

STAY AT HOME

Do the Right Thing

STEPHANIE & DANIEL ONG
11.15AM SERVICE

*“Even a sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of Hosts.” Psalm 84:3*

Government posters remind us to “*Stay at Home.
Do the Right Thing*”.

Over the last few months, the LORD has revealed His heart and shown me that this slogan echoes true also in our spiritual walk with our God.

The Psalmist writes in Psalm 27:4 -

“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, and to seek Him in His temple.”

What a beautiful prayer and expression of the Psalmist’s heart - to seek only one thing in life - to be in the presence of the Lord always.

This year has been defined by us dwelling in one place - our homes. And during this time, it was in the form of the LORD’s beautiful creation, two pairs of lovely olive sunbirds that the LORD revealed the truth and the beauty of constantly dwelling in His presence.

The first pair of olive sunbirds came to our balcony in February 2020, and busily started building their nest. They had chosen for themselves a corner of our balcony nearest to the entrance to our home, away from the sun and rain - a safe place to raise their young. Before long, the nest was ready and eggs hatched on 29 February 2020. The next few weeks, the pair spent much of the time feeding the two baby sunbirds and about a month later, the baby sunbirds were taught how to fly.

The joy for my husband and me was the pleasure of



watching this beautiful miracle of creation unfold - of new life, new birth and indeed, it brought home the Words of the Lord - that all creation shouts for the glory of our Lord.

But it also taught us a deeper truth - that at this time, as we stay home, we can choose to spend our time by counting down the days to the end of the circuit breaker, or we can choose, just like the olive sunbirds, to actively build our lives in the secret place of the



And if the birds know a safe place to lay their young, so we too are safe when we dwell in the presence of the Lord, and where new things are birthed in our lives, as we begin to understand the Lord's beautiful purpose and will that is unique for each and everyone of us.

As the Psalmist writes:

*How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty
My soul yearns, even faints for the courts of the
Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living
God*

*Even the sparrow has found a home and the swallow
a nest for herself where she may have her young - a
place near your altar.*

LORD Almighty, My King and My God.

*Blessed are those who dwell in your house, they are
ever praising you.*

Psalm 84:1-4

LORD and in His presence, and to yearn for and dwell in the presence of the Lord - to seek Him in all that we think, we do and we say.

And as we dwell, as we begin to unlock the joy and beauty of being in the presence of the Lord, new things are birthed in our lives spiritually as well. For my husband and me, this has been in the form of birthing a prayer group to pray for the nations, as well as birthing, together with our fellowship group made up of believers from different backgrounds to pray and seek the welfare of the community and distributing more than 20,000 care packs to date to the foreign workers and vulnerable community, all packed in one another's homes.

Sometime at the end of March, the first olive sunbird pair and their young flew from the nest they created, but we were surprised that about a week later, a new pair of olive sunbirds came, found their way to the abandoned nest, and started "renovating" the nest. As I write this, the new pair has just welcomed a new baby a few days ago. It is as if God is saying, through His creation, which speaks of His glory - watch the birds - they know where to lay their young - at the altar of the Lord of Hosts. And be active in building a home in my Presence always.

What a wonderful revelation through creation.

Indeed the poster "Stay at Home. Do the Right Thing" for me, echoes true in our walk with the Lord. Stay in His presence. It is the right and true thing we can do.

O Father, how I long to be in your presence.
How lovely are your dwelling places.



Stephanie
& Daniel Ong

Prayer:

*Father, we long to be in your
Presence and to seek your face.
We thank you for the promise that
as we praise you, and give you
thanks, and seek your presence
daily, that we will be blessed. Help
us to discover that in your presence,
there is fullness of joy, that in your
presence there is no more fear,
and that as we seek you first, you
will add all things, and birth new
things.*

*Father we long to be in your
presence, that is where we want
to be. Help us constantly thirst for
you.*

Amen.