



Beat the Virus but Miss the Purpose?

~ Elder Koh Yeok Soon ~

18“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. 19See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

Titanic: Rearranging Chairs or Changing Course?

Early November last year, I woke up in the middle of the night feeling troubled about our church's future. Thoughts about the Titanic came to mind. I contemplated if we were simply rearranging the deck chairs of the doomed ship or were we making efforts to change its course. Or, have we resigned to the fate of Titanic and let it run its course.

Rewriting of a Book

I prayed myself back to sleep and had a dream.

In my dream, I saw a printed book with a title and the author's name on its cover. Then, I saw another copy of the same book, but this copy had additional names handwritten below the original author. I understood it as a draft of the new edition of the book with other co-authors. I recognised the first two co-authors' names.

The first hand-written name was my colleague, the person-in-charge an IT project to replace numerous software systems with an integrated software solution for the whole organisation. The next hard-written name was a top minister of Singapore.

Introduction to the Book

In the next scene, I saw someone take the revised book and read it out to a young boy, *“Fifty years ago.... but now....”*

It seemed to me that he was reading the introduction of the book to the next generation, saying that something that was not possible in the past has now become possible and has happened.

Welcome!

God's blessings be upon you as you join us for a time of worship and fellowship here at Covenant. If you're a visitor, please refer to the back page for some helpful information that will enrich your time with us. We trust that you will be refreshed as you encounter Christ anew.

To be a God-fearing, Christ-centred, Spirit-led community, touching and transforming lives through holistic worship, healthy body life and passionate outreach.

Autograph on the Book

Before I could listen further, one of the co-authors appeared, wrote something quickly on the new book, pushed it into my hands and rushed off. I quickly opened the book to read his hand-written note. It was a prayer for revival. However, before I could read any further, I woke up.

I immediately pleaded with God to let me go back to sleep and continue the dream so that I could finish reading the important hand-written note. However, I could not get back to sleep.

The Message of the Dream

At that time, I was not sure about the message of the dream. But I sense that we stood at a crucial point of time that can change the future of our church. Our church celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, 2019. This dream could be an affirmation that the Lord was spurring us to chart our future.

If we discern and listen to the Lord, what seems impossible will become possible. It might involve removing barriers due to working in silos so as to work as one. It might also be related to the use of technology, something impacting our nation and stirring revival.

Novel Coronavirus Outbreak

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Mr Tan Gee Paw, a Christian leader, was seeking the Lord about the meaning of the outbreak. He heard the Lord saying that He has pressed the pause button on China and also the church in Asia. His message to the churches was that, *"We must pause to listen to Him, for time is fast running on."*

"Lord, let this trial not be wasted," was the prayer of Senior Pastor Vincent Choo of The Life Church and Missions Singapore. The Life Church and Missions Singapore was the first church being identified with a COVID-19 cluster.

Echoing the same idea was a Chinese article circulated online, supposedly written by a Christian in China, entitled 'Don't waste this epidemic [不要浪費這種流行病]'. The first point the writer made was, *"If you do not believe that the epidemic is allowed by God, you will waste the epidemic. Everything happens with the permission of God. As God did not immediately stop the spread of the virus, He must have a higher and better purpose."*

COVID-19: Beat the Virus but Miss Out on the Purpose?

Our church has implemented safety measures to fight this outbreak and organised some forms of appreciation to encourage the frontline healthcare workers and the support staff. These are good and noteworthy actions.

All of us are hoping for COVID-19 to go away quickly, and for our lives to return to normalcy. If it is a pause from God, it will soon be over and lives move on as usual. But, will we miss the purpose the Lord has intended for us in this crisis? Could this be one of God-given opportunities to chart our future? Perhaps we can take time to pause and reflect before the Lord the purpose of us coming together as a church, the way we do church and make disciples.

Will you and I be co-authors of the book the Lord wants us to write in His next edition of our church? May we be found being united as one, loving one another and faithful as disciples of Christ in making disciples (Jn 17:20-21, 13:34-35 & Mt 28:18-20).



Colossians 1:6-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✝ CPC- Health Workers Initiatives

We would like to thank all Covenantors who contributed a total of \$4,257.20 to the CPC-Health Workers Initiatives. This money will be used to purchase drinks and wellness items for all the frontline and supporting staff at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) at Tan Tock Seng Hospital as a token of appreciation for their tireless effort to fight COVID-19 in Singapore.

✝ We are looking for volunteers to help out at temperature screening station for the upcoming weeks.

There are 3 timeslots available:

- 830 to 1030 am
- 1030 am to 1230 pm
- 1230 pm to 230 pm

Please sign up with Lionel Neo at 9736 5245 or Jenny Ho at 9789 4895 if you are able to help out.

✝ Church Camp 2020!

Date : **27 Nov - 1 Dec 2020**

Camp Speaker: Joseph Chean

Stay tuned for more exciting details coming soon.



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Pastoral Staff

Rev Keith Lai	8298 2171
Rev Abel Lee	9678 3205
Rev Henry Wong	9680 0679
Rev Christina Ong	9697 3911
Ps Lai Mui Fong	8183 3394
Pr Chin Yoke Fen	9247 9377
Pr Lionel Neo	9736 5245
Pr Keith Wong	9295 2452
Ps Susantha	8397 6351

Sri Lankan Service

Rev Christina Ong	9697 3911
Ps Susantha	8397 6351

Chinese Service

Rev Abel Lee	9678 3205
Pr Chin Yoke Fen	9247 9377

CareWorks Community Services

Rev Abel Lee	9678 3205
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Gladiolus Place

Michelle Tan	6348 5674
<i>Head Of Home</i>	

Ministry Team Leaders

Missions

Ho Chung Tat	9736 2690
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Creche

Kong Soh Lian	9179 0263
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Children

Jeremy Png	9006 4264
Andrew Lim	9737 7303
Zheng Shao Kai	9109 3835

GB / BB

Pr Neo Shi Wei	9736 5245
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Hospitality

Jenny Ho	9789 4895
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Youth and Young Adult (YaYA)

Pr Keith Wong	9295 2452
Audrey Wong	9126 5329

Freedom & Wholeness

Alfred & Jenny Koay	9856 8733
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Worship

Ryan Kong	9752 9260
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Chinese Seniors Alpha Course

Pr Chin Yoke Fen	9247 9377
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Day Alone with the Lord

Ps Lai Mui Fong	8183 3394
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Worship Time

English Services	9am & 11am
Chinese Service	9.30am
Chinese Saturday Service	10am
Sri Lankan Service	2pm
Discovery Group (English)	9.30am - 11am
Sunday School for K1 to P6	11am - 12.30pm
Crèche for Nursery & below	11am - 12.30pm
Youth & Young Adult Fellowship	11.30am - 1.30pm