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Lutheran

M E S S A G E

Message from the Bishop

会督的话

Since serving as bishop of the Lutheran Church, I was asked no less than 5 times how old is the Lutheran Church in Singapore. I usually ended up telling them that it depends on which occasion would we consider to be our birth. If we start from the arrival of the first missionary of the United Lutheran Church of America to Malaya, we will be 60 in 2013.

If we count from the establishment of the first congregation in Singapore, we are 53 years old. However, if we count from the day we become the Lutheran Church in Singapore, we are only 15 years old.

pastors and members
ation Christians. By
od we are seeing

more and more second and third generations believers in our midst. It is our desire that the next generation would love God wholeheartedly and remain faithful to God as his witnesses. But how can we turn that desire into a reality?

It is interesting to note that God's words to the Israelites about the instructions to their children and children's children so that they may fear the Lord began with the declaration "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength." (Deut. 6:4-5)

Before we can expect our children to love and fear the LORD as God,

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they need to see us loving and fearing the LORD as God. Before we can expect them to Love the LORD our God with all their heart, they need to see us loving the LORD our God with all our hearts.

The first challenge for us is to fear, love and trust God in such a way that it is visible to our children and our children's children. We are called to model for them a life of faith and dependency that they too may trust and depend upon God.

The instruction of God in Deuteronomy 6 continues with these words "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts." (Deut. 6:6)

The second challenge for us is to so love the Word of God that our children too may love it.

Deuteronomy 6 continues "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up..." (Deut. 6:7) This is a call to use every opportunity available and to spare no efforts to instruct them about God. It is a call to nurture their faith in God and to mentor their life with God.

If we do not model and mentor them today, we may lose them tomorrow! May God grant you His wisdom as you seek to disciple your children for Christ.

自从担任信义会的会督后，我最少有五次被问到新加坡基督教信义会几岁了。我的回答总是说，那就要看你是从哪一种情况下看我们的诞生。如果是从美国联合信义会派出第一位宣教士到马来亚来算，到2013年时我们就60岁了。

如果是从新加坡第一间教会的成立来算，我们已经53岁了。然而，如果是从那一天我们成为新加坡基督教信义会来算，我们只有15岁。

我们有许多牧者和会友都是第一代的基督徒。靠着上帝的恩典，我们看到越来越多的第二代和第三代的信徒在我们当中。我们深切的盼望是，我们的下一代能全心爱主，并且继续成为上帝忠实的见证人。但我们如何实现这盼望呢？

有趣的是，上帝在写给以色列民的话语中有提及对他们的儿女和他们儿女的儿女的训令，是要先作这样的宣告说：“以色列阿，你要听，耶和華我们的神是独一的耶和華；你要全心、全性、全力爱耶和華你的神。”（申命记六4-5），好让他们能敬畏上帝。

在我们期盼孩子要敬畏、敬爱神以先，他们需要看到我们敬畏、敬爱神。在我们期盼他们要全心爱主以先，他们需要看到我们全心爱主。

第一个的挑战是我们对神的敬畏、敬爱和信靠，要让我们的儿女和儿女的儿女能看得见。我们需要为他们树立有信心的生命和全然倚靠神的模范，使得他们也能效法去信靠和倚靠上帝。

神的指示在申命记第六章继续说：“我今日吩咐你的这些话，都要记在你的心上；”

第二个的挑战是，我们要爱慕神的话语好让我们的儿女也一样会喜爱

神的话语。

申命记第六章继续说“你要把这些话不断地教训你的儿女，无论你坐在家里，或行在路上，或躺下，或起来的时候。。。 ”（申命记六7）。这是一个呼吁，要使用每一个机会，不遗余力的指示儿女们关于神的一切。这是一个呼吁，要培育儿女们对神的信心和引导他们在神里面的生命。

如果我们今天无法成为他们的模范和属灵引导，我们将在明日失去他们！愿上帝赐你智慧，使得你能培育孩子成为基督的门徒。