

FBC Today

U N L E A S H I N G T H E G O S P E L **ENGAGE | ENCOURAGE | EDIFY**



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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

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THIS ISSUE**

ARTICLE
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Dead or Alive

What does it mean to be alive?

There have been a lot of deaths and funerals in 2023, I've lost a dear friend, an older sister figure, whom I used to lead a Gamma Bible Study Group with- Susanah Ng. She was someone who lived her life to the fullest, with 24-hour marathons and triathlons, cycling for over 100km and winning first place, and foodie trips (lots of food)! She had torn ligaments and surgeries done but not even those will stop her from living the life that makes her feel alive.



NEXT WEEK'S SERMON
March 3, 2024
I Live to Live for Jesus
2 Corinthians 5:15-17
PREACHER
Dr. Jarod Davis

PULPIT PROGRAM
To see the full Pulpit Program,
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RENOVATION & UPGRADE

More information will be available soon, watch this space.

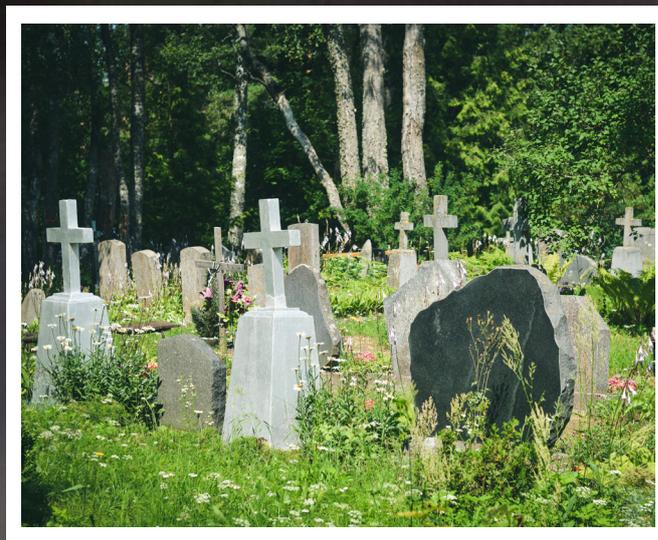
As I write this article, I have found out recently that one of the Nepalese guards, Dil who was sent back to Nepal due to an illness and not passing the health check for immigration purposes, died in Nepal a few months back, but I have only received the news recently. His friend who is still in Malaysia sobbed when he heard this news. I was in shock over the news because he had a fatal but treatable condition. I don't think he has accepted Christ as his Saviour.

I'm writing this as I'm processing the deaths of people I personally know and interacted with, both died young (under 40). Young deaths always seem more tragic. Yet, a part of me thinks dying young is romantic, I would rather die young than die old like most people. Young deaths have a kind of power, young deaths make people rethink their choices in life, I want my death to be used in this way. I'd willingly trade my life with either of them: Susanah, who seemingly enjoyed life more than I do, and Dil, who would have more time alive and the opportunity to know Christ, they can have it.

Yet, I know, I'm kept alive for a reason, I have had close encounters with death, but God spared me.

The tram stopped in time, and a speeding motorcycle brushed past me (my fingers touched against the plastic container on its back), they are so ingrained in my brain that I know I was supposed to be dead, and this life is no longer mine to live.

Even if you have not had such a dramatic experience as I have, as



believers of Christ, we have to recognize that we were all dead men (and women) before, but now we're alive, even if we die.

Colossians 2:13 "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,"

What kind of life did you have before really knowing Christ? Did you manage to get a taste of heaven and God that all those worldly things now taste dull and disgusting?

The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. - Romans 6:10-11

I've been a Christian for roughly 19 years, but I've only experienced the feeling of being alive in the last 3 years. Most of the time I feel dead on the inside, just barely staying alive, barely enjoying life. Like a dead, wilting plant, that is slowly fertilized back to life by a patient gardener (God). He was patient with me and I'm enjoying His work with me as I slowly feel what it

means to be “alive”, I feel it flowing within me, a source of joy of knowing this caring Gardener-God, who may prune me (and it hurts!), but I trust Him more and more as I see the fruit that comes out of me because of the pruning. I’m alive, growing, and bearing fruit! I’m beginning to understand “a life that truly life” mentioned in 1 Timothy 6:19.

The image I have in mind is a stray puppy that was picked off the street, and tries to run away when the new owner tries to cut its nails or shower it. It might struggle and try to run away at first, but when the owner feeds it and provides love and security or other evidence of love, the puppy relents and slowly trusts the owner even in seemingly scary situations. I was that stray pup. I saw the evidence of God’s love in my life and I’m starting to look at my owner with adoration and anticipating His return.

Until He does, I know I have to fulfill my duties, sometimes I don’t know exactly what, but I do know the general direction of loving and serving others. I know that I should look and become more and more like Him, even though I display a very murky image of God due to my sin. But I think God just wants us to keep trying, to love others like He does, albeit clumsily through trial and error (you’re all my guinea pigs!).

I know the best way to love others is by getting them to experience what I have in Christ. I hope this sharing sparked something alive in you, even if a tiny bit, that you want to be alive in Him too. Know that you can pray for it even if you don’t fully understand what you’re praying for, my hope and prayer is that you can experience what it means to be alive in Christ.

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
– **John 11:25–26 ESV**



By Toh Kai Xian

Kai Xian works in First Baptist Church and is the newsletter editor of FBC Today



Prayer for Young Adults

1. Several Young Adult Life Groups are in a season of change as they consider multiplying to accommodate more people. Pray for the members to rise up & take more responsibility, and be welcoming towards newcomers. Pray over the leaders for wisdom and a united vision of discipleship.
2. Pray for Pastor Joash, as he will soon start training for the Young Adult Life Group leaders.
3. Thanksgiving for more than 30 Young Adults have expressed desire for an older mentor. Pray for the older generation to take steps towards establishing contact, and for the Young Adults to be open for conversation.
4. There are about 100 - 130 young adults (ages 20 - 25) in FBC. Pray that our coffee corners, social events, and post-service connections will serve to help all of them to be known & more connected with FBC members.
5. There are plans for a Young Adult retreat in July. Please pray for the committee as they work towards it.

