





Bless  
The  
Lord  
O my  
soul!



Precious  
Moments in the

Wilderness

*Tan Lay Leng*



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*PRECIOUS MOMENTS*  
in the *Wilderness*

Tan Lay Leng

**Published by Tan Lay Leng**

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This book details the personal journey of Lay Leng. It is a desert experience that is so rich because God is in it. Truly, in the midst of it all, Lay Leng experienced springs of living water gushing out from the throne of God.

**Reverend Calvin Lee**

Senior Pastor

Grace Assembly of God

Shown in anecdotes and personal encounters, *Precious Moments in the Wilderness* digs up 'treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places' (Isaiah 45:3). Believers in Christ are assured to 'know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose' (Romans 8:28).

**Pastor John Tan**

Grace Assembly of God

As I read Lay Leng's learning journey in the wilderness, I was very touched by how she fully surrendered herself unto God. Lay Leng adopted a submissive attitude towards God and exercised deep faith in Him, so it was evident that she fully embraced God's purpose for her in the wilderness, making the experience such a sweet one. God has faithfully brought her through, turning many painful moments to sweet ones. I would strongly encourage all to read Precious Moments in the Wilderness. You will be blessed!

**Callie Liew**

Founder and Centre Director  
Worldwide Transformation Limited

This book is birthed out of Lay Leng's deep experiences with the living God. It records her journey of faith from the time she slumped at deck five carpark at Plaza Singapura, the hope of His calling, and His faithfulness in all seasons of our life. She has written her burning bush moments with God as she has traavailed through. I would strongly encourage this book to those who are trying to make sense of what God is doing in the upheavals of their life journeys, those in desert experiences and those who desire greater intimacy in their walk with God.

**Elder Sunny Jacob**  
Tabernacle of Holiness

There is something about Lay Leng's stories that makes the reader want to read on from page to page. More than a recount of wonderful moments personal and precious to her, it has a message that is universally appealing. Though the book takes one through many different learning moments, it will be hard to miss the 'wow' moments that punctuate them. Moreover, if you are one who wants to know what is at the end way before you reach there, Lay Leng has her 'Oscar' moments in store. There is something else that will leave readers amazed and awed. It radiates a hue that is beautiful and rich. If you are looking for a touch of the Divine Hand, you will find it in her stories. It is so personally captured that it makes you believe that if it could happen for her, it could happen for you.

**Pastor Jason Teo**

Bethesda Bedok-Tampines Church  
Author of 'Breaking Forth with Health'

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## **Preface**

My spirit leapt as I devoured the words :

“I hear the Father saying that He is raising up the “unlockers!” Those that have been given the keys of authority, revelation and assignment. They are being released to unlock plans and purposes in regions – territories. They have been commissioned by the Spirit of the Lord. As they move into their assigned places, there is divine ability in them to bring release of things in the spirit that have seemingly been locked. These things have not been locked away from the children of God but reserved for the children of God.” ~ Ryan LeStrange

Just a few hours before I read those words, I had received a word from Pastor Joe Strewberry from MorningStar Ministries :

“I see old keys. They have been given to you this year (2016). They will be used to unlock the blessings God has promised to you – the revelation and understanding from Him and the treasures that have been locked away. The Lord says He could not give them to you earlier as you would have run ahead of Him.”

Two days later, on 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, the Lord visited me. I wept uncontrollably when I was writing about my wilderness journey, getting it ready as a post on Facebook. Then the Lord spoke, “Leng, it is time. Get the second book – *Precious Moments in the Wilderness* – out.” I had felt to write it too, last year, but my engine simply could not take off. That night, God downloaded revelation and chapter titles. It was time to use my first key.

Many contributed to my precious moments in the wilderness. My friend Jasmine Nathan helped me proofread and edit. My prayer buddies Lisa, Yi Ting, Laura, Joy, Rachael, Foong Har and Kwee Lee journeyed with me. Special thanks to Ps Callie Liew who has been a great blessing. My family has always been unparalleled in their care and showers of love. Precious Moments in the Wilderness will not be complete without these precious souls whom I'm eternally grateful to. God is greatly to be praised!

**Write to me!**

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**My Facebook page : A Leap of Faith**

**My blog : <https://sunsetspurple.wordpress.com>**

## *My Wilderness Experience*

*“...into a desert place apart.” Matthew 14:13*

Here's my story. I resigned from the Ministry of Education in December 2012, after more than 15 years of teaching. I spent three months at Tung Ling Bible School and upon my graduation from the School of Ministry, pain greeted me. I suffered a relapse of my slipped disc. My lower back pain was so excruciating that I was immobilized. When I was wheeled into the Accident & Emergency department at Singapore General Hospital, I did not know I would be slipping into my Heavenly Father's love. I was to experience what Richard Foster wrote : Just

*slipping* quietly into the Presence of God can be so exotic and fresh that it delights us enormously. I recognized quickly that I was being enrolled into the School of the Wilderness Experience.

“Therefore I am going to allure her; I will lead her into the desert and speak tenderly to her.” Hosea 2:14

God was getting my attention, my undivided attention. The running on the performance treadmill when I was teaching was taking a toll on my physical body and spiritual walk. From 2013 to 2015, as I recuperated from my lower back pain, I grabbed back my intimacy with God! My tears would keep flowing whenever I wrote

about this three-year journey. So God took me aside and into the wilderness. The wilderness is a dry place where water is scarce, and there is no protection from the heat and the cold. For some, God seems distant and the spirit feels dry in their wilderness experience. I did not feel this way at all. Although I sensed God very near me, I did feel confused many times, and I doubted and questioned Him many times. I was tempted to make things happen in my own strength, like how I was doing it before He called me out of teaching. As I journeyed on, I discovered that I was being hidden in obscurity to be prepared for His purposes. In the wilderness, I experienced God in a deeper and more profound way. During the first year of my wilderness experience, I was cocooned in God's

unconditional love. God kept whispering His love into my soul. I was bombarded with His messages of love from His Word, from the classic Streams in the Desert and from many other reading sources. Having the luxury of time in my hands, I kept reading and journaling. My family also showered me with acts of love as I recuperated from my slipped disc. God wrapped me up with His love as He fed me on the meat of His Word. The Holy Spirit would point me to details in His Word that I had overlooked before, exciting my spirit till no end. My weary soul was nourished and fattened by His feeding and my inner man strengthened. In the process I discovered myself. I was thankful I was called out of teaching before I became more distant from God. I was



too consumed by work, and too cluttered in my heart to hear God speak. My soul was dying. It was dying for my inheritance – intimacy with God.

*Intimacy may not be rushed... Inwardness is time-consuming, open only to minds willing to sample spirituality in small bites, savouring each one. - Calvin Miller*

I was thankful God orchestrated this season of profound spiritual growth. I was thankful God accompanied me throughout the journey. I read somewhere that the desert is only a season in our life. When God has accomplished what He wants in our lives in the desert, He will bring us

out. It is in preparation for a mission He has given for us to fulfill but we need to spend adequate time in the desert. I spent more time in the desert and I was loved into my second year in the wilderness. In the second year, I was lavished with extravagance! I made at least 12 overseas trips to visit friends in different parts of the world. God kept opening doors for me to travel. At the same time, I began to question God about His delays. I waited and waited, waited and waited again for God to lead me to the Promised Land. During this season of patient enduring, I encountered superb hospitality by desert friends. They cheered me on and prayed with me. They believed in me and affirmed me.

In the third year, God began to open my eyes to make sense of what I was learning at the seminars and conferences I attended. I caught fire of what was burning in the spiritual arena. My heart was set ablaze to pray for Singapore, to join faith with the army of God in alignment to heaven's will for God's destiny to be fulfilled in our beloved nation. I spoke at great length with my prayer partners what it means to be the church, what God's heart for the church is, and my horizons widened. God surfaced many ungodly beliefs I had, which I must put to death, but in the desert, other deaths happened. These deaths were painful and I experienced grief that I must cope with. Throughout my wilderness journey, I was writing fast and furiously. I started doing devotional art

day and night, night and day, and I could not stop. It was like incense rising to God. The bowl in which He had collected the incense had tipped over. It is my prayer that the fragrance of God's presence will fill the heart of every reader of this book.

## *In the Shadow of His Hand*

### *Silence*

I hear the silence. I hear the silence that brings forth the music. I hear the quietness He puts into my heart. I hear the stillness He commands at the raging seas in my soul. I hear the silence of His Presence. He Stands Near.

## *Stand*

He stands near Paul that night to give him courage before Paul learns of the plot to kill him. He stands near me to give me courage when the silence threatens to murder me. Gabriel stands in His Presence until he receives his assignments. I learn to stand in His Presence until I receive my next assignment. Paul says to stand, after we have done everything, to stand firm in the full armour of God. They also serve who only stand and wait, writes Milton. Jesus stands still when faith grabs His attention. Bartimeus, the blind man has heard it is Jesus. He shouts. He is rebuked and told to be quiet. He shouts all the more, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus hears and He stands still. He has His feet

stuck to where faith is. I am stuck. How much faith do I have?

### ***Stuck***

I feel terribly stuck to move into God's purposes. I feel awfully stuck in a transition. Stuck between assignments. Stuck to deepen values. Stuck to shift paradigms. Stuck where there seems to be no light. Am I in a shadow?

### ***Shadow***

I seem to be hidden in the shadow of His Hand. It is His Hand. He has led me to His shadow of rest. The Light shines while I am kept in His shadow. There is a service in the shadow that is not in the shine, says Mrs Cowman. In this shadowed shelter I must dwell. It is His Refuge, His Protection.

*Stay firm, He has not failed thee in all the past.  
And will He go and leave you to sink at last?  
Nay, He said He will hide thee beneath His wing;  
And sweetly there in safety thou mayest sing.  
~ Streams in the Desert*

### *A Poem - This Wilderness*

It's a dreadful place  
This wilderness  
It slows my pace  
It exposes my weakness

Strange

It's also a hopeful place  
This desert  
It offers much space  
To meet Him face to face

Closed doors abound  
New oasis found  
Discouraged but not depressed  
Humbled but not hard pressed

Season of preparation  
Test of endurance  
It's not the destination



It's breakthrough moments

He's been there fully

He's emerged with victory

He's established His authority

Walk with Him

He gives strength and stability

***“What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, (all that) God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who Love Him (who hold Him in affectionate reverence), promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed.” 1 Corinthians 2:9 Amplified***