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Website: [www.berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com) Email address:beritabethelung@gmail.com **ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ**

*My* ***F****aithful prayer partner/s in the* ***F****aith and in the defence of the Gospel* (Phil. 1:5, 7)

**Time Stops for no Man, it Marches on –**

**[The Old Year Concludes Today and the New Year Commences Tomorrow],**

and for all that **M**atters, Time stops for no Woman either. If you miss the opportunity in time, when that momentary second pops up, it equally as fast, pops out of view – good or bad, it is gone! For some, it may reappear but it may not be exactly a replica as it may appear in numerous other forms and it is unlikely to be the same. For one, when time ushers a person through the portals of death, that marks the signal of no return. Gone is everything that the deceased embodies or accomplishes – it came into the world with nothing, it takes away nothing and this is the only similar thing (if at all we may regard it so) though it may leave behind many things and they may be good or bad.

The stark question that every living person on this earth must face is, “Are you ready?”

Amos passed God’s very pertinent advice to His people on earth, “*Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: And because I will do this unto thee, ﻿****Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel****.*

The rich fool in Luke’s Gospel was not ready, but he behaved as if he was; thus, he boasted,

*And I will say to my soul, ﻿Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and ﻿be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, ﻿this night ﻿﻿thy soul shall be required of thee: then ﻿whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

The rich fool was well prepared materially and provided for himself a physical prosperity; but then spiritually he was ill-prepared for the time when he would just leave this world and take nothing with him – he just did not know and could not know when! Are we ready?

*There’s a last day com­ing by and by (by and by),
When from things of earth and friends we hold so dear,
We must part re­joic­ing, or with sad good­bye;
Oh, be rea­dy, for the day is near!*

In the last three months alone over ten (including those older and others even younger) peers of mine, bade me *Au Revoir*. And in a couple of months, I shall attain a **double eight** figure in my age with my wife trailing not far behind. As I approach this “golden” age, my prayer is that the Lord will bestow me with a double portion of His Spirit’s blessing even as Elijah blessed Elisha with a double portion of his gifts and blessings – *it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee****, let ﻿a double portion of thy spirit be upon me****.*

It seemed like yesterday that we celebrated New Year and Christmas 2024, and aged an additional year to be what we are today. Yet we are about to bid farewell to it and tomorrow all of us will be one year older and hopefully, one year wiser too. Many of my contemporaries could be one year weaker physically but for some others (bless the Lord for them) may not only maintain their strength but also retain their ageless vigour. Indeed, blessed are those… *that wait upon the Lord* ﻿﻿(they) *shall ﻿renew their strength;*

 *They shall mount up with wings ﻿﻿as eagles;*

 *They shall run, and not be weary;*

 *And they shall walk, and not faint.* Isa. 43:31

Above all things else, may God’s Spirit be mine, and my wife’s, as together we strive past our mid-eighties, even as Caleb asked for the mountain to conquer when he reached eighty-five: *And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, ﻿as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel ﻿wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I am this day ﻿****fourscore and five years old.***

***Now therefore give me this mountain****, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how ﻿the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said.* Josh. 14:10, 12

I am not sure what the Lord’s Mountain is ahead of me. The number **8** scripturally emphasises spiritual renewal and blessings focusing on divine transformation with a double eight to ensure a double portion of blessing with what is ahead. Indeed, my wife and I are looking forward to this double portion of the Lord’s blessing!

Last fortnight I just had a taste of a double portion of His blessing. My oncologist surgeon and my cardiologist registered me for an endoscopy and colonoscopy because I was complaining of long-term bloating problems that rendered me great discomfort even before a meal, not to mention, after it as well. In addition, I was swaying from side to side in my wobbling walk with a tendency to fall whenever I got up from a prone position because of my postural hypotension. When my endoscopy was due, my blood pressure reading shot up to 140/70 while my pulse rate went down to 41. It gave a scare to the specialists (just when I thought it was they who were scaring me!). Immediately, I was sent for an ultra sound scanning and an ECG test. By the time the results came back, miraculously both readings returned to normal, and the two scopes were carried out. Indeed. the consequent readings and the scopes were clear – a Double Double Blessing from the Lord!

From tomorrow onwards, not only would I have a Double Eight Blessing in age, but also A Double Blessing for my wife and I to be possibly Doubly Blessed with being Great Grandparents - a second time; the first was with the present of the cuddly Shiloh a few months ago, and the second, trustfully a few months from now – this is indeed a Double Blessing from the Lord. It is more than that as we have been gifted with a great-grandson, and now we are looking forward to welcoming a potential great-granddaughter.

So unlike, and how contemptible of those in the WOKE generation today (!), who claim to have woken up to their rights to play God and denounce His creation of a male and female at birth, and for them, as parents, to exercise their rights to determine the child’s gender according to their fancy; or worse, even to the extent of whether they want the baby or terminate it at birth! The so-called WOKE (awakened?) parents insist on their rights to decide on these matters while ignoring the rights of the child to live! What an abomination! Could this new-found “Custom” lead to a Double Curse from God?

The third Double Blessing from the Lord last month was the occasion to celebrate two anniversaries at a Japanese Restaurant with a very loving and dear couple of ours for as long as we can remember. Yes, then, we were able to celebrate their Golden Anniversary while with us it was our 61st Wedding Anniversary (having celebrated our Diamond last year). These days it is difficult indeed to come across couples being able to celebrate such anniversaries together. The Lord has been good, very good to both of us with His Double Blessing.

There is also the Double Blessing of Receiving from the Lord’s Saints and Giving to His Servants. Paul reminded the Christians: *I have shewed you all things, how that ﻿so labouring ye ought to ﻿support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, “****It is more blessed to give than to receive.”*** (Acts 20:35) In this respect, I have indeed been doubly blessed of the Lord.

Finally, I want to thank the Lord for Doubly Blessing my teaching ministry for Him in being able to return to two assembles in Penang to minister to the saints there after a lapse of nearly two years because of the Covid Scare. For Sungai Nibong Gospel Hall, the last time I was there was on 13 June 2021 and invited back on June 18, 2023; likewise, the last time I was at Island Glades Gospel Centre was on October 9, 2022 but I have been invited back on 16, 23 March 2025. I think in both cases the Oversight was very kind and considerate of my health (mainly physical movement) problems to allow me to take leave. Now that they have discovered that indeed the Lord has been blessing me doubly, so I am back. Thank you, dear assemblies for your love and consideration.

In mentioning the above, I have yet to return to two other assemblies on the mainland since the stoppage of the ferry service for motor vehicles. My last visit to Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre was on 11 July 2021 and to Butterworth Gospel Hall was on 12 June 2022. I am not sure when the Lord will give me a Double Blessing to visit these two assemblies again by restoring the ferry service for cars to the mainland as I cannot drive the long distance over land and bridge to these two destinations. The Lord’s timing is still the best.

Thus, my meetings for next year are as follows (DV),:

|  |
| --- |
| February |
| 2 | BRGH | **Chinese New Year - Year of the Serpent** |
| March |
| 2 |   |   |
| 9 |   |   |
| 16 | IGGC | The Role of the Godly Woman - I Cor. 11:1-16 |
| 23 | IGGC | The Celebration of the Lord's Supper - I Cor. 11:17-34 |
| 30 |   |   |
| April |
| 20 | SNGH | Resurrection Sunday - "It Pleased The Lord To Bruise Him" (Isa.53) |
| 27 | BRGH | The Rebuilding of the Temple – Ezra chs. 4-6 |
|  |  |  |
| May |
| 4 | SAGH | Jesus' Prophetic Discourse - Mark 13 |
| 11 |  |  |

The Lord indeed is good for all these Double Blessings.

And now may my wife and I take this **O**pportunity and **O**ccasion

To Wish All of You and your Family

**A Double Blessing** from the Lord Himself

**A Double Blessing for**

**A Prosperous (Josh. 1:8; Psa. 1:3) and**

**A BOUNTIFUL NEW YEAR…**

**With a Double Portion of Prosperity in the Coming Year: -**

1. **Josh. 1:8** – *This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but ﻿thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for* ***then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt ﻿have good success****.*
2. **Psa. 1:3** – *And he shall be ﻿like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That bringeth forth his fruit in his season; ﻿His leaf also shall not ﻿wither;*

***And whatsoever he doeth shall ﻿prosper****.*