

FBC TODAY

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

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA



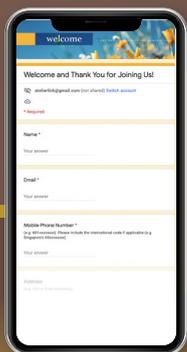
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Like A Deer in Headlights

“Like a deer in headlights” was the first thought that came to mind when my wife Carrine asked me to respond on behalf of the family at her father’s funeral service last December.

For those that don’t know me, I am an Australian “alien” residing in Malaysia, this time for something close to 10 years during which Carrine and I have been serving at FBC.

Sadly, Carrine’s Pa was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease about 5 years ago, but close family care kept the disease reasonably under control. That is until he fell and broke a hip in October 2020. The surgery was successful in keeping him from being bedridden, but the operation took a toll on his already weak kidney. Not so long after his first anniversary with the metal hip, we had to take



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What a sad and difficult moment, but what an amazing God who gave Pa the strength to wait for Cindee, and who allowed Pa such a peaceful passing with family around. We were so thankful.

him to hospital because of breathing difficulties. The signs were now more serious, and he remained in hospital.

Carrine's sister Cindee who lives in Melbourne, came as quickly as she could. Thankfully the family was now almost reunited in Malaysia... just the small matter of doing 7 days home quarantine. What a tense time those 7 days were, especially with Pa waiting to see her.

As early as possible on the morning of the 8th day Cindee was finally able to see Pa. Keen to take over as his live in carer at the hospital, she immediately started her first job - learning to feed him. Not long after the meal, it was time for physio. Pa didn't enjoy the physio, and when the nurse spoke to him he opened his eyes briefly, then closed them again. It looked like he was pretending to sleep to fool the nurse... but he wasn't pretending, he had entered his final sleep. He couldn't be woken.

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During Pa's decline, Carrine was staunch in praying with him whenever they met. A simple prayer most of the time... "Thank you Jesus for looking after Pa".

Now Pa is finally at peace ... we are sure with God. It was clear for years that Pa's disease was terminal. Around 9 months before Pa died, Carrine was just chatting with Pastor Ling about the situation. What an eye opener in regard to the FBC members bereavement support, and the wonderful advice and assistance from Pastor Ling. It resulted in a smooth and almost stress free (for the family) organisation of the funeral details the day Pa died. More on that later.

At Pa's first wake it was comforting to greet so many FBC members, and for some reason Carrine and I ended up on what seemed to be the "FBC" side of the room. The next day was more organised, with Carrine requested to sit on her "family" side of the room. When asked to move there too, I saw it was already crowded. I simply said I was already with my church family. The ripple of laughter in the room allowed me to stay.

Back to the first wake. After opening words by Pastor Ling, and wonderful worship by some of our FBC minstrels, it was time for me to get up and respond. That is when the deer in headlights thought popped into my mind.

Suddenly it was almost 23 years ago at our wedding celebration dinner. Surrounded by friends and family, many of whom I didn't know very well, I was to be the first to respond.

I did OK, and then it was Carrine's turn. For the first time I could remember, and surprising to many, she was like the proverbial deer... bewildered, frozen, totally lost for words!!

So now with Pa's picture looking on I was at the wake, striding almost confidently to the rostrum.... and that's where the clearly superficial confidence collapsed. I broke down, unable to speak coherently, eyes full of tears. I couldn't remember ever being so powerfully out of control... scary. I was overwhelmed by something.

I managed to mumble a few words all giving thanks to God and my FBC family. That was about all that seemed to be in my not so clear mind, more likely straight from my heart. Escaping to my seat I watched Carrine's turn to respond. So unlike our wedding, this time she was wonderful. Heartfelt, moving, eloquent.

Later I tried to understand what had happened to me. We had been living with Pa's decline for so long that grief for me was more of a long gentle process. I didn't feel great swell of grief at his passing. There was something far deeper and more significant than simple stage fright happening. I remember at the time being overcome by a great sense of

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comfort and support, with God and my FBC family at the centre of it... or maybe surrounding us like a wonderfully safe group hug. I hadn't felt this so deeply before.

I reckon I had a "deer moment" too. Dazzled, bewildered and a bit afraid... not of headlights but of what I believe was my strongest glimpse yet of God's love and promise in life.

It's a moment that remains with me as I continue to relive and contemplate, trying to understand something that has thankfully brought me much closer to God, even though I still struggle daily. What a strange but wonderful feeling.

Oh dear, I have now reached my word limit. Please await part 2 for more on how the funeral went (especially being right next to a Chinese funeral), the reaction of non-Christian family members first time at a Christian funeral, and of course the loving support of Pastor Ling and his ministry.

Thank you, and God bless you all.



By Malcolm Anderson

Malcolm is the head of AV Ministry



Pulpit Program

March 6, 2022

Families and The Image of God

PREACHER
Arnold Lim

March 13, 2022

Why Should We Forgive?

(Matthew 18:15-35)



PREACHER
John Lee

March 20, 2022

The Rich Young Man

(Matthew 19:16-30)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

March 27, 2022

The Gospel in Marriage

(Ephesians 5:21-30)



PREACHER
Leong Yew Lum



Prayer Spotlight

Praying for Unbelieving Family Members

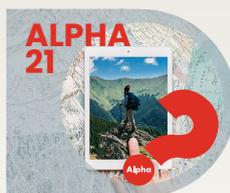
1. Pray for God to open ___'s heart to believe the gospel, remove the spiritual blindness and let his light shine in their hearts to see the good news of Jesus, who is the image of God. For God to help ___ realise the spiritual hunger and desire for change in his/her life. (2 Corinthians 4:4-5)
2. Pray that God will set ___ free from the slavery of sin and grant her/him repentance that would lead to knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life and no one can go to the Father except through Jesus. (John 14:6, 2 Timothy 2:25-26)
3. Pray that God will help you build a caring relationship with ___ and will provide opportunities for you to minister to her/him in Christ like manner causing her/him to want to know Jesus for herself/himself. Pray that God will guide your words when you share the gospel. (Matthew 6:5:16, Romans 10:14)
4. Pray that God will use any circumstance, whether easy or difficult, to lead ___ to salvation. Pray that God will lead other believers into her/his life and that they too will provide an example of Christian living, speaking God's truth in grace. (1 Corinthians 3:5-6)



Upcoming Events



Romans
From Wretchedness
To Righteousness
Every Wednesday
For more information,
contact Church Office
at 03-5621 2623



**Is There More
to Life Than
This?**
Alpha 21 will begin on
6 January 2022.
**Every Thursday
8:00pm**
CLICK HERE to register
for the next Alpha program.



**Daily Prayer
Meeting**
**Every Monday
to Thursday
9:00pm**
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



**Monthly Prayer
Meeting**
**26 March 2022
(Saturday)**
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Venue: Transit Hall



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| ZOOM | Sundays



Call office
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More Information on Upcoming Events

Worship WITH US