

Coping with Daily Evils

(24 April 2020)

Dear True Lifers

Hear the Lord's wisdom in Matthew 6:34: *"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."* Such divine wisdom is aptly captured in a 70-year old hymn by Ira Stanphill which goes, "I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day."

This is pretty much how I have been living my days since Jemima's cancer and the coronavirus pandemic. The Lord's wisdom here is helpful for it teaches me to trust in Him on a daily basis, and not worry over things I do not know and cannot control. So the hymn continues, "Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand, but I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand." It gives great comfort to know that God knows and He is in charge and in control.

Although we do not know many things, this one thing we do know, *"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."* (Rom 8:28).

Hospital Visits

Hospital visits have been frequent these days because of the intensive treatment that Jemima has to go through. She has just completed her third chemo cycle and is halfway through her radiotherapy. By the grace of God, she is coping well. She has a good appetite and can sleep well most of the time. The side effects are rather mild thus far. In fact she said to me, "I feel quite normal."

The Lord is very good and must be praised. Thank you all for your loving thoughts, prayers and assistance in so many ways. Paul called such deeds *"fruit that may abound to your account"* (Phil 4:17). The Lord bless each one of you richly.

Power Trips and Water Leaks

For a few months, the FEBC parsonage block has experienced frequent electrical trips especially during the "circuit breaker" period (no pun intended). Thank God for sending the right people to help us solve this niggling problem. After some testing and troubleshooting, the culprit was discovered and disabled. No more middle-of-the-night blackouts.

While inspecting the college grounds, I noticed a water pipe leaking in drips. This pipe serves our water cooler. With the help of a student, we managed to plug the leak. Every drop counts. No precious water should go to waste.

These little problems can be trying and taxing, but the Lord hears us when we cry to Him and He makes a way out for us. We cling to His promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13, *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”* (1 Cor 10:13).

Longer Circuit Breaker

On Tuesday, when Jemima told me that PM will be speaking on TV again, I said, “It’s gonna be bad news.” Indeed so, circuit breaker extended—activities to be conducted from home or at a distance *for another month*. More Sundays online!

I am thankful for all our IT staff and brethren who are making our services and sermons available online. The services are pre-recorded and uploaded onto our church’s YouTube channel. The latest church weekly and news are constantly updated on Telegram and our church website (www.truelifebpc.org.sg).

The Far Eastern Bible College (FEBC) also has to increase its distance learning traffic. Lectures and exams have to be administered online. Know that FEBC will offer four distance learning courses in its Daily Vacation Bible College (DVBC) from May 11 to July 5: (1) The Sevenfold Will of God, (2) Dispensationalism and Covenant Theology, (3) Book of Zechariah, and (4) The History of Fundamentalism.

Now that you have to stay home to stay safe, you might as well study online too. To encourage people to do so, FEBC is offering the four DVBC courses free of charge. Don’t miss this opportunity to study God’s Word systematically and work your way towards a Certificate of Religious Knowledge (CertRK). Go to FEBC’s website (www.febc.edu.sg) for more information. Please pass the word along.

Yours affectionately

Pastor Jeffrey Khoo