

All things are *possible* with God

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” 28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” 29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

Mark 10:27-29



Today's Question

How do you
make difficult
decisions?

REFLECTION

Today's Scripture Readings:

Psalm 1

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

BE YOURSELF

By Henri Nouwen
henrinouwen.org

One of the greatest dangers in the spiritual life is self-rejection.

When we say, "If people really knew me, they wouldn't love me," we choose the road toward darkness.

Often we are made to believe that self-deprecation is a virtue, called humility. But humility is in reality the opposite of self-deprecation.

It is the grateful recognition that we are precious in God's eyes and that all we are is pure gift.

To grow beyond self-rejection we must have the courage to listen to the voice calling us God's beloved sons and daughters, and the determination always to live our lives according to this truth.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

DEAR GOD,

We are lost sheep, be
our shepherd and
guide us through the
unknown. Help us to
find ourselves again.

AMEN



OVERCOMING PANDEMIC CHALLENGES

**By Krystal, on behalf
of the Younger Youth
teachers**

The sudden transition to online platforms last year was rough for everyone, but we are truly grateful for technology that has enabled us to stay connected even if we haven't seen each other physically for more than a year.

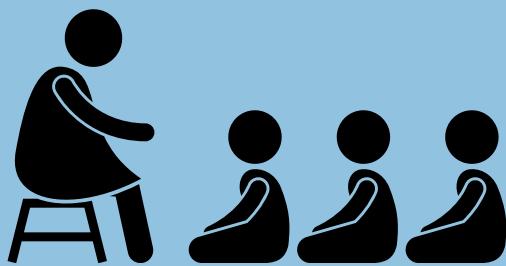
The Younger Youth have been meeting on alternate Saturdays and it's been great seeing how the kids have grown from when we last met in person. Even though they already have so much online learning for school, we are so thankful that they still try their best to attend the YY sessions and give us their full attention.

And because they already do so much online learning, we decided to keep the Saturday YY sessions short and sweet, with just enough time for teaching, discussion and sharing.

One of the challenges we've faced, which is probably a universal problem in this pandemic with adults and children alike, is getting everyone to turn their videos on so that the sessions can be more engaging and interactive. But it has been encouraging to see more kids turn their videos on and we hope that it becomes more of a norm as time goes by.



"...it has been encouraging to see more kids turn their videos on and we hope that it becomes more of a norm as time goes by."



We have been trying to encourage the YY to talk and share more during the sessions and it's been nice to see some progress in that area. They have been sharing more about their opinions and thoughts about issues as well as sharing prayer requests, which is so great because we get to know more about them as individuals.

This also helps us plan the lessons better as we learn more about the way they think and the issues faced by them and their peers in school.

As we continue indefinitely with the online sessions, we hope that the kids are able to stay connected with their peers in the BLC community as well as receive a regular input of God's word. We really look forward to teaching them again in person, but until then,

WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP ZOOMING ON.





POORLY DISGUISED RANT OF MY MISANTHROPY UNDER THE NAME OF CHRISTIANITY

By Descartes

YOUTH
SHARING

I have been introspecting for the past few weeks as of late on what bothers me. As a young adult who had just hatched past adolescence, it is only obvious to think there will be a lot of things that disturb me greatly.

Yet, between the pandemic and the mental charting that the apocalypse draws closer (death is inevitable etcetera), I have been more concerned with the idea that I cannot land a decent job. That, and climate change.

But more on the occupation; it should have been no surprise to anyone that I can only work with theoretic and not anything practical. I do not understand how real-world things work (*how does one even do taxes? What is a database and why do I need to close ledgers?*) because young me cloistered themselves in an internal bubble of fantasy where they could control the internal workings of the same way one finds uprighting cardboard walls for your hamster pets to scramble around in amusing.

Secondly, I think I internalised a long time ago that reality is 'scary and cruel' when I was left alone for the entirety of my childhood stage. My coping has rendered me suspicious of most people because I cannot control most people and their thoughts. Though legally mature, emotionally I am still that eight-year-old (well, credit where credit is due because of the internal bureaucracy they overlook to stabilise my emotions, to begin with).

"Yes, but you see, you're not doing anything about it. You're just sitting there looking sad while not trying or attempting to learn or understand reality." I wouldn't know where to start.

To sum it up in a more cohesive manner: it is not emotional mismanagement. Issue Number One can be concluded with the fact that people think I am a waste of their time and very few people I know are willingly patient with me.

It's justified and blameless. It's not as much of "*I am sad that people dislike me*" as it is "*I do not understand X and I will never understand X because no one has the patience to teach me X over and over again*".

People..adults..friends..parents...they will never understand this either because they will mentally summarise it as "*I see, you want to be coddled!*".

I would tell them what you just read through, but here is issue Number Two: the assumption of my feelings.

I was born incredibly sensitive. Hypersensitivity in both the physical and emotional sense.

Sadness and anger are hand in hand twins. They were a large shadow over my life during childhood so that is no wonder. They are much easier to deal with now, but because I have come to internalise most of my emotions, people have stopped being able to read them. When people don't know something they start assuming things. Just like me with taxes, I think. Irony. So they put labels on it.

I am detached from my issues, you must understand, but people don't seem to like to understand that. With parents and people close to me, it is the same experience.

**YOUTH
SHARING**



"Why do you always look sad?" ...You think me spacing out into my retreatism mental bubble automatically means I am grieving. It's humorous, vaguely, because one cannot understand why I look permanently disturbed.

With the issues aforementioned, if I brought all this up to my parents or friends, they cannot do anything about it either. They attached the expected "our child is entering a phase in their life where they are highly emotional" label on my forehead already.

"Have you tried proposing your thoughts to them on what you want them to do?"

I'll ask them to teach me tax filing sometime. Parents naturally have to cater to their children's emotional needs, but this idea only sort of is practical when said child is still young and susceptible to confusion.

Proceeding with how self-sustaining I am emotional because my parents forgot to do that for me when I was younger, the conflict that most people don't realize is that when they have issues they must have emotional support from their kin or parents. It's a healthy and natural thing to want.

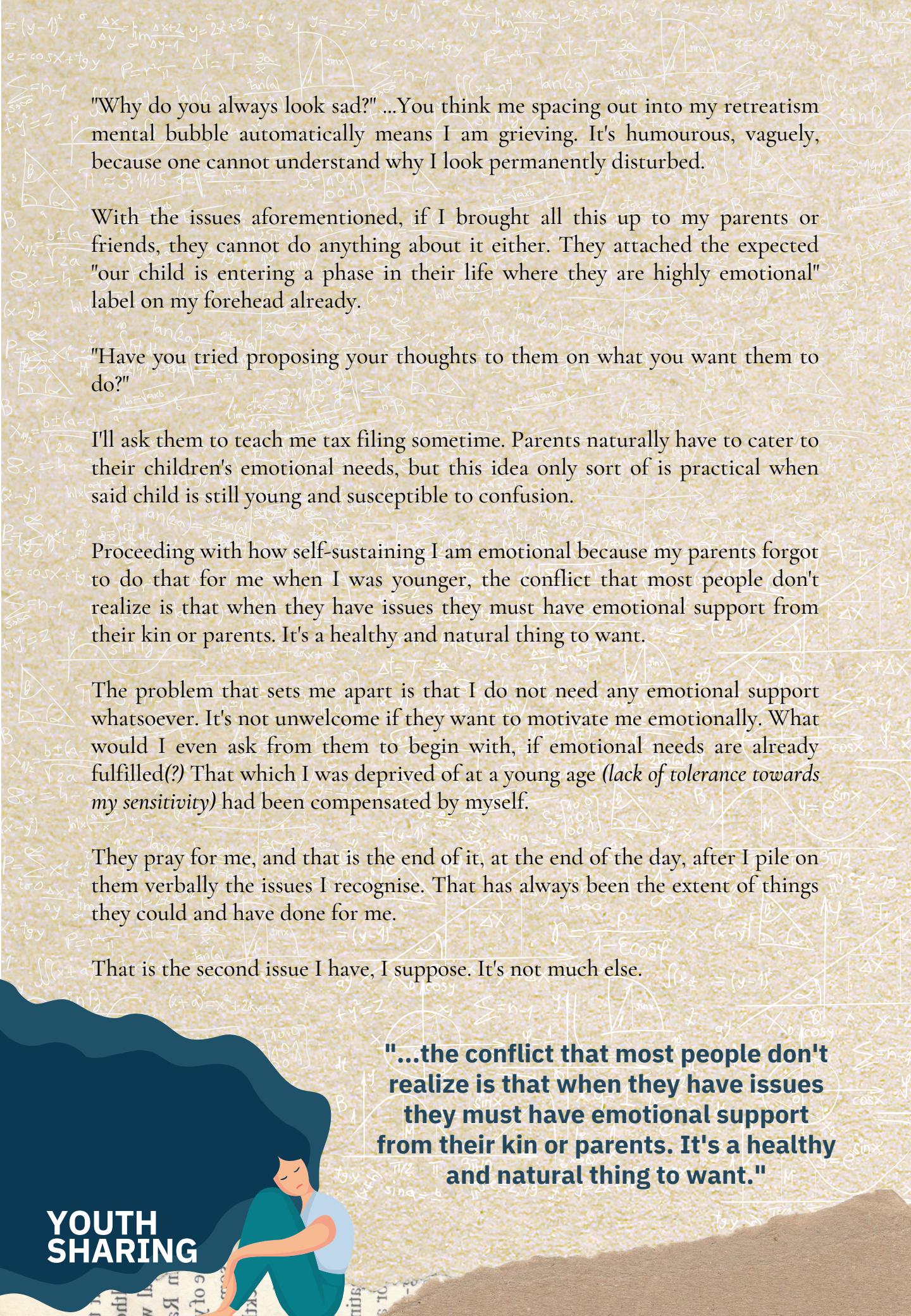
The problem that sets me apart is that I do not need any emotional support whatsoever. It's not unwelcome if they want to motivate me emotionally. What would I even ask from them to begin with, if emotional needs are already fulfilled(?) That which I was deprived of at a young age (*lack of tolerance towards my sensitivity*) had been compensated by myself.

They pray for me, and that is the end of it, at the end of the day, after I pile on them verbally the issues I recognise. That has always been the extent of things they could and have done for me.

That is the second issue I have, I suppose. It's not much else.

"...the conflict that most people don't realize is that when they have issues they must have emotional support from their kin or parents. It's a healthy and natural thing to want."

**YOUTH
SHARING**





MY EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS OF BEING A CHRISTIAN TEENAGER

By Bob Anderson

Hello everybody. This is me telling what my thoughts are on being a Christian teenager during this era. Please bear in mind that these are only my personal thinkings and opinions on this matter. It's fine if you disagree with anything in this text. Thank you for reading.

Being a child of a church leader can be challenging at times. I often feel that people tend to have higher expectations or different standards for me just because I am their child. That one should be super knowledgeable about the Bible or dutifully serve in the church.

I also often worry that my actions or words might affect how people think about my parents in a negative way. I'm aware this can apply to everyone, but for a person that many people listen or look up to, I feel like the actions of their children can leave a bigger impact on how people think about them. This is especially true now that I am of the age that no longer certifies me as a "child".

With all that said, I believe that BLC and its community is welcoming, accepting and open, and I still think of it as my second home.



**YOUTH
SHARING**

"Whether it's through people, through words that I hear or actions, he is always there for me."

I remember my parents telling me that one time when they had this one monumental, special moment or part of their life that made them believe in Jesus Christ.

Before they were in BLC, they attended a different church and used to serve a lot during my age. For example, they were part of a choir and were leaders in their youth group.

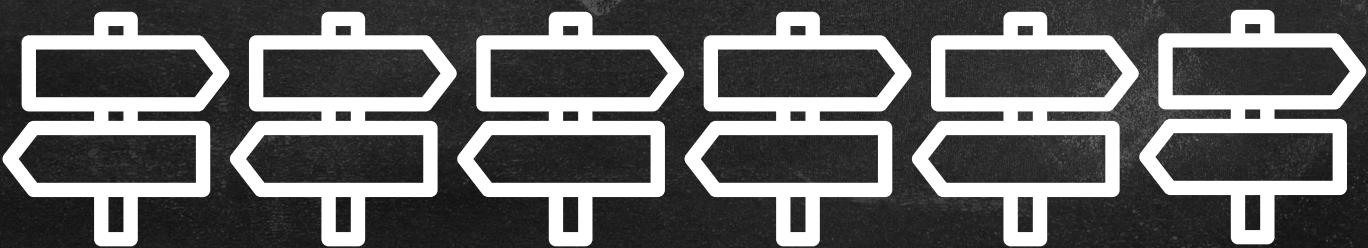
As for me, when I was a baby, my parents made the decision for me, and I believe it's a very different experience in my journey with Christ. I'm not in a choir, don't memorise a lot of bible verses and I don't have that big life-changing moment that made me believe in God.

There are plenty of things that change my perspective of God all the time, whether it's something my parents say, something I learnt in school, something I hear in church or simply something I find out by myself.

For example, one time in school I learnt about the time of Martin Luther and how the church of that day abused its power and mistreated the poor.

Another time, I was learning about science and Christianity and how they are sometimes interconnected. As I am still learning about Jesus, I feel like almost everything that I hear can affect and change my relationship with him.

Even though I don't have that monumental, life-changing moment yet, God still helps me when I need it. Whether it's through people, through words that I hear or actions, he is always there for me.





A CONFESSION

By Count Olaf

What is serving? I like to think of serving as my responsibility as a Christian, to God and indirectly, the Church. I'm sure we have all heard words from people, talking about the honour of serving God, how blessed they are to have God in their lives.

Trust me, I've said the same things, and I meant it. But, I have to admit, there are many days where my thoughts and actions don't match the words I speak.

I started serving as a scripture reader at 9 years old, which is the age where Worship leaders will start involving more younger people in the service. I agree that it is important for our children and youth to be more involved during the Worship service if they want to of course. We shouldn't be forcing it upon them if they aren't ready or curious enough to experience more. I've faced that.

Being young and introverted, I hated having to voice out my opinions and people asking me questions, even if it was the right thing to do. I'm sure many people could relate to this.

Furthermore, as a kid, you will naturally feel more intimidated when adults speak to you. I didn't mind being a scripture reader, even though I didn't understand the importance it holds. As long as I read it clearly and don't mess up, everything is fine, right?



As Christian youth, we will have questions surrounding Christianity and God, and most times, simply being involved with Church activities doesn't give all the answers.

Looking back at all the conflicts between myself and my faith, I realised something. Not everything is fine. At some point in my early teen years, where one would start questioning things as your brain expands its horizons, I felt conflicted. Though in black and white, I understood what reading the scripture meant, but I couldn't feel it. When people raised their arms and closed their eyes during Worship, I felt bad. I felt that I wasn't a devoted Christian.

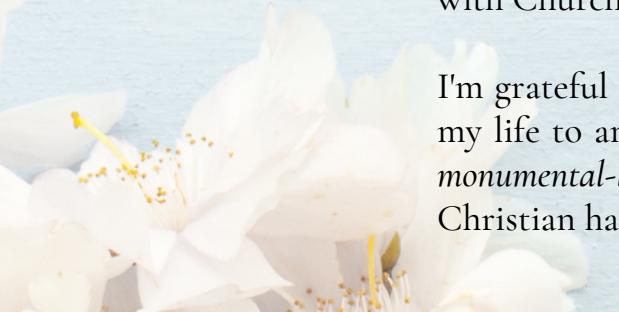
When my mum tells her other Christian friends that "XX is part of the Worship Team", and all her friends will "ooh" and "wah", I felt angry and disappointed at myself. No matter how many scriptures I read, or how many services I attended, I still felt far from God. I couldn't hear him knocking at my door, nor did I feel like allowing him to peer through the window.

During my Catechism classes for my confirmation, I couldn't bring myself to seek more and understand. To me, God was just somebody that my parents told me to pray to before I eat and sleep. The Bible was just a book, worship songs are just merely songs. I didn't hate him, nor did I deny him, I just couldn't feel him.

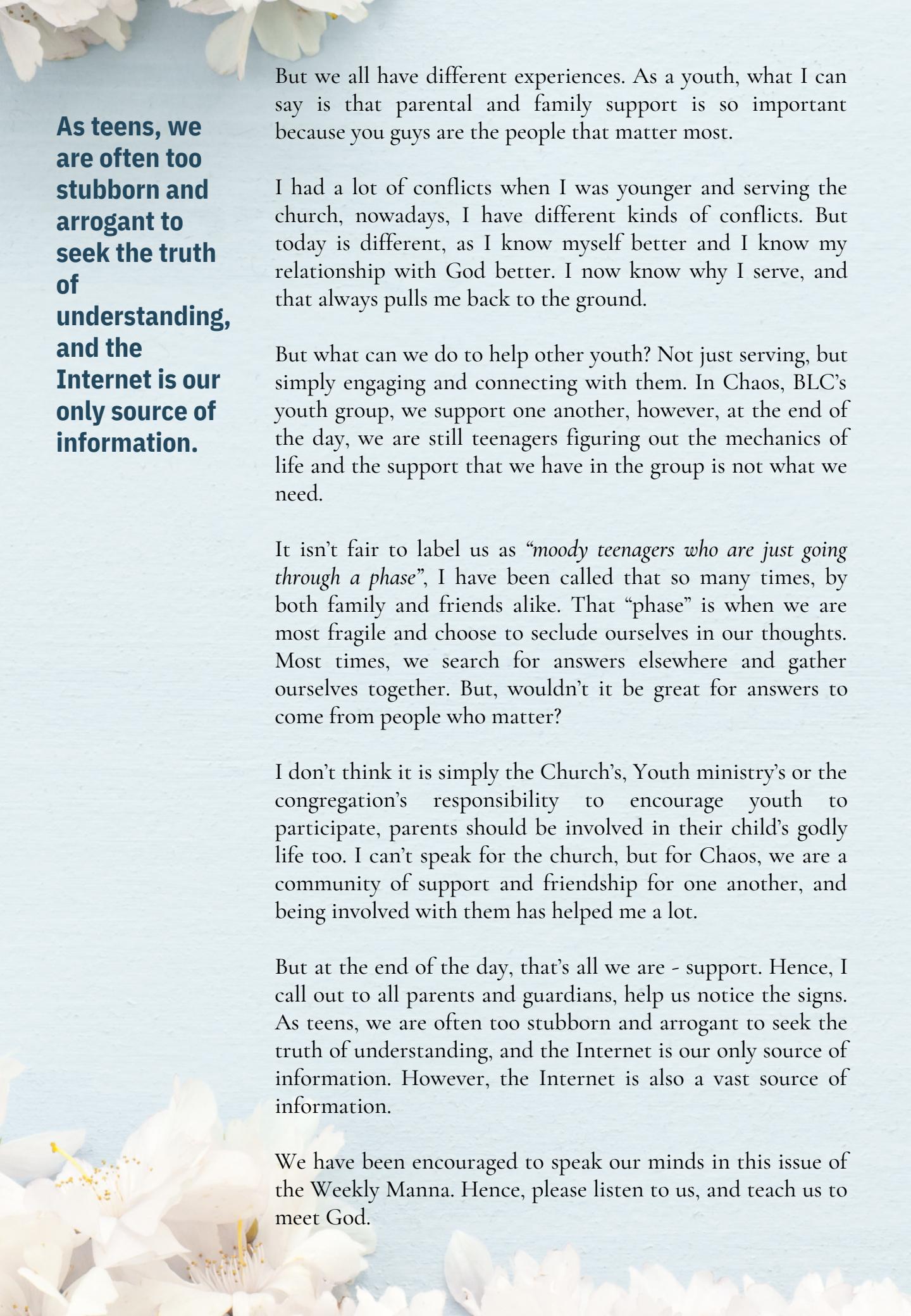
I believe many Christian teenagers will go through this stage, especially if you weren't a first-generation Christian and have never felt or encountered God in the way your parents had. This is where parents need and should come in.

Parents are so important to a child's growth and development, not just physical and emotional, but spiritual too. As a former-child-now-current-teenager, I can tell you we have so many questions. You know it too. Our questions never stop pouring in, and some of them aren't the easiest to answer.

As Christian youth, we will have questions surrounding Christianity and God, and most times, simply being involved with Church activities doesn't give all the answers.



I'm grateful that God has sent me people at the right time of my life to answer my questions. I like to call it my *Christian-monumental-life-changing-experience*, which I think every Christian has had or will have in their lives.



As teens, we are often too stubborn and arrogant to seek the truth of understanding, and the Internet is our only source of information.

But we all have different experiences. As a youth, what I can say is that parental and family support is so important because you guys are the people that matter most.

I had a lot of conflicts when I was younger and serving the church, nowadays, I have different kinds of conflicts. But today is different, as I know myself better and I know my relationship with God better. I now know why I serve, and that always pulls me back to the ground.

But what can we do to help other youth? Not just serving, but simply engaging and connecting with them. In Chaos, BLC's youth group, we support one another, however, at the end of the day, we are still teenagers figuring out the mechanics of life and the support that we have in the group is not what we need.

It isn't fair to label us as "*mood teenagers who are just going through a phase*", I have been called that so many times, by both family and friends alike. That "phase" is when we are most fragile and choose to seclude ourselves in our thoughts. Most times, we search for answers elsewhere and gather ourselves together. But, wouldn't it be great for answers to come from people who matter?

I don't think it is simply the Church's, Youth ministry's or the congregation's responsibility to encourage youth to participate, parents should be involved in their child's godly life too. I can't speak for the church, but for Chaos, we are a community of support and friendship for one another, and being involved with them has helped me a lot.

But at the end of the day, that's all we are - support. Hence, I call out to all parents and guardians, help us notice the signs. As teens, we are often too stubborn and arrogant to seek the truth of understanding, and the Internet is our only source of information. However, the Internet is also a vast source of information.

We have been encouraged to speak our minds in this issue of the Weekly Manna. Hence, please listen to us, and teach us to meet God.

THOUGHTS

OF THE YOUTH

What are your hopes and wishes for family?

1. For them to be safe from Covid, especially my grandparents who are living alone.
2. That they will be more open minded about my dreams and aspirations.
3. To grow closer to one another.
4. For my siblings to grow up into great people.
5. That we will stay calm and not be overwhelmed with everything that is going on.
6. I hope that my family continues to stay strong together even if we all aren't physically in the same places.
7. Happy, healthy, safe.

What are your current concerns?

1. Online learning was and is still a difficult change to get used to, it has been difficult managing and juggling time between life, school, church
2. Studies and upcoming exams (internal school ones, SPM, IGCSE)
3. Lack of mental health awareness
4. Climate change
5. Future career prospects
6. Fake news and disinformation
7. Countries with lack of resources to battle the pandemic
8. People going through difficult times
9. Relationships with family and friends
10. The mental health of myself and the people around me.

What are your hopes and dreams?

1. Being able to cope with studies and all the new changes in our education syllabus, cramming a lot of things with not a lot of time.
2. My dream is to become a clinical psychologist.
3. I hope to be able to feed myself and learning how to cook.
4. I hope to find a suitable career that would deliver happiness to me in the future and to take care of my family financially and physically.
5. That my actions, words, and gestures would make a positive impact on people every day.
6. To do well in my next exam.
7. To do better in school.
8. Land a decent-paying job.

What are your hopes for Malaysia?

1. For our economy to improve so that jobs and businesses are restored once again. A good education and exam system to adapt to this new normal.
2. I want the dinosaurs to step down from their political positions.
3. I hope Malaysia can be a much better place than it is now, for the sake of all the friends and family I have there.
4. Malaysia can stay united and stand as one throughout this tough pandemic
5. For the Covid situation to get better soon.
6. For the government to respond well.
7. Lesser corruption.
8. For people to be more kind and compassionate.

PRAYER REQUESTS

FROM THE YOUTH

Pray for God's wisdom to plan our time well and to stay focus on our studies. Pray also for God to keep everyone safe from the Covid-19.

Pray for discipline and courage, and also my mom + family

I hope my dreams will come true.

Pray that we can find the courage and strength to overcome our struggles together, and not be afraid to seek help if we need it.

How do you feel
parents/adults can support
you better?

1. By being patient with me.
2. Listen.
3. Acknowledge achievements and support us through the mistakes we made and the challenges we face.
4. Understanding our problems and concerns.
5. Respect our personal space.
6. Less judgemental and more open-minded.
7. Accepting that we have lives to live too.
8. Understanding the importance of mental health.
9. Even if our problems and opinions seem trivial to you, please do not belittle us :)



PRAYER REQUESTS

FOR THE PEOPLE

CREST Quarantine Centre

For the Crest Quarantine Centre for the B40s and refugees at the Travel Lodge City Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

Please pray for:

- 1) Wisdom for the Crest Team as they work with the MOH, CAC and other government authorities.
- 2) Protection and provision for all the medical and non-medical volunteers.

Economy & The Poor

- 1) For economic recovery and alleviation of Covid-induced job losses.
- 2) For employers to be compassionate to their employees
- 3) For creation of new avenues of income for those who have lost their jobs.

Prayer Support

Send in your requests via WhatsApp to Rev. Thomas, Adeline or our Council.

Supporting you in prayer.

Church (Body of Christ)

- 1) For the Church to remain wise, humble and united;* and to be relevant and practical in helping those in need (Matthew 5:14-16).
- 2) For God's protection for the nation and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Families

For schools, teachers, students and families with young children at home, as schools prepare to reopen in October.

Nation

- 1) Pray for the current political situation (Psalm 75).
- 2) Pray for the new government administration that we may have wise, righteous and competent leaders to run the country in this time critical time.

Orang Asli & Orang Asal

- 1) For the indigenous groups to be given assistance with measurable ways to break free from their poverty cycles that have existed for centuries.
- 2) For their children to have access to proper education channels and assistance.



Lectio 365



External Prayer Link

Announcements

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays
8.30pm Weekly

MEM (Men Empowering Men)

Sept 22nd
8.30pm

Friday Bible Study Group

Sept 24th
8.30pm



Tithes & Offerings

Account Details

BANGSAR LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Please specify the area of giving in the e-transfer, e.g. Tithe, General Offering, Mission* or Agape Fund.

*The **BLC Missions Collections** support the following:

- Batu 20, Orang Asli (OA) Congregation
- United Voice - Moh Foon
- Bible Translation Researchers
- **Alongsiders** (<http://longsiders.org>)

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THE FATHER'S HOUSE WELCOMES YOU



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