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会督的话

使徒保罗在提前三1说：“如果有人渴慕监督的职分，他就是爱慕善工。” 我将这节经文也用在牧养事工上，若有人渴慕成为一位牧师，他就是爱慕善工。新加坡基督教信义会需要弟兄姐妹积极参与门徒训练的行列——上帝的儿女跟随上帝、学习基督并且活像基督。我的祷告是，在这些活跃的门徒中将会有人回应教会和上帝的呼召，荣让自己被装备成为牧者。

再过五年，就有最少五位的牧者将退休，上帝是否正呼召你成为祂的仆人？当我回应上帝的呼召进入全时间服事时，我从来没有看自己是一位牧师，更不用说是一位会督。

当服事上帝的意愿在我的心越来越强烈时，我仅仅回应上帝说：“主，我不知道我能做什么，但是我在这里。” 让自己接受训练是我要走的第一步。在新加坡神学院接受装备时，神学性的科目让我挣扎不已，但是，基督教教育和实践事工科目成绩的优越使我想全职以儿童事工为选项。

我记得在1982年毕业前夕与Keith Hinton博士的一段对话，他问我有关毕业后的计划，我告诉他正在探索教会的儿童事工或是加入万国儿童布道会，因为我觉得自己的恩赐在这些领域。

他微笑着并告诉我要重新考虑，因为他在我身上看到其他的东西。我的多方面才干让他留下了深刻的印象，他说我应该考虑牧养事工或宣教，特别是在教会植堂方面。我笑着但顺服执行委员会将我差派至勿洛信义会，成为蓝以信牧师的助手并由他来指导我。剩下的都是历史。

你或许没有想到或觉得自己有条件做一位牧者，我恳请你向教会的主祷告，愿收割庄稼的主能为教会兴起更多年轻的弟兄姐妹进入禾场。

在我的经验中，除了主之外，牧养事工承担的任务和责任是非常艰巨的。然而，靠着上帝的帮助，每一天都有机会去经历祂奇妙的带领。以牧师、宣教士和会督的身份服事上帝这37年的岁月中，上帝的话透过保罗所说对我是何等的真实：“我的恩典是够你用的，因为我的能力在人的软弱上显得完全。” 就是在我的软弱和全然倚靠上帝中，我经历上帝的大能。

MESSAGE BY THE BISHOP

The apostle Paul declares 1 Timothy 3:1 that “anyone who aspires to the office of overseer , he desires a noble task.” I would apply this text also to the pastoral ministry that anyone who aspires to be a pastor, he desires a noble task.

The Lutheran Church in Singapore needs men and women in active discipleship – children of God following Christ and learning of Christ that they be like Christ. It is my prayer that among these active disciples will emerge men and women, in response to the need of the church and the call of God, avail themselves to be equipped to be pastors.

At least 5 pastors are due for retirement within the next 5 years. Is God calling you to be His servant?

I never saw myself to be a pastor, much less a bishop when I responded to God’s call to full time ministry.

With a growing desire to serve God more and more, I merely responded to God saying, “Lord, I do not know what I can be or do but here I am.” Availing myself to be trained was the first step. In the course of training at Singapore Bible College, I struggled with Theological subjects but did well in Christian Education and Practical ministry subjects as such I was considering full time children ministry options.

I remember a conversation with Dr. Keith Hinton a few weeks before my graduation in 1982. He asked me about my plans after graduation. I told him I was exploring parish work with children or ministry with Child Evangelism Fellowship because I felt they are in the area of my giftings.

He smiled and told me to reconsider as he saw in me something else. He was impressed with my versatilities and said I should consider pastoral ministry or missions, especially in the area of church planting. I laughed but submitted to the decision of the Executive Council when they moved to assign me to Bedok Lutheran Church, to assist Rev. Nelson and be mentored by him. The rest is history.

You may not think or feel that you have what it takes to be a pastor, must less a good pastor. May I beg you to pray that the Lord of the Church, the Lord of the harvest will raise up more young men and women for the church.

In my experience, apart from the Lord, the tasks and responsibilities of the Pastoral ministry is very daunting. However, with the Lord’s help, each day is an opportunity to experience Him in a very special way. After serving God as pastor, missionary and bishop for 37 years, God’s words to Paul was also true for me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” It was in my weakness and dependence on God that the power of God was experienced.

