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生命的祝福

"生命的祝福"是本次生活营成人组的主题,这本是神当初造人时的意愿。"基督的人性"是青 少年组的专题,要我们在日常生活中活出基督。儿童组则以"坚韧的性格"为课材。

主日上午集合聚会有"家庭与教会的生活"专题的交通。下午聚会便对这两面的生活如何取得平衡和所面临的实际问题有提问和解答。不少温哥华和三角洲的弟兄姊妹特意来参加主日的聚会,一同享受主同在的恩典和祝福。本期刊载了一些生活营的见证和照片。尚有成人组的信息以及生活营点滴的照片制成光碟,有需要者可先在执事室登记。

--文字组--





寻找失去的家园

--刘黎

当生活成了每天应该完成的事务清单,是周而复始的日出而做,日落而息,仿佛完全是按着惯性推着我们 前行时,会让人以为这就是生活的全部。于是纷繁的事务很容易就能控制我们的情思,喜怒哀乐皆在其中,让我 们以物喜以己悲,或患得患失,或殚精竭虑,只为一丝一毫的世人小利,甚至忘了在内心拷问自己,这就是世人 所要的全部生活吗?

这个时候,适当的打包出走,溶入到另外一种非常规的生活里就成了必要,而教会的生活营就给整日风尘仆 仆的我们一次"出走"的机会,让我们用四天的时间,跳出常规生活,活在非常规里,放下平日里的责任与义务。

做丈夫的不用考虑生计,做妻子的不用打理一日三餐,孩子 们也无需担心没有完成的作业,完完全全只是享受自己的心 灵,这大概就是属灵生活的意义所在吧。

这一次的生活营主题是有关家庭与教会生活,正是这个主 题,吸引我们参加。

有时候想想,我们以为自己每一天的忙碌劳累都是在为自 己的家庭,可是我们并没有真正的去经营自己的婚姻与家 庭。我们日日打扫自己的家,却往往忘了扫除我们内心里日 积月累的尘垢,任由它堆积,以至于让我们曾经美好的爱情



与誓言面目全非,忘了婚姻是彼此相爱时共同的抉择。我们给自己找了许多理由来解释婚姻里的疲惫与困倦,诸 如科学家研究发现爱情保鲜期只有十八个月;或说现在正经历审美疲劳;再人云亦云道婚姻是爱情的坟墓。

婚姻确实可以成为坟墓,可以杀人,这是一位姊妹告诉我的。因为曾经不懂得彼此理解,原谅与宽容,做妻 子的在长期的压力与坏情绪的折磨下,患上了乳腺癌,当她在靠着主得医治时,主也在医治着她的心,让她看到 了自己昔日里只见对方眼里有刺,却忘了自己眼里也有梁木,以至于让身心受累。如今的她经历了生死,懂得了 赞美,明白了爱是唯一能救自己的出路。现今她的家不再让她感到死气沉沉,没有活力,因为不信主的丈夫因着 她的改变,也同意开放家庭,让灵充满他们的家。正是这位姊妹的经历让我警醒,我才知道原来苦毒的婚姻可以 杀人,只有爱能救人。

在这一次的生活营里,朱永毅弟兄让我看见了神造人的美好景像,这是我之前未曾经历过的,因为我一直把 神造人当作美丽的神话,我以为圣经最美的部分在后面,在于理会活之道,而忘了回味生之时。可是,在从生活 营回来的当天晚上,我一次次默想着朱弟兄带我们重读的神造人的经节——"耶和华神用地上的尘土模造那人, 又吹了生命的灵入在他鼻孔里,他就成了活的魂,名叫亚当"(创世记 2:7 逐字中译)。

在默想中,我仿佛看见慈爱的天父微笑着把一团不成形的泥土照着自己的样子拿捏成形,当他端祥着自己的 作品时,他欣慰地发出"呵呵"的笑声,最后他往泥人的鼻孔里吹了气,于是泥人活了过来,抱着他叫爸爸。你 看,泥土做的身子,这是体,鼻孔里吹进的气是灵,因此人就有了魂,具有喜怒哀伤的情思,也有心思和意志。 这是父神在造人的喜乐与平安里时所给泥人的。当我们的人类始祖背叛神,被逐出伊甸园后,人的灵被魂所掩 蔽。而我们最终要寻回所失去的家园,也就是要寻回神在造人时的喜乐与平安,那是最初也是永远的模样。 当我看到了这幅景像时,我明白了,爱对于我们来说不是一件苦差事,因为爱早已深植在我们的灵里,我们天生 会爱。其实我们的婚姻,它的最初目的也是为着给爱一个归宿,只可惜因为没有靠着神,我们把自己的婚姻田园 里种满了苦毒的刺。

而现在,唯一的出路就是靠着神,带我们回归到最初神造人时被喜乐与平安充满的灵之爱里。

儿童聚会

-----陈婷婷

今年是连续第三年在 Columbia Bible College 举行 Victoria 长周末的特别聚会,也是连续第三年十二岁以下的儿童也有属于自己的儿童聚会。一来他们被督促学习神的话语,二来三天的朝夕相处得以建立彼此的友谊,再来家长们得以安心聚会不至于为孩子们过多分心。

今年儿童聚会的事奉由十位姊妹参与分担。虽然当时在离聚会只剩一周的时候只有五位事奉的姊 妹。感谢神的信实,为孩子们预备了足够的姊妹事奉。

十五个孩子按年龄分为两班: 六岁以下的幼儿班有十个孩子; 七至十二岁的儿童班有五个。周日那天加上当天从 Vancouver 来的孩子们, 人数多了将近一倍。

今年的幼儿班比起以往的聚会不仅有画画,捏泥塑,折纸这些自由活动项目,还多了一起讲故 事,做游戏的时间。比如我们准备了一块绒布板,板上粘了一张房子的图片。孩子们轮流选择将一个 小孩的图片粘在房子里,或房子外,或房子前,或房子后等等。接着问他们: "如果你在这里,我们 的神在哪里呢?"他们回答: "也在这里。"从而认识耶和华是充满天地的神。耶利米书 23: 24) 结合动作用短诗的形式讲了在狮子坑里的但以理向神祷告,神便封住狮子的口(但以理书 6: 22)的 故事认识了我们的神是听祷告的神。

今年儿童班的主题是坚韧。是周六事奉小勇士班的姊妹们的特别负担。我们愿意用神的话语装备孩子们去应付他们在日常家庭、学校生活中碰到的困难。家长们可能会认为这么小的孩子能有什么了不起的压力,但当我们与孩子们分享,发现被同学取笑,父母不和,Peer Pressure 都是孩子们正在面对的再真实不过的压力。第一堂聚会分享该如何看待这些压力困难。当这些临到我们身上时,我们相信神要通过这些试炼在我们身上成就祂美好的计划。就像约瑟被卖作奴,被冤下监,为要成就神拯救雅各全家的美意。我们鼓励孩子们学习约瑟的榜样,即使在困境中我们不能明白神的计划,也仍选择信靠神。第二堂聚会以挪亚为例分享什么是坚韧。挪亚忍受亲人朋友的嘲讽,花了一百多年的时间建成了方舟。为了对方舟的大小有个概念,孩子们拿了尺量了所在教室的大小,了解了方舟有十五幢房子那么长,三幢房子那么宽,六层楼那么高。挪亚凭着信心,一点也不疑惑。信心经过试验就生忍耐(雅各书1:3)。主更应许给那些忍受试探的人生命的冠冕(雅各书1:12)。第三堂讲到当困难临到我们,让我们分心,就好似在水上走向主耶稣的彼得,当他见风大就害怕,将要沉下去。彼得的例子鼓励了孩子们,不要把目光移开主耶稣,而去注意所处的困境,我们只要注目主耶稣。

三天的聚会结合了诗歌,金句背诵,课堂练习,游戏,影像等。孩子们也第一次有了类似成人 组和青年组一样的聚会小册子。他们也因此更认真地对待聚会。

感谢神让这些孩子们从小在神家里学习主耶稣基督纯正的话语。愿神祝福他们!



How do I describe the May conference? I don't really know how to put it to words. Let's just say that on Monday, I really wished it could have been Friday all over again. But I wouldn't have changed a thing. Although it was my first time staying at Abbotsford, somehow, during the conference, it just felt really good inside. I think I sort of know the answer to why. When we're at a conference, we can take a break from the battles that we fight against Satan everyday. You can definitely admit that we don't win them all the time. At the conference, all our focus was on the Lord and it was like nothing could drag down our confidence in the Lord. Why didn't I want to come back home? Because I knew things were just going to go back to the way they were again...

However, this time at the conference, we learned that we need to overcome this double life. When we are at the meetings or at a conference we act a certain way and when we step out the door, Satan grabs us by the neck and leads us in the opposite direction. It's hard, we all know. But there is one person who never gave in, and that was Jesus. Maybe you've never thought of Jesus as a real human being. Well, he is as human as any one of us. He was born of the flesh, grew up day by day, and went through a human life. The Lord Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses because he's gone through it all. He lived out a perfect humanity and was pleasing to God. God desires us to be a new man with a new humanity. Not by improving our old man but by taking on Christ as our life, and putting on the Humanity of Jesus everyday.

I also learned that we are a vessel to be filled with water. The devil's goal is to destroy our vessel, and each time we sin, we damage our vessels. We need to preserve our vessel so that we may be able to contain God's water in us. These are just two of the things that Brother Sam Huang talked about, and he talked about everything! I really liked how the meetings were so applicable and real to us. It was like he knew exactly where we were weak and chose those things to talk about. What was great too was that he also had a great sense of humor and added a lot of testimonies that he knew about.

For a short 4 days stay at Colombia College at Abbotsford, I brought back with me a handful of memories. Having dinner at McDonalds, that doesn't happen everyday. We also celebrated one of the sister's birthdays. That was also really special because if it weren't for the conference, we wouldn't have been able to all come together and host a party for her. We exercised at the gym in our spare time playing basketball, volleyball and a bunch of games. And the "whoever gets to five hundred points goes to bed Uno game' was memorable. Morning watch was also really memorable too.

Everything was done for us. The food, our schedules all timed out for us. All we needed to do was to turn to the Lord. And I really think that through this conference, every single one of us gained something new spiritually. It was truly a lot of fun and I thank the Lord for bringing each one of us there and I hope that we will apply what we learned there in our lives.