

UPDATES

May 2026

2026 Theme: Growing Holistically in Christ



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God Sustains

Rev. Joseph Yesupatham | Faculty in Development, Director of Tamil TEE

Psalm 55:22 – “Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.”

How do we respond when we face emotional pain, betrayal, fear, and pressure that make life feel heavy and unstable? Certainly, many people go through such difficult situations in life. For those who are facing overwhelming heartaches, Psalm 55 brings a comforting and hopeful message because it was written by David based on his own painful experiences and struggles.

By reading Psalm 55, we learn that David himself experienced fear, betrayal, emotional pain, and opposition. He described his heart as being filled with anguish and terror, and at one point he even wished he could “fly away” like a dove to escape from his troubles. Nevertheless, the most remarkable lesson David teaches us is how he responded in the midst of all these struggles.

During times of adversity, David did not allow his suffering to draw him away from God. Instead, he turned to God in prayer and poured out all his burdens before Him. At this point, we should ask ourselves: what would we do in such a difficult and painful situation? Would we give up, run away, or depend only on our own strength?

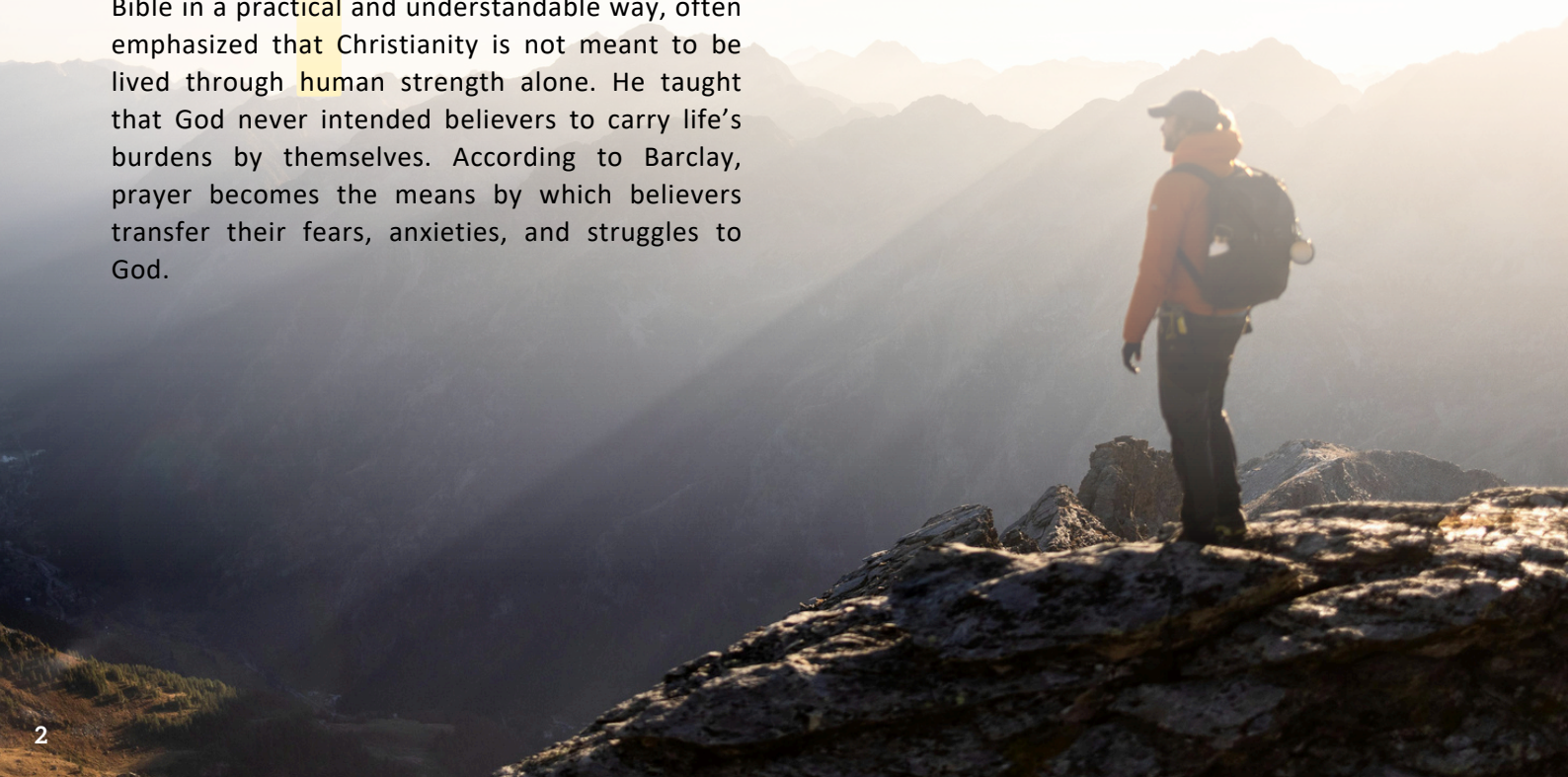
William Barclay, the Scottish theologian and biblical scholar well known for explaining the Bible in a practical and understandable way, often emphasized that Christianity is not meant to be lived through human strength alone. He taught that God never intended believers to carry life’s burdens by themselves. According to Barclay, prayer becomes the means by which believers transfer their fears, anxieties, and struggles to God.

This truth is clearly seen in Psalm 55:

“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.”

The word “cast” means to place or surrender our burdens completely to God, while the word “sustain” means that God will support, strengthen, uphold, and carry His people through difficult situations. Through David, we are reminded that although we may face hardships and betrayal, God remains faithful to preserve and sustain those who trust in Him.

Psalm 55 therefore reveals that God sustains the burdened. When we are unable to carry the weight of life alone, God carries us through His strength and grace. Therefore, we are called to turn to the Lord in prayer, because prayer brings peace, strength, and victory through God’s sustaining presence.



上帝必扶持

Rev. Joseph Yesupatham | Faculty in Development, Director of Tamil TEE

经文：诗篇55:22

“你要把你的重担卸给耶和华，他必扶持你；他永不叫义人动摇。”

当我们面对情感上的伤痛、背叛、惧怕和压力，以致生命变得沉重和动荡不安时，我们应当如何回应？事实是，许多人在人生中都曾经历这样的艰难处境。对于那些正经历深切伤痛的人而言，诗篇55篇带来安慰与盼望的信息，这是大卫根据自己亲身经历的痛苦与挣扎所写下的。

从诗篇55篇中，我们看见大卫曾经历惧怕、背叛、情感的伤痛以及攻击。他形容自己的内心充满愁苦与惊慌，甚至一度希望自己能像鸽子一样“飞去”，逃离眼前的困境。然而，大卫给我们最深刻的教导，是他在这一切挣扎中如何回应。

在患难中，大卫并没有让苦难使自己远离上帝；相反地，他转向上帝祷告，把自己一切的重担都倾诉在神面前。此时，我们也当自问：若我们身处在这样的痛苦与艰难之中，我们会如何回应？是放弃、逃避，还是单单依靠自己的力量？

苏格兰神学家兼圣经学者威廉·巴克莱（William Barclay），以深入浅出、贴近生活的解经方式闻名。他经常强调，基督信仰并不是靠人的力量独自活出来的。巴克莱教导说，上帝从未要信徒独自承担人生的重担。按照他的看法，祷告就是信徒将自己的惧怕、忧虑与挣扎转移交托给上帝的途径。

这个真理清楚地体现在诗篇55篇：

“你要把你的重担卸给耶和华，他必扶持你；他永不叫义人动摇。”

“卸给”的意思，是将我们的重担完全交托给上帝；“扶持”则表示上帝必亲自支持、坚固、托住并带领祂的子民度过艰难的处境。透过大卫的经历，我们被提醒：虽然我们会遭遇苦难与背叛，但上帝始终信实，必保守并扶持那些信靠祂的人。

因此，诗篇55篇向我们显明：上帝必扶持那些背负重担的人。当我们无法独自承担生命重压时，上帝会以祂的能力与恩典托住我们。所以，我们应当转向神祷告，因为祷告能借着上帝的扶持与同在，带来平安、力量与得胜。



Half a Chocolate, Whole of Life

Chong Lee Min | 2025 Alumni

Scriptural Anchor: *John 12:24 — “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”*

World Chocolate Day is often marked with sweetness and indulgence on the 7th of July. Yet there is a story of Francine Christophe that takes us far beyond celebration. During the Second World War, she, an 8-year-old, and her mother were deported to Bergen Belsen. Her mother gave her two pieces of chocolate; not treats, but meant to be kept for emergencies and sustenance.

When a fellow prisoner, Hélène, went into labor in the same camp, Francine’s mother asked her to share one piece of chocolate to strengthen the woman for childbirth. Without it, the woman might die, for giving birth there was unimaginably hard. Francine willingly shared a piece without hesitation. With the little help of a piece of chocolate, the mother was strengthened and a baby girl was safely born in the camp. Her act was generous, uncalculative — one piece of chocolate, no more, no less. Decades later, Francine was speaking at a conference when a woman, a psychiatrist, approached her. She placed a piece of chocolate in Francine’s hand and said quietly: “I was the baby.” The gift had not only sustained life, for that moment; it had left a legacy that reached across generations — and this story will continue to be told.

Many of us today measure our actions by worth and outcome, ensuring visible and tangible results before we embark. We often ask ourselves: Will this be noticed? Will it be worth the effort or worth our time? Will it be profitable? Or what is in it for me? If not, we most likely would not even attempt. At times, we find ourselves like Ebenezer Scrooge, tempted to weigh each move. Yet in God’s paradox, what seems trivial — even half a chocolate — can bear fruit beyond measure.

This is not a celebration of chocolate, but of life given out of poverty. Francine’s act mirrors the heart of the Gospel: God gave His only Son, not out of surplus, but as the ultimate act of love. Out of suffering and death came resurrection life for the world. In the camp, a single piece of chocolate might have seemed small. Yet in Francine’s hands, it became extraordinary — a gift from scarcity, given uncalculatively and sacrificially, for the moment, that bore fruit across generations. Francine gave one of her only two pieces of chocolate, and a child was born and lived. What looked trivial to the world was, in truth, extraordinary — a gift from want, not abundance, that gave life, pleasing in the sight of God.

World Chocolate Day may delight us for a moment, but our true celebration is far greater: the resurrected life. It is a self-giving life that transforms even the smallest act of love — like Francine’s chocolate — into a seed of hope that endures and flourishes. Communities everywhere are sustained not by grand and noticeable gestures alone, but often by quiet, hidden or even unrecognised acts — unseen, unremembered, or treated as nothing. We, too, hold time, words, gestures and resources that may seem small, akin to a speck of sand in a desert. When given in uncalculated love, for the moment, they become part of that greater celebration: life springing forth from selflessness, legacy born from sacrifice, and joy. We often worship human calculative moves as strategies to excel or minister. And often, we even overlook what appear to be the smallest acts, dismissing them as insignificant. Yet many small and “insignificant” acts demand sacrifice, time, and inconvenience. Interestingly, those are often the very acts that bear fruit — like half a chocolate in the hands of a child became life. So too, our smallest acts of uncalculated love may be the seeds of eternity. Half a chocolate, whole of life — a seed surrendered in scarcity, bearing fruit across generations.



The Holy Spirit Paves the Way

Eusebia Clement | Year 3 - MDiv (Graduating Student)

On the day of Pentecost, the believers were gathered together: witnesses of the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. Suddenly, they heard a loud wind. Visible fire came to rest on each one of the believers, yet not to physically burn. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the transformed believers spoke in languages they could not understand. That very day, the church was born.

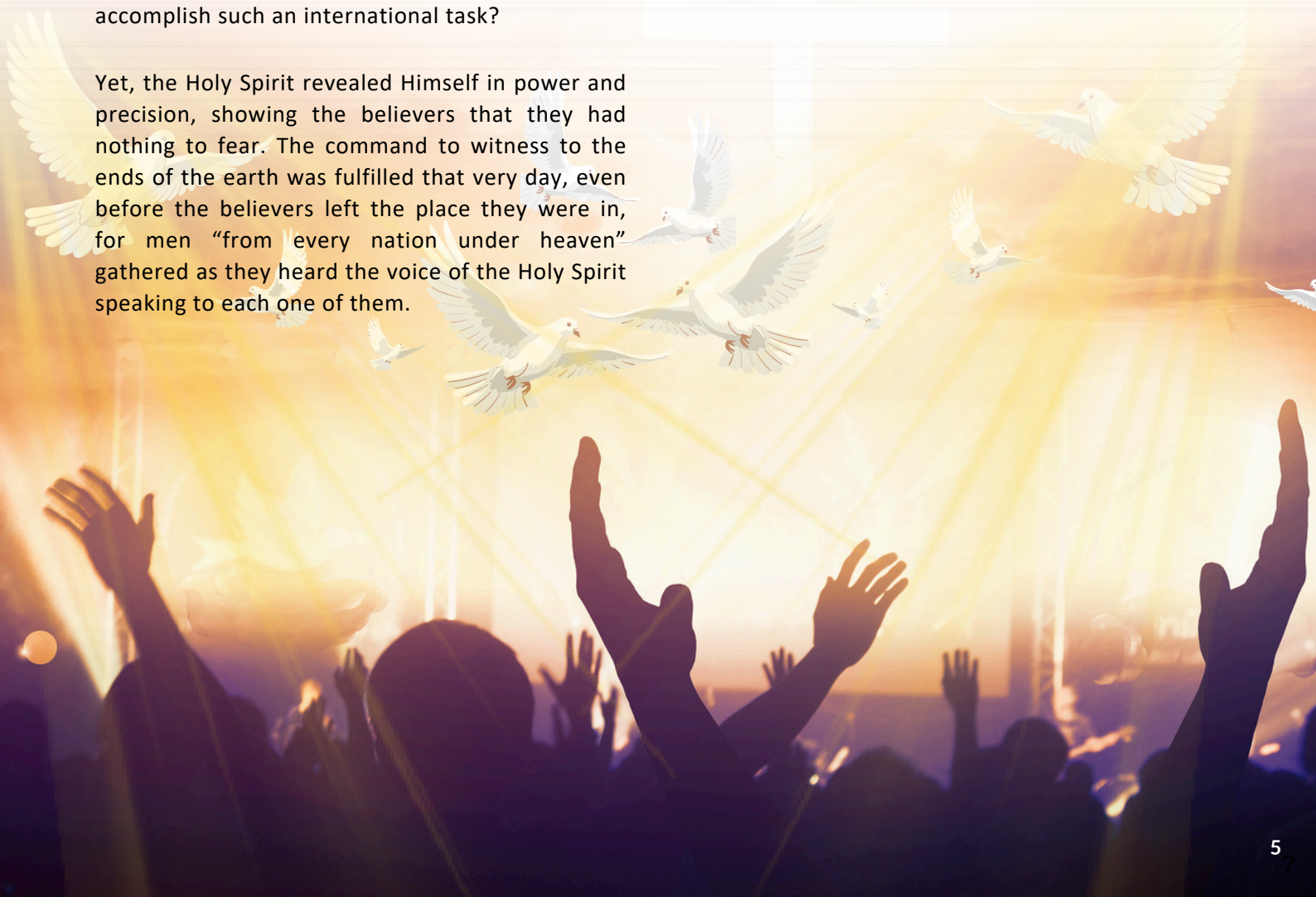
Before His ascension into heaven, Christ had spoken to His disciples, commanding them to be His witnesses to all the world. However, they were not to leave Jerusalem until they received the promised gift from the Father.

Now, the Holy Spirit had come upon the believers and as a result they were empowered to fulfil Christ's command to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. However, this was not easy to be fulfilled in an era before modern technology. There were no planes, cars, or the internet to help them spread the Gospel. How were a group of one hundred and twenty believers supposed to accomplish such an international task?

Yet, the Holy Spirit revealed Himself in power and precision, showing the believers that they had nothing to fear. The command to witness to the ends of the earth was fulfilled that very day, even before the believers left the place they were in, for men "from every nation under heaven" gathered as they heard the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking to each one of them.

Even before the believers went out to every nation, the Holy Spirit brought every nation in to them. That very day, God revealed Himself in an undeniable manner. Peter proclaimed boldly the death and resurrection of Christ, and around three thousand from all around the world believed and were baptized. All this was through the work of the Holy Spirit, who drew in the crowds, spoke to them, and convicted their hearts.

As we reflect on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church this Pentecost, let us also be mindful that the objective of the Holy Spirit's anointing is to accompany and empower us to go forth as witnesses of Christ. We do not need to worry, for the Holy Spirit paves the way ahead of us. We only need to trust Him and witness faithfully to whomever He brings into our path, and simply proclaim as Peter did: that God has made Jesus, who was crucified, both Lord and Christ.



Visits & Collaborations - May



10 May 2026 - STM Sunday and Mother's Day Service at St. David's Church, Sungai Udang, Melaka.

Left: Dss. Dr. Tan Swee Bee
Right: Ms. Nantida a/p Sengmani (STM first year student-BM track)



12 May 2026 - Rev. Dr. Chong Siaw Fung presenting Vicedom Public Lecture as Vicedom Visiting Professor at Augustana Theological Seminary, Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, Germany.



15 May - 18 May 2026 - Rev. Joseph Yesupatham and the Tamil TEE students went to Medan, Indonesia for a study tour.



16 May 2026 - Rev. Dr. Lee Soo Tian conducted a workshop on Introduction to Anglicanism at Christ Church Melaka.

Visits & Collaborations - May



16 - 24 May 2026 - Dss. Dr. Tan Swee Bee and team went on a mission trip to Pekanbaru, Dumai, and Pulau Rupa, Indonesia. The mission trip provided students with practical exposure to Christian ministry in a multicultural and cross-cultural setting. The purpose of the trip was to share the love of Christ through evangelism, children's ministry, church partnership, and community outreach while learning about the local culture and spiritual needs of the people.



24 May 2026 - STM Sunday by Rev. Dr. Karthik at Gereja Presbiterian Port Dickson - English Ministry.



27 - 28 May 2026 - Rev. Dr. Chong Siaw Fung at the FAU-STM International Joint Seminar at Mission One World Centre. The seminar brought together 6 STM students and 2 STM lecturers, alongside 5 FAU students and 3 FAU lecturers, for a time of learning, discussion, and fellowship.

Our Guests - May



23 May 2026 - A group from Seremban CMC Adult Fellowship visited STM for a time of fellowship and to learn more about the ministry and mission of STM.

Exploring the Book of Job with Dr. Seow Choon Leong

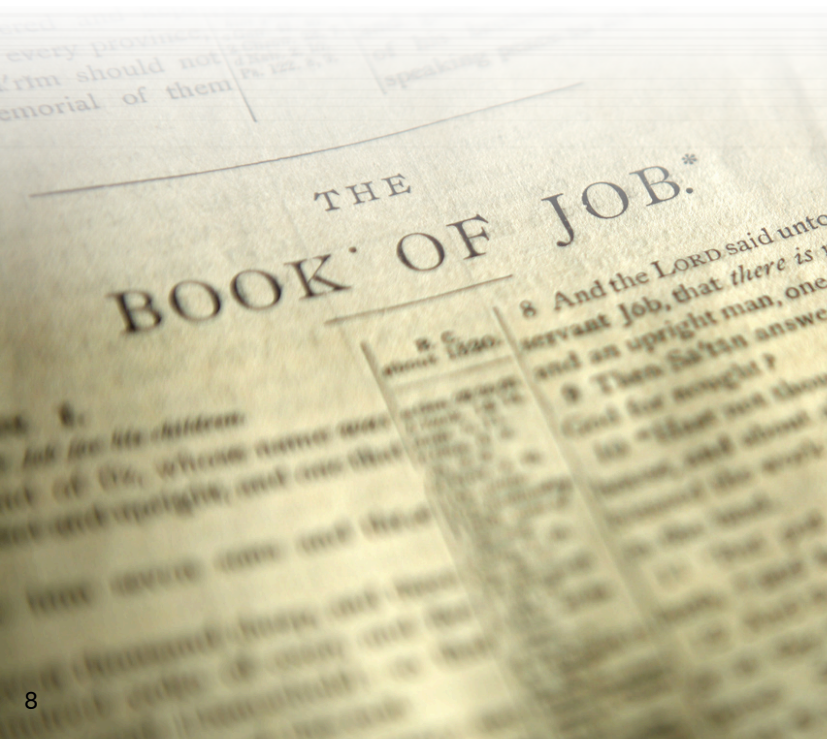
STM was honoured to welcome visiting professor Dr. Seow Choon Leong to our campus in February and March this year. During his time with us, he taught a postgraduate course on the Book of Job and delivered a series of six public lectures on the Whirlwind Speeches in the Klang Valley, blessing both our students and the wider Christian community.

Dr. Seow is a renowned scholar in Old Testament and wisdom literature, he is best known for his Illuminations commentary on Job 1–21, which offers a fresh translation, detailed literary-theological exposition, and a rich exploration of the book. His decades of work on Hebrew poetry, biblical interpretation, and the history of interpretation have shaped how many scholars and pastors read Job today.

Alongside the course, Dr. Seow delivered six public lectures on the Whirlwind Speeches in Job 38–41, often described as the climax of the book. These evening lectures, hosted by churches in the Klang Valley, drew participants from diverse congregations and theological backgrounds. We are deeply grateful to the churches that opened their doors, welcomed attendees, and helped create a space where Scripture could be studied carefully and reverently together.

For many who attended, these lectures opened up the Book of Job in new and unexpected ways. Participants commented that they had often approached Job primarily as a book about human patience or individual suffering, but through Dr Seow's exposition they came to see it also as a profound meditation on God's governance of a vast and wondrous creation. The focus on the natural world, far from distracting from Job's pain, reframed his anguish within the mystery of a God whose care extends to every corner of the cosmos.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to host Dr. Seow and to learn from his scholarship and teaching ministry. His time among us has enriched STM's ongoing commitment to rigorous biblical study in service of the church, and has encouraged many to return to the Book of Job with fresh eyes, deeper questions, and renewed awe before our mighty and merciful God.





SEMINARI THEOLOJI MALAYSIA

2027 INTAKE

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Christian Spirituality



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ONLINE CLASS

Starting **15th June 2026(Monday)**

Every **Monday 7.30pm(GMT+8)** for 14 weeks

Course Synopsis: Explore the depths of the soul's journey in Christian Spirituality, a comprehensive course that bridges biblical foundations with practical transformation. Participants will journey from the Old and New Testament roots of communion with God through the rich historical landscape of the faith—from the asceticism of the Early Church and the holiness of the Reformation to a unique synthesis of Western systematic theology and Eastern mystical traditions. Beyond mere theory, this course offers a roadmap for modern living, equipping you with essential spiritual disciplines like contemplative prayer, fasting, and missional practice to navigate the distractions of today's digital culture.

Course Registration: <https://bit.ly/agt2026spirituality>

Closing Date for Registration: 8th June 2026

For further information, please email Mr. Patrick, asiagatewaymissions@gmail.com or call 606-6322815. Website: www.asiagatewaytraining.com



Lecturer: Dr. Francis Doddamani, MA, M.Div, M.Th, PhD

Dr. Francis is a professor, author, pastor, theologian, and family counsellor. With over 20 years of experience teaching in university-affiliated colleges, theological institutions, and conducting workshops and seminars on family education in India and abroad, he has trained both urban and rural students, families, and communities in nation-building efforts. He has actively participated in global movements dedicated to serving and transforming society.

Jesus at the Margins



SCAN TO REGISTER

ONLINE CLASS

Starting **18th June 2026 (Thursday)**

Every **Thursday 7.30pm(GMT+8)** for 14 weeks

Course Synopsis: The Margins: The Forgotten and the Assumed. Marginalization is a growing reality among communities worldwide. Children, women, the elderly, and the poor are just some examples of people yearning for their needs and struggles to be given more than just token recognition. What does it mean for us to be the Church in such a context? What are the implications for the character of God—a God of Justice? Jesus redefined relationships and fought for the dignity and well-being of the marginalized, such as the lepers. What lessons can we learn to ensure that the focus and mission of the church are aligned with God? Register for this course to challenge your definitions of what mission and ministry need to be.

Course Registration: <https://bit.ly/agt2026jesusmargins>

Closing Date for Registration: 11th June 2026

For further information, please email **Mr. Patrick**, asiagatewaymissions@gmail.com or call **606-6322815**. Website: www.asiagatewaytraining.com



Lecturer: Pastor CB Samuel

An Itinerant Bible teacher, Pastor, Theologian, Missiologist, Evangelical leader and a Passionate advocate for the poor. While CB has developed a global ministry, teaching frequently in Asia, USA and Australia, he and his wife Selina, were strongly engaged in integral mission in India. Selina has passed on but CB continues in the common passion for building and strengthening younger leaders in their spiritual formation and their mission engagement. CB also serves as an Honorary Theological adviser to EFICOR.

Congratulations



Pastor Low Kong Yi (2025 STM alumnus) and Ms. Yap Voon May (Final Year STM student) were married on 9 May 2026.

Congratulations



Rev. Dr. Lee Tan Peng was conferred the Doctor of Theology degree upon successfully completing her studies at Trinity Theological College on 16 May 2026.

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Condolences 慰唁

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family of:

 *Rev. David Chiang Zi Chao (current MTh Student) who was called home to be with the Lord on 12 May 2026.*

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."
Isaiah 26:3

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