



吴乃力牧师 (博士)

华人年议会会长

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President, Chinese Annual Conference

心灵相簿

The President's Gallery

兴起新一代： 你和你的子子孙孙

Raising The Next Generation:
You, Your Children and Their Children

这是耶和华—你们上帝所吩咐教训你们的诫命、律例、典章，使你们在所要去得为业的地上遵行，好叫你和你子子孙孙一生敬畏耶和华—你的上帝，谨守他的一切律例诫命，就是我所吩咐你的，使你的日子得以长久。以色列啊，你要听，要谨守遵行，使你可以在那流奶与蜜之地得以享福，人数极其增多，正如耶和华—你列祖的上帝所应许你的。(申命记 6:1-3)

每当我和孩子对话，我常陷入自我的对话里。有时候会踌躇要提供答案或解释，有时候会质疑自己所提供的指导对他们是否有帮助。

在这时代，现实的世界已经不再是简单的平面地图而是错综复杂的互联网络；对于出生在没有手机时代的我，要如何把圣经永恒不变的真理向从小在电子玩板上游戏、学习、和成长的新一代传承？这是一个极大的挑战！这不只是家庭的问题，教会也需要加把劲帮助青年人和父母面对这时代所带来的冲击。

上帝赐下他的诫命、律例、典章，其中一个主要原因是信仰的传承，使到上帝所应许的福份能临到世世代代。这是摩西对以色列民，也是对今天每个家庭所发出的提醒—信仰需要传承！

如何传承我们的信仰？这是每个时代上帝的子民都要回答的问题，而答案也越来越困难。我们需要加快脚步群策群力，因为这时代步伐太快、改变太快—许多时候当我们发觉问题，已经为时已晚。

有几方面是我认为可以努力的：

1. 父母谦卑坦承自己的缺乏，积极成为聆听者和学习者。父母要放下身段，不要因为你是父母，孩子就必须听你，也不要一直认为自己也曾年轻过，明白他们的感受和经历。这是错误的想法，他们成长的时代和我们成长时代有很大的差距，他们所受到的压力和价值观的冲击，不是我们的时代能理解的。
2. 父母要关注孩子的基督徒品格多于他们在这‘世界的成就’。我们至关重要的任务应该是帮助孩子与上帝建立美好的关系和教会生活。
3. 年轻人要扎根于上帝的话语并寻求经历他的真实。面对资讯泛滥，相对主义的绝对化，年轻的耶稣跟从者更需要努力学习上帝的话语；也需要亲身经历上帝，使各自的信仰不停留在知识上而是生命里。
4. 年轻人要置身于互相督促的小组中，共同面对这时代的挑战。若要成为主的见证人，在这时代作光作盐，他们就需要建立彼此守候与督促的关系中。
5. 教会需要关注家庭事工。教会近年来都很关注分龄事工，却较少有部门关注家庭事工，但我们都会承认很多的社会问题起源于家庭是否健康。
6. 教会需要不断更新我们的事工模式。教会的本质和使命不变但教会的事工模式却必须因时代的变迁作及时的调整，继续在所处的时代成为有效的见证。

让我们一起关注下一代，不只是教会里的下一代，更是我们称为家的新加坡的下一代！

会长摄于2018年8月日本中禅寺湖。

Photo taken by President during his October 2018 trip at Chugushi, Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture in Japan.

「以色列啊，你要听！耶和华—我们上帝是独一的主。你要尽心、尽性、尽力爱耶和华你的上帝。我今日所吩咐你的话都要记在心上，也要殷勤教训你的儿女。无论你坐在家里，行在路上，躺下，起来，都要谈论。也要系在手上为记号，戴在额上为经文；又要写在你房屋的门框上，并你的城门上。」(申命记 6:4-9)

"Now this is the commandment – the statutes and the rules – that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey." Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Whenever I speak to my children, I often fall into conversations with myself. Sometimes I will provide answers or explanations to their problems. Other times, I will question the guidance that I may have given to them.

The world today is no longer a flat map, but a complex inter-connected worldwide web. I was born in a time when mobile phones did not exist. For this new generation that grew up exposed to electronic devices as their main entertainment and learning tool, how do we pass on the eternal truths laid down in the Bible? This is not just an issue for families. The church also needs to work hard to help our youths and parents deal with this tremendous new challenge.

One of the reasons why God laid down His commandments, statutes, and rules, is so that our faith can be passed down, and that the blessings promised by God will be passed on to future generations. This is the reminder that Moses gave to the Israelites, and

to now to all peoples – that our faith needs to be passed down to the next generation!

How do we pass on our faith? It appears increasingly difficult to respond to this call. We need to speed up our efforts and work in unity, for the times are moving too fast and the world is in too much change.

I have a few suggestions on areas we can work on:

1. Parents need to humbly acknowledge that we may not have all the solutions, and instead, become active listeners and learners. Let go of our authority; do not assume that your child will obey just because you are his parent. It is a fallacy to think that just because we have once been young, that we would understand our child's concerns. Our children are growing up under very different circumstances. It may be difficult to understand the stress they face, and the values guiding them are vastly different from what we have experienced.
2. Parents should pay more attention to their child's Christian upbringing rather than their 'worldly successes'. It is vital that we help our children build a beautiful relationship with God and a firmly entrenched church life.
3. Youths must be firmly rooted in the Word of God and seek to experience His truths. Being inundated with an overload of information, young followers of Christ need to work even harder to discern the Word of God, and to experience God personally. Their faith should not stagnate as theological knowledge, but be lived out in their lives.
4. Youths should be placed in small groups that hold each other accountable, as they confront new challenges together. In order to bear testimony for God, to be His salt and light in this age, they need to be part of a community that both encourages and shares the same vision of holiness.
5. The church needs to pay attention to family ministry. In recent years, the church had emphasised age-based ministries, with few looking at family ministry. We need to recognize that many societal problems arise if the health of families is not addressed.
6. The church needs to constantly update our structure for ministry. Whilst the fundamental mission of the church remains the same, but the way we structure our ministry should move with the times, so that we can continue to stay relevant in bearing witness to a new generation.

Let us focus on the raising of the next generation, not just the next generation of youths in our church, but also in bringing up the right values for future generations of Singaporeans in our broader homeland!

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9