

MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
(MCF)  
SINGAPORE

50<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY



1970 - 2020

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MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
(MCF)  
SINGAPORE



**50 Years of Strengthening Christian Fellowship  
in the Military Service**

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## INTRODUCTION

The theme for 2020 in conjunction with MCF's Golden Jubilee is "The Year of Family and Prayer".

Our aim is to celebrate this joyous occasion as One MCF Family and to pray for our Nation and the SAF.

In mid-Jan 2020, the MCF Council met to deliberate on the 50th Anniversary's commemorative gift. The idea was to have a personal devotion and prayer book that would be purposeful and frequently used even by our future generation.

In the same vein, this gift would serve as a collective contribution from MCF family to MCF.

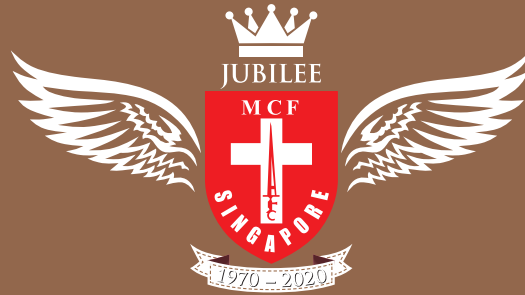
A total of fifty prayer devotions representing 50 victorious years of God's faithfulness towards the ministry of MCF was conceived and set as the target.

By God's grace, during the Covid-19's circuit breaker, the devotions were duly contributed by our MCFers and partners as well as selected from different sources.

Above all, this commemorative book pays tribute to God and to our pioneers and faithful servants for their unstinting service towards the Lord's people in the military.

May this book inspire every reader to continue in fervent prayer and good works across our Nation, SAF and families in the years ahead.





# PART ONE

VISION AND MISSION OF MCF

THE MCF LOGO

THE FOUNDING OF MCF

THE MINISTRY OF MCF

GLOBAL NETWORK OF AMCF

OUR PARTNERING CHURCHES

FORMER LOCATIONS OF MCF OFFICE AND CHAPEL

FORMER MCF CHAIRMEN, MINISTRY STAFF AND CHAPLAINS

MINISTRY CONTRIBUTION

CONTACT US

*Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*

*1 Timothy 6:12 (NIV)*

## VISION OF MCF

**EVERY CHRISTIAN SOLDIER IS A BROTHER FIRST  
AND A LIGHT BEFORE MEN ALWAYS.**

### BROTHER

1. A brother watches over his fellow brother-in-Christ.
2. He is accountable for his well-being and desires to see him successful.
3. He is a pillar of strength and a prayer partner through different seasons.



### LIGHT

1. The Christian soldier is morally excellent, praiseworthy and noble.
2. This is how he shines: that his good deeds bring honour, praise and glory to God.
3. He is placed on a lampstand and does not need to hide away his faith.

## MISSION OF MCF

**TO STRENGTHEN FELLOWSHIP AMONG CHRISTIANS  
WITH A MILITARY BACKGROUND.**

### SERVE

The Body of Christ across  
Churches, Schools  
and Campuses



### BRIDGE

Bridging the 'Student to Soldier'  
transition.  
Equipping pre-enlistees to be  
aligned to God's purposes  
during NS

### DISCIPLE

MCF adds value by  
strengthening Christian NSF/  
Regulars across camps and  
churches, providing helpful  
NS-related Christian resources  
and training

## THE MCF LOGO



### THE MCF LOGO

The MCF logo has its significance as represented by the following elements:

#### THE SHIELD

The Shield represents defence. In Bible term, it is the Shield of Faith which can be used to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil ones. The colour chosen for the shield is RED which symbolizes the blood of Christ.

#### MCF

The initials of Military Christian Fellowship.

#### CROSS

The Cross represents the spiritual battle of which Christians are called to fight. The battle has already begun from the beginning and won in Christ. Our duty is to claim by faith in Christ.

#### SWORD

The Sword represents authority and fighting capabilities which in Bible terms is the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. The design of the sword incorporates the initials of its original name Armed Forces Committee (AFC) and it is kept to this day.

#### SINGAPORE

The word "SINGAPORE" represents our unique position in relation to the other MCFs worldwide.

#### STANDARDS

In order to give significance to the name of MCF and its LOGO, the Council has decided to use the colour Red (Pentone Red 32) for its LOGO and Royal Blue for its background as depicted in the picture on the left with the MCF motto.



*We believe with great conviction  
that our primary ministry is where  
the Lord has placed us.*



## THE FOUNDING OF MCF



**MCF is where it is now only because of the honorable efforts and achievements of many godly men and women. Rev Dr Patrick Tan was our Founder and first Chaplain of MCF Singapore. He heard God's call to him to start MCF and began to rally others around him in accordance to Rev 3:8 (NIV), "I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name."**

*(A word from our Founder, excerpt from Onwards Soldiers, 1st Quarter 1995)*

Brethren in Jesus Christ, friends, ladies and gentlemen; my name is Patrick Tan. I am a retired Lieutenant-Colonel of the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and a medical doctor by profession. It is my pleasant duty to introduce to you the founding of the Military Christian Fellowship of Singapore.

On August 9th 1965, Singapore became an independent nation. It was clear that we needed an armed forces of our own. Full-time national service began in 1967. At that time, two men began to pray for a Christian witness to the soldiers in the SAF. They were Mr Tom Hamblin of the Sandes Soldiers Home and the late Mr Gerald McClelland of SASRA (Serving Airmen Scripture Readers Association). I was enlisted in February 1968 and posted to the People's Defence Force at Beach Road Camp. I became acquainted with the trauma of soldiers, especially the trauma of Christian soldiers. God gave me a verse from Revelation 3:8, "Behold I have set before thee an open door and no man can shut it. For thou has a little strength, and has kept my word, and has not denied my name." I began to look for Christians and in a year's time, I found over two hundred of them.

## MCF'S AFFILIATION

*The MCF is a committee of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students. MCF also nurtures a cordial relationship with local churches through its members.*

On January 1st 1970, 43 officers and men met together to launch a Christian Fellowship for servicemen. Our attempt to register it as a Society in the next two years failed. In sympathy and conviction, my good friend, Dr Bobby Sng, General-Secretary of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) offered to affiliate our fellowship as the Armed Forces Committee (AFC) of the FES. It was the moving of the Spirit. As prayer warriors were at work, small groups of Christian servicemen and women started to gather together for fellowship and bible-study.

In 1972, an aircraft technician was referred to me with a drug abuse problem. I led him to Christ and when he was committed to detention, I promised to look him up there. Thus began the Tanglin Detention Barrack Saturday Ministry. Many detainees were brought to Christ and several were baptized.

In 1970, I attended the Officers' Christian Union Conference in Kassel, Germany. The Christian soldiers of many nations cordially received the AFC of Singapore into the world body. In 1975, and again in 1985, members of the AFC were represented at the International Conferences of the Association of Military Christian Fellowship (AMCF).

The Lord continued to bless this ministry. In 1980, AFC changed its name to the present **MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**, which reflects its ministry more appropriately.

The MCF then adopted the motto: **"We believe with great conviction that our primary ministry is where the Lord has placed us"** and its operation is based upon the tenets of evangelical faith on an inter-denominational basis.

## THE MINISTRY OF MCF

*“Let not the Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) forget God and the lessons of history. God has called many men and women of faith and zeal to serve in the MCF. We must not forget their contributions. Most importantly we must give thanks to God for His infallible Word. The Holy Bible alone is the foundation of our faith and therefore upon the truth of Scripture was both the Church and the MCF built. We must never tire in doing the Lord’s business.”*

*(Excerpt from Dr Patrick’s speech during MCF’s 25th Anniversary in 1995)*

**The ministry of MCF Singapore** was inaugurated in 1970 with the aim of providing Christian witness to service personnel in the SAF. Over time, the ministry of MCF was extended to detainees in the SAF Detention Barracks, MINDEF civilian staff, and families of MCF volunteers and their friends. MCF’s Ministry primarily revolves around fellowship with Christian service personnel, emphasising spiritual growth through prayer, discipleship and worship. All leaders of MCF are expected to be service-oriented just as Christ was when He was on earth. This is inspired by God’s Word as contained in Matthew 20:27 (KJV):

**“Whosoever will be Chief among you, let him be your servant.”**

Hospitality is another aspect of MCF’s ministry in which we place great importance. We receive foreign visitors, both civilians and military personnel who stop by Singapore. These are golden opportunities for us to extend hospitality and show God’s love to fellow overseas brethren-in-Christ.



## GLOBAL NETWORK OF AMCF

MCF Singapore is part of the **Association of Christian Military Fellowships (AMCF)**, which is a global community of military Christian fellowships (MCFs), and individual military and civilian Christians, in over 150 nations. AMCF members encourage and inspire each other in their spiritual growth and service to their nations. With Galatians 3:28 as the motto – **“All one in Christ Jesus”** – AMCF interacts with military believers from all Christian traditions and denominations. AMCF is not aligned with any one nation, and non-political. AMCF simply desires to live our lives in accordance with God’s will, following His path as shown by the life of Jesus Christ, while also serving in our nations’ armed forces. AMCF’s three principal supporting organizations – **Association for Christian Conferences Teaching and Service (ACCTS), Military Ministries International (MMI), Mission Support Organization (MSO)** – play key roles in the growth and development of MCFs worldwide. 2020 marks the 90th anniversary of the AMCF.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.amcf-int.org/>



The current leadership of AMCF as of 1 September 2020 is as follows:

**AMCF President:**

General (Ret) C. Srilal Weerasooriya

**AMCF Vice Presidents:**

**East Africa:**

Brigadier David Wakaalo

**French-speaking Africa:**

Colonel Daniel Njoya

**Southern Africa:**

CAPT (Ret.) Peter Louwrens

**West Africa:**

Group Captain Sunday Igwe

**North America:**

CDR Wilbert Kirton

**Central America:**

Col. Jose Rodriguez

**South America:**

Col. Juan Cabral

**Middle East:**

Brig. Gen. Oumeish

**South Asia:**

Comm. (Ret.) Saleem Mathew

**South East Asia:**

Major General Essell Sariano

**East Asia:**

Lt COL(Ret.) Andrew Tzeng

**North East Europe:**

Lt.Col. Timo Vehvilainen

**South Central Europe:**

Commander (Ret.) Mike Terry

**Pacific:**

Lt.Col. Jamie van Heel

## OUR PARTNERING CHURCHES

The history of partnering churches probably began when the churches utilised the MCF chapels as their temporary premises to conduct their weekly worship services. Some of these churches continued to be partners of MCF even after they have found their own church premises.

Partnering churches serve as an integral part of MCF by supporting the ministry of MCF vis-à-vis the Detention Barracks ministry, pre-NS camp outreach and fulfilling the role of Chaplain when the need arises. These partnering churches serve together with MCF as a Body of Christ without any formal affiliation.

### Anglican Churches



**Bishop Kuan Kim Seng giving the Benediction at MCF Annual Thanksgiving and Prayer Dinner 2017**

### Life United Church



**Pastor Darren Tan, Guest Speaker at MCF Prayer for Nation and SAF 2016**

### 316 Church



**Pastor Ian Toh, 316 Church, Guest Speaker at MCF Annual Thanksgiving and Prayer Dinner 2017**

### Archippus Awakening



**Pastor Henson Lim, Guest Speaker at MCF Annual Thanksgiving and Prayer Dinner 2019**

## FORMER LOCATIONS OF MCF OFFICE AND CHAPEL

Over the years, a number of premises were allocated to MCF by MINDEF/Singapore Land Office (SLA) on the mutual understanding that MCF would help to maintain these premises in good condition until SLA required them back.

The first known MCF office and chapel was a former "Ebenezer Church" sited at 39D, Harding Road. This building was left behind by the British Military, together with the rest of the former CMPB and MINDEF units occupying the Dempsey grounds. The church building is still standing and has been used for commercial purposes.

There were 2 other chapels namely one located adjacent to Tengah Air Base, along Chua Chu Kang road and another located just outside the RSAF Changi Air Base along Loyang Avenue. These 2 chapels were used by the former British servicemen and their families. These buildings are currently leased out to local churches by SLA.

From 2000 to 2005, MCF was allocated a site at 10, Brompton Road, Seletar Airbase. This site comprised a total of 3 single storeyed units which were former living quarters of the British servicemen. These houses were subsequently returned to SLA, refurbished and are rented out as commercial residences.

From 2006 onwards till July 2020, MCF was timely blessed with an office space in the same building of the Anglican Diocese of Singapore.

## FORMER LOCATIONS OF MCF OFFICE AND CHAPEL



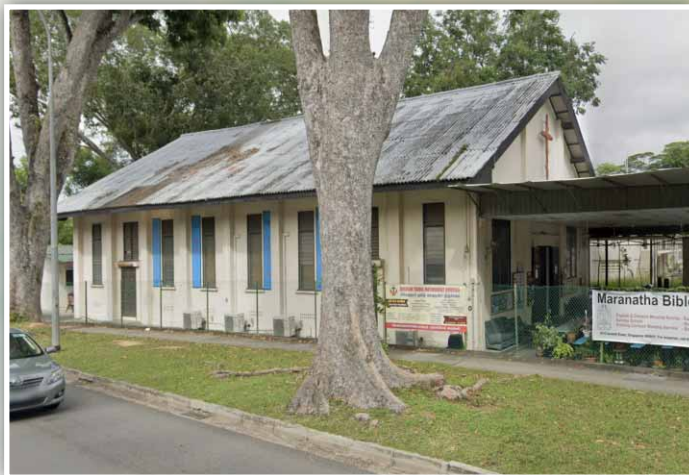
**Ebenezer Church**

First known MCF office and chapel.  
39D, Harding Road



**Tengah Chapel**

345 Old Choa Chu Kang Road



**Changi Chapel**

63 Cranwell Road



**The Anglican Diocese of Singapore**  
St Andrew's Village, 1 Francis Thomas Drive #03-03



**The Anglican Diocese of Singapore**



**Seletar Office and Chapel**  
10, Brompton Road, Seletar Airbase.

## FORMER MCF CHAIRMEN, MINISTRY STAFF AND CHAPLAINS

### **Chairmen:**

1. Late Rev Dr Patrick Tan
2. Andrew Toh
3. Wong Leong Jeam
4. Jimmy How
5. Late Daniel Ong
6. Rayman Chia
7. Goh Chee Kong
8. Michael Lim
9. Dr Lee Shiang Long
10. Gene Tan
11. Pang Tzer Yeu (from 2014 to Present)

### **Ministry Staff:**

1. Late Rev Alfred Yeo
2. Loh Kim Bock / Loh Kim Lian
3. Alan Lau
4. Late Rev Vincent Sivarajoo
5. Tan Hang Khee
6. Lai Kok Weng / Sok Kuen
7. David Jeremiah / Esther Mok (from 2010 to Present)

### **Chaplains:**

1. Late Rev Dr Patrick Tan
2. Late Rev Alfred Yeo
3. Late Rev Vincent Sivarajoo
4. Bishop Kuan Kim Seng
5. Png Bee Hin
6. Tan Hang Khee
7. Pastor Gerry Poon
8. Pastor Roland Lee
9. Pastor Peter Tan
10. Pastor Robert Yeo

## MINISTRY CONTRIBUTION

*“Give, and it will be given to you.  
A good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together and running over,  
will be poured into your lap”*  
Luke 6:38a (NIV)

To:  
**Military Christian Fellowship**  
C/o Fellowship of  
Evangelical Students  
#05-06 North Bridge Centre  
420 North Bridge Road  
Singapore 118727

Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) Singapore was established to minister to the Lord’s people in the SAF. Over the years, our activities have expanded to include online prayer and discipleship meetings, personal mentoring, counseling in Detention Barrack, and working with churches to conduct Pre-NS Talks. We also conduct annual activities, like the Thanksgiving and Prayer Dinner, bringing together soldiers in faith to thank God for his protection and blessing to the SAF operations, training and development.

MCF is a self-funding organisation depending on offerings and love contributions from churches and individuals who share God’s plan for the SAF. The Lord has graciously sustained us financially over the years through regular love offering. There are also many exciting developments in terms of our partnerships with various para-church organisations to multiply the effectiveness of our ministry efforts. We hope you will share with us God’s vision and assist us financially so that we can support soldiers in faith in the SAF. May you be richly blessed through your support to the ministry of the MCF.

As God enables me, I would like to give **\$200/ \$500/ \$1000/**  
**\$ \_\_\_\_\_** to the ministry of MCF and share in His plan for the SAF.  
*(Cheque make in favour of MILITARY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Cheque No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

You can also contribute financially via an **online bank transfer** to our MCF corporate account as follows:  
**DBS Current A/C No. 0640022440**  
(For overseas transfer, Swift / BIC Code: DBSSSGSG, Bank Code: 7171)

## CONTACT US

### **PARTNERING WITH MCF**

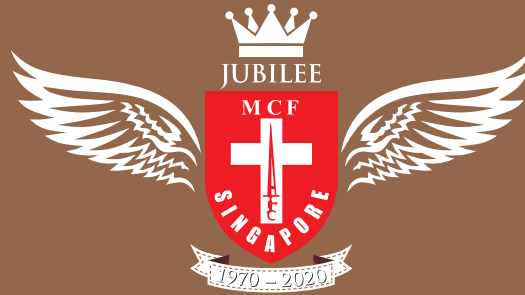
MCF regularly conducts Pre-NS Seminars in partnership with churches and para-churches to prepare Christian pre-enlistees for the National Service. If you are interested to host/organize a MCF Pre-NS seminar or to simply find out more about MCF, please email [singmcf@gmail.com](mailto:singmcf@gmail.com).

You can also indicate your interest to participate in MCF activities via [www.bit.ly/singmcf](http://www.bit.ly/singmcf), or **scan the QR code** below.



*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Hebrews 10: 24-25 (NIV)*



# PART TWO

## FIFTY PRAYER DEVOTIONS

### ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

Annex A - Approaching God as your PAPA in prayer

Annex B - Scriptural support for Christian Soldiering

Annex C - Picking a place to pray

Annex D - Restoring our Prayer Altar

Annex E - Building our Prayer Altar

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*

*Romans 12:12 (NIV)*

# FIFTY PRAYER DEVOTIONS

The fifty prayer devotions were written by members of the MCF Family, friends and supporters of MCF. At the same time, we have included selected passages from the Message Bible as well as past articles from the “Onward Soldiers” publication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the former editorial team members of the “Onward Soldiers” for their untiring commitment in maintaining a high standard of publication over the years up till the final print in 2010. Their sterling work has captured major highlights of the MCF’s history and contributed significantly towards this commemorative publication.

Time will attest to how future prayer devotions will be communicated differently from its current form based on the most effective social media platforms available. Nevertheless, the spirit and essence of the prayer devotion remains unchanged in keeping our personal prayer as the lifeline of every onward soldier looking steadfastly to our Commander-in-Chief, our Lord Jesus Christ as our All in all.





## DEVOTIONS

1. Pray with Simplicity
2. How to be a Good Christian Soldier
3. Do You Love Me?
4. Staying faithful to God - a letter to my younger self
5. From a Bitter Past to a Brighter Future
6. The Goodness of God
7. Journalling for Spiritual Growth
8. A Military Encounter of a Divine Kind
9. God Owes No Debt - Jesus is Our Overpayment
10. Salt and Light
11. The Battle is On
12. Staying God-focused
13. "Quiet Time" is a Joy!
14. A Soldier in the Lord's Army
15. A Prayer for Our Armed Forces for Courage, Strength and Dedication
16. "I'd Rather Have Jesus"
17. Let's Run Together
18. My Father's Hand
19. Prayer for Christian Unity
20. Biblical Stewardship - An Offering of Our Substance
21. Knowing Our Calling
22. Trusting God in the SAF
23. Choose God's Ways
24. To Mentor and Lift the Lid of Others
25. Faithful Servant of God
26. Light of the World
27. Fight The Invisible
28. Put Your Hope in the Lord
29. Serving God with MCF
30. Soul Care
31. Prayer For Humility
32. A Daily Quiet Time with God
33. Living Our Christian Life
34. The Compassion and the Power of Christ
35. Values and the Christian Leader
36. God Waits Patiently and He Forgets Me Not
37. Lord, "Be My Tutor" (BMT)
38. What is Your Spiritual Epitaph?
39. Success in God's Eyes
40. The Believer's Ambition
41. Getting into the 'Flow' of God
42. Forgiveness From The Heart
43. Waiting Patiently for the Lord
44. Turning Our Worry into Worship
45. Leaving a Positive Legacy
46. The Unlimited Power of Prayer
47. Feed My Sheep
48. Why Pray? Jesus Prays
49. Anchored in Faith
50. Jesus' Prayer for His Followers

## MCF THROUGH THE 50 YEARS

1970-1980

First Prayer  
Gathering with  
Founder Rev Dr  
Patrick Tan and  
Bro Tom  
Hamblin in 1970



1970 ...



MCF 19



# PRAY WITH SIMPLICITY

This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right;  
Do what's best – as above, so below.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.  
You're in charge!  
You can do anything you want!  
You're ablaze in beauty!  
Yes. Yes. Yes.

## DEVOTION 1

Gospel of Matthew

Matthew 6:9-13 (MSG)

Jesus taught this prayer on the Sermon on the Mount at the beginning of His ministry. This was way before He went to the Cross to pay the salvation price for all humanity once and for all. As new covenant believers, we pray this prayer in the light of Christ's finished work. Therefore, we shall declare boldly that His Kingdom has come, His will be done on earth as it is in heaven so that we will inherit all that He has promised us.

### Prayer:

*Our Father in Heaven,  
I thank You for teaching me how I can pray and keep a consistent prayer life and communion with You.  
In so doing, I will learn how to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit,  
walking in Your will and fulfilling Your calling in my life.  
In the Precious Name of Jesus.  
Amen.*

# HOW TO BE A GOOD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

## DEVOTION 2

Late Rev Dr Patrick Tan

Founder, Honorary Chaplain  
MCF Singapore

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers (3rd Quarter, 1995)

If you read the epistle of Paul, you will be impressed by his many references to soldiers, and their disciplined life. The apostle had an intimate knowledge of Roman soldiers as he was guarded by them around the clock during his two imprisonments. He looked at the soldier's armour and he wrote the well-loved passage on the Christian armour (Ephesians 6:11-17). In his pastoral letter to Timothy, he recommended the disciplined life of a soldier. A Christian minister must "endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

There continues to be a lingering feeling that it is a difficult to be a good soldier as well as a good Christian. Look at it another way. If you try to be a good Christian, you will fail to be a good soldier. There appears to be a conflict in the two areas of the life of a Christian soldier. The worldly thinking is that you have to appear soft in public to be godly. To rise up the ladder in the military profession is "unchristian". Yet the apostle Paul instructed the young pastor that if he, Timothy, aspired to be a good pastor, then he had to have the qualities of a good soldier. (2 Tim 2:3-4).

A good soldier, firstly, is trained to endure hardship. He is physically tough. He is no sissy. He does not cringe in the face of problems but faces them squarely. He is prepared for hard work and if necessary, to make sacrifices. Therefore when

**"Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."**

2 Timothy 2:3 (NIV)

facing his enemies, a good soldier stands his ground, confident and prepared.

Secondly, a good soldier is mentally prepared for war. He is single-minded. He is not distracted by side issues. He has his direction and sets his sight on specific goals. He is not entangled by civilian affairs. The Christian life is a warfare. We fight not against flesh and blood. Our adversary is the ruler of darkness. We fight against spiritual wickedness. A good Christian soldier fights to win, to overcome sin and vanquish Satan by the power of the risen Christ.

Lastly, a good soldier is loyal to his commander. He is totally committed to his cause. He will do everything to please him. After all, the commanders chose him to be his trusted soldier. The Christian's commander is Jesus Christ. We call upon Him as Lord and Saviour. There is a strong parallel between a good Christian and a good soldier. They have similar qualities of endurance, single-mindedness and loyalty. Hence Paul says, "Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim 2:1).

### **Prayer:**

*Thank You Father God, for raising Dr Patrick Tan to form MCF 50 years ago. Thank You that we now have this platform to help us to serve You more effectively in the SAF and MINDEF. Please enable us to love Jesus more and love those around us by sharing Christ and encouraging them in the faith. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# DO YOU LOVE ME?

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

## DEVOTION 3

Bishop (Ret) Kuan Kim Seng

Formerly the Dean of St. Andrew's Cathedral  
and the Director of  
Missions of the Diocese of Singapore

‘Do you love me?’ is a most penetrative question, and it is even more so when that question is asked by the Lord Jesus Christ. In John 21:15-19, this question was asked three times to Peter. If we study the passage carefully, we will note that Jesus also aimed that question towards the other disciples as well. By the same token, He also asks us the very same question today, ‘Do you love me?’

Before we volunteer a quick, rather than a well considered answer, it is useful to understand the question in some detail. In the English and other translations of the Bible, the nuance and depth of the original text is missed out.

There are two different Greek words that are translated as ‘love’ in this text. The first is *agape* and the second is *phileo*. *Agape* is the sacrificial love that originates from God and is always concerned for the good of the person to whom *agape* is extended. *Phileo* is love for people who are in commonality with us. *Agape*-love is first class love and *phileo*-love is second class love, so to speak.

With this understanding, let us get back to the conversation:



John 21:15-19 (NIV)

Jesus asked, ‘Simon, son of John, do you (first class) love Me ...? Simon Peter said, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I (second-class) love You.’

Jesus answered, ‘Feed my Lambs.’ Then He asked again, as if He was not happy with the initial reply, ‘Simon, son of John, do you (first class) love Me?’ Again Peter answered, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I (second-class) love You.’

Jesus said, ‘Take care of My sheep. Then He asked him the third time, ‘Simon, son of John, do you even (second class) love Me? In verse 17b, we are told that Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him if he (second class) love Him, and his reply was ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I only (second class) love You.’

Jesus replied, ‘Feed My sheep.’ Then in verses 18 and 19 Jesus foretold how Peter would die. Peter died as a martyr. It takes first class love to die for God. Peter’s second class love for Jesus would grow into first class love for Him.

God is regularly asking us the same penetrating question - ‘Do you (first class) love Me?’ - because the truthful answer to this question is good for our souls. We know that we truly love Him when we live for Him, and if it is His will, also die for Him.

# STAYING FAITHFUL TO GOD – A LETTER TO MY YOUNGER SELF

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
**In all your ways acknowledge Him,**  
and He will make straight your paths

## DEVOTION 4

Anonymous

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

In all my years of active service as a Regular Officer, there were many times where my faith was tested and on many occasions I failed. By faith, I mean faithfulness – my identity and obedience as a Christian; a follower of Jesus. If time travel be possible... If I could write a letter to my younger self, it will go something like this:

### Dear Younger Self,

*Be courageous.*

*Joining the Army may be unsettling and even scary.*

*Meditate upon Proverbs 3:5-6. Let it be your north star; your moral compass.*

*Practice it with wisdom: You must give due glory to God and do so in a respectful way.*

*Remember that you are foremost a soldier in the Lord's Army; an ambassador of Jesus.*

*Know that God is faithful.*

*His grace is sufficient and His power perfected in weakness.*

*When you feel inadequate or overwhelmed, your God is with you.*

*When you “senang diri” for what happens under your charge, He is with you.*

*When you are hopelessly lost in the jungle with a company of men following behind, He is there with you.*

*Be mindful of your Christian testimony.*

*Do the right thing in the right way at all times.*

*Do not go with your bosses or buddies to sleazy places.*

*Shape the culture of your workplace positively. Be a source of life.*

*Be faithful in the little things.*

*Love people and treasure the camaraderie.*

*You are here for a purpose; You have a gospel mission.*

*Build bridges, not walls.*

Your Obedient Soldier,  
Older Self

# FROM A BITTER PAST TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

## DEVOTION 5

Dr CPT (Ret) Patrick Liew



Forgiveness is one of the core themes in our Lord Jesus' final public prayer for the disciples.

"If this disorder can be released," someone once told me, "many of the psychological problems can be resolved".

As I reflected on this and many other experiences, I realised tragically that long after the transgressors had left, many would still hold on to the resulting hurt and pain.

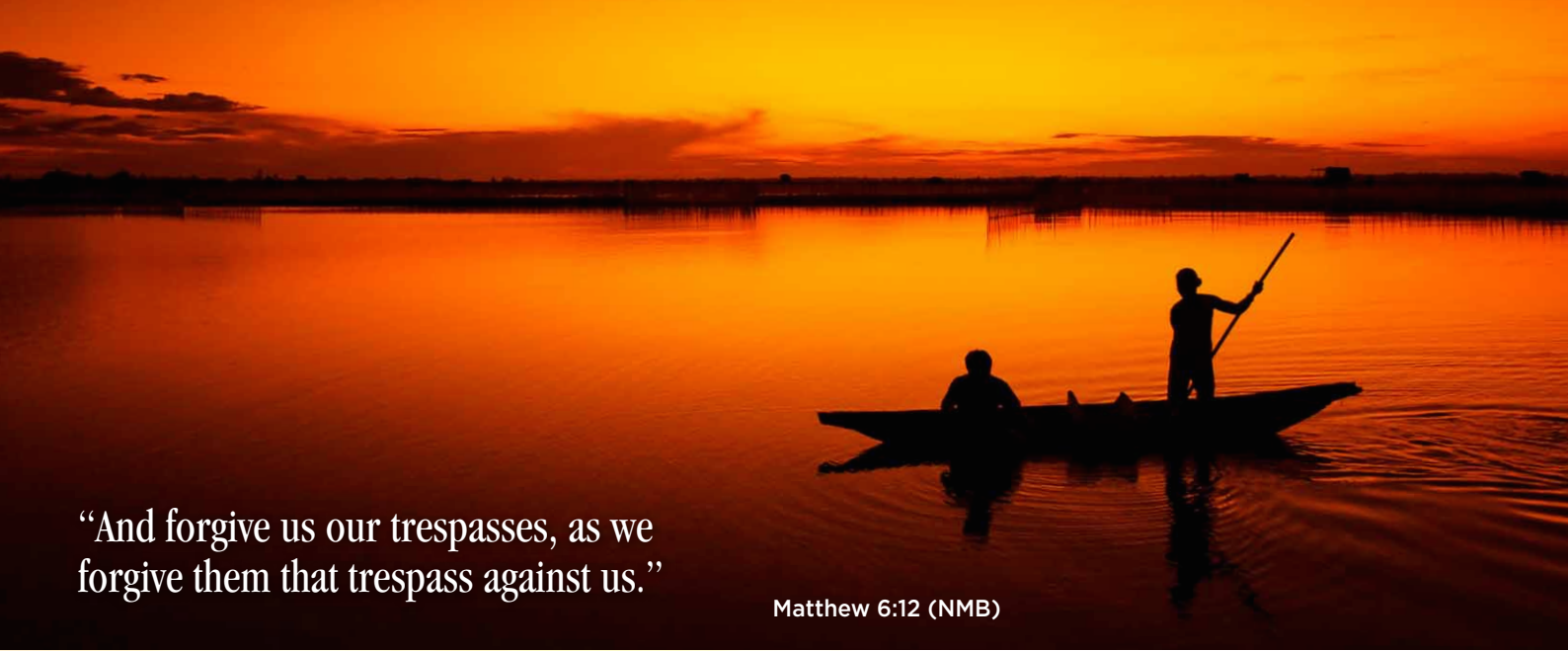
They were stuck as if in a time warp, reliving those emotions again and again, and allowing the emotional poison to spiral them down to a tunnel of self-destruction.

From their perspective, nobody understands them and understands what they had gone through so they are justified to be angry and even hate their offenders.

Paradoxically, they sometimes carry the hurt and pain, and probably hope that their offenders will be penalized and be punished.

They beat themselves up and hope that their offenders will suffer for it.

Over time, the poison of unforgiveness will spread to and affect other areas of their lives, including their families, work and relationships. The drama of unforgiveness has been played out in many quarters of society.

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sky is a vibrant orange and red, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the foreground, two people are in a small boat. One person is standing and holding a long pole, possibly a paddle or a fishing rod, while the other is sitting. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**“And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.”**

**Matthew 6:12 (NMB)**

Sadly, these victims were held back from living up to their full potential and having a full life.

Truth be told, emotionally unstable people cannot find peace. Wounded people cannot live meaningfully.

However, when you can turn a limiting experience into an empowering one, you can rise up from being a victim to become a victor.

It is your bridge from a bitter past to a brighter future, and helps you move forward – just as your offenders have probably done.

Forgiveness is freeing yourself from the prison you have constructed for yourself so that you can rejuvenate and renew your life.

That’s why, forgiveness is for yourself and for your loved ones - and not only for the offenders.

When you seek wise counsel and from competent parties, they can help you to have a better clarity of your issues and walk you through the healing process.

The healing process includes uncovering your weaknesses and other blind spots as well as protecting you from falling into a similar trap. They can also help you recover and learn from a bad experience, prevent you from doing what your transgressors did to you and help you treat others with more respect and compassion.

# THE GOODNESS OF GOD

“I remain confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living. Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

## DEVOTION 6

Esther Grace

Psalm 27:13-14 (NIV)

*We lift up all the SAF men/women into your loving hands.*

*The Goodness of God follow each of them*

*The Goodness of God running after them .*

*The Goodness of God will protect them daily .*

*The Goodness of God will supply all their needs according to the  
glorious richness of Christ.*

*The Goodness of God, they shall see in the land of the living.*

*Glory unto God.*

*In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# JOURNALLING FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on His law,  
he meditates day and night.”

## DEVOTION 7

Rev Peter Goh Cheng Teck

Signal Officer, former Head Signals,  
OCS, SAFTI



Psalm 1:2 (NIV)

50 years is a long time since my enlistment in the SAF. One of the ways to keep me connected with the LORD is through keeping a spiritual journal. My diary was filled with love letters from my heart to Him. The Word of God promises, if I seek the LORD, I will find Him even in the midst of the messy jungle. My spiritual seeking takes place in my journal. It makes visible my search that led me to grow spiritually in Him. Journaling helps me to experience how deeply I am loved by Jesus and to grow more deeply in love with Him. This is a page from my spiritual journal on Psalm 1. It has helped me in my personal search for a deeper intimacy with God in the SAF.

“Who wrote Psalm 1? I really do not know. The key subject of Psalm 1 is the centrality of God’s Word to the life and fruitfulness of the righteous who truly loves His Word. And I love Jesus and His Word. Psalm 1 is filled with the contrasts between God-centred life and self-centred life. No middle ground in Psalm 1, either you are righteous or you are wicked. The wicked has little or no time for God in his life, one who has ruled God out of his life and his thinking, in the way he walks (thinks) in making decisions using his own human wisdom throughout the day. The wicked stands (behaving) in making self-directed

commitments and sitting (to whom he belongs) in the settled attitude of his heart. Whatever shapes my mind, shapes my life. The godly man is selfless in his Spirit guided motivations, obedient to God in his actions. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. The godly man delights in the whole counsel of the Word of God. The godly man is refreshed like a tree planted by the streams of water and living his life in the strength of the Holy Spirit. The godly man has discovered the truth about himself from the Word of God. Blessedness comes when I have Christ in my heart; to revere Him, meditating on the living Word for the renewing of my mind and the transformation of my heart in my daily living. I want to be that godly man. There is no short cut to my spiritual growth in talking the road less travelled in the SAF.”

### Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, shape my conscience by the written Word of God and the revealed Word in Christ. Discipline me to read and obey your Word. Refresh me by the streams of Your living water for Your grace abounds. I want to live out my faith and bear the fruit of the Spirit in due season. In Jesus’ Name, I pray. Amen.*

# A MILITARY ENCOUNTER OF A DIVINE KIND



“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

## DEVOTION 8

Rev Dr Jack Sin

2Tim 2:2-4 (KJV)

Every able-bodied 18-year-old youth will have to undergo the rite of passage of 2-and-a-half years (now reduced to 2) of National Service in Singapore and I was no exception. I was enlisted in December 1981 after my A levels and I attended the MCF pre-NS event with others to prepare ourselves for the training. I remembered bringing along the Gideon small NT Bible and put it in my Number 4 uniform pocket during the training sessions and night duty and prayed that the Lord will preserve me and my Christian comrades from the bad influences of swearing and other unedifying behaviour in the camp. After 3 months of Basic Military Training (BMT) in ITD, it was in Feb 1982 that I was posted to Officer Cadet School in Pasir Labar Camp where I would be for the next 4-and-a-half months before being posted again to the School of Signals (SOS) in the old Sembawang Camp. The training was tough but the Lord's grace was sufficient for us. I had a godly Christian course commander, who would meet some of the Christian cadets for prayer in one of the training rooms. After my commission as an officer by the grace of God as a 2nd Lieutenant, I was asked to remain behind as an instructor and platoon commander in SOS, training signals NCOs as they called them in those days. I remembered one occasion where a Senior Commander (who loved to swear and drink alcohol and smoke) used the name of our Lord Jesus in



vain during a meeting, and I was very troubled. I prayed to the Lord for wisdom on how to respond to that. Later at an appropriate occasion, I met up with him privately and said Sir, "I would appreciate it if you would kindly not use the name of Jesus Christ as an exclamation as this name is very precious to me. Thank you, Sir." He replied that he did not mean it to be disrespectful and he would try not to use it in this manner again. Thank God that I did not hear him using the name of our Lord in vain again. To God be the glory.

In the camp, we would organise prayer sessions when there was no night training. On one occasion, we invited the late Rev Alfred Yeo who spoke to a group of us in the camp and the late Rev Dr Patrick Tan as well who ministered the Word to encourage and exhort the soldiers in their witness and walk of faith. I was also greatly encouraged during times of fellowship with MCF pioneers till my Run Out Date or ORD (Operationally Ready Date) as it is called today.

As I reflect upon my days of training and Christian witness during our NS days, I praise and thank God for His sovereign guidance and the ministry of MCF which has invested in the lives of soldiers over these 5 decades. You never know what these soldiers will become one day, and some may end up serving the Lord as Pastors, Missionaries or Elders and Deacons of local churches one day as the Lord wills. Let us pray for MCF to continue ministering effectively in the SAF as the Lord leads us to the equipping of present and future soldiers for our country and for the eternal kingdom and the glory and honour of God. Let us heed the wise counsel of the Apostle Paul in Rom 12:11-13 to be "not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

# GOD OWES NO DEBT - JESUS IS OUR OVERPAYMENT



“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law”

## DEVOTION 9

LTC(Ret) Lim Kwang Keat

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

JESUS, the sinless Son of GOD gave His life at the Cross to make an overpayment for our sins so that we are declared “debt-free” once and for all. As believers in Christ, the devil has no more hold or claims over our sins. Instead of living in sin-consciousness, we live in grace-consciousness.

As a teenager, I got to know what it was like to be in financial debt. I saw the anxieties faced by my parents when they had to borrow money from various sources to make ends meet. It took us some time to pay off the debts before they could enjoy a financially debt-free life. By God’s grace and faithfulness, I was able to achieve financial independence early and lead an almost debt-free life.

Being debt-free has helped me to understand spiritually what really matters when one knows that all his/her sins are forgiven – past, present and future. Until we come to the point of recognising that all our sins have been fully redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we will live in sin-consciousness and in continual bondage. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the justification that all our sins are forgiven and put away once and for all. It took me a long time to know this truth that because I have been forgiven much, I shall love much.

Hence, when I came across the verse in Romans 13:8, the words immediately resonated in my spirit and reinforced my understanding about the faithfulness and love of God found in the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:12 (NIV) **“forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”**

Romans 13:8 has since transformed my life and attitude towards others by serving others unreservedly out of God’s unconditional love and faithfulness. I am learning to be more tolerant and less critical towards the wrong behaviour and wrong doing of others. Instead, I need to demonstrate true love, empathy and compassion.

Most of all, loving others has made me more joyful as I count my blessings and seek ways to be a blessing to others, including members of my family.

### Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, I thank You for teaching me how You first loved me unconditionally and faithfully so that I can love others as You have loved me. May I also depend on the certainty of Your forgiveness so that I can forgive others. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.*

# SALT AND LIGHT

“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds(E) and glorify your Father in heaven.”

## DEVOTION 10

COL(Ret) Goh Chee Kong

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Former MCF Chairman

I was enlisted for national service in Dec 1974 and became a regular in May 1975. During this period, MCF had reached out, and I remember that one of the dental officers in the old SAFTI was a Christian. It was encouraging to meet fellow believers, to receive spiritual support and enjoy fellowship, as adjusting to military life was challenging. On 31 Aug 1975, I left for England and spent one year at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst followed by three years at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. At both institutions, the Officers' Christian Union reached out to us. On my own, I had regular bible study with a Nigerian and Jamaican officer-cadets in Sandhurst, and with a few fellow foreign officers in Shrivenham. I had fellowship with British officers too.

When I returned to Singapore in Nov 1979, it seemed natural to seek Christian fellowship in the SAF through MCF. It had become a way of life. While I was attending my own church and serving in ministries, there was certainly room for Christian bonding and evangelism in the workplace through MCF. Through the network of MCF, we were able to meet, albeit in a modest way, the spiritual needs of servicemen in the Army, Navy and Air Force. It was my privilege to get to know through MCF, the late LTC(Dr) Patrick Tan, COL(Dr) Jimmy How, late LTC Daniel Ong, COL Rayman Chia, COL Tan Hang Khee and several others, who served faithfully and witnessed Christ in the SAF. They were the forerunners of MCF, who did humble work for God's glory.

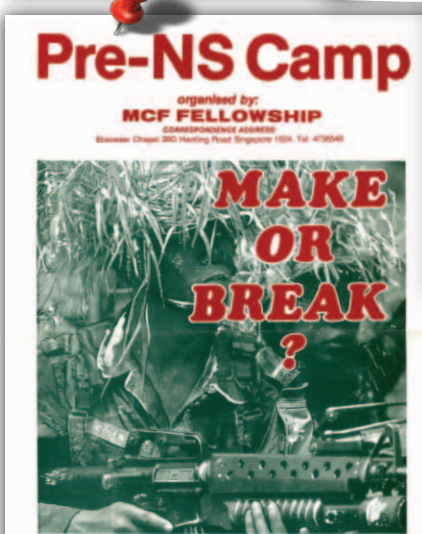
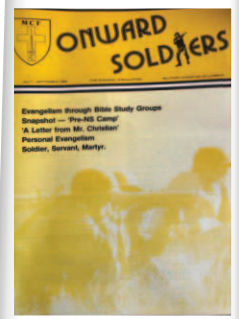
MCF Singapore also organised international conferences, and it was always a great time of worship and sharing, when we gathered with fellow Christian servicemen from around the world. They came from the US, Canada, UK, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, NZ and other countries. We learned much from them, how they

did God's work in their militaries. When I was given the honour to lead MCF, we collaborated with a few churches to expand and sustain our outreach. Faith Community Baptist Church, St John's Chapel, Trinity Christian Centre and others came onboard to support our effort. MCF facilitated their access to camps, whenever it was necessary, so that they could reach out to individuals or groups, and follow up as appropriate. All of the churches were careful to abide by the rules, even as they ministered to servicemen, when they visited any military facilities. I remain grateful to all of them, who so willingly joined us to labour together. There is no doubt in my mind that it's so important for us to individually walk closely with God, to be filled with the Spirit, and endeavour to bring others into His Kingdom. However, we can never do this alone, thus in the SAF, the MCF, I believe, will continue to have a useful, special role to bring servicemen together as a community for fellowship, to encourage each other in their spiritual lives, and just as importantly, reach out to non-believers in the SAF.

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, thank You that the MCF has come this far, and surely You are able to enable it to serve faithfully and fruitfully in the years to come. Help the men and women of MCF persevere to serve humbly to grow Your kingdom and give You all the glory, that the MCF will be in good stead for many, many more years. As we celebrate the MCF Jubilee, we praise You that the MCF has been and continues to be an instrument of peace and love, to enable Christian servicemen - men and women - to gather together, to belong to an expansive body of Christ, and to enjoy amazing fellowship, even as they serve and be 'salt and light' in the SAF. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

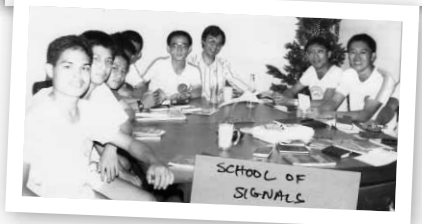
1981-1990



**join us for PRE-NS CAMP on JUNE 7th-10th 1989.**

REGISTRATION: By May 31st 1989. Maximum intake — 50 (no register now).

Application: Open to all school students who may be enlisted into the SAF in 1989/1990. (COST: \$25.00 PER TRAINEE.)



MCF Combined Fellowship Groups Meeting (the last of the MCF 1989 activities) was held at its office, Ebenezer Chapel, 282 Harding Road on 18th December 1989. Its theme was "Together We Serve" based on Isaiah 54:14-16.

Edred Kohan who gave the invitation the choice to choose whom they will serve. LTC Daniel Ong (MCF Chairman) took the opportunity to remind all MR Fets through these questions of reality:

- 1) Who will you serve?
- 2) How have you been serving?
- 3) How do you intend to serve in 1990?

A total of about 60 - 70 people attended the function. The programme was good and lively with full participation from the people for the games, followed by BBQ and warm fellowship.

MCF hoped that the next such meetings will draw more people and that you will continue to support and participate with us.





# PIONEER

SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES NEWS

## CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

December 1978

Formed seven years ago, the AFC which comprises the names of 100 members of a local inter-denominational Protestant Christian body gathers a newly-raised S&F group under a newly laid organisation.

We asked Lieutenant Andrew Teh, Chief-Liaison-AFC Chairman, to present on AFC's working principles.

"Our aim," he said, "is to help the Christian soldier recognise his faith in the (understand) doctrine contained in the Bible. We are not a 'Soldier Service as a Christian duty'."

The first of the AFC groups was formed in Singapore by Lieutenant Andrew Teh, who leads the AFC group in Singapore. The group is currently composed of 100 members, as that there are some 1000 members in one unit.

Groups in some of the larger units (General Services of the Singapore Armed Forces) are also being formed. The groups are currently composed of 100 members, as that there are some 1000 members in one unit.

An open invitation to attend is extended to all unit personnel, not many non-Christians do respond.

Lieutenant Peter Goh Chan, who leads the AFC group in Singapore, says that there are no set queries on whether there had been any objections to such a move with "military" services.

"We don't preach. The soldiers are free to walk off after the service. We don't preach," pointed out Lieutenant Teh.

The AFC is well published in both churches and Christian in the S&F are already aware of it.

Officers who are members and some leads in all the AFC groups believe and encourage are being encouraged by the AFC as an open and respectful to join.

Inter-church rallies and camps are also held by the AFC, such as the forum on "The Christian Soldier in War" held in Bukit Andrew's Cathedral in November.

It is good that we periodically evaluate our beliefs and change them accordingly," said Lieutenant Andrew Teh.



WHO IS WHO IN THE MCF YEAR 1985-1987

LTC DRJ PATRICK TAN COUNCIL CHAIRMAN	LTC DANIEL ONG COUNCIL V-CHAIRMAN	LTA C. I. THOMAS EX-EO CHAIRMAN	LTC FREDDIE YAP OCF CHAIRMAN	REV TAN CHOON SENG CHAIRLADY CHAIRMAN
COL DRJ JIMMY HOH ADVISORY CHAIRMAN	LTA DAVID WONG TREASURER	LTC RAYMAN CHIA COMMITTEE MEMBER	OFT WEE CHOW LENG COMMITTEE MEMBER	WOJ RONNIE ONG COMMITTEE MEMBER
ZLT RICHARD LAM EX-EO V-CHAIRMAN	SGT VIOLET KARTANA EX-EO SECRETARY	WOJ EBBIE ANG COMMITTEE	SGT SAMUEL LIM EX-EO COMMITTEE	OFT ROONEY YEO EDITOR OF ONWARD SOLDIERS
REV ALFRED YEO GENERAL SECRETARY	MISS LOH SIM LIAN CLERICAL ASSISTANT			

FULL TIME STAFF



# THE BATTLE IS ON

“Then He said to His disciples,  
“The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few,  
ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,  
to send out workers into His harvest field.”

## DEVOTION 11

Lim Siong Guan

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV)

Former Permanent Secretary of Defence  
(1981-1994)

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers (3rd Quarter, 1995)

The effective soldier has to be thoroughly and completely prepared - physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Never underestimate the spiritual dimension of soldier readiness.

The MCF has a very special mission in this within the SAF. My earliest interactions with the MCF was in the early days, when the SAF was going through a very significant improvement in battle preparedness, having begun as a unified command, then going on to a tri-service organisation of Army, Navy and Air Force, and finally developing into an integrated capacity in the joint command.

The sense was strong that the SAF has to be always alert, flexible and responsive, not just in equipment but even more so in soldier readiness, morale and motivation. While the SAF may be continually improving in organisation and professionalism and equipment, the necessity to recognise the needs of the spirit remains great. This battle for spiritual capacity is ongoing. Do not run away from it. Stop avoiding it. You have to stand your ground, and to persist in standing.

Breakthrough is assured but it comes with effort and commitment, obedience and relying totally on the Lord. He provides the armour. He provides the power. We must provide the body to get the job done. We need a sense of urgency to fit ourselves for spiritual capacity. It is the capacity to meet spiritual needs. The driving force to get such a sense of urgency lies in us being overwhelmed by such love for people that we have no other choice and no other desire than to be able to help them. And the more people we can rally, the more capable we will be in this mission.

The battle for spiritual capacity and the ability to offer spiritual succour is there day by day, moment by moment. We must not run away from the battle and allow the devil to win by default. If we engage in battle, we will win because Jesus has won the victory and the Lord has given us His Holy Spirit to overcome the obstacles that will come our way. Human effort is inadequate but God's power is invincible.

Let me close with a story about fulfilling our trust. It is a story of a boy with a collection of marbles and a girl with a collection of sweets. They agreed to an exchange, as they



each liked what the other had. So the evening the girl packed up all her sweets for the exchange. The boy started to pack his marbles, but decided to keep the 3 or 4 best marbles, hid them under his pillow, and packed off the rest for the exchange the next day.

The night after the exchange, the girl had a good night's sleep, happy with what she got. The boy could not sleep, tormented by the question, "Did the girl give me all her sweets?"

In similar fashion, many Christians do not give their all, always wondering whether what they hand over to God is enough for God to continue to bless them. All the time they are trying to figure out how much is enough to keep God satisfied. Their approach is: I don't give God all, but hope He still will give me His all. When life's troubles come their way, they wonder whether God was giving them everything He could. Their own lack of surrender causes them to wonder about God's faithfulness.

When we have given our all, we will begin to realise the utterness of our inadequacy - that even our all is not enough to match what God has freely given us - and we

feel an overwhelming sense of shame of having thought of holding back. Today the MCF has to urge its members to give their all in building spiritual capacity to serve the people in the SAF. Like soldiers have to give their all in response to their commanders, here is God expecting your response of love and obedience. There is a total obligation to obey the command of the Lord, and the total need to depend on Him. Your people depend on you, in peacetime and in war, to serve their well-being in body, soul and spirit.

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God, open our eyes to see what is going on in the spiritual realm, and open our hearts to resolve to obey Your order. Fill our hearts with a love so strong and so overflowing as to sense the urgency to bring people into Your love and Your comfort and Your peace. Give us grace and courage to speak the words of victory to meet the spiritual needs of our people. And let us speak with wisdom and with knowledge and with understanding, and without doubt. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# STAYING GOD-FOCUSED

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12:2 (Berean Study Bible)

“This is what the LORD says to you:  
‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s.’”

2 Chronicles 20:15 (NIV)

## DEVOTION 12

BG (NS) Ngien Hoon Ping

Former Director Joint Operations  
and Commander CSSCOM

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers - Leadership (April 2003)

I have found the best and only way for me to prioritise and stay focused as a leader is to first seek God and spend time with Him. I seek His wisdom in knowing what to do and what not to do, how to do, how much to do, and when to complete them. As I seek Him, He lays His thoughts and wisdom on me so that I experience a sense of supreme peace in my heart before I embark on any tasks.

As I undertake each task, His Spirit guides me, prompts me and also restrains me when I am inclined to start using my own strength or worldly methods. And most importantly, I know that He already knows the final outcome and result of my undertaking even before I start. The Lord is more interested in how we approach each issue, whether we start by seeking Him or relying on our own ideas. The Lord is interested to know how we execute each task, and whether we maintain His witness to those around us as we do these tasks. The final outcome is His. 2 Chronicles 20:15 tells us that the battle belongs to the Lord. Our part is to stay close to Him and obey Him.

Often too, I share a burden or a task with close, godly brothers-in-Christ in my support group, to garner their prayers before I embark on any major tasks. We need prayers and the Lord's working to pave the spiritual path, before we act on them. We continually remind ourselves that God is the Source of our well-being and all the blessings we have in terms of good relationships, good health (physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, financial, etc) and just being alive. We must never forget this and to give Him the glory at every opportunity.

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, we want to stay focused on You all the time. To rely on You and wait upon You. We want to follow Your leading and always thank You for all things. Help us to not be proud, and be quick to give You back the glory in front of believers and pre-believers, and remain humble. We want to help those who still do not know the Lord Jesus Christ to see the reality of our God working in our lives. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# “QUIET TIME” IS A JOY!

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

## DEVOTION 13

Pastor Eric Kwan

Pastor,  
Sembawang Bible-Presbyterian Church



Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

As a Christian soldier, I followed closely the practices taught by my church leaders. We were instructed to set aside some time each day to read the Bible and to pray to God. This has been commonly termed as “quiet time” or “QT”.

In order to show that I was a spiritual Christian, I faithfully observed my QT. But it inevitably became a mere ritualistic practice. I constantly felt the sense of guilt, shame and fear whenever I missed having my QT. The question kept creeping up in my mind. Is it God's command or it is just man's rule? I was confronted with the fact that there are illiterate Christians who were unable to observe their QT in the way I do. So, does that mean they are spiritually inferior? The answer was obviously not. Nevertheless, I still believe that as a Christian soldier I ought to cultivate a good spiritual habit. However, I no longer observe my QT ritualistically. I was convicted that it was wrong for me to take pride that I am spiritually stronger than others just because I do my QT.

Instead of judging my spiritual condition by the way I maintain my QT, I learned to examine my life by the way I obeyed His commandments. Thus, QT takes a new meaning in my life. It is no longer a ritualistic practice that I must obey. But it is because I desire to hear God's instructions and to commune with Him.

Thank God for the joy and peace that He gave to me when I no longer view QT as a chore.

### Prayer:

*O Heavenly Father, grant me the desire to always seek after your Holy Face by reading your Word and communing with You daily. Help me, O Lord to grow in spiritual maturity to fight against all the temptations that I encounter each day. Give me grace to obey Your commandments. I pray O Lord for humility to seek Your forgiveness and power to repent of all my sins. Empower me, O Lord with strength to live a godly life for Your glory and honour. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.*

# A SOLDIER IN THE LORD'S ARMY

## DEVOTION 14

Pastor Henson Lim

Ever since receiving the assignment of Archippus Awakening, being a soldier in the Lord's army (cf Philimon 2) has taken on greater significance. For sure, this is not just another Christian metaphor for a more impressive sermon. The spiritual battle rages on; and we are all expected to know our place and play our part in the advancement of the kingdom of God.

More than just a soldier, I want to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Allow me to draw four practical points from 2 Timothy 2:3-4.

### 1. Enlistment

I didn't get to enlist in the Lord's Army because I am marksman- or best PT-material. It is entirely by grace through faith that I get to serve Jesus and the purposes of His kingdom. When I recognise this privilege, my attitude changes. My one desire is to please Him, the King and Commander of the Lord's Army.

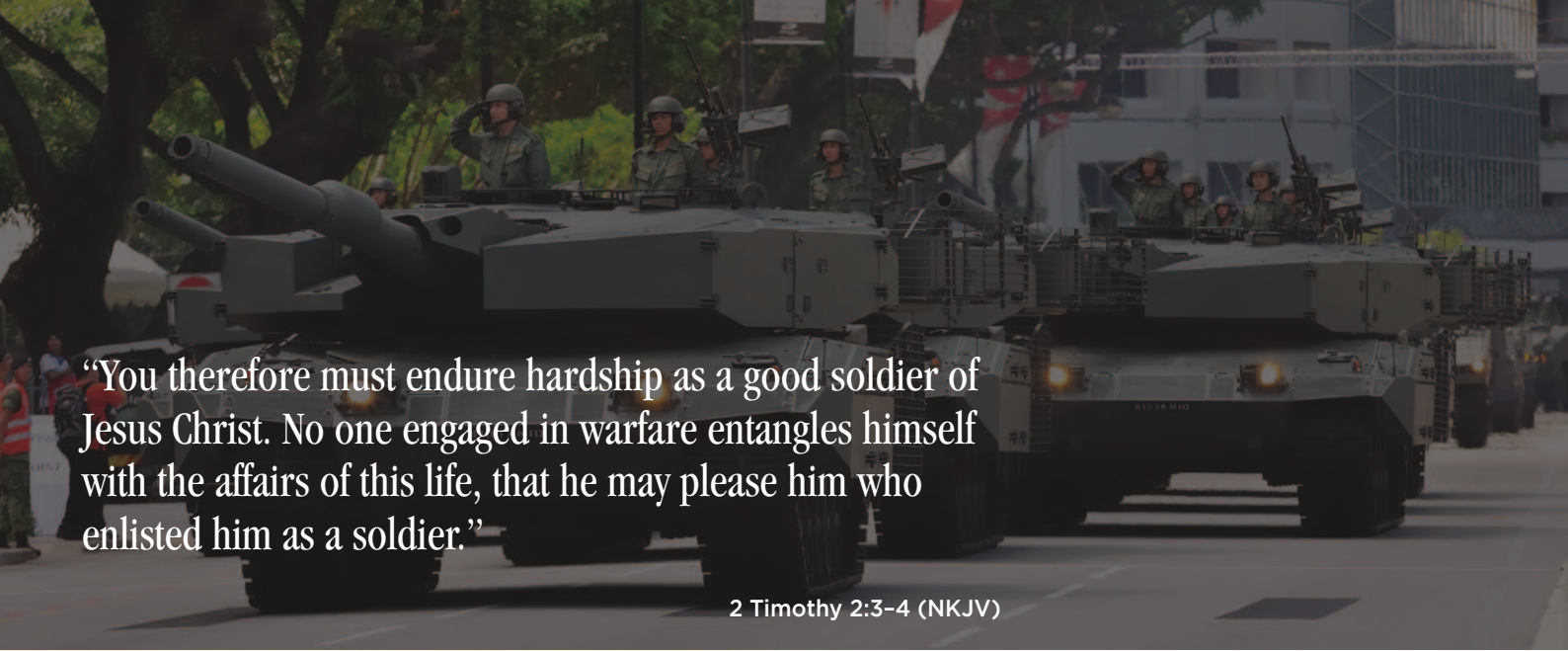


### 2. Engagement

I prefer to remain in camp. However, soldiers are trained to be sent out, to be engaged in warfare. I must be ready to go where I am assigned, to execute my mission well. Wherever our areas of operation may be, we are God's kingdom representatives to bring kingdom influence that hearts and lives may be impacted for Him.

### 3. Entanglement

Often, many are entangled by the cares of this world. These detract and distract us from kingdom purposes. As husband of one wife and father of seven children, I understand this too well. Even so, when I'm on assignment, my focus is fully on the King and His kingdom. I have found the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33 to be true. When I seek first His kingdom, He takes care of everything else for me. When I do my part, my King more than does His.



“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.”

2 Timothy 2:3-4 (NKJV)

#### 4. Endurance

Every soldier knows that the battlefield is no walk in the park. Training is tough because the opposition we expect is much tougher. Similarly, when we take a stand for Jesus, we will face challenges. To be prepared for this, we remember the One who enlisted us, the One we are fighting for. Knowing and engaging in our assignment enables us to focus and endure, and not be distracted along the way.

Dear fellow soldiers, let's continue to encourage one another to keep moving on for Jesus and His kingdom. May we each be found faithful and pleasing to our King when He returns.

#### Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, thank You for the honour and privilege to serve You. By Your Holy Spirit, show me my place and part in the advancement of the kingdom. Enable me as I move on my assignments. Strengthen and comfort me in difficult times as I endure all things for the sake of the kingdom and for the glory of Your Name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# A PRAYER FOR OUR ARMED FORCES FOR COURAGE, STRENGTH AND DEDICATION

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him  
and He will make your paths straight.”

## DEVOTION 15

Anonymous

Romans 13:8 (NIV)

*Lord, we ask for courage for our Armed Forces...  
Courage to face and conquer all fears...  
Courage to take them where others will not go.  
We ask for strength...  
Strength of body to protect others..  
Strength of spirit to lead others.  
We ask for dedication...  
Dedication to our jobs, to do it well...  
Dedication to our country, to keep it safe.  
Give us Lord, concern...  
For those who trust us and compassion for those who need us.  
And please Lord...  
Through it all be at our side.  
We need You to brave us through every single day...  
Show us the way to reach hearts and minds  
And grant us the favour and wisdom to serve.  
Today, we put all our worries, anxieties and cares into Your loving arms...  
As we commit our ways to You, You will make our paths straight.  
Grant us Shalom Peace throughout  
as You promise to give Your Beloved rest.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

# “I’D RATHER HAVE JESUS”

“What good will it be for a man  
if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?  
Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

## DEVOTION 16

CPT (Ret) Ong Pak Shoon

SAF OMB/GSMB

Matt 16: 26 (NIV)



In any field topography exercise, we need a compass and a map to help us find the way to our destination. A compass is best used with a map.

God wants us to live purposeful lives with an acute sense of direction. The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Tim 6: 11-12a, NIV). Paul went on to urge Timothy to “guard what has been entrusted to your care” (1 Tim 6: 20a, NIV). Timothy was to constantly check his compass and assess his primary direction in his life.

It is possible that we begin our journey well, but because of life’s many distractions and carelessness, we lose our way and sadly drift away from the faith.

Reading the Bible and meditating on it are good spiritual disciplines that we must faithfully do. This would help us to develop a road map which we can use together with our inner spiritual compasses. It would be very sad if a Christian does not have a working compass and a map

to provide that sense of direction. The Lord desires that we live a Christ-like life.

This song, “I’d Rather Have Jesus” was one of the songs we sang together at our first meeting in Changi SBMT (previously School of Basic Military Training) during my recruit days in July 1974. The lyrics, “I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause; I’d rather be faithful to His dear cause...” rang through when we sang with quiet reflection. Recognizing the days ahead in our recruit training which was going to be tough and challenging, I recall the moment which some of us present made the commitment to follow the Lord Jesus not just during our military service, but for the rest of our lives.

### Prayer:

*Our Heavenly Father, we worship You, the Great Almighty God who knows the thoughts of men. We pray that You will help us as we seek to be faithful to You and Your calling for our lives. Forgive us when we go our own way. Please strengthen us as we work out our lives in humble dependence on You and with a sense of purpose and direction. We know and trust that Your grace would always be sufficient for us. In Jesus’ precious Name, we pray. Amen!*

# LET'S RUN TOGETHER

## DEVOTION 17

Rev Eddy Lim

Senior Pastor, Hope Presbyterian Church

**Living the Christian life is not easy.** Acts 14:22 says we will go through many trouble, affliction, hardship and sufferings to enter the kingdom of God. We are running a tough race. We need to come alongside one another and help one another to focus on Jesus.

Many years ago, at a Seattle Special Olympics, nine runners were in the blocks, poised and ready to spring forth at the sound of the gun.

It looked to all the world as though this was a normal race. But it was not. This was a race of a different kind. It was a special Olympic race, a race for the physically or mentally disabled.

The stand was filled with people sitting at the edge of their chair, anticipating the moment of excitement. When the starter fired the gun in an instant, the nine runners all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the pleasure of just running the race to the finish line and win. However about 25 meters down, one runner tripped and fell, sprawling headlong down the track and began to cry.

The other eight contestants heard the cry. They slowed down. Looked back. Then they all turned around and every one of them went back and picked up their friend. One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed him and said: "This will make it better." They picked their friend up. They said, "Let's run together." Then all nine of them linked arms and together they ran, hand in hand to the finish line. Everyone in the stadium stood and the

**"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God"**

Acts 14:22 (NIV)



cheering went on for several minutes.

Brothers and sisters in Christ. Yes, God has given us the grace to run this race, but He wants us to encourage one another to run. We need one another. Because we are all sinners saved by grace, we are not perfect. **We do encounter difficulties and challenges in our spiritual pilgrimage which in one way or another affect us all emotionally and spiritually. As a result, we are being 'disabled' to run the race ourselves. We do need to hold hands and encourage one another to run together to the finish line.**

The Christian life is not just about winning the race for ourselves. No. No. No. There is no place for the spirit of "kiasu" (afraid of losing), "kiasi" (afraid of dying) and "kiabo" (afraid of having nothing). **The Christian life is about helping one another to win, to finish the race, even if it means 'slowing down' and 'changing our course', i.e. to be more understanding; and to give people a little room to make mistakes while they are in the process of changing and growing in Christ.** Let us help one another to run this race to the finish line. This is the ministry of encouragement. (cf. Hebrews 10:24-25).

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

# MY FATHER'S HAND

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,  
and they follow me:  
And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never  
perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.  
My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all;  
and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

DEVOTION 18

Ethan Tan

John 10:27-29 (KJV)

The toughest day in my NS journey was the first day of my summary exercise as a Specialist Cadet. I was recovering from a heat injury sustained the previous week. The searing heat (Code Black) made my duties as part of the advance party and leading my section unbearable.

I had also been discouraged by a close friend's decision to leave the faith as well as a few others' decision to leave my church. The internal and external struggles wore me down. I felt dizzy and dehydrated. I wanted to complete the exercise but my buddy was insistent that I report sick, else he would do so for me. I asked him to give me time to rest to see if my condition would improve, and he agreed. I then rested in my section's 5-Tonner, read my devotional, and prayed hard for strength. I reflected that though I may lose my friends and my health, I would never lose my identity in Christ or my salvation.

I clung to this truth. By God's grace, we have been spared from His wrath. We are no longer enemies of God, but His children and the sheep of His pasture. Our new identity in Christ means that the Great Shepherd will lead us and sustain us. No trial, no earthly power can pluck us out of His hand.

After praying, I had a short nap. When I awoke, my headache and dizziness had completely subsided. I was amazed that I felt refreshed despite only a short rest and I believe that God had answered my prayer.

"Down in the valley with my Saviour I would go,  
Where the storms are sweeping and the dark waters flow;  
With His hand to lead me I will never, never fear,  
Dangers cannot fright me if my Lord is near."

**Lyrics from the Hymn "Down in the valley with my Saviour  
I would go", William Cushing (1823-1902)**

# PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



## DEVOTION 19

Anonymous

*“Dear God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we worship You in the wonder of Your Triune Oneness – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Thank You, blessed Holy Spirit, for Your great work of baptizing us into this body of Christ, the Church. Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, for continuing Your mighty work of empowering and equipping Your church, to present her to Yourself as a radiant bride, without stain of any kind.*

*Our heavenly Father, we rejoice that Your salvation has united us inseparably not only with Yourself but also with every other believer in Christ. Yet we long and pray for the bringing together of Your born-again children. We have been terribly hurt and wounded by those things that have divided us.*

*Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ, You want us to keep the unity in You rather than uniformity. The diversity of Your body is part of its beauty and appeal to the lost world. It adds to Your glory. Help us to love one another in our diversity, unity in diversity.*

*Heavenly Father, we recognize that Satan and his kingdom are relentless in their efforts to keep believers divisive toward one another. As the accuser of the believers, he continually plants suspicions in believers’ hearts. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pull down that work of darkness and bind our enemy that he might not succeed. We ask the Holy Spirit to remove all divisive feelings and works active in believers and fill the believers’ hearts with Your love.*

*In Jesus’ precious name we pray. Amen”*

# BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP - AN OFFERING OF OUR SUBSTANCE

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

## DEVOTION 20

Late LTC Daniel Ong

Former MCF Chairman

Ephesians 3:14-21 (MSG)

Reproduced from Onward Soldiers, 4th Quarter 1993.

Would you rather be wealthy for a few years on earth or wealthy for eternity in Heaven? If one was asked, “What is your financial goal? What would your answer be? Is it a 25% raise in income? A job that pays more than what you currently earn? Extra money every week?

What is stewardship? The root word “Steward” means manager or superintendent of another’s household. In Hebrew, the word “sar” means Head Person. The Greek word “Epitropos” means Manager or Overseer. We are managers, we are in charge, we oversee, we are superintendents of another’s household. This implies that we are not the rightful owners. We have been entrusted with the responsibility, we are stewards of God’s money.

In Deuteronomy 14:22-25, 10% was a basic requirement. “You shall surely tithe all the produce from what you sow, which comes out of the field every year.” (Lev.23:10). They were to bring of their first fruits. Using an agricultural term, the Bible speaks of the tithe as coming out of the “first-fruits” of a crop. In terms of money, the first 10% of one’s income is set aside for God. The giving of first fruits has been God’s special way of teaching people to be like Him. He is a Giver and He wants to lead His children to conform to His likeness. As we give, we grow spiritually, learning to honour God and to always put Him first.

In Exodus 36:5, we read of the generosity of God’s people. They brought gold, silver and precious stones for the building of the

Tabernacle until they were told to stop. “It is enough.” Are we able to follow their outstanding example? As a result of their giving, God was glorified and exalted (1 Chronicles 29:11).

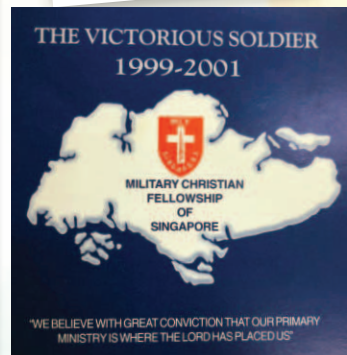
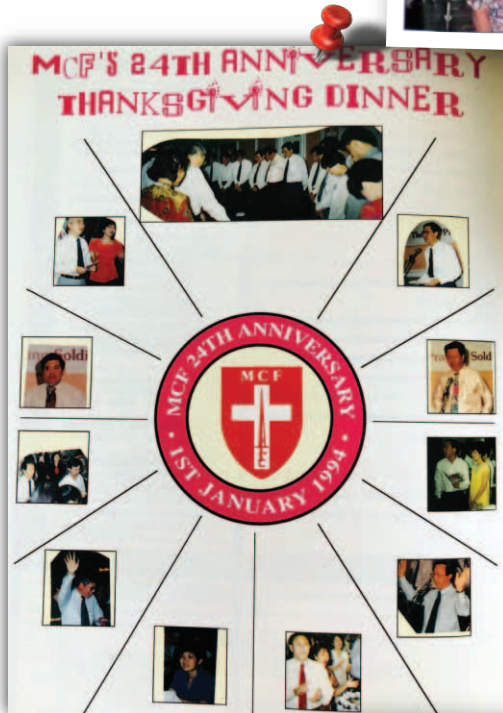
In Mark 12:41-44, we read of the Widow’s Mite. “A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. And calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.” God is not impressed by the monetary size of one’s gift but the sacrifice involved as it demonstrates one’s love for Him. God watches with interest when one gives as in the case of the widow. One’s giving can be a positive example. Jesus wanted His disciples to learn from the sacrificial giving of this godly widow.

Sacrificial giving means far more than giving out of surplus income. “If you are really eager to give, then it isn’t important how much you have to give. God wants you to give what you have, not what you don’t have. (2 Cor 8:12).

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, help us be excellent stewards of all the resources You have graciously provided for us. We want to surrender ourselves to You, giving willingly of our own accord, sharing what You have given to needy saints, giving sacrificially and counting my giving always as a joy and a privilege. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”*

1991-2000



**MCF Singapore's Counselling Ministry**

In our first quarter 1994 issue, we introduced MCFers to our counselling ministry which has been expanded to cover new areas for your counselling needs.

Apart from service personnel in the Detention Barrack, individuals and married couples also seek help for their needs. Recently, a number of retired service personnel have sought help via MCF counselling ministry.

For all your counselling needs, call Mr Vincent Silvarajoo, our Ministry Staff, for help. By way of net-working, he can refer you to appropriate agencies to assist you and your family.

On 25 Nov 94, Vincent graduated from the Pastoral Counselling Programme which was conducted by the Counselling and Care Centre of Singapore.

**MCF's Photo News**

MCF Chairman COL Rayman Chia sharing God's word with MCFers at the AGM.





*Dedication of leaders by Rev. Kuan Kim Seng*



*MCF council members, Exco, and staff at the service*

**THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE  
1997 AMCF SOUTH EAST ASIAN CONFERENCE**



*Standing from left: Maj Wong Chen Guan, Lic Billy Yip, Maj Tan Buck Yim, Cpt (NS) Henry Tang, Col Tan Hang Khe, Lic Chan Boon Chye, IWO Anthony Cheong, Maj Jimmy Cheong, Rev Vincent Silvarajan, Maj Lee Shuang Lung.*



# KNOWING OUR CALLING

## DEVOTION 21

BG (NS) Ngien Hoon Ping

Former Director Joint Operations  
and Commander CSSCOM

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers -  
Leadership (April 2003)

When the message of salvation is shared with us, we usually focus on the fact that we have been forgiven, saved and that God has an eternal plan for us. Often, many of us, including me, forget that God wants us to seek Him with all our hearts and work out a mission for our individual lives with God! How does one know His mission?

For me, I started doing this by asking the Lord Jesus directly: "What is your Calling for me? Who are the people You want me to love and be a part of Your blessing to them?" I asked and prayed over this repeatedly, shared with close brothers-in-Christ who also sought the Lord jointly with me, so that they could advise me and partner with that calling. Through prayer, fasting and discussing with godly brothers-in-Christ, I was able to receive a clear sense of Mission for me and my family. This is critical if your desire is to please Him, to walk in a clear direction in your life and not be tossed to and fro by pressures or persuasions of the world that distract you. Having clarity of calling and mission also helps you rally other Christians to help you stay anchored and rooted in God, and overcome difficulties through His love and grace.

"Be joyful always, pray continually,  
giving thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus."

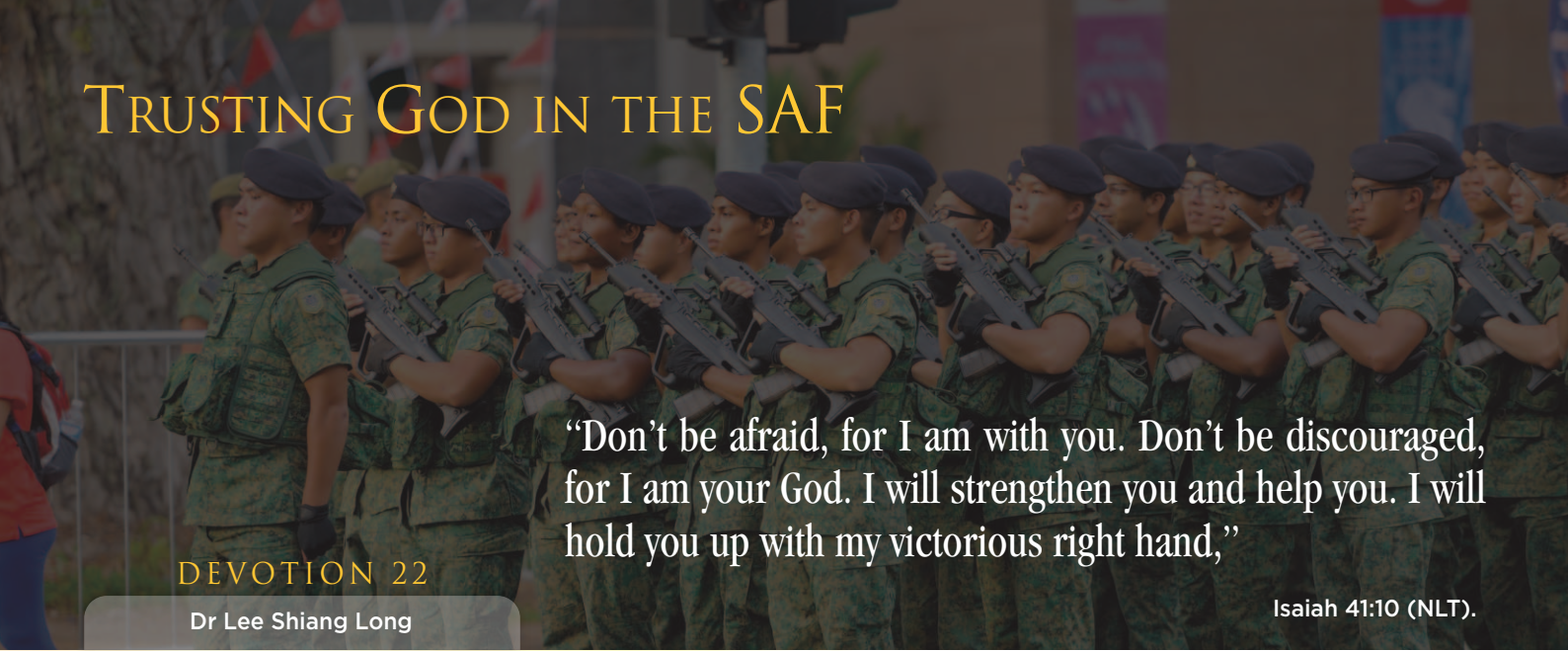
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

For those of us who are familiar with Combat Operations, we are taught that before manoeuvre troops (infantry or armoured forces) attack an objective, we must always "shape the battlefield" through the use of artillery, close air support, etc. Not to do so is to send our troops into a killing field. For God's people who are directly doing His work, they could be likened to the "manoeuvre forces" and for those who support them in prayers, they are like the "artillery fire" which shapes the spiritual battlefield and soften unsaved hearts to be ready to experience His love. Without prayer support, we will be up against the full works of the spiritual enemy; and at best, we will achieve our missions with many spiritual wounds. Hence, we should seek out like-minded fellow believers who are willing to partner with us in our calling to serve Him.

### **Prayer:**

*Father God, I want to keep seeking out what is Your Calling and Mission for me. May You grant me increasing clarity to know who You want me to love, and become part of Your blessing to them. Help me also find prayer partners for accountability and support to keep overcoming in Christ! In the meantime, keep me focused on what You have already shown me to do. I give You thanks in faith, knowing that You are purifying my faith and that for every trial You have allowed in my life to shape and strengthen my faith, You are absolutely in charge and sovereign. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# TRUSTING GOD IN THE SAF



“Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand,”

## DEVOTION 22

Dr Lee Shiang Long

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT).

Former CO 3 Signal Battalion

### **God has a plan and specific purpose for all of us who believe in Him.**

For those of us who are called to serve in the Military, either as Regulars or National Service Full-time, God has planned and designated tasks for each of us to undertake during our service. The tasks, duty and obligation of military service and leadership is one of the most demanding as the security and fortunes of our nation are entrusted upon us. It is thus a privilege to be called to serve in the SAF and a great opportunity to serve God’s calling through God’s strength.

Very soon I realised that it was not possible to overcome all challenges through our own strength although I liked to believe that the military and leadership training I received was able to do that. I have to learn to trust God to help me, and learn to inculcate a firm confidence in God – a quiet and assuring inner confidence that God is going to provide and perform what He says He will do. When God sent Moses to lead his people out of Egypt, He spoke, “Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you...” (Exodus 3:12). We have to realise that the God who created the heaven and earth will be with us in our daily lives and surely, in our workplaces. He will provide and satisfy all our needs. In situations or appointments where we feel inadequate, tired, a loss of interest or disabled, God will take our inabilities and change them. For leaders, another encouraging example can be found when God called Moses to lead. “Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth,

and teach you what you are to say.” (Exodus 4:12). These events are recorded in the Bible for our benefit, and we can take God at His Word, that He will not leave us in a lurch. God can do these, because He is God, the Creator of heaven and earth. He is in control of everything and nothing happens without His concurrence. Since He is in control of the universe, He can solve our problems (which are small, compared to the overall scheme of things).

At times, the demands we face seem to overwhelm us and that creates fear in us. It is not uncommon to discover that we need to make important decisions that affect soldiers’ life, attitude and welfare. I remember there were occasions I had to make presentations to a large audience on topics which I had yet to fully understand. Yet He had provided the words and seen me through. I also recall that God had graciously provided us with excellent weather resulting in many important outdoor events (that I was involved in organising) being accomplished successfully.

God is faithful and He alone can deliver His people.

### **Prayer:**

*Almighty God, thank You that it is a race that we are running, and we are on the journey to understand You and learn to have absolute trust in You. We know that You care for us and You will lead us according to Your plans and purposes. Lean not on our own strength and understanding, but help us to always trust You, with all our heart. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

# CHOOSE GOD'S WAYS

At first they were in awe – and then they were upset, upset over the drowned pigs. They demanded that Jesus leave and not come back.

## DEVOTION 23

Christopher Chow

Artillery Officer and served as a NS Operations Officer in a Guards Brigade

Read Mark 5: 1-20. This might be a familiar passage, but no less relevant especially in the world that we are living in today. Those who lived in the area were well aware of the possessed man and the incessant suffering he was going through. Such was the power of demonic forces that even the strongest of chains could not bind him. However, when they saw that he had been healed, they were more bothered about the economic consequences they had to bear from the destruction of the swine instead of the miraculous healing of the man who was released from his torment. They even begged Jesus not to return.

How often are we like the people from Gerasene, where we are more concerned about the social and economic consequences of our actions instead of obeying God's call to us. But God's ways are not the ways of men.

As His followers we are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, but do we truly do so in our everyday lives? As Christ stood down from the glory of heaven to redeem the World, we too are called to step out from our comfort zones to minister to those who are in need. Are we willing



Mark 5:14-17 (NIV)

to be like Christ, who made a detour into the land of the Gentiles for the sake of one man? Or would we prefer to walk down the well-travelled path and like the Levite and the Priest in the parable of the Good Samaritan, ignore the man who was beaten and lying by the wayside?

In other words, would we rather have bought stronger chains to address the issue of the man who was afflicted by Legion, for it would have been economically more viable than losing the herd of pigs? To Jesus, saving the man was much more important.

### Prayer:

*Lord, I pray that I will not forget that I am the light of the World. That darkness is not the opposite of light, but rather it is the absence of light. Remind me each day that to dispel darkness I have to shine through my deeds. That hatred is banished through love, that poverty is dispelled through kindness, generosity and empowerment, and to be rid of despair and loneliness I need to extend my hand of friendship and compassion. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# TO MENTOR AND LIFT THE LID OF OTHERS

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

## DEVOTION 24

Bro Lai Kok Weng

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

Former MCF Ministry Staff

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers - Leadership (April 2003)

In Paul's epistle to Timothy, we have a mentor-disciple relationship between Paul and Timothy. Paul was like a father to Timothy and one of the important points that Paul reminded Timothy was not to let anyone despise his youth (1 Tim 4:12). By this, Paul was encouraging Timothy to act like a Senior Pastor even though he must have been very young by the Church's standard. This was an empowering act, similar to what Jesus said in John 20:22, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (NIV). Mentoring someone is one matter and it should not just end with the transfer of knowledge, but with the application of things learned.

Some questions for today's mentors are:

1. What should we consider as the means (think of modern technology and even older, tried-and-tested ways) that are available to us today to mentor others just like Paul did with Timothy?
2. Will we allow the lack of close proximity or time to prevent us from encouraging younger Christians?
3. Can anything stop us from being an encouragement to others?
4. Are we bold enough to empower someone to serve God?

Throughout the Church's history, Christian leadership has always been passed down from one generation to another.

The early Christians did not have a formal institution to train their leaders but depended on people who were more spiritual to show the potential leaders the ropes through informal guidance and lifestyle modelling. The impartation of knowledge (teaching) is important but it is only a part to the holistic learning process. We need to complement it with a relational approach (mentor-disciple), emotional bonding (friendship) and all these must be centred on Godly precepts.

There are many young Christians out there who may need your spiritual counsel. Paul did not let his imprisonment shackle him from encouraging a young pastor. Likewise, the needs of spiritually young Christians are always there, and we must keep moving with God to rally and strengthen younger Christians to be steadfast and keep growing in their daily walk with God.

### Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, come and be my very own Mentor. I want to learn from Your ways. Thank You for biblical examples like the Apostle Paul who saw the leadership potential in young Timothy and built the mentoring relationship with him. Help me find good mentors for myself, and also show me who I can mentor in return. Even when it may be difficult or inconvenient to mentor, help me continue to do so, and be innovative yet biblically sound in my approaches. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# FAITHFUL SERVANT OF GOD

“Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you.

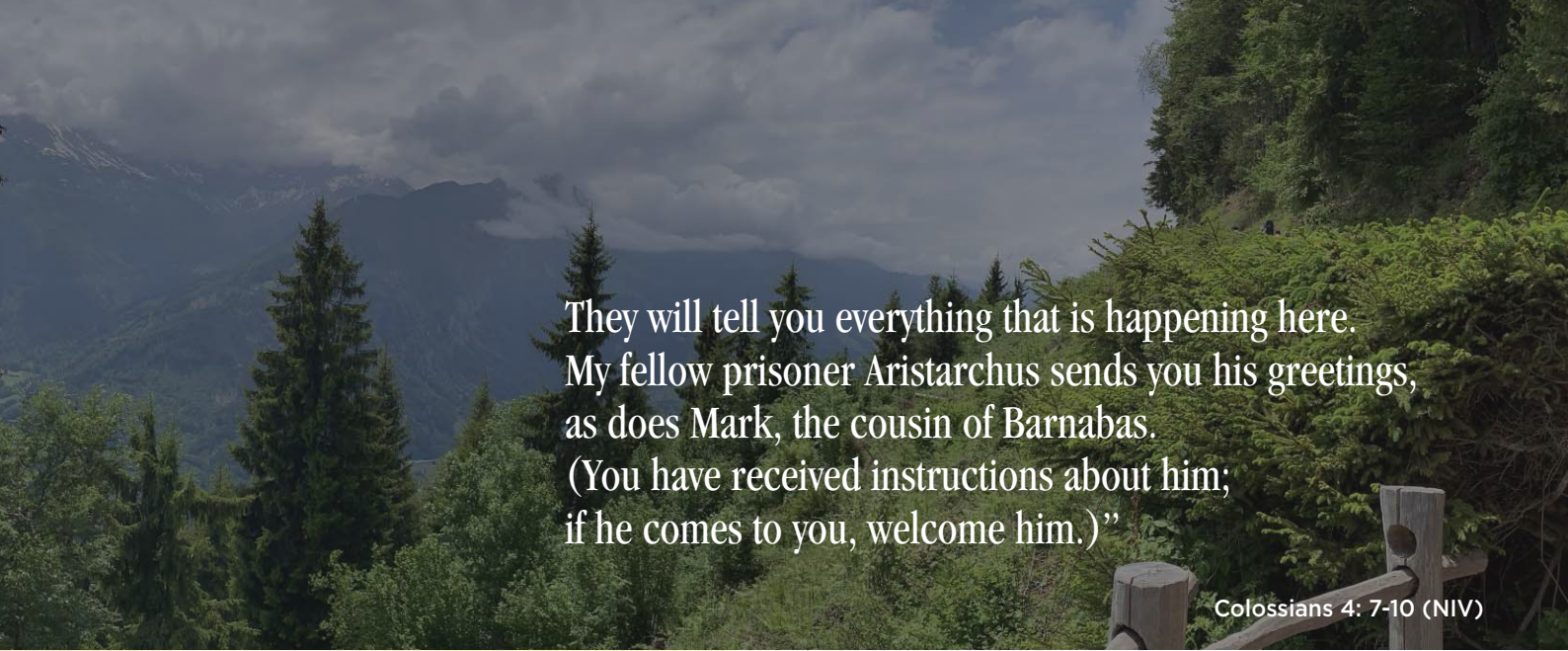
## DEVOTION 25

Pastor Raymond Sim

Lighthouse Evangelism

### Observation

1. Apostle Paul sends his final greetings to the Colossian Church. He mentioned a few co-labourers whom he worked with in the ministry. Who are these brothers?
2. Tychicus - He was an Ephesian. Apostle Paul sent him to the Church in Ephesus and Colossae To encourage them. Tychicus was also sent to the island of Crete to take oversight of the work of the gospel from Titus. He was mentioned the last time by Paul before his execution in 2 Timothy where Paul mentioned he is sending him to Ephesus. Paul describes Tychicus as a dear brother, faithful minister and fellow servant of God.
3. Onesimus - This person is most likely the same person as the runaway slave in the letter to Philemon. Paul wrote this letter to petition to Philemon to forgive Onesimus and treat as a fellow brother in Christ as Onesimus must have become a Christian and disciples by Paul himself. Now in the Book of Colossians, Paul described him as a faithful and dear brother contrary to when Paul first met Onesimus.
4. Aristarchus - He is a Greek Macedonian of Thessalonica. An early Christian mentioned in a few passages in the New Testament. He accompanied Paul to Rome, Greece, Asia, Ephesus and Myria. He was described by Paul as a fellow prisoner in Colossians and fellow labourer in Philemon.
5. Mark - Probably John Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. It is interesting for Paul to mention Mark because there was a time when Paul had a fierce disagreement with Barnabas to disallow Mark to join the Missionary trip because Mark left a previous trip suddenly. Barnabas lives up to his name “son of encourager” where he separated from Paul and took Mark with him on his missionary trip. Mark later on became the first writer of the 4 gospels the “Gospel of Mark”. Paul later wrote compliments about Mark in his letters



They will tell you everything that is happening here.  
My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings,  
as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas.  
(You have received instructions about him;  
if he comes to you, welcome him.)”

Colossians 4: 7-10 (NIV)

showing how Paul had forgiven Mark and addressed Mark as his fellow worker. Later sources describe Mark as the “Mark the Evangelist”.

### Application

How can we apply to all the above information about Paul’s fellow workers?

1. One of the descriptions that is common among the men.  
They were co-labourers or servants of God.  
How can we be servants of God?  
Wherever we are, working in our office, studying in our school, at home or with friends, we can co-labour and sharing the Gospel of Christ to whoever we meet.
2. Another description that comes up often is the word “faithful”.  
We need to be faithful to Christ in all we do.  
Actions speak louder than words.  
Have we been faithful in our service in Church?

Have we been faithful to Christ in the way we live our lives especially on the week days?

3. Like Onesimus and Mark, they may have made a mistake or sinned before. But they repented and made amends.  
From a sinner to a servant of God.  
From a mistake to a missionary.  
From an error to an evangelist.

As long as there is still life in us, all is not lost.  
We can repent and make amends.  
With God, we can change from our dubious past to be a shining example of Christ.

### Prayer:

*Dear God, thank You for Your word. Help me be the servant for Your Gospel. If there are some hidden sins in my life, forgive me and change me so that I will overcome that sin to be a shining light for You. Show me how I can be faithful to You. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

## DEVOTION 26

Rev SLTC (NS) Darren Tan

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

Senior Pastor, LifeUnited Church  
Ex-CO 823 SIR

When I was first enlisted to the military, I was already very busy in church. I was serving as a leader and was responsible for many young people. I looked forward to going back to church every weekend, because that's where the action was. At least I thought.

Being in camp for the week was to me a necessary evil. You can imagine that my attitude wasn't the best. There were several incidents that were the result of my wrong attitude. I soon realized what Matthew 5 actually says, that I am the light of the world. It is in the world that we can be light, not just in church. We are to shine wherever we are, especially in camp. When I changed my attitude. I started to realize that God indeed has a purpose for me in my military service.

God started to show me that there were many people who had many needs in camp. No matter what rank or background they were, they had needs that we can minister to. We can do simple things like being a friend, providing a listening ear or simply watching out for one another. It's in these relationships that God can use us to be a blessing to them.

As Christians we cannot help but stand out, either for good or not so good. We will always stand out.

Sometimes you may feel that you are not making much of a difference for the Kingdom of God. But you will be surprised how small gestures can have eternal ramifications.

In my first unit, I was out for training one day, a Pioneer Specialist approached me and asked me, "Sir, you grad ah?"

I replied, "No, I regret!" I was being humorous.

He found this amusing and recounted this joke years later when he shared his testimony. About 10 years later, I met him again. He shared about how at that time he was into smoking, drinking and partying. But he noticed how I was as an officer, had never used vulgarities to get my point across. He was curious and realized that I was a Christian. He began to seek after God.

Today, he is a pastor.



God has a purpose for you in camp. As you serve your national service, ask the Lord to show you the purpose He has for you. Oftentimes He gives us an assignment to specific people that He brings into our life. When we live out God's purpose from Monday to Saturday, then Sunday becomes even more meaningful to us.

**Prayer:**

*Father, I pray that You open my eyes to see the purpose I have in my camp. Show me the people that You are bringing to me to be light to. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*



# FIGHT THE INVISIBLE

Finally, my brethren,  
be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.  
Put on the whole armour of God,  
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but  
against principalities, against powers, against the  
rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual  
hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.**  
Therefore take up the whole armour of God,  
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,  
and having done all, to stand.

## DEVOTION 27

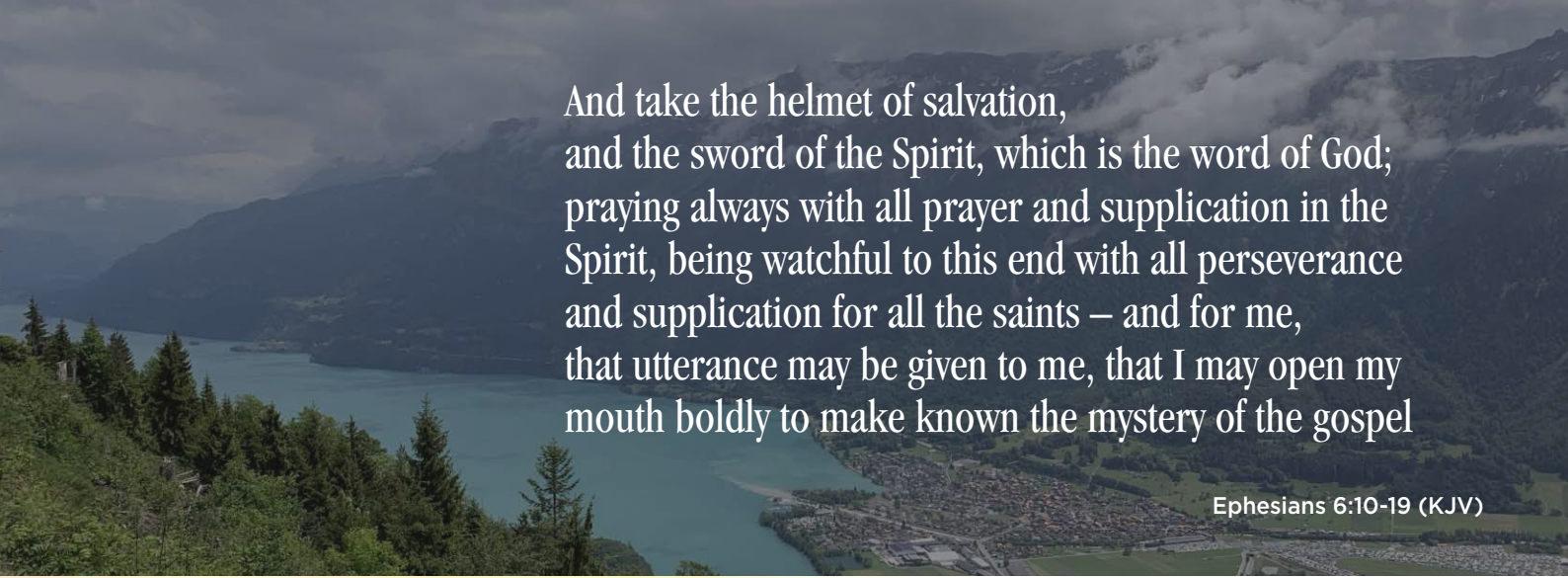
Bro Bernard Fong

Ex-CTO ST Engineering

As a 31 year old engineer, I led the development of our first indigenous armoured vehicle, the Bionix. While tracking the project progress by visible milestones, my priority throughout was to strengthen and guard the “heart-ware” of the team. For a long challenging endeavour, the morale of the team was most crucial, especially during any project crises. We pointed the team to the larger national objective; that one day their sons and sons-in-laws will be fighting in it; celebrated



the milestones and shared successes etc. In time of difficulties, we huddled and shielded the team so as to build and bond in mutual trust. We remained pro-active to mitigate challenging periods, tackling difficulties whilst keeping the end-goal of sweet victory in mind. The leadership team refused murmurings and resolved the underlying causes before they brought about disunity and demoralisation like a silent cancer. So we took care of the invisible and achieved the Bionix family.



And take the helmet of salvation,  
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;  
praying always with all prayer and supplication in the  
Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance  
and supplication for all the saints – and for me,  
that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my  
mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel

Ephesians 6:10-19 (KJV)

Likewise with the teams you may lead, take care of the invisible, and the visible results will be evidenced. As Christians, we fight for the higher cause; we go the extra mile and fight on in commitment as a true follower of Christ, compelled by His sacrificial love for us. As Christians, we also fight the invisible as the order of the day! Remember that in our Christian walk, our enemy is not flesh and blood but invisible **principalities, powers, the rulers of the darkness and spiritual hosts of wickedness.**

This invisible enemy are long at work before manifesting into visible dysfunctional homes; abusive parents or colleagues; oppressive organisation or place or such. These attacks usually start unseen in the quiet places of the mind and heart.

Fortunately, we have the whole armour of God! Like the Bionix, it is very strong defensively but it's real potency is going on the offense. Therefore, let us fight the good fight of faith, and go on the offense in God's armour:

- Wearing the Helmet of Salvation for He that is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4).
- Wielding the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God, and is living and powerful, sharper than a double-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12).
- Praying always for the prayer of the righteous man avails much (James 5:16).
- Declaring boldly the good news for I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the Power of God for salvation to those who believes (Romans 1:16).

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God,  
touch us with boldness to share Your love wherever  
we are and to boldly share Your gospel to the lost  
and hurting. Guard us, our family and units against  
the invisible threats of the enemy.  
Equip us to go on the spiritual offense with Your  
strength and victory! In Jesus' Name we pray,  
Amen.*

# PUT YOUR HOPE IN THE LORD

My heart is not proud, O LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore.

## DEVOTION 28

Delwyn Goh

Psalm 131:1-3 (NIV)

MINDEF Research Officer

2020 will be remembered for how the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the entire world. The global death toll continues to rise, and hundreds of thousands are grieving. In Singapore, we have largely been blessed and our physical casualties are limited. For many of us, the disruption has been to our usual rhythms of life.

God's ministry has continued in Singapore - but mostly online. I remember thinking, at the start of the crisis, that it was an opportunity to slow down personal ministry and reflect more on Christ - and to pray for contentment in His promises, even as uncertainties increased in this world. However, I did not grasp this opportunity. Instead, my heart became busier and noisier than ever - as I shopped around for all kinds of online ministry methods, and tried to make them even more successful than physical meet-ups.

In that busy-ness, God reminded me of Psalm 131. There are just three verses. It powerfully speaks of how we can "still and quiet" ourselves - because we have hope in the LORD.

We can have such hope in Him, even amidst great adversity. In Old Testament times, Psalm 131 would have reminded

Israel to hope for a full restoration by God - even as they experienced great suffering in exile. They should hope - because God had promised Abraham, the forefather of the Israelites, that the exile would eventually end, and God is faithful to His promises.

The Israelites were to trust in Him and quiet themselves. But it would have been hard to do so. Instead, the Israelites probably continued to expect, clamour for and work towards immediate blessing and relief of suffering. It is just like how a toddler finds it difficult to wean off mother's milk. He cries and reaches out for it, demanding that it be readily available.

But as we grow, we need something even more nourishing. A child soon needs solid food. For us faithful, our maturity must come to be built on an assured hope in God. Such hope means we can be certain that God is still fulfilling His great and wonderful plans - even as great troubles inevitably come. We can be humble and wait upon His timing, rather than be proud and haughty, questioning His wisdom at every turn.



Brothers and sisters, as His children in modern days, we also have the immense privilege of knowing how God has kept His promise. He has forever secured our salvation, through Jesus' death and resurrection. More so than the Israelites, we should understand why we can quiet ourselves, in our knowledge of Christ.

**Prayer:**

*Father God, inscribe Psalm 131 more and more onto our hearts. Help us to learn how to humbly rest, as we trust in Your power to fulfill Your promises. We may take a lifetime to still our hearts - as preacher Charles Spurgeon said, Psalm 131 is "one of the shortest to read, but one of the longest to learn" - but keep reminding us, and keep us in hope, even amidst suffering. Help us to desire the peace we can have, as we lie in Your arms - our loving and faithful Father God. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# SERVING GOD WITH MCF

## DEVOTION 29

LTC Joshua Gopal Sundram

Ex-CO 8 SIR

I was first invited for a prayer session on 1 Jul 2005 at Ascension Church. I was thrilled as I never knew that we had a Military Christian Fellowship organisation here in Singapore, where Christian soldiers could come together and worship as one. From there, I started to go for MCF annual prayer sessions until 2008, where I was moved by "Onward Christian" magazine with articles on the late COL Bernard Tan. Looking at how he stood out as Salt and Light for Christ, the meaning of working for God at workplace took a different calling for me. I started to find purpose in serving Him, and honouring Him in everything that I do. I started attending regular weekly Saturday early morning prayer sessions, and BG Ngien Hoon Ping asked me to join the council. I prayed, and I knew that I will do what God has called me for.

MCF ministry has always been a close knitted one where there's only one Commander - Lord Jesus Christ. It just feels like a community when you witness many putting God first before themselves. Prayers for SAF and our nation have always been heartening. I continue serving with the MCF as it's important to have a prayer covering body for our organisation and I felt led to be part of it.



As soldiers - NSFs, NSmen and Regulars - we are ambassadors for Christ and His servants to be Salt and Light of the world. For NSFs, regard your National Service as a 2-year sabbatical mission to get closer to God and allow Him to shape you to become stronger physically, mentally and spiritually. For NSmen, it's not only a moment to serve but to also walk in the stages of life with many others and share your testimonies as you come back for ICT. For Regulars, there is no secular-spiritual divide. Every day is a spiritual day for Him, and we must honour our work as our worship unto our Lord as we steward resources, people and policies. As Christians, we have a mandate and through our lifestyle and daily ways, we will impact and draw many to God, just like Daniel and Joseph did in the Bible.

I like to also share this photo, which is sentimental to me, where my son represents the future of soldiers entering SAF and his sleep represents the eventual peaceful and good experience which literally rests upon my shoulders, as a Regular.

I pray that the goodness and God and His light shine on MCF now and forever, as it leads Christian soldiers across SAF to stay united as a community to serve Him, pray and steward His given resources to us well.

# SOUL CARE

“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

## DEVOTION 30

Late Rev Vincent Silvarajoo

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)

Former MCF Chaplain

Reproduced from Onward Soldiers, 4th Quarter 1993.

Since time immemorial, man has spent a great deal of his time, money and effort to keep himself physically fit. During the era of the Roman empire, there were gladiators who used sheer muscle power to survive. Today, man is able to earn millions of dollars in a matter of minutes in professional sports like boxing. Women too, have taken physical exercise seriously and are competing with men in several sports that demand great physical strength. The question is what does the Bible say about bodily exercises?

The Apostle Paul exhorted young Timothy to avoid godless tales and myths but rather to exercise unto godliness and added that physical training “is of some value”. Yes, physical training strengthens the physical body, but even more important is the training and exercising of our soul. To become a Christian is one thing; to make progress another. Some Christians tend to become careless about spiritual matters and even totally neglect this area. Although we are saved by faith alone, we must be mindful that it is by practising our faith that we are kept spiritually sound and active. As the saying goes, “practice makes perfect”. For the Christian, this simple means “practice makes spiritual maturity.”

Beloved show concern for your soul! There are three needs that I want to encourage you to attend to diligently:

1. The need for soul care – Our souls need to be nourished with God’s Word for this is crucial in protecting our souls from harmful influences. We ought to, because Satan attacks God’s people by way of worldly attractions, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. We need to be constantly on guard! In all

things, we need to exercise practical Godliness, because today’s thoughts may become tomorrow’s words and actions and they can tarnish our Christian testimony!

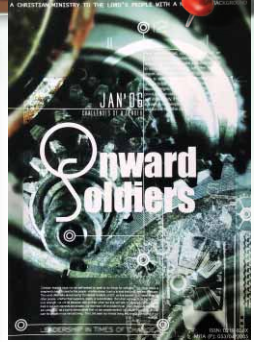
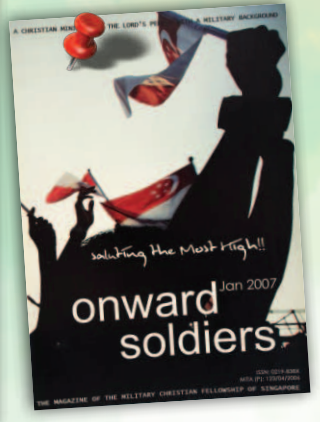
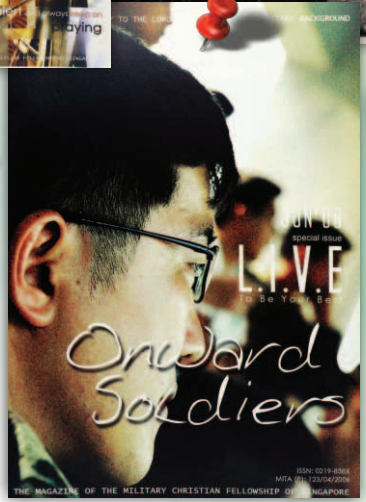
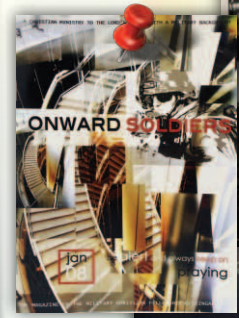
2. The need for good company – As the saying goes, “a man is judged by the company he keeps.” We need to choose our company wisely. Some companions will do us good; their presence can be a blessing to us. In the same way, bad company will lead us to great harm through their undesirable and misleading influences in our lives. It is therefore imperative to heed God’s word in Psalm 1:1, “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,.” It is wise to stay clear of such characters no matter how prestigious it would be to associate with them.
3. The need for communion and conviction – Salvation brings us into a right relationship with God but it does not make us perfect. Hence, we must maintain a prayerful life and be always in communion with Him because He offers us His presence and grace for our souls. Let us not be found guilty of “wishy-washy” conduct, neglecting to ask ourselves “What is wrong with this and that?” It is sad to note that there are some who think that they only need a certain amount of salvation to keep them away from worldliness.

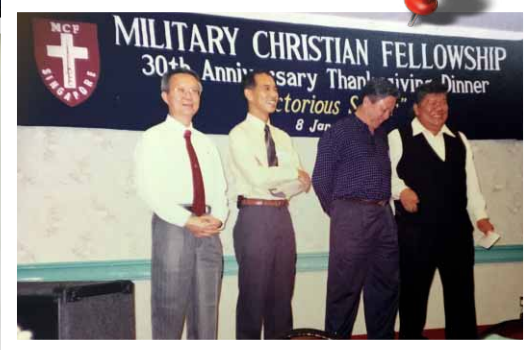
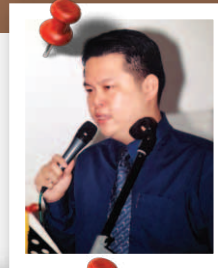
### Prayer:

*Almighty God, may we always heed Your word by not grieving Your Holy Spirit. Instead of only caring for our physical health, enable us to also show care and concern for our souls by exercising our spiritual lives and be shining witnesses for You. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.*

# MCF THROUGH THE 50 YEARS

2001-2010





# PRAYER FOR HUMILITY

In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

## DEVOTION 31

Mr Chiang Chie Foo

Former Permanent Secretary of Defence  
(2004 - 2013)



Philippians 2: 5-7

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, we pray that You will bless all our servicemen and servicewomen in whatever roles they play in the SAF.*

*We thank You and give You praise for being faithful to them, for the goodness You extend so generously to them, and that Your goodness chases after them.*

*We pray for humility, just like Christ, the Son of God, who came to serve.*

*That the servant attitude manifest strongly from our servicemen and servicewomen's hearts.*

*That our servicemen and servicewomen will be the Salt and Light, and fulfil the purposes that God has assigned to them in the SAF.*

*We pray that our servicemen and servicewomen be that leading light that everyone around them can see the love of Christ in them.*

*Lord, we thank You for continuing protecting our servicemen and servicewomen and keeping them safe.*

*In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.*

# A DAILY QUIET TIME WITH GOD

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.  
For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
the LORD bestows favor and honor;  
no good thing does he withhold  
from those whose walk is blameless.  
LORD Almighty,  
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Psalm 84:10-12 (NIV)

## DEVOTION 32

RADM(Ret) Ronnie Tay

Former Chief of Navy (2003-2007)



When I was asked by MCF to provide a devotional sharing for this publication, I was hesitant. Not having done that before, I wasn't sure if I could write something that would be appropriate or helpful to the readers. I turned to my wife Leah, to get her thoughts on whether I should accept the invitation. She reminded me of the times God had spoken to me during my morning devotion time, and said, 'You should pray and ask God.'

The following morning, I did my quiet time as usual. The reading for the day (26 June 2020) from the devotional guide which I have been using for some years now, was Mark 6:6b-13. The passage was about our Lord Jesus sending out the twelve disciples, who then went out and preached to the people, and healed many.

In his reflection on the Scripture passage, the writer said that *'often we give excuses that we are not ready to do what the Lord calls us to do - but neither were the disciples ready'*. He went on to say that *'For the disciples, it was an honour and privilege to carry the message of hope to a hurting and dying world. This remains our honour and privilege today. It is one responsibility that we should not decline. Think of one thing that the Lord would like us to do that we have been brushing aside.'* Reading that, it was clear that God was speaking straight to me! He reminded me that it is my

responsibility to always be ready to testify about the goodness of God to me. I shared that with Leah, who laughed, saying, 'See? God has answered you!'

It is indeed good to start each day with a quiet time with God - to enter His presence, praise and thank Him for His manifold blessings, bring our cares to Him, and let Him speak to us. In my earlier years, I did not do that every day, due to the interruptions and inconveniences of daily life. However, some twenty years ago, I made a commitment that I would have a quiet time with God each morning, even if I had overslept and had to do it later in the office, or if I had to travel on a plane or be out at sea on a ship. In doing my quiet time each day, I have been blessed; often too, God speaks directly to me about my specific concerns, such as through His Word or the reflections of His servants who write the devotional guides. Praise be to God!

### Prayer:

*Dear Lord, thank You that I can come so freely to You each day, to have the joy of entering Your holy presence, seeking Your face and casting my anxieties upon You. Help me to ever be open to listening to Your still small voice, and obedient to do Your will each day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

*\*Kar Yong Lim, "Taking Risks," Encounter With God Apr-Jun 2020 (Scripture Union, 2020), p105.*

# LIVING OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

“And surely I will be with you always,  
to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20b (NIV)

## DEVOTION 33

Bro Lai Kok Weng

Former MCF Ministry Staff



Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers (2nd Quarter, 2004)

Being in the military, we have to constantly remind ourselves that we are “Victorious Soldiers” in Christ Jesus who has overcome sin and death. The resurrected Christ is able to do all things; the word impossible is not in His vocabulary. To achieve this state, we must first walk with Jesus. The comfort we can take is the promise from Jesus who said, “And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt 28:20, NIV).

With that assurance, every Christian soldier should start living for Him. If you are in the military as a recruit or in the midst of your NSF, here are a few suggestions for you:

- Share an encouraging word with a camp-mate who may be undergoing a difficult patch with training or with personal problems.
- Knowing that God is everywhere, be righteous under all circumstances; do not steal, do not lie and do not swear or use vulgar language.
- Knowing that God is always watching, serve your National Service with humility and dedication as a “Soldier for Christ”.

If God has placed you as a trainer, apart from carrying out your tasks faithfully as ordered by your commander, consider the following:

- Carry out all training steps with compassion, especially for any weaker ones amongst your trainees.

- Provide assistance or share special techniques as an when necessary.
- If possible, take time to communicate with all your trainees. Let them know the objectives and rationale for certain manoeuvres, training or physical exercises.
- Gather Christians in your unit to pray for the well-being of the unit.
- Counsel soldiers who may be in need.

If God has appointed you as a Commander, conduct yourself as “just and righteous” and also consider the following:

- As soldiers serve the nation, the Commander should give of themselves to their men.
- Love all your subordinates just as Christ loves His Creation.
- Treat Christians well, just as with everybody else.
- Encourage Christians in your unit to gather for prayer, to uphold and provide spiritual support to each other and other soldiers in the unit.

### Prayer:

*Father God, thank You for placing us in unique positions within the military. There are plenty of opportunities for us to live out Your purpose as ‘Salt of the earth’ and ‘Light of the world’. Guide me to live out a God-centred life to impact those around me positively. I place my hope and trust in You, for You are with me even now, and will always be with me till the very end of the age. In Jesus’ Mighty Name, Amen.*

# THE COMPASSION AND THE POWER OF CHRIST

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, He had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So He began teaching them many things.

## DEVOTION 34

COL(Ret) Srin

Guards Officer



Mark 6:34 (NIV)

The account of Jesus feeding the 5000 appears in all 4 gospels. Just imagine being in the crowd on that day. In a remote place with no access to food and meagre resources Jesus performs this powerful miracle. Our Lord takes 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes, prays, multiplies and feeds the entire crowd. At the end of this meal there is much to spare. The power of the miracle is mind blowing. How can it be possible for so little be multiplied into excess?

While we remain fascinated by the power, we have to step back and consider Jesus's heart as He exercised His power. Jesus had compassion on the people that had gathered. In particular, He had compassion because they were like sheep without shepherds. Can you imagine soldiers going into battle without any commanders? Can you imagine trying to reach your destination without a map, GPS or a guide. Jesus was concerned about the people and He taught them.

All these people who gathered to be taught by Him were at the risk of not being fed. The disciples were worried. It was not possible to feed this crowd. From a human perspective the situation was impossible. Yet Jesus who

was compassionate was also powerful. In and through His power He met the physical needs so that those gathered would not go hungry. In performing this miracle, He also involved His disciples and got them to participate in collecting the loaves of bread and fish, organizing the crowd and distributing the food.

Jesus is compassionate, Jesus is powerful and Jesus allows us to be involved in His daily miracles to show His compassion and His power to the world. Whether you are a recruit or a commander, there is always an opportunity to share God's compassion and power with someone else.

### Prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your heart of compassion in leading us and being our Heavenly Commander-in-Chief. We are so grateful that as powerful as You are, You care for each one of us and meets even our material and physical needs. I pray that as I open my heart to You, You will show me the places and people around me to whom I can display Your compassion and Your power.  
In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# VALUES AND THE CHRISTIAN LEADER

## DEVOTION 35

COL(Ret) Michael Lim

Former Chief of Artillery

“I, yes I, am the One who comforts you.  
So why are you afraid of mere humans,  
who wither like the grass and disappear?”

Isaiah 51:12 (NLT)

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers - Leadership (April 2003)

I recall that on one occasion, the brother of a soldier I sent to detention waited for me at the bus stop. This was when I was young, as a CPT, I had to discipline soldiers. I decided I would do so, and should not be afraid even if they threaten me with physical harm. We should just do what we know is right, and leave the rest to the Lord. If we do not discipline our men because we are afraid to do so, then we lose the moral right to lead. Even if we still wear the epaulettes, we no longer earn the respect of our men, and thus we are much less effective (if at all) as officers, and also for the Lord.

People initially may not know our values, and we may be asked to do things that are not in consonance with them. If at first, we adhere to our values, then slowly people will see that we are possibly different, and will likely be less ready to involve us in areas where they know goes against our values. We must make the first stands, and this is where the greatest difficulty lies. Once we make several small stands,



it builds up and we begin to develop a platform of espoused values from where to operate with, and people do recognise that. If we find that we have failed the first few occasions, we should not despair. It is not too late to put the fear of the Lord before all our other fears. The Bible teaches us not to be “afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do” but “fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell...” (Luke 12:4-5). Turn to the Lord for strength today to begin to live a morally correct life to obey Him and to bring glory to Him.

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, Your Word in Psalm 111:10 says that “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. With Your wisdom, I am better able to stand for Your righteousness. I ask for Your guidance to build a godly value system founded upon Your Word. Help me live a life of integrity and be consistent for You Lord, all the time. Help me adopt godly values and make them part of my life, as I serve You wherever You have placed me. In Jesus’ Mighty Name, Amen.*

# GOD WAITS PATIENTLY AND HE FORGETS ME NOT

“Arise shine, for your light has come,  
and the Glory of the LORD rises upon you”

## DEVOTION 36

Anonymous

Isaiah 60:1 (NIV)

About 20 years ago, even as a professing Christian for many years, I struggled with the question “I know that there is a God. But who are you, Jesus?”. By God’s grace, I was led to read chapter 14 of the gospel of John. Upon reading verse one, I was convicted by the word of Jesus in 14:1 (NKJV) “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in GOD, believe also in Me”. When I came to the end of the reading, I was duly challenged by the last verse in John 14:31 (NKJV) “Arise, let us go from here”. I cried. It was an overwhelming call to follow Jesus from that time forth.

In mid-2018, when reading the same chapter during my month-long hospitalization leave, I realized that my relationship with God had not progressed beyond that verse in John 14:31. During this time of rest and reflection, I struggled with several spiritual questions: “Am I completely forgiven? Did God send sickness into my body because of my sins? Was God trying to get my attention?”. At the same time, I was considering to take some time off from my work or to retire early as my health had affected my work performance. Through these spiritual and personal struggles, GOD even confirmed with clear signs that He would take care of my future needs.

Without much hesitation, I submitted my resignation in early 2019 to begin a new phase of my life. Most of all, besides taking time to rest and rejuvenate my body, I wanted to learn more of God’s way and also His plans and purposes for my life ahead.

It has been more than a year since I came out from full-time work. Besides being physically and mentally refreshed, I thank God for keeping me close to Him daily and making every moment, an intimate and rewarding experience with Him. Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) captures this relationship succinctly, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You”.

I am learning to surrender my priorities and to give my time for God. Instead of finding my own “instrument” to perform, I am also learning to become His instrument while waiting patiently for His music chords to be written out. I am reminded of my identity in Christ and to declare that I am wonderfully made in the image of God. I am also reminded to possess Christ’s goodness and to abide in His fullness at all times and in all circumstances with the help of the Holy Spirit.

During a recent devotion time, I caught a glimpse of how God has been faithful in connecting the different dots marked out in my life. Each dot has God’s seal on it and He has been molding me into His likeness more and more to fulfil His plan and purposes.

### **Prayer:**

*Holy Spirit, help me to arise and to follow Jesus at all times, knowing His plan and purposes and to finish them well in His time and ways. In Jesus’ Mighty Name. Amen.*

# LORD, “BE MY TUTOR” (BMT)

## DEVOTION 37

Pastor Chin Lee



As a young man enlisted for National Service (NS), this is a new phase of your life and may be a great challenge and task for many of you. But for the young Christian soldier, it is God’s given assignment and divine purpose for your life.

As such, would you then ask the Lord, **“Be My Tutor” (BMT)?** And seek His help to be teachable as you learn valuable lessons in your NS journey in the following three aspects:

Firstly, **B** for **BE PREPARED** for challenges ahead of you. In 2 Timothy 2:3-4, the apostle Paul endured hardship in prison and like a good soldier of Christ Jesus, his aim is to please his commander, not to be entangled with civilian pursuits but endure rigorous discipline to run and finish the race.

Similarly, as a soldier serving NS, let Philippians **4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”** be the source of your strength as you undergo strict training. And be prepared to be tutored by the Lord as you listen to and obey His commands.

Secondly, **M** for **MATURITY**.

The bible exhorts God’s children to mature and grow in Christlikeness (Ephesians 4:13, Colossians 2:6-7). In order to grow in Christ and know Him more intimately, there ought to be a deep desire in seeking after God and the things of God. The key mark of true Christian growth is growing in godliness and Christlikeness. And godliness does not come automatically. It takes hard work and training (1 Timothy 4:8).

I believe, as a young soldier, you too will grow in maturity as you undergo discipline and regimental training in your NS journey. These are part of the necessary molding process to strengthen and build you up to be a strong and competent soldier. Just like a piece of raw diamond going through an intense process to produce a pure precious diamond.



The third is **T** for **TRANSFORMATION**

The important thing about transformation is to first recognize your identity in Christ. **It is WHO you are that determines WHAT you do.** You are a beloved child of the True and Living Almighty God. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is with you and **FOR** you. Hence, as God's child, it is important to replace any self-defeating thought with the God focused mindset by renewing your mind with the infallible Word of God (Romans 12:2). Be aware that the evil one comes to steal, to kill and destroy. Hence be alert, ready and strong in the Lord; putting on the **whole** armor of God in order to stand against the schemes of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-20). And as you hear and obey God's Word, be filled with and walk in the Holy Spirit moment by moment (Ephesians 5:16), as life transformation takes place.

In the same way, **transformation** from a recruit to a trained and skilled soldier takes place as you discipline yourself to undergo the necessary training, enduring and persevering, never giving up even when the going gets tough. I recalled a statement by Mr. Robert Schuller, **"Tough times don't last, tough people do"** that helped me in my NS journey as a young soldier. Besides, humble yourself to obey authority, observe safety rules and procedures and follow instructions diligently.

**Prayer:**

**"Lord, Be My Tutor".** Help me so that I will **Be** prepared and ready for what is to come. And grow in **Maturity** and Christ-likeness and complete Your given assignment and fulfill Your **divine purpose** for my life. May I be **Transformed** by the application of Your Word, in my life, through the infilling and empowerment of Your Holy Spirit.  
*In Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen!*

# WHAT IS YOUR SPIRITAL EPITAPH?

## DEVOTION 38

Tan Boon Kim

Former Defence Attaché  
to the United States

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers (2nd Quarter, 2004)

Have you ever wondered what really mattered in your life? I recall attending a university leadership workshop whereby the facilitators asked the participants to close our eyes to picture a scene at our death beds and think what we would like people to say about us. The objective of the exercise was for us to pause and reflect on what really mattered to us in life as the facilitators believed that this would help the leader be clearer in his/her values and not be clouded by the immediate distractions. I believe that we, Christians, would similarly need to take time to conduct similar reflections, not so much in terms of what we want others to say about us, but rather what the Lord would say about us.

A useful way is to consider what our spiritual epitaphs would look like. To illustrate, I want to bring us back to the books of Kings (and Chronicles) which detail the reigns of the kings of Israel and Judah after David, to the point where Judah was

“He has shown you, O man, what is good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly, to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8 (NKJV)



taken captive by the Babylonians. Note how the Lord passed verdicts on these kings. It did not matter what their earthly accomplishments were, but the reign of each king was judged by whether what

he did was “right” or “evil” in the eyes of the Lord. Their spiritual epitaphs were determined by how their hearts aligned (or departed) from the ways of the Lord.

We need to similarly examine our hearts and ask ourselves what the Author of life would say about us at the end of our lives, if we continue the way we are presently living each day. While there are many aspects of our lives to consider such as work, family and church, Jesus has said that only when we are faithful in the small things can we be faithful in the weightier matters (Luke 16:10, Matthew 25:23). We need to ask ourselves what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord. This is revealed in Micah 6:8, whereby



God requires us “to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly” with Him. As Proverbs 16:18 also instructs us, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” Only when our hearts are humble before God, are we able to acknowledge His providence as well as depend on Him in all things. In doing so, we adopt the perspective that there is really nothing to be proud of in life, as our gifts, talents, skills and intellect are in the first place pre-determined by the Lord.

What joy it will be for us to be powerful yet humble witnesses for the Lord! Far greater will be the joy when up in heaven our Lord proclaims to us, “Well done faithful servant!”

How is your spiritual epitaph looking?

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God, I am reminded that King David fell to sin when he was at the peak of his career and not when he was a lowly shepherd boy or trying to escape the pursuit of Saul. Please remove any pride in my heart that causes me to displace You from the centre of my life. May my spiritual epitaph be marked out by a life found doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly before You God. In Jesus’ Mighty Name, Amen.*

# SUCCESS IN GOD'S EYES

## DEVOTION 39

BG (NS) Ngien Hoon Ping

Former Director Joint Operations  
and Commander CSSCOM

“The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:  
Do not be afraid, Abram.  
I am your shield, your very great reward.”

Genesis 15:1 (NIV)

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers (2nd Quarter, 2004)

God - His presence and Holy Spirit - is our reward when we seek Him in our quiet place and spend time with Him. His Spirit guides us in His peace, wisdom and love, and with His guidance, we will succeed in all that we do.

God calls us, His Beloved. Success in God's eyes is not defined as promotion, having more money, having more popularity, or another academic degree. Without me elaborating, you should be able to identify superstars, or the very wealthy people, who are not happy with their lives. As suggested by John Maxwell, success is a journey and one is successful when:

- You know your purpose in life;
- You value add to other people's lives;
- You are learning and growing to your maximum potential.

This definition is in line with what the Lord Himself would measure success, and by this measure, Christ who had to die for us on the Cross was, and is, very successful.

How do you fare if you applied this yardstick to your life? Is there a need to pray to God and make a change in your life's direction? Is there something you should be doing differently from today onwards?

Remember that when you are old, or at your deathbed, no one is going to praise you for how fast you gained your first million dollars, or be promoted to the most powerful position in your career ladder.

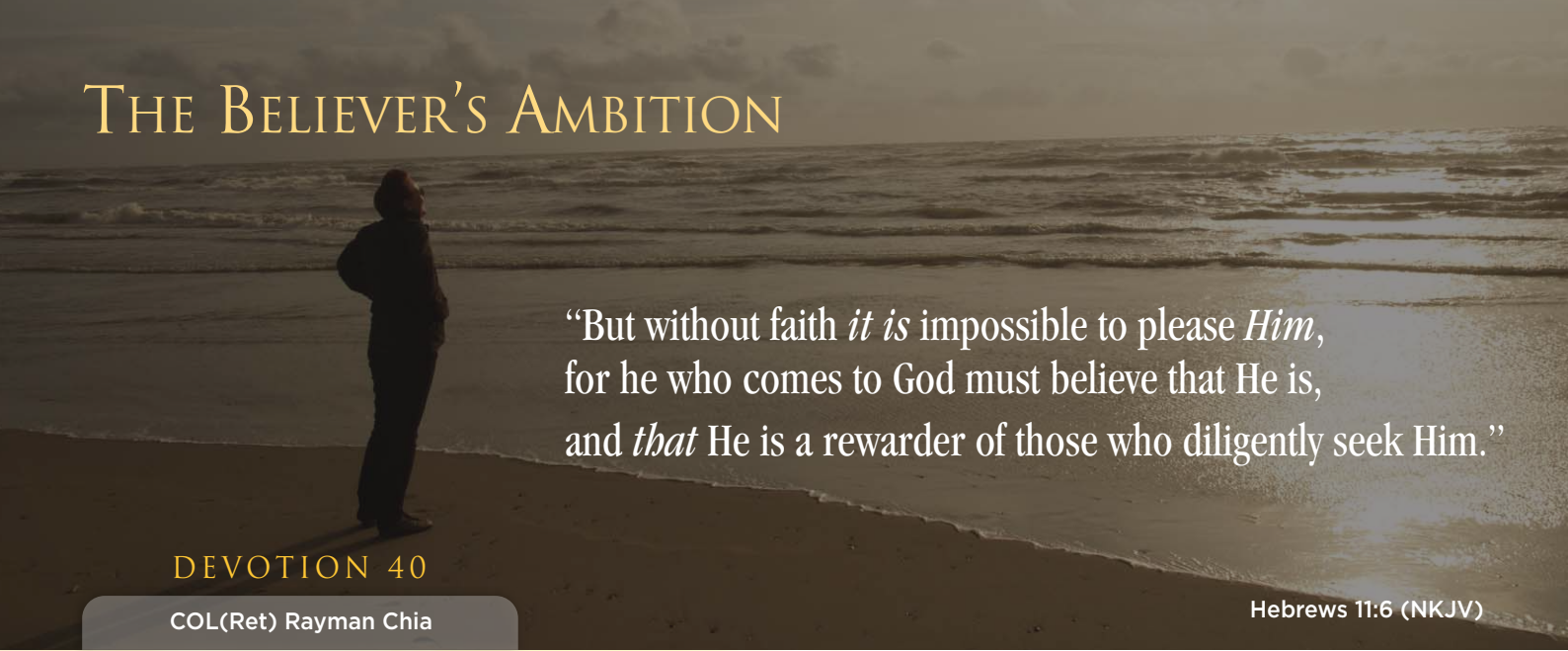
At your death bed, it will be the presence of the people whose lives you have touched and inspired that will warm your heart and remind you that you have led a good and godly life.

More than that, it will be lives touched and blessed that the Lord will have you account to Him, not the material rewards which are worthless in His sight and will not have any value in Heaven. There in Heaven, it will be the people who come to you, smile and thank you for the godly and impactful life you led, that will be your Reward and Trophy. Let us adopt this new mindset of success!

### **Prayer:**

*Father God, I pray to pursue Your definition of success, and to overcome all difficulties in life by Your grace and love, by remaining Your faithful witness till You return. Your Holy Spirit and Your recognition are the best forms of reward! Keep me overcoming by Your grace. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# THE BELIEVER'S AMBITION



“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.”

## DEVOTION 40

COL(Ret) Rayman Chia

Former MCF Chairman

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

Reproduced from Onward Soldiers, Second Quarter 1995

As a Christian, we must always be on our guard where our own ambition is concerned. Matthew 6:21 has much wisdom when it tells us “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” It is for the very same reason that Matthew in the same chapter in verse 24 tells us that “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” If you were to understand that in this case, the word GOD is to represent all that is associated with heavenly things that are intangible like holiness, purity and goodness and the word MONEY represents all earthly things that are tangible and material in nature, you can understand why you cannot serve God and money equally, at the same time.

As Christians, I strongly believe that our ambition should be to please God and to bring glory to Him in our Christian walk. We can do this through the following ways:

1. Faith in God's Word - The Bible provides us with the best manual ever written on how God relates to man, how man should relate to God, and how man should relate to man. In it contains numerous examples to help us live an exemplary life on earth for God.
2. Obedience to His will - God wants us to obey Him because He considers us to be like His children and like all good

parents, He only means well and wants the best for us. Our ambition in obedience to God's will should be to love one another and be a light to the world, sharing and sowing the seeds of the Gospel.

3. Contentment in God - The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 (NIV): “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” Godly contentment can apply to anyone of us at any point in our lives as long as we are willing to acknowledge that God is the source of all our blessings. However, such blessings will only be forthcoming if we consciously allow God to be in control of our lives.

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, may our ambition always be to allow You to use us whenever and wherever possible to be a blessing to others. We choose to place our faith in Your Word, stay obedient to Your will and remain contented in You, because of Your great love for us. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

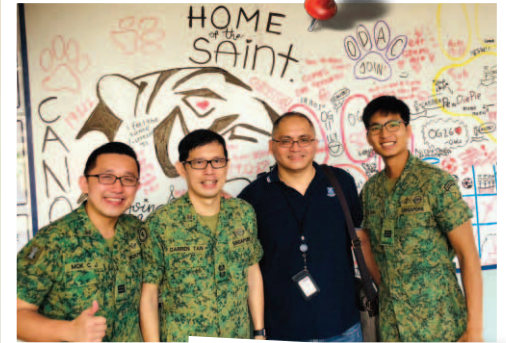
2011-2020



Presentation of Commemorative Plaque to AMCF President General (Ret) C. Srilal Weerasooriya by MCF Chairman SLTC Pang Tzer Yeu

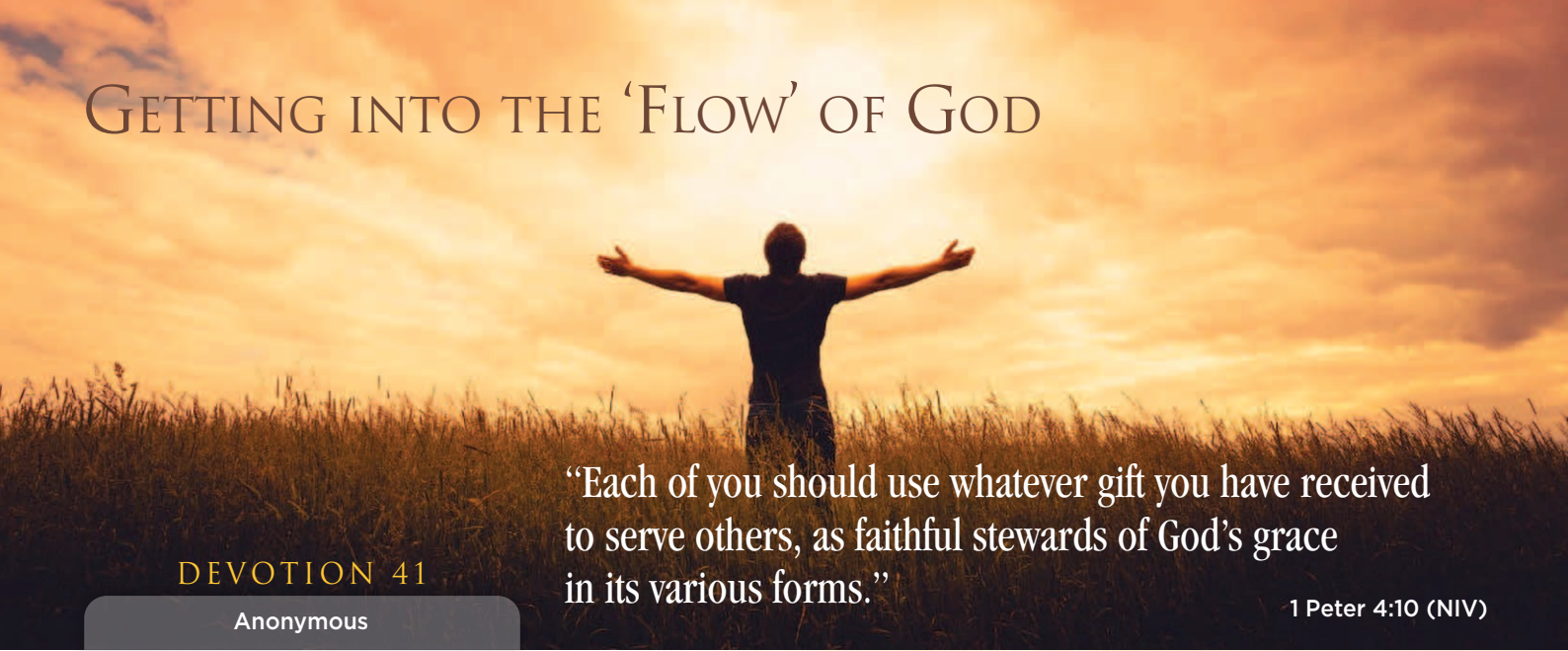


Meeting with MCF Founder Rev Dr Patrick Tan and Michael Relf (Yedidya Fellowship) from Israel





# GETTING INTO THE 'FLOW' OF GOD



“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

## DEVOTION 41

Anonymous

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Finding a way to help others is an expression of faith. It shows that we believe in the sovereignty of God. We don't have to wait until the pain in our life is gone, because we know God can use it for good.

A way to help others with the gifts God has given, is simply by asking two questions: “What is God doing?” and “How can I get into the flow of His activity to help others?”

This creates a posture of commitment to an unwavering faith in the goodness and greatness of our God, whether it be amidst a COVID-19 outbreak, or going into a combat situation, or navigating any storms of life that come against us.

When we ask these questions, ideas will come - and we are better prepared to participate in God's assignment for us.

When we turn from asking, “Why has God allowed this?” towards “What does He want me to do with it?”, we are ready for God to start His work in us, and that aligns us to ‘flow’ with Him for faithful and fruitful service.

### **Prayer:**

*Almighty God, we come to You in thanksgiving, knowing that all we are and all that we have are gifts from You. Awaken us to reach out to others, just as You our God have graciously reached out to us. In faith and love, align us to do Your will. We offer to You this day all the facets of our lives, whether it be at home or at work - to flow with You in Your wisdom, patience, mercy, generosity and holiness. Assign our gifts of time, talent and possessions to diligently serve You in faith, reflecting our love for You and our neighbours.*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# FORGIVENESS FROM THE HEART

“Peter came to Jesus and asked,  
“Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister  
who sins against me? Up to seven times?”  
Jesus answered,  
“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

## DEVOTION 42

Dr CPT (Ret) Patrick Liew

Matthew 18:21-23 (NIV)

Broken hearts cannot fully love. Hurting spirits cannot truly enjoy their lives.

Jesus provided us with His solution to respond to offenders - forgive them.

Forgive them from the heart, and not just from the mind.

Forgive them from the depth of your being, and not just as an intellectual exercise.

Forgive them again and again - and not just as a one-time experience - until the poison of unforgiveness is cleared from your system.

Forgiveness prevents you from sinking deeper into the hole that resentment has dug.

Forgiveness is simple but not easy.

It's simple because you have everything it takes to forgive anybody, but it's not easy because it requires deep courage, commitment and conscientiousness.

Forgiveness prevents you from sinking deeper into the hole that resentment has dug.

Forgiveness is for the brave and not for the weak. It is a way of leaders, not drifters.

The good news is that you don't have to fight the battle alone. There are people who are willing to help you, and are available and accessible to you (Proverbs 1).

When you seek wise counsel and from competent parties, they can help you to have a better clarity of your issues and walk you through the healing process.

The healing process includes uncovering your weaknesses and other blind spots as well as protecting you from falling into a similar trap. They can also help you recover and learn from a bad experience.

Forgiveness ensures that you do not allow the offender to continue to hurt you. It frees up room for God to saturate you with love and His abundant life (John 10:10).

Forgiveness ensures that you are not stuck in the past - a past that you want to leave behind - and lifts you up to live the best life that God has designed for you (Colossians 1:9-12).

Will you forgive your offender again and again until you are completely healed?

# WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THE LORD

“I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire, he set my feet on a rock, and gave me firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.”

## DEVOTION 43

COL(NS) Ong Chia Choong

Guardsman (NSman), HQ Guards

Psalms is the prayer book in the Bible that God has given to us to speak to God. The Psalms reflect the entire range of emotions in our human condition – from joy, praise to the lamentations and fears; to the depths of desolation and despair; but yet God will provide the wisdom, strength, protection for us to experience the reaffirming blessed assurance of God’s faithfulness and goodness to those who seek Him in prayer and meditation.

In the opening 3 verses of Psalm 40, David was recalling the occasion when God delivered him from his troubles from which he is able to find strength for his present crisis. David recounted that he “waited patiently” (translated in Hebrew as the same word “waited” twice) and the Lord heard his cry. God’s deliverance of David is complete in that God not only lifted David out of his sorrowful state but also saved him by putting him on firm ground. Like David, we may face situations that we feel that we have fallen into the slimy pit for which we have no control and unable to get ourselves out of, making us feel trapped and helpless. Sometimes, we do feel this way even as we serve our National Service, don’t we? Could it be a difficult superior or fellow soldier, physical discomfort, being in unfamiliar environment or when we feel that we have dealt with unfairly? As children of God, in these difficult situations, what should be our response?

As undeserving sinners, not only have we been delivered from the bondage of sin and eternal damnation but we have been given the blessed assurance of salvation through the love and redeeming work of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the



Psalm 40: 1-3 (NIV)

words of the hymn says, “On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.” With this blessed assurance of God’s mercy and grace toward us, we, like David, must respond in faith, waiting for God to answer our prayers in His time and according to His will. Waiting on God is also a mark of obedience and submission to God. It is written in Isaiah 30:18 **“Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; therefore**

**He will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for Him!”** (NIV)

David sang of God’s goodness with a purpose that many will see the joy that God had placed in his heart so that they might also come to trust in Him. We are reminded that whatever the circumstances, how we respond will also bear the testimony to God’s goodness toward us. Through our faith towards such difficulties, we will encourage others especially those who are unbelievers to know and trust our God. In turn, we are glorifying God.

### Prayer:

*Dear Heavenly Father, You are our God who is all powerful and yet merciful and gracious unto us. We thank You for the blessed assurance that You will always be our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Strengthen our faith even in difficult times when things are not going our way. Teach us to trust You and wait on You. Teach us to humble ourselves and that whatever circumstances, we may constantly fill our hearts with gratefulness and joy for what You have done for us through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray in all things we do and say, we may glorify Your Name. Amen.*

# TURNING OUR WORRY INTO WORSHIP

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

## DEVOTION 44

LTC Timothy Koh

Matthew 6:33-34 (NIV)

CO 165 SQN

Over the years in the SAF, I find myself worrying over many things in different magnitude.

Before I enlist, I worry about where NS life will bring me. How will it affect my relationship with my girlfriend? What kind of people I will meet? Whether I can pass my IPPT or whether I will get confined in camp?

As I interacted with fellow Christians, many told me they find NS the most challenging period in their walk with Christ due to the diverse influence and temptations. Before I return from my studies to serve as a regular, I worry about how to persevere in my walk with God and serve in a secular working environment.

As a commander, I worry over the safety of my men and over the weight of the mission given to my unit.

Yet with so many things to worry about, I am reassured by the words of Jesus in Matthew 6. God is in control! And He is worthy of our worship. We do not have to worry and our job is simple - to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matthew 6:33). To focus on what He thinks instead of what we think, or what others will think. That His Word becomes our primary meditation.

### **Prayer:**

*Father, thank You for the reassurance that You are the sovereign God who watches over us. You know that as we serve in the SAF we may worry for tomorrow in our own ways and in various capacities, but You have made provision for each day. And indeed Your yoke is light and we give thanks. Father, forgive us. We turn away our worrying and return towards worshipping You alone. It is the size of our God that matters, and not the size of our problems. We want to always seek first Your kingdom and righteousness each day and commit our tomorrow into Your mighty hands Lord. You, above all, are worthy of our worship. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

# LEAVING A POSITIVE LEGACY

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

## DEVOTION 45

BG (NS) Ngien Hoon Ping

John 14:12

Former Director Joint Operations  
and Commander CSSCOM

Reproduced and adapted from MCF Onward Soldiers -  
Leadership (April 2003)

No leader will last forever. Even Moses had to die and had to be buried. Had he not groomed and prepared Joshua, then there would have been no Joshua to lead the people of Israel into their land. If Moses only cared that he remained the greatest leader of Israel and wanted to see the leader after him fumble, then he would never have helped raise Joshua. Instead, Moses loved God and cared about the continuity of His work, after his own departure. Moses spared no effort to mentor and raise Joshua to do the work after his own death.

Elijah also provides us with a very clear example of how we should mentor and raise leaders after us, and leave a positive legacy behind. Elijah obeyed the Lord in mentoring and raising Elisha to continue in the work of leading Israel to live in holiness (1 Kings 19:19, 2 Kings 2:9).

When the Lord leads us into a ministry, it is also likely that He wants the work to continue, even after we leave the scene. It is our responsibility, during our tenure of leadership to mentor, raise and groom more leaders, so that they would carry on the work, and even outshine us! The Lord Jesus said that we, His disciples, will do even greater works on earth, aided by His Spirit, than when He

Himself demonstrated whilst He first walked on earth 2,000 years ago (John 14:12).

Is there a question that the Lord Jesus is our King and Lord, even if we are seen as doing greater works than He did on earth? No. He is still the Leader. We should not be insecure and keep all the knowledge, experience and understanding the Lord has shown us to ourselves. Sure, there may be one or two who will fail us, like Judas failed the Lord Jesus, but we are to, on our part, raise leaders after us, and leave it to the Lord to judge. Whatever our station in life, it is our responsibility to leave a positive legacy behind by raising other leaders after God's heart and who will do His will.

### Prayer:

*Almighty God, You are the Giver of all good things in our lives. We are totally dependent on You, from the day we are born till we die. You are not interested in what we can amass for ourselves, but how we have stewarded the resources, time, relations, money, people, influence that You have placed under our care, and how we have honoured You in the process. You are interested in the impact we leave behind at our work place with the people we interact with. Help us to always shine for You in all that we do. Empower us to raise leaders after us to continue the work You have started in us. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

# THE UNLIMITED POWER OF PRAYER

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

DEVOTION 46

Anonymous

Ephesians 6:17-18 (NIV)

Prayer is a powerful weapon of attack in spiritual warfare. Prayer has no limitations. When we pray, God is at work in us to help us overcome all odds. He is the source of all our power, strength, and desire. He is working in us to bring about what pleases Him.

God began the work by drawing you to Himself. Then when you gave your heart to Christ, He placed His Holy Spirit within you. Now, day-by-day, He is working within you to give you the desire to follow Him. He also gives you the power to live an obedient life.

As you pray today, remember that God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to live a life that pleases God.

**Prayer:**

*Father, today I pray we will remember You are working in us. I pray that we are encouraged knowing You are not only giving us the desire to serve You but the ability and power to do so. Thank You that You are working in us to make us into the people of God You want us to be. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

# FEED MY SHEEP

“He (Jesus) said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (*Gk:phileo*) me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to Him, “Lord, you know all things; You know that I love (*Gk:agape*) you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

## DEVOTION 47

COL(Ret) Tan Hang Khee

John 21:17 (NKJV)

Former Chief of Armour

John 21 is one of the most-preached passages in the Bible.

Here it records the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection. After the first two appearances, there must definitely be some excitement about Jesus' resurrection. Even “doubting” Thomas could touch Jesus' wounds and cried “My Lord and my God.” But after that Jesus went around teaching the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). He may be around but Peter either could not see Him or might just not feel His presence. Things might seem so surreal, and so he said, “Let's go fishing.” (*Shouldn't he be like the Samaritan woman who went evangelising after her encounter with Jesus?*) And some other disciples followed him!

After leaving the SAF in 1998, I was involved in missions in Sabah and China until 2018. I saw miracles of salvations and healings. At times, I loved Him so much that I could say, “Lord, I am willing even to die for You.” But there were also times, (including this period after my return from China), I seem to feel a little like Peter. Maybe you are also in that situation, just “go (*or go back to?*) fishing, whatever that means to you.

At this third time, Jesus stood at the shore waiting for the disciples to reconnect with Him. But they did not even know that He was there until He told them where to catch 153 big fishes. A miracle, since they caught nothing the whole night! When John (*the disciple whom Jesus loved, and who must have loved Jesus dearly*) said “It is the Lord”, Peter - so typical of him- dived into the water to get to Jesus. And the rest joined him and ate bread and fish (sound familiar?) with Jesus. Just like the good old days...



Then came the restoration of Peter with Jesus three questions: “Do you love (*agape, agape, phileo in that order*) Me”, and Peter’s reply of “Lord, You know I love (*phileo, phileo, agape*) You. Is this where we are? For me, even now, I truly love (phileo/agape) Jesus, but I want to love (agape) Him more than these. Maybe sometimes, I am just too weak? But He knows us and even accepts our phileo love. He did not lecture Peter about his past denials or rashness, but just told him to feed His sheep, and His lambs. The outworking of our agape love for Him is to love others - as instructed in the Great Commandment.

In my time in the Army, from recruit to my final posting, inspired by the vision of MCF, I made it a point to join or establish a prayer/fellowship cell group within my workplace or overseas assignments. I can claim that it happened: that I can “feed His sheep” and also allow others to encourage me in those cells.

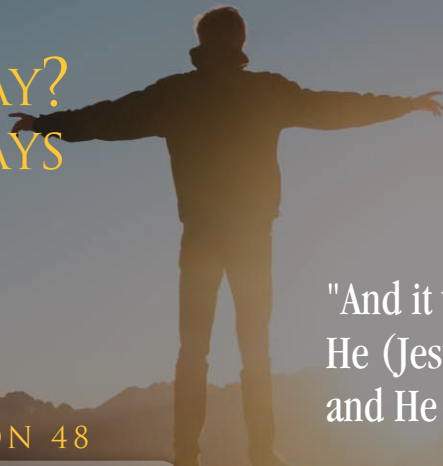
**Exhortation to MCF:** No matter what state we are in, we can always return to our first love for Jesus. He is standing there with the “bread” ready for us. He will teach us how to be fruitful again. Near His bosom, He may still ask “Do you love me”. He wants to hear us saying “Lord, you know I love you, but I want to love you more than this.” He will then say, “I know. Just feed my sheep.”

**A Challenge:** For the regulars (uniformed or otherwise), share the gospel (Mk 16:15), encourage and make disciples in the camps and in the work areas. For our NSF brothers, consider the time in the Army as your mission assignment from the Lord - maybe, just feed His “lambs”.

**Prayer:**

*Almighty God, lead us to feed Your sheep by witnessing for You, sharing the gospel, encouraging and making disciples in our camps and work areas. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

# WHY PRAY? JESUS PRAYS



"And it was at this time that He (Jesus) went off to the mountain to pray, and He spent the whole night in prayer to God"

## DEVOTION 48

LTC(Ret) Lim Kwang Keat

Luke 6:12 (NASB)

Relationship is integral to prayer. The stronger the relationship, the stronger is the prayer in terms of the level of trust, intimacy and understanding. The sayings that "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace" show the importance and purpose of prayer.

How is relationship and prayer between God and Christians different from other religious beliefs? In the Lord's prayer, Jesus addressed God in the first person as Father in Matthew 6:9 (NIV) **"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name"**. In most religious beliefs, it is impossible to come near to God, let alone to call God father.

In John 14:10 (NIV), Jesus answered Philip **"Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work"**. In this verse, one can see the divine relationship between Jesus and God as One. It also reveals the character of our God who came to earth in the form of a sinless man to take away the sins of the world.

In the same chapter, Jesus introduced the person of the Holy Spirit in John 14:26 (NIV) **"But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind everything I have said to you"**.

From the above, unlike other gods, our God functions as a Triune God. Hence, when a Christian prays as an individual or in a group or large assembly, he/she communes in a covenant relationship with the 3 distinct persons of the Godhead namely God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God is an eternal God. In Ecclesiastes 3:11(NIV) **"He has also set eternity in the hearts of men"**. How do one experience the sovereignty and eternity of God in our prayers?

As children of God, it is a great blessing to know that the Almighty God and the Creator of the heavens and the earth lives inside our being in the person of the Holy Spirit. Hence, when we pray, we

move into the eternal realm and Kingdom of God, not bound by time and space. In this way, our prayer life is transformed into God's being and likeness, enabling us to pray with a heavenly vision and purpose as God sees it. **"For with you is the fountain of life; in your light, we see light"** [Psalm 36:9 (NIV)].

When my relationship with God deepened in prayer, I began to have a better understanding of Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT) **"For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins"**. This understanding has helped me to take a stand for matters pertaining to the Kingdom of God and to pray against the power of darkness and the works of the devil.

Prayer requires me to give my daily time to God. It helps me to experience a very personal Jesus working in my life and lead a surrendered, God-dependant life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer is the believer's way of life and lifeline to Christ. Hence, we ought to cultivate the spirit of prayer in our daily life as George Muller puts it: "I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up and the answers are always coming."

We may choose to pray quietly or to pray aloud in clear words or even in unknown tongues and Spirit-led prayers. How one prays will be different from another just as how our Lord Jesus, the apostle Paul and King David prayed differently. One should avoid following a typical style of praying. However, it is wise to use relevant scripture verses and passages in our prayers.

Most of all, the *raison d'être* for our prayers is that Christ must be exalted above all things for **"Christ is all and in all"**. Colossians 3:11 (NKJV)

### Prayer:

*Lord Jesus, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help me to pray according to Your will and to fulfil the tasks that You have called me to do on earth as it is in heaven. In the wonderful Name of Jesus, AMEN.*

# ANCHORED IN FAITH



"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil."

## DEVOTION 49

Late Rev Dr Patrick Tan

Hebrews 6:19 (KJV)

Founder, Honorary Chaplain  
MCF Singapore

Reproduced from AMCF SEA Conference (1997)

### Introduction

Our hope rests in Jesus Christ. He is the "author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:2

This hope is grasped by faith. It is not the amount of faith that matters but the object of our hope. We confess that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God". Matt 16:16.

This certainty and confidence is figuratively described as "an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. Our faith then is anchored in a person. We can only know Him through the Bible, the inspired Word of God. The Bible reveals God to man through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Heb 1:2. The Bible then is a unique book, inerrant and infallible. It proclaims that only Jesus saves. Acts 4: 12. There is no other way to God. Certainly good works can never save any man. The writer of the Epistles to the Hebrews propounds that our faith is anchored in Jesus Christ. We shall take a look at Hebrews chapter 6.

### A. God is Righteous (v1-8)

Credo's are important as they declare the essential doctrines of our faith. We must agree on the biblical meaning of repentance, faith, salvation, baptism, eternal security, resurrection and judgment. It is possible for one to receive the word of truth, but not the power, to worship outwardly without inward beauty, to receive the gifts of the church but not the graces. He will fall without remedy. God is righteous and will administer the right judgment.

### B. God is Faithful (v9-15)

What things accompany salvation? They are works of faith and labour of love "I will shew them my faith by my works." James 2:18, KJV. God keeps a book of remembrance. He will not forget neither will He fail to reward. We fail God when we become slothful in our worship and service. Take the example of Abraham. God made a covenant with him. He became the father of the faithful. He through faith and patience inherited the promise. God took an oath of faithfulness.

### C. God is Immutable (v16-20)

It is impossible for God to change. Immutability is His attribute. He also cannot lie. Credibility is based on the quality of the person speaking and the manner of the speech. His Word is unchanging. Its truth endures forever. "The fear of the Lord is clean enduring forever; the judgments. of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." Psalm 19:9, KJV. Whatever He says is reliable and whatever He promises He will fulfil. We can have confidence in His Word. He can enjoy eternal security. "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish." John 10:28, KJV. God is both love and justice.

### Conclusion

A great ship when in harbour drops her anchors. She is held secure though still afloat on the waters. Although the title is "Anchored in Faith", we should rightly say that we are "Anchored in Jesus." Our faith can waver but Jesus is "the same yesterday, today, and forever". Hebrews 13:8, NKJV.

# JESUS' PRAYER FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said:

Father, it's time.  
Display the bright splendor of your Son  
So the Son in turn may show your bright splendor.  
You put him in charge of everything human  
So he might give real and eternal life to all in his charge.  
And this is the real and eternal life:  
That they know you,  
The one and only true God,  
And Jesus Christ, whom you sent.  
I glorified you on earth  
By completing down to the last detail  
What you assigned me to do.  
And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor,  
The very splendor I had in your presence  
Before there was a world.

I spelled out your character in detail  
To the men and women you gave me.  
They were yours in the first place;  
Then you gave them to me,  
And they have now done what you said.

## DEVOTION 50

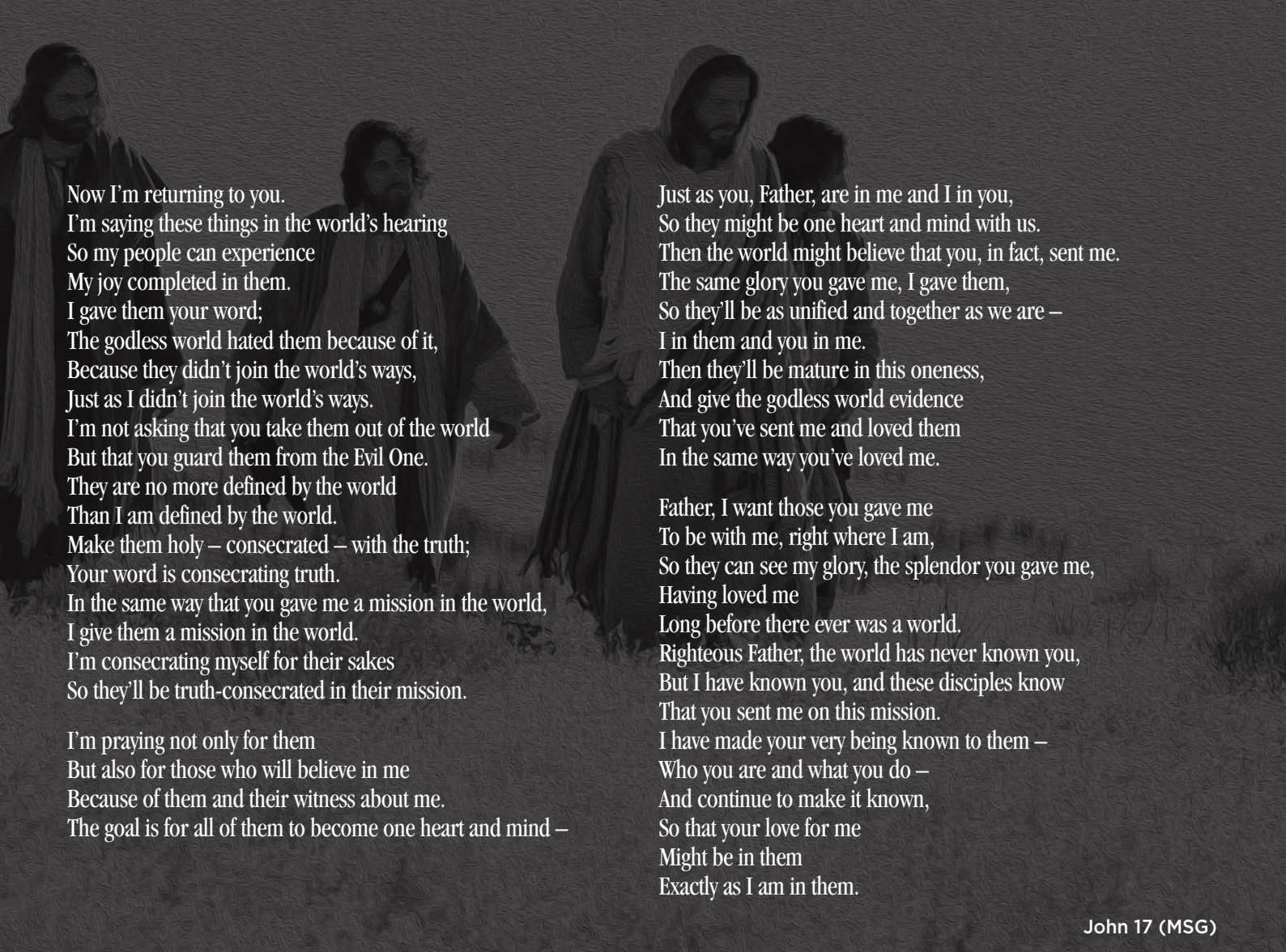
Gospel of John

It is very heartening and reassuring that Jesus prayed “The High Priestly Prayer” in John 17. This is after Jesus had shared many things to come with His disciples while at the upper room celebrating the Passover feast from John 13-16, concluding with John 16:33 (NIV) “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have

They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt,  
That everything you gave me is firsthand from you,  
For the message you gave me, I gave them;  
And they took it, and were convinced  
That I came from you.  
They believed that you sent me.  
I pray for them.  
I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world  
But for those you gave me,  
For they are yours by right.  
Everything mine is yours, and yours mine,  
And my life is on display in them.  
For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world;  
They'll continue in the world  
While I return to you.  
Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life  
That you conferred as a gift through me,  
So they can be one heart and mind  
As we are one heart and mind.  
As long as I was with them, I guarded them  
In the pursuit of the life you gave through me;  
I even posted a night watch.  
And not one of them got away,  
Except for the rebel bent on destruction  
(the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

overcome the world”. Jesus was prophesying His impending death on the Cross to pay for the salvation of the world.

In John 17, Jesus interceded on behalf of his disciples and also for all believers who will believe Him through their message before He was arrested, tried, crucified,



Now I'm returning to you.  
I'm saying these things in the world's hearing  
So my people can experience  
My joy completed in them.  
I gave them your word;  
The godless world hated them because of it,  
Because they didn't join the world's ways,  
Just as I didn't join the world's ways.  
I'm not asking that you take them out of the world  
But that you guard them from the Evil One.  
They are no more defined by the world  
Than I am defined by the world.  
Make them holy – consecrated – with the truth;  
Your word is consecrating truth.  
In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world,  
I give them a mission in the world.  
I'm consecrating myself for their sakes  
So they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.

I'm praying not only for them  
But also for those who will believe in me  
Because of them and their witness about me.  
The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind –

Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
So they might be one heart and mind with us.  
Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.  
The same glory you gave me, I gave them,  
So they'll be as unified and together as we are –  
I in them and you in me.  
Then they'll be mature in this oneness,  
And give the godless world evidence  
That you've sent me and loved them  
In the same way you've loved me.

Father, I want those you gave me  
To be with me, right where I am,  
So they can see my glory, the splendor you gave me,  
Having loved me  
Long before there ever was a world.  
Righteous Father, the world has never known you,  
But I have known you, and these disciples know  
That you sent me on this mission.  
I have made your very being known to them –  
Who you are and what you do –  
And continue to make it known,  
So that your love for me  
Might be in them  
Exactly as I am in them.

John 17 (MSG)

resurrected before he appeared to His disciples as narrated from chapters 18-21.

Today, Jesus still intercedes for all believers as He sits at the right hand of God, our Father. Are we prepared to trust and follow Jesus all the way?

**Prayer:**

*Lord Jesus,  
I thank You that You are seated at the right hand of the Father  
interceding for me as I pray,  
making my requests known to GOD  
so that the peace of GOD which passes all understanding  
shall richly dwell in my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.  
In the Matchless Name of Jesus. Amen.*

## ONE YEAR BIBLE READING PLAN

(Adapted and reproduced based on the Onward Christian Soldiers Prayer Journal published in 2018)

**“I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand”**

- Isaiah 51:16a

**“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”**

- Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)

**“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life — your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life — and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.”**

- Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

This is an intentional bible reading plan that includes three daily passages taken each from the Old Testament, Poetical Books and the New Testament. By organising the Bible into daily readings throughout the year, the goal of reading the Bible in a year can be accomplished. On a weekly basis, there is a time of reflection on an aspect of God’s character.

There are resources found in the Annexes that may be helpful in enhancing one’s daily prayer life and enjoying a closer walk with God.

- Annex A** - Approaching God as Your PAPA in Prayer
- Annex B** - Scriptural Support for Christian Soldiering
- Annex C** - Picking a Place to Pray
- Annex D** - Restoring our Prayer Altar
- Annex E** - Building our Prayer Altar

## JANUARY

1	<b>Reflect on God as Creator</b>		
2	Gen. 1-4	Ps. 1	Matt. 1
3	Gen. 5-9	Prov. 1	Matt. 2
4	Gen. 10-14	Ps. 2	Matt. 3
5	Gen. 15-18	Prov. 2	Matt. 4
6	Gen. 19-22	Ps. 3	Matt. 5
7	Gen. 23-25	Prov. 3	Matt. 6
8	<b>Reflect on God as Healer</b>		
9	Gen. 26-27	Ps. 4	Matt. 7
10	Gen. 28-31	Prov. 4	Matt. 8
11	Gen. 32-34	Ps. 5	Matt. 9
12	Gen. 35-37	Prov. 5	Matt. 10
13	Gen. 38-42	Ps. 6	Matt. 11
14	Gen. 43-44	Prov. 6	Matt. 12
15	<b>Reflect on God as Provider</b>		
16	Gen. 45-47	Ps. 7	Matt. 13
17	Gen. 48-50	Prov. 7	Matt. 14
18	Ex. 1-2	Ps. 8	Matt. 15
19	Ex. 3-4	Prov. 8	Matt. 16
20	Ex. 5-6	Ps. 9	Matt. 17
21	Ex. 7-8	Prov. 9	Matt. 18
22	<b>Reflect on God as Almighty</b>		
23	Ex. 9-10	Ps. 10	Matt. 19
24	Ex. 11-12	Prov. 10	Matt. 20
25	Ex. 13-14	Ps. 11	Matt. 21
26	Ex. 15-16	Prov. 11	Matt. 22
27	Ex. 17-18	Ps. 12	Matt. 23
28	Ex. 19-20	Prov. 12	Matt. 24
29	<b>Reflect on God as Alpha and Omega</b>		
30	Ex. 21-22	Ps. 13	Matt. 25
31	Ex. 23-24	Prov. 13	Matt. 26

## FEBRUARY

1	Ex. 25-26	Ps. 14	Matt. 23
2	Ex. 27-28	Prov. 14	Matt. 24
3	Ex. 29-30	Ps. 15	Matt. 25
4	Ex. 31-32	Prov. 15	Matt. 26
5	<b>Reflect on God as Lord of All</b>		
6	Ex. 33-34	Ps. 16	Matt. 27
7	Ex. 35-36	Prov. 16	Matt. 28
8	Ex. 37-38	Ps. 17	Mark 1
9	Ex. 39-40	Prov. 17	Mark 2
10	Lev. 1-3	Ps. 18	Mark 3-4
11	Lev. 4-5	Prov. 18	Mark 5
12	<b>Reflect on God as Counselor</b>		
13	Lev. 6-7	Ps. 19	Mark 6
14	Lev. 8-10	Prov. 19	Mark 7
15	Lev. 11-12	Ps. 20	Mark 8
16	Lev. 13-15	Prov. 20	Mark 9
17	Lev. 16-17	Ps. 21	Mark 10
18	Lev. 18-20	Prov. 21	Mark 11
19	<b>Reflect on God as Faithful</b>		
20	Lev. 21-22	Ps. 22	Mark 12
21	Lev. 23-25	Prov. 22	Mark 13
22	Lev. 26-27	Ps. 23	Mark 14
23	Num. 1-3	Prov. 23	Mark 15
24	Num. 4-6	Ps. 24	Mark 16
25	Num. 7-9	Prov. 24	Luke 1
26	<b>Reflect on God as Author</b>		
27	Num. 10-12	Ps. 25	Luke 2
28	Num. 13-15	Prov. 25	Luke 3
29	<b>Christ is All and is in All (Leap Year)</b>		
	Col. 3:11 (NIV)		

## MARCH

1	Num. 16-18	Ps. 26	Luke 4
2	Num. 19-21	Prov. 26	Luke 5
3	Num. 22-23	Ps. 27	Luke 6
4	Num. 24-26	Prov. 27	Luke 7
5	<b>Reflect on God as Redeemer</b>		
6	Num. 27-29	Ps. 28	Luke 8
7	Num. 30-33	Prov. 28	Luke 9
8	Num. 34-36	Ps. 29	Luke 10
9	Deut. 1-2	Prov. 29	Luke 11
10	Deut. 3-4	Ps. 30	Luke 12
11	Deut. 5-6	Prov. 30	Luke 13
12	<b>Reflect on God as Helper</b>		
13	Deut. 7-8	Ps. 31	Luke 14
14	Deut. 9-10	Prov. 31	Luke 15
15	Deut. 11-12	Ps. 32	Luke 16
16	Deut. 13-14	Eccl. 1:1-11	Luke 17
17	Deut. 15-16	Ps. 33	Luke 18
18	Deut. 17-18	Eccl. 1:12-18	Luke 19
19	<b>Reflect on God as Peace</b>		
20	Deut. 19-20	Ps. 34	Luke 20
21	Deut. 21-22	Eccl. 2:1-17	Luke 21
22	Deut. 23-24	Ps. 35	Luke 22
23	Deut. 25-26	Eccl. 2:18-26	Luke 23
24	Deut. 27-28	Ps. 36	Luke 24
25	Deut. 29-30	Eccl. 3:1-8	John 1
26	<b>Reflect on God as Messiah</b>		
27	Deut. 31-32	Ps. 37	John 2
28	Deut. 33-34	Eccl. 3:9-22	John 3
29	Joshua 1-2	Ps. 38	John 4
30	Joshua 3-4	Eccl. 4:1-6	John 5
31	Joshua 5-6	Ps. 39	John 6

## APRIL

1	Joshua 7-8	Eccl. 4:7-16	John 7
2	<b>Reflect on God as Friend</b>		
3	Joshua 9-10	Ps. 40	John 8
4	Joshua 11-12	Eccl. 5:1-9	John 9
5	Joshua 13-14	Ps. 41	John 10
6	Joshua 15-16	Eccl. 5:10-20	John 11
7	Joshua 17-18	Ps. 42	John 12
8	Joshua 19-20	Eccl. 6:1-6	John 13
9	<b>Reflect on God as Lion and Lamb</b>		
10	Joshua 21-22	Ps. 43	John 14
11	Joshua 23-24	Eccl. 6:7-12	John 15
12	Judges 1-3	Ps. 44	John 16
13	Judges 4-6	Eccl. 7:1-13	John 17
14	Judges 7-9	Ps. 45	John 18
15	Judges 10-12	Eccl. 7:14-29	John 19
16	<b>Reflect on God as Love</b>		
17	Judges 13-15	Ps. 46	John 20
18	Judges 16-18	Eccl. 8:1-9	John 21
19	Judges 19-21	Ps. 47	Acts 1
20	Ruth 1-2	Eccl. 8:10-17	Acts 2
21	Ruth 3-4	Ps. 48	Acts 3
22	1 Sam. 1-3	Eccl. 9:1-10	Acts 4
23	<b>Reflect on God as Capable</b>		
24	1 Sam. 4-6	Ps. 49	Acts 5
25	1 Sam. 7-9	Eccl. 9:11-18	Acts 6
26	1 Sam. 10-12	Ps. 50	Acts 7
27	1 Sam. 13-15	Eccl. 10:1-11	Acts 8
28	1 Sam. 16-18	Ps. 51	Acts 9
29	1 Sam. 19-21	Eccl. 10:12-20	Acts 10
30	<b>Reflect on God as Strength</b>		

## MAY

1	1 Sam. 22-24	Ps. 52	Acts 11
2	1 Sam. 25-28	Eccl. 11:1-5	Acts 12
3	1 Sam. 29-31	Ps. 53	Acts 13
4	2 Sam. 1-2	Eccl. 11:6-10	Acts 14
5	2 Sam. 3-4	Ps. 54	Acts 15
6	2 Sam. 5-6	Eccl. 12:1-8	Acts 16
7	<b>Reflect on God as Sovereign</b>		
8	2 Sam. 7-8	Ps. 59	Acts 17
9	2 Sam. 9-10	Eccl. 12:9-13	Acts 18
10	2 Sam. 11-12	Ps. 60	Acts 19
11	2 Sam. 13-14	Job 1	Acts 20
12	2 Sam. 15-16	Ps. 61	Acts 21
13	2 Sam. 17-18	Job 2	Acts 22
14	<b>Reflect on God as Shepherd</b>		
15	2 Sam. 19-20	Ps. 62	Acts 23
16	2 Sam. 21-22	Job 3	Acts 24
17	2 Sam. 23-24	Ps. 63	Acts 25
18	1 Kings 1-2	Job 4	Acts 26
19	1 Kings 3-4	Ps. 64	Acts 27
20	1 Kings 5-6	Job 5	Acts 28
21	<b>Reflect on God as Hope</b>		
22	1 Kings 7-8	Ps. 65	Rom. 1
23	1 Kings 9-10	Job 6	Rom. 2
24	1 Kings 11-12	Ps. 66	Rom. 3
25	1 Kings 13-14	Job 7	Rom. 4
26	1 Kings 15-16	Ps. 67	Rom. 5
27	1 Kings 17-18	Job 8	Rom. 6
28	<b>Reflect on God as Rest</b>		
29	1 Kings 19-20	Ps. 68	Rom. 7
30	1 Kings 21-22	Job 9	Rom. 8
31	2 Kings 1-3	Ps. 69	Rom. 9

## JUNE

1	2 Kings 4-5	Job 10	Rom. 10
2	2 Kings 6-8	Ps. 70	Rom. 11
3	2 Kings 9-10	Job 11	Rom. 12
4	<b>Reflect on God as Restorer</b>		
5	2 Kings 11-13	Ps. 71	Rom. 13
6	2 Kings 14-15	Job 12	Rom. 14
7	2 Kings 16-18	Ps. 72	Rom. 15
8	2 Kings 19-20	Job 13	Rom. 16
9	2 Kings 21-23	Ps. 73	1 Cor. 1
10	2 Kings 24-25	Job 14	1 Cor. 2
11	<b>Reflect on God as Center</b>		
12	1 Chron. 1-3	Ps. 74	1 Cor. 3
13	1 Chron. 4-6	Job 15	1 Cor. 4
14	1 Chron. 7-9	Ps. 75	1 Cor. 5
15	1 Chron. 10-12	Job 16	1 Cor. 6
16	1 Chron. 13-15	Ps. 76	1 Cor. 7
17	1 Chron. 16-18	Job 17	1 Cor. 8
18	<b>Reflect on God as Living Water</b>		
19	1 Chron. 19-21	Ps. 77	1 Cor. 9
20	1 Chron. 22-24	Job 18	1 Cor. 10
21	1 Chron. 25-27	Ps. 78:1-24	1 Cor. 11
22	1 Chron. 28-29	Job 19	1 Cor. 12
23	2 Chron. 1-5	Ps. 78: 25-48	1 Cor. 13
24	2 Chron. 6-10	Job 20	1 Cor. 14
25	<b>Reflect on God as Perfector</b>		
26	2 Chron. 11-15	Ps. 78:49-72	1 Cor. 15
27	2 Chron. 16-20	Job 21	1 Cor. 16
28	2 Chron. 21-25	Ps. 79	2 Cor. 1
29	2 Chron. 26-30	Job 22	2 Cor. 2
30	2 Chron. 31-35	Ps. 80	2 Cor. 3

## JULY

1	2 Chron. 36	Job 23	2 Cor. 4
2	<b>Reflect on God as Everlasting</b>		
3	Ezra 1-2	Ps. 81	2 Cor. 5
4	Ezra 3-4	Job 24	2 Cor. 6
5	Ezra 5-6	Ps. 82	2 Cor. 7
6	Ezra 7-8	Job 25	2 Cor. 8
7	Ezra 9-10	Ps. 83	2 Cor. 9
8	Neh. 1-3	Job 26	2 Cor. 10
9	<b>Reflect on God as Refuge</b>		
10	Neh. 4-5	Ps. 84	2 Cor. 11
11	Neh. 6-7	Job 27	2 Cor. 12
12	Neh. 8-10	Ps. 85	2 Cor. 13
13	Neh. 11-13	Job 28	Gal. 1
14	Esther 1-2	Ps. 86	Gal. 2
15	Esther 3-4	Job 29	Gal. 3
16	<b>Reflect on God as Victor</b>		
17	Esther 5-6	Ps. 87	Gal. 4
18	Esther 7-8	Job 30	Gal. 5
19	Esther 9-10	Ps. 88	Gal. 6
20	Isaiah 1	Job 31	Eph. 1
21	Isaiah 2	Ps. 89:1-26	Eph. 2
22	Isaiah 3	Job 32	Eph. 3
23	<b>Reflect on God as High Priest</b>		
24	Isaiah 4	Ps. 89:27-52	Eph. 4
25	Isaiah 5	Job 33	Eph. 5
26	Isaiah 6	Ps. 90	Eph. 6
27	Isaiah 7	Job 34	Phil. 1
28	Isaiah 8	Ps. 91	Phil. 2
29	Isaiah 9	Job 35	Phil. 3
30	<b>Reflect on God as Humble</b>		
31	Isaiah 10	Ps. 92	Phil. 4

## AUGUST

1	Isaiah 11	Job 36	Col. 1
2	Isaiah 12	Ps. 93	Col. 2
3	Isaiah 13	Job 37	Col. 3
4	Isaiah 14	Ps. 94	Col. 4
5	Isaiah 15	Job 38	1 Thess. 1
6	<b>Reflect on God as Father</b>		
7	Isaiah 16	Ps. 95	1 Thess. 2
8	Isaiah 17	Job 39	1 Thess. 3
9	Isaiah 18	Ps. 96	1 Thess. 4
10	Isaiah 19	Job 40	1 Thess. 5
11	Isaiah 20	Ps. 97	2 Thess. 1
12	Isaiah 21	Job 41	2 Thess. 2
13	<b>Reflect on God as Light</b>		
14	Isaiah 22	Ps. 98	2 Thess. 3
15	Isaiah 23	Job 42	1 Tim. 1
16	Isaiah 24	Ps. 99	1 Tim. 2
17	Isaiah 25	Song 1:1-7	1 Tim. 3
18	Isaiah 26	Ps. 100	1 Tim. 4
19	Isaiah 27	Song 1:8-17	1 Tim. 5
20	<b>Reflect on God as Truth</b>		
21	Isaiah 28	Ps. 101	1 Tim. 6
22	Isaiah 29	Song 2:1-7	1 Tim. 7
23	Isaiah 30	Ps. 102	2 Tim. 2
24	Isaiah 31	Song 2:8-17	2 Tim. 3
25	Isaiah 32	Ps. 103	2 Tim. 4
26	Isaiah 33	Song 3:1-5	Titus 1
27	<b>Reflect on God as Holy</b>		
28	Isaiah 34	Ps. 104	Titus 2
29	Isaiah 35	Song 3:6-11	Titus 3
30	Isaiah 36	Ps. 105	Philemon
31	Isaiah 37	Song 4:1-8	Heb. 1

## SEPTEMBER

1	Isaiah 38	Ps. 105:23-45	Heb. 2
2	Isaiah 39	Song 4:9-16	Heb. 3
3	<b>Reflect on God as Deliverer</b>		
4	Isaiah 40	Ps. 106:1-24	Heb. 4
5	Isaiah 41	Song 5:1-8	Heb. 5
6	Isaiah 42	Ps. 106:25-48	Heb. 6
7	Isaiah 43	Song 5:9-16	Heb. 7
8	Isaiah 44	Ps. 107:1-23	Heb. 8
9	Isaiah 45	Song 6:1-5	Heb. 9
10	<b>Reflect on God as Protector</b>		
11	Isaiah 46	Ps. 107:24-43	Heb. 10
12	Isaiah 47	Song 6:6-13	Heb. 11
13	Isaiah 48	Ps. 108	Heb. 12
14	Isaiah 49	Song 7:1-5	Heb. 13
15	Isaiah 50	Ps. 109	James 1
16	Isaiah 51	Song 7:6-13	James 2
17	<b>Reflect on God as Eternal</b>		
18	Isaiah 52	Ps. 110	James 3
19	Isaiah 53	Song 8:1-7	James 4
20	Isaiah 54	Ps. 111	James 5
21	Isaiah 55	Song 8:8-14	1 Peter 1
22	Isaiah 56	Ps. 112	1 Peter 2
23	Isaiah 57	Ps. 113	1 Peter 3
24	<b>Reflect on God's Kindness</b>		
25	Isaiah 58	Ps. 114	1 Peter 4
26	Isaiah 59	Ps. 115	1 Peter 5
27	Isaiah 60	Ps. 116	2 Peter 1
28	Isaiah 61	Ps. 117	2 Peter 2
29	Isaiah 62	Ps. 118	2 Peter 3
30	Isaiah 63	Ps. 119:1-8	1 John 1

## OCTOBER

1	<b>Reflect on God's Goodness</b>		
2	Isaiah 64	Ps. 119:9-16	1 John 2
3	Isaiah 65	Ps. 119:17-24	1 John 3
4	Isaiah 66	Ps. 119:25-32	1 John 4
5	Jer. 1-2	Ps. 119:33-40	1 John 5
6	Jer. 3-4	Ps. 119:41-48	2 John
7	Jer. 5-6	Ps. 119:49-56	3 John
8	<b>Reflect on God's Patience</b>		
9	Jer. 7-8	Ps. 119:57-64	Jude
10	Jer. 9-10	Ps. 119:65-72	Rev. 1
11	Jer. 11-12	Ps. 119:73-80	Rev. 2
12	Jer. 13-14	Ps. 119:81-88	Rev. 3
13	Jer. 15-16	Ps. 119:89-96	Rev. 4
14	Jer. 17-18	Ps. 119:97-104	Rev. 5
15	<b>Reflect on God's Generosity</b>		
16	Jer. 19-20	Ps. 119:105-112	Rev. 6
17	Jer. 21-22	Ps. 110:113-120	Rev. 7
18	Jer. 23-24	Ps. 119:121-128	Rev. 8
19	Jer. 25-26	Prov. 1	Rev. 9
20	Jer. 27-28	Ps. 119:129-136	Rev. 10
21	Jer. 29-30	Prov. 2	Rev. 11
22	<b>Reflect on God's Compassion</b>		
23	Jer. 31-32	Ps. 119:137-144	Rev. 12
24	Jer. 33-34	Prov. 3	Rev. 13
25	Jer. 35-36	Ps. 119:145-152	Rev. 14
26	Jer. 37-38	Prov. 4	Rev. 15
27	Jer. 39-40	Ps. 119:153-160	Rev. 16
28	Jer. 41-42	Prov. 5	Rev. 17
29	<b>Reflect on God's Wisdom</b>		
30	Jer. 43-44	Ps. 119:161-168	Rev. 18
31	Jer. 45-46	Prov. 6	Rev. 19

## NOVEMBER

1	Jer. 47-48	Ps. 119:169-176	Rev. 20
2	Jer. 49-50	Prov. 7	Rev. 21
3	Jer. 51-52	Ps. 120-121	Rev. 22
4	Lam 1-5	Prov. 8	Luke 1
5	<b>Reflect on God as Beginning</b>		
6	Ezekiel 1-5	Ps. 122-123	Luke 2
7	Ezekiel 6-9	Prov. 9	Luke 3
8	Ezekiel 10-14	Ps. 124-125	Luke 4
9	Ezekiel 15-18	Prov. 10	Luke 5
10	Ezekiel 19-22	Ps. 126-127	Luke 6
11	Ezekiel 23-26	Prov. 11	Luke 7
12	<b>Reflect on God as Maker</b>		
13	Ezekiel 27-29	Ps. 128-129	Luke 8
14	Ezekiel 30-32	Prov. 12	Luke 9
15	Ezekiel 33-35	Ps. 130	Luke 10
16	Ezekiel 36-38	Prov. 13	Luke 11
17	Ezekiel 39-41	Ps. 131	Luke 12
18	Ezekiel 42-45	Prov. 14	Luke 13
19	<b>Reflect on God as Rock</b>		
20	Ezekiel 46-48	Ps. 132	Luke 14
21	Dan. 1-2	Prov. 15	Luke 15
22	Dan. 3-4	Ps. 133	Luke 16
23	Dan. 5-6	Prov. 16	Luke 17
24	Dan. 7-8	Ps. 134	Luke 18
25	Dan. 9-10	Prov. 17	Luke 19
26	<b>Reflect on God as Gardener</b>		
27	Dan. 11-12	Ps. 135	Luke 20
28	Hosea 1-2	Prov. 18	Luke 21
29	Hosea 3-4	Ps. 136	Luke 22
30	Hosea 5-6	Prov. 19	Luke 23

## DECEMBER

1	Hosea 7-8	Ps. 137	Luke 24
2	Hosea 9-10	Prov. 20	Matt. 1
3	<b>Reflect on God as Giver</b>		
4	Hosea 11-12	Ps. 128	Matt. 2
5	Hosea 13:-14	Prov. 21	Matt. 3
6	Joel	Ps. 139	Matt. 4
7	Amos 1-3	Prov. 22	Matt. 5
8	Amos 4-5	Ps. 140	Matt. 6
9	Amos 6-7	Prov. 23	Matt. 7-8
10	<b>Reflect on God as King of Kings</b>		
11	Amos 8-9	Ps. 141	Matt. 9
12	Obadiah	Prov. 24	Matt. 10
13	Jonah 1-2	Ps. 142	Matt. 11
14	Jonah 3-4	Prov. 25	Matt. 12
15	Micah 1-3	Ps. 143	Matt. 13
16	Micah 4-5	Prov. 26	Matt. 14
17	<b>Reflect on God as Savior</b>		
18	Micah 6-7	Ps. 144	Matt. 15
19	Nahum	Prov. 27	Matt. 16
20	Habakkuk	Ps. 145	Matt. 17
21	Zephaniah	Prov. 28	Matt. 18
22	Haggai	Ps. 146	Matt. 19
23	Zech. 1-3	Prov. 29	Matt. 20
24	<b>Reflect on God as Emmanuel</b>		
25	Zech. 4-6	Ps. 147	Matt. 21
26	Zech. 7-8	Prov. 30	Matt. 22
27	Zech. 9-10	Ps. 148	Matt. 23
28	Zech. 11-12	Prov. 31:1-9	Matt. 24-25
29	Zech. 13-14	Ps. 149	Matt. 26
30	Malachi 1-2	Prov. 31:10-31	Matt. 27
31	Malachi 3-4	Ps. 150	Matt. 28

## ANNEX A: APPROACHING GOD AS YOUR PAPA IN PRAYER

This is for people who long to hear God's voice – to know God so well that His life actually becomes theirs.

### **P: Present yourself to God without pretense.**

Be a real person in the relationship – tell Him whatever is going on inside you that you can identify. To begin with, have you:

1. Ever asked for something from God that you didn't get?
2. Ever really needed to hear God's voice and were not sure how to do so?

Jesus said, "I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 16:19).

Keys represent the authority, the privilege, the access. Jesus gives us the keys of His Kingdom and through Him, we have the right to come before God in prayer.

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12, KJV). As His children, we have the right to come before our Heavenly Father in prayer.

However, we sometimes come upon a situation and we can forget to use our key of prayer to move powerfully in and through it. Whenever we lost sight of our prayer key, we can ask Him to help us find it again and keep moving forward in prayer.

### **A: Attend to how you're thinking of God.**

Ask yourself, how am I experiencing God right now? Is He a vending machine, frowning father, a distant, cold force? Or is He your gloriously strong but intimate Papa?

The first thing in prayer is to get God – if you get Him everything else follows – allow God to get at you, to invade you, to take possession of you and then He pours His very prayers through. Jesus wanted nothing more than to let everyone see how wonderful His Father was – even if it cost Him His life – and that life – His Life is now in us – His passion and purpose are in our hearts. Now when we take time to just

be with God – we start to sense His rhythm and we start responding to His love by falling in love with Him – it is a dance where He leads.

### **P: Purge yourself of anything blocking your relationship with God.**

When you purge yourself before Papa, when you abandon yourself to holiness, you think more of how you fall short of God's holy way of relating, than of how others fail you or how badly you feel or how difficult your life may be. It makes you hate your sin, not yourself. And that focus doesn't leave you discouraged. Broken, yes. Despairing, no. You know that purging lights up the path of holiness, the road paved by grace that leads into God's presence.

### **A: Approach God as the first thing in your life.**

Approach God as your most valuable treasure, the Person you most want to know. Repent of even valuing your satisfaction in Christ more than Christ Himself, and focus your committed wholly back to Christ and Christ alone. Prayer then becomes more about us hearing God than about Him hearing us – we are the audience.

This is how the PAPA Prayer can be like:

**P:** "God, I'm feeling excited about the possibility of knowing You better. Help me move forward in prayer with You."

**A:** "You are my gloriously strong, yet intimate Papa. I see You as eager to be closer to me every day. I love that. Lead me into Your highest purposes for my life."

**P:** "Purge me of anything hindering my relationship with You. My highest desire is to know You better."

**A:** "Papa, I come to You just as I am. You are my most valuable treasure, and I want to hear You more than You hearing me. I want to know and learn more about You than I want anything else. Would You come and be the first thing in my life every day."

### **Reference:**

<http://shell.cowpersmith.org/2014/08/book-summary-the-papa-prayer-by-larry-crabb/>

## ANNEX B: SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIAN SOLDIERING

Respect is due to those who honestly think that the principles of Christianity and those of the Fighting Services (Military) are so opposed that no true Christian can join the latter. However, consider the following:

1. War is the result of man's sin (James 4: 1). Fallen man, until redeemed by Christ, will always tend to act for selfish advantage.
2. While killing by an individual on his own behalf is always condemned in the Bible (Exodus 20: 13; Leviticus 24: 17; 1 John 3: 15), taking of human life in the execution of justice or in battle is never made the responsibility of the individual. The same Law which condemn the unlawful taking of human life (i.e. murder) actually specified the death penalty (i.e., the lawful taking of life) as the only fit punishment for certain crimes.
3. In the New Testament, where many officers and soldiers are mentioned, they are never told to abandon their calling. See Luke 3: 14 and 7: 1-10 and 1 Cor 7: 20; Hebrews 13: 17. In Acts 10:1-33, we find an Officer, Cornelius, conspicuous for being a true Christian (v 2,22 & 30).
4. The Christian's armour is typical of warfare (Ephesians 6: 11-18; 2 Timothy 2: 3). If it were wrong to take part in warfare, would it be compared in this way? Evil professions such as prostitution are always used as examples of wicked conduct (Ezekiel 16: 28).
5. Many great and godly men of the Bible were highly proficient military leaders - Abraham, Moses, Joshua and King David. Many officers and men have proved the reality of God in their profession, and have found that He helps them to be more efficient. If the profession of arms were wrong, would this be the case?
6. Notice Matthew 5: 9 says "Blessed are the peace-makers" not the "pacifists". Is it really moral to do nothing to put right an evident injustice, e.g., the response by Britain to the unprovoked aggression of Nazi Germany against

Poland in 1939? If the earlier policy of appeasement (urged by pacifists) had continued, Hitler would have remained free to murder Jews and subjugate many peoples with extreme cruelty. Every sane person should loathe war and do everything possible to prevent it. True peace (a positive condition, not mere absence from war) follows righteousness. Note that the order in Isaiah 32: 17; Romans 14: 17; 2 Timothy 2: 22 and James 3: 17. The Christian outlook "Righteousness at any costs", and not "Peace at any price", for "Righteousness exalts a nation" (Proverbs 14: 34).

7. Action by the Armed Forces is often of exactly the same nature as action by the police. Romans 13: 1-7 explains the duties of governments to protect the weak against the strong and to punish the wrongdoer while rewarding the just. Part of that delegated authority from God is the ultimate sanction of taking human life (4). Those who exercise such authority are accountable to God; our responsibility is to submit to the authorities (1 Peter 2: 13), up to the point where their commands are unlawful, and to pray for them (1 Timothy 2:1&2).
8. It should be noted that we live in a provisional world order. This world will never be brought to total justice, righteousness and peace - these will only be experienced during Christ's 1,000-year reign (Rev 20: 4-7) and in the New Heaven and the New Earth (Rev 21: 1). We can never be utopians because of the Fall of Man has excluded such an eventuality. We are not passive though. We must do all we can to relieve suffering and injustice and to improve the lot of our fellow man. Christians should be active in politics, in Third World relief and development projects and the like, provided we never lose sight of the greatest need of mankind, which is to know the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Source:**

<http://www.ocfusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/100-days-2013-web.pdf>

## ANNEX C: PICKING A PLACE TO PRAY

**“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”**

– Matthew 6:6

As we establish a habit of prayer, we also need to pick a quiet place for prayer where we won't be interrupted. Christ went into the wilderness to be alone with His Father, but for most of us, it will probably be a room in our home. Wherever it is, it will be like an altar where we meet with God to share our concerns and have fellowship with Him.

Because Jesus lived an itinerant lifestyle, His place of prayer changed as He travelled, but prayer was always a priority in His life and should be in ours as well. Here are some of the features and benefits of having a dedicated prayer space:

**IT'S A PRIVATE PLACE.** Jesus said to go into an inner room and close the door (Matt. 6:6). If we are really serious about finding a quiet area to be alone with the Lord in prayer, He will provide one. It may require a little creativity and adjustment on our part, but God wants to meet with each of us privately so we can develop an intimate relationship with Him.

**IT'S A HOLY PLACE.** When we habitually meet with the Lord in the same place each day, it becomes holy because it is set apart to worship and commune with Him. It becomes a visual trigger. We quickly adjust to the setting and are immediately ready to talk to the Father—because that's what happens there. Some of the greatest things He accomplishes in our lives are the result of the relationship we have with Him in that secluded place of prayer.

**IT'S WHERE OUR BATTLES ARE FOUGHT.** Every time we go through difficult situations or conflicts with people, we should bring our concerns to our heavenly Father and engage Him in helping fight our battles. We need His guidance, assistance, and wisdom to know how to respond and what to do. There will be times when no one else can help us, but He is always there to comfort, strengthen, and encourage us.

**IT'S WHERE WE DEAL WITH OUR SINS.** As we open His Word and our hearts before Him, we have an opportunity to

confess our sins and ask Him to convict us of anything in our lives that is contrary to His desires for us. As we pray, we must give the Lord time to speak to our hearts. Sometimes He uses a passage of His Word to convict, encourage, or direct us, and at other times His Spirit communicates inaudibly with us in our hearts.

**IT'S WHERE WE DEVELOP AN INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD.** There are times when we pray with others or together as a family, but it's only in our private times with the Lord that we grow to know Him intimately and have the freedom to honestly and openly share our hearts with Him. This is the most important activity of our lives—communing and fellowshiping with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**IT'S WHERE WE LAY DOWN OUR BURDENS.** God daily lifts our burdens, carries our concerns, and forgives our sins when we confess them.

**IT'S WHERE WE WEEP OVER OUR TRIALS AND HEARTACHES.** When we go into our prayer room and cry out to God, He understands and mends our broken hearts.

**IT'S WHERE WE FORGIVE OTHERS.** The Lord not only forgives our sins but helps us battle through our hurts so we can forgive others.

**IT'S WHERE WE ARE STRENGTHENED.** In this holy place we have the privilege of discussing every area of our lives. As we pour out our hurts, sorrows, and burdens, the Lord comes to strengthen us.

Where do you go to pray? Having a dedicated place to come before God helps us focus and prepare our hearts to hear from Him. It can simply be a chair, an office space, your bunk, even a stairwell or carpark. Wherever you find conducive to meet with you God regularly. Bring this journal, or any notebook along where you can jot down what God says, and write down any things you want to list down that could become a distraction to continuing your prayer time with God. Then keep on praying and hearing from Him who holds all of the right answers, the wisdom from above that is “first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17). Even when we're on the go, we can set aside a time and place to talk with God, which ought to be our greatest priority every day.

Adapted from: <https://www.intouch.org/-/media/intouch/get-involved/pray/seasons-of-prayer/making-prayer-a-priority>

## ANNEX D: RESTORING OUR PRAYER ALTAR

### **The Personal Prayer Altar**

Our personal altar is where we meet with God, where we make time, just to love God. If our prayer life has revolved around what God must do for us instead of just loving Him, that must change. We are to be a pleasure to God and from that will flow everything else we do. We need to build our own altar if we want fire. We praise God in our personal prayer altar until our spirit rises to God. When we go into our personal prayer place, our Father who sees in secret will reward us (Matt. 6:6).

The personal prayer altar is the place where we prepare our own spirit to be able to impact the spirit realm. It is the source of who we are. After that, we begin to intercede, be the channels of what God wants to release so that the Holy Spirit can take it and bring forth fruit.

God creates the fruit of the lips (Isa. 57:19). He creates through what we speak. And God's word will not return without fruit. Our task at the personal altar is to speak on behalf of God, to speak out the destiny of our family, church and nation.

### **The Prayer Agenda**

We must seek the face of God at the personal, family, church and national levels. Now is the time to build our altars. The issue is not how we pray. The issue is that we pray. Prayer is not about how long we pray. It's not about an hour or a half hour. It's about making time to meet and love God.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from: <http://thir.st/blog/build-personal-prayer-altar-suzette-hattingh-momentum/>

## ANNEX E: BUILDING OUR PRAYER ALTAR

### **Worship, because your first love is Jesus**

The personal altar is the place where we must touch God before we can touch the people. Jesus gave us the pattern. He fellowshiped with the Father – loved the Father – then He loved those around Him. We love the Lord so that we can love people who we love. Our personal time with God is not just to intercede or ask for things – our first and utmost responsibility is to love God. Our first call is to be a pleasure unto God, and from there flows out everything else we do. Losing our first love does not mean losing zeal, it means losing focus. Our altar of prayer has to burn high before we even dare to pray for others. We are only as strong in prayer as our personal altar.

### **Words released, because we worship a God of Revelation**

After we have worshipped and magnified Jesus, do not stop there. It is only the beginning. From that place, we become God's mouthpiece from our personal altar! "What you pray in secret, God reveals in the open." Matthew 6:4. In the Holy of Holies, we are in there not just for us to be blessed. That task we have is to start releasing things into the spiritual realm. Our task at the personal altar, is to be able to speak on behalf of God,

because Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27). We must have a thirst to hear the word of God. And we must have the confidence that His Word is good and true. The Spirit of God in us is a Creative Spirit – the same one that raised Christ from the dead, the same one that now gives us words of resurrection power. At that personal place with Jesus alone, we become the voice and channel – the very vehicle of what God has shown to us – so that God can use our everything to start speaking new life into the emptiness of any situation!

### **Wage war in the spiritual realm, because you are God's mouthpiece**

God speaks to us for a reason. "So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:11

Christian soldiers must move to the next level of hunger to build our personal prayer altars. Move on from the place where just we are blessed and just enjoying Jesus, to the place where we contend for the destiny of our life, our workplaces, our nation and the nations of the world.



