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GOSPEL

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ARTICLE Down on My Knees, **I Found My Jesus**

Prayer Spotlight Prayer for Fathers and Grandfathers







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- MAIN SERVICE | Physical & Youtube | Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

YOUTH SERVICE | Physical | Sundays 8:45am

SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12 (Preschool to std 6) Physical Classes 8:45am / 11:15am

Down On My Knees, I Found

Happy Father's Day to all fathers and grandfathers. Instead of the usual articles on what qualitie make a good father, we focus a father who if not for God's love and protection lives to cherish the gift of fatherhood even more.

Stripped down to his underpants in a police station lock-up, Andrew Khoo tried to piece the events over the last 24 hours. His mind was still in a daze. The police had come to his house with a warrant of arrest based on reports filed by his

creditors. A pair of handcuffs stapped down on his wrists and in front of his bewildered family, he was whisked off to the Jelutona (Penana) police station. As he was denied bail, he would likely spend the weekend in remand and be produced in court on Monday. "That was my darkest moment. I was so scared that I would be charged in court and sent to jail. I would rather die than go to jail," says Andrew, a pained look flickering over his expression as he recalls that traumatic night in 1986.



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That was not the first time he had thought of death as an end to his woes. Not content with a steady income as a materials manager in a Butterworth factory, he wanted to venture into manufacturing. He went into a joint venture business to produce video casings, tapes, and dub video tapes for video distributors in Malaysia. The Hongkong drama series were the rage at that time and there was a fortune to be made. But the joint venture business went bust after three years and debts started to pile up. As he was the guarantor for bank overdrafts, he was hounded incessantly by banks and suppliers of the video equipment.

He thought of the date and place to end it all ... the eve of the official opening of Penang's newest icon – the Penang Bridge. The waters rippling below would bring him and his woes to a far, far place of no return. "I couldn't even think of the impact it will have on my wife and three children aged 5 to 9. At that time, all I know is no job, no money, and no friends. It was like a no way out. I was at breaking point."

Before he could head off to the Penang Bridge, a Christian brother Rodney Ong visited him. Andrew says, "I don't really know him at that time. I think he must have got my contact from somebody. Rodney told me he can't help me but he knows a God who could. I ask myself - what have I to lose to trust this God?" The next day, Rodney took him to visit the pastor of Tabernacle of Praise (TOP)

church. "The pastor told me if I have faith in God, He will see me through. Of course, being raised in the traditional Taoist background, I don't know what it means."

Three days after the visit to the pastor, the police came to arrest him on that Friday early morning and put him on remand. Is that how the dream of a young man ambitious to make his first million early is supposed to end – below the waters of the Penang Bridge or in jail?

Now, alone in that stark lock-up room, Andrew thought – will the God he had been taught to pray to three days earlier help him out? "Something triggered me to call out His Name. I got down on my knees and cried out – Lord Jesus, if what the pastor says about You being so powerful and whatever we do, You can help, I ask You to help to get me out and do not let me be charged and go to jail. "I could sense a white apparition hovering in the background for a few minutes.

And then I heard a voice, 'My son, do not worry, you will be out.' " The next day – a Saturday – to his surprise, he was freed as the complainants had decided to withdraw the police reports.



Andrew headed straight to TOP church and related to the pastor what had happened and that he wanted to accept the Lord. He got baptized on Christmas Day 1986. But his troubles were far from over. The banks were still chasing him for payments and he was still jobless, surviving on his wife's staff nurse salary of RM375 for a family of five. "I felt God was testing me." He got a job again end of 1987 at a Sungai Pinang factory. He could not afford a car and walked one hour and 15 minutes from his house to the factory until he got a Proton Saga.

Later, he worked again as a materials manager in a Taiwanese company that re-started its business in Malaysia and in 1990 he got a job as Head of Commercial Marketing division in the newly-opened Westport in Port Klang. Just when things looked rosy for him, he was slapped with a bankruptcy notice by a major bank.

Again his faith in God was tested. "I believe that God will still protect me." Andrew was in a fix as he had to promote Malaysian ports overseas and had to travel with the Ministry of Transport officials at short notice. But he had to surrender his passport as a bankrupt. A sympathetic Official Assignee helped him to get around this problem. He was released from bankruptcy in 2004.

From Westport, he moved to a higher position in Northport, a government-linked corporation (GLC) till his retirement in 2015. "I feel I am very blessed by God ... He has protected me and given me opportunities to meet prominent contacts overseas." These contacts came in handy when he went into a joint venture with a Taiwanese company to set up a logistics company in Malaysia and other ports in the world in 2008.

A times, Andrew must have felt a bit like Job in the Old Testament. "Lost nearly everything but God had given them back. I was able to afford an overseas education for my children. Now if I had taken my own life, I dread to think what would have happened to my family."



Thus when he was asked to be the church office administrator in 2020, he felt he could not say "No" to God. He could have an easy life in retirement ... popping into his joint venture company to sign cheques, doing the golf rounds and ferreting out all the good makan makan places.

"So why do I want to work as an administrator? I believe it's His calling. God has put me here on a purpose. Perhaps, one thing it's to change my temper and a different approach in dealing with people in the church and not be like a taikoh (big brother) in the corporate world," he says with a grin.

I went down on my knees
And I asked the Lord
Have mercy please
He had compassion
He showed me love
Now I praise the Lord above

(Excerpt from the song Down On My Knees I Found My Jesus)



Written by Sheila Teh

Sheila attends the weekly Karis Fellowship and helps proofread the weekly FBC Today



Narrated by Andrew Khoo

Andrew is the FBC Office Administrator, and leads the Joyful Senior Worship team and Life Group.



Prayer for Fathers and Grandfathers

Thank you Lord for the joy of fatherhood, such blessings come with challenges of adjustments, new roles and responsibilities. As we rejoice with first-time fathers, young and new fathers, and also expectant fathers, we pray that You are the One they seek and depend on to be equipped for the new commitment You desire them to be. May You be their ultimate role model of a strong, wise, righteous and loving Father.

Lord, our hearts go out to those married and still yearning to become fathers. Lord, we ask Your love to envelop their frustrating, lonely and painful experience with Your hope and trust. As they endure this season of doubt where Your promise, Your power and Your wisdom have been questioned, Lord we pray Your Word will strengthen them with a reminder that You are the provider God who blessed Abraham with a son, even in his old age. May they remain steadfast in hope and wait upon the Lord with joy and peace.

We give you praise for the fathers who have or may not have children of their own but chose to father and be a godfather to children who have lost their biological fathers or from single parents. Armed with God's big and loving heart, may these godfathers be worthy spiritual mentors to these children. May they cherish this next generation as if they were their own, mentoring them to bring out the best in them, may God's love continue to nurture these children to be respectful and in obedience.

We salute all grandfathers: let the steadfast Christ-like character You have formed in them be an encouraging affirmation of Your goodness and be an exemplary goal for fathers to journey on with faith. Continue to bless grandfathers with better and deeper relationships with all their family members, especially their sons who may have become fathers themselves; and for happy and fulfilling connections with their grandchildren.

We are indeed thankful for the guidance of all fathers and grandfathers; knowing that their influences have and are constantly moulding their children for the better.

