



吴乃力牧师 (博士)
华人年议会会长

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心灵相簿

The President's Gallery

忘记背后, 努力面前

Forget the Past, Focus on the Future

“弟兄们，我不是以为自己已经得着了，我只有一件事，就是忘记背后，努力面前的，向着标竿直跑，要得上帝在基督耶稣里从上面召我来得的奖赏。” 腓立比书3:13-14

保罗在这里提到三个时空：过去，现在，未来；也告诉我们三个态度：忘记，努力，直跑。

忘记背后

保罗教导我们对待过去的事是要“忘记”。保罗要我们所谓“忘记”不是叫我们“忘恩负义”，不记得上帝在我们身上的恩典和所行的大事。我相信保罗是要我们不被过去的事物拦阻，拖延，缠累，使我们无法全力以赴迈向将来，迎接新的未来。人总喜欢缅怀过去。饮食时，要寻找古早味。听歌总觉得老歌较好听。“回想当年”渐渐成为我们舒服的口头禅。使我们不能向前直跑的，往往不是过去的失败而是过去的回忆，成功与风光。

努力面前

面对现在，保罗给我们的劝勉是要“努力”。过去的已经过去，将来不在我们的掌控之中，唯一我们能做点什么的就做好“面前事”。耶稣在马太福音6:24-34不是已经告诉了我们不要为明天忧虑，而要在每一天里先寻求他的国和义吗？

向着标杆直跑

保罗非常清楚基督徒蒙召不是毫无意义的活在这世上，等待着耶稣的再来。这一段经文清楚地描述了，原来上帝为我们每一个人都预备了天上的奖赏，而我们是为了完成这个特别的呼召而活。因此我们要专心，责无旁贷的向着这目标前进；保罗用“直跑”！我们都知道在竞技场上，选手要定睛在目标，不能斜视，不能回头望，思想不能分心，全力向

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"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

Paul mentions three different phases in this verse: the Past, the Present and the Future. And offers three responses: Forgetting, Working Hard, and Pressing Ahead.

Forgetting the Past

Concerning things of the past, Paul wants us to "forget" them. However, "forgetting" does not mean to be ungrateful, or to disavow the grace of God upon us. Paul's intent is to remind us not to be held back by things of the past, and be hindered from seeking our future. As humans, we tend to dwell on the past. We long for old-school food. We enjoy old songs that bring back fond memories. Reminiscing on the "good old days" becomes a past-time that we draw comfort from. What deters us from moving forward is not our past failures, but because we cannot let go of our memories or past glories.

Working Hard for the Present

As for the Present, Paul's advice is to "strain" or work hard. What has passed is past, while the future is not within our control. We can only focus on the present tasks. In Matthew 6:24-34, Jesus has said that we should not worry about tomorrow, but rather seek His Kingdom and righteousness every day.

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会长摄于2018年4月中国贵州黄果树瀑布。

Photo taken by President in April 2018 in China, Guizhou at the Huangguoshu National Park.

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前冲刺，他才可能得到奖杯。竞赛选手为了世上的奖赏如此地摆上，我们为这永恒的奖赏不更应该如此行吗？

薪火相传

《卫讯》今年来到了一个里程碑。从1980年创刊至今，《卫讯》在华人年会扮演着重要的角色。原名为“星洲华人卫理公会通讯”，简称《卫讯》，目的是为了沟通消息，分享见证，好让同工同道彼此代祷，互相支持。《卫讯》是年会通讯的一大桥梁，我们得把这份历史悠久的刊物传承给新一代。但也得努力思考如何使之更能有效地切入新时代，并透过多媒体，向不同年龄层的读者传福音。

今天，你手上捧着的这份新刊物，充满了时代感和强烈的使命感。《卫讯》的新标志是一颗水滴。有“饮水思源”的含义。此外，所谓“滴水成海”，水滴代表了我们传福音工作的每一份耕耘和付出。在策划与设计过程中，我们也谨记得《卫讯》的来源。水滴当中的《卫讯》二字乃是从创刊号保留至今。这书法是出自自己故高季忠会督之手。这期封面图片首次把年会十七间堂会汇集在一起，是由巴耶黎峇堂谭家发弟兄设计。后页是年会同工杨姿英姐妹和大巴窑堂会友庄偲琦姐妹的精心创作。这作品是《卫讯》首次以约翰卫斯理为题材的华文漫画。

盼望大家会喜欢这一系列新的尝试和努力。作为卫理公会大家庭的一份子，让我们齐心向着标杆直跑，要得上帝在基督耶稣里从上面召我来得的奖赏。阿们。

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Pressing Ahead for the Future

Christians were not called to live a life without purpose. In this verse, Paul makes clear that God has prepared rewards for us in Heaven, and we live in purpose to fulfill God's calling. As such, we must "press on toward the goal". In sports, athletes are trained to focus on the finishing line. Any slight shift of their gaze away from this goal could cost the athletes their medal. If athletes can be so completely focused on their earthly prize, should we not show even greater effort in pressing ahead for the promise of eternity in Heaven?

Passing On Heritage

This year, CAC News has reached a milestone. The newsletter was first launched in 1980. Titled "Singapore Methodist Church Chinese Annual Conference News" and shortened to "CAC News", the publication aimed to spread the gospel, and to connect with, draw prayers from and support CAC churches. CAC News has journeyed far. We now carry the duty of passing down this historically significant publication and its deep heritage to future generations. We have to ensure the publication stays relevant to contemporary readers. CAC News needs to be more than just a printed material but also a digital evangelistic tool, to introduce the Methodist faith to the wider public.

You hold the revamped CAC News, a progressive newsletter, with a renewed sense of purpose. The new "CAC News" logo features a "dew-drop". "Little drops of dew makes an ocean". The dew-drop symbolizes the laborious task of evangelizing, where every single soul saved is precious. The Mandarin idiom, "As you drink, be reminded of the source of the water" reminds us of our rich heritage and deep roots. Even as we refresh the newsletter, we honour tradition. We retained the original calligraphy of the Chinese characters 卫讯, which was penned personally by the late Bishop Kao Jih Chung. The cover of this issue features the artwork of Daniel Tam of Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church. This is the first time that all 17 CAC churches have been consolidated into a single artwork. The back-page features a new comic created by CAC staff Yeo Cher Eng in collaboration with Lois Chng, from Toa Payoh Chinese Methodist Church. This may well be the first time that a comic about John Wesley is written in Mandarin!

I hope that you will embrace these changes. May we endeavour as a united Methodist family, pressing ahead towards the purpose God has called us for, and claim the heavenly rewards promised to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.