

God tests my PATIENCE

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“I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU HAVE GONE, AND I HAVE CUT OFF ALL YOUR ENEMIES FROM BEFORE YOU. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed....” (1 Chr 17:8-9)

God is indeed a great God. Words cannot express my gratitude to Him. Indeed God has always been with my wife Carrine and me no matter where we go. More than two years ago, I had been praying for God's next step amidst my struggles at the workplace in Singapore. I committed it to prayer only to find that my plans are not God's plans. We can plan but it is He who directs our steps. His plans are higher than our plans and we need to fulfil His purpose in our life so that our paths be smooth. (Isa 55:8). Looking back, I have been in Norway for almost two years now and Carrine, almost a year. Daily, we live a life of prayer and praise. God has indeed sent us to the “Promised Land” of Norway – a land flowing with milk and honey where the working culture is entirely different. We could work on flexi-time as long as our work is up-to-date. I thank God for His grace and mercy.

Carrine and I never regretted our decision in making a bold step to leave our comfortable home in Singapore to embark on this challenging journey to Norway, the Land of the Midnight Sun and Northern lights. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a step. Each day, we thank God for loving and blessing us. We felt His favour and that was enough for us.

Fearing God more than people is one principle that my mom imparted to me. Fearing God is having a deep reverent

respect for Him, our Maker. Fearing God takes time – time when I will conscientiously look away from myself to focus on God. The devil persistently tried to keep me busy as a bumble bee. He deceives me into seeking God even later after I have accomplished all that I had set out to do. I came to a realisation that we need to revere Him in honesty. We need to face up to the fact that the world doesn't revolve around us but that our life is in God's Hands. This comes hard since my natural self wants to be the centre of my efforts. My talents? No, they are his. My money? No, it is also his.

However, revering God requires a certain amount of courage. Honestly facing up to God enables me face up to who I really am. The more we see God's holiness, the more we see our lack of it. The more we see His power, the more we realise our weaknesses. The more we comprehend the depth of His love, the more we realise the shallowness of our own.

Carrine and I decided to put our own fears behind us and stand on God's Promises knowing that He would provide for us even in a far distant land where one hardly sees the light. (Phil 2:19).

End of 2006, my Singapore office acquired the Norwegian company where I am currently working in. I was among three Singaporeans selected to be seconded to the Norwegian office. I was faced with a

challenging decision. Carrine and I had only been married six months and she could not join me in the first year as she was then working in Singapore.

However, Carrine, being the understanding spouse she is, encouraged me to take up this assignment, reasoning that it would enhance my career track record. Thankfully, my parents also favoured my decision to leave for Norway. Deep in my heart, I much prefer to be with my parents in Singapore knowing that their heart's desire is for me to be around them. I love my parents dearly and enjoy spending time with them.

This would mean spending weekends in Norway without my spouse and my parents, times I treasure so much. I thank God that we could skype weekly. My desire is to be able to do more for my loving parents. In life, there will always be sacrifices we have to make and this decision to go to Norway was, by far, my biggest sacrifice. To leave my loved ones back here in Singapore, for unknown challenges in a foreign land, was way beyond my comprehension. I committed my decision to prayer. I prayed like I have never prayed before; and somehow my heart was at peace with God. He revealed that He has great plans for my family and me.

