

The Vine This Month
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On the bus to COH
training



HOM Editorial

In the last issue of The Vine, I published an article sent to me by Yew Neng about the reasons for coming to church earlier. It was not written by him but was extracted from some Christian resource, so don't blame him if the article seems a little critical of late comers. Some of the editors on The Vine team felt that there are valid reasons for coming late, eg having to get the small child/baby ready, MRT delays, car problems, etc. However, one lady I know actually mentioned that after reading that article, she has decided to come to church early.

You will never know the impact of the written word until it changes your life. For instance, 95 Theses were pinned on the church door at Wittenberg which changed Christianity for good. Nowadays, most people think that words are not enough; they need videos to get their message across. Children at a very young age are not taught to read but rather to watch cartoons on the iPads. I hope what we have in this issue of The Vine are good reads that will encourage your faith.

Today, 30th March 2019, the water filter which I had just changed about 1 month ago started to beep. That's strange because it is supposed to last from 6 months to a year after changing the filter. I had no choice but to take it apart and try to reinstall the filter again and see if it works, similar to rebooting a computer. When I started to move all the cups and cutlery that was around the water filter, lo and behold, there were 3 tiny cockroaches amongst the cutlery, which I quickly flushed down the drain.

After reinstalling the filter, the equipment works fine again. Was this a situation in which the Lord was leading me to get rid of the pests before it was full grown and scarier? At first I was quite frustrated to have to reinstall the filter again as it was tedious but now I realize that it was for a good purpose.

I received this email:
Your Daily Prayer - March 27

A Prayer for Triumph

By Mary Southerland

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. - Romans 8:28, NIV

There are no accidents with God, nor is He surprised by anything or anyone in the life of His child. God uses even the most horrendous circumstances for our good.

Every circumstance comes to us for a purpose, bound by God's love and plan and faithfully delivered with His permission. While we cannot go back and change our past, we can change the way we respond to our past and determine how much power it has in our lives today.

Only God can take the broken pieces of your life and make something beautiful out of each one. He is waiting for you to let go of your pain and trust Him.

And you really can trust Him.

No one loves you like He does.

You may not always understand or even like His process, but you can always trust His heart of love for you.

Let's Pray

Father, I choose to believe You are faithful and will do what You promise to do in Your Word. I believe when I lay the pain and hurt of my past at Your feet, You not only can but also will transform it all into something beautiful. I choose to believe You will turn the broken places of my life into living illustrations of Your sufficiency and healing power. I trust You, Lord.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

On 1st April 2019, no joking, I am starting work in a new department. This is my last year before I turn 67 and I am given a new role. Not doubting the capability of the management, I guess this must be a temporary role which is required for only 1 year and thereafter, not required anymore, otherwise they would not assign it to someone who have only 1 more year to work.

From my human point of view this may seem like a redundant role but perhaps from God's point of view, this is the year of COH and maybe I am moved to where the field is ripe for the harvest.

I have sowed for about 16 years and reaped nothing so maybe that is why I am given a last chance to start afresh to sow seeds in a new field. Pray with me that I will be empowered to serve the Lord in this new department.

Martin Cheah