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Fw: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2022)

1 message

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Cc: MissionaryCare MCBC Mission <mission.missionarycare@mcbc.com>

Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 12:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Joyce Lau <joycelaumq@yahoo.com.sg>
To: 'Joyce Lau' <jlmqsg@yahoo.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, 21 March 2022, 12:04:37 GMT-4
Subject: In-Touch with Joyce (2/2022)

Dear friends,

Man does not live on bread alone. I wonder if those who grabbed bread off the shelves in the supermarkets in Hong Kong agreed with that. For more than a week, no bread was to be found in the bakeries around my home. I was delighted when I caught the sight of freshly baked bread in an outlying island of Cheung Chau. I hugged these two precious loaves in a journey of 2.5 hours over sea and land before giving one loaf to my neighbour. I empathise with those who succumbed to panic buying and hoarding. Vegetables were the first to disappear, followed by canned food, fresh pork, bread, eggs... However, I was upset when I saw people taking photos of the empty shelves and sharing these on social media. Yes, there were empty shelves but there were also shelves still stocked with food. However, they chose to focus on the empty shelves and stoking the fuels of anxieties, fears and rumour-mongering to gather more views and likes. I was reminded once again the importance of what we focus on and how we influence others. Yet it is a constant challenge to live on the invisible especially when others around you are grabbing bread...

Male and female he created them. I am new to Hong Kong, having arrived in June 2020 amidst a pandemic. I am always observing things around me as part of my learning process. The Hong Kong subway is now running a series of advertisements advocating for tolerance towards LGBT. A shopkeeper opined how a Mr. Chan who used to be a Ms. Chan was still as friendly, polite and nice as before after her gender change. A TV advertisement shows how a man torn between his two boyfriends used a new ride-hailing application as he two-times them. A number of popular prime-time variety shows are showcasing the loving relationships of gays and lesbians. All these bombardment in the mass media mushroomed within the last 2 months when Hong Kong was fighting her hardest battle against skyrocketing COVID cases and deaths. I am reminded one again we are not fighting a physical battle against flesh and blood as man is now challenging our Master's creation and design of the genders. Yet it is a constant challenge to stand for the truth especially when others around you preach tolerance in the name of love...

I was introduced to Alan and Bill around the same time. While Alan was a confident young leader, Bill was a happy follower who was unsure of himself. Bill's father left his mother and him for another woman when he was a young child. Starved of a father's love, Bill was constantly craving

for affirmation and approval from others. Deprived of a male model, Bill looked to older men and sought to emulate them to become friendly, popular, nice and helpful. He found himself struggling with love for other men and these struggles continued even after he knew our Master. A major breakthrough happened when Bill finally sought out his father to forgive him. This was but the first step in an ongoing journey of his healing and deliverance. Bill had built his whole sense of self-worth based on the approval of others. Opposites attract. His easy-going and submissive nature attracted his wife when they were dating. He was won over by her capable and confident ways. However, what used to sparkle has now lost its luster as they now complain of the others' inadequacies and deficiencies as they try to keep up with the Joneses. Both constantly threaten divorce and the only thin thread holding them together is their son. Their faith evaporates into thin air as they focus on what they feel and the cold harsh reality before them which proclaims it is easier, better and even right to separate when the love in their marriage has died. During these times, old skeletons in the closet fall out and Bill struggles again with same-sex attractions. I can only give thanks he has not succumbed to these temptations. I try my best to remind him once again that only our Master's love and not the love of others can complete us. Yet it is a constant daily challenge for Bill to not give up on his marriage, himself or the faith especially when everything within him screams he would be happy and free if he just ups and walks away...

Please remember the following:

1) In a sudden about-turn, Hong Kong authorities announced today they are suspending the earlier touted universal testing which was driving the panic buying. Ask that those who hoarded would not waste food. I rejoice I could once again pick up bargains in my wet market this evening (see picture).



2) Divorce rates are rising even among believers. Ask that Bill and his wife and other struggling couples would first come before Him in repentance and allow divine love to heal, reconcile and restore themselves and their marriages.

3) I give thanks for His healing on my family members who contracted COVID in Singapore, especially for my father whose health is improving slowly but surely. My dad met an angel who helped him hail a Grab taxi when he was caught in the rain while going to church. May we all grow in the faith which is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.



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