

# Beholders



THE  
BIBLE COLLEGE  
OF WALES

AUTUMN TERM • SEP - NOV 2023



PSALM 27:4

ONE THING I HAVE DESIRED OF THE LORD, THAT  
WILL I SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE  
OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO  
BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD, AND TO  
INQUIRE IN HIS TEMPLE.

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# FROM THE *Directors*

CONGRATULATIONS,  
BATCH 16 OF THE  
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY  
(AUTUMN TERM 2023)  
ON YOUR GRADUATION.

I am certain that in the past three months, many of you have had defining moments, and as you graduate, I encourage you to keep pressing upwards, onwards, and toward the goal of the high call of God in Christ Jesus. You have chosen for your graduation the theme, “BEHOLDERS” and it is a wonderful prophetic proposition for this hour.

One of the great promises in scripture is that we will all one day see His face (Revelations 22:3-5). I don't know of anything I desire or long for more than this. This is my one consummate desire – to see His Face.

A face-to-face encounter with Him is the longing of every saint of every generation, and His promise to us is that we shall see His Face. Whilst this is a future promise, the challenge is for us to appropriate this, right here and now. John tells us we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2). Isaiah says our eyes shall behold the King in His beauty (Isaiah 33). Jesus said if anyone loves Me, he will keep my commandments and he who loves Me, I will **manifest** Myself to him (John 14:21). It is the **desire** of the Lord to manifest Himself to us.



Paul tells us that *“we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord”* (2 Corinthians 3:18). If our faces are veiled, then we are unable to behold Him. Those are the key words: “unveiled face.” How do you and I attain this posture of an unveiled face as we behold Him?

In the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Mark's gospel, a blind man is brought to Jesus to be healed in the city of Bethsaida. Now, Bethsaida was a privileged city because they saw many great miracles of Jesus, yet in spite of that, the people refused to believe in Him. So the Lord takes him out to the city limits, makes spit, puts it on the eyes of the blind man, laid His hands on the man's eyes, and asked him if he saw anything – the man answers and says: I see men like trees walking. In other words, his sight was restored to him, but only partially. The Lord put His hands the 2<sup>nd</sup> time on this blind man's eyes and this time, he was restored completely and saw with 20/20 vision. I have heard several different interpretations to this. Someone said Jesus' faith wasn't perfect; someone said the blind man's faith wasn't perfect and all that is baloney.

The blind man in the story is you and me. I am the blind man. You are the blind man. Before we got saved, we were blind, like the man. We were in darkness and we could not see. We were completely ignorant of the unseen realities around us. The Kingdom of God was 6 inches in front of your nose, and you couldn't see it. But the moment you believed, something happened. What happened? The veil that blinded your eyes was removed. Jesus put it this way. He said unless a man be born again, he cannot "see" the Kingdom of Heaven. The believing removes the veil, and immediately you are illumined. You start to see, you start to understand, and all of a sudden, we see things we have never seen things before. The spiritual world becomes a reality to us and our understanding is enlightened.

## HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU THE ABILITY TO INTUIT THE FUTURE.

That's the nature of revelation. One moment you don't see; and the next moment, you can see. Revelation simply means to lift the veil. Five seconds before Jesus popped that question to Simon Peter, he had no idea who Jesus really was. As far as Peter was concerned, Jesus was a rabbi, a miracle worker, a prophet, and a good man. But suddenly the lights went on and he recognises Jesus for who He really is. I know who You are, *"You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."*

But for most of us, at best, when we get saved, we still see men as trees walking. We have spiritual perception, but only partially. One of the things that must precipitate in us is a cry for God to open our eyes a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Because God is seeking to give you 20/20 vision. He wants us to see with clarity of perception. What the Lord did to this blind man, He wants to do for each of us as well. He wants to come to us a second time and

give us 20/20 vision. He wants to give you the ability to intuit the future. He wants to give you supersized lenses because God operates by optical precision. He wants to give you clarity of perception, and He wants you to behold Him.

Isaiah 25:7 *"And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people and the veil that is spread over all nations."*

What is a veil? Basically, it is an obstructed vision. It is a covering. The first thing you have to understand about veils is that there is a massive veil over the nations and it is the one thing that prevents people from believing the gospel. If you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, it is because the veil that is over your face has been lifted. If the veil is still there, you will not see, neither will you understand. And this veil over the nations blinds the inhabitants of this world and prevents them from seeing the light of the gospel. They cannot see because they are blind and they are blind because the god of this world has blinded their eyes, and the way he does it is to put a veil over them.



Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *"And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case, the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."* When a church begins to understand

how all these work; when we begin to understand spiritual realities, and rise to pray and intercede, understand that corporately, they can actually punch a hole in that surface covering, over our families, and over our communities. When the veil over our community is weakened or removed, what do we call that? It is an open heaven. Once the veil has been removed, there is no longer a hindrance, and the result is that you have an uninterrupted flow of revelation and life.

All of a sudden, people are awakened, and they begin to see. People will begin to turn to the Lord easily. What do we call that? Revival!

After 33 years in full time ministry, it is so much easier to operate under an open heaven than it is to operate under a closed heaven. I tell you this – there is a prophetic longing for the veil between heaven and earth to be torn. The cry of the prophet is *“Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down...”* (Isaiah 64:1).

The first mention of a veil in the OT was the veil that was placed over Moses’ face. If you recall, when Moses descended from Mount Sinai, *“the skin of his face shone because he had been in the Presence of Almighty God”* (Exodus 34). When the people saw him, they were afraid. So, Moses veiled his face to keep the people from beholding the glory that was radiating from his countenance. And whenever Moses entered the tabernacle to speak with God, he would unveil his face. The whole picture of the veil over Moses’ face was to conceal the light of God’s glory from the people. And that’s exactly what Paul was referring to in 2 Corinthians 3. This veil over Moses’ face was a prophetic picture of the blindness that would come upon the Jewish people. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 3 that *“till this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart...”* When Jews read the OT, their eyes were veiled from seeing the truth and glory of Christ. And it is still there, thousands of years later. They can’t see that Jesus is the Messiah in spite of all the evidence. Why is that so? Because there is a veil over the nation. And it is there for our sakes.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> mention of a veil was in the Tabernacle of Moses. Now God had promised to dwell among His people, but within the veil (Leviticus 16:2). The veil in the Tabernacle was to prevent people from entering into the Holy of Holies. The veil was, in essence, God’s mercy, protecting a sin-tainted congregation from God’s Holiness and judgments. But the veil did not just keep the people out, it also kept God boxed in. God’s deep longing was for His people to come into His presence and behold His glory. He wants His Face to be seen. Ezekiel 39:29 says, *“And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God.”* When Jesus died on the Cross, what was God’s first judicial act? He tore the veil in the temple from top to

GOD’S DEEP LONGING  
WAS FOR HIS PEOPLE  
TO COME INTO HIS  
PRESENCE AND  
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bottom. Actually it was more than a veil. It was a carpet wall that was 9 inches thick. I mean, no human being could rip that veil apart. That ornate curtain was a wall of separation between the holy place and the most holy place which housed the Ark of the Covenant. That was the first thing God did and it tells us a lot about what He desired. He wanted His people to draw near to Him.


When David erected the Tabernacle on Zion's Hill, there was no veil in the Tent because David had a revelation of what God wanted. David knew what God desired because he was a man after God's own heart. So now, in the Tabernacle of David, the congregation of Israel could behold the Ark of His Presence and not die. This is mind boggling. This was what God always wanted, for His glory to be made manifest to His people. He doesn't want to hide behind a curtain any longer. And that's why God is going to raise up the Tabernacle of David, not the Tabernacle of Moses. Amos 9:13 *"On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will*

*raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old..."* What does that tell us? He wants His Glory to be seen by us. Now in the OT, the Ark was not visible to the people. Only the High Priest, once a year, on the Day of Atonement, could enter in and behold the Ark. That veil kept the people from beholding the glory.

Hebrews 10:19-25 *"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."*

Hebrews 10 deals primarily with the new and living way into the Holy of Holies. If I could summarise the goal of the Christian, it is to enter in and to live within the Veil. The sad thing is, many of us are just content to settle for a relationship with God in the Outer Courts and some of us can't even make it to the Holy Place. But our destination is within the veil. It is there that we, with an unveiled face, behold His glory.





In the OT, a veil separated the people from the shekinah glory of God indicating that the way into the Holy of Holies was not open to the rest of Israel because the blood of bulls and goats were insufficient to take away our sins (Hebrews 10:4). There was no sacrifice in the OT great enough to remove our sins and to allow us to enter in. But when Jesus died on the cross, what was the first thing that happened the moment Jesus gave up His Spirit? The veil in the temple was rent from top to bottom. God waited for a long time to do that because He wanted to open up to us, a new and living way into His presence, and that ought to be our consuming desire. Jesus did not just die to save us from our sins. He died so that we could enter in.

## WE MUST BE WILLING TO GO TO THE CROSS, JUST AS CHRIST WAS WILLING AND OBEDIENT.

Rees Howells talked about how the moment he surrendered all and entered through the veil. Evan Roberts talked about his experiences with God within the veil and it was so holy, he never recorded it. George Mueller talked about the day he died to the world. Charles Finney, Smith Wigglesworth, Kathryn Kuhlman all had the same experience. How do we enter through the veil? The moment Jesus gave up the Ghost, the veil of the temple was rent from

top to bottom and a new and living way was opened to us. But the question is, do we want to enter in? Are you willing to pay the price to live within the veil, to live in the unseen realm of the kingdom? I believe everything starts with a desire. The invitation is opened to all but you have to be co-crucified with Christ. This is how God rips the veil for you and brings us personally into the Holy of Holies. God is no respecter of persons. This experience is offered to all, but it is not automatic or guaranteed. There is a price we have to pay – the only way for us to enter in is for our flesh to be crucified with Christ. This is Romans 6. When we first got saved, we were immature, unstable, needy, and carnal. We stumble into sin, repent and the Lord is so gracious and He forgives us. This happens again and again and we often get discouraged because we can't seem to have victory over the flesh. And we can't, not on our own, that's why Jesus died. The Lord does not want to leave us in this unstable condition – one day up, down the next. He wants us to know that total victory over the sinful nature is possible and His grace is sufficient to enable us to have complete dominance over sin. So being crucified with Christ is something you cannot do on your own. It is an experience only God alone can bring you into. So what must we do on our part? We must be willing to go to the cross, just as Christ was willing and obedient. We must be wholehearted for God and come to a place of complete consecration. And the way He prepares us for this is He will put His finger on areas of our hearts and deal with us. What they are, only He knows and if God says, "*Are you willing to give this or that up,*" then we must







respond obediently to Him because those little foxes are the things that keep us out. Each time He says to give up something, He will also give you the grace for it. Jesus did not put Himself on the cross; it was the Father who put Him there. Sometimes when God says, *"Will you give this up," our response is Lord, I'm willing, but I don't know if I have the strength to do it.* You might be in a similar situation right now. You might say, "Pastor, there are so many things I cannot give up." But if you are willing, then God can make you willing to be willing. And this has to be personalised for each of us. Each time we obey, part of the veil is removed. And we must experience for ourselves the crucifixion and death if we are going to live within the veil.

Whilst we will one day see Him face to face, in all His glory, do you want to see Him now, in the flesh? The Bible talks of a day when the final veil will be lifted and the Son of Man will be "revealed" and every eye will see Him (Luke 17:30). He will rend the veil between heaven and earth and every nation, even those who pierced Him, will see Him as He is. The scales will fall from these earth-bound eyes. Every eye will at last be unveiled to behold the King of Glory (Revelations 1:7). A very short time remains before the Lord begins to manifest His glory and we must begin to cry out, *"O Lord, cleanse me that I might be a prepared vessel that is ready for Your glory."*

Once again, congratulations on your graduation. May the favour of Him who dwelt in the burning bush be upon you always.

**Reverend Yang Tuck Yoong  
& Reverend Daphne Yang**

Directors, The Bible College of Wales

# FROM THE *Dean*



THE LANGUAGE OF  
BEHOLD IS ALWAYS  
COMMITMENT,  
DEVOTION AND  
SURRENDER.



Congratulations, Batch 16, on your graduation. Over the past 12 weeks, I have been privileged to see, close up, each of you being conformed more into the image of our Christ as brave Beholders.

*2 Corinthians 3:17-18 says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of God, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from God who is the Spirit."*

How are we transformed into the image of Christ?

**By BEHOLDING the Glory of God.**

Beholding is a fixed gaze, it is a leaning in, and it is a consecrated line of sight unto God. Who causes us to behold? The Spirit. And where do we behold this glory? It's in the scriptures, in the secret place, in face-to-face admonishment of and acknowledgement our Saviour. We behold the glory of God by allowing the Spirit to speak to us through the Logos and Rhema word, bringing God's truth, to the depths of our heart with fresh power and urgency.

Does this '**BEHOLDING**' just happen? In one way, yes, for it's a gift of grace. However, beholding God's glory involves a purposeful proactive posture and purposeful effort.



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We behold the glory of God by allowing the Spirit to speak to us through the Logos and Rhema word, bringing God's truth, to the depths of our heart with fresh power and urgency.

Batch 16 Beholders, my heart for you is that ‘the remedy would be the retina.’ That this journey of **BEHOLDING** would continue and that the eyes of your heart be opened, beyond your imagination for decades to come.

Psalm 16 says, “*I have set the Lord always before me, I will keep my eyes always on the Lord.*” The language of beholding is always commitment, devotion, and surrender. My prayer for you as you spread your wings unto the next chapter is rooted in 2 Kings 6:8-17. In this passage, the servant of the man sees a vast enemy army surrounding him.

He responds frantically to Elisha, “O My Lord, what shall we do?” Elisha responds with ‘What do you see?’

This seems like a ridiculous question in view of his previous comment. If it was me, I might mutter sparingly under my breath, “*I just told you what I saw!*”

But Elisha was **BEHOLDING** – He was seeing a different perspective, he goes on to tell the servant “*Open your eyes*” – and as he does... “*Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are against us*” – and the servant’s eyes were opened. He now sees chariots of fire surrounding the enemy territory, far more in number than the enemy tactics.

WE BECOME WHAT WE  
BEHOLD. THE MORE  
CLEARLY WE SEE HIM,  
THE MORE WE WILL  
BECOME LIKE HIM.

Elisha was teaching the servant the art of **BEHOLDING** – to stop seeing in one dimensional. Living in a one dimensional perspective means our viewfinder is compromised by feelings, emotions, conflicts. In the one dimensional we are seeing through a lens of fear and self. But **BEHOLDING** takes us to seeing in three dimensions – through the lens of the Father, Son, and Spirit. A whole new vantage point is opened. We see through the lens of the Spirit.

**BEHOLDING** holds a posture of *insight* over hindsight or foresight. It recognises and responds to our ‘now address’ – in Christ, creating capacity for insight *in this moment*. We become what we behold. The more clearly we see Him, the more we will become like Him.

Beholders...

Behold Your God...

**Cath Woolridge**

Dean of Students, School of Ministry  
The Bible College of Wales

# STUDENT

## Testimonies



**Bryan Luna**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**WCP\* SCHOLARSHIP**

God has changed my life for the better. Being here with so many different people from across the world has made me change my way of thinking. Though we all come from different countries, we can say that God is the One who has truly changed us. Change has helped me realise that God is the only One who can really make an impact on us. He will continue changing us beyond our time here. Being here has changed me and now going out to the world I know He can change the world.



**Deborah Wan**

SINGAPORE

**BCW SCHOLARSHIP**

“**INTIMACY**” was the word which the Lord laid on my heart at the beginning of my journey here at the BCW. He brought me to a place of vulnerability and deep surrender, cutting off from the old so that I may step into the new. It was a process of going from glory to glory as my gaze was lifted to behold His beauty and come away with Him. In that place of abiding, He was breaking the fallow ground of my heart, pruning me, so that seeds which are sown may germinate and bear forth fruits in days ahead.



**Dylan Paupiah**

MAURITIUS

**BCW SCHOLARSHIP**

My time at the BCW has brought about a significant transformation. Enveloped by a caring community, the guidance from our lecturers deeply moved me. The abundant spiritual legacy and strong focus on prayer sparked a heightened comprehension of faith. Regular chapel gatherings, deep Bible studies, and prayer sessions nurtured a deep spiritual evolution. The intentionality of applying biblical teachings practically and the devotion to aiding others instilled a profound sense of direction. This experience has strengthened my faith and cemented my resolve to lead a life dedicated to service.

\*The Wilfred C Philip (WCP) Award was initiated by Mr Ram Chari, the son-in-law of Mr Philip. This award is in honour of his father-in-law, for his passion to invest in men and women who have received the call to ministry and the mission field. This legacy award aims to sow into the lives of devoted followers of Christ to see the Great Commission actualized in the nations.



## Edgar Andrés Medina Villegas

WCP SCHOLARSHIP

GUATEMALA

If I could sum up in one word what God has done in me through the BCW programme, it would be “**REFRESH.**” God has renewed my heart, vision, and strength. I have been able to experience new times in God’s presence and I have gained new fulfilment through prayer and studying His word during this time. This year, God drastically changed my plans and taught me to trust Him, exceeding my expectations through everything I have experienced and the people I have met. This programme has been a gift from God, since several desires that I had as a minister and as a young man have converged and it has been like “daydreaming.” I am very excited for the new time ahead in my life. I am ready to put into practice what I have learned in this time to impact my nation, church and the youth community.



## Fidelia Lim

SINGAPORE

I am here because the Lord invited me to enjoy a newfound intimacy with Him after a tough season in my life. Here, I have understood the depths and beauty of 2 Corinthians 12:9 – That His grace is sufficient for me, and His power is made perfect in my weakness. Because God has restored my vision and my voice, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.



## Foluso Omotola Olubanjo

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**PRAY** – this word has worked out well for me thus far. I am used to praying. However, since being here, I have been able to pray more, communicate, and trust God more. There were times before coming here where I would just say a quick prayer and go to bed but still get up as I usually do at a specific time in the morning to pray. Since coming here, I have been able to extend my prayer time during the day and at night. This word will help me continue beyond the BCW because it will always be in front of me.



## Joel Bota

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Upon my arrival, I was constantly seeking for a sense of tranquility and clear direction as I had been overwhelmed by stress. However, during one of the lectures, the concept of intercession was introduced, which was entirely new to me. As I began to incorporate this practice into my personal life, I noticed a significant increase in the number of answers I received, and a profound sense of calmness settled into my life.



## Johnan De Silva

WCP SCHOLARSHIP

SRI LANKA

As the Dean asked us to formulate a phrase, capturing what we hoped the Lord would accomplish in our time at the college, simply to avoid sounding any less religious than the strangers on my screen, I blurted out without much consideration, “**GUIDANCE.**” It was a vague, inoffensive answer to a spiritual question I had no interest in exploring. But little did I know, this vacation I had intended to enjoy led me to a destiny-altering encounter with my Saviour. From conviction to repentance, the sinner’s prayer to the waters of baptism, He guided me right to Himself.



## Johnson Fung Chuang Sheng

MALAYSIA

BCW SCHOLARSHIP

Psalms 23:2-3 “*He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His name.*” I found that resting in Christ is where we learn to still our soul and be content from being still in the presence of God; allowing Him to develop the fruits of the Spirit into my being. The Lord Himself is abundance, and when we find ourselves more and more contented in God, we see more of who He truly is in our lives.



## Joshua Tan

SINGAPORE

Is it bizarre if different people point the same thing out to you? This was my experience before coming here – on learning of my enrolment, several friends immediately remarked the word “**TRANSFORM.**” I was annoyed and unpersuaded but I soon realised how transformation is intimately linked with the Holy Spirit. Romans 12:2 teaches that we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, which in turn is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, this resonates with my desire to know HIM better. My time here marks a fresh start in knowing deeper my Helper, Teacher and Counsellor.



## Kathryn Thornton

UNITED KINGDOM

“**THAT I MAY KNOW HIM**” – this was my goal on commencing my time at the BCW. The Amplified Bible quotes, “That I may become more intimately, and deeply acquainted with Him,” Philippians 3:10. The desire to go beyond surface level Christianity has been achieved by gaining a deeper knowledge of the Word of God through our studies and learning to live victoriously. During the teaching time, I have received sound doctrine, insights, and knowledge of God’s Word with encouragement and inspiration which has challenged me further. Having the realisation of seeing God in all His glory is the goal of all Scripture.



## Lai Cuixia, Faith

SINGAPORE

### BCW SCHOLARSHIP

For this season, I yearned to find rest in the presence of God. But through the process, I have rediscovered my identity as a daughter of the Most High. One of the things that God impressed on my heart is to be like Mary by learning to worship at His feet instead of choosing to keep producing or working. This precious reminder was so aligned to the theme set to learn the importance of setting our gaze on Him. As I set my gaze on Him, I know that I am able to walk on deep waters and find rest even when I am being thrust forth.



## María Fernanda Juárez Peña

GUATEMALA

### WCP SCHOLARSHIP

From the depths of my heart, I am profoundly thankful for the incredible opportunity at the BCW. It is a journey that defies expression, where God's boundless love has illuminated my path. Through a personal encounter with Jesus, I have learned to embrace the present, leaving behind the weight of the past and the worries of the future. The present holds the key to transformation, purpose, and a deepening of faith. I have come to understand that when you seek God first with sincerity and a humble heart, everything else falls into place. In the midst of life's storms, I have found peace in fixing my gaze on God, who is always in control.



## Nathanael Tan

SINGAPORE

### BCW SCHOLARSHIP

In a batch where the average age was below thirty, I was one of four students above forty. I was tremendously blessed by the passion and desire of these youth for God and learnt a great deal from their testimonies and experiences in Christ even as I watched the Holy Spirit move and transform their lives over the twelve weeks. Being amongst them reinforced my desire to work with young adults to help them to attain the maturity and destiny that God has intended for their lives. God is indeed raising up the next generation for His purposes.



## Sarah Rice

IRELAND

My word at the beginning of the term at the BCW was "**RESTORATION,**" which is exactly what God has brought about during my time in this beautiful place, surrounded by the most wonderful people. Through my time here, I have learnt to seek Him rather than to pursue what He provides or even what He desires to give me. I have been reminded that above the answers or logic God provides, He IS the logic. He IS the answer. His presence is enough to restore peace and bring restoration. This is the beauty of beholding Him and Him alone. He is shalom. He is restoration.





## Shiela Salcedo

PHILIPPINES

### BCW SCHOLARSHIP

At the BCW, the Lord invited me to gaze upon Him instead of just wanting a glimpse of Him, and to be fully present and available for Him in every moment. Not just to be content with yesterday's provision, but to ask for His daily bread of fresh revelations. Through the lectures, intercession, and loving community here, the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to His great eternal purpose and enlarged my heart for the nations. He also reminded me to dream big dreams again and not limit God with my expectations but to see life from His perspective.



## Tay Wei Fan

SINGAPORE

7 years ago, God spoke to me through the Kingdom Invasion conference that one day I will come to the BCW, and He confirmed the timing of this word last year when I had an encounter with Pastor Yang and Pastor Daphne on a cruise. How I knew this was the perfect timing because I resonated with the theme of this batch, Beholders. Batch 16 also corresponds to the year 2016 which was when I received the word from the Lord. To my surprise, the room I was assigned to was room 16 too. To God be the Glory!



## Tsai Yu Xuan Natalie

SINGAPORE

### BCW SCHOLARSHIP

The BCW for me so far has been the word, **GROWTH**, which was what God gave me before coming here. Previously I had very low expectations of my time here because I had been in a stagnant season. I think that through the little things, God has pushed me forward. Leading worship here has really brought me into a place of obedience to God, as I struggled to come to terms with the call to serve in the area of worship. The word "**GROWTH**" has fuelled my desire to grow, and not commit to it half-heartedly, and for the rest of the time in BCW to continuously desire and be expectant.



## Wong Hejun Justin

SINGAPORE

### BCW SCHOLARSHIP

When I first stepped into the BCW, I was certain that this was where God wanted me to be and that He was going to do a deep work in me. The word I got from my time here is "**REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE.**" I was reminded of the scene from "Lion King" when Simba looked into the river and saw a reflection of his father telling him to remember who he was and that he was his son. In the same way, I could feel the restoration of my own identity in Him, knowing that I am His son.

*Autumn 2023*



**TOP ROW**

Frederick Ku (SOM Staff), Edgar Andrés Medina Villegas, Bryan Luna, Dylan Paupiah, Tay Wei Fan, Nathanael Tan, Joel Bota, Wong Hejun Justin, Johnson Fung Chuang Sheng, Joshua Tan, Johnan De Silva, Juan Pablo Carbajal (SOM Staff), Anna Ng (SOM Staff)

# BATCH 16



## **BOTTOM ROW**

Huang Xin Yi (SOM Staff), Shiela Salcedo, Foluso Omotola Olubanjo, Deborah Wan, Tsai Yu Xuan Natalie, Cath Woolridge (Dean of Students), Sarah Rice, Kathryn Thornton, María Fernanda Juárez Peña, Fidelia Lim, Lai Cuixia, Faith

# OUR SPIRITUAL *Vision*

by Tay Wei Fan



*"Where there is no vision, the people perish;  
but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."*

*Proverbs 29:18*

How important it is for us to remember that what keeps us alive is having a vision – not only a vision but to see what God sees in the way He looks at the world. Having vision brings clarity of the purpose that God has for us, it allows us to walk the path He wants for us, and to fulfil the works that are designed for us. *"Then the Lord said to me, 'You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.'"* Jeremiah 1:12. Do we know that God is also watching over His Word that He has decreed? And why does the Lord watch over His Word? This is because He is ready to fulfil what is written. However, we need to come to the place of realisation like Jeremiah did, to see what God wants to do so that we can partner with Him to work out the plans He has.

# ARE WE WILLING TO ALLOW THE LORD TO RESTORE OUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO SEE THINGS THE WAY HE DOES?

Unfortunately, the people of Israel didn't see what God was warning them about it through His prophet, and they were led into exile and sent away to a foreign land. How did this happen? They lost the vision of who God was, and their role as a nation to be the light of the world. In fact, I would liken them to be suffering from a physical condition called spiritual Glaucoma. Glaucoma is an eye condition that reduces a person's field of view due to the death of the nerve cells on the retina which results in the person having pin-hole vision. Coincidentally, Glaucoma is also known as the silent thief of sight because most people will not realise their loss of vision until they go for a vision screening.

As John 10:10 says, *"The thief does not come except to steal, to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* Instead of looking to Christ, the Son of the Living God, our enemy, the thief seeks to steal our spiritual vision by distracting us to look at the world and all that it offers. This weakens our spiritual vitality and dispossesses us of the godly strength to walk in His perfect will.

**When a person suffers from Glaucoma, the physical eyes turn bad because of the high eye pressure. Similarly, our spiritual eyes, they turn bad because of the high life pressure we face, thereby causing us to lose sight of God.**



In the Bible, we see a man used mightily by the Lord to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, and to deliver them from the oppression of their enemies. That man is Moses, and the Scripture records that Moses was a man who lived a full life, fulfilled the call of God upon his life, and most importantly, never lost sight of who God was – *"Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated,"* Deuteronomy 34:7. His eyes were undimmed says Scripture, despite all that he experienced in the wilderness with the children of Israel, and for all the challenges He faced. What was the secret of his 20/20 vision? He kept his eyes on God. Throughout his life, Moses was faithful to perform what God required of him. **In the natural, we need the sun to achieve perfect vision, and in the spiritual sense, we need to look at the Son of God for a perfect spiritual vision.**

The truth is, God is still looking for His Word to be performed in today's day and age, and He wants to do it through individuals who will depend and rely on Him. The age old question remains – "are we willing to allow the Lord to restore our spiritual eyes to see things the way He does, and are we willing to stay close to the Son so that we will fix our spiritual eyes on Him?" It is only with a pair of restored spiritual eyes that we can see what God wants to do, and become effective servants of the Lord in our generation, just like Jeremiah, Moses, and many other men & women of God were in theirs.



# ROMANS

.....  
by Nathanael Tan

Mention the book of Romans and most people would acknowledge it for being the most systematic presentation of Christian doctrine written in the Bible. Many more would expound on its clarity with regard to salvation through Christ and how it supported the key theological belief of Sola Fide (by faith alone). This letter to the Romans was also one of the main texts for Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses that affected what we now know as the Protestant movement of which we partake in. All these would sound rather exciting if you're a theologian or biblical scholar. But how do the rest of us ordinary folks make sense of this epistle?

Well, did you know that Romans was written around AD58? Or that the apostle Paul who wrote the letter was on his way to Spain but had to detour to Jerusalem and therefore was intending to bypass Rome after? Or the fact that Priscilla and Aquila were mentioned indicated that the Jews were once again back in Rome after being kicked out by Emperor Claudius in AD48? If you didn't,

neither did we initially. But these facts and the many more historical nuggets taught over the duration of the class, made the book of Romans so much more engaging to study. With history and context overlaid onto an expository line by line teaching of the entire sixteen chapters of Romans, it made learning so much more palatable and deepened the understanding of the text. Understanding the context enhanced our spiritual understanding of the book of Romans. The overarching theme of salvation was brought out more clearly as well. Where most pulpit teachings would usually place emphasis on the theological underpinnings such as justification by faith or focus on Israel's rejection and salvation in Christ; through the lessons in Romans, one would come to realise that the three beginning chapters of the epistle were the keys to understanding the entire book. They established the fundamental issue – man's problem with sin, and the identified categories of sinners; paving the way for one to understand salvation in its fullness.

# TO THOSE ENTRUSTED TO US, OUR RESPONSIBILITY WOULD BE TO ENSURE THEY ENJOY A DEEP AND INTENTIONAL COMMUNION WITH THE LORD.

Two key takeaways from the Romans class were the emphasis on our relationship with God and our total surrender to Him. As individuals and leaders in ministry, our relationship with God must not be neglected. Emphasis on the grace of the Spirit, not the works of the law, being the enablement of what would carry us through to the end of our faith journey was clearly evident in the book of Romans. As such the importance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for

every believer could not be more heavily stressed in order that all attain to the relationship that the Father would so desire in us. To those entrusted to us, our responsibility would be to ensure they enjoy a deep and intentional communion with the Lord. We ourselves must model this relationship and exemplify the deep connection and guided obedience to the Spirit in our own lives. We must also challenge ourselves and those with us to continually surrender every part of our lives to the Lord. Understanding the book of Romans makes more evident the truth of Galatians 2:20a that *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."* Without a wholehearted surrender of our lives to God, He cannot fully work in us. The wisdom and grace of God would be much needed to live this out. One of the biggest challenges today would be the lure of modern life. A common issue encountered by the church today is that believers do not wish to progress to discipleship with God but choose to be content to continue to live life at the basic level of salvation. Unable to sacrifice the pleasures of the world, many have stayed at the place of the initial salvation and allowed the blessings of God to hold us back from a greater destiny in Christ.

As the lecturer puts it, the church today needs another move of the Spirit. Only a move of the Spirit would be able to propel us out of our comfort zones and into the things of the kingdom. In Romans 10:18, the early church had conquered the then known world in a relatively short time because of the power of the Holy Spirit in them. The Spirit poured out powerfully into a fully surrendered life causes an activation to accomplish the will of God. Our prayer must be like John the Baptist to say, "He must increase, but I must decrease." May the Lord once again invade our nations with a mighty move of the Spirit that the church may be in revival so that Christ be known to all the world.



# BEHOLDERS OF *Shekinah Glory*

Originating from the profound essence of Psalm 27:4, this composition paints a visual narrative of a believer's fervent aspiration for profound communion with God. At the artwork's core, the hues of red, purple, and blue invoke the curtain or veil of the Temple, whilst the rectangular canvas reflects the architectural essence of the Tabernacle. The resplendent red, both fervent and poignant, signifies the blood sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the transformative power it beholds.

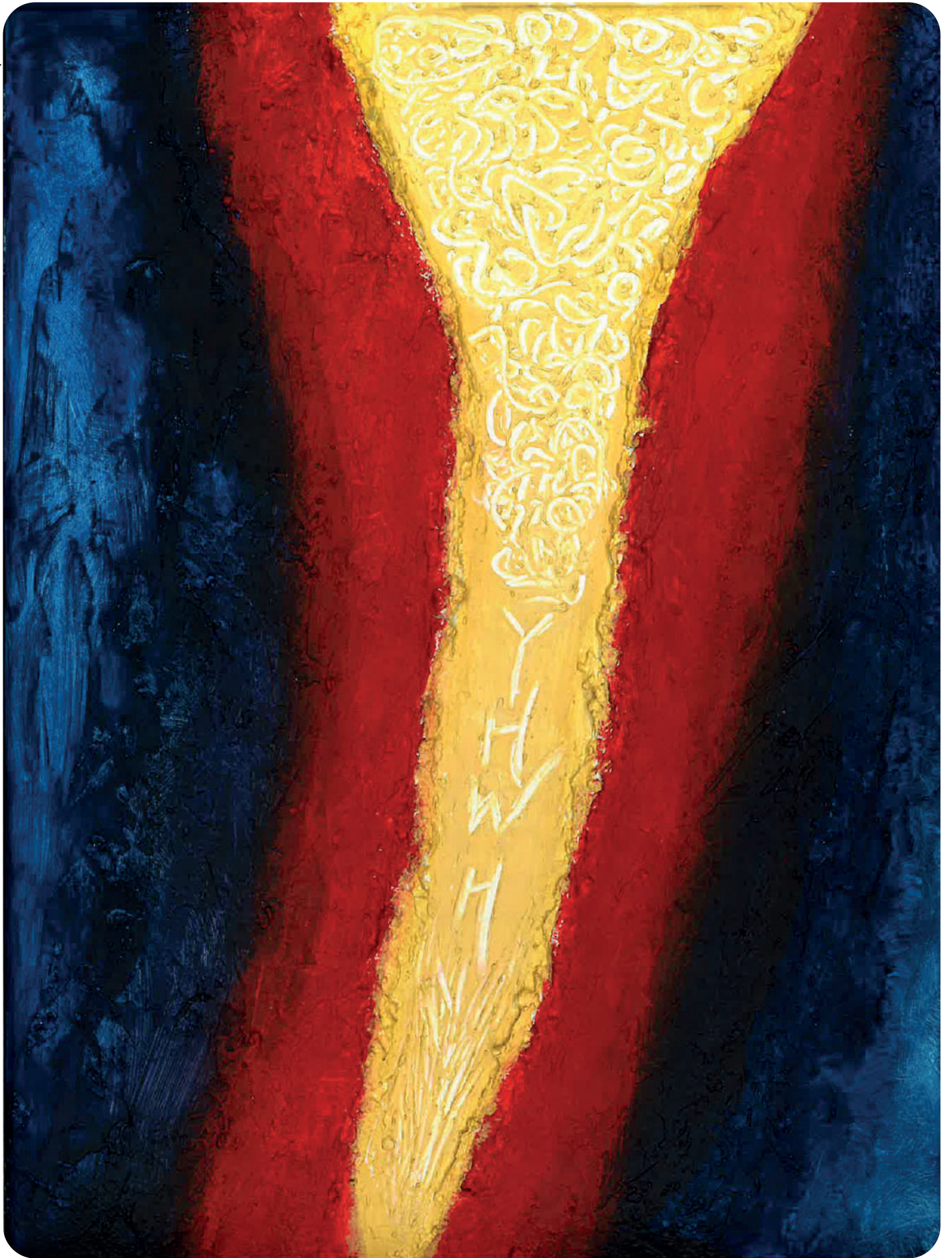
Psalms 27: 4 emanates an ardent desire: to "dwell in the house of the Lord" and to luxuriate in the "beauty of the Lord." This notion of "dwell" is a theological tapestry, interwoven with strands of intimacy, presence, and divine communion. The Old Testament vividly delineates God's "Shekinah Glory" residing amongst the Israelites in varied manifestations such as clouds, pillars of smoke and fire, or the emblematic burning bush. A golden yellow column bisects the canvas, encapsulating God's luminous presence amidst His chosen.

Within the New Testament, the essence of "dwelling" undergoes an evolution. Our very beings are transformed into sanctuaries for the Almighty. As temples of the Holy Spirit, the closeness we share with God surpasses mere physicality, enveloped in profound intimacy, with the Spirit acting as our intercessor. "Dwelling" also denotes a lasting bond, echoing Jesus' teachings in John 15:4-5 about mutual "abiding." This sentiment reaches its zenith in Revelation 21:3, foretelling an era of eternal communion between mankind and the Divine.

Reflecting upon the "House of The Lord" from the Old Testament, the Tabernacle and the Temple stood as earthly embodiments of God's presence. The rending of the Temple curtain upon Jesus' crucifixion signifies our blood-bought access to the Divine. This momentous act unveiled a truth: whilst our hearts may gravitate towards God, it is His unparalleled magnetism that genuinely draws us closer.

In summation, "behold" serves both as an entreaty and a discipline. It beckons us, the beholders, to master the art of divine observation, channelling our inner vision, as steered by Ephesians 1:18, to focus steadfastly on the triune God, the eternal centrepiece of our reverence.





# THE KINGDOM, THE CHURCH, AND *City* Transformation

by Lai Cuixia, Faith



The anointing is the release of the active presence, power, and authority of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believers. The anointing allows us to understand, apply, and administer spiritual truths in the sphere of influence that God has called us to. Discovering our life's purpose is what fuels this anointing and it becomes a mighty spiritual weapon in our hands. We have to value the anointing given to us, or we will violate it.



When we look at the talents that are given to us, how are we stewarding them? This brings us to the Parable of the Talents – are we ones who hide and keep that one talent to ourselves or will we be people who steward and effectively put these talents to good use? Isaiah 61:1-4 gives us clear instructions on what we are to do with the anointing that God has given to us. Our anointing is similar to our talents, we are to do something with it, and if we're not, we are robbing those whom we were meant to minister to their blessings. We can either be in charge of the anointing of our gifts and that will be all we have, or we can let God hold us steady while He makes us into people who can carry the anointing of the office working in us.



I have always wondered how to steward the anointing given to me and I believe that this is a question many would ask as well. As we walk in close intimacy with the Lord, He would place in us the desire to effect this anointing, leading us to seek practical expression, where we are thrust forth to impact the society we're called to. We are all made so uniquely and carry different anointings. Amidst the diversity of talents, God has meant for us to partner and collaborate with others in the Kingdom so that there can be a multiplying effect when our anointings are joined with the Lord.



When we truly understand what our giftings are used for, we will have clarity in what He has truly called us to. I've come to realise that my gifting is in media ministry where His Words and messages can be broadcasted to the different parts of the world through multimedia content creation. However, my giftings will not reach its fullest potential without the leaders or pastors





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preaching their fiery messages that impact people's heart or the worship team ushering the presence of God. These are gifts that are planted in different believers to help make the different parts of the service flow. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 clearly tells us that though we form different parts of the body with varied functions, our singular goal is to proclaim His gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Quoting one of our lecturers, "Wars are fought with weapons but won with strategies." One of the many strategies to impact society is having the ability to understand and relate to people of different cultures. Every nation is characterised by the presiding culture where people's behaviour and mindset become the predominant way of living. The first steps of shaping the culture is to examine what drives people within their community. This enables us to relate and identify with the struggles, and strongholds within the society. The understanding and knowledge will then empower us to relate with the people with sensitivity and at the same time brings His Kingdom Culture into this world. Deuteronomy 4:1 allows us to catch a glimpse of how we can influence the culture – to follow in His statutes and judgements. The statutes and laws can be found in various portions of the Bible, for example, The Ten Commandments of God. We are to take these statutes and laws, and to declare and apply it in our community. One of the biblical characters who is a great example of not conforming to the societal culture would be Daniel – he prayed for God to shift and save the culture.

In closing, let us ask the Lord to help us see the anointing He has invested in us and how we can use this anointing to impact the community He has called us to. Let us give it freely as we have been given freely, and bring His Kingdom culture and Kingly blessings into all the world!



# REES HOWELLS:

## *Intercessor*

BY  
NORMAN  
GRUBB

### *Students' Reflections*

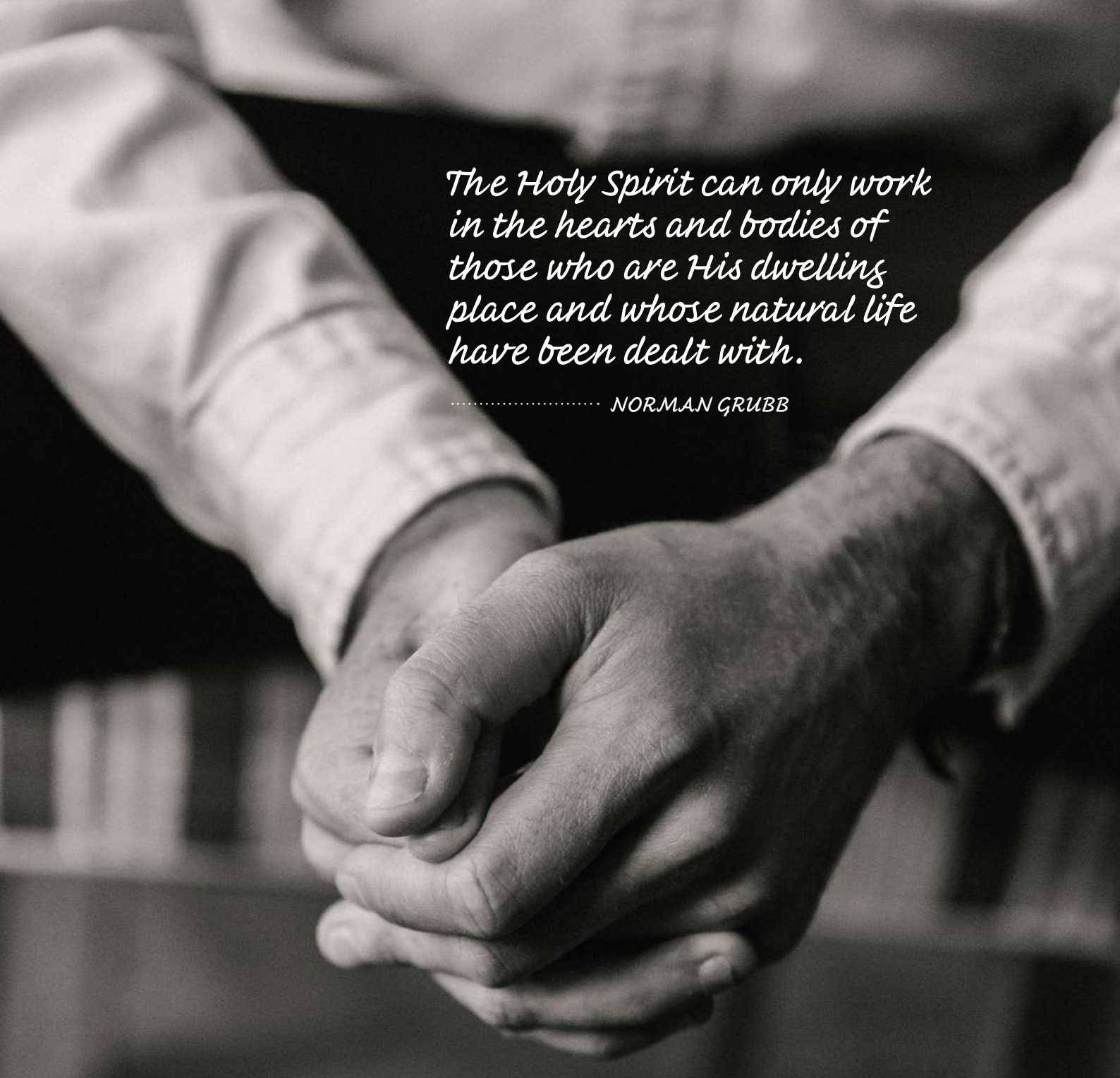


#### *Sarah Rice*

Admittedly, I had very little knowledge of intercession before coming to the BCW. I was challenged when Grubb spoke about believers regarding intercession as some form of rather "intensified prayer." His expounding of the principles of intercession gave me a greater understanding of what intercession is and what Mr. Howells often meant by "gaining the position." What impacted me most in this chapter is the way Grubb reveals Jesus as the Ultimate Intercessor, as He "ever lives to make intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25). Intercession is not just something inspiring that we may glean from Mr. Howell's life, but is seen in Jesus, whom we are called to think and act like (Philippians 2:5). Grubb states that the Holy Spirit can only work in the hearts and bodies of those who are His dwelling place and whose natural life have been dealt with. Since being at the BCW, the Lord has been showing me the importance of being His vessel, fully surrendered and dead to my flesh. This is what we see throughout Mr. Howells life, as the Holy Spirit cleansed and sanctified him, so he became holy, useful to the Master and ready for every good work (2 Timothy 2:21).

Learning that Mr. Howells had been working in the mines, not living a "sheltered, monastic life, but walking in the Spirit, right in the world, though never of it", while experiencing intense wrestling and many victories was as astonishing. I often think I need to wait for various things in my life to happen in order to be effective for the Kingdom. Mr. Howells is proof that one can still be a powerful vessel while living in the world. The Lord asking him to "come out and give these seven hours a day to work for me" inspired awe in me and admiration for a man the Lord wanted to use in such a way. We place so much value and emphasis on education, career, and financial stability in the western world. I cannot imagine how much of a test it was for Mr. Howells as he felt the Lord leading him in this way. I can only pray and hope that I would be as willing as he was if the Lord calls me in a similar way one day.





*The Holy Spirit can only work  
in the hearts and bodies of  
those who are His dwelling  
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have been dealt with.*

..... NORMAN GRUBB

..... *Fidelia Lim*

The principle that struck me most was that identification was the first law of intercession, because through identification, the Lord Jesus Himself could gain the position which gives Him full authority to live to make intercession for us. This has changed the way I look at hardships and trials. I can now look at them as positions gained rather than times of loss – because I realise that which does not have authority over us becomes what we have authority over.

I can now see that these times are not lost. Instead, they are gifts of compassion that I cherish, and can draw from as I stand in the gap with, and for others who go through difficult times.



*María Fernanda Juárez Peña*

One of the crucial principles of intercession is the importance of gaining a deep understanding of the suffering endured by the people we intercede for. As gleaned from the book, when we engage in intercession for a cause or a specific issue, it's essential to put ourselves in the shoes of those individuals and genuinely grasp the pain of their suffering. A compelling illustration of this concept can be found in the example of Jesus, as our Intercessor before God. To assume this role, Jesus had to experience the hardships we face. He not only lived through our sufferings but also bore them on the cross, ultimately sacrificing His life. It was through this selfless act that victory was achieved. This insight inspires me to be moved by the Holy Spirit when praying for those causes, needs, and sufferings that prompt me to intercede. I seek to understand them as if I were personally going through such experiences, and would ask the Holy Spirit to instill in me empathy for them.

Additionally, the extent to which the Spirit will act is directly correlated with our willingness to surrender our "self," prioritizing His guidance over our own inclinations – more of Him and less of ourselves. We function as vessels for the Holy Spirit, and He can only perform intercession through individuals who give Him a dwelling place. The Spirit does not intercede arbitrarily; His influence is determined by the receptivity of His vessel or the individual through whom He operates. It is during moments of abiding that we can fully immerse ourselves in the suffering of those we are interceding for. Moreover, it is through the Spirit that we gain the ability to listen and discern intercession in alignment with the will of the Lord (Romans 8:26).

## *Johnson Fung Chuang Sheng*

One principle of intercession I have learnt would be to live a completely and totally surrendered life, laid down for Christ. The life of an intercessor is a life of obedience, love, and grace – like what is said in John 15:13, *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."* Mr. Rees Howells magnified Christ by laying down his wife, family, friends, home, food, money, and comfort to be a "living martyr," to preach the gospel to people from all socioeconomic backgrounds. He laid down wealth and a self-gratifying life in America for a call from God which could only be done by the grace of God and following Christ closely, as it says in Matthew 16:24–25, *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'"*

To adopt his principle of intercession is to lay down all my agendas and objectives in life, to deny myself, and stand in proxy for whom the Holy Spirit is leading me to intercede with my lips, or to draw heaven down to earth according to the Father's will through the convictions of the Holy Spirit. As Ezekiel 22:30 says, *"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one,"* God is looking for laid down lovers who would dedicate themselves as living altars and priests, to go to God and plead to Him on behalf of people or nations, asking Him to listen, act, rescue, deliver, and to be a tangible reality of God working in their lives.



# Israel & OUR JEWISH ROOTS

by Joshua Tan

As I am writing this, it is mid-October 2023 and over a week has now passed since Palestinian terror group Hamas infiltrated Israeli soil and brutally massacred over 1200 kibbutzim residents. This has pushed Israel on its resolute and retaliatory warpath to wipe Hamas out, notwithstanding the human and collateral damage. Shocked by the brutality of the Hamas massacres, numerous nations worldwide have come out in support of Israel – most in speech, some in action. Conversely, surrounding Arab nations have shored up military instruments furtively along their borders with Israel, apprehensive of their military fragility and the watching global community.



OUR INTERCESSION FOR  
THE END-TIME HARVEST  
IS TO PRAY FOR HIS WILL  
OVER ISRAEL AND THE  
WORLD TO TRANSPIRE.

However, history tells us that the Jewish people have faced disproportionately more revilement than affection through their 4000 years – so any international endorsement they receive now is but tenuous – a shift in global opinion could easily greenlight an Arab onslaught and widen the war beyond the Middle East.

Yet despite all this carnage, destruction and despair, God's heart remains unwilling that any should perish but that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). His grand plan – to gather together in one all things under Christ (Ephesians 1:10) be it the Jews, Palestinians, Arabs, all of us – started with the advent of the Jewish race and will culminate when He and His children, Jew or Gentile alike, finally establish His Kingdom on this Earth.





We are now at the cusp of end-time prophecies being fulfilled, and it becomes increasingly urgent that we heed the Bible's call to circumcise our hearts and assume our stations as intercessory watchmen in these last days.



As watchmen of the Lord (Isaiah 62:6-7), we should never keep silent, continually reminding Him while taking no rest for ourselves (sic). Our intercession for the end-time Harvest is to pray for His Will over Israel and the world to transpire – for the salvation of both Jew (Romans 10:1) and Gentile, whether friend or foe (Ezekiel 28:24-26).

As watchmen, let us:

**01 BE ALERT, DISCERNING THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS**

If we develop an intimate intercessory relationship with the Lord (Amos 3:7), He will grant us insight into these times and seasons, and confer wisdom and knowledge for our discernment (Daniel 2:21).

**02 UNDERGIRD OUR HEARTS WITH AGAPE LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND**

Let all that you do be done with love (1 Corinthians 16:14) and our prayers will be aligned with His Heart for all peoples.

**03 FAITHFUL INTERCESSION FOR HIS KINGDOM AND WILL TO TRANSPIRE**

We intercede not based on our emotions or intellect, but by the Spirit's counsel (Romans 8:26-27). Oftentimes, this may mean praying in the spirit and allowing His utterances to flow through us.



**HE IS ABSOLUTELY AND IMMACULATELY GOOD AND THAT HE WILL WORK THINGS ACCORDING TO HIS PERFECT WILL.**

Finally, let us recognise Israel's prominent role in the Lord's grand plan of redeeming all creation (Romans 11:24) – it is after all through Israel that all nations of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 22:18). We as gentiles are grafted into His Kingdom through her, and as the grafted vines, we therefore share a common heritage with Israel. Being her brothers and sisters in Christ, let us love Israel as we would our kinsmen – not just in word but in convicted persuasion – and fervently pray that her eyes and heart will be open to Yeshua Hamashiach, to finally acknowledge their (and our) Messiah and be united once again with God. When Israel is saved, the redemption of all mankind will then be completed.

Returning to the current conflict in the Middle East, Joseph (vizier of the then-mighty Egypt) gives powerful insight into handling this tragedy – what the enemy meant for evil, God meant it for good... in order to save many people alive (Genesis 50:20). Notice that, unlike a popular Christian tune, God did not just 'turn' tragedy into good; God actually 'meant' it for good.

Nothing is beyond Jehovah Adonai – His ways and thoughts are far higher than ours and He who keeps Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep (Psalm 121:4). Regardless of any tragedy, we know that He is absolutely and immaculately good and that He will work things according to His perfect will.

May Salvation and Shalom be upon Israel and the Middle East during this time.

# THE PRACTICE OF THE *Presence* OF GOD

BY  
BROTHER  
LAWRENCE

## *Students' Reflections*

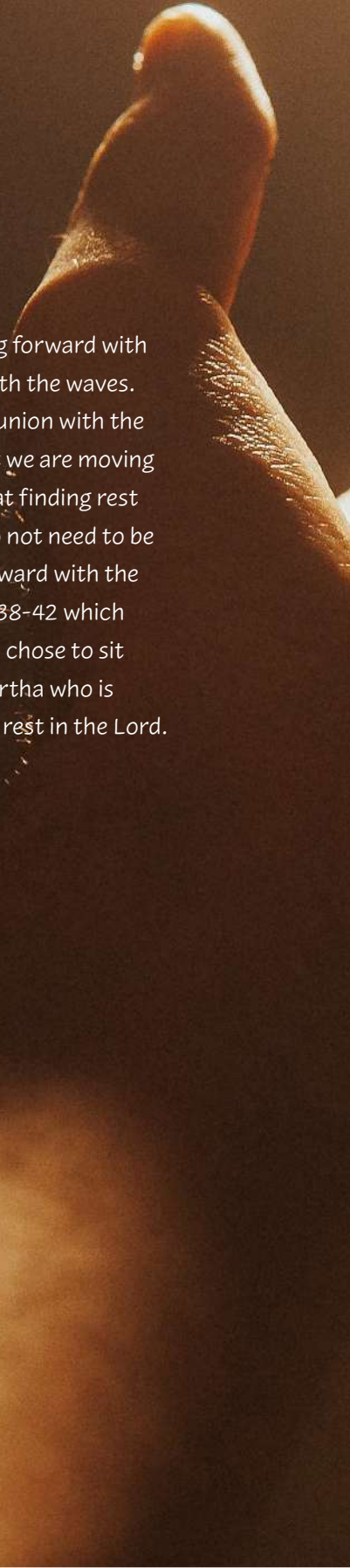
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The quote that inspires transformation in my daily devotion to Christ is this, **"In the spiritual life, not to advance is to retreat. Those who have the wind of the Holy Spirit go forward even in sleep. If the ship for your soul is still tossed with winds and storms, let us awake the Lord, who sleeps in it, and He will quickly calm the sea."**

This is a good reminder that when we choose not to move forward with Christ, we are not stagnating but rather falling behind. When we are in the constant presence of God, we will keep moving forward and towards where He wants us to be. This reminds me of Mark 4:35-41, which shows that He is in control of the storms in our lives. Even when we are in a season where things get difficult for us, if we are in constant communion with the Lord, we can be assured that God is guiding us in the storm though it could feel like He is sleeping and far from us.

### *Lai Cuixia, Faith*

During the storm, we are moving forward with Him as the ship is still moving with the waves. When we are in constant communion with the Lord, even at rest, we know that we are moving forward. This helps me know that finding rest in the Lord is important and I do not need to be constantly working to move forward with the Lord. This points me to Luke 10:38-42 which talks about being like Mary, who chose to sit at His feet instead of being a Martha who is constantly busy and not finding rest in the Lord.





*The most effective way Brother Lawrence had for communicating with God was to simply do his ordinary work. He did this obediently, out of a pure love of God, purifying it as much as was humanly possible.*

..... THE PUBLISHER

..... *Nathanael Tan*

“That the most excellent method he had found of going to God, was that of doing our common business without any view of pleasing men, and (as far as we are capable) purely for the love of God.

That it was a great delusion to think that the times of prayer ought to differ from the other times; that we are strictly obliged to adhere to God by action in the time of action, as by prayer in the season of prayer.”

This quote from the fourth conversation addresses a common misconception of Christianity, that we only behave ‘holy’ in the presence of God, like in a prayer meeting or church service. However, we lack the understanding or consciousness of the omniscience of God, that He is everywhere, all the time.

In other words, there need not be a set time or methodology with regard to ‘meeting’ God. But rather it should be our daily agenda to do what is pleasing to God. Our acts of worship toward God need not just be manifest through our lips or physical posture but ultimately should be the posture of our spirit man; the position of our heart and the girding of the loins of the mind (1 Peter 1:13).

If one were a janitor, he should strive to have the cleanest toilets or floors; and if one was a boss of a company, he should strive to do business with integrity and trustworthiness. It is how we enact our daily dealings with a God conscience that is most important.

Edgar Andrés Medina Villegas

“You need neither art nor science to go to God, but only a determined heart.” This is a reality that we apparently “know” but do not “understand.” I used to believe that there was some kind of magic formula based on a certain number of steps to reach God and that by completing each of these steps, I could build a perfect relationship with God with minimal effort. Many times, I had fixed my eyes on great men of God and how they built a powerful relationship with him. While I thought it is good to replicate positive things, I had forgotten that God has given us a unique design and that despite being the same God for each one of His sons, He takes time to build a unique relationship with each one of us. I remember being frustrated many times for not being able to build this perfect relationship with God despite following each of the steps I believed I should follow. I had forgotten to give my heart with “sincerity and effort.” Like what the quote says, Brother Lawrence managed to take his personal relationship with God to another level by completely focusing on Him and being “intentional and determined” to focus all his efforts to make God his centre. Reading this book, I came to ask myself again, “what do I need to do to find God?” It then hit me again that all I need to go to God according to His word is by having “A willing and determined heart,” as Brother Lawrence mentions. God is eagerly waiting for us to wake up and be determined to seek Him, leaving our conditions aside and focusing our gaze on Him. Through “determination and effort” we will know “what we need to do” to find Him. This quote helped me recognise certain points I must work on to find God and build a relationship with him on another level.



Wong Hejun Justin

“The quote that inspires me is “A little remembrance of God, one act of inner worship, even though it is during a march with a sword in hand, is sufficient. Such prayers, however brief, are very acceptable to God.” God never asked us for much. He never said we needed to prepare three songs to sing to Him or an essay to pray to Him. I believe that many Christians have this misconception that we need to be perfect before we can go to God. Matthew 11:28, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” I realised how powerful this verse is. Jesus said, Come to me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, not you who are holy and righteous. He doesn’t want something from us; He simply wants us.

In the same way, doing it this way has helped me teach my mind to think of God often. I can simply go to Him as I am, no matter how tired I am or if I am going through a bad season. I was reminded of how a father would ask his son how his day was, and he would be more than happy to sit there and listen to him. That is exactly how our Father in Heaven is. Luke 15:20, “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him, had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.” The story of the prodigal son clearly shows us that the father is longing for the son to return.

..... Sarah Rice

“

This book has shown me that abiding in the presence of God must be something we practise over time, as Holy Spirit works in us, sanctifying and growing us from strength to strength. Brother Lawrence said that for the first years, he employed himself during the time set apart for devotion with the thoughts of death, judgement, heaven, and his sins. He continued some years after that, applying his mind carefully the rest of the day and in the midst of business to the presence of God. He says this "practice" produced in him so high an esteem for God that faith alone was able to satisfy him. The use of this word "practice" shows that this is not something we instantly achieve once we are saved. Practice is defined as "the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it." I feel that this is a very accurate explanation of how Brother Lawrence lived. He used and applied his beliefs in such a practical way, as opposed to just intellectually 'knowing' and not applying the theories. Often in Christian circles, we fall into the comparison trap or want an 'instant fix.' We compare our walk to fellow believers or think if we do not instantly desire God in all His fullness, we have done something wrong or we are not fully saved. However, it is so important to remember that it is a process, as this book has challenged me to view this with new eyes. 2 Corinthians 3:18 tells us that "*the Lord – who is the Spirit – makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.*" Sanctification, the process of becoming holy, is something Holy Spirit continues in us as we daily submit and surrender to Him. As this process happens, we desire the Lord more and more, with increased fervour, as we reach a point where, as David puts it in Psalm 42, "*I thirst for God, the living God.*" This book has brought a sense of peace and stillness to all my striving. The Lord is gentle and patient, and as I daily look to Him for fresh manna and filling, I trust He will pour out His presence generously, and without reservation, as I intentionally practise abiding in Him.

..... Shiela Salcedo

“

In his conversations and letters, Brother Lawrence emphasized so much on exercising our attention and focusing on God, but one of the things that shifted my perspective came from his eighth letter which says, "**If your mind wanders at times, don't be upset, because being upset will only distract you more. Allow your will to recall your attention gently to God. Such perseverance will please Him.**" When I read this, I could really imagine God speaking these words to me face-to-face and I agree; this is indeed God's loving voice. I have heard and read several exhortations about our need to stay and dwell in the presence of God and in my several attempts to put it into practice, every time I did not make it or when I failed and got distracted, I felt guilty. When he said that being upset will only distract you more, I have indeed experienced that, and even worse, I had thoughts that trying again would not be a good idea. So instead of pressing in and receiving the grace of God to abide in Him, I would stop trying and think of settling until another stirring from God comes. But here, that along with complete surrender and with a crucified life in Christ, I can be gentle with myself and instead of thinking of abiding as a hard task, I can see it as a learning and enjoyable fellowship with God. So I realised that being too hard on myself when I fail is something I can change. There might be distractions but what I really need to beware of is neglecting Him and His presence, which He has graciously made available for me.

Another game-changer for me is in his thirteenth letter, when he exhorted, "**Let us look to God with these eyes of faith.**" Normally, I face a certain situation and contextualise it in relation to faith. And I have never really thought of looking at God with eyes of faith. In my understanding, this meant having the confidence or assurance that God is present with us every single time even if our physical or outward circumstances say otherwise. Therefore, I have no excuse or reason not to dwell in His presence.

# STUDENT *Life*





# CONGRATULATORY NOTE



*Congratulations*

**Johnson Tay Wei Fan**

on your graduation from the  
Bible College of Wales!

“I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of  
God’s grace given me through the working of his power.”

EPHESIANS 3:7 (NIV)



From Faith Assembly of God Church



# CONGRATULATORY NOTE



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Admission is free but you will need to book a visiting slot\* in advance to guarantee entry.



\*Scan the QR code or visit [bcwales.org/heritage-centre](http://bcwales.org/heritage-centre) to book a visiting slot with us.

Opening Hours  
Tue-Fri, 10am-3pm

The graphic features a background image of the Heritage Centre building at night. It includes several inset images: a museum interior with a globe and display cases, a glass display case with artifacts, and a black and white photograph of three people. A pocket watch is also visible near the title.



*Congratulations*

on your graduation and successful completion of the course.  
We rejoice in what God has done in your lives!



FAITH IS SUBSTANCE



CORNERSTONE  
GLOBAL NETWORK



CORNERSTONE  
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The graphic features a group of graduates standing behind a large white stone pillar with the inscription "FAITH IS SUBSTANCE". The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with trees and a path. The text is in a mix of blue and black fonts, with "Congratulations" in a large, elegant script.

# AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A large, empty white rectangular area with rounded corners, intended for writing an autobiography. The area is completely blank, providing a space for the user to write their life story.

# AUTOBIOGRAPHY

A large, empty white rectangular area with rounded corners, intended for writing an autobiography. The area is completely blank, providing a space for the user to write their life story.



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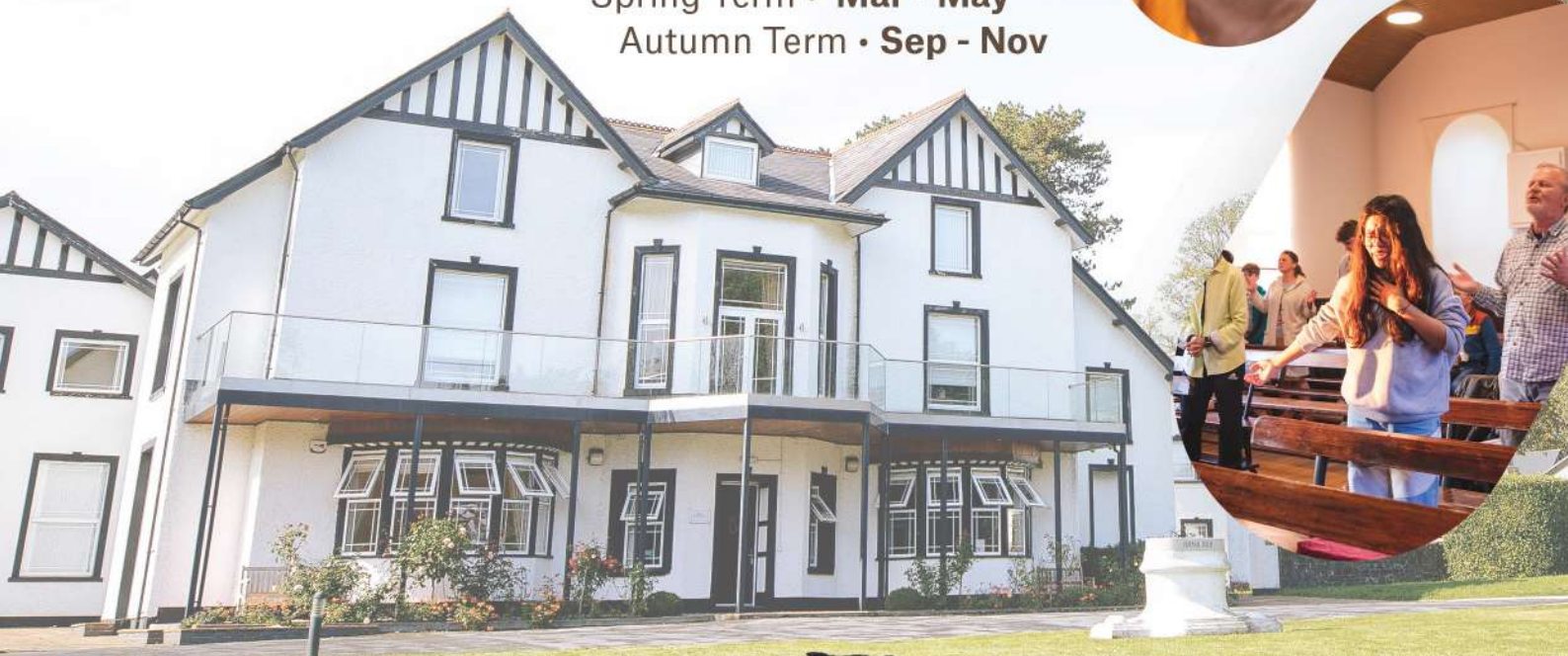
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*The School of Ministry has been a key turning point for my husband and I, changing the trajectory of our future ministry together. I am better equipped to do the work that God has planned, not just from the depth of education that the lecturers provide but also learning to fix my eyes solely on Jesus.*



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Alumni · Autumn Term 2019



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