

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

“Who am I that I should be Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore.” That was the reason I hesitated to accept the nomination in 2009.

I remember a conversation with a co-worker who urged me not to be too quick in my rejection lest I am rejecting God’s call.

He advised that I should take time to pray and seek God’s will and purpose.

It was with trembling and much prayers that I accepted the nomination and was elected. There were many challenges in the past eight years and through it all I experienced God’s presence and help.

I believed that it was never about me and everything about God and His church. It was for this reason that I hesitated to accept the nomination again this year, trusting that just as He was with me, He will be with whoever else elected.

In submission to God’s will, I accepted the nomination.

On the other hand, I could not help hoping there was another candidate. Since elected, I pray that I may be found faithful unto the end.

Please pray for me and with me as I seek to address these 3 concerns.

• Growing Leaders in ministry

It is of great concern to me that of the 23 pastors of LCS, we have 6 retiring within the next 5 years and another 7 from 6 to 10 years.

Are we intentionally forming our younger pastors to lead congregations well and are we calling younger people into the ministry and ministry formation?

It is my prayer and hope that the whole church recognizes this need. Pray for God to help us identify people whom He called and accompany them in confirming that call.

• Growing Faith of our next generation

We are concern for our children and children’s children faith formation. How can we best nurture them in the Lord?

Starting with the home, we need to challenge the parents to be model to their children and equip them to be spiritual mentor.

We encouraged families to worship together as families, encourage congregations to make available “Growing Faith at Home” for their members that they can use to engage their family in spiritual conversations and prayer.

We instruct young children about Holy Communion with their parents so that they can be nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ since young and we produced “Growing as God’s people” in both Chinese and English so our young and be well instructed in the Faith.

It is my prayer that all congregations and continue to use the resources available and intentional promoting them.

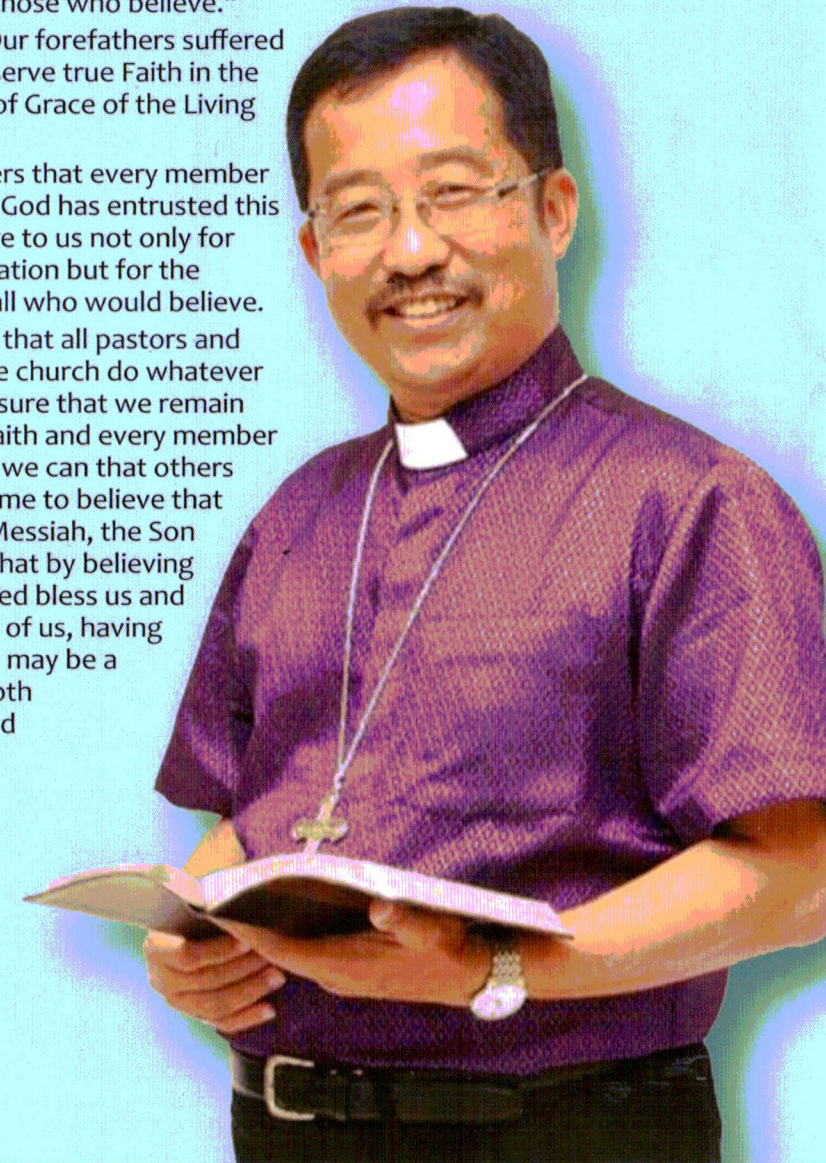
• Growing as Witnesses to the Gospel

“I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation to those who believe.”

(Rom. 1:16) Our forefathers suffered much to preserve true Faith in the True Gospel of Grace of the Living God.

It is my prayers that every member realized that God has entrusted this great treasure to us not only for our own salvation but for the salvation of all who would believe.

It is my hope that all pastors and leaders of the church do whatever we can to ensure that we remain true to this faith and every member do whatever we can that others may also “come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing God has indeed bless us and I pray that all of us, having been blessed may be a blessing in both Singapore and beyond.



会督的话



“我是谁竟要担任新加坡基督教信义会的会督。”这是2009年我迟疑着是否要接受提名的原因。我记得有一次在与一位同工谈话时，他请求我不要太快拒绝以免自己是在推却上帝的呼召。他劝我用一些时间祷告，寻求上帝的心意和目的。

我带着战兢和祷告的心接受提名并当选为会督。这八年来有许多的挑战，而透过这一切我经历了上帝的同在和帮助。

我相信重要的是一切关于上帝和祂的教会的事而不是我。也因此我又一次迟疑着今年是否要接受提名，相信与我同在的上帝，也必与任何当选的人同在。

顺服上帝的心意，我接受提名；另一方面，我却希望有另一个人选。

自从中选后，我祷告我能忠心到底。

请为我祷告，也为我所关怀的以下这三件事祷告。

i) 事工中领袖的增加

我最大的关怀是：总会的23位牧者，在5年内将有6人退休，在6至10年内有另外7人退休。我们是否刻意的培养较年轻的牧者来带领各个堂会？我们又是否呼吁请年轻人参与教会的服事？这是我的祷告，也盼望整个信义会意识到这个需要。祷告祈求上帝帮助我们去鉴定愿意回应上帝呼召的人，并陪伴引导他们去肯定这个呼召。

ii) 下一代信心的成长

我们关心孩童们和他们下一代信仰的塑造。我们如何在主里给予他们最好的培育？从家里开始，我们需要挑战父母成为孩子们的榜样，装备他们成为属灵的导师。我们鼓励一家人一起崇拜，鼓励堂会预备一份供会友可以拿回去使用的家庭崇拜资料。我们教导孩童们与父母一同守圣餐一事，让他们可以从小就得到基督身体和宝血的喂养。我们出版中、英文版的“成为——上帝子民成长之旅”，为要在信仰上更好的指导年幼者。我的祷告是所有的堂会继续使用各样现有的资源，并且是刻意去推广它们。

iii) 福音见证人的增加

“我不以福音为耻；这福音是上帝的大能，要救所有相信的。”（罗一16）我们的先贤为维护上帝真恩惠的福音承受极大的苦难，这是我的祷告，希望每一位会友明白上帝将这最大的宝藏托付给我们，不但是我们自己得到救恩而是让更多人可以相信。这是我的盼望，全体教会的牧者和领袖要竭尽所能的忠于这个信仰，而每一位会友能竭尽所能的带领人“信耶稣基督，是上帝的儿子，使人信了可以因祂的名得生命。”（约二十31）

上帝确实祝福我们，而我的祷告是得蒙祝福的我们成为新加坡和远方的祝福。