



CABC Connect

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

1st Service:	9:00 am
2nd Service:	11:00 am
Sunday School:	9:00 am 11:00am

WEDNESDAY PRAYER HOURS

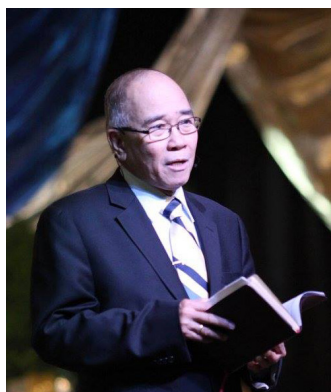
Morning Prayer:	9:30 am
Evening Prayer:	7:00 pm

SUMMER 2015 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

"God, in love, will use whatever trials are necessary to intensify our savouring of his glory."

— JOHN PIPER —





Knowing Christ in Our Trials

by Pastor Elbern Latorilla

In the early years of my Christian walk, a song caught my fancy, not just musically but spiritually too. Written by Annie Johnson Flint, the first 2 stanzas go this way:

“God has not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathway all our lives through,

God has not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

God has not promised we shall not know, Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;

He has not told us we shall not bear, Many a burden, many a care.”

Initially, the truth of the song didn't mean much to me since trial, pain, sorrow, etc. were mere words rather than realities in my young life. It seemed that I was living a charmed life with a loving family serving as a buffer zone to my youthful existence. There was much to be thankful for and less to complain about. Life was good. Adulthood however, became an entirely different story. Fending for myself and then getting married (and consequently having children) presented challenges to me that I never anticipated. Problems (physical, financial, emotional and spiritual) and challenges have become integral part of my life and have defined the trials that God in His wise providence has allowed me to experience. I came to realize that Miss Flint was right all along. But I also came to know more of my Savior, Jesus Christ, during those difficult moments. First and foremost, I learned that the Lord Jesus was (and is) there with me during my trials. He has promised, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 15:5b KJV). What comfort these words bring! The psalmist David expresses it this way, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.” (Psalm 27:10). We take it for granted

that our parents will be there when we need them most. However, there will be surely times when they will fail us. But, Jesus never fails. Paul, the great apostle, experienced this truth in his life time and again. When he began his ministry in Corinth, he was opposed vehemently. To encourage him, the Lord appeared to him one night in a vision and said, “Be not afraid, but speak... for I am with thee...for I have much people in this city.” (Acts 18:9b-10). In Rome, while awaiting his execution, many of his friends left him but the Lord stood by and strengthened him (II Timothy 4:16-17). I remember my very first day in my first pastorate. I was alone, away from my parents - and lonely! The feeling was terrible. I thought I made a mistake in accepting the call of that small church to be their pastor. Thank God for a family that welcomed me, gave me a room of my own, promised to provide meals for me and basically accepted me as a family member. This gesture saved me from living in the parsonage without any idea as to how I could care for myself. Looking back, I believe that that expression of love may have kept me from walking away from the ministry. The Lord proved His presence in my life that very day by sending His own people to comfort and encourage me. Through the years of my life and ministry, the Lord has proved faithful to His words to be with me - giving me a supportive wife, friends who came along side when I needed them and brethren who prayed and upheld me in my most difficult times. In my trials, Jesus has shown that His presence is real and comforting.

Also, I have come to know the Lord's grace in my trials. Again, Paul gives an example of this in his own life. The Lord gave him the unprecedented experience of being “caught up into paradise” (II Corinthians 12:4). That might prove to be a reason for boasting for a lesser man. But to keep him from doing so, Paul was given

a “thorn in the flesh”(II Corinthians 12:7) which he begged the Lord three times to be removed from him. Instead of granting his request, God replied, “My grace is sufficient for thee; for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” (II Corinthians 12:9). Perhaps the situations that I have faced might not be as harrowing or life threatening as Paul had (see II Corinthians 11:23-27), yet the Lord’s sufficient grace has been as real to me as they had been to him. A preacher once said, “The will of God will not send you where the grace of God cannot keep you.” In His providence, the Lord allowed me to experience tribulations, but He has sustained me with His grace that has kept me afloat through them all.

In my experiences, the Lord sometimes showed that He is able to remove literally the cause of the trial that I endured. An incident recorded in the Gospels proves this truth. The disciples of Jesus were in a boat trying to cross to the other side of the lake. There was no hint of a tempest as they started on that supposedly short journey. But out of nowhere, a storm came and lashed at that frail bark of theirs. Those hardy fishermen (most of them anyway) must have thought that they were goners. Where was our Lord all the time this was happening? At the stern sleeping - unperturbed by it all! They hastily roused Him up and cried out, “Master, carest Thou not that we perish?” And He arose, and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, “Peace, be still.” And the wind ceased, and there was a calm (Mark 4:38b-39). What power that voice of Jesus carried so that even the winds and the waves obeyed Him! I recall a very difficult moment in my life when my heart was in turmoil and my spirit was agitated by a situation in my family that was beyond my control. I could not sleep. I decided to sit up, cried out to the Lord for help in desperation and immediately I felt a sense of calmness. Peace settled in my heart. I heard no audible words, but I knew my Lord has spoken. The turmoil in my spirit had ceased and sleep was sweet the rest of the night.

One more thing that I have learned about Jesus is that He has a purpose to fulfill in my life through the trials. His purpose is not to harm me but to conform me to His own likeness. At the outset, there were times when I questioned Him for what He was doing --- thinking that I didn’t deserve it or perhaps that He was mistaken. But after going through the ordeal, I discovered the reason for the experience as I came out unscathed and triumphant.

Joseph, after the trouble that he went through in Egypt, didn’t blame God or even his brothers for what he experienced. He declared, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me, but God meant it for good...to save much people alive.” (Genesis 50:20).

Hindsight always provides 20/20 vision. Like Joseph, I saw clearly, knowingly, thankfully. Ron Hamilton wrote, “God never moves without purpose or plan when trying His servant or molding a man.” He doesn’t send trials haphazardly or capriciously but wisely and purposefully. Job knew this. Paul did, too. One of the most loved verses in the New Testament is Romans 8:28 (KJV), “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

The final stanza of Miss Flint’s poem summarizes what I’ve experienced in my trials:

*“But God has promised strength for the day, Rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trial, help from above, Unfailing sympathy,
undying love.”*

Jesus is always present in my trials, gives sufficient grace to cope, and shows His power to overcome and to fulfill His purpose through them. What an awesome Lord is Jesus!

The Pleasure of Knowing God through Trials

by Michael Borja

I know the title appears to be contradictory. How can we derive pleasure or even know God when we are facing trials? Trials can produce sorrow and pain that can leave us scarred for years. Although trials and testing develop perseverance (Romans 5:3-4), it is unusual to derive some form of joy or pleasure from being tested.

I have walked with the Lord for 14 years. I have suffered persecution of many kinds and have been humbled in many ways. I have been tested, tried, accused, labeled and hurt on many occasions. Some occasions were because I stood by the truth; others were because the Lord wanted to build Christ in me; but most of them were because I deserved it.

I am but a wretched sinner under the grace of an infinitely powerful God. Nevertheless, every sorrowful season, every shameful deed, and every test that the Lord has given me in all those years, produced authentic joy and deep pleasure in my heart. Yes, they were painful but the pain did not last. It was soon replaced by profound longing and sincere desperation for God.

It was during the difficult times that I learned to pray earnestly and cherish my alone time with the Lord. My trials became the most precious moments in my life because I deeply felt God's presence and the extent of His love during those times. I was not distracted with the things of this world.

More importantly, it is during the most challenging times that we really get to see God and His wholesome attributes – His love, mercy, grace, justice, holiness and immutability.

When you are a believer, trials no longer have power over you.

They always work for good (Romans 8:28) and they are nothing compared to the glory that will be revealed in Christ (Romans 8:18).

If you are facing challenges at this moment, know that it is only for a season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

Thus, take advantage of it by considering it pure joy (James 1:2) and seeking God with genuine longing (Psalm 42:1-2).

Only in God can you truly find joy, peace and godly pleasure.

*3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings,
because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

Romans 5:3-4 (New International Version)

“He Maketh No Mistake”

by A.M. Overton, 1932 (Contributed by Abimae Almendarez)

My Father's way may twist and turn
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad to know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead,
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break,
I'll pin my faith, my all, in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim,
But come what may,
I'll simply trust and leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift,
And plain it all He'll make,
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

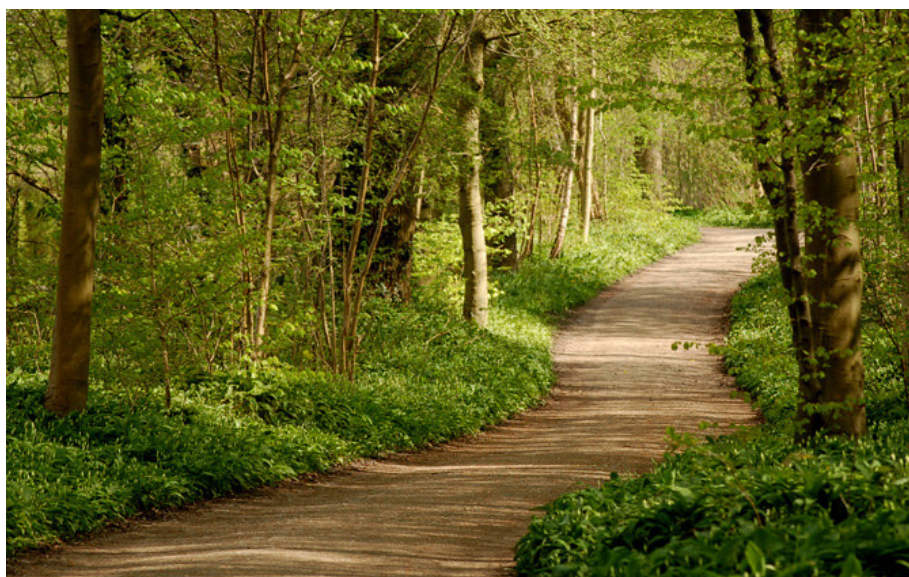


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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**JULY 13-17**

We thank God for sending 125 children, from 4 to 12 years old, who attended a whole week (8:30 am-4:30 pm) of VBS. Please see page 6 for more details.

**YPM SUMMER YOUTH CAMP****JULY 24-26**

YPM Summer Camp was held at Upper Canada Camp in Palgrave, Ontario. There was a total of 138 attendees, 37 of which were guests and 29 were first-time attendees from CABC. Pastor Alex Lee was the speaker and the weekend was centred on urging the youth to know Christ and make Him known.

**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY****JULY 5**

CABC honored 36 graduates from kindergarten to Post graduate that Sunday. Please see CONNECT's previous edition for the list of graduates.

JULY

YOUNG@HEART SUMMER TRIP**JULY 4**

The Young at Heart and other outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed a day trip to Stoney Lake that sunny Saturday. Please see page 9 for details

**CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION****SEMINARS JULY 26, AUGUST 16, 23, 30**

The studies on the basics of Christianity continued to be well-attended. July 26 was on Redemption, discussed by Bro. Exie Sinena followed by three sessions in August on Justification and Sanctification, discussed by Bro. Michael Borja. We praise God for the diligence and wisdom that He has given our brothers, enabling them to share their knowledge with us.

PARENT AND YOUTH POWWOW**AUGUST 29**

"PAYBACK" was the catch phrase that stood for Parents And Youth BACK to back, as the youth and their parents (about 58 participants) spent the morning playing games and being reminded by Pastor Alex Lee about the essence of Ephesians 6:1-4. The dialogue that followed after lunch, addressed several questions from both sides, opening a line of communication between the two generations. Wrapping up with each family praying together was a heartwarming and tearjerking moment. Praise God for love in the family.

**BIBLE BEE AT DORSET PARK CHURCH****SEPTEMBER 19**

Six of our Sunday school kids joined a Bible Bee contest at the Dorset Park Church taking home with them several awards! Congratulations to: Faith Calauad, Shaerin Grace Castro, Micah Pascua, Sara Sian, Jaeden Facun and Shekinah So.

You definitely know your Bible!

AUGUST

CABC CHOIR RETREAT AND RECREATION**AUGUST 22**

About 60 choir members enjoyed a day at Cedar Park resort in Bowmanville, Ontario from 10 am to 7pm. It was a time to be refreshed and to be reminded that singing in the choir was a form of worshipping our Lord. It also served as a kick off for the Christmas cantata which is just a few more months away. We welcome new set of choir officers elected that day as well.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SUNDAY****SEPTEMBER 20**

In lieu of Sunday school promotion Sunday, CABC now celebrates Children's Ministry Sunday to involve the Sunday school, Nursery, VBS, March Break for kids and Children's Missions ministries. Bro. Phil Whitehead, executive Director of BCM international Canada our guest preacher reminded the congregation on the importance of molding our children in light of God's Word. We thank God for Sunday school superintendent Nes Navarro and the CE volunteers for helping the children facilitate both services.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 13-17



It was a time of learning songs and Bible verses, fun and food together but mostly having God's Word planted in the hearts of 125 children. We praise God for Melanie Bautista who stepped up and met the challenge as this year's VBS director, the VBS team who worked months ahead for the preparations and the 60 plus volunteers who willingly gave their time to serve that week.

DAY 1

Bible Point: God has the power to provide.

Bible Story: God provides for Elijah. (1 Kings 17)

Key Verse: "And God will generously provide all you need." (2 Corinthians 9:8)

DAY 2

Bible Point: God has the power to comfort.

Bible Story: God speaks to Elijah. (1 Kings 19)

Key Verse: "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others."
(2 Corinthians 1:4)

DAY 3

Bible Point: God has the power to heal

Bible Story: God heals Naaman. (2 Kings 5)

Key Verse: "He heals the broken hearted and bandage their wounds."
(Psalm 147:3)

DAY 4

Bible Point: God has the power to forgive

Bible Story: Jesus dies on a cross to take away our sins,
then comes back to life. (Luke 22:31-24:12)

Key Verse: "You are a God of forgiveness." (Nehemiah 9:17)

DAY 5

Bible Point: God has the power to love us forever

Bible Story: Jesus promises us an eternal home. (John 14:1-3)

Key Verse: "Everyone who believes in him will have eternal life." (John 3:15)

TESTIMONIES: CABC Summer Missionaries

SHORT TERM MISSIONS: Serpent River, Dominican Republic, Peru

Brigette:

“My experience this year at Serpent River was nothing short of inspiring. The children were especially difficult this year due to the many conflicts that often resulted in either physical or verbal confrontation with each other. But despite those cloudy moments, God was still visible through each of them- we shared precious moments with them that were so priceless that if you picked any one out of the several, it would’ve made up for all the difficult days.”

Jake:

My first experience in mission-trips took place this summer at Serpent River First Nations with the intent of being a vessel of God’s will. I didn’t know what to expect, but I knew as long as I prayed moment by moment for God’s guidance to let His will unfold, then I had nothing to fear and everything to look forward to. By the grace of God, loving bonds and memorable experiences were created within the team and with the community of the reserve, which I pray would continue to grow for the furtherance of His kingdom.

Joby:

“Every summer--for the past 5 years--my mission trip to Serpent River First Nation (SRFN) always teaches me the power of God’s love through our work within the community, friendships with community members and devotions & fellowship with the DOXA team. God’s plan for us and for the SRFN community has never been more apparent than this summer of 2015; His work was glorified as we were able to send out a team of summer DOXA volunteers and SRFN members on the Dominican Republic missions trip. This summer was a blessed glimpse of what God has in store for this community, and I’m excited to continue to serve Him through this ministry.”

Jorel:

This summer for me has probably been the busiest yet. Working full time, having team meetings, participating in multiple fundraisers. But having the privilege to work for Doxa again has given me the opportunity to go back to Serpent River and see friends which I now consider family and to go to Dominican Republic for the first time for a week to do some service work. I would like to thank all my supporters but most importantly, our Father in heaven for allowing me to experience all the things I did this summer.

Jenny:

Going to Peru this summer was both challenging and rewarding. God showed us that He provides, protects, unites, heals, and that He is more powerful than any language barrier. It’s an honour to be able to use nursing to “point others to the Great Physician”.

Abby:

The opportunity to go to Peru as part of a medical missions team was an eye-opening experience to see a lot of things but specifically how God can use my future profession as a nurse to further His kingdom. Despite the challenges and discouragement along the way, God greatly used the trip to both humble and encourage me to be intentional in pointing others to Christ through patient care (and everyday conversations).

Scarborough Mission August 2015



In the summer, Pastor Alex Lee and 18 of our young people shared the gospel in Scarborough Town Centre

To JESUS be all glory, honour, power and praise!

*Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.
Psalm 115:1*

"God can use you no matter how young or old you are.
'God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.'"

AJ P.

"God taught me patience, and **He taught me how to love these people.**"

Therisha S.

"It is through **love that we are driven to evangelize.**
Salvation is not something to be sold or bought... it is to be cherished with your life as a result of God's love and amazing grace."

Calvin R.

"God will lead you to the right path if you let **Him take over.**"

Joy P.

"I had to **fully trust in God...** without Him it would be impossible to find the people He has intended for us to talk to."

Anne L.

"Going out to evangelize made me see how much of a selfless act it is – there is no room for ego... it takes **full reliance on the Holy Spirit**"

Brigitte S.

"The devil is real and powerful, but **God is even more powerful and victorious!**"

Nathan Y.

"By God's grace through His mercy, I learned, experienced, and most importantly **exalt the power of the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, to the glory of the Father.** Isaiah 49:3"

Francis V.

"Our mission field is where we are."

Jammy U.

"Approach people with boldness, tell them about the gospel and **point them to Christ**"

Jeremy F.

"It's important to spread the good news. Many identified themselves as Christians, but don't know about the message of the gospel."

Melanie B.

"God is a very strong deliverer... prayer is very powerful... it was never us teaching or talking, but God using us."

Kisha D.

"The Scarborough Mission **challenged** me to step out of my comfort zone."

LJ F.

"I am incapable of doing it on my own, **it is all through the LORD.** Matthew 28:20b"

Melissa B.

"I witnessed a glimpse of how **powerful the name of Jesus Christ, our LORD, truly is.**"

Aim A.

"I was really nervous to talk to people, but God **taught be true courage and He led me to the right people.** Deuteronomy 31:6"

Lean L.

"You are called to **boldly bear witness** to God's amazing grace and mercy in the way you **live your life daily** through **complete reliance** upon His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:18-20"

Abimere A.

Stoney Creek Cruise Young@Heart Summer Outing

By Sheila Herbert

July 4, 2015, the Young @ Heart Seniors' group and other brothers and sisters gathered at CABC for our annual summer outing.

We were all gathered by 7:45 and left on time at 8 A.M. There were 58 persons in attendance, mostly seniors but including brethren of different ages; and not only members of CABC but also brothers and sisters from other churches. We had friends who were non-believers who joined us too. This gave us the opportunity to be witnesses for Christ and to let them see Jesus and His love in us.

Our bus driver's name was Mark, and he was very pleasant, generous and friendly. It was great that we had a believer as our driver. It gave for great fellowship and conversation. He enjoyed being with our group as well.

We arrived early at Kawartha Lake. This gave us time to appreciate the place and each other's company while waiting to board the boat for the cruise. It was a two-hour cruise along the Kawartha Lake. We saw many islands and learned about the history of owners of the properties on the different islands. A delicious lunch was prepared for us. It was tasty and everyone enjoyed it.

After the cruise we returned to the city. It was a time of fellowship, sightseeing and shopping. Each one then returned to the park for a devotion led by Sister Carmen, reminding us that we are the church and that we should be one in Love and Unity.

It was a great day; the weather was warm and sunny. Definitely, everyone had a great time that there are even some folks booking to come with us again next year.

Thanks to Sisters Rita, Cathy and Lydia, for their faithfulness and hard work in making this trip a success. May our prayer be that the Lord will use our spiritual gifts to strengthen others around us, and that we will draw deeper into relationships with Him so that we will increase in wisdom and knowledge. Ephesians 4: 13: "Until we attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ".



Please remember to pray for our

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Jhun Castro
Juancho Chu
Willie Damian
Artemio Diwa
Jeffrey Fegarido
George Gregas
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Ulysses Vidal

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Financial Controller: Antonieta Cabaluna

Sunday School Superintendent: Neslea Navarro

Our Church Workers:

Senior Pastor: Elbern G. Latorilla

Youth Pastor: Alex Lee

Director of Music ministry: Johnny Isip

Administrative Assistant: Salome Ferranco

Maintenance Personnel: Miller Caguiat

Visit our church web site at
www.cabctoronto.org

If you would like to contribute
or be involved in any area(s),
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