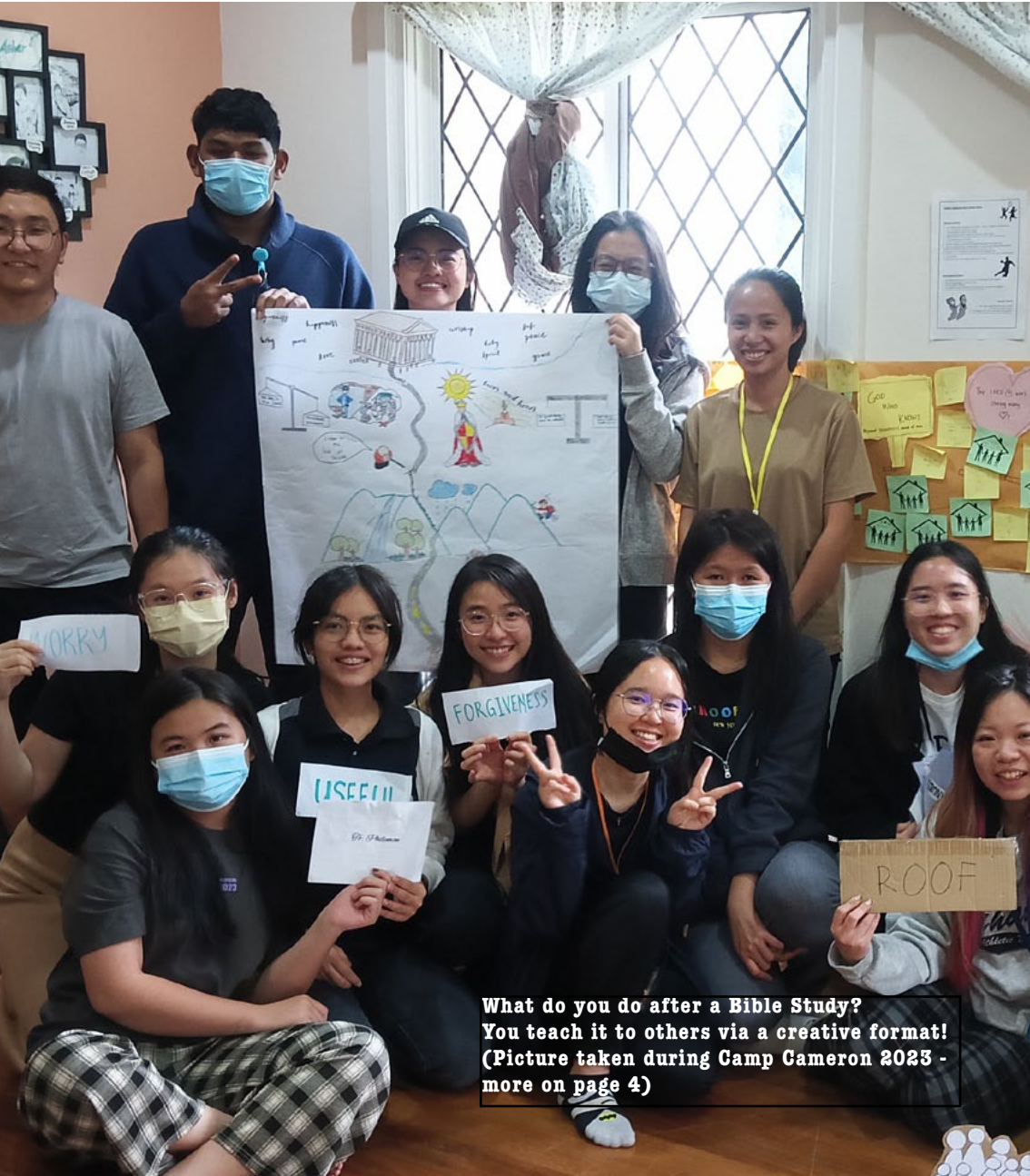




**What do you do after a Bible Study?
You teach it to others via a creative format!
(Picture taken during Camp Cameron 2023 -
more on page 4)**

Posture in time of Anticipation: **ADVENT**

[Reflections from Luke 1]

Transitions in FES

As I meditated on Luke 1, this question echoed in my mind: *“How will it be?”* When I first heard an announcement made by David Ho, our General Secretary, during a meeting about staff and ministry transitions starting in 2022, I was wondering, *“LORD, what would be the future of FES Malaysia? How will it be?”* We don’t know. But the good news is—God knows! The future is under His control. Yes, we should have plans and strategies, but the Lord is the one who determines the outcome. This truth shouldn’t make us fatalistic but encourage us to have faith and continuous trust in Him.

Different Responses

In Luke 1, both Zechariah and Mary received surprising news. The angel Gabriel said to Zechariah, *“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son...”* (Luke 1:13). Six months later, Gabriel announced to Mary, *“You will conceive and give birth to a son...”* (1:31). God, through Gabriel, already told them the future, but it was their responses that made the difference.

Zechariah asked for a sign, ***“How can I be sure of this?”*** (1:18a). Zechariah, a priest, should have trusted what God told him. His personal failure to believe God’s message mirrors some of my failures to trust God too. His disbelief rendered him mute until



the day his son was born. For months, he couldn’t say a word. The chastisement given to Zechariah is a reminder to us that although we are God’s children, when we start to trust in men and our plans, and not in God, He will discipline us because He loves us.

But Mary’s question differs dramatically. She asked, ***“How will this be?”*** and then added, *“I am a virgin”* (v. 34). She asked no sign for confirmation but the angel told her how it would happen, and she replied humbly, *“I am the Lord’s servant... May your word to me be fulfilled”* (v. 38).

I learned two principles from Mary about how should we anticipate what God will do in the future:

Posture in time of Anticipation: **ADVENT**

[Reflections from Luke 1]

#1 Regardless of the circumstances, changes, or transitions, God is in control.

I don't think Mary was being fatalistic when she said, "May your word to me be fulfilled." Her response was of humble submission. She believed God when Gabriel said, "*For no word from God will ever fail*," or as some translations put it, "*For nothing is impossible with God*" (v. 37). Mind you, **she doesn't yet know the cost of her obedience to God—it will cost her greatly!—but she trusted that He would see to the details.** Gabriel assured Mary that God Himself would make it happen (v. 35), and He had done the impossible while they were talking (v. 36). Throughout any transitions, there will be lots of uncertainties, but remember: God is in control.

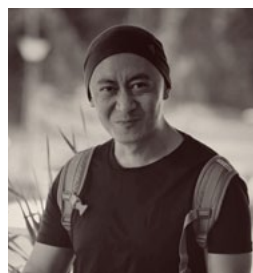
#2 Faith and trust are decisions, not feelings.

Undoubtedly, Mary was confused, greatly troubled, and afraid (v. 29–30). Yet she made a conscious decision to trust in the character of God. She didn't wait for her conflicted emotions to settle down, ask for details or for time to think over it. She took on the attitude of servanthood (v. 38a) and quickly submitted to God (v. 38b). The late Dr. Thomas Chung said with regard to God's will, "Say yes first and worry later." In the present, our feelings matter. But our feelings

are not the assurance of things we hoped for nor the conviction of things unseen; faith and trust are! By God's Spirit, they enable us to cope with challenges during transitions and provide strength for us to submit to God: "We are Your servants. May Your will to us be fulfilled."

I don't know what the future may hold for FES Malaysia, but I know Who holds the future.

As our partners in the ministry, would you join us in faith and continue to trust Him?



Richard anak Ramlee

Sarawak Region
Team Leader

Captured Moments

p4

This edition of Camp Cameron was held over a duration of two weeks. Hear what one of the campers has to say...

"Listening to His word is not enough, obeying is the tough part. Thank you to those who have become a blessing to me through the journey. I have also gained courage to initiate an official Christian Fellowship in my campus in the coming days."
Jaymaxcklien Bravayain Anak James (UNIMAS)

For video highlights, please visit - <https://fes.org.my/events/past-events/national/>



A rhythm of listening, reflecting and responding to the Word



Something new yet familiar and definitely something shared.



There can only be one winner but there need not be any losers.

Up Next!

■ **Central Region Exploration Trip**
26-28 April 2024
@Gambang, Kuantan, Pekan
& Kuala Lipis

■ **Graduates Retreat, Miri**
27-28th April 2024

Captured Moments

p5



"How can we be part of this call (as harvesters)?"

The theme in Iban: **Aram Ngetau** (Come Harvest Together)



The emcees

Sarawak 20th Anniversary 23 Sept. 2023

Heart warming and full of surprises! We were reminded of how God's grace carried us through the past 20 years of tertiary student ministry in Sarawak. Praise the Lord!

23 Sept. - 2 Oct. 2023

Students Together on Mission Partnership

For the first time, STOMP was held in Sabah even though we are still at the pioneering stage in this region. But it was so amazing and humbling to see how God put things together, brought the right people and at the right time too!

Serving the CF in a school in Pitas



Visiting a student's house in the undocumented community in Kota Kinabalu



East and West Malaysians, of different denominations and campuses, serving the locals together as ONE witness.



Team with Agape Hostel, Pitas



Bible Study with youths in a church in Pitas





What does God want me to do as a team leader?

p6

by Gabriel Fletcher*

In each season that comes, there will be discoveries to look forward to which can be pleasant or challenging. When it comes to uncertainties, I am the type of person who prefers to have all my grounds covered and have an additional back-up solution if things do not go according to plan.

The trap that I find myself at times falling into is having the attitude of pride. Because I have been serving for some time, there is a sense of having adequate knowledge to anticipate what is to come. **Thankfully, before I entered into this new season of my life, God had been drawing my attention to Psalm 131.**

Two things that stood out for me from this passage is the **posture to trust and the assurance that God is still present.** For someone who prefers to have things in my control, this is a lesson which I will need to learn daily by asking myself,

“

How is God at work through the different circumstances?

”



The Northern staff team with Ai Mie (left) & Grace (right)

Somehow, this reminded me of something I asked God earlier when I joined FES. I remember asking, “What are the things that You want me to do in this ministry?” The response I received was simple yet profound when I reflected on the book of Jonah.

The call was for me to be faithful in doing what God has entrusted to me. Likewise, in this new season of serving in FES.



**Gabriel took on the responsibility as the Northern region team leader since July 2023.*



Surrender & Obey

p7

by Chris Herbert

[Sulimutuk Estudiante Evanjeliku (SEE*) Team Leader]

*SEE = "Fellowship of Evangelical Students" in Tetun Language

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."
Then the angel left her (Luke 1:38)*

After receiving this news, the first thing Mary did was acknowledge that she is the Lord's servant. This helps us to realise that whatever we do, we do it for the Lord. Through Mary's response, we can learn two noticeable postures while waiting for what it is to come:

Posture of Surrender

A needed posture in every season that we face.

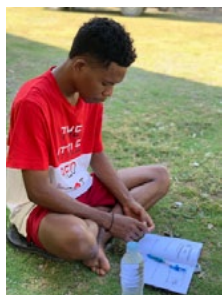
There were seasons when students were no longer hungry for God's word, tension arose between staff, a few of the students fell again and again, and the process of registering ourselves as a local NGO took longer than we expected. These were among the many things that happened, which called our attention back to God.

Sometimes we tend to control things but for Mary, she said, "May your word to me be fulfilled" is a posture of surrender to God.

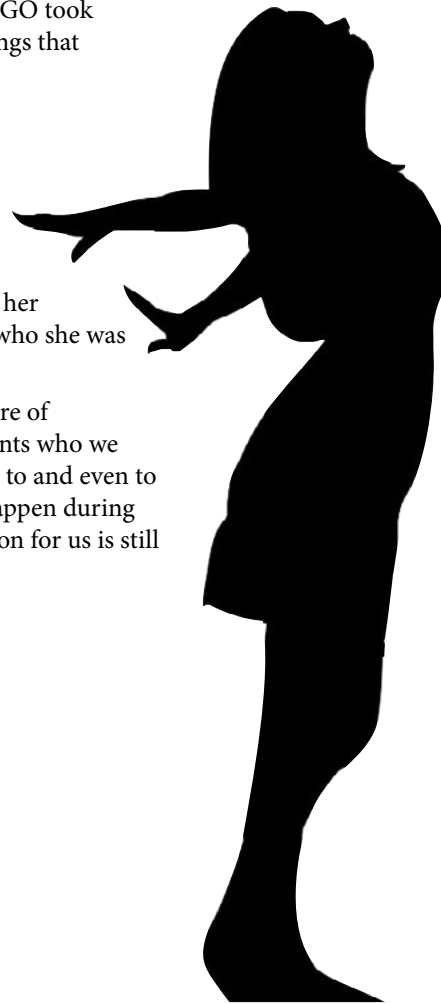
Posture of Obedience

When she replied, "I am the Lord's servant" Mary showed her humility in receiving the news while also acknowledging who she was and her obedience.

As servant of God, we need to continue to have that posture of obedience to God, to the ministry that we do, to the students who we journey with, to the small task that we have been assigned to and even to the calling that God has called us to. A lot of things can happen during the transition period or in a time of waiting but God's vision for us is still the same and He wants our obedience.



*Photo taken during SEE Selah Series
Student 'waiting' for God to speak.
This photo sums up our posture
during this season.*



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