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心灵相簿 The President's Gallery

客西马尼 Gethsemane

石門坎基督教福音堂
Shimenkan Gospel Church

会长摄于2017年9月中国，贵州石门坎基督教福音堂。
Photo taken by President at the Gospel Church in Shimenkan, Guizhou, China, Sep 2017.
想浏览更多心灵相簿的照片，请关注年会会长脸书专页 (@pres.cac.mcs)。
For more photographs from The President's Gallery, please follow the CAC President's Facebook page (@pres.cac.mcs)

石门坎过去主要是苗族群体居住的地方，是一个位于贵州省西北部最边缘的山区村庄。你可扫描二维码，以了解更多有关著名的英国卫理公会宣教士，撒母耳·柏格理 (Samuel Pollard) 在石门坎的传道事工，以及他如何在1900年代初期将基督教带给苗族。

Mainly populated by Miao people in the past, Shimenkan is a mountainous village located in the most marginal north-western part of Guizhou Province. Scan the QR Code to learn more about the remarkable ministry of the prestigious British Methodist missionary Samuel Pollard in Shimenkan, and how he brought Christianity to the Miao people in the early 1900s.



太26: 33-46

彼得对耶稣说：“众人虽然为你的缘故跌倒，我却永不跌倒。”多少时候我们像彼得一样，深信我们跟随主的信心是多么的坚定，不会因环境而有所疑惑，我们绝不会否认主。当我们与彼得有相同的意念时，耶稣对彼得的话变得非常刺耳：“我实在告诉你，今夜鸡叫以先，你要三次不认我。”不只一次，耶稣说，是三次，就在今晚。

我在想彼得听后他的反应会是怎么样的呢？他肯定难以接受这样的一个预言！但他也知道耶稣的话是全然可信的。他对自己的认识与耶稣的宣告，顿时让他陷入否认的情绪中，他辩护说就是要和耶稣同死，他也不会不认耶稣。

人对自己的认识，总是与真实的自己有所落差，今天我们都会承认这点。

耶稣在面对十字架的苦难，他深深地感受到那一份的沉重。虽然他是完全的人，依然会因即将来临的痛苦感到极度的忧愁和难过。今天我们忽略了耶稣向世人彰显的这份人性的‘软弱’面，这是上帝伟大创造的奥秘。当人遇到困境、危险或苦难时，人性会产生忧愁、悲伤和难过 – 这是一份上帝的恩赐。人性的软弱面不一定带来负面的结果，反之会使人性发出它的光辉。在我们的生活中见证了这个事实，多少激励人的故事来自人类战胜软弱的光芒。最近2019新冠病毒的疫情，就让我们看见人性面对灾难的这两种表现。

警醒祷告是渡过苦难而得胜的途径，并邀请其他人和自己一起警醒祷告。

耶稣要门徒以警醒祷告来面对摆在面前的十字架苦难。他带着三个门徒和他一起警醒祷告 – 当时他心里忧伤，几乎要死。

客西马尼园的祷告是十字架道路得胜的关键。

Matthew 26: 33-46

Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” How often are we like Peter – believing that our conviction in following Jesus is so strong, that regardless of circumstances, we will never doubt or disavow our Lord. When we have such deep-seated belief in our own strength, as Peter had, Jesus’ reprimand becomes harsher to the ears: “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” Not just once, Jesus says, but three times, in a single night.

I wonder what Peter’s response was after hearing what Jesus said. He probably found such a prophecy difficult to accept! Yet, he knew that the words of Jesus to hold the truth. His knowledge of his inner-self and the proclamation made by Jesus, caused him to sink into a state of denial momentarily. In defence, he declared that even if he were to die with Jesus, he would never disown him.

We need to recognise that what we choose to know of ourselves, is often a huge variance from our real inner-selves.

When faced with the impending suffering at the cross, Jesus was heavily burdened. Although he was a perfect human, knowing what was to come

still caused him to be in great distress and sorrow. We overlook this aspect of human “weakness” that Jesus displayed – which remains a great mystery in God’s creation. That we would feel worry, sadness and pain when faced with difficulties, dangers and suffering, ought to be seen as a blessing from God. Human weakness may not necessarily bring about negative outcomes; it could in fact cause humanity to shine. We have witnessed this truth when we see inspirational life testimonies of lives that have been victorious in times of adversity, and individuals who have bloomed despite their weaknesses. The recent Covid19 epidemic has allowed us to see how we could have polar responses in the face of crisis.

The way to overcoming suffering is to be watchful in prayer, while also inviting others to pray along with you.

Knowing that the suffering of the cross was at hand, Jesus urged His disciples to remain watchful in prayer. He brought three disciples to keep watch and to pray along with Him, when he was deeply grieved.

The prayer in the garden of Gethsemane is key to attaining victory over the path of the cross.

大斋节期的意义



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近二十五年来，越来越多卫理公会本地教会在复活节前46天，开始守大斋节期。由於一般教会看主日是纪念和欢庆主复活的日子，守斋节都不会包括礼拜天在内，因此，这46天扣除6个主日，就是所谓的四十天，Lent（也称四旬期）。不过，不同地区及不同的宗派，的确有不同的守斋天数，这主要是对主日、星期六或圣周算不算在守斋期内而有不同的大斋节的天数。无论如何，守斋期本来是教会为受洗者在复活节洗礼前做准备。主要是和候洗者一起禁食、祷告、反省、认罪、读圣经和属灵书籍、默想，并且以圣经里记载耶稣在约旦河受约翰的洗礼后，在旷野禁食祷告胜过魔鬼的试探，作为守斋期的思想主轴。

而 Lent 这个字是由 lengthening 这个字衍生出来的，指的是春季白天延长了。这也可以引申基督徒

经过每一年的守斋节的操练，使自己的灵性延申成长。从这字的意义来说，大斋节的灵性操练是积极和动态的，不是消极静态的认罪、祷告与默想。对候洗者来说，和教会一起渡过的这40天大斋节，是他们属灵生命的开始，并且要继续成长，就像春天给冬眠的大地万物，带来生命盎然一片生机一样。

在大斋节期里，有一个属灵操练深具意义那就是“克己”。在这守斋期间，日常的饮食、休闲、娱乐等的举动需要克制甚至停止，为的是要提醒自己要改变、转化、更新，并且集中专注效法基督，更像基督。

今年的大斋节期是从2月26日星期三的圣灰日开始至4月12日。配合卫理公会135周年，筹委会安排在这40天的 Lent，从3月5日开始有五个星期四举行一系列查经与祷告，由卫理公会三一年议会会长黄昌荣牧师主讲，以不同的祷告方式一起为教会、国家与邻舍祷告。请与我们华人年议会、三一年议会、以马内利年议会的弟兄姐妹一起聆听上帝的圣言，同心祈祷。