

## ACTS College Empowering Leaders *We Teach Who We Are*

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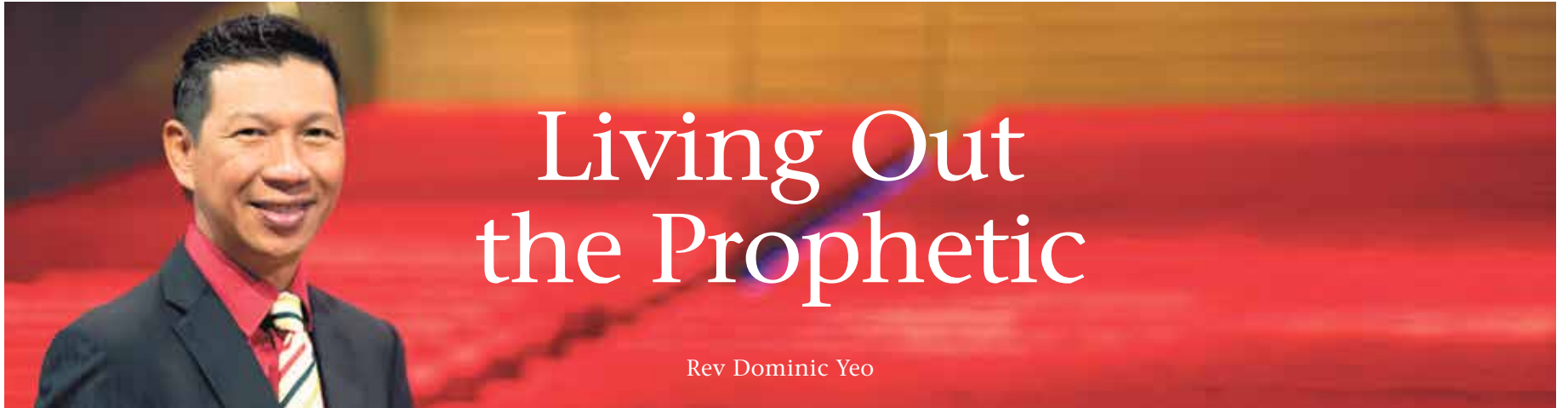


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# Living Out the Prophetic

Rev Dominic Yeo

Since the start of the year, we have seen our world descend into chaos as many give in to panic and fear over COVID-19.

As the people of God, our response must be different. Amid calamity, the church must arise so that the world can see the hope that we profess. We do this by living out God's prophetic word—revelations inspired, anointed, and charged by the Holy Spirit to lead us forward.

As we head into the second half of 2020, 1 Peter 4:7-11 gives us three ways to live out God's prophetic word despite all that is happening around us.

## With spiritual engagement

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear-minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. – 1 Peter 4:7

To live out the prophetic, there must be spiritual engagement with God through prayer. But that prayer cannot be circumstantial or motivated by fear.

When we engage in reactive prayer, we lose the ability to hear and follow His voice. That is why we must be people of clear mind and self-control—sensible, of sound judgment, prudent and restrained.

While the world appears to be out of control, you and I must anchor ourselves in a spiritual engagement with a God who is in control. Through initiatives like the 'COVID-19:00 Synchronized Prayer', let's continue to combat fear with faith by declaring who God is and who we are in God.

## By exercising loving grace

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:8-10

It is instinctive to adopt an attitude of self-preservation during a crisis. But when “being prepared” and “social distancing” are used as excuses to be unkind, we must remember that the Bible calls us to a higher standard. That is why exercising loving grace is so crucial in these dark and uncertain times.

When people are selfish, uncaring, and rude, resist the temptation to fight fire with fire. Empathize with their shortfalls (areas where they lack character, faith, and passion), turn the other cheek, and choose to help them along.

While the threat of rejection and lack of gratefulness is very real, all these things should not deter us from being God's love wrapped in skin. Where others exhibit weakness, let's be people who exhibit strength by exercising grace.

## Through faithful service

Each of you should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 4:10-11

To step into our destiny and live out the prophetic, we must be people of service. And when we speak, our words should mirror the words of God. That means to speak life—words that encourage, edify, and comfort.

Is there a quarantined neighbor who needs help running errands? A sick family member who needs prayers or words of encouragement? A stranger who needs a sympathetic smile and a clean tissue?

Often times, offering faithful service can be daunting or risky. But as we seek to minister and meet needs, we do not need to do it from our own strength. When we draw our strength from Him, you and I have all that we need to keep being God's hands, feet, and heart. While the world chooses to focus inward, let's be a people who choose to focus outward.

Amid the calamity, hold tight to the truth that God will ultimately triumph. As Christ's ambassadors, continue to be people who show genuine faith in action. Carry on as His conduit of blessing. Keep the faith and faithfully serve so that others can experience God through us. Shalom!

## 活出先知性

从年头，我们就看到许多人因着2019冠状病毒恐慌，以至世界陷入一片混乱。

作为神的子民，我们的反应必须有所不同。教会在灾难中必须兴起来，让世界看到我们口中的盼望。我们通过活出神先知性的话语这么做。神先知性的话语是由圣灵启发和恩膏的启示，引导我们向前。

步入2020年下半年，彼得前书4章7-11节给我们三个活出神先知性话语的方法，适用于面对周遭的任何情况。

## 通过属灵连接

万物的结局近了，所以你们要谨慎自守，警醒祷告。 – 彼得前书4:7

要活出先知性，我们就要通过祷告与神连接。然而，祷告不能只是出于形势或惧怕。

当我们的祷告出于被动反应时，我们失去听和跟随神的声音的能力。这就是为什么我们必须是头脑清醒和自制的人——谨慎并有的明智判断。

当世界看似失控时，我们的灵必须以属灵的连接锚固在掌控一切的神里。透过COVID-19:00同步祷告(COVID-19:00 Synchronized Prayer)等行动，让我们继续以信心对抗惧怕，宣告神是谁，及我们在神里面的身份。

## 通过施恩典慈爱

最要紧的是彼此切实相爱，因为爱能遮掩许多的罪。你们要互相款待，不发怨言。各人要照所得的恩赐彼此服侍，做神百般恩赐的好管家。 – 彼得前书 4:8-10

在这危机的时刻，采取自保的态度是人的本能反应。但是，虽然“做好准备”和“社交距离”被当成不友善的借口，但是我们要记得圣经要我们活出更高的标准。这就是为什么在这黑暗和不确定的时候，向人施予慈爱是那么重要。

当人自私、没有爱和无礼时，我们要抗拒硬碰硬的诱惑，而应该理解他们的不足（他们人格的、信心和热忱上的欠缺），容忍并选择帮助他们。

被拒绝和缺乏感激的威胁是很真实的，然而，它们不能阻止我们成为人皮包裹的神的爱。别人虽然软弱，但让我们施予别人恩典慈爱，做显现力量的人。

## 透过忠事实奉

各人要照所得的恩赐彼此服侍，做神百般恩赐的好管家。若有讲道的，要按着神的圣言讲；若有服侍人的，要按着神所赐的力量服侍，叫神在凡事上因耶稣基督得荣耀——原来荣耀、权能都是他的，直到永远远！阿门。 – 彼得前书4:10-11

*Continued on pg 5...*



As Christians, we often talk about ‘Honoring God’. What does it mean to honor God? It means giving Him the reverence that is due to Him. It also means to worship Him in our attitudes, affections and actions. The spirit of honoring God is revealed to us in what Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-38: *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”* In the series ‘Honoring God’, we look into four aspects: Speech, Thoughts, Sight and Deeds.

Honoring God

# Our Speech

*Our words can either build or tear down. Ps Sabrina highlights three areas to remind us how we can honor God with our speech.*

I recently received a message from another church leader thanking me for serving the Lord and His church. Such words of appreciation and encouragement lifted my spirit and affirmed that God is working in and through my life.

Words can have such impactful and lasting power. It’s critical that we deliberate and deliver words that please God. Let me share with you three ways we can honor God with our speech.

## 1. Speak words of life

Proverbs 18:21 says, *“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”*

Scripture is clear that the words we speak have the power to give life or death. When we honor God, we choose our words before we engage our tongue; to speak life and not death. We are responsible for the words that depart from our lips because once said, they cannot be recovered. This means that even when we are provoked, we need to apply the brakes to our tongue before we lash out.

Words have creative powers too. God spoke and the world came to be.

*“God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”* (Genesis 1:3) Things came into being when God spoke. God gave man this same authority to have creative powers through spoken words.

God commanded Ezekiel to speak to the dry bones and they shall live. (Ezekiel 37) God gave man the authority to speak, so that what was dead could come alive. When you speak life, life comes forth. Likewise, if you speak death, death befalls. It is your choice to speak words of life over death.

The devil tempts us to speak of death and hopelessness; to exasperate us to declare faithlessness toward God. But friends, God wants us to cling onto His promises and speak words of faith and possibilities even into “hopeless” situations. God has equipped us with a powerful weapon upon our lips. When we choose to overcome adversities by proclaiming life, God will act upon our declaration and bring forth a supernatural breakthrough.

Sai Moy was suffering from end-stage cancer and the doctors confessed that they could not prolong her life through treatment. We ministered to her and by the grace of God, she received Christ. We spoke life and rebuked the cancer in her body. By the sheer healing power of God, the swelling on her face and body subsided while she regained her strength. Because of her miraculous healing, her husband too accepted Christ and they started to attend our church service regularly. In a few months, this couple was baptized and their daughter, who witnessed their baptism, received Christ as well.

The Lord extended Sai Moy’s life for another seven months. During this time, she expressed her gratitude toward God’s goodness and His assured provision of an eternal, heavenly home. At the end of her journey, God took her home

peacefully, without suffering much pain. Friends, God not only extended her physical life, He gave her eternal life as well. That’s the power of speaking life into what seemed to be an impossible situation.

## 2. Speak words of faith.

To honor God with our speech, we must speak words of faith and not fear. When we speak faith, it pleases God.

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”* (Hebrews 11:6)

When we speak in faith and belief, it invokes God’s power to act. God is ready to move whenever we speak words of faith. But when we freeze in fear, we miss out the destiny God has for us.

In Numbers 14, the 10 spies spoke fear in contrast to Joshua and Caleb’s words of faith. By believing the report of those spies, the people became afraid to enter into their Promised Land. Fear magnified the giants and dwarfed the perception of themselves as grasshoppers. Their negativity, out of fear and unbelief, caused them to sin against God. This brought about a heavy penalty that lasted 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. If only they had the faith and believed in Joshua and Caleb, they would have enjoyed their destiny in the Promised Land.

## 3. Speak words of encouragement.

When we honor one another with our words, we honor God.

*“Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.”* (Proverbs 16:24)

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we must build one another up and not tear each other down with our words. So much heartache in the body of Christ is a result of unkind words spoken to each other.

In order to speak gracious words to each other, we must treat the problem from its root cause, and that is to deal with our hearts.

*“For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks.”* (Matthew 12:34b) Words are direct reflections of what is in our hearts. Therefore, we need to deal with our hearts before we can deal with our speech. When we arrest the issues of our hearts, our speech would naturally be pure. When we solve the issues of the source, we solve the issue of the flow.

Are there evil intentions, bitter roots of prejudice and unbridled anger in our hearts toward another? When we confess and get rid of them, the poison will not spew from our mouths. Choose to speak words to edify one another and God’s blessings will flow into your life and those around us.



**Ps Sabrina Chow** is a woman who seeks after God’s heart. Having heard the call of God, she entered into full time ministry in 1999. In 2018, she formed Risen Christian Assembly. Warm and friendly, she is gifted in mentoring and has raised many leaders over the years. She is also passionate about people and has seen many come to Christ through her ministry. She is married to Ps Andrew Lee who is part of the pastoral team of RCA.

Honoring God

# Our Thoughts

*What is it like having Philippians 4:8 to guide our thoughts as we honor God with our mind?  
Ps Timothy Eu from Calvary Assembly of God shares his insights.*

Why is one’s thought life so important to God? What do one’s thoughts have to do with honoring God? Romans 12:1-2 answers that very question. The Apostle Paul describes a deep connection between a person’s thought life and his or her worship unto God—so much so, that in order for one’s worship to be holy and acceptable unto God, he or she must be transformed by the renewing of his or her mind.

This beckons the question: “How can we honor God with our thoughts?”

Philippians 4:8 gives us a key guiding principle to this, *“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”*

**Think About Such Things**

The Apostle Paul in his closing address to the church in Philippi exhorts them to turn their thoughts to that which is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. This is not just a call to engage in positive thinking, but an instruction for us, as Christians, to fix our eyes on the things of God.

It is a charge for us to put on the mind of Christ and allow His thoughts to become our thoughts.

Why is this so fundamental to our faith? As the saying goes, “What goes in, must come out.” The very thing we feed our minds with will be the very thing that shapes our lives. In other words, the content we consume will determine the content we produce. Hence, the Bible’s constant encouragement for us to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. However, it is not just about guarding what comes in, but being intentional about choosing what we consume.

**The Lost Discipline of Meditation**

If the key to honoring God with our thoughts comes down to allowing God’s thoughts to become our thoughts—then the next question would be how?

The answer is found in studying the Word and prayer (Joshua 1:8). In today’s society, the discipline of meditating upon the Word and waiting upon God in the place of prayer is becoming rarer. The challenges of a quick-fix and ever-busy culture coupled with the many distractions of life often lead to the absence of such a discipline in one’s life.

However, a life void of the discipline of meditating on the Word and prayer is a life void of a platform to allow God’s thoughts to become ours. So how can we regain the discipline of meditating on the Word of God and prayer?

- 1. Intentionally set aside time for God
  - a. Make it a priority, don’t leave it to chance

- 2. Cancel any outside noise
  - a. Limit your distractions (e.g. mobile phones, music)
  - b. Learn to be comfortable in the silence. Don’t be too quick to interrupt the silence
- 3. Focus on God
  - a. Read the Word
  - b. Adopt an open heart (e.g. God, what are you saying to me through your Word? What is true, honorable?)
  - c. Keep a record of what God says
- 4. Be consistent
  - a. The impact of a daily discipline is far greater than a once-off intensive

**Put it into Practice**

The beautiful thing about Philippians 4:8 is it’s followed up with Philippians 4:9, *“Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”* This means that having the mind of Christ in itself is not the end goal—for it must be translated into the way we live our lives.

It is one thing to know the thoughts of Christ and another to think like Christ.

This expresses itself in 2 Corinthians 10:5 where we are to *“take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”* When things fail to go according to plan and we are on the verge of giving up, we are to submit it to the truth that *“all things work together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”* (Romans 8:28).

When we have been hurt and have every ‘right’ to be angry and to retaliate, we are to surrender that thought to not letting the sun go down on our anger (Ephesians 4:26) and to forgive them as God has forgiven us (Colossians 3:13). When we are in the ‘blackhole’ of loneliness and rejection, we are to cling onto the promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

Essentially, the call to honoring God with our thoughts is a journey where we lay our mindsets, perspectives, and worldviews at the foot of the cross in exchange for God’s. It is a constant struggle for us to accept God’s ways and thoughts as being far greater and better than ours. But at the end of the day, it is a struggle worth having—for He will prove himself faithful in the end.

So as we continue walking this journey with God, let us never lose sight of the promise of His presence for *“the God of peace will be with you”* (Philippians 4:9).



Honoring God

# Our Sight

Many children are being exposed to pornography through media and even among their peers.  
Ps Maggie shares from her experience as a children pastor on how to handle this.

There is a Sunday School song for children that goes like this: “O be careful little eyes what you see; O be careful little eyes what you see; There’s a Father up above; And He’s looking down in love; So, be careful little eyes what you see.”

God had created our eyes to experience His mighty presence through His creations. Our eyes are created to see the existence of God in the universe. When young children are taught to fix their eyes to honor God, they will grow up being able to discern between ungodly and godly sights. Early childhood experts have found that the early experiences of children could impact them till adulthood.

There’s been a rise in the amount of pornography that is readily available over the Internet and in other media. Satan continues to use his bait to lure God’s children through pornography. According to research, children as young as 9 are falling prey to this formidable lure and becoming addicted. I’d counseled a 10-year-old girl, watching “live pornography of her grandma showering in the bathroom,” for almost a year. The first time she saw this scene, it shocked her, but when she continued to peep at her, she began to feel guilty and could not sleep well. She related to me that whenever she tried to close her eyes, the vivid image of grandma appeared before her. She trembled and said, “I don’t want to see it, but it kept coming to my mind.”

She became irritated quickly and frequently vented her anger at her domestic helper and younger siblings, when her parents went for overseas business trips. After her addiction, she began to feel that God wouldn’t love or forgive her. She added that she couldn’t concentrate on her studies as the urge to peep at her grandma never stopped.

I was distraught that this happened to such a young child of God. She was too afraid to tell anyone. This is an action plan that I worked through with her:

1. I led her through a prayer of confession and told her to repeat after me. “Dear Jesus, I’m sorry for peeping at grandma. Please forgive me and help me not to peep at her anymore. I know you have the power to help me overcome this addiction. I resist this addiction in Jesus name. I believe that you can set me completely free. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen!”

2. Next, I instructed her to stop peeping at grandma immediately. When grandma took her shower, I advised her to stay in her room and contact me to pray together. I also took this time to share about God’s love for her. I assured her that the Lord still loved her despite what she had done. I spent about 15 minutes every day to distract her from her addiction.
3. The next step was to help her from the recurring immoral mental images of grandma through prayer, “Lord, please remove this ungodly mental image from me! I reject this image by the power of Jesus.” Next, she would visualize grandma fully dressed to battle against this immoral mental image. This process went on for a few weeks before she was completely set free from her addiction.
4. Finally, I advised her to boldly confess to grandma and her parents of what she’d done and shared how God had graciously delivered her. I intended that she’ll not have any more feelings of guilt and will not give any openings to the devil. Today, she’s grown into a healthy young adult and gets along handsomely with all her siblings. Praise God!

The bondage of pornography among young girls and boys shouldn’t be ignored. Parents should pay attention to what their children are doing at home, especially when they are using their mobile devices with Internet access. They should also watch out for positioning of their screens. If they’re watching porn, they may cautiously try to avoid exposure of their screens. According to public health experts, pornography addiction if left untreated can become a destructive force in one’s life.

Here’re some symptoms of pornography addiction that need attention:

- i. Using porn over long periods
- ii. Trying to stop using porn and not being able to
- iii. Using porn in situations that impose physical risks
- iv. Continuing to use porn despite negative effects on work or relationships.

In conclusion, perpetrators of pornography would feel hopelessly trapped that they think there’s no way out. The good news is that the hidden darkness of pornography addiction can be delivered and broken by the mighty power of Jesus. In James 4:7-8, “*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God, and he will come near to you.*” Say NO to this dangerous addiction!



**Ps Maggie Kuek** is the Assistant Pastor of Great Shepherd Assembly of God. She leads the church’s children’s ministry and prayer meetings. Having graduated from NTU with a Masters of Education in Special Education, Ps Maggie is the Associate Lecturer from NIEC, and a MOE trained Spark QA Coach and Founder of MY Learning Ark LLP. She has also authored several children’s resources such as, ‘Quick Start Series’ (18 thematic assessment books), ‘All About Leaves’, ‘Magnetic Teaching Aids’ and ‘Jumpstart To Reading’.

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要进入我们的命定，活出先知性，我们就必须是乐于服侍的人。而当我们说话时，我们的话语必须反映神的话语。这意味着建造生命，说出鼓励、建造和安慰的话语。

你是否有被隔离的邻居需要你帮忙跑跑腿？或者一个生病的家人需要你为他祷告或听到你鼓励的话语？还是遇见一个陌生人需要同情的微笑和一张干净的纸巾？

很多时候，忠实的事奉是艰难或危险的。但是，在事奉和满足需要时，我们不需要靠自己的力量。当我们从神支取力量时，我们单要做的就是继续作神的手、脚和心。世人都选择向内看时，让我们选择向外看。

在灾难中，让我们抓紧神必最终胜利的真理。作为基督耶稣的使者，让我们继续行出真实的信心，作祂祝福的管道。我们要坚守信心，忠实事奉，使他人透过我们经历神。平安！

Honoring God

# Our Deeds

*We are to be the Salt and Light through our actions. Ps Samuel shares three simple but useful principles he abides by in his ministry.*

The call of every Christian is to be a revelator of God's Glory in every area of life.

Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 5:13-17 that we are the Salt and Light of the world. The only way that the world will come to know Jesus and experience His glory is through our lives. In verse 16, Jesus says *"That they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven."* Our good deeds bring glory to God.

There is a saying, "Actions speak louder than words", this is so true of our Christian life. We can preach all night but if our actions do not match what we say then we have failed.

These are three principles I follow in doing good.

## 1. Look Around

There are people hurting and in great need all around us.

*I look for someone to come and help me, but no one gives me a passing thought. No one will help me; no one cares a bit what happens to me.* – Psalm 142:4 (NLT)

Just like King David, there are many people out there with a similar cry. They feel no one cares for them and that no one is willing to lead a helping hand.

Look around you, there might be people crying out for help. Look for the oppressed, the poor in your community, the guest workers cleaning your housing area. You also can look for Community Outreach Projects to volunteer. Above all, ask the Holy Spirit to show you these people.

## 2. Keep It Simple

Good deeds do not need to be big deeds. Start by doing simple things like saying

"thank you" to those cleaning your neighborhood. What I usually do is when I'm getting a drink, I'll just get two or three more for the guys cleaning my neighborhood. They work tirelessly in the hot sun to clean and maintain our neighborhood and we often take them for granted. You could go one step further by inviting them to your home for a meal. This simple gesture will go a long way in showing the love of Christ.

In your work place, you can write simple encouragement notes. Simple acts of kindness can really make people's day.

## 3. Always Give God the Glory

Everything we do should point people to Jesus. We love because He first Loved us.

1 Corinthians 10:31 – *Whatever you do. Do it all for the Glory of God.*

We should remember that whatever we have is given by God. In that light, we can use whatever He has blessed us with to bless others. When we do good deeds we should be careful to guard our hearts against self-gratification or pride. Matthew 6:1-4 says, *"Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others."*

*Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."*

I believe if we follow these 3 principles, we can shine our light and bring Glory to Jesus. Let's show a servant's heart by serving those around you.



**Ps Samuel Gift**  
Stephen is the Senior Overseer of Smyrna Assembly of God (AG). Having trained and equipped many churches locally and internationally, he has founded Smyrna Assembly Global Alliance (SAGA), Smyrna Assembly Leadership Training Centre (SALT) and Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO). A sought-after speaker at conferences and leadership seminars, he has travelled to over 40 nations doing mission work and preaching the gospel. He is married to Grace and together they have two daughters, Emmanuella and Daniella.



*Times of our ministry to the migrant workers*



# New Destiny Fellowship International—Filipino Congregation (NDFI-FC) Church Camp 2020

An enjoyable getaway time with God and fellow church members.

By Arviol Paulo Solis Diquit, NDFI-FC

At the height of the Lunar New Year with festivities this year, New Destiny Fellowship International—Filipino Congregation (NDFI-FC) had its annual church camp from January 25 to 26, 2020.

This year, the camp took to the Southern Straits of Singapore at St John's Island. Known as a sleepy island enclave with lush greenery, it was a good getaway from the hustle and bustle of the mainland.

The theme of the camp was 'Moving Forward, Abiding in Christ' grounded in Hebrews 12:2. Campers were split up into three teams where they required teamwork to complete various tasks and challenges handed to them. These activities ranged from a mini tug-of-war to memorizing Bible verses.

The highlight of the camp saw teams coming up with their individual performances, including NDFI-FC's very own Golden Girls dancing 'Tala', a pop song well-known among Filipinos. The camp concluded on a high note with a Filipino-style "boodle fight" that saw campers coming together around the table and eating harmoniously.

Amidst the plethora of events that took place, campers were definitely enriched with the teachings of the Word of God as well as the fellowship of friends and family. Praise God for another successful camp and we look forward to many more things in store for NDFI-FC.



Putting our strength together during a time of games



Boodle fight: enjoying a meal and fellowship



Taking a pause from our discussion about issues affecting women



A group picture to round up the camp



# 40-Day God Encounter

*How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. (Psalm 84:1-2)*

By Anthea Koh Yi Ning, Bethel AG

Before the sun rose, Bethelites made their way to a glass-walled prayer room in church for a time of worship and prayer. There was no set agenda but to press in and encounter Jesus. Others followed a Bible reading plan that revisited the four Gospels from home. For 40 days, we collectively prayed, meditated on Scripture, worshiped and waited on the Lord. Every day, God impressed upon us areas to intercede in prayer for and also gave revelation of His truth. Little did we know that He was preparing our church for what is to come.

“As early as July 2019, God moved our Senior Pastor, Rev Chia Beng Hock, to initiate a 40-day God Encounter,” recalled Rev Moses Pi, Executive Pastor, “I realized that through these 40 days, God was preparing us for the impact that COVID-19 would have on the church. Everything is led by Him. Thank God for leading the church to be alert and prepared.”

For others, those 40 days marked a fresh encounter with God. It is easy to grow overly familiar with the Gospels and skim through them. When our church announced the 40-day God Encounter with a reading plan that covered the four Gospels, a church member, Bro Jerome challenged himself to learn at least one new thing from each chapter he read. With a prayerful attitude, relying on the Holy Spirit for revelation, he took the time to revisit the Gospels.

“Through the 40 days, I gained a fresh encounter with the Gospels,” Bro Jerome shared, “It opened me up to new



*Bethelites coming together to worship God in the 40-Day God Encounter*



*Sis Alice shares her testimony*



*Seeking and hearing from God intently*

perspectives and truths, which I would have easily missed had I not paid close attention. It stirred a renewed hunger to dive deeper into His word. Praise the Lord!”

Finally, another church member, Sis Alice Soh shared how her faith was being built up during the 40-day God Encounter. Being reminded that God is in control prepared her for a fearful stretch that she did not know was coming her way.

Battling fever and breathlessness, she headed to the hospital. Eventually, she was isolated while more checks were being done. While she was waiting alone, the fear of death and separation from her family set in. “What if I have COVID-19? What will my last words be? Would I miss anyone? My children?

I had no chance to say anything; no farewells,” she thought.

Then, she heard herself saying, “My heart is more delighted to see You, Lord!” Confronted with reality, Sis Alice learned that nothing we have in this life is forever, only God. In light of that, are we living each day fully to glorify Him, knowing that we will stand before Him one day?

God is omnipresent, waiting to speak to us if we would make time to be still and linger in His presence. For in His presence there is fullness of joy. May we jealously guard the time set aside to encounter Him daily especially in times of crises. Encounter God today. Truly, God is omniscient and omnipotent; in Him we are secure!



# His Heart, My Heart: Missions Convention 2020

## Catching God's heartbeat for missions.

By Jacqueline Cheong, Trinity Christian Centre

Have you ever been asked to “have a heart?”

Has God ever asked you to have a heart—more specifically to have His heart?

Do we feel for those who have yet to come to know His heart, those who are lost, lonely, fearful, anxious, or think that life is hopeless?

Do we have a heart for those who have fallen away from His path?

Having His heart means tuning in to the heartache God has whenever He sees needless suffering due to ignorance, fear, loneliness, and hopelessness. It means that we will be willing to give toward the enablement of sharing the Good News and be willing to be sent out for Kingdom expansion.

*Can our hearts share His heart?* At Trinity Christian Centre's Missions Convention this year (March 5-8), Trinitarians gathered to hear God's heart and carry it.

### 50 years of missions, but there is *still* more to be done

As a church birthed by missionaries, missions is the very reason that Trinity exists.

2020 marks Trinity's 50<sup>th</sup> year as a church that believes in and sows into missions. Our church gives and sends Trinitarians and associated church members on missions endeavors around the world.

Our Missions Rally saw two anointed speakers, Rev Rob Ketterling and Rev Rick Ciaramitaro, grace our church amidst the near pandemic health situation of COVID-19, showing how their hearts aligned with God's Heart.

“We can't lose the urgency to Go—we mustn't lose our passion for the lost,” preached Rev Rob.

“Faith is not just something that we talk about. It's something that we walk with,” shared Rev Rick.

Trinitarians were called to step out and give their very best so that the plans of heaven could be carried out through us.



*Generation interceding for God's heart to be our heart*



*Parade of the nations*



*Responding to God's call to give*



*Responding to God's call to go*

Using our intention to plant two new Regional Centers in Melbourne and Ho Chi Minh as examples, Rev Rob outlined a three-step approach for expanding our heart

1. Work the PLAN
2. Write the VISION down
3. Hold onto the DREAM

Besides committing a Missions Faith Promise, many also responded to the altar call as vessels moved into action and ready to be sent out into the harvest field.

May every Christian continue to make *His heart, our heart*. By giving of our time, talents, and treasures, let us be sold out to the cause of Christ!



*Speaker Rev Rick*

*Speaker Rev Rob*

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**Ps Aggie Chan**  
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*“Iron sharpens iron. I enjoy exchanging ideas and gaining knowledge with fellow leaders of faith.”*



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# We Teach Who We Are

*Empowered to become better teachers.*

*By ACTS College*



“We teach how we were taught.” This is a common fact observed by many in education circles. If we were taught by teachers using the traditional content-based, teacher-centered model of teaching, invariably, we would teach likewise unless we were exposed to other teaching methodologies.

The Adult Education Module launched by ACTS College in January 2020 aims to expose

students to various teaching approaches, so that they can teach in ways that would enable their learners to learn better.

“We teach who we are,” says renowned educator, Parker Palmer. The module was structured as a collaborative team-teaching project that tapped both on the expertise of several seasoned teachers and their unique experiences.

Here are what some of the first batch of students had to say about the module:

“When I signed up for this module, I was prepared to unlearn some of the pedagogy skills I’d picked up from my teaching profession. I was also interested to find out how adults learn differently from teenagers. Learning the six assumptions of Knowles has opened my eyes to many things. For example, I wasn’t aware that learners needed to know the reason for attending a class. If they don’t see any personal benefit, the class becomes irrelevant to them. As a teacher, I have to first discover what motivates them.”

– **Aggie Chan, taught in secondary school**

“I learned a lot right from the first lecture. It is one thing to have a rough idea of what the role of a teacher entails, but it is another to align our understanding with the Word. It struck me that the end goal of teaching is to present everyone fully mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28). Being reminded of the end goal of discipleship for my own life, I now want to be more intentional to delve deep into God’s Word so as to grow to be a better disciple and to use the Word in an active way to disciple others as well.”

– **Chloe Tang, serving in church university ministry**

“By deliberately using pauses to allow students to reflect as the lesson progresses helps them learn better and retain their knowledge for longer. The class has also expanded my repertoire of teaching strategies having witnessed how others teach. I now recognize that each of us has different experiences that shape our learning and influences how we teach.”

– **Edison Zhuang, leading adults from ages 20 to 60**



1 Group project discussion

2 One of our teachers, Rev Dr Davina Soh-Ng, at ACTS

3-4 Class presentations





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# Shepherding His People

*Rev Calvin Lee shared his heart on being a shepherd and a leader of ministers.*

*By Rev Winnie Wong, Lifeline Family Church*

On February 6, 2020 the Assemblies of God (AG) ministers gathered for Training and Togetherness in Prayer (2TiP). Rev Calvin Lee, a former EXCO member, who also recently handed his shepherd's staff to his deputy, Rev Dr Wilson Teo after 30 years as senior pastor of Grace AG Church, shared his personal conviction of what it means to shepherd and lead the church.

Ministry is **Challenging and Complicating** as it is more than pastoring and preaching. Today's pastor is expected to function like a CEO in a corporate world. He must be a strategic thinker, a strong leader, good at inter-personal relationships, and be a fundraiser as well. The danger comes when the pastor focuses his efforts on increasing the size of the church. What then should the pastor keep doing?

*"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." (Acts 20:28)*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Command: Keep watch over yourself

"The first responsibility of your ministry is to keep watch over yourself. We cannot effectively watch over the flock if we are not watching over ourselves. Sometimes the greatest threat to the flock is the shepherd

himself," Ps Calvin cautioned.

The pastor must be **Aware** of his personal struggles and take responsibility to guard his heart and not let the dark side take control. He ought to let God mold him to become the person God wants him to be.

It's okay not to be okay. Conversely, it is not right to continue being not okay. If we do that, it'll affect us, the ministry, the church as well as the people around us.

The pastor must **Adore** and love God wholeheartedly (Matthew 22:37) and keep to the right **Agenda** of holding onto spiritual values despite his performance being measured by congregation numbers and new buildings.

Stress, sin and the personal relationship with God affect the pastor's **Anointing** and his ability to serve. The **Attitude** of servanthood means to hold things lightly, not tightly. A minister usually begins that way—willing to wear the cross. But along the way, he or she could start to hold onto his or her position, pay, power, privileges and perks tightly, finding it difficult to let go. We must be mindful of this as ministers.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Command: Keep watch over the flock

It's important to not let our **Ardor** or passion

for God and His people wane. There are **six Ds** that affect the minister's passion:

1. Distractions - Takes your focus
2. Divisiveness - Takes your unity
3. Disillusionment - Takes your vision
4. Depression - Takes your hope
5. Disappointment - Takes your faith
6. Discouragement - Takes your strength

The pastor can become so disillusioned with people that his ministry becomes a job or profession. He can carry on his tasks but deep down he knows something is missing and isn't right. The Lord knows and understands. When that happens, we need to ask God to bring restoration to our heart and our soul.

Keeping watch over the flock means to **Align** our calling to that of a shepherd. The shepherd-pastor asks **four important questions**:

1. How well do people experience God?
2. How well is the content of the faith caught?
3. How connected and cared for do your people feel?
4. How well are we connecting with people outside the church?

In conclusion, Ps Calvin solemnly reminded fellow ministers and pastors that Jesus bought the church with his own blood. As shepherds, we should never do anything that will hurt the church.



He says, "I remind myself that one day I shall stand before God and give an account for all that I've done with my life and ministry. My prayer is when I stand before God, his commendation is, 'Well done good and faithful servant.' But for now, all of us have a battle to fight, a call to keep, and a ministry to uphold. We must do it not in our human strength, but in the strength and the power of the Holy Spirit."

1 Rev Calvin Lee sharing his heart with the ministers

2 Our ministers listening intently to the Word

3 All ready to pray together





# ElimParis Praise Report

*God has been working in our ministries.*

*By Rev John Lim, ElimParis*

With the many situations happening around the world, I'm reminded of Paul's words in Ephesians 6:10-13 that encourages us to stand strong.

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*

Here're some praise reports of God's wonderful works in our midst despite the calamities we're currently facing in the world.

We were blessed to receive the ministry of Dr Michael Tay, our good friend from Elim Singapore. He preached a message of encouragement that "DIEU est fidèle" (French: God is faithful) and shared how God helped him during his years in France. Our congregation was inspired to put their faith in God in all circumstances.

Also, we had a joyful time welcoming Bernard Bar, a new addition to our congregation. God has touched him and he has decided to join us in our service. We rejoice together with his wife, Lili, on his decision.

In the midst of a difficult family situation, Mme Lin found her way to the church and received counsel and encouragement from us. As we

prayed together with her, she found renewed hope in her family situation.

We thank God for Barbara, who has given her life to Jesus after starting the discipleship course with Ps Rebecca Lim. As an act of worship unto the Lord, she brought all the articles from her previous religion to be surrendered to Him. We thank God that she has now decided to follow Christ.

During one of our Paris 13 shopping center outreaches, where we distributed free coffee and biscuits, we had the honor of getting to know M LaCène. We thank God for being able to welcome him into one of our church meetings following this outreach. May the Lord continue to grant us favor in our community outreaches.

Since the beginning of 2020, I was commissioned by the Protestant Chaplaincy Services in France to train new volunteer chaplains for the hospitals in Paris. What a privilege to bring His light to suffering patients through our trainings and raising up chaplains!

Your prayers mean a lot to us. Please continue to pray for:

- God's wisdom and guidance to be upon the ministry teams in our church.
- God's provision of more workers in this end-time harvest.
- God's protection and healing to be over those who're sick.
- God's continued favor for outreaches in the Chinatown area of Paris.
- God to lead us as we venture into the hospital ministry.



1 Dr Michael ministering in one of our services

2 Bernard joining us in our services

3 Coming together to minister to Mme Lin

4 Barbara (centre) who has decided to follow Christ wholeheartedly

5 Coffee outreach at the shopping center

6 During the outreach when M Lacène (left) interacted with Pascal (right), one of our church members

7 Together with co-workers, Ps Roger at Hospital Emile Roux, Limeil Brevannes and Ps Jacobin in Hospital Henri Mondor, Creteil

8 M Lacène and us when he came to our meeting





# Ministry in Indonesia

*Praise report from the different churches we served in.*

*By Ev Johnnie Tan*

## Arrow House of Prayer Fellowship

We continued the teaching series on Divine Healing. The sick came to learn and also to be prayed for. At the same time, we also hoped that the equipping sessions would position the leaders for breakthrough.

In addition, the leaders had decided to shift the meeting from Friday nights to Saturdays at 3pm, so that we would have more time to teach and pray for the sick.

## Living Bread Church

We were invited by the pastor to minister at his church whenever we were in the area. Since starting six years ago, the church has grown to a congregation of about 85. We give God glory for the growth that comes mainly from new conversions who are discipled in God's Word.

## New Jerusalem Church

This was our first time ministering in this church. We preached in the evening service to a congregation of more than 200 people and thank God for ministering powerfully through the Holy Spirit.

Please continue to keep us in prayer for the next half of the year!

- 1 Sharing God's word
- 2 Ministering to a couple
- 3 Praying for the sick
- 4 Ministering to a brother who has stroke
- 5 A brother shared he felt the power of God touch him





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# God is my Provider

*God always makes a way. Trust Him.*

*By Jayl Chen, Harborlight Church*

Back in 2017, when I was in the midst of completing my last semester in university, I had the opportunity to start my own company with three others. As a designer, I've always dreamt of being able to head my own creative firm, so when this opportunity came, I took it. Things were going well and we found ourselves expanding really quickly. Unfortunately, due to a string of bad decisions and circumstances, the company quickly crumbled and I found myself going from head of a company to being unemployed.

At this point, I was deeply troubled. As a fresh graduate, I felt like I should have been starting out on my career, but instead it felt like it just ended. During this transition, I entered into freelance, as I contemplated my next steps. Being a freelancer meant that my income was unstable, and at that point most of my classmates had already been hired by big corporations and were earning steady incomes. This caused deep anxiety to develop within me, making it one of the most difficult and trying times of my life. And it was during this period that I really delved deep into God's Word and found comfort for my anxious soul. In those times, God repeatedly

assured me that He was my provider, and that He was going to see me through this time.

Even though I did not fully understand what was going on, I learned to trust God on this journey. Then, doors began to open. Jobs and clients just started pouring in, even though I did not send out a single portfolio or make a single call. At the end of my year in freelance, I tabulated my finances and found that I'd made as much as a fresh graduate would in a corporate company. And at the start of 2019, I already made half of what I'd made in 2018.

I'm in awe of what God has done for me. I know that when I put my trust in Him, He never fails. Lamentations 3:25 says: *"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him."* As I sought the Lord, He revealed Himself to me as my divine provider and assured me. If you're reading this today and are waiting for your own personal breakthrough, I believe that God can do for you what He has done for me. When we place our trust in Him, He will make a way where there seems to be no way.





# Love Multiplied

*God mended a broken marriage and blessed them with a child.*

*Adapted by Lye Hui Xian, Trinity Christian Centre*

When divorce seemed like the only option for Prem Felix and Herchelle Valentina, a series of prophetic words was the key to unlocking blessing after blessing.

## When dreams and reality collide

**Herchelle:** After marrying Felix in June 2011, I believed that my fairytale life had started. But, it didn't take long after marriage for reality to hit me. Unlike our fun courtship days, I discovered that Felix and I were poles apart. What's more, we hardly had time for each other in the busyness of work and life.

As Christians, we knew that God had brought us together for a purpose. But what could this purpose be when we were so unhappy in this marriage?

**Felix:** I looked forward to having children. But Herchelle was reluctant. To her, a child would be another huge responsibility and she was concerned that our unhappy marriage would affect the child.

This became another issue that we would fight over, and all these quarrels were pulling us further and further apart. In early 2018, we could finally agree on one thing—the need for divorce.

**Herchelle:** I shared with my Connect Leader that I wanted to file divorce papers, and return to India. Our Connect Leader quickly arranged for us to go for marriage counseling with our Pastor. She helped us see the true meaning of marriage and gave us practical ways to resolve our differences.

**Felix:** It was around this time when Ps Joseph Tan preached a message on marriage. This was when we realized that we had allowed the busyness of life to distract us from what really mattered. God spoke to us through this timely message and we did not consider divorce (or even separation) again. Instead, we decided to work on our marriage.

**Herchelle:** By learning how to communicate with each other, our marriage improved tremendously. Rather than seeing what we didn't have, I began to see the good things in our marriage. I began to enjoy married life!

## The promise of fruitfulness

**Felix:** In January 2019, God promised us that our seven years of wilderness were over. In the eighth year of marriage (a number that signifies completeness), God promised that He would give us a child—our heir in the Decade of Expansion!

Yet, expanding our family seemed impossible. All this time, Herchelle had not been able to conceive. But we would not let the facts affect our faith. During my quiet time, God led me to Deuteronomy 15:1-2. It was His reminder that we had entered into a season of grace and fulfillment in our marriage. I held onto this Word by faith.

God also sent people to speak prophetic words into our lives. A friend from the choir shared that we would have a child—a baby boy. Another friend whom we had not been in touch with for five years called to share the same thing!

Herchelle and I fasted and prayed for a week in expectation for what was to come. Deep inside, I knew that God would bless her womb within the month.

## Promise fulfilled

**Herchelle:** In February, I missed my period. Scared of being disappointed, I was not ready to do a pregnancy test. But that weekend, Ps Dominic Yeo preached a message on believing God and prayed for those who needed a miracle in the next 48 hours. Putting my fears aside, I decided to do the pregnancy test the next morning. The test was positive!

**Felix:** On October 10, 2019, Herchelle gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Jeshurun Samuel. Jeshurun means “honest and upright” — a name God used for Israel. God told us that He has great plans for our son. Because of this, we desire for him to grow up in the presence of God, serving God in all circumstances. And whenever Jeshurun Samuel is called, we are prepared to release him to do God's work.

**Herchelle:** For those struggling in their marriage, I encourage you not to give up. Believe that God is a God of Reconciliation. Dare to hold on to His promises and believe your household can glorify the Lord.



*Felix and Herchelle Valentina*



*God's promise—Jeshurun Samuel*





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