



SET APART

AUTUMN COHORT / SEPTEMBER 2017

FEATURED ARTICLE

Keys to Longevity

by Elijah Chan

For My Father's Pleasure

by Christine Teo

I Am Who He Says I Am

by Joyce Scarborough

Not For Sale

by Sarah Gale Torres



THE
BIBLE COLLEGE
OF WALES

An extension of CCCW

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonourable, he will be a vessel for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 2:21

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From the Directors

Holiness is more than separation from the world – we also have to be joined to God who alone is intrinsically holy. There is nothing in this hour we need more than to see His Holiness which forms, transforms and defines who we are and who He is.



Congratulations to the graduating class of the School of Ministry, Autumn Term 2017! It has been our privilege to have served you in the Bible College of Wales.

The theme you have chosen for your graduation, “Set Apart”, is so apt for what God wants to do in and through us. Paul says in 2 Timothy 2:20, “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the master, prepared for every good work.” The key point is in the phrase, “cleanse himself from the latter” because the central issue in our lives is about holiness.

The great Welsh Preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, “What would happen in our day if believers were to get honest about their sin and serious about pursuing holiness? Might we not once again experience the manifest presence of God in our churches?” Wow, think about that! The pursuit of holiness is a lifelong journey and pursuit, but it begins as the believer consecrates or sets himself apart for the Lord.

In Leviticus 19:2, it says, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy”. When God parts His lips, the first thing He mentions about Himself is His holiness. He is the thrice holy God. In heaven, the angels and saints cry “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord”, and they do not cease. Holiness is probably the greatest intrinsic attribute of God and the greatest jewel in our crown. I would like to share three statements on holiness.

1. There is a difference between innocence and holiness.

Holiness is innocence that has been tried and tested. Adam was created in a state of innocence, having no understanding of what was right or wrong. However, God does not just want innocence. We do not sing “innocent, innocent, innocent is the Lord”, do we? He wants


holiness and this is only possible through trials whereby the person being tested chooses the good and refuses the evil. This was what God wanted to teach Adam in the garden of Eden, yet we are familiar with the tragic ending of this story – Adam chose to disobey. The moment he partook of the fruit, he became aware of good and evil. He lost his innocence and he saw his nakedness.

From this Genesis episode, we have the tendency to talk about Adam making the wrong choice, Eve’s disobedience, or the serpent’s treachery, but we neglect to see the one person whose heart was shattered. When Adam chose Eve over God, God’s heart was crushed. That is why the first commandment above all is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, strength, might and soul. God must be first and pre-eminent in our lives.

2. There is a difference between righteousness and holiness.

Romans 6:19 tells us, “For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.” Righteousness is the baseline and starting point for the Christian life and that is how we enter the kingdom. The Christian receives salvation through believing in his heart, and it is accounted to him for righteousness. Following which is water baptism, and Jesus Himself said that water baptism is an act of righteousness. When we take little steps in righteousness, we grow in it, because our salvation is predicated on us continually walking in righteousness. However, we cannot stop at righteousness – it must eventually lead us to holiness.

A good example of this is Lot. Lot was a righteous man according to the Scriptures, but he was not a holy man. He was comfortable being in Sodom and Gomorrah, a perverse environment that God found abominable. In spite of being vexed by what he witnessed going on around him, he did not want to leave. He was comfortable in the place of immorality, and the result was that he lost everything. Righteousness will deliver us but it is insufficient if we seek a deeper walk with God.



The true Christian ideal is not to be happy, but to be holy. If you have to choose between happiness or holiness, choose holiness.

We must not stop at righteousness and pursue holiness, without which, no man shall see God (Heb 12:14).

3. There are varying degrees of holiness.

“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” (Rev 22:11) This is one of the final warnings from the Lord to His Beloved Church in the last book of the Bible, describing the conditions prior to the return of Jesus Christ. If we profess to love the Lord, we ought to long for His coming with a passion. Anybody who is indifferent about His return hardly qualifies to be part of the Bride. In these last days, the dichotomy between holiness and filthiness will widen. The wicked will commit greater iniquity and the holy will live in greater sanctification and separation, and there will be a marked distinction.

Holiness is an aspect of God’s nature that is without parallel anywhere in the universe. The Bible gives us many interesting aspects of God’s character: He is good, He is wisdom, He is love, etc. As we look at the world in which we live, we can find people that demonstrate these virtues in some measure. We know people who may have a great sense of justice, people who are longsuffering, people who are morally upright. But when it comes to holiness, there is nothing outside of God that can lay claim to this. Holiness belongs to Him. The Hebrew root word is “Qadosh”, and it means to be ‘cut off’ or to be separated from the rest. The Greek word is “Hagios” and it simply means, different from the world. The word holy is sometimes translated hallowed or sanctified.

There are two processes involved: firstly, a separation from the world, flesh and the devil, secondly, a separation unto God. Holiness is more than separation from the world – we also have to be joined to God who alone is intrinsically holy. There is nothing in this hour we need more than to see His Holiness which forms, transforms and defines who we are and who He is.

As you graduate, may the Lord give you an increasing desire for holiness and purity. Charles Spurgeon sums it up brilliantly in this quote, “I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him.” The true Christian ideal is not to be happy, but to be holy. If you have to choose between happiness or holiness, choose holiness. A lot of people want to be happy now, and holiness in the next life, but if you will choose holiness now, you are guaranteed to be happy in the next. May the Lord bless you all richly in your ongoing journey. You are a wonderful cohort of students and on behalf of the leadership of the school, we bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**REV. TUCK YOONG
& PST. DAPHNE YANG**

Directors of The Bible College of Wales

From the Dean



*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire,
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You,
my Master,
Ready to do Your will.*

From the first day of orientation through the duration of the term, there has been a distinct and clear sense of the Holy Spirit's guidance upon the class. The scheduled modules and appointed lecturers flowed in a stream which took the class from one realm of glory to another. At its core was an underlying foundation of holiness and the fear of the Lord. The chosen theme, "Set Apart," is but a natural outflow of the class experience. It is especially important to weigh carefully what this entails as a student setting forth from the BCW, considering the day and hour in which we live.

Today's world is awash in confusion and chaos. The sad reality is that this is having an increasing effect upon the church. The church should be the beacon of hope, light and direction. Israel of old had the responsibility to be set apart as an example for other nations. Notice carefully the indictment spoken by Ezekiel in a day very much like our own:

Eze 5:5-6

Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them.

The message of being "set apart" is consistently seen from Genesis through Revelation. There were defining moments when God sought to separate a people unto Himself. How many separated themselves to the Word of the Lord in the days of Noah? God told his people to separate themselves from Korah at the time of his rebellion against Moses (Num 16:21). In the last days, the Lord implores His people to come out of Babylon and its worldly system (Rev 18:4). The scriptural example that has apprehended me these past 3 months is the following declarative question that Moses asked the children of Israel. "Who is on the Lord's side?" (Exo 32:26) It was here the Levites separated and set apart themselves from their brethren. You may also recall during this time that the children of Israel were serving God on their terms (Exo 32:1-6). That was all about to change and so it will be today! Can the following be said of us as was stated to Levi?

Mal 2:5-7

My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts.

Will we take up the challenge and answer the call? The lectures, time of prayer, devotionals and chapel services have been consistent on the themes of "Holiness" and the "Fear of the Lord." These two themes require a choosing and willingness to be set apart. I have been encouraged in witnessing first-hand your honesty and transparency in making that choice. I congratulate you on making the choice to attend the BCW these past few months and for choosing to be set apart for the Lord's purposes in the days to come (2 Tim 2:21). The following priestly song represents my sentiments and prayer for you as you go forth:

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire,
Is to be holy,
Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy,
Set apart for You, my Master,
Ready to do Your will.*

REV. TIM O'CONNELL
Dean of Students, School of Ministry

Committed

by Elijah Chan

On the plane ride here from Singapore, I asked myself repeatedly, “Why are you coming here, Elijah?” I knew that the three months in the BCW would pass quickly in the twinkling of an eye if I did not purpose and resolve to be transformed by His power and grace, and not mere theological knowledge. This very question lingered in my mind, and during our first prayer meeting in class the Lord asked me clearly, “Do you want to be involved or committed? Both are permissible, but if you choose to be committed, I will take you higher, but it will be painful.”

There is a stark difference between involvement and commitment. Involvement is the act of participating in various activities - attending lectures, prayer meetings, and street outreaches. Involvement says, “Look at how busy I am with the Kingdom of God!”, but in reality, it is not about Him but self-gratification. In essence, involvement is a facade, like the rich young ruler in Matthew 19 who thought he could enter into eternal life through his works, but refused to accept what Jesus really wanted – first place in his heart!

Commitment, on the other hand, comes with a high price. Commitment is answering His call no matter how difficult or inconvenient. Like the scenario in Song of Solomon 5:3, the lover knocks on the door of his beloved, but she dismisses him instead, saying, “I have taken off my coat. How can I put it back on? I have washed my feet. How can I get them dirty again?” Commitment says ‘yes’ and allows God to put His finger on certain issues in my heart kept under lock and key, and surrendering all rights to hold that key. Commitment is also a confession of the hidden things, allowing God to deal not only with our deeds, but also our intentions.

All revelation warrants a response – and my response to Him that very day was that I would be committed. I would accept the anguish, sorrow, and repentance which might come when the Lord reveals what He wants me to change. If we desire to come up higher with Him, we need to be committed, not just superficially involved!

In the Bible, the prophet Isaiah received a fresh revelation of the Lord in Isaiah 6:1, where it says, “In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple.” When the glory of God filled the temple, Isaiah’s eyes were opened to see the King, the Lord of Hosts right before him. Then, in the light of the glory of God, Isaiah saw himself – unworthy and depraved in the presence of an almighty and holy God. He began to say, “Woe is me,” and repented of his sins, despite being the national representative who brought people’s offerings before the Lord! It is imperative, even to the most mature believer, to be aware of our corrupt and sinful nature in the light of God’s awesome purity.

Isaiah was not a new believer, yet he still repented – he realised for the first time that his lips were not consecrated. One of the seraphims took a coal from off the altar and when this coal touched Isaiah’s lips, it brought a new cleansing to what would proceed from his lips. From then onwards, God commissioned him in a new way

to speak to His people, and from chapter 7 onwards, Isaiah began to prophesy about the Messiah who was to come 700 years later!

The appearance of the fiery coal approaching his mouth must have been unnerving - if I were Isaiah, I may have shunned the coal! Yet we must understand that commitment brings about discomfort. He has been pinpointing issues in my life that are not pleasing before Him. He told me to confess and to repent publicly before my classmates about my pride and my speech – whether it was being rude to others, or complaining and grumbling about little things. I struggled to do so but a breakthrough came when I obeyed and said yes. May God grant that we, as His messengers, are purged from all foolishness of speech, and speak only words that will bring Him glory.

God desires to give all of us a fresh anointing and commissioning to accomplish His purposes. However, this new work must be preceded by a fresh repentance in our lives – we may graduate from a Bible College but we must never graduate from the school of repentance. God can do a deep work in our lives if we continue to yield to his moulding and remain committed, even if it means carrying the cross. It is my desire to have Psalms 84:7 inscribed upon my heart: “They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.”

*We may graduate
from a Bible College
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FOR MY FATHER'S PLEASURE

by Christine Teo

You chose the better thing between staying fearful and stepping out. You risked being wrong for the sake of obedience.

As I walk this journey of life with God, I comprehend with greater depth the limitations of our earthly, cultural worldviews in grasping a transcendental God. I grew up in Singapore – buffed and polished by an achievement-oriented education system that offers the security of being able to master anything I do not understand, and sail through life with honest, straightforward grit. However, the beauty and complexity of God is that He does not fit into the broken boxes of our worldly systems. I cannot “be better” at Bible College by taking ten test papers from previous years, nor does God provide an answer key to my life decisions.

One of my greatest struggles was overcoming the lie that I could not hear God’s voice – a problem I encountered when seeking the aforementioned answer key on my quest for a perfect and problem-free life, or, as I called it, “God’s will.” After all, I was solid flesh and bones, hewn from the blunt stone of rationality and scepticism – how could I catch the wispy thoughts of a God of Spirit and stillness? I came to the BCW disheartened from some regular instances when I was unable to discern God’s voice and from the sensation of feeling around in the fog for something solid every time I tried.

Ironically, my breakthrough came when I clearly heard God challenge me on this issue during a prayer meeting. I felt that I had a message to share but resisted stepping up to the microphone because of fear. I feared the vulnerability of speaking before my lecturers and classmates – that I would not phrase my prayer correctly or fail to use the right Christian lingo enough for all the men and women of God around me. Most of all, I feared that I had not heard God accurately and did not want to make a mistake in public. Eventually, I did go up to the microphone and share my message, but was squirming inwardly for the rest of the prayer meeting. Amidst the loud voices of my insecurities, God’s stern but loving voice came with great clarity:

“You chose the better thing between staying fearful and stepping out. You risked being wrong for the sake of obedience. If you were wrong and I am pleased with you, is that

enough for you? Are you willing to be wrong for My sake? It is your fear of getting it wrong, your perfectionism, and fear of failure that prevent you from hearing My voice.”

It hit me then that while I had boxed God’s voice within the worldly binary of accuracy or inaccuracy, the God of love and faith speaks according to a deeply intangible and far superior logic of His own. As Jesus said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27) Just as a bride would recognise her bridegroom’s voice not because of the perfect clarity of his words, but the familiar and loving lilt of his voice – I recognise the voice of my Father not through any definable characteristics but through our intimacy. The pleasure of hearing His voice lies not in catching His every word accurately, but in Him who is speaking.

God reinforced this lesson when I received my first job offer after graduating from university. I panicked and was anxious from the thought of making a mistake by either accepting or rejecting the job. I sought God desperately for the answer when I realised that the root of my anxiety lay in my fear of failure. I was afraid of the pain of making a mistake by accepting the wrong job and somehow missing God’s will for my life. In that moment of honesty, God met me again, in His gentle but firm voice: “Christine, the way the world defines failure is not the way I define failure. If you love Me, you will not fail.” It truly hit me then that all along, I had carried my worldly attitude of perfectionism into my relationship with Jesus. The Kingdom of God, however, operates on a different currency – worship. My highest calling is not to be perfect for God or live perfectly for God; my highest calling is to worship Him with all of myself, for He has set me apart for His pleasure.

With those words, the burden to strive for perfection and to never make a mistake rolled off my shoulders. I was liberated from the world’s tainted measurements of value and free to fail, for I could never be a failure in Christ. I rest simply in my identity as His daughter – imperfect but perfectly loved by my Father.

FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS

*Words and artwork
by Margaret-Faith Chen*

*Therefore, discernment is
key to knowing where God
is leading us and may
He find obedience in us as
He shows us the way.*

Then He said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

I pondered about this Scripture and I asked the Lord what it meant to follow His footsteps. The answer came simply one evening when my classmates and I took a stroll in the woods, and I had a glimpse of what it meant: to walk at His pace, be in step with His timing, and walk where He leads.

As we entered into the forest, my friends moved ahead while I followed them closely from the back. It seemed simple but I realised it required me to keep pace with them; it meant that I had to maintain consistent strides and a fair distance to not lose sight of them nor to overtake them and go off track altogether, given there were many turns and forks onto other paths. My concentration was fully focused on the person before me. Likewise, recognising His footsteps and keeping in tandem with His pace is tantamount to following Jesus.

While we were on the path, my classmates were careful to avoid branches, water puddles or any other obstacles along the way, as they were ahead and could see what was coming up. Similarly, I recalled the many times when the Holy Spirit would gently nudge me to avoid

potential pitfalls where it would have been a disaster if I had insisted on my way. In hindsight, letting go of the security in knowing what lies ahead, and trusting in His leading and good timing are key to helping me grow in faith.

The sights and smells of the natural beauty around me took my breath away. I could not help but stop at different junctures to admire the beauty of creation. Without me realising, the distance between my classmates and I gradually increased. Eventually, I made a quick dash and caught up with them, but it reminded me of times in my life where I allowed distractions to lead me astray – it was not easy retracing Jesus’ footsteps afterwards. Though distractions often look good, they may not necessarily be God-ordained. Therefore, discernment is key to knowing where God is leading us and may He find obedience in us as He shows us the way.



Songs

Lyrics and melodies inspired through
times of intimate worship

Jesus You Are Lord of All

by Anne Marie Goto

Jesus, You are Lord of all
Only You are worthy of
All my worship and my love
Only You are Lord

Promised King from David’s line
Humbly born with heavenly sign
Son of Man yet God divine,
King of every king

Sent to bruise the serpent’s head
When you rose up from the dead
You defeated death for men
Bore the curse of sin

I will praise You with my voice
With my heart and all my life
You’re the one pure sacrifice
Slain for me to live

Ever faithful, ever true
Never sin or spot in You
Every knee shall bow to You
When You come to reign

“Come to Me,” You call to us
You have made the way for us
By Your blood You have saved us
For eternity

Jesus help me follow You
Do all that you’d have me do
Holy Spirit, I need you
Always be my Lord

Wind

by Christine Téo & Darrel Goh

I hear Your voice calling
Flowing in the wind
I hear Your voice softly
Speaking to my heart

Oh, the secrets You whisper to me
Of treasures You’ve hidden within
Draw me closer, closer to Your heart
Draw me closer, closer to Your heart

Sweet Jesus, mighty King
Soft whisper in the wind
You’re just one breath away
From me right now
One day closer ‘til I see You
Face to face

Call me close now, Spirit
Speak to me Your heart
Tell me how to please You
Here I am now

Oh, this love I cannot comprehend
You choose me, beginning to end
Hide me in You, in the shadow
Of Your love
Hide me in You, I’m hidden in
Your love

Jesus is For Me

by Colin Cinderby

It’s a struggle, it’s a fight
Every step of the way it’s a battle
But I want to be, Lord, what You want me to be
And I want to go, Lord, where You want me to go
I want to give the world a chance
To see what You can do, Lord
With a life fully given over to You

So put on your armour, join the battle royal
Christ is the victor, we shall have the spoils
Stand up for Jesus, hear the trumpet sound
Press on to glory, the victory is secure
Won on Calvary for us, death has no more sting
Jesus is for us, our Captain and our King!

Let’s join together, who are of the day
A better day is coming for us
So help us to be, Lord, what You want us to be
So help us to go, Lord, where You want us to go
So the world will see a different people
Set apart for Your work, Lord
With lives fully given over to You

This distance can also be measured by how we obey two of the greatest commandments God gave to us – to love God with all our heart and to love others as we would ourselves.



HOW CLOSE IS OUR HEART TO GOD'S HEART?

by Nerys Cheng

I have sometimes heard it preached in sermons the need to shorten the distance between the mind and the heart; so that our heart can be in agreement with the truth in our minds. But there is another distance which needs to be shortened; it is the distance between our hearts and God's heart. This distance can also be measured by how we obey two of the greatest commandments God gave to us – to love God with all our heart and to love others as we would ourselves (Matt 22:37-40). To understand this, let us look at the story of two prophets – Jonah and Moses.

Jonah was a prophet and is most commonly associated with his ministry to Nineveh, a city condemned for their iniquity and wickedness. In Jonah 3:4, Jonah declared the judgement of the Lord – Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days. However, he did not call Nineveh into repentance. When the people of Nineveh heard Jonah's message, the fear of the Lord came upon them and they repented from their sins. Because of their humility, "God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." (Jonah 3:10) However, instead of being pleased by the outcome, Jonah became angry that God showed mercy. His reason was explained in the following chapter where he said "Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." (Jonah 4:3)

Clearly, Jonah knew God's compassionate nature but he thought Nineveh's evil made the citizens deserving of God's judgements. What Jonah failed to see was that God's desire for mercy triumphed in this situation. Jonah's self-righteousness and concern for his own reputation

revealed that one can know the ways of God but yet not know God's heart.

On the contrary, Moses, another prophet, understood God's heart. It is mentioned in Exodus 33:11 that "the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend." When Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the ten commandments from God, the Israelites in the camp at the foot of the mountain committed a great sin by fashioning and worshipping a golden calf. God revealed His plans to Moses, "Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation." (Exo 32:10)

Unlike Jonah, instead of acceding to the judgment, Moses pleaded with God to turn away from His wrath. Moses did not seize this opportunity to achieve greatness for himself but he was more concerned with the honour of God's reputation – the enemies of the Israelites would mock and taunt them! He reminded God of His love and promise to make the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob into a great nation. Furthermore, despite the hardness of the Israelites' hearts, Moses offered to make atonement for their sins, by giving up his own place in eternity in exchange that Israel may be saved (Exo 32:32). Moses' actions demonstrated the very nature of God's heart and foreshadowed the coming of Christ to atone for the sins of all humanity.

Both prophets loved God and knew who He was and what He wanted. In some ways, we can find Jonah in us; though we love God, we value our desires above His. However, may we learn to be like Moses, whose mind and heart was one with God, and exercise love and compassion to all around us – just like Christ did.

His Whirlwind

From my first moments at the BCW, I have felt as though I have been placed within the Lord's purifying whirlwind. The force of this wind has been driving away and uprooting things in me to sanctify me deeper still, and make me a vessel fit for the Master's use to effectively serve Him in these last days. It is like the Scripture in Hebrews 12:27 that describes "The removing of those things that are shaken...that those things which cannot be shaken may remain." He is calling out thoughts and attitudes, some of which I was not aware that I possessed, and others which I thought I had dealt with years ago. But now these hidden things are being brought to the surface in His whirlwind, and as I confess and forsake them, I am confident that He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse me from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). This is not an easy experience, nor one that I would naturally seek out, but I would rather have this finished sooner rather than later, and on this side of eternity.

I want to always ask the question, "Will this stand for eternity?" I want to order my steps accordingly in the remaining days I have been allocated on earth.

The Bible tells us that "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Cor 5:10) One of the teachers here at the BCW told us that he has a plaque with the word "Eternity" above his desk, and this forms the basis upon which he judges everything that he does. Like him, I want to always ask the question, "Will this stand for eternity?" I want to order my steps accordingly in the remaining days I have been allocated on earth.

The Lord has been graciously using His whirlwind to remove things in me which will not stand for eternity, things without a strong and firm foundation. In Hebrews 12:6 we read, "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

In addition to this rather unnerving removal process, the Lord is building me up and revealing His love and tender care for me. I have learnt to submit to Him and give my life as a freewill offering to the One who loved me first, and gave Himself for me. Like a beautiful rose blooming when viewed in a time lapse video, as it opens petal upon petal, petal upon petal, it is both fascinating and beautiful, beyond anything that could be conceived of or created by man. Another aspect of the rose is of course its wonderful fragrance! Only our Creator God could engineer such a feat – both beautiful and magnificent in its complexity; the work not of "Mother Nature", but of Father God. And so, as I yield to Him and open up my heart by obedience, I am opening up and flowering in the sunshine of His love.

The Lord confirmed this message through a vision He gave a dear friend of mine. In the vision, she saw many roses; some were closed up as buds, some were open and blossoming, while the remaining were wilted. She asked the Lord what this meant, and He told her that this depicted His people here on earth. The tightly budded flowers with petals protecting and defending their core are Christians who refuse to allow God to touch their hearts or submit to a change in their behaviour at His beckoning. When flowers do not open, they start to droop and wilt as the bud decays, which affects the rest of the plant. This teaches us that we must go forward with the Lord and be willing to yield to Him. We may think that our habitual patterns of self-protection and coping strategies are best, but we need to let go of these and allow Jesus to be our armour and our shield.

The resplendent flowers with unfurled petals in full bloom characterise Christians who have yielded their life to the Lord and are willing to undergo the trials of life as they follow Him, opening their hearts to the Sun of Righteousness. Although this makes flowers susceptible to diverse weather conditions and visits from insects, the end result of these roses, when pollinated, leads to beauty and captivating fragrance which gives eternal pleasure to the Lord. We are encouraged in John 16:33 where it says, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world".

Tragically, the wilted flowers are Christians who had served the Lord but who have backslidden, and not returned to Him or restored their love relationship with Him. "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." (Rev 1:4-5)

The Lord desires to see all of His children walking fully sanctified and free, but this can only happen if we are open to His dealings with us, even if it means a cleansing whirlwind. He also showers us with His love, such that we can open our hearts to Him and safely trust Him to bring us through this life to our eternal home with Him.

by Anne Marie Gow

Student Testimonies



ABIGAIL LEW JUN YI
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

I remembered thinking to myself that it would not be the best decision to attend the BCW with many ongoing transitions in my life, but the Lord spoke clearly that I should sign up for this term! Like Peter, who saw Jesus walk on water, I felt challenged during my time here. As I listened to Bible expositories and countless testimonies, He was stretching my faith, inviting me into deeper waters. Yet I am assured He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that I can ever ask or think of, and in spite of the wind and waves, I take courage in that (Eph 3:20-21)!



ANNE MARIE GOW
UNITED KINGDOM

Bristol and South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit, United Kingdom

The BCW is a wonderful surprise gift from the Lord. I was born again at 15 and desired to go to Bible College then, but the Lord led me instead into the marketplace, which provided valuable experience through the years. Now He has opened the door to the BCW, and I cannot imagine a better Bible College in the world. Does not the Lord keep the best wine until last (John 2:10)? With great teachings, powerful meetings, and blessed fellowship with students and faculty, I thank the Lord for this exceptional preparation for whatever He has in mind for me next.



CHARLOTTE QUECK MUI NOY
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

Coming to the BCW has been a surreal experience for me. It is a privilege to spend twelve weeks here and I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn from many anointed teachers. I have received so much revelation as I have learned to study and apply God's word daily. During one of the classes, I received a prophetic word that God has put His blessings in my family through the generations and those blessings are available for me to experience today. I praise God for this word as I have been praying for my family's salvation. To God be the glory!



CHRISTINE TEO LI JUN
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

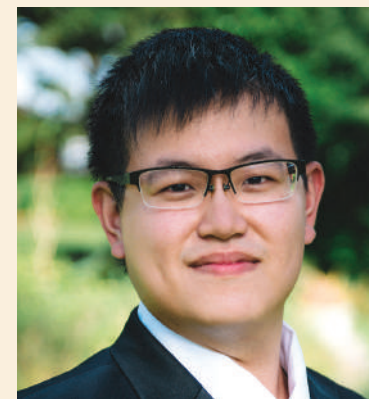
I came to the BCW to seek His face as a firstfruits offering of my time after graduating from university. God has been winnowing me into deeper holiness during my time here. Firstly, He has been stripping me away from the influence of the world, from false identities I have allowed to define me, and from hurts and sins that encumbered my relationship with Him. Secondly, He has been bringing me to a place of renewal and alignment with Him, affirming my identity as a beloved daughter in passionate pursuit of His heart.



COLIN CINDERBY
UNITED KINGDOM

Bethel Community Church, Maesteg and Kenfig Hill, Wales

My friend studied in the BCW last year and urged me to come. I was quickened in my Spirit but decided not to terminate my employment. An unusual turn of events led to a relocation of office premises, and my job came to a natural end in April. I thought that if no other job offer came by the end of July, I would study at the BCW. I applied for numerous positions to no avail, so I enrolled here. That same week, I had three interviews, one of which provided me a conditional offer to begin when the course finished – God's perfect timing indeed!



DARREL GOH
SINGAPORE

Chapel of the Resurrection, Singapore

When I first watched the BCW promotional video at the Kingdom Invasion conference, I immediately knew that God was calling me here for the next season after two years in military service. Throughout my time here, God has been speaking tenderly to my heart, sending different people at different times just to show me His love. He has affirmed that I am who He says I am: a child of God. I have also encountered His manifest presence and received fresh revelation on the work and person of the Holy Spirit, and I am no longer ashamed to be His!



ELIJAH CHAN WAI KEONG
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

“The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.” This impression came to me during a prayer meeting and I knew what the Lord was trying to tell me. I have always had a love for theology but in my time here, the Lord has been aggressively pursuing my heart with this question: “How is your heart?” It is not just how much I know but whether I love the One I read about. I am grateful for the opportunity to study here. This is a very special place where I have encountered the Word of God becoming flesh (John 1:14).



GILLIAN YIH-EN HU
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

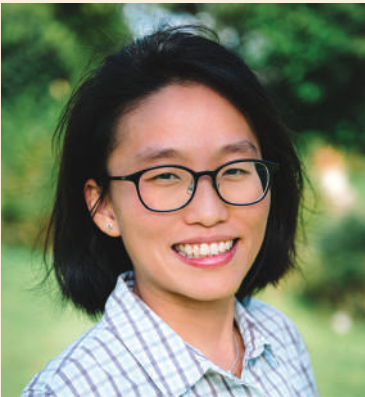
It took a step of faith to come to the BCW but God has been so faithful! The staff are so kind and have served us so well, including in the placement of all student housing and estate duties. The lecturers are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit as they teach us. During one class on Ephesians, the presence of the Holy Spirit was tangible so we stopped class to humble ourselves to worship and wait. It was a personal and profound experience. In-depth study, learning to pray, being enlarged by the Spirit – what more could one ask for at Bible College?



GLADYS THENG SAU MEI
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

After attending various Bible courses in Singapore, I was still hungry for more of God but at the same time conscious that I am getting older and wanting to spend my time wisely. While in between projects and unsure of what to pursue, I was asked to consider coming to the BCW and heard the Lord say, “Go!” On my first night here, the Lord said to me, “Does the eagle soar at your command and build its nest on high?” (Job 39:27). The Lord was challenging me to trust Him with my future and since being here, He has assured me of his faithfulness.



GRACE TEO
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

Coming to the BCW was something I had tucked away in my heart. However, I was provoked to put my prompting into action. Like in 2 Corinthians 3:5, He has been teaching me to be fully dependent on Him instead of relying on my own strength; presenting my emptiness so that He can fill me up. As I set aside time to soak in His presence and study the Scriptures, I feel so enriched – this time has been so precious. I am looking forward to an exciting journey ahead fulfilling God’s eternal purposes in my life!



HELEN WONG
MALAYSIA

Cornerstone Community Church, Miri, Malaysia

What a privilege it has been to walk this glorious journey in a refreshing environment with dedicated servant-leaders and diverse classmates from different backgrounds on different stages of our journey with Jesus! God is honoured spiritually and academically throughout each student’s life, worship and service. We were carefully nurtured under sound teachings to be presented complete in Christ for the glory and honour of His name (Col 1:28). I was so focused on something waiting for me when I came but I have found something waiting within me. My heart is reignited with burning passion because of exemplary Christ-centred truths taught and caught at the BCW.



JAPHETH CHEW BAN SIONG
MALAYSIA

Kingdom City, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Having spent considerable amounts of time in YWAM and IHOPU, attending another school sounded redundant. However, the Lord makes no mistakes when He calls His children to trust Him even when things do not make sense at the time. For me, this was an opportunity to see if I would trust His leading. I have been blessed beyond measure to be able to sit under the teachings of some amazing men and women of God. This season has been a restful one; a Psalm 23 encounter and a Sabbath experience before the next big adventure. Praise God for the grace to grow to become more like my Saviour!



JESSE LEE ORNDORFF
USA

Church of Christ Our Peace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

I came to the BCW for a time of rest and restoration as my family has been in a season of transition. Although I have been involved in different ministries over the years, I knew I was not fully following the call God has for my life to serve as a pastor. The BCW is my first step in this pursuit. Here, I have received rest but I also have been growing in the Holy Spirit as He has stretched me in new ways through prayer, intercession, and worship. I am expectant for the new season He is bringing me and my family into.



JOSEPH EBENEZER DHURAIRAJ
SRI LANKA

Jerusalem Prayer Centre, Sri Lanka

It was only by God’s grace that I could come to the BCW. During my time here, God has strengthened my spirit and answered questions I have struggled with for a long time. I have been greatly inspired by the lecturers and how they live their lives. In particular, the lecture taught on the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit enlarged my understanding of Him. I am confident that through the power of the Holy Spirit I can be a living example of the teachings received at BCW over these past three months.



JOSHUA LEONG WENG CHUNG
BRUNEI

Agape Family Centre, Brunei

Coming to the BCW was indeed a blessing. I have had incredible experiences in my time with the Lord while being here. I have been confronted with areas in my heart which have not been surrendered, but through His love, I am seeing parts of my worldly self being chipped away. Surrendering to Christ has been a journey filled with many tears but I am so thankful for the truths He has revealed to me. With God’s grace, I am moving forward and know that nothing is impossible for Him who carries me through. May He increase and I decrease (John 3:30)!



JOYCE ANGELA SCARBOROUGH
AUSTRALIA

Discovery Church, Melbourne, Australia

As a mother of two young children, I had never imagined having the opportunity to become a student at the BCW. With the support of my amazing husband, we have come here as a family to seek His heart for our future. I now feel like a child again, sitting at the feet of my Father, soaking in the wonderful truths He is revealing about who He is and who He made me to be. I have found joy, revelation, and strength. It is truly a privilege to be in this place, a place that has changed my life forever.



KABELO ERIC KGAOI
BOTSWANA

Restoration Centre Church, Botswana, Africa

The Lord instructed me to come to the BCW and I am glad I heeded His call. It is a privilege to receive the teaching and impartation at the very college founded by the great intercessor, Mr. Rees Howells. The example of Mr. Howells being faithful in the little things is one message among many that has impacted me. He was a man God gradually entrusted with the burden to pray for every creature to hear the gospel (Luke 16:10). This very legacy of prayer has been sown into my Spirit, and I desire to carry it back home for the glory of God’s Kingdom.



KOH WEI TING
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

A good friend blessed me with a beautiful prayer before I came to the BCW, where these three months were likened to a pitstop during a car race. Indeed, it has been a time of rest and refuelling, with worn parts renewed and my heart recalibrated to Him again. During this season, God has reminded me of His promises and dreams, bringing my focus back to Jesus and the Cross. Jesus being at the centre of my life is exactly the posture I want. I am thrilled for the next chapter in my life He is leading me into!



MARGARET-FAITH CHEN
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

Previously, the Bible was like a book of riddles to me. I struggled to make connections yet God placed in me an insatiable hunger and thirst for more of His truth. I relied heavily on book studies and commentaries rather than having fresh insight, and felt frustrated with not being able to comprehend the Scriptures on my own. However, at the BCW, I have now been equipped with the tools to excavate His Word. Since then, the Bible has come to life as my favourite adventure novel, like in Hebrews 4:12, “the Word of God is alive and active.”



MARK SAMIDURAI KHUHAN
SINGAPORE
Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

Coming to the BCW has been a testimony to the faithfulness of God. Within a week before the term started, I witnessed God’s hand at work as He provided the opportunity and the finances for me to attend. The subject of “faith” has been further developed through my time here, and just like how this college was built by faith, I desire to live the Hebrews 11 life that will please and honour Him. I look forward to growing my relationship with Christ and to know Him face to face – wherever He goes, I will follow; whenever He calls, I will answer.



MAY LEE CHU
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

The Lord has been working in amazing ways to transform my heart and mind, though I initially struggled to obey and drop everything to come. While washing dishes in the kitchen, He has been telling me to be thorough in cleaning so I will not miss any spots or grime, just like how He patiently deals with my life. Likewise, in early mornings on the beach, He teaches me to wait just as I anticipate the sunrise. These three months have filled me with a great sense of childlike faith as I seek Him, and I have been richly blessed!



MEGAN GRIFFITHS CAMPBELL
CANADA

Harmony Community Church, Ontario, Canada

I came to the BCW with no idea of what to expect. For the last two years, I have been waiting and seeking God’s next steps for my life. The depth of the lecturers’ revelations of God has been so encouraging. Through their wisdom, integrity, and faith, God has been restoring my hope that He truly is who He says He is. I continue to long for a faith that surpasses circumstance and spiritual climate. That being said, this time of waiting has been made so much kinder through the sweetness, prayer, and encouragement of the BCW family. I am so blessed!



MORITA ANNE JONES
IRELAND

Wexford Community Church, Ireland

Early last year, I reached out to the Lord from a place of terrible darkness, and He heard the cry of my heart. He lavished His love upon me like I had never known before, completely transforming my life. I now believe that He is going to turn all that I have gone through into something beautiful and use those experiences to further His Kingdom. He has called me to the BCW for this purpose – that I may be better equipped to help those suffering and in need of the Gospel of hope. Thank You Jesus!



NERYS CHENG
HONG KONG

The Vine Church, Hong Kong

Before I came to the BCW, God showed me that His desire was for me to know Him. The depth of His unending love and quest for me has led me to tears! I have been weeping on my knees, convicted by the Holy Spirit to times of repentance. I have been crying out for His help in distress. I have been moved with tears by His love, grace, and mercy. I have been groaning in intercession and prayer. Ultimately, I leave with a cry of great joy because I know Him better than before. May His will be done!



NICOLETTE CHEN LIXIN
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

One area the Lord revealed to me since coming to the BCW was my need for inner healing. Initially, I could not understand this as I thought I had gone through the process and released forgiveness to those who had hurt me. However, one day, a fellow sister helped me see I still had lingering pain in my heart. The Lord has gently started to heal the pain I had been carrying, and the love that my classmates have shown me has enabled me to become free and whole. Here, I have encountered the Great Physician who loves me dearly.



ROBERT MATSEDIMA KGWETE
SOUTH AFRICA

Heaven Connection Church, South Africa

When God impressed upon me to come to the BCW, I knew immediately that something great was going to happen in my life. God is defined by His excellence and everything He does is excellent. The Spirit of excellence is displayed in the classroom by way of the teaching of each module and living examples of the lecturers, through staff members, and in the overall running and operations of the BCW. My life has been impacted and I am forever changed. I pray to bring this excellence forward as I press into the high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:14).



SARAH GALE TORRES
PHILIPPINES

The Rock Church, Manila, Philippines

I found myself caught up in the busyness of life and ministry when I made the decision to come to the BCW. I am awed at how He has made it possible for me to come, just to have my undivided attention and give me much needed rest. From His rest, in these three months I have experienced a rekindling of dreams and re-fuelling of vision. I found myself strengthened and built up to take steps toward these dreams becoming reality as He takes me beyond the world I know to know Him like never before.



SOCHANNARY KONG
CAMBODIA

Open Arms, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

God’s mercies are new every morning. I was brought up in a children’s home but His grace did not stop there – I have been blessed with new parents and am now studying here in the BCW! Like 1 Peter 2:4, though I have been rejected by man, He has chosen me and I am precious in His sight. Coming here has made me understand more of the Father’s heart, and this has given me the peace to say YES to whatever He wants me to do, because I trust in His leading and guidance. I delight to do my Father’s will!



SREYNAIT YOUN
CAMBODIA

Open Arms, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

I am so blessed by our Heavenly Father! I was a hopeless orphan unsure of what my future would look like, but He has given me a beautiful natural and spiritual family. My mother attended the BCW last year and wanted me to have the same opportunity, but I had reservations because I left school at an early age. The wonderful Holy Spirit has been teaching me through each passionate lecturer. I also love living in this community – the people around me are kind and friendly. I am so excited to see how God will use us to impact others!



VIVIEN WONG SSU HUI
SINGAPORE

Cornerstone Community Church, Singapore

Coming to the BCW has been a journey of faith. God first prompted me to come here in November 2016. In July 2017, I lost my job and found myself right where God wanted me to be – fully reliant on Him. A word of prophecy given by a lecturer – “Circumstances lately have stretched you but that was My doing. I have called you to live by faith when others do not, trust in me when others will not, and see my provision when others cannot.” Indeed, God has called me to an extraordinary life of total surrender.



Autumn Term Class of 2017

**Top row
from left:**

Darrel Goh, Japheth Chew Ban Seong, Jesse Lee Orndorff, Christine Teo Li Jun, Nicolette Chen Lixin, Mark Khuhan, Joseph Ebenezer Dhurairaj, Robert Matsedima Kgwete, Elijah Chan Wai Keong, Joshua Leong Weng Chung, Kabelo Eric Kgaodi, Colin Cinderby, Megan Griffiths Campbell, May Lee Chu

**Bottom row
from left:**

Koh Wei Ting, Grace Teo, Sarah Gale Torres, Anne Marie Gow, Sreynait Youn, Sochannary Kong, Margaret-Faith Chen, Gillian Yih-En Hu, Abigail Lew Jun Yi, Gladys Theng Sau Mei, Helen Wong, Vivien Wong Ssu Hui, Nerys Cheng, Joyce Angela Scarborough, Charlotte Queck Mui Noy, Morita Anne Jones

I AM WHO HE SAYS I AM

by Joyce Scarborough

Recently he said to me, "Mum, did you know God never says 'oops' – He has a perfect plan."

I have two amazing children, Sean and Abi, and I find it a tremendous privilege to be a mother. The great thing about little children is that they believe everything you tell them about who they are. As a parent, it is my responsibility to speak life into my children. There are so many parallels we can draw between the earthly parent-child relationship and the heavenly relationship that we, as children, share with our Father. I want to share the following lesson that I have learned through my 4-year-old son Sean.

I tell Sean all the time how clever he is and that he can be anything he wants to be when he grows up. If I tell him, "You could be an astronaut!", he trusts that I am telling the truth and that I believe in him. Recently he said to me, "Mum, did you know God never says 'oops' - He has a perfect plan." There is no doubt in Sean about who he is and who God is.

Jesus, in His earthly ministry, spoke on many occasions about the importance of displaying some childlike characteristics. In Matthew 18:1-6, His disciples wanted to know, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom?" Jesus responds by calling a little child to come before them and said, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Children have a lot to teach us about the kingdom and how we should respond to God our Father.

So what happens as we grow up? We start weighing the affirming words spoken over us in our childhood against the negative or cynical words of what other people say. As we weigh these words, they influence how we form our opinions about the world and our personal belief systems. This is not an exclusively bad thing as it helps us to grow in discernment and aids in decision making.

There is something inherent in the way we learn called, 'the principle of first mention.' The first time we hear information on any given subject, that knowledge becomes the foundation upon which we test everything else we are exposed to on the same topic. For example, if someone says to you, "You are going to meet Bob today, but

do not believe everything he says because he tends to exaggerate.' If this is the 'first mention' you have heard about Bob, this becomes the filter through which you converse with Bob when you meet him. You know nothing about him but suddenly, while you are talking to him, you ask yourself, "I wonder if he's exaggerating?" when you would have never thought that, had not your friend not mentioned that to you. Now that does not mean you are stuck with that opinion forever, but it will take a contrary revelation to change it.

When you accept Christ into your life, you get the opportunity to receive a new 'first mention' over your life. What was said before does not have to be the filter through which you judge all things, instead it is the Word of God that becomes your filter. This is what God calls "the renewing of your mind". Romans 12:2 says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will." Having child-like faith allows this transformation to occur and to be able to know and accept God's will for our lives.

In Matthew 3:16-17, God affirms Jesus as being His beloved Son. Just after this identity affirmation, Jesus was led into the wilderness where He was tempted by Satan. Satan tested Jesus' identity, but Jesus tells him that life is found only through every word that comes from the mouth of God (Matt 4:1-4). Jesus knew the Word and He believed the Word - the words from the mouth of His Father! When you know and believe the identity you have been given through Christ, it changes everything.

Sometimes, we need God to renew our minds and remind us of who we are over and over again. I do not ever get tired of telling my children how special they are or how much I love them. I delight in telling them over and over again. Today, if you need to ask Him again who He says you are, ask as a little child would - eager to accept the words of a loving Father.

A Psalm 23 Experience

by Japheth Chew

I love the great outdoors. I am also an avid traveller and someone who cannot sit still. By His grace, the Lord has led me from one Bible school to another in order to teach me to “be still and know that He is God” (Psalm 46:10). Having been involved in missions and ministry for the past 7 years had honestly left me tired, burnt out, and longing for rest, which was my reason for coming to Wales. What does rest look like and how can one discern its qualities in the midst of a three month Bible school? A weekend trip to the Brecon Beacons National Park with a few of my classmates helps to give perspective to this question.

Throughout this hike to see four waterfalls, the Lord began to speak to me. For starters, I began to notice that the trek was going to be quite challenging; it seemed to have rained the night before so the terrain was muddy and wet, and I was not wearing the right shoes! The result was that I had to take extra caution by looking carefully at where I was about to step. I was literally walking step by step, being intentional and deliberate on where to put my feet - on this rock, on that thick patch of leaves, so I would not slip or fall. God then brought to remembrance the verse in Psalm 119:105 which says, “He is a light unto my feet and a lamp unto my path”, and revealed that He does not show us the grand blueprint of our lives but more often than not, just small snippets of His masterplan - to know where to place our feet next. I was reassured that even though I may not see or understand His complete purposes or what He has called me to in fullness, I can trust that He is faithful to lead me step by step, season by season.

After we reached the second waterfall, I thought I had seen everything there was to see about waterfalls. I even considered abandoning the hike at this point as I was content with just seeing two, but as we continued, I found that I would have missed out on even more beauty had I not witnessed all four waterfalls. The first waterfall, though glorious, could only be admired from afar. The second waterfall brought us closer in proximity, but we were still not close enough to see the finer details of the waterfall. As we came to the third waterfall, one could reach out and touch the water, or dip his toes in a pool. But by the final waterfall, one could be totally immersed in the roaring water, and even go behind the water into a little cave! I understood then how the trail was designed so that trekkers would experience greater amazement at each new waterfall, eventually culminating in the breathtaking splendour of the final one. I realized then that He was teaching me not to settle for anything less than what He has intended for me. In the past,

I had struggled with holding on to lesser pleasures when I knew that He had so much more, far better than what I could ever think or imagine. The challenge has always been to let go and to trust in the goodness of my Father, like Abraham, who was willing to sacrifice Isaac in Genesis 22. He has never failed me whenever I surrender to Him.

Another valuable lesson that I learnt through the trek was to follow and trust the signs. As none of us had ever been there before, we had nothing to rely on but a map and existing signposts to reassure us that we were on the right path. We did not know what to expect but we knew that as long as we followed the demarcated path, we would eventually reach our destination. A line from a song by Tim Reimherr describes this experience perfectly; ‘He is the sign, He is the wonder’. As long as I keep my eyes fixed on Him and look ahead, it will all be fine! I have learned to enjoy the journey and the process in getting to my destination rather than worry about what lies ahead.

The lessons learnt in this weekend of rest is a reflection of the BCW classroom journey, beautifully expressed through God’s marvellous creation. He is a faithful God, reassuring me of His love and leading me in towards His best. I can trust in His steadfast leadership over my life and be fully confident that my best days are yet to come. My Shepherd truly does make me lie down in green pastures and He leads me besides the still waters to restore my soul (Psalm 23:2-3).

*He is a faithful God,
reassuring me of His love
and leading me in towards
His best. I can trust in
His steadfast leadership
over my life and be fully
confident that my best
days are yet to come.*

Student Life

A pictorial journey of fun, laughter, and memories made in and beyond the BCW







Reflections in the Blue Room

A weekly time of prayer and intercession initiated by the students



MAY LEE CHU

I committed to come weekly to pray, and I have never considered myself a person who could pray well. In spite of my doubts, I felt that God was teaching me to be led by the Holy Spirit, giving me courage to pray aloud.

As a Sunday School teacher for the past 25 years, I felt myself growing in intercession for the little ones right here in the BCW! God has been telling me in prayer that He wants us to reach out to everyone in the community, including children!

One Scripture that has been quickened in my Spirit is Matthew 19:13-15, which says, "Then people brought little children to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' When He had placed His hands on them, He went on from there." The Gospel is for everyone from the babies to the elderly, and I pray that the children of the nations will know Him!

ABIGAIL LEW JUN YI

I am a part of the intercessory team at my church and I have always been amazed by how the intercessions made by Mr. Rees Howells and the other praying saints have impacted world events. One of the recorded answers to prayer was about the battle at Dunkirk during the second world war. The odds were against the British forces but the Almighty God intervened, causing the withdrawal of Nazi troops as Mr. Rees Howells and others gathered to pray and intercede. I was thrilled to visit the famous Blue Room where it all started – the lingering presence of God in the room is still so thick even after many years, and I found myself gently tiptoeing as I read the accounts of Mr. Howells' life outlined on the walls. He was a vessel totally yielded to God and he witnessed many answers to prayers.

Yet it was at that moment where the Lord stopped me in my tracks with a gentle rebuke, "You can read all you want on these topics of prayer and intercession, but the key to victory is to live it out." To me, Mr. Howells was a man who lived and breathed intercession. He allowed the Word of God to be made flesh through his lifestyle and choices, thus gaining authority in God. Not many are willing to pay this price. The fear of the Lord gripped my heart in that moment as I recalled times in my life that I had been looking for shortcuts in God, wanting to skirt around certain areas that He wanted full and complete access to. However, Rees himself also struggled with yielding to Christ, and only received his breakthrough when he cried out to God to help make him willing. By His grace, I desire to be a vessel fully surrendered unto the Lord so that He can bend me as He desires!

Since coming to the BCW, I felt to honour the legacy of prayer and intercession here in Wales. I believe as students and beneficiaries of this legacy, it is now our responsibility to pray for this land. I am reminded of Mr. Howells' "Every Creature Commission" and I thank God for the privilege to pray into this as well. It has been a fruitful time of prayer and coming deeper into the knowledge of the fullness of Christ.

GRACE TEO

We started by praying for Wales, which later led to praying for many nations. We prayed over national matters; ranging from peace being established in conflict areas, to comfort and unity for those in difficult situations. In alignment with Scripture, we lifted up the leaders and rulers in governance and prayed blessings of wisdom, foresight and righteousness.

During these times of prayer, it was easy to move and flow in the Spirit – we experienced tremendous unity as we received prophetic words, images, and songs aligned to our intercession. Likewise, we prayed for unity between the churches so that they would be a transformative voice in their nations.

One key theme that resounded in our hearts was to pray for the next generation – that they would have a heart for revival! There was a tremendous cost and sacrifice our forefathers paid to establish this college and we desire to continue in this spiritual inheritance, building a foundation for a legacy that will last for His glory!



A sketch of Mr. Rees Howells by Morita Anne Jones



Knowing My Identity

*Words and artwork by
Margaret-Faith Chen*

I thought I understood what sonship really meant in my relationship with the Heavenly Father, but He revealed how shallow my understanding was and reaffirmed me with the identity I never knew I had. Earlier in the term, I received a vision of a man cradling an unborn baby girl still enveloped in an embryonic sac. He brought her to His face and kissed her on her forehead, and at that moment, I heard the words, “You are my intended creation. You are not a mistake, and I am your Father.”

Immediately, I knew that I was the baby girl and God was the man. I was so tiny, asleep in His large hands, yet He was so gentle and careful not to wake me. Through this vision, He communicated just how much He has loved me since my conception, and has been faithful in preserving me all this time, and will be faithful the rest of my life. In that moment I realised that regardless of my natural parents and the family I was born into, I was created and treasured by my Heavenly Father, and my identity is determined by Him, not my earthly lineage.

My parents and I, though a family unit, are radically different in our personalities. My father is a man of few words, and my mother is a strict disciplinarian. Growing up, I was an affectionate person and hoped for morning hugs and bedtime kisses, but I never received that from my parents. Though we had dinners together, there was rarely any conversation, and we led our lives separately. Because of the lack of affirmation that I received, I struggled with feeling I did not belong. I began to make unhealthy comparisons with other families, and as a result, I became extremely self-reliant and independent, working hard to overcompensate for my feelings. Just like a porcupine, I became prickly and defensive and felt that no one was looking out for me.

Yet self-sufficiency is a form of pride and negates any need of God. This vision made me realise how I have been striving so hard all this while. In spite of my supposed maturity and living a better life through my efforts, deep down inside, I struggled with the idea of family. When I saw myself as a baby in God’s warm embrace, I understood that He has loved and accepted me from the beginning of time, in spite of my brokenness and frailty. I need not resent who He has created me to be, or the family He has placed me in. I am not a mistake, but the daughter of a Heavenly King, and I was deliberately created to play a part in His kingdom. I can now walk in purpose, authority and confidence in my calling, because He has called me His.

*“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”
Psalm 139:13-14*

Not for Sale

by Sarah Gale Torres

In a world that is pushing all possible boundaries, how are we keeping our conscience clean?

How would you feel if you were given your favourite kind of mouth-watering brownie, but the catch is that the people who baked it had intentionally put a small amount of poison into the batter as a secret ingredient? They assure you by telling you, “Don’t worry, it’s just a little drop. You won’t even taste it.”

I am guessing you would refuse to eat it as would I! Today, the standard of morality is being challenged more than ever. The church is turning into grey areas which the Bible has outlined in black and white - gender issues, same sex marriage, abortion, to name a few. The little things matter, and compromises, no matter how small, lead to a slow fade of morality. A small drop of poison here, a little dab of poison there. The next thing you know, a scandal of a prominent personality in the church is exposed and Christianity is mocked.

When asked by the king to bow down and worship a graven idol he had set up, Daniel’s friends, who knew the consequence to disobeying the king’s command, courageously said, “If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand,

O King. But even if He does not, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Daniel 3:17-18)

What boldness! They knew that God was able to rescue them, but they took integrity to the next level when they said, “even if not, we will not bow.” Where are the Shadrachs, Meshachs, and Abednegos of today? Where are those who will stand up for what is right, who will go against the king’s orders, even if they will be the only ones standing? Where are those who will not bow, who will not compromise, even if it will mean their death?

It is not just about the big things. Let us take it a little closer to home. Where are those who will keep doing what is right even when no one is watching; those who will be honest about sin even if it means putting their reputations at stake; those who will not give a bribe to settle a traffic violation even if it means getting their driver’s license confiscated; or those who will not violate the hall rules by eating in the dormitories because it is inconvenient to go to the dining hall?

In a world that is pushing all possible boundaries, how are we keeping our conscience clean? How deeply do we allow ourselves to be affected by truth and to stand up for it; how far will we go to stand up for Him? It is time for some re-aligning of our hearts with His. It is time to intentionally choose His highest good at all costs. It may be a painful process, but He is returning for a bride that has made herself ready; a bride pure – without spot or blemish. He is worth it.

Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Determine in your life today what is NOT FOR SALE - your identity, your marriage, your family, your integrity — not for fame, not for riches, not for a job promotion, and yes, not even for brownies.

KEYS TO LONGEVITY

by Elijah Chan

In one of my conversations with a dear classmate, we were talking about life after graduating from the BCW. Our experience here has been marked by God moving in great measure and we began discussing about longevity in the ministry. At that moment, we both fell silent and a tangible fear of the Lord gripped our hearts, as the thought of not finishing well was very sobering and plausible. It is easy to claim to love the Lord completely in the midst of His presence and manifestation, but what happens when we are placed in an environment completely foreign and devoid of His works and wonders?

That very night, I felt led to read the book of Acts. The Lord reminded me of the church of Ephesus in chapter 19, outlining the birth and explosive growth of the church. Verses 5 to 10 introduces Paul's church plant beginning with the doctrine of baptisms. There was also dynamic evangelism taking place in the hall of Tyrannus for two years and all the inhabitants of the province of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the Gospel. The Bible is a book of truths and never exaggerates - everyone did hear the gospel and multitudes turned to the Lord! In the following verses, not only were miracles being performed, but certain Bible translations coined

these "extraordinary miracles" because what happened then was so astounding. In addition, people were also getting delivered from demons and the fear of the Lord fell on everyone in the city!

What happens from verses 21 to 29 gets even better because it displays the extent of the power of the Spirit in Ephesus. The gospel penetrated the city so deeply that it changed the socio-economic sphere. The Ephesians, previously religious pagan worshippers, ceased purchasing idols and shrines from silversmiths as they were now converts of Christ! The extent of this transformation was so exceptional that Demetrius, a silversmith frustrated by the loss of business, gathered other idol-making silversmiths to incite a riot which forced Paul out of the city. Still, the work progressed with mighty demonstrations of the Holy Spirit, and there was a true revival in Ephesus. To put the cherry on the cake, the church had two wonderful church leaders - Timothy, who pastored the flock, and also John, the great apostle who was an elder. If men of such high calibre and might were teaching and building the church - surely the church would fare well?

The answer is found in the book of Revelation, where Christ Himself addresses seven churches. He highlights the Church of Ephesus in chapter 2:2-3, saying: "I know your works, your labour, and your endurance, and that you cannot tolerate evil. You have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you have found them

to be liars. You also possess endurance and have tolerated many things because of My name and have not grown weary." Jesus commends this church and all seems well until verse 4, which highlights their error: "But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."

It may seem shocking - but good works and good doctrine are not exactly what Christ is after! Though the church in Ephesus seemed to have it all - Spirit-filled Bible teachers, authentic doctrine, great discernment, and endurance, they lost the one thing that fuelled their faith - their love for Jesus! In spite of their glowing accolades, they were rebuked for missing the mark, and were given a stern warning.

Yet Christ in His goodness gave the Ephesians a two-fold solution that would restore the position they had lost: they were instructed to repent for abandoning the love they had for Christ, and return to what they did at the start of their walk with God. I believe the keys to longevity in ministry are contained in Acts 19:17-19, which was also what Christ was reminding the Church of Ephesus to do.

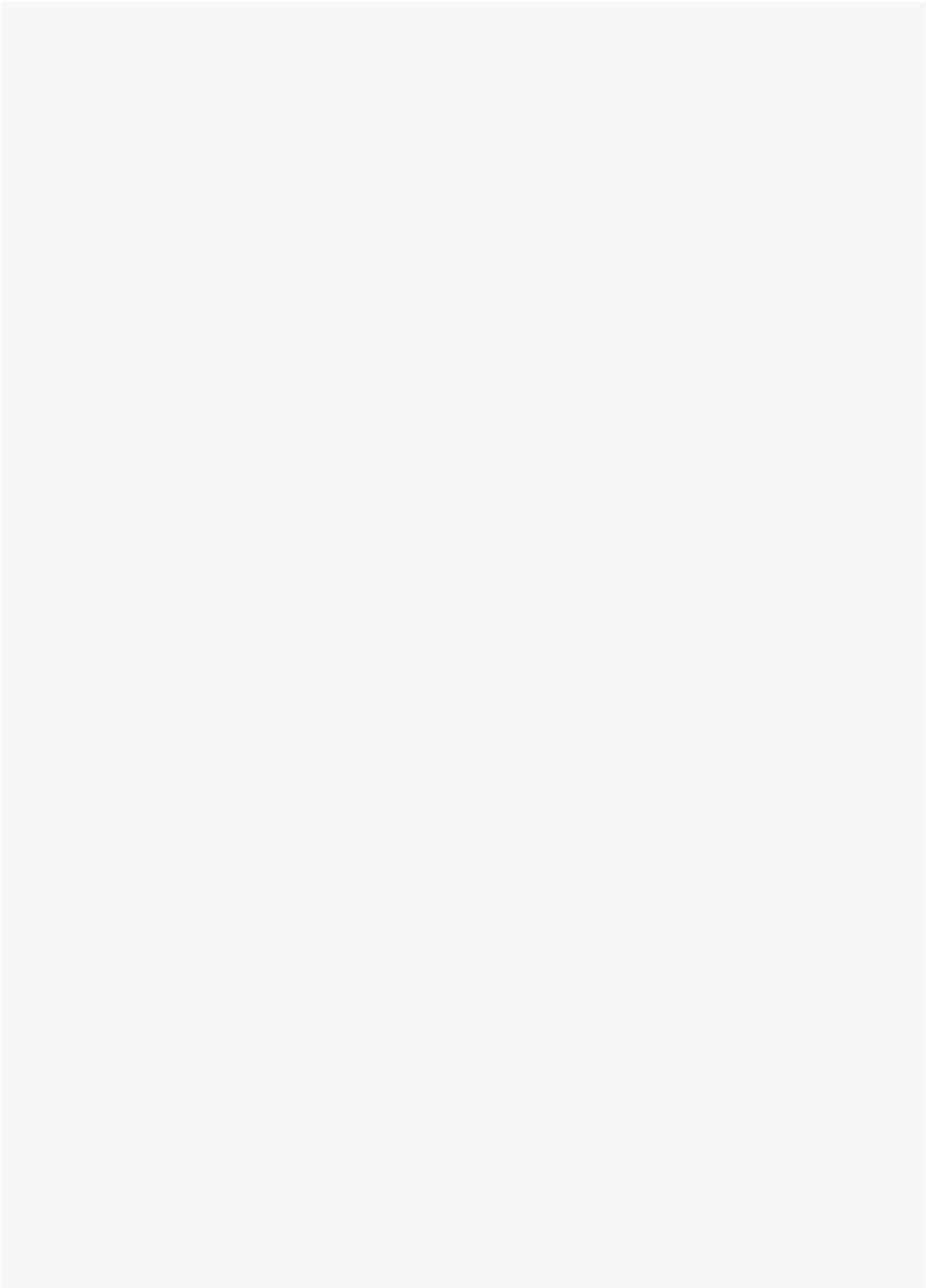
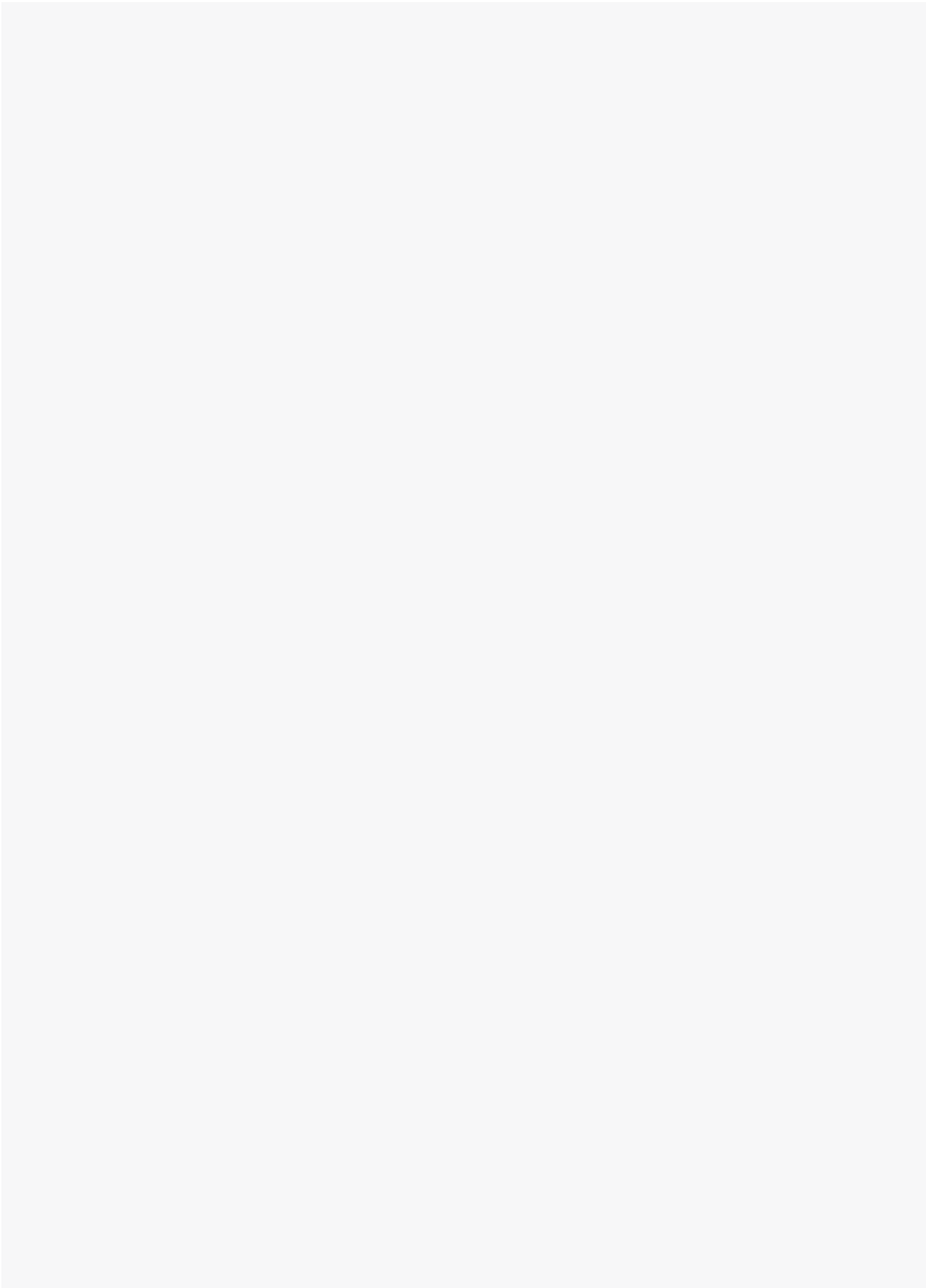
"This [an earlier incident] became known to everyone who lived in Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. Then fear fell on all of them, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be 50,000 pieces of silver."

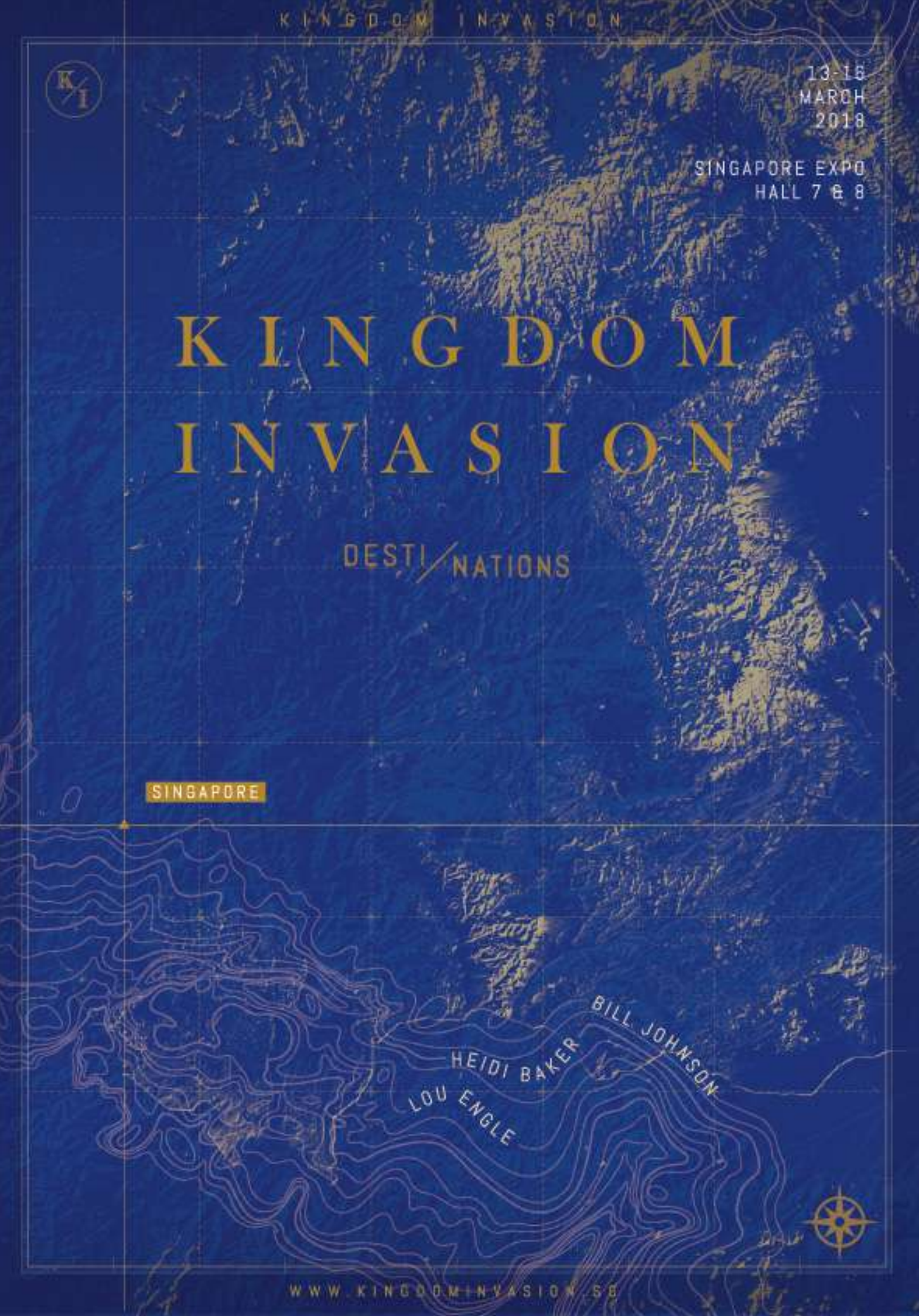
Firstly, not only were the Ephesians filled with a reverence and awe of the Lord, they actively magnified Him by proclaiming His works. As believers, we are encouraged to testify of Him regularly. Secondly, they confessed their sins and repented of them, putting aside their pagan beliefs. In like manner, we need to come before the Lord and repent of the things that displease Him - putting to death the thoughts that opposed the teachings of Christ. Thirdly, they even went

so far as to burn literature though they had to forego the silver spent on acquiring them, and this illustration speaks of doing whatever it takes to ensure that we put a stop to sin and destroy every foothold of the enemy! Many times, we do not go all the way when it comes to dealing with the strongholds in our lives, displaying partial obedience. We do not want to be like King Saul who spared Agag though he received clear instruction to destroy the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15. As much as it is inconvenient or seemingly disadvantageous to us, we want to be fully obedient to our Master!

Christ is not just in the business of deconstructing our old patterns and ways of thinking, but He is also in the business of reconstruction so that we put on His mind and think His thoughts. It does not matter how long we have been Christians. We need to apply these keys in our lives daily. We ought to continually thank Him, testify of His goodness, and confess and repent of sin so that He can set us free from every encumbrance. God is our advocate and we should recognise that we can run to Him, not away from Him, when we sin. Finally, we must determine in our hearts to establish roadblocks against sin, cutting off the roots of temptation and deceit in our lives. If we bear these points in mind, we can ensure that we not only will start well, but will end the race well. We will be able to say with confidence, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:17)

Christ is not just in the business of deconstructing our old patterns and ways of thinking, but He is also in the business of reconstruction so that we put on His mind and think His thoughts.





THANK YOU STAFF AND LECTURERS OF BCW!

*Pastor Yang, Pastor Daphne,
Pastor Tim & Joanne O'Connell and
all Bible College of Wales staff:
Mei Choo & Robert Dodd*

*Lameck Sinoia
Ettienne & Dave Hand
Priscilla & Jeremy Tay
Emma Lim
Edwin Lim
Hannah Tan
Esther Teo
Deb Harris*

♥ LOVE, ♥
Abigail Lew
Anne Marie Gow
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Mark Khuhan
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Megan Campbell
Morita Jones
Nerys Cheng
Nicolette Chen
Roberto Kgwete
Sarah Torres
Sochannary Kong
Sreynait Youn
Vivien Wong
Koh Wei Ting

♥ ♥



TO THE STAFF AND LECTURERS OF BCW,

Thank you!

Thank you so much for imparting into our lives! Thank you for your faithfulness in being such humble servants of the Lord! We love and appreciate every one of you and we know that your service in the Lord will never be in vain.

Continue to persevere, shine and be a light to the nations. We know that Wales has been impacted by the presence of the Bible College of Wales. Thank you also for bearing with us students!

Philippians 1:6

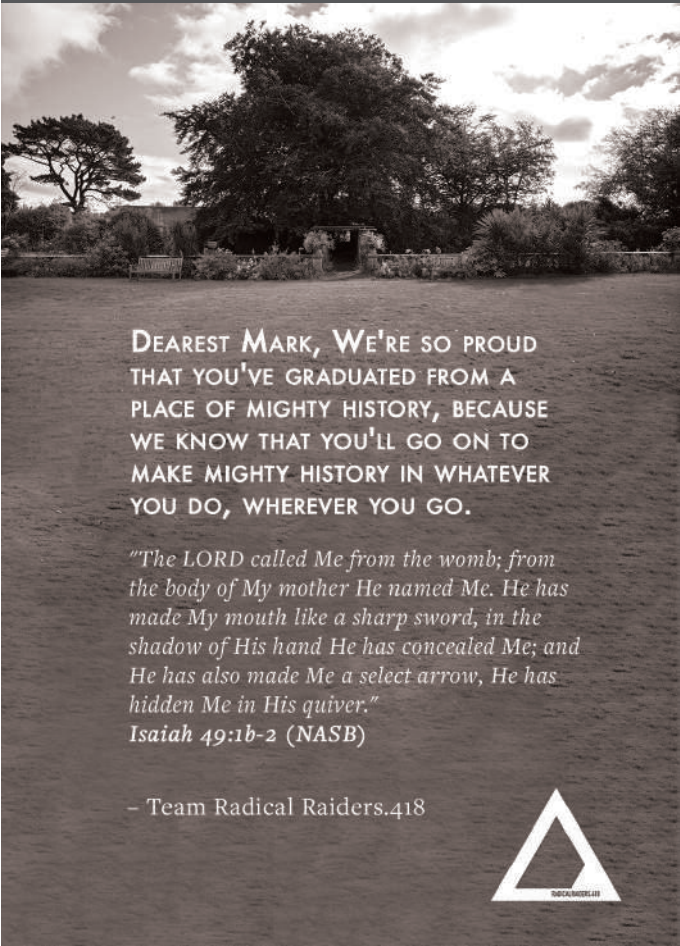
‘Knowing this, that He who has begun a good work in you will bring it to completion till the day of Christ Jesus’

FROM TEAM MARK

Japheth, Joyce, Jesse, Megan, Charlotte, Wei Ting, Helen and Gladys



SECOND ROW (left to right): Koh Wei Ting, Grace Teo, Christine Teo Li Jun, Nicolette Chen Li Xin, Elijah Chan, Mark Khuhan, Helen Wong, Charlotte Queck Mui Noy, May Lee Chu
FRONT ROW (left to right): Margaret-Faith Chen, Gillian Yih-En Hu, Abigail Lew Jun Yi, Gladys Theng Sau Mei, Wong Ssu Hui Vivien



**CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR GRADUATION!
WE REJOICE WITH THE
BOTH OF YOU!**

– Trust and Thrust

DEAREST MARK, WE'RE SO PROUD THAT YOU'VE GRADUATED FROM A PLACE OF MIGHTY HISTORY, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT YOU'LL GO ON TO MAKE MIGHTY HISTORY IN WHATEVER YOU DO, WHEREVER YOU GO.

"The LORD called Me from the womb; from the body of My mother He named Me. He has made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He has concealed Me; and He has also made Me a select arrow, He has hidden Me in His quiver."
Isaiah 49:1b-2 (NASB)

– Team Radical Raiders.418



NICOLETTE CHEN LIXIN & CHARLOTTE QUECK MUI NOY

Thanksgiving

MY JOURNEY WITH GOD: HEARTFELT THANKS AND GRATEFULNESS

Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ¹⁰He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." ¹¹The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Thank You, Lord. It has been a wonderful journey walking with You since I accepted Jesus as my Personal Saviour at the age of 12. I am highly favoured, greatly blessed and privileged to be a child of the Living God. I pray that I will look upward to You daily as my Refuge and Strength. In all circumstances, I pray I will continue to be still and know that You are the Lord Almighty with me and in total control. I pray for my brothers and sisters to continue to experience and accept God's lavish love, amazing grace and the peace that passes all understanding. May they be the cornerstone of our life's faith journeys on earth till we see You face-to-face. We give praise, glory and thanks to You, our Heavenly Father, Saviour Jesus and Comforter Holy Spirit, for loving us unconditionally and lavishly.

– Theng Yin Leng

Psalm 91 (NKJV) Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God
"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."

Time has gone by so quickly. As I reflect upon my life journey with God since I accepted Him as my Saviour in 1975, there is so much to thank God for. I am thankful and grateful to God for His protection, good health, clean air, families, my boys (Daniel & Samuel), church, Singapore, God-fearing mentors and the list goes on. Throughout my walk with God, I hold Psalm 91 close to my heart. It sure assures me of God's unfailing love, protection, provision and abiding presence. I have claimed the words of Psalm 91 over my life and families. I pray we will draw close to our Father and set our affections upon Him daily as in:

Psalm 19:14-16 (NKJV)
"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

– Joyce Theng

Isaiah 40 (NIV) ²⁸The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³¹But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Thank You, Lord, for your faithfulness and unconditional love. In all things that I do, help me to fix my eyes upon You daily who gives me strength and soar high like an eagle. Thank You for continued blessings with great favour and wisdom to fulfill my calling on earth as it is in heaven.

I pray for the salvation of unbelievers to come with an open heart to accept Jesus as their Personal Saviour so they do not run to seek after other gods. All glory and praise be given to our Triune God.

– Ruth Theng

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION AT BCW, ABI!

– Jane, Xinwen, Jac, Sabby, May, Yvonne,
Marianne, Liz, Christine & Wendy

Congratulations ON YOUR GRADUATION, ELIJAH!

WE LOVE YOU AND CELEBRATE
WITH YOU ON THIS SPECIAL DAY!

– Zone 1 Cell Leaders
Pastor Wenhui, Aaron, Elaine,
Jamie, Paul, Tsz Shan, Wai Hong

ABIGAIL LEW JUN YI



Congrats Wenting

We are excited for you in this season of growth.

Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14

From your beloved cellies

WE PRAISE & THANK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS DONE AND IS DOING IN YOUR LIFE. WE PRAY THAT THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED IN YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

**WE LOVE & APPRECIATE YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS!!**



"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen."

Jude 1:24-25

**Love,
JEFFREY & IRENE CHEW,
MENG, SARAH, LUKE & DEB**



CONGRATULATIONS HELEN WONG!
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU. MAY GOD TAKE YOU FROM GLORY TO GLORY. CHEERING YOU ON!
SENDING YOU LOVE FROM HOME.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

– Cornerstone Community Church Miri

HELEN WONG



**THANK
YOU**
VERY MUCH



FAITH IS SUBSTANCE

Pastor Yang, Pastor Daphne,
Pastor Tim & Joanne O'Connell and all Bible
College of Wales staff:
Mei Choo & Robert Dodd
Lameck Sinoia
Ettienne & Dave Hand
Priscilla & Jeremy Tay
Emma Lim
Edwin Lim
Hannah Tan
Esther Teo
Deb Harris

*We love
and appreciate you!*

Love, Bake House (Autumn 2017)
Gladys Theng, Helen Wong, Vivien Wong, Sarah Gale Torres & Gillian Hu

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION! WE REJOICE WITH YOU! MAY HIS GRACE AND FAVOUR CONTINUE TO COVER YOU IN THE NEXT SEASON OF YOUR LIFE.

*Philippians 3:14
I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

— Your lovely cell (C31.22)

MAY LEE CHU



PISGAH CHAPEL

Find out more at:
www.pisgahchapel.com

THE BIBLE COLLEGE OF WALES

The Heritage Centre commemorates the life and ministry of Rees Howells and the Bible College of Wales. It serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness as we build on the foundations laid and write the next chapter of the Bible College of Wales.

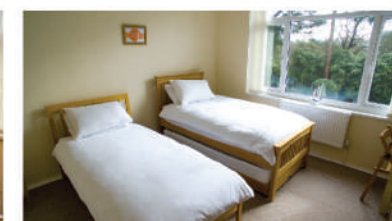
Location: Derwen Fawr Road, Sketty, Swansea, SA2 8EB

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 10AM - 3PM
Closed on bank/public holidays.
Admission is free.

Office Contact: +44 1792 722428

Website: www.bcwales.org

HERITAGE CENTRE



Accommodations are Available

Should visitors be travelling alone or in pairs, there are single, twin, or triple rooms to choose from with either shared or ensuite shower facilities. Rooms are modestly furnish with wi-fi; and a coin assisted laundry facility but no cooking facility is available.

Alternatively, we have an ensuite studio apartment for couples, fitted with a kitchenette. The second apartment is best suited for visitors travelling in bigger groups of up to six people. It comes fully equipped with a living and dining room, kitchen, two twin rooms, two single rooms, and two bathrooms.

A continental breakfast is daily served at the dining room and a lounge is open for guest use.

BCW RESIDENCES

The BCW Residences offers accommodation for guests who wish to come on a retreat, located within the compounds of the Bible College. Immerse yourself in the beautifully landscaped surroundings as you dwell and meditate in the presence of God.

Established in a prime location near other historical sites, sweeping beaches and serene parks, the BCW Residences is a good base from which to explore the rest of Swansea and Wales.



For bookings or further enquiries, please email us at mail@bcwales.org and we will get back to you shortly.



The School of Ministry is a three-month course designed as an intensive programme of learning, reflection and spiritual development. Based around a core curriculum of theological and practical training for ministry and leadership, it will equip you for a greater level of service in your calling.



Course Information

2018 Spring Term: 5 Mar - 25 May

Registration opens: 1 July 2017
 Registration closes: 31 Dec 2017
(For applicants who require a study visa)
 Registration closes: 1 Feb 2018
(For applicants who do not require a study visa)

2018 Autumn Term: 3 Sep - 23 Nov

Registration opens: 1 Jan 2018
 Registration closes: 31 May 2018
(For applicants who require a study visa)
 Registration closes: 1 Aug 2018
(For applicants who do not require a study visa)

2019 Spring Term: 4 Mar - 24 May

Registration opens: 1 July 2018
 Registration closes: 31 Dec 2018
(For applicants who require a study visa)
 Registration closes: 1 Feb 2019
(For applicants who do not require a study visa)

2019 Autumn Term: 2 Sep - 22 Nov

Registration opens: 1 Jan 2019
 Registration closes: 31 May 2019
(For applicants who require a study visa)
 Registration closes: 1 Aug 2019
(For applicants who do not require a study visa)