





**BERITA INTERN UNTUK ANGGOTA** DAN KOMUNIKASI BAGI KALANGAN **BISNIS DAN PROFESI KRISTEN** 

ICCC (INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) ADALAH MIMBAR DIMANA PESAN KRISTUS BAGI KITA DI ZAMAN INI DIJABARKAN, **DIBAGIKAN DAN DINYATAKAN** TERHADAP DUNIA BISNIS

#### NATIONAL BOARD

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- Membership/Mentori ng/ Network Simon Aditan
- Teaching Benjamin B. Juwono
- **Business Development / Micro-**Enterprise Efendi Sitorus
- Young Professional Maria Ellis Sitorus

#### from the derk of National Prevident



Sekarang kita hidup di zaman dimana teknologi, pengetahuan bertumbuh cepat menyokong manusia dalam segala bidang; kesehatan, pendidikan, peluang hidup, kesadaran hukum dan lain sebagainya.

Sadarkah saudara bahwa semua kemajuan dunia ini dikreasi oleh manusia yang telah jatuh dalam dosa? bagaimana kalau sebenarnya Adam tidak jatuh dalam dosa? Bukankah tekhnologi, pengetahuan dan pencapaian manusia lainnya akan jauh lebih berkembang pesat?

Dosa membawa manusia kepada kepada keterbatasan dan kebinasaan.

Dalam perumpamaan tentang Talenta di Matius 25:14-30, begitulah Tuhan menggambarkan diriNYA dan hal bagaimana Sorga adalah tempat yang sangat produktif, dan juga peran manusia sebenarnya!

TUHAN dalam Matius 25:14-30: Adalah Pribadi yang menuntut kepada hambaNYA untuk mengembangkan talentanya supaya produktif untuk KERAJAAN SORGA. DIA memberikan kesempatan yang sama, mengukur dengan tepat kemampuan kita dan memberikan rewardnya.

SORGA dalam Matius 25:14-30: Adalah tempat yang sempurna dimana produktivitas tidak pernah berhenti, disana kita tidak hanya menyanyi sehingga semua kebutuhan terpenuhi. Bisakah anda bayangkan yang masuk sorga saat nanti selain produktif semuanya pemaaf, tidak ada kecurangan, tidak ada dosa, kasih yang hangat...memuliakan Tuhan.

MANUSIA dalam Matius 25:14-30: Adalah subjek bukan objek, rekan sekerja Tuhan yang diberi tanggung jawab untuk maksimal dalam talenta yang dimilikinya tanpa kurang sedikitpun, sempurna dan maksimal.

Ditengah banyaknya pengajaran yang mengajarkan bahwa sebagai Duta Tuhan untuk hidup dalam kemakmuran, ijinkan diri kita untuk mengenal bahwa Rencana Tuhan bukan untuk kerajaan Kita, tetapi untuk kerajaan Sorga, Jika tidak demikian maka Paulus dan rasul-rasul lainnya akan menjadi konglomerat pada zamannya. Karena itu kita harus MELATIH DIRI melakukan dengan total apapun yang dipercayakan, berkat sudah pasti akan mengejar kita, jika kita tidak bisa melakukan dengan total, kita harus berani berkata tidak, dan memilih melakukan hal yang menurut kita lebih pantas dilakukan namun maksimal.

Hanya dalam hitungan hari lagi, kita akan mengakhiri tahun 2017, dan memasuski tahun 2018, biarlah kita habis terpakai untuk kerajanNYA melalui bisnis dan atau karier kita.

Seluruh National Board dan member ICCC Indonesia, mengucapkan :

#### "Selamat Natal 25 Desember 2017 dan Selamat Datang Tahun Baru 01 Januari 2018"

Terimakasih atas seluruh doa, donasi dan partisipasi anda untuk ICCC Indonesia (International Christian Chambers of Commerce) Sampai jumpa di edisi Tahun depan yang penuh dengan harapan dan Tuhan Yesus memberkati anda bersama keluarga dan bisnis pekerjaan Anda.

Umbu Pekuwali National President **ICCC** Indonesia www.iccc-indonesia.com

## **MEMBERS FORUM**

#### • MEMBERSHIP FEE

Bagi anda yang ingin bergabung dan member yang akan memperpanjang kartu keanggotaan anda untuk tahun 2018 agar segera menghubung Simon Aditan – V.P. Membership Domain (HP: +62816974647 atau email: <u>simonaditan@yahoo.com</u>

Annual Membership Fee masing-masing untuk tahun 2017 dan 2018 kategori Developing Nation menjadi Rp. 750.000 (tujuh ratus limapuluh ribu rupiah) dimana US\$ 50 dikirim ke Kantor Pusat di Swedia sebagai syarat dan kewajiban International Membership

Membership Fee dapat ditransfer ke rekening ICCC Indonesia atau FORUKIN dibawah ini, dan mengirimkan bukti transfernya dengan fax ke alamat yang tercantum pada halaman pertama kiri bawah dari Newsletter ini:

#### **Rekening Bank:**

#### **CIMB NIAGA BANK**

CabangSenen-JakartaNo.200-01-00012-00-0a/n : Forum Komunikasi Usahawan KristenIndonesia (FORUKIN).

### KUNJUNGAN KEPADA SENIOR MEMBER / FORMER OFFICER MR. MOHAN U. VASANDANI

Dalam rangka fellowship dan sekaligus menjenguk senior member / officer ICCC Indonesia, Bro. Mohan U. Vasandani, yang dalam proses recovery dari sakitnya beberapa waktu lamanya, maka beberapa anggota National Board ICCC Indonesia pada hari Senin, tanggal 20 Nopember 2017 melakukan kunjungan ke tempat tinggal beliau di Apartment OASIS, Senen, berikut beberapa liputan gambar:



Mohan U. Vasandani (berdiri) dan Tonny Soetjoadi (duduk)



Dari (ka – ki): Umbu Pekuwali, National President, Ridwan Naftali, Manimbul Luhut Sitorus, Efendi Sitorus, Mohan U. Vasandani, Tonny Soetjoadi



Eliezer H. Hardjo, bergabung untuk berfoto bersama

#### • KUNJUNGAN REGIONAL DIRECTOR ASIA KE AUSTRALIA

Dalam kunjungan ke Melbourne, Australia, pada tanggal Benjamin B. Juwono, Regional Director untuk ASIA PACIFIC, sempat bertemu dengan Mei Wan, National President ICCC Australia, untuk memperkenalkan TWL 2.0 model baru Transformed Working Life dan mendorong ICCC Australia untuk maju terus dan berkembang,



Benjamin B. Juwono dan Mei Wan.

 Kunjungan Regional Director untuk ASIA PACIFIC, Benjamin B. Juwono ke Singapore.

Dalam kunjungan ke Singapore, sempat berfellowship dan mengadakan pertemuan dengan Wilson Cheah dan Tommy Ghin untuk membicarakan Transformed Working Life, versi baru 2017 (TWL 2.0)



Dari ki – ka: Wilson Cheah, Timothy Ghinn, Benjamin B. Juwono.

Testimony

Wisdom

Inspiration



by <u>Jean</u>

These 7 Christian entrepreneurs have seen their businesses expand globally and become household names:

#### 1. John D Rockefeller

He was the founder of the Standard Oil Company, which dominated the oil industry. Rockefeller revolutionized the petroleum industry and set the standard for modern philanthropy.

He was a devout Christian who taught in Sunday school and supported many churchbased projects throughout his life. Rockefeller was quoted as saying "God gave me money", and he did not apologise for it. He followed John Wesley's principle of "gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can."

From his very first paycheck, Rockefeller tithed ten percent of his earnings to his church. As Rockefeller's wealth grew, his giving also increased, with most of his giving going towards educational and public health causes, as well as basic science and the art. He became the world's richest man and the

first American worth more than a billion dollars.

After taking into account inflation, he is often regarded as being the richest person in modern history.

#### 2. Tyler Perry

Within a few years, Tyler Perry went from being homeless to selling out theatres. Tyler Perry is an outspoken Christian who credits his success to God. In 2006, he established Tyler Perry Studios and in 2008 it moved to its current location – a 200,000 square foot studio facility situated in Southwest Atlanta, USA. In 2013, Forbes estimated his earnings at US\$78 million.

#### 3. Henry Heinz

Henry Heinz was a nineteenth century Christian businessman who founded the Heinz company 1869. Heinz based his business on Christian principles and proclaimed that his success was a direct result of his faith in God. Heinz was committed to bringing out the best in people and his company was credited for its fair treatment of workers and for pioneering safe and clean food preparation.

Today the Heinz company is worth around \$12 billion. It's most famous product is tomato ketchup, with 650 million bottles of Ketchup being sold every year.

#### 4. Cher Wang

Cher Wang is a Taiwanese entrepreneur who co-founded smartphone maker, HTC Corporation and VIA Technologies. Her late father was Wang Yung-ching, who was one of the richest individuals in Taiwan. Wang is a devout Christian who was quoted as saying that the Bible is "the best book about management practice". One of the most important things she has learned from the Bible is that a person must have a vision, otherwise he or she will be destroyed. The vision for HTC Corporation came during her early career whilst Wang was working in First International Computer. As she dragged

bulky, heavy computers to client offices, she knew there must be a better way of designing a computer that could fit in the palm of your hand. In 1997 she acted on that vision and HTC Corporation was born.

In May 2011, Forbes ranked her and her husband Wen Chi Chen as the richest people in Taiwan. Following some challenges with HTC's sales dropping in recent months, Forbes ranked her and her husband's as Taiwan's 13th richest people with a combined net worth of US\$2.5 billion in 2013.

#### 5. Sam Walton

Sam Walton was an American businessman and entrepreneur, best known for founding the Wal-Mart retail stores. With his strong Christian background based on ethics and hard work, Walton excelled in school, college, and business. Early in his career, he worked as a management trainee for J. C. Penney. In 1998, Walton was included in Time's list of

100 most influential people of the 20th Century and Forbes ranked him as the richest man in the United States from 1982 to 1988. Interestingly, Bill Gates only topped the list for the first time in 1992, the year Walton died.

#### 6. Strive Masiyiwa

Strive Masiyiwa is a Zimbabwean born who businessman founded Econet Wireless. South African based Econet Wireless is now a global telecommunications group with operations, investments and offices in more than 15 countries. A born again Christian, Strive Masiyiwa was quoted as saving that he reads his bible for at least 4 hours a day – if he's busy! He tithes 10% of his annual income to his church. Together with his wife, he personally pays the school fees for over 22,000 Zimbabwean orphans.

According to Forbes, as of November 2013, he has an estimated net worth of US\$600 million.

#### 7. Mary Kay Ash

Mary Kay Ash retired in 1963 after being passed over for a promotion in favour of a man that she had trained. She intended to write a book to help women in business. The book soon turned into a business plan, and in 1963, Mary Kay Ash began Mary Kay Cosmetics with a \$5,000 investment.

The founding principle of Mary Kay Cosmetics was known as the "Golden Rule", upon which the company's marketing plan was developed to allow women to advance by helping others to succeed. She advocated "praising people to success" and her slogan "God first, family second, career third" expressed her belief that the women in her company should keep their lives in the right balance.

Mary Kay was honoured as the number 1 leading female entrepreneur in American history.



## THE CHRISTIAN IN THE BUSINESS WORLD

By Pastor Charles Seet & Elder Tan Yew Chong

The Christian who enters the world of business will soon find himself at the mercy of the market forces, facing keen competition and many temptations: to cut corners, and to employ unethical means used by other successful businesses. As Christians, our concern in doing business should not be for the profits alone, but also that in the conduct of our business we will successfully maintain a good testimony for the Lord (cf. Proverbs 22:1).

In the first part of this article we had seen that a Christian can succeed in keeping his hands clean and testimony shining and still be blessed with sufficient profits, by applying biblical principles in managing funds and in his business partnerships. There are two more areas where biblical principles should be applied:

#### **Maintaining Fairness**

First of all, a Christian businessman must be honest and fair with all his clients. God takes a serious view of any attempt to defraud or cheat others. This amounts to stealing from others (cf. Leviticus 19:35,36; Micah 6:10,11). Thus, a Christian businessman should not intentionally sell defective products, or sell less than what is advertised of a product. Any promises made in a promotion or an advertisement must be kept. Advertisements should never exaggerate the qualities of the product or service offered just to expedite sales. One good test is – do you believe it yourself? If not – are you lying to your customers?

What about pricing? This depends on many parameters, like overhead expenses and market forces. In times of need some businessmen overprice a product which is a basic necessity in order to make exorbitant profits. Even though some people can still afford it, the poor will suffer. Charging unreasonably high prices to take advantage of a monopoly crosses the line into extortion, and destroys one's testimony.

The same principle applies to usury (charging people unreasonably high interest on loans). Exodus 22:25 – "If thou lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury."

This happened in the time of Nehemiah: because the majority of the Jews were too occupied with building the wall of Jerusalem to grow any crops, they had no choice but to borrow money from others to buy food. Those who had money to lend saw an opportunity to make huge profits by charging very high interest rates. The people ended up becoming heavily in debt to the extent of selling their houses and even themselves into slavery to pay their greedy creditors. They earned a stern rebuke from Nehemiah for this! (Nehemiah 5:1-10) To avoid this, always ensure that your prices are not oppressive but affordable to those in need. Let your business bring blessing rather than suffering to others!

The second group of people that a businessman needs to be fair and honest with are his own employees. He must pay his workers fair wages for the amount of work that they do. The market rate is a good yardstick for what is fair. He should be careful not to show favouritism to certain employees and deprive others what is due to them. He should also be careful not to exploit his employees by delaying or withholding all or part of an employee's salary or by making an employee do more work than what he is being paid for, e.g. forcing him to work on his day off. According to Leviticus 19:13, to withhold salary payment even overnight is sinful in God's sight!

A businessman should also be honest with government authorities, especially when declaring his taxable assets. Some may find a legal loophole against the spirit of the tax laws that enables them to pay less tax than required. But Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21) Even if a method is legal, it may not be acceptable in God's eyes.

A Christian businessman must also be honest in his dealings with competitors. Christ said that in this world, we should be *"wise as serpents, and harmless as doves."* (Matthew 10:16) A businessman should not run down rival companies with false accusations or steal their company secrets.

Another sin that some businessmen are often guilty of is bribery. This gives them an unfair advantage over others. Exodus 23:8 says, *"And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift*  blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous." Although bribery is vigorously prosecuted in Singapore, it is a normal way of business in some countries around us, tempting businessmen to practise it when they are overseas. But whether it is receiving a gift from a customer to gain a favour from you which you would otherwise not have granted, or giving a gift to a government official to overlook red tape or help you jump the cue, the Bible is very clear about this practice: "A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment." (Proverbs 17:23)

Even in Singapore, we should always be mindful of our intentions – as there is often a thin line between a gift to express gratitude, a commission for services rendered, and a bribe to gain unfair advantage. The test is to ask two questions, "Would the decision or judgement have been the same without the gift? and "Would both giver and receiver be happy for the gift to be known publicly?" If you cannot answer 'Yes' to both, it is a bribe.

If you want your organisation to be based on Christian principles, make sure that all your business decisions comply with God's standard of righteousness, truth and honesty. Proverbs 11:3 says, *"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."* 

#### Honouring God

1 Samuel 2:30 – "for them that honour Me I will honour, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."A Christian businessman is a steward of all the wealth that God has entrusted to him, and he must regard God as the Head of his business. Hence he must be willing and ready to do whatever God has commanded him to do in His Word.

Since the Lord has commanded that His day is to be kept holy, a Christian should not open for business or require his employees to work on the Lord's Day. He should trust God to make up for all the business that he may lose by doing this. Church history records that as early as 200 AD, Christians laid aside business on Sunday, even though it was not a non-working day then and the rest of their pagan competitors continued to do profitable business.

If a Christian has to be overseas on Sundays because of business trips, he should look for a fundamental church there to attend. If he cannot find a church he should gather for worship with Christian colleagues or worship in the privacy of his hotel room. Especially in this present age of the internet – there are many good fundamental online worship services that one can download and join while in their hotel rooms.

All success in business comes from the Lord. Psalm 127:1 – "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Ultimately God is the one who gives prosperity or loss. Are you willing to depend fully on Him?

And do not forget the principle of returning a portion of your profits to God. Whenever the Israelites harvested their fields, they gave the first fruits of their harvest to the Lord. This was their expression of thanksgiving to God, who was the source of their good harvests. In the same way, let us always remember to return to the Lord a good portion of what He has blessed us in our work or business. This not only helps you to acknowledge your dependence upon Him, but it also prevents you from thinking that your business has done well because of your own skill or ingenuity.

Dear Reader, if you are engaged in business please remember to honour the Lord in it. Run your business differently from the way that the world runs its businesses. Glorify God in your business! Let Proverbs 22:1 become your company's policy: *"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold."* 

May the Lord enable you to maintain a good Christian testimony in the management of funds, in your business partnerships, in exercising fairness with everyone, and in honouring Him in your business!



## **VISI DAN TUJUAN ICCC**

International Christian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC)



lahir dari kepatuhan terhadap visi yang diberikan selama kurun waktu enam tahun kepada seorang usahawan Swedia J. Gunnar Olson, yang diteguhkan dengan nubuatan dan terbukanya pintu kesempatan disekitarnya yang sebelumnya tertutup.

ICCC merupakan panggilan yang serius dan menantang bagi pengusaha Kristen untuk mengenali jaman yang sedang kita masuki dan dengan terang dari pengenalan itu memasuki dimensi iman yang baru yang disediakan bagi mereka yang ..." takut akan TUHAN ... berbicara satu sama lain ... dan menghormati namaNya." (Maleakhi 3: 16)

Visi ini memanggil para pengusaha dan kaum profesi di seluruh dunia yang terbeban untuk saling berhubungan, bertukar pendapat, memperdagang-kan barang dan menyediakan jasa, saling mendukung dan menguatkan secara rohani dan materi.

Berdasarkan eksistensi dari visi itu sendiri memproklamirkan otoritas Kristus yang mutlak diseluruh dunia.

Pada intinya ICCC adalah kehendak TUHAN untuk memperluas tali kasih-Nya, melalui gereja-Nya, didalam dunia usaha. Hal ini menuntut para pelaku bisnis mencari terlebih dahulu Kerajaan-Nya dan segala Kebenaran-Nya.

Urapan tersedia bagi mereka yang dengan mata melihat dan telinga mendengar panggilan jaman.

Sebagaimana halnya Raja Daud yang menerima urapan untuk menjadi raja, jauh sebelum dia menjadi Raja, yang keadaan pada saat urapan diberikan sama sekali tidak mungkin bagi Daud untuk menjadi Raja, demikianlah ICCC memanggil para pengusaha Kristen sebelum peristiwanya terjadi untuk mengalami kebebasan masuk ke dalam dimensi baru, dimana sasaran, strategi dan perencanaan bersama-sma diwujud-nyatakan sesuai dengan iman di dalam Kristus.

ICCC mencanangkan panggilan itu sejalan dengan rencana TUHAN bagi jaman ini sebagai kunci memperoleh berkat dan pertumbuhan dan agar dapat bangkit berkemenangan diatas gelombang ombak yang mengancam.

Panggilan ICCC: "Mereka akan menjadi milik kesayanganKu sendiri, firman TUHAN semesta Alam pada hari yang Kusiapkan. Aku akan mengasihi mereka sama seperti seseorang menyayangi anaknya yang melayani dia. Maka kamu akan melihat kembali perbedaan antara orang benar dan orang fasik, antara orang yang beribadah kepada TUHAN dan orang yang tidak beribadah kepada-Nya." (Maleakhi 3: 17-18)

#### **KEYAKINAN IMAN ICCC:**

- Satu-satunya TUHAN pencipta segala sesuatu dalam kesatuan Trinitas: Bapa, Anak, dan Roh Kudus.
- Keilahian TUHAN Yesus Kristus. Kelahiran-Nya dari rahim seorang Perawan. Karya penebusan dosa manusia melalui kematian-Nya diatas kayu salib. Kebangkitan-Nya. Hak otoriatas diri-Nya atas dunia dan Kedatangan-Nya yang kedua kali dalam Kuasa dan Kemuliaan-Nya.
- Alkitab, sepenuhnya sebagai Firman TUHAN yang memberikan inspirasi dan berbagai peraturan bagi kehidupan yang dilandasi iman.
- Keselamatan pribadi orang berdosa dan kebutuhannya untuk mengalami proses regenerasi melalui8 karya Roh Kudus dalam menuju menjadikannya sebagai manusia yang dikehendaki oleh TUHAN, seutuhnya.





Transformed Working Life (TWL) adalah Pelatihan resmi dari Kantor Internasional bagi anggota ICCC dalam memperlengkapi anggota dengan pengetahuan dan pemahaman latar belakang, tujuan dan penerapan prinsip-prinsip Kerajaan TUHAN bagi dunia bisnis dan profesi.

TWL diperuntukkan bagi anggota dan dapat diikuti secara cuma-cuma, namun terbuka juga bagi siapa saja yang berminat untuk mengikutinya.

TWL diselenggarakan dalam bahasa Indonesia dan dilengkapi dengan buku panduannya, yang telah diterjemahkan kedalam Bahasa Indonesia juga, sehingga para peserta betul-betul akan memperoleh manfa'at yang besar dan mengalami transformasi dalam kehidupan pribadi maupun bisnisnya.

TWL difasilitasi oleh anggota National Board yang terlatih dan dikoordinir oleh V.P. Teaching: Benjamin B. Juwono bersama dengan Teaching Team: Johanis S. Najoan dan Eliezer H. Hardjo

Transformed Working Life (TWL) akan ditayangkan dalam salah satu channel di Indonesia agar dapat dimanfaatkan oleh para pebisnis & profesional Kristiani di Indonesia bagaimana menerapkan prinsip-prinsip Kerajaan Tuhan dalam kehidupan berbisnis dan bekerja mereka.

TWL bagi members secara rutin diadakan pada hari Sabtu ke 2 setiap bulan dan terbuka dan dianjurkan bagi semua member untuk mengikutinya sebagai pembekalan wajib.

# DEVOTIONAL

## Your Story, God's Story - Christmas Devotional

Why is Christmas such a magical time of year? I think its because everyone is expecting a miracle at Christmas. Consider all the popular movies. Each one has a miracle as it's central plot. Whether it's a boy

hoping his parents get back together, a shopowner hoping he can his business keep running, or a town who needs a new hero to help "save Christmas." You might be reading this and wishing for your own miracle this Christmas. It's probably much smaller than what makes a holiday movie. But it no less important to you.

Maybe you're hoping our prodigal comes home. Maybe you're wishing for a job. Some are yearning for a special someone to sit next to you by the fire.

2,000 years ago, there was a couple who hoped for their own miracle. But like many, they had long given up on this dream. Zacharias and Elisabeth prayed for a child, but year after year, that prayer went unfulfilled. So, they gave up on the dream. But this couple didn't give up on God. They stayed faithful. Then, one ordinary day, the extraordinary happened. Zacharias, a priest in Israel, was chosen to give the incense at the altar. This was a once-in-a-lifetime chance, a rare honor for such a common man. Then, as he performed this sacred duty, an angel of God appeared, breaking God's 400-year silence with Israel.

The angel told Zacharias that he and his wife, Elisabeth would have a son after all. He would have a special purpose an would prepare Israel for the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.

> This all sounded impossible to Zacharias. Not the miracle itself—that Jesus would come, that John would be the forerunner. Zacharias, as a believing lew, knew the Scriptures and believed this.

He just had a hard time thinking God could use silly old him. After all, he and his wife were well past the child-

bearing age. But, true to His word, God performed this miracle in the lives of Zacharias and Elisabeth. You know the rest of the story. John the Baptist led revival in Israel and would later baptize Jesus Christ, the very son of God.

But let's focus on Zacharias and Elisabeth. They were faithful people in a time of unfaithfulness. And yet they had given up on the dream God had planted in their hearts—the dream of having a son. What's interesting is that Zacharias had no problem with the big miracle: God sending a Son to be born of a virgin and be the Savior. It was the little miracle he had trouble with, the miracle in his own life. Even though God had done a similar thing in Sarah and Hannah and Rebekah and Rachel, Zacharias refused to believe his wife, Elisabeth could bear a child.

He did something we often do. We believe in the big things of God—sending a son to be our Savior, Creation, <u>Heaven</u>—but when it comes to littler miracles, we limit Him. It's as if we say, *Yes, God can create the earth in six days, be born of a baby, and send us to Heaven, but He can't possibly change me, fix a relationship, get me a job.* 

And God's answer is *Yes I can.* You see, the biggest miracle has already been done—Jesus. Everything else is small to God.

So maybe today, like Zacharias, you're letting God know that there is something too big for Him. Something even He can't fix.

And the story of Zacharias tells us that there is nothing too hard and that God is still in the business of doing miracles. Even in your own life.

Daniel Darling is an author, pastor, and public speaker

