

AUTHOR/DESIGNER - PASHA CHEN



Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him.
They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.
(Jeremiah 17:7-8)



THANKS

Give Thanks to the LORD for Your salvation and love.

Submit to the LORD and say, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

PREAMBLE

Transcendent Awakening narrates the transformative change of the protagonist as a result of his decisions in life. Would it be a repetitive cycle of Insecurity, filled with self-centredness, pride, arrogance, and fear? Or, would it be a different path, where upon seeing the true nature of sinfulness, rebelliousness and stubbornness, he awakens by turning to God with courage and a repentant heart; allowing God's love to heal all brokenness and transform him into a humble, gentle, strong and joyful person?

The protagonist chose to open the door of faith, relying on God wholeheartedly, and not avoiding challenges. When he accepts the invitation for reconciliation with God, the Lord's guiding light gave him the strength to breakthrough, overcome difficulties, navigating him on the path to eternal hope.

The purifying fire of the forge can wake the sleeping soul, opening up the eyes of the people, allowing them to realize the fragile limitations of life and realizing that **Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life**. Those who seize the day and turn to God is blessed indeed. "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." (Isaiah 55:6-7)

ABOUT

Pasha Chen is a Christian artist and author. After personally experiencing God's grace, she used stories with illustrations to testify to God's beauty and grace. During the past 20 years of her professional career, Pasha has worked as an educational animation designer; an illustrator of books and teaching materials; a graphic, advertisement and web designer; a learning course designer; and a multimedia/motion graphic designer. She used to focus on artistry and creativity in her work, but under the harsh reality of a worldly career, she began compromising her ideals. The mindless rapid productivity became a bottomless abyss that consumed her creativity. Thank the Lord that the end of man is often the beginning of God. After Pasha personally experienced God's unforgettable love, her self-awakening and repentance allowed her to grasp what true 'Glory' is. She realized that Love is the mobilizing force giving her joy of the Lord in her creative process.

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness." (Genesis 1:3-4). Jesus Christ is this light, and He will lead everyone who believes in Him into the eternal kingdom of God. Blessings be with you and may the peace of the Lord rest upon you.

Thanks to Jack for being the author of the English versions of the **Serendipitous Journey Series** and for being a supportive husband.

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Characters and events in this book are fictitious. Any similarity to real persons, is coincidental and not intended by the author.

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– 1 – MEETING HIM

"The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake."

(Psalm 23:1-3)



Under the Juniper Tree

My eyes rested upon the heavenly sky as I lay beneath a juniper tree atop of a green hill. Although my body was exhausted and completely weak, memories of my past was unusually vivid through my mind's eye....

Obsessed with finding the 'Elusive Cup', I left the *island of Criticism* where I grew up, and drifted to the city of *Self-centredness*. The 'Elusive Cup' is purportedly filled with the success and glory that people covet all their lives. Although it is said that all those who pursued it whole heartedly will end up in an *endless abyss of dissatisfaction and despair*. Even so, most people believed they were the exception and sought after it. The journey for the 'Elusive Cup' had left me lying exhausted in the wilderness, leading me to ponder, where was my destination?!



Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. (Proverbs 19:21)

The Obscured Self

During the journey for the 'Elusive Cup', I had stayed in the city of Self-centredness. While there, I had altered my appearance into a bigger and meaner one. As time went on, my appearance became more and more blurred, and my whole body was covered with thorns. I did not recognize myself and others avoided me.

Who was I? Where did I belong?



Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. (Psalm 51:4-6)

Meeting the Shepherd

I was sheltering under a juniper tree when fortune smiled upon me. By happenstance I found a lost sheep, and consequently met the good and kind shepherd. The shepherd sang the *Hymns Of The Calling* under the stars... that was a most peaceful and wondrous time. Even now it seemed like only yesterday, for it has been deeply imprinted in my mind.



For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — (Ephesians 2:8)

Lay Down the Burden

I recall the advice of the shepherd to leave my heavy baggage so that I may have enough strength to continue to follow him. He said gently and soothingly, "You should put aside all your heavy burdens and follow me. These burdens are not good for you and will only consume your time and energy."



"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ...For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28,30)

-2-RETURN

For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
"I live in a high and holy place,
but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,
to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite."

(Isaiah 57:15)



Miraculous Healing

The shepherd not only saw through my heart, he made me feel like I did not need to be so guarded anymore. He didn't care about my strange appearance and said to me, "As long as you believe, turn around, and you will be healed." Because of his words, the pain in my body disappeared all at once.



You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. (Psalm 23:5-6)

The Garden of the Heart

The shepherd invited me to a very unique garden. He said, "The human heart is like a garden. Whatever is planted and watered will be harvested." His words awakened my soul and revealed the condition of the *garden of my heart*; for it had been covered with weeds for a very long time. The thorns and vines had bound me so tightly that I often stung others.



The Lord is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. (Psalm 145:17-18)

Map & Guide: The Gospel

After hearing about my journey for the 'Elusive Cup', the shepherd's eyes became sad and said to me, "Friend, awaken! The 'Elusive Cup' is merely a mechanism that the *prince of this world* uses to lure and devour people. It is bait and cannot provide sustenance nor satisfaction for the emptiness of your heart. Using their desires, he enslaves people in an *endless abyss of dissatisfaction and despair*, turning them into slaves of sin until death overtakes them."

The shepherd then gave me a book called the 'Gospel' and said, "The 'Gospel' will surely lead you into the *Eternal Kingdom*, where you will receive eternal life with abundance, as well as the crown of holiness and glory. But there will be many dangers along the way. If you stay strong and courageously follow the direction of the 'Gospel' with faith, not looking back, neither turning to the right nor to the left, you will reach the *Eternal Kingdom*."

I thought to myself, "How can I be so ignorant that I wasted my life and all my precious time! How is it that the world does not know of the massive lie that is the 'Elusive Cup' and of the one who is behind it?"

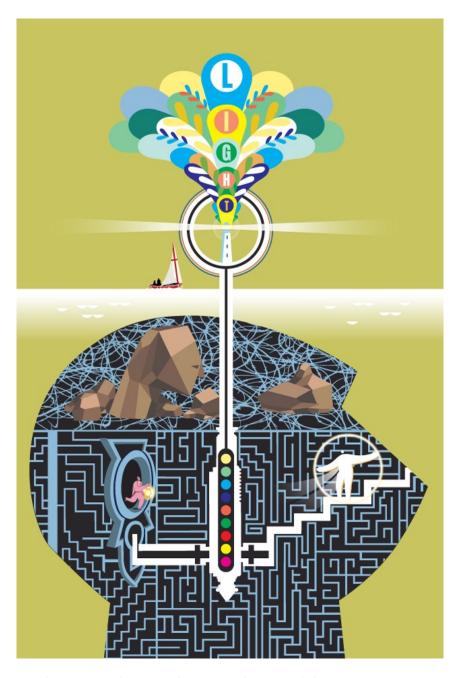


I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. (John 10:9)

The Peculiar Gift

The shepherd gave me a peculiar sheepfold chain as a souvenir, with a key attached, and nine seeds hidden within. The shepherd explained that these nine seeds came from the *Eternal Kingdom* and needed to be sown at the right time.

He encouraged me with a smile, "Friend, the garden of thorns must be uprooted and rebuilt." Upon hearing this, I smiled and thought with bitterness in my heart, "What could grow in a desolate land?" Nonetheless, I happily accepted this exquisite gift.



For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

The Shoes of Peace

Before departing, the shepherd noticed my worn shoes; he immediately took off his shoes and gave them to me. His shoes looked really heavy, but they are surprisingly soft and comfortable. In his shoes, I walked as briskly and steady as a deer through the meadows. The shepherd smiled and said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. Take heart and stand firm, for you are loved, and may peace and blessings be upon you."



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27)

- 3 - PATH TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

(Isaiah 35:8)



The Illuminated Book

The light of the 'Gospel' continually illuminated the way on my journey. The light not only guided my path, but also opened my eyes and allowed me to see the world in a very different way. I met others on the road who also carried the luminous 'Gospel' in their hands. It turned out they had also met a shepherd. Only then did I realize that the shepherd I met is the Sovereign LORD of the *Eternal Kingdom*. He is the *King of kings, the Lord of lords*.

We have been chosen by Him to become citizens of the *Eternal Kingdom*, and we are called to leave this world and return to our Sovereign LORD. I joined up with some of the others as everyone traveled in groups. During the journey, I receive much help from my fellow travelers.

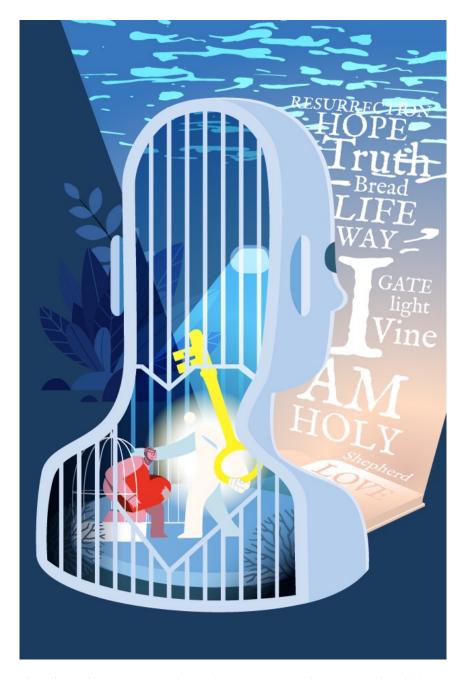


Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The Book of Reflection

After the 'Gospel' illuminated my eyes and allowed me to see more clearly, I started noticing dust and grime on me and my fellow travelers; I felt very ashamed. A fellow traveler comforted me and said, "These filths represents the sins of our flesh. The flesh was born of a sinful world and influenced by an unrighteous environment, leading to uncleanliness. Sinners were originally seduced by the *prince of this world* and enslaved by him. But we have been freed by the *King of kings* and covered by his *Robe of righteousness*, we are born again and are no longer slaves to sin."

"Be aware, as long as we are in our flesh, our sinful nature will continue to corrupt us and pull us down. However, as long as we focus on the guidance of the 'Gospel', be vigilant, resist worldly temptations, repent and ask the *King of kings* for salvation, He will forgive you your sins. This is due to the abounding grace of the *King*, like the metamorphosis of a butterfly, transforming us into sanctified beings through rebirth."



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The Sleepwalkers of the Dark Forest

After a while, I suddenly noticed that we had walked into a big dark forest, surrounded by sleepwalkers. Some were riding on a merry-goround, and some were walking around in circles. All the sleepwalkers were covered with a thick layer of dust and grime. Their hands and feet were tightly bound by chains, as they slept mindlessly, unaware of their situation. I thought to myself, "Where are we? Why didn't the 'Gospel' guide us onto a smooth and safe path instead?"

I didn't really understand it, and I grumbled about having to carefully navigate through this predicament. I gradually began to realize that this is the true reality of the world; the eyes of people are closed, the soul is asleep, and the ears are unwilling to hear. The lack of self-awareness made people reject the Truth of the 'Gospel' and the grace offered by the *King of kings*.



Keep me free from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God. (Psalm 31:4-5)

The Unclean Spirits

We found ourselves surrounded by a horde of evil spirits, servants to the *prince of this world*. They watched everyone with their manic, bloodshot eyes, all the while humming lullabies with drawl and droning words as they eagerly await for the dreamers to falter and fall.

The spirit of lies hummed, "I am done! It is hopeless! Everything is in doubt!"

The spirit of fear hummed, "It is too difficult! Too dangerous! It is time to give up!"

The spirit of unbelieve hummed, "I must rely entirely on myself. I firmly believe that man can conquer all, even the heavens."

The spirit of idolatry hummed, "I need the 'Elusive Cup'! Fame, wealth, and success are all mine."

The spirit of sorcery hummed, "Everything is under my control, and curse be upon those who oppose me."

The spirit of adultery hummed, "It is my right to choose and act, who cares if it is moral or immoral."

The spirit of unforgiveness hummed: "Unforgivable! It must be an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."



The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Keep Watch and Pray

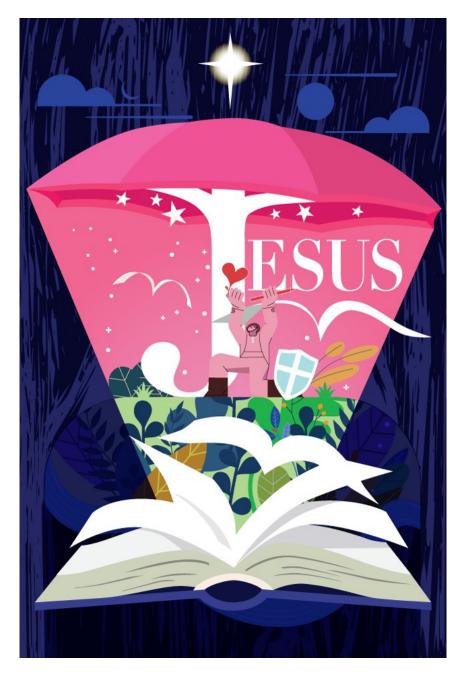
Even though the lullaby of the *unclean spirits* didn't appear to affect me initially, it had taken its toll on me subconsciously and my body became heavier and heavier; so much so that all I wanted to do was to lie down and sleep... Suddenly a voice awakened me and said,

"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

I suddenly recalled the words from the *King of kings* to stay strong and courageous.

"Don't look back, never doubt, and don't turn to the right or to the left."

On our journey, we are often hindered by the *prince of this world* and tempted by the *unclean spirits* as well as our sins. Travelers on the same path encourage each other to be strong and courageous, to be faithful, to be alert and endure to the end. It was then that the *Hymns Of The Calling* filled my ears again; His voice gave me the strength and courage I needed.



The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Wintry Days

One day, the heaven and earth suddenly moved and a huge wave of death swept across the forest at an alarming rate. The surrounding temperature dropped sharply, and the sky was filled with strange gray snow. The 'Gospel' instructed us to quickly find sanctuary within the trees and to wait for the *King of kings*. For it is written in the 'Gospel' that the *King* will surely return,

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:3)

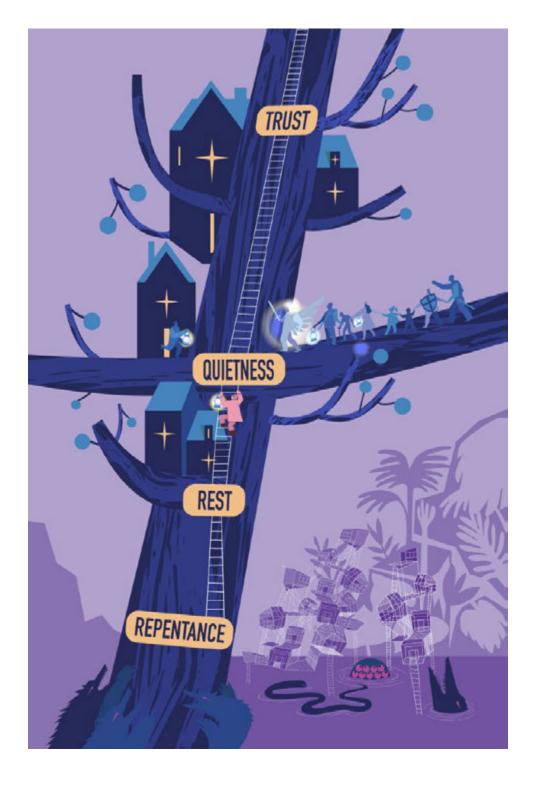
It wasn't long before I heard that thousands of people had died in this disaster. Crisis always appears suddenly and impossible to prepare for. All those in hiding were very upset, for the future looked bleak. However, the darker the surroundings became, the brighter the light of the 'Gospel' shone. It became as bright as a star of hope, warming the darkest and coldest places in our hearts.



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

– 4 – PREPARATION AND WAITING

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him.
(Psalm 40:1-3)



Fellowship

Just as everyone started to plan and make arrangements for a new life, words came from afar saying that the *King of kings* is on His way back! Everyone was overjoyed with astonishment. In the days that followed, everybody was eagerly preparing to show off their talents, immersed in plans to try and please the *King of kings*.



Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. (Psalm 16:4-6)

The Celebrity Chef

It had become a common sight to see a despondent Mr. Celebrity Chef, worrying about the menu for the *King*'s banquet. Even though Mr. Celebrity Chef is the world's top chef, he lacked many high-end ingredients due to our predicament. Mr. Celebrity Chef really wanted to prepare a table filled with the most glorious dishes for the *King of kings*, but could not. We often comforted him and told him to use whatever is at hand, and to just do his best!



Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:31-33)

The Conductor

Mr. Conductor is very proficient in music and composition. He planned to form an elite orchestra in order to perform for the *King of kings*. After he had gathered the musicians, he was flabbergasted that the musicians would not listen to his instructions; instead they each performed to their own tunes. Horrendous and unbearable sounds can often be heard from Mr. Conductor's home, and his hair had turned snow white. We comforted him and suggested that he establish friendship and mutual trust first.



Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. (John 4:23)

Mrs. Soiree

The perfect and elegant Mrs. Soiree has a pair of extremely creative and skillful hands. She is very good at handicraft and loves to bake. She planned to hold a fabulous ball for the *King of kings* in Mr. Farmer's garden. She became a busy bee, preoccupied with perfecting the settings for the *King*'s table all the while designing an elegant garden theme. The unrealistic expectations of perfection from Mrs. Soiree had put her husband Mr. Farmer in a conundrum, because the environment was not ideal for the cultivation of the various flora required by her. Mr. Farmer gently suggested to Mrs. Soiree to modify the designs a bit, but Mrs. Soiree misunderstood his intentions and thought he criticized her designs. As a result, she constantly changed the designs in search of perfection, which only exacerbated the situation.



If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. (James 1:5)

Mr. Farmer

I visited Mr. Farmer often. In addition to his tenderness and patience, he often reminded me of the time I spent with the shepherd.

The shepherd had once given me a few seeds to build a garden, butl became unmotivated due to the failures of my past. Mr. Farmer taught me the knowledge of soil preparation and soil cultivation. I admired his love for the plants and would often sit quietly to observe the harmonious cohabitation between him and the plants in his garden. However, his calm demeanour gradually became a rare sight as more and more people looked to him for help.

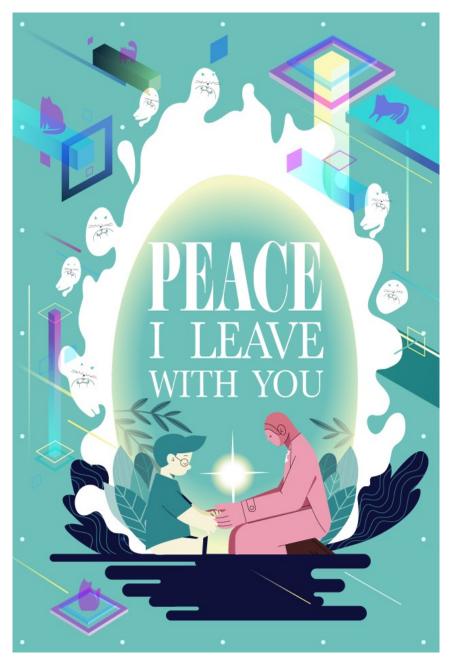


Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

Boy and His Cat

One day, a little boy's cat suddenly exhibited abnormal behaviours, and unexpectedly died in a state of extreme pain. The little boy and witnessed the struggle between life and death. We progressed through the various states of mourning, followed by mutual consolation, finally ended up mulling over death. No one can escape death nor escape the sadness of losing a loved one.

The little boy's acceptance and surrender to the circumstances surprised me. He told me he had learned total obedience, focus, and loyalty from his cat. I asked the little boy if he had prepared for the arrival of the *King of kings*, to which he replied, "I want to prepare a joyful heart every day while waiting for the arrival of the *King of kings*."



When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me. (Psalm 138:3)

– 5 – RENEWED STRENGTH

"Give careful thought to your ways.

Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house,
so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,"
says the LORD.
(Haggai 1:7-8)



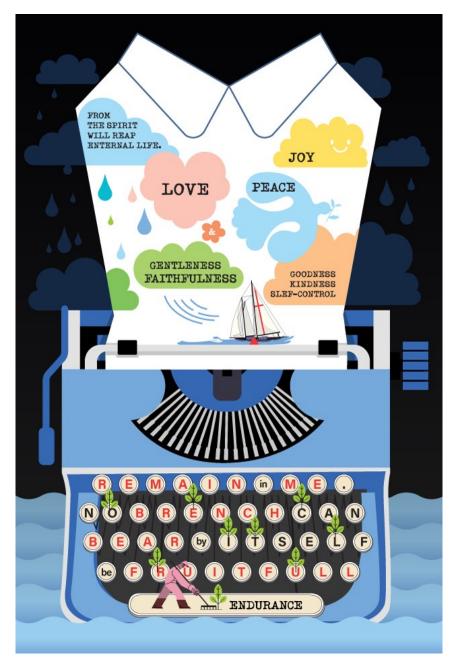
Nine Seeds

My garden had become a wasteland, but the *King of kings* gave me nine seeds from the *Eternal Kingdom* as hope. These nine seeds are:

Love, Joy, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

I reflected upon about the *King*'s will and was able to arrive at a heartfelt realization of His compassionate love and grace.

Thanksgiving finally allowed me to start preparing the ground for the garden. I sincerely hope this newly built garden will have enough time to produce some sweet fruits, so that when the *King of kings* arrives, I can dedicate all the best to my *King*.



Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. (Matthew 3:8)

The Art of Soil Cultivation

The soil texture of my wasteland is a mixture of dry clay and gravel, not suitable for deep-rooted seeds to grow, instead allowing the weeds and thorns to be overgrown. So, it took a lot of effort for me to prepare the new soil by weeding, removing stones, loosening soil, and fertilizing.

Mr. Farmer had reminded me to **improve** and **nourish** the soil. He said we must first turn the ground into good soil, which is the foundation for healthy growth. If the soil is healthy, the seeds will be easier to plant, and the problem of weeds, diseases and pests will correspondingly decrease.



Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

The One Who Was Blessed

I didn't know who I was in the past, I only know that I am a small note within the *Songs of Joy*, shouting joyfully,

"Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people."

The faithfulness of the *King of kings* favours the humble and the meek. The righteousness of the *King* allows those hungering and thirsting for righteousness to be justified by faith. The mercy of the *King* allows the sinful ones who made mistakes to be forgiven and reborn. I am a new creation, witnessed by the eternal, unconditional love of the *King*.



Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. (2 Timothy 2:21)

The Gospel

The 'Gospel' is a beacon, illuminating the road to the *Eternal Kingdom*.

The 'Gospel' is a mirror enlightening the soul and revealing the truth of oneself.

The 'Gospel' is a sharp sword of justice breaking the curse of a hardened and stubborn heart from sin.

The 'Gospel' is the best remedy for healing and soothing of broken and contrite hearts through joy.

The 'Gospel' is a treasure map revealing the rich treasures of the *Eternal Kingdom* for those who are devoted to seek and find it.

The 'Gospel' is the promise of the *King of kings* for those who receive eternal life to witness His holiness, justice, faithfulness, and mercy.



For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

The Saviour Is Near, Hallelujah!

The strange gray snow outside was spreading the *chronic-cough ash virus* rapidly; the *unclean spirits* used the opportunity to chain and bind all those who had not hidden within the tree sanctuary. By the time the night was old and dawn was approaching, everyone in the sanctuary was exhausted through the work they had been doing.

Out of the blue, the little boy suddenly began to sing; he shouted, "Hallelujah!" His singing awakened everyone and provided encouragement for their exhausted bodies and minds. Everyone dropped what they were doing and started to sing as one for the arrival of the King of kings, singing 'Psalm 33 - We Stand in Awe of You'.



This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6)

Psalm 33 – We Stand In Awe

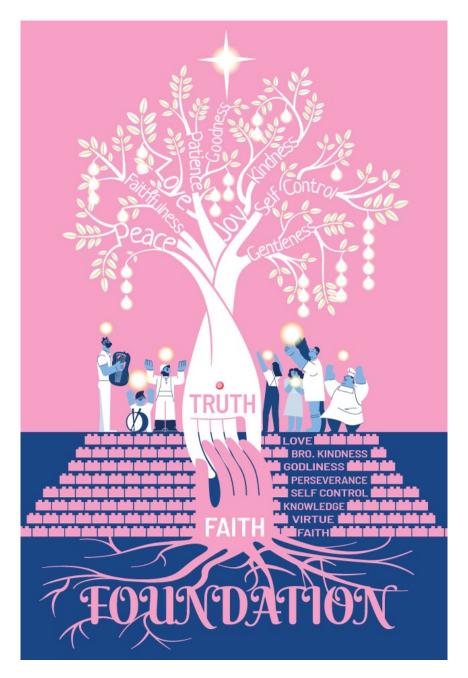
Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea into jars; he puts the deep into storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the people of the world revere him. For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD d looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth—he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do.

No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength. A horse is a vain hope for deliverance; despite all its great strength it cannot save. But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine. We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you.



Those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (Isaiah 51:11)

Serendipitous Journey Series







Hymns of the Calling in 2019



Transcendent Awakening in 2021

The traveler sent his best regards to everyone he met through the heavenly clouds.



He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

If you liked this book, please consider donations to Ottawa River Of Life Christian Church, Hope Ministries. May God's blessing be upon you. https://www.orolcc.net/奉献支持/support-us