

# FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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# Pleasing God



**Address :**  
38 Jalan SS17/1D, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

**Telephone :**  
+03 5621 2623

**Email :**  
fbc.subangfamily@gmail.com

**Website:**  
www.fbc.com.my

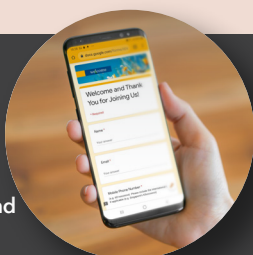
"I don't know why I do bad things", my three-year-old blurted out one day. Many times, when asked why he deliberately ignored an instruction or did the opposite of what he knew was right, he would say, "I don't know." As I reflect on this, I realize that it is true for me too. For example, after responding poorly in a situation, I would look back and wonder why I didn't act differently because in retrospect,

it doesn't seem too difficult for me to have reacted better. But it looks like I am no better than my toddler!

This brings to mind what the apostle Paul wrote in Romans 7:19. He said, "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do— this I keep on doing." If we are honest with ourselves, I believe all of us can identify with Paul.

## NEW?

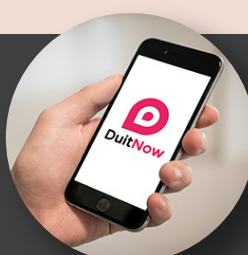
**CLICK** to send us your details so we can welcome and connect with you!



## GIVING

Business ID:  
**BT76**

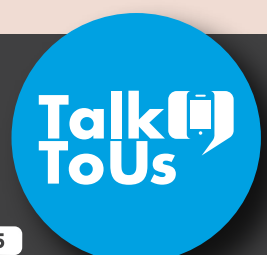
**How To Give?**




## Need To Talk To Someone?

Whatsapp or Call TalkToUs at

**+6011 5788 4805**





Paul's sense of helplessness expressed in the verse is relatable because it is a human struggle. We struggle with obedience. No matter how much good we do or how hard we try, there is an impulse (sinful nature) in us to do bad. There is this rebellion in our human heart that compels us to act in contrary to what we know is the right thing to do.

How do we overcome this weakness? Is the answer to try harder? Perhaps we need to be more disciplined? Or maybe we should pray to be more spiritual? If we haven't already realized, even the most "spiritual" and earnest of Christians struggle and fall short every time.

The thing is, when my son disobeys, it often isn't because he doesn't know what the right thing to do is. He knows the rules and boundaries, but knowing does not give him the ability to obey. In the same way, knowing God's laws does not give us the ability to follow it or please Him. Where then do we get the strength and power to do so?

Firstly, we need to be aware of our sinful nature and own up to our sin – just like a child who recognizes and admits that he has done wrong. At the same time, we need to recognize that as believers, sin acts against our nature as a new creation in Christ. We are not bound by sin but sin can come knocking at our doors.

This should then cause us to realize our dependency on God. Jesus paints a clear picture of what our relationship with Him should look like, as He compares us to branches and Himself to a vine (John 15:5). The branch has complete dependence on the vine. There is nothing more important to the branch than to stay connected to the vine because if it is cut off, it will die. The only way a branch can grow and produce fruit is when it is attached to the vine.

We are branches on a vine!

Are we connected to Jesus, the vine? Do we spend time with Him? (We cannot connect with someone that we do not spend time with.) Do we wait on Him, listen to Him, learn from and follow Him? How much of our daily strength do we draw from Jesus?

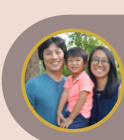
**Ezekiel 36:26-27 says, "And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations."**

We will always struggle and fail to honour God with our lives when we try to do it by our own strength. No matter how godly our desires are, if we are not connected to the vine, our striving will leave us feeling frustrated and discouraged. We cannot please God without relying on the power of God.

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Today, may we be reminded that apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5). We cannot please God by trying harder or reaching deeper into ourselves. We can only do so by staying connected to Him. It is about abiding in Him. It is about bringing all things before Him and acknowledging complete dependence on Him.

May we be encouraged to spend time with God today and every day. Only then will we have the strength, power, and grace to live a life that is pleasing to Him. 🙏



**By Rachel Lee**

*Rachel is an editor with the Newsletter Team.*

# Persevering Through The COVID-19 Pandemic

## Stories from FBC's Filipino Congregation



**Janice Aguilar** has been working in Malaysia for 7 years, but it has been 3 years since she's last gone home to visit her family in the Philippines.

Because of the sporadic movement control orders since March 2020, the family she is working for has been home more often. While most of us would enjoy "working from home", this meant that her work has gotten busier with more cooking and help needed around the house. And she shares that this is true for many stay-in helpers like herself. She no longer gets to have proper days off on Sunday, nor does she get to gather with the Filipino Congregation to worship together. But she's thankful because God touched the hearts of her employers

and they let her regularly participate in the Online Worship Fellowship with the Filipino Congregation.

She feels blessed that she has a chat group with church mates and they keep each other up to date with news in Malaysia and the Philippines. Through it, they share prayer requests, pray for one another, send encouraging messages, and help with each other's concerns. On top of that, the Filipino Congregation has organized Zoom meetings twice a month to connect members here with their families back home who are with the Youth Evangelistic Fellowship and Kids' Fellowship. **"Praise God for the lives of our elders. God gave us compassionate elders who are constantly reaching out to us through Zoom and other communication technologies. Without online gatherings, it would be tougher for us during this trying time,"** shares Janice.

The support from the church community has been life-sustaining, and Janice

needed it even more as Covid-19 hit her family. "There is pain in losing someone close to your heart because of this pandemic. I lost an aunt last month and all the family members of another close relative contracted Covid-19 recently. But thanks be to God that they survived the crisis. I know the Lord has a purpose for everything. He is forever faithful. God's love and mercy has no ending. He is our Comforter and our great Healer."



*Janice with her family in the Philippines*

Once this pandemic is over, Janice looks forward to attending church gatherings again to worship God together with her Filipino brethren. She also hopes that she can visit her family in the Philippines soon. She prays that she'll be able to find work in the Philippines or be able to start a small business there so she can spend more time with her family and serve the Lord with them together, be it in big or small things. Let us, as her church, pray with her and for her family. 🙏



connected virtually. "Thanks be to God that He provides ways for His children to interact with families, friends, and brethren," says Precilla.

**Precilla Valdez** has worked away from her family since 2014. She was in Malaysia, then moved to Singapore, and is now back in Malaysia and working in Cheras. Because of her vocation, she has not been with her husband and 2 sons (whom are 17 and 15) for a long time now.

The family she works for has been working from home because of the pandemic and their children have been joining online classes. Before the pandemic hit, she was able to take every Sunday off to rest. Now, with everyone home almost all the time, there's more work to be done and Precilla hasn't been able to enjoy her rest days as regularly.

She feels the loss of being able to gather physically on Sundays immensely. She's thankful that God has provided Zoom and other messaging apps so she can stay

While Precilla is coping with the new demands of work here, her family in the Philippines is struggling to make ends meet. "My family works on a farm. At the start of the pandemic last year, we found it difficult to sell our products because senior citizens and teenagers were not allowed to go out. My mother had a stall in the market and sometimes went from door-to-door in the village to sell her vegetables, but she cannot do that anymore because she is 65 years old and is not allowed to go out. But God is good. He provided a way for my mother to sell her produce. Instead of her having to head out, merchants have been coming to our house to buy all our vegetables. They also bartered their products with our products. Praise God also for our local government who gives financial assistance to its constituents."



But more than their physical safety and security, Precilla prays that God will use this pandemic to draw her family to Himself. "It is my prayer to God that this might be His way for my family to come to Jesus in repentance. They still don't have a relationship with God. I want them to be saved. I pray that God will make me bolder to share His Word with them. And I also pray that this will bring more intimacy in my relationship with Him and my family as well." Let us pray with Precilla for the salvation of her family. 🙏



**By Joy Apacible**

*Joy is a member of the missions committee.*

# Computer Donation Drive



Do you have an unused device at home? We are collecting second hand laptops, PCs, and tablets to be refurbished and given to needy families! Please contribute your used devices that:

- Are preferably laptops;
- Have no major defects; and
- Have a screen that is intact and functional.

Kindly provide basic device information, including your name, phone number, and date of purchase (estimated).

Our technical team will perform a data wipe as part of the refurbishment prior to passing the devices on.

To donate, simply arrange to drop off your device with our volunteers. Contact Johnson (016-3059027) or Ps Leon (012-7434485) for more information.

## Farewell



After two years of serving with us, Ps Leon Lim is moving on to pursue and complete his graduate studies. We have been blessed by his passionate service with us in the worship ministry, and are grateful for his family's faithfulness. We pray that God will grant him the grace and strength to complete his thesis, and that the research done will bless churches. We also pray that God will make clear His calling for the Lim family as they wait on Him for their next steps.



We would also like to wish Sam and Salome Khew well as they have relocated to Germany. We are grateful for their vibrant service in the youth and young adults ministries, the missions committee, and the pulpit ministry. We pray for God's blessings to be upon them as they settle into their new home and discover new ministry opportunities in Germany.

## | Pulpit Program

July 18, 2021

### The Authentic Jesus

(Matthew 8:18-34)



PREACHER  
Dr Peter Ng

July 25, 2021

### Two Ways To Live

(Matthew 7:15-29)



PREACHER  
Alex Tan

August 1, 2021

### To Be Announced

August 8, 2021

### To Be Announced

## | Worship with Us



### MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |  
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



### YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |  
Sundays 9:00am



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs  
| ZOOM |  
Sundays



Call office to know more:  
03-5621 2623

## PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

### Filipino Congregation



1. Pray for the diaspora of Filipino workers here who are separated from their family and friends back home. Pray that they will cling to God and that God's presence will strengthen and sustain them. Pray that families can be reunited again soon.

2. Pray for the hearts of FBC worshippers who have helpers at home, that we will be sensitive to the physical and mental health of our helpers. Pray that we will also nurture their spiritual health. Pray that those with Filipino helpers will support them in joining the online Filipino Worship Service every Sunday morning, and encourage them to stay connected with a community of believers.

## CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to our sister **Felicia Loh** on the passing of her beloved mother, **Madam Leong Fui Yin**, in June 2021.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt condolences to our brother **Edward Cheong** and sister **Cindy Lau** on the passing of Edward's father, **Mr Cheong Fook Sang**, on 24 June 2021 in Melbourne, Australia.

Let us pray for God's peace and comfort to be with the families during this difficult time of loss.



## | Upcoming Events



### VBS Volunteer Recruitment

VBS is upon us this 13 to 17 December!

We need all the help we can get to bring children to build their foundation in Jesus!

**CLICK HERE** to register as a volunteer for our very first online VBS. For enquiries, please email [vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com](mailto:vbsfbcsubang@gmail.com)



### Ladies Praise & Thanksgiving Gathering

14 August 2021

Saturday  
10.00am - 12.00pm

Zoom ID: 924 53626068  
Password: fbc



### The Pastoral Epistles

Study on the Books of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus

Every Wednesday  
8:30pm

Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458  
Password: fbc

**CLICK HERE** to view video lessons.  
(Password: fbcgamma)



### Is There More to Life Than This?

22 July to 7 October 2021  
Every Thursday  
8:00pm

**CLICK HERE** to register



### Daily Prayer Meeting

Every Saturday to Thursday

9:00pm  
Zoom ID: 929 735 694  
Password: pray



### Monthly Prayer Meeting

24 July 2021 (Saturday)

2:00pm to 3:30pm  
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137  
Password: pray

More Information on Upcoming Events