



## Thoughts

Our minds are constantly filled with thoughts – whether good or bad, helpful or harmful, useful or useless. These thoughts may come from external triggers or arise through our own imagination. God wants us to choose the type of thoughts we allow in our minds, because thoughts will lead to actions which will affect our lives for good or bad.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; ... think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

by Mrs Mary Hui

## Going the Second Mile True Neighbour

Luke 10:25-37

In the parable of the good Samaritan, a man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho was robbed of everything and beaten up till he was half-dead. Three people passed by – a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan. Both priest and Levite completely ignored the man and continued with their respective journeys. Being well-versed with the Law, they knew they were supposed to stop and render help, especially to their fellow Jews. The last person, a Samaritan, stopped to help. Back then, Samaritans were despised by the Jews as they did not keep the Jewish law. The Samaritan could have ignored the injured man. Instead, he dressed the man's wounds before bringing him to a nearby inn to recover. He even paid the innkeeper to take care of the man.



The parable of the good Samaritan teaches us that we should not discriminate against anyone, but be ready to render help to whoever in need. There is no use knowing God's word if we do not obey it.



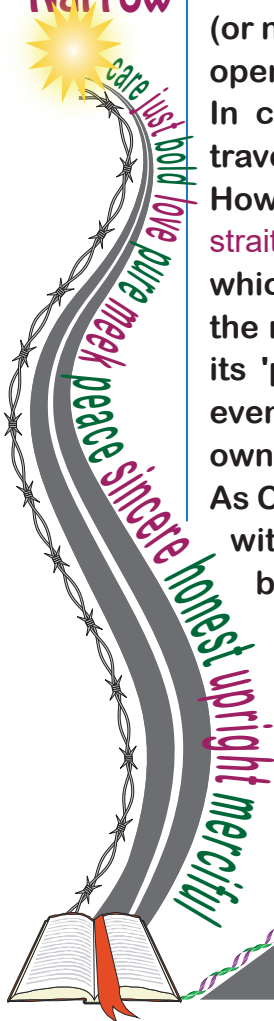
Good News Productions International and College Press Publishing.

by Mrs Jane Yap

## Phrases

'He has been brought up to walk the straight and narrow way, so I am sure we can trust him to do the right thing.'

### Straight and Narrow



'The 'straight and narrow way' refers to living a life that is honest, upright and morally acceptable. In Matthew 7: 13 & 14, Jesus compares the strait (or narrow) gate with the broad way. The strait gate opens on to a narrow way, and leads to eternal life. In contrast, the broad way is gate-less, easy to travel on, but leads to destruction.

However, Jesus tells us to 'Strive to enter in at the strait gate ...' Luke 13: 24. He is that gate through which we must strive or struggle to enter, in spite of the many obstacles. These could be the world and its 'pleasures', the devil and his temptations and even the weaknesses and innate sinfulness of our own flesh.

As Christians, we must be willing to live in the world without being a part of it (John 17: 9-19). We must be committed to putting Christ first in our lives (Luke 13: 26). Being a Christian is not easy. But thank God, He has given us the Holy Spirit who can help us live lives that are God-pleasing.



Strive to enter in at the strait gate: Luke 13:24

by Mr Mark Yeo

# GemSTORY

## Part 2

Mr. Ansgario Fransico was in despair due to the amputation of his lower leg. Things changed for the better when Pastor Alfredo P. Tero was assigned to Dolo, Bansalan, where he followed up with Ansgario Fransico. Pastor Tero shared that God loved him, and had a plan for his life.



Pastor Alfredo P. Tero

The verses in Isaiah 55:8-9 encouraged Ansgario greatly, reminding him that although he had his own plans which seemed good, God had far better and more important plans for his life.

Isaiah 55:8,9

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

Romans 8:28 also reminded him that all things work together for good to them who love God, and are called according to His purpose. Pastor Tero encouraged him to join ISOM, which he did in 1999, as he felt called to serve God.



There, he met his wife. After graduating, he became a pastor in Talisay JSM.

May we learn from Pastor Tero, and reach out to those who are lost, confused and in need of encouragement, to show them the hope that they have in Jesus Christ. If not for the hope and light that Ansgario Fransico received from God ministered through the service of Pastor Tero, he might have destroyed himself in his confusion and pain. *To be continued..*

# Current Issues

## Vicky's Blogpost

### STOP WITH THE NAGGING!!!

Published 9 Feb 2011

It has been a reaaaally long day today. Every Wednesday, my classes would finish by 1pm and then I have CCA from 2 to 7pm. My mind and body just feel so tired at the end of the day when all the activities end. At 7pm, my mum would start calling me to ask when I will be back

home. I feel really agitated by my mother's incessant nagging and reminders to return home after school!!! I can't wait to break free from all the stresses of parental control!



## Parental Guidance or Control?

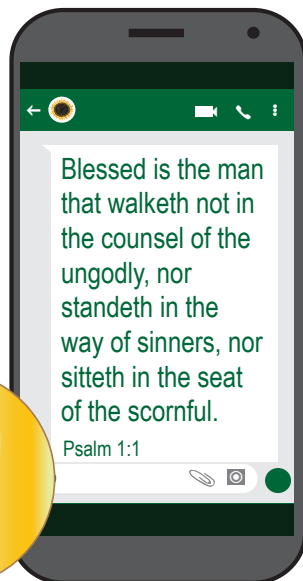
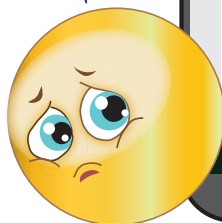
### ANYWHERE BUT HOME...

Published 15 Apr 2011

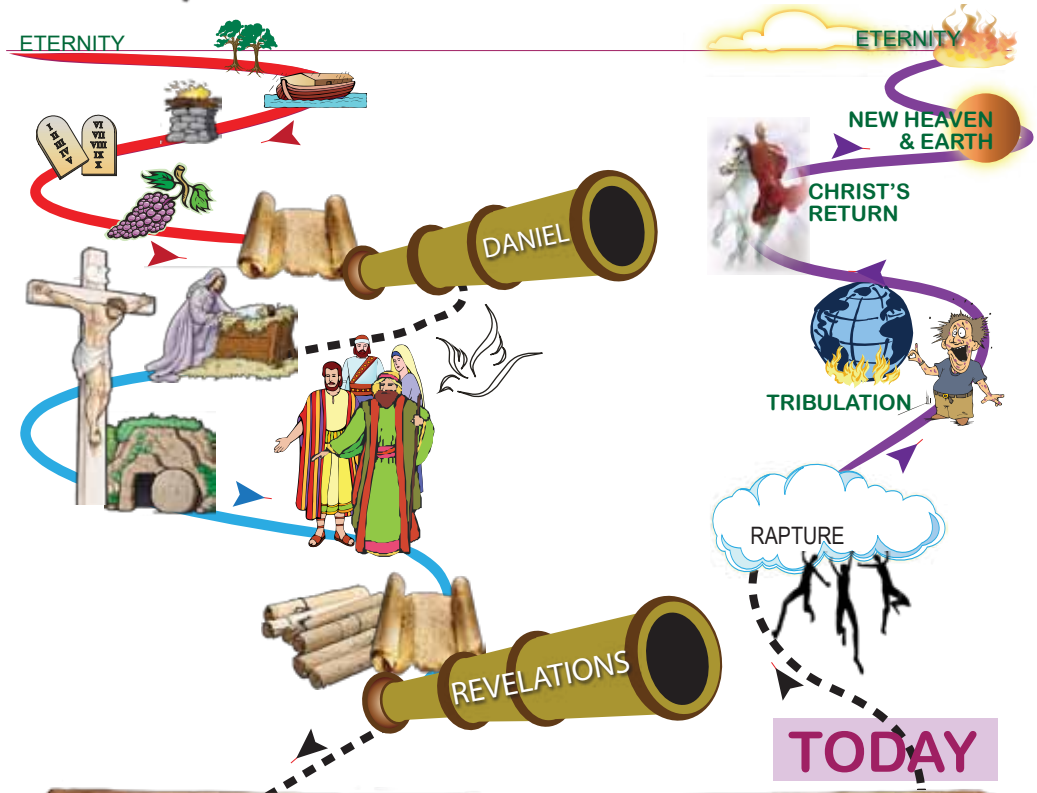
I have been feeling so annoyed at my mum because she keeps asking me what I am doing and where I am. It's like she doesn't trust me! I feel so suffocated and the more I feel so, the more I want to be rebellious. I have been hanging out with my friends at fast food and coffee chains after school instead of heading home straightaway. And it feels liberating to be free from the watchful eyes of my parents all the time...

### SELF-REFLECTION Published 1 Jan 2012

I think my rebelliousness got so bad that my mum resorted to sending me text messages and using the word of God to rebuke me. She taught me the true meaning of Psalms 1:1. I had no peace in my heart whenever I read the bible verses texted by my mother, till I surrendered my will to God and repented from my ways. Thankfully, now I know that rebelling against my parents is sin in the eyes of God and I know that my parents act the way they do because they care for me.



# History of the Church New Series in 2023



This series will walk us through the setbacks the church faced and surmounted over the years. We will also meet people who loved the Lord and were willing to die for Him. These witnesses give us an example on how to run the Christian race (Hebrews 12:1).

Throughout the series, two points are repeated:

- ★ **No matter the circumstances, God is all-powerful**
- ★ **We are to lead lives that honour and glorify Him**

As we read the articles, let us open our hearts to the lessons God has for us.

## TIMELINE

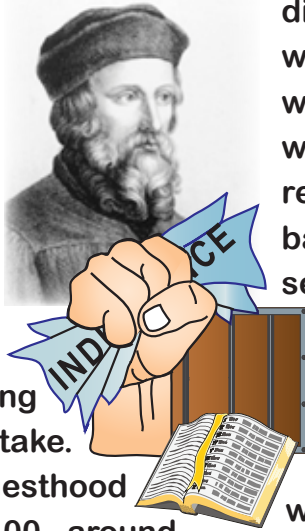
— Recorded in Old Testament — Recorded in New Testament — Unrecorded — Day of the Lord



# Faith of our Fathers

## Jan Hus

is regarded as the Father of European Reformation for his role in the church reform that ultimately led to him being burnt at the stake. Hus entered priesthood in Prague in 1400, around the time when the church was divided and had three popes. In 1402, he was introduced to Wycliffe's works and quickly embraced his views, finding it difficult to reconcile church policy and doctrine with the scriptures. Hus especially condemned the greed and corruption of the church, in, for example, the sale of indulgences (to shorten one's time in purgatory) as being unbiblical and avaricious. Using the Bohemian Bible and preaching in language the ordinary people could understand, Hus established a



direct personal relationship with the listeners. However, what he taught was at odds with what the Church practiced and regarded as heretical. He was banned from holding religious services and forced to leave Prague. Although he was promised protection to defend his case in Constance, upon arrival he was arrested and thrown in prison. He was given the chance to recant. However, Hus refused unless his errors could be proven from the Bible. Eventually, he was burnt outside the city walls, and his writings destroyed as heresies. Even at that last moment, he asked God to forgive his enemies. Are we, like Hus, courageous enough to stand firm in our faith? Will we pray for God to forgive our enemies?



*by Ms Zealyn Heng*



# Seeing God in nature around us

## BIOLOGY

### Sharks and Mankind's Responsibility



*Pelagic Thresher Shark (Alopias pelagicus), Malapascua Island, Philippines.*



*Shortfin Mako Shark (Isurus paucus) sold at a fish market, South Korea.*

Sharks are top predators in the food chain and one of the most misunderstood species on earth. They are crucial in maintaining the delicate balance in the ecosystem as they feed on sick and weak fishes, thus keeping fish populations in check and healthy. Despite their fearsome reputation as cold-blooded killers of the ocean, sharks are not dangerous to humans. The annual global fatality rate due to shark attacks is 6 per year. Humans actually have a higher risk of death due to heart disease, flu, car accidents, dog attacks, drowning or lightning strikes than from shark attacks. In comparison, humans kill up to 73,000,000 sharks every year.

Besides pollution and global warming, one inhumane practice threatens all shark species – shark finning. The fins of the shark are sliced off and the shark is tossed

back into the ocean. The shark drowns, as it cannot swim and pass fresh water

and oxygen through its gills. Contrary to popular belief, the fins do not have any nutritional content, are tasteless, and have mercury levels of up to 42 times the safe limit. Mercury exposure at high levels can harm the human brain, heart, lungs and kidneys. God gave mankind dominion over all creatures on the Earth (Genesis 1: 26), and made us stewards of His creation, not to misuse and

**And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.**

Genesis 2:15



exploit what He has given to us for any reason. How do we embrace our role as stewards of His creation?

*by Mr Clement Ng*

# Choices

I was King of Judah when King Ahab ruled Israel. After a few years, I visited King Ahab and he hosted a banquet for me and my followers. As we had an alliance with him, he asked us to join him in battle against our enemy Syria.

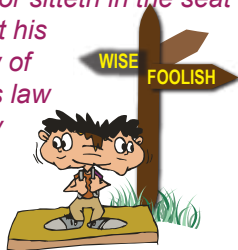


Without seeking the blessing of God, I agreed.

Did I do the right thing? To find out, read 2 Chronicles 18:1-16.

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; And in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

Psalms 1: 1-2



## True Neighbour Luke 10:25-37

The following words appear in the parable of the good Samaritan.

Arrange them according to the order of the story and then fill them in the puzzle.

beaten

innkeeper

robbed

ignore

compassion

priest

Samaritan

Levite

inn

bandaged

