

# Bright Germs for His crown

APRIL - JUNE ISSUE 2023  
JESUS SAVES MISSION CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## Fear NOT

Are you afraid of the dark? Of bullies? All of us are afraid of something. The good news is, the Bible tells us not to be afraid! Not because these fears are small or unimportant, but because God is the one who protects us. He is bigger and more powerful than anything!

Psalms 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

The next time you find your heart beating fast, close your eyes and pray to God. He will take away your fears.

*Mrs Edelweiss Ling*



*Hear Me When I Call*

## Forget Not His benefits

*by Mrs Cheak*

Psalm 103:2,3  
Bless the LORD,  
O my soul,  
and forget not  
all His **benefits**:  
Who forgiveth all  
thine **iniquities**;  
who healeth all  
thy diseases;



David reminded himself to praise and thank God for all His goodness and forgiveness.

"Benefits" means what are for our good. "Iniquities" means anything we do wrong, to God or man.

Have you ever been reminded by your parent to say "thank you" to an aunty or uncle who had just given you a gift? It is the right thing to be thankful to those who have been kind to us. You may be so excited and focused on the gift that you forgot to thank the giver. Likewise, we may need to remind ourselves to thank God for all His blessings we receive.



Thank you Lord



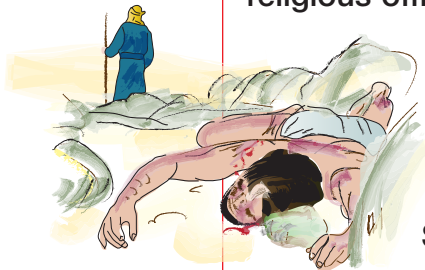
Lets pray:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the greatest gift even Jesus who died for my sins. Thank you that you promise to forgive me if I confess and turn from my sins. Thank you for keeping me from the Covid 19. Thank you I can trust you to heal me if I fall sick. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.

## Phrases

He went out of his way to help that old couple. He is really a good Samaritan!

### True Neighbour

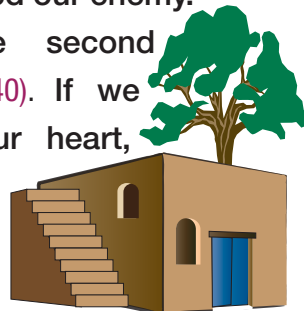


In Luke 10:30-37, Jesus told a parable of a man, presumably a Jew, who was robbed, beaten and left for dead by thieves. A priest and a Levite, both religious officials, saw him in his terrible condition as they passed by – but they did not do anything. Then a Samaritan, someone Jews despised and hated, came along. Without waiting to be asked, the Samaritan tended to his wounds, and then brought him to an inn where he paid the inn keeper to take care of the man. The Samaritan had compassion on the wounded man. He gave freely of both his time and his resources – without expecting any reward.

Jesus told this parable to illustrate who the true neighbour is. The Samaritan was that neighbour because he showed, by his actions, compassion to the one who needed his help. So we are to show love by our actions, to someone in need, even if that someone might be considered our enemy.

Why? Because this is the second commandment (Matthew 22: 37-40). If we say we love God with all our heart, soul and mind, then we will love our neighbour as ourselves.

by Mr Mark Yeo



And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:39

## GemSTORY

Rev Daniel Khoo was our thematic speaker at our December 2022 church camp. In one message, he shared how



我在这里!

he once suffered from a panic attack. The doctor could not help him even though his heart was beating very fast and he could not breathe properly.



He asked him to see a psychiatrist instead. Rev Khoo said, "I was desperate and God felt so far away from me. Why did I have to go through this? It seemed that nobody could understand me."

He prayed and asked God for help. During his regular Bible reading, Rev Khoo was reading the book of Isaiah. The ending part of verse Isaiah 65:1 in the Chinese translation "我在这里!"

spoke to him. God knew exactly what he was going through and comforted him through His scripture. Rev Khoo said, "The verse in the Chinese Bible 'I am here' was so assuring and comforting. He is

here! I just need to surrender and commit myself to God because He is my Father."

Rev Khoo immediately felt so free and was able to breathe normally again.

He could still himself and no longer was troubled or fearful. So even when we cannot see or feel God, we know that He is in our hearts and will help us in whatever situations we are in!

Isaiah 65:1b

**I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.**

## Feelings



### FEAR

by Mrs Cyndi Yeap

A child froze upon seeing a cat approaching.



His mother tried to coax him out of his fear, but it was no use.

Logically, he should know that his mother would protect him from the cat but his fear took over.

When fear grips us, we may freeze up, others may scream, cry, faint, become breathless or even lash out.

After the wave of fear dies down, we often realise that we had actually overreacted to the situation. It doesn't mean that all fears are false, but very often there is no reason for us to be fearful at all!

No reason to be fearful? "You don't understand what I'm facing!" you might say.



In Joshua 1:9, God told Joshua to be strong and courageous because God Himself would be with him. Leading God's people to the

Promised Land was a dangerous and difficult thing that Joshua had to do; he might even die. However, he had God with him, so there was no reason to be fearful!

God has promised that He will be with us wherever we go. We just need to follow God, and trust in Him for help and protection. How wonderful is this assurance!

Fear is something we will all feel from time to time, but God is greater than our greatest fear.

GOD

All we need to do is to follow Him and trust Him.

**Casting all your care upon Him.**

1 Peter 5:7

and rest upon Him,

**"for tomorrow will take thought for the things of itself"**

Matthew 6:34

## History Of The Church

### THE EARLY CHURCH TIMELINE

AD

205



**Cyprian writes "On the Unity of the Church"**

Concerned for the unity of the church, Cyprian sought to bring it about through giving authority to the church leaders. He believed sincere believers should do penance to prove their faith – the amount of penance depending on the seriousness of the sin.

251



**Origen's writings including 'On First Principles'**

A prolific writer and scholar who made the first attempt at a systematic theology examining Christian beliefs. Origen's immense learning and scholarship influenced future Christian scholars.

However he was also responsible for establishing the allegorical interpretation of scripture

which was to dominate the middle ages.

Angelology  
Eschatology  
Soteriology  
Christology  
Pneumatology  
Hamartiology



312

**1st meeting of church leaders (the Council of Nicaea)**

Emperor Constantine called this meeting to resolve theological issues which he saw as threatening the security of his empire. The Council of Nicaea eventually came up with a clear definition of the Trinity. However, it also set the dangerous precedent of uniting the empire and church in decision making.



**Constantine is converted**




Attributing his victory to his vision of the cross, Constantine granted Christians freedom to worship, gave the church power and taught it to use power and politics.



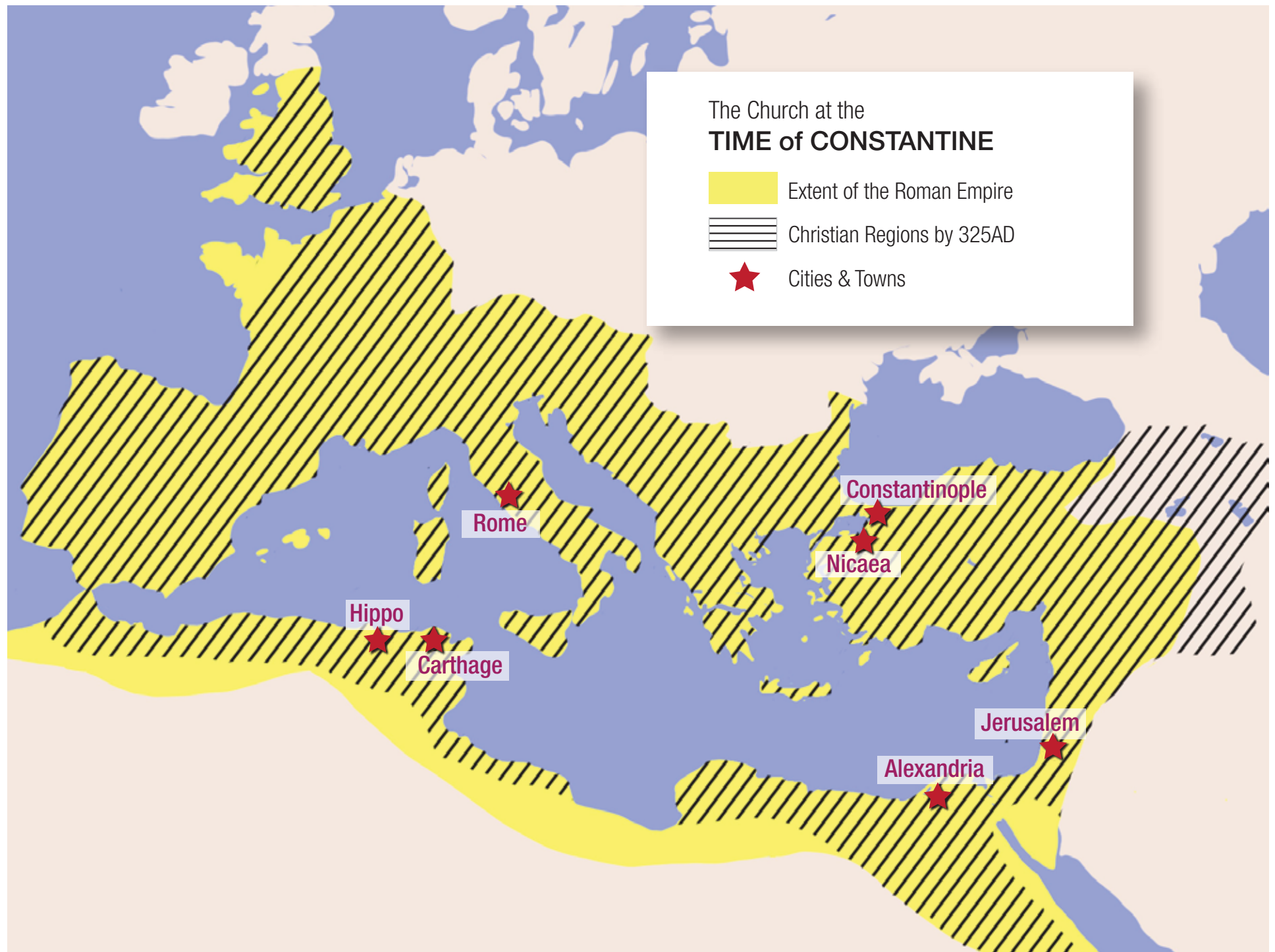


## The Church at the TIME of CONSTANTINE

 Extent of the Roman Empire

 Christian Regions by 325AD

 Cities & Towns



AD

367

387

### Augustine and the grace of God

Augustine, the influential bishop of Hippo, was responsible for shaping the doctrines of original sin and grace. He believed that since all shared in Adam's fall, everyone was completely dependent on God's power and grace for both salvation and daily living. His writings on the necessity of God's grace influenced reformers like Martin Luther and John Calvin. Through 'The City of God', Augustine showed how God's plan would ultimately come to pass. This sustained the church through the dark ages that followed. To Augustine, the church was effective only because God's grace operated through it, not because of its leaders. However, his support of the use of force to suppress those who disagreed was later used to justify the ruthless acts of the Inquisition against Christian dissenters.



### Athanasius and the New Testament Canon

By this time, the books making up the Old Testament were generally recognized as inspired by God. It was less clear which more recent writings were truly inspired and which were questionable resulting in many heresies. In his Easter Letter, Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria, named the 27 books we now consider the New Testament.



Spotlight:

### How the Books of the Bible were chosen



The sixty-six books of the Holy Scriptures are the standard by which everything in the Christian life is to be evaluated or measured. But how were they chosen? How can we be sure what we have today is God's Word?



The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament were written over 1000 years primarily by God's prophets. Their authority was confirmed by miracles or acts of God. The contents of the individual books had to be consistent with the other books and have the power to change people's lives. By the time of Jesus' birth, the content of the Old Testament was already settled. Jesus repeatedly affirmed the Old Testament as God's inspired word to man (Luke 24:44).

The books chosen to make the **New Testament** had to be **authored either by an apostle or a close associate** (eg. Luke recording Paul's ministry). The contents had to **align with Jesus' teachings**, the **apostles' communications**, and the **Old Testament**. They also had to be **widely accepted by the church**, regarded as **worth dying for**, and **exercise a transforming power on the readers' lives**. By the end of the fourth century the canon of the New Testament was definitively settled and accepted.





# Faith of our Fathers

## John Knox



was a leader of the Scottish Reformation in the 1500s. At that time, Scotland was dominated by Roman Catholicism and there was widespread persecution of the Protestant reformers. Influenced by the preaching of George Wishart, Knox became a supporter. When Wishart was burned at the stake, Knox was recognized as his successor. Soon after beginning his ministry, Knox was taken prisoner and forced to work 19 months as a galley slave in a French ship, all the time being pressured to show reverence for Catholic faith and renounce Protestantism. After his release, he was expelled from Scotland because of much opposition from the supporters of

the Catholic Queen Mary. During his travels to England, Geneva and Frankfurt, Knox became known as the thundering Scotsman, because of his fiery preaching of Christ and the Bible as the sole authority of the Church, and the doctrine of justification by faith alone. Knox was instrumental in overthrowing the Roman Catholic political regime in Scotland and mightily used by the Lord to bring about a lasting reformation. His epitaph reads:

Here lies one  
who feared God so much that  
he never feared  
the face of any man.

John Knox serves as an inspiration to fear God and be bold to spread our Christian faith.

by Ms Zealicia Heng



# Seeing God in nature around us

## MATHEMATICS



Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the mathematical entities:

**time** ('the beginning'),

**space** ('the heaven') and

**matter** ('the earth')

instantaneously.

Time starts for a person the moment he is conceived.

He will be born, grow into a toddler, then a teenager, become an adult and finally become old and die. Our time on earth is finite - about 70 to 80 years according to Psalm 90:10. So mathematically, we exist from

$t = 0$  to  $t = 70$  (or 80).

Unlike us, God is not limited by time, for He created time **Psalm 90: 2.**

So mathematically, God exists

from  $t = -\infty$  to  $t = \infty$  where the symbol ' $\infty$ ' stands for infinity which is not a real or finite number. That means, there is never a (real) time when God does not exist. This means firstly, we must put our faith and trust in Christ while we still have time.

To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Hebrews 4:7

Secondly, we should live godly and wisely in our short earthly journey.

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:16

May God help us to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom (Psalm 90:12), before we go to our heavenly home where time shall be no more.

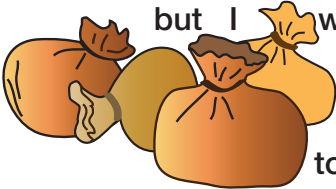
by Mr Nehemiah Leong

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

# Choices

I was a servant of Prophet Elisha. One day, my master healed a rich man called Naaman of his leprosy. My master refused any payment from him but I wanted the payment so I lied to Naaman.



I told him that my master didn't mind being rewarded. Did I do the right thing? Read on in 2 Kings 5:20-27.



The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Proverbs 21:6



Below is an example of a prayer of thanksgiving. Fill in the blanks. You may use a mirror to read the hints below the blanks.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ for giving me \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 Dear God Thank you Jesus

die for my \_\_\_\_\_. Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ my sins  
 sin forgiving

when i \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ from my sins. I \_\_\_\_\_  
 confess repent praise

you Lord for your faithful \_\_\_\_\_ to me.  
 love

In \_\_\_\_\_ Name I pray. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jesus Amen

