

Principal's Message

Anchored, Connected, Steadfast

It's Boys' Brigade (BB) Day.

Daylight has not broken in, but the space frame was already alive and buzzing with action when I drove in to school. Our BB students were already forming up, all donned in their smart BB uniform. Strains of music from our BB bagpipe band could be heard from a distance. Amid the different segments of BB students carrying out their respective duties, were our BB teachers and volunteers, guiding and supervising our students before our school family gathered at the space frame to mark BB day.

Set against this scene of flurry and excitement stands the framed-up banner of our Theme Verse for 2020 – Hebrews 12:1. It reads “**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.**”



Staying Anchored, Connected and Steadfast: The BB 12th Company as ONE ACS, marking our 65th year in 2019

In unpacking what Hebrews 12:1 would mean to us in the ACS(I) family, we distilled three learning points:

1. Being **A**nchored on God's word and our SHIELD values - doing so keeps us on guard and guides us to 'strip off every weight that slows us down, and the sin that trips us up';
2. Staying **C**onected with the ACS family and ties beyond - just like the 'huge crowd of witnesses' whose lives of faith encourage and motivate us;
3. Remaining **S**teadfast to the purposes that God has willed for us, particularly in fulfilling our Core Purpose as Catalysts for Change for God and Humanity - to 'run with endurance the race' that 'God has set before us'.

It is not difficult to remember this, because **A**nchored, **C**onected and **S**teadfast, as one can easily decipher, simply stands for ACS.

In this aspect, the BB in ACS(I) is one of our distinctive school programmes that has raised cohorts of students to stay **A**nchored, **C**onected and **S**teadfast.

Any conversation with a BB alumnus will invariably evoke a deep sense of pride and loyalty for the BB and specifically of the 12th Company. Their BB narratives may diverge to reveal different plots, but eventually their stories will gravitate towards how the BB has helped many of them find that defining moment in their lives: a point in their growing years that has steered them towards fulfilling God's purpose for them. During their time in the BB, they cultivated values and habits that have taken them through life's ups and downs. All of these have been made possible because of the many hands that have come forward willingly to collectively shape, drive and steer the 12th Company to fulfil God's purpose. Commendably, many return long after they had graduated to mentor their juniors. This is not just confined to ACS(I), but across the ACS schools in Singapore, the 12th Company has steadily steered its young charges to live up to the tenets of the BB, demonstrating what it means to be ONE ACS.

Just like the 12th Company, the growth of every student in ACS(I) requires the collective endeavours of all of us in the family. Staying **A**nchored, **C**onected and **S**teadfast will be an ongoing journey. It will also be an uphill task. It will take a balance of efforts: the individual's discipline and resolve to keep going at what each of us has been purposed to fulfil, and the community's support to shape and sharpen the individual. We will see successes and failures, and sometimes a setback that places us back to square one. But when the ACS(I) family strives to pursue Hebrews 12:1 the 'ACS way', any outcome arising from it will be a Christ-centered one, and the total experience a journey of growth and learning.

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