

AUSTRALIA

“I have been a Martha for years and now I am literally compelled to be bedridden for days and likely for weeks or even months in the hospital. What is the design of God? I know not and in much solitary, God wants me to be still and know that He is God and that ‘He holds the future’. I need to learn the process of waiting and trusting in Him alone. Doctors and nurses could provide all the medical advice and care but only God can turn my situation, preserve the babe and I. When I was gripped with fear of uncertainty and the prospect of the worst scenario, I remembered that pastor gave himself to prayers in the midst of the turbulent flight. I then pleaded to God for deliverance, that He judge me not according to my sins. I prayed too that I would experience the quiet confidence that our pastor did. I thought of the woman with the issue of blood and how desperate she wanted to be healed. At such time, when I am losing blood, the meaning that life is in the blood became real to me. There is eternal life because of the efficacy of the blood of Christ.

I am thankful to pastor for sending Joel Chia and Simeon Chia to Australia. Their visits to the hospital to convey pastor’s messages with the love of Christ brought spiritual refreshment to my soul. I marvelled at the richness of the Book of Genesis. From creation to burial, we have them all in Genesis, teaching us how to live, how to marry, and even how to die. But if not for pastor who draws out the richness and principles therein, I could benefit nothing even if I read it a thousand times. Jacob wrestled and cried to God as he traced all his failures instead of his achievements. But my inclination is to overestimate myself. I was also struck by how pastor declared the end from the beginning—‘the Genesis of Revelation’, pointing to us the seed of the serpent which refers to the Antichrist and bringing the eschatological sense of the famine and flood. It was a solemn ending when Simeon highlighted the sovereignty of God in His election. Ultimately, it is the choice of God and not the choice of man. Yet, there is the responsibility of man.” *Martha Tan, Adelaide, 21 February*