

Why Is There Human Suffering?

A Series of Talks By Father David Garcia

By Roseline Lum

“Where is God in human suffering?”

This is the question that the 50-strong audience was asked to ponder by Father David Garcia. In this second instalment of his 3-part series on Human Suffering (*held on 21 March 2012 at Cana@Waterloo*), Fr David suggests that we should stop viewing God as a watchmaker who created a perfect world and left it to its own devices. No, the act of creation is in fact a constant relationship between the Creator (God) and His creature (the world and everything in it). God’s hand is there in all the actions of His creatures.



Suffering arises from the tension between God’s action and Man’s action. Although God’s hand directs all our good actions, He has also given us free will, the freedom to choose to inflict wrong on others and on ourselves. We suffer because God respects our human freedom. However, not all suffering proceeds from evil. Sometimes good intentions may lead to pain – simply a product of our imperfect world.

Finally, Fr David posits that all our suffering can only be alleviated by God’s Passion: the act of sending His only Son to die on the cross for us. By submitting to His Father’s will, Jesus became a victim of human suffering Himself, suffering much more than what a normal human being can endure. In the Passion of Christ, God actively intervenes in our imperfect world. Jesus took upon Himself all our sinfulness and rejection, thus reconciling us with Our Father.



Fr David Garcia will conclude his exposition with the following logical question: “If God is there in human suffering, how do our Church activities reflect God’s presence?”



The last talk in the series will take place on:
Wednesday 18 April 2012 7-9 pm
Church of the Holy Spirit, Upper Thomson Road

To register:

Please call **63380182** or email **info@charis-singapore.org**