



Welcome to Network Church

歡迎來到網絡教會

Photo Taken: Mark Eddison

Trusting in God's Providence & Living with Eternity in Our Hearts

相信上帝的旨意並在我們心中永恆活著

Network Church

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'Providence' means God's divine care, guidance and direction over us.

“旨意”是指上帝對我們的神聖關懷、引導和指引。

‘Eternity in our hearts’ (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

“將永生安置在世人心裡” (傳道書 3:11)

▶ “God has set eternity in the human heart”

“上帝在人心中設立了永恆”

▶ We are created to live for a bigger purpose, as part of God’s Story to bring heaven to earth.

我們被創造是為了一個更大的目標而活，作為上帝故事的一部分。就是將天堂帶到地上。

▶ God’s purposes for our lives are often far wider and greater than we can imagine!

上帝對我們的旨意往往比我們想像的更闊更大！

True Story #1: Esther in the Bible

真實故事#1：聖經中的以斯帖記

- ▶ Esther lived during the reign of King Ahasuerus (486BC - 465BC). The Persian empire extended from India to Ethiopia over 127 provinces.

以斯帖活在亞哈隨魯王（486BC - 465BC）統治時期。波斯帝國從印度延伸到埃塞俄比亞，橫跨 127 個省。

- ▶ Esther lived about 100 years after the exile to Babylon in 587BC - about 3 generations.

以斯帖活在公元前 587 年, 大約是猶太人在被流放到巴比倫後 100 年
~~大約 3 代人

- ▶ After the Persians overthrew the Babylonians, they had allowed the Jews to return to their own land, but many chose to remain in Persia. Esther lived in a pagan environment, and kept her Jewish identity secret.

波斯人推翻巴比倫人後，曾允許猶太人返回自己的土地，但許多人選擇留在波斯。以斯帖生活在異教環境中，並保密她的猶太人身份。

Theme: Trusting in God's Providence

主題：相信上帝的旨意

- ▶ **God is not mentioned at all in the Book of Esther.**
整本以斯帖記中完全沒有提到上帝。
- ▶ **There's an invitation to read the story looking for signs of God at work.** 邀請你閱讀這個故事同時在尋找上帝工作的跡象。
- ▶ **The story is full of 'coincidences' and ironic reversals.**
這個故事充滿了“巧合”和諷刺性的逆轉。
- ▶ **It forces us to see God's purposes at work, but behind the scenes.** 它迫使我們看到上帝在幕後工作的目的。

Esther's Life: From Orphan to Queen

以斯帖的生活：從孤兒到王后

- ▶ Jewish orphan girl who was adopted and raised by her cousin Mordecai.

被表兄末底改收養並撫養長大的猶太孤女。

- ▶ The king decided to have a beauty pageant in the kingdom one day to select a new wife, and Esther was brought into the king's harem.

有一天國王決定在王國舉行一場選美比賽，以挑選新的妻子，以斯帖被帶進了國王的后宮。

- ▶ Imagine the horror and trauma of an orphan girl being forcefully taken from her home and forced to marry a pagan king!

想像一下，一個孤女被強行從家中帶走並被迫嫁給異教國王的恐怖和創傷！

- ▶ If a despotic ruler decides to choose a wife this way today, we call it a violation of human rights and even human trafficking!

如果今天一個專制的統治者決定這樣選擇妻子，我們稱之為侵犯人權甚至販賣人口！

- ▶ Esther's intercession wasn't just the 3 days of prayer & fasting. Esther's life and Jewish identity was an intercession.

以斯帖的代禱不僅僅是三天的禱告和禁食。她的生活模式和猶太人的身份也是一種代禱。

- ▶ Esther lived through the traumatic experiences in her life, trusted God and was positioned by God to save her people from genocide.

以斯帖經歷了她生命中的創傷經歷，但相信上帝，並被上帝定位為拯救她的人民免遭種族滅絕。

- ▶ What God does in us, God wants to do through us!

神在我們身上所做的，神要通過我們做！

‘Coincidences’ & Ironic Reversals

“巧合” 和諷刺性的逆轉

- ▶ There is so much evidence of God’s activity as the events unfolded after Esther’s 3-day fast.

以斯帖禁食三天后，隨著事件的展開，有很多證據表明上帝的作為。

- ▶ Today, we may call that ‘Coincidence’, ‘Chance’ or ‘Luck’, but it is God’s Providence - particularly over things we have no control.

今天，我們可以稱之為“巧合”、“機會”或“運氣”，但這是上帝的旨意~~尤其是在我們無法控制的事情上。

▶ Proverbs 16:33 - even the events that seem accidental are really ordered by God.

箴言 16:33 ~ 籤放在懷裡，定事由耶和華。

▶ Nothing in our lives is left up to chance when we are walking with Jesus!

當我們與耶穌同行時，我們的生活中沒有任何事情是偶然的！

True Story #2: David & Svea Flood

真實故事 #2 : David 和 Svea Flood

- ▶ Swedish missionaries who went to Africa in 1921 in what was called the Belgian Congo (renamed Zaire in 1971). Today this is the Democratic Republic of Congo.

瑞典傳教士於 1921 年在比利時剛果（1971 年改名為扎伊爾）前往非洲。今天是剛果民主共和國。

- ▶ N'dolera - the remote village they couldn't enter, so they built mud huts about half a mile from the village.

N'dolera - 他們無法進入的偏遠村莊，因此他們在距離村莊約半英里的地方建造了泥屋。

- ▶ Svea shared the Gospel with the one African boy who was allowed to sell them chicken and eggs twice a week.

Svea 與一名獲准每週兩次向他們出售雞肉和雞蛋的非洲男孩分享福音。

- ▶ After malaria and giving birth to a baby girl, Svea died at aged 27.

在患上瘧疾並生下一個女嬰後，Svea 在 27 歲時去世。

- ▶ David buried his wife, gave up the baby, rejected his calling and gave up on God to return to Sweden.

David 埋葬了他的妻子，放棄了孩子，拒絕了他的呼召，放棄了上帝返回瑞典。

- ▶ Baby girl was adopted by American missionaries, renamed Aggie, and grew up in South Dakota in the US.

女嬰被美國傳教士收養，改名為Aggie，她在美國南達科他州長大。

- ▶ In 1963, Aggie received a Swedish religious magazine with a photo of a white cross with the name “Svea Flood”.

1963年，Aggie收到一本瑞典宗教雜誌，上面有一張名為“Svea Flood”的白色十字架照片。

- ▶ Article was of white missionaries in N’dolera in 1921 - birth of a white baby, death of a young mother and the African boy who had gone on to lead his whole village to Christ!

這篇文章是關於1921年在N’dolera的白人傳教士~~一個白人嬰兒的出生，一個年輕母親的死，以及一個繼續帶領整個村莊歸向基督的非洲男孩！

▶ In 1963, there were 600 Christians in N'dolera!

1963 年， N'dolera 有 600 名基督徒！

▶ Aggie went to Sweden and found her biological father.

Aggie 去了瑞典，找到了她的親生父親。

▶ David Flood was now an alcoholic and a bitter old man at aged 73 who was angry at God.

David Flood 當時是一個酗酒和苦毒的73 歲的老人，他對上帝很生氣。

- ▶ Aggie brought news that their trip to Africa was not in vain. David finally came back to the God he had resented for so many decades. Weeks later, he passed away.

Aggie 帶來了消息，他們的非洲之行並沒有白費。大衛終於回到了他怨恨了幾十年的上帝身邊。幾週後，他去世了。

- ▶ In the 70s, Aggie and her husband attended an evangelistic conference in London where a report was given about the nation of Zaire. The speaker represented some 110,000 baptised Christians in his nation. This was the same African boy Svea had led to the Lord!

70 年代，Aggie 和她的丈夫參加了在倫敦舉行的佈道會，會上發表了關於扎伊爾國家的報告。這位演講者代表他的國家大約 110,000 名受洗的基督徒。這就是 Svea 帶領到主那裡的那個非洲男孩！

▶ John 12:24 “...unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

約翰福音 12:24 “...我實實在在地告訴你們，一粒麥子不落在地裏死了，仍舊是一粒；若是死了，就結出許多子粒來。”

Hope for the Nations 萬國的盼望

- ▶ When we look at the nations today - Hong Kong, Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan - it's easy to get discouraged.

當我們審視今天的國家~~香港、烏克蘭、緬甸、阿富汗~~很容易氣餒。

- ▶ But there is a bigger picture, and God is at work in ways we may not see.

但有一個更大的圖景，上帝正在以我們可能看不到的方式工作。

- ▶ Isaiah 46:10-11 - God sees the end from the beginning, and He is accomplishing His purpose, even through people who do not know Him.

以賽亞書 46:10-11 ~ 我從起初就宣告末後的事，從古時就述說還未作成的事，說：‘我的計劃必定成功，我所喜悅的，我都必作成。我把鷺鳥從日出之地召來，就是把成就我計劃的人從遠方召來。我不但說了，而且也要使我的話實現；我不但計劃好了，而且也必實行。

- ▶ Ecclesiastes 3:11 - “God has made everything beautiful in its time..... God has planted eternity in the human heart.”

傳道書 3:11 ~ 他使萬事各按其時，成為美好；他又把永恆的意識放在人的心裡；雖然這樣，人還是不能察覺 神自始至終的作為。

- ▶ Is God fair? 上帝公平嗎？
- ▶ Life is not fair, but we can trust that God is just.
生活是不公平的，但我們可以相信上帝是公正的。
- ▶ Ukraine has been the spiritual centre of Eastern Europe -
7 out of 10 evangelical churches in Russia have Ukrainian
pastors.

烏克蘭一直是東歐的屬靈中心~~俄羅斯10個福音派教會中有7個擁有烏克蘭牧師。

- ▶ The Ukraine war is stirring the heart of Europe in many ways. What is the bigger picture of what God may be doing? Is God preparing Europe for a spiritual awakening?

烏克蘭戰爭在許多方面都在攪動歐洲的心臟。上帝在做更大的圖景是什麼？上帝在為歐洲的靈性覺醒做準備嗎？

Conclusion 總結

- ▶ When God seems absent, when his people are unfaithful and in exile, has God abandon His promises?

當上帝似乎不在時，當他的子民不忠並被流放時，上帝是否放棄了他的應許？

- ▶ The book of Esther invites us to see that God can and will work in the real mess and chaos of human history.

以斯帖記讓我們看到上帝能夠在人類歷史的搞糟和混亂中工作。

- ▶ There is an eternal perspective we may not see in our current circumstances, but God is at work!

在我們目前的情況下，我們可能看不到永恆的觀點，但上帝在工作！

- ▶ Let's be willing to trust in God's providence, and be a people who live with eternity in our hearts!

讓我們願意信靠神的旨意，做一個心中有永恆的人！