

Your Monthly Newsletter

WINDOW TO BGST FEBRUARY

2021





**YOU
ARE
LOVED**

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE AND FOUNDATION

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God, who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us without limit.

All the things in this world are gifts of God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.

As a result, we appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us develop as loving persons. But if any of these gifts become the center of our lives, they displace God and so hinder our growth toward our goal.

In everyday life, then, we must hold ourselves in balance before all of these created gifts insofar as we have a choice and are not bound by some obligation. We

**From the Spiritual Exercises [23]
of Ignatius of Loyola**

Contemporary Translation
by David Fleming, SJ

should not fix our desires on health or sickness, wealth or poverty, success or failure, a long life or a short one. For everything has the potential of calling forth in us a deeper response to our life in God.

Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God's deepening his life in me.



We love because he first loved us.

I JOHN 4:19 (ESV)



PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

By **GRACIA LEE**

This article was first published from [Salt&Light](#).
It has been edited for WTB.

How this couple found the
courage to commit after 30 years
of on-off courtship

*There is no fear in love.
But perfect love drives out fear.*

I JOHN 4:18

Crippled by a nerve and muscular disorder since she was four, she grew up fiercely independent and had shut out the possibility of ever falling in love.

He was attracted to her zest for life and deeply enjoyed their personal conversations, but struggled to imagine how he would care for her as he watched her condition deteriorate.

For more than three decades after meeting in church in their early 20s, Leslie Chia and David Chim hovered between close friends and lovers, caring deeply for each other but never finding the courage to commit.

But last February, after a long-drawn romance, the couple took a step of faith and tied the knot, having drawn courage from 1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."

GROWING ROMANCE

Chia and Chim first met each other in 1988 as young adults. Being about the same age in the small church, they quickly became acquainted. Chia, who felt it was only right to be friendly to visitors, took it upon herself to strike up a friendship with Chim.

He was struck by her warmth and cheerfulness – this, despite her disability. "When I first knew her she was already walking with a walking stick, but she would always come to church cheerful and happy, and she always joked about things," recalled Chim, now 53.

It made him want to know her more. As he sought out opportunities to chat with her inside and outside of the Bible study group they were in together, he found himself enjoying her company more and more.

Even though Chia had long decided in her heart not to pursue romantic relationships for fear of getting hurt, she enjoyed the attention of Chim, who in her eyes was "one of the most eligible bachelors" in their group of friends.

But not long after, Chia's initial resolution to stay away from romance caught up with her. Though she had developed feelings for him, she decided to call it off. Chim was heartbroken by her decision but accepted it quietly as he wanted to preserve their friendship. From time to time, however, he would still give her a call to check in on her.

REGRETS AND UNCERTAINTY

Their following years were spent separately, though they would reconnect in-person or over the phone every now and then, especially when they met with difficulties at work or in relationships.

Having matured a little more by then, Chia sometimes looked back in regret for not cherishing Chim and wondered if she should have given the relationship the opportunity to grow.

As Chim watched her condition deteriorate – she started using a wheelchair in her early 30s – he grew more uncertain if he could take care of her.

Chia sensed his hesitance, which she interpreted as disinterest, and decided against taking the relationship further, thinking that perhaps going their separate ways had been for the better. “I always told myself that God is sovereign and that He allowed the relationship to be broken up. That was how God had purposed it,” she said.

REKINDLING THE FLAME

Their friendship remained at a standstill until 2012, when they became co-workers. This

allowed them more opportunities to spend time together and daily lunches with each other became a regular thing.

A lot had changed by then – Chia had grown out of her “wild and independent” years, while Chim had grown more confident in taking care of someone with a disability after his mother suffered a stroke.

“After I began taking care of my mother, I found that taking care of someone with a disability is not such a difficult thing. I saw it as how God planned to prepare me to know how to take care of Leslie,” he said.

COURAGE TO COMMIT

However, for three years after they got back together, their relationship barely moved. Chim was busy caring for his mother and had little time to spend with Chia. Their relationship suffered as a result but they persisted in sticking together.

Things began to change in 2016, when they spontaneously began to pray together by sending typed-out prayers over WhatsApp to each other. The following year, they started to do their daily devotions together and were more intentional about praying together every night.

“When we are joined together in prayer, God really speaks and it's very powerful to experience,” said Chim. “Until we put God in our relationship, it never moved. But the moment we put Him there, He just worked amazingly.”

"When we pray together we have to be very aligned in our thinking and beliefs. When you pray for the same thing you are saying that this is important to us both. So to have that unity of heart, prayer is very important," said Chia. During this time Chim also came across 1 John 4:18, which reminded him that God's perfect love casts out all fear – in his case, fear of being unable to care for Leslie and of taking a committed stand on their relationship.

That was when he began to be more open to the prospect of marrying her. "God assured me that He would be there as I take care of her," he said.

He suggested it to Chia, who began to play around the idea in her mind too: "I thought if God has deemed it fit to keep us together all these years and brought us full circle back together again, maybe He does have a plan for us after all."

She agreed to his proposal and the couple wedded last February, 31 years after they first met.

A SHARED AND CERTAIN FUTURE

In the past year of marriage, Chim has in fact found it quite enjoyable to care for his wife, who needs his help with moving around, eating and sometimes typing.

"I don't feel like it's a burden. I'm quite happy to do it for her," he said, adding that she has also taught him to appreciate the little things – like "a good pair of hands and legs" – that he often takes for granted.

"She's made me realise that I am blessed, and I want her to feel that she is blessed too." For Chia, Chim's love for her has changed her prior belief that falling in love would not be a possibility because of her disability.

"I no longer see it as what is possible or what is not possible. But I see it as everything has got to be in accordance to how God planned things to be," she said, adding that her husband's love gives her a glimpse of the greater love that God has for her.

"I am constantly reminded that if an earthly person can love me so much, then how much more must God love me?"

Even as they enjoy married life together, they acknowledge that God has purposed marriage for more than just companionship. For them, they both have felt a strong calling from the Lord to serve people together, though they are still prayerfully waiting to see where exactly God is leading them next.

While they are aware that there will be challenges in the years to come, they are taking encouragement from 1 John 4:18, the very verse that gave them the courage to take the leap of faith into marriage.

Chia, now 52, said: "We need to always remember that God's love is perfect and in God's love, which He demonstrates through us, there will be nothing we cannot overcome."

The Proposal

A **B**oy, a **G**irl, a quiet place to **S**tudy and a **T**ale
that will be told for generations to come

Peter has been using our library to study since he was a school boy in the 90s.

He was a regular in Bishan, then in Tanjong Pagar, Pemimpin, and now here in Kallang Pudding. He has been, quite literally, a faithful follower of BGST. It was Aunty Daisy who first warmly welcomed him to use the library, and this has meant a lot to him throughout his growing years. So much so that he wanted to propose to his girlfriend at this very special place...



Here's his story:

"The time was ripe for me to propose to Rachel. But I was clueless on how to get about doing it.

Then, as I was making my trip down to BGST library to return books after work on Saturday, 28 Nov 2020, I was struck by the most brilliant of ideas... "Why not propose to Rachel at the library?" After all it's a place that is dear to me, even from my childhood days.

When I arrived, the lights were not turned on, I got the impression that it was not open. To my pleasant surprise, a kind lady appeared at the door step and welcomed me even though the library was indeed not scheduled to be open. It was Ms Yap Foon Lyn, the Director of Administrations at the school. After some hesitation, I told her about my thoughts of proposing there the following Saturday. To my great joy she arranged for the library to be open just for us on that day, and even went to great lengths with Aunty Daisy and Jonathan to decorate two aisles for the surprise engagement. She also helped to source for some of the essential decorative elements which I was unable to find. This was the grace extended to me, even though I am not an official student of the school. As you can see from the photos, the ambience was nothing short of perfect.

On the "big day", I brought Rachel there, having expressed the urgency to visit the library as they would be closed for December. The proposal worked out well despite not following the intended script fully. I am grateful and indebted to the staff at BGST and hope to spend more time in this loving school and library in years to come!"



Rachel did say "YES!"

BGST-FES MOU

Another Partnership Proposal

1 FEBRUARY 2021

For many years now, the Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Singapore and BGST have worked together on events, such as sharing overseas guest lecturers. BGST faculty have been regular speakers at the Christian Fellowship teaching sessions and camps. This week saw our ministry partnership deepen on Monday, February 1 in the signing of an MOU formalising a new collaboration with International FES - East Asia ("IFES East Asia"). This will offer BGST's Certificate in Biblical Studies programme with distinct teaching arrangements specially catered for IFES East Asia regional staff workers.

IFES regional staff workers will receive affordable, foundational, and accredited theological education; nurture their spiritual lives; and this allows them to remain in their present ministry in their home country and learn at their own pace. With digital tools now available to bridge country divides, BGST accepts this opportunity and responsibility to serve the wider Asian Christian community with our Blended Learning modes of education.

There will be an initial cohort of 12 staff workers from neighbouring countries such as Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, and they will begin with HE101 Biblical Hermeneutics.

The signing of the MOU was a happy occasion graced by Lisman Komaladi from FES. Joining us on Zoom videoconferencing was Annette Arulrajah, the IFES East Asia Regional Secretary, and Jungho Kim.



If you would like to support this collaboration in any way please do contact [Mr Quek Tze-Ming](#)

FEB COURSES

NT102 NT Foundations 2

STARTS 16 FEB 2021

Rev Dr Oh Boon Leong

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/137

NT221 Gospel of Mark

STARTS 17 FEB 2021

Mr Quek Tze-Ming

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/142

ID217 Theology of Food

STARTS 18 FEB 2021

Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/135

MM102 Christians in a Disruptive & Digital World

STARTS 18 FEB 2021

Dr Lai Pak Wah &
Dr Tan Seng Kong

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/141

CO213 Developing Micro-skills in Counselling

STARTS 20 FEB 2021

Rev Song Cheng Hock

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/136

CE104 Teaching Children in the 21st Century

STARTS 23 FEB 2021

Mr David Leong

Info & Registration
bgst.edu.sg/course/142

BGST.EDU.SG/COURSES

2021

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BGST.EDU.SG/EVENTS

2 Mar

WEBINAR

LEADING IN THE NEW NORM: EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP INFORMATION SESSION (REPEAT)

Register at bit.ly/EWLsession

7, 14,
21, 28
Apr

EWL
CERTIFICATE

(M1) EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP

Module 1: Leadership in the Workplace
Lecturers: Dr Jeremy Gwee & Mr Michael Low

Timings: April 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 7:30pm - 10:00pm

Information & Registration at bgst.edu.sg/engage

24 Apr

PUBLIC
LECTURE

WORKPLACE DISCIPLESHIP IN A POST- PANDEMIC WORLD

Speaker Dr David W. Gill

Register at bgst.edu.sg/events/details/223

LEADING IN THE NEW NORM

SATURDAY

2

MAR 2021

10:30AM-12PM

FREE INFORMATION SESSION
ON WORKPLACE LEADERSHIP

INFORMATION SESSION

INFO ON EWL



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BGST OFFICE CLOSURE FOR CNY

BGST Office will be closed from the Eve of CNY 11 February 2021 to Monday 15 February 2021 (in lieu of PH on weekend).

Contact us at our BGST Hotline **8525 3289** by sms or whatsapp if you have any enquiries during this period.

WE ARE HIRING!

BGST is looking for an Administrative Assistant.

More information can be found in our **[Career Opportunities page](#)**.

Give yourself an opportunity to extend love to that special
someone this Valentine's Day with

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feb-mar

FACULTY SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

DR LAI PAK WAH



20-21
MAR

MT CARMEL BP CHURCH

Sermon on Mark 15:1-15

23
MAR

NTU CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Ministry in a Digital World

MR QUEK TZE-MING



21
FEB

ZION BISHAN BP

If this is of God... (Acts 5:12-42)

28
FEB

ZION BISHAN BP

Board of Deacons (Acts 6:1-7)

DR KWA KIEM KIOK



14
FEB

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

Gospel v Religious Ministry
Galatians 4:8-20

5
MAR

SCGM BREAKFAST MEETING

Asian Theology

20
MAR

SINGAPORE LIFE CHURCH

Sermon on Mark 10:32-45

DR PHILIP SATTERTHWAITE



7
FEB

PRINSEP ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

21
MAR

BETHESDA CHAPEL

28
FEB

PRINSEP ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

28
MAR

BETHESDA CHAPEL

MR LEOW WEN PIN



6
FEB

ZION BISHAN BP

Workshop: Why the Church Should
Include Persons with Special Needs

27
FEB

PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH

Workshop on Special Needs

7
FEB

SINGAPORE LIFE CHURCH

Sermon on 1 Peter 2:18-3:8

5
MAR

METHODIST CHINESE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Seminar on Mental Health "Finding Your Place" Programme

21
FEB

CHANGI BETHANY CHURCH

Inclusion: God's Design for the Church

21
MAR

LIVING HOPE METHODIST CHURCH

Sermon on Special Needs

**Help BGST grow to achieve
its vision of training the
whole people of God!**

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2021

WINDOW TO BGST



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