



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SUBANG JAYA

*Weekly Newsletter | 29 Mar 2020*

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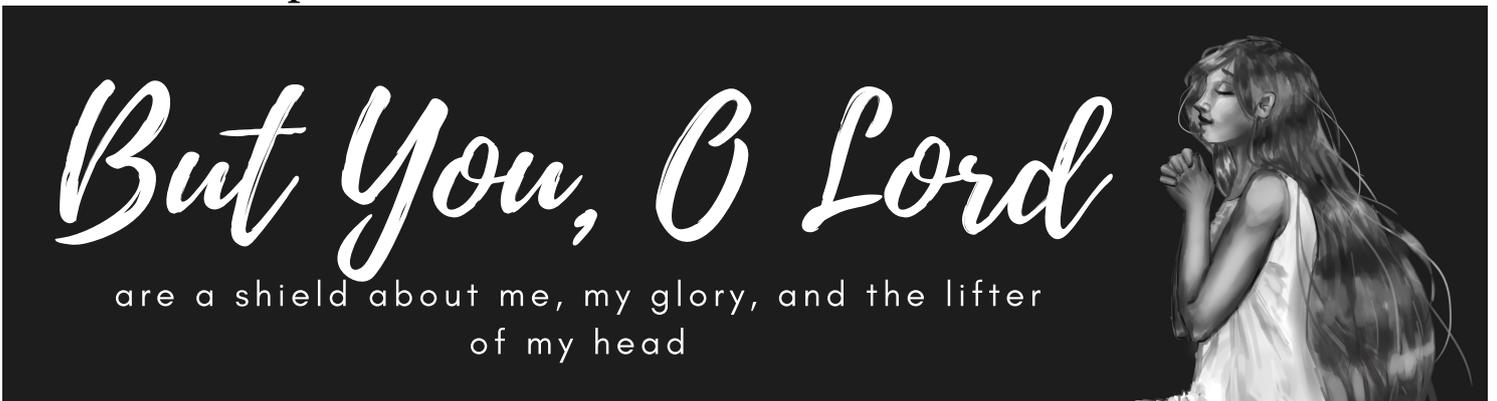


## PRAYING OUR FEARS: PART 2

by Dr. Peter Ng

In part 1 we discussed how God is our shield providing us the cover from the onslaught of fear and the opportunity to press ahead with our calling to the gospel of the kingdom. We may be restricted in our movement but not in our fellowship and outreach as they merely metamorphosize in to new and innovative forms keep up with our ever changing landscape.

Take the next part of the verse 3



The next step David takes to deal with fear is to relocate his glory. He states that God is his glory, it is God who lifts up his head which means that which makes him happy and proud or that which “makes his day” is God. Fear arises because we have placed our hopes of happiness and satisfaction upon the rather shaky foundations of our own glory. Check out how we feel on pay day compared to tax day when we have to pay our dues to the government. How about the feeling we have waking up on a Sunday morning to go to worship compared to just before our trip overseas for a fun filled tour of Hawaii? What makes us happy reveals where our source of glory is located.

On the other hand the emotion of fear arises when the source of our glory is threatened. If our much hoped for promotion is denied. When our jobs threatened by the current economic recession. The overhanging threat of the Covid 19 infuses a constant state of uncertainty and tension. Every day we scan the statistics, desperate to find a break in the news. A new vaccine. A miracle cure. A magic herb.

The reason why fake news is so much part of our landscape is because our nascent fear leaves us vulnerable because we are always mentally grasping at straws to alleviate our psychological angst. Yet the current crisis is nothing new. In Genesis 11 we read that the people began an immense building project.

**THEN THEY SAID, “COME, LET US BUILD OURSELVES A CITY AND A TOWER WITH ITS TOP IN THE HEAVENS, AND LET US MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES, LEST WE BE DISPERSED OVER THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH.”**

**GENESIS 11:4**

The stated reason is the same reason we do anything in life ...to make a name for ourselves ...instead of fulfilling our calling to reflect His glory as His image we want to seek our own glory. We read in the rest of the chapter how the wheels fell off that wagon pretty fast as God frustrated their aspirations by confusing their speech. Ever since then all we have been ever doing in life seems to be building our own towers whether they be concrete or digital. Inevitably, something comes along and it all falls apart. Robert Maynard Persig, a well known American philosopher actually concluded “ Any effort that has self glorification as its end point is bound to end in disaster” This is simply because we live in God’s world and under His terms though we only realise it when things fall apart.

David’s story is no different. He started out well as a humble servant of God . He was described as a man after God’s heart and with God’s hand on him, he grew the kingdom of Israel to phenomenal greatness. The story then takes a familiar turn. He sowed the seeds of his own disaster when his arrogance and pride led him along the path to adultery and murder.



Eventually, his own family fell apart with the armed insurrection from his very own son. His world has been upended, the once mighty king is now hounded by his son Absalom. The Crown Jewels have been scattered in the dust and the loving adulation of the masses has turned into the hounding screams of a lynch mob. He has lost everything, everything that ever mattered to him. Eventually, the crisis passed and he is back on the throne but it would be a safe to say that David would never look at his crown in the very same way again.

David is forced to relocate the source of his glory to the only foundation which is truly unshakeable. The times of suffering and threats lay siege to the very foundations of our glory and God uses these times to shake the trees and seek out genuine fruit. When our tree is shaken, we are forced to locate our glory.

We are forced to re-evaluate our lives and our activities. The once busy schedule, that all important job all under threat of being swept away just as if a tsunami had roared over us. We begin to ask ourselves “what really matters in our lives?” If we start to do that, then the Covid 19 crisis will bring real opportunity. We begin the process of relocating our glory to His glory. We begin to look at the world as the way we should instead of the way we have.

Take a look at Isaiah’s prophecy which forms the hope of Israel in the Old Testament.

**THE SUN SHALL BE NO MORE YOUR LIGHT BY DAY, NOR FOR BRIGHTNESS SHALL THE MOON GIVE YOU LIGHT; BUT THE LORD WILL BE YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT, AND YOUR GOD WILL BE YOUR GLORY. YOUR SUN SHALL NO MORE GO DOWN, NOR YOUR MOON WITHDRAW ITSELF; FOR THE LORD WILL BE YOUR EVERLASTING LIGHT, AND YOUR DAYS OF MOURNING SHALL BE ENDED.  
ISAIAH 60:19-20**



Isaiah is saying that our lives this side of eternity are uncertain and painful because of our reliance for glory is on temporal sources like the sun and the moon. Our smiles will rise and fall with the sun and moon every day . However there will come a day, that the Lord will be our light and glory. His light will not dim and His glory is constant. The point is to transfer our hope of glory to an eternal source. The process begins today and it is fully realized when the Son of God returns in blazing glory.

When our glory is relocated in Him our fear will naturally fade like the morning mist because of His blazing glory. Relocating our glory in Him requires that we worship Him. We learn to magnify His name. This is like looking through the Hubble Telescope the best of its kind located out of this world. It brings the brilliance of a billion stars within the four corners of our screens and it causes us to be immersed in awe and wonder. It fills us with pleasure, excitement and joy as our human nature has been built to respond to beauty and we respond by worshipping the Creator. Where do you think our fears would have gone when the depths of our souls are enthralled by His majesty?

This was what we were created for. Fear is an anomaly. There was no fear in the garden of Eden. We were never made for fear we were made for worship.

**BUT YOU, O LORD, ARE A SHIELD ABOUT ME, MY  
GLORY, AND THE LIFTER OF MY HEAD.**

When we relocate our glory He is the one who lifts up our heads. Remember the expression “with our heads held high” which means to display pride and confidence. We no longer trust on our own glory as the basis of our self esteem. The only approval that is absolutely essential to us is His and we have it.

**I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. Selah**



The “holy hill” is a reference to Zion the tabernacle , the presence of God where atonement was made for sin by animal sacrifices that pointed forward to a time when the Lamb of God would provide atonement for us so that we too can gain approval from God. The result of David’s reliance on God as his shield, his glory and his approval is total peace and comfort.

**I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.**

He gets through another day. The fear has evaporated and instead he is confident enough to ask God for victory.

**Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.**

His final declaration is one done in faith.



Look at the remarkable contrast of what David is now saying versus what the people were saying of him in beginning of the Psalm 32

many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God. Selah

He now has the confidence and strength to speak up against the overwhelming opinion of his detractors and all the naysayers who have counted him down and out. God has the last word! Let this psalm be our prayer and let His peace, comfort and strength be ours as we declare that He is our shield, our glory and the lifter of our heads.





Outside the only sounds are the birds chirping and the wind chime ringing, while the streets are desolate as all Malaysians stay indoors during this movement control order (MCO). Almost like a scene from a familiar movie, yet this is the new reality for now. Depending on your personality and life circumstances your reactions to this current reality will vary.

My heart resonates with the desolation on the streets, isolated and alone (except for my dog Oreo) in an unfamiliar place. A string of events and circumstances had me moving just 2 days before the MCO to a temporary house on the other side of KL. The lack of some basic amenities at such a time as this, coupled with feeling unsafe (because of a history of break-ins) left me feeling desolated. The prideful side of me wanted to brush these feelings aside with a message to myself “you should be stronger than this, you have faced more challenging situations, been in less safe places and lived in less comfortable conditions. Chin up and get on with life. “

Yet I sensed an invitation from God to linger a bit and to pay attention. There are seasons and times when God allows desolation in our hearts, to take us back to the only on true reality in our lives, God himself. God isn't only good when he gives us the desires of our hearts, takes away suffering and sorrows. God is good and ever present, even amid hardship, loneliness, pain and sadness. When all is stripped away,

**GOD IS STILL MY ONE TRUE REALITY**

and even this desolation will come to pass.

But as a follower of Jesus, I don't have to journey through the desolation seasons of life alone. We can lean into fellowship with the people of God and draw strength from within. During a recent online CIA (Christians In Action) life group gathering we were each asked to share how we are. When it was my turn, I *chose* to be vulnerable and *shared* that it has been difficult. I shared because community is my strength and praying together is

## **A BALM TO THE SOUL.**

They in turn listened without judgement and simply loved me. In this season of Covid -19 we the church need each other more than ever. But in-light of the MCO and social distancing how do we support each other and express that we all belong to each other? How do we collectively experience this season as *one body*?

At FBC, the life groups (LG) is where we can nurture friendship, disciple, listen to each other, share life and pray especially in this season. Some avoid LG because building community takes effort, time, and trust. In fact, it's risky to allow people into our lives. But I see no other way. Besides exhortation from scripture that reminds us we are many parts of one body (Eph 4:2-6, Gal 6:2, Rom 12:5) the truth is

## **COMMUNITY IS OUR STRENGTH AS WE SEEK TO WALK THE NARROW PATH OF FAITH.**



If you are not part of an LG I encourage you to take that step and get plugged in. Check out our website for details.

# COVID-19 DOS & DON'TS

Simple & helpful ways for us to stay clean & safe this season.

DO



DON'T



DO



DON'T



DO



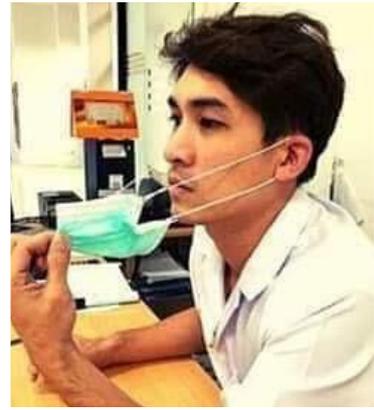
DON'T



DO



DON'T



DO



DON'T



DO



DON'T



# PRAYER IN UNISON By Phyllis Yew

Let us continue to devote ourselves to prayer and remain watchful and thankful (Col 4:2 NIV). An antidote to anxiety is thanksgiving. For thanksgiving reminds us of the gracious and compassionate character of God who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. Let us persevere in prayer, remembering we rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Let us continue to come together before the Lord at 9pm each night to praise and give thanks.

We give thanks for his blessings during the week:

1. **His Presence** - Jesus meets us right where we are, in homes whether alone or among family. Let us cling to his words in John 14:27 “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”. Instead, let Jesus breathe his Spirit of peace upon us.

2. **The Creative Team**- God has gifted FBC with a creative team to use technology that enables us to worship together while not being face to face.



3. **Leadership**– for the leadership in the treatment and containment of the virus, and for those who put at risk their personal health to serve and support others,

May we remember to pray for :

1. **People sick with virus** receive divine healing and the peace of the Lord, submitting their lives to His sovereign hand.

2. **Healthcare and frontline personnel**- God’s sustaining hand and protection as they work under difficult and stressful conditions

3. **Global governments**- to wisely manage the containment of the virus, and economy so as to minimize negative repercussions. Pray for all to have compassion and willingness to share their resources to combat this worldwide crisis.

4. **God’s protection** on the worship, preaching and creative teams as they prepare the online services.

5. **Empowerment** for Ps Joash and his team in ministering to the youth, encouraging them to connect with each other and keep their eyes focused on Jesus

6. **Pastors and leaders of FBC**- love, compassion and wisdom as they shepherd and encourage FBC worshippers through phone calls and social media.

# CHURCH UPDATE #1

## Zoom Prayer Meetings

God has gifted us with various platforms for us to use to stay connected in the times of RMC0 and we want to use it to honour God through the Zoom Daily Prayer Meeting. It's through this virtual meeting that we fellowship, get connected with one another, go through prayer points and pray together. We want to invite you to join us every night at 9pm on Zoom: Meeting ID- 929-735-694, no password is required. See you there.



We have come to appreciate that God has enabled us to have those who tirelessly work in the background to enable us to still worship together. To ease their work, we need to abide by the requirements of the copyright laws. As such our services **from April 5th** onward will be recorded but we would need you to **insert a password** to access or services. Please share them to those who may not be aware.

1. Go to <https://fbc.com.my/wp-login.php>
2. Insert fbcworship for both user ID and password
3. Click "Login" or press "Enter"

Remember to login early so that you won't miss any part of the service!

# CHURCH UPDATE #2



Gamma 15 is on again. This time we are starting out with an in-depth study on the Sermon on the Mount. This sermon is a particular favourite of young and old alike and even impacted non believers like Mahatma Ghandi who took in it's profound principles which formed the basis of his non violent revolution against the British for India's independence. It is the part of Scripture which is most written about and studied for its many revolutionary ideas like loving your enemies and turning the other cheek. Most importantly, it describes how the glory of God is seen in his disciples. It is a vision of our future, it is the picture of life as it was meant to be empowered by the Spirit.

The Gamma lessons will be available online from our website, every Sunday from 12pm, beginning March 29, 2020. To access the lessons, perform these steps:

1. Go to <https://fbc.com.my/wp-login.php>
2. Insert **fbcgamma** for both User ID and Password.
3. Click "Login" or press "Enter"

Various groups will have their zoom meeting at 8:00pm on the following Wednesday for discussion. For more information, kindly contact your group leader or Susanah Ng at 012 308-8670 if you don't yet belong to a group.

# Church online

For church services & sermons,  
please visit our website:  
[www.fbc.com.my](http://www.fbc.com.my).

## Online offering:

FBC(E) Worshippers are now able to give their tithes and offerings using their Bank's online banking or mobile banking application by using the Duitnow feature offered by the Banks.

DuitNowID: BT76.



## Contact Us:

**Emergencies & Pastoral Care Needs:**

Pastor R. Ramachandran  
- 019 221 0104

**Counseling:**

Caroline Khoo - 012 609 2624  
(WhatsApp before call)

Ps Ling You Han - 012 672 1626

## Social Media:



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