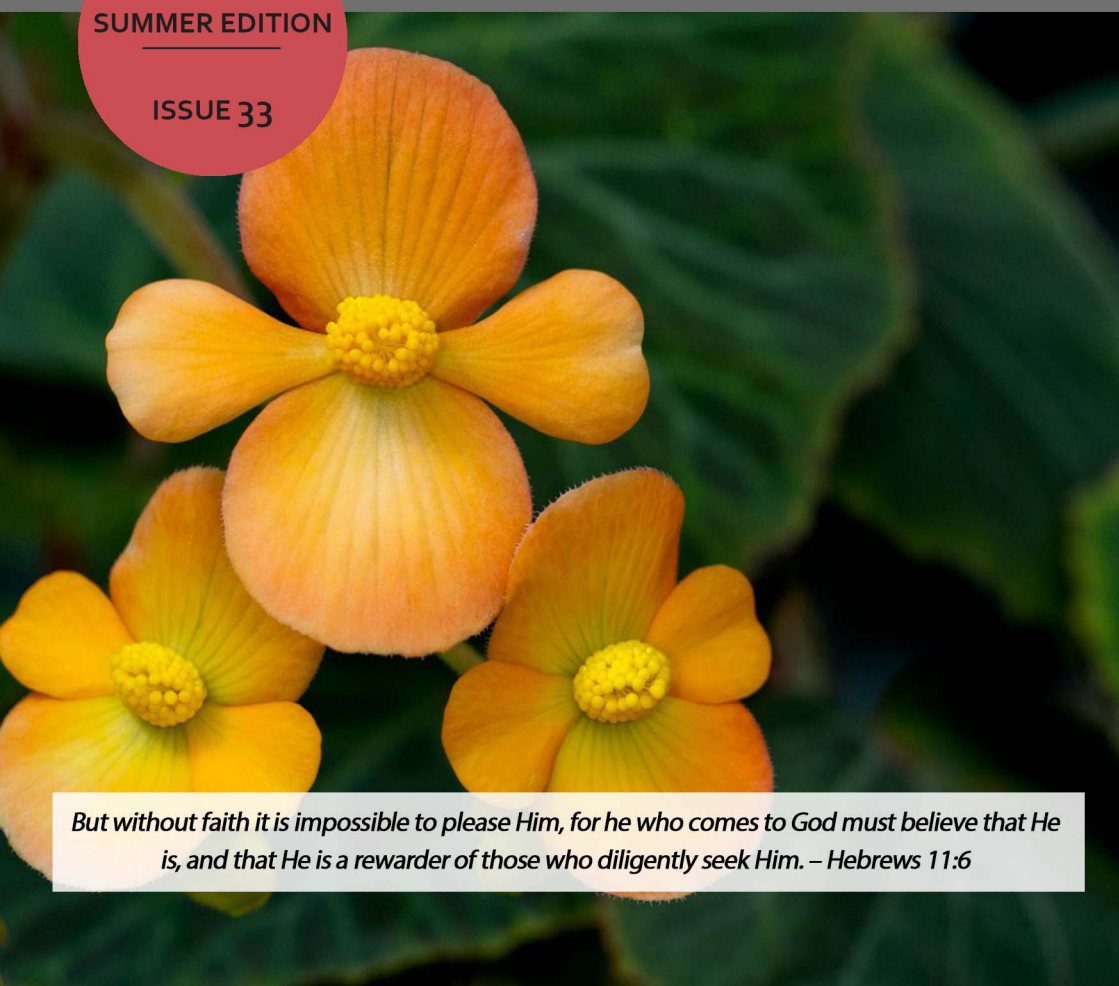


# reach

SUMMER EDITION

ISSUE 33



*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. – Hebrews 11:6*

# CHURCH locations and programs

## Central:

2/177 Beavers Road  
Northcote VIC 3070  
Tel: (03) 9481 6889  
Senior Pastor: Victor Soo  
Email: info@reachcc.org

## West:

Community Hub  
Featherbrook College  
281 Boardwalk Blvd  
Point Cook VIC 3030  
Pastor: Ajibade A. Aibinu  
Website: reachcc.org

## CHURCH SERVICE

- Celebration Service • Sunday | Central Church 10:00am - 11:30am  
Fellowship Lunch 11:30am - 12:30pm  
• Sunday | West Church 4:00pm - 5:30pm  
Fellowship Dinner 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
REACH Kids • Sunday | 10:30am - 11:30am

## PRAYER MEETING

- Monthly Ministry & Prayer 1st Friday of the Month | 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Intercessory Prayer Tuesday | 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
via Zoom, please contact our office for further information.

## BIBLE STUDY

- Young Adults • Wednesday | 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
University & Youth Groups • Friday | 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Family • Monday | 8pm - 10pm  
Friday | 7.30pm - 9.30pm

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- STEP Classes • Sunday 12:45pm - 1:45pm  
Mothers' Group • Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday | 10am - 12pm  
Men and Women's Ministry Events • Quarterly  
Praise Dance / Table Tennis • Thursday | 10am - 12pm  
Ukulele for beginners • Thursday | 1pm - 2pm

# WELCOME

Welcome to the 33rd issue of REACH. This is deliberately a “weighty” issue, with more messages than images. As 2023 comes to an end, let us reflect on our faith. Are we offering to God True Worship that Pleases God? Have we succumbed to the Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age? Let our mind be blown by God's Miracles beyond Imagination, our life Empowered by the Holy Spirit, and He be An Anchor for My Soul.



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# True worship that pleases God

Reach / Summer 2023

**H**ebrews 12:18-24 *For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow." And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*

In Exodus 20, we have the record of the ten commandments. Exodus 19 was the setting for the original context of the giving of the ten commandments where God descended to His holy mountain and called the mediator of the old covenant Moses to come into the clouds to speak to Him. But before this, God instructed them to set a boundary around the base of Mount Sinai, which they were not to transgress. The people were not even allowed to come to the base of the mountain unless they went through three days of extensive purification.

The author of Hebrews starts off by telling us what New Testament worship is not. Notice verse 18, "For you have not come ..." We do not come to Mount Sinai where God required the people of Israel to come and where He gave the ten commandments. The mountain burnt with fire and was marked by blackness, darkness, and tempest, and the author says that is not where we go to worship.



### 1. The locus of corporate worship

So where do we worship? In verse 22, "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem to an innumerable company of angels". Notice the present perfect tense, it is already a reality, an accomplished truth; at the same time, it is also an experience of the present. The author is describing what has been accomplished and is still true of us as the church now.

When we come together in corporate worship we transition from the earthly to the heavenly. If we are in Jesus Christ and Christ is in us, we enjoy a mystical union with Him and with all who are in Him.

First, all that the locus of worship is heaven.

### 2. The participants of this worship

Who are the participants of this worship? The author of Hebrews says, "an innumerable company of angels", a countless number of angels. Myriads of angels worshipping the Lord.

The people in the Old Testament saw the smoke and the mountain, but we go to the Heavenly Holy of Holies, which right now remain invisible to us.

We come to the general assembly of the church of the first born who are registered in heaven, we come to the Almighty God. We come into the presence of Jesus Christ.

We have a friend in Jesus, and He invites us to call Him friend. We are justified, have peace with God and have access into His presence. We are invited to come boldly into His presence. The invitation to come boldly is not an invitation to come arrogantly. If Jesus was to walk into your room now, you would not say, "Hey Jesus, good to see you buddy." You would be on your face, in awe, in joy, and in wonder.

### 3. The demeanour of faith

New Covenant worship "beats" that of Abel. In Genesis 4:3-5, we see two brothers: one is a herdsman, Abel; and the other a farmer, Cain. One brings from his livestock, the other from his produce. One gives his offering, God respects, accepts, and is pleased by it. The other presents his offering and God has no respect for it, rejects it, and is not pleased by it.

Before we ask why He accepts Abel's offering but rejects Cain's offering, the first thing we learn from this text is that God does not accept all worship offered to Him.

So what was the difference between Cain and Abel's offerings? In Genesis 4, we see that there was something in Cain's heart attitude that made his offering unacceptable to God. And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted?" (Genesis 4:6-7)

## ● Reach Message

6

Abel had the proper heart attitude, and brought the firstborn of his flock. Hebrews 11:4 tells us, "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain." We see that Abel's offering was offered by faith. And Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Abel's offering was the sacrifice of praise to God that was offered in faith, and the other was not in faith. Cain's offering was not a loyal faithful response of worship.

In addition, Christ's blood speaks better things than the blood of Abel. Christ's blood speaks of forgiveness and pardon. Christ's blood speaks of grace and mercy. What an incredible privilege as a believer in Jesus. We can now draw near to God, we can come to God, and we can do so without fear. It is about relationship, about "nearness" and "dearness", and the unparalleled joy and peace that comes from experiencing the kind of relational intimacy with our Redeemer!

We are to worship God in spirit and in truth; worshipping Him from the deepest chambers of our souls, from our heart, not from the flesh, not from the surface.

### 4. The depth dimension of worship

The depth dimension of worship is found in the word "glory". When we come together to worship God, we come to ascribe Him GLORY.

The word "glory" comes from the Latin word "gloria", which takes us back to the Hebrew "Kavod". The root of this word means "weightiness" or "heaviness". Not weightiness in physical terms, but weightiness in terms of dignity, majesty, holiness. We use the word "weighty" or "heavy" in the same metaphorical manner when we hear a speaker speak something deep or profound. We say, "That was heavy". When someone ignores us or deals with us in a superficial way, we say, "They took us lightly." Is the one we are worshipping light or heavy? Is our worship light or heavy?

When we worship, we come into His presence. We come boldly because we are justified. We come with a solemnity and joy, born of reverence, adoration, awe, love, and gratitude to God. We come to give Him all the Honour, Glory and Adoration!

*Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,  
And to present you faultless  
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,  
To God our Savior,  
Who alone is wise,  
Be glory and majesty,  
Dominion and power,  
Both now and forever.*

*Amen*

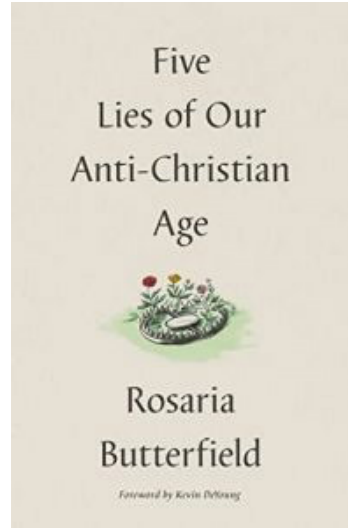
*- Jude 1:24-25*

# Five Lies of Our Anti-Christian Age

Author: Rosaria Butterfield  
Reviewed by Bill Muehlenberg

**See his full review here:**

<https://billmuehlenberg.com/2023/10/05/a-review-of-five-lies-of-our-anti-christian-age-by-rosaria-butterfield/>



The five lies that Rosaria focuses on in her book are:

- Homosexuality is normal.
- Being a spiritual person is kinder than being a biblical Christian.
- Feminism is good for the world and the church.
- Transgenderism is normal.
- Modesty is an outdated burden that serves male dominance and holds women back.

Butterfield reminds us that the real way to love our enemies is by telling them the truth, that is biblical love in action. For example, those who are trapped in the harmful homosexual lifestyle desperately need to be told that they do not have to be homosexual.

Consider the first and fourth lies that she covers. Neither homosexuality nor transgenderism are part of God's creational order. They are results of the fall, and the Christian is called to resist sin and the effects of the fall, not submit to them and regard them as normal.

The world – and worldly Christians – tell us we must embrace who we think we are. They say we must “navigate” our homosexuality or affirm our “preferred” gender. But God wants to equip us to resist sin and affirm who He made us to be.

**A**nd as with so many who embrace these lies, having a short memory (having no historical awareness) contributes greatly to this. Butterfield reminds us that the secular concept of sexual orientation is quite recent. She says that it “began in the nineteenth century”. You will not find the concept of sexual orientation in the Bible. Instead, the Bible locates sexuality in the creation ordinance as a covenant between one man and one woman. “One man and one woman” can be covered by the word heterosexuality and reflects the goodness of God’s creation. Biblical sexuality is natural, God-blessed and procreative. The goodness of heterosexuality is found in our unique and distinct biology as men and women and the procreative power God gives, while its holiness is found in the covenant of marriage. In contrast, homosexuality is unnatural, sinful, and barren.”

That one even needs to state such obvious realities, and pen a whole book about them, shows just how far our culture has slipped, and how far the churches have embraced lies and spurned biblical truth. And the problem with historical – and biblical – amnesia is also clearly evident in those confused Christians who embrace the trans delusion. Says Butterfield:

“Transgenderism is such a new concept that the 1973 Oxford English Dictionary that sits open on my desk has no entry for it. The word came into existence in 1974 as an adjective referring to ‘persons whose sense of personal identity does not correspond with their anatomical sex.’ This term combines two older words. The first is trans, which means ‘to bring across or over, to transfer, to cause to cross, to extend across, or to convert.’ The second is gender. Until the twentieth century, gender meant being male, female, or neuter. It wasn’t until 1963 that gender began to refer to social attributes that differ from biological sex.”

We must speak the truth to those caught up in the lies of the trans world – not to do so leaves them in a world of pain and ruin:

“Believing things that aren’t true is a sin that leads people into further sin. Eve’s sin in the garden was believing a lie. Obviously anyone identifying as transgendered is living in some state of confusion and pain. But asking people in pain to define their own problem without stable, objective standards is the height of irresponsibility and cruelty. This has wrecked the lives of countless teenage girls, families, workplaces, and schools (just to name a few of the casualties).”



Given that modern feminism also refuses to accept the creational order instituted by God, as with the above errors, let me offer just one quote from Butterfield on this matter:

“Early on in my Christian life as I was struggling with the relationship between feminism and the bible, I found myself meditating on the pattern and design of creation. God used Psalm 72 to help me see it. One Lord’s Day in church we sang, “Long as the sun and moon are known, they’ll fear you through the ages all.” How do the sun and moon fear God? By fulfilling their creational design. The sun doesn’t wonder if it is the moon. The moon doesn’t think that perhaps it will wake up tomorrow as the sun. The design of the sun and moon is as plain as day and night. And for the sun and the moon to fulfill their design, they must do the work that matches the nature.”

**I**n dealing with these various lies, Butterfield brings plenty of biblical, historical and intellectual firepower to bear on the mass deception we find everywhere. And her aim is not just to win arguments with non-believers, but to set people free from their bondage, delusion and false beliefs. And she wants this just as much for Christians caught up in all this as non-Christians.

But just as Jesus warned us, being willing to speak truth to those caught up in lies, sin and deception will not be easy. It will be costly. But true love is always costly. As she writes:

“God calls us to live our Christian lives with courage, tell the truth, and fear God and not man. Can we with Jesus sing Psalm 118:6: ‘The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?’

I know. You can think of a long list of things the world can do to you. Your son, who calls himself Julie, won’t talk to you. You will be fired from your job if you don’t put a rainbow sticker on your door. Your neighbours will hate you when they learn that you believe in the God of the Bible. All of this may be true, and still this verse calls us to put things in perspective, specifically the Lord’s perspective as seen in Hebrews 11, where we see firsthand that God uses our faith whether we live or die.”

# An Anchor for My Soul

By Gregory Tanyi

In the beginning of 2018, I made a significant move from Cameroon to Melbourne to pursue my postgraduate studies, a decision that marked the most substantial change in my life. Recognizing the magnitude of this transformation, I prepared as best I could for the transition, familiarising myself with Aussie slangs and acquiring the necessary gear for Melbourne's four-season weather. Despite the inevitable nervousness stemming from the uncertainties ahead, I wholeheartedly embraced the challenge of living far away from home, family, and the familiarity of my comfort zone.

Shortly after settling in Melbourne, I joined the Reach Community Church. This decision profoundly influenced my first year in Melbourne, by providing me with God-fearing and friendly peers in the university cell group, easing the process of acclimation. It also played a pivotal role in nurturing my faith, reinforcing the understanding that nothing under God's control ever spirals out of control. I experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance in directing my steps, leading me to excel in my master's program and subsequently enroll in a Ph.D. program at the University of Melbourne.

The first half of the Ph.D. journey was marked by both excitement and challenges, exacerbated by disruptions caused by COVID-19 pandemic that impacted my project plans. The extended lockdown periods, which made being away from family more challenging, added an extra layer of difficulty. Amidst these trials, the online church cell group meetings emerged as a significant source of encouragement. Experiencing the love of God during extended periods of isolation underscored the importance of navigating life alongside peers, with God at the center of those relationships.

Just after the lockdown period and roughly midway through my Ph.D., I secured a part-time position with the expectation that it would transition into a full-time role upon the completion of my doctoral studies. Initially, this appeared to be a well-thought-out plan, offering a seamless shift from academia to the industry and the chance to collaborate with a global company based in Melbourne. However, the smooth progress of this plan hit an unexpected hurdle in the final four months of my Ph.D., when my employer informed me that they could not renew my contract due to a recently instituted hiring freeze, with no clear timeline for when the freeze would be lifted. The news left me genuinely devastated

particularly because most engineering companies were not hiring due to the global economic challenges post COVID pandemic.

The very night I received the disheartening news, I had a dream in which I was reminded of the scripture in **Jeremiah 10:23**: *“O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”* Around the same time, several lessons in our cell group highlighted Jesus as the light of the world and the Word of God as a light to our paths and a lamp to our feet. This not only lifted my spirit in the months leading up to the conclusion of my thesis but, more importantly, imparted a profound lesson on the significance of discerning God’s voice, especially during stormy seasons. Through this challenging period, I encountered God as a steadfast rock, providing security in the midst of storms, a generous provider meeting my needs, a caring father understanding what is best for me, and a guiding shepherd navigating me through the intricacies of life.

This ushered in a season of profound clarity and peace as I placed my complete dependence on God for guidance during a pivotal phase of my life. A few months later, I successfully submitted my Ph.D. thesis and was offered a position at CSIRO Brisbane to spearhead a new research direction, aligning with the specialisation of my Ph.D.

Reflecting on that challenging period, it became a lesson in trusting God, with my hope in Him being an anchor for my soul. Looking back on my journey in Australia, I am reminded that nothing under God’s control goes out of control. I am also filled with gratitude for the Reach Community Church community who have been a source of encouragement for me and have sowed in my life over the past half decade. As I transition into a new phase in life and my career, I do so with hope because He knows what lies ahead. In the face of uncertainty, I find solace in the words of **Psalms 32:8**: *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.”*



# Miracles beyond imagination



**By Sajita Rajbhandari | RCC – West Church**

God has blessed me with many miracles. He has been so faithful to me and my family, well beyond my imagination, I hope this testimony will give glory to God.

One of the miracles in my life is that God answered my prayer to know Him personally and to understand my purpose in this life. Before I accepted Jesus Christ as my saviour, I did not have a sense of His presence in my life, and I did not know how to help my daughters, Saina and Shea, to know Christ personally. This was and will always be my top prayer: that He will always guide me and my children to know Him deeply.

God always hears me and answers my prayers. He is a good God. He is my only God who has never left nor forsaken me. He always guides and leads me. I have come to understand that His answer is not always straight forward. When we go through various forms of storm, He will help us through it. God knows the best for us. The journey to our prayer may seem long, but God knows the best time and the season.

## **Trusting God despite uncertainties**

Like every parent, I always wanted my kids to have a good education. At the same time, I worried about how to keep them in a Christian environment that aligns with God's Word. It is especially hard being a single mother. I had many sleepless nights thinking about that. I often felt helpless, but not hopeless, because the Holy Spirit was leading me.

In 2022, I had to decide a school for my daughter Saina. It was a traumatic experience as Saina was facing challenges in the public school she attended. After much prayers and trusting God for the best, I decided to change school for her. I chose Heathdale Christian College (HCC) because it was a school that aligns with God's Word. But I was stressed because of the finances involved in a private school. I readied myself to work extra hours to cover the cost. The other challenge was that my youngest daughter Shea was 4 years old and not in school full-time, I had restricted time that I could work. Trusting God, I filled out the application form for HCC for Saina. Unfortunately, the school did not have a spot for her in 2023. When I received the email, I asked God to help me to understand His plan.

In November 2022, Saina kept asking me about school for the following year. With time, Shea also started asking me if she could go to HCC with her sister in the future. I felt guilty as I knew it was going to be very hard to send both of them to private school. By December, the clock was ticking, I decided to stretch my faith. I have the confidence that God knows what He is doing for His children. I asked my kids to pray that they could get a spot in HCC. After praying every night for a week or so, it clicked in my mind that I was teaching my children the wrong thing. I should not tempt them, but should tell them that whatever school they go to will be God's blessings. I felt reassured that the Holy Spirit was teaching me the fruit of the Spirit: patience, peace and joy, even when it seemed nothing was working in our life. We trusted God for our need, but everything was silent. I continued to trust God that He will provide.

### **The opening of door**

God continued to teach me about patience and how to rejoice even when our prayer is not answered. During a cell group celebration last year, Pastor AJ's wife, Kemi, who is the co-ordinator of the kindergarten department at HCC, approached me and asked me if I want to work in the kindergarten at HCC. I laughed like crazy and replied, "Of course! I would love to." Kemi added, "If you join the college, Saina can get a spot being a child of the staff." At that moment I knew that it was God's plan and I just rejoiced. Kemi told me that my working hours would not be many as it was a casual job, and suggested that I should not depend on this income. I just said, "It is done. It is His plan for me to join HCC so Saina can get into the school."

The interview for the job was a three-step interview. I was nervous but I rejoiced in His miracles that were yet to be fulfilled. I prayed for His mercy, guidance and wisdom in my life. As Shea was with me most of the time, she felt my pain, and one night she prayed, "God, help my mommy to get in Heathdale." Amazingly, the next day I got a call that I was selected.

However, I did not have a secured job and Saina was still waiting to get into the school. I continued to rejoice and give thanks to God. It was close to the start of term one in 2023, that I finally received a call that Saina got in.

### **A miraculous provision**

We were happy. But another challenge was driving back and forth between school and home. At the time, Shea attended 3-year-old kindergarten two days per week, for 5 hrs. I found it very hard to drive as I never drove more than 10 minutes from my place. Now I had to drive early morning to drop off Saina and Shea at the same time. I was exhausted, and it did not allow me time to find a suitable job. I cried few times when I was driving because I could not drive in the right lane and missed my way few times. I cried and missed my husband that time. Again, God comforted me. Many times I felt that someone was holding my steering wheel and I was just sitting on the driver's seat. Glory to God for where I am today.

**G**od continued to work far beyond our imagination. He is a miracle worker. I decided to move from Seabrook to somewhere closer to HCC. We struggled to find a good house but finally, we got a house that God had planned for us, at the right time. During this transition, I received an offer from HCC for a full-time casual position. They wanted me to start as soon as possible, and the date they gave me was the next day of us moving to the new house.

Finally, Saina and I were settled for our school and job.

### **Another door opening**

The day I finished my orientation at work and went to say goodbye to Kemi, I could not forget what I heard from her. She told me that someone had pulled out from the kinder, so there was a spot for Shea. Can you believe this? I could not control my emotions, knowing how our Father looked after us, not one, not two, but three of us got into HCC. I asked God to provide a good Christian environment and school for my kids, but He showed me that I deserve to enjoy His kingdom and to know Him more deeply than I had imagined.

Another great thing was no fee for Shea this year because it was government-funded. The fee will only start from next year.

### A providential miracle

**N**ow the biggest miracle is that a few weeks ago, Pastor AJ and Kemi informed me that someone, who does not want to be named, had told them that they want to sponsor Shea for her studies at HCC. How great is our God that when we follow Him, He takes us to a great place that we cannot even imagine. When I heard this news, I was speechless. God is good. Nothing is impossible for Him. Our God is a great God who holds us in His hand. In every problem there is a blessing. Rather than leaning on our own understanding, give thanks to Him. Even though our heart and mind can deceive us, and create doubt, our Father will never leave nor forsake us. He loves us unconditionally, even sacrificed the life of His Son for our sin. I want to thank God for this church family in our lives, for all the support from the beginning till now. I would like to thank Pastor AJ and Kemi for praying and blessing us every time we are in need. To God be the glory.

How great is our God that when we follow Him, He takes us to a great place that we cannot even imagine.





# Empowered by the Holy Spirit

By Lee Chyi Lam

**D**uring my recent overseas trip, I read a fascinating book *Word and Spirit Together*, by Pastor David Pawson. In the book, Pawson emphasised the importance of both the Word of God and the Holy Spirit working in the life of individual Christian and corporate church. The book instilled a great desire in me to be more Spirit-led in my life. I prayed to God earnestly that I would experience more of the Holy Spirit in my life, and be able to exercise the gift of the Holy Spirit supernaturally, beyond my limited imagination, beyond my limited skill and knowledge.

## **Opportunity given**

God gives us the opportunity when we ask in faith! Soon after I returned from the overseas trip, my mum was admitted to the hospital with small bowel obstruction. She had the same problem multiple times in the past. The first time she suffered from it, she needed a major surgery, and about 10 cm of her bowel was resected. The more recent one at the beginning of 2023, the obstruction resolved spontaneously within 24 hours of her admission to the hospital.



**T**his time, when my mum was in the hospital, she had to wait in the Emergency Department for a bed to be available on the surgical ward. While she was in ED, she developed cardiac arrhythmia (irregular heart rate) which required medical treatment. As a result, she had to stay in ED longer than expected because the treatment of her arrhythmia had to take precedence over her small bowel obstruction. Praise God that her arrhythmia resolved quickly with the medical treatment.

After being in the hospital for two days, she was still in significant pain from her bowel obstruction, which did not resolve spontaneously within 24 hours this time. When I visited her with my dad the second evening she was in the hospital, the surgeon came to check on her, he told us that if my mum still had not opened her bowel the next morning, he would operate on her to unblock her bowel.

### **Prayer answered**

I was deeply troubled by the news. For my mum's age, it would be a tough ordeal to undergo a major surgery. My dad was there and he happened to have a bottle of ointment, similar to the "Tiger Balm" used by many Asians for all sort of ailment. He took it out and asked me to rub it onto my mum's abdomen. Suddenly, something came to my mind. I had been asking God to give me the opportunity to exercise spiritual gift supernaturally. God had given me the opportunity, all I have to do is to ask in faith.

Without hesitation, I took the ointment and rubbed it on my mum's abdomen. As I did, I prayed silently and repeatedly to God, "God, please use my hand to heal my mum, right now. As I'm rubbing this on her abdomen, please unblock the bowel, any point that needs to be opened up." I also quietly praised Him and worshipped Him as I prayed.

## **God gives us the answer when we ask in faith!**

After rubbing the ointment on my mum's abdomen, my dad prayed, and we left the hospital. Within an hour, my mum rang and told us that she had opened her bowel. It came so quickly and so excessive that she could not get to the toilet in time. The nurse had to clean her up, and she could only ring us after all the clean-up. In fact, her bowel opened very soon after we left the hospital and the prayer.

### Lessons learnt

This experience impressed three important lessons upon me. Firstly, our skills and knowledge may fail us, but God does not fail us. As a medical doctor, I am trained in my vocation to make people well. However, that night, when my mum was unwell, my skills and knowledge could not help her. I was utterly helpless. But through the prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit, not only that my mum was healed instantly and completely, God answered my prayer and healed her after I asked desperately for her to be healed through my hand, supernaturally.

**S**econdly, I was blessed because I asked. It is very possible that God intended to heal my mum regardless of my prayer. But because I asked, when she was healed, I was doubly blessed – the blessing of her healing, and the blessing of answered prayer.



**T**hirdly, when I referred back to the book *Word and Spirit Together*, I read this sentence that I highlighted: “The Bible is the living word of the living God to living people – to be lived out.” It dawned on me that the only way to live out the living word of the living God is by the help of the Holy Spirit. The outward evidence of living out the Word of God is: 1) through exercising the Spiritual gifts, and 2) by producing the Spiritual fruit. Both are important. The power of the Holy Spirit empowers us to exercise the Spiritual gifts supernaturally, while the love of the Holy Spirit empowers us to produce the Spiritual fruit sincerely.



**2 Timothy 1:7** *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **power** and of **love** and of a sound mind.*

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (ESV)** *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who **empowers** them all in everyone.*

**Galatians 5:22-26 (AMP)** *But the fruit of the Spirit [the result of His presence within us] is love [unselfish concern for others], joy, [inner] peace, patience [not the ability to wait, but how we act while waiting], kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature together with its passions and appetites. If we [claim to] live by the [Holy] Spirit, we must also walk by the Spirit [with personal integrity, godly character, and moral courage – our conduct **empowered** by the Holy Spirit]. We must not become conceited, challenging or provoking one another, envying one another.*

reach | exalt  
community church | equip  
extend

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All the bible verses quoted are in the New King  
James Version (NKJV) unless otherwise specified.

