

Day Five

Obey

Read

Faith Without Works Is Dead
James 2:14-26



It's no good to just pray and listen, we must obey to truly be an agent of change.

Spend some time in prayer, and then note down something or some things that you believe need changes in your school, campus, or workplace. It can be a physical thing, e.g. cleaning up something dirty, repairing something broken or giving to someone who is in lack.

It can be an emotional thing – making someone smile or appreciating the unappreciated etc. List down some things you believe needs to change. This becomes your “cause”. Then, ask God how you can be the catalyst and channel for that change to happen, or at least to be started. Finally, do it – do what you can – and share your true stories with us (our contact is available at the end of this book).

James 1:22 teaches us to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” and James 2:26 adds that “faith without works is dead.” One of the 3Vs of RevoJution, besides Vision and Value, is Volunteer. It is our conviction, based on the Word of God; that things rarely happen until and unless we are willing to volunteer ourselves to be used by God and take action! While God can “fix this world” all by Himself, He has chosen to use ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things through Him!

To volunteer means we are willing to do whatever God says, and that simply means, “Obey.” As we learn from John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” Obeying God is an expression of our worship and love unto Him.

Hebrews 11:6a says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him." One key ingredient needed in obedience is faith. Obedience means that despite what reason, logic, facts, or our fears might say, we simply just do what God says by faith. Faith also means "trust". While we may not fully understand it all, we completely trust that God knows what He is doing; that He is a good God, and that ultimately only good will come out of what God has commanded us to do.

If we want to change the world, we need to Pray, Listen, and most definitely Obey (God). Obedience is by faith. In other words, JUST DO IT. Remember the advice of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the servants before the water was turned into wine, "Whatever He says to you, do it." (John 2:5)



Mission

Ask God specifically about WHO you should be a blessing to and WHAT you need to do to/for them. Write down your impressions/what you believe God has said/shown. They can be clues from God as to who this person/these people might be and what action(s) you need to take. Then, either as a Group or individually, look for that person (or group of people), and do exactly what God says!



Prayer

Dear God, we desire to be used mightily by You. We make ourselves available to You. We pray that You will teach us to be sensitive to Your voice and strengthen our faith in You to obey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**REVO
STORY**

Helping students during the pandemic

“Our church theme for 2020 is Purpose. I know my purpose is to impact the community. So from the beginning of the year, I had prepared myself to be more involved in community outreach.

One of the activities I am involved and active in is serving as the head coach and coordinator of Dream Village Cricket Academy (DVCA), a grassroots sports academy focused on helping marginalised children through cricket.



A week before the partial lockdown was enforced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had one session with the community children. And unfortunately, it had to be halted. The following week, I was supposed to go for a Rural Development Programme (RDP) trip organised under my church. And that too had to be cancelled.

There were a lot of plans that I was anticipating in regards to my purpose. So when the partial lockdown happened, I questioned how I will fulfil what God has put in my heart this year. In the waiting, I browsed through different NGOs' Instagram accounts to research on volunteer platforms to help those who are in need. I did volunteer but in the midst of it, I thought about my campus.

Some of my coursemates living in the outskirts have unstable internet connections. Some of them were struggling financially. It troubled my heart. I shared it with my friends and many suggested waiting for the university to act on those needs. Deep inside, I felt I needed to hear what God had to say to me.

As I was praying and asking God, He said, “If you really want to start, just go ahead, because nobody is stopping you.” Then, my two friends and I created an Instagram account called the Inisiatif Pelajar Peduli,³⁴ which means “we care for the students” in the Malay language.

We posted a survey to find out the main struggles of the students. We received a good response from 80-90 students. That was the reception we targeted because it was only three of us spreading the survey link.

The top results revealed that the majority struggled with mental health, productivity, and several with finance stating they have no food. We connected with them, asked further and made our best effort to meet their needs.

There was an international student who could not afford to pay rent as his father in Algeria had just lost his job as a private tuition teacher.

Then there was a final year student who was doing an internship in Cyberjaya, a town aspiring to be known as the Silicon Valley of Malaysia. All of her housemates had left for their hometown, she couldn't because she had to commit to this internship programme. Due to the partial lockdown, work from home was implemented and the company decided to give her a pay cut. It was painful news to her as the living costs in Cyberjaya aren't cheap and she had no one to rely on.

These are a few stories we have heard and we managed to raise approximately RM850 to help those who appealed for help. It was really fortunate that we can manage to bless these people.

All of them are from the majority faith in Malaysia. The student who was interning in Cyberjaya, she had to spend her Hari Raya alone, which is a

celebration by the Muslim community to conclude the holy month of fasting. We decided to visit her and brought her some goodies. She teared and said that no one has done that for her, even from her own family.

Aside from helping financially, we also taught students how to navigate through online classes. Some of them were clueless on the video conferencing call functions. And we gave tips on maximising their internet speed, tips as easy as don't stream the online calls in high definition mode.

We also contacted Yes 4G, a local communications provider company, and they agreed to sponsor three of our students 40GB of free internet each. Later on, the university administration also connected with the company and they decided to extend the sponsorship to all students from the B40 group, who are from families with a monthly household income of RM3,000 and below.

Through our Inisiatif Pelajar Peduli account, students have stepped up to share their struggles with mental health problems, to form a supportive community. When the partial lockdown was lifted off, we finally closed the initiative as most students had found some degree of stability. We were glad that we got to support our students during this tough time!”

– Chandreshan Ravichandren, *Universiti Putra Malaysia*

REVO STORY

Controlled in movement, but not in mission

“On 11 July 2020, a few of my colleagues and our families from McKinsey partnered with Refuge for The Refugees to pack food supplies for 1000 families as part of the Covid-19 Giving Program. This program was launched by McKinsey to have a positive impact in the communities, in which we live and work, by supporting non-profit organisations responding to the Covid-19 crisis.

From this activity, my colleagues were curious about my close connection with the organisation. I shared that as part of the Asian Youth Ambassadors (AYA) organisation and Acts Church, we are actively involved in community work with unreached and underprivileged communities, including the refugee community.

Due to the lockdown and Movement Control Order (MCO), though we are not able to bless in our normal ways of giving tuition to the children. I shared with them how we managed to find ways to help the migrant workers around us.

I have also chosen to bless our neighbourhood guards as a personal project with my son, Ted. We have been purchasing simple meals and food essentials for our neighbourhood guards. In the coming of the Raya celebrations, God stirred in my heart that we should invite them for a meal at home. However, it was still in MCO season, so we cooked Nasi Lemak,³⁵ made pandan jelly at home, packed them and delivered to our guards instead.



I didn't expect that particular story to reach the Global Managing Partner. His internal writer from the United States approached me one evening to hear more about the story. Some time later, when I logged into work, I received various emails and text messages thanking me for my caring efforts. I was puzzled for a bit, only to find out later that the story came out on our Managing Partner's weekly update amongst other stories."

– *Euodia Ooi, McKinsey & Company*