

## God's New Mercies

Every Morning

It is of the Lord's mercies  
that we are not consumed,  
because His compassions fail  
not. They are new  
every morning:  
great is Thy  
faithfulness.



Lamentation 3:22-23

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Every morning, God  
gives us new mercies.  
This means He shows  
us love and kindness  
each day. Even when  
we have sinned badly  
or forgotten to do  
something, if we  
repent and ask for  
forgiveness, God will  
gladly forgive and help  
us over and over again.  
When we wake up, we  
can feel happy and  
hopeful because God  
is always there for us.  
We should be thankful,  
forgive others, and  
trust God every day.

by Mrs Edelweiss Ling

Hear Me When I Call

## Sin has Consequences

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people,  
and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these  
sheep, what have they done? 2 Samuel 24:17a

King David yielded to the temptation  
of Satan to number Israel and Judah  
out of pride. Then his conscience  
was pricked and he confessed his  
sin to the Lord. The LORD asked him to  
choose one of three punishments for his sins.  
David chose three days of pestilence and  
seventy thousand men perished.

Do you know that sin has serious  
consequences and can affect the people  
around us? For example if you disobeyed  
your parents and sneaked out to play during  
the Covid situation, what would have  
happened if you had contracted the  
disease and spread it to your family  
members? Every time you realise  
you have sinned, quickly confess  
your sins.



by Mr Nehemiah Leong

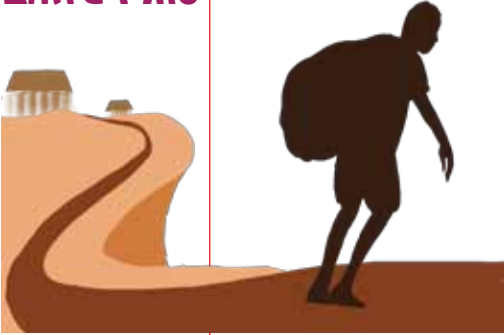
Dear heavenly Father, I have sinned against you! I have disobeyed my  
parents and have put my family members in a dangerous situation.  
Please forgive me for my disobedience. In Jesus Name I pray. Amen.



# Phrases

"I admire her because she is so willing to go the extra mile to help the underprivileged, even when she has not much money herself."

## Go the Extra Mile



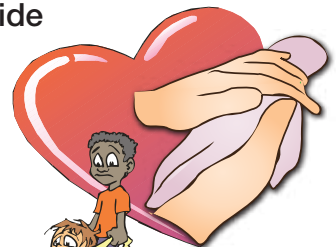
In first century Palestine, a Roman soldier could force someone from one of the conquered lands to carry his load for one mile. That person had to disrupt his schedule, swallow his pride and bear that extra burden. Our lives are so busy and crammed with things we have

to do, it can be hard to find time to help others. However, in this verse, Jesus is telling us to go beyond what is required by law, to do more than is expected, willingly.

As believers, we need to have the right attitude or mindset when doing work for God. We must change our viewpoint – think of doing the task as working for God in order to please Him. He knows what and how much each of us can handle.

He can lead, strengthen and guide us as we go the extra mile – we just need to keep our eyes focused on God.

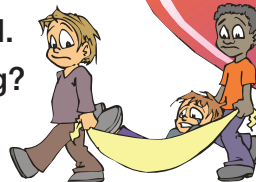
Are you willing?



And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain.

Matthew 5: 41

by Ms Kezia Ee





My name is Sherwyn. My journey of overcoming selective mutism and severe social anxiety began at the age of two. Despite therapy and interventions, only my faith in God brought me relief. In school, though physically present, I was constantly overthinking and terrified of others due to bad experiences. I struggled with insomnia, low self-esteem and constant negative self-talk, feeling unworthy of love. I faced bullying, manipulation, and harassment. Despite standing up for others, I felt powerless



*Be careful for nothing;  
but in every thing  
by prayer and  
supplication with  
thanksgiving let your  
requests be made known  
unto God.*

*And the peace of God,  
which passeth all  
understanding, shall keep  
your hearts and minds  
through Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:6,7



myself and struggled with body image and self-harm thoughts. Last year, from June 27 to July 2, I experienced a powerful transformation. Feeling burnt out, I cried nonstop and barely ate or drank. I realized that Satan was influencing my heart. My turning point came when I wrote Philippians 4:6–7 on a sticky note and stuck it on my laptop. As I kept writing, somehow every bad thought I had about myself was replaced with God's perspective of me. It was clearly God's power. On the night of July 2, I shared everything with my father, who then prayed with me. That night, I felt a weight lift off my heart. I could finally love myself. My social anxiety disappeared. I experienced an overwhelming sense of peace, love and joy from God.



# Feelings

## Joy in Mourning



We all want to be happy, and feeling sad is not what God wants for us all the time. So why does the Bible say in Ecclesiastes 7:3-4

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**Sorrow is better than laughter**



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**The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth?**



~~~~~

It may sound confusing at first—but there's a reason for it! These verses are talking about being sad over sin—the wrong things we do—and what happens

because of sin. When we feel sorry for doing wrong, we are more likely to ask God for forgiveness and choose to do what is right.

In the “house of mirth”, people only care about having fun and do not see the wrong things they or others are doing. They ignore God, like King Belshazzar in the Bible, who partied without realizing that God's judgment was coming.



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Do we feel sorry for our sins and cry over what will happen when God judges the world?




*by Mrs Mary Hui*



## The Decline of the Papacy

AD


**1294** >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>  
the beginning  
of the decline 



When the kings of France and England started taxing their wealthy clergy to finance their wars, the Pope threatened to excommunicate them. Eventually he had to allow the taxation of church lands.

Boniface declared 1300 a jubilee year, promising full pardon of sins for all who visited the churches in Rome. Encouraged by the response, he

- opposed the French king's imprisonment of a French bishop, and canceled his earlier concession on taxation of church lands
  - declared in Nov 1302, that the church was superior to secular governments in all things.
- When Boniface died, his successor moved the papal court to Avignon, near the French kings.

**1309 - 1376 >>>>>>**  
**papacy based in**  
**Avignon rather**  
**than Rome** 



The six successive popes who chose to reside in Avignon rather than in Rome were regarded as tools of the French king. As a result, countries like England and Germany refused to fund the Avignon papal court. The popes resorted to charging fees for the services of the church and selling indulgences. These were payments made in order to lessen the punishment for sins. They could be bought for a deceased person, or for sins not yet committed.



During the Avignon papacy the cardinals began to play a stronger role in church government, church and clergy were reformed, missionary efforts were expanded.



# Impact of the medieval church on society

## SCHOLASTICISM developed (from monastic schools) due to

- 📖 demand for better understanding of the Bible and more rational explanation for Christian doctrine
- 📖 exposure to Aristotle's teaching (which emphasized reason, observation and systematic inquiry)



## SOUGHT TO

- ★ present the teachings of the church in a systematic, orderly, logical manner
- ★ use reason and logic to support Christian doctrine
- ★ provide structured learning and critical analysis of texts

## RESULTED IN

- ✓ growth and strengthening of the papacy through the laws it developed
- ✓ 'new' method of learning using logical reasoning and debate to come up with answers



## ROLE OF THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH

- Defined people's relationship with God
- Explained science, history to public
- Decided how people should behave
  - Influenced politics
- Provided education, charity for poor, a place for socializing



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## MISSIONS

13th century:  
To Muslims by Franciscans  
using a nonviolent approach

Early 14th century:  
To China by Franciscans  
until expelled by Ming Rulers

## MENDICANTS Issue April 2024 outlines the origin of monasticism

As the monastic movement grew, greed and corruption resulted in many monasteries being filled with glittering treasures, while not meeting the spiritual hunger of the people. Widespread resentment gave rise to mendicant orders (Latin for beg).



Members of these orders, or friars, did not live in monasteries, were committed to owning nothing, wandering from place to place performing charity work, and depending on the goodwill of those they came in contact with, to survive.

THE FIRST MENDICANT ORDERS	PURPOSE
<b>Franciscans</b> Founder: Francis of Assisi 1209	To live a life of simplicity and poverty To serve and help the poor
<b>Dominicans</b> Founder: Dominic de Guzman 1216	To preach the Gospel To combat heresy through teaching and theological discussion

## INQUISITION

### Late 11th century:

Inquisition set up by the Church

- ✕ To counter (by persuasion, debate and preaching) movements / cults that disagreed with its teachings.
- ✕ To ensure fair trial and prevent executions based on false accusations
- ✕ Carried out mainly in Italy and France, involving local judges who followed guidelines provided by the Church

### 13th and 14th centuries:

- ✕ Inquisitors, mainly from the Dominican order, were answerable only to the pope
- ✕ Accused had virtually no rights - the Inquisitor was both prosecutor and judge
- ✕ Torture was authorized as a means of getting information.

### 15th century onwards:

The Inquisition began investigating witchcraft + uncovering those who had converted from Judaism / Islam, but were suspected of returning to their former faiths.

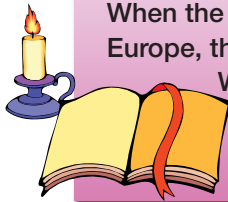
1478 to 1834: The Spanish Inquisition

1536 to 1821: The Portuguese Inquisition





The dictatorial Italian pope elected in 1377 angered many. The French cardinals chose a French pope. They were supported by France, Wales and Scotland while England, Italy and Germany followed the Italian. A third pope elected in 1409 failed to end the schism. Finally, the council meeting between 1414 and 1417 managed to replace all three reigning popes with one. The replacement promptly asserted that his authority alone, was supreme. He went on to consolidate the power of his office, ending the divisions within the church.



Wycliffe's systematic attack on the beliefs and practices of the established church initiated the banding together of those who felt the church needed reform. His supporters, known as Lollards, wanted a simple evangelical faith with free access to Scriptures in their vernacular. When the Lollards were persecuted and fled to Europe, they also spread Wycliffe's ideas.

Wycliffe's underlying principles influenced the reform movement in Bohemia led by Jan Hus.



Despite Hus's martyrdom, the Hussite movement spread widely. One branch of the movement, the Unitas Fratrum came in contact with Lutheran and Reformed Protestants during the Reformation. In 1722, after Protestant troops were defeated during the Thirty Years' War, some Unitas Fratrum sought safety in Count Zinzendorf's estate in Saxony. There they were organized as the Moravian Church.





## REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF THE CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE AGES

### EXTERNAL FACTORS:

- ✠ Rise of merchant middle class and possibility of escaping from being an indebted serf
- ✠ Rulers, with support of middle class, sought independence from the church
- ✠ Learning by questioning became the preferred way of learning
- ✠ Increased focus on the well-being / comfort of the individual

### INTERNAL FACTORS:

- ✠ Religion / attending church seen as a formality
- ✠ Church leaders ignoring church issues eg heresies while seeking to take charge of state affairs
- ✠ Corrupt church leaders

- ➡ Exposure to different lifestyles, new goods from the east
  - ➡ Increased nationalistic feelings
  - ➡ Discovery of 'new' ways of thinking
- ➡ Rediscovery of classical past led to renaissance
  - ➡ Loss of purpose
  - ➡ Disunited church
  - ➡ Disillusionment, loss of trust





# Faith of our Fathers

## Reverend David Kin Kee Chu

Born in China, Reverend David Kin Kee Chu (1920 to 2000) followed his father's footsteps to be a pastor. Despite dangers, disappointment and hunger, he served the Lord steadfastly for more than 50 years, drawing strength from God's promises. During World War II, David Chu miraculously survived the Japanese invasion, having experienced God's faithfulness



1 Peter 2:6b  
He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.

Isaiah 28:16b  
He that believeth shall not make haste

through His promise in 2 Thessalonians 3:2-3. In 1975, during a mission trip to East Kalimantan, Indonesia, David Chu prayed for a dying woman following a difficult childbirth. Despite initial reports of her passing, his co-worker, Pastor Chou discovered a year later that she had recovered and even had another son. David Chu's experience in

Indonesia teaches us to trust in God's timing and recognize His faithfulness beyond our understanding. His life encourages us to be unwavering even in difficulties as God will never leave us ashamed or disappointed.

*by Mrs Liao Peck Lian*

2 Thessalonians 3:2-3

**And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.**





# Seeing God in nature around us

## PHYSICS

### The Law of Conservation of Matter

The Law of Conservation of Matter is a fundamental

universal law that governs all natural phenomena involving matter. This principle states that matter cannot be created or destroyed, only changed from one form to another. A classic example is the water cycle. When water evaporates from a lake, it transforms from liquid to vapor. This water vapor then rises into the atmosphere, cools, and condenses into liquid droplets, forming clouds. Eventually, it falls back to the earth as either rain or snow, replenishing lakes, rivers, and seas. Throughout this

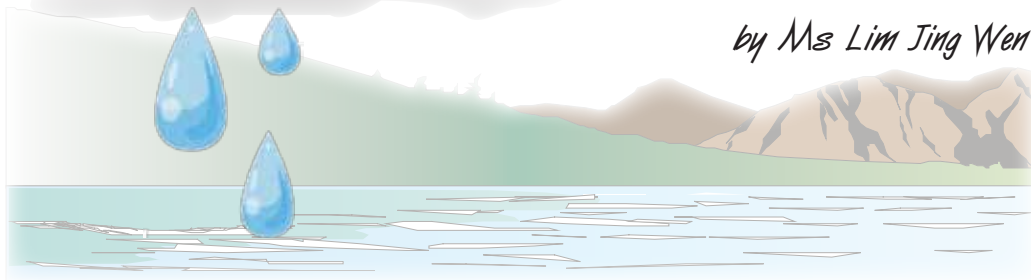
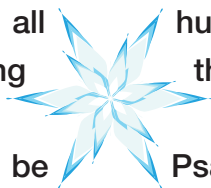
entire cycle, the total amount of water remains constant.

While mankind took

hundreds of years to discover this principle, it is clearly outlined in God's word. In

Psalms 104:5: **"Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever"**, the psalmist emphasizes the stability and permanence of God's creation. No matter how the form or condition of matter may change, its total amount remains unchanged.

God wove stability into the fabric of creation. He is in complete control of this earth and everything that happens. Do we trust Him?



*by Ms Lim Jing Wen*



# Choices

One day, I got really annoyed with my sister. Jesus, our favourite guest, came to visit our home with His disciples, and while I was working hard in the kitchen, my sister just sat down and listened to Him! I was upset, so I asked Jesus if He could tell her to help me. But Jesus surprised me. He told me I was



worried about many things and said my sister had made the better choice by spending time with Him.

Do you agree with Jesus? Did my sister do the right thing? To find out more, read on in Luke 10 : 38 - 42.

Be still, and know that I am God:  
I will be exalted among the  
heathen, I will be exalted  
in the earth.

Psalms 46:10



## Sin has Consequences

Write your answers to the questions in the boxes.

1. In 2 Samuel 24, what did David do which sinned against the Lord?

N										P								T			P				
11										13					12										

2. Did David confess his sins?

15	1	

3. What punishment did David choose?

										O	F									E								
					5					6					10										3		7	

4. How many people died?

						T								M										
						4								8		16				9		14		

Use the letters indicated by the numbers to figure out what the hidden message is.

HIDDEN MESSAGE

											Q						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		

