

GETHSEMANE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"Not my will, but Thine, be done" – Luke 22:42

WORD ON WORSHIP

Worship arises from grateful hearts, for it is the expression of heartfelt gratefulness towards God. Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

God welcomes only grateful hearts into His courts for worship. Ungrateful hearts have no right to be in His presence. So let us remember all His benefits as we draw nigh unto God to worship Him (cf. Psalm 103:1-2).

SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

Edify

Ephesians 4:29

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

*Hymn 17: Begin, My Tongue, Some Heavenly Theme

*Invocation & Psalm 93:1

*Scripture Reading in Unison

Psalm 46:1-11

Hymn 265: Just as I Am, Without One Plea

Scripture Memorisation

Hymn 255: Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart

*Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

"Supreme Assurance for Believers—V"

Selected Scripture Verses

*Hymn 542: Saved by Grace

*Benediction & Threefold Amen

**Congregation Standing*



30 August 2020

Submitting to the Lord's Call

Kelvin Lim

By the grace of God working in my life, I see God's calling in my life as under three aspects: God's calling, God's training and serving God.

GOD'S CALLING

Serving the Lord is a lifelong struggle on earth in learning to submit to His blessed will. Often we have to say, "not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). Yet, one cannot resist God's call when he hears it! For me, the call to serve the Lord came in the year 2002. I was reading Paul's epistle to the Romans when those rhetorical questions in Romans 10:14 "jumped out" at me. "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Indeed, how will the unbelievers call on Jesus whom they do not believe, and how can they believe on Jesus whom they have not heard? That is, how can they hear the Gospel of Christ unless someone is sent to tell them about it! At that time, I was working in The Helping Hand (THH), a Christian drug-rehabilitation centre, where my fellowship

with God was restored and I came to know Pastor Koshy while I was a resident there. Subsequently, THH sent me to join Gethsemane B-P Church (GBPC) for her Sunday activities, and I became a member in December 2000.

As I grew spiritually under the faithful ministry of the Word, I knew that the Lord saved me from my sins to serve Him in the new life He has given. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Furthermore, I recalled Jesus' charge to Peter: "... and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32). Therefore, there is this burden laid in my heart to strengthen the faith of the brethren in THH and to reach out to those under the bondage of drug addictions with the life-transforming Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I went to see Pastor Koshy and shared with him the Lord's call. At that time, I was pursuing a Certificate in Substance Abuse Counselling, which would qualify me as a Substance Abuse counsellor worldwide. Naturally, I was not willing to give it up to answer God's call into the full-time ministry! But Pastor's advice was, "If the Lord

calls you to serve Him, why bother to obtain any secular qualifications. Obey the Lord, go and study God's Word in Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC)." Then he added, "Secular counselling can never be as effective as biblical counselling!" However, I begged to differ with him, as in my heart, I was satisfied with just attending the night classes in FEBC for equipping myself in the Word to encourage the brothers in THH, and to evangelise my friends who were addicted to drugs and other substances.

Despite my unwillingness to answer God's call, He was patient and gracious with me. Over the next two years, He used two incidents to "jolt" me. The first occurred while I was accompanying Pastor Koshy for his overseas speaking engagement. It was my first time there and the local B-P church pastor exhorted me to surrender my life to serve God! I had barely known him and had not told him about my calling. Scarcely could I believe my ears! Still, I refused to submit to the Lord in my heart. I brushed it aside as coincidental, yet deep within I knew it was not!

The second was a minor motor accident which I was involved in. The hairline fracture on my knee confined me indoors for a good number of days. That solitary period of time helped me to relook at my life's perspectives. If my desire is to serve the Lord, then I must submit to Him and do His will! "Not my will, but thine, be done." Our church motto kept echoing in my thoughts. Therefore, I submissively went to FEBC on 19th July 2004, to be a full-time student of God's Word, after struggling over His calling for two years.

GOD'S TRAINING

In FEBC, I learned many good biblical doctrines and practical lessons. During my first year in FEBC, I was invited by a staff of THH to join them in their prison ministry. Joyfully, I went to see Pastor Koshy and shared with him this wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord. But he was not in favour of it! The reason was that I should be concentrating on the study of God's Word as a full-time student. He assured me that there will be opportunities in the future to serve the Lord in the prison ministry if God so wills! Yet, I defiantly went ahead to apply for a temporary permit under THH despite a teaching elder's godly counsel. Though I did receive my temporary permit, somehow I never got to use it! "... ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder" (1 Peter 5:5). This was a most memorable lesson of my theological training. It is one lesson that I will not forget!

Yet another lesson: when God closes a door, He will open a window! In this regard, the Lord paved the way for me to serve Him in the Gethsemane's Children Ministry (GCM) during my third year in FEBC, even before I completed my theological studies. I believe this "window" of opportunity came upon me because I have been blessed with a "productive" helpmeet. She gave birth to our firstborn son, Joash, and with him, the paternal care towards children in the church started to manifest. Since then, I have been serving the Lord in GCM. Indeed, "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps" (Proverbs 16:9).

SERVING GOD

As sinners saved by grace, many parents struggled to bring up their children in the Lord. My observation and biblical insight of the children's ministry is that though it is a children's ministry, yet it is the parents that need ministering to! Parents must be exhorted to bring their children for the fellowship meetings. "Children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is His reward" (Psalm 127:3). It has always been a struggle to convince parents who placed secular activities above spiritual blessings, and to bring their children to the house of God!

Hence, let me share with you some struggles in serving God. One of the greatest struggles I had was to write the weekly lesson outlines for Junior Worship Classes. As I laboured to write these lesson outlines week after week, the "intensity of the pen" grew heavier by the day. Often, I stared at the biblical texts from which I was crafting the lesson and cried out to the Lord, "Why is it so difficult to bring out the text, and explain the truth in a simple manner?"

Well, the Lord answered this groan with an astonishing truth: His presence – the presence of God in the lives of His saints is a recurring truth throughout the Scriptures! In Genesis 28:15, God assures Jacob, "behold, I am with thee"; and in Matthew 28:20, our Lord Jesus assures His disciples, "I am with you always". How could I miss these truths that are repeatedly mentioned in the Bible to assure God's children? The discovery of this truth greatly

strengthened my hands and enabled me to press on to complete the three-year lesson outlines. Praise the Lord!

The next struggle was about learning to read and speak biblical Chinese! Since the inception of the Chinese service, the Lord has given me opportunities to serve there – as chairman (monthly), as preacher (occasionally) and (sometimes) as interpreter (for the chairman / speaker during combined services and Gethsemane Seniors' Ministry). Though I did not even pass Chinese in Secondary 1, the Lord was gracious to allow me to serve Him in this aspect.

Then in 2012, Preacher Jeremiah encouraged me to sign up as a volunteer with Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) to serve with him in the Prison ministry. This time, I sought Pastor's blessings first, and with his approval went to apply for the prison pass. Thanks be unto God, it has been an encouraging ministry! It is wonderful to see brethren willing to reach out to the lost in addictions and crimes, and joyful to see some of those ministered to turning to the Lord and be transformed by the power of His Word!

Lastly, I thank God for the many opportunities to help out among the various ministries of both the English and Chinese congregations of our church. As such, I think I'm not too wrong to call myself 'gap-filler'. May the Lord give me extra grace to study His Word and grant me humility to continue serving Him submissively till He calls me home! Every day in the ministry is by the grace of God. Thank God for a Bible-believing church to serve in. All glory be unto the Lord Jesus Christ, our blessed Saviour and Lord!

Junior Worshipper's Page

Edifying Speech

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”

(Ephesians 4:29)

God’s Word exhorts every Christian to be cautious about his speech, that it be always proper and beneficial to the hearers. Men of God are concerned about their speech, that it would be pleasing before the LORD. So, David prayed, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

The speech of a godly person must, first of all, be free from “corrupt communication”. The word “corrupt” is the translation of the Greek word, *sapros*, which is used to describe rotten fruit, vegetables, and other spoiled food. “Corrupt communication” then refers to foul, unwholesome language that misleads, hurts and even destroys others’ peace and safety. Such speech should never proceed from the mouth of a Christian because it is totally out of character with his God and Saviour Jesus Christ. All bad language must be put away. Colossians 3:8 instructs us, “But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.”

Instead, we must be committed to speech “which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”. Paul here mentions three specific characteristics of wholesome speaking: good, edifying and gracious. First, everything we say should be appropriate and beneficial. Our words must be true and perfectly wholesome. Second, the words of a Christian ought to be edifying to the hearers. Our speech should build up by being instructive, helpful, encouraging and uplifting. Even when we rebuke or correct others, our speech must be edifying. Third, our words ought to be gracious, that they may give grace to those who hear. We must not only speak the truth, but also speak it in love (Ephesians 4:15). Graciousness must always characterise the speech of Christians.

Prabhudas Koshy



COLLECTIONS

LORD'S DAY on 23rd August 2020

Tithes: 4,155.00

Offerings: 6,722.00

GBWL: 180.00

Designated Gifts: General Fund 200.00; Cebu Building Fund 100.00; 50.00; 20.00; GBI-India 120.00; Pr Engida 100.00; Dn Imane 100.00; Melissa Mah 100.00; Pr Zhu Xinkai 350.00; Pr Daniel Lim 50.00

Non-Sunday Collections

(17th to 22nd August 2020)

Offerings: 2,490.00

Tithes: 3,470.00

GBWL: 200.00; 320.00

Designated Gifts: BWMM 200.00; General Fund 950.00; Matthew Peh 25.00

Total Funds Collection

(as of 23rd August 2020)

Cebu Building Fund: 195,802.50



FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

Send in your gifts to 'Gethsemane Bible-Presbyterian Church' via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-011173-7), or you may scan the QR code above to transfer via Paylah! or PayNow.



FOR LOVE GIFTS TO GBWL

Send in your gifts to 'Gethsemane Bible Witness Limited' via bank transfer (DBS Current Account 025-904568-2), or you may scan the QR code above to transfer via Paylah! or PayNow.

OUR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday English Worship Service LIVE

9.00am on YouTube Live

Sunday Chinese Worship Service

9.00am on YouTube Premiere

Filipino Fellowship (via Zoom)

Sunday @ 2.00pm

Sunday Catechism Class

2.00pm via Zoom

Sunday Evening Teaching Service (GBI–Nehemiah)

6.00pm on YouTube Live

Campus Bible Studies (via Zoom)

NAFA-Lasalle: Monday @ 2.00pm

SUTD: Thursday @ 3.00pm

SIT: Friday @ 3.00pm

Staff Prayer Meeting

Tuesday @ 10.15am

Tuesday Night Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

8.00pm on YouTube Live

Seniors' Ministry (via Zoom)

Thursday @ 11.00am (Please contact Pr Jeremiah Sim)

Malayalam Fellowship (via Zoom)

Thursday @ 8.00pm

Children's Ministry Meetings

Saturday @ 11.00am (younger children)
& 2.00pm (older children)

EARLY ADVICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM)

In view of the Covid-19 restriction orders in Singapore, the ACM will be held by electronic means pursuant to the relevant order under the Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) Order 2020. The indicative date of the upcoming ACM (via Zoom) is on **27th September 2020**. A unique link will be emailed to each member nearer to the date, and one device is to be used per member to login for the ACM. All active communicant members are to register via this link (<http://gg.gg/GBPCACM2020>) or scan the QR code to update your particulars for the ACM by 23rd August 2020.

A *clinic session* will be held on *19th September 2020 from 2.00pm to 3.00pm*. This is to help members to familiarize with Zoom access and the use of various functions on this digital platform. If you wish to register for this session, please indicate when you update your particulars. *Closing date for registration is **today***.



UPCOMING ZOOM FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

Links to the meetings will be provided in the respective Whatsapp Groups.

KABABAYAN BIBLE STUDY

Speaker: Pr Jeremiah Sim

Chairperson: Bro. Randy Laurencio

Date & Time: Fri, 4 Sept 2020, 7.30pm

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Topic: Book Study on Proverbs

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Chairperson: Bro. Samuel Lee

Date & Time: Sat, 5 Sept 2020, 4.00pm

YOUNG ADULTS' FELLOWSHIP

Topic: "How do we fellowship and encourage one another during a pandemic?"

Speaker: Pastor Prabhudas Koshy

Date & Time: Sat, 5 Sept 2020, 7.00pm

Please register via the Google forms link provided in the YAF Whatsapp Group.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR SEPTEMBER

Holy Communion for the month of September will be held next Lord's Day, 6th September 2020. Please refer to the Prayer Hotline broadcast for more information.

Prayer Hotline:
8138 8139
*SMS or WhatsApp
your prayer item*

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Our Pastor:
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Our Session:
Pastor Prabhudas Koshy
Elder Mah Chin Kwang
Elder Alan Choy
Elder Ng Poh Kok
Elder Francis Lee
Deacon Daniel Lim
Deacon Lok Kwok Wah
Deacon Kelvin Lim
Deacon Low Boon Siang

**Scripture
Memorisation**

MON - FRI 8.30am, 3.30pm, 8pm, 3am
SAT 7.15am, 1.15pm, 7.45pm, 3.15am
LORD'S DAY 8.15am, 4.15pm, 10.45pm, 4.45am
(previous week's verse)

Timings shown in GMT+8

SCRIPTURE MEMORISATION

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

Our weekly memory verse and exhortation will be broadcast throughout the week on Bible Witness Web Radio (BWWR). Tune in & join us in remembering His Word. We continue with verses from ‘E’—“Edify”.

Listen at <https://biblewitness.com/webradio/radio-player/>