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EM Facebook & Instagram page: "NPAC English Ministry"

## Worship Order

### Prelude

#### Call to Worship – Psalm 29:1-2

*Ascribe to the LORD, you heavenly beings,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.*

#### Songs of Praise

#### Corporate Prayer

#### The Lord's Prayer

#### Scripture Reading – Exodus 20:15; Luke 19:1-10; Ephesians 4:28

#### Sermon – Don't Take, Give!

#### Response Song

#### Offertory Prayer

#### Welcome & Family News

#### Monthly Bible Verse – Colossians 3:9-10

*Do not lie to each other,  
since you have taken off your old self with its practices  
and have put on the new self,  
which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

#### Doxology & Benediction

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<b>Speaker:</b>	Rev. Stera Chan	<b>Chairperson:</b>	Joshua Kan
<b>Praise Leader:</b>	Joshua Kan & Team	<b>Scripture Reader:</b>	Edna Sable
<b>Pianist:</b>	Minnie Ho	<b>PowerPoint:</b>	Claire Liao
<b>Welcome Team:</b>	Ailene Almodiente, Faith Trinh, Abeline Quebata		
<b>Offering Counters:</b>	Beatrice Wong, Veronica Tamondong		
<b>Sound System:</b>	Amanda Chan, Bono Lee, Clarence Fok		

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## Recounting Stories of God's Grace for Our Families

By Rev Samuel Tam

The mention of family matters invariably conjures up a feeling of difficulty as it can involve a host of untold stories and issues. Do we feel that "bad news" at home travels far and so we had better sweep it under the carpet and avoid making it known to others lest the reputation of the family be jeopardized? Shall we also prevent the news from becoming a talking point among friends and relatives that may affect our relationship with them in future?

Admittedly, if the bad news arises from evil behavior such as criminal liability from immorality or illegal acts, debts resulting from addiction to gambling or drugs, emotional problems induced by divorce or other matrimonial issues, it will be very difficult for us to make it public. However, if we think that "sweeping it under the carpet" will keep the family at peace, I am afraid matters will accumulate and cause greater damage and even get out of control in future!

To prevent such crises, we should think with prudence, "What teachings, guidance and promises had Christ Jesus given us about handling our personal and family matters?" The Bible has numerous accounts of God bestowing His grace to families. When Jesus entered the city of Jericho, a tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus climbed up a fig tree as he wanted to see Him. The Lord looked up and said: "*Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.*" Zacchaeus came down at once and gladly welcomed Jesus. Having heard the Lord's teachings, he said publicly without fear: "*Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*" By this, Zacchaeus showed his repentance and faith in following Christ. In response to such concrete actions, Jesus said: "*Today salvation has come to this house.*" (Luke 19:1-10).

On another public occasion, a father brought to the Lord Jesus a child who had been possessed by a spirit from young. When he heard the Lord say "*Everything is possible for one who believes,*" he revealed in public his helplessness towards his child's problem and implored the Lord: "*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!*" (Mark 9:14-27)

These examples illustrate that God is willing to bestow His grace and bless a family through an individual's act of faith in Him. Although it may be inappropriate for some matters to be made known to others or that they are unspeakable, as long as God's will is to accomplish His redemptive grace through it, we can publicly receive the Lord's help with a joyful heart. There was a senior who accepted Christ when he was sick but he passed away before he was baptized. Family members who witnessed the conversion invited the church to conduct a Christian memorial service for him. We could see that in the service, God sent condolences and help to the attendees. In the years that followed, we continued to hear stories about faith in Jesus and blessed lives among the relatives of this family.

"*Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved – you and your household... he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole household*" (Acts 16:31-34). Dear brothers and sisters, let us practice the word of God on this promise. Let us discern the grace of God and, in the days to come, recount and share God's grace for our families more.

Read the article online: <https://npacem.org/ps20230319/>

## Family News

### 1. Regular meetings

- **Gatekeepers** (secondary school): Fri, 7:30-9:30pm, Rm 219  
Mar 24 Treasure Room: Disabilities      31 Extra: Free Play  
Apr 7 Good Friday Service & Breakfast      14 Special: Sports Day
- **Peacemakers** (uni students & above): Fri, 8-10pm, Rms 217-8  
Mar 24 Prayer Meeting      31 Sexuality Part 2  
Apr 7-9 Good Friday Service & Camp      14 Bible Study: Sermon on the Mount
- **Tentmakers** (young working adults): Sat, 5-6:30pm, Rms 217-8  
Mar 25 Topical: Spiritual Disciplines      Apr 7 Good Friday Service & Lunch
- **Couples Fellowship:** Book Study: Growing Old Gracefully (Chapters 11-13); Sun Mar 26, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 219
- **Women's Fellowship:** Behold the Lamb of God; Sun Mar 26, 1:30-3pm, Rm 215
- **Joint Adult Fellowship:** Topical: Resurrection; Sun Apr 9, 1:30-3pm, Rms 217-218; Children's Room: Rm 219
- **EM Prayer Meeting:** Sun morning, 8:30-9am, Rm 204
- **Sunday School** (Children, youth and adults): Sun from 9:15-10:20am
- **Children's Program:** For children aged 3-10 during English worship service; CP2: Rm 219; CP3: Rm 211

### 2. Other meetings

- **Welcome Team Meeting:** Sun Mar 26, after worship service 12:15-12:30pm
- **Sunday School Teachers Monthly Prayer Meetings:** Sun Apr 2, after worship service

**3. NPAC Membership Application:** Please submit your application form by Mon Apr 17. When you fill out the application form, please check the boxes "apply for membership..." and "I agree to..." in the form. Also make sure you have signed with your signature for smooth application. For details, please check out [last week's bulletin](#). For application form, [click here](#). To learn more about the restructuring of the NPAC family, please [read the Pastor's Sharing dated Mar 5](#). Enquiries: 2979-3600.

**4. EM Thailand Mission Trip (Chiang Mai):** Tue Jul 18-Thu Jul 27 (10 days); *Itinerary:* Teach in a kindergarten, play sports with young people, visit families, prepare and lead activities with local Christians, experience the local culture (including language learning), get to know the missionaries. *Cost:* About HK\$6,400-6,800 (NPAC members/students can apply for subsidy); *Pre-trip meeting dates:* Sun Apr 30, Jun 11 & Jul 9, 2-4pm. *Application:* Get the application form from our Info Table and return it by Sun Mar 26. Enquiries: Rev. Stera.

**5. Retreat Corner [靜修閣]:** "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen..." (Matthew 6:6). You can use the NPAC Retreat Corner (1/F of Truth Centre) to reflect, seek and get close to God. To book the venue, [download the application form here](#). Details of application and the use of the venue are printed on the form.

**6. March's C&MA Newsletter (in Chinese) is published.** Please [click here](#) to download it from C&MA's website.

7. **“Street Corner Companions” Workshop:** Sun Mar 26, 2:30-4:30pm, Education Centre. *Speaker:* Christian Concern for the Homeless Association; *For:* Uni students, young working adults, NPAC brothers & sisters interested in visitations. *Program:* Experience sharing, Q&A, and discussions on visitors’ ethics. *Language:* Chinese. *Enquiries:* Pastor Clement Siu (2807-5200).
8. **“Our Lord” Oil Painting Exhibition 「我們的主」油畫展:** Showcasing artwork by artist Ms. Wong Sue Man (王書文姊妹). Inspired by Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion. *Date:* Sat Mar 18-Sun Apr 23; *Time:* 10am-9pm (Fri & Sat); 2-5pm (Sun); *Venue:* Gallery, G/F, Truth Centre (next to block 6 reception). (Details: Chinese Bulletin Page 6).
9. **“Behold the Man! – Contemplate the passion and resurrection of Christ from traditional western paintings” (Chinese):** Sun Mar 19 (TODAY), 2:30-4:30pm; *Venue:* Worship Hall (1/F), Truth Centre; *Speaker:* Rev. Raymond Chan. No sign-up is needed.

### Prayer Corner

We pray for your personal needs, your unbelieving friends, and families. Please find and join our prayer meeting outside the A/V Room after the worship service.

### Tithe & Offering

Tithe & offering will be collected in the red offering bags at the end of the worship service at the entrance of the worship hall. Charity offering (every 4<sup>th</sup> Sun) will be collected in the green bag. Please prayerfully prepare beforehand. For other collection channels, please [click here](#).

## Prayer Items

1. **NPAC:** Pray for us all to be faithful to the gospel and the Bible. Ask for creativity to preach Christ with integrity and through suitable means (2 Tim 2:15). Ask God to unveil people’s hearts so that the word of God can take deep root and bear spiritual fruit in His time.
2. **EM’s Fellowships:** Pray for Gatekeepers for building spiritual relationships with God and one another. Ask for insight and inspiration for the counselors to lead the youth. Peacemakers’ theme this year is “Intentional Discipleship.” Pray that their lives are rooted deeply in the grace of God and the resurrected life of Jesus. Ask God for spiritual strength to live out salvation daily as testimonies to God. Give thanks to God for Tentmakers’ “re-opening.” The theme in 2023 is “Live as Fragrant Offering.” Pray for spiritual transformation and being well-equipped for God’s works. Women’s Fellowship is studying the gospel of John starting in 2023. Pray that they will have a deep relationship with Jesus. New members are joining Couples Fellowship. Pray for their growth. Pray for their courage and sensitivity to opportunities to share the gospel with their non-believing families.
3. **EM’s Staff:** Ask God to guide the staff with His love, wisdom and knowledge to serve and lead the congregation. Pray for minds to be renewed and love to be refreshed in the Lord. Pray for wisdom for ministries to be carried out in 2023.

**Next Sun Mar 26:** Speaker: Rev. Raymond Chan (“Walk in God’s truth, say honest words”, Exodus 20:16; 23:1-3, 6-9; Proverbs 24:26-29); Chairperson: Joseph Trinh; Praise Leader: Joseph Trinh & Fri Team; Pianist: Stephanie Poon; Scripture Reader: Roland Bruce; Welcome Team: David Wong, Celia Wong, Josephine Kwan; Offering Counter: Fenny Wong, Jasmin Delos Reyes, Nathaniel Bruce, Wilson Lam; PowerPoint: Shayne Descartin.