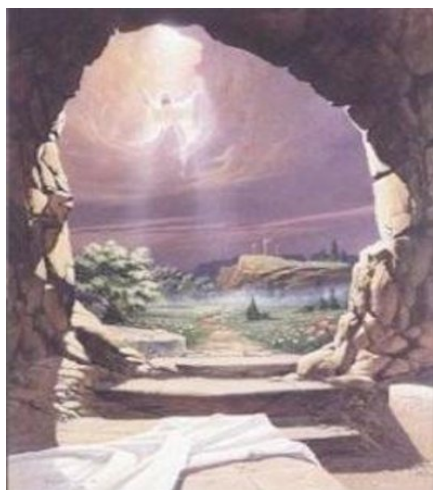


EASTER HOPE 復活節的盼望

Greetings in the most beautiful Name of our Lord Jesus, who has died and risen from the dead to secure for us an eternal salvation!

Time flies when life gets busy. I was hoping to get this letter out in April, but lo and behold, it is already the first day of May.

We have just celebrated Easter more than four weeks ago. I have been asking myself this question, 'What does Easter mean to me?' Undeniably, Easter is the most important day in Christianity. Our faith is full of hope because Jesus is risen from the dead. If we realize this eschatological or future reality, our lives ought to be dramatically different, evident in the lives of the disciples when they saw the risen Lord.



However, when I examined my life, why am I still struggling with the same issues, which are impeding my growth in Christ? What is wrong with this picture? I think the reality of Easter has not grabbed hold of me. Although I believe that Jesus has secured an eternity for me, yet I am still very earth-bound in all my decisions and concerns. Although I believe that Jesus is now the King over the universe, I am doubting that He is truly in control of everything. Afterlife, however beautiful and attractive it is, belongs after this life. Russell Moore was right on when he wrote, 'But Jesus doesn't promise an "afterlife." He promises us life - and that

everlasting...The moment you burst through the mud above your grave, you will begin an exciting new mission-one you couldn't comprehend if someone told you. And those things that seem so important now - whether you're attractive or wealthy or famous or cancer-free - will be utterly irrelevant.'

Honestly, we are still very affected by our appearances, whether we are too fat or too skinny; our wealth, squirming if our bank account falls below a certain amount; our status, constantly comparing our standing with brothers and sisters; our health, frequently fall into despair when our health show signs of deterioration. But Moore reminds me that all these concerns will become irrelevant from Jesus' resurrection perspective. And this is also my prayer for myself, and also for you, to view life from His perspective.

奉我們主耶穌最美麗的名向你問安！他死了，又從死裡復活，為我們成就永恆的救贖。

時間過得太快了，一轉眼，復活節已經過了四週了。我原本希望在四月寄出這封信，驀然回首，已經是五月的第一天了！

最近我一直問自己：「復活節對我有何意義？」無可否認，復活節是基督教最重要的節期，因耶穌從死裡復活，我們的信心就有盼望。假如我們真明瞭這末世未

來的事實，我們的生命理當完全不同，就像當年親眼看見復活的主的門徒一般。

但是當我醒察自己的生命時，我怎麼還是在一些阻攔我在基督裡成長的老舊陋習上掙扎呢？究竟是怎麼一回事呢？其實復活這件事實尚未奪取我的心。雖然我相信耶穌帶給我永恆，可是我仍然被這世界所拘束，我所關心、我的決定總離不開這屬世的視野。雖然我相信耶穌是全宇宙的主宰，我的舉動卻否定我的信念。永遠的生命（英文為 **afterlife**，即是「生命之後」）雖然美好、吸引人，仍是這場人生之後的事情。神學家穆爾說得對，「耶穌並未應許 **afterlife**，他應許永恆的生命...當你從墳墓內破土而出，你將開展開一項興奮無比的嶄新旅途，就算今天有人告訴你，你也不能明白。而那些你看起來非常重要的事，如吸引人的外表、財富、地位、甚至吞噬生命的癌症，都會變的毫無意義。」

老實說，我們還是重視自己的外表，是否太胖或太瘦；重視財富，當銀行存款低於某個數目時就會捉狂；重視地位，不斷偷偷將自己和弟兄姐妹來相比；重視健康，一旦狀況不佳就陷入恐懼。但是穆爾提醒我，從耶穌復活的角度來看，這些令我擔憂的事情都是毫無意義的。這是我為自己，為你的禱告，能從耶穌的角度來看待生命。

MORE RECORDINGS AND MIXING 錄音及混音

We are getting closer and closer to the completion of the new Mandarin worship CD. Up to this moment, we have recorded most of the instrumental tracks. I hope that we can finish the overdub in the coming weeks. Our praise team is practicing extremely hard. I am very touched by these brothers and sisters. In spite of their busy working schedules and church commitment, they dedicated many hours to rehearsals.

Please remember the remaining one recording session. Pray that everyone will give our best to the Lord. Please also pray for the subsequent mixing sessions, that God will grant me good ears to discern especially after many hours of listening.

國語敬拜光碟的製作越來越接近尾聲。迄今為止，我們已快完成所有樂器的部分，希望能在未來數週加入其餘的聲部。我們的讚美團隊非常用功，我為他們引以為榮，因為他們的工作學業雖然非常忙碌，他們仍參與每一次的排練。

請為最後一次的錄音繼續代禱，但願我們能將最好的獻給上帝。請為許多的混音代禱，求上帝給我靈敏的耳，聽了許多小時仍不會疲累。

PLANNING FOR 2013-2014 釐定2013-2014的計劃

Our US staff spent two days evaluating our ministerial work and planning for the next 18 months. We know that being in ministry for sixteen years, it may be hard to make changes. Therefore, we prayed that God will continue to give us fresh ideas and bold courage to follow Him wherever He leads.

We will be launching our Diploma program this August. Please pray that God will bring the right students to the program. We hope that our values and skills can be passed onto those serving in worship ministry.

We have also decided to cancel our String Camp 2013 this year due to insufficient enrollment. I believe this is also an opportunity for us to review the format and content of our camp. Please pray for wisdom to follow the Spirit's promptings.

北美的同工用兩天的時間檢討我們的事工，也計劃接下來十八個月的各項活動。

新心已經步入第十六年，任何的改變都非常不容易。但願上帝繼續賜給我們新的概念，以及剛強的心，在任何情況中都跟隨他的帶領。

我們也將在八月開始敬拜與音樂的文憑課程。請繼續祈求上帝帶領合適的學生來參與這項課程。我們的願望是將理念與技巧傳遞給那些參與敬拜事工的人。

今年的弦樂營也因報名人數不足而取消。這也讓我們有機會重思營會，我們的方式內容有否有待修改。請為我們求智慧，能跟隨聖靈的引領。

SEEKING BEAUTY 美的尋覓

I heard a radio show recently which explored and discussed the philosophical question "What is beauty?" In the program, there was a researcher who traveled to 17 countries asking people of different cultures and ethnic background their definition of beauty. The final answer is very surprising: many people's image of beauty consists of green pastures, blue sky, flowing water, distant mountains and winding paths leading into the horizon.



What is your image of beauty? I believe people respond to beauty, whether in the form of breathtaking scenery, or richly-layered music, or magnificent piece of artwork. We respond to beauty because our God is a beautiful God and He has instilled the yearning for beauty in our hearts.

What is your image of beauty? As a musician, my ideal beauty is found in music. When I listen to beautiful music, I felt I am transported to another realm. I believe God has placed within us a lost sense of beauty. As if we are looking through a misty window, our hearts yearn for beauty and rest and home. Let's not remain too long on the beauty of this world, for they are a mere reflection, a faint reminder of the True Beauty that God has prepared for us yonder.

My prayer for myself and also for you is: may our vision transcends our frail bodies, may our eyes behold the splendor of Him who sits upon the glorious throne and may our hearts yearn for things eternal. He has prepared for us a future that no eyes

have ever seen, no ears have ever heard, and no human minds have ever conceived. May this thought carry us through our days, be it filled with joy, or with heartaches. From the resurrection perspective, they are all irrelevant.

最近在電台聽到有趣的節目，探討美的哲學。節目中的一位學者踏遍了十七個國家，訪問了無數來自不同文化、種族的人，詢問他們有關美的定義。最後答案令人驚訝，因為許多人心目中的美，不外是綠油油的草原，蔚藍的晴空，潺潺的流水，遠方的群山，以及引向天涯蜿蜒輾轉的小徑。

你心目中的美是怎樣的呢？我深信人對於美一定有所回應，不論是歎為觀止的景致，或是豐沛動心的音樂，或是震撼人心的藝術作品。我們對於美有所回應，因為我們的上帝是美的上帝，他也將美注入我們的心中。

你心目中的美是怎樣的呢？作為音樂家，我以為最理想的美是音樂。當我聆聽美妙音樂事，我彷彿被帶到另一個時空。我深信上帝將我們所失去那種美的記憶放在心中，我們彷彿透過朦朧的窗向外張望，我們內心其實都渴望美、安息、家。讓我們不要被困於這世界的美麗，它們都不過是倒影，是上帝為你為我在彼岸所預備真正完美的一種影子。

我為自己，也為你的禱告乃是：但願心中的異象，超越軟弱的身軀；但願我們雙眼得以看見那位坐在榮耀寶座上的絢麗光輝。他為你我所預備的，是我們眼睛未曾看見，耳朵未曾聽見，心中也未曾想到的。但願這意念成為我們心中的力量，不論是喜樂的日子，或是心痛的歲月。從復活的角度來看，它們都是沒有意義的。

May the Good Lord bless you!
願上帝祝福你！

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*Lord, let me see from your
resurrection perspective!*



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