

EDD Article – February 2021 – Let Us Not be Found Wanting

On the first Sunday, 2nd February 2020, 7 brethren went to the door to door evangelism (D2DE) at Block 409 Yishun Ring Road and shared Gospel to a primary school boy, a domestic helper and a 55 years old man. We would then look forward to the following third Sunday for our next D2DE at Block 410 on 16th February. But when that 3rd Sunday came, we never went out to Yishun.

Never did we expect that we had to take the unprecedented step to suspend our D2DE not only at Yishun but also our Street Evangelism for the Esther and Christmas period due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic disease worldwide. That was also the first time that we had voluntarily deferred the D2DE for the safety of our brethren.

Our Singapore government enacted the COVID-19 Control Order and announced on 3rd April 2020 a stringent set of preventive measures collectively called the "circuit breaker" (CB). The one-month CB originally was to end on 4th May was extended to 1st June, and the three-phased approach to resume economic activities safely was further announced. Phase 1 ended on 18th June; Phase 2 ended on 27th December. We are currently in Phase 3 where we will remain until an effective treatment or vaccine is available. We became the first Asian country to receive the first batch of vaccine on 21st Dec 2020. Vaccination for healthcare workers started on 30th Dec 2020 and until as much of the entire population is vaccinated, the safe management measures will continue to be observed.

However, as of to date, no one knows yet when we could resume our D2DE activity. "A devastating second wave of coronavirus pandemic has forced reluctant governments back into lockdowns or restrictions and inflicted new scars on European economies ..." (The New York Times 4th Dec 2020). "Japan has expanded its COVID-19 state of emergency to seven more prefectures, covering the major cities of Osaka, Nagoya, Kobe and Fukuoka, in a bid to curb the spread of the coronavirus nationwide... Japan Medical Association ... in a separate news conference, said the government should not hesitate to consider a national emergency, noting that hospitals are already overburdened to the point of collapse." (The Straits Times 14th Jan 2021. "The whole of Malaysia, except Sarawak, is set to be placed under COVID-19 curbs, with six more states falling under the movement control order from 22nd January following an increase in the number of coronavirus cases there." (The Straits Times 19th Jan 2021)

There is a common saying that when one door is closed another door will be opened. There is always another way to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is not uncommon, during our D2DE, that we encounter a lonely person who seeks someone to talk to. At first, this person would listen to your conversation, once your Gospel presentation was done, he would purportedly ask some relevant question and our sincere brethren would be drawn into the discussion and persuading him to believe in Christ. Then followed by another crafty question and our unsuspecting brethren would then be pulled in further into the endless conversation that lasted for more than an hour. When we assembled for a debrief at the end of the day's evangelism, little did we realize that one of our brethren was unaccounted for and a search party was dispatched to disengage him from the prolonged sharing.

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"Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and without falsity) as doves." (Matthew 10:16 AMP)

The conduct of our brethren during the D2DE also plays an important part when sharing the Gospel. In fact, people tend to have a higher expectation of our behaviour when we proclaimed ourselves to be a Christian.

"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel." (Philippians 1:27 ESV)

We are extremely careful, when sharing the Gospel, not to be dragged into lengthy debate when we encountered people who hold to doctrines different from that of ours. We will move on to the next neighbouring unit once we became aware that they subscribed to "teachings that weaken the authority of the Scriptures, distort the teaching in the Scriptures, add to the Scriptures the thoughts of men, or put the Scriptures entirely aside." (War on the Saints - the basic principle for testing teachings by teaching spirits)

"Beloved, do not put faith in every spirit, but prove (test) the spirits to discover whether they proceed from God; for many false prophets have gone forth into the world." (1 John 4:1 AMP)

"Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name and driven out demons in your name and done many mighty works in your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from me you who act wickedly (disregarding my commands). (Matthew 7:22-23 AMP)

The day will come "then will the King say to those on his right, Come, you who have the blessing of my Father, into the kingdom made ready for you before the world was: For I was in need of food, and you gave it to me: I was in need of drink, and you gave it to me: I was wandering, and you took me in; I had no clothing, and you gave it to me: when I was ill, or in prison, you came to me. Then will the upright make answer to him, saying, Lord when did we see you in need of food, and give it to you? or in need of drink, and give it to you? And when did we see you wandering, and take you in? or without clothing, and give it to you? And when did we see you ill, or in prison, and come to you? And the King will make answer and say to them, Truly I say unto you, Because you did it to the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:34-40 BBE)

Let us not be found to be one of those who "... because you did it not to the least of these, you did it not unto me. And these will go away into eternal punishment; but the upright into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46 BBE)

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