

# F+BC TODAY

U N L E A S H I N G   T H E   G O S P E L

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# F+BC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
SUBANG JAYA

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### MAIN SERVICE

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

### YOUTH SERVICE

| Physical |

Sundays 9:00am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12  
(Preschool to std 6)

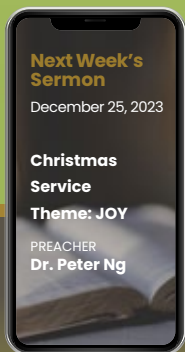
Physical Classes  
8:45am / 11:15am



# Giving Thanks for All Things big and SMALL

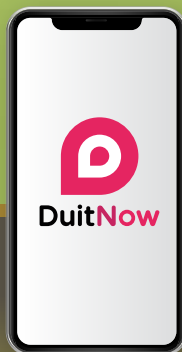
As we get ready to bid farewell to 2023, it's not unusual for many of us to reflect on what has happened in the past year and to recount God's providence in our lives. As I write this article, I'm taking a short break in Canberra, Australia, where I've come to attend my daughter's graduation ceremony. Not

only is this an opportunity to take some time off from the hectic schedule in KL, but I'm also grateful as a parent to witness a significant milestone in Rebecca's life journey. My heart is therefore filled with thanksgiving to God for seeing her through the last few years as a student in a foreign land.



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As I reflect on how the Lord has blessed me over this past year, it dawned on me that being thankful does not come naturally to us. Or at least it's not the trait of a natural man according to Romans 1:21. Paul, referring to the unregenerate, says that "although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him." Even as Christians, we often gravitate towards a sense of self sufficiency and are prone to be less than grateful for all that God has done in our lives. Like the Israelites of old wandering in the wilderness after experiencing God's deliverance from Egypt, we tend to complain if things do not go our way or fall short of our expectations. We begin to feel a sense of entitlement after a while as if God owes us a life of ease and comfort. And we are tempted to think that what we have is, at least in part, a result of our abilities and efforts rather than gifts from God.

And when we do thank God, we often thank him only for the big or 'significant' things in life - perhaps a new job, a birth in the family, good news from the doctor, or our kids graduating! But the Bible teaches us to give thanks in **everything** and in **all circumstances** (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6-8). That means to be thankful for the small, simple, and mundane things in life, even the trying circumstances that come our way. I wonder how often we give thanks to God for just being alive, for the functioning of our senses, the relationships we have with our spouses and children, or what is generally known as the common graces of God that He bestows on all Man. These are the things that we often take for granted and we appreciate only when we lose them.

## Being thankful is something we need to cultivate daily and stems from having a heart of gratitude towards God.

It's also something I know I need to work on! In my short time here, I've had to endure a bout of gout attack, hay fever that came with a sore throat and teary eyes plus the sweltering heat of an unusual Aussie summer. I was immediately tempted to complain about how my holiday was being spoilt by such inconveniences when

God prompted me what an ungrateful response that would be. While it's natural to feel frustrated, we must guard against a complaining spirit and the sin of ungratefulness. Rather than being disappointed, we can try to catch a glimpse of God's goodness and providence. Acknowledging God as our all-wise and all-loving Heavenly Father in whom we "live and move and have our being" is a good start. Instead of dwelling on the negatives, I should be thankful and count blessings such things as easy access to modern medicine for quick relief or air-conditioning for the heat. Yes, in short, thankful for things we often take for granted!

So as the year draws to a close, let us reflect and be thankful to God for His blessings upon us both as a church and on a personal level. At FBC, there's of course the faithful preaching and worship which is perhaps the most visible part of our public life together as well as the many ministries, both old and new. But I'm also mindful of the many gifts that God has given us that we often overlook, especially people who work in the background. These include our caretaker (Som) and security guards, the AV team, our office staff, our cleaner (Ganesan) who keeps our premises tidy, our friends from Burning Bush who do our gardening, and the various vendors who cook for us every Sunday. I'm sure as we sit and ponder, there'll be many more people and things that we can add to the list as we seek to cultivate a thankful heart on a daily basis. A quote that I came across may be helpful:

"It is not happy people who are thankful. It is thankful people who are happy"

In His Bond,  
Yew Lum



**Written by Leong Yew Lum**  
*Yew Lum is the chairman of FBC(E).*



## Heart Cries to Heaven

by David Campbell

### Prayer

Our great and Gracious God,

As we come to the close of another year, we would indeed make it the prayer of our hearts that you would abide with us.

We thank you that you have been with us through the days of this past year.

Perhaps many a day we have not felt you near,

Perhaps at times we have even felt that you have forsaken us and forgotten us but Thank you that it has never been so.

We thank you that you are constantly with your people, and that you have enabled us to persevere in grace,

You have comforted our hearts,

You have heard our prayers,

You have come so often to our aid.

We pray that you will go with us into this new year.

There is none of us who knows what the new year will hold, but we thank you that every moment of that year is in your hands, and you will be with your people.

We thank you that with that promise girding us, we can go forward with confidence and in your peace. We pray that you will help us to walk with you in this new year better than we have ever done before. Forgive us, Lord, for our sins and our backslidings of this past year.

Grant to us, as the days of the new year unfold, an ever closer walk with you.

Help us to put sin to death,

Help us gladly yield our lives unreservedly to Jesus Christ, our Savior, and God that we may regard ourselves entirely at his disposal to be, to go, to do, as he would wish

We pray that it may be our privilege to serve him,

to bring glory to him, to help others to know him better, and to help some, indeed, to come to know him for the first time.

Have mercy, we pray, upon those connected with us who come to the end of this year and their hearts are still closed against you, still hardening their hearts against you.

Spare them, O God, we pray; spare them! Grant that this new year would mark the beginning of new life in Jesus Christ. We are so thankful for the almighty Holy Spirit, for his limitless power

to bring conviction of sin,

to give new birth,

and to draw those who are away from you

to faith and to repentance.

We pray, Lord, that you would do that in the hearts and lives of all who are upon our hearts.

For Jesus' sake,

Amen.