

Bright Gems for His crown

OCTOBER - DECEMBER ISSUE 2023

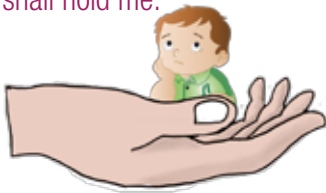
JESUS SAVES MISSION CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



God is with me

We are coming to the end of the year. In this past year, did you see God working in your life? Every minute, every hour and every day, He has been with us. Psalms 139:9-10 tells us

If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.



God is there with you, in the exam hall, in your home and in your heart. Thank you Jesus for being with us always!

Mrs Edelweiss Ling

Hear Me When I Call

Make Me Clean

And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying,

Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Matthew 8:2



A leper came to JESUS with a petition. He wanted JESUS to cleanse him of his leprosy. He must have heard many wonderful stories of JESUS' healing power and he believed that JESUS was able to help him.

Leprosy was a dreaded disease in the Bible. There was no cure. If a person was a leper, he had to be separated from society and family, lived alone or with other lepers and he had to cry "Unclean! Unclean!". The leper needed to be cleansed by a priest.



Have you ever felt unclean because of certain sins that you have committed? You may feel sinful to come to Him. Sin is like leprosy. It separates us from God. We need to be cleansed by Jesus Himself. He is our High Priest. Only HE can make us clean by HIS blood. Whenever we have sinned against God, we need to come in faith to JESUS to save us from our sins.

by Rev Matthew Yong

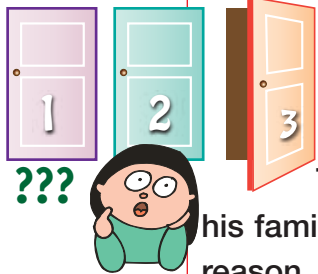
Come to HIM and pray:

"LORD JESUS, You can cleanse me of my sins. I trust and believe in You. I ask this in your precious name. Amen."

Phrases

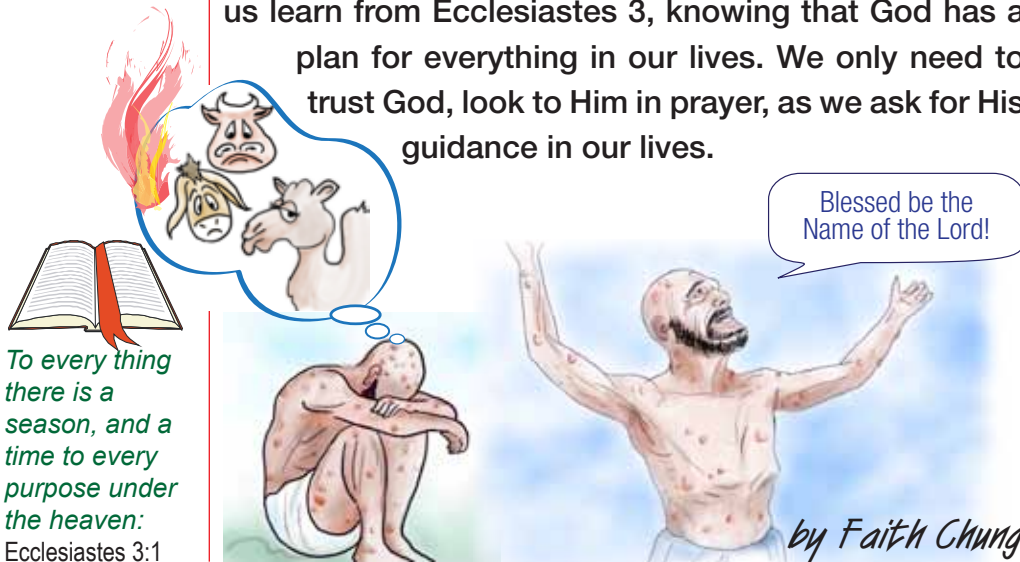
"Do not be disheartened because your plans didn't work out — for everything there is a season."

For everything there is a season



Life is unpredictable - things don't always go our way. For example, when trying to decide which schools to apply for, we may not always get our first choice even if we score well. In times like this, we should not despair. God has His reason for sending you to a certain school, or putting you in a particular environment. We may not understand at the moment, but when we look back over time, we can marvel at His leading.

Think about Job, who lost his great wealth and his family - everything important to him. He had every reason to give up and question God. However, he chose to continue worshipping and praising God, believing that God had a plan for him. In the end, God rewarded Job with much more than he had initially. Let us learn from Ecclesiastes 3, knowing that God has a plan for everything in our lives. We only need to trust God, look to Him in prayer, as we ask for His guidance in our lives.



GemSTORY

Sister Hannah Yong's testimony

I went to church with my sister because we wanted to learn English. I was saved in 1983. I thank God that He sent Christian brothers and sisters to my house to do Bible Study with me. As a



result, I learned more about God and grew in faith. Every time I read 2 Cor 6:14-18 about being unequally yoked, I would cry and asked God to forgive me of this sin. I used to fast and pray for my husband's salvation and taught my children to pray for him too. We prayed very long and hard but nothing changed.



For many years, he drove us to church but did not attend. He would go somewhere else instead. In 2000, he went inside the church and stayed for service. After that we attended church together as a family! Finally in 2004, my

husband accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. He was baptised in 2005. Now my husband is a deacon and we can serve the Lord together. After many years, I thank God that He has finally answered my prayer!

Never give up on praying because God will answer our prayer in His good timing.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Lamentation 3:22

Feelings

Gratitude is a feeling while giving thanks is an act. The Bible tells us about Jesus healing ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). Although all ten lepers were healed, only one returned to thank Him. Jesus commended this leper for his grateful response and act of thankfulness.

Displeased with the other nine, Jesus asked, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?" Unthankfulness often reflects a deeper problem of pride, or selfishness. Like the nine lepers, we are often guilty of receiving the blessings of God with ingratitude. When Jesus gave His life for us, His blood healed us from a disease much more terrible than leprosy. Like that one leper who returned to give thanks, we should praise and thank God for the gift of salvation (Psalm 92:1-2).

God provides amazing things for us daily - a beautiful sunrise, a loving family and caring friends are some things we should not take for

respect
obligation
kindness
thankful
appreciate
recognition
credit
indebted
LOVE
GRATITUDE



granted. We are less likely to complain and worry even in bad times if we have a thankful heart. (Ephesians 5:20;

1 Thessalonians 5:18). We

should thank God daily in our private devotions, but we must also thank Him publicly to glorify His great name. Thanking others for their gifts, help and kindness is a good habit to work on. We can thank

a Pastor for preaching God's word or write a thank-you note to someone who has been a blessing. Showing

gratitude is one way to love others - it creates a positive feeling in us and improves our relationship with others. They feel good when we appreciate their efforts. Let us develop a grateful heart that overflows with daily thanksgiving towards God for Who He is and what He has done for us, as well as towards those who show us kindness.

by Mrs Juliana Koh

In every thing give thanks:
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Thessalonian 5:18

History Of The Church

THE EARLY CHURCH TIMELINE

AD

117>>>>>



Trajan

The Empire reached its peak in 117 AD.

The expansion brought riches, but its size made governing difficult. The army became increasingly important. Besides dealing with civil war, it had to maintain the borders and keep intruders, collectively known as barbarians, out. Eventually, some of these barbarians were hired by the army, although they had no loyalty to the empire.

285>>>>>



The split of the Empire

Emperor Diocletian divided the Empire into two to make it easier to govern. Milan gov (later Constantinople), the Greek-speaking Eastern Latin-speaking West faced invasions.

erned the West and Byzantium East. The largely Empire grew richer, while the economic crisis and Barbarian

378>>>>>

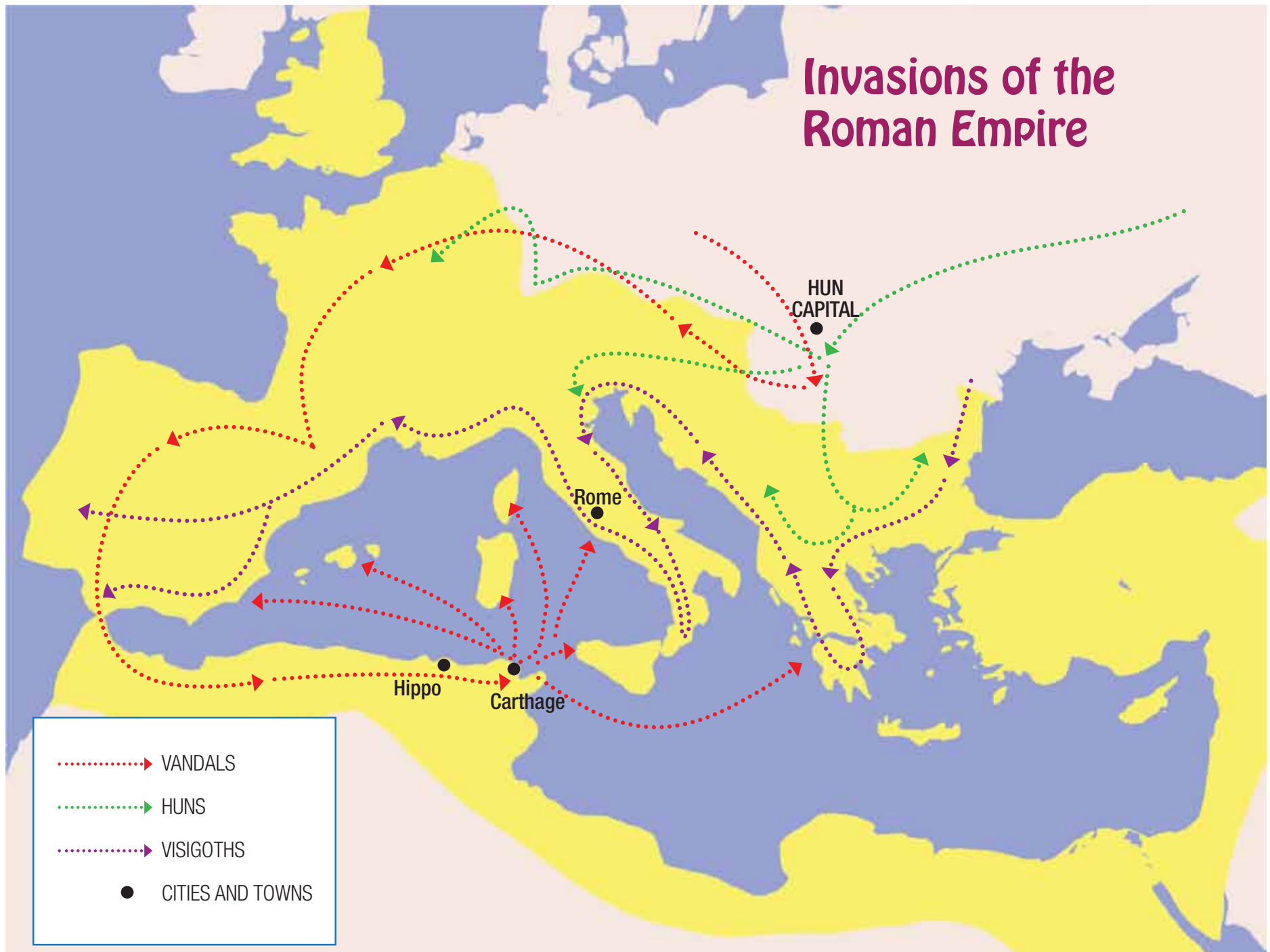


The fall of Rome

When the Huns invaded Europe, many Germanic tribes fled to the Roman Empire. The Romans grudgingly allowed some to enter, but treated them so cruelly that they eventually revolted. Rome was sacked in 410 and 455. In 476, the Emperor at Rome was deposed, marking the end of the Western Roman Empire.

476>>>>>

Invasions of the Roman Empire



Lack Of Co-operation

After the Empire was split to governing easier, the two halves often could not agree over resources and did not always work together to deal with threats. When the Greek-speaking Eastern Empire became stronger, Barbarian invaders found it easier to raid the more vulnerable Latin-speaking Western Empire.

A Changing Army

The Empire became so big it was difficult to recruit enough Roman citizens to join its legions. Roman generals began hiring mercenaries from the Barbarian tribes. However, these soldiers, having little loyalty to Rome would change sides depending on who could pay them more.

Changing Environment

The Western Roman Empire had grown partly because the warm and temperate climate of the Mediterranean provided ideal conditions for crop growth and economic prosperity. Then, in the 5th century, it became uncharacteristically cold. Crops failed, resulting in food shortage and starvation.

Why the Western Roman Empire fell



Political Instability

The death of the emperor often led to bloody and costly civil wars as various groups sought to gain power. The eventual 'winner' was not always the most qualified, depending instead, on larger armies or more influential friends. The Praetorian Guard, the emperor's private army, were quick to install new sovereigns, depending on who could offer them the largest reward. Within a hundred-year period, there were 37 different emperors, out of which 25 were assassinated. Consequently the empire lacked a strong stable leadership for an extended period of time.

Economic Troubles

The initial expansion of the Roman Empire brought wealth to the imperial coffers and a steady supply of slaves to till its fields. Eventually the constant wars, inflation, inability to produce enough crops (due to the dwindling supply of slaves as well as environmental factors) resulted in heavy taxation of its citizens, forcing many into poverty.

Invasions

Barbarian tribes had, from the beginning, attempted to invade the Roman Empire. While the Roman legions were initially able to repel them relatively easily, the Barbarians improved their tactics and became formidable foes. The weakness of the Roman army was revealed when barbarians, seeking refuge in Roman territory from the Huns, revolted against their mistreatment by the Romans.

Spotlight:

The rise and fall of the Roman Empire - Daniel's Vision Fulfilled

King Nebuchadnezzar dreamt of a majestic statue with a head of gold, arms and breast of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron and feet of iron and baked clay. As he watched, a rock struck the statue's feet.

The statue disintegrated. The rock filled the earth. God showed Daniel what the dream meant. Each part corresponded to a powerful kingdom that would rule for a time, then be replaced by another. The head of gold, Babylon was conquered in 539 BC by King Cyrus of Persia. The Medo-Persian Empire (the silver breast and arms) was defeated in 333 BC by Alexander the Great. The Greek Empire (bronze belly and thighs) was overthrown in 146

BC by the Roman Empire (legs of iron and feet of iron and clay). The supernatural rock which destroyed the Roman Empire was the Kingdom of God. (Daniel 2: 40 - 45) Unlike the preceding kingdoms, it will never fall, but will grow and be established because it is set up by God Himself. Let us remember that our great God is in charge of everything and not be discouraged by events around us. Remind ourselves of His great hand of mercy, and go to Him in prayer.



Faith of our Fathers

John Livingstone Nevius

Young John Livingstone Nevius wanted to be rich. However, after a long spiritual struggle, he concluded that, because he owed everything to God, he should serve Him. While studying at Princeton Theological Seminary, he felt challenged to serve in the mission field. Upon graduating, Nevius and his wife set out as missionaries for Ningpo, China, where they quickly learned the local Chinese dialect, the local culture and way of life. Nevius visited all the churches under his care at least twice a year, to instruct, discipline, encourage and evangelise,

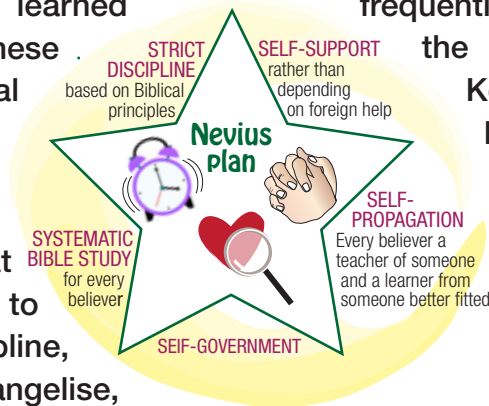


as well as conducted Bible studies. His disciplined lifestyle was the result of following 'rules' he had made up while in seminary. These included trusting the future entirely to God, being watchful over any evil tendencies of his heart, and not sleeping more than six hours a day.

In 1889, Nevius was invited to share his method with Presbyterian missionaries in Korea. The two weeks of instruction resulted in their adopting his suggestions. The Nevius Plan is the most frequently cited factor in the growth of the Korean church.

How many of us are prepared, like Nevius, to devote our all to the service of our Lord?

by John Ong



"At an unexpected moment God has seen fit to baptise me anew with His Spirit; to give me the spirit of adoption, and to shed abroad His love in my heart, making me desire to consecrate myself wholly and entirely to Him, to do or suffer all His righteous will"



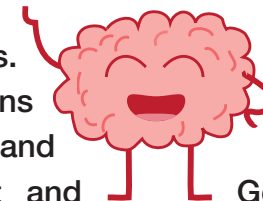
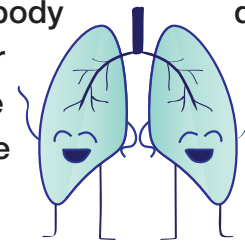
Seeing God in nature around us

BIOLOGY

Did you know that bones form the core of your body, making up 15% of the total body weight? Because of our bones, the average human being can be between 1.5 to 1.8m tall, unlike tiny boneless organisms such as jellyfish and spiders. Bones protect vital organs such as the brain, heart and lungs, provide support and allow us to move. They also produce blood cells, and store minerals. When we learn that God created man in His own image (**Genesis 1:27**), we can only marvel at His wisdom.

Our bones are constantly being renewed and remodelled by a complex, finely controlled

BONES



process involving different parts of the body including the digestive system and the blood. However, as the body ages, it can make mistakes, resulting in bone defects. Scientists who have tried looking for artificial supports to help strengthen weakened bones have identified the honeycomb (another of God's creation) as a possible model. Isn't it wonderful how God provides for all our needs and wants? **Philippians 4:19** tells us that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We only have to turn to Him and trust Him.

by Ms Cheryl Yong

But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

Choices

I was known to be the strongest man in my time. My strength was to be used to help and protect Israel in times of conflict with the Philistines. However, I fell in love with a beautiful Philistine woman named



Delilah and told her the secret to my strength. Did I do the right thing? To find out more, read Judges 13-16.

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2Timothy 2:22



Make Me Clean

Fill in the blanks and circle the answers in the puzzle.

1. A leper came to _____ for _____.
2. Lepers had to be separated from other _____ and cried " _____ !".
3. Leprosy was a dreaded _____ that had no cure during Jesus' time.
4. _____ is just like leprosy.
5. Only Jesus can make us clean by His _____.
6. _____ to Jesus for cleansing when we have sinned against God.



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U	V	M	I	E	R	J	V	P	P
W	N	J	Q	S	A	R	K	N	R
Q	B	C	E	P	E	L	C	U	A
C	O	L	L	S	T	A	I	D	Y
P	Z	O	O	E	U	H	S	N	B
W	B	R	W	O	A	S	K	E	G
Y	W	Z	K	H	D	N	J	E	K
P	E	O	P	L	E	F	B	P	F