

December 2, 2018

THE PATH TO BETHLEHEM



What Joseph Lacked

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² Now all this took place to fulfil what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”

which translated means, “God with us.” ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the LORD commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

A threefold package of courage:

1. Courage to accept _____
“being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.” (v.19)
2. Courage to accept _____
“And you are to give Him the name Jesus,” (v.21)
3. Courage to accept _____
“ He will save His people from their sins.” (v.21)

Are you new here?

Come to our Newcomers Lunch

For details, please refer to the highlights of the bulletin.

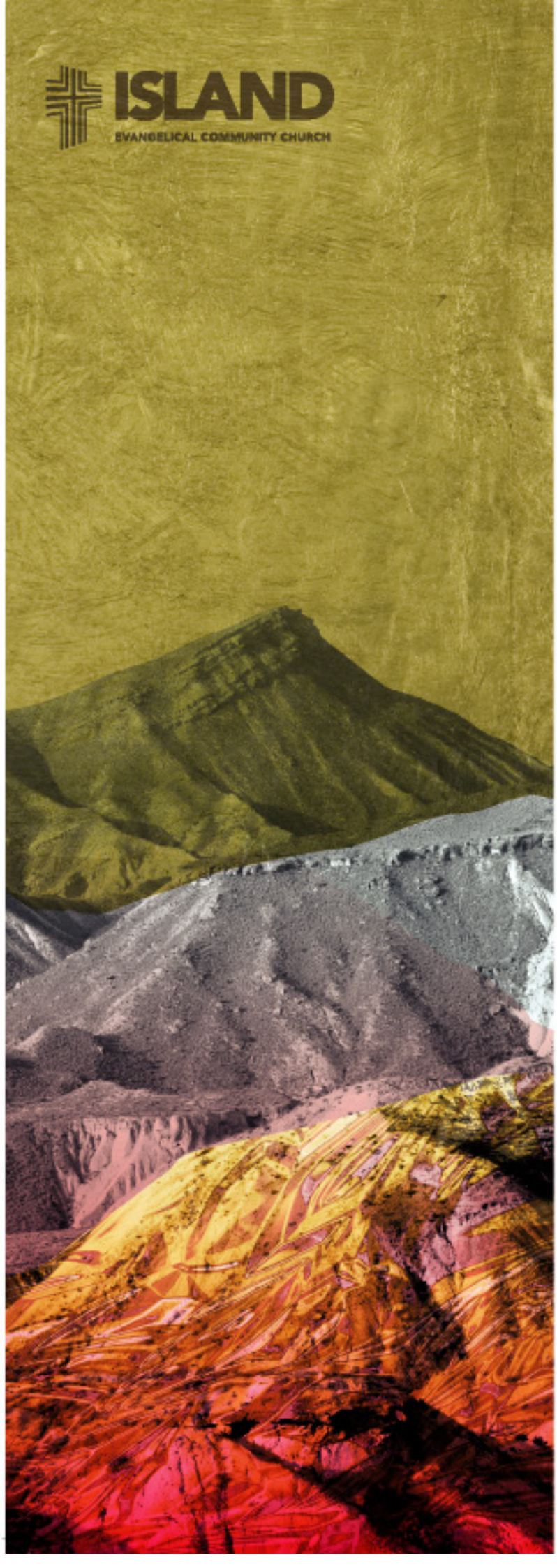
Let's get to know each other!

Name

Email

Phone

X
TEAR OFF THIS CORNER AND
PLACE INTO THE OFFERING BAG



HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY **NEWCOMERS LUNCH**

If you're new to the church and want to know more about Island ECC, please join us for Newcomers Lunch. 1:30 pm, 10/F Living Room.

TODAY **CHRISTMAS LOVE OFFERING**

Every year Island ECC blesses and advances God's work in Hong Kong and around the world. We do this through the Christmas Love Offering, which is one way we partner with a wide variety of organisations and individuals involved in innovative, courageous and faithful ministry. Pray about what you will give this year; your offering can be placed in the envelope provided.

TODAY **CHRISTMAS GIFT TAGS**

Christmas gift tags are now available at Quench for \$20 each. This will be a great way to share the Gospel and fun of Christmas!

TODAY **ISLAND ECC 2019 CALENDAR**

The 2019 Island ECC Calendar is now available! Get this as a wonderful Christmas gift for your family and friends. On sale at 1/F, 2/F and 10/F for \$50 each.

DEC 9 **KIDS CLUB FX: COMPASSION**

Come join us for Kids Club FX to learn all about compassion: caring enough to do something about someone else's need. 1:30 - 2:30 pm, 10/F Auditorium. Pick up free event tickets from 9/F Welcome Desk.

DEC 9, 16 **BAPTISM CLASS**

If you're interested in being baptised, please plan to attend both Sunday baptism classes, 9:30 - 11:00 am, 10/F Classroom. Sign up at islandecc.hk/baptism

DEC 19 **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT THE VILLAGE**

Come celebrate Christmas as a sisterhood. An event especially created for you to reach out to your girlfriends and female family members. With creative booths, touching testimonies and amazing finger food under a joyful atmosphere, we hope to share the love of God with them. Sign up today at any Connect Counter. 7:30 - 9:30 pm, 2/F Auditorium.

FEB 22-23 **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

GLS is a two-day leadership training event featuring world-class speakers via videocast as well as live local influencers. Learn how to maximise your impact and inspire those around you. Early bird discount of \$350 now available. To register, visit glshk.org

CLASSES & SUPPORT GROUPS

To register and for more information on the following classes, go to islandecc.hk/classes

JAN 6 **OLD TESTAMENT: TOO OLD, ODD, DIFFICULT?**

The Old Testament always presents a challenge to Christians because it seems so distant and distinct from the New Testament. Join Martin Radford in this 4-week class to obtain a panoramic view of the Old Testament and understand its relevance today. 9:30 - 11 am, 10/F Classroom.

JAN 13 **NAVIGATING YOUR FINANCES GOD'S WAY**

Come join this 8-week class to improve your life and finances by learning what God says and practical skills on handling money with Bryant Stone. The practical principles derived from over 2,000 Bible verses will also help you honour God. Registration begins on 9 December at 1/F Connect Counter. \$400 fee includes 2 textbooks. 11:30 am - 1 pm, 8/F Living Room. Limited seats.

OUTREACH

DEC 9 **MEN'S VIETNAM MISSION TRIP INFO SESSION**

The Men's Ministry team is returning for the 8th year to build the relationships with the local community in a Vietnamese village through contributing to the middle school facility improvement and family visit food programme. Join this info session to learn more. 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, 8/F Living Room. For more info, email men@islandecc.hk

DEC 23, 26 **CHRISTMAS PRISON OUTREACH**

This Christmas, we will be visiting male inmates on 23 December at Tung Tau Correctional Institution and female inmates on 26 December at Tai Lam Centre to share our faith through worship, testimonies and celebration. Join the combined mandatory training on 2 December, 1:30 - 3 pm, 8/F Living Room. For more info, email go@islandecc.hk

OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about the below opportunities, go to islandecc.hk/about-us/employment-opportunities. If you are interested, send your CV and cover letter to hr@islandecc.hk.

- Web Developer
- Senior Accountant
- Care Group Leadership Team Member
- Technical Support Officer
- Creative Video Producer

GENERAL OFFERING

LAST 2 WEEKS (Thousands HKD)

	19 Nov	26 Nov
Budget		
Giving	1,539	1,539
Variance	1,018	910
	(521)	(629)

YEAR TO DATE

(13 Weeks)

Budget	
Giving	\$20.0M
Variance	\$14.8M
	\$-5.2M (-26.0%)

BOLD FAITH FUND

Received	\$129.6 M	Outstanding Pledged	\$17.9 M
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GIVING TO ISLAND ECC

We encourage those who consider Island ECC their church home to prayerfully give a percentage of their income to the church on a regular basis.

Cheques payable: 'Island ECC Ltd' for Hong Kong tax receipts or 'Friends of Hong Kong Charities Inc' for US tax receipts.

Enquiries: giving@islandecc.hk