信息: 十字架的道路

MESSAGE: THE WAY OF THE CROSS

When walking on the way of the cross, Jesus had a calling toward His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him.
However, at that time disciples did not understand the true meaning of "taking up the cross" until later when the Lord revealed to them, after He was risen, received up and sat down at the right hand of the Almighty God in heaven.
Although His cross is victorious, and the salvation has been completed, the slaughtered Lamb of God still calls us to receive His crucified life and follow His footsteps.

The way of the cross is not a way of suffering, but that of denying oneself. For only when one denies himself can he take up his cross, as said in the Bible: "...If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me..." (Matthew 16:24). When a Christian is willing to deny himself and fully surrender to the Lord, he will discover that the weight of the cross feels just like wings of a bird. It no longer drags him down like a heavy burden but takes him upward to a higher ground. Therefore, may we all become precious companions walking on the way of the cross.

故事: 換十字架 STORY: EXCHANGING A CROSS

有一首詩,名叫「換十字架」。講 到一位姊妹遭遇了許多困難,她心中以 為自己的十字架,一定比別人更重,渴 望能和別人換一個來背。 There is a hymn called "Exchanging the Cross", which talks about a story of a female Christian who had undergone much suffering in her life. Therefore, she always thought no one else suffered as much as she did, and her cross must be heavier than others. She often wished to exchange her cross with others.

一天,她作了一個夢。夢中到一地 方,那裏橫著許多形狀大小不同的十字 架。有一個小十字架,形狀最美麗,上 面鑲了寶石和黃金。這個姊妹一見,就 說:「阿,背這一個一定舒適」。她就 試著去背,不料竟背不起來。寶石和黃 金雖然美麗,但是太重了。後來她又看 見一個可愛的十字架,雕刻的木架上, 盤著許多美麗的鮮花。她想這個一定容 易背了。她就將牠舉起。不料鮮花下面 長有許多尖銳的刺,刺痛她的皮肉。她 就一步一步向前走去,一個一個試著, 發現每個十字架都不容易背。最後她看 見一個樸素的十字架,上面沒有寶石, 也沒有雕刻,只寫幾句親愛的話。她背 了起來,覺得這十字架是在許多中間最 容易背的一個。仔細一看,原來就是她 自己原有的十字架。阿,這個十字架竟 是許多十字架中間最好也最輕的一個。

神所加給我們的,不會過於我們所 能受的,是照著我們生命的程度,量給 我們的。

One day she had a dream, in which she saw many crosses of different sizes scattered around on the ground. One of those crosses was very beautiful decorated with gold and precious stones. She said to herself: "This cross must be comfortable to carry." So she tried to take it up. However, it was too heavy for her to even pick up. Then she saw a nicely carved wooden cross decorated with many pretty flowers. She thought that one should be easy to carry, so she tried to carry it on her back. To her surprise, many sharp stings were hidden underneath those flowers. She continued to seek and try many more crosses, but none was easy for her. Finally, she saw a very plain looking one without glorious decorations but a few dear words written on it. She tried to carry it and felt just right. Then she took a closer look at it and found out it was her own cross, which turns out to be the lightest among all.

Therefore, every environment we encounter will not exceed what we can take, for God has carefully measured it according to the capacity of our spiritual life.

倪柝聲最後書信 THE LAST LETTER FROM WATCHMAN NEE

在主耶穌的患難、國度、忍耐一同 有份的聖徒們平安!

世多年來風聞多、交通少,因著裏面的要求,多麼迫切渴望能以彼此交通,領受祂榮耀的豐富。

Peace be to all saints who partake in the sufferings, the kingdom, and the endurance of the Lord Jesus.

In these last twenty some years, I have heard much regarding you, but have had little fellowship with you. However because of the demands from within, I earnestly long to have fellowship with you in order that we may receive the riches of His glory.

How excited are our spirits whenever His glorious and holy name is mentioned. We can only bow in worship when we think of His great grace. At the sound of His voice, we are beside ourselves. We are moved to shed tears mingled with compassion, excitement and joy. We rejoice in the hardships that we have gone through because we have been found worthy to suffer in our bodies for His name's sake, on behalf of the Church, to fill up that which is lacking in Christ's affliction. On the other hand, we nonetheless feel our own weakness and worthlessness. Yet He nevertheless is our glorious Lord, deserving of our all. For Him, there is not one price that is too great to pay. He is God's focus, and our assurance and reliance. Apart from Him we can do nothing.

在這漫長的日子裏,神的兒女遭受 患難四數少實質的交通,裏屬 要鬱,如以人意是非的爭辯,給屬 實際,加以人意是非的爭辯,給屬 實際來損傷;混亂黑暗的情況, 們在被光中俯伏,帶領我們走在 的道路上,撇下我們所有、所是 能,把自己為耶穌交於死地,使耶穌的 生,在我們身上顯明出來。

In this long night, suffering and dispersion have come upon the children of God. Our sorrow is heightened because of the lack of true fellowship. Furthermore, rumors and disputes have done much to injure our spiritual lives. Many have been led astray from the way of the Son of God by these chaotic and dark conditions. We need the Lord to have mercy upon us that we may bow down before Him in His light, and be led to walk on the way of life. That we may lay aside all that we have, all that we are, and all that we are capable of in order to deliver ourselves over to death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus may be manifested in us.

餘下的日子,我們當走的路還遠, 憑著我們以往所學習所認識的,是不能 應付我們自己與教會以及工作的需要, 當我們看到神兒女屬靈的貧乏,眾多的 迷羊失喪,廣大的工場零落,這一切的 需要,擺在我們面前的時候,就要更覺

In the days to come, we still have a long way to go. We are unable to meet the needs and to do the work with that which we have learned and come to know in the past. We see the impoverished condition of the children of God; many have gone astray and are lost, the fields have fallen

得我們自己是多麼貧窮,沒有甚麼可以 給人,這怎麼不叫我們向主呼籲:「主 啊,憐憫!」求祂憐憫我們,在這些軟 弱的瓦器裏,顯明祂超越的能力。

這些日子是嚴肅的,神的要求是高 的,神的揀選是嚴格的。如果我們就 在以往所有、所是、所能上,我們就 法跟上神今天要作的工。神花費二、 十年的時間,讓我們經歷不平凡的 路,讓教會的見證是很活生命的彰顯 明,讓教會的見證是復活生命的 好叫神藉著教會,使天上執政的 ,現在得知神百般的智慧。

今日的需要,是求神興起更多合用的器皿,來承擔時代工作的需要。沒有可用的器皿,就沒有工作,求祂復興祂的工作,求祂先復興我們自己。只有當我們先讓神有工作,神才能藉著我們有更好的工作。

但願基督的愛激勵我們,讓我們奉獻自己,接受神的挑選,來背負祂的托付。讓神的兒女蒙受更豐富的話語,供應,充實屬靈的份量,並得能力,引領失喪的靈魂認識救主。

願主憐憫我們,願一切榮耀歸 祂直到永遠,阿們。 祝 為主忠心。 apart. And faced with these needs, we all the more feel that we are indeed poor with very little to give others. How can we help but cry to the Lord, "Lord have mercy on us!". May He have mercy on us that His surpassing strength will be manifested through these weak vessels.

These are solemn times. God's requirements are high and His choosing is stringent. If we stay in what we were, what we had in the past, we will be unable to keep up with the work the Lord would accomplish in this day. God has used the last twenty to thirty years for us to experience an extraordinary way so that His risen life may be revealed even more in us, and the testimony of the church may be the manifestation of that risen life. Thus may the manifold wisdom of God now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

The need today is to ask God to raise up fitting vessels to meet the demands of this generation. Without useable vessels, there will be no work. May He revive His work! May He first revive us! Only when we allow God to first work in us, can God accomplish a greater work.

May the love of Christ constrain us so that we offer ourselves, receive the calling of the Lord and take up His commission. May the children of God thereby receive more abundantly of His word and sustenance to fill our spiritual lives, and gain power to lead lost souls to the Saviour.

May the Lord have mercy on us. May all glory be unto Him forever. Amen. May we be true to the Lord.