

# FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL

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# FBC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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    YOUTH

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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

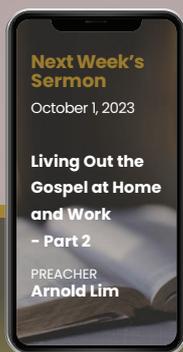
8:45am / 11:15am

# Challenges Living as a Christian

Let me start off with something uncommon that we do not talk about every day, like the heroes of the faith who have been martyred for the sake of the Gospel. Stories I heard while growing up in the cell group - about individuals or even families who were

persecuted for their faith in the foreign land that they were called to serve.

This is one of the most in-depth high-calling challenges in the Christian faith. My heart yields to their inspiring love for God and I ask myself this, "when



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that time comes, will I be able to stand firm for God?" The answer is: I will never know until it does. On the smaller scale of the recent event for me here would be the Christian Fellowship in my school. I believe the Christian Fellowship (CF) is decreasing and not all schools have this extracurricular where we meet every Friday for about an hour and a half, doing worship and sharing the Word. But lately we have been told that we were not allowed to worship or even read the Bible in school. We were only allowed to hang out with one another playing board games and then move on to some discussion - kind of defeating the original purpose of Christian Fellowship. Since it is dampening to attend CF, I rather head home after school. But I do wonder, what happened to the freedom to worship?

There is this thought that bothers me. How then do we present ourselves as Christians? In this fallen world, it seems everyone has a presumption when one Christian stumbles or falls in the eyes of man, that all Christians are considered the same. It is unfair to penalize Christ over one person. We do what we can in our capacity and we give grace just as God has given us grace. We continue to pursue and we never stop no matter how frustrated and disappointed in the situation that has been laid before us. The generation today is missing out on a lot compared to the generation before them. CF may not be as it used to be and may even be considered shutting it down - my prayers is that the faith of today's generation will not be diminished and lose the passion they have for Christ. Although I may not be able to change what has been set in the school, let us not be a stumbling block in how we present ourselves. As part of the committee I think we do what we can with whatever resources God gave us in hopes that perhaps CF may be revived as how it was again in schools.

## How do we raise and nurture the generation of today? How do we instill God's attributes in them...?

How do we raise and nurture the generation of today? How do we instill God's attributes in them when there are so many distractions that this world has to offer? It is through discipline and discipling. Easier said than done, huh? Theoretically, everyone knows it but not everyone practices it. Simply because we are human, fallen and bound to a lot of errors and justification to our action. However, even though our mistakes may lead to unpleasant consequences of the Christian life, but with what seems bad, God somehow works with it by shaping our character through it. The book "Raising the Next Generation" by Robert M. Solomon speaks on how God does not hesitate to discipline us and to add from the book of Proverbs 13:24 says, "Whoever spares the rod, hates their children but whoever loves their children is careful to discipline them." I know God loves us and He will mold us and refine us accordingly through the seasons and lessons in life, and to be with us in all of it.

One of the issues of discipline that we struggled with was faithfully attending church as a family. With us all being apart on the weekdays, juggling school and work, being at Church as one unit is the only time that we are together. Somehow, we compromised to fit in with our packed schedule to dedicate our Sabbath day for Him. We forget our principle - that Christ is the head, the center and the foundation of the family.



As I write this, I am grateful for having someone who spends hours doing this with me. For helping me organize my train of thought and putting all these pieces of puzzles together. This is one way to look at how discipling works. There may be other ways one can be a disciple, and the Bible encourages us so through the mentoring stages in the relationship between Barnabas and Paul in the book of Acts, and in turn through Paul with Timothy in 1 Corinthians 4:17. I hope that everyone has a spiritual leader you can relate with, to walk in this journey of faith together.

Consequently this leads to the next challenge - my commitment to God. Will I be able to sacrifice my time, my everything, and lay it before God and spend it with Him? Just like the story of Abraham who sacrificed his son, Isaac- committing to God by faith. Even in today's context, it is hard enough to sacrifice everything to God let alone be fully committed. This includes time with God and love is after all spelled as time. Do I then love my God? Do I put Him first in everything? I have to admit that one of my struggles with commitment is the flesh and my sinful nature that draw me away. I get over-committed to the other areas of my life, e.g. school, personal goals, perhaps some social media, my sleep, etcetera, that led to having less commitment towards God or would not commit at all. At times it could also be a season of physical laziness that contributes to my spiritual laziness. Hypocritically and ironically, my life quote is "I live to run alongside GOD" with supporting verse from Hebrews 12:1-2 and the constant conviction reminder to keep up with good faith, to persevere, and to fix my eyes on Him - all which is so hard to accomplish, for me personally.

Life can be superficial and demoralizing if Biblical application becomes stereotypical and structural if it's not paired up with action. And one of the efforts I do sometimes when faced with challenges as a Christian is that I would quietly withdraw to a solitary space to seek God, to wait in silence, and most importantly, I guess, is to listen. I learned that I need to come to a point of accepting what others have to say instead of just my point of view because I know I can be a hard nut. Sometimes in life, we think we

know so much and we say too much but we forget to listen. I remember that obedience and humility are what God requires of me.

Therefore, I am still a work in progress in fighting the good fight with faith. In all of my weaknesses, attempting to mature as a young man who honors Him, I will do what is required of me. "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)



**Written by Micah Andrew**  
*Micah attends Youth*





## PrayerSpotlight

### Karis Ministry

1. We thank and praise God for the encouraging and increasing numbers of attendance in the weekly Karis Worship meet. We are now averaging close to 100 attendees per week.
2. Our prayer is for the ministry to bring more people to Christ. For members to grow their Faith in our Lord and to be disciples of Christ. Pray for blessings upon those who have committed their time to serve in the various activities within Karis.
3. We pray God will send more members to serve in the ministry. The ministry is looking to build members to be future leaders as part of succession planning for the ministry. We ask for God's guidance and pray that He will lead the right people to us with the required skills and capability to work well with the existing Committee. We pray they will continue to serve diligently in the ministry for the glory of God's Kingdom.
4. We continue to pray for God's guidance and wisdom upon each and every Committee member to bless them with good health and to manage Karis ministry in accordance to His will.



## Special Announcement

**Dear members of FBC, here are some upcoming important dates to note:**

**1) 24th September 2023 at 4 pm**

Item: Members \*ZOOM\* Meeting (Zoom ONLY)

- Present new AOLs
- Introduce the church upgrade plan
- Introduce the proposed constitutional amendment

(Note: Login starts at 3.45 pm for registration, please use Full IC name for your Zoom ID)

**2) 29 October 2023 at 2 pm**

Item: Annual General Meeting (HYBRID-Main Hall)

- Financial report
- Constitution amendment
- Election of Office Bearers

(Note for Zoom: Login starts at 1.45 pm for registration, please use Full IC name for your Zoom ID)

**For the Assembly of Leaders (AOL)**

**3) 22 October 2023 10.30 am**

Item: AOL Meeting (Physical ONLY-Main Hall)

- Approve Board Nomination