

BETHANY

INDEPENDENT-
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

God's Kind of Church...

Where God is touching lives...

And people care for people.



沉思录

2022 年 12 月 18 日

经文：以赛亚书25

“看哪，这是我们的神！”

赞美我们的上帝

先知以赛亚教导我们如何赞美我们的主、我们的上帝。

“耶和华啊，你是我的神！我要尊崇你，我要称赞你

的名，因为你以忠信诚实行过奇妙的事，成就你古时所定的。”《以赛亚书25:1》

1. 我们的主就是我们的上帝
2. 祂配得我们的赞美
 - a) 上帝行了许多奇迹
 - b) 古时上帝所定的智慧
 - i) 忠信
 - ii) 诚实

赞美上帝更多的原因

以赛亚提出赞美上帝更多的理由。

“因为当强暴人催逼人的时候，如同暴风直吹墙壁，你就做贫穷人的保障，做困乏人急难中的保障，做躲暴风之处，做避炎热的阴凉。”《以赛亚25:4》

1. 上帝是力量
 - a) 对贫穷的人
 - b) 对困乏急难中的人
2. 躲暴风之处

3. 做避炎热的阴凉

更多的理由

“他已经吞灭死亡，直到永远，主耶和华必擦去各人脸上的眼泪，又除掉普天下他百姓的羞辱，因为这是耶和华说的。到那日，人必说：“看哪，这是我们的神，我们素来等候他，他必拯救我们。这是耶和华，我们素来等候他，我们必因他的救恩欢喜快乐。”《以赛亚25：8，9》

1. 他已经吞灭死亡
2. 擦去各人脸上的眼泪
3. 他必拯救我们

我们应有许多理由在主里有喜乐，愿我们重视主内的喜乐！

公告专栏

欢迎来到伯大尼

我们很高兴您选择与我们一起崇拜主耶稣！愿您的心充满主的喜乐！

联合崇拜会

本星期天及下个星期天，我教会将合并为联合崇拜会，华文崇拜会弟兄姐妹们将与其他教友做崇拜。

2022年青年人进修会

本届青年人进修会于2022年12月5日至9日举行，拥有超过60位青少年人出席。愿在本次的进修会，青少年人多能够吸取深入人心的教义，为他们带来力量、肯定！感谢上帝的恩典、恩赐！

恭喜！

万分恭喜Jonathan与Sheryl于2022年12月10日结婚之喜,愿上帝莫大的恩典属于您俩！

恭喜！

万分恭喜Eugene与Louisa Teow！于2022年12月5日，Eugene夫妇欢迎Gabriel的诞生(排行三),母亲孩子身体状况佳！

用心灵和诚实崇拜祂

路加福音 2:28-32

“西面就用手接过祂来，称颂神，说：“主啊，如今可以照祢的话，释放仆人安然去世！因为我的眼睛已经看见祢的救恩，就是祢在万民面前所预备的，是照亮外邦人的光，又是祢民以色列的荣耀。”

1. 认识弥赛亚

- a) 西面认识到婴儿耶稣将成为救主
- b) 祂将成为外邦人的亮光

2. 以主为乐

- a) 为了上帝的救恩计划
- b) 为了上帝有关祂的救恩所赐的理解

以赛亚书 11：5 信实必当祂肋下的带子
“公义必当祂的腰带，信实必当祂肋下的带子。”

1. 公义

这是主耶稣基督的特征

2. 信实

这是救主生命里的另一个特征

3. 这两个预言都奇妙地应验在祂的生命里

诗歌

拯救我们的上帝

(译自英文原诗)

上帝何等仔细地计划了我们的救赎！
当中包含了许多细节，就如祂的每日供应。

救赎计划被精心策划；
祂的手我们的眼虽看不见却何等美妙。

上帝何等恩慈地计划了我们的救赎！
祂知晓我们还得需要祂的保守。
仇敌会抵抗祂的计划；
但上帝总是近在咫尺。

上帝何等精心策划了我们的救赎！
祂坚持涵盖了每一个细节。
祂知道每日的赐福将使心欢喜；
祂知道我们多么需要祂的恩典与怜悯。

我们得如何对我们救恩的上帝做出反应？
显然的，以欢呼称颂祂的名是自然的！
因祂所施行的一切，主的名应当被尊崇；
愿我们的心从日出至日落都会一直颂赞祂！

《诗篇68：19-20》受启发而作

作者：陈俊成



PRELUDE 前奏

CALL TO WORSHIP 呼召敬拜

Rev. Jonathan Jacob

PRAYER 祈祷

HYMN 诗歌

CP 153 | What Child Is This

诗篇153 | 奇妙圣婴

CP 143 | Good Christian Men, Rejoice

诗篇143 | 信徒欢唱

MESSAGE 证道

“Behold, My Servant” “看哪！这是我的仆人”

Text: Isaiah 42 以赛亚书 42

Rev. Dr. Charles Tan 陈俊成牧师

PRAYER 祈祷

HYMN 诗歌

HWC148 | O Holy Night!

诗篇148 | 啊！圣善夜！

POSTLUDE 后奏



CP 153 奇妙圣婴

1. 正当牧人看守群羊，天使在歌唱颂扬，
在马利亚怀中安睡，这奇妙婴孩是谁？

副歌：

祂是基督我王，牧人赞美；天使歌唱
快来向祂颂扬，至圣婴孩新生王！

2. 为何祂在卑贱地方，牛羊驴马之身旁？
好基督徒衷心思量，主为罪人得释放。

副歌

3. 奉献黄金，没药，乳香；万民承认祂为王；
万王之王恩赐救赎，心灵当尊祂为王。

副歌



CP 143 信徒欢唱

1. 宗主信徒欢唱，以灵，以心，以声！
请聆听我们信息：救主基督今降生。
人畜皆同来敬拜，欢迎马槽中小圣婴：
基督今降生！基督今降生！

2. 宗主信徒欢唱，以灵，以心，以声！
真神广赐无穷爱；基督正为此降生。
祂将天上恩门开，世人蒙福神爱丰宠。
主为此而生！主为此而生！

3. 宗主信徒欢唱，以灵，以心，以声！
不复怕阴间权势；主甘为救世而生。
听祂慈声召万民，来享永福同进天城。
为救世而生！为救世而生！



HWC 148 啊！圣善夜！

1. 啊！圣善夜，众星宿闪耀光芒，
 亲爱救主诞生伯利恒，
 世界不断地步向沉沦丧失，
 救主显现众生灵复得尊严。

 这困倦人生充满欣悦希望，
 因清澈晨曦彰显大荣光；
 屈膝敬拜，静听天使唱歌声，
 圣哉此夜，救主基督降生！
 圣哉此夜，救主基督降生！

2. 信心之光在空中引导辉煌，
 欢悦心灵在圣婴马槽旁；
 高挂在天那星光灿烂晶莹，
 东方博士把礼物献呈。

 万世君主躺卧在卑微马槽，
 作我众朋友，负我众罪咎；
 祂赐所需，领我们远离危难。
 尊祂为王，拜伏在祂面前！
 尊祂为王，拜伏在祂面前！

3. 救主教导我们要彼此相爱，
爱人如己，传扬和平福音，
释放良心，不再做罪恶奴仆，
靠祂圣名，沉重压迫止息。

一齐来赞美主奇妙的救恩，
全心全意来赞美祂圣名，
祂是救主，当永远称颂祂名！
永远传扬祂的权能和荣耀！
永远传扬祂的名权能荣耀！





圣诞节洗礼崇拜会(II)
2022年12月18日

我们的 故事





THIS IS MY STORY

TESTIMONIES OF BRETHREN WHO WILL BE
RECEIVED INTO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
ON 18 DECEMBER 2022

[A] Transference

Nancy Yong

To Be Prayed For By:

Pastor Benjamin Chong

[B] Paedo-Baptism

1. Liang En Le Charis (Daughter of Kevin & Alyssa)
2. Christabel Chiam (Daughter of Daohua & Shi Yun)
3. Matthew Tan (Son of Wei Kee & Pei Ching)
4. Anson Muki Tan (Son of Anthony & Evelyn)
5. Lin An-Yun Ellery (Daughter of Nelson & Justina)
6. Aurelia Sophie Chia (Daughter of Joshua & Jodeline)
7. Tham Kai En Caleb (Son of Samuel & Su-An)

To Be Baptized By:

Pastor Benjamin Chong

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Charles Tan

Pastor Jonathan Jacob

Pastor Jonathan Jacob

Pastor Mitchell Tan

[C] Adult Baptism

1. Sea Teck Chye
2. Theresa Teng Bee Chin 邓美珍

To Be Baptized By:

Pastor Mitchell Tan

Pastor Moses Kwek

[D] Re-affirmation

Reuben Wan Yuxuan

To be prayed for by:

Pastor Moses Kwek



EVERYTHING HAS ITS TIME

NANCY YONG

Hi my name is Nancy and I have been attending Bethany since 2019.

I became a Christian when I was much younger and was baptised in 1984. Even though I was baptized, I was not able to relate to God nor grow in my knowledge of Him. I felt lost and helpless after each weekly Sunday Worship. It came to the point where I didn't see any meaning or purpose in attending Church and stopped attending Sunday Worship altogether. However, deep in my heart, I still believed that God exists, though I could not find Him real in various aspects of my life.

Throughout the past 6 decades of my life, I have been through many challenges and struggles. As I reflected on my life, I trace God's hand at work and I strongly believe God has ordered every step and every detail in my life so that He can mould and shape me. Though the wounds of my heart still remain today, I know He is still working on me to make me what I ought to be. " And I know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" Romans 8:28.

Today, I want to share my joy with others of His miraculous work. I came to Bethany through my daughter Alyssa. I still recall listening intently to the Sunday Morning Worship Message by Pastor Charles and for the first time in a long while, I was able to understand and comprehend God's Word. I knew then that God was working in my heart!

I have been attending Bethany for three years and have also joined Sunday School under SSS2. Though a large part of my time with Bethany was during the Covid period, I listened and watched the live stream of weekly sermons and also faithfully attended via Zoom our SS every Friday evening. Through these sessions, the study of God's Word was brought alive and gave me strength to cope with my work as well as to attend to my aged mum when she was seriously ill earlier this year.

It is with great joy as I trace His wondrous work in my life. In Bethany, I am constantly reminded and challenged to deepen my faith in God. I am thankful to be able to deepen my understanding of His word through Sunday worship, SSP and have fellowship with my fellow Sunday school classmates.

I am also glad to have the privilege to humbly serve through SSP as this allows me to spread the joy God has given me to our fellow seniors.

In this season of my life, God has blessed me with a new bundle of joy - the arrival

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of my granddaughter Charis or Lele (乐乐 which is happy or joyful in Mandarin) as she is lovingly called. I pray that she will continue to bring much joy and laughter!

Bethany is definitely God's kind of Church where people care for people.

As I grow in knowledge of God's Word, I now find deeper meaning in Ecclesiastes 3:1 "to everything there is a season. A time for every purpose under heaven." Indeed, God did not give up on me. In His own special way and time, He made me the person I am today and my prayer is that I will continue to deepen my faith and find God real in my life.◦



Abounding in God's grace

"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Corinthians 15:10

As we trace God's abundant grace in our lives, we are filled with praise, joy, and thanksgiving. With guidance from Pastor Charles, we had chosen this to be the theme for our wedding back in 2019. By God's grace, we have challenged ourselves to live out this verse in our daily lives.

God's grace was evident as we waited upon Him for His provision of a child. Even before we found out about the pregnancy, our hearts were convicted to name our child (if we had a daughter) Charis, which means grace, to be glad. In His perfect timing, the Lord answered our prayers. Charis will always be a blessed reminder of God's grace in our lives, and the joy that overflows in response.

Deepening our faith in God

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21.

2022 has been a year filled with many new beginnings, in the aspect of church ministry, work and on the family front. In God's special plan, we were blessed with the opportunity to serve in the Crèche ministry and this coincided with the discovery of Alyssa's pregnancy. This was especially meaningful for us; it signified the beginning of a journey of faith in God as we prepared to serve Him in the Crèche ministry and in the upcoming journey of parenthood. The above verse has

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indeed been a continual encouragement to our hearts!

Relying on God for His strength and mercy

"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

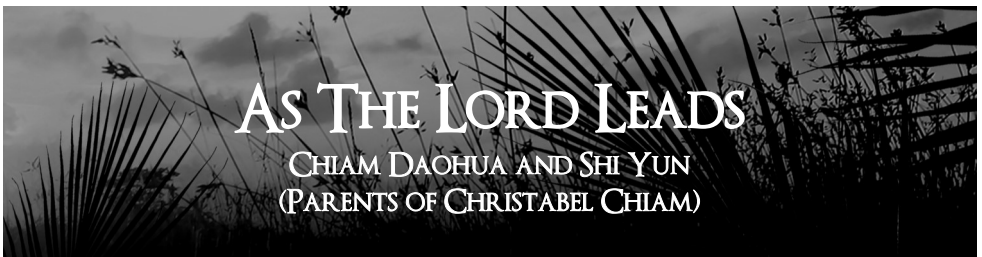
During Bethany's 40+9 Anniversary service, God provided much needed encouragement through Pastor's sharing from Isaiah 40:31. Alyssa was just over 38 weeks into the pregnancy then and it was a timely reminder to rely on God for His strength and mercy, and to not limit God's strength in our lives. We praise God for giving Alyssa sufficient grace and strength during her pregnancy and childbirth, and for His safekeeping of Charis throughout!

Ambassadors of His love

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3

We are deeply humbled by God's goodness and His calling for us to be parents. We recognize how crucial it is for us to guard our walk with the Lord Jesus and to deepen our faith in Him. By God's grace, we endeavour to be ambassadors of His love; may the gospel be modelled and proclaimed in our family as we strive to bring Charis up in the fear of the Lord!

It is our prayer that Charis will be a testimony of God's abounding grace and that she will bring a special sense of joy and blessing to those around her.



Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving as we look back on the journey that has brought us to this moment of paedobaptism today. At each step, we see and recognise the Lord's hand in leading and guiding us to fully trust in His ways and plans for our lives.

Less than a year into our marriage, Shi Yun discovered that she had a uterine fibroid that required removal by abdominal surgery, a finding that meant our plans for a family would be temporarily placed on hold till she fully recovered. The doctors had every confidence that it would not affect our chances of conception and we were reassured by multiple tests post-surgery that both of us were healthy and would be able to conceive 'naturally'. The next few years saw many moments of tears, nights

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of prayers and us coming before the Lord to seek His leading and trust in His plan for our lives.

Psalm 27:7-8
Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice!
Have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
When You said, "Seek My face,"
My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

In early 2019, we moved to New York for Daohua's work and followed Pastor's advice in doing complete medical checks before leaving Singapore. The doctors confirmed that we were medically fit and healthy and that combined with our youth meant that we should not face difficulties in getting pregnant. Another 2 years passed, along with a global pandemic that turned the world upside down. Still, we committed our hopes of a child to the Lord and determined that we would continue to seek and trust Him no matter the outcome.

In 2021, we saw a gynaecologist in New York who conducted tests once again, which confirmed the findings of our doctors in Singapore - we were fit and healthy and should technically be able to conceive 'naturally'. However, given the length of time we had been trying, she suggested that we consider in-vitro fertilisation (IVF). Once again, we committed this to the Lord in prayer and decided to give it a go.

IVF was a trying process with the medications, injections and constant doctor's visits and there were many moments of prayer each step of the way. Through it all, we thanked God for modern medical technology that even allowed this to be a possibility and doctors who were professional and knowledgeable in their craft.

After months of preparation, the day of the embryo transplant finally came and it was surreal leaving the clinic knowing that our lives might forever be changed. 4 weeks later, we walked back for Shi Yun to take a blood test and waited nervously for the result. Tears came when the nurses announced a positive result and our hearts were overjoyed as we celebrated the news.

We took nothing for granted and at every stage of the pregnancy after and at each doctor's visit, we thanked the Lord for His safekeeping (especially in a foreign land) and His hand of protection over Shi Yun.

Psalm 27:13
I would have lost heart, unless I had believed
That I would see the goodness of the LORD
In the land of the living.

We recognise the Lord's hand, not in the positive news alone, but in how He sent good doctors on our journey to assist us. At each step along the way, the Lord showed that He was there with us and we knew that no matter the result, we had a God who leads and guides.

We see His goodness too in our spiritual family, who checked in on us and loved

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us from halfway across the world, who continue to love Christabel from birth to present day and shared our joys and sorrows. At each check-up, Christabel was lovingly prayed for and asked after and our family, both physical and spiritual, rejoiced at each of her milestones, big and small!

*Psalm 27:14
Wait on the LORD;
Be of good courage,
And He shall strengthen your heart;
Wait, I say, on the LORD!*

As we seek paedo-baptism today, we want to commit Christabel's upbringing to the Lord and trust in His faithfulness. Just as He was with us each step of the way, we know that He will continue to lead and guide as we bring her up in Him. We see His hand clearly in our homecoming this year and wait upon His leading daily, knowing that Christabel will be brought up surrounded by His love that both of us have so dearly experienced here in Bethany.



A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD

TAN WEI KEE AND PEI CHING
(PARENTS OF MATTHEW TAN)

Matthew, our precious gift from God, arrived on the evening of 24 August 2022.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

The journey to Matthew's birth was not easy. Pei Ching's endometriosis, adenomyosis and polycystic ovary syndrome meant that it took a surgery, several procedures and countless doctor visits before Matthew was even conceived. But the long and arduous journey was good for us. We learnt to trust in God, to submit to His will and to wait upon Him.

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!" Psalm 36:7

God showed His tender mercies and loving kindness each step of the way. He sent special people who provided much comfort, and upheld us lovingly on days when we were downcast. For this, we are deeply moved.

*"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"
Romans 12:12*

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The day we found out that we were expecting a baby, our hearts leapt for joy! However, we knew we could not take anything for granted. Even as we kept up with frequent doctor visits and the physical discomfort from a startling number of medications and injections, we determined to remain steadfast in prayer as God unravelled His plan for us.

"His mercies and compassions are new every morning" Lamentations 3:22-23

32 weeks into the pregnancy, Pei Ching was admitted to the hospital with preterm contractions. Upon the doctor's orders, Pei Ching had to commit to a strict bed rest regime at the delivery ward. Over the next two weeks, the medical team tried to keep the contractions at bay to delay the baby's arrival. Those two weeks were more eventful than we would have preferred, but we learnt to thank God for every additional day that the baby managed to remain in mummy's womb. By God's perfect timing, Matthew arrived on week 34, six weeks premature. Matthew spent the next three weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit. We thank God that the stay was uneventful for him.

"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6

We recognise and often remind ourselves that as parents, we are but stewards – Matthew belongs to God, not us. We have merely been granted the great privilege of raising him in the ways of the Lord, that he may fulfil what God has planned for him. In committing him to God, we also commit ourselves to bringing him up as God would have us do, with His strength and according to His wisdom!



It is our joy today to present Ellery for paedo-baptism. Ever since we knew that God has granted her to us, we felt a deep sense of the Lord's presence and joy at every step of the pregnancy. Ellery was born on 27 Apr 2022 at 37 weeks, just like her brother Oliver who was born in the same month 4 years ago, also at 37 weeks.

Ellery Lin 林安筠

Because our surname resembles a forest '林', just like Oliver, we wanted Ellery's

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name to have some semblance to a tree, being rooted in the Lord's word and growing strong and steady in this world.

Ellery means "lives by the alder tree" and "joyful". The alder tree is known to symbolize strength, protection, confidence, and resilience.

安 (Ān) - Peace

Derived from Peace - 平安, 安全, 安静. Ellery's birth was suppose to be a planned caesarean at 38 weeks, however she too, like her brother decided that 37 weeks was more than enough. Justina felt contractions when we were having dinner at Hai Di Lao with our friends, Dr. Junjie and Cassandra Yeo. This pregnancy was different, as Justina didn't experience any painful contractions with her first pregnancy. So that evening, after dinner, we found that Justina was having regular contractions and we decided to head to SGH.

Before Justina was wheeled into the operating theatre, and because this was an emergency c-section, we kept Isaiah 26 close to our hearts and minds as we stayed on the Lord's perfect peace which was taken from Isaiah 26:3-4.

*"You will keep him in perfect peace,
Whose mind is stayed on You,
Because he trusts in You.
Trust in the Lord forever,
For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength."*

We thank God the surgery went smoothly. The Lord's peace kept Justina as she had to endure the next 48 hours post-surgery without any painkillers as she was allergic to most of them. It was heart wrenching to see her in excruciating pain and not being able to walk on the first day post-surgery. With the help of the physiotherapists in SGH, she managed to walk a few steps on the second day.

The Lord gives His peace to all who know Him and belong to him. It is with this deep sense of peace and serenity that we desire that Ellery can rely on the Lord, all the days of her life.

1 Peter 3:4 "rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God." To us, the Lord's peace is given as a gift of His wonderful presence, and it is our prayer that the Lord's peace will be with Ellery, even as we guide her as parents. Just as much as we all desire our children to walk in the Lord's word, as parents, we too desire to develop this quiet and gentle spirit by being a good example for them to follow.

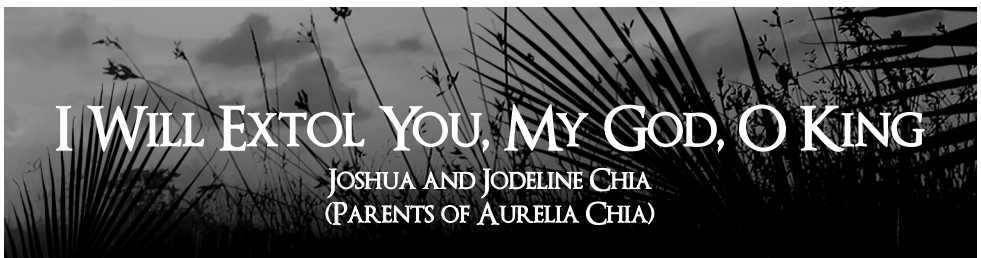
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筠 (Yún) - means Bamboo

This is derived from Psalm 1, which comes from the same inspiration as her brother's name. For Ellery, 筠 is a symbol of the Bamboo, which symbolises the resilient, unshakeable and unwavering nature, to be rooted firmly in the word of God.

It is with this hope that we commit Ellery to the Lord through baptism on this very special day. May she discover a love for the Lord and His Word, and to know Him in a very personal way, and that she will be able to survive in an uncertain world.



Hello everyone, my name is Joshua and I'm seeking paedobaptism for my daughter Aurelia. Just a few days ago, Aurelia celebrated her first month. It has been a month full of change. My wife Jo and I did not quite know what to expect when we hoped to become parents so we combed through articles, spoke with friends and family and tried our best to prepare ourselves for Aurelia's arrival.

Actual practical caring for a new born is quite different from theory and we had to experience it for ourselves.

The past month has been filled with sleepless nights, more stress than I've ever experienced, and almost daily exhaustion.

But it has also been a month of joy and gratitude. There is just so much joy I feel whenever I look at Aurelia, no matter how tired I am.

God has been so good to us and we are just so grateful for His provision. He has sent people who have helped us, from neighbours who came to help us in the first days we returned home from hospital and could not get Aurelia to calm down, to our parents and siblings who have tried their very best to help in any way they can, and He has provided us the strength to go through each and every day.

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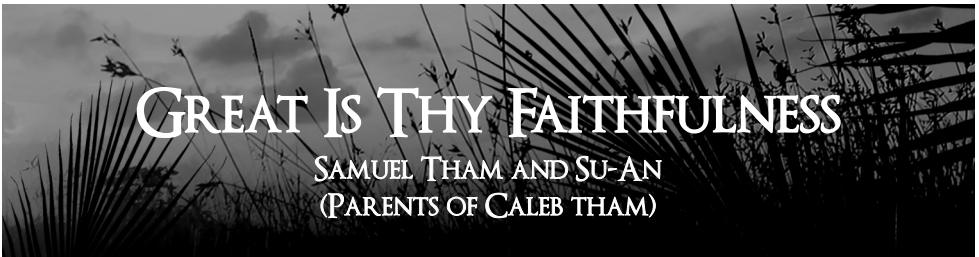
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For the month, Jo and I had a confinement nanny. Life was made much easier with the nanny. I had time to rest in the afternoons while Jo could rest in the night while I tended to baby. She has however since moved on to her next assignment and I have also returned to work.

Even though things are not easy and we are struggling, we know and trust that the Lord will give us the strength we need. We are filled with gratitude for Aurelia and we know that God will provide. We would like to praise Him and to commit Aurelia to Him, to know and fear Him and to walk closely with Him.

As it says in Psalm 145:1-4

*"I will extol You, my God, O King;
And I will bless Your name forever and ever.
Every day I will bless You,
And I will praise Your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts."*



Dear Bethany,

Our Faithful God

On 8th August this year, we celebrated the arrival of baby Caleb into our family. This is truly a blessing from God that we are so thankful for. We never assumed it was straightforward to start a family. Su previously consulted a gynae, who advised she had endometriosis and a retroverted uterus which would make conceiving more difficult. Our response was to simply trust in our faithful God to provide as He willed. We were thus overjoyed when we found out that we were expecting - God had answered our prayers!

It was a relatively smooth first and second trimester. However in the last trimester, Caleb's growth started to suddenly level off sharply with each check-up and plateaued. The gynae was concerned as the placenta was aging quickly and did not transfer sufficient nutrients to the baby. Caleb was no longer growing well

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within the womb. Thank God for providing us with a good doctor and a decision was made to have an induced birth.

Delivery day arrived and it presented its own set of challenges. Su's contractions were not consistent and was working against the baby. But by God's grace, Caleb was finally born after 14 hours of labour. Indeed, at every juncture of this journey, we can trace God's faithfulness towards our little family!

Our prayer to be faithful to God

Every day, we smile and laugh at his actions, how he mimics us or takes after our mannerisms. At the same time, the similarities remind us that he is but human - sinful and in need of a loving Saviour. Our prayer is for him to grow up knowing the fear of the Lord and love Him! Thus, we chose the name Caleb as he was described in Deuteronomy 1, as someone who wholly followed after God. This is as much an aspiration for Caleb as it is a constant reminder for us parents to wholly follow the Lord, in loving and stewarding our son. **We've also chosen** his chinese name to be 恺恩 (Kai En) hoping that the Joy and Grace of the Lord will always be his!

We see Caleb's baptism today as our obedience to God and response to the promises of the new covenant. How wonderful it is that all can share in these truths that many hold so firmly to! More than that, we also see this as a step of identification with our church family. It is here in Bethany where we are taught His word faithfully, and have learnt to serve. We hope that one day Caleb will take his place in Bethany too.

In His Love and ours,
Samuel and Su-An



Introduction

Hello everyone, my name is Sea Teck Chye. I am 60 years old. My wife is Yew Lian, my daughter is Su-An and son-in-law is Samuel. My little grandson is Caleb. They all attend Bethany Church with me.

I started attending Bethany in January 2022 and this is where I came to know the Lord Jesus as my Saviour. This is my story.

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A life without Jesus

Before knowing Christ, I led a futile and ignorant life. As it says in Ephesians 4:17-18, I was alienated from the life of God. It was a self-centred life as I lived according to my own terms. My temperament was beyond control and it affected my life and my relationship with my family. Making as much money from my business as possible was my focus. The Chinese saying of 吃喝玩樂 - to eat, drink and be merry to abandon oneself to a life of pleasure also characterised my life. Looking back, it was a life poorly led.

A life changing experience

In December 2017, I was diagnosed with leukaemia and only had 6 months to live without treatment and a bone marrow transplant. This diagnosis made me realise that life was so fragile and it caused me to realise that I had not done much good with my life. I was driven to get well again and to make changes with my life. However, when Su-An encouraged me to draw strength from God, I told her that I wanted to focus on getting well first before thinking about other things like God! I was determined to overcome this illness by my own strength and on my own terms.

However, my thinking began to change when brethren from Bethany started to visit me and shared God's Word with me...Pastor, Aunty Sally, Pastor Mark, Pastor Mitch, Pastor Moses, Teacher Jo, Dr Jane Tan, Chung Han, Hong Wee and family and many more! I was deeply encouraged and always looked forward to their visits and prayers!

Bit by bit, I realised that I did not need to go through treatment on my own because God was with me. This was far better than my ways and relying on my own strength! My family was also with me and never left my side. Furthermore, I knew that it was God and no coincidence when Professor William Hwang became my doctor. I knew I was in good hands and was not afraid. Instead, I was willing to let God take me through this difficult journey of overcoming cancer.

A life in Jesus Christ

During the recovery period between 2018-2022, my wife and daughter Su-An continually shared the Gospel with me and encouraged me to attend Bethany with them. I also recalled how I wanted to get well again and to make changes with my life. Thus in January 2022, I started attending Bethany's Morning Worship Service and subsequently, Catechism Class, to learn more about God and to find life in Him.

Ephesians 4:21-24 reads "if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed

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in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”

By God’s grace, my understanding of Him began to grow with each lesson learned in Church. I came to recognise the sin problems in my life and rejoiced in knowing that Jesus was my personal Saviour who could take away my sins! Gradually, I began to see changes in my life. God taught me to love my family, friends and the brethren in Bethany. I began to see changes in my temperament. No longer do I find the world and the lifestyle it offers attractive. I thank God for a loving Saviour and for this chance to come to Bethany and be part of His family. I want to seek to love Jesus always.



My name is Theresa Teng, I came from a Buddhist family. Ten years ago, my boss (a devout Christian) invited me to her Church’s Worship Service.

Back then, I found it hard to understand what the Scriptures taught and I stopped going to Church. There was a pastor that I met back then who kept in touch with me, encouraged and helped me through text messages. During my lowest point in life, God’s Word strengthened me and I thank God for His unfailing love that never left me.

In January this year, I began to attend Bethany’s Chinese Worship Service, and it was here where I truly came to know the Lord Jesus. The teachings from the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-10, helped me realized deeply how meaningful God’s teachings are. In the past, I felt that I had no right to become a Christian because I did not know the Scriptures. But my time in Bethany has helped me realise that as long as I understand the truth of the Lord and practice these truths, I do not have to fulfil any conditions to become a child of God.

I thank God for leading me to Bethany, and for the opportunity to become His daughter. I am determined to walk with the Lord, to work hard and learn, to be salt and light for the Lord. All glory to my Lord Jesus Christ.

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主的爱不离不弃

我是鄧美珍 (Theresa)，来自佛教背景的家庭。

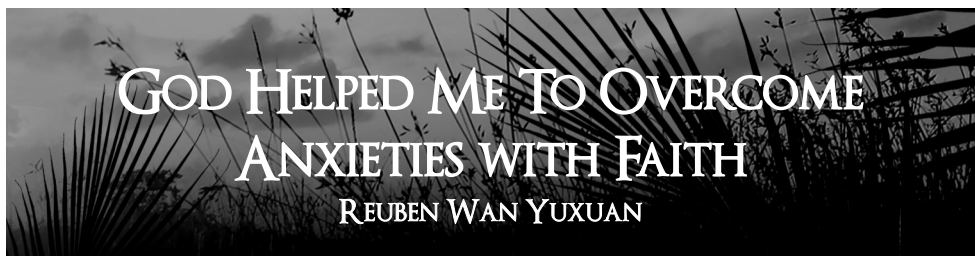
十年前我的前上司，她是一位虔诚的基督教徒，她邀请我去参加教会的崇拜。

当时我觉得很难了解圣经的教导，后来就没有再去教堂。当中有一位牧师，我们已经很久没有见面，但是这牧师通过简讯把经文发送给我，鼓励我，帮助我。在我人生最低谷的时候，主的话语成为我的力量，感谢主不离不弃的爱。

今年一月，我开始来伯大尼堂的华文崇拜，我才真正的认识主耶稣。马太福音，第5章3-10节八福，这段经文，使我深深的了解，神的教导，是多么的有意义。

之前，我认为我对圣经不认识，不了解，我是没有资格成为教徒。在伯大尼的这些日子，我渐渐的明白，要成为上帝的儿女，并不是要有附带条件，而是要明白主的真理，把真理行出来。

感谢主，带领我到伯大尼堂，给我有机会成为祂的女儿，我决心与主同行，继续的努力学习，为主做盐，做光。一切荣耀都要归於我主耶稣基督。



Hi my name is Reuben and I am 21 this year. I am currently in my final year in Polytechnic as an Intern.

I grew up in Bethany. I was usually someone who was very shy and nervous whenever I am in school or in church. I couldn't handle so much attention because

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I wondered what people would think of me. At that time, I didn't feel like I would fit in here in church because I didn't really understand who God is or what he can do in our lives. I felt like coming to Bethany was a waste of time and I just wanted to get over the worship services and go home to relax and do whatever I want. But when some people came and talk to me, I started to feel that coming to church is a great place to go to.

At the age of 10, it was discovered that I was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder but I didn't know until I was 17. This condition began to make me feel different inside with thoughts of being awkward, weird, or out of place to others who don't have the same medical conditions. Whenever my sister invited friends over, I felt a sense of loneliness in my heart because I was someone who was quiet and didn't know how to make good friends. I felt as if my medical condition was the thing that kept me away from them. I asked my parents and my sister if this condition in me made me feel like someone weird or awkward compared to other people or even made me feel abnormal. But even when I asked them, I still couldn't stop having that unpleasant feeling. But when I read some verses of the Bible or hearing the messages during YPG, Catechism Class and Morning Worship, I felt a sense of comfort in my heart. I realised that I am fine the way I am and not feeling like some kind of weird person to other people.

There were a lot of challenges that I faced with during my years in ITE and Polytechnic. And there were some times where I felt a sense of worry and anxiety thinking that I couldn't finish my work on time or failing an exam or project. But my mum gave me a book titled 'Be Anxious For Nothing'. This book helped me to understand that we shouldn't always be worrying too much for worrying about something is a sin. And sins are something that tend to pull us down. So when those times came up, I would stay calm and pray to the Lord. During the papers, I felt the Lord's hand touching my heart and giving me comfort when I was in the examination room taking my papers and I felt glad that the Lord was by my side. It was then that I believed that God is always there for us whenever we come across certain difficulties or challenges in life that makes us feel stressed out or feel troubled in life.

Even though I am changed to now being someone who wants to draw near to God, I still didn't yet feel an emotional sense of being saved. In Ephesians 2:8, it teaches us that by grace you have been saved. It is not through feeling it but realising that we are wrong and we want to be forgiven. As I reflected on my life and all the wrong things I have done, it was where I knew that I want to be forgiven and to treasure the Lord. I thank God for all the things He has done for me and how He has changed my life from being fearful in sin to stronger in faith.

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