



Only Believe.

But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha Cumi," which means, "*Little girl, I say to you, arise.*"

⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

Mark 5: 40b-42
ESV



Today's Question

REFLECTION

What interactions lately remind you of God's call to trust Him?

Today's Scripture Reading : 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

TRUST THE CATCHER

By Henri Nouwen
henrinouwen.org

PRAYER of the week

Lord, please teach me to be like the flyer – to live a life daily of surrender and trust, welcoming You with outstretched arms. In Your name, Christ Jesus we ask.

Amen.



"The Flying Rodleighs are trapeze artists who perform in the German circus Simoneit-Berum... I will never forget how enraptured I became when I first saw the Rodleighs move through the air, flying and catching as elegant dancers.

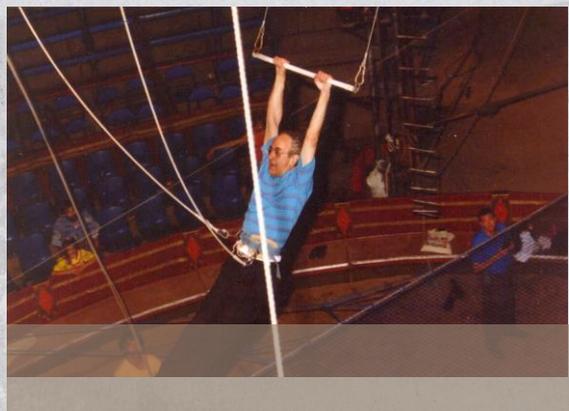
One day, I was sitting with Rodleigh, the leader of the troupe, in his caravan, talking about flying... 'The secret,' Rodleigh said, 'is that the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. When I fly to Joe, I have simply to stretch out my arms and hands and wait for him to catch me and pull me safely over the apron behind the catchbar.'

'You do nothing!' I said, surprised. 'Nothing,' Rodleigh repeated. 'The worst thing the flyer can do is to try to catch the catcher. I am not supposed to catch Joe. It's Joe's task to catch me. If I grabbed Joe's wrists, I might break them, or he might break mine and that would be the end of us.'

A flyer must fly, a catcher must catch, and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms, that his catcher will be there for him.'

When Rodleigh said this with so much conviction, the words of Jesus flashed through my mind: 'Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.' Dying is trusting the catcher. To care for the dying is to say, 'Don't be afraid. Remember that you are the beloved child of God. He will be there when you make your long jump. Don't try to grab him; he will grab you. Just stretch out your arms and hands and trust, trust, trust.

Trust is the basis of life. Without trust, no human being can live. Trapeze artists offer a beautiful image of this. Flyers have to trust their catchers. They can do the most spectacular doubles, triples, or quadruples, but what finally makes their performance spectacular are the catchers who are there for them at the right time in the right place. Much of our lives is flying. It is wonderful to fly in the air free as a bird, but when God isn't there to catch us, all our flying comes to nothing. Let's trust in *the Great Catcher*.



Henri Nouwen trying out the trapeze.



The Catch

Photo of the Rodleighs



Photo by Andre Lergier UNSPLASH

CHILDREN MINISTRY

SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE

Children Ministry
By Su Shen

3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

Psalm 127:3-5, NKJV



For those who love gardening, I see the children's ministry somewhat like sowing seeds and nurturing for the future -- after all the children are the future of BLC.

Given the opportunity to share on the Children's ministry, we thought of sharing a couple of things which you may or may not know (kind of like a Q&A, or "Did you know" segment) for the Children's Ministry.

So in case you are wondering...

1 Did you know that the Children's Ministry welcomes babies too?



Yes!! It starts from age 0. Every child young and old (or should I say younger and young), can pretty much join us as soon as when they are born!

Why so young you may ask? We come from the approach of welcoming all. The young children can absorb much more than we think and we know! In fact, they never fail to surprise us! So parents with newborns, please do join us!!

2 What are the age groups for the children ministry?

We have two groups –

Alpha group for children
0 to 4 years old

&

Omega group for children
5 to 9 years old.

Both groups mostly have their lessons at 9.30am via Zoom on scheduled weeks.

The children will then have the opportunity to graduate to Pre-teens (BLC Younger Youth group) when they are ready!



Alpha

0 to 4 years old



Omega

5 to 9 years old

3

How has the Covid period changed the Children's Ministry?

This is a very interesting question and will have a longer version at attempting to give a balanced answer as so much has happened (so bear with us!). In the past year, the Children Ministry had to also evolve a lot to adapt to the pandemic especially for the teachers, parents and children too.

The children ministry team (which comprises of Adeline, Carmen, Noree, Sheh-Ren, Yuen Theng, Su Shen & hoping for more to join us), had to pretty much trust the Lord to lead us.

In fact, when Carmen told us last year that the lessons will be held online, most of us at that time were honestly nervous. Some of us panicked! Some of us have never used or operated on Zoom before! So we had questions like, How will this work? How do we connect with the children online? What materials can we use? Will this work? "*Macam mana la*", all the "*Hows*"?

The journey of the pandemic has taught us many things. One of the many things we had to learn was to take courage, don't give up and let the Lord lead... He is the Shepherd. So we managed to embrace the new norm, and for some of us we embraced technology and managed to find new ways of engagement. We would like to thank God and also all the parents who had to be more "involved" and engaged since the lessons are held online. We had to, for example, figure out how to use different engagement methods e.g. online songs, online Bible stories, videos for lessons, How to run a birthday celebration online, How to organise a game online? How to teach children origami online... so on and so forth. This is just the start and the ride is not over. We are all still learning and helping each other, and leaning on God for each lesson, each step, each plan and committing each child to His loving hands.



4

What happens in a typical “Zoom Children Ministry class”?

Materials (song/ Bible story/ activity preparation) are usually sent a few days before the class so that the children can familiarise with the materials. This is where we need the parent’s help. So during the lesson, we will go through all the materials. For some weeks and more frequently for the Omega group, there may be more activities where the kids can engage in including arts and craft, quizzes and what can be termed as “amazing experiments we discover” (Noree is “famous” for that! You can ask her if you want to know more... ha-ha)... and most importantly Scripture/Prayer time. One of our hope and prayer for the children is that each of them will grow and learn to pray on their own and may the Children Ministry be one of the many factors that may help pave the way for each child to have a uniquely loving and special relationship with the Lord.



5

What would be the best learning or highlight in the past year?

One surprising fact that came out of the pandemic for us was discovering new ways of connecting with each other and with the children. In fact, the children were the biggest surprises and learning for us. We were surprised at how quickly they adapted to online learning. The Children Ministry team sometimes feel that we are learning more from the Children. At times, the children shared a unique point of view we never thought of. And they could adapt and engage online much better than we thought (yes, I do admit, there were challenging days like when Wi-Fi is down, or audio is not working- the realities of today's world, but seeing the children's laughter and engagement definitely helped in abating our initial fears that it was like 100 x harder to teach online!!!). I would say that with God's grace and guidance, we are adapting better and connecting better. One highlight and positive surprise will be the Advent videos done last year which the children ministry, parents and kids put together, where it was amazing to see gifts, creativity, love for God and love for Children all in action. Not to mention, an opportunity to see the newborns, who we haven't had a chance to meet. We couldn't have imagined this before the Covid period so we have much to be thankful for.



How can I support the Children's Ministry?

The simple and short answer is, "Pray for us", and if you like to - "Join us".

We welcome any child and any help. And do note you don't have to be a teacher or a Zoom expert. The team here were neither any of the above. We were just vessels and more like gardeners... sowing seeds and making a humbling attempt at nurturing where we can for the future. If you have more questions which we haven't covered above, please do feel free to reach out to Carmen or any of the members of the Children's Ministry team. God bless & stay safe! Thanks.



The Younger Youth ministry involves the pre-teen kids (ages 9 to 11 years) of BLC. We meet on Zoom twice a month on alternate Saturdays at 4pm. As everyone else has most likely experienced, the transition from in-person sessions to Zoom has not been easy, but we are very grateful for the attendance and attention of the kids who faithfully join every week. Currently, we have just started a new topic, The Fruit of The Spirit and will be learning about one fruit of the Spirit each lesson. Our hope is that through the lessons the kids will be able to build up a strong foundation in God's word and also stay connected to the others in the BLC. **Reach out to Inban or Krystal for more information.**

YOUNGER YOUTH



Photo by Norma Mortenson PEXELS

BLC GROUPS

At the Men's Group we share our unique experiences as men following Jesus in the world. The gathering is centered around food, where we share what is going on in our lives and pray for each other. Gatherings are usually small with around 4 of us. There is no formal 'study', with support for each other being the main theme. The highlight is food, where Northern Indian seems to be in vogue. Gatherings are online for the time being and roughly every two weeks.

Men Empowering Men (MEM) meets next on 30th June at 8.30 pm. Please contact Larry for more information.



MEM

MEN EMPOWERING MEN

Photo by Jonathan Borba PEXELS

**“I will be a
Father to you,
and you
shall be my sons
& daughters,
says the
LORD Almighty.”**

2 Cor. 6:18 NKJV

**Prayer of Blessings for Marriage &
Families**
(Adapted from Malaysia United Firewall)

For Marriages

Lord we ask for Your good order to be established upon all our marriages.

Empower every married couple by Your Spirit to build a marriage that honours You and the marriage covenant. Let there be love, faithfulness, submission, honour, forgiveness, kindness, patience and graciousness towards one another.

Where there are hurts and offences, bring healing and forgiveness. Enable us to be rooted and established in Your love. May our marriages be a role model, leaving a godly legacy, impacting their children and their children's children.

We also ask that as our families come together to seek and worship You, may our homes and lives be a light that shines Your love for others.

Parenthood

Realign us, Lord, to Your call in our roles as fathers and mothers to the next generation. Empower us to nurture our children to discover their giftings and talents, to build them up.

Guide us to model to them faith, love and perseverance in our lives so that one generation will testify of Your love and faithfulness to the next generation.

When and where we fail LORD, we thank You LORD by Your mercy and grace, re-parent us, and Father our sons and daughters to walk into the destiny and call You have for them.

Children & Grandchildren

LORD, thank You that You chose each of them in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight (Ephesian 1:4). Bless them to be men and women after Your very own heart (1 Sam 13:14), walking into the fulness of their destiny, serving Your purpose in their own generation (Acts 13:22).

In Jesus' Name we ask and give You thanks and praise. **Amen.**

Prayer Support

Supporting you in prayer.

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



Lectio 365



Malaysia United
FIREWALL

External Prayer Link

Announcement

Tithes and Offerings

Upcoming BLC Zoom Meetings

Book Club (Speak to Vanessa)

Sundays
June 27th & July 14th, 2021
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays
8:30 pm (weekly)

MEM (Men Empowering Men)

Wednesdays
June 30th, July 14th & 28th, 2021
8:30 pm

Giving Tree

Fridays
July 9th & 23rd, 2021
8:30 pm

Friday Bible Study Group

Fridays
July 9th & 23rd, 2021
8:30 pm

**WEW
(Women Encouraging Women)**

Saturday
Parenting Talk by Bernice Lee
Praying for Our Children
June 31st, 2021
3:00 pm

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*The BLC Missions Collections supports the following:

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- United Voice – Moh Foong
- Bible Translation Researchers
- Alongsiders (<http://alongsiders.org>)

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THE
FATHER'S
HOUSE
WELCOMES YOU



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Weekly
Manna
June 27th, 2021 Issue