

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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FBC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

    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

Christian Community

A community is defined as a unified body of individuals who share a common interest. Christians get together and function as a community, because we share the same interest – belief that Jesus is the Son of God – Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Why must Christians be in a community of believers?

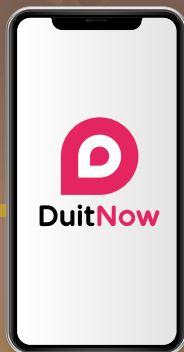
During my visit to my hometown in Ipoh early this year, I bumped into

Alan, a childhood friend, whom I had not met for a long time. We immediately sat down at a coffee shop to catch up. I knew Alan's father passed away at the height of the pandemic in 2020. I was not able to attend the funeral as it was during MCO. When I asked about his mother, Grace, Alan froze for a moment and let out a sigh.

Since Alan's father passed away, Grace has been living with Alan



Pulpit Program
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occasionally. Alan is married with two kids. Lately, when Grace visits, Alan and his wife get stressed. Alan complained that Grace has been overbearing and critical of everything. For example, Alan had just moved into a new house and spent a lot of money on renovation alone. He also prepared a room with brand new furniture specially for his mother. But every time she came over, she would complain about everything, like the color of the walls, the brightness of the lights, and the choices of the furniture.

One week before Chinese New Year, both Alan and Grace had a heated argument when Alan found out that Grace was nitpicking on his wife unfairly. Grace denied any wrongdoing and refused to apologize to Alan's wife. Citing unfairness, Grace packed her belongings and went home. That Chinese New Year, they never visited each other.

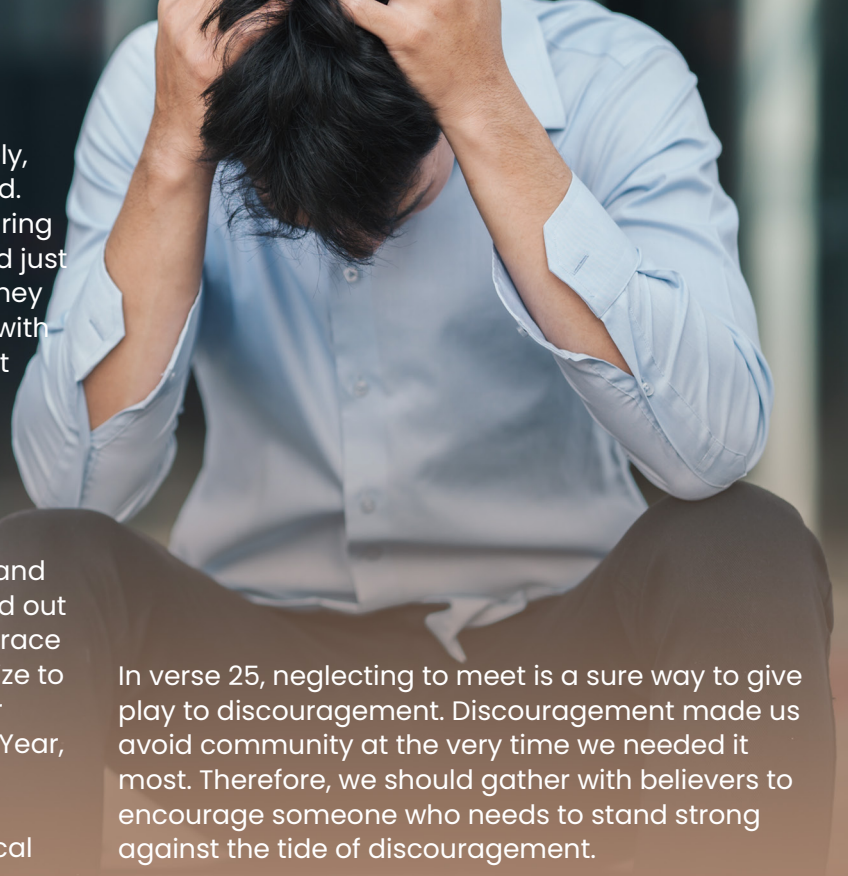
I asked Alan if Grace has been attending physical church service lately and he said "No!". Alan also said his mother has not attended her life group meetings since they began meeting physically. Her reason was she could still worship God, give tithes, and do bible studies online. As time went by, Grace began to skip Sunday service altogether.

Alan and Grace had not talked to each other since the incident. Every time Alan called, they ended up yelling at each other. Alan was lost and did not know what to do.

I told Alan that Grace needs to be in a community of believers and I shared Hebrews 10:24-25 as the reason.

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (ESV)

In verse 24, we are to stir up one another to love. The word stir up is strong, a striking term meaning 'incitement'. Love here is the ancient word agape, the highest form of love. Love needs stimulation and society. Faith and hope can be practiced in solitary, in a hermit's cell, or on a desert island but the exercise of love is only possible in a community. If Grace is not in a community of believers, how can she show love? Who can she show love to?



In verse 25, neglecting to meet is a sure way to give play to discouragement. Discouragement made us avoid community at the very time we needed it most. Therefore, we should gather with believers to encourage someone who needs to stand strong against the tide of discouragement.

The last part of verse 25 says, that as the day of Jesus' return draws nearer, we should be more committed to fellowship with God's people, assembling ourselves together to remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

After sharing this with Alan, we parted ways.

Six months later, I met Alan again. He told me that he has reconciled with his mother Grace. Praise God! Alan told me that Grace finally sought help from a few sisters in Christ when they invited her to line dancing. Grace shared and confessed to them that after three years, she was still grieving the





death of her husband and was feeling lonely. She was also discouraged because she did not know why God took her husband away so soon. She went to live with Alan, trying to make herself useful but created a huge mess in their relationship. Grace has since apologized to Alan and his wife and now they are a happy family again.

If you know anyone who is discouraged, alone, and not in a community of believers, please take the initiative to contact them. Stir them to love and good works. Let them know that they are part of the body of Christ and they will never be alone.



By John Goh

John heads the Creative and Communication Ministry as well as the Family Life Ministry. He also attends the SEED Life Group



Special Announcement

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

**1. For the Assembly of Leaders (AOL)
22 October 2023, 10.30 am**

Item : AOL Meeting (PHYSICAL ONLY–Main Hall)
• Approve Board Nomination

**2. Annual General Meeting
29 October 2023, 2.00pm**

Items : Annual General Meeting (HYBRID–Main Hall)
• Financial report
• Constitution amendment
• Election of Office Bearers



Prayer Spotlight

Pray For FBC Leaders

- Pray for our leaders in FBC that they will serve and work in humility, giving careful attention to those they lead, and that the relationship between those they lead will flourish.
- Pray for divine wisdom and understanding to identify the needs of the people. Lord, help them to not be ineffective leaders, but to act for the betterment of God's Kingdom.
- Pray for divine strength for every leader in FBC and that they will not rely on themselves but on our eternal Father. Pray that when the tasks seem

overwhelming and exhausting, they will know that it is our Lord who will uphold them with his righteous hand.

- Pray that God will provide guidance for every leader so that they will be more like Jesus. Pray that they will keep God's word in their hearts.

