自常

靈性成長就像一個使病人康復的療程——那些靠恩典得拯救脫離罪惡的人,逐漸長成神所 造的榮美形象(參弗四 24)。這個過程最關鍵的因素有二:真相與真理。所謂真相,就是人當 前真實的現狀;所謂真理,則是人應當變成的樣子,以及要變成那樣子所該做的事。若用醫病 來做比喻的話,得救的人就好像一個正在邁向完全康復的病人,為了確保康復,他就不能缺少 兩方面的認知:關於自己目前身體的「真相」(包括其病源以及其被破壞程度等),以及關於得 着健康身體的「真理」(包括接受醫生對他的治療,以及按照醫生的指示過一個健康的生活)。 基督徒的生命亦然,我們需要不斷地透過聖經的啟示來對照靈性目前的光景,認真看待自己的 真相,並接受和努力實踐神的真理。沒有真相,我們不能領會真理的重要;沒有真理,真相只 會令人絕望。很多基督徒靈命最可怕的光景,就是看不清自己的真相,也誤解了聖經的真理。 這就是本書書名所表達的「搞錯信仰」。

自從二〇〇七年開始畫信仰反思漫畫以來,筆者就越來越覺得單格漫畫是一個能有效地帶 出真相和真理的工具。單格漫畫往往具有諷刺性,呈現出一個荒謬的畫面,讓人一方面看了會



心一笑,另一方面卻感覺到很真實,有時候還會發現自己就是畫中人!在表達真理方面,雖然 漫畫無法像文字般詳盡論述一個主題,卻能夠一目了然地幫助讀者看出某個重點,並激發他們 思考。二〇一五年,不知道哪裏來的靈感,我開始創作兩格的漫畫,這兩格的漫畫一邊指出了 現實生活的「真相」(這些真相往往隱藏在華麗的外衣後面),另一邊則指出了聖經所啟示的 「真理」。出乎我意料之外,兩格的漫畫相較於之前的單格漫畫更受歡迎,得到世界各地粉絲熱 烈的響應。在出版社的建議下,我決定將這些漫畫出版成書,以作為基督徒靈性成長的反思材 料。中英對照是希望能夠造就更廣泛的讀者。

感謝上帝願意使用我,感謝粉絲們多年來的肯定和鼓勵,這一本書還要特別感謝一群朋友 和網友的協助(恕不在此列明),幫助我完成本書的英文翻譯。你們在主裏的勞苦都被記念了。 最後也要感謝讀者們的支持,願這一本書成為神使你們靈命更上一層樓的小小工具。

蔡頒輝

2016年2月於柬埔寨金邊

# Preface

Spiritual growth is a remedy for diseases in our spiritual lives. Spiritual growth leads us from accepting the saving grace of God to being transformed into God's holy image (cf. Ephesians 4:24). The process of spiritual growth requires the clear identification of the facts and the application of truth. While the facts lay out the reality of the situation, the truth is what we must lean on and live according to. Following the medical metaphor, being saved (i.e., accepting God's grace) is similar to patients who are newly committed to undergo medical treatment, in which the patients are made aware of their condition (i.e., identifying the "facts"). However, the awareness is just the first step, it is the completion of the prescribed treatments and rehabilitation that eventually brings them to have a healthy life again (i.e., applying the "truth"). The Christian life goes through a similar process. By measuring our lives against the standard in the Bible, we are made aware of the "facts" that point out how we are spiritually unwell. At this point, if the "facts" are our sole focus, an overwhelming disappointment may fill our lives as we realize how far we are from God's holy image. Therefore, it is important to grasp the "truth" of God to counter these "facts" that are revealed. Importantly, the "facts" and the "truth" are both essential. Without the facts, we will underestimate the importance of the truth (i.e., no one would seek out treatments if they don't realize they are sick). Without the truth, we could not handle the facts (i.e., hopelessness ensues when an illness is deemed terminal and incurable). The tragedy is that we as Christians often fail to recognize the facts about our spiritual lives, or we misunderstand the truth of the Bible. Together, these make up the "misunderstanding of the faith", which is what we hope to remind our readers not to end up in.

In 2007, I began drawing "faith-related cartoons". With experience, I realized that single-panel



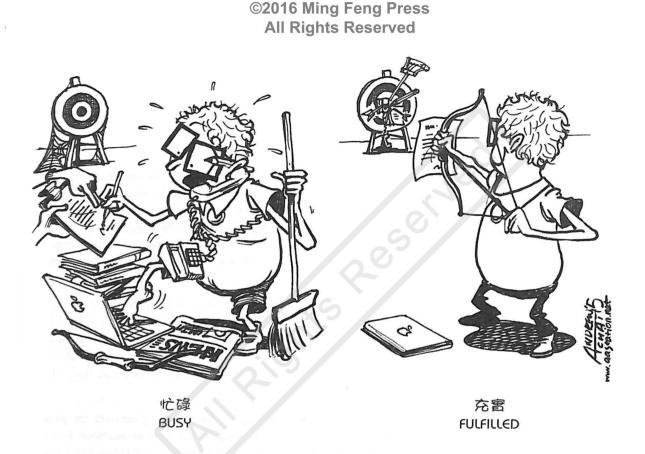
Seeking Truth Beyond Facts

comic strip is an effective tool for contrasting "facts" and "truth". These single-panel comic strips usually illustrate an irony: it would show a ridiculous situation, which makes people smile, while revealing a "fact" that relates to our spiritual lives. Although a comic is less suitable for depicting biblical truth in a comprehensive manner, it excels in assisting readers to draw a strong "take-home" message and stimulate more thoughts on the central message. In short, these single-panel comic strips were used as light-hearted illustrations to remind us the "facts" regarding our spiritual lives, and a tool to provoke thoughts and discussions regarding biblical "truth".

In 2015, I started drawing double-panel comic strips (I do not know what inspired me). One side of the strip reveals the "facts" of life, often hidden by an illusory façade; the other side of the strip points to a biblical "truth". I never thought these comic strips would find such wide appeal, with fans from all around the world. Thus, following the publisher's suggestion, I decided to compile these comics into a book to enable Christian readers to meditate on their spiritual growth. Furthermore, we hope the bilingual text will bring this book to a wide readership.

I thank God for using me, and I thank all my fans for affirming and encouraging me over the past years. I also want to thank my friends and cyber friends for translating the content in this book from Chinese to English. (I apologize for not mentioning each of you by name.) May the Lord bless them for all their hard work. Last but not least, I thank my readers for supporting me. I truly hope this book can be a tool that helps you reflect and improve your spiritual life.

Andrew Chai In Phnom Penh, February 2016



所謂充實,並不是用各種事務來填滿每一天的生活,而是去做與生命巨標有關的事。 Fulfillment isn't found in filling up life with many things but in working towards your goal every day.



# 忙碌與充實

求你指教我們怎樣數算自己的日子,好叫我 們得着智慧的心。 (詩九十12)

人為甚麼需要「算」?「算」是一種評 估。評估自己所擁有的資源(如金錢、時 間、精力),以及這些資源可以讓我們做多 少事。可見,「算」反映了一個事實:人生 的有限。正因為有限才需要算,若是無限就 不能算了。人生需要學會算,才能將有限的 年日用在有意義的事情上。所謂「充實」, 其實並不在乎人做多少事,而在乎是否使 用有限的資源去做最重要的事。

#### 思考問題:

- 1. 既然人生是有限的,甚麼事是非做不可 的?為甚麼?
- 2. 你每一天的生活過得充實嗎?

# Busy and Fulfilling

Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalms 90:12)

Why do people have to "number" what they have? "Numbering" is a kind of assessment. We assess what we have (for example, money, time and energy). We also assess what we can do with these resources. Therefore, "numbering" reflects the fact that life is limited. If life were infinite, we wouldn't have to do this. We have to learn how to do the numbering, so that we can use our limited time wisely. Actually, "fulfilling" does not describe the work we complete in terms of quantity, but refers to how the limited resources at our disposal are used to complete what is most important.

#### Reflections:

- In light of the fact that life is limited, what tasks are most worthy of our time and attention? Why?
- 2. Is your daily life fulfilling?



苦難是化了妝的祝福 TRIBULATION IS BLESSING IN DISGUISE 有時候 祝福是化了妝的苦難 AND SOMETIMES BLESSING IS TRIBULATION IN DISGUISE

### 祝福是化了妝的苦難?

肉在他們牙齒之間尚未嚼爛,耶和華的怒氣 就向他們發作,用最重的災殃擊殺了他們。 (民+-33)

「苦難是化了妝的祝福」,這句話大家應該不陌生,但有聽過「祝福是化了妝的苦難」嗎?其實這兩句話是同樣的道理:表面的事件,無論人看為好或不好,都不構成祝福或咒詛,關鍵是人對這些事件的回應。 苦難臨到,如果我們以正確的態度面對,它可以塑造我們高尚的人格。祝福臨到,如果 我們因此而被迷惑偏離了神和祂的旨意,終 將招致災禍。

# 思考問題:

- 你生命遭遇哪些苦難?這些苦難如何成 為你的祝福?
- 你生命經歷哪些祝福?你當如何防備它 們變成咒詛?

# Suffering in Disguise?

But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague.

(Numbers 11:33)

The saying "a blessing in disguise" is a familiar one. But have you ever heard of "suffering in disguise"? Actually, these two sayings refer to the same thing: no matter a thing seems good or bad, our responses decide whether it is a blessing or a curse. If we face suffering with the right attitude, it can mould our personality. However, if we are fascinated by blessings and deviate from God and His will, blessings will turn into suffering.

#### Reflections:

- 1. What has caused suffering in your life? How can suffering be turned into blessings?
- 2. What blessings have you experienced? What can you do to prevent blessings from turning into a curse?

# 別搞錯信仰

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漫畫往往具有諷刺性,呈現出一個 荒謬的畫面,讓人一方面看了會心 一笑,另一方面卻感覺到很真實, 有時候還會發現自己就是畫中人! 兩格的漫畫一邊指出了現實生活的 「真相」(這些真相往往隱藏在華麗 的外衣後面),另一邊則指出了聖 經所啟示的「真理」。基督徒的生 命也很需要這兩者——我們需要不 斷地透過聖經的啟示來對照靈性目 前的光景,認真看待自己的真相, 並接受和努力實踐神的真理。 Comic strips usually illustrate an irony: it would show a ridiculous situation, which makes people smile, while revealing a "fact" that relates to our spiritual lives. One side of the strip reveals the "facts" of life, often hidden by an illusory façade; the other side of the strip points to a biblical "truth". Both are essential to our Christian lives — it is important to grasp the "truth" of God to counter these "facts" that are revealed.

