

Amidst this roaring tide of COVID-19 pandemic, I am inspired by this poem "Invent Yourself and Then Reinvent Yourself" by Charles Bukowski.

INVENT AND REINVENT

Invent yourself and then reinvent yourself,
don't swim in the same slough.

Invent yourself and then reinvent yourself

And

Stay out of the clutches of mediocrity.

Invent yourself and then reinvent yourself,

Change your tone and shape so often that

They can

never

categorize you.

Reinvigorate yourself and

accept what is

but only in terms that you have

invent

and reinvented.

Be self-taught.

And reinvent your life because you must;

it is your life and

its history

belong only to

you.

I really love the words “invent” and “reinvent”. They speak to me about the changing of mind-sets, perspectives, moving out of comfort zones and forging ahead. When applied, it will give birth to new transformation.

As I reflected, despite things coming to a standstill during this pandemic, yet many of us are actively involving in “inventing and reinventing” ourselves to move along without flouting the Circuit Breaker restriction.

I rejoice to see the various teams of St Andrew’s Cathedral staff (pastoral team, IT team and the numerous groups of church members) “reinventing” by collaborating and using technology to reach out to members of the church through the online services, bulletins, broadcasts and ZOOM.

I can imagine that every event requires months of preparation to gather, train, and practise.

Presently, we can’t even meet physically. In a short time, the weekly service team is able to gather and encourage different groups of people to collaborate together and present the service.

Through the online broadcast, it enables the whole community of the church to unite, work and share. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Psalms 133:1

I thank the Lord during this troubling time: it brings much comfort and joy to see members of the church reinventing to celebrate the unity we have in Christ.

The desire to keep up with the social interactions also encourages the elderly to adapt and use new technology to keep in touch. This is very heart warming. Our social visitation group leader, Auntie Sooh Lan is an excellent example. Despite her age, she is willing to take up the challenge and join in the social visitation group weekly meeting over ZOOM. Indeed, she reinvented herself to stay current!

The prohibition of social gatherings during the circuit breaker has been difficult. We miss our weekly dinner gatherings with the family and visiting our grandchildren very much. Our family, however, accepts this situation, adapted and “reinvented” our communication using video conferencing.

DEAR LORD JESUS,
Teach me to offer you a heart of thanksgiving and praise for your blessings and the daily experiences of my life. Please help me to change my outlook and attitude to be joyful so that I can learn to give thanks to you in all circumstances of my life In Jesus Name I pray,
AMEN.

Both my husband and I are thankful to be in touch with our children virtually and to view the photographs of our grandchildren shared by our sons and daughters-in-law.

This year, Mothers’ Day had been special for my family as it was the first Mother’s Day for my 2 daughters-in-law, Shermin and Emily. No doubt we could not meet but we presented our signature dish, braised Pork Belly (Kong Back Pau) through Grab delivery so that our three families could celebrate together virtually.

I am thankful for delivery services such as Grab. Without them, we would not be able to celebrate by sending the food to my sons.

Many times, I have taken things for granted and forgotten that God is behind every single blessing. The Lord is teaching me!

“It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

And to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High;

To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,

And Your faithfulness every night.”

Psalm 92:1-2

May the Lord continue to fine-tune and loosen the hard ground of my heart to “give thanks, with a grateful heart”.

Timothea Loh with her husband and grandchildren

