TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL









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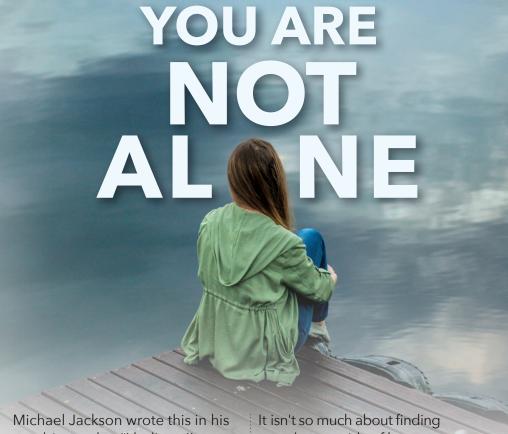
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autobiography: "I believe I'm one of the loneliest people in the world." One of the world's most significant pop culture figures who is perpetually surrounded by adoring fans is a lonely man. Imagine that.

The truth is, loneliness is a universal human experience.

ourselves outside of human company as it is about the struggle to form deep, meaningful connections.

Technology has played a big role in maintaining our connectivity, especially during this extended time of social distancing. But how deeply has it really helped us connect?



NEW? CLICK to send us your details so we can welcome and

connect with you!



How To Give?



Need To Talk To Someone? Whatsapp or Call TalkToUs at

Talk(I) Social Concern Initiative

+6011 5788 4805

EDIFY

While technology has enabled us to create virtual communities and communicate with people regardless of location, many of us are finding ourselves to be lonelier than ever. I believe our profound state of emptiness and disconnect reveals something missing deep in our hearts.

Mother Theresa once said: "The greatest disease in the West today is... being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love... There is not only a poverty of loneliness, but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

Loneliness is a spiritual problem more than it is a social condition. At the heart of it is a longing to be known, accepted, and loved; and the answer is clearly not a social fix. Ultimately, loneliness is an emptiness only God can fill because the root is our separation from God.

It started in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned and they hid from God. We, too, hide from God and from one another because of sin and shame. The irony is that while we hide to protect ourselves, we end up hurting even more.

Trusting God does not mean that our problems will disappear or that we will never feel like we're alone again. Our struggles and daily challenges in this fallen world will continue to persist. On top of that, the Bible tells us to expect persecution when we decide to follow Jesus closely (2 Timothy 3:12). But God promises to be with us, to never leave us nor forsake us. He is a faithful, ever-loving, ever-present God. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

If you look closely, you will find that the Bible is peppered with stories of individuals who battled loneliness: Moses, when he fled from Pharoah into the desert; Naomi, when she lost her husband and sons; David, when he was deserted by his men and had to run from his enemies; Esther, when she was taken away to live in the palace; Paul, when on his missionary journeys and in jail; and many others.

What stands out about these stories is how they looked to God in the midst of their loneliness and, more importantly, how God met them right where they were. And these aren't just stories. These are real people who encountered a real God!

What about us?

Do we go to God when we feel lonely and disconnected? Do we seek Him, even when words don't come easy? In triumph and tragedy, let us learn to fellowship with God. Read His Word, praise and worship Him, and pray. In doing so, we will find ourselves encouraged and renewed.

Let us also reach out to others- our family, neighbours, friends, LG members, colleagues. Ask the Lord to open your eyes and enlarge your heart to make meaningful connections. Pray to be a beacon of God's light and an instrument of His love in the lives of those around you.

When we fix our eyes on God, we will discover just how sweet His faithful presence is, and realize that we are never alone.



By Johnson & Rachel Lee

Johnson and Rachel are members of CIA LG.

If you would like prayer or just someone to talk to, call the <u>Talk2Us hotline</u>. FBC has a team of carers and counsellors who want to listen to you and pray with you.

If you are looking for a community of believers to connect with, **join a Life Group today!** Life Groups are the very place we can come together, fellowship, and encourage one another.



Ministry Corner
Youth Ministry



By Pastor Joash Chan

Pastor Joash is FBC's youth pastor.

Share with us the vision and mission of FBC's Youth Ministry.

Salt Of Subang exists to raise up young people who love God and make disciples. To achieve this, we focus on preaching the Word faithfully, creating space for community and deep fellowship, personal counselling, and helping young people see and appreciate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is something the Youth Ministry is thankful for in the past year?

We are thankful for a time of reflection to consider what is most important in our ministry. With the lockdowns, it is clear to us that we have to be more supportive of our youths' parents, as they are the primary source of discipleship for the youths. We are also very grateful for the many who have taken on new roles and work in these trying times; the Youth Ministry had to adapt and so many of our youths have stepped up and contributed greatly. (We're also grateful for free online games!)

What is the Youth Ministry looking forward to in the coming year?

We recently had a 6 weeks' course where we asked families to attend together, where I would teach, and the parents would facilitate group discussions in their respective homes. We look forward to those classes carrying on, and for more families to join us. Of course, we are also hoping to return to face-to-face fellowship again. We also have some youths who want to get baptized, and many others are longing for the year-end VBS and youth camp to resume.

How can FBC worshippers get involved with the Youth Ministry?

The most practical thing our FBC family can do is to reach out to a parent with youth. Ask them how they are doing and allow them to open up and share their struggles. At the moment, parents have to be the disciplinarian, counsellor, provider, and friend. There is so much pressure around them, and cultivating the discipline among youths to fully participate in our Zoom youth service can be a big challenge. The most loving thing we can do for these parents is to hear them out.

Find out how to pray for our Youth Ministry in the Prayer Spotlight section on Page 6.







The Time

God By Jessica Leong Jessica is a member of Salt of Subang.

At the time of this writing, Rebecca and I are being quarantined in New Zealand as part of our journey back to Australia to re-start our University studies. It is by God's grace that we have this window of opportunity to return.

Even though the journey here was chaotic, stressful, and tiring, I thanked God. But then I let my guard down.

Last night, we found out that because New Zealand has one confirmed Covid case, the travel bubble between Australia and New Zealand has been suspended for the next 72 hours. (We aren't sure how this will impact our travels back to Australia in the coming weeks, but it doesn't sound good.) My mind went into overdrive and I imagined the worst possible scenarios. I couldn't bear the thought of returning to Malaysia— certainly not like when we had to be quarantined twice last year and it took us over a month to get home.

I wanted to ask God "why" and I doubted His love for me. I wasn't at peace; the emotions were overwhelming.

I called some friends and Rebecca tried to reassure me. Everyone kept saying, "Keep calm, it's all according to God's will." I wanted to trust God, but I didn't know how. I thought perhaps watching some videos would take my mind off things.

In my anxiousness, I almost dropped my iPad off the bed. While picking it up, I accidentally clicked on a video by The Bible Project and I decided to watch it. The video summarised the book of Job, and what caught my attention was Job asking God to explain His sufferings.

It explained that this world is so much more complex than we can ever comprehend. We only see a small part of our lives but God sees the big picture. After hearing that, I realized that I don't know any better and that God is the one who sees and knows all things.

Is there a reason for our sufferings? I don't know the answer to that. But I do know that our God is fair and righteous in ways we can't even begin to understand. Watching the video gave me the humility to put my trust in the One who knows better.

This morning, I recalled a recent Youth sermon entitled 'Are You Sure You Are Truly Loved by God?' The sermon was about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness. I realised that I was doing what Pastor Joash had warned against; I was associating God's love with provision, safety, and power! When these were taken away, I started to doubt. However, when I remembered that God's love for me is evidenced by what Jesus has accomplished, I was once again at peace and His assurance filled my heart.

I'm not sure what's going to happen next. But I know that God is righteous, fair, and loving, even if my provisions, safety, power, and control are taken away. I know that I can find security in God's never-failing love for me.

God doesn't give us more than we can handle, and when we don't understand His purposes, we can dwell on the fact that God loves us no matter what. There will be days when my flesh will still doubt, but I thank God for putting people in my life to remind me of His love.

Got a testimony to share?

We want to hear from you! Write in to us at annlim@fbc.com.my.

| Inside FBC



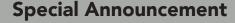
Condolences

We would like to extend our deepest condolences to our brothers **Johnny** and **Michael Soon** on the passing of their sister, **Madam Janet Soon Kwai Lin**, on 8 March 2021.



We would also like to extend our deepest condolences to our brothers **Victor** and **Vincent Kong** on the passing of their sister, **Jennifer Kong Tien Nguk**, on 10 March 2021.

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



Our former elder **Richard Ng** and his wife **Tan Li Ling** were formally accepted as members of North Balwyn Baptist Church in Melbourne on 7 March 2021. We wish them well and pray that they will be a blessing as they continue to serve the Lord in Melbourne.





Congratulations!

We rejoice with **Leong Feng Wei** and **Rebecca Tan** on the occasion of their marriage on 13 March 2021 at FBC. May the Lord's blessings be upon them as they start a new chapter in life together. Watch their wedding highlights **here!**

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. – Colossians 3:14

Planning to get married? You can now register to conduct ROM and your wedding ceremony at FBC! Please call the church office to find out more.

| Pulpit Program

March 21, 2021

The Norms of the Kingdom: **Jesus and The Law**

(Matthew 5:17-20)



PREACHERDr. Peter Ng

March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday

(Matthew 21:1-9, Luke 19:37-44)



PREACHERDavid & Suzanne Adams

April 2, 2021 (Good Friday)

Christ Crucified:
The Centrality of the Cross

(1 Peter 2:23-25, Matthew 10:37-39)



PREACHERLee Yee Dian

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

PREACHER Arnold Lim

| Worship with Us





Sundays

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Call office to know more: 03-5621 2623



- 1. Pray for those who have not been attending services (both main and youth service).
- 2. Thank God for the youths who are actively serving. Pray that God will fill and renew them, and that they will not burnout.
- **3.** Thank God for our youth leaders, and pray for continuous supplication of wisdom and growth in the fruit of the Spirit.

- **4.** Pray for our youths who are distant. Pray that we may provide a place that will minister to them and all those in need.
- **5.** Pray for God's protection to be upon our youths who are studying overseas. Pray that they may walk closely with God, and that they will find a local community of believers to belong to and fellowship with.
- **6.** Thank God for the parents of our youths. Pray for God's love and wisdom to guide them in nurturing a healthy relationship with their children.

| Upcoming Events



What is the Gospel? With Dr. Kyle Essary

11 April (Sunday) 2:00pm to 3:30pm Zoom ID: 953 4151 3914 Password: FBCMission



Is There More to Life Than This?

6 January to 7 April 2021

Every Wednesday 8:00pm to 9:30pm

<u>CLICK</u> for more information



Insights For The Persevering Disciple Study on The Book of Revelation

Gamma 16 has ended. View past lessons at:

Link: https://fbc.com.my/gamma Password: fbcgamma

Stay tuned for information on Gamma 17.



Daily Prayer Meeting Every Saturday to Thursday 9:00pm

Zoom ID: **929 735 694** Password: **pray**



Monthly Prayer Meeting 27 March (Saturday) 2:00 to 3:30pm

Zoom ID: **875 6527 9132** Password: **pray**

More Information on Upcoming Events