

SEEK YE FIRST

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Matthew 6:33

REFLECTION

The migrant youths of Oasis just had a tremendous time at the Scripture Union youth camp two weekends ago. It was a 3D2N stay-in camp, a miracle in itself, and a long-awaited respite from the physical restrictions imposed as a result of Covid. The presence of God was almost palpable at the camp as our youths, huddling in cosy groups of five, listened to incredible testimonies of how lives were being transformed and spent extended time together in reflecting and sharing. Many experienced the love of God and of His people in a personal way for the first time. Some received visions regarding their future calling. Others received words of prophecy that prepared them for the unknown path ahead. A few decided to surrender their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a beautiful and sacred time.

After the camp, our youths returned home to their pre-believing families, many rife with conflict, chaos and contention. But they also returned to a church community shaped by the pandemic - to virtual services, pre-recorded worship and Zoom Bible studies. What they experienced at the camp was a precious glimpse into the sharing of hearts and life, an authentic and vibrant community that God had always intended for His church, yet a rare luxury in our pandemic time. We adults can recall being received into an exuberant, singing church, having others surround and lay hands on us in prayer, and enjoy extended post-service fellowship. But during these two Covid years, we have welcomed into our midst young people who have yet to enjoy such experiences. We teach them still, of course, that they are to seek first His kingdom. But how will they seek that kingdom if they have no daily, weekly concrete pictures of what this kingdom community living looks like?

For a long time we have been accustomed to large youth group gatherings on our church premises, to rehearsed slides, booming speakers and screaming mass games. But what if to seek God's kingdom now is primarily to go where people are, to meet their needs one by one, to be somewhat unseen and to feel much less accomplished? Unless we model what it means to seek first God's kingdom, our young people will have little to take after. The kingdom of God needs now to come to them in a quiet Bible reading session under their block, a hearty conversation at the coffee shop near their homes, a surprise hand-written postcard, a visit to their school canteen, or a dinner invitation to our home, etc.

Who knows God may be using this pandemic to shift our focus back to actual, life-on-life discipleship, something we have inadvertently sacrificed in favour of formal activities and programmes? Let us remember that as we seek first to do His will, God has promised to grant us all the resources we will need to sustain us! (Matthew 6:33).

PRAYER

Lord, teach us to seek first Your kingdom and Your ways, putting aside our own comfort, convenience and familiar ways of doing things. Teach us how to avail ourselves to make true disciples for You even in this trying time and fill us, O Lord, with Your peace and power as we live for you daily. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Pray for discernment that we may know how God would want us to live for Him. Pray for courage and wisdom for meaningful evangelism and discipleship in our pandemic context.
- Pray for God's special grace upon those who have joined our church family during the pandemic, that despite all the restrictions, they may still experience authentic fellowship among God's people.
- Pray for Oasis BRMC Mission as it reaches out to many migrant youths who need to find hope in Christ, sustenance in His Word and healing in His family.
- Pray for our staff workers taking care of different ministries and outreach. Ask God to grant them joy and stamina in whatever they have been entrusted to do so that the lives they touch and programmes they organize will lead our members and friends to deeper relationship with God.

*"May God give you - and me -
the courage, the wisdom, the strength
always to hold the kingdom of God
as the number one priority of our lives."*

Richard Foster

***If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly
contact the pastoral care team via:***

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