



Newsletter – March 2023

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Achieving Our Goals/Plans – A Christian Perspective

See

Planning, milestones and taking stock are facts of life for anyone or organisations that have goals to achieve.

In our lives we too have plans, goals and milestones. As adults we begin a new journey when get married. Before we do so, we seek a stable career, a suitable person as a spouse and make plans for joyful life ahead.

Milestones

These are important because our lives have many important junctures, like, when we get married, have the first child and maybe more children as we go along and all the important times in their lives like first joining pre-school, primary school, secondary school and choosing a career path. We are put in a position when we have to make important decisions in this regard and the secular world tends to influence us very much. These are decisions that we make for ourselves as adults.

There are our occupations and livelihood; these also need planning and preparation and also have their important and eventful times.

As Catholics, we start all that is important to us with a prayer - asking God to guide us and be with us and protect us. We also pray daily and observe all our religious duties without fail. There are times when we are disappointed with God because our careful planning does not come to fruition and our lives are not going to our plans.

When I started working, I was 20 years old. I was not happy with the job I had but I had no option and stayed on with the job until a better one came along that paid better and also had many benefits. I stayed in that job for twenty years. I left that job when I had a family and had children and as the situation did not suit a family life and future prospects did not look promising. Finding a new job after staying with one employer for so long was a challenging experience not to say the least and I went from a white collar worker to the construction industry as this was the only job available. Nevertheless, looking back I take it as a blessing, as the family stayed together as one unit and we were able to bring our children up to the best of our abilities as Catholics.

From then on I changed many employers. None of these was as I planned and most of the occupational adjustments I have made since were not to any plans I made but was always because of circumstances like, company restructuring, the down turn in the economy, employer going out of business and so on.

Since then, I got used to the idea that one should be prepared to change employers and seek new employment which best suits him/her. I have come across many people who do the same and also even make career changes for one reason or the other and a culture of these sorts exists today in Singapore and the world in general. So whatever plans we make, they are not fully within our control. One thing was certain that there would be bills to pay and a steady source of income was essential. My experience tells me that even the best made plans do not always come together as we intend. But I am thankful to Our Lord Jesus Christ for being with me and helping me to keep the faith.

Praise The Lord!!!

Causes

Why are we not able to meet our plans/goals? Is it only because of the Singapore's economy?

Consequences

What happens when we do not achieve our plans? How do I feel?

Judge

Personal Reflection

We should take stock and wherever we are in our journey of life; Retired, mid-career, or soon to be retired. Are we joyful for all the experience we had and the challenges we overcame?

Were we guided by the Word of God and did we seek to follow accordingly even if it looked to be out of step with the common practices of this world?

Were our disappointments the Work of God or our reliance on the promises of the world or the people who had power over us? What was /are our true goals in life? Was/are our plans according to God's Will? Are we better for the experience?

Christian Reflection

What does the Bible say on the goals/plans that our Lord Jesus Christ had during his time on this Earth? Did he achieve his goals/plans? How? Can we be like our Lord? What must we do?

How does the Old Testament, the New Testament and the encyclicals of the Vatican encourage us to persevere despite the setbacks we face in meeting our goals?

Act

Do I need to make course corrections to my plans? Do I need to thank God for the events of my life journey?

Should I share my experiences with others so they may benefit from them? Will it be an act of evangelisation? If I wish to do so, do I know where I can do that?

How can CFSM assist the parish, community or anyone who seeks its help?

(Article contributed by Basil)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CFSM Singapore Annual General Meeting

Members and their families are cordially invited to the AGM on Saturday 4 March 2023 from 2 pm to 5pm at Catholic Centre at 55 Waterloo Street Singapore 187954 (5th Level, Commune Room). The objective is to learn more about our plans for 2023 as we continue our 5-year CFSM roadmap. This year's focus is on forming the base group. We will also have the election of office-bearers. The AGM will commence with a Mass first.

2. CFSM Singapore's Emeritus Chaplain, Father Andre Christophe (MEP)

Father Christophe celebrated his 91st birthday on 19 February 2023. CFSM Singapore wishes him good health, joy and peace always.