

FBC TODAY

UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL

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FBC

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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

Providence for Pari

I was having a lunch fellowship in a Japanese restaurant with Pari who is serving in FBC missions team and she asked me if I had ever been to Japan and I said yes.

“How about you?” I asked.

She replied, “Yes, many years ago when I was with Doulos ship. In 1998 we made stops in Tokyo and Nigata.”

Pari served onboard the Doulos ship between 1997 and 2000. Constructed in 1914, Doulos was recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's oldest active ocean-going passenger ship. Doulos traveled across countries to sell books as well as Christian books, while reaching out to local communities in the ports it visited. You can see a 360 view of the bookstore in this link:

www.gbaships.org/panoramas/d/bookstore.html



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“Did you have time to get down?” I asked. She replied yes.

I thought for a while and asked, “If you are traveling with the ship, how did you have the local currency to buy stuff?”

I saw that she lit up with a smile as memories from that time came flooding in. She smiled as she explained: “We had a monthly allowance of 20 USD that we can choose to cash out partially or fully at the ‘kiosk’ (finance office) in the ship. Then we can buy snacks or stuff we needed at the locations the ship stopped at.”

“Was the allowance on top of a basic salary?” I asked.

“Oh no, we didn’t get a salary. We just get our basic necessities met, such as meals and toiletries. If we want extra snacks such as instant noodles then we’ll need to use our allowances to buy from the shop on the ship or when we are docked at a port.” I thought, *no salary? She must have some savings from previous work... right?* I asked if she had any savings. She said no.

Pari shared that she had only worked for three years before joining Doulos and she had just finished paying off her student loans. She was debt-free but did not have any possessions or savings.

I sat in a surprised silence as this new information sank in, wondering if I am ever able to do that.

Pari continued to share that during the years she served onboard the Doulos, her home church had set aside a small sum of money every month as a savings for her. So when she returned from the Doulos after 4 years, the church gave her the money which Pari used to buy a second hand Perodua Kancil car.

Unfortunately, the second-hand car dealer was in trouble with some money lenders and was killed before doing the paperwork necessary for Pari to legally own the car. So even though she had paid for the car and had it physically, the car wasn’t hers. When this whole

situation was unfolding Pari felt very helpless, having lost all her money. One day, as she sat in the car, while at a traffic light, Pari began pouring out her feelings to God in prayer. Then the Lord God brought to her mind, Isaiah 46:4.

“Even to your old age and grey hairs, I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”

Pari knew God was reminding her that this was a promise from God that he would take care of her and she determined not to worry and simply wait on the Lord. Shortly after, the Kancil was taken away. Some friends at church who learned about her situation found her an ancient rusty Ford. She looks back at all these situations, and traces the hand of God, Jehovah Jireh, her faithful provider.

I’m not sure what you have gotten out of that story, and although I do believe that Yahweh provides, I do not think that it means life will be smooth sailing seeing that the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked three times in his mission for God. But it does make me think and reflect if there are ways I can attach myself less to the things of the current world and more to Yahweh, who created all the good things in the current world and is capable of sustaining me as long as He has work for me to do on earth. I invite you to read the devotions by Ivan on the next page to wrestle on this subject further with God our Father and Provider.



Written By Toh Kai Xian

Kai Xian is a Ministry staff in FBC and is the editor of FBC Today newsletter



Edited By Parimalam Balasubramaniam

Pari works for Operation Mobilisation (OM) and serves as a Board member in FBC. She also serves in the FBC missions team

Devotion by the Youth

Scripture

Isaiah 37:30

This will be the sign for you, Hezekiah:
"This year you will eat what grows by itself,
and the second year what springs from that.
But in the third year sow and reap,
plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Isaiah 37:36

Then the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies!

Observation

It's pretty weird why God would give a sign that would last for three years, yet have the promise fulfilled by night (2 Kings 19:35). I could only think of two things:-

1. This promise is for Hezekiah's security, that after Sennacherib is dealt with, Judah would not be threatened by other kings (at least for the next 3 years).
2. (which I think it's a more likely explanation) Sennacherib tried to entice Judah as a whole to give up their allegiance to the king and God by promising them fertile land and secured provisions (36:16-17). This was God's direct response to that, that only by God would the harvest be deemed bountiful, and the vineyards will produce their fruit.

Application

1. From Hezekiah, remember this; God responded to Hezekiah's plea because he came before God in humility, faithfulness, and obedience.
2. From Judah, the world entices us every day with new strategies to take our allegiance away from God. But stop and question, who allows 'what' and 'such' to occur? Was it not God that has control over all things? Yes, even the bad and the good.

Prayer

O Lord, indeed the world is enticing. We desire to fulfill what our flesh desires and it's a constant struggle. But remind me O Lord that none of these that comes from the world would ever satisfy. Remind me O Lord, and put a spirit in me that questions my every motive, that questions my allegiance, that makes a clear cut between You and everything else. Like Hezekiah, when in doubt, let me put on my sackcloth and plea to you in prayer. Do not allow me to seek the world for solutions, but only in You. Remind me O God, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



By Ivan Khoo

Ivan serves in the Youth Ministry and Campus Ministry with roles such as the discussion group leader, registration team, and youth committee



PrayerSpotlight

Pray for Malaysia

In March and April, many in Malaysia are seeking God with real focus. Pray that God will miraculously reveal Himself to them in dreams and visions.

Many in Malaysia are seeking forgiveness for their sins. Pray that they will have a revelation of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Pray for God to bring opportunities for Christians in the Malaysia to share the gospel.