

## 2017 Thanksgiving Penning

Can we really give thanks to God at all times, including times when things go wrong, when life gets worse, and after turning over every shell on the beach, nothing beautiful can be found?

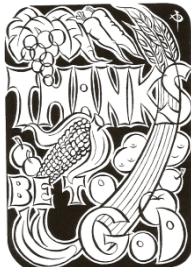
Well, if we care to contemplate on such question, at least we can give thanks to God for the fact that we still care to contemplate about God in our lives, instead of drawing our lives' circle too small to exclude God, so as to rely on limited human abilities to meet needs in life.

Recently a good friend came to visit me after we parted for almost a year. As we kept each other updated, she said: 'Isn't God a bit harsh to you, with your vocal cord problem, your finger injured by the trimmer, your being hacked and scammed, not to mention health issues for you and John to embrace?' I smiled and replied: 'Who doesn't get older and have a bit of problem here and there? At least I can still talk and sing, my finger is still intact, and I am breathing to deal with hiccups on our way. I cast my eyes further to realize God's unceasing grace: providing baby Amy (born almost orphaned and had to be resuscitated after 15 minutes without oxygen) with caring Foster Parents to lead her out from dire consequences of massive brain injury. I also saw God reviving human compassion in huge disasters like Huston floods brought by Hurricanes Harvey to Maria or BC record-breaking wildfire, or Mexican earthquakes. And I rejoiced and gave thanks to God.' She too smiled.

So, let's thank God for giving us glimpses of hope when it feels like life upon and is in its downturn, so that we care to offer all that God has placed within us: talent, time and treasure, to share Christ's healing, teaching and reclaiming of lives, serving God by loving all.

In Christ,

*Partha Das*



## 2017 感恩節牧者隨筆

「感恩」是每個信徒持守的「人、神關係守規」。可能有人會說：「當人處於逆境時，感恩之心可不是容易持守的啊！」要是我們會想及這問題，起碼證明我們不是輕易丟下人神關係置之不顧的人，這已經是值得感恩的事。

不久之前有一好友來訪，我倆已經沒有見面接近一年，當然是互道近況。她說：「不見一年，你的聲帶出事，又有指頭出意外，電腦又遭黑客入侵，更不要說到你們夫婦倆要繼續面對健康相關的事宜，似乎上帝給你不少磨鍊！」我笑著回答說：「世上那有人年紀漸長而不會碰上問題？但起碼我仍可發聲，指頭也沒斷，且有生命氣息來處理路上的抽噎。只要把雙眼放遠一點看，就看到那因父母遇上車禍要緊急剖腹出生的嬰兒 Amy 因出生時缺氧十五分鐘而腦功能受損，父親死亡而母親受重傷，卻得非親非故的歐文忠牧師夫婦相助而日有起息；又看到在重大天災於休斯頓、科羅拉多州、加勒比海群島、波多黎各等地，因風災帶來的大水災，或 BC 破記錄的林火，或墨西哥的大地震，卻叫許多人重拾憐憫和愛心而無條件給災民施與援手，可不叫我們喜樂而深恩？」我這好友也忍不住微笑著點頭。

且讓我們感謝上主叫我們甚麼時候都看到「希望的曙光」，好能全心獻上我們生命裏的一切來事主愛人，叫世人得主的醫治、教導和拯救。啊們。

主僕，

*李志敏*

