

Unity

SPRING COHORT / MAY 2018

FEATURED ARTICLES

United

by Colin Beresford

Pursue Me

by Meida Chooi

Mind the G.A.P.

by Ayet Gatulan

BAYANIHAN: Together As One

by Jefferson Talavera



THE
BIBLE COLLEGE
OF WALES
An extension of CCCW



John 17:23

*“I in them, and You in Me; that they may
be made perfect in one, and that the world
may know that You have sent Me, and have
loved them as You have loved Me.”*



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The Director's Message



I would like to congratulate you, the students of the graduating class of the School of Ministry, Spring Term, 2018, on your commencement. I am certain that the past 3 months have had many defining moments for you and as you graduate, I want to encourage you to keep pressing upwards and onwards toward the goal of the high call of God in Christ Jesus.

What an appropriate theme you have chosen for your graduation, the theme of “UNITY.” I have been informed by your instructors that as a cohort, you have exemplified true unity in your demonstration of strong, genuine love toward one another. This is evident in how you have looked out for each other’s interest and humbled yourselves to learn from one another. I salute you for that.

There are many great and significant prayers in the Word of God, but one prayer stands out as the greatest prayer of all. It is the high priestly prayer of Jesus in John 17. In the prayer, Jesus puts unity among the brethren as the end result of His prayer. He prayed in John 17:23 “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” That is the consummation, the climax of our age, when brethren dwell together in true unity.

We also see how to obtain this unity in Psalm 133, because you might already know that unity is not something that comes easy. If you have been in ministry for long, you will quickly discover how costly and trying it is to reach true unity. The Psalmist says in Psalm 133: 1, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.” For brethren to dwell in unity, it is not only good and pleasant, it is also a divine work! A preacher once quipped that the greater miracle in Acts 2 was that the disciples were all in one place, in one accord, at the same time.

People tend to look at world events to try and predict the signs of the times. I like to suggest we should look at the church instead. When we see God’s people coming together in true unity, without compromise, something is about to happen or is happening.

Verses 2-3 go on to say, “It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, life forevermore.” David uses 2 similes to describe brethren coming together in unity: Precious oil and mountain dew.

The anointing first comes to the Head, who is Christ our High Priest, and then it flows down the beard, which is symbolic of maturity, and then flows down the garments which represents the priestly ministry. It is there that the Lord commands the blessing. The minute that there is true unity, God commands that blessing to follow.

This is a vivid picture of the High Priest being anointed by oil and this oil runs over his priestly garments. However, the oil is not poured until the garments are worn. The garments here are the garments of unity and the implication is that without unity, the Holy Spirit cannot move. There is no lasting blessing until there is unity, so we have to first put on our garments.

What did Jesus say? “When two or three come together in unity, there I am in the midst of you.” (Matthew 18:20) That is why time should be spent in bringing hearts together in unity. When we gather together with a teachable and contrite spirit, the anointing of God comes down the head and over the whole body, anointing the entire operation of God.

In Colossians 3:12-14, Paul describes for us the garments of unity as the following: tender mercies or compassion, kindness, humility or lowliness, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance and being forgiving. These are the 7 garments of unity, but it is love that binds together everything in perfect harmony.

I close with the 4 aspects of Unity found in scripture:

① *Unity of the heart*

Psalm 86:11 emphasizes that unity starts in the heart. It is essential that Christians have a united heart because a divided heart produces a double-minded man who will become unstable in all his ways. (James 1:8) Wrong doctrine always stems from a divided heart.

② *Unity of the Spirit*

This is outlined in Ephesians 4:3. Whenever I am with people who are filled with the Spirit, there is immediately a sense of unity in the Spirit. It is a God-thing. But we must endeavour, as Paul exhorts, to keep this unity.

③ *Unity in Faith*

This is stated in Ephesians 4:13 to describe doctrine. God expects oneness in everything that we do and in the last days, this will include oneness in the interpreting of scriptures. I personally believe God is going to cause His people to see eye-to-eye as far as His Word is concerned and it is going to be interpreted the way God desires it to be.

④ *Unity in the Brethren*

This is described in Psalm 133:1. This is the ultimate aim that God is bringing us toward.



As you graduate, may the Lord give you an increasing desire for unity. As Charles Hodge says, “*The Church is everywhere represented as one. It is ONE body, ONE family, ONE fold, ONE kingdom. It is one because it is pervaded by ONE Spirit. We are all baptized into ONE Spirit so as to become, says the apostle, ONE body.*”

It has been a privilege to serve you all at the school. You are a wonderful cohort of students and on behalf of the faculty and staff, we bless you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Pastors Yang Tuck Yoong & Pst. Daphne Yang
Directors of The Bible College of Wales*

Message from the Dean

Identification, Agony of Intercession, and the Position Gained

It is a great pleasure to be here at the Bible College of Wales, as Dean of Students for the Spring 2018 School of Ministry. Through the months we have been together, I have gotten to know more about your lives, your hunger for more of God, and your passion to be world changers. You students have been great to work with, always ready, always prepared, and always willing to 'have a go.' So I say to you, '...Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things,' and 'No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.'

(Matthew 25:23, John 15:15)

Being at the Bible College of Wales, a place of rich heritage, of deep prayer, and wide missions, has greatly impacted my prayer life. I first read ¹ Norman Grubb's, *Rees Howells: Intercessor* when I was in my early 20's, only to dream that one day I would be here at the Bible College. Today, as we stand on the cusp of international events that threaten the peace and stability in our world, we continue to stand with the hundreds of intercessors and missionaries sent from the Bible College, who have given us a lasting example of reaching up to do battle in the heavenlies and reaching out, so that all nations will have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Good News. The cost is too great to ignore Jesus' last command to "Go!"

The lecture series you have sat through by well-respected international Christian leaders has inspired you to go deeper into your studies of the Word of God. The teachings have covered a wide array of themes including preparing for leadership, understanding Jewish roots from the word of God, spiritual warfare, evangelism, and desiring a deeper walk with the Lord.



In reading *Intercessor*, we discover the inner life of prayer, the abiding in our Heavenly Father's presence, and our calling to give our very all for His people as Mr. Rees Howells is quoted as saying, *"I started at the bottom and loved just one; and if you love one, you can love many; and if many, you can love all."* The times spent in prayer in the Blue Room have deeply etched our walk with the Lord to learn to identify with the pain and sufferings for nations, peoples, and current world events. Like some of what Mr. Rees Howells experienced in the "agony of intercession," we would also attest to the steps of obedience needed in prayer. These have been great periods of "struggling, clinging, and ultimately resting" to press into His promises. What a privilege we share when we give ourselves to prayer and intercession!

Profoundly, the multi-generational mission partnership and prayer stretches back four generations to the first Welsh Revival in the 1850's. We have met people whose great-grandparents were impacted by that revival, former students, and teachers, and medical missionaries from the college whose testimonies are all the more powerful today to this generation, as they were some of the last eyewitnesses of the early days of the Bible School.

May this be so, dear graduating class of Spring 2018 students, that we, too, carry that same fire and passion for revival. May it be that the 'Every Creature' mandate of Mr. Rees Howells permeate your prayer life and ministry. May the LORD bless you abundantly as you continue to discover all that Father has for you. I believe the Lord has a very special plan and purpose for your lives as you walk closely with Him and listen to His voice. Once again, congratulations on your graduation!

I would also like to thank the Directors and the staff of the BCW for an amazing time. You have demonstrated great leadership and building of faith, and your dedication and passion towards people inspires me.

To our readers, we invite you to prayerfully consider coming here to the Bible College next semester for a life changing time here at the School of Ministry. You have prayed, you have read the book, now come. With what you gain in terms of discipleship, teaching, and prayer, you will never be the same again.

David Vaughan Wiggins
Dean of Students

Student Testimonies



Ariston Sales Gatulan SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

The moment I came to the Bible College of Wales, I sensed God was telling me, *“You have entered at My door, My presence is here, and you will receive My loving confirmations here”* When He told me this, I yielded to Him and prayed, *“Lord, hold my hand and lead me.”* This simple prayer has directed my steps in making great connections with those whom the Lord has led me to. I have found rest and assurance in God’s promises at the BCW as He propels me forward into my destiny.



Colin Beresford UNITED KINGDOM

KINGSWAY CHAPEL, ENGLAND

While I was reading the Bible to prepare for class devotions, the Lord kept highlighting the first part of Luke 10:27, *“You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.”* I knew the Lord was showing me that I was not giving Him 100% in these areas. I did not feel condemned by this revelation but encouraged, for I sensed Him telling me, *“Come on Colin, give me more, I know you can. I have more for you. That is why I have brought you to the Bible College of Wales.”*



Doreen Zaccheus SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

The Bible College of Wales is a place for any believer who desires to learn and *‘come away’* with Jesus. Although it was God’s prompting for my husband and I to leave the busyness of work and family life to be a part of the 2018 Spring cohort, I felt inadequate with regard to accomplishing course assignments and deadlines. In my apprehension, God assured me to be there to learn and not do anything to prove myself to men. With His assurance, all my fears left me immediately. Since then, the BCW has been like Heaven on earth for me!



Edward Zaccheus SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

In the midst of the excitement, the sense of adventure, and the new relationships that this trip to the Bible College of Wales has brought me, there is a call from God for me to draw even closer to Him. My time at the BCW has allowed me to come away from the clutter, noise, and distractions of life back home to lay aside my past experiences to pursue Jesus only. I am fully assured that the answers I need for the next step of my life will be found as I continue to seek the Lord at the BCW.



Emma Emmanuel Thomas SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

When I first applied to the Bible College of Wales, I was sure of one thing: my life was being set apart for Him. I did not know exactly what that entailed, but I have seen evidence of God moving in my life since being here. I did not think my life could change as much as it had since I first became a Christian, but as God has pursued me here, I felt my life changed again for the better! I am excited to serve our beautiful God for the rest of my days as I discover His plans for my life!



Grace Chew Seok Wah SINGAPORE

CROWN OF GLORY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

Although I was doing the right things dutifully, I had lost my life's vision and purpose and my heart had become cold. It was time to recalibrate! Since coming to the Bible College of Wales, the Lord has begun the process of restoration through the exhortation of anointed teachers, heartfelt worship, devotions led by fellow students, and times of intercession in the Blue Room and at Pisgah Chapel. As He gently peeled away the hardness around my heart, I found His love flowing in again. Religion is giving way to relationship and my hope and vision is being restored.



Hosanna Joy Nazar SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

I believe God called me to the Bible College of Wales so that I could develop a more intimate relationship with Him. Since being here, God has reminded me that before we can love others, we have to first learn to love ourselves the way that He loves us. Jesus said in Mark 12:31 *“The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”* This revelation has caused me to grow in my desire to be known as His beloved child as I worship Him. This is exactly what I needed before starting the next phase of my life.



Indrani Suromuthu SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

I was going through a very difficult period in my life when I was graciously offered an opportunity to study at the Bible College of Wales, and God has been faithfully meeting all my needs. Being here has challenged me to grow in my perspective of prayer and intercession – my difficulties are not yet over but He has strengthened my faith, and I am now more confident to move forward with God’s help. I am encouraged by the words of one of our lecturers who said, “*A man can only go as far as his faith can take him.*”



Irene Chew MALAYSIA

DAMANSARA UTAMA METHODIST CHURCH, MALAYSIA

I came to the Bible College of Wales because I wanted to be refreshed and renewed as I was “burnt out” from ministry and work in my kindergarten back home. When I arrived, I was tired emotionally, physically, and had no joy at all. However, after two weeks, I began to have fun interacting with my classmates through learning and working together. I have been able to hear the voice of the Lord more clearly and I have had a couple of amazing encounters with God in the Blue room. I have also enjoyed the teachings from the lecturers.



Jasmin Sarah Zhan Xiuling SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

“*Come away,*” were the two words that came to me last October. After praying for a confirmation since 2015, I was ecstatic that my time to be at the Bible College of Wales had finally arrived! The Holy Spirit told me that these 3 months would be momentous - I would receive a clearer vision for my call to work with children and to the nations. My time in the Blue Room has been incredible! The Lord gave me a desire and confidence to go to a specific nation and I also received a mandate of faith in intercession. To God be the glory and praise!



Jefferson Encinares Talavera PHILIPPINES

KALAYAAN COMMUNITY MINISTRIES, PHILIPPINES

I am grateful for all the things God has done in my life. I was raised in a slum area in Manila, Philippines. When I was young, I used to pick junk out of the trash and sell it to earn money to pay for my education. Everything changed when I met Jesus, who gave me hope and a future. When I visited the Bible College of Wales last year, God said to me, “*You are going to study here.*” Now that I am here I can see His purpose in my life and He is turning my life from being a scavenger into His messenger.



Joachim Gideon Tee SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

At the start of this year, God prompted me to study at the Bible College of Wales before going for National Service, impressing upon me that the college would be a preparation for that. I was filled with faith knowing that this is where God has intentionally placed me! Through the testimonies and lifestyles of my peers, I have been inspired to grow and desire for more of the Lord. In His mercies, He has revealed to me areas in my life that needed to change so that I can step into something greater than myself and into a oneness with Him.



Jonathan Airey UNITED KINGDOM

CHURCH OF CHRIST OUR PEACE, CAMBODIA

A year ago I did not think I would be ‘that guy’ that would attend a Bible College. I believe at times when we say ‘no’ to something, it may mean that God is doing something behind the scenes in readying us to say ‘yes’ in His perfect timing. I thank God for preparing me to change my mind and say ‘yes’ to come to the Bible College of Wales over what has been a difficult past year. He has brought me to a place of rest and restoration. I am so grateful for this opportunity to learn and develop my spiritual relationship with Him.



Ng Liling SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

Coming to the Bible College of Wales was not coincidental. I had wanted to set aside some time this year to wait upon the Lord about His direction for my life. One of my church leaders sensed I should be here and encouraged me to attend. Throughout the term, the Lord has been dealing with my heart issues of fear, rejection, and timidity. My daily communion with Him is so much deeper and I hear His voice more clearly than before. I have enjoyed the weekly prayer meetings, during which I experienced and saw God move in different ways.



Marve Lee SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

I am glad I took the time off from work to attend the School of Ministry at the Bible College of Wales. It was a break from my routine to be able to set aside dedicated time to learn and to seek God. It took a while to slow down and ease into this season, but the time I have spent here was precious because of the deep revelation I have received and the relationships formed with my classmates. The sense that God is doing a new thing in our midst and in the nation of Wales made it exciting to be here in this hour.



Meida Chooi Hui Hui SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

My journey in these three months has been one where paradigms have been shifted and my heart realigned. I was burdened to cry out to the Lord for nations and revival during the weekly prayer meetings in the Blue Room. The Lord answered my prayers in ways that I least expected and He has done a work in me that has far exceeded my expectations. My life has changed since coming to the Bible College of Wales. There is such a strong sense of unity and nothing beats having a company of hungry people pursuing the Lord together, as one!



Michael James Sliviak UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

COVENANT CHURCH OF PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

I came to the Bible College of Wales with the sole purpose of seeking a greater level of intimacy with God. Within the first week of class, He began to unfold a deeper revelation of His plans for my life! Upon examining scripture, I realized that beyond God's work in me, I also needed to contribute to the local community of Christians. I desired a solo pilgrimage to encounter the Lord but He placed me in the middle of an amazing family of students, staff, and teachers who are all committed to surrendering their all to Christ. The Lord has since confirmed my calling and purpose as an intercessor who will stand in the breach! (Ezekiel 22:30)



Michelle May Beer UNITED KINGDOM

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, WALES

Going to a bible school was not something I had planned, however, while on a tour in Israel last year, someone asked if I had been to the Bible College of Wales. I had not but on my return home, I visited the website and was so moved by what I read that I knew for certain I was to be here. From day one at the BCW, each day has been a purposeful, dedicated, and beautiful journey with the Lord. Every lecture has been impactful, deepening both my understanding and spiritual growth, and I am so thankful to be equipped for God's plans here. Thank you for equipping me for the plans God has for me.



Michelle Elizabeth Evans UNITED KINGDOM

CITY CHURCH SWANSEA, WALES

I came to the Bible College of Wales to gain a better understanding of theological concepts but I have gained more. A rekindled passion for prayer and intercession arose and the ability to apply new areas of understanding to daily living has deepened my walk with God. I am more open about the different avenues that God may open within my life for ministry and my role regarding His eternal purpose. The lecturers and learning environment have been excellent, and this place has supplied a wonderful faith-building experience that has given direction to my spiritual life.



Sarah Forward UNITED KINGDOM

REVIVAL FIRES, ENGLAND

It has been such a privilege to come to the Bible College of Wales, and every moment has been so surreal. Since arriving, I have received so much revelation of the Father heart of God. I have started to understand who I am in Him, as well as my identity and inheritance in Christ. God's love has overwhelmed me and set me free in so many ways. I have experienced wonderful teachings, been a part of powerful prayer meetings, met awesome staff, and received ministry within a context of belonging and unity. This equipping has strengthened me for my next adventure in the assignment God has for me.



Sheelagh Hughes UNITED KINGDOM

CIRENCESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, ENGLAND

I watched the documentary on *Revelation TV* featuring Mr. Rees Howells and decided to find out more about the Bible College of Wales. I appreciated that the BCW has a heart for Israel and the 3-month course was a brilliant length of time for me. God further confirmed my attendance by providing the finances for the course. My classmates have become like extended family as we all have bonded well together. The lectures have been of a high calibre and have stretched my understanding of the Bible, equipping me with insight which I can apply to daily living.



Sherine Chong SINGAPORE

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SINGAPORE

Attending a 3-month course at the Bible College of Wales was not in my plans but on the evening of October 31st 2017, the Lord spoke to me about attending. I was startled but I took the step of faith, and approached my manager the next morning. Surprisingly, I was given an extended leave during a busy period of time at work which I thought impossible. While I am still on the journey of discovering what the Lord has for me, I am in awe of His goodness in this environment which continually draws me to His heart to experience his grace.



Viktoriia Kravchenko UKRAINE

SALVATION CHURCH

The Bible College of Wales is an amazing place to be refreshed by the Lord through prayer and a deeper relationship with Him. I have experienced God's love through His presence and through the wonderful people I have met here, including the lecturers, who are experienced, wise and humble. Passionate teachings about His direction for our destinies also enabled me to see clearly what I am to do. One exceptional place here is the Blue Room – I have experienced special encounters with God and have been stirred to seek Him more fervently.

United

by Colin Beresford

¹ **“The more fractured we are, the greater we become spectacles to the world. The more we are united in love, the more the world sees Christ.”**

— *Curtis Thomas*

In politics today, any fractures within a particular party become news headlines. The media seems to thrive on people’s failings and they are more interested in failings within society than in reporting its successes. Sadly, this is nothing new. You only have to read the first few chapters of the Bible to see that there is an enemy who tried, and in part, succeeded to separate mankind from his Creator, God. However, God had a plan to restore that relationship through his Son, Jesus Christ.

JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

One of the ways the Lord chooses to demonstrate restoring the world to Himself is through the love that believers have for one another. Colossians 3:14 says that when we love each other, we are bound together in perfect unity. This kind of unifying love can only happen when we accept God’s unconditional love for us.

Later, we read that Jesus was having a discussion with some teachers of the law and explained to them what happens when there is division. He explains in Mark 3:24-25, ‘If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.’

The Bible tells us that when Jesus becomes our Lord and Saviour, we become part of the family of God. 1 Corinthians 12:12 - 27 explains what this family looks like and how we as Christians are to behave and look after each other. In verse 25, God tells us that there should be no division among us. Although we can see in the world today many different churches, it is our love for God and one another that makes us one. We are exhorted in Ephesians 4:2-6 to, ‘Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.’

¹ Reference: Practical wisdom for Pastors
Crossway Books. 2001, page 175.

My time here at the Bible College of Wales has been a real blessing. From the first day here, there has been great unity between the students and the staff representing several countries from around the world, with different church backgrounds. Surprisingly, our differences have not hindered us from loving one another but it was the love of God that has united us. When the students were asked what we thought the theme for our course should be, it was almost unanimous: UNITY.

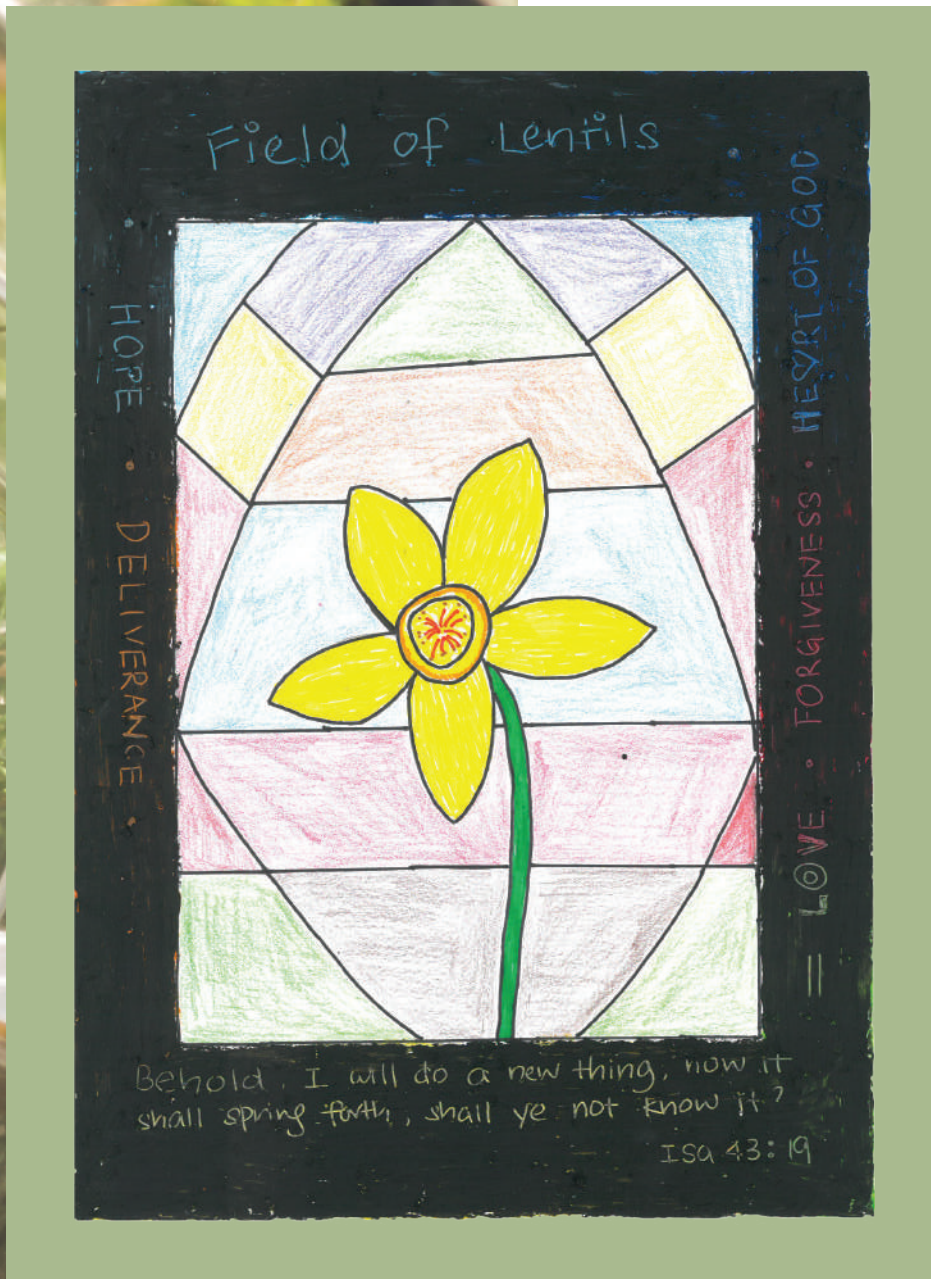
Although we have all come to the Bible College of Wales for different reasons; our primary aim is to seek God, our Heavenly Father, and what he desires to do in and through our lives. We all have different gifts and abilities but have been able to support and encourage one another. When there is unity between Christians, God will bless them. (Psalm 133:1-3) However, this blessing is not meant just to be experienced among us while we are at the Bible College of Wales. It is to be shared with the rest of the world so that everyone can experience the unifying love of Christ.



Field of Lentils

by Ng Liling

I have titled this piece of artwork, “Field of Lentils” as a reminder for us to stand vigilant and protect the work that God has done in our lives. While the enemy seeks to distract us from pursuing God’s promises, the daffodil is a symbol that our God is faithful and His promises are “*Yes and Amen!*” In the Bible College of Wales, I have experienced His love and a deeper understanding of the Father’s heart. He is truly doing a new thing in this season of my life.



The Lord of my Garden

by Ng Liling

This poem is dedicated to our gardener, Mr. David Hand. As I observe how meticulously he cares for the Italian Gardens, it has also inspired me to write this poem for it is a parallel of how lovingly and tenderly God has dealt with my life as a gardener would towards his plants.

When You came to me, my garden was dead.
Devoid of life, full of brown leaves on the parched ground.
But when You entered my garden,
Life burst forth, like the first sign of spring,
Leaves start to grow, flowers start to bud.
Birdsong is heard once again when there was none.
A gentle breeze blows through my garden and living waters flow again.

You enclose my garden with your love and protection.

¹ Pleasant fruits bearing forth pomegranates, henna,
Spikenard and saffron,
Calamus and cinnamon,
Frankincense, myrrh and aloes

How lovely and tender are the hands of my Gardener,
With each seed and seedling that is planted.
He plants and waters and provides the growth
The daffodils and tulips are like ornaments of gold and precious stones,
The shrubs and trees sturdy and strong.
You pour your healing balm into the dead soil of my garden.
Your truth shines light into areas that were hidden with shame, fear and anxiety.
There, hidden treasures were found.

My garden shone with beauty in your loving hands.

² For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone
Flowers of many hues burst into life.
The time of singing has come.

³ I await the presence of my Gardener each day for He has ravished my heart.
Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
My beloved is mine, and I am His.

¹ Song of Solomon 4:13-15

² Song of Solomon 2:11-12

³ Song of Solomon 4:9, 8:7, 2:16

Pursue Me

by Meida Chooi

On the first day of school, we went around and shared why we made the decision to come to the Bible College of Wales for the three-month course. I was listening to everyone's answer intently and then came my turn. I said, *"I'm here because I want to seek the Lord for clarity and direction,"* though at that point in time, in all honesty, I was not even sure if the Lord would reveal what I was seeking Him for.

I prayed daily and earnestly that the Lord would speak and provide greater direction; however, doubt started to creep in. *"What if the Lord doesn't speak to me at all during these three months?" "Why does the Lord seem to be revealing Himself to others but not to me?" "Is there something wrong with me because I can't seem to be hearing God at all?"*

I found myself battling these thoughts in my mind. Anxiety, worry, and confusion had entered my mind without me even realizing it. Though I was walking around looking fine on the outside but deep down within, I was struggling and the burden of uncertainty was unbearable.

Two weeks into the term, on a one particular night, as I was lying on my bed I muttered a prayer under my breath asking the Lord to provide me with answers about my future. Right at that moment, I felt the Lord speak these two words to me: "Pursue Me". These words rang louder above all the negative thoughts in my mind. In that instant, the Lord revealed the motives of my heart in such a gentle way. See, there is nothing wrong in seeking the Lord for answers and

direction but it was the posture of my heart that was misplaced. I was not truly seeking Him for Him; I was seeking Him only because I wanted answers. I was so focused on getting the answers rather than the Giver of the answers. I had not realized that out of my zeal in wanting to know the will of God, I took my gaze off of the Lord and prioritized what was meant for the secondary place.

It was during a class when the lecturer said that when we have graduated from the college, most of us will be eager to be sent out and fulfill God's call. Thus, our prayers will most likely be, *"Lord, show me Your will and I will do it."* Some of us have been very focused on ticking off our spiritual to-do list but the lecturer reminded us that Christianity is not about accomplishing or achieving things, good as they may be, but it is all about an intimate relationship with God. I thought to myself, *"O.K. Lord, I know it's all about a relationship with You but*





please tell me Your will for me.” However, what he said next hit the nail into my heart. He said pray this instead,

“Lord, make my heart obedient to You.”

It was like a ‘Eureka’ moment for me! The Lord knew that my heart was not ready to obey Him even if He revealed His plans for me from the beginning. I was reminded of a verse from Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Also in Psalm 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

The Lord is concerned about the alignment of my heart to His. I understood that once my heart is in the right posture, there would be no need for me to worry about anything. I repented immediately and this revelation has allowed me to enjoy my relationship with God and liberated me from the pressure of just wanting to do His will. An obedient heart pleases the Lord, and only when we delight ourselves in Him, will He give us the desires of our hearts because our desires come into alignment with His. (Psalm 37:4)

I have realized that the Lord had to bring me through this situation to teach me these valuable truths so that I will not miss Him in my search for answers. Now I know that what I have been seeking the Lord for from the start has been answered; “Pursue Me”.

Reflections in Pisgah Chapel

by Sheelagh Hughes

I went to Pisgah Chapel the first week I arrived at the Bible College of Wales and I was completely blown away. I read Isaiah 62 where God says to Zion that they should not be silent. We were not silent, as we prayed and sang aloud, and it was a very precious time. On the following Friday, we went as a class to Pisgah to learn about the history of the chapel. Pisgah Chapel is steeped in such rich history, and the presence of God and His Holy Spirit is still tangible there today, not just during the 1904 Welsh Revival. When I heard that Evan Roberts used to host Sunday School and prayer meetings in Pisgah, I was so profoundly moved in my spirit.

I felt so privileged to be able to come and worship there, given its anointing and legacy. Whenever I step into the chapel, it is as if I am standing on Holy ground. Each week I have continued to pray in this special place, and I feel more emboldened in my walk with Jesus. The building may be simple, but in it contains a depth of intercession. There are no distractions inside the Chapel and all are able to focus on the reason and Person whom we have come to worship. The prayer facilitators are sensitive to the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to guide our times of prayer and worship. One particular evening, we prayed through four prayer points which Evan Roberts prayed during the 1904 Welsh Revival:

- 1 We must confess before God every single sin in our past life that has not been confessed.
- 2 We must remove anything that is doubtful in our lives.
- 3 Total Surrender. We must say and do all that the Spirit tells us.
- 4 Make a public confession of Christ.

I have been inspired to pray it every morning during my devotions.

The following hymn written by William Rees for the Welsh Revival has also blessed me deeply. May the Holy Spirit impress the lyrics upon your heart so that His heartbeat for revival resonates in you too.

Unity

*Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Loving-kindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.*

*On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.*

*Let me, all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only,
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see;
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.*

*In Thy Truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy Fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and pow'r on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.*

Here is love — William Rees



Reflections in the Blue Room



by Sherine Chong

During the second week of April, I had difficulty sleeping as I was down with a bad cold. I was exhausted and my body was in dire need of rest, and at 5:30am, there was a strong ‘pull’ within to pray in the Blue Room.

It was my first time going to the Blue Room to pray in the morning, though all I wanted to do was to lay down on the floor and sleep. Suddenly, I felt a tap on my head. It was like as though someone was waking me up. I looked behind me and around but there was no one visible in the room. It was an unusual experience and I sensed the gentle beckoning of the Holy Spirit for me to pray and seek Him, despite how I felt physically and emotionally. I opened my Bible and turned to Psalm 103. At the moment when I began to read the first word of this Psalm, something burst inside me and I began weeping.

Just a few days prior to this experience, I set my heart on knowing the fear of the Lord. I desired to experience the awesomeness of God, His might, and glory. I had planned to study this more thoroughly but because I became ill, I was unable to. In Psalm 103, the fear of the Lord is mentioned twice. Verse 11 says, “For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him”. Also in verse 17, “But from everlasting to everlasting, the Lord’s love is with those who fear Him.” As I continued to cry while reading over this passage, I felt a strong sense of the Lord’s presence on me. I was in awe and humbled as His love poured into my heart like warm oil, and my body was so refreshed!

As I left the Blue Room, I felt strengthened inwardly and outwardly. In that moment, the Lord revealed to me that to fear and revere His Name first comes out of His overflowing and bountiful love for me. That experience in the Blue Room created a deeper longing to seek Him, to know Him, to love Him, and to fear Him. This has been the spark that ignited and brought purpose to my time at the BCW.

by Jasmin Zhan

One day while I was in the Blue Room praying for a specific nation, I heard the Lord say, “Ask me for a specific city to pray into.” Immediately after I asked, I received a vision, and the Holy Spirit showed me a specific city in this nation. I was unsure of the name of this particular location and never knew it existed, but after I looked it up online, I was overwhelmed to see its exact location on a map, just like what the Holy Spirit revealed to me earlier without the internet! After this encounter, I believe the Lord is preparing me as a vessel to preach the gospel to “every creature” in this particular city. Until I am able to go there, I will continue to intercede for this nation to prosper and encounter the Father’s love and blessing! He is such an amazing Father!

by Sarah Forward

I had a vision from the Lord during one of the corporate times of prayer in the Blue Room. From high above I was able to look down upon Swansea and below me to my left I could see dark clouds moving across the land. I knew that these dark clouds were spirits and strongholds. God revealed to me that these spirits represented pride, deceit and division.

As I looked directly down upon the land I began to see little flames lighting up one after the other in different places. I knew that these flames represented praying churches and also groups of people praying on their knees crying out to God. Then I saw that smaller flames were appearing close to the larger flames and they began to merge into even larger flames. This represented unity among the churches. As churches and groups of people were praying together, their prayers were rising up toward the raging dark clouds and began to push them back.

Then I saw that higher above the dark clouds, there were white clouds of God’s angelic armies waiting as they hovered above. As the prayers from below were being lifted up and pushing back the dark clouds, suddenly, a loud trumpet sounded as if releasing a powerful war cry. When I heard the trumpet sound, immediately the hovering white clouds descended like lightning toward the dark clouds and consumed them until nothing was left. At that point, I looked back down toward the land and could see people on their knees weeping, people dancing and singing. As I looked to my right I could see people being baptised in the sea and hundreds more were running toward the sea, desperate to be washed clean.



Spring Term Class of 2018

TOP ROW
FROM LEFT

Jefferson Talavera, Viktoriia Kravchenko, Ng Liling, Jasmin Sarah Zahan Xiuling, Colin Beresford, Indrani Suromuthu, Joachim Gideon Tee, Michelle May Beer, David Wiggins (DEAN), Hosanna Joy Nazar, Jonathan Airey, Michelle Elizabeth Evans, James Sliviak, Emma Emmanuel Thomas, Edward Zaccheus, and Ariston Sales Gatulan



**BOTTOM ROW
FROM LEFT**

Sheelagh Hughes, Irene Chew, Sarah Forward, Grace Chew Seok Wah,
Marve Lee, Sherine Chong, Doreen Zaccheus, and Meida Chooi Hui Hui

Answered Prayers

God is a Faithful God!

by Sheelagh Hughes

Several people have prayed for me and I have received both physical and emotional healing. I have arthritis on my left knee as a result of several falls I had some years ago. Although I have prayed for healing before, the Lord has completely healed me now! Whilst Sister Margaret Seaward prayed for us during one of her lectures, I felt a sense of heaviness lifted off and immediately, I knew that God gave me a breakthrough for something I had been praying for. On another occasion, I felt the pressure from my back released when I woke up in the morning and as I got out of bed and began to walk, my back straightened significantly and I could walk more uprightly! Today, God continues to do a work in me and I give Him all the praise and glory! Amen!



God Whispered In My Ear

by Jefferson Talavera

As children of God, we believe whatever we ask of God in prayer, He will answer us. In Biblical times, God spoke to people in an audible voice. How blessed are those who have heard His voice! Have you ever experienced hearing His voice audibly? Does He still speak today? For me, I believe that God can speak to us anytime He wants to, we only need to ask and wait for His sweet voice.

“I’ve heard His audible voice speak to me.”



In 2017, five young people living in a slum area in Manila, Philippines were given a chance to travel abroad and I was one of them. We were on a trip to UK with our senior pastor and his family to visit our church partners and friends in Scotland, England, and Wales. During the tour, we visited the Bible College of Wales and my heart was amazed by the history of this place, especially how God spoke to Mr. Rees Howells concerning the purchase of the Bible College. While we were praying in the Blue Room, I heard a gentle voice saying, “You are going to study here.” When I opened my eyes to see who whispered in my ears, everyone else in the room was deep in prayer and there was nobody standing next to me. I wondered if it was just my imagination, but at that very moment, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit come upon me strongly, and I trusted that it was His voice I heard. So, I responded to God and said, “*Lord, if that’s You, let Your will be done!*” However, I kept this encounter a secret and did not tell anyone about it.

A week later, while on our way to a church in Scotland, my pastor received news that someone wanted to sponsor me to study at the BCW. I was astonished at such a blessing and His providence! God did truly speak to me in the Blue Room and it was not just my imagination! That was my first encounter hearing the audible voice of God.

I am convinced that God not only speaks to us through His word but He desires His children to recognise His still small voice. He is the Lord who remains the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). If He has spoken through His people in biblical times, He will also speak to us. I believe whatever He says, it will come to pass for Ezekiel 12:25 tells us that “For I am the LORD! If I say it, it will happen.”

My visit to the Bible
College of Wales
last July 2017

God Alone Is Sufficient

by Jasmin Zhan

In late 2013, everything in my life took a turn and went downhill. My father suffered from a heart attack which resulted in the end of our family business, and that meant I had to put aside my studies and secure a full-time job to help finance household expenses. In the midst of this trying circumstance, the enemy began to sow doubt and deception, leaving me with a poverty mindset.

During a church service in the beginning of 2014, the preacher was sharing a message on the posture of giving unto God through our tithes and offerings. The challenge came when he said, *“Is there a sacrifice in our giving or do we give simply out of our convenience?”* I opened up my purse and all that I had was a five dollar note. I wrestled with giving it all and secretly hoped that the offering bag would not come my way! Eventually, I relented and gave everything that I had. As soon as I obeyed, the comfort of God instantly surrounded my broken heart and assured me that He alone is sufficient. Sadly, despite encountering God, the worries of not having enough money to last me through the coming weeks bothered me. However, after much encouragement from my mentor, I realized that the enemy was trying to ensnare me! Immediately, I repented from my fear and trust in mammon, and God came through in a refreshing way. I left the church service empowered and confident that God would take care of me. Well, God surely did! He multiplied the amount in my bank account from \$4.86 to \$48.60 and that lasted me for the coming week. Not only did He provide the finances, He also provided for my meals at my work place for the next couple of weeks! The passage in Matthew 6:33 says, *“But seek first the kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,”* became alive in me. This experience was significant as the number ‘5’ symbolises ‘grace’ and it imprinted in me that His grace is always sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) Since then, I have never stopped giving my all to Him, especially in the area of my finances.

In 2016, God continued to demonstrate His faithfulness over my life when I received a 100% wage increment increment after I did a career switch! The extra income enabled me to pay off my study loans and I am officially debt free! Furthermore, for the next 2 years, I partnered with an overseas sponsorship



programme to sponsor underprivileged children. Truly, like what our Lord Jesus said in Acts 20:35, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

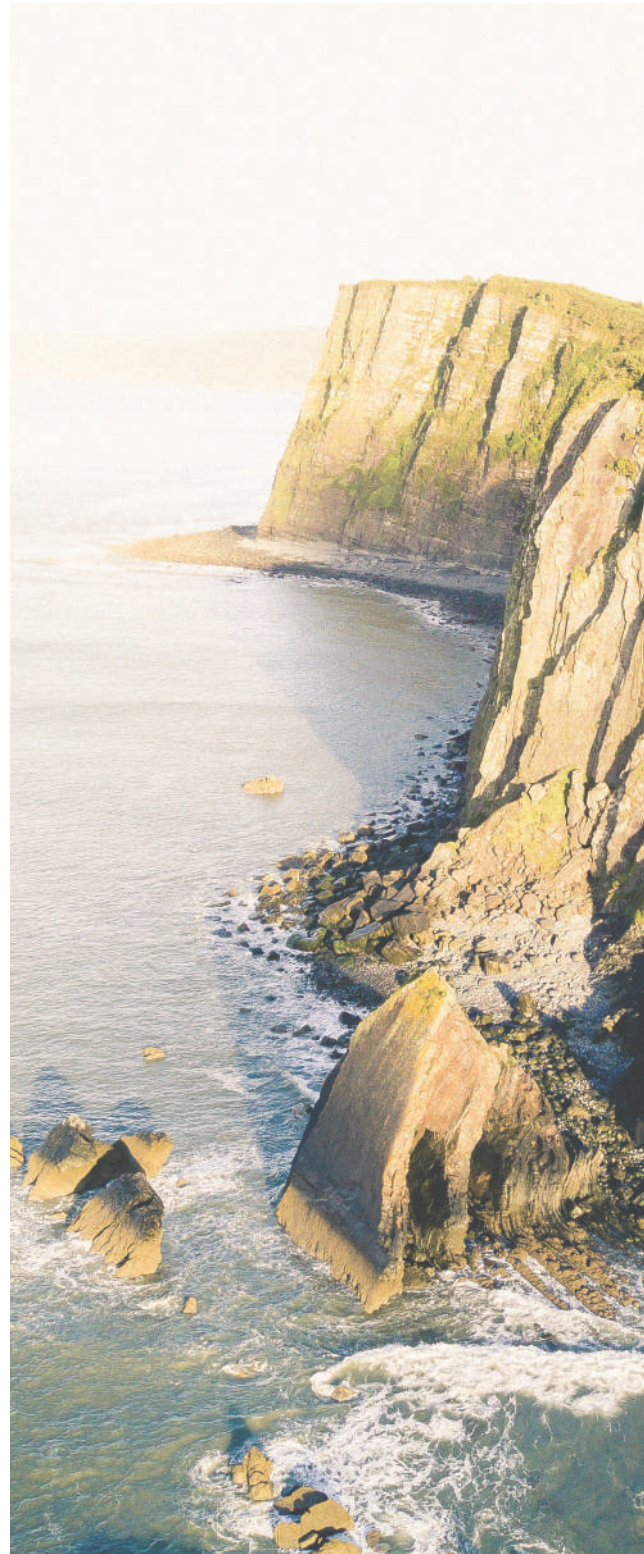
In October 2017, the Lord challenged me to attend the Spring Term at the Bible College of Wales in 2018. Once again, the enemy sought to sow doubt and confusion. I clung onto His Word in James 4:7 which encourages us to “submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” With that, I declared in faith that

***“I am going to the BCW,
God will take care of my
needs, so Satan, you can
forget about putting me down.”***

The outpouring of God’s love came through tangibly as I declared that His provision is always in abundance! It is not an exaggeration to say that God moved various individuals to bless and sow into my life for this season in the BCW. My Jehovah Jireh provided all expenses, miscellaneous fees, and there was even a surplus! My pre-believing family witnessed the whole process and was touched by how this Living God whom I serve provided for me at every juncture. I declare that salvation is near for my family!

The first place I went to when I step foot in the BCW was to the plinth which bore the words, “Jehovah Jireh, Faith is Substance.” I said a prayer of gratitude to God right at that moment and I was overwhelmed by His goodness over my life. During my time here, there came another test of faith to trust God to provide for my parents. While strolling in the garden one day, I passed by the plinth and immediately faith arose within me to believe that God is in control! Sure enough, God took care of my parents’ needs and even blessed me with a sum of money. The poverty mindset has been removed and I am grateful that God has brought me through this trial triumphantly.

James 1:2 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.” A heart that trusts God is developed through a posture of daily surrender to Him and being in an intimate fellowship with Him. In that posture, we are assured that He is in control of all things and truly, God is all sufficient. fellowship with Him. In that posture, we are assured that He is in control of all things, like what Hebrews 13:8 exhorts us, that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” Amen.



PROPHETIC EXPRESSIONS

Class Song

we will
NOT BE
Shaken

he does not fear
BAD NEWS

HIS HEART IS

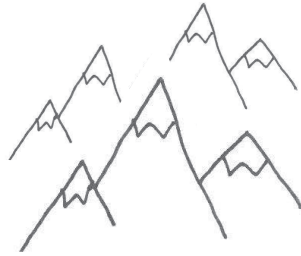
Steadfast

TRUSTING

IN THE

LORD

PSALM 112:7



BY HOSANNA JOY NAZAR

Unity

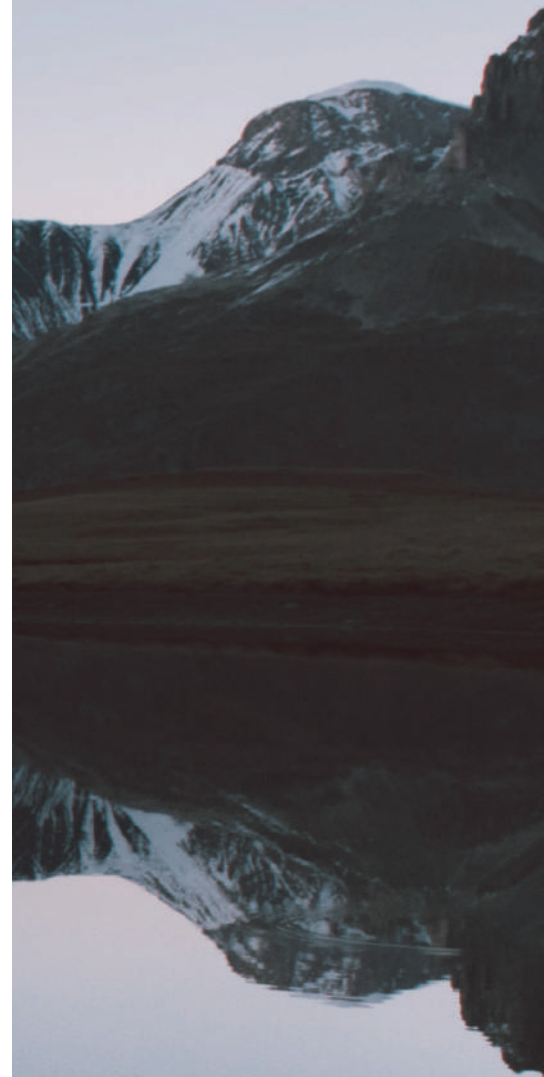
You are good
Always good

You are faithful
Always faithful

You are with us
You are for us
Who can be against us?
You reign over us

We stand firm on the solid rock
We hold fast
To every single promise
We will not be shaken

We're steadfast in the love of God
We say 'Yes'
To every single promise
We will not be shaken



Ffald-y-Brenin



PROPHETIC PICTURE
INTERPRETATION

**Beyond the horizon
lies my Call,
my Destiny**

**To the Cross of Jesus
my self, crucified**

**No turning back
He leads me forth
to The Land of His Promise**

by Edward Zaccheus

APPROACHING THE HIGH CROSS

by Michelle May Beer

Welled with tears,
I saw the Lord at the Cross

“*Finally!*” was a word that filled my heart.
“*Thank you, Lord*” was what flowed out of me.

I felt You, Your relentless presence.

“*Finally you have arrived,*” You whispered.
“*Thank you, Lord for waiting for me,*” in gratitude I responded.

You have brought me here to realise my place and season,
Just where I am supposed to be;

Thank you Lord for waiting for me.



THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR ME

by Joachim Tee

Going to Ffald-y-Brenin was a phenomenal experience for me. I could never fathom how great and good God is. As I was conversing with God in that place, He reminded me how creative and amazing He is; confirming that His kingdom is indeed above all else. My time at the Ffald-y-Brenin allowed me to posture myself to receive the Father's love for me. As I thought about how intentional and intricate He is with all He has created, I was overwhelmed by His goodness and mercy.

Mind the G A P

What is the Good,

Acceptable & Perfect Will of God

by Ariston Sales Gatulan

We often hear or see the warning, “MIND THE GAP” issued to railway passengers to take caution while crossing the gap between the train door and the station platform. As I pondered about this expression, it served as an important reminder for us as we journey in life to be mindful of the ‘G.A.P’ - the Good, Acceptable, and Perfect will of God.

I came to the Bible College of Wales to equip myself for ministry, to encounter the Lord in a greater measure and to explore the land as my family and I prepare for our next assignment in the next season.

God is shifting His people from one season to the next, from one assignment to another, and He is preparing them for greater work. I strongly believe that God is calling us to a new place in Him.



I believe after our term ends in the BCW, we will be pressing on to fulfil our various assignments, but some questions and uncertainties may arise. Questions like, “Where am I going?”, “Am I in the right location?”, “What ministry should I pursue?”, “What is God’s will for my life?”

Let us ‘MIND THE G.A.P’ and consider Romans 12:1-2, I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” The Greek word for ‘beseech’ here is ‘*parakaleo*’.

The Greek word for beseech here is ‘*parakaleo*’ and it is the root word for ‘*paraclete*’ which is translated as the ‘comforter’, a description given to the Holy Spirit. Hence, we see here that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is key to discovering what is the good, acceptable, and perfect will that God desires us to walk into. The Holy Spirit is here to comfort us, to encourage us, and to exhort us.

WHAT IS **GOOD** TO GOD?

The Holy Spirit wants us to present our bodies on the altar. “Present” means to put on public display, to show or make visible, to disclose or reveal. This is not only referring to our physical body but everything that is attached to us.

When we present ourselves as a living sacrifice and in total abandonment to the Holy Spirit, it is an act of surrender where we allow Him to make us clean and useful vessels for His purpose. We may be asked to surrender our friends, possessions, work, lifestyles, the way we dress, the way we talk, the music that we listen to, movies that we watch or anything that the Lord points us to. By being “set apart” from the world, we live by God’s standards and not the world’s. This consecration allows us to experience greater things from God.

WHAT IS **ACCEPTABLE** TO GOD?

We live in a world that values the acceptance of people rather than God. Somehow, we have lost the desire to please God and we want our acceptance to come from men. We are more concerned about what our friends,

leaders, or pastors say about us than having God’s approval. It is not about pleasing people, it is about honouring God. The key to knowing what is acceptable in God’s sight is by asking Him for the fear of the Lord. Psalm 111:10 tells us that as we seek the fear of the Lord, we receive heavenly wisdom and understanding to know what and why it pleases Him.

WHAT IS THE **PERFECT** WILL OF GOD?

One of our lecturers said this, “Don’t miss the real issue of the will of God. The will of God is to reveal His character and the ministry of Christ wherever you are.” In other words, even if we are in the wrong location, God’s purpose is to reveal His character and ministry in and through us.

In the light of Romans 12:1-2, if we present our lives on God’s altar, we will be transformed. If we refuse to present ourselves, we will be conformed to the world. If we are not on the altar, we are not aligned to the will of God.

As we journey in life pursuing our destiny, let us remember to “MIND THE G.A.P!”

Is There Hope For Us If We Reject God's call?

by Edward Zaccheus

Mr. Rees Howells was a remarkable man in the hands of God. When the Holy Spirit challenged him to make a decision on unconditional surrender to Him, he said, 'Yes' with the Holy Spirit's help. From then on, the Holy Spirit began to take deliberate and almost total possession of his entire life. It would not be an understatement to claim that Mr. Rees Howells had no life of his own but that of the Holy Spirit.

But what 'if' he had said 'No' to the Holy Spirit instead? What if he begged God to go slow on him and gradually, not abruptly, bringing him to the place of unconditional surrender as he develops in maturity in his relationship with God? Would God have relented like how He did when Moses pleaded with God to send someone else to speak to Pharaoh of Egypt rather than him (Exodus 4:12-14)? Based on the account of ¹ Mr. Rees Howells' biography, it was either 'self' or the Holy Spirit and there was no other way.

¹ Grubb, Norman, "Rees Howells: Intercessor," Cornerstone Resources Pte Ltd, Singapore, 2015



In the early days after I went through the waters of baptism, I had an experience with God where He called me to come up to a 'higher' ground. The presence of God was so heavy on me that after a few days of living in it I had to ask Him to lift it off me, which He did. The second experience I had was when I was a cell leader. After being convicted to give up a certain relationship, God spoke to me about leading a celibate life which He confirmed through His Word. I struggled to obey and I had to tell God, 'No.' I rejected Him twice, as much as I knew there were eternal bearings tied to these decisions.

It was only after reading 'Rees Howells: Intercessor', that I was convicted about rejecting God in these two areas of my life. I went to God and sought for His forgiveness. Although I had made peace with God over these two experiences, I wonder what my life would have been if I had answered those two calls of God earlier in my life. How different would my relationship with the Lord be? More importantly, did I permanently miss out on the will of God in my life? If I did miss out, am I living out God's second best now?

The story of Samson comes clearly to my mind of one who rejected the call of God in His life when he fell into sin. However, God restored him in the latter part of his life when he cried out, "*Just one more time Lord.*" God granted Samson's plea and he was supernaturally strengthened to destroy more Philistines in that one act of power than in all his previous conquests of the enemy. (Judges 16:28-30)

Sadly, that was also his last act in life before he died. Similarly, the prophet Jonah rejected and ran away from God's call, but God divinely intervened and got him back on track. As a result, the nation of Nineveh believed in God and was saved from impending judgement. (Jonah 1-4)

From scriptures, we know that the greatest restoration in the millennial period on earth will be seen in the nation of Israel. God remains faithful to His promises to the children of Israel despite the many times that they have fallen and rejected the call of God for their lives. Having rejected the Messiah, their hearts are now hardened. But the day is soon coming when they will be restored and it will be there in Jerusalem that Jesus will come down and reign among them.

From these accounts, we can clearly see that God is a redemptive and restorative God. His great mercies extend hope for all of us who have said 'No' to God at some point in our lives. God is ever faithful to complete the work He has begun and He is relentless in His pursuit of us. When we hear Him call once again, let us respond in repentance and come to Him. Joel 2:25-26 perfectly sums it up with the Lord saying, "I, the LORD your God, I will make up for the losses caused by those swarms and swarms of locusts I sent to attack you. My people, you will eat until you are satisfied. Then you will praise me for the wonderful things I have done. Never again will you be put to shame." This time, let us offer ourselves willingly to follow Him with our 'Yes' and without delay.

Student Life









“BAYANIHAN”

Working Together As One

by Jefferson Talavera



While at the Bible College of Wales, I woke up one morning with the word ¹ *'Bayanihan.'* This is the core essence of the Filipino culture where a community join hands to complete a task together, thus lessening the workload and making the job easier.

The word *'Bayanihan'* is derived from *"bayan"*, which means nation, town, or community the Tagalog language, the mother tongue of the Philippines. Thus, *'Bayanihan'* means "being in a *bayan*," referring to the spirit of communal unity and cooperation to accomplish a particular task on hand.

The tradition of *'Bayanihan'* originated from the rural areas of the Philippines. The townsmen, especially the men, were usually called upon to lend a hand to families who wanted to move elsewhere. The relocation not only involved moving their personal belongings but it included moving the physical house to a new location, as pictured in the illustration provided. A traditional Filipino house (*Bahay Kubo*) is made of indigenous materials such as bamboo and nipa leaves, and were usually built on stilts, designed so that people could lift and carry it if there was an impending landslide or flood.

Before the townsmen would perform the shift, bamboo poles were tied and fastened to the house and it required approximately 15 to 20 volunteers to move the house to the new location. The townsmen would walk in unison toward the family's new home, and sometimes, as a gesture of appreciation. As a token of appreciation, the family served food to all who had helped in one way or the other. The beauty of the *'Bayanihan'* spirit is not only in extending help when it is needed but that reciprocation is not a pre-requisite or an obligation. People served willingly and voluntarily, even though it was hard work!

In my second day in the BCW, I went to town for lunch with some of my classmates and we were due to pick up another classmate who was arriving at the bus station. When she arrived, we realized that she sustained a knee injury and was limping in pain. We prayed quickly for her and proceeded to have her sit on a chair while waiting to get on the taxi. The students and a nearby security officer did a *"Bayanihan"* and we carried our injured classmate from the coffee shop to into the vehicle. While heading back to the Bible College, our classmate expressed her gratitude as she was touched by the way we came together to help her.

From this simple encounter, I have learnt three principles that relate to the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:33-35.

- 1 As Christians, we need to be intentional when we reach out to those in need and it often happens when it is most inconvenient for us.
- 2 Our genuine love and support for others may not reap us any immediate returns or rewards but it can inspire them to do the same for others when they choose to pay it forward
- 3 The immeasurable impact that a community can bring while working together as one outweighs that of an individual effort.

Here at the Bible College, I feel so blessed being around people who are caring, humble, and full of compassion. For me, it has been a life-changing experience and the greatest thing I have seen and learnt from my classmates is the essence of unity. My heart's desire is that as we return to our countries, we will continue to pray for one another and be united as one Body and one Spirit in our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

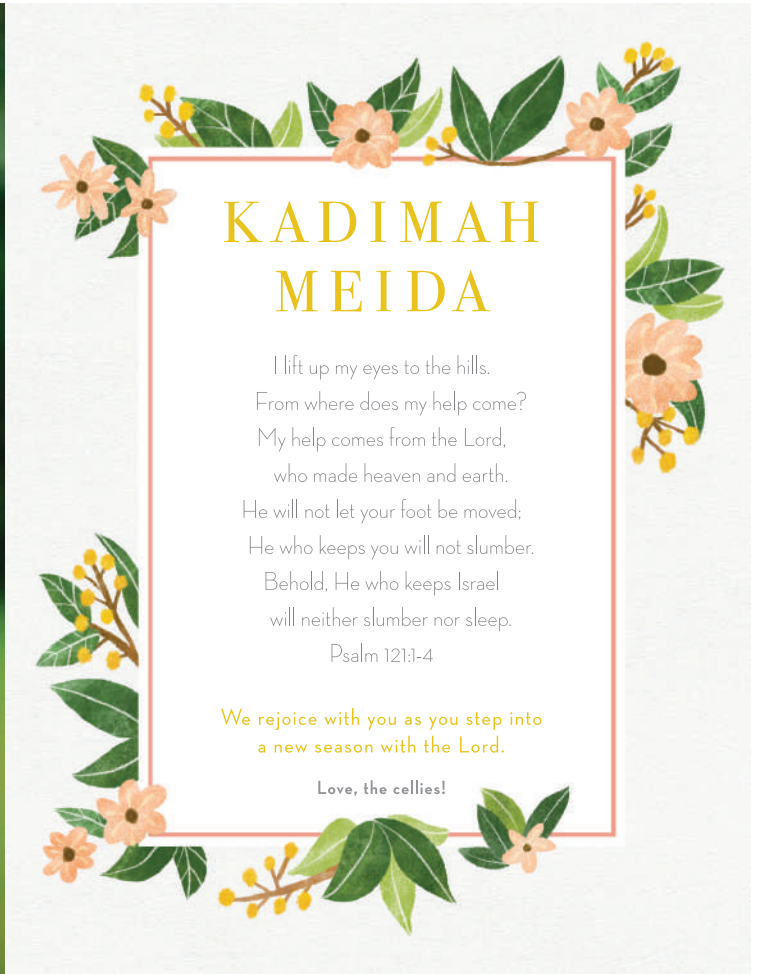
¹ *Bayanihan* is pronounced as *buy-uh-nee-hun*

Autographs

Autographs

Autographs

Autographs



*“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

We praise & thank God for what He has done
and is doing in your life. We pray that God brings
promises to you to fulfilment.

***We love, appreciate,
and are so proud of you.
Congratulations!!***

***Love,
Jeffery Chew, Meng, Sarah,
Japheth, Luke & Deb***

DEAR LILING,

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION FROM BCW -SOM. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVOURS WITH GOD!

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

—Hebrews 12: 1-2



Pastor Waileng, Ivan, Chunxuan, Eng Kwang, Liting, Bernard & Yireng



**DEAR GRACE,
CONGRATULATIONS!**

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

—1 Corinthians 2:9

from Crown of Glory Church

**DEAREST EMMA,
CONGRATS ON YOUR DOUBLE
GRADUATION! FROM THE
BIBLE COLLEGE OF WALES
(SCHOOL OF MINISTRY) AND
JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
(DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY).
YOU DID IT!**

You have overcome many challenges to get to where you are today, and we are so proud of you. We love you and feel so blessed to be sharing the occasion with you. Lots of Love and Hugs!!! Both mummy and I leave this promise from our heavenly Father to you:

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

—Jeremiah 29:11



Love,
Daddy and Mummy



**CONGRATULATIONS
PASTOR AYET!**

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”

—1 Corinthians 2:9

from CORNERSTONE FILIPINO CONGREGATION

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION AND SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE. WE REJOICE IN WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN YOUR LIVES!



First Row (from left to right):
Meida Chooi Hui Hui, Indrani Suromuthu, Doreen Zaccheus, Sherine Chong, Marve Lee, Emma Emmanuel Thomas, Hosanna Joy Nazar

Second Row (from left to right):
Edward Zaccheus, Ariston Sales Gatulan, Ng Liling, Jasmin Sarah Zhan Xiuling, Joachim Gideon Tee

CONGRATULATIONS MARVE LEE

CLUSTER 4



**Commit your works to the Lord,
And your thoughts will be established.** Proverb 16:3

THE BIBLE COLLEGE OF WALES

HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre commemorates the life and the 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

PRAYER TIMINGS

BCW HOUSE OF PRAYER
(AT THE BLUE ROOM)

MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
7PM—9PM

PISGAH HOUSE OF PRAYER
(AT PISGAH CHAPEL)

MONDAY **12PM—2PM**





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.

Rooms available for rent

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 furnished with wi-fi, but do note that there are no cooking and laundry facilities 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.



Bible College of Wales

The School of Ministry is a 3-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 / Autumn
3 Sep — 23 Nov

Registration opens: 01 Jan 2018
Registration closes: 31 May 2018*
01 Aug 2018

2019 / Spring
4 Mar — 24 May

Registration opens: 01 Jul 2018
Registration closes: 31 Dec 2018*
01 Feb 2019

2019 / Autumn
2 Sep — 22 Nov

Registration opens: 01 Jan 2019
Registration closes: 31 May 2019*
01 Aug 2019

**for countries where applicants
require pre-approved visa on arrival*