐妹一起同心禱告,當然這同時 又是一個很好的機會讓我們彼此學習禱告,更重要的是弟兄姐妹在一起同心仰望神,並不 像個人在家裡時沒有弟兄姐妹之間的相交。我們的禱告會基本上有一個小時,禱告會開始 之前會有詩歌讚美,然後弟兄姐妹同心禱告。

馮紀新執事 - 一個月有一天大家全部聚在一起是很好的,其它的日子能不能分區聚,這樣大家就不需要跑那麼遠,因爲有些想參加禱告會的人,下班已經六七點多啦,如果就近有聚會的地方,他們就不需要辛苦的跑來跑去。比如說住在 West Palm Beach 的人,可以到

West Palm Beach 的禱告會,當然這只是我的想法。又比如說住在 Weston 附近的,大家可以去敏舜的家或敏舜去別人的家,這樣大家都可以就近參與禱告。住在 Coral Springs 的,因爲離教會近,所以可以到教會來參與。這樣大家就不會猜疑,爲什麼總是住在 Coral Springs 附近的人來參加聚會。我們需要擴大參與面,分幾個不同的地方,因爲住在 Weston 及 West Palm Beach 的人來教會實在是不方便。我聽說,West Palm Beach 辦一個每個月星期一有一次查經,這對他們也有幫助,他們在查經中也有禱告,但禱告會有點不一樣。

Cathy Yeung - Yes, I try to come to every prayer meeting. I think it's because of a decision and a commitment I made to encourage and pray with the brothers and sisters who faithfully meet to pray, whether in rain or in good weather, whether there are 2 people attending or more. When we fully realize how real and fierce the spiritual battle is and the comfort that God promises to answer our prayers when we pray according to His will we really left with two choices: to take a stand to fight against the enemy on my knees or to miss out on the many blessings of God.

Deacon Tony Chu – Okay. Actually, a few people have asked me, so I simply tell them from my own experience. I attended one of meetings which was not the first Wednesday of the month. There were only a hand full of people showed up. Except me, they were all Mandarin speaking brothers and sisters. When they pray in Mandarin, I didn't fully understand what they were saying, so I decided to only attend prayer meetings at the beginning of the months. I explained to them based on my experience. I suggested to them to go to the prayer meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, because our pastor is there. He follows the structure of praise, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. At the beginning of each part, we sing a song and the pastor will ask us to focus in those areas. The pastor encourages us to pray out loud, individually. And then, we have prayers in small groups.

For the English speaking brothers and sisters, I would say that the pastor leads the meetings in two languages, English and Mandarin. So you won't have a problem to understand it.

During the small group prayer meetings at the end, we have enough English-speaking brothers and sisters to form a English speaking group to pray together.

So I would encourage them to come.

鄭敏舜執事·教會的禱告會是讓弟兄姊妹和同工們一起在禱告當中將一切教會大小事交給神的時間,神將祂的家我們的教會交給我們託管,是給家中的每一分子而不只是牧師、傳道、同工或是執事,我們或許可以用神給我們的恩賜及智慧作決定來管理教會,但教會的主人是神,禱告會是我們一方面向神報告我們的工作感謝神的作爲,一方面也到神面前尋求神聽神聲音的時候。同時教會當中任何肢體的缺乏是要整個肢體一同擔當,我們一同到神面前同心彼此代禱懇求,也一同見證神的恩典和大能。



Deacon Bill Wong - Our monthly prayer meetings are a time for the congregation to come together and pray to God. We, the children of God can have an intimate time with our Lord to show him we are at his mercy and our strength comes from him. And since we are in this spiritual warfare, we need this strength until the day we see him. On our own, we will fail in this spiritual warfare and only through prayer will we succeed.

二、如有弟兄或姊妹問你,我個人的禱告是經常有的,也常為弟兄姊妹及教會禱告, 要是來禱告會,我的禱告與我平時禱告差不多沒分別,而且這個時間對我也不是太方便, 你是否可以和我分享一些個人禱告與禱告會這一方面的看法?

2. If one brother or sister is asking you, I have my routine prayer daily, also pray for brothers and sisters and church ministry, If I come to the prayer meeting, my prayer would not be too different than my routine individual prayers, the prayer meeting time is also not convenient for me, can you share your experiences and opinions?

Pastor Scott Ryan – "Right, right. First of all, yes, we should pray by ourselves. God said, 'Pray without ceasing." So we're always ready to pray. If we're in our car driving, we can pray. Maybe at break time during work, or sitting at your desk, you can offer up a prayer to God. We should always be praying on our own. But secondly, in Acts chapter two, it said the church came together and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the breaking of bread - and to prayer. All through the book of Acts, we see them praying all the time as a church. They're praying for God to move, for people to come to Christ. As mentioned above, I believe there's a special power when people come together and pray, I really believe God works when we pray for the church, the outside community, and the Chinese workers in the restaurants. God will start working and I believe he will answer the prayers. He wants his kingdom to grow and he wants people to come to Christ. And prayer is a means to start seeing this happen. So you have to say, 'What are my priorities in life?' Well, obviously, your job is a priority, but God has to be your number one priority. And if you can give up time to meet together with your brothers and sisters. God blesses that, and one of the most important things you could do is to take time to pray.

God works in prayer and when we show up to pray as one body, it shows God that we're serious about our faith in him and want him to move. I'm sure there will be more blessings by committing to prayer with your brothers and sisters as a group. You'll really see more of God's blessings. I encourage you to pray together as a group with your fellow church members.

施亭竹傳道-其實個人禱告和與弟兄姊妹一起禱告雖都是禱告,也都可以爲同樣的事禱告,但 意義和影響是不同的,所帶來的個人和群體的成長也是不同的。

首先,從聖經中來看,神不單要我們單獨來親近祂,也要我們與眾信徒一起來親近祂。舊約到新約中,充滿了神的子民聚集禱告的例子,詩篇中不只一次呼喚神的選民在大會中稱謝神(詩 22:25, 35:18, 111:1),舊約中多次見到神的子民集體認罪、尋求神(尼 9; 王下23),還有新約時代的使徒和門徒,同心聚集禱告時,我們就看見神的旨意和作爲向他們顯明(徒 1:12-14, 13:1-3),到末日耶穌再來時,神要召聚所有真信徒永遠在祂面前,晝夜不住的事奉敬拜祂(啓 7)。 所以,集體禱告是神的心意,就如同個人禱告是神的心意一樣。

第二,藉著集體禱告,弟兄姊妹能學習合神心意的禱告,進而培養屬靈的默契。當我們一起禱告時,你會發現每一個人對事情關心的角度很不一樣,因此向神祈求的方式和重點也很不一樣。我們沒有一個人是完全的,因此在禱告中,我們能夠互相補足、彼此建造、一起在認識神的心意上成長。有一次禱告會,徐伯伯建議我們大家用對話的方式禱告,一開始,大家並不習慣,還是個人禱告個人的,彼此之間的禱詞沒有什麼關聯,但後來我們越來越能信任別人能把我想不到的角度,用他的禱詞禱告得更完全,我們開始能夠更加簡潔、切中要點的爲一件事禱告,並且讓別人接下去我說不完全的部分,我們不再是一些獨立的個人在同一個房間裡禱告,我們成爲一個有默契的團體,在聖靈的引導下獻上一個整體的禱告!

第三,來參加集體的禱告能堅固彼此的信心。很多時候,我自己在禱告會中因爲聽見一同禱告的弟兄和姊妹的禱詞,本來漸漸疲憊的心就再一次被挑旺起來,甚至神會使用別人的禱詞來對我說話,使我的心思意念頓時豁然開朗。在這樣一個禱告的團體中,你會發現神真實的作爲就在我們中間!

區煒文執事-大家都知道不停地禱告可以增加信心,如果大家聚在一起互相禱告,就如一堆火越燒越旺,若將每一根柴火分開的話,火苗就會弱很多,所以我們要參加禱告會,不只是在我們崇拜的聚會上。同時我們在禱告的時候,思想要一致。早期的教會給我們立下了很好的榜樣,那時,我們經常聚在一起低頭禱告,讓我們增加信心。

王同樂執事 - 我們同心一起禱告,一起讚美神,與自己在家裡的個別禱告不同。弟兄姐妹同心 禱告可以享受同心的喜樂,感受肢體禱告的火熱。

馮紀新執事-聖經上有講,禱告是來到神的家中,是大家聚在一起,用同心禱告。當然禱告最主要的是同心,大家是在去求一顆心,去求同一件事情。自己家的事情大家可以一起去求,一起禱告讚美神。當然不只是讚美神,同時去求神的國及神的義,在這個基礎上,大家也互相學習。禱告本身是一個學習的功課,在一起可以學習到別人是如何向神祈求的,免得自己好像在求空氣。所以大家要一起同心學習。

Cathy Yeung - (pauses)...well...the ability to be witness how real and how powerful God is, that He is able to hear his children when we pray and we can see the evidence of his mercy, goodness and power when our prayer is answered. We would also miss out on the blessing of deepening our relationship with Him as well...the deepening of our walk and reliance on him as we see how he provides answers to our prayers; not always in the ways we expect, but always an answer.

As we pour out our praises, repentance, and needs in prayer we are changed in our perspectives as we hear our prayers and others praying out loud around us. Sometimes when I pray God changes my heart and softens my attitude and perspective. And sometimes...I know it sounds like of charismatic...(laughs) but during the times that I walk closely with the Lord, I can feel his pleasure upon me when I pray. And there is great joy... but we are all sinners, me especially (laughs) and our walk and talks with him are sometimes interrupted and distracted by all the things we "consider" more of a priority.

Editor - So, what are some of the distractions and barriers to keep you, or maybe others from coming consistently to our prayer meetings?

Cathy Yeung - Sometimes there are legitimate difficulties, such as transportation for the youth, school, family and work schedules, but I think the heart of the matter is a "heart" issue. It comes down to whether we truly believe that God hears and answers our prayers, and whether there is an urgency to stand with others on the front lines and hold each other up as we pray. It is a decision and spiritual discipline that requires our obedience and submission and perseverance. If we believe that we are in the midst of a spiritual battle, and the power of prayer as our weapon against the enemy, there should be no greater priority than to pray.

Paul reminds the Ephesians after exhorting them to put on the armor of God to fight the battle not of "flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the principalities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces in the heavenly realms" that there is one more tactical weapon for them to use: prayer.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people " - Ephesians 6:18

Deacon Tony Chu – Private prayers are important, but praying together is also important. It's a very powerful ministry and I believe that God will honor that. If people come to pray, it's a very powerful method in dealing with spiritual warfare and it is also a very good witness.

鄭敏舜執事-個人禱告當然是非常重要,但它是屬於個人跟神親近建立關係的時候,禱告會集體禱告有其特別的意義和好處,可以歸納爲幾點:一是肢體在禱告當中合一,一起將讚美感謝和祈求帶到神面前;二是讓弟兄姊妹更知道教會的需要而更有負擔,並且一同見證神的工作;三是從其他弟兄姊妹禱告當中學習禱告。這些是與個人禱告互相幫補而且互相建立,經常參加禱告會可以幫助個人禱告生活更豐富。

Deacon Bill Wong - It is good to pray on your own on a regular basis, but in group meetings, we the children of God get together and pray and teach the Bible. Also, I think, for example, I can learn from others how to pray in a better way and to improve my prayer and I give all my word and heart to God in a much better way.

三、你前面講的, 我基本是同意的, 但我感覺好像有點理論化,

你是否有親身的經歷或親眼的所見,神垂聽同心同聲合一的禱告,有具體的例子嗎? 3. I generally agree what you have said, however, I feel that it's somehow more theoretical than realistic, have you personally experienced or seen that God really answered the prayers presented by brothers and sisters with one voice and one heart?

Pastor Scott Ryan – Real examples. You can see in the Scriptures in the New Testament that there are answers to prayers. The apostles and the church, the way they pray for things, God answers them and blesses them. For example, Peter when he was in prison and the church was praying, he was released miraculously. Furthermore, the apostles were working miracles and healings.

There are times when I have prayed and people have gotten better from their illness. Now, we as humans, can we say that's because of prayer? Well, we know that God answers prayer and we know that God blesses us. Many of the times, yes, God healed a person because of prayer. God doesn't have to heal and doesn't have to answer the way be like. But God always answers.

Romans 8:28 says, "All things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose." And so, even when we pray and don't get the right answer, we know that God is working all these things for good. I know you're probably wondering, 'Give me some specific examples.' Let me mention a couple of things. I remember reading a biography of a guy named George Mueller, who lived in England. He ran an orphanage for kids. He lived by peoples' donations. He didn't take any salary. He was a man of prayer; he prayed for years for God to bring money. Sometimes, the orphanage's budget would be almost nothing. But maybe that morning, someone would come by with a check or drop money or food off. God constantly answered his prayer and was blessing him.

My wife, the other night, was up all night, as she felt God lay on her heart the need to pray for and reach out to someone she knows. The situation worked out really well. God will lead us in our prayer.

Praying together will really create unity. There are examples of God working and blessing. Sometimes, you pray and don't seem to see God answering; it's because he has something better in mind. He has something that he wants to do.

Lastly, let me say this. I'm writing an article and one of the things I said in the article was that we can never change God's mind; he knows what He's going to do. One of the way God acts is He gives us the gift of prayer. It's not that we're changing His mind. He already knows what He's going to do. We're praying that He will work on our behalf and that He will actually move and do things from our prayers. And he does – God ordains not only the ends but the means, and one of the means God uses to accomplish his will is our prayer for God to move, and he moves because of our prayers. So we can be confident that He will answer our prayers.

So just always pray, passionately and expectantly. He will act on your prayers.

施亭竹傳道·神不單垂聽個人的禱告,也垂聽集體的禱告,特別是遇到激烈的屬靈爭戰時。但要記得,神不是阿拉丁神燈裡的、聽我們差遣的僕人,祂是以祂的方式、時間、並超越的智慧來回應禱告。在過去幾屆的恩愛夫妻營中,我就看見神何等信實的回應同工迫切的禱告,使營會能順利的如期舉行,並且使不可能解決的夫妻問題和子女托管問題轉爲可能,並使剛硬的心回轉。特別是第二屆國語夫妻營營會期間,我與幾位同工在背後不斷的以禱告守望,營會中的同工也定期的報告,幫助我們更知道如何爲營會中的每一對夫妻禱告,我們真真實實的經歷到,那本來冷淡的轉爲溫暖,那頻臨破碎的轉爲盼望,那美好的成爲更加美好;我們戰戰兢兢的到神施恩寶座前求的時候,祂毫不吝嗇的讓我們與祂同工,讓我們見到祂大能的作爲!

區煒文執事-我們教會中很多兄弟姐妹是從教會創建初期時就在一起的,我們教會有二十多年歷史,我們一起從一個查經班開始,然後福音堂,我們從一個只有三四十人的福音堂發展到現在三百多人的教會,所以從一開始到現在,我們看到了許多因爲一直禱告而得到的神的應許。比如說,現在我們在 West palm Beach 開設的福音堂,當這個福音堂還沒有建立的時候,我們就開始禱告,現在這個福音堂已經開設了主日學,查經班及一個月一次的崇拜聚會,更有住在附近的人聽了福音而信主的。從這些事情都可以看到神在聽我們的禱告。

王同樂執事-例子我現在並沒有確切的,但我可以與大家分享一些禱告的態度。禱告是一種與神之間的交流和對話,主要的是禱告的時候要講神的話,不能講人的話。講神的話,必須學習聖經。禱告的時候我們首先讚美神,有困難向祂祈求。剛開始是祈求,接下去是聖靈會讓我們體會到神的心意是什麼。最後一個階段是我們是否願意順服神的心意。並不是禱告每一件事情神都會答應我們,就像主耶穌基督在客西馬尼的禱告,他向神求能不能將這杯離開我,然而不要照我的意思,只要照你的意思。我們有困難向神祈求的時候,神並不是每次都挪去我們的困難,而是會藉著各種環境來操練我們,讓我們來了解祂的心意,禱告最大的功課不是如何去求,不是禱告是否得應許,而是我們是否願意順服神的旨意。

馮紀新執事-我大多是求神的家,希望神能夠給我們安定,不再流離失所,以前我們跟褚媽媽也一起禱告,每次都是求神給我們一個家。神給了我們一個小家,但是人多了以後不夠用,大家吵東吵西,團契也不能做,年輕人也沒有地方可以活動,所以我們就求神給我們一個大的家,求啊求,最後神真的是給我們啦,連我們自己都不敢相信。很多人都認為,這不是很簡單嗎?其實那可是花了一百六十萬建的家。這可以做一個很好的見證。雖然現在還欠二十萬,可是跟一百六十萬比較,所剩無已。如果沒有神的作為,只是靠人,那是不可能的。我們現在有這麼多的設備,不是自誇,但起碼這十幾年來從沒有讓我們跑東跑西的,與很多在外面跑的教會相比,我們實在幸運。其實很多教

會,查經班及所謂的敬拜都在求有一個自己的地方,他們當中有很多甚至求了幾十年都沒有成。正因爲安定,我們才能有副牧師,才能多一些全職職員,如果教會流離失所,怎麼會找到全職職員呢?我們的教會雖然人不多,但有了這些全職職員,我們可以做很多事情。如果沒有地方,那麼時間就很難固定,一些不常來的人就會放棄。所以說教會是一個產業,如果教會有一個固定的地方,大家就會有一個固定的地方可以去,這樣可以吸引一些年輕的中國人來教會。雖然人有來有去,但家是常存的。我們把神的會所建在 Coral Springs 是我們的榮耀,我們一直在盡力維持神的會所,可能在今後我們也會遇到不少困難,但我們還是有信心,也許那時我們已經老去,但新來的人會接著做下去,盡管我們現在不知道將來誰會做這個教會的領袖。當然要當好這個家並不是容易,因爲當家的人總會被人攻擊,被人挑是非,但還是要堅持用自己的肩膀扛起這個家。其實這不只是一個教會的問題,一個國家也是如此,老一輩的人如此有膽略,創造了很多奇跡,但如何將事業繼承光大,是老一輩人對新一輩人的信任,如果有疑慮,就不容易做好。

Cathy Yeung - Hmm...there are so many but one that has impacted me the most has been God's provision for the building of our 2-story training building. While we were in doubt whether we could afford to raise funds for our 2-story building God answered clearly by moving Pastor Linus to test His will in a pledge drive. All pledges were put into a sealed box for an agreed period and would be counted at the end of the drive. If we could raise \$500, 000 in pledges by the end of the period, we would proceed with the construction plans for the new building. If the funds came to less than the \$500, 000 we would stop the planning and wait. During those months, we prayed and waited. When the sealed pledge box was opened at the end of the period, we had received some ridiculously close number, like \$503, 000 or something, as if God was saying, I can provide for your needs...and then some! It was pretty amazing! Even today, when I think of this story, I am reminded by God's power and faithfulness.

Deacon Tony Chu – I pray simply because God commanded me to pray. I am more a believer of, prayer simply is a way to teach me to be more obedient to God's will and to be conformed to His desire. After I have prayed about something and have already put the matter into God's hand, whatever the outcome is; it's according to God's will. So be it.

For example, I've been praying for my sickness for a long time, but has God healed me? No. But if God doesn't want to heal me, so be it. I used to believe that, the more I prayed, God would listen and answer..But when I thought about it from God's perspective, I slowly realized that God doesn't really change His mind. He is a sovereign. He already knew the end result of everything. God wants us to pray so that our will may conform to His will.

I guess I didn't answer your question. [Laughs]

鄭敏舜執事 - 不論是個人或是集體的禱告,只要發自內心真誠(用心靈和真理)禱告神都垂聽,只是是否照我們所求的應驗還是神有更高更美的旨意以及神應允的時間就在乎於神。兩年多前教會開始尋找英文牧師,經過弟兄姊妹很長時間的禱告,最後神帶 Pastor Scott 到我們當中;這兩年三次(二次國語一次粵語)家新恩愛夫妻營以及每次華神聖經教師訓練,我們都到最後還擔心參加的人不夠而流產,在禱告會當中特別爲營會及課程禱告,每次神都帶領足夠甚至超過我們所想的人來參加。每次弟兄姊妹爲執事們或是特別指名替我禱告,以及上個月準備第一次講道時弟兄姊妹在禱告會中的代禱,都讓我個人實際經歷禱告所帶出來的能力。

Deacon Bill Wong - Before when I prayed, I expected God to listen to me and give me what I wished and prayed for. But now, as I am a more mature Christian, I understand prayer is not something in which you ask God to do what you want. Prayer is a relationship in which you pour out your feelings to God. How He will fulfill our wishes is up to Him. We should ask for what we want according to the Bible, not what we favor for ourselves. And in my case, I can share many examples. I have gone through many difficulties and I prayed to God and prayed to get me out. At the end, it comes out better than I knew or expected. In difficult times, he led me through. He has lifted me up spiritually much higher than before.

珊瑚泉華人浸信教會商討會短訊#2

假期接踵而來,又匆匆而去!商討會 再一次埋首,渴望這新的一年,我們的主透 過我們的事奉賜給教會更多的恩典。這裡與 你們分享點滴家訊,

在決策上讓我們嚴謹點...

在設施上讓我們籌劃我們的增長...

團契增長,超越了房間所能容,怎辦?將要來的副牧師,他的辦公室哪裏找?孩子們快爆棚啦,把那儲物室改裝做課室可以嗎?還有那音響室怎樣設置,才可與講台更聯絡得合適,而又保證音響系統的安全呢?所以我們來一個特別設施研究小組,為各種房地的需要籌劃,在每個個案、選擇、建議、緊高下。原來要顧及的細節很多,特別需要禱告!

對了,商討會內三個部門-內務部、 堂務部和場地安全部-現在合併為常務/場地 管理部,由郭文彦弟兄、黎惠忠弟兄帶領。 我們謝謝兩位弟兄勇當其沖,負起這吃力不 討好的事工!雖然如此,教會仍然是眾弟兄姐妹的責任;小小的動作,譬如房間不用要關燈和關窗;地上的紙要檢;借了東西要放回原處,等等,都可表示這教會不單是聚集之地,也是被愛的家。所以,四月底、五月初,當我們聽到教會大掃除的通告時,請事不容遲!

最後, 讓我們警醒禱告!

"如果我的民祷告..."是教會 2012 年培靈會的主題。今年的培靈會替代退修 會,仍在紀念日的週末,五月二十五日~二 十七日舉行,地點卻全在教會。原因是為要 減輕弟兄姐妹經濟上的負擔,免費鼓勵全教 會參加。講員是麻省波士頓郊區真理堂主任 牧師莊祖鯤。莊牧師早期在台灣化學工業界 及工研院化工研究所服務達十五年之久。 1990年,有感於中國正面臨信仰及道德的 危機,他乃毅然辭去高薪的職務,再度赴美 攻讀神學。獲得三一神學院的文化學博士學 位。

培靈會將於五月二十五晚上六點,晚 餐用膳,後以護教佈道開始,一連三天,到 星期天下午五時止,英文部在附近社區交誼 所舉行。除了不供應住宿,一切如常,有 豐盛的靈筵美食(中餐!),溫馨的相交, 創意的活動,誰不趕快報名呢?誰不趕快預 備時間,邀請親朋,攜老帶少赴會呢?註冊 詳情請留意日後的公佈。隨著的主日,六月 三日,便是珊瑚泉華人浸信教會二十週年的 堂慶了,願主堅立祂所作的工!

Council Communiqué#2

With the holidays come and gone, the Council seeks to regroup and look forward to a full year of grace through service to Him who is our Head. Here are a few gems to share, so that you may remember them in your prayers.

Raising the Bar...

To many, the church is a refuge, and rightly so, where one comes regularly to be recharged, either by the Word preached or the brotherly encouragement received, or both. To some also, the church is where one practices stewardship and serve our Lord with his/her many gifts, in however mundane or exciting ways. In our Baptist traditions, major decisions are made in business meetings twice a year. While reviewing the church by-laws, the Council discussed the various improvements to the current voting membership criteria. A decision making body that reflects commitment and accountability ensures that important church decisions are made responsibly, biblically and prayerfully. Please pray for this important upcoming change.

Sizing up our growth...

What should we do when the fellowships have outgrown their fellowship space? Where can we find an office to accommodate the prospective assistant Chinese pastor? How can some underutilized storage rooms be redesigned to support our bludgeoning children ministry? How also can the audio room be more connected or open to the sanctuary stage without compromising the security of its equipments? Our classroom Redesign Task Force is busy drafting proposals, weighing various options and bids. Renovations usually involve hard choices, painstaking considerations and therefore much needed prayers.

Incidentally, the three departments of Domestic Affairs, Interior Management, and Facility & Security are consolidated into one,

now officially known as the General/Property Management Department, under the leadership of Wayne Kuo and Ricky Lai. We thank the Lord for the two brothers, who are willing to brave the challenge of one of the most demanding, yet often thankless, ministries.

Albeit a few diligent brothers are called to oversee the physical church property, we too are to take ownership of our spiritual home. Gestures like turning off the lights and closing windows when the room is not in use, picking up trash or returning small equipments/ tools to where we find them, etc. help make CBCSS less of a place to hang out only, and more of a place that is well loved. So please respond generously when duties call, particularly to the spring cleaning to be scheduled (April or early May) before the hurricane season!

If Our People Pray...

This is the theme of our 2012 Revival Meeting, which replaces the Tri-Church retreat this year. The plan is to keep all meetings within CBCCS property so that no family will be discouraged by the financial commitment to attend. The Speaker for the Chinese section is Rev. Tsu-Kung Chuang, senior pastor of Emeth Chapel, Burlington, Mass. Rev. Kung is from Taipei, Taiwan, trained in Northwestern University (Ph.d. Chemical Engineering) and Trinity Theological Seminary (Ph.d. in Intercultural Studies). The weekend starts with dinner at 6:00pm, Friday, May 25, followed by an evangelistic program/message. English section will be held in a nearby community clubhouse. The rest of the weekend will liken to a church retreat, ending on Sunday afternoon at 5:00pm. Yes, the revival meeting promises the same feast of the mind and spirit, same Christian camaraderie, better food, and at no cost to you. Now, what can be more enticing than that!? To top it all, we will celebrate the CBCCS' 20th anniversary the following Sunday. June 3. May He establish the works of His Hands!



Prayers of our Children

During one of our Jr. Church Worship times, we asked each of the students to write down their prayers before praying them out loud. I'd like to share some with you. I hope theycan provide some encouragement and inspiration for you in your prayer walk....

Dear God.

Thank you for letting me come to your house to worship you. Thank you for giving us this day of worship. Thank you for taking my sins upon you. Thank you for loving me.

In your name I pray, Amen.

To our Mighty God,

You are the holy one who died on the cross for our sins. Thank you for having me at your house today, and for this beautiful day. Please help all the people who are very sick. Please heal them. You are almighty who can stop sin from hurting your people. For yours is everything.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you so much for the air we breathe, the sunlight, friends... everything. Let us be thankful and not take everything for granted. Please forgive us for the things we have done that is wrong, and don't let us be tempted. Please help us to follow your Word and the path you have chosen for me.

Please let us know how to forgive and help us not to be shy to spread your word. And please let the people who don't know you, know how great your love is.

In your precious Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

May we bring glory to Your name. We thank you, because you are the King of Kings, Almighty One, yet you died on the cross for us. A king dying for his servants shows that He loves us so much, He puts his own life down and punishes himself. You are amazing and may you use us in the expansion of Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Dear God,

Please help me forgive my parents. Please help me not to hit my little brother. Please help me take care of my grandparents.

In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for this day. Thank you that America is a free country so we can worship you, Lord.

I can't thank you as much as I can. You died on the cross for me. If there was a way I could bring you back, I would. Please forgive me my debts. I worship you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.





Dear Heavenly Father,

I have not spoken to you in such a long time. I have forgotten about you. I want nothing but the ability to love you. I need to know you.

I pray that my dad will be saved. I pray that Pastor Linus will feel better if it is your will. Amen.

Dear God,

Please do not lead us into temptation. Amen.

Dear God,

Please let us listen to you and forgive us and help us to serve you in church, and make sure you protect me.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Dear God.

Help me remember that you are the One True God. Thank you for giving me life. And please forgive the sins I've done this past week. And help me not to fight with my sisters too much.

You are the Holiest of Holies, God.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I want to thank you for the food, air, water, clothes, family, friends etc. that you give us.

Please let me not be given into temptation, Lord. And I'll try to repent, and follow you even though it's very hard. But I know that it's not as hard as what Jesus has done (sacrificing himself). And I also need you to help me repent.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Dear God,

Thank you for this day that we get to go to your house so we can praise you in this church. Thank you God. I love you God for things you give us, specially your beautiful creations. It is so nice of you. You are the best God in the world!

Love, _____

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are almighty and good. No one could ever do what you have done for us. Thank you for guiding me every day so I won't be tempted by the evil one. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I've done. I have lied and never put you first in my life. Please, please forgive me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father,

You are holy. May your gospel spread all over the world. We depend on you for everything we need. May you forgive us our debts. May you lead us away from Satan. Your kingdom is powerful and may your gospel go forth. Amen.

Dear Holy God,

You are a wonderful king. I have so many things to thank you for. Please help me forgive me foes. Please give us shields of faith so that we can fight Satan. You are powerful, smartened loving.

In your Son's name, Amen.

Hello Holy Father,

Thank you for allowing me to have eternal life. Thanks for dying on the cross for my sins. Even though I have done horrible things you still love me. Amen.



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