

POST YOUTH CONFERENCE SPECIAL II BULLETIN
20 DECEMBER 2025, 3.00 PM



Post-Youth Conference Special 2

BETHANY INDEPENDENT-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God's kind of church, where God is touching lives, and people care for people.



Order of Worship

**POST-YOUTH CONFERENCE SPECIAL II
20 DECEMBER 2025**

PRELUDE

PIANIST: RAYNE QUEK

OPENING PRAYER

PASTOR CHARLES TAN

INTRODUCTION

CALYPSO CAROL

THADDEUS HENG, ETHAN HO,

ZACHARY LAI & CHRISTOPHER TANG

PIANIST: RAYNE QUEK

VIOLISTS: ELLIOTT CHAN & DAVID SOH

WORSHIP IN SONG

1. DOWN FROM HIS GLORY

2. GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

THADDEUS HENG & ETHAN HO

PIANIST: RAYNE QUEK

VIOLISTS: ELLIOTT CHAN

& DAVID SOH

MESSAGE

"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY"

TEXT: LUKE 2:8-20

PASTOR CHARLES TAN

CLOSING HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

PASTOR CHARLES TAN

CLOSING PRAYER

PASTOR CHARLES TAN

COLLECTION OF SPECIAL OFFERING

PIANIST: RAYNE QUEK

POSTLUDE

My Notes

20 December 2025

Message: "Good tidings of great joy"

Text: Luke 2:8-20



Reflections



What is one thing
that brings you joy
at Christmas?



Veanne Leong

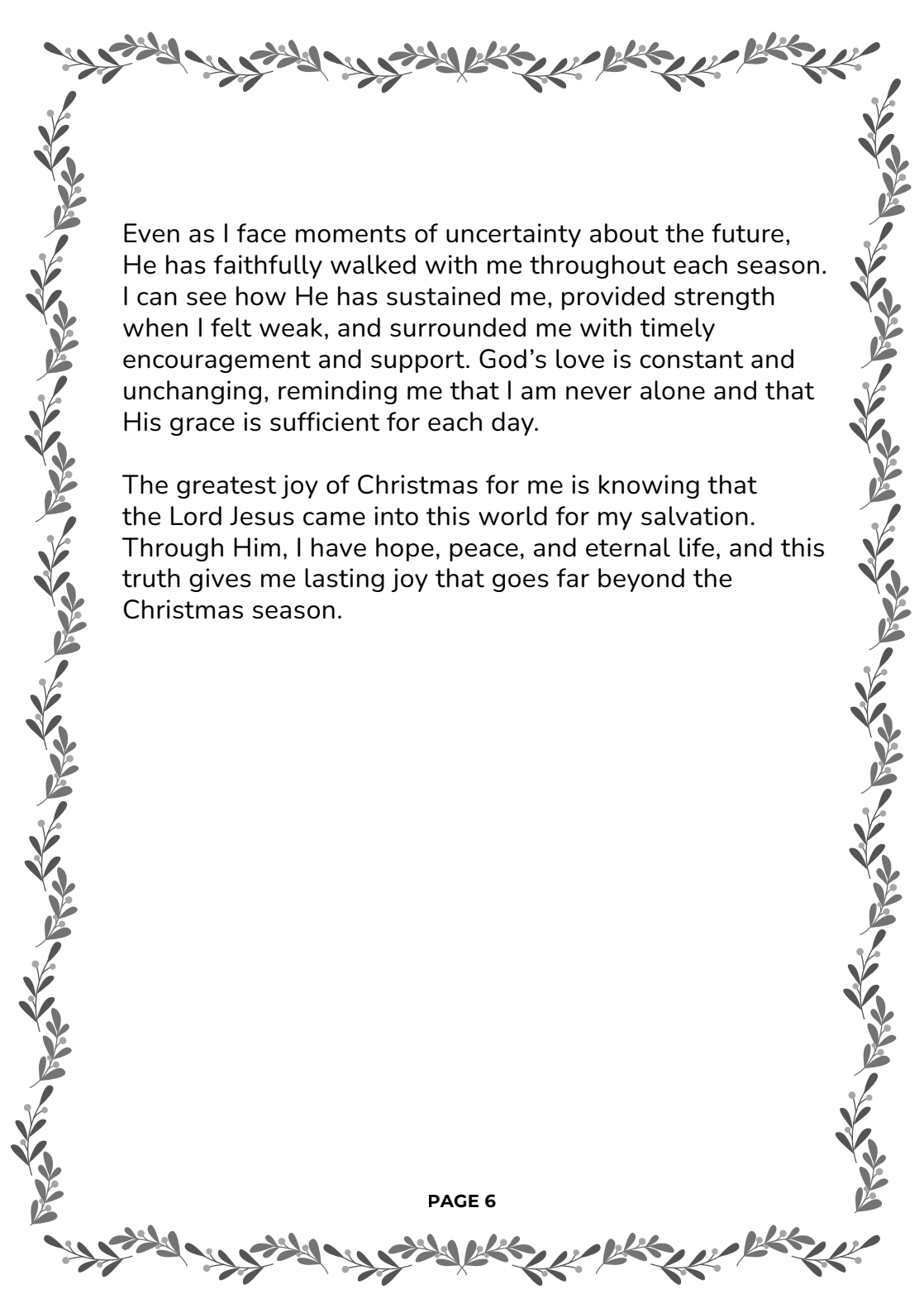
The Joy of Remembering Christ at Christmas

Hello everyone! Welcome back to the second Post-Youth Conference session! I am Veanne, and I am 17 this year. As Christmas draws near, one thing that brings me deep joy is remembering the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas is often filled with lights, gifts, and gatherings, but beyond all these activities, it is about reflecting on why Christmas exists in the first place. It is the season where we remember how God loves us so much that He sent His only Son into the world to save us from sin.

As I think about the humble way in which the Lord Jesus came, where He was born in a manger, entering the world not in glory but in meekness, I am reminded of His grace and humility. The Lord Jesus did not come for the righteous, but for sinners like me, to bear the costs of my sins and save me. I am so undeserving of His great and wondrous love, and I cannot help but be filled with gratitude!

In this Christmas season, singing carols, listening to the story of Christ's birth, and spending time in church have helped me refocus my heart on God. I must admit, this year has been filled with loads of work and has been stressful at times, but Christmas becomes a special time for me to slow down, to reflect upon the year and to rejoice in God's faithfulness and love.



Even as I face moments of uncertainty about the future, He has faithfully walked with me throughout each season. I can see how He has sustained me, provided strength when I felt weak, and surrounded me with timely encouragement and support. God's love is constant and unchanging, reminding me that I am never alone and that His grace is sufficient for each day.

The greatest joy of Christmas for me is knowing that the Lord Jesus came into this world for my salvation. Through Him, I have hope, peace, and eternal life, and this truth gives me lasting joy that goes far beyond the Christmas season.



Jovan Wong

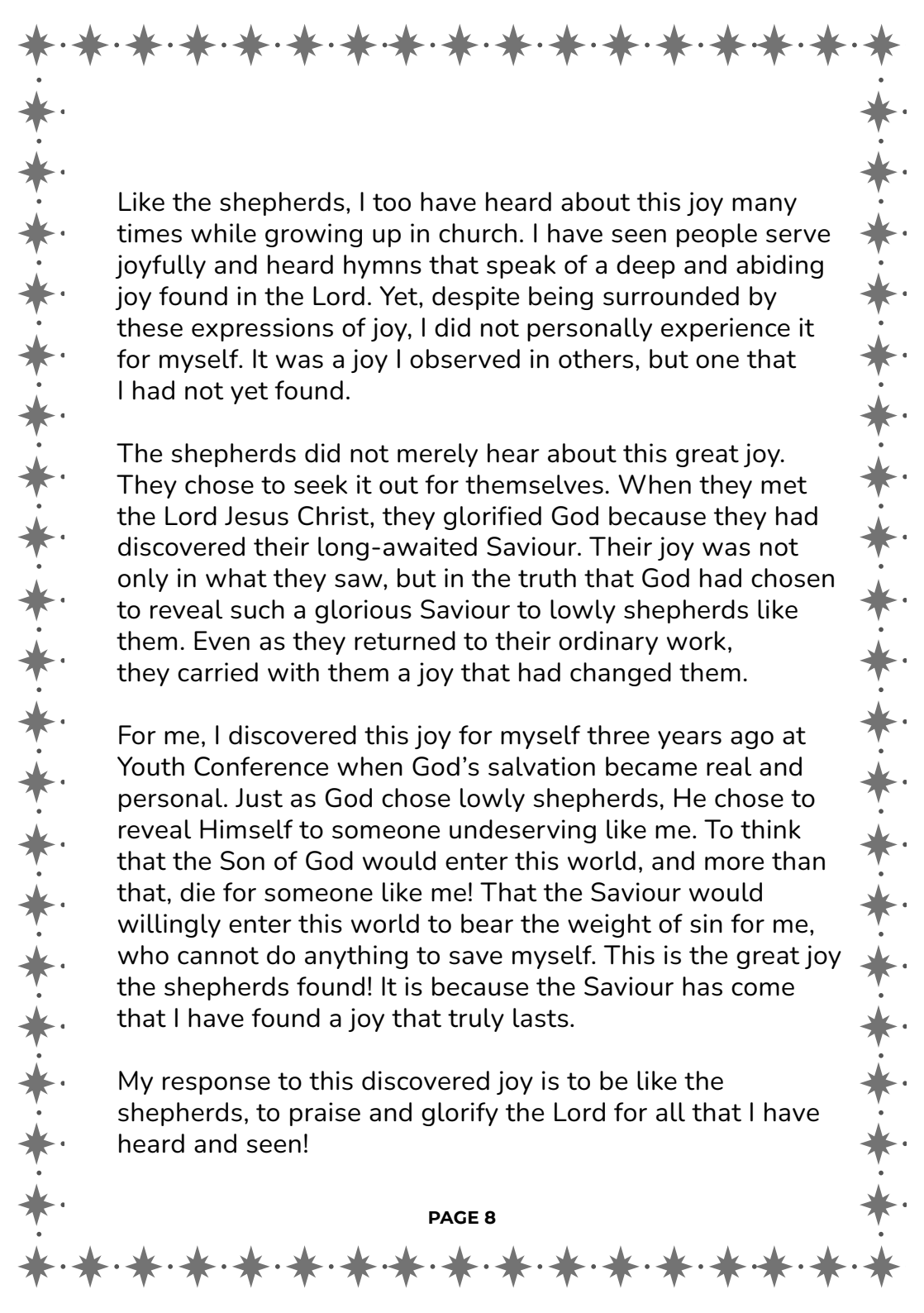
Discovering a Great Joy

Christmas is often a wonderful time, filled with festive activities and a joyful atmosphere. Even the thought of the sumptuous meals that come with this season makes me a happy camper. Yet the joy that comes from good food is short-lived. After stuffing myself thoughtlessly, it often fades into nothing more than a bad tummy ache.

This makes me wonder: is there a joy that truly lasts - a great joy? Is joy something that can only be found during this festive season? Over time, I have been personally discovering a joy like none other. It is not a joy that comes from gifts or activities, but a joy divine, one that does not fade when the festivities end.

“Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”” (Luke 2:10)

Recorded In Luke 2, the angel proclaimed a “great joy which will be to all people.” The announcement of the birth of Christ brought great joy. When the shepherds heard this message, they did not dismiss it. Instead, they went to see for themselves whether what the angel had spoken was true. What they found was exactly as they had been told! As a result, “the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen.” (Luke 2:20)



Like the shepherds, I too have heard about this joy many times while growing up in church. I have seen people serve joyfully and heard hymns that speak of a deep and abiding joy found in the Lord. Yet, despite being surrounded by these expressions of joy, I did not personally experience it for myself. It was a joy I observed in others, but one that I had not yet found.

The shepherds did not merely hear about this great joy. They chose to seek it out for themselves. When they met the Lord Jesus Christ, they glorified God because they had discovered their long-awaited Saviour. Their joy was not only in what they saw, but in the truth that God had chosen to reveal such a glorious Saviour to lowly shepherds like them. Even as they returned to their ordinary work, they carried with them a joy that had changed them.

For me, I discovered this joy for myself three years ago at Youth Conference when God's salvation became real and personal. Just as God chose lowly shepherds, He chose to reveal Himself to someone undeserving like me. To think that the Son of God would enter this world, and more than that, die for someone like me! That the Saviour would willingly enter this world to bear the weight of sin for me, who cannot do anything to save myself. This is the great joy the shepherds found! It is because the Saviour has come that I have found a joy that truly lasts.

My response to this discovered joy is to be like the shepherds, to praise and glorify the Lord for all that I have heard and seen!

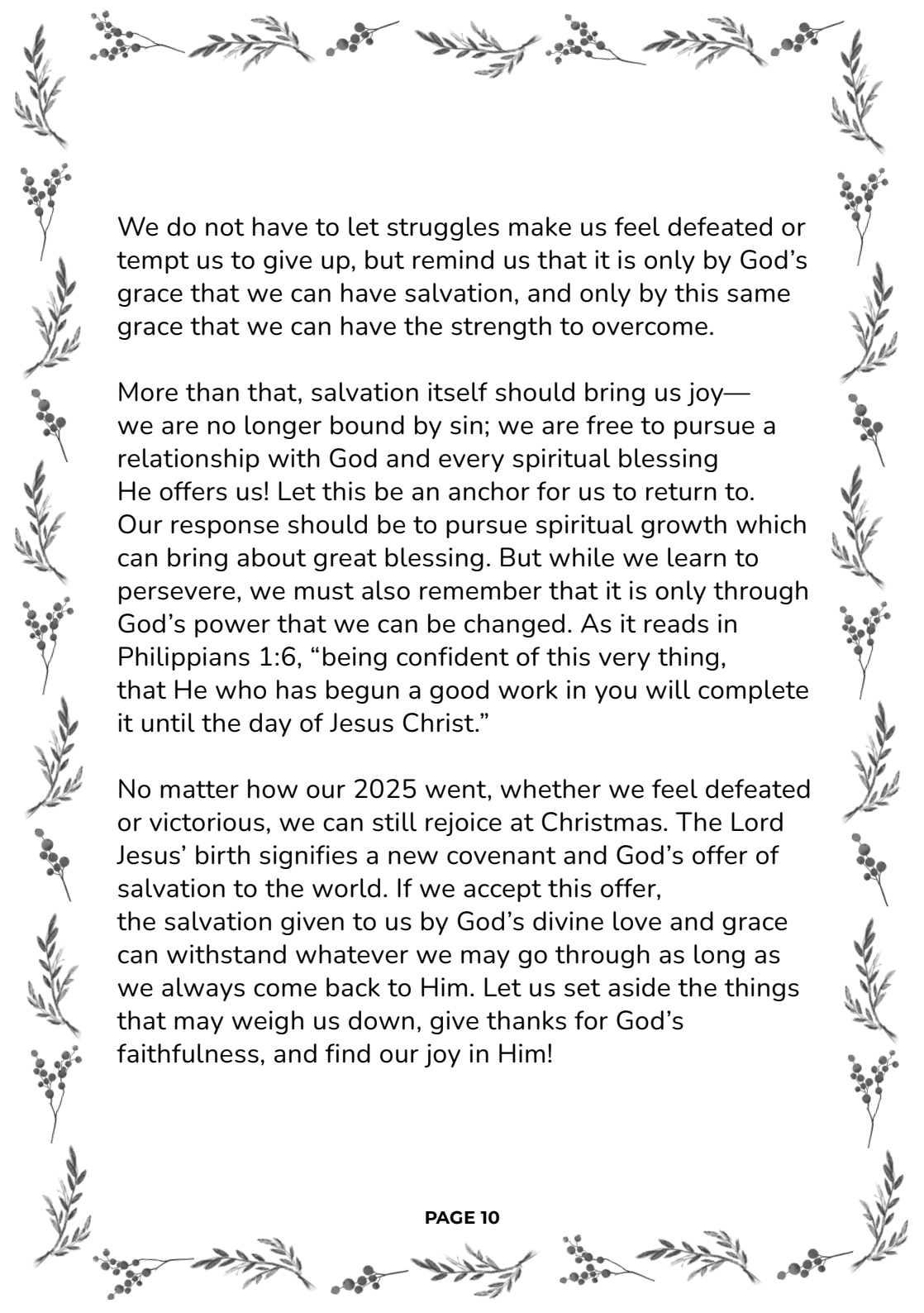


Ashley Tan

The Joy in Appreciating Salvation

As we near the year-end, a natural thing is to reflect on how the year has been. For me, I often feel a sense of disappointment in myself when I think of all the ways my year could have been better. As such, there is sometimes a gap between the hope and joy embodied in Christmas and the discouragement I feel. Instead, I am learning to focus on salvation as an anchor for me and appreciate God's grace and love such that joy can be experienced in place of discouragement.

Ultimately, the joy of Christmas comes not from us but from God, as it reads in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." We can be saved, but not of ourselves precisely because it is impossible for us to measure up to God's perfect holiness. This is why the free gift of salvation is so amazing—it testifies of God's divine love and grace. That God would offer salvation to the world through the Lord Jesus Christ and condescend to earth despite knowing of man's sinfulness and shortcomings is evidence of His amazing love. For me, this is something I have to continually appreciate. When I look at my own weaknesses and shortcomings, discouragement often comes in the form of the question "Why am I still like this?" The road to spiritual growth is hard, but it reads in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "...My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."



We do not have to let struggles make us feel defeated or tempt us to give up, but remind us that it is only by God's grace that we can have salvation, and only by this same grace that we can have the strength to overcome.

More than that, salvation itself should bring us joy—we are no longer bound by sin; we are free to pursue a relationship with God and every spiritual blessing He offers us! Let this be an anchor for us to return to. Our response should be to pursue spiritual growth which can bring about great blessing. But while we learn to persevere, we must also remember that it is only through God's power that we can be changed. As it reads in Philippians 1:6, "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

No matter how our 2025 went, whether we feel defeated or victorious, we can still rejoice at Christmas. The Lord Jesus' birth signifies a new covenant and God's offer of salvation to the world. If we accept this offer, the salvation given to us by God's divine love and grace can withstand whatever we may go through as long as we always come back to Him. Let us set aside the things that may weigh us down, give thanks for God's faithfulness, and find our joy in Him!



Jerome Lai

Joy Inexpressible and Full of Glory

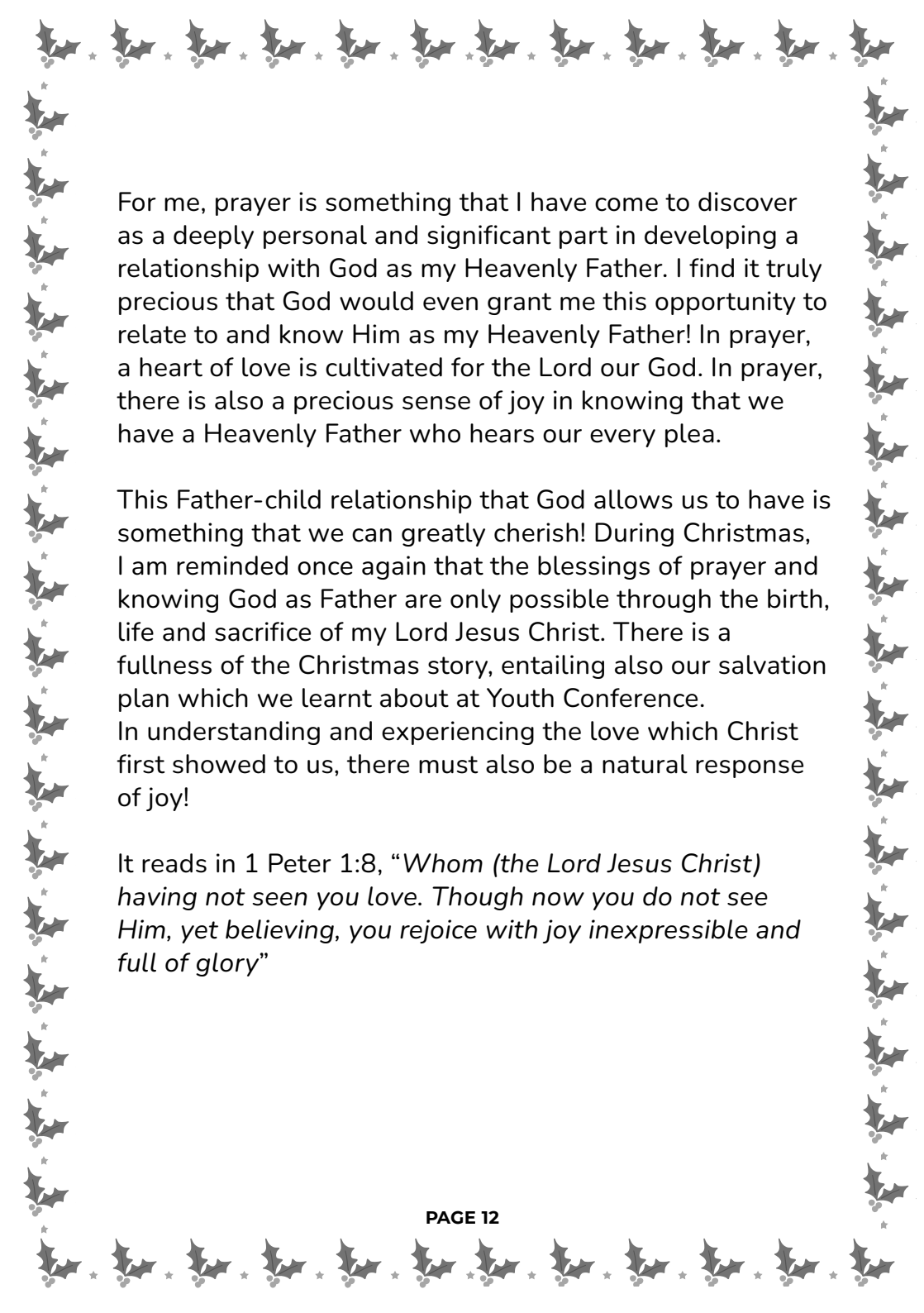
Hello everybody and welcome back to our second Post-Conference Session! Today I will be sharing some of my thoughts even as we approach Christmas.

Last week at the Post-Conference session, Pastor challenged us to experience a love afresh for our Lord Jesus Christ, as echoed in the words of our final hymn “*My Jesus, I Love Thee.*” But this love does not come on its own, as we read in Galatians, the fruit of the Spirit is love...followed by joy!

What are some reasons for us finding joy this Christmas? For me, even as I remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I find my joy in having access to God as my Heavenly Father through our Lord Jesus.

Romans 5:1-2 reads “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*”


One way we have access to God is that we can relate to Him in prayer. For some of us, prayer may yet remain as simply saying grace before meals or last-minute pleas before exams. But beyond these things, prayer means a dynamic access in relating to God as Heavenly Father.



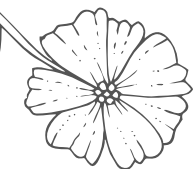
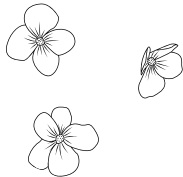
For me, prayer is something that I have come to discover as a deeply personal and significant part in developing a relationship with God as my Heavenly Father. I find it truly precious that God would even grant me this opportunity to relate to and know Him as my Heavenly Father! In prayer, a heart of love is cultivated for the Lord our God. In prayer, there is also a precious sense of joy in knowing that we have a Heavenly Father who hears our every plea.

This Father-child relationship that God allows us to have is something that we can greatly cherish! During Christmas, I am reminded once again that the blessings of prayer and knowing God as Father are only possible through the birth, life and sacrifice of my Lord Jesus Christ. There is a fullness of the Christmas story, entailing also our salvation plan which we learnt about at Youth Conference. In understanding and experiencing the love which Christ first showed to us, there must also be a natural response of joy!

It reads in 1 Peter 1:8, "*Whom (the Lord Jesus Christ) having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory*"



The apostle Peter aptly describes this joy to be found as “*inexpressible and full of glory*”, one that nothing else on this earth can give. Many of us experience joy in different ways during Christmas - going out with friends, eating delicious food, receiving gifts and presents from friends and family. Yet joy from such things are all externally derived, and we realise that they don’t last very long. But the joy to be found in experiencing the love of Christ— this is an internal joy that no one can take away! Even as we approach Christmas, may it not just be another passing celebration, and can we instead be challenged to discover this “*joy inexpressible and full of glory*” anew for ourselves!



Announcements

1. POST-YOUTH CONFERENCE SPECIAL SESSION

The last Post-Youth Conference Special session will be taking place in the Fellowship Hall (Level 1) on 27 December 2025.

Text: Ephesians 3:14-21

Title: "Strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man"

The programme begins at 3pm.
See you there!





2. DOWN MEMORY LANE 2025


Our annual Down Memory Lane Service will be taking place at the end of the month.

Last Worship Service for 2025
31 December 2025
8.00pm

Text: Psalm 33

Title: “The eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him”
Psalm 33:18

Let us take time to reflect on 2025,
and look forward to 2026!





Bethany Independent-Presbyterian Church