



campusBiblestudy

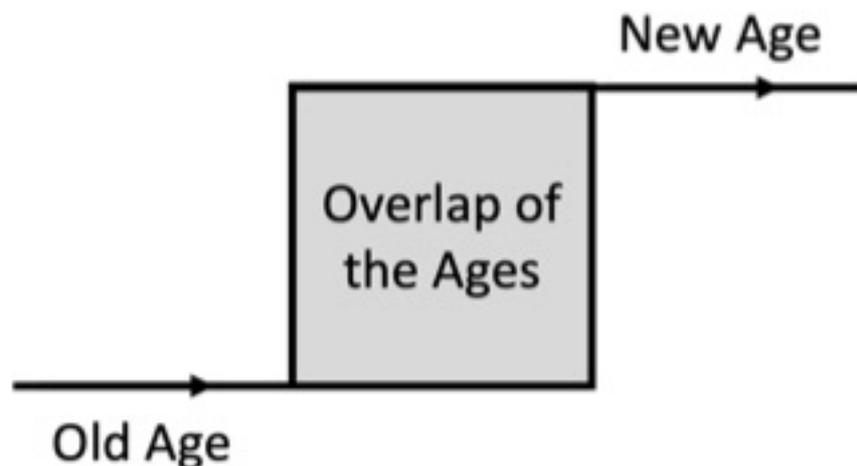
Proclaiming the crucified Christ as Lord of all

16 March 2020

Dear CBS Family,

I am writing this important email as the fear of COVID-19 grows in our community and on our campus. I hope to encourage you to keep trusting Jesus and also to let you know about numerous changes to CBS ministries that will begin this week.

One of the diagrams I like to show regularly in Bible Talks is affectionately called ‘the overlap of the ages’ diagram. It reminds us that people who have been saved by Jesus live in these last days as citizens of two ages; this present age of world history that is frustrated by sin, suffering and death; and the new age of Christ’s Kingdom where Christians have been already raised “spiritually” with Christ.



As we face the uncertainties of life in this present world with COVID-19 causing fear and anxiety, it is good to let God’s word remind us of the real security Christians have with Christ in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 2:4-6 puts it beautifully:

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Please keep praying that those who trust Jesus might rest in the security of being united with Christ in the heavenly places and please pray for those who don’t yet have a relationship with Jesus, that in the midst of Corona Virus fears they might find true security with Jesus.

Having security in Christ is a great blessing, but as we continue to live in this present age in community with many others more vulnerable to COVID-19 than ourselves, we need to make loving decisions about how we continue to operate CBS ministries at this time. So while meeting in person is an integral part of Christian fellowship, our present climate suggests it is more loving and wise to move to an online context for our regular times of teaching and fellowship.

For this reason **we are transitioning all Campus Bible Study Ministries to online platforms this week (Term 1, Week 5)**. We are committed to these ministries continuing to be places of encouragement, growth, and evangelistic outreach, though their format is changing. Some details for each area of ministry are laid out below but feel free to direct further questions to any of the CBS staff.

Finally, please keep praying for God's mercy upon our world in light of this present crisis. Please pray that God will grant wisdom to those who lead and make decisions in our own country and across the world. And please pray that we might love our neighbours in very practical ways and in the most important way with the good news of the gospel.

In gospel service.

Carl

The Bible Talks and Bible Study Groups

Starting in week 5, we will livestream the Tuesday at 12pm Bible Talk. Please join us to learn together, and text in your questions and comments (0444 51 99 31). A recorded version of the talk will become available later that day. We will also livestream an extended Q and A on Thursday at 12pm - again, tune in and join the conversation. Livestreams and recordings will be available at Campus Bible Study facebook page.

Faculty Bible Studies will also become online gatherings, with the aim for all groups to meet virtually from week 6 (if not earlier). You will hear more from your leaders about what this will look like, but our recommendation is to try using Cisco Webex (<https://cart.webex.com/sign-up-webex>) as a free and flexible platform.

While there is sadness in these changes, they also open new opportunities, and we are thankful that we can still see, hear and speak God's words to one-another! Let's not stop doing this even as things change around us.

Core Essentials

In Core Essentials for the rest of this term, we'll continue putting together a theological picture of what Christian ministry really is, through the lens of 'disciple-making'. And we'll do this through a mix of pre-reading and online seminars. Each week Tony will electronically distribute a short paper (10-15 mins of reading at most) with some questions to think about, and then we'll conduct a 35-40 minute online seminar using Cisco Webex—where we can talk through the material and interact about it.

For this week (Wk 5), Tony will distribute the paper via email by 6pm tomorrow (Tuesday 17 March), and then we'll conduct the online seminars on Wed 16 March at 2pm and Thur 16 March at 2pm (i.e. the normal times for Core Essentials).

CBS Churches

Each of our church gatherings will be streamed online (e.g. Facebook Live). We expect Focus Cantonese Church to start meeting “virtually” this Friday (20th) and the other CBS Churches will begin “virtual” meetings this Sunday (22nd). All small groups are also strongly encouraged to meet online as soon as possible. Again, we suggest Cisco Webex Meet as a flexible face-to-face platform but understand some groups may have different needs.

Leaders from your church will be in contact with you about how you can participate in these online gatherings. These measures are an expression of our commitment to continue meeting together as God's people as the day of Christ's return draws near and are motivated by our desire to love others as Christ has loved us.

Mid Year Conference

At this stage, Mid Year Conference is still going ahead! The date of the conference will be Monday 18 - Thursday 21 May and we will no longer be having a residential MYC. That means no Merroo campsite - but it also means no Merroo food! ;-)

Despite the present challenges and uncertainty, we are hopeful that we can still pull off something that is both safe, prudent and beneficial.

The heart and goal of MYC will still be the same - learning and being challenged deeply from God's Word. The format will be completely reimagined - involving a digitally delivered experience.

Given the circumstances we are in, we will endeavour to make the conference as informative, effective and engaging as possible. We are in the process of working out the details and will provide more details as we know them.

We are pleased to announce that the topic this year will be Resurrection: Life A.D.

