**R797\_Rumination for May. 10, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The “New Normal” Life** berita-bethel-ung.com

The **T**ext: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a* ***new*** *creation; old things have passed away;*

 *behold, all things have become* ***new****.* II Cor. 5:17, NKJV

The **T**hots:

Intro. No matter what happens after COVID-19 (if ever there is going to be an end to it) life will never be the same for every one in the community – no one will be able to live the normal life he or she was used to before the onslaught of Covid-19. Leaders have announced that all should resigned to a “**New Normal” Life**.

 This **New Normal** is **N**othing **N**ew. It is indeed the expected **N**orm as advocated in the Bible –

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a* ***new*** *creation; old things have passed away;*

 *behold, all things have become* ***new****.* II Cor. 5:17, NKJV

1. **It was so with Moses** – From a **L**owly **S**hepherd to a **L**eading **S**piritual **L**eader.
2. His Former **N**ormal Life was a **S**hepherd looking after the **S**heep. Exo. 3:1

*Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law…and he led the flock to the backside of the desert.*

1. In his Encounter with God: He was Appointed to **S**ave Israel from **S**lavery in Egypt. Exo. 3:10-21

*Come now…I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth My people…out of Egypt.* 3:10

1. His Later “**N**ew **N**ormal” Life:
2. He **S**uffered with the people when they **S**inned against God and were punished. Num. 14:33, 34

*Your children shall* ***w****ander in the* ***w****ilderness forty years, and bear your* ***w****horedoms,*

*until your carcases be* ***w****asted in the* ***w****ilderness.*

1. But it was through Moses that Israel got to know how to **W**orship God and obey Him:

Through him, God made known His **T**en Commandments, His **T**abernacle and His **T**enets. Exo. – Deut.

1. **It was so with Saul –** From a **P**ersecutor to a **P**reacher of the Church.
2. His Form**er** **N**ormal **L**ife as Saul –
3. His **P**roud **P**edigree: Phil. 3:5-8

 ***C****ircumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews;*

*as touching the law, a Pharisee;* ***C****oncerning zeal,* ***persecuting the church****; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*

1. A **P**ersecutor of the Church (Christians).Gal. 1:13, NKJV

 *My former conduct in Judaism…I* ***persecuted the church*** *of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.*

 *I persecuted this Way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.* Acts 22:4

1. In his Encount**er** with Jesus, he **S**urrendered himself to the Lord’s **S**ervice. Acts 9:3-6

*He came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: and he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?*

*And he said, Who art Thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutes…*

*And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?*

1. His Lat**er** “**New Normal”** Life as Paul. Cf. Acts 13:9
2. From a **P**ersecutor, he became a **P**reacher and a Teacher of the Church. I Tim. 2:7

 *I am ordained a preacher, and…a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.* Cf. II Tim. 1:11

1. He was **P**repared to **P**ut aside his **P**ast and **P**ress forward to a new **P**rospect. Phil. 3:13-14

 *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do,*

 *forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

 *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

1. At the end of his “New Normal” life, he was ready to meet his Lord. II Tim. 4:6-8

 *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight,*

 *I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.*

1. **It was so with the Samaritan Woman –** From a **L**ying **S**amaritan **W**oman to a **L**iving **S**oul **W**inner**.**
2. Her Former Normal **L**ife – A **L**iar who had **L**ived with five husbands! Jn. 4:16-18

*Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said,*

*I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:*

*For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.*

1. In her **E**ncounter with Jesus, she was **E**xposed, and Jesus was revealed.

*The woman saith unto Him, Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet.* Jn. 4:19

*The woman saith unto Him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ:*

 *When He is come, He will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am He.* Jn. 4:25, 26

1. Her **L**ater “**N**ew **N**ormal” **L**ife – She became a **L**iving **W**itness to the **S**amaritans. Jn. 4:28-30 *The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,*

*Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?*

*Then they went out of the city, and came unto Him.*

 Even as we **R**emember the Lord this day, let us **R**evere Him as He is **R**evealed to us.

*God, we ask your richest favor on the work we seek to do;*

*May we gladly share clean water and your living water, too.*

*May we see the face of Jesus, and how far your love extends,*

 *In the ones we call our partners — no more strangers, now our friends.* C. W. Gillette

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R797**

1. The Government of Malaysia’s Movement Control Order (MCO) to constrain the spread of COVID\_19 from March 18 and extended five times till 12th May and the possibility of further extension, has brought great changes to the lifestyle and routine of every Malaysian. This is now referred to as the **New Normal.** Whether they like it or not, it will never be the same style of living as before anymore. With this New Normal, people are more aware to stay at home unless necessary. Even if they go out, they are warned to keep social distancing of one metre apart and clean their hands with soap frequently. People are advised to avoid close proximity, close conversation, crowded places, confined spaces, and even shaking of hands to greet one another. For the period, even church meetings are forbidden or restricted and many go on line.

Frankly my life has also been changed somewhat and I have to adapt to the Norms of the New Normal in my routine living. I wrote about my New Normal Week-days and the Lord’s Day in my latest Berita Bethel. Here is an extract from it:

*Beloved Prayer-Partners in the Lord,*

*Here I am typing out this Berita while listening to the just received very impressive, soul-inspiring Prom Praise Virtual Concert at Royal Albert Hall by the All Souls Music Team. It was broadcast free to a limitless audience for the first time in its over 40 years history. The video recording was WhatsApped to me on 2 May by a dear sister in Christ. It would never be my dream to step into the Royal Albert Hall to listen to such a grand presentation of Christian Hope music and praise. Even if I could, I would never be able to purchase a ticket. Now it is virtually free. Over 200 musicians were contributing from their individual homes all over the world, orchestrated by the conductor to present a memorable concert in a single synchronised presentation on line! This is the New Norm in Technology whether we like it or not. And I am in there now! And this is my second virtual visit to this majestic hall of fame! The URL is:* [*https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2020/virtual-prom-praise/*](https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2020/virtual-prom-praise/)

*Is this going to be the “New Normal”…?*

*My* ***New Normal Norms Now*** *apply generally to two routines – one for the six week-days and another for the Lord’s Day. We shall start with the* ***New Normal Norms for the Week-days.***

*As with today, my New Normal week-day starts with the wake-up call of the twittering of birds up to 7.00a.m. or later. Then, instead of my morning walk at the Botanical Gardens I go for my morning horse-riding for 100 trots on my landing upstairs. After that, it is boiling water for my breakfast. While waiting for it to boil, I have my Morning Manna and a breath of fresh air for the Lord’s guidance for the day, for family and friends and for whoever needs intercession. After breakfast, it is out in the garden to enjoy and trim the colourful blooms, to cut whatever veges that may be needed for lunch and to weed the unwanted grass that grows wild aplenty.*

*If needed, once a week I go out on a new venture that has become a norm – marketing and shopping for the needs of the home as required of the head of the house to do it. It has been a good adventure since day one - and well-learnt, for which I get high marks from my loving wife who, with her culinary skills, converts all that I bring home into sumptuous dishes for which I am the beneficiary. When in excess, neighbours and others get to share the goodness even as they share theirs with us.*

*While out, I take the opportunity to purchase extra things for my Parkinson-stricken sister-in-law who stays in a Home. Since MCO we have not been allowed in to see her personally. I just have to hand over what she needs to a nurse who comes to the gate to get it from me. Thus, now and again, my wife and I make sure that she has something that she enjoys apart from the routine food in the Home.*

*From the garden, it is now back to the computer to catch up with correspondence and above all, reflection and meditation on the Word to prepare for my Ruminations for the week. Then, if there is a speaking assignment for the weekend, it is Research into the Word to prepare for the study ahead.*

*After a nap in the afternoon, it is either back to work on the Word, or to catch up with some domestic homework in tidying up things. There seems to be no end to this. The more we do, the less we find we have done, with so much the more still waiting. Sigh! At night, it is rest and recreation.*

*This Norm then has become the New Normal for me for the Week days.*

<http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/beritabethel/bethel2402.doc>

How is your New Normal for your Week-days? **REFLECT**

1. What is your New Normal for the Lord’s Day Now that you are not allowed to meet

in a church gathering? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *What are the* ***N****ew* ***N****orms that you have set for yourself in this* ***N****ew* ***N****ormal Life?*