

## Pastor's Corner

by Pastor April Pun  
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Winter has come. It is time to plant spring bulbs. I learned that planting tulips is not an easy task. Flower farmer has to dig holes in the ground and bury the tulip bulbs deep enough. To yield an acre of tulip, it will be quite hard work. After planting, watering and putting in plant food are necessary. But even though all these are done, they do not guarantee that all the tulip bulbs will bloom. Farmers need to take care of them carefully as there may be bugs and slugs to destroy the plants.

Pastors are like flower farmers, and the process of pasturing God's people is like planting, it needs lots of hard works, cares and patience. And congregants are so different, they need to be nurtured differently. A pastor can put lots of effort but it does not guarantee immediate spiritual growth. Moreover, there will be times when "bugs" and "slugs" come to destroy the work in a believer. The pastor just has to keep doing the work and wait for next season.

It is now the end of the year, a good time for us to evaluate our spiritual growth. Like farmers desperately wait for harvest, I long for hearing from you what God has accomplished in you and through you in 2009. And I desire to share with you what God has done in me and through me. And that we can give all the glory to our Heavenly Father.

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潘粵珊傳道  
二零零九年十二月六日

天氣慢慢冷起來，空氣中瀰漫著的水仙花淡淡清香，是鬱金香的綠色葉子慢慢從泥裡鑽出來的前奏。它們繼而生出花蕾，然後綻放滿園艷麗的花朵—紅色、黃色、白色、粉紅色。種植鬱金香費時費工，花農先得挖掘比其球莖高三倍的深度，按距離擺好，再把它們埋起來。若要收成一畝鬱金香田，挖掘的範圍就要大。埋好以後，要定期澆水施肥。就算這所有的功夫都做好了，也不一定每一個球莖都會長出花來。初冬的時候種下去，要到幾個月後才會盼到它發芽。好不容易發芽成長，看到了花蕾，還要注意有沒有蟲子和蛞蝓。經過這樣小心翼翼地照料，才能夠開出瑰麗繽紛的鬱金香。人人都會稱讚好看，但少有人會過問種植過程所付出的心血。

牧者像農夫，牧養的工作如同辛勤的培植過程。默默耕耘並不吸引目光，卻是必要的功夫。每個信徒對神的認識深度、廣度不同，信主年日長、短不同，需要不同的牧養方法和關愛。而就算這些功夫都做好了，也不一定能夠立時看見屬靈生命的成熟。有時候欣喜見到一些改變，結出了屬靈生命的花蕾，但是卻有各樣「蟲子」來破壞。於是又得再次「耕耘」，期盼下一個花季的來臨。

又到歲末，是我們檢視這一年來靈程進展的時候。就像農夫想望歡呼收割的心情，巴不得自己與弟兄姐妹一同走過了這一年，每個人身上更散發耶穌基督的馨香之氣、神在每個人身上的旨意更得到成就，就把榮耀歸給神。