

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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 First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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New Year Renewed Hope

Greetings and a Blessed New Year to all!

2021 has been another tough year where we had to endure and cope with the on-going threat of the pandemic. That alone has unleashed all sorts of

hardship on people all over the world. The impact went well beyond our physical health. Its far-reaching effects have touched almost every facet of our lives and for so many also affected their mental and economic well-being. As if that wasn't

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enough, parts of the Klang Valley were inundated with flood waters recently which compounded the hardship already faced by many. The Community care ministry which includes the Soup Kitchen Ministry and Covid 19 Taskforce have never been busier trying to play our part in helping others. Even as I write this, my hope of visiting my parents in Singapore was suddenly dashed as the authorities suspended travel between the two countries because of rising cases of the Omicron variant. It seems life remains largely uncertain and there's little clarity as to what to expect. Against such a backdrop, it's therefore easy to be weighed down and lose hope.

Yet as followers of Christ, we all have reasons to be hopeful! How so? Because we can rest on the **promises** of God who has our best interest at heart. In Romans 8:18, Paul writes that our present suffering in this fallen, sin-cursed planet is not worth comparing to the glories of eternity and "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (V32). Sufferings are to be expected and are part and parcel of the Christian life. He didn't say that our sufferings or uncertainties of life will go away. But we can look beyond our current circumstances. We can rest on the fact that "God did not spare His own son" and therefore have the assurance that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (v28).

"The Christian hope is not hoping in the sense of keeping our fingers crossed and wishing for the best outcome to maybe materialize. Our hope is founded on the unchanging character of an all-wise and all-powerful God."

The story of Abraham comes to mind as a great example of the unfailing promises of God to man. The most important part of the story is not in Abraham's faithfulness to God but God's faithfulness to Abraham even when Abraham tried to take things into his own hands! In spite of man's failings, God ensured that His plan and promises would come to pass. In writing to encourage the persecuted Christians in the New Testament church, the writer to the Hebrews reminded them of God's promise to Abraham in Hebrews 6:13-15, stating that "When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants." In other words, Abraham's assurance by God came not only in the form of a promise from the Most High, it was bound up in an oath which God swore by His own unfailing character, making it doubly secured as it were!

My dear brothers and sisters-in-Christ, Abraham's God is the same Heavenly Father we have today whom Jesus teaches us is responsible for feeding the birds of the air and clothing the lilies of the field (Matthew 6). How much more then would He take care of you? That is an amazingly comforting statement for any child of God. If you find yourself at the beginning of this year feeling a tinge of sadness and anxiety for the future, may I suggest that you do at least these two things:

1. Give Thanks with a Grateful heart.

In exhorting the Philippians not to be anxious, Paul advise them to pray with **thanksgiving** (Phil 4:6). If anything the Pandemic has taught me, it is to be thankful for so many things we used to take for granted. Simple pleasures of eating out and meeting a friend now take on a new appreciation. I know when I finally get to meet my parents in Singapore after two years (God willing), our reunion will be so much the sweeter. When we stop to count our blessings, even small mercies, you'll be amazed

to see how good the Lord has been to us. Being grateful can be challenging in the best of times. But how about those times when we are struggling with an illness or a job loss or the strain of a child with special needs? Certainly, it's not easy to give thanks when our hearts are burdened and filled with pain. Yet, God's words exhorts us to give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:18; Eph 5:20). It is during these times that I implore you to share your burdens with your family in FBC. Giving thanks in difficult circumstance is not ignoring our problems. It's recognizing that God is sovereign and has placed us in that situation for a good reason. It's acknowledging that God's strength is made perfect in our weaknesses and re-directing our eyes towards **Jesus as our hope**.

2. Resolve to Seek first the Kingdom of God (and its values)

We usually begin the new year with a feeling of a fresh start, a chance to wipe the slate clean and leave our failures behind. Many of us make New Year resolutions hoping to achieve better success in our endeavors than the year before. While resolving to exercise more or eat healthier may be worthy goals to set with the right motivation to honor God, I'd encourage you to give top priority in pursuing spiritual goals in line with God's kingdom. It's not just about **doing** but first about **being**. Specifically, I'm talking about **having our lives reflect the realities of God's Kingdom** instead of the Kingdom of the world where we came out from. It's about putting on a different set of lenses and seeing the world as God would have us see rather than based

on what we want for ourselves. It's giving into a more Spirit-filled life so that the fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control may blossom more in our lives. While I'm not much into New Year resolutions, my family have in the last few years made it a point to each "adopt" just a single word that we would try better to live by and be accountable to each other. For instance, for a while now, my adopted word has been "Patience" and that word would spring into my consciousness and loom large whenever I'm about to lose it! While I'm not sure it would work the same for you, I'd encourage us to pray and ask God to reveal an area in our lives that we need to work towards greater submission and obedience.

As we look forward to the rest of the year, we can certainly expect our fair share of challenges to come. But as the writer to the Hebrews reminds us from the examples of the Old Testament heroes of faith, "let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb 12:1-3)

In His Bond,
Yew Lum



By **Leong Yew Lum**
FBC (E) Chairman



| Pulpit Program

January 2, 2022
The Family in God's Church



PREACHER
Leong Yew Lum

January 9, 2022
Religion vs Faith

(Matthew 15:1-20)



PREACHER
Dr. Peter Ng

January 16, 2022
The Nature of Faith

(Matthew 15:21-31)



PREACHER
Alex Tan

January 23, 2022
The Influence of False Teachers

(Matthew 15:32;16:12)



PREACHER
Lee Yee Dian

| Worship with Us



MAIN SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 8:45am & 11:15am



YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



SUNDAY SCHOOL

for Ages 0-12yrs
| ZOOM |
Sundays



Call office to know more:
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PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Flood Victims



Lord, we bring all who have been affected by the floods across this nation to You.

We pray for Your presence and comfort to be upon each of them who have lost their homes and property and are currently displaced.

We also pray for those who have been left stranded to be able to get help as soon as possible.

We pray especially for the sick, elderly and mothers with babies and young children to be kept safe under Your protection.

We pray for the government and its agencies as well as churches and NGOs to be able to mobilize food, clothing and medical attention quickly as well as open shelters for those who need them.

We also pray for the safety and protection of the volunteer and rescue teams.

We pray for the flood waters to recede and for good weather in the coming days so that people can return to their homes and recovery works can take place.

We pray all these in Jesus' name, amen.

(Taken from Malaysia United Firewall)

| Upcoming Events



Open for Registration

Every Sunday
8:45am (1 Service)
Kindly go to www.fbc.com.my to register or [CLICK HERE](#)



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 Saturday
to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting

Physical Prayer Meeting
15 January 2022
Saturday 2:00pm
Transit Lounge
[CLICK HERE](#) to register

More Information on Upcoming Events