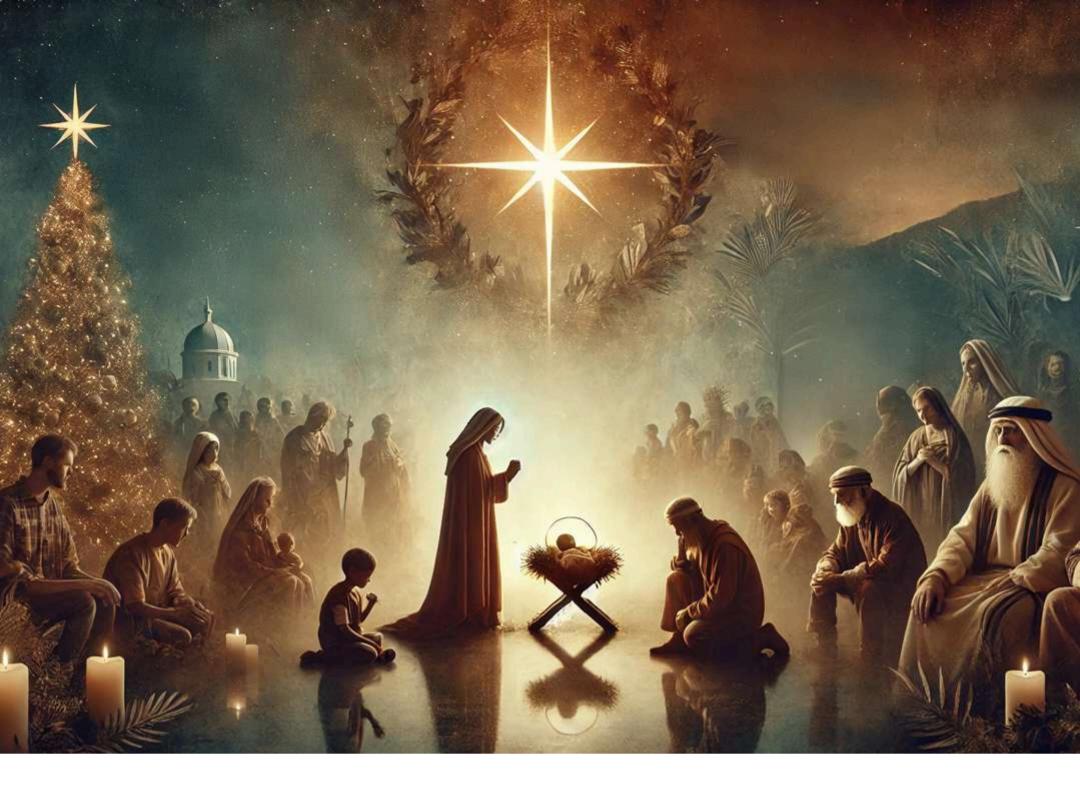
GOSPELLIGHT.SG

0

0

Caging generations INTO A LIFE-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST.

0



The Sword at Christmas: Hope for the Hurting

Article by Hanniel Sinon Assistant Shepherd (Filipino, Care Groups, Christian Education)

One of the most anticipated season is finally

dawning upon us. Christmas is around the corner. Friends and families are gearing up for the season, making plans to share meals and celebrate the Savior. Christmas trees and decorations will line popular public spaces. Christmas parties and traditional gift exchanges, I'm sure, loom in our schedules.

But amidst the joy and peace that Christmas brings, for some, Christmases are often fresh reminders of tragedies, pains, and struggles --whether it's global wars and famines, the internal turmoil of grief and separation, or perhaps the immeasurable suffering wrought by sickness and diseases. And often, as we get wrapped up with the celebrations, we become blinded to the many who are hurting. And so where do we draw comfort from this Christmas? How can an occasion of joy and peace address our many pains and struggles?

"In those times where joy is shadowed by grief, loss, or personal struggles, let's remind ourselves that there is real comfort through the reality that Jesus came not just for celebration but also to bring redemption

The very first Christmas brought much joy. Luke introduces us to a devout man, Simeon, who had been waiting for a long time for the Messiah. The Bible says that he will never see death until he has seen the Messiah. And the day has finally arrived. Jesus was brought to the temple to be dedicated to the Lord. And upon Jesus' introduction, Simeon praised God because his "eyes have seen his salvation." The Messiah will be a light to the Gentiles and glory for the people of Israel (Luke 2:30-32).

Yet, this expectation will be paved with much suffering. Simeon turns to Mary, Jesus' mother, and with these words, prophesies about Jesus (Luke 2:34-35):

"Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Every mother wants the best for her child.

Mary is no different. But no one could prepare her for the life that her son would live. If a good and comfortable life is what we desire for our kids today, the trajectory of Jesus' life was certainly off the beaten path.

The Messiah will not govern lands or command vast armies. But he will be like that chief cornerstone, rejected by men. He will experience suffering like no other has experienced. He will divide Israel. While some would accept him in faith, many will reject him and therefore, fall. He will suffer opposition of various kinds. His own kinsmen will conspire and threaten his life. Friends will forsake and turn on him. But all these pale in comparison to the weight of sin that will be placed on his shoulders for the sake of lost and sinful mankind.

And so, this Christmas, what is our hope for the hurting? Not to distract ourselves with lots of Christmas shopping and parties. Not about having a pie-in-the-sky optimism that things would turn out better next year. It is all about Jesus! There is real tangible comfort found in Jesus because he is able to

emphatise with us in our struggles. He has gone through so much to bring us to a right relationship with God. And he is more than able to bring us to the end. In those times where joy is shadowed by grief, loss, or personal struggles, let's remind ourselves that there is real comfort through the reality that Jesus came not just for celebration but also to bring redemption through suffering.

INVITATION TO ENROLL WITH APIIS Dear Gospeliters,

The Asia-Pacific Institute of International Studies (APIIS), a ministry fully supported by GLCC, is excited to extend an opportunity for Gospeliters to enroll in their Master of Ministry (MMin) program.

While APIIS will not be admitting Singaporean students into this intake, they have reserved a limited number of spots for Gospeliters who would greatly benefit from this program's equipping and

empowerment for ministry.

We encourage you to read this **brochure** carefully. If you believe this program aligns with your calling and ministry development, please reach out to Terri Wei via WhatsApp at 9658 2809 to schedule an interview with our Faculty.

Pastor Paul Choo President Of APIIS

CHIT CHAT! (NEWCOMERS EVENT)

Are you new to Gospel Light? Did you discover us through a friend, our online services or social media? We'd love for you to get to know us better! Chit Chat is an informal social session onsite where you get to mingle with our Pastor, Elders and leaders. Ever wondered what kind of church we are and where are our roots? What does our mission and vision statement mean? Save the date and we look forward to a great time of chit chat!

Date: Sun, 19 Jan 2025 Time: 11.45am - 1.15pm Venue: Gospel Auditorium (L2) Lunch is provided.

Connect with us – <u>Register</u> now! Registration closes on Sun, 12 Jan 2025.

If you want to find out more, <u>email</u> Sue.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2024

In a world filled with uncertainty, pain, and anxiety, we all long for hope. This Christmas, invite someone you know to see the unveiled true joy of Christmas in a hope that endures. Join us for our special Christmas service, "Hope Is Born".

Date: 25 Dec 2024

English services Venue: L4, Shine Auditorium

Time: 9.00am and 11.00am

Chinese services Venue: L2, Gospel Auditorium Time: 9.00am and 11.00am

Download and share our *invite card*.

SHEPHERDS' TRAINING (SEMESTER 3) We will be kickstarting a new semester of Shepherds' Training in Jan 2025. Wordbased ministry leaders and potential leaders are invited to register and join us on this journey.

Dates: 25 Jan - 31 May 2025 (Every last Saturday of the month) Time: 2.00pm to 5.00pm Venue: Light Auditorium (L3)

Register here.

Registration is on first come first serve basis and subject to approval. Successful applicants will be informed 2 weeks prior to the training date.

Registration closes Sun, 29 Dec.

MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Membership in Gospel Light is only for baptized believers of the Lord, and must be of age 16 and above. Attendance at both membership classes 1 & 2 is a prerequisite for membership application. Classes will be conducted on-site. Register here. Registration closes on Sun, 22 Dec.

<u>English</u>

Date: Sun, 19 Jan & 26 Jan 2025 Time: 1:30pm – 2:30pm Venue: Hall 2 (L2)



Date: Sun, 5 Jan & 26 Jan 2025 Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm Venue: Hall 2 (L2)

CHURCH CAMP 2025 - FAQ

Gyms are familiar to many of us, with different machines that help to work our different muscle groups. But how often do we flex and train our spiritual muscles? Borrowing the words of Paul in 1 Tim 4:7-8 "...Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." Come spend time with the family of God from 10 - 14 June 2025 in "Training for Godliness". FAQs for

Church Camp 2025 is given <u>here</u>.

Registration starts on 5 Jan 2025.

BEGINNING INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (BIBS)

Beginning Inductive Bible Study (BIBS) is an online platform where we meet to Investigate what the Bible says, so as to Interpret what the Scriptures meant, and then discuss the Implications of the Word in our daily lives. We study the word of God inductively that we may know the God of the word intimately and follow Jesus faithfully in the power of the Spirit.

BIBS January to May 2025 is as follows:

Jeremiah (Men's group): Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am – (Lesson starts 15 Jan)

Acts: Thursdays 9.30am - 11.30am - (Lesson starts 16 Jan)

Romans: Fridays 9.30am - 11.30am - (Lesson starts 17 Jan)

Continue next page

Acts: Mondays 7.30pm - 9.30pm - (Lesson starts 20 Jan)

Romans: Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.30pm - (Lesson starts 21 Jan)

Your commitment each week is 1-3 hours of self-study and 2 hours online discussion. Precept NISS guide (\$15/-) is optional. The discussion leader is brother Michael Lau.

Enrol today!

Enrolment closes Sun, 29 Dec.

SILVERJOY (SENIORS) MINISTRY

Every chapter of life is a gift from God. And our ministry for seniors celebrates that gift. SilverJoy isn't just a place for seniors to gather, it's a spiritual community of friendship and support. Invite your pre-believing friends, neighbours or family members.

Date: 1st & 3rd Wed of the month Time: 9.45am – 12.30pm Venue: Connections Corner (L1) Upcoming events coming your way.

Register to join us!

Date	Programme
18 Dec	Christmas Lunch (圣诞午餐) *registration required

Contact 9753 7964 for enquiries / registration.

EXPOSITORY BIBLE STUDY – GOSPEL OF JOHN

We will take a break from end Nov to end Dec and class will resume on Tue, 7 Jan 2025. The Zoom dial-in details for our session are as follows:

Date: Tue, 7 Jan 2025 Time: 8.00pm Join <u>Zoom Meeting</u> Meeting ID: 851 8603 0760 Passcode: 211761





"We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy." Daniel 9:18



Wednesday 8PM | HALL 3 (ATTIC LEVEL) No praying meeting on 25 Dec 2024 and 1 Jan 2025.



Sunday 7.45AM | CRY ROOM SHINE AUDITORIUM LEVEL 4



Prayer List we can only move forward as a church by prayer. <u>Subscribe</u> to our weekly prayer list



Bereavement WE MOURN WITH MEMBERS WHO'VE LOST LOVED ONES. (ROM. 12:15) STAY UPDATED ON CHURCH BEREAVEMENT NOTICES.

WORSHIP SERVICES

English @Shine Auditorium (L4) Sunday at 8.30am, 10.15am, 12.00pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 10.15am only

Chinese @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 10.15am only

Filipino @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 2.00pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 2.00pm

Youth @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Saturday at 4.30pm Subscribe to our announcement channel on <u>WhatsApp</u> or <u>Telegram</u>.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Varsity @Light 1 and Light 2 (L3) Sunday at 2.30pm *no service on 5th week and for the month of December Subscribe to Varsity announcement channel

> Bahasa @Reception Room (L1) Every alternate Sunday 10.30am For more info, please contact 9117 6000 / 96285061

Telugu @Gospel Auditorium (L2) Sunday at 5.00pm and 7.30pm <u>Watch</u> our livestream service at 5.30pm

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

00

No Children's services on 29 Dec

PLAYGROUP

(12 - 35 months) @ Hall 3 (Attic) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am

PRESCHOOL

(35 months - 6 years) @ Eshkol Valley Premises (Attic)

Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am

PRIMARY (Primary 1 - 6) @ Light Auditorium (L3) Sunday at 8.30am and 10.15am

Join our <u>Whatsapp community</u> for regular updates

<u>Contact us</u> if you're interested to explore serving in Children's Ministry!



FULL GIVING DETAILS <u>HERE</u>



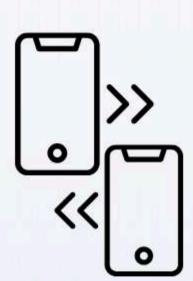
> PAYNOW Unique Entity Number (UEN) S88SS0082AGF1



Scan With Your Bank App

All offerings will be directed to the "General" fund. State "Missions" in the UEN/Bill Reference No. section if you wish to designate the offering to our mission work.





> Internet Banking Transfer DBS Bank 033-021695-5

> Cheque Make Payable to: "Gospel Light Christian Church" Write "<u>Offerings</u>" behind.

For internet banking transfer, indicate "General" or "Mission" to designate where the offering goes to

For cheques, you can further indicate on the reverse: "General Fund" 033-021695-5 or "Missions Fund" 001-042653-2.

Cheques can be deposited at any POSB or DBS bank into the church's accounts.