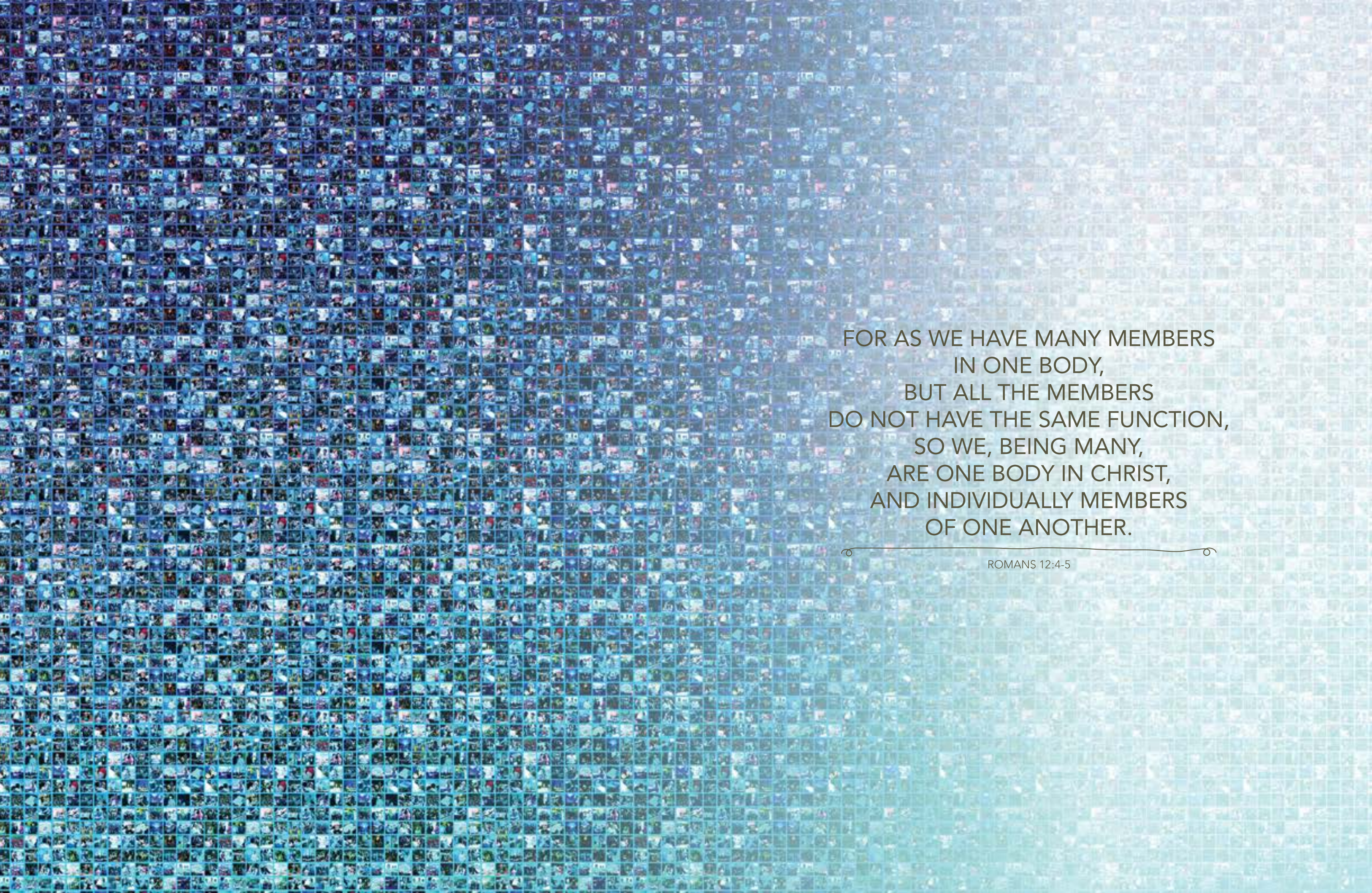


SOLID ROCK

CONNECTED BY GRACE
LIVING THE BLESSED CHURCH LIFE



FOR AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS
IN ONE BODY,
BUT ALL THE MEMBERS
DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION,
SO WE, BEING MANY,
ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST,
AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS
OF ONE ANOTHER.

ROMANS 12:4-5

SOLID ROCK

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

MCI (P) 014/01/2014

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LETTER FROM THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

“He who dwells in the secret place
of the Most High
shall abide under the shadow
of the Almighty.”

Psalm 91:1

It is easy to get disheartened by what makes the news headlines these days. Political and civil unrest, tragic accidents, rising prices and failing economies seem to be blanketing the earth.

How apt it is then, that in this year of greater glory, God in His Word has given us assurance that while darkness covers the earth, the Lord Himself will arise over us, His people, and that His glory shall be seen upon us and His church. (Isaiah 60:2)

In **That's Psalm Protection!** (pg 34), we discover how some church members have experienced the divine protection that is found in Psalm 91, and share some tips on how you can make this beloved psalm personal to you.

We are also grateful that despite what happens in the world, we, as a glorious church, can always come together as one grace family to walk life's journey together. **Community Matters** (pg 16) looks at blessed church members who found fellowship and connection while volunteering their time in church.

Volunteering in church is certainly a great way to connect with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Pastor Joseph Purcell shares a blessed experience in **From The Heart.** (pg 13)

There's much to be grateful for in our church that we call home. As the saying goes, home is where the heart is. So let this ring true for us in this season and time – that where our hearts are, there is always rest, encouragement, safety and protection in the shadow of His mighty wings.

THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

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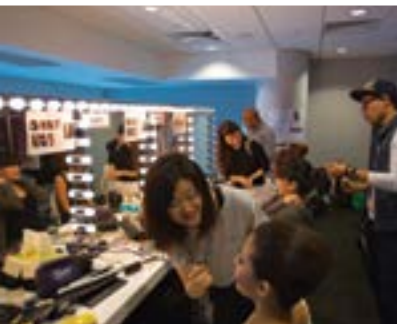
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engage

CHURCH LIFE
FROM THE HEART
TEN MINUTES WITH
FEATURE



resurrection sunday

Sunday, 20 April 2014 was twice as special because we not only celebrated the finished work of Jesus at our Resurrection Sunday services, but also with millions in the United States and around the globe!

Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), the world's largest Christian network, broadcasted New Creation Church's entire Resurrection Sunday service just hours later on television and online as America awoke to celebrate Resurrection Sunday.

All were treated to a powerful solo vocals opening followed by a haunting dance number utilising state-of-the-art audio-visual imagery that culminated in a rapture which points to the hope we have in Christ.

Senior Pastor Joseph Prince preached a powerful message, reminding us that Jesus has overpaid for all our sins on the cross, and that we can now rest in His perfect and finished work. To bring home this powerful truth, Pastor Prince unveiled the deeply moving animation, Calvary Animation Video (What Happened At The Cross) for the first time.

As the celebrations came to a close, Pastor Prince declared blessings and the protection of Psalm 91 over the entire congregation.

"What an awesome service," enthused Mariko, a congregation member. "I came out of that Resurrection Sunday service with my faith strengthened and hope renewed."



A SCENE FROM CALVARY ANIMATION VIDEO (WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS).



blessed birthday, pastor prince!

On Sunday, 11 May 2014, our church celebrated Senior Pastor Joseph Prince's birthday in advance, and appreciated him for putting Jesus in the centre of his life and ministry, giving us the privilege to be at the forefront of a worldwide grace revolution. Through his leadership, we have received grace upon grace!

One highlight of the post-sermon celebration was a lighthearted skit which re-enacted different key points in Pastor Prince's life. This included the time when wave after wave of God's goodness captivated him even as a teenager studying the Bible late into the night on the common staircase of the flat where he stayed. It was a place often frequented by roving cockroaches.

And true to tradition, our church pastors came out in force to participate in the skit, leaving the congregation in stitches with their onstage antics as they sportingly played the roles of those nocturnal insects. Francine Zhang, our church make-up and wardrobe head, shared how much thought had been put into giving each "cockroach" a personality. For example, "Aspiring Butterfly" Pastor Gabriel Tan had rainbow wings while "Master Shifu" Pastor Joash Siow completed his look with an oriental cap and fan, she said.

"Our desire was to appreciate and honour Pastor Prince for pointing us to Jesus," said Pastor Joash. "All the pastors were enthusiastic about showing their affection for a man they love and respect – someone who has remained faithful to God's call to preach the gospel of grace."

Other scenes in the skit included the times when Pastor Prince was called by the Lord to be a full-time pastor and our church's humble beginnings when it first met in a HDB (Housing Development Board) flat. The celebration ended with Pastor Prince coming on stage to cut the birthday cake with his family – Wendy, Jessica and Justin – giving all the glory to Jesus, and thanking the congregation for their support through the years.



hei campaign

Hei there! We have a new look! On Sunday, 6 April 2014, our church unveiled a new grace-filled logo throughout our four Sunday services at different venues. The refreshed look is timely and celebrates the goodness of God.

"We incorporated the symbol ה (hei) in our new look to express the grace we experience through our Lord Jesus Christ," Deacon Matthew Kang, chairman of our Church Council explained. "It is also a part of the church's vision to unveil Him through the preaching of the gospel of grace, and this is what we hope to communicate through our new logo."

ה (pronounced as hei) has a pictorial representation of a window and is the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The letter itself also speaks of God's grace and goodness. In addition, the modern script for ה (hei) bears a striking resemblance to the English letter "n", lending itself perfectly to our abbreviation and logo for "New Creation Church" – ncc.

On the first Sunday of the launch, photo booths (complete with the new hei logo) were made available at The Star Performing Arts Centre and Marina Bay Sands venues, much to churchgoers' excitement. Vibrant round button badges were also worn by frontline ministry volunteers serving at all venues and digital wallpapers of our refreshed logo have been made available online. But that's not all! Car decals proclaiming "hei-vyweight" promises were distributed with this year's first edition of the *Solid Rock* magazine. Other exciting "hei" activities will be rolled out progressively throughout the year.



sunday services with pastor ray bevan

Anointed and humorous preaching peppered with song and dance – Pastor Ray Bevan brought all that and more as he blessed our church by preaching the Word of God at all four services on Sunday, 18 May 2014.

Hailing from King's Church in Newport, Wales, Pastor Ray had our congregation members laughing with his infectious humour and impromptu dance moves, and in awe of the power of Jesus' finished work through an anointed message.

Specifically, he declared that the power of sin – contamination, condemnation, separation and limitation – had no hold over us as believers in Christ, and that we can freely receive any and every blessing from God.

"I was so blessed by the message," shared SP Woo, a congregation member. "It was

a powerful reminder that Jesus has paid the price for all my sins, and I can expect good things from God every day."

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

We were also blessed to hear about how New Creation Church has played a part in the *Jesus Cares* initiative by King's Church, a feeding programme that has helped many needy families in Wales. (See box *Jesus Cares*)

Pastor Ray shared how our contribution has helped in the expansion of their premises so volunteers could have a proper place to store and pack the food items they received from donors.

"The support sent allowed us to start the process of packing and distributing the food on a much larger scale than before," he said. "Thank you for being a blessing!"

JESUS CARES

Jesus Cares is an initiative by King's Church to help the community and in particular, families who have no money to feed themselves or their children.

Starting in 2009 with just three ladies working in a small bedroom to provide 10 to 13 food hampers every week, the *Jesus Cares* programme now supplies over 2,000 hampers each month and works with over 200 community agencies throughout South Wales!

"It's the largest feeding programme in our nation and the most effective," said Pastor Ray. "By working with the community, we know that the food parcels we put together are going to the people who need them most."

"As a church, we really just want to bless our community," he added. "The overwhelming deluge of God's grace for our church has just been phenomenal. There has been an avalanche of God's provision – we just facilitate it."

"Jesus really is the only One who can take any credit for this – He breaks the bread and we deliver it to the people."





chinese ministry's praise and worship event

It was a session that could have kept on going because the congregation was loath to leave the Shine Auditorium on Thursday, 1 May 2014, as they soaked in the presence of God in an anointed time of worship.

In a special Praise & Worship event lasting almost two hours, nearly 1,300 members of the Chinese Ministry (aged between seven and 85) enjoyed an extended time of worshipping God in both Hokkien and Mandarin.

There was also a song and video presentation called *Man of Sorrows*, which highlighted Jesus' sufferings on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Pastor Christina Wee then shared how when we look to Jesus and give praises to the Lord, we can be at rest knowing that

He will take care of our needs.

The worship session only ended when Pastor Christina declared the blessings of Psalm 103:1-5 over the congregation, which was received with great joy.

"Seeing the whole congregation young and old coming together as one, lifting their hands praising and singing to the Lord with such joy was very memorable to me," she said. "I could just imagine Daddy God's big smile on them and His big hands hugging His children."

"I really felt the Lord's presence and love," said David Wong, a congregation member. "I was so touched that my Abba God is so good to me."

The Lamb Post



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Once Lost, Now Found: What Church Is All About

"The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the Lord of hosts. "And in this place I will give peace," says the Lord of hosts." (Haggai 2:9)

PASTOR JOSEPH PURCELL

As we journey through this year of greater glory, I am reminded that God's glory will indeed shine brighter than ever, especially in the house of the Lord. (Haggai 2:9)

Something that happened in church a while ago really drove this *rhema* word of God home for me.

Last year, a team of volunteers from our Royal Service Ministry started noticing a young man joining the queue at our GV Marina English service venue every Sunday. They could tell from the way he was dressed that he was likely a homeless person.

One Sunday, this man approached our church members to ask for money to buy food. Our volunteers rightly went up to him and stopped him. But that was not all! They told him that they would give him food every Sunday.

For the next three months, the man came, ate his food, and attended service. Even the cinema staff began to recognise him and one day, one of them noticed this young man's picture while browsing through the missing persons' list on the Singapore Police Force website. It turned out that he had been missing for seven years!

The man was eventually reunited with his family this year and we were just overjoyed. Today, the man still continues to show up for Sunday services, but is now clean shaven, cleaned up and well taken care of.

"I believe we will experience unique blessings, and our hearts will rejoice as we see Him do great and marvellous things!"

I was so touched because this is what church is all about. Our people loved him and fed him, and later rejoiced with him. If they had chased him away, he would very likely still be missing today. They have been a glorious blessing to this man and his family.

I am reminded that truly, in this year of greater glory, our sons shall come from afar, drawn to God's glory in us, His church. (Isaiah 60:4)

I believe we will experience unique blessings, and our hearts will rejoice as we see Him do great and marvellous things! (Jeremiah 33:3) Be expectant!

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



Passion Conferences' first gathering was in 1997 with 2,000 students in Austin, Texas. We've been hosting events in cities across America, and in cities around the world. We've had the privilege of seeing that little seed of Passion '97 bring us to Singapore today.



THE STAR PAC



I first met Pastor Prince in Australia and he was showing us pictures (of The Star PAC). What a great thing it is to be standing in the reality of that vision today!



LOUIE GIGLIO

Pastor Louie Giglio, founder of the impactful Passion Conferences, stopped over in Singapore in March to preach at New Creation Church. SOLID ROCK had a chat with the pastor of Passion City Church as he shared more about his life and vision.

WELCOME TO NEW CREATION CHURCH! CAN YOU SHARE WITH US HOW YOU FIRST CAME TO KNOW JESUS?

I was born in a Baptist hospital and was on the road to faith early on. I loved God as a kid and was born again when I was 11. But like most people, my teenage years were filled with questions. What decision was I going to make? Is it going to be what everybody else is doing or is it going to be for Jesus? I didn't settle that question until I was in my first year of university.

WHAT WAS THE TURNING POINT?

For me, I came to the point where I knew that even though a lot of my friends were going one way, God was really calling me to walk His way. After coming home from a party one night, I knelt down and told Jesus that I wanted to follow Him. I was born again when I was 11, but I truly became a follower of Jesus when I was 18.

YOUR ENCOUNTER WITH GOD WHILE IN UNIVERSITY IS PROBABLY WHY YOU STARTED THE PASSION CONFERENCES?

Yes! We want to inspire university-aged young people to live life for what matters most. I've learnt that the 18- to 25-year-old window is the crossroads of life where young people make important decisions about who they are and what they want for their future. It sets the trajectory for the next few decades of their lives.

WHAT ARE THESE DECISIONS YOU SEE BEING MADE?

A lot of university students, even those who have been in church, want to explore life and be on their own. What many of them are asking is: "Is this my family's faith? Or is this my faith?" It is the crossroads of belief and if you can introduce people to Jesus at that moment, they have the opportunity to set that trajectory of life with Christ and for Christ.

IS THERE A MINISTER WHO HAS GREATLY IMPACTED YOUR MINISTRY?

You mean apart from Pastor Joseph Prince? (smiles) I grew up under one of the greatest "old school" preachers – Charles Stanley. No funny stories or illustrations. He would preach the Word straight out of the Bible and his teachings were a great foundation for me.

AND NOW HERE YOU ARE, MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE WORLD FOR JESUS!

Everyone has a gift. And everyone has a unique calling, whether it is to be a lawyer, a doctor, a filmmaker or a politician. You don't have to be a pastor to make an impact for Jesus, but you do have to know that it is all about making an impact for Jesus.

Find out more about Pastor Louie Giglio on pg 55.



COMMUNITY MATTERS

Church is all about people, connections, and fellowship. And it can happen in any place, and at any time. SOLID ROCK speaks to several church members as they share how they engage in church life, and how it sometimes begins in the most unlikely of places.



SHUTTERBUGS FOR JESUS

Have a passion for shooting grasshoppers, spiders or beetles? You're not alone.

What began as a desire to serve in our church's publications team (which produces the *Solid Rock* magazine you now hold in your hands!) has since led to a casual hobbyist group for the photographers. Once, this enthusiastic group even braved the rain to capture creepy crawlies in action.

"We first got to know each other through the ministry as we wanted to use our camera equipment to serve God," Dolly Cheong, coordinator of the photography group, said. "Soon after, we started connecting outside of Sunday services and ministry sessions, and once, we even organised a macro photography outing in Pulau Ubin where we took close-up pictures of insects."

The ever-growing team has since organised various *makan* (casual dining) sessions and set up a photography support group via social media. There are even plans for an outdoor photoshoot in a fish market at 3am and a street photography workshop in the near future.

"It doesn't matter if you are a professional photographer or not," Dolly said. "We simply share about new camera equipment with each other, and sometimes post technical questions to the professionals in the group. Everyone has such a great spirit and is always helpful and ready to learn – I feel accepted and at home here!"



Q&A WITH DOLLY CHEONG

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO AS A GROUP?

We organise photography outings, talk about photography, camera gear, and share our pictures with each other. As we are also connected via WhatsApp, our photography members also post Bible verses and testimonies to encourage one another during the week. My phone gets especially busy during a member's birthday because text greetings will flood the chat group!

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED IN THIS COMMUNITY?

I enjoy photography and was looking to join a ministry in church. One day, I discovered that the publications team was looking for photographers and I jumped at that opportunity. Since then, it has become more like family than ministry.



WHY IS CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I find that it can be difficult to feel a sense of belonging in big churches if we are not connecting with each other. Joining this ministry made me realise just how blessed I am to be part of a group that shares the same vision and passion. It is important to me because I can turn to them should I need support.

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US A FUNNY ANECDOTE OR A MEMORABLE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED IN THE GROUP? HOW DID THIS REINFORCE THE NOTION THAT THIS IS WHAT CHURCH LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?

We once organised a trip to Pulau Ubin to explore and take some macro photographs. However, a few of us ended up feeding the hungry mosquitoes instead as repellent and patches did not help! It also started raining heavily so we kept keeping and taking out our cameras. [laughs] Although we didn't end up taking the pictures we wanted, we wound up the day with a seafood dinner and a good time of fellowshiping with one another. And to me, that is what church life is all about!

JOYOUS PRAISE

Every Monday evening, beautiful music and singing can be heard from inside a building space in eastern Singapore. Rain or shine, approximately 50 praise and worship enthusiasts from New Creation Church (NCC) gather faithfully, armed with guitars of all sizes, for their weekly music training workshop.

Jack Yam, 50, first formed this informal guitar group under the umbrella of our church's Chinese Ministry in 2009.

"We wanted to bring church members of the same interests together, as well as provide them with a chance to fellowship and draw closer to the Lord outside of the typical Sunday service," Jack explained.

"We began with 10 members and gathered in somebody's flat every week. As our numbers grew, people started sitting along the corridor outside the flat! Thankfully, a sister volunteered a vacant space to house us."



The guitar group not only allows these blessed musicians to enjoy their common interests together, it draws them closer to the Lord as well.

“Every week, we come together for fun, laughter and fellowship,” Jack shared. “More importantly, we have grown and bonded as a group. Sometimes, members face challenges in life or at work. We come together and speak against these ‘mountains’ and uplift everyone to the Lord. This makes a difference because we not only come together due to our interest but we know Jesus is at the centre of it all!”



Q&A WITH JACK YAM

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO AS A GROUP?

We meet once a week and begin by praising and worshipping the Lord. After that, we have breakout sessions in the form of beginner, intermediate and advanced levels so that guitar players can learn at their own pace.

HOW DID THIS COMMUNITY COME ABOUT?

Six years ago, God placed a desire in my heart to do something for the Lord but I was afraid and reluctant. One day, my care group leader approached me to teach our care group members to play the guitar and the number of members started to grow. And something just clicked!

WHY IS CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Being in a group makes me feel connected and this is very important to me! Pastor Mark Ng, who pastors NCC’s Chinese Ministry, constantly encourages us not to merely be “Sunday Christians” but to live it out by His Word and through our lifestyle. This group has become not just a group for activities, but a place where we can be real, share testimonies and pray for one another!

THIS HAS MADE CHURCH LIFE MORE MEANINGFUL FOR YOU BECAUSE...

We have had wonderful memories and have since become like family. Last year, we even went to a retreat in Desaru and had a fun and anointed time there. Another shared memory was the blessed opportunity to perform a special item during a Chinese Ministry service last year. We had intense practices and rehearsals, and had to choose the right songs and tunes together to put up this item. But it was all worth it!

MUMMY MATTERS

Late night feeds and diaper changes. Sleepless nights.

The journey of a new parent can be wonderful yet daunting at the same time. Enter a support group for mothers with newborns.

The support group was first formed by post-natal support servers after they saw a need to go the extra mile when following up with new mummies in church.

“We wanted to provide practical help for new mothers, as well as to point them back to Jesus in their new season in life,” homemaker and care group leader Karen Ling, 54, said. “We thought it

would be helpful as a new baby and new routine can be overwhelming for all!”

As a result, a post-natal mother’s group was formed so that mothers with kids aged between zero and two years can always find help, comfort, support and advice from fellow mums in their time of need.



Q&A WITH KAREN LING

CAN YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT YOU DO AS A GROUP?

We meet once a month in one of our server’s home and there will be a time of worship and the partaking of the Holy Communion. We share from our experiences how mothers can practise grace in their daily walk with Jesus, as well as practical tips for women.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED IN THIS?

As a volunteer in our church’s post-natal group under the Pastoral Services Ministry, I was responsible for making follow-up phone calls to new mothers and



to ensuring that all was well with them. So we started this group under Pastoral Services Ministry with five servers coming together to reach out to other new mothers.

WHY IS CONNECTING WITH THE CHURCH COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

If our members are not able to find help from the church, they will look elsewhere and perhaps be even more confused. My children are now 18 and 14 years old, but my heart has always been to reach out to new mothers and let them know that they can find support from fellow sisters in church who have walked the same journey before.

CAN YOU SHARE WITH US A MEMORABLE INCIDENT WHICH REINFORCED WHAT CHURCH LIFE MEANS TO YOU?

I got to know a young mother who was home alone with her child most of the time because her husband was out of town for work. As she didn’t have extra help, she would simply eat bread or whatever she could find at home because she was overwhelmed! When I visited her, I brought some herbal chicken and rice for her dinner, and we fellowshiped together. I was blessed by her in return knowing that my small gesture made such a difference in her life. That is what church life means to me – forging kingdom friendships and learning from one another as we walk the journey of motherhood.

Our heart is for you to be connected. If you wish to join a care group, please call our Care Group Hotline at 6602 9329 (Tuesday–Friday, 9am–6pm). To join a ministry, please sign up via our website at www.newcreation.org.sg



edify

HIS WORD
FEATURE
PRAISE REPORTS
STATE OF GRACE

THE YEAR OF

**GOD'S
GREATER
GLORY**

UPON YOU

“Whatever you’ve been praying and hoping for, believe that it will indeed come to pass this year.”



I’m incredibly excited about what God is doing and wants to do in your life in 2014. If there is one desire that God has for you this year, it is that His glory, in a measure greater than you have ever experienced, be seen upon you and your loved ones!

This is the word God gave our church for 2014:

This is the year of God’s greater glory on every area of your life.

As you face each day with its share of demands and challenges, I pray this word brings fresh hope, faith, and confidence to your heart.

Beloved, experiencing God’s *greater glory* this year means that you will experience more of His favour, healing, protection, and supply than you have ever experienced before. If you have a bad habit you would like to break, believe that this year, it will be broken once and for all. If you are trusting God for a place to live, expect not just an apartment or house, but a home that’s filled with His love, peace, and joy. Maybe you need a job. Well, expect to be blessed with one that is beyond your expectations this year!

Whatever you’ve been praying and hoping for, believe that it will indeed come to pass this year. Even if you’re already experiencing an abundance of God’s favour and blessings, can I ask that you stretch your tents? Enlarge your heart, my friend, and make room for even more of God’s goodness this year!

GREATER GLORY UPON OUR FAMILIES

Let me encourage you to believe big – beyond your wildest dreams – with a testimony from Laura. This parent from Maryland endured much heartache over her wayward child for four years. She had spent thousands of dollars

on lawyers, bail, doctors, therapists, counsellors, and rehabilitation programmes to get her 23-year-old son off drugs, but without success.

However, after watching my daily television broadcasts and listening to one of my messages, she began praying, believing, and applying the principles of God’s restoration in her life. She listened to the message over and over again on her iPod. Whenever she felt frustrated and discouraged by her son’s behaviour and lifestyle, she would recall what she heard in my sermons and mutter them to herself. She refused to give up on her son, but believed that God’s greater glory would indeed manifest in her son’s life. Amazingly, her son began to change before her eyes.

“All praise and glory to God the Father!” Laura shared with me joyfully. “My son has been restored beyond my wildest dreams! He is now loving Jesus, reading the Bible, clean, sober, healthy, happy, and making plans to go back to school. He is even running his first five-kilometre race. Every time I look at him now, he shines and I see God’s glory on his face.”

Hallelujah! What an amazing testimony of God’s manifested goodness! For four years, this young man was steeped in drugs and nothing in the natural could free him. But once he encountered and received God’s grace through his praying mother, he was not only delivered from drugs, but he also experienced a glory that was undeniable.

My friend, if you are dealing with an addiction you can’t seem to break, or if you have been believing God for your wayward child or a derailed relationship to get back on track, don’t give up. Don’t try to figure out how it will happen and remain stressed and anxious. Simply trust in the grace of God. Keep speaking His promises over your situation and expect to see His greater glory manifest in that situation this year. I am standing in faith with you that it will indeed happen this year!

“You have a heavenly Father who loves you deeply, cares for you completely, and watches over you daily.”

ARISE, SHINE!

Whatever the challenge or fear you are facing today, let me share with you a powerful scripture passage the Lord gave me as He showed me the word for this year:

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isaiah 60:1-2)

We may be living in the last days when things around us are looking less and less promising. Crises may be mounting around the world. Countries may be struggling with increased lawlessness. The headlines may carry news of increasing confusion, economic and financial instability, and all kinds of challenges. But don't be afraid. You are God's beloved child and nothing takes your heavenly Father by surprise.

If you are worried by all the bad news in the world, I want you to read the scriptures above again and let His Word put your heart at rest. Your heavenly Father has already seen the dark days you are living in and has promised that during this time, His greater glory will shine on you. You don't need to fear or fight the darkness. God's way is for you to shine in the midst of it and He Himself will deliver you!

Just look in the Bible and you will see various accounts of how God delivered His people out of the darkest situations when they looked wholly to Him for help. One such account is recorded in Exodus 12 for our benefit. The angel of death had struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh to all the firstborn of all their livestock. It was a night of great despair and much wailing, an extremely dark time for the people in the land.

Yet, the children of Israel were untouched by the plague because the Lord had protected them through the blood of the lamb He had commanded them to prepare. Their firstborn were protected from the angel of death and the next morning, the Israelites – not one feeble among them – left Egypt with silver and gold. God turned their situation around and even made sure they had ample health and provision for their journey to the promised land. Talk about shining with greater glory in a time of deep darkness!

Beloved, because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8), what He did for the Israelites, He can do for you today. You don't have to fear the deep darkness that plagues the present world. Your friends and colleagues may fear news of wars, terrorist attacks, crazy weather patterns, job losses, rising costs of living, and how more and more people are succumbing to diseases. But you are not without a God. You have a heavenly Father who loves you deeply, cares for you completely, and watches over you daily. You are the apple of His eye. So don't be fearful. Cast your cares upon the Lord. Believe that your Daddy God is affectionately watching over and providing for you and your loved ones (1 Peter 5:7, AMP), so that you can't help but shine brightly for all to see.

WHY YOU CAN SHINE

Pastor Prince, how is this possible? I haven't done anything to deserve God's glory.

My friend, this glory I'm taking about – the evidence of God's goodness and grace – comes from your Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It's a gift from Him to you purchased with His blood. Jesus told the Father just hours before His crucifixion, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.” (John 17:22)

In other words, you can't deserve or merit this glory. It has simply been given to you through His grace. Despite your failings and mistakes, this glory is yours only because Jesus bore the shame and punishment for all your sins at the cross. Because of His sacrifice, the glory that Jesus has is now yours. God's glory that man forfeited because of sin has been restored through Christ. And with God's glory – His splendour, majesty, and brightness – upon your life, the darkness affecting the world will not prevail against you. All it will do is cause God's glory upon you to be more evident to all!

When God had me study the word “glory,” I discovered that it comes from the Greek word *doxa*, which also means an appearance that commands respect. This means that besides God's tangible blessings manifesting in your life, there will also be a kingly and majestic quality about you such that “Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:3) When God's glory is seen upon you, there will be such a charisma and weightiness about you that unbelievers, even VIPs, will be drawn to you. The favour, presence, and power of Jesus in your life will be undeniable. They will see God's wisdom, robust peace, and mental soundness in you where others are confused and fearful.

Beloved, all this glory is possible only because of what Jesus has done for you. When you know how Jesus' sacrifice has restored God's glory to you, you can look forward to experiencing God's greater glory this year. So arise, shake off the dust of depression and hopelessness, and rest in the power of Jesus' finished work and faithfulness to bring His promises to pass this year. Have a good opinion of God. Expect Him to come through in your situation no matter how dark it may look. Expect His glory to turn your situation around this year!

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

When it comes to experiencing God's greater glory this year, two opinions matter. I'm talking about your opinion of God and what you think God's opinion of you is.

Do you know that when you have a good opinion of God, believing that He loves you and has only good plans for you, you are actually giving Him glory? This is because *doxa* is also defined as “always a good opinion concerning one, resulting in praise, honour, and glory.” To have a good opinion of someone or something is to give that person or thing glory. Therefore, when you believe and think the best of God – that He loves you and is faithful to keep His promises to you – you are giving Him glory.

Now, since Jesus Himself tells us that He has restored or *given to us* God's glory, this means that God has a good opinion of you too! Today, God sees you clothed in gleaming robes of righteousness because of your faith in His Son. And His opinion is not like man's that is prone to wavering and changing. Because God is infallible and always faithful, His good opinion of you never changes. You will always stand righteous and beloved before Him because of His Son's eternal and perfect work!

What does this have to do with walking in greater glory this year?

Firstly, whatever negative circumstance may be staring you in the face, choose to have a good opinion of God. Instead of believing that God has abandoned you, choose to believe His presence and help are with you. Choose to believe He still loves you deeply and that He is working behind the scenes to turn things around for your good. Jesus told the centurion who believed He would heal his sick servant, “as you have believed, so let it be done for

you.” (Matthew 8:13) In this year of greater glory, believe God wants to bless you beyond anything you have ever experienced, and see it come to pass!

Secondly, know that because of God’s unchanging good opinion of you, you are going to see a fresh supply of His grace and provision this year that exceeds any need or challenge you have. Anchor your heart in the knowledge that God is not behind your difficulty. Because He has a good opinion of you, He is more than willing to help you and more than able to give you your breakthrough. (Matthew 8:2-3) My friend, be persuaded that His good opinion of you will move Him to turn your situation around and set you up for even greater things ahead!

GREATER GLORY UPON OUR HEALTH

Let me share with you another encouraging testimony. Judy, a sister from New York, was diagnosed with stomach cancer. But despite this negative diagnosis, Judy continued to have a good opinion of God and to believe in His promises for her. Here is her story:

In August 2012, I was diagnosed with MALT lymphoma (stomach cancer) after having an endoscopy for stomach problems. I underwent various scans and tests over a period of two months after the first endoscopy.

Earlier that year, my husband and I had just found the teachings of Joseph Prince and we started listening regularly to his messages. After the diagnosis in August, we began taking the Holy Communion daily and declaring, “As Jesus is in heaven, so am I in this world, free of cancer.”

We continued praying and as the hospital continued to do other tests to decide what treatment to give me, a CT scan in early October showed that the cancer had spread into the jejunum (the middle section of the small intestine). That was when they decided to do a push enteroscopy to look deeper into my stomach and small intestine.

I went for the procedure one morning in late October having the most amazing peace. After the procedure, the doctor came in and asked me what I had been doing since the first endoscopy. My husband and I stated that we had prayed. The doctor told us that my stomach looked nothing like it did two months ago. The biopsy came back this time showing no cancer!

We thank our Lord Jesus for His sacrifice at Calvary and Pastor Prince for preaching God’s grace because we were both very wounded from hearing so much “law-bondage” teaching. God is truly coming to life in our lives. To Him be all the glory and praise!

Can you imagine how dark and frightening Judy’s world suddenly became when she heard the diagnosis from her doctor? What a devastating blow that must have been for her and her family. I want you to notice how she went for the required scans and tests, but put her faith in Jesus’ finished work. Judy chose to believe and declare God’s good opinion and Word over her situation – that as Jesus is in heaven completely cancer-free, so was she.

“When you know how Jesus’ sacrifice has restored God’s glory to you, you can look forward to experiencing God’s greater glory.”



“Because God is for you and has a good opinion of you, He will provide the breakthrough you need.”

Even when the CT scan showed a deterioration of her condition, Judy chose not to dwell on the negative report. Instead, she continued listening to messages on God's grace. She continued practising His love for her as she partook of the Holy Communion, until she was consumed with “the most amazing peace.” She believed in God's good opinion of her and His willingness to deliver her. And the Lord did just that, so much so that even the doctor wanted to know what she had done to turn things around!

Perhaps like Judy, you have received one bad report after another regarding your health. My friend, don't give up and don't give in to negative, fearful thoughts. Remember that Jesus went to the cross and suffered for you so that you can experience His healing and divine health. If you have not yet seen your healing fully manifest, like Judy, keep feeding and meditating on Jesus' love for you and what He has accomplished for you at the cross. In this year of greater glory, I'm believing with you that God will unleash a greater-than-you've-ever-had supply of His healing and health into your body. He is going to turn your trial into a great testimony such that people are going to see and wonder at God's manifested glory on you, just as Judy's doctor did!

GREATER GLORY IN PROVISION

Winona is a precious sister from South Africa, whose family has such a great testimony in the area of provision.

Winona's husband was a stud farm manager for thoroughbred horses in South Africa. A dark season descended upon them when the company he worked for

teetered on the brink of insolvency. He was often paid late and didn't receive the commissions owed to him. Before long, all his savings were exhausted to keep the family afloat. With a very specialised job in an industry that was at an all-time low due to a bad economy, and with age not on his side, the future of this family seemed even more uncertain and worrying.

But it was during this difficult time that Winona and her husband started taping my broadcasts and watching them very early before work every morning and again in the evenings. They also listened to my podcasts daily, read my daily devotionals, and meditated on God's Word. And God's glory began to manifest in their lives. Winona wrote to me excitedly to share how her husband was unexpectedly offered the best job in the country to manage an established stud farm. The whole industry was amazed as he was the only person interviewed for the position. And at the time of writing, they had just sold a horse for half a million rand (about US\$46,000) – more than what they could ask or imagine!

Can you see God's good opinion of the couple in blessing them? While the scenario looked bleak, He didn't abandon His children and allow them to remain in the darkness. He cared and provided for them abundantly, causing them to shine with greater glory even though deep darkness covered the industry they were in. That's our God!

My friend, is the fear of losing your job causing you sleepless nights? Have you been told that you're too old for any company to want to hire you? It may seem like a time of deep darkness for you, but because God has a good opinion of you, He is going to make you shine! Rather than think of the worst-case scenarios, believe that because God is for you, you can expect new opportunities and increase this year. Because God has a good opinion of you, He will provide the breakthrough you need. If you need a job, believe He will give you not just a job, but a position of influence! If you need favour with your clients, trust Him to bless you with repeat business and referrals from them!

YOUR BREAKTHROUGH IS COMING

Whatever breakthrough you are trusting God for, I'm standing in faith with you to see an unprecedented manifestation of His glory in that very area this year. Maybe you've been trusting God for a child for many years. Well, I'm believing with you that you will conceive a champion of a baby, complete with an amazing destiny in Christ! Whether it is success in examinations, a dream job, or progression in your career, don't be afraid to ask big of God. Ask Him for greater wisdom, favour, and success, and expect Him to open wide doors of opportunity for you and make you shine brightly!

Let's also believe God together to see Him mend broken relationships and destroy addictions or diseases in your life or the lives of your loved ones. I want to encourage you to also expect an increase of God's protection and wisdom in all your decision-making so that you can enjoy days of peace and rest. Be conscious that there is a higher

hand working in your life to make that glory shine forth, and that all you need to do is to rest and trust in Jesus' finished work. Rest in His love for you and you will walk in His greater glory this year.

Right now, I would like you to pray with me. Put your hand on your heart and say:

Father, thank You for watching over me and loving me today. Thank You that You direct my steps, that You guard my thoughts with Your peace that surpasses all human understanding. Thank You for keeping my body and the bodies of my loved ones healthy and resilient. Thank You for keeping sickness and disease far from me and my family. I ask that You also protect us from bad decisions and any evil. I declare that we are under Your safekeeping and that we shall live long, good lives.

Father, I believe that the wonderful glory that You gave Jesus, He has given to me. Let Your greater glory manifest powerfully in every area of my life – in my body, my family, my career, my ministry and my church. In Jesus' name I receive a fresh anointing to walk in Your manifested glory this year. Amen!

My friend, be prepared for an amazing year as God's greater glory is seen upon you and your loved ones in increasing measure. As you walk in this glory, I pray that you will continue to feed on His love, grace, and promises for you. And as you see this glory manifesting in breakthroughs in all areas of your life, remember that it all began with your wonderful Saviour, Jesus!

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Recommended CD messages:

- *Step Into God's Greater Glory*, 5 January 2014
- *God's Good Opinion Of You Never Changes!*, 12 January 2014

To obtain the CD messages, visit our resource counters on service days, Rock Gifts & Book Centre (6694 3007) or www.josephprince.com to order and download the MP3 messages.

THAT'S **PSALM**
PROTECTION!

PSALM 91 SPEAKS OF GOD'S PROTECTION ON HIS PEOPLE. SOLID ROCK finds out how some church members have already experienced this reality in their lives.

PROTECTED IN AN ACCIDENT

by Jimmy Chan

I was involved in an accident at about 6.50pm on 9 April 2014. I was travelling along Thomson Road when I saw a bus filtering into the main road from the bus bay. As I slowed down to give way, I suddenly heard a loud bang from the back of my car. Looking into the rear mirror, I saw that a lorry had hit my car. My wife and I were shocked and our hearts were beating very fast, but we were unharmed.

Even though my car was seriously damaged, I thank God for His divine protection. Both my wife and I are well protected under the shadow of the Almighty. Indeed God's Word is true and we remembered the prayer that Pastor Prince prayed as he declared Psalm 91 over us earlier this year. We know that it was God who preserved us!

RESTORED TO LIFE

by Susan

On 3 March 2014, my husband was admitted to hospital after encountering symptoms of an irregular heartbeat and fever over a period of time. Tests ran by the doctors showed that his gall bladder was perforated and that he was in need of an emergency surgery to remove it. And as a renal patient, it was a high-risk operation.

Because the doctors needed to get his heart rate stable and the fever down, he went in for the surgery on 5 March 2014. Though the operation went well, my husband developed a complication two hours later that caused his heart to stop. By God's grace, I recalled the protection prayer that was proclaimed over churchgoers in the beginning of the year. As he was being resuscitated, I spoke in tongues and was calling life to come back to him in Jesus' name. Praise Jesus, his heart began beating again!

The doctors suspected some internal bleeding and wheeled him back into the operating theatre. Two hours later, the doctor updated us that my husband's condition was stable and that he would be warded in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). Miraculously, my husband's recovery in the ICU was remarkably fast. Within days, he was transferred to a high dependency ward and then to the general ward.

Although he had to go through three more procedures, there were no further complications. We continued to partake of the Holy Communion as much as we could, trusting that the Lord had made my husband whole and healthy.

Thank You Jesus for answering the prayer said over the pulpit on Vision Sunday that "none in this church will die before their time" and that with long life He will satisfy us! Praise and glory to Him for restoring life back to my husband!

IN THE beginning of the year, Senior Pastor Joseph Prince declared the Lord's protection over His people and prayed Psalm 91 over the church. He shared how in the year of greater glory, even as darkness covers the earth (Isaiah 60:2), we "shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday." (Psalm 91:5-6) Instead, there shall be an increase of God's divine protection over His people.

The words of Psalm 91 are reassuring because they speak of tangible protection promises of God even in the face of increasing bad news and calamities in the world. In fact, the psalm is widely regarded as the Soldier's Psalm, as there have been numerous testimonies of soldiers praying the psalm, and witnessing God's supernatural protection in the battlefield.

War correspondent C.B. Morelock shared one such miraculous story of how God's protection was evident during World War II. Documented in Peggy Joyce Ruth's book *Psalm 91 Military Edition: God's Shield of Protection*, Morelock recounted how over 400 men were pinned down on the beaches around Dunkirk during the war without any place for cover. Despite being repeatedly attacked by machine guns and bombed by aircraft, every man escaped without a scratch.

Morelock stated, "I have personally been told by Navy men who picked up those particular survivors from Dunkirk, that the men not only recited Psalm 91, but they shouted it aloud at the top of their lungs!"

Just like the 400 soldiers, we too have the same blessed protection that surrounds us like an impenetrable shield today. We share some manifestations of divine protection that our congregation members have experienced in their lives.

BLOCKED ARTERY HEALED

by Mike Rajen

Since the beginning of 2014, I had made two visits to the accident and emergency unit and was admitted once due to syncope (temporary loss of consciousness) with fits.

The neurologists conducted a thorough check and could not find anything wrong with my brain. I was then referred to a cardiologist and scheduled for a computed tomography (CT) angiogram on 3 April 2014.

On 4 April 2014, I was informed that a major artery in my heart was significantly blocked (90 per cent) and that I needed a stent in that artery. The hospital arranged for me to undergo the stent procedure on 8 April 2014.

Just two days before the procedure, I was scheduled to serve in Cathay Cineplex Causeway Point for the first time. My wife encouraged me to go believing that we who dwell in the secret place of the Most High shall abide and be protected under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1) So, I went ahead and served. Not only did I get to be a blessing, I was also blessed by the congregation and the team of wonderful volunteers I found there!

After the service, my wife and I asked a leader to pray for me, and together, we agreed in faith that no stent would be required in my body.

On 8 April 2014, I was told that a scan would be done to determine the extent of the blockage again before the stent procedure. During this time, I kept declaring that as Jesus is without any blocked artery, so am I.

To the surgeon's surprise, he did not find any trace of the blockage! He then discussed with another surgeon and both confirmed that there was no need to for a stent. Later, as he spoke to my wife, he said that it was a miracle.

God is a good God. The nurse also asked me what I did and I told her that I prayed to Jesus and testified to how mighty He is! Thank you Pastor Prince for your teachings on Psalm 91.

SAVED FROM FIRE

by Sarah Jessica Huang

In March 2014, a big fire broke out in an apartment two floors below ours. It happened on the night we were supposed to go out for a family dinner which was eventually cancelled due to my dad's work.

Because of that, we were home when the fire broke out. As black smoke engulfed our living room, we started to choke and tried to close as many windows as we could before evacuating.

On our way down the stairs, I saw a man trapped in his home. A few neighbours were trying to break open his gates, but there was nothing I could do as I also had to ensure the safety of my mum, sisters and dog.

After my family reached a safe distance from the fire, we prayed together and declared Psalm 91 over our home and the man who was trapped, believing that God would preserve him even in that seemingly impossible situation.

When we went home after the fire was put out, we saw that some walls were black and the floor was covered with soot but thank God nothing else was damaged! Later, we were so heartened to hear that our neighbour was saved from the fire.

I am most thankful knowing that He watches over us, and that we truly abide under the shadow of the Almighty. If we had gone out for dinner, my dog might not have survived the fire, and the damage we sustained might have been much more. All glory to Jesus!

HOW YOU CAN APPLY PSALM 91 IN YOUR LIFE

► MAKE IT PERSONAL

Personalise Psalm 91 by changing the pronouns. Pray Psalm 91 using "I" or "We". Better yet, insert your own name into the scripture! By personalising God's promises, it reminds us that He loves each of us as individuals, and even knows the number of hairs on our head. (Luke 12:7) And just as every parent knows their child by name, the Lord knows each of us by name too. (John 10:3)

► MEDITATE ON THE PSALM

Slow down. Reflect on the verses. Joshua 1:8 (AMP) promises: "This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success."

By meditating and chewing on the verses, we are feeding on the truth of God's Word, and His Word promises that we will experience good success.

► SPEAK THE VERSES OUT LOUD

The Word tells us that there is power in the spoken word. (Proverbs 18:21) So don't just mull over the verses, open your mouth, and speak God's Word over yourself and your family. That's how you can hold on to His promises in faith and experience His blessings!

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." (Psalm 91:2)

► CARRY THE PSALM WITH YOU!

PSALM 91

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

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PRAISE REPORTS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELIZA CHOO & NICK TAN

A NEW CREATION AFTER 55 YEARS

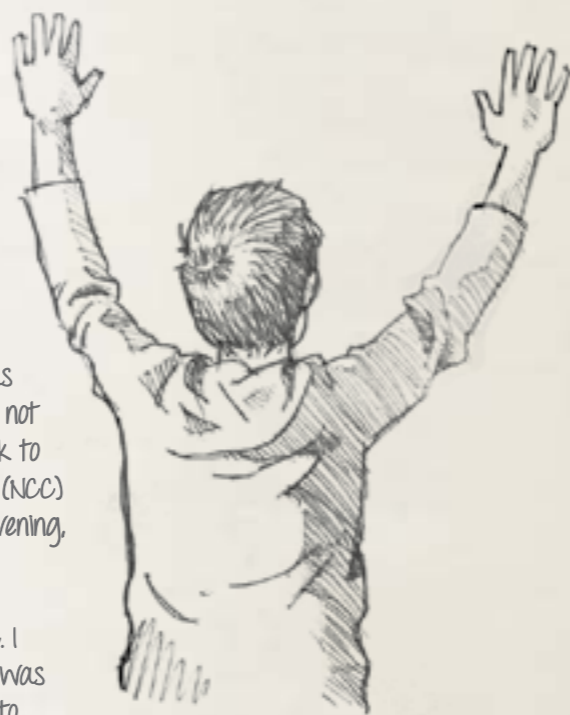
I have been married for 27 years and although my wife is a Christian, I was not.

Last March, she became seriously ill with a high fever and was admitted into hospital. She complained to me that she had also not experienced peaceful sleep for many days. As she felt too weak to pray, my sister and brother-in-law from New Creation Church (NCC) visited us at the hospital to pray for her recovery. That very evening, she slept soundly.

Upon her discharge from hospital, my wife decided to visit NCC. I accompanied her to the Marina Bay Sands service venue as I was worried for her health. Never did I realise that this would lead to something more.

During my second visit to church, I could feel the presence of God. At the end of the service, I said the salvation prayer and left church as a new believer. Whatever I had practised or believed in over the past 55 years just vanished in a moment. I did not experience any fear or doubt. Today, I know that I am a new creation in Christ. My wife is amazed at this change in my life as I am even spreading the good news to my siblings. I am looking forward to attending the Grace Discovery classes for new believers and experiencing a year of greater glory!

- Gopal V



^{b6} TODAY, I KNOW THAT
I AM A NEW CREATION
IN CHRIST. ^{ad}

A GLORIOUS NEW JOB

When I first heard that 2014 would be the year of greater glory, I believed in my heart that this year would be a landmark year for me and my family. However, that very week, I heard news that our company was retrenching. It was not the news I was hoping for, considering what I had just heard and received in church.

I immediately began looking at the available openings in other departments in my company, and by the following week, I had an interview lined up. On the day of the interview, I was very nervous and my head was filled with negative thoughts. I am 40 years old this year and I was worried that I would be seen as too old. I immediately cast these cares onto Jesus and asked Him to take over.

I felt prompted to read Isaiah 60 as a personal declaration over myself. As I read the chapter, I personalised each verse. My spirit was lifted and I felt confident as I walked into the room for the interview. The very next day, I was offered the job!

^{b6} AMID THE CHAOS,
I FELT THE LOVE OF JESUS
BECOME SO REAL
IN MY LIFE. ^{ad}

The following week, the axe fell, and my entire team was retrenched. My boss said that I was "super lucky" because I had secured an offer just two days before and was spared. But I know luck had nothing to do with it. It was the Lord directing my actions. Amid the chaos, I felt the love of Jesus become so real in my life.

But He had more in store for me! Amazingly, I received another call from a new department that I had also applied for. Although I really wanted to be part of this department, I knew my chances were slim as I had no experience in that particular area. Once again, I declared Isaiah 60 over myself and went for the interview. By grace, I found favour with the management, and they offered to match my current remuneration despite my inexperience.

Not only did the Lord Jesus save me from retrenchment, He also gave me two offers in a week to choose from. I am just so thankful and have since accepted the job in the new department. All glory to Jesus.

- Marcel

HEALED BY THE BEST DOCTOR EVER – JESUS

I started attending New Creation Church in 2010 and the gospel of grace changed my understanding of God. I used to think that God was fierce and would punish me for my mistakes. But now I know the truth that He is a loving Daddy who sees me as perfect because of Jesus' finished work on the cross. This good opinion of God has changed my life and that of my family.

Some years back, my dad went for cataract surgery. However, his vision deteriorated and turned blurry soon after due to fluids in his eye. The doctors said that he needed injections, but after receiving at least 10 injections, not only did they not work, my dad's vision worsened. The doctors recommended more injections, but my dad refused as he did not want to go through the trauma again after seeing that they didn't work. I respected his views and shared his sentiment.

One day, I plucked up my courage and suggested that he approach a different doctor – Jesus. I began sharing with him the gospel and led him to receive Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. I then told him that he is now a child of God and shared with him the testimonies I had heard about people who were healed by partaking of the Holy Communion every day.

My dad was excited and he started partaking of the Holy Communion and trusting Jesus for healing. He also talks to Jesus every day! His life has been transformed and even I have been encouraged in the knowledge that we can always approach Jesus and talk to Him at any time. Amazingly, my dad's recent eye check-up results showed that both his eyes have not deteriorated since the last visit, and we are trusting God for a full recovery. Praise the Lord!

- Wendy Oon

66 HIS LIFE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED AND EVEN I HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE CAN ALWAYS APPROACH JESUS AND TALK TO HIM AT ANY TIME. ad



BACK PAIN HEALED

Earlier this year, I experienced a sharp pain in my back when I woke up. It was an acute pain that restricted my mobility. I could not bend down, walking was painful, and even turning on a switch took great effort as the pain would shoot down my arm.

66 HE WORKS HIS MIRACLES EVERY DAY AND A SIMPLE GROAN REACHES UP TO HEAVEN. ad

I reflected on the situation and wondered if I had done anything wrong. Was it my spine? Did I tear a muscle? Was my back sprained? I doubted I had a torn muscle as I do administrative work. And there was no way I could have hurt myself while at work.

That night, even trying to recline on my bed was a painful process and I could hardly sleep. I tried to meditate on as many scriptures as I could recall and the next day, getting out of bed was so painful that I got a headache. My back hurt no matter which way I turned. I could only grit my teeth and push myself off the bed.



It is not easy to meditate or praise God when in pain. But I suddenly recalled the teachings of Pastor Joseph Prince and also a memorable sermon by Pastor Lim Lian Neo when she shared how she experienced a similar back pain condition. So I began rebuking the pain, declaring that my God is greater, and that my body is the temple of God. I decided that despite my circumstances, I would still raise my hands to worship Him amidst the good and the bad.

When the sun rose, I went for a stroll as I still could not sleep. By the time I returned home, the pain was gone! I thought that miracles only happened to others, but I am reminded that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He works His miracles every day and a simple groan reaches up to heaven. The Lord heard my groan and acted swiftly! What an awesome God. Having experienced the glory of God in my body, I am looking forward to the greater glory of God this year. Praise be to Jesus.

- Sharon Ong

GRACED FOR EXAMS

Going through junior college was a real struggle for me. I found mathematics an especially challenging subject. No matter how hard I worked, my results never seemed to reflect my efforts. My heart was constantly heavy and full of despair. I even doubted that God could do anything about it and I was convinced that I was going to do horribly for my final examinations.

However, the thing that kept me going was the daily hearing of His Word as I listened to Pastor Prince's sermons on my phone every day on the way to school and back. These messages lifted me up, gave me hope, and encouraged me to do anything and everything I could to prepare for my examinations.

Even so, I still didn't do well for my preliminary examinations. I made tons of careless mistakes, often got stuck, and ended up scoring less than my ideal grade. I was devastated. It also didn't help that I constantly felt silly and ignorant when consulting my teachers. I knew that it would truly take God's grace if I were ever to score an A for mathematics or my other subjects, for that matter.

When the time came for the final examinations, I was pleasantly surprised that my examination register number was 0555. There and then, I felt God saying to me that this would be all about His grace alone. Throughout the examinations, I constantly felt His presence with me as I wrote each paper, and there was an indescribable peace and assurance in my heart.

66 WHAT I COULD NOT DO,
JESUS DID FOR ME
AND GAVE TO ME. *ad*

I still didn't have high hopes of doing well in mathematics because I could not do many of the questions in the examination paper. But by the grace of God, when the results came out, I scored straight As for all my subjects! What I could not do, Jesus did for me and gave to me. Despite my doubts, He came through for me. Truly, without Him I am nothing, but because of Him I have everything. Thank you Pastor Prince for boldly preaching the message of grace which ministers life and hope to me.

- Charis



SEND US YOUR TESTIMONY

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

Email testimonies@newcreation.org.sg and share your testimony with us.

CHINESE MINISTRY CELEBRATION SERVICE

合家欢庆

Sat, 6 Sep 2014, 2.30pm | The Star Performing Arts Centre



FEATURING:
Pastor Mark Ng, Chinese Ministry

Want to reach out to your family and friends with the love of Jesus?

Invite your Mandarin- or Hokkien-speaking loved ones to our Chinese Ministry Celebration Service, and get ready for an exhilarating time of live music and special performances! Pastor Mark Ng, our Chinese Ministry pastor, will also share the gospel of grace in his engaging style and with his trademark humour.

The service will be conducted in Hokkien and simultaneously translated into Mandarin.

More info:

Call 6333 0220 (Tue-Fri, 9am-6pm) or email chinese.ministry@newcreation.org.sg

The Road To Good Success

Life seemed good for TANIA K. But she never knew how good it could get until she went through one of the darkest seasons in her life.



It seemed inconceivable that 2012 would turn out to be the worst year of my life.

At only 28, I was fast making advances in my career that others could only dream of. The world was at my feet and I was living the high life. Furthermore, I had just gotten a big break and landed my dream job in the advertising industry.

But suddenly, everything changed.

My new supervisor kept seeing me as competition and would set me up to fail in the projects I was in charge of. I also began incurring huge travel expenses for work. To make matters worse, my supervisor delayed approving my claims which led to my growing credit card debt.

I was so stressed from work and the debts incurred. I soon turned to antidepressants which caused me to put on a lot of weight. Shortly after, I became obese and weighed 90kg in my petite frame.

By September, I had reached the end of myself. I thought no one could ever help me. By then, I was hurting from a failed relationship, was overweight, riddled with debt, and working under a boss who resented me. Just when I thought that life could not get any worse, my company retrenched me from the very job that I thought was perfect for me.

I was devastated and began to question God. I didn't know why all these things were happening to me. I had lost an important relationship, my career was in shambles, and even my friends seemed to be avoiding me. I felt like I was at the lowest point in life. Still, I continued attending New Creation Church, which I had been going to for three years. After service one Sunday, I felt prompted to get a copy of Senior Pastor Joseph Prince's book, *Destined To Reign*.

PULLED OUT FROM THE PIT

As I read the book, fed on God's Word daily and attended services every Sunday, my knowledge of His love and grace grew. I soon felt my soul renewed and my faith in Him restored. Every day, I would declare that I was destined to reign in life, because of the One who lives in me and the Spirit of God who would freely give me all things by His grace and love.

By October, I didn't need antidepressants anymore and I was on the road to recovery. I also decided to run on the treadmill and plugged into worship music. I started declaring that Jesus is at the centre of all things.

Even then, the journey was not completely smooth. I went

for many job interviews but none of them came to fruition. I was also far from my ideal weight. There were many times when I would get angry because of what I had gone through and would cry myself to sleep. I could not help being disappointed as I was hoping for more from God.

But little did I know that He had planned something far better than what I was expecting.

FINDING GOOD SUCCESS

At this point, a business development role opened up in my family's company, and my dad asked me to join him. I had always been in advertising, and was sure that this was just going to be a temporary arrangement.

By God's grace, things got very exciting after I joined. Business opportunities kept popping up for us, and I was sealing deals despite my inexperience. The company grew at an unprecedented rate, and we were able to attract very talented people to join us. In one year, the company generated more revenue than all its preceding years put together since its establishment in 1975!

"Surrendering myself to God and trusting Him to lead me turned out to be so much better."

Within two months of joining the company, the commissions I earned enabled me to clear all my credit card debts. Amazingly, my relationship with my parents also improved tremendously. My dad even wakes up early every Sunday to drive me to church so that I can be on time for the first service.

I had indeed lost everything that I wanted – a career in advertising, the "good" life, and even the life partner whom I had once thought was meant for me. But over the past year, God has blessed me and restored me with much, much more. Even my body has been transformed from an obese 90kg to a healthy and fit 57kg.

It was hard to let go of my own plans, but surrendering myself to God and trusting Him to lead me turned out to be so much better. He was with me when I was too ashamed to face the world, and He has since turned my life around. I know Jesus is setting me up for more wonderful blessings to come. Hallelujah!



empower

LIFE NOTES
Riders Of The Storm

Riders Of The Storm

Bad news. Natural disasters. Health problems. As believers, how should we respond when things go wrong? REVEREND COL STRINGER shares how we can take lessons from the magnificent eagle and learn to soar amidst the storms in life.



“Then I [looked and I] saw a solitary eagle flying in midheaven...” (Revelation 8:13, AMP)

Few creatures have inspired man to the same extent as the eagle. The bird rarely fails to stir the passion of anyone who has observed it soaring aloft with its awesome profile, its huge wingspan, its legendary boldness, its mastery of flight and above all, its command of the thermal currents. Throughout the world, the eagle has long been accepted as a symbol of valour, boldness, majesty, nobility and invincibility. I love eagles; they are my favourite birds. I remember vividly one encounter that changed my life. It happened shortly after we had lost our home in a devastating cyclone in 1974.

A thunderbolt of lightning flashed across the dark sky, its terrifying crash sending the neighbourhood children scurrying indoors. Dark foreboding clouds rolled across the bay like some giant, sinister wave of evil. They swirled low to the ground, adding dramatically to the already eerie effect. Again a flash of lightning streaked the sky, striking the earth with such devastating power that it caused the house to tremble under its impact. Large drops of rain spattered against my face as the wind increased in intensity, the stately slender palm trees bowed in tribute before the onslaught. Branches whisked aloft, trees groaned while leaves and debris shot skyward like miniature flying carpets.

A flock of terror-stricken birds wheeled and darted about as they fled, desperate to escape the fury of the storm, their shrill cries of panic barely audible above the turbulence. All creation seemingly stood in fear of the menacing black juggernaut as it thundered towards the spot where I stood. A flight of water birds huddled nervously behind a barrier of mangroves, while overhead in the dense green canopy, their larger



counterparts, the stately white egrets, flapped about in a futile effort to maintain their balance.

THE MAGNIFICENT EAGLE

And then I saw it! A sight that thrilled my heart. A chance glance into the heavens and there it was... a magnificent white-breasted sea eagle, literally poetry in motion, as it soared nonchalantly against the backdrop of storm clouds. Momentarily, I forgot the ferocity of the squall as I stood in awe of this magnificent creature, this winged warrior, watching it whirl and dive amid the flashes of lightning and crashes of thunder. Here was one creature undaunted, unafraid and unaffected by the sheer ferocity of the elements. Here was

a creature which rather than fight the storm, had discovered the secret of harnessing its power. While smaller birds struggled and flapped against the storm's might, intimidated by its sheer power, the eagle locked its powerful wings and allowed the wind currents to thrust it aloft. It soared in the very face of the storm with the barest of effort, the slightest flip of the wing tips to change direction or compensate for sudden gusts. Here was the lord of the sky, the king of flight, borne by the very breath of God.

Two things greatly impressed me about this eagle: its utter fearlessness in the very face of such devastating power, and its ability to soar above the turmoil – the confusion, the ferocity it confronted – into the realm of peace. Indeed, the bird's air of tranquility appeared to mock the storm, to dare the elements, as it enjoyed the thrill of soaring on the turbulent air currents, sailing above them with grace and control.

I stood there, my eyes riveted to the sky, observing my eagle friend challenging and taunting the power of the elements. I was elated! I wanted to cheer this feathered conqueror! My heart lifted, I wanted to soar and join this majestic creature. I identified with the eagle, a kinsmanship, a bond, a union that words cannot describe. I stood transfixed. And then a voice spoke inside my heart. "This is how I want you to live!"

LIFE ABOVE THE STORMS

I paused to ponder the impact of the message. "Though the storms of life will come, you too can soar above them as the eagle soars above the storms. You can run in terror, you can fight with all your strength and get nowhere, or you can learn to be borne aloft by the Holy Spirit. The wings of My matchless grace, faith, prayer and praise, will lift you above the storm clouds of life into the realm of My peace."

A lump came to my throat as I watched this magnificent bird soar in the sky with a display of aerobatics seemingly just for my pleasure. This was the way my heavenly Father saw me, how He longed for me to act and react in life's storms, turbulence and squalls. In spite of the forces that came against me, He wanted me to soar above them, borne aloft by His grace and mercy.

The eagle, to me that day became the symbol of the overcoming Christian, the one creature alive with the boldness and the audacity to stand before this mass of destruction and remain unmoved by its menacing power. "Are you willing to become one of My eagles?"

The words rose from deep within my heart. "Yes," I whispered, unsure of just what it might mean but completely enthralled by the analogy.

Eagles were the only birds aloft that day, the fearful and the timid had long since

SOARING ABOVE THE WINDS OF ADVERSITY

REST IN THE STORM

The eagle uses the force of the storm to its own advantage, harnessing the very power sent to destroy it. Cease your crazy flapping and struggling against the storms of life. Rest in the Lord. Spread your wings of faith, of prayer and praise. Harken to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

PERSEVERANCE AND PERSISTENCE

In the face of storms, fires, blizzards, earthquakes – no matter how often the nest is destroyed, the eagle continues. He presses on towards the mark, never looking back to past failures. As the eagle uses that inner-something imparted by God to overcome every obstacle in building the nest, providing food, training its family and so on, so too the spirit of man, nurtured by the Word of God can cause him to rise above seemingly insurmountable obstacles of life.

Source: *On Eagles Wings*, Col Stringer Ministries Inc. All rights reserved.



"The power of the Holy Spirit – the very breath of God Himself – will lift us above the storms of life."

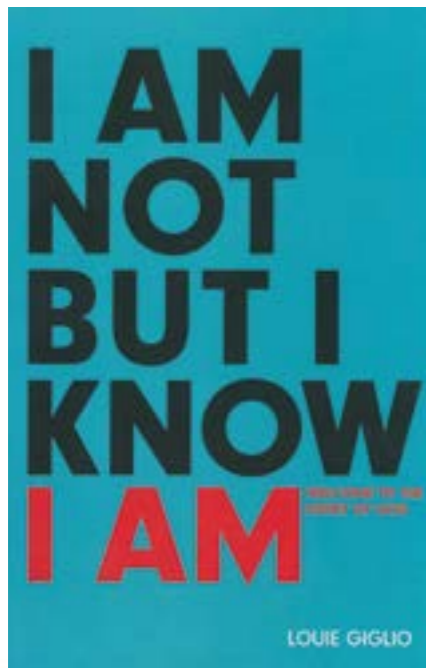
fled the sky. I don't know how long I stood transfixed by this feathered conqueror of the elements. Here was the biblical analogy of the way to overcome in life. I could see it! As the dark storms of life come against us, we too can have the eagle's courage to face them head on! We are not alone. We can lock our wings of faith and trust in the grace of God with all our heart. We too, like the eagle, can be borne aloft by the very forces that seek to destroy us. The power of the Holy Spirit – the very breath of God Himself – will lift us above the storms of life.

This life of grace is exciting, this life on wings is exhilarating, this life of resting in His finished work is powerful! Come fly eagle Christian – come learn to fly, carried on high by the winds of God's grace!



ABOUT REVEREND COL STRINGER

Reverend Col Stringer of Col Stringer Ministries in Australia is an anointed speaker and international best-selling author. His mission is to take the Word of God to the world, to see the sick healed, the oppressed freed, family relationships restored, and people brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus! He is also a close friend of, and frequent visitor and speaker at New Creation Church.



I AM NOT BUT I KNOW I AM
BY LOUIE GIGLIO
PUBLISHER:
MULTNOMAH

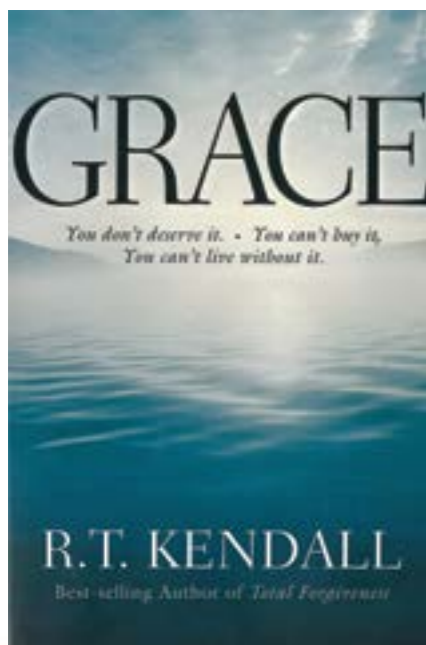
HE IS OUR EVERYTHING

The title can be confusing at first glance, but the pieces gradually fall into place as the author delves into how the name of God simply means that He is whatever we need Him to be in our lives.

The premise of this book is that as we look to God in every situation, and embrace His greatness, we will experience less stress and more direction in life. I particularly liked the chapter on keeping the Sabbath, and how we can choose to be at rest while allowing God to be at work. It reminded me to give up trying to control my life and to follow the I AM.

I also found Pastor Louie's "One Word Bible Study Method" useful. It shows how even focusing on just one word a day can bring about a greater revelation of the Scriptures in our lives. Through it, I have learnt how to meditate and dig deeper into the practical aspects of God's Word.

All in all, this book was a pleasant read; every chapter was short and easy to understand. I enjoyed the author's humour and conversational writing style as well as the use of personal experiences as illustrations. The liberating message is that we can stop feeling like this world depends on us. It is a good reminder to anyone that it's always about Him, and never about us. — KELLI CHEW



GRACE
BY R.T. KENDALL
PUBLISHER:
CHARISMA HOUSE

GRACE IS GREATER THAN THE LAW


In this deeply insightful book, renowned author R.T. Kendall takes the reader on a detailed study of God's intent and standard for the law (specifically the Ten Commandments). By expounding how the law could never accomplish what grace so powerfully performs, the author establishes how Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfil it through His sinless and spotless life.

I have personally benefited from the unique angle this book offers on the subject of grace. By unveiling how perfect and holy the law is, one truly gets a sense of how undeserving we are of grace. In the light of the law's pristine standards, we see how Jesus is the only Man who could fulfil it.

This book is a must-read for anyone seeking to appreciate and understand grace better. By the end of the book, your soul will be enriched by God's amazing heart of grace. — CLEMENT LIM

WHO'S READING WHAT

— PASTOR LOUIE GIGLIO



WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE AUTHOR?
A.W. Tozer has impacted my life a lot. He had a hunger to know God, to be intimate with God, yet he held a reverence for the greatness and majesty of God. Somehow, Tozer was always able to navigate that threshold of being in awe of God, yet being intimate with Him. That always struck a chord in my heart. He passed away in 1968. I was only a kid then, so I never saw him, but his writings have been influential in my life.

CAN YOU SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKS?
Writings from authors like C.S. Lewis or John Stott, or A.W. Tozer. Two of my favourite books are *The Knowledge Of The Holy* and *The Pursuit Of God*. I consider them great classic writings by A.W. Tozer. There is depth there.

I love books that are theologically deep yet respect the pursuit of knowing God.

WHAT BOOK ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING NOW?
Is it okay for me to read non-spiritual books? (laughs) I read this book called *An Astronaut's Guide To Life On Earth* recently. It is not by a Christian and it is not a spiritual book. It is about a guy who lived on a space station for six months last year, and shares about the leadership lessons he learnt from being the first Canadian astronaut in the space station. He left the space station knowing he was never going to go into space again. His teaching about life was useful. I like to read some non-spiritual books and get some spiritual things out of it. But really, the only book I'm reading right now is the Bible. That's what I meant to say.

MUSIC FOR THE KING



ALL THIS FOR A KING
— THE ESSENTIAL COLLECTION
BY DAVID CROWDER BAND

When David Crowder took the stage at New Creation Church in March with a cover of popular worship song *How He Loves*, his tender, reverent voice ran deep with God's love and I was immediately hooked to his unique brand of music.

Like the quirky album cover featuring David Crowder in his signature luxuriant beard, *All This For A King* captivates with edgy and uber creative songs. Young listeners will rock along with remixes of songs like *No One Like You [The Digital Age Remix]*, while *This I Know* makes country-folk hymns hip again. Even worship staples like *O Praise Them* filled me with an exuberant desire to throw up my hands in worship of God.

This album is definitely worth getting as it is the only compilation of The David Crowder Band's songs before the band dispersed in 2012.

— KELLY LIM

