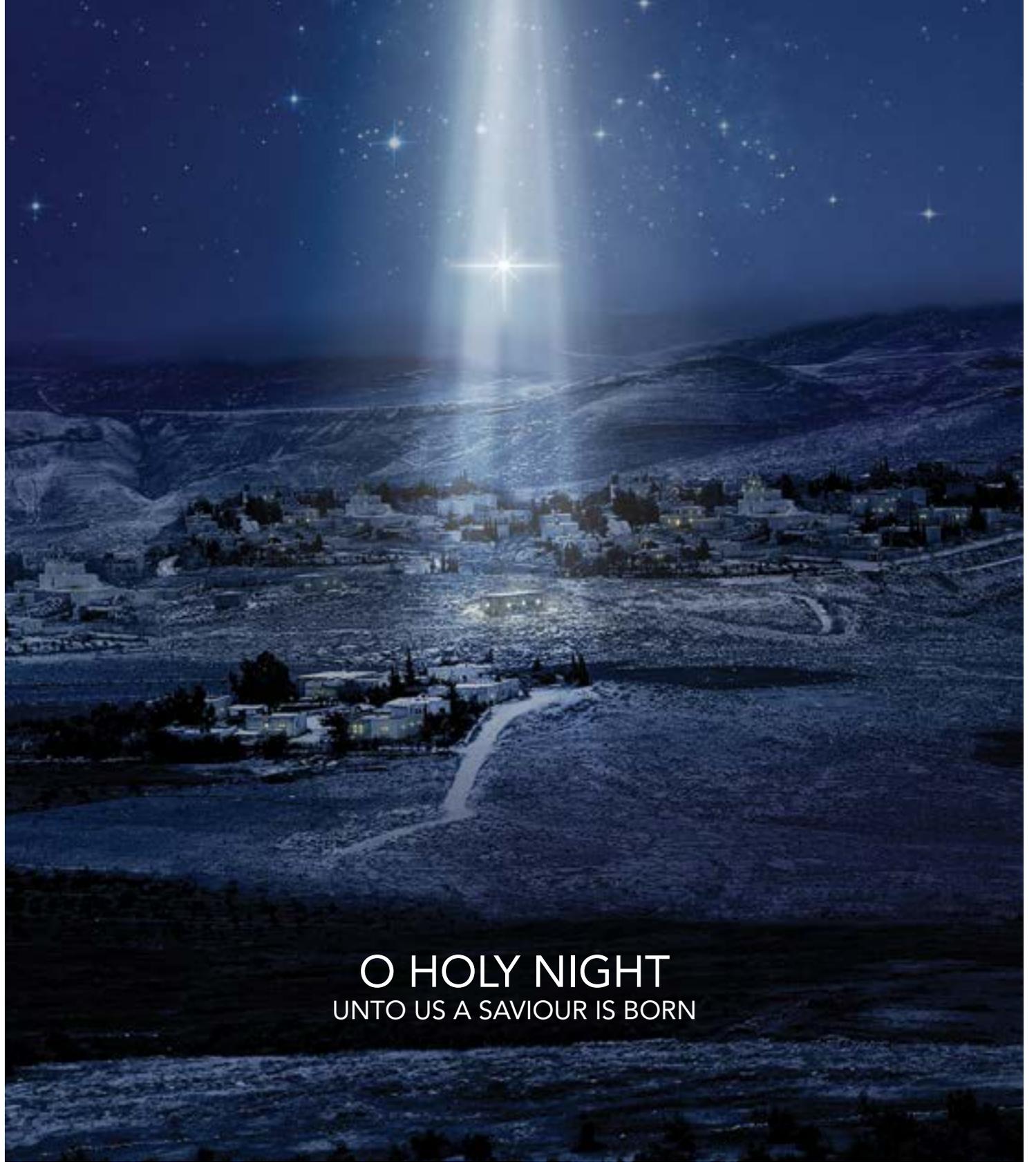


A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF NEW CREATION CHURCH | 2013 EDITION 4

# SOLID ROCK



O HOLY NIGHT  
UNTO US A SAVIOUR IS BORN



...BEHOLD, I BRING YOU  
GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY  
WHICH WILL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.  
FOR THERE IS BORN  
TO YOU THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF  
DAVID A SAVIOUR,  
WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD.

---

LUKE 2:10-11

## SOLID ROCK

SOLID ROCK welcomes your feedback.  
Please send all correspondence to  
solid.rock@newcreation.org.sg

MCI (P) 052/01/2013

This is a publication of New Creation Church in Singapore, a non-profit organisation. The publication is distributed free to its members and has no subscription or newsstand price. Copyright © New Creation Church, Singapore, 2013. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or part without prior written permission. Unless stated otherwise, all scripture quotations are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1982. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT  
Pastor Gabriel Tan

EDITOR  
EJ Choi

ARTICLES EDITORS  
Dawn Hu  
Gerald Wee

ART DIRECTOR  
Patrick Lee

CONTRIBUTORS  
Christian Chen  
Joanne Chong-Rodrigues  
Eliza Choo  
Alan Fong  
Dawn Hu  
Ed Huang  
Kelly Lim  
Stephanie Liu  
James Shearer  
Pastor Joash Siow  
Shannon Tam  
Bryan Wee  
Gerald Wee

DESIGNER  
Jenny Tan

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Christopher Chang  
Patrick Lee  
Steven Low  
Vincent Nghai  
Anthony Sng  
Randy Toh  
Shavonne Wong

## LETTER FROM THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and  
my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour.”

Luke 1:46-47

There’s just something about Christmas that touches our hearts and souls.

While the 25th of December is unlikely to be the actual birthday of our Lord and Saviour, it is possible that it was the date when He was conceived. And according to the gospel of Luke, Mary could not help but break into a joyous song of praise as her spirit “rejoiced in God [her] Saviour”.

Since then, this song of praise has resounded through the years. Some 2,000 years on, the stories and promises of familiar Christmas hymns and carols still stand true today. There is great rejoicing and celebration as we are reminded during this season of how God loved the world so much, that He gave heaven’s best, His darling Son, to us. Our **Reviews** section (*pg 54*) has some music suggestions we trust you’ll enjoy.

Christmas is also a special time when traditions abound. It could be spending time with loved ones, preparing a special meal, carolling with friends, or simply attending a special Christmas service. We ask church members to share their **Favourite Christmas Traditions** (*pg 52*) with us. Find out how and why food, family and fun are must-haves in their lives.

Meanwhile, our lead story, **It’s The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year** (*pg 28*), celebrates the season with stories of love, hope and joy we have in the Lord.

There is another reason to celebrate in this edition. The gospel of grace is impacting the United States! Our very own senior pastor recently returned from the US tour. You can read all about the name of Jesus being lifted high and see special behind-the-scene snapshots in the exclusive **Power Of Right Believing USA Tour 2013** (*pg 34*).

Christmas really is all about Jesus. And as you take time to celebrate this joyous occasion, we trust you’ll be rested and blessed. So, blessed Christmas from us to you and we’ll see you next year!

THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

solid.rock@newcreation.org.sg

# what's inside

## engage

- 08 CHURCH LIFE
- 13 FROM THE HEART  
Pastor Joash Siow: Christmas Reflections
- 14 TEN MINUTES WITH  
Reverend Reinhard Bonnke

## edify

- 18 HIS WORD:  
HOW TO PRAY POWERFUL PRAYERS  
"See how faithful the Lord is when you boldly ask in His name!"
- 28 IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR  
Find out why we love Christmas so much, and why the season fills our hearts with such joy and glee.
- 34 POWER OF RIGHT BELIEVING USA TOUR 2013  
We bring you highlights from the exciting two-week tour in full colour.
- 38 PRAISE REPORTS
- 44 STATE OF GRACE:  
Overcoming Scoliosis

## empower

- 48 LIFE NOTES:  
A Journey For Life  
Our Favourite Christmas Traditions

## etc.

- 54 REVIEWS
- 56 THE WISE MEN'S GIFTS



A night scene of a snowy landscape. The sky is dark blue and filled with many small white stars. A bright, vertical beam of light shines down from the top left, illuminating a single evergreen tree in the middle ground. The ground is covered in snow, and there are other trees in the background, some of which are also illuminated by the light.

# engage

CHURCH LIFE  
FROM THE HEART  
TEN MINUTES WITH



## "#believing4 \_\_\_\_\_" campaign

Who do you believe you are? And do you believe in God's promises as stated in His Word? In our previous edition, we took to Instagram to find out what you were #believing4. We received an amazing response, and want to share some of the awesome submissions with you.

WINNERS!



NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
PRUDENTIAL CENTER



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
LONG BEACH ARENA



HOUSTON, TEXAS  
LAKEWOOD CHURCH



DALLAS, TEXAS  
VERIZON THEATRE



## gracin' USA

Five special days. Four different cities. In November, Joseph Prince Ministries hosted over tens of thousands across the United States of America at the Power Of Right Believing USA Tour 2013.

Held on 1, 6 and 13 November, the grace-filled tour kick-started at Newark, before heading to Los Angeles and Dallas respectively. Tens of thousands were impacted by the gospel of grace.

Senior Pastor Joseph Prince delivered a powerful message of what it means to believe right. Additionally, he spoke at three weekend services at Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, on 9 and 10 November.

Find out more about the highly favoured tour on [pg 34](#).

## STICKERS OF BLESSINGS!

Tis' the season of gift giving! To get into the spirit of things and to thank you for your love and support, the *Solid Rock* team wants to bless you with gift stickers to make your gift wrapping easier! We're generous like that.

You'll find two sheets of stickers inserted in this edition. Rocking a variety of designs, words of blessings, and Bible verses, we trust that as you use them, your gift recipients will be doubly blessed.



## blessing our local community!

Befriending the elderly, helping children with special needs, and extending aid to underprivileged families are all part of the work that New Creation Church's Outreach ministry does.

"Being part of the local community, we want to be a blessing as much as possible," said Madeline Wong, who oversees our church's outreach initiatives.

Averaging two to three activities every month, 2013 saw over 1,000 church members from different ministries participate in various Outreach programmes.

"We work with partners like Care Corner Singapore Ltd and Lions Befrienders Service Association (Singapore), to organise home visits, arrange outings, and plan special celebratory events to foster community spirit," Madeline added.

"Our heart goes out to the vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly who are lonely and need assistance, and the young who need special help and guidance."

This year alone, the church has blessed over 600 beneficiaries.



*Interested to know more about our local outreach programmes? Send us an email at [outreach@newcreation.org.sg](mailto:outreach@newcreation.org.sg) to find out how you can be a part of our exciting activities!*

**Partner Organisations:**

Care Corner Family Service Centre (Toa Payoh), Care Corner Family Service Centre (Queenstown), Gan Eng Seng Primary School, Lions Befrienders (Ghim Moh) SAC, New Town Primary School and Shuqun Primary School.

**Participating Ministries:**

Worship, Outreach, Pastoral Services and The Zone (Youth).

## chinese ministry camp

More than 210 servers from our Chinese Ministry gathered at KSL Hotel & Resort, Johor Bahru for their annual servers' and leaders' camp from 6 to 9 August 2013. Themed *All About Jesus*, the four-day camp saw servers of all ages unite with one heart.

Special highlights included team-bonding games, heart-to-heart sharing sessions, anointed preaching and a special Q&A session with Chinese Ministry Pastor Mark Ng. The blessed campers returned home even more conscious of their identity as Jesus' beloved, and how they are deeply loved by the Lord.



## family day at the zoo

Hundreds of families headed out on 7 September in celebration of NCC's Care Group Ministry Family Day 2013. Our church's care groups made their way to the Singapore Zoo to enjoy a fun-filled time together and to celebrate the Lord's goodness in their lives.

The day included a host of family-friendly activities like a children's drawing competition, face-painting sessions and balloon sculpting. Various care groups even took the opportunity to fellowship over "pot bless" picnics within the zoo's beautiful surroundings. Another highlight included the popular Amazing G-race competition where participating teams visited different animal habitats where creative clues were received by scanning QR codes with their mobile phones.

The fun-filled event culminated in a time of praise and worship in the afternoon, where Pastor KE Mathews shared about Noah (which means rest) from Genesis 7:9. He pointed to Jesus as the ark of covering and encouraged everyone present to rest in Him.

"It was particularly meaningful as the activities reinforced the importance of the family unit," said Chua Soo Hoon, a care group leader. "We even had free-flow snacks and everyone was blessed with a portable battery-operated fan. I definitely enjoyed this special day!"



## DID YOU KNOW?

Our Logistics & Transport ministry, the newest in our church, does a lot of cool stuff that often goes unnoticed. Here's a chance to see what they do... by the numbers!

**105 servers**

105 dedicated **Logistics & Transport servers** and staff are on duty every Sunday to serve our 30,000-strong congregation.

**That's what we call a great workout!**

**4 tonnes** of equipment are transported to and from our service venues every Sunday!

**20 YEARS**

**20+20**

**55 km**

Our shuttle bus covers an average of **55km** every Sunday to bring congregation members to The Star Performing Arts Centre.

**We Speak Your Language**

We celebrate unity in diversity. Our servers come from **10 different countries**, speaking a multitude of languages!

Each of our two longest serving servers have been with us for **20 SOLID YEARS** and are still going strong! Praise Jesus for divine health and strength!

**Geared To Serve**

Our must-have on rainy days to keep shuttle bus passengers dry!

**22 Precious Teams**

Our **22 teams** are named according to the **precious stones** on the High Priest's breastplate and the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem. **They are truly precious gems in the sight of the Lord!**

**1.9m** vs **1.32m**

**Height matters not!**

The height of our most petite volunteer versus our tallest.

**1999**

Our transport team was first formed in 1999 to escort children to Rock Kidz classes. Today, we serve both **young and old!**

**1/3**

A third of our **Logistics servers** are **females**. Way to go, ladies!

Visit [www.newcreation.org.sg](http://www.newcreation.org.sg) to find out more, and get into the action today!



## Christmas Reflections

“... that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” (Ephesians 2:7)

PASTOR JOASH SIOW

Christmas can be a busy season for us. There are trees to decorate and light up, gatherings to go to, presents to be bought and wrapped, and meals to be cooked and enjoyed. Yet it will all be over before we know it! It is amazing how time passes by so quickly.

Despite the busyness of Christmas, I encourage all of us to take time and reflect on God's goodness and faithfulness, as the season calls to remembrance many good things. After all, Christmas presents a perfect opportunity to pause and think about what the Lord has done for us in intimate and personal ways.

As I reflected on this myself, I remembered the time I “rediscovered” my first love. It has been almost 17 years since I attended my first Sunday service at New Creation Church. I can still vividly recall my first Sunday experience in church, when the congregation size was much smaller. I was awed by the worship experience and I could feel the presence of God as Pastor Joseph Prince was sharing the Word. He preached for about an hour and yet I was not conscious of time throughout the service. It was a regular Sunday service, but I found it extraordinary because the sermon was so refreshing. After the

service, I remember turning to my wife to say, “I envy this church.”

Looking back, I am happy to call New Creation Church my home. Here, I found out just how much Jesus loves me: unconditionally. I discovered the power of right believing that has impacted my life. I no longer have to worry and try to prove myself to God. Jesus is my acceptance before God and it is all about Him.

“This Christmas, I am reminded once again that it all begins with Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords.”

So, this Christmas, I am reminded once again that it all begins with Jesus, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He who humbled Himself to be a servant, and died willingly for us that we might live. May you encounter the true meaning of the season. Blessed Christmas to one and all!

## The Lamb Post



Copyright © New Creation Church, Singapore, 2013.

## DIVINE PROTECTION



In 1991, we were invited to Kano, Nigeria for a crusade. We had just touched down at the airport when a few limousines stopped us at the tarmac. They said that once we enter the country, snipers would take us down. God protected us and we left the airport unharmed. That night, some fanatics were searching for us, but we happened to be staying in the outskirts of the city because we did not have the finances to stay at a city hotel. That arrangement was part of God's divine protection because the fanatics could not find us and we were eventually evacuated by the military.



## VICTORIOUS RETURN



After that episode, I was declared *persona non grata*, which means that I could no longer re-enter Nigeria. That "defeat" turned into a glorious victory nine years later when I returned at the invitation of the President of Nigeria. Since then we have seen millions of souls saved there.



## REVEREND REINHARD BONNKE

Founder of Christ for All Nations Reverend Reinhard Bonnke has witnessed more than 55 million documented decisions for Jesus. SOLID ROCK sat down to chat with the legendary evangelist.

### WELCOME TO NEW CREATION CHURCH! WHERE IS HOME AND TELL US MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

I was born in Germany but made America my home 12 years ago. My wife Anni and I have been married for 49 years and we have three children and eight grandchildren. My whole family serves God.

### HOW DID YOU FIRST COME TO KNOW THE LORD?

My family was saved many years before I was born, when an evangelist visited our home. His visit influenced my family to serve God and decades later, this evangelistic mantle fell upon me to preach the gospel.

### AND YOU'VE BEEN SERVING GOD EVER SINCE...

God's signs and wonders fuel me to continue in His calling, and I trust Him to fulfill my days as I fulfill His Word. Age is not an object when God empowers you by His spirit!

### THE ATTENDANCE AT YOUR CRUSADES HAS BEEN IN THE MILLIONS. WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE CRUSADE AND WHY?

There was a crusade in Lagos, Nigeria, in November 2000. In six days, a total of six

million people attended. We also had a crowd of 1.6 million people at the last meeting. That night, we counted more than one million decision cards of people who accepted Christ as their Saviour. I realised that God had saved more people in one night compared to the total number of people saved in the 20 years of my ministry then. What I learnt from that is that the Lord shrinks time!

### WHAT IS THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE MIRACLE YOU HAVE WITNESSED OVER THE YEARS IN MINISTRY?

One time, God resurrected a man who had been dead for three days. His wife brought the coffin to the meeting and as I prayed, the man sprang out of the coffin. This man had died in a car accident. After his resurrection, he continued to live a happy life and fathered two children. Among the 12,000 witnesses to the miracle was the mortician who embalmed him. Imagine the irony!

### TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW.

I love motor bikes! That's my hobby and I go for monthly rides on my BMW 1600 GLT.



# edify

HIS WORD  
FEATURES  
PRAISE REPORTS  
STATE OF GRACE



— HOW TO —  
**PRAY**  
POWERFUL  
**PRAYERS**

“Stand firm and pray using your God-given authority, and before long that problem will have to give way!”



Things were looking good for Gisele's husband after a simple procedure to correct a hiatal hernia (a condition in which part of the stomach has been pushed upward through the diaphragm). Discharged that very same day, he was resting at home when his condition took a turn for the worse. Increasingly swamped with pain, bloatedness and a fever that would not subside, he was forced to return to the hospital.

Through tests over the next few days, it was discovered that a bowel obstruction was the cause of all his problems, and another surgery was scheduled. In the midst of feeling discouraged and worried, Gisele suddenly recalled me sharing a few weeks earlier how believers can take charge and command physical conditions to leave by using God's Word. She shared:

*I told my husband about it and we prayed. I remember commanding the bowel obstruction to be gone in Jesus' name. Later that night, my husband went for a series of abdominal tests. These were tests that the hospital had been conducting twice daily since his admission to benchmark his progress.*

*The next morning, when the tests were being done again, my husband announced that he was feeling great. The doctor was thrilled with his huge turnaround and told us that the blockage, which had been detected in all the other tests done previously, was not found in the last two tests. So my husband was discharged and we went home. Praise the Lord for His beautiful healing touch!*

Notice again what this sister from Texas did. She commanded the problem to leave in Jesus' name, right there in that hospital room, with her husband's symptoms so real before her. And the problem had no choice but to go!

As believers, we can pray like this because God has already given us authority in Christ, and Gisele's sharing shows the power and the results we can have when we step up and take charge.

Now, if your turnaround is not immediate or as fast as Gisele's husband's, don't be discouraged and don't give up. Continue to stand firm and pray using your God-given authority, and before long that problem will have to give way!

### **BELIEVE GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE!**

Imagine if you could, like Gisele, pray and see a loved one healed. Pray and that strained relationship with your spouse gets smoothed over and restored. Pray and favour is there at work to close that deal with an important client, or get that promotion you've wanted. Wouldn't that be great?

My friend, God wants all these blessings for you too. This is the reality He wants you to experience! It's important to know that your heavenly Father is on your side. When Jesus died 2,000 years ago, all that stood in the way of answered prayers – namely sin – was dealt with. Because of His sacrifice and death, you now have direct access to God's throne of grace and all the blessings you will ever need in this life, including health, healing, provision, favour and protection. Today, when you pray, because of the cross of Jesus, God hears you and is willing and more than ready to send His abundant supply into your situation. Like Jesus' reply to the leper's plaintive cry of "If You are willing," God says to you today, "I AM willing! I'm willing to provide for you, heal you, protect you, and surround you with My favour! Get ready to receive heaven's supply!"

Precious people write to me every day to share excitedly how believing right that God loves them, is for them and provides for them has caused them to receive their

“Because of the cross of Jesus, God hears you and is willing and more than ready to send His abundant supply into your situation.”

breakthroughs. For Rita, a single mum in Virginia, this meant being supplied with a new and better-paying job that allowed her to work from home full-time and spend more time with her children. A family in South Africa received their answered prayer when their three-year-old daughter started breathing again after she had stopped breathing for 10 minutes following an accident on the trampoline. In the case of Bill and his wife from California, it was seeing God change bad weather into sunshine throughout their six-day honeymoon, while for Nancy from Texas, God blessed her with a trip to Israel in answer to her simple desire.

Beloved, God is not standing in the way of your answered prayers. We have an enemy who hates us and whose forces try to obstruct God’s provision and healing from manifesting in our lives. But I want you to know that the enemy and his forces cannot prevail against us when we learn to believe right about God, about what Jesus has done for us, and how simple God has made walking in victory for us.

### SEE PRAYER GOD’S WAY

Let me share with you something important: God’s ways are often the opposite of man’s ways. Take for example man’s ways of getting ahead in life. The world teaches us that to be first, you need to be strong, self-confident and cunning. But God says be humble and He will exalt you. (1 Peter 5:6) Throughout the Bible we see God using people and things that man deems weak or foolish to do mighty deeds for His glory. (1 Corinthians 1:26–27)

When an ugly giant of a warrior threatened and insulted Israel, God didn’t send a champion or an experienced soldier. He sent a simple shepherd boy to knock down Goliath. And this boy did it not with a sword or any weapon

of war, but with a sling and stone! Against a thousand men of the Philistines, Samson wielded only a sun-and-sand-stripped jawbone of a donkey. And against the established, structured religious order of the day, a bunch of mostly uneducated fishermen known as Jesus’ disciples became the first movers and shakers for the kingdom!

It’s the same way with prayer. In man’s mind, God has to be actively convinced by hard work on our part to move on our behalf and bless us. Have you ever heard people say, “Oh this is a big problem, a serious problem. So we must pray hard [meaning long and/or loud] on our knees before God”? I often wonder where they get such ideas from.

How does God want us to understand prayer then? When it comes to prayer and how to pray, I’m sure you will agree that Jesus is our best example. At the synagogue where He saw a man with a withered hand, Jesus commanded, “Stretch out your hand.” (Luke 6:10) With Jairus’ dead daughter, the Lord said just two words in Aramaic, “*Talitha, cumi*,” which translated is, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” (Mark 5:41) At the feeding of the 5,000, the Bible tells us that He took the five loaves and two fish, looked to heaven, blessed and broke them, then handed the pieces to His disciples to distribute. (Matthew 14:19) What do you notice here? Jesus’ prayers that brought forth great miracles for the people were short and simple commands or declarations that were most powerful.

### WHAT GOD CONSIDERS AN EARNEST PRAYER

A powerful prayer doesn’t have to be long, difficult or prayed in a certain posture. It can just be a simple declaration made in faith. The Bible records that Elijah, one

of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament, prayed an “earnest” prayer to God. Would you like to see how this earnest prayer was nothing more than a simple declaration?

James 5:17 tells us “Elijah...**prayed earnestly** that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.” Let’s go to the actual account of what happened in 1 Kings 17:1 – “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.’”

Isn’t that amazing? All Elijah did was to declare by faith that it would not rain in Israel, and God considered it an earnest prayer! He honoured Elijah’s declaration and there was no rain for three-and-a-half years.

After that, James 5:18 tells us that Elijah “prayed again, and the heaven gave rain.” The word “earnestly” is not used. So let’s see how Elijah prayed this time. In 1 Kings 18:42–44, it tells us that Elijah went to the top of Carmel where he “bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees.” Then he sent his servant to see if there were any clouds in the sky. He did this (put his face between his knees) seven times before he got any results – “a cloud, as small as a man’s hand, rising out of the sea.”

Now, man would consider Elijah’s second prayer to be more earnest than his first, but God thinks of it as simply “prayer”. So God considers prayers where you declare by faith what you want to see earnest prayers. To Him, these short simple prayers are intense, powerful prayers!

Please don’t misunderstand me. There is absolutely nothing wrong with long prayers, or assuming a posture for prayer.

Jesus Himself was known to go away from His disciples for periods of prayer. In the garden of Gethsemane, He fell on His face in agony as He prayed. There is a place for long prayers when your heart is troubled and you just want to pour out all your hurts to the Lord, or when you just want to be in His presence and tell Him about your day.

But don’t ever think that you must pray long or hard prayers to get God to hear you and to convince Him to move on your behalf. In fact, while you see Jesus coming against the Pharisees for praying long pretentious prayers (to be seen and heard by other men), nowhere in the Gospels do you ever see Him coming against short prayers.

### JESUS’ BLOOD QUALIFIES YOU

Doesn’t Elijah’s example encourage you? He just made a simple declaration and it was a powerful, effective prayer.

*But Pastor Prince, you’re talking about Elijah! He was an amazing prophet of God, always full of faith. No wonder even a simple declaration produced results. How can I compare?*

My friend, the Bible tells us that Elijah was a man “subject to like passions as we are.” (James 5:17, KJV) Isn’t that so reassuring? Do you get angry? So did Elijah! Do you get fearful or depressed? So did he! Are you in faith one moment and in doubt the next? So was Elijah!

After his overwhelming victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah went on to call forth rain for the whole land of Israel, ending three-and-a-half years of parched lands and hardship for the people. You would

think he was a man of unshakable faith. But when he heard that Jezebel, the wicked queen who supported the prophets of Baal against God, wanted to kill him, he ran for his life! This man of God actually ran and hid in the wilderness and even “prayed that he might die”. (1 Kings 19:4) He was cowardly and suicidal. It was a good thing that God didn’t take Elijah seriously then and consider that prayer an earnest prayer!

So don’t be discouraged and don’t disqualify yourself. Don’t ever think that you’re any less of a man (or woman) than any hero in the Bible when it comes to praying and receiving from God. Jesus has qualified you with His blood to pray powerful prayers and to receive God’s powerful help and abundant supply. So just pray, knowing that it is He who has given you the authority. With Him backing you up, all things are possible. Simply believe in your heart that what you pray for or declare will happen, and it will. (Mark 11:23–24)

### USE YOUR GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

At the Red Sea, when Pharaoh’s army was closing in on the Israelites, Moses cried to God for deliverance. Do you know what God said to him? “Why do you cry to Me?...lift up your rod, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it...” (Exodus 14:15–16) The rod here is a picture of the authority that God had already given to Moses. As far as God was concerned, Moses already had all the authority he needed. Moses only had to step up and take charge.

Imagine with me for a moment a highway patrolman responding to an accident scene. He sees long-haul trucks, buses and cars in disarray. Horns are blaring and people are shouting and screaming. There’s confusion everywhere and... he whips out his cell phone and calls his captain, “Excuse me, sir, we have an accident here on the highway.

What should I do?” What do you think his captain will say? “Use your authority and settle things!”

And when he does, when he steps up and takes charge, he’ll find that the long-haul trucks and the buses may be many times bigger than he is, but they will have to move when he tells them to. Why? Because the highway patrolman has been given the authority by the state to manage such situations.

Similarly, God in His grace and love has already given us believers the authority to take charge and speak in the name of Jesus. So lift up the name of Jesus by commanding the problem you are facing to leave. It could be a sickness in your body or the body of a loved one. Maybe a spirit of strife is souring relationships in your family or workplace. Or you need the weather to clear up on your coming wedding day, or on the day you’ve promised to take the kids to the zoo. Whatever the need, step up, take charge and pray. And see how faithful the Lord is when you boldly ask in His name! (John 14:13–14, Philippians 2:10)

### THE POWER OF MUSTARD-SEED FAITH

*Pastor Prince, I understand the need to take charge, but I just don’t have that kind of boldness or faith. My faith is so small.*

As small as a grain of mustard seed? Well, that’s good enough for Jesus, and for uprooting big, deep-rooted problems!

In teaching His disciples how to deal with problems, Jesus told them that even if their faith was only the size of a mustard seed, they could command the mulberry tree (the problem), “Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,” and the tree (their problem) would obey them. (Luke 17:6)

“See how faithful the Lord is when you boldly ask in His name!”



“Faith as small as a grain of mustard seed can uproot big, deep-rooted problems!”



Do you know how small a mustard seed is? At approximately 1.5mm in diameter, it's minuscule compared to the mulberry tree, which has a thick, strong trunk and roots that go very deep. Yet, faith as small as a mustard seed will uproot this strong and deeply rooted tree! Can you see the Lord's goodness and grace here?

My friend, has that stubborn medical condition been there for a long time? Is your financial situation deeply rooted in a bad debt? Is drug addiction causing you to lose your teenager? No matter how big or deeply entrenched the problem is, no matter how small you think your faith is, start speaking to the problem. Use your mustard-seed faith and command the problem to go: "Be plucked up by your roots and be cast into the sea!" And expect it to obey you because Jesus said it would.

### KEEP COMMANDING YOUR PROBLEM TO BE UPROOTED

Years ago, before I was married, I had a skin condition on my back. It had been there for quite a long time and was quite widespread, looking like a continent on my back. After Wendy and I got married, she of course noticed it as well.

However, this condition didn't bother me much. I was only conscious of it when I perspired and the affected area started to itch.

One day, the Lord said to me, "Son, do you want to keep that or do you want to get rid of it?" So I said, "Lord, I want to get rid of it." Then He said, "From now on, when you partake of the Holy Communion, mention your desire to be healed and receive healing from My broken body. Every day, command the condition to depart."

So I began to say, "Skin condition, be thou plucked up by your roots and be thou planted in the sea!" I did that every day, partaking of the Holy Communion and commanding the condition to leave. In the natural, this may not seem logical or possible. How can mere words remove a stubborn physical condition? But we are talking about the realm of faith. We are talking about God's Word and ways. If God says it will work, let's just believe Him.

I don't know how long it took, probably a number of months. But as I was washing up one morning, the Holy

Spirit impressed upon me to check my back. So I looked at my back in the mirror and discovered that the condition was gone. It was all gone!

I don't know how or when I was healed. The manifestation of my healing was certainly not dramatic, but it happened. So whatever it is you have, be it a pimple or tumour, start speaking to it. Start commanding it to go. The problem is not going to uproot itself; God's Word and your faith are!

If you have been speaking to your problem and have yet to see results, don't be discouraged. Keep speaking to it every day, commanding it to be uprooted. When Jesus taught His disciples to "say" to the mulberry tree (Luke 17:6), the Greek word used here for "say" carries the imperfect tense, meaning it is a *repeated* action. In other words, Jesus was telling them to repeatedly command the problem to depart. So don't just say it once and forget about it. Command with authority again and again until your problem gives way and you get your breakthrough!

### THE POWER OF PRACTICING HIS PRESENCE

Let me share with you how you can pray and declare with greater authority and see more results. Coming back to Elijah's earnest prayer, when he addressed King Ahab and declared that there would be no rain, Elijah's first words were, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand..." (1 Kings 17:1) Notice how the prophet was more conscious of *the Lord's* presence than of the king's presence. So when you pray or command your problem to be uprooted, know that the Lord Most High is present in your life and that He is the one who will bring your miracle to pass!

Let me share with you about one of my pastors who leads worship in our church. When he leads worship, and even more so when he leads the congregation in partaking of the Holy Communion, the anointing is very tangible.

This pastor doesn't shout or jump around. He just speaks gently from his heart and people are ministered to.

As his senior pastor, there was a period when I noticed an increase in his anointing. Not only was there a greater anointing when he led worship and the Holy Communion, but he had more results when he went to pray for the sick in hospitals. So I asked him why this was happening and he revealed that it was all because of a revelation I had shared with my pastors a number years ago when we were away at a conference.

I had told them that ever since I came to know Jesus, I've found it a joy to practice His presence. Whenever I'm feeling down or just plain overwhelmed by circumstances, I always picture Him at my right hand. I shared with my pastors that over time, I noticed I had become less fearful, less stressed, and more authoritative and stronger, just by seeing the Lord with me always. Beloved, you can do this too wherever you are, and sense His peace, love and empowering presence right in the midst of your circumstance!

Well, my sharing became a personal revelation for this pastor and he ran with it. He would see the Lord with him every time he led worship or prayed for someone. He told me that he realised it wasn't about him, but that it was all about the Lord. So after he had prayed for someone, he would step aside and let the Lord do the healing. And just by seeing the Lord with him all the time, his anointing, which has blessed many in my congregation, grew!

Beloved, the Lord is with you and He has given you the authority to command the forces of darkness, such as diseases, negative situations and evil spirits, to depart. So use your God-given authority to pray powerful prayers and usher in the Lord's divine life, health, wisdom, favour and supply into your life and the lives of others. Through what the Lord will do in and through you when you pray, many will see that you have a God who cares, who is willing to help and who is most able!

© Copyright Joseph Prince, 2013. All rights reserved.

- Recommended CD messages:
- *How To Pray Powerful Prayers*, 16 June 2013
  - *What Is Earnest Prayer To God*, 22 May 2011

To obtain the CD messages, visit the Media Resource Counters on service days, Rock Gifts & Book Centre (6694 3007) or [www.josephprince.com](http://www.josephprince.com)



It's the  
MOST  
Wonderful  
Time  
of the  
Year

WRITTEN BY DAWN HU AND GERALD WEE

A time for holidays with the kids, family gatherings, and winding down and chilling out with close friends. Yet in the midst of festive gift giving, evergreen trees, dazzling lights, stuffed turkey and baked ham, it can be easy to lose sight of the ultimate Giver, the One who gives Christmas its true meaning. SOLID ROCK looks at what makes this the hap-happiest season of all.



## I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

When the Tabenskys first moved to Singapore from Melbourne in 2007, they arrived with "a few boxes of toys that the kids wanted to keep, some suitcases and a bed".

Basic furniture like a sofa and dining set were purchased, but their home was still largely empty even as Christmas approached.

"The house was really bare at the time," recalled Veinny, a counsellor with New Creation Church. "The walls were empty and we didn't even have a Christmas tree!"

Past Christmases were spent with Deacon Aaron's parents in their cosy countryside house in Victoria, Australia. "There would be candles everywhere and even the smell of pine from the Christmas tree. Most importantly, mom would have the lamb ready. It's a tradition."

Thankfully, the family did replicate one tradition during their first Christmas in Singapore – having their meal with roast lamb. "When I first arrived in Singapore, I couldn't believe the price of lamb here," laughed Deacon Aaron. "It cost over \$70 for a leg of lamb! But we roasted it in the little oven that we had, and it tasted good."

Today, having roast lamb is not only a nostalgic memory of their first Christmas in Singapore, it also reminds them of the true reason for the season.

"Christmas to us is about the coming of our Saviour, and I love the idea that all around the world – whether they realise it or not – people are coming together to give praise to the Lord when they sing Christmas carols. It warms our hearts," Deacon Aaron said.

"Every Christmas, I try to sit down with the kids and tell them the Christmas story again: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to men,*" nodded Deacon Aaron. "It keeps things in perspective, because Jesus is what Christmas is really all about."

## WISE MEN (AND WOMAN) SAY

"We venture to assert, that if there be any day in the year, of which we may be pretty sure that it was not the day on which the Saviour was born, it is the 25th of December. Regarding not the day, let us, nevertheless, give thanks to God for the gift of His dear Son."

CHARLES SPURGEON

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God."

C.S. LEWIS (MERE CHRISTIANITY)

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that He might offer up His life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas."

REV. BILLY GRAHAM

"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand."

MOTHER TERESA

## DEBUNKING CHRISTMAS MYTHS

Sources: Christian Answers.net, Wikipedia



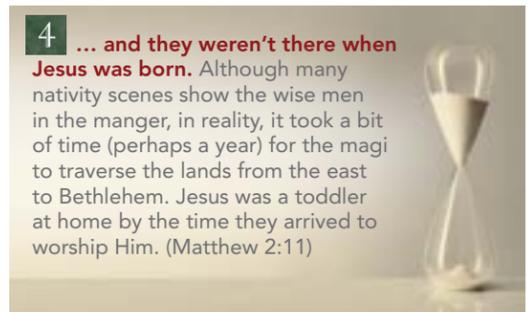
**1** Christ was **not** born on the 25th of December. It would have been too cold for shepherds to be out in the fields at night looking after their flock when the angels appeared. (Luke 2:8) But that's okay! Most theologians place the birth of Jesus in late September, which means that December the 25th could very possibly be the date of His conception!



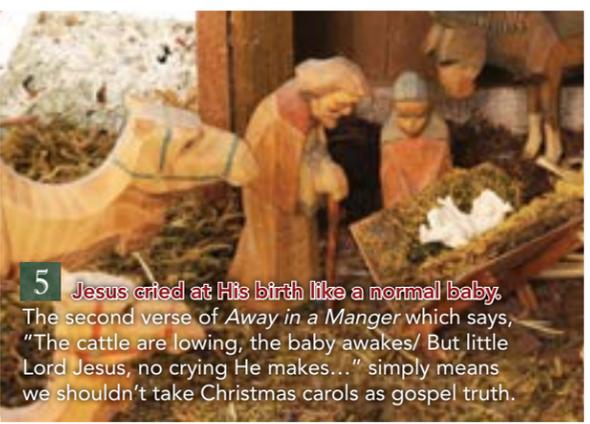
**2** The star didn't just appear for one night when Jesus was born! For about a year, it continued to lead the wise men to Jesus! (Matthew 2:2, 9-10)



**3** There probably weren't **three wise men**... The Bible doesn't say how many wise men came to worship Jesus, just that they brought three gifts. (Matthew 2:1-2, 11)



**4** ... and they weren't there when **Jesus was born**. Although many nativity scenes show the wise men in the manger, in reality, it took a bit of time (perhaps a year) for the magi to traverse the lands from the east to Bethlehem. Jesus was a toddler at home by the time they arrived to worship Him. (Matthew 2:11)



**5** **Jesus cried at His birth like a normal baby**. The second verse of *Away in a Manger* which says, "The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes/ But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes..." simply means we shouldn't take Christmas carols as gospel truth.

**6** **And speaking of Christmas carols...** *Joy To The World* was not originally written as a Christmas carol. Composed by Isaac Watts, the song (which is based heavily on Psalm 98) was in fact about Christ's second coming, and not His birth.



## THINGS "YULE" WANT TO DO FOR CHRISTMAS!

**SET ASIDE A SPECIAL FAMILY DEVOTIONAL TIME** to read the Christmas story in Luke 1:26-38 and 2:1-20. For visual impact, if you are creatively inclined, you can even set up the nativity scene in your home, complete with manger, farm animals, and shepherds. Train your dogs and cats to baaaaa. Ok just kidding.

**VISIT THE ZOO.** For an instant manger scene, you could just visit Kidzworld at our very own Singapore Zoo. You'll find a stable and all the requisite farm animals necessary for a cool nativity scene. Middle-eastern dress attire is purely optional.

**PLAN TO GIVE.** More than just giving presents to your family and friends, you could make this an occasion to bless others. Perhaps a donation to help orphanages or the elderly?

**WRITE CHRISTMAS CARDS.** It's a great time to encourage your friends with the good news of Jesus' birth! (It will also be a good way to get your kids to do some writing!) Do it the traditional way to reminisce the times bygone when one actually had to send mail by licking stamps and using a pen.

**GO TO BETHLEHEM** for an authentic Christmas experience! Well, it's probably too late this year (if you haven't already locked in your plane ticket and hotel accommodations), but it's never too early to start preparing for next year.

**ATTEND OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES.** Unless you are already set on Bethlehem, don't forget to attend our special Christmas church service on Sunday, 22 December 2013 together with your family! "Yule" have an awesome time!

# BLESSED BIBLICAL NUMBERS

Ever heard of *The 12 Days of Christmas*? The one with French hens and a partridge in a pear tree? Inspired by the famous carol, we look at the numbers 1-12 to see how they point back to Jesus.

<p>1 Jesus Christ, God's Only Son, the centrepiece of Christmas and the Bible!</p>	<p>2 The Old and New Testaments, which bears witness to God's perfect plan of salvation for the world, through Jesus.</p>	<p>3 The three enduring virtues of Faith, Hope and Love, (1 Corinthians 13:13) which we have in Christ!</p>
<p>4 Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all show Jesus off in His multifaceted glory!</p>	<p>5 First five books of the Old Testament. The history of fallen humanity and God's grace response by calling a people to Himself! It typifies our own failure before Grace found us.</p>	<p>6 Six days of creation. (Genesis 1) God is the creator and sustainer of the world. Jesus is not just creator, but redeemer!</p>
<p>7 Seven symbolises rest, perfection and completion. We can rest because of the complete and perfect work of Jesus on the cross! (Hebrews 4:3)</p>	<p>8 A total of eight writers penned the New Testament. They wrote of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, as well as His present-day ministry and eternal priesthood.</p>	<p>9 Nine fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22-23) We shall bear these fruit as we look to Jesus, our true Vine, and abide in Him! (John 15:1-2)</p>
<p>10 Ten commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) Only Jesus, our perfect high priest could keep them all and be the perfect offering! (Hebrews 4:15)</p>	<p>11 Eleven faithful disciples. (Luke 6:14-16) God sees us in our faith as we look to Jesus for supply.</p>	<p>12 Twelve precious stones, signifying the tribes of Israel, on the high priest's breastplate. (Exodus 28:17-19) Likewise, we are precious, beloved, and always on the heart of Jesus, our High Priest!</p>

Sources: Christian Resource Institute and biblestudy.org

## A LIFE-GIVING CHRISTMAS

Christmas 2013 will be dramatically different for Zoe Chang.

After all, the 23-year-old almost lost her life in July when the tail end of a long industrial trailer smashed into the rear end of her friend's hatchback, leaving her trapped in the backseat.

"I was asleep when the accident happened, and did not even know how serious it was until my family told me," she shared.

She was travelling along the North-South Expressway Central Link in Malaysia, also known as the Elite Highway, when a trailer suddenly ran off the left shoulder, struck the end of a guard rail, and headed straight into her path.

"I was seated at the left passenger seat, exactly where the trailer slammed into," she added. "After that I don't remember much."

The hatchback was so badly smashed that the rear-end of the car collapsed and caved in.

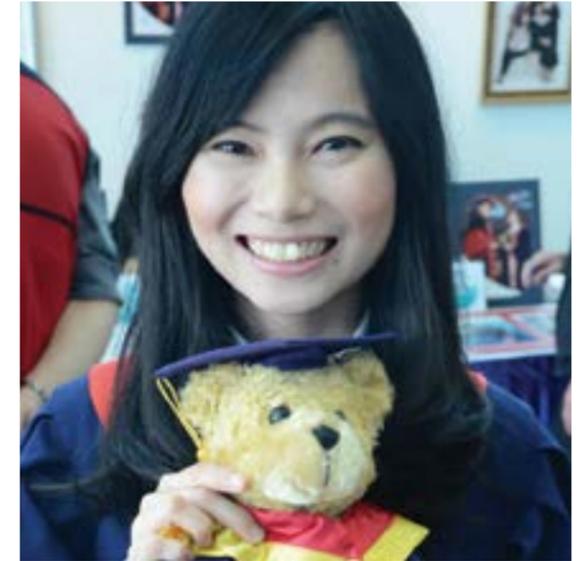
All the primary school teacher could remember was how she "could not open the right eye" and how passers-by tried to pull and tug her out from the wreck. She was instantly taken to the Intensive Care Unit where she suffered transient loss of consciousness, a brain haemorrhage, and craniofacial injuries. By grace, Zoe was out of the Intensive Care Unit in five days.

"Even my family who don't yet know Jesus says that they have seen the hand of God in this incident," she added, smiling.

While she is on the road to recovery today, Zoe is still facing blurred vision in her right eye, and a loss of sense of smell and taste.

"It is hard as it has made my life so tasteless!" Zoe pointed out. "But I know that our God is a good God and He will make all things work together for my good and restore what the enemy is trying to steal."

This also means that Christmas activities will be cut back to a minimum this year. Pot bless gatherings will



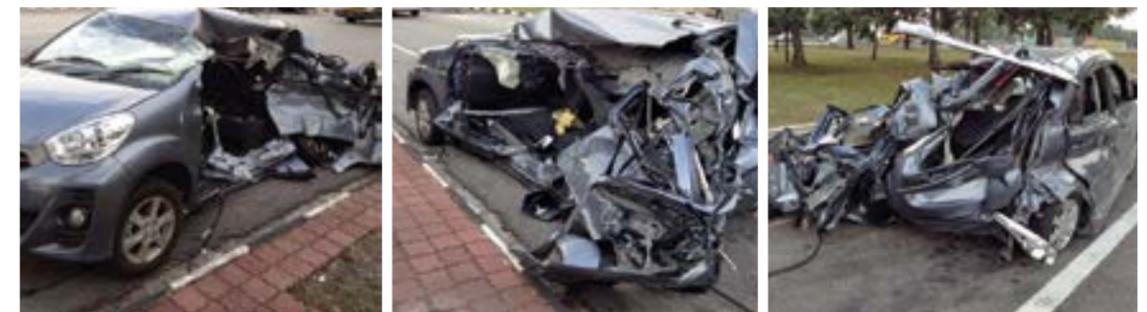
"... I really thank God for His grace that has preserved me in the car accident."

also be dramatically different when she sees her favourite Christmas food – curry chicken.

"I also have to be more careful when I am walking in a crowded place, and need to be more careful to avoid bumping into people," she noted. "I also cannot wait for God's restoration of my senses!"

Despite that, she is especially grateful for the festive season. "Christmas reminds me that He was born in this world to save me, and I really thank God for His grace that has preserved me in the car accident."

"I am looking forward because every new day reminds me that Jesus loves me and that He gives me life to live."





GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,  
AND ON EARTH PEACE,  
GOODWILL TOWARD MEN!

LUKE 2:14

BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU  
AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

WITH LOVE,  
THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

POWER OF  
**RIGHT BELIEVING**

USA TOUR • 2013

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY | LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA | HOUSTON, TEXAS | DALLAS, TEXAS

01 NOV

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
PRUDENTIAL CENTER



06 NOV

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
LONG BEACH ARENA



09/10 NOV

HOUSTON, TEXAS  
LAKEWOOD CHURCH



13 NOV

DALLAS, TEXAS  
VERIZON THEATRE



Believe right and you'll live right.

That one simple but powerful message reverberated throughout the USA in November 2013 with a preaching tour that began in Newark, New Jersey and concluded in Dallas, Texas.

Tens of thousands of lives were touched as Senior Pastor Joseph Prince proclaimed the finished work of Jesus to capacity crowds in the states of New Jersey, California and Texas. The enthusiasm was evident on social media as well.

In a Facebook posting, a Newark participant shared that the USA tour will go down as [one of the most] "memorable moments of her life". Using the online moniker @Beloved Ambuche, she said, "It has been a great privilege to have Pastor Joseph Prince and the New Creation Church worship team in America."

"I was in Newark but I still have a hangover from the event," she added. "Is there such a thing as spiritual hangover?"

Singaporeans like churchgoer Simon Tan, who happened to be in Los Angeles for a holiday also took the blessed opportunity

to experience the conference first-hand. "It was so surreal to be soaking in the message of God's grace from Singapore, and then to be able to watch Pastor Prince live all the way in Los Angeles," he said excitedly.

Millions more were impacted as Pastor Prince preached on the power of the Holy Communion on Trinity Broadcasting Network's (TBN's) *Praise The Lord* programme on 30 October while in New York. TBN is the world's largest Christian television network with a global reach of millions of homes across the USA and the world.

For Brenda Kimble Johnson who travelled over 1,000km from Atlanta to Dallas, it was "an incredible evening" and "worth the trip". "Thank you for coming and bringing the good news of His grace in such a powerful way!" she said.

Praise God for the gospel of grace that is making waves in the USA!

For more photo and tour highlights, go to <http://events.josephprince.org/events>



# PRAISE REPORTS

## BLESSED RESTORATION BABY

My husband and I got married in February 2002. Since then, I have had three miscarriages, two of them in the second trimester. I have looked to various sources of medicine and therapy, all to no avail.

My third miscarriage in January last year happened when I was in the fifth month of my pregnancy. During a routine check-up, we were told that the fetus' heart had simply stopped beating. We were devastated, having trusted God for a baby after the second miscarriage just roughly a year before that.

Praise God for the teachings of Pastor Joseph Prince on restoration. I felt the Lord tell me that He knew what I had gone through and that He would restore a child of double or triple quality! After the third miscarriage, I also joined a care group. When I shared with my care group members, they prayed over me and reminded me of God's promises. They affirmed what I felt, that restoration would take place.

Within three months, I conceived again and even though I experienced several issues including gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia and a hormone imbalance, I praise the Lord that the pregnancy progressed well with all the issues under control.

On 8 January 2013, my daughter Darlene was born! She is a wonder in my eyes. While we had been repeatedly told by my parents to consider adoption because of the challenges we had faced, we continued to trust God. And indeed, our restoration has come, and I am trusting God for more children. All glory to our Lord Jesus!

- Patricia Cheung Kwai Yan



<sup>b6</sup> I FELT THE LORD  
TELL ME THAT  
HE WOULD RESTORE  
A CHILD OF DOUBLE OR  
TRIPLE QUALITY.<sup>dd</sup>

## A SAVED HOUSEHOLD

When I received Christ about 10 years ago, my heart's desire was to see my family come to the saving knowledge of Jesus. I kept believing and trusting in God and His Word that says, "... believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." (Acts 16:31)

Over the years, I've shared testimonies with my parents, and God opened up their hearts and they began to be more receptive to hear about Him. My parents even attended a few services in my previous church but did not do so regularly due to work commitments. However, my grandmother, whom I am very close to, still had not been to church.

In January 2012, I made New Creation Church (NCC) my home church, and started serving in Rock Kids, our church's children's ministry.

Last year, my grandmother met with an accident. Her hip and hand were injured and she had to undergo an operation. During that period of time, I kept praying for her and speaking healing into her body. I felt God open her heart to such an extent that there were even times when she asked me to pray for her.

I continued to trust God to open the door for her to hear the gospel in Hokkien as I'm not really fluent in the dialect. When I learnt that there was going to be a Chinese Ministry healing service on 30 June 2013, I was excited and invited my grandmother and parents to the service.

They were immensely blessed by the message that Pastor Mark Ng (NCC's Chinese Ministry pastor) shared. Pastor Mark also prayed for my grandmother after the service, and she and my parents received Jesus as their Saviour!

<sup>b6</sup> WHAT TOUCHES ME MOST IS  
TO SEE MY PARENTS AND  
GRANDMOTHER RECEIVE GOD'S  
WORD INTO THEIR HEARTS!<sup>dd</sup>

My grandmother is generally a pessimistic person who uses negative words and has a negative outlook on life. However, since that service, I can sense God's peace in her mind and heart. Our family continues to believe that she will be completely healed, but what touches me most is to see my parents and grandmother receive God's Word into their hearts!

God is faithful, awesome and amazing. All the glory goes to Him!

- Arielle

## OPEN DOOR TO BLESSED CAREER

I was under tremendous work stress for over a year. I was constantly put down by negative feedback from colleagues. Since the beginning of this year, one of my prayer requests to God was for a better job, and that He would open doors that are good for me, and close those that are bad.

As I listened to Pastor Prince's CD messages and sermons, I began to speak in faith that the "mountains" with regards to my career would be removed. I confessed every day that my Lord supplies all my needs according to His riches. To my surprise, my work situation worsened, and the company downsized. I was given a golden handshake and some time to look for alternative employment.

Dismayed, I began applying for new jobs, but I couldn't find employment even after interviews with 10 different companies. I felt disappointed, but amazingly, did not panic or go into depression. There was a peace in me that I could not explain and I started to live life simply: exercising, helping others, and spending time with my family. I also spent more time studying the Bible and started to serve in church. I decided to trust God rather than strive by my own effort.

Finally, God opened the door for me in His good time. I was called up by two companies that had previously rejected me. After more interviews, both offered me positions that were better suited for me, and offered better remuneration packages than my previous job! My heavenly Father not only opened one door, but two doors for me to choose from! I chose the one that would let me continue to serve in church.

The earlier closed doors were actually blessings! Our Lord Jesus did not want me to rush into a bad job, because He wants the best for me. Praise God for His perfect answer to my prayers!

- The writer has requested to remain anonymous.



<sup>b6</sup> WHEN I RECEIVED THE REVELATION OF WHAT JESUS DID FOR ME, MY HEART STARTED TO CHANGE. <sup>ad</sup>

<sup>b6</sup> I DECIDED TO TRUST GOD RATHER THAN STRIVE BY MY OWN EFFORT. <sup>ad</sup>



## RELATIONSHIP WITH SON TRANSFORMED BY GRACE

I am a father of three children: Tiago Emanuel, Diogo Gabriel and Melanie, aged nine, five and four respectively.

When Tiago was born in 2004 we were very happy. Yet because of what I experienced in my own childhood (I was beaten and badly treated by my father), I projected that same image on Tiago and was often aggressive towards him. I didn't like what I was doing, but the more I tried to stop, the more aggressive I became. I often felt condemned and frustrated that I couldn't treat Tiago better.

The situation got worse when my second son Diogo was born. I felt a special affinity with Diogo and treated him more tenderly and kindly than Tiago. And when Melanie, the princess of my life, was born in 2009, I gave so much of my love to her that it almost seemed like I despised Tiago.

Tiago felt the effects of my favouritism, and I felt guilty about my behaviour. Yet, I could not help myself and felt powerless to change the situation.

In 2011, I heard the gospel of grace for the first time. Then, I started listening to the preaching of Pastor Joseph Prince and read his books. When I received the revelation of what Jesus did for me, my heart started to change.

By grace, my relationship with my wife and children, particularly with Tiago, improved. When I realised how much I was loved by God, my behaviour towards Tiago started to change, without any effort on my part! I stopped condemning him, but used words of grace to guide him instead.

As I continued to listen to Pastor Prince's sermons every day, my heart also seemed to be transformed day by day. My feelings towards Tiago also changed and today, my relationship with him is totally different. I am amazed by the wisdom that God gives me to educate my kids through the preaching of Pastor Prince!

Praise God for this transformation in my life.

- Emanuel Rendas

## HEALED OF LUPUS

In 2008, I was diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus (or lupus), an incurable autoimmune disorder, which affects the skin, joints and other major body organs.

I had swollen ankles and was in constant pain. Refusing to acknowledge its presence, I went on living my life as I always did. I was content to be on long-term medication and put up with the regular visits to my rheumatologist every three months.

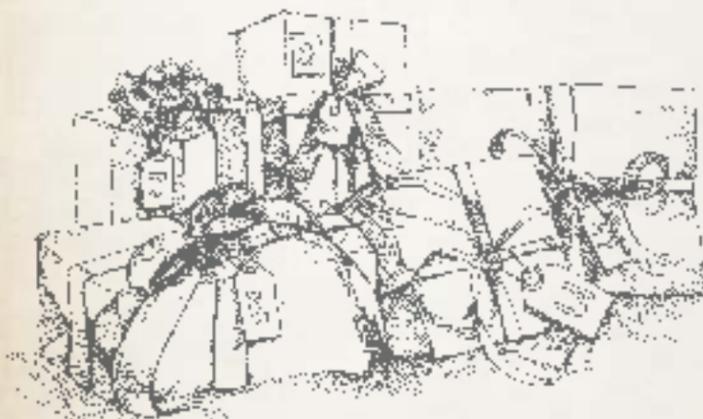
One night in April 2013, I realised I was no longer content with receiving test reports showing a low blood cell count. I felt prompted to pray and believe God for a miracle.

Having learnt that God wants to give good gifts to His beloveds like how we want to give wonderful presents to our loved ones, I told God that I wanted complete healing from lupus. I wanted healing as my birthday present as my birthday would come before my next medical appointment in July.

Three months later, I went for my usual check-up and for the first time in six years, my blood test came back normal!

Thank you Pastor Prince for sharing the gospel and unveiling Jesus to us. Through this knowledge, I am able to possess my blessings and healing which He died to give me. Praise the Lord!

- Carmen Lee-Melia



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELIZA CHOO

*66* GOD WANTS TO GIVE  
GOOD GIFTS TO HIS BELOVEDS  
LIKE HOW WE WANT TO  
GIVE WONDERFUL PRESENTS  
TO OUR LOVED ONES. *66*

### SEND US YOUR TESTIMONY

Do you have a praise report about God's goodness and faithfulness in your life?

Email [testimonies@newcreation.org.sg](mailto:testimonies@newcreation.org.sg) and share your testimony with us.



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

## A Rhapsody of Thanksgiving

Check out our Christmas specials today!

*Gift with purchase* Spend above \$100 nett to receive a keychain or choose your gift (keychain or wall plaque) when you spend above \$150 nett in a single receipt. While stocks last.

**rock** gifts & book centre

1 vista exchange green, #02-07, the star vista, singapore 138617 tel: (65) 6694 3007 fax: (65) 6694 3002

operating hours: monday-saturday, 10.30am-10pm; sunday, 7.30am-10pm

[www.rgbc.com.sg/onlinestore](http://www.rgbc.com.sg/onlinestore) [www.facebook.com/rgbcsg](https://www.facebook.com/rgbcsg)

# Overcoming Scoliosis

When life hands her lemons (or a spine condition), STEPHANIE LIU runs a marathon. The 23-year-old shares her journey and how grace superabounds in her weakness.



I've been diagnosed with slipped disc and scoliosis (S-shaped spine) since I was 16. The protruding parts of the discs in my spine are crushing my nerves, and there's a numbing sensation that spreads all the way down my left leg. Sometimes, the pain in my back gets so bad that I am not able to lift my legs. The doctors I've seen feel sorry for me because I am so young. They tell me to have surgery to remove the bulging parts of the discs, but I refuse because the discs could easily slip out again.

Over the years, I've become an expert in dealing with the pain. I am careful with my posture, how I sleep, and how I carry things or bend down. During the times when I am not careful, I get a relapse. That is when the pain gets really bad. My whole back stiffens, and I can't even get out of bed. Also, because I tend to place more weight on the right side of my body, I regularly see a chiropractor to adjust my spine.

A few years ago, during a relapse, the pain got so bad that I had to go for a second MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). The doctors discovered that I have two slipped discs. That was quite depressing, considering how I've been trying to be a "good girl" in taking care of my back. Not only did it not get better, it got worse.

In 2007, I started attending New Creation Church. It was the year when Pastor Joseph Prince said that our church was going to be a centre for healing and when we had occasional midweek healing sessions.

While I would like to say that I was instantly healed at one of those sessions, that didn't happen. Week after week, I listened and fed on the Word. Every Sunday, Pastor Prince would remind us that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness, and that we're already healed. I was comforted knowing I just have to rest in the Father's love and receive all the healing and blessings that Jesus paid for me on the cross.

Slowly, as I kept listening to His Word, I somehow stopped obsessing over my back. I figured Jesus died so I can have an abundant life, so I began to live life as

if I was already healed. I started to live my life as if I didn't have any back problems, and would go running. I prayed for protection and by God's grace, I've been okay. I've had relapses, but I've noticed that they've been less frequent and the recovery time is much shorter.

Last year, I attempted my first half marathon. Throughout the run, I declared that God would renew my strength, and I would run and not grow weary. (Isaiah 40:31) Sure enough, He did and I finished the race way under my expected finish time.

"I figured Jesus died so I can have an abundant life, so I began to live life as if I was already healed."

Then, I took part in a race that consisted of a 10km run followed by a 30-storey vertical climb up a building. I wanted to distract myself after the run so I listened to my iPod while I climbed and before I knew it, I was at the top and my race was over. I was afraid to check the timing as I thought it would be horrible, but amazingly, I was in the top 10 per cent!

Since then, I've also climbed Mount Kinabalu and made it all the way to the summit. God's grace superabounds in my weakness! All things are possible with Him and He always brings me further than I can imagine. Now, every time I collect a medal from a race, the first thing that comes to mind is "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

Even though I'm still waiting for my full healing to manifest, I do not have to sit around and feel sorry for myself. I can be joyful, praise Him and live the abundant life that our Lord Jesus died to give me.



# empower

LIFE NOTES  
A Journey For Life  
Our Favourite Christmas Traditions

## A Journey For Life

Married life is a covenant blessing from the Lord. After one and a half decades, ED HUANG shares his thoughts and lessons learnt on keeping the spark alive in his marriage.



“After all, who wouldn’t want the fountain of our marriage blessed and renewed, leaving us intoxicated with our spouses.”

Come July 2014, I would be married for 15 years.

If you check the list of recommended anniversary gifts compiled by the Chicago Public Library, it means my wife can either expect something from Swarovski (if I go with tradition) or a Cartier watch (for that modern touch). Personally, I think myself a traditionalist.

While the significance of 15 years is not lost on me (three times the number of grace or as I like to see it, grace upon grace upon grace), I know I’m still in my fledgling stages when it comes to the marriage journey.

And like many couples who have been married for a number of years, my marriage has become comfortable, easy, even familiar; perhaps taken for granted.

That is not to say that most of us don’t consider ourselves happily married, although happiness certainly means different things to different folk. Just avoiding frequent quarrels may be considered bliss to some, whilst others may associate happiness with constant romancing, accompanied with regular gestures of affection.

After all, who wouldn’t want the fountain of our marriage blessed and renewed, leaving us intoxicated with our spouses. (Proverbs 5:18-19)

As this is certainly my heart’s desire, I felt profoundly blessed to receive the words of wisdom on marriage longevity offered by Pastor Henry Yeo, our church’s ministry pastor for the west zone care groups who often conducts marriage seminars for the church. I take the liberty to share some of the insights I gleaned.

### SPEAK GOOD WORDS

*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word...*  
Ephesians 5:26

We often hear of how couples need to spend time with each other in order to build a strong relationship.

Yet perhaps even more important than husbands and wives spending quality time with each other is to continue to speak well of each other. In the Bible, for example, King Solomon often uses the words “O fairest among women” to describe his beloved. (Song of Solomon 1:8, 5:9, 6:1)

And in the book of Ephesians, Paul talks about how husbands need to love their wives as Christ loves the church, and cleansing with water by the word means speaking pleasant words which are “sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” (Proverbs 16:24)

This has been a revelation to me, and as an old-school introvert, I find it hard to verbally praise my wife, even though I always appreciate her beauty, both inside and out.

Yet I learnt that speaking well can begin as simply as saying “please” and “thank you” to each other. And as we spend time talking together, I’ve actually found it easier to commend her on her wisdom and insights.

I’ll probably need a bit more time before I become comfortable with telling her that she is the fairest among ten thousand, but I’ll get there, by God’s grace!

### HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

*with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love...*  
Ephesians 4:2

In marriage, things will not always go smoothly, and this is when Pastor Henry advises speedy resolutions whenever conflicts arise.

“Don’t let issues, whether it is about personal finances, children or living with in-laws, accumulate,” Pastor Henry pointed out. “The longer you wait, the harder it becomes.”

The Bible states not to let the sun go down on your anger. (Ephesians 4:26) And while we may have heard this countless times, this is an important principle for conflict resolution in the long haul and bears repeating.

“A marriage can start out well, but if issues build up and are not addressed, communication will suffer and the relationship will suffer,” Pastor Henry shared. “Don’t sweep things under the carpet. Walk in forgiveness and in love.”

Recently, I was the target of an emotional outburst from my wife. While I’m prone to reacting negatively from outbursts that seem unjustified,

I remembered the counsel I received and quickly got over it before letting the resentment grow. I later found out that she was feeling frustrated about a work-related issue and the pressure of helping our son with his final exams.

In retrospect, “small” things that can spoil the marriage relationship or create tension for hours, a day, or worse, can be averted with a bit of understanding.

### MAKE YOUR HOME A WORK-FREE ENVIRONMENT

*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*  
Matthew 6:35

The marriage journey is not primarily about avoiding problems, but enjoying each other and family life.

This can be difficult, particularly with the advent of teleworking and mobile computing. The incessant ringing of the smartphone makes it easy to be distracted by challenges arising at work, even while at home. So, one thing we do make a point of doing when we get home is to leave our mobile phones in the study (in silent mode).

And as much as possible, even when working late is necessary, we also try to



“‘Small’ things that can spoil the marriage relationship or create tension... can be averted with a bit of understanding.”

have dinner together, and chat about humorous and interesting things that happened during the day, rather than challenges in the workplace.

“Joy is one thing that cannot be missed in marriage,” Pastor Henry said. “The way to overcome challenges is to be happy and joyful. Learn to laugh about things, and not be bogged down with the cares of life.”

### DON'T GIVE UP

*He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favour from the Lord.*  
Proverbs 18:22

Last but not least, there’s just something special about the covenant of marriage that brings joy to the soul. It is a blessing from the Lord (Proverbs 18:22) and it is certainly meant to be enjoyed for life!

That is not to say marriage will be a breeze. With the daily grind of work, endless errands to run, and family life often revolving around children, it often seems to play second fiddle to careers, parenting and household management.

But remember that you are never alone. Jesus takes the marriage covenant seriously, and by relying on Him in every aspect of marriage,

you have all the help you need to form a strong, lasting relationship.

I remember my grandparents’ joy (and ours) when they celebrated their diamond (60th) and platinum (70th) anniversaries in the past couple of decades. And earlier this year, a touching story of 96-year-old Fred Stobaugh went viral. He had written a heartfelt poem *Oh Sweet Lorraine* to remember his wife of 75 years (double diamond) and entered it for a singing competition. While it didn’t meet the entry requirements, a record producer, moved by his love story, put the words to music and gifted Fred with the song.

### CONCLUSION

Ultimately, Pastor Henry shared that the quality of one’s marriage is directly proportional to one’s relationship with the Lord.

“Just as eating and drinking are necessary to maintain our body, so is feeding on the Word and drinking from the Spirit,” he concluded. “We need to be in constant communion with the Lord to tap on His strength for marriage.”

So, with my eye on Jesus, I am confident that I can, like those before me, and should our Lord tarry, look forward to giving my wife a diamond or two in due course. After all, she is certainly worth far more than rubies! (Proverbs 31:10)

# Our Favourite Christmas Traditions

Celebrated around the world, there is perhaps no other occasion quite as rich and unique as Christmas. We speak to four blessed families who share their stories and traditions with SOLID ROCK.



THE MATHEWS FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE, 1997, CANADA.



2012, SINGAPORE.



## THE CHRISTMAS TREE

PASTOR KE MATHEWS AND FAMILY

- 1 **Our favourite tradition** is the Christmas tree.
- 2 **It all began** 17 years ago when we were residing overseas in Vancouver and Rachel was pregnant with Isabel, our eldest. The artificial Christmas trees there were so realistic, and the endless range of beautiful decorations made us feel like kids in a toy store. We never felt so excited as the tree sat dressed in the living room.
- 3 **It is particularly meaningful to us because** the Christmas tree brings us together as a family as we

- put it together. Each person has a part to do, and we listen to Christmas songs, reminisce on things, and just have a good time! The tree just adds to the already joyous spirit and atmosphere of Christmas in the air.
- 4 **This year** we hope to do the same, of course! A few years back we started buying real Christmas trees. Though pricier, the fragrance of pine wafting through the air in the living room each morning is a unique experience.

## FAMILY TIME

DEACON YONG CHEE RAM AND SUSAN



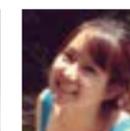
- 1 **Our favourite tradition** is getting together with friends and family.
- 2 **It began when** our children Joseph and Joy were born. When we were younger, we used to go carolling from home to home, proclaiming the birth of Jesus. We enjoyed the fellowship that went with it, and loved the variety of food.
- 3 **It is particularly meaningful to us because** we didn't come from a Christian family so this tradition of inviting family members and friends home for Christmas is special to us.
- 4 **This year**, we will get together again as a family by travelling together. We usually take two weeks off and will spend time doing things together: eating, shopping, golfing and goofing!



FROM LEFT: DEACON CHEE RAM, JOSEPH, SUSAN, JOY AND JOSHUA.



BOTTOM RIGHT: DIANE AND FAMILY



## THEME PARTIES

DIANE HU

- 1 **Our favourite tradition** is the extended family gathering where my sister, cousins and I dress up to a specific party theme!
- 2 **It all began when** our cousins were growing up and wanted to meet their friends instead of sitting down for family dinners. The dress-up theme parties at Christmas did the trick! We would buy or scavenge for materials to make our own costumes! One year, a cousin even came as a Christmas tree, complete with blinking lights!
- 3 **It is particularly meaningful to us because** I love the shared memories created with my family. Even though everyone is in their 20s and 30s now, we still try to do something "silly" every year.
- 4 **This year**, we haven't got a theme yet. Any ideas?

## CAROLLING

SIBLINGS SHARON MARIE AND STANLEY ELIAH LEONG



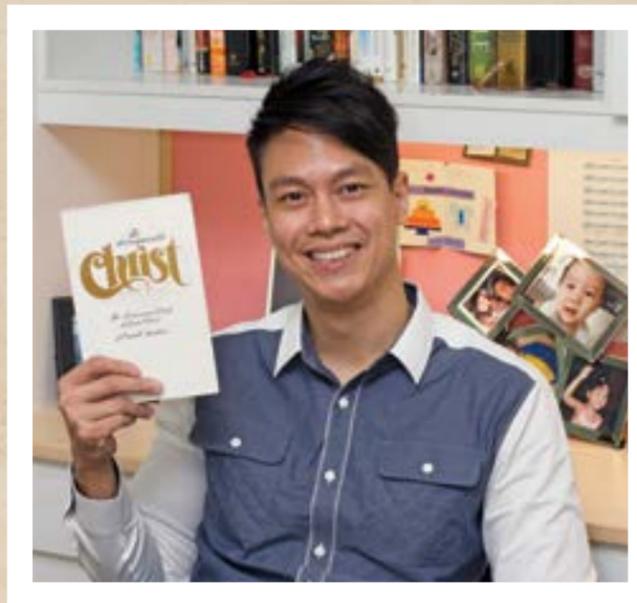
- 1 **Our favourite tradition** is carolling!
- 2 **It all began** in lower primary school. Our older sister would drag us to the piano and make us memorise Christmas carols in parts. We would then perform during family gatherings where we would jump down from the stairs and start singing and dancing!
- 3 **It is particularly meaningful to us because** we still remember the first song we sang: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!* We were pre-believers then and it is so much more meaningful now as the deeper we know Jesus, the more significant Christmas has become for us.
- 4 **This year**, we will still be getting together as a family. But we don't sing as much anymore as everyone has their own plans. But we still enjoy carolling in church!



FROM RIGHT: TWINS STANLEY ELIAH AND SHARON MARIE.

# What Are They Reading?

Ever wanted to know what books our pastors read? Wonder no more. SOLID ROCK sat down with Pastor Lawrence Lim to find out what's on his bookshelf.



THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST  
BY J. OSWALD SANDERS  
PUBLISHER: MOODY PRESS

of the Son of God. He also talks about how the Lord never needed to retract any word He said. Every word He said was perfect in every way. For many of us, when we say something, the timing or tone may not be right even though what we say may be right. However, everything the Lord says is beautiful in every way, and everything that the Lord did was perfect and beautiful. There is nothing negative that any man can ever say about our Lord.

### ANY TAKEAWAYS?

Plenty! But I would say that the book really helped me discover how beautiful the Lord is. It opened my eyes to see Jesus in such a way that all I want to do is worship Him. Sometimes we can read about the Lord, but we need revelation to see Him for who He really is. What J. Oswald Sanders has done is to portray the Lord in such a way that it draws admiration from me for the Lord.

### CAN YOU SHARE YOUR READING HABITS?

I usually read at home, either in the living room or bedroom. I also tend to read early in the morning or late at night.

### FINALLY, WHAT OTHER GENRES DO YOU ENJOY READING?

I actually enjoy Chinese fiction.

### WHAT BOOK ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?

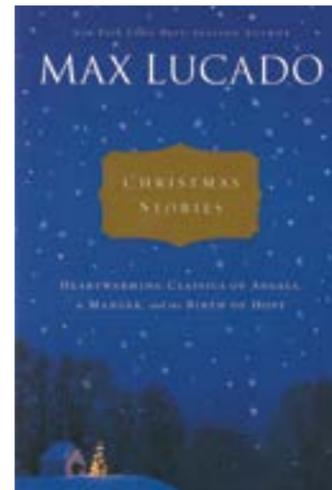
I actually read many books at a time, but there is this book I always read and refer to: *The Incomparable Christ* by J. Oswald Sanders.

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS BOOK?

I seldom see books that portray Jesus the way this author does. It goes into the various aspects of Christ like His moral perfection, His physique and appearance. I like the fact that the book is exclusively about Jesus, that the author impart scriptural truths and that he includes many poems about Christ; beautiful words that describe our Lord.

### WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THIS BOOK AND WHY?

The author talks about how Jesus is so perfect. First, He was sinless, tempted in every way but without sin. That can only be an attribute



CHRISTMAS STORIES  
BY MAX LUCADO  
PUBLISHER: THOMAS NELSON

## CHRISTMAS STORIES

This book of short stories will enthrall you. Get drawn into the compelling story of *The Christmas Candle* set in the 1800s. Be transported to modern day Texas, before getting dizzyingly swept up to the heavens for an angel's eye view of God's salvation plan.

While the stories are purely fictitious, their foundation – the enormity and impact of Jesus' birth – is anything but. Through flawed characters, Max Lucado encourages readers to come close to Jesus regardless of their circumstances.

The longest story is nearly 100 pages long, but what touched me most was a short two-page entry, *Maybe He Is the Messiah*. I was reminded of a simple yet powerful truth: when we start looking at Jesus in the people around us, our outlook on life changes and we start enjoying His blessings.

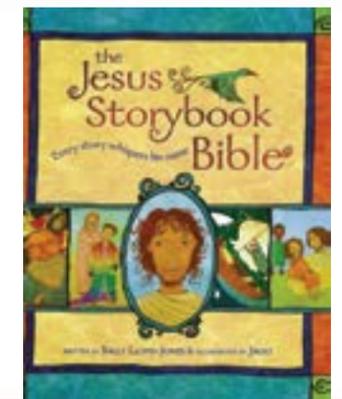
This easy-to-read book is perfect for this festive season and it will warm your heart. – KELLY LIM

## THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE

Written for young children aged four and above, this volume packages stories in the Bible and presents it as a collection of interesting stories in normal everyday English.

This book really lives up to its tagline: "Every story whispers His name". Even if it is about Old Testament characters like Abraham, David or Jonah, the author always makes reference to the real story, Jesus, and how God would come to rescue His children.

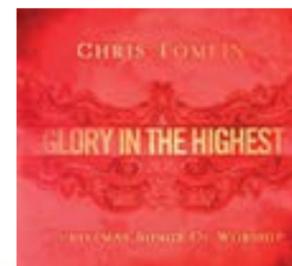
The illustrations are awesome too! I particularly enjoyed the funny drawings of flowers wearing clothes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It makes this volume perfect for parents with nursery or kindergarten children. – BRYAN WEE



THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE  
BY SALLY LLOYD-JONES  
PUBLISHER: ZONDERKIDZ

## GLORY IN THE HIGHEST

I was recently browsing through iTunes for some Christmas music to listen to this year. I chanced upon *Glory In The Highest: Christmas Songs Of Worship* by Chris Tomlin, Grammy Award-winning worship leader/composer. Although the Dove Award-nominated album was released in 2009, I found that it transcended time by staying true to the classics. As a traditionalist, I liked that it maintained the familiar arrangements of some of my all-time favourite Christmas carols like *O Come All Ye Faithful* and *O Holy Night*. Yet, the album managed to stay fresh by blending in upbeat arrangements with other songs, and introducing a number of new compositions. With the focus on the worship of Jesus, this album will definitely bring out the true meaning of Christmas. – GERALD WEE



GLORY IN THE HIGHEST:  
CHRISTMAS SONGS OF WORSHIP  
BY CHRIS TOMLIN

All resources are available at most Christian bookstores.



JosephPrince.com wishes you a

# Blessed Christmas



**20% STOREWIDE DISCOUNT**

Until 31st December 2013

Use this code at checkout to enjoy  
**FREE SHIPPING** right to your doorstep\*  
 JP13SR



\* limited to addresses within Singapore

Log on to  
**JOSEPHPRINCE.COM**

