

Book review: The Present

By Irene

Yes, we all possess present and are given the gift.

Yet, not many of us know about it and let it lying around.

It will need determination and persistence to come up with.

It all began in June last year when I have my regular check-up. I almost collapsed when I got my report. The doctor told me that I had a tumor in my breast. The word “cancer” knocked me down. I felt helpless and cried. The news suffocated me.

When the adversity was disclosed to my family, even my dog can sniff the sadness in the air. My husband tried every possible ways to comfort me. I was lost and was unable to calm down. I was desperate. It was my 10-year old son’s words that caused me alarm. He cried and asked me if I will die. He even questioned God why let this happen.

At that moment, mother’s love brought me back. It reminded me that no matter what happened, I have to stand up for it. I have to set a good example to get my son to think positively. Let him know when there is a problem, there must be a solution. Let him know while there is life, there is hope. Let him know life is worth a living. I told myself: “I have my husband and son by my side, I should not give up. I must try my very best to live on - happily”. I knew time might be running short for me, but who knows what come next? Tsunami, earthquake, car accident, new medical discovery, advance technology, prophecies not for us to tell. I started to cherish every moment of my life. Treasure what I have. With the change of mind-set, I started to look at things from different angles. I was ready to face challenge.

I had the operation done in July, followed by six doses of chemotherapy plus six weeks of radiotherapy. The treatments really gave me a hard time, but I found it not as terrifying as I imagined. I coped with it one by one.

By February this year, I was back to work. I was baldhead but cheerful and full of life.

My colleagues applauded my adversity quotient. Deep in my heart, I knew it was the power of love that helped me out of deep waters. This love originated from God and passed on to me through my son. Helped me up on my feet and guided me through the distressing treatments. I am now leading a happy life and am proud of it.

It was until I read the book I realized that my son took the place of the old man and put me on the right track. I have actually opened the gift of happiness without my knowing it. Although this gift came to me in a regrettable way, I received it with a thankful heart. Life can be short or long. Life can also be fruitful or infertile. The decisive moment is how you take it.

I am possessing present, and am targeting tomorrow. All I need to do now is work out a plan to link up my precious present with my happy tomorrow.

Yesterday is history - forgive, forget and be merry.

Tomorrow is a mystery - relax, figure it out with your family.

Present is a gift to us all - cherish your present and embrace happy.

END