



The Hayes Sector Methodist Church

**"United in Love & Service
to God's Glory"**

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Living in the midst of our Instant expectations!

You flick a switch on the wall and a light comes on. You pour a few grains of processed coffee over hot water and *voila!* Instant coffee. Yep! You guessed it right, no need to go milk the cow, just grab cremora (coffee/ tea creamer) and you have milk in your drink. Into solid foods and you find two minute noodles, microwave dishes that take a fraction of the time to prepare. So, what else could one want for?

As good and helpful all human ingenuity and inventions are, we still as churches do not know how to create instant congregations. We are as yet struggling to entice/encourage others to know that spending more of their time in the service of God yields entry to heaven. Oh no! That's a lifetime commitment and right now, most of us *have better things to do*. Or so we think! The quick way with which things these days turn around has resulted in an impatience with the way of life that is faith driven. The urgency we have of *when will it happen* mentality has begun to rob us and the rest of the world of the thrill of awaiting to receive, at the right time appointed by God. Being a believer is in some circles seen as limiting self expression and personal growth. Emphasis is placed more on the "I" & what the individual can achieve and few concentrate on the greater good. A case in point is the current global economic meltdown.

There is nothing wrong with instant expectations so long as they do not blind us to the truth of faith and complete trust in God for our present and our future. Life may be made simpler by inventions and technological advances; yet life becomes more meaningful when its goal is to live to the will of Him who fashioned it in the first place!

Stay secure in your faith, ♥ Revd. Jongi.

Obedience... ‘even against the grain’.

Welcome: *Have you ever felt that you were alone in facing an issue, sticking to doing good and or standing up for another or for what you believe in whilst others went the opposite way? Share how you felt through it all.*

Worship: It is truly amazing and indeed the greatest gift to humanity that Jesus sought to stand firm, in spite of the odds, in the endeavour to save all of humanity. Give praise & thanks to God for what Jesus has done for us!

Word: Ezekiel 2: 1 – 8 & Mark 6: 1 – 13

- ✘ Getting up from an encounter with God demands dependence on the Spirit. Ezekiel, after witnessing the *living creatures and the glory of the Lord* in a vision, is weak, emptied of own will & is assisted by the Spirit to stand before God. This encounter & experience yields him to be obedient in proclaiming the will of God to the people in spite of their failure to listen. By the Spirit of God, Ezekiel became strong & able to exercise obedient proclamation. *Pray for God’s Spirit to give you true obedience!*
- ✘ Personal identity is intricately intertwined with understanding the call to obedience, yet it is the response to “being sent” by God that takes precedence. *Do you often find it difficult to do what the Lord demands of you because of your own identity?*
- ✘ Even Jesus’ human identity became a hindrance to the exercise of ministry in His home town (see Mark6:1-6a). In order to fulfil God’s calling upon us, sometimes we have to shake off how others feel about us and persist in living in obedience to God’s call. *Don’t let human manipulation rob you of the opportunity to live out fully your destiny in Christ.*

Our Witness:

- ✘ *Stand firm in your faith and stay focused to fulfil God’s will!*

Prayer: May my words Lord and my actions, speak of your amazing love, care, forgiveness and protection for all your created beings. Help me dear Jesus to value what you have made and to deal with everyone in gentleness... Amen!