

September 2019



Canning Garden Methodist Church

FAMILY FOCUS

**GROWING DEEPER IN CHRIST,
IMPACTING &
TRANSFORMING LIVES !**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust. Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

Psalms 91 : 1-4



MESSAGE from the Editor...

As mid August came, I was fretful. I thought to myself that this edition of Family Focus would be the shortest ever. With the dateline drawing nearer, I chose to depend on the Lord and said a simple prayer, "God, You will provide!" Lo and behold, within 2 weeks, God sent many angels who contributed many articles and testimonies of God's greatness and goodness in their lives. So, here we are!

I would like to thank God for his faithfulness in helping me do this task as editor. I hold on to the promise in Matthew 6:34 and shall not worry! Many thanks also to everyone who has contributed their writings to encourage others in their walk in Christ.

I am also particularly excited to be expecting my second child end of this year. Indeed, God listens to my prayers and has been faithfully blessing me and my family. All praise be to God!

I would like to highlight one particular event in June which brought people from two zones, namely the adult and young adults groups, in a Combined Zone fellowship. It was a heartwarming experience to see different generations mingling and having a wonderful time singing, worshipping, dancing, sharing, playing and eating together. This is what a Christian family truly represents. Pictures speak a thousand words

Editor

Li Fan



CANNING GARDEN

Methodist Church

Worship Celebrations

SATURDAY

08:00pm English

SUNDAY

08:45am English

09:00am Chinese

10:30am Bahasa Malaysia

Sunday School (*English*)

Sunday School (*Chinese*)

03:00pm Youth Fellowship (*English*)

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About Family Focus...

Family Focus is published 3 times a year (in January, May & September) under the Membership & Evangelism (M&E) Committee of CGMC, Ipoh.

It seeks to fulfill the church's theme of "Growing deeper in Christ, Impacting and transforming lives" by sharing Christ with each other and strengthening the community of Christ through writings and testimonies.

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We welcome you to submit your articles & testimonies to us for the coming issues.

Each article should preferably be less than 1500 words and can be submitted to any of the editorial team members above, to the church office or emailed to cgmcpoh@gmail.com.

All articles should be accompanied by the author's full name, contact number and cell group where applicable.

We reserve the right to edit the articles, keep the articles for subsequent issues, or withhold the articles from publication.

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MESSAGE from Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

When this September issue of the Family Focus is published, we would have finished preaching on the Book of the Covenant in Exodus 20-24. The Book of the Covenant contained the samples of case laws governing the theocratic state of Israel when they possessed it. Although we live in the New Covenant today and not in a theocratic state, the laws are very instructive to what God's will is with regard to our Christian life. While the gospel of grace gives us the freedom to love God and our neighbour, the law codes give us concrete situations to practice that love. It is easy to talk about love in the airy-fairy world but when God's laws direct our actions in some specific concrete situations, love becomes robust.

Next our sermon series will follow Exodus 25ff. about the tabernacle. The tabernacle and the priestly activities are at the heart of the Israelites' religious practice. The tabernacle is God's one huge statement that He wants to live among us! It was the means by which God and His people were connected. The sermon series will lead very nicely into the Christmas theme, "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (Jn. 1:14a). The theme on the tabernacle or the temple continues into the New Testament in that we, the church, are now the temple of God. In studying the tabernacle, we will learn who God is, who we are as the temple, and how we are to worship God.

The Vacation Bible School was a huge event very ably carried out by our Sunday School team. We thank God for them who galvanized more than a hundred teachers, crews, and helpers to minister to 406 registered children. Much, much effort was put in to make this VBS run at such a well put together packed program for the kids. The three-day event was indeed a rich experience for the kids, more than a third of them who have never been to Sunday School. Many responded to the gospel and some are indicating they will be coming to our Kids Church Celebration. Praise the Lord and thank you to our Sunday School team who put this feat together.

The big event of CGMC in 2019 is the OMF Conference that will be held from 18-20th October. Missions is the life of the church. It is the reason for her existence. CGMC is very much engaged in the work of mission. For her to continue in this direction, we have a Mission Fund. Our goal is to make this Mission Fund support all our mission activities and mission giving. Praise the Lord that it appears that we will reach this goal in 2019 with the target of RM284,203. As we move forward in mission our members must support it by giving, praying and going. It is therefore important that we be well informed about mission. Our members must, therefore, sign up and attend the OMF Conference.

When the Cell Group ministry of CGMC was envisaged in 1996, one of the visions we had was that each Cell Group will be so vibrant that she will not only edify her members and evangelize her members' friends but also do missions as a Cell Group. If the work of missions is to keep growing, it cannot be left to a few missions specialists. It has to be a church wide involvement from her network of Cell Groups. So, don't just attend the OMF Conference yourself, your entire Cell Group members need to come.



REV. DR. ANDREW TAN

Pastor-in-charge
Canning Garden Methodist Church

MESSAGE from Rev. Yu Chiew Song

启示录2:4然而有一件事我要责备
你、就是你把起初的爱心离弃了。
Revelation 2:4 Yet I hold this against you:
You have forsaken your first love.

一首诗歌：我曾说跟随主



REV. YU CHIEW SONG
Associate Pastor
Canning Garden Methodist Church

主
我曾说
跟随你 永不离开你

主
我曾说
我爱你 让你掌管我

主
我曾说
事奉你 终身不后退

但是
主啊 现在我如何

我愿跪下 恳切地祷告
我愿将我的心 献给你

主啊 现在帮助我
爱你更深多

从今以后 让你得着我。

亲爱的弟兄姐妹，
我们可以为上帝工作很忙碌
但不代表我们贴近上帝心意

我们可以参与许多教会聚会
但不代表我们真实认识上帝

记得
上帝要的是我们起初的爱
心。

尤牧师 共勉之。

MESSAGE from Rev. Richard Leow

DOA BAGI NEGARA MALAYSIA

Tuhan, Malaysia pada tahun ini berusia 62 tahun. Sebagai satu bangsa, kami mungkin masih muda tetapi kami sudah melalui banyak percubaan dan masaalah. Sebagai orang percaya di negara ini, kami ingin melihat kepenuhan rancangan dan maksud Tuhan untuk datang kepadanya, agar setiap orang Malaysia mempunyai peluang untuk mendengar tentang kasih Yesus, dan untuk mempunyai pilihan untuk menyambut kasih itu.

Ya Tuhan, Curahkan Roh-Mu atas setiap masyarakat di 13 negeri dan 3 wilayah persekutuan kami. Semoga orang yang meminta akan menerima, mereka yang mencari akan mendapat, mereka yang mengetuk pintu dibukakan pintu bagi mereka. Semoga setiap masyarakat di Malaysia memberkati namaMu yang suci. Semoga setiap masyarakat di Malaysia mengenal Engkau dan memanggil-Mu sebagai Tuhan.

Semoga jalan di setiap kampung, pekan dan bandar dipenuhi lagu dan tarian. Semoga anak-anak daripada semua bangsa bermain bersama dalam keamanan. Semoga setiap tembok pergaduhan runtuh dan jatuh. Tuhan yang Suci, semoga Hadirat-Mu yang menguasai kami, dan Kemuliaan-Mu melanda negara sebagaimana air menutupi lautan. Didalam nama Tuhan Yesus Kristus kami berdoa. Amen.



REV. RICHARD LEOW
Associate Pastor
Canning Garden Methodist Church



CG25 mission trip to Betong ~ Thailand

Antonio Wee & Elissa Wong (CG 25)



On the 27th of July, as CG25, we went to Betong on our 2nd mission trip there as CG25. The first was in November of 2018.

During our first trip there, I was first exposed to what a missions trip was all about. So, I was quite blur not sure what was needed and where I could serve with my limited knowledge and experience in this. I was tasked to take photos and videos of the trip by our CG leader.

When we arrived, we had to set up the area for the program (which was a Mini Sports for the children). I found myself quickly adapting to being a team member and helping out with the set up as well as other stuff.

It was quite fun and heartening to know that we could serve the Lord in that area as well as bring joy and laughter to the children there. You should have seen the faces of the children during that time.

Then came this year, when we were again planning another visit to Betong. This time, we were going to be doing storytelling. We formed teams of 3 (which also included 2 members of the Bercham Methodist Church, Nicole & Xu Sian, who requested to join us). I was asked to lead the storytelling for my team at Jaruk Susu (one of the villages that we had planned to visit) and I jumped at the opportunity, because I could finally be an active participant in this missions, rather than just be in the background. I was nervous and a little worried that I would not be able to stand up to the task. But I believe that God was beside me, assuring me that things would be alright and that all I needed was to trust in Him. True to this, when the day came, what should have been a nerve wrecking ordeal for me (since I had never handled children before), I had this reassuring calmness and was able to carry out what was given to me.



The next day, we went to Lahu (another village) to do the same and again, we were equally blessed by the children, as much as the children were blessed by the Lord. We ended the day by having a simple lunch with the locals, which they had prepared.

And in testimony of God's faithfulness, it rained all week in Betong, but during the 2 days that we were there, it only rained in the evening, which allowed us to carry out our mission activities during the day.

To those who are contemplating whether or not to embark on a missions trip, my personal advice to you is, Go! Experience the joy of being able to serve the Lord and at the same time, be blessed by the happiness you bring to the less fortunate. I promise you, your heart will be filled with such joy, that you will surely thank the Lord for the opportunity.

All glory and honor to our heavenly Father, who has set my heart upon His grace and has given me the opportunity to embrace His joy through this simple act of bringing His love to the children in Betong.

Hallelujah!!

~Antonio Wee~

On 27th and 28th. July, 2019, a team of 10 members from CG25 and 2 members from Bercham Methodist Church went on a short mission trip to Betong, Thailand to share our lives with the children from three different villages. It was also for us to help out in whatever way we could as part of our CG's commitment during the BLESS project. This was our second trip as a follow-up after we conducted a mini Olympics camp last year in November.

We prayed for guidance as to what God wanted us to share with the children and we were impressed to do the Noah's Ark story focusing on Noah's obedience, God's faithfulness and goodness. Every member put in effort to come up with suitable teaching aids so that we could share the Noah's Ark story effectively in spite of the language barrier.

We were divided into three teams where we did two sharings on Saturday and one more on Sunday. On 27th, July (Saturday), two different teams went to Jantarat and Kg. Jaruk Susu respectively.



This was the team that went to Jantarat which is mainly made up of children from the Hmong tribe. Our missionary in Betong, sister Rebecca, just started Happy Kids classes in this village.



Here is our cell leader, Bro. Alan Seow, doing an ice-breaker with the Hmong children.



Some instructions given before we started our worship.



The children engrossed in doing their part (colouring certain pictures) before we started the 'story-telling'



While this team was busy in Jantarat, our brothers and sisters in Kg. Jaruk Susu were also busy sharing God's Word with the children who were mainly non-believers.



That first day we spent with the kids ended well with all of us slightly exhausted but feeling the joy of the Lord as we looked at the children's enthusiastic faces and hearing their responses. After all of us had a good shower, we took our sister Rebecca and her assistant, Victoria, for a good dinner. Later, all of us went back to Betong Language Center for a quiet time of reflection and basking in God's presence as we prepare for the next day.

Our brother, Alan Seow, preached the next day at Betong Christian Church while a team of us went to Lahu village to conduct the Sunday School there.



As we returned to Lahu village, it was heart-warming to see the development taking place. There was a new building being built for the church. As for the venue of the Sunday School, our translator, sister Benjama, kindly offered the use of the upper floor of her home.



Sister Rebecca and her assistant, Victoria, singing our Lord's Prayer in English with the Lahu village kids.



The children deep in concentration colouring certain pictures before we start the 'story-telling'

All in all, it was an amazing trip though short yet do-able. I would like to encourage other CGs to consider doing this short mission trip to bless others just as we were blessed. We praise God for the opportunity given to us to share God's Word with the children. We pray that God speaks into the hearts of these children and their families who have yet to know Christ. Do keep sister Rebecca and her assistant, Victoria, in prayer as God continues to bless their work in Betong.

~Elissa Wong~



Judify in Japan

Judith Yeoh

First of all, happy Merdeka!

My time in Japan has officially ended and I am now back in Malaysia.



"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5 (ESV)

Leaving

I had chosen to leave Sapporo on the 26th of August, a Monday, so that I would be able to spend my final day in church with my Japanese church family. Looking back over the past year, God had given me so many amazing experiences and lessons to teach me about His unbiased, relentless love, and most importantly, to trust in Him no matter the circumstances. It has been a humbling and eye-opening experience being long a short-termer with the student ministry, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.



I hadn't expected myself to shed much tears, let alone any tears at all (as people who know me would know that I've not been seen to be that emotional at farewells) but let me tell you, I prayed to God, telling Him that I would be perfectly all right with showing my ugly crying face to the people at church, and He did not disappoint. I cried five times that Sunday, in gradual intensity each time. It came to the point where during the evening service as we were singing, being suddenly aware that that would be my final time worshipping with the congregation, in that church, made me a crying mess.

I had always told myself to not get attached, because this would happen. But I've now come to realise that being attached isn't such a bad thing.

KGK Summer Camp - REAL

For four days (three, for non-Christians/not baptised) we learned about what the Bible and Jesus's Gospel is, we learned about God's unyielding love for us, and how we are all God's children. The speaker for this camp was none other than my church's pastor, Pastor Endo (pictured playing saxophone below).

He shared the nitty-gritty stuff during the first half of each session, then did a short story presentation with music, with each story bringing us to tears and making us realise how much we mean to God, our Abba Father.

For me, this was an unforgettable camp, since it would be my last one. I made sure to spend as much time as possible with students, for my own sake, since I may never see some of them again. Just thinking about that makes my heart ache. But knowing that I will see them again in Glory gives me confidence.



Keep praying that these students will continue trusting in God and let Him lead their lives.
CGMC Family Focus

Student Updates

Praise God! Three other students have confessed to faith during KGK camp! Up till now, just this year there have been a total of 4 baptisms, and 8 confessions of faith, and 1 more coming baptism this December! God is truly amazing, mere words just cannot describe His Glory!

Continue to pray for the students in Hokkaido:

- non-Christians who have never heard of the Gospel
- non-Christians who are being exposed to the Gospel
- non-Christians who have confessed to faith but are not yet baptised
- Christian students

Your prayers are moving mountains! Even if we're unable to see the progress and status of our prayers for these people, as you can see, God works behind the scenes just as much as He works up front! So don't give up! (I won't disclose names for privacy's sake, and also there would be more than 200 names!)

Touei Church

The team from Sapporo have safely landed in Kuala Lumpur this morning! Thank God for the smooth journey. From today till 9th September, they will be in KL & Singapore. I will be meeting them on and off during their stay. So excited to share our wonderful (food) culture with them!

Pray for their trip to be fruitful, and that they'll be able to see the diversity of churches in our part of the world. Pray that they'll be able to grow their churches with the experiences gained.

Continue to pray for funding for the church as they are currently supporting 2 seminary students (soon to be 3), and 1 church intern (who will also go to seminary in 2021).

Team Updates

Fanny has returned to Hong Kong to visit her family and stand in solidarity with her people amidst the happenings there. Pray for her safety, and the safety of her friends and family. She will return in early October.

For now, Chai is holding the fort in Sapporo and will be attending some camps before the second semester begins in late September/early October.

Pray for Fanny who will have to readjust to my leaving and Chai's joining the team.



Personal Updates

A day before leaving, I received news that my second paternal uncle collapsed and passed away suddenly from stroke and high-blood pressure in his home. He was 67. And suddenly after arriving in Malaysia I had to make my way to Johor for the wake and funeral.

With my extended family being mostly Buddhist, the mourning period took place over 5 days, which just ended yesterday. To be very frank, I am exhausted from travelling and staying up nights keeping watch over my uncle with my cousins. But I know that God loves my uncle as he passed in peace, and with his entire family around.

This is the first death in our family, and everyone is devastated, especially my grandmother. I thank God for this one-chance opportunity to bond with my relatives, share my experiences in Japan, and hopefully be a fragrance of Christ among them.

Future plans

I do not yet have any concrete plans for the future, but for now I will be with OMF Malaysia for a couple of months. From there on, I will consider applying to seminary within these two years, when I am more mature spiritually.

Thanksgiving Items

- Finished well.
- Safe journey back to Malaysia.
- A new generation of Christian leaders are on the rise!
- 4 baptisms, 8 confessions, and 1 upcoming baptism in December.

Prayer Items

- Future plans.
- May God show Chai and Fanny the future of fmZERO, and for good coordination between them.
- Pray for more long-term workers in Japan, especially for fmZERO.

Thank you for reading and praying with/for me over the past year. It has been a miracle-filled journey! Thank you, from the bottom of my heart for being with me throughout.

Signing off.....

Judith Yeoh -- Serve Asia Worker in Japan.

Pelayanan Kelompok Sel di Pelayanan Bahasa Malaysia

Jessica

Setakat ini kami mempunyai 7 Kelompok Sel yang dikendalikan oleh pemimpin-pemimpin yang menyahut cabaran untuk melayani. Perkumpulan Kelompok Sel di adakan di rumah-rumah anggota gereja yang membukak rumah untuk kegiatan ini. Ada juga Kelompok Sel yang di adakan di Gereja. Kegiatan ini diadakan pada hujung minggu pada waktu malam, mengikut kesesuaian ahli - ahli Kelompok Sel masing-masing.

Ahli-ahli yang menggabungkan diri dalam kegiatan Kelompok Sel ini terdiri dari berbagai lapisan umur dan bangsa. Tidak dapat dinafikan melalui pelayanan ini banyak berkat (seperti bantuan keperluan kewangan) yang telah diterima oleh ahli-ahli yang menggabungkan diri dan ada juga peribadi yang mengenal dan menerima Yesus Kristus sebagai Tuhan dan Juruselamat melalui pelayanan Kelompok Sel. Berikut adalah kesaksian pendek dan manfaat yang telah mereka terima.



“Saya diberkati dengan firman Tuhan yang di pelajari bersama. Sebagai ketua dalam Kelompok Sel ini, saya dan suami En. Rahiem secara bergilir menyediakan pelajaran berlandaskan Firman Tuhan, tetapi melalui perbincangan saya juga belajar daripada ahli - ahli yang lain juga dikuatkan oleh kesaksian dari ahli yang lain” **Norizan**.

“Saya diberkati oleh Firman dan semakin mendalami Firman Tuhan. Saya menyukai perbincangan mengenai Firman Tuhan kerana ianya menyemai kecintaan akan Firma Tuhan” **Nancy**.

“ Saya bertumbuh melalui Firman Tuhan yang dibahaskan setiap minggu! Kegiatan ini membantu saya untuk mengenali peribadi Tuhan Yesus Kristus dengan lebih dalam lagi” **Hong**.

Kelompok Sel di Kem Polis Pasukan Gerak Am, Ulu Kinta. En. Carlos / En. Raibon.

Pemberkatan rumah dan sambutan hari jadi di Kem PGA, Ulu Kinta.



Tanjung Rambutan. En. Darrel / Pn. Agustini.



“Saya merasa dan melihat iman saya bertumbuh lebih kuat dalam Tuhan Yesus Kristus”. **Anna**

“Mengajar saya untuk bersikap lebih terbuka untuk berkongsi masalah dan beban dalam hidup. Saya dikuatkan dengan dorongan dan nasihat daripada ahli - ahli yang lain. Dari Kelompok Sel juga saya boleh mengenal Tuhan Yesus Kristus dengan lebih dalam. **Erma**

~~~~~

**Menglembu. Pn. Rita / Pn. Elis.**



“Semakin dalam tertanam di dalam Firman Tuhan dan mengerti akan peranan saya sebagai anak Tuhan”. **Rita**

“Saya mengalami pertumbuhan dalam kerohanian dan menerima berkat untuk semua doa - doa saya”. **Ribka.**

Nama saya Elis, saya dari Kelompok Sel Jelapang Mengelembu, yang diketuai oleh Pn. Rita Panjaitan. Kami adakan Kelompok Sel dua kali dalam sebulan. Secara peribadi Kelompok Sel adalah tempat untuk belajar daripada pengalaman orang lain seperti belajar Firman Tuhan bersama dalam perbincangan, belajar berdoa bersama, berkongsi masalah dan pergumulan sehari-hari dari menangani rumah tangga dan anak - anak dan memberkati anggota yang lain dengan membawa berkat seperti makanan untuk dinikmati bersama.

~~~~~


Chemur / Khantan. En. Kenny / Pn. Normalina



“Sebagai ketua Kelompok Sel, saya sangat teruja dan gembira boleh bersama ahli - ahli Kelompok Sel untuk mendalami dan belajar Firman Tuhan dengan lebih teratur. Melalui perkongsian, kami sama - sama di tegur untuk mengubah diri dan menjadi matang dalam kerohanian”. **Normalina.**

“ Hanya dalam perkumpulan Kelompok Sel sahaja dapat berkongsi beban dan masalah”
Menta.

“Saya secara peribadi merasa sangat diberkati melalui Kelompok Sel. Di dalam Kelompok Sel, saya dapat melihat keberanian sesama ahli untuk lebih terbuka agar dapat ditolong dalam doa dan nasihat daripada ahli Kelompok Sel yang lain”. **Dian Katerin.**

Taman Song Choon / Gunung Rapat. Pn. Teh Amna / Pn. Jessica Leow.



“Saya bertumbuh dan diberkati dalam pelayanan Kelompok Sel. Di sini jugalah tempat yang paling sesuai untuk memberi nasihat kepada ibu - ibu yang muda”. **Teh Amna.**

“Saya belajar untuk berdoa, menaikkan pujian dan belajar Firman Tuhan bersama. Ini mendatangkan sukacita dan kegembiraan dalam hidup saya”. **Nisa.**

“Saya menerima hikmat dari pada Firman Tuhan yang kami belajar bersama. Jika dahulu saya mengikut dan menggunakan kekutan dan kebijaksanaan sendiri, kini tidak lagi kerana saya tahu Tuhan ada untuk menolong saya”. **Ani.**

“Melalui kesaksian ahli -ahli GC yang lain, saya menjadi lebih kuat dan taat untuk lebih rajin berdoa dan meletakkan pengharapan dalam Tuhan yang boleh memberi kekuatan dan ketabahan dalam hidup saya”. **Roganda.**

“Saya semakin dikuatkan dalam keimanan saya kepada Yesus Kristus dan bertumbuh dalam dalam Firman Tuhan”. **Isty.**

Acara Karnival Keluarga, persekutuan Bahasa Malaysia 14 Julai 2019

Acara ini telah di jalankan pada hari Ahad petang selepas Ibadah pada hari minggu. Sambutan amatlah menggalakkan, banyak peserta dari berbagai lapisan umur dan jantina. Puji Tuhan walaupun cuaca agak panas tetapi tiada sebarang kecederaan yang berlaku.







Wakil Penerima hadiah untuk setiap kumpulan



泰国勿洞宣教行

柯雅凤

2019年6月14, 15, 16日, 我和古豫丰 (Clarice) 跟着Albert和Lily到泰国的勿洞去宣教, 这是一趟探索之旅。未去之前, 我的脑筋还停留在20年前所去过见过的旧框框: 共产党、山洞、荒野、悲情……但是去到一看, 勿洞已经是一个车水马龙的城镇, 和平村已是一个漂亮新颖充满商机的旅游景点。



我们最先去的是 Lahu 这个山区僻乡。当我们的车子一到, 小孩子们就从他们的家里跑出来, 有如见到亲切的阿姨、叔叔那样开心。他们从儿童到少年, 约 25 个, 跟着我们唱歌、听故事、玩游戏……这群孩子是 Rebecca 宣教士和助手 Victoria 所教导的, 他们已经熟悉了歌曲如: God is so Good, Walk in the light of God 等等耳熟能详的儿童歌曲, 表演动作也已娴熟, 玩游戏也很投入, 会回答诸如此类的问题: 如何祷告? 每个人都需要祷告吗? 如何读圣经? 与神同行等等的提问。



跟小孩一起上主日学之后, 我们去探望当地的牧师与弟兄。他们在忙着建临时教堂。教堂的柱子是粗糙的森林大树干 (未经刨修, 原装的树桐) 作为柱子, 所有搭建的材料都那么“原始”。我跟 Clarice 说: 如果那些抱怨冷气不够冷, 或椅子不好坐的弟兄姐妹, 来 Lahu 看看这山村牧师偕会友所自建的教堂, 他们应该会有一番领悟或反省吧!

我们去的第二个村落是 hmong Village, 这是一个更 贫瘠的村落。由于没有水源, 加上旱季, 土地长出来的瓜果都干巴巴、瘦伶伶的。他们的房子很简陋。主日学就在屋子旁边 用竹片搭成的棚子上进行, 客人们就坐在 竹棚上。Wiracai 牧师弹着吉打大声开唱, 大家或坐或站, 快乐的唱圣诗, 歌颂上帝的伟大和救赎, 让我们不分种族, 不分国别的一起敬拜祂。过后, 村民用了 道地的材料煮了一大锅的糖水, 让大家吃了, 心中甜 滋滋的! 虽然一切是那么缺乏: 没有椅子, 没有麦克风, 没有……只有可遮体的 简单衣物, 可遮风雨的棚屋, 但有上帝的庇护已经是很足够了。聚会完毕, 村民们集体到河边去冲凉, 需要走一段路, 我们就告辞了。



回到 Betong Language Centre, 我们歇息的地方, Rebecca带我们去找勿洞美食, 喂饱劳累一天的身子。虽然劳累, 但是我们被勿洞的这些赤诚需要上主庇佑和安慰的孩童和村民感动不已! 上帝啊! 你要我们把福音传遍天下! 可是人啊! 几时才能够了悟神的爱? 接受祂。



第三天是到镇上的教堂分享讯息, 和Wiracai牧师的会友共进午餐, 然后我们就收拾打道回怡保了。

Freedom in Christ ~participants write...

Initially I was a bit hesitant to join the Freedom in Christ course as I was not sure whether I would be able to commit myself fully to the 10 weeks it entailed. I am glad that I did sign up and here I am at the last lesson with all my committed course mates.

The first lesson was already an eye opener as it set out the very essence of our position in Christ that is, we are no longer separated from God but set apart for Him. It is empowering to know that in Christ I am accepted, secure and significant.

As I went through the lessons, learning the spiritual truths, while most were not entirely new, the way they were taught set out the sequence and connection to who I am, the constant battle with the flesh and guarding of my mind against the lies of the devil and how I can be victorious and free in Christ.

On the away day...going through the steps to Freedom was truly an experience as I came before God, opening up to Him and renouncing the lies, doubts and strongholds in my life...that I can be confident knowing God is there...waiting for me to open my heart, confessing to Him all my flaws and laying of my fears and anxieties unto Him.

Truly, it has been an enriching experience for me. The important lesson I've learnt is also that it is a continual process and the steps as outlined in this course can be repeated and re-visited whenever the Spirit prompts and leads me into examining areas of my life that need to be changed and renounced once again in the presence of our Holy God.

To God be the glory.

Siew Wai



Thank you for organising FIC. When I saw the word 'Freedom', I quickly signed up because I felt I really needed more freedom in my life.

The course taught me my true identity in Christ. I am accepted, secure and significant in His kingdom. I am a real eagle instead of a chicken scratching around in the dust. I am able to pause and listen to God, and stop responding to Satan and his lies.

Journeying with my small group widened my perspective in life. I believe Christ put us all together for a great purpose.

I am thankful for our facilitators, Mark and Siok Eong's genuine sharing and guiding us to be honest in our sharing, and enjoying it too.

I have started my 40-day stronghold-busting and have stopped my Facebook swiping as I want to focus on God and think of Him rather than social media relationships. This requires great self-control but, by God's grace, I'll make it.

I found Freedom in Christ a practical journey to break chains and regain a fresh perspective of myself through the lens of Jesus Christ

His friend aka daughter in Christ, Candu Lo

Thank you for such a good course. FIC discipleship course has helped me to regain focus, allowing God's word to work deeply in my life. It has deepened my understanding, faith and trust in God, and knowing that I am accepted, secure and significant is so wonderful.

I strongly recommend this course to anyone, regardless of how long you have been a Christian because it is a wonderful way of reviewing your walk with God.

It will be well worth your time and effort.

Thank You, Jesus.

Jenny Voon Lee Wah

I have benefited from Freedom in Christ as I've learnt my identity in Christ. Rehearsing the 20 "Cans" of Success will help me in times of need and affirm my faith in Christ.

Satan or the devil always looks for opportunities to control my mind into believing his lies that I am inadequate and helpless but Freedom in Christ has taught me to believe in the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ. His Word is more powerful than Satan.

As I spend more time with Jesus, my relationship with Him strengthens and my mind is renewed and set free.

Sarah Yong



Why did I sign up for FIC?

- I wanted to know what other sins I may have had.
- I wanted to be sincere with God, and myself and others.

What benefits did I gather through the past 10 weeks of going through the FIC Discipleship Course?

- I learnt how to be honest with myself.
- I learnt how to re-align my thoughts to what the Bible says of us.
- I learnt how to renew my mind by applying Philippians 4:8.
- I gained a new perspective and deeper understanding on what makes us tick, e.g. how our past and DNA make-up have an impact on our behaviour now.
- I was able to make use of the step-by-step tools used in FIC to renounce, confess my sins and strongholds.
- I learned some helpful tips on how to relate to others.

What are the requirements for joining the class?

- be desirous of having continuous learning in our lifetime
- be disciplined in attending the weekly classes
- be sincere, courageous and bold in our sharing
- respect the confidentiality of testimonies shared by others
- be inspired by the sharing of others in the group, their honesty, courage and tenacity

ACG

I grew up as an unhappy person. I did not love or respect the person I am. During my childhood years, I was called 'stupid' and 'ugly'. I am not stupid. I am only timid. Neither am I ugly. God created me with small eyes. That does not make me ugly. In fact, who knows? My small eyes could be attributed to a great, great, great Japanese grandmother! Haha!!!

On a serious note, my past caused me to have a very low self-esteem. I lacked confidence and always admired other ladies whom I deemed to have 'substance'. Hence, I always tried to please people in order to get some attention. How wrong I was!

Praise the Lord! Through FIC, I have discovered how wonderfully I am loved by my Creator. Now I can stand tall because I have learned to love and accept myself for who I am, for in God's eyes I am Accepted, Secure and Significant. I am the Apple of His Eye.

I am not the Great I Am, but by the Grace of God, I am what I am.

Doris Ong

The FIC course made me realise that I had been unconsciously living in a lot of lies. It pointed me to God's Truth and led me to believe in that Truth. It revealed my true identity in Christ and convinced me that I am significant, I am secure and I am accepted by God, irrespective of my past, my status, my background and age. It reminded me that I am a child of God.

As I am a peace-maker and never like to retaliate or have confrontations, my submissive nature led me to bottle up all my anger, hurt and pain. Although after some time I would cool down and try to forgive and forget whatever and whoever hurt me, these ill feelings were definitely unhealthy and made me unhappy.

FIC taught me how I can choose to forgive others faster. By releasing negative feelings, I can avoid psychosomatic illnesses. Besides that, I can enjoy the peace and joy of the Lord in my heart.

I have learnt that if I am secure in my own identity in Christ, I can choose not to be defensive when people attack me. After all, Christ is my defence and so I'll just entrust myself to God and leave the outcome with Him.

Tan Hwee Eng



This course, 'Freedom in Christ' has given me the great opportunity of discovering who I am in Christ. The 20 "Cans" of Success have opened the eyes of my heart to know that I can do all things through him who gives me strength (Phil.4:13). We have not received a spirit of fear but of power, of love and of self-discipline (2 Tim. 1:7) and the one who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.

To know that I have been accepted into the family of God makes me significant and secure for my spiritual journey. I am at peace and well comforted with what God has provided and I endeavour to do what he has installed for me willingly.

Wan Sai Pun

People who know me used to say that I'm a rather "Needy" person. I guess it was because I had lost both my parents at a relatively young age. Deep in the recesses of my heart, I craved for a sense of belonging. I needed to belong to somebody and with the loss of my parents, I had also lost my identity. I was "Nobody's Child". Consequently, for a period of time - I felt insecure and empty.

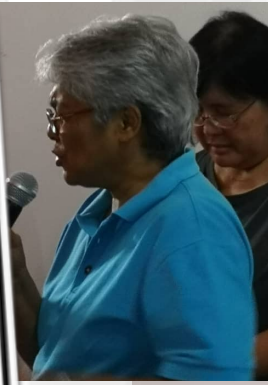
And henceforth began a litany of events which I've repeatedly abandoned, deserted or left unfinished. This ranged from relationships, projects that I was involved in, courses that I may be attending, organisations I worked for and YES - even churches that I had attended, the reason being that they could not meet my needs.

I have been selfishly focussing on MY NEEDS, not realising until recently that this is merely an exercise in futility. Not only do I have no right to expect my needs to be met by others, I actually have a social and moral responsibility to meet the needs of others. If we can only shed and discard this attitude of Entitlement that it is our Right that our needs are met, and instead learn to love and serve others unconditionally and give glory to God without expectations, we will receive the liberating and immeasurable joy of it being reciprocated by them.

To be able to feel Accepted, Significant and Secure, I should focus on the one who loves me unconditionally, and without expectations, and my "cup will not only be filled" but will run over with deep resounding joy!

What more will I need??

Milly Ho



My Christian life revolved around church services, activities, seminars, programmes and fellowship with other Christians. However, in spite of all those activities, I still felt unfulfilled. I decided to attend Freedom in Christ hoping to find some solutions to my problems. In the process of studying, I realized that I had not totally trusted God and believed in the truth of His Word. Ignorance of God's Word robbed me of many of God's blessings. There is no substitute for the knowledge of God that comes through the study of His Word. His Word makes me feel accepted, significant and secure in my identity as a child of God.

Having been transformed by the renewal of my mind, I have learnt to step out in faith and obedience to God because faith is obeying despite fear of failures and defeat. As a human, victory against the evil one is impossible unless I put on the whole armour of God and completely depend upon His Presence and His Power.

Freedom in Christ has made me more aware of my sinfulness and that I need to seek God for His forgiveness, mercy and grace. FIC has taught me the know-how and means to live a victorious life in Christ Jesus. Using the tools provided in FIC, I am restored and changed by renouncing and demolishing all my strongholds and weaknesses, hurts and pains by surrendering everything and laying them before the Almighty God. The steps to Freedom in Christ have set me free from my bondage to sin.

Having been restored, a sense of liberation and peace fills my heart. I experience the fullness of God's blessings and I can now live enthusiastically for God in the present, knowing full well that He will concern Himself with my future.

All glory to God Almighty.

Winnie Goh

How has the FIC course helped me?

I've always known the importance for us to forgive those who have hurt us, as stated in Matthew 6:14-15 as we may end up in hell for not forgiving others. It's not worth going to hell for someone who has hurt us.

The FIC course brought to mind the reality of who is really being hurt when we don't forgive, by the illustration of us having a fish hook hooked into our cheek, and how if we continue to leave the fish hook there, the wound in our cheek will be inflamed and turn ugly. We need to remove the fish hook from our cheek, which is equivalent to forgiving the other party who has hurt us. Forgiveness doesn't necessarily mean reconciliation. We let GOD's justice deal with those who have hurt us.

The FIC course also equipped us with tools on how to do renunciation and do our stronghold busters (sins that we find difficult to give up). Without the guidelines/tools given, I would be very lost on how to proceed with renunciation and busting my personal strongholds.

After attending this course, I've built a deeper relationship with my CG members and even made new friends with people from other CGs, whom I had never met. A trust was built after we shared our inner thoughts and struggles with each other.

Lisa Ang

When I first came across the Freedom In Christ flyer, the word Freedom caught my attention. Oh...that's what I need to be set free to live for Christ.

Together with CM we formed a group of eight ladies from CG 17 and CG 35. Thank God for Sis Ann and Bro Leonard as our facilitators. Their openness in sharing was very encouraging.

The day away was the highlight. This was the first time that I did renunciation in detail. Releasing all my bondages to God was liberating.

The stronghold buster also helps me to learn to deal with the strongholds in my life one by one. One of them that I am dealing with now is "contentment." I hope after 40 days, I am able to say that "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

LMY



I joined the 10-week FIC Course this year at the invitation of my cell member who told me there was a vacancy for just one more person to make up the maximum group number of eight. Since I knew most of the ladies in our group pretty well, I decided to join. The additional bonus was we were assigned two very good facilitators whose open and honest sharing greatly encouraged us to share about our lives.

There were two things I found helpful about this course. The first one was the day away where we took a day off and gathered in groups at a bungalow from morning until evening. We went through the booklet 10 steps to freedom in Christ, a tool that we can use to take back any ground that has been given to the enemy by resolving personal and spiritual conflicts. It covers the whole of your life history in one comprehensive session. By the end of the day, we felt cleansed and ready to start afresh, besides knowing one another so much more. For this, I'm thankful to the facilitators, Ann Muttiah & Leonard Lim for leading us through this session and to God for setting me free to start afresh.

The second thing I found helpful was how to put Romans 12:2 "Do not conform any longer to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will." into practice. We learnt that to take hold of and live in our freedom in Christ is not a one-off experience but needs to become a way of life. When we became Christians, no one pressed a delete button in our minds. We still have the same old default programming, those same old thought patterns called strongholds that affect the way we live. Towards the end of the course, we learnt a strategy called Stronghold Buster to help us renew our minds. It helps by daily renouncing the lies we believe and committing ourselves to truth to set us free to live in accordance with God's will.

Fay Ling



Because the cross happened

Emily Ho

John Brown, *Expository Discourses on I Peter*, 2 vols. (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 1975), 1:472–3

(as quoted by Jerry Bridges, *The Joy of Fearing God* at 76)

“Nothing is so well fitted to put the fear of God ... into the heart, as an enlightened view of the cross of Christ. There shine spotless holiness, inflexible justice, incomprehensible wisdom, omnipotent power, holy love. None of these excellencies darken or eclipse the other, but every one of them rather gives a lustre to the rest. They mingle their beams, and shine with united eternal splendour: the just Judge, the merciful Father, the wise Governor. Nowhere does justice appear so awful, mercy so amiable, or wisdom so profound.”

“For the message of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18

Reading the quoted excerpt and Scripture passage above made me think about the infinite wisdom of the Cross where Jesus died. The Cross was a marvelous display of justice and mercy: the provision of a sacrifice to pay for our wrongs, but provided by God Himself so we would be freed from the penalty ourselves. Three thoughts about the Cross came to mind:

The Cross gives us a certain hope.

God keeps his word, so we can trust in his promise of salvation. But he did not merely pronounce a gratuitous promise not to express his wrath on us. Instead, he made the promise solid with the death and resurrection of his Son. This means that salvation is not a hollow promise that we cling to with a hollow hope that God keeps his promises. When I promise someone that I'll reply their message this evening, their hope is hollow because it depends solely on the words I've spoken. They have no other basis on which to hope that I'll reply them, except that I spoke those words. With the Cross, the certainty that the promise will be kept is achieved by, and displayed in, the Cross. The certainty that we are justified and delivered from death, is expressed in the Cross.¹

When we stand before the throne, we don't simply hope to be vindicated because God said he would do it. We don't simply hope to “faultless stand before the throne” because God said he would do it... Instead, we point to the tangible and certain event—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—and say, the promise is there expressed. Of course, God's Word is perfect and will accomplish its purposes ([Isaiah 55:11](#)), and so it is inconceivable that God would speak a promise and not keep it. But God's Word isn't hollow words, like the mini promises we fallible people make but cannot keep. Instead, God's Word is substantial: Jesus is the Word ([John 1:1](#)). What was accomplished on the Cross, is the Word—the promise expressed. When we look at the Cross, we see a sure and binding hope. This hope is not based on some illusive transcendent “message from god”, as is the case with other world religions propounded by humans claiming to have heard from the divine. Instead, my hope is based on the visual, empirically accomplished, work of the man Jesus Christ on the Cross. Because of the Cross, which was planted right here on earth before us, my hope stands.

The Cross gives us grounded social justice.

God defines perfect justice. I think the reason for our instinctive indignance at social injustices, is the fact that we were created by God who stamped his mark on us: we are created "in the image of God" ([Genesis 1:27](#)). Otherwise, the material world alone falls short in explaining the moral outcomes that our instincts tell us to pursue: the manifestation of this is seen in Peter Singer's view of human value in sentience. But that is the consistent and logical conclusion of his atheistic views.

God demonstrates this perfect justice in the Cross. "If he really is so loving", an argument might go, "why can't he just forgive?" But if he did "just forgive" without Jesus having to die, that would be at the expense of justice. The wages of sin is death ([Romans 6:23](#)). From the beginning, the declared penalty for disobedience was death ([Genesis 2:17](#)). If this penalty was not carried through, this flies in the face of justice and the rule of law. And if justice is so flippantly foregone on the cosmic scale, how elusive is our pursuit of justice and the rule of law in society today. Instead, Bible-believing Christians can look at the Cross, which was the universal watershed of all time, and say, "there I see, woven in the fabric of the Universe, justice and the rule of law perfectly embodied." This frees me to pursue social justice in my daily interactions with people in my community, knowing (1) my pursuit is intrinsically good, not just instrumental, and (2) my pursuit is honest, for I myself deserve cosmic punishment, but it has been paid.

The Cross frees us yet constrains us to pursue holiness.

More fundamentally, the Cross displays holiness. Holiness is a tough word to define, but at least one aspect of it is moral perfection. As Christians we pursue righteousness in our daily actions and seek to overcome sinful practices. We are commanded to do so in [Romans 8:13](#), "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live". At the same time, however, it is said at the very start of that chapter, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" ([Romans 8:1](#)). In the Cross, we see that God takes sin very seriously. When he stipulates that the just punishment for sin is death, he means it—so much that, in order to show mercy, he gave his own Son to die ([John 3:16](#)).

This means that our pursuit of holiness is not in vain: when we are commanded to pursue holiness, we don't muster up our own motivations to pursue moral virtue. Rather, we look at the Cross, which is a visual presentation of the gravity of sin and the value of holiness. What if the Cross had not happened?—if God had just "forgiven" and let the outstanding penalty for sin just go poof, left unpaid? Then we would have little ground and little motivation to pursue holiness. Holiness would seem to not be that valuable: for the penalty for our transgressions was just foregone. This is why we are upset when vile criminals are given mercy without having to pay for what they've done. Our intuition against such hollow mercy is driven by the sentiment that wrongdoings must be paid for: otherwise, the value of abiding by morals and the law is undermined; our moral standards would be rendered a farce.

Instead, the Cross frees us by justifying us by faith apart from our faulty works. Yet the Cross also constrains us to pursue holiness, because any sincere understanding of the Cross would come with a stricken sense of the value of holiness, constraining us to a lifelong pursuit of it, enabled by the Spirit of God.

These are just three big little things about the Cross. There's obviously much more that can be said, but to say it all would be an endless endeavour.

Book review ~ Discipleship missions

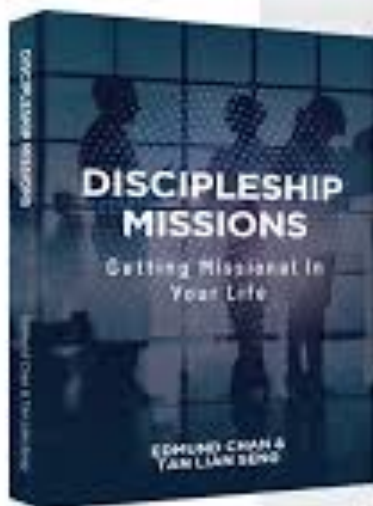
Paddy Teh

DISCIPLESHIP MISSIONS: GETTING MISSIONAL IN YOUR LIFE

by Edmund Chan and Tan Lian Seng

(Singapore: Covenant Evangelical Free Church, 2016)

ISBN: 978-981-11-0302-5



"THERE IS A KING. THERE IS A KINGDOM.
AND THERE IS AN URGENT TASK TO WIN
AND DISCIPLE THE LOST UNTO HIS KINGDOM.
IF YOU HAVE A MISSION IN LIFE,
THE CALL IS FOR YOU. AND THE TIME IS NOW."

- EDMUND CHAN

Getting Missional in
Your Life

It is a 279-page book. It can be a "heavy" book to read if we have not caught the missional bug BUT, it can be an enlightening book if we are "getting" missional, as the title suggests.

There are five parts and a Conclusion in the book. It has twenty-one chapters and nine Appendices, followed by an extensive Bibliography.

The authors use many one-two sentences per paragraph thus presenting less wordiness on each page. This simple format gives the impression that reading the book is a less daunting venture. The depth of the message though, is immeasurable. It hits at the strength of our faith and questions our commitment to the Great Commission. It is a well-researched book with references to and quotes from Christian writers and theologians such as John Stott, John Piper and Dallas Willard.

Part 4: Strategies for Twenty-First century Missions stands out for me. The four chapters on Urban Missions (Chapter 11), Foreign and Home Missions (Chapter 12), Missions to the Next Generation (Chapter 13) and Business Missions/BAM (Chapter 14) present the types or areas of mission that we can be involved in. What really tugs at my heart's strings is Appendix 3: Understanding and Reaching the Post Modern Generation. Reading this particular section of the book niggles my responsibility to perpetuate my faith to the next generation.

Readers are cautioned about the power of the media discipling nations and more frighteningly, "our children". Readers are reminded that the next generation of our postmodernist, globalised world is returning to paganism, secularism, pluralism and materialism. Hopefully, this awakens us from our stupor and complacency, and propels us to pass on our faith to them. We, of the older generation (Veterans born between 1920-1945 and Baby Boomers 1945-1965) will agree with the authors that The Next Generation are the best people to harness their digital expertise and knowledge to reach out to their peers. (I pray that young Christians will use their techno-gifts to impact the world for Jesus).

So – how can I from the older generation be challenged from a "discipleship of convenience" to a "discipleship of conviction"? (Words taken from page 221 of this book)

I know of some wonderful Spirit-filled and Spirit-directed ladies and men who are passing on the love of Jesus to their younger counterparts.

I know of a lovely, gentle, older Christian lady, who, in going for meals and outings with her ex-students, must have impacted their lives with the love of Jesus, for these younger people to seek her company again and again.

I know of a sister-in-Christ who is divorced but who uses her free time despite her hectic teaching schedule and tiredness, to meet up with younger women who are in unhappy, at-risk marriages.

I know of a 70-year old retired Bible School teacher who spends her retirement years going around the world training younger Seminary students to serve our Lord more effectively.

I know of a godly, elderly gentleman who prays earnestly for his children and grandchildren to serve our Lord faithfully.

AND – we all know of the dedicated “senior” men and women in our church who put aside their “senior ways” (temporarily), to “connect” with children in Sunday School and in particular, children from 6 – 12 years old in CGMC's Vacation Bible School from 15 August to 17 August this year.

May I have a humble heart to follow the examples of these men and women of faith who are passing on our Lord's love to the younger generation. May I too, at this juncture, with humility, share with you all the “little” I do with my our grandchildren.

My husband and I love visiting our grandchildren. When we visit them and it is a Friday night, we watch animated films with them. So – I am quite familiar with Cars, The Lorax, Captain Underpants (yes!), Fireman Sam, Peppa Pig It is the simple joy of sitting with them, being interested in what fascinates them. It is a precious time of building closeness between generations. I chat with the older grandchildren about the characters, storylines and moral implications in the films. With the younger ones, I ask them the names of the cartoon characters and their roles in the films (to the little ones, people are simply divided into good and bad). It is a meaningful time of gaining their trust so that when the opportunity arises for me to share about Jesus, they are willing to listen to me.

Reading Discipleship Missions. Getting Missional in Your Life has, in a tiny way, activated the missional button in me.
(This book is in CGMC's library).

Paddy Teh

VBS 2019 ~ Scar Force Jedi Boot Camp

Lillian Soh

On August 15 to 17, our church had an event that we organize every two years for kids and it's an evangelical event for kids to learn more about our heavenly Father, about who He is and what He sacrificed for all of us in order to give us the gift of salvation that none of us deserve. The kids learn about His word through lessons held and also a short drama held each day. To some of us it may seem ineffective but to a little kid, it's a whole new level of understanding.

In short, this event is known as VBS which stands for Vacation Bible School. We've had hundreds of kids join this event over a course of 3 days and many lives have been touched and changed through this event. This year however was a rather different yet unique experience for me. We had kids from the Salvation Army and kids from other children homes that joined us this year. On one of the days I had to take care of these kids from one of the Salvation Army branches in Ipoh and these kids were really a gem. To see their faces shining so radiantly with the joy that they experienced from VBS is heart-warming and the fact that they came every morning for the event and were so excited for what is about to happen each day made you want to just thank God for such things, little things like these that we tend to overlook.

Seeing the smile on their faces indeed put a smile on mine despite the tiredness, and the fact that they were from the Salvation Army made me rejoice in the fact that despite not having someone that they can call family, at least they now know that there is someone they can call their Heavenly Father. It must have been tough for them seeing kids who had parents and a family to go home to but they put that aside because they knew the real love that they would receive from their Heavenly Father. On the last day, one of the kids from the Salvation Army told me that she wanted to go home with me, and at that moment I didn't know what to say but all I could do was just to smile, give her a hug and deep down in my heart, I was just glad that she had people around her who cared for her and that she felt the love and care while she was here at the event.

Serving in the kids ministry in church has made an impact in my life and also made me stumble upon lessons I never knew I would learn. It taught me not only to be humble but also to see His word in a different perspective, a perspective that only one can experience once you try serving in the kids ministry, from learning how kids adapt to changes in their environment to what is the most effective way of helping a child understand the Word of God and later on applying it in their life. It hasn't been easy but each time I meet new kids, I learn another valuable lesson and it definitely is rewarding, seeing their lives being changed and knowing that they have this new found hope in their life that they can cling on to in times of trouble.





If anyone were to ask me why I want to serve in the kids ministry after once being a Sunday school kid in my childhood, my reason would be because I want the kids to feel the same joy and love that I received from Christ and from the people around me who helped me learn more about Him. I want them to see that despite all the things that happen in their life, there is still a Father who cares for them and loves them deeply. The impact that kids ministry has made in my life, is the same impact that I want to make in their lives.

This truly is the reward you get when you join the kids ministry. Each time you see a kid's life being changed, it makes you want to persevere through it all just to see another life being changed. The fact that there are still so many other unreached kids out there makes churches put in more effort to reach these kids because we see the need of a revival in the new generation that is to come, the generation that will be vessels for Christ. And the fact that at this phase of their life they are helpless and dependent means that we are called upon to help them, and on the other hand, ***their helplessness is an example for us in our relation to God.***

Of course as an individual, you would have thoughts like, how am I going to do this all alone and what if I'm doing it the wrong way? It's okay to make mistakes. We learn from each other and no, you're not alone :) This is why it's called a ministry, it's a place where a community of people who care for these kids come together to lead these kids to the right path towards Christ. In fact, we as youths and adults learn from this simple yet profound faith in children. It's even said in the Bible, ***Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14***

Therefore, my hope and prayer for each and everyone of you, brothers and sisters in Christ, is to come forward and serve Christ in any area that He has gifted you, whether it's the Kids ministry, Youth ministry, missions or any other area that God has placed upon your heart. On our own we can never do much but with the Body of Christ we can and we shall and it will be all to the glory of God alone. Never ever belittle yourselves or let others belittle you because in His eyes, you are precious and worthy of the calling He has called you to, you are who He says you are. ***He doesn't call the qualified but He qualifies the one He calls.***

"Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger." Psalm 8:2

Reading the Old Testament

Paddy Teh

Before my aunt passed away, she disclosed with a tinge of regret and guilt, her observations of the Old Testament. She confessed that she found it hard to “continue” reading the OT because of the gory bloodshed in battles, the inhumane human sacrifices and disgusting polygamous relationships. It was starkly confronting and confusing for her to persist in reading the OT because of the cultural, generational and historical clashes. Like my aunt, I too found it “disturbing” to read the OT in my younger days. The only OT books that appealed to me then were the “softer” books such as Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.



Now that I am retired, have more time and my eyesight is still okay, I am making a conscious, daily effort to read the OT. I desire to understand and be touched by God's Word in the OT. I am actually enjoying a delightful and refreshing OT experience. I am, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, gaining fresh insight into the OT. (This time I read conscientiously and systematically from Genesis to Malachi. No more selective reading for me!)

One of the many revelations as I read the OT is I come face to face with an **AWESOME** GOD. Often I say or sing - “God is an awesome God” but am not fully convinced in my heart, mind and spirit. But as I persevere patiently in my reading of the OT, the confirmation and conviction that my God is an awesome God gets more and more ingrained into my knowledge, understanding and belief in Him. The blessing of reading and enjoying the OT is tremendous.

To me, God's awesomeness is revealed when

He created the world in six days (Genesis 1). He is the Master of heaven and earth.

He blessed 100-year old Abraham (Genesis 21:5) and menopausal Sarah (Genesis 18:11) with a son, Issac.

He drove the Red Sea “back with a strong east wind” and turned it into “dry land” (Exodus 14:21) so that the waters were “divided” and the Israelites could walk “through the sea of dry ground with a wall of water on their right and on their left” (Exodus 14:22). Many of us have gasped and gaped in bewildered wonderment at the Niagara Falls or Iquazu Falls but imagine trudging the dry bed of the Red Sea, with two waterfalls, one on our left and the other on our right. There is no climatic or geographical explanation for this phenomenal phenomenon!

God's awesomeness demands our wonder and worshipful reverence.

The OT also reveals to me that our God is a **HOLY** GOD, hence, the importance of a lifestyle of holiness. His meticulous instructions in Leviticus and Numbers on offerings, the role of the priest, laws on cleanliness emphasise God's majestic holiness, and our need to be reverent and obedient to Him. His precise and firm instruction on etching His commandments in our hearts and following them faithfully require us to be humbly obedient to Him. Disobedience is a big no no to Him. Our God in Deuteronomy demands our wholehearted obedience to Him. I am learning with difficulty not to take sin lightly. I am learning to be sin-sensitive.

Running through the first five books of the OT and binding them tightly together is **GOD'S LOVE**. We maybe terrified just as Moses was at the burning bush but as we persist in reading the OT, we are able to trace God's love and His deep desire to have a relationship with His people. God's unfailing love is reflected in His compassion in the OT. Although God banished Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, although God was grieved at man's wickedness during Noah's time, although God was infuriated by man's hardened ways in Sodom and Gomorrah, although He was frustrated (I'm sure) by the Israelites' murmurings in the wilderness, God **ALWAYS LISTENED** to the cries of His people. He was **ALWAYS** waiting for His people to turn back to Him. His compassionate love is overwhelming – sometimes, even hard to imagine and comprehend.

From the day Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden in shame, God had planned to save mankind by sending His son to die for us. He saved Noah by asking him to build the ark – He was willing to save Sodom and Gomorrah if there were ten righteous people – He sent manna, water, quails to the whining Israelites. God's immeasurable love for His people is unimaginable. It is God's steadfast love flowing from the time of Adam and Eve and overflowing into the New Testament that assures me that GOD IS LOVE.

Let me share with you how the reading of the OT strengthened my belief in an awesome, holy, loving and compassionate God during the period leading to Malaysia's GE14 Polling Day in 2018. In hindsight, we can say it was a historic day. The days preceding Polling Day on 9 May were filled with anxiety, restlessness, tension and suspicion. All kinds of news circulated on social media, and we were momentarily confused as to what was true or fake news. There was a spirit of paralysing fear and crippling intimidation as ominous, troubling thoughts lurked over our land (example, phantom votes from the dead and foreigners; manufactured accidents; voter-prevention roadworks on the highway). During that period of tension and occasional bleak despair, two OT references kept my faith afloat.

1. 2 Chronicles 7:14 – a verse that had motivated and guided many prayers groups at that time.

“...if my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

I realised then it was my “duty” to pray for my land BUT I needed to be humble, seek God's face and turn from my wicked ways. I needed to be cleansed of MY sins – my criticisms of the country, my incessant complaints about the leadership, my prejudices, my bigotry, my unteachable spirit. It was not just the previous government being unjust and dishonest. Did I, in any way, subscribe to it?

2. Judges 7 spoke clearly to me. I read about Gideon's army reduced by God from 22 000 to only 300 men to fight the Midianites. Gideon's lean army, in man's eyes, made them vulnerable. How to win a battle with only 300 men? God's awesome sovereignty reigned that day. God fought and won the battle for Gideon. Couldn't we then rely on God to win the GE14 battle for us? Yes, we could because He is our Almighty, loving and compassionate God who listens to our desperate cries. It dawned on me then that during the pre-GE14 period, I was to be calm – still – and to know that He is God. I was NOT to spread “fear-mongering” news. I was to go on my knees – to be in restful silence – pray – focus on God's character and promise – and let God be victorious for us just as He did with Gideon's small army. What God had done for Gideon, He would do for us, and He did!

Believe me that when I tell you that reading the OT is

- strengthening my personal knowledge of my God,
- shaping my understanding of the character of my God (I only shared some of His attributes in this article),
- surrendering my life to my always-loving God,
- nudging me to seek my God every day,
- helping me to draw the links between the OT and NT.

Truly, God's Word is “a lamp to my feet and a light for my path” (Psalm 119:105). May the power of God's Word shed the light of His truth and change your life – just as it is doing in mine.

God bless you as you read the Old Testament.
(Of course, you need to read the New Testament too!)

MSF ~ the MSF and our activities

Cheah Kok Wah (CG28)

I want to take this opportunity to inform our church members, that the MSF (Methodist Senior Fellowship) IS NOT AN EATING GROUP. The MSF is a very active & vibrant group of seniors who are involved in many activities for the Glory of God.

What prompted me to write this was the feedback I received when trying to promote the Sr. Citizens' Day Dinner during the VBS appreciation dinner on Sunday 19 August 2019. I was told that 'you MSF talk of nothing but eats.' The Sr. Citizens' Day Dinner is one of many. I explained that the MSF is involved in many beneficial & evangelistic activities open to all Christians & non-Christians alike. The eating part is only a means to our objective. In every activity, EVANGELISM is our objective as explained below:

1. **MSF DAY TRIPS** – This activity is open to ALL CGMC members, their non-Christian families & friends from other churches. CGMC members are reminded to invite their neighbours & relatives to come along for a change of environment, meet new friends, enjoy food not found in Ipoh & of course, shop. We begin the journey with a prayer, we play Christian worship music & sing-a-long songs & Bible movies to a captive audience. The return journey ends with a thanksgiving prayer. By doing so, we subtly plant the Seed of Christ in the non-believers. On average we have three to five of them on our trips. At the same time, we invite them to participate in our Sit-Down Exercise, Kopitiam, CG meetings & MSF Fellowship nights. This is EVANGELISM.



2. **SENIOR CITIZEN'S DAY DINNER** – This is another non-threatening platform to attract non-Christians to our activities. We invite people from other churches as well to participate to promote friendship & fellowship among all denominations. We are trying to build bridges & unity among Christians. Eating is a very good stepping stone to come together to get to know one another better. The music & fun which follows will certainly encourage those present to want to come back for more. This is EVANGELISM.
3. **SIT-DOWN EXERCISE & AEROBICS** – Without fail, people who attend the above events & any other church activities are invited to participate in our well-known SDE. More than a hundred participate in this exercise each time, on Mondays & Fridays. Over 80% are outsiders including non-Christians. A prayer & the Word is shared at the end of every session. This is EVANGELISM.



4. **KOPITIAM** – is much the same. We share the Love of God, we share the Word of God & we strengthen one another in our daily walk with God. More beneficial activities may be added in the near future.
5. **VISITATION** – We visit anyone who needs visiting irrespective of creed or religion. We are color blind & status blind. As long as they give us the green light, we go & visit & pray for them. We always seek their consent & time before we visit. Depending on the situation, we want always to share the love of Christ & hope with them, to show our love & concern. And we almost always have tea/eats on our way back to share & evaluate our visit to ensure we have done the right thing.



To God be the Glory !!!

Testimoni ~ Benjana yang kosong

Kristina

Saya terlahir di keluarga Kristen. Saya dibaptis pada saat berumur 1 tahun. Sejak itu saya didik dan disekolahkan di Sekolah Kristen. Saya merasa hal yang biasa saja menjadi Kristen. Sebagai seorang Kristen saya pergi ke Sekolah Minggu dan berdoa. Yang saya tahu Tuhan saya bernama Yesus Kristus.

Saat saya berumur 16 tahun, saya mengikuti katekisasi dan peneguhan sidi. Setelah Peneguhan Sidi setiap peserta dibagikan Alkitab dengan sekelilingnya berwarna hijau stabilo. Suatu malam di kamar saya dengan mematikan lampu, saya merenung dan berkata dalam hati : Tuhan saya tidak mau jadi seperti ini terus. Saya mau menjadi orang yang kuat. Walau saya disakiti, saya tidak merasa tersakiti. Tapi bagaimana caranya? Saya tidak tahu. Apa yang harus saya lakukan Tuhan? Saya tahu Engkau ada. Secara tiba-tiba Alkitab yang saya dapat saat Peneguhan Sidi dengan pinggirnya yang berwarna hijau stabilo menyala terang di kamar saya yang gelap. Saya katakan: Baik Tuhan, saya akan baca FirmanMu dan dekat dengan Engkau.



Oktober 1992 saya mulai membaca renungan harian dan Alkitab. Saya juga mulai membantu pelayanan di Sekolah Minggu dan menjadi Guru Sekolah Minggu setelah menjalani beberapa tahapan. Sejak itu saya selalu menyediakan waktu untuk pelayanan. Saya menjadi Ketua Sekolah Minggu untuk 2 periode dan pelayanan saya makin besar. Waktu di awal hanya sebatas Sekolah Minggu kini mulai memasuki pelayanan di Jemaat. Saya begitu setia dengan pelayanan saya. Bahkan setelah menikah dan mempunyai 3 anak, saya tetap aktif dalam pelayanan. Saya padat dengan pelayanan tapi anehnya saya merasa hampa.

Juli 2014 kami sekeluarga dipindahkan ke Batam. Dengan modal iman kami memulai perjalanan keluarga kecil kami di sebuah kota yang kami belum pernah datang sebelumnya. Di sinilah semua pergumulan demi pergumulan kami jalani. Saya secara pribadi mulai merasakan kedekatan kembali dengan Tuhan. Selama pelayanan yang padat di Jakarta justru tidak membuat padat hubungan pribadi saya dengan Tuhan. Sehingga hal inilah yang membuat hati saya terasa hampa. Seperti seorang juru roti yang membuat roti untuk orang lain supaya mereka tidak kelaparan tapi justru dia sendirilah yang kelaparan. Hal itulah yang sepertinya saya rasakan. Saya sibuk pelayanan yang katanya melayani Tuhan tapi ternyata hati saya jauh dari Tuhan. Saya bersyukur Tuhan mengangkap saya untuk kedua kali. Lewat banyak pergumulan, kami justru makin dikuatkan oleh Tuhan. Dan Tuhan mengizinkan saya kembali melayani di Sekolah Minggu dan beberapa pelayanan lainnya. Tapi kali ini saya belajar untuk tidak menjadi seorang juru roti yang kelaparan.

Seringkali pelayanan yang padat membuat waktu pribadi kita dengan Tuhan berkurang. Bukan pelayanan hebat yang Tuhan kehendaki. Tuhan menginginkan hati kita selalu dekat dengan hatiNya. Tidak ada yang salah dengan melayani Tuhan. Yang salah adalah ketika pelayanan yang begitu padat membuat kita seperti benjana yang kosong.

Testimony ~ experiencing God's presence in my life

Cheong Nyok Tai (CG 1)



I am Nyok Tai. Today I would like to share with you one of God's blessings in my life to give glory to Him.

This incident happened many years ago when my family was staying in Bandar Utama, K.L. My son was going to start his Primary 1 in S.K. Damansara Utama in a month's time and I had made arrangements for a friend to fetch him to and from school.

In the meantime, I decided to teach him how to walk home from school. His school was less than 1 km from our house. To come home from his school, we had to pass through 2 streets, go past a nursery selling plants, flower pots, etc, walk along the footpath of LDP (Lebuhraya Damansara Puchong - a busy highway), and then turn into Bandar Utama - a safe 30-minute walk. We did it with him a few times to familiarise him with the route.

One morning around 10 am, we were walking past the plant nursery as usual, and then along the LDP path. We could hear dogs barking which was quite common, but this time the barking seemed to get louder and louder. We turned around and were stunned! A pack of dogs - about 8 of them - were barely 3m away from us. They were barking fiercely and snarling and baring their teeth. Their ears and tail and hair and legs showed they were about to attack. My poor, petrified son ran behind me and only a small umbrella separated us from the dogs. I was frozen and speechless. The dogs continued to bark and walk slowly towards us menacingly. Many cars were speeding past because LDP is a busy highway but nobody stopped. They were probably not even aware of the danger we faced.

Suddenly I started shouting with boldness and authority. I stared straight into the dogs' eyes and shouted non-stop, standing firmly. I knew God was with us and He was in control. Don't ask me what I was saying - words just flowed out of my mouth.

The dogs were taken aback. They stopped in their tracks and their barking and snarling toned down. Time stood still for me. After some time, the dogs lowered their heads and slowly walked backwards. Finally, they turned back. I continued to pray in tongues and they looked back now and then to snarl and growl at us. We just stood still.

After they left us, I realised I was sweating and shaking under the hot sun. Goose pimples covered my hands. We were overwhelmed by the Presence of God and couldn't stop praising Him and thanking Him for saving us.

When we are so helpless and weak, God is strong and God's mercy never fails. God's timing is perfect. He is never late. God is always on time. All glory to God!

Let us say this prayer to encourage us: Thank You, God, that you are almighty and always present with us. We know that you hear our prayers because you are always here by our side. We are so thankful that we can never get away from your presence. We have your Spirit inside us and one glorious day, we will see you face to face.

Our greatest privilege now is to enjoy God's Presence.

Testimony ~ Our special child

Faith Wong



Our parenthood journey is through a less trodden path, just slightly different from other new mummies and daddies.

The sweetest moment of being a new mummy is to have your child in your arms and the baby wraps her/his arms and cuddles you but I never got to experience that during the first 10 months of Zee Ann's life.

For the longest time, my baby was not able to wrap her arms around me or cling to me like a koala bear just like how other babies would do to their mummies. When I held her in my arms, my baby was like a little rag doll, floppy and limp. When other babies of her age started rolling over, crawling and sitting up, she could not do any of those.

When Zee Ann was about 6 months old, Wee Liam and I received what seemed like our death sentence. We were supposed to be at the 'peak' of our lives, enjoying parenthood and celebrating the opening of Durbar at FMS after Wee Liam had painstakingly worked on restoring the oldest bar and restaurant in Malaysia to its former glory. Just in a blink of an eye, our 'glorious day' turned into what seemed like 'doomsday'. Zee Ann was diagnosed with a rare type of muscular dystrophy (MD) after many trips in and out of hospital in Ipoh and KL for MRI for brain and spine, muscle biopsy, genetic testing etc.

At present there is no cure for this MD, it is a degenerative disease. Children with such MD have the predisposition of a shorter life span, weakness of muscles affecting their respiratory and heart functions followed by complication with feeding and mobility and as a result of such complications, will not be able to achieve the milestones just like any other children of their age. Even if Zee Ann eventually does, it may regress.

My heart aches when everything seems so difficult for her to attain. She has to work so hard even just to roll over when it should be a natural thing for a baby to roll and crawl and sit up. I always stare enviously at the children who could can and sit up on their own in our music class when Zee Ann cannot and constantly has to be assisted by us to get up and sit up.

She does not get to sit up and play whenever she feels like it as she needs help from someone to prop her up and needs special adaptive mobility equipment just to help her sit up. The many hours of occupational therapies just to learn how to roll over and crawl is what she has gone through in the first few months of her life until now.

I used to feel grief, guilt and devastation when I saw how she has been deprived of all those privileges.

The doctors consoled us by saying to us: "It's God's will".

I pondered on the phrase "It's God's will" and after many months of constant crying, just one fine day, one scripture verse came to mind i.e. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". To me, this verse is about being content in ALL situations. It is not about God giving us a perfect child but it is about being joyful, contented, grateful and steadfast even when our child is special and our journey in life with her may be short and challenging. We just have to go through this journey with courage and contentment. That to me, is the true meaning of Philippians 4:13.



Wee Liam and I have come to terms with it. Instead of asking, "Why us?", we have chosen to accept God's will in our lives. No point feeling sorry for ourselves. Since God has entrusted and gifted Zee Ann to us, we will be good stewards and trust in Him whole heartedly.

"Jesus Loves Me" has always been Zee Ann's favourite song since birth and whenever I sing this song to her, she calms down. What great assurance we have that Jesus loves us and Zee Ann so much. God has His plans for us and whatever then may be, we are eternally grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to be Zee Ann's parents.

Zee Ann is now 15 months old and she has brought so much joy into our lives.

A little child and his mother were crossing a river:

Mother: Please hold my hand.

Child: No mummy, you hold my hand.

Testimony ~ God's greatness

Susan Khor (CG22)

I am a member of more than 20 years in the CGMC and was never active previously. I had always wanted to carry out the duty of an Usher and a Scripture Reader but I did not know how to volunteer for these duties in CGMC until last year when it was printed in the bulletin for some recruitments. Hence I responded by applying for these two duties. I was accepted as an Usher under Sister Eng See's group. Later I was put on duty for Scripture Reader beginning February of this year.

I am happy to be able to serve in CGMC in these two duties and have learned how to carry out the duties well in a teamwork environment. At the same time, I have got to know more of the members. I also need to attend Church Service in time for my duty.

I was assigned on duty as a Scripture Reader on August 18th at the Sunday morning service. On my duty day I went to church early and had read through Exodus 22:1-15 a few times. When the time for scripture reading was called, I took the pulpit with a simple quiet prayer before I began to read out the assigned Bible passage. At verse 13, I glanced up to the congregation and back down to the Bible. I found I had just lost my location and couldn't proceed. Suddenly shock and fear overcame me and I could sense my heart pounding very fast. I did not know what to do as I was searching for the last word that I had just read. It was a moment of worry for me as I couldn't see that last word at all. I was also worried how long the congregation would be put on hold. Members on the floor would be frustrated. Words cannot expressed my emotions at that time. It was like my mind was totally stumped while scanning the Bible frantically hunting for the last word "evidence". I could hear some sisters murmuring some verse number but I could not pinpoint it.

Paster Andrew and some elders who were sitting in the front row told me to look at the powerpoint. I didn't follow as I was trying my best to look for my lost word on the Bible. I was praying someone could point to me the line where I left off. It was a worrying moment for me as I dared not look up to anyone around me. I wasn't aware Pastor had come to the stage too. As I couldn't find the line to continue, I decided that I should perhaps tell Pastor that I couldn't continue and come down from the stage. Just as I wanted to take that course of action, I saw this big print word flash onto the Bible **"and he will not be required"** with a bright yellow light radiance. My left hand index finger was also pointing on the location of the last line of verse 13. It was a huge relief for me. I recovered from my fear and mustered courage to look up again to the congregation and say "sorry" before I continued reading to complete the Scripture for the day.

When the service was over some members of the church asked me whether I had had a mental block. I didn't think so. I was at a loss and fearful when I couldn't locate the last word "evidence" Later on I realised in my Bible print it is in a hyphenated form as evidence on two lines of the text. If this was not GOD's way of assisting me then I do not know how the Big Print words just appeared in the Bible. It was only God's way of knowing that I needed help and He intervened for me in a special way. I believe it was the answer to someone's prayer that I be pointed to the correct line.

To the congregation who had kept me in prayer on that day, I thank you for your concern and patience with me. It is your prayers that God answered. I would also like to thank Sister Anna Tan for giving me a comforting word and a pat on my shoulder when I returned to my seat. It was a day when I experienced GOD's power that happened in my life.. He is my refuge and my fortress, my God whom I trust. He will make a way where there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see. He will make a way for me. He covers you with His feathers and under His wings you will find refuge, His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. From this incident I learned that whenever we face unforeseen circumstances or big challenges in our life, God is always there for us in His own way. Our Almighty God is a great Saviour. This experience will remain as a testimony for me to share with others. To God be the glory.

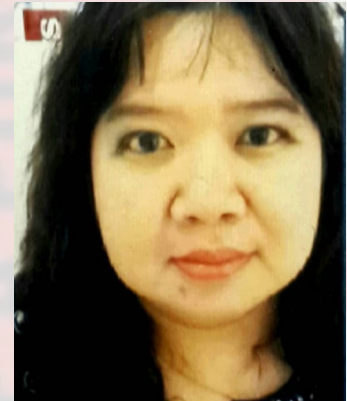
Alpha Testimonies ~ my Alpha experience

Rosalind Toh



When I first heard about the Alpha programme, I was not interested at all. It's been said that Alpha is a series of talks to inspire and enlighten non-Christians, new Christians and backsliding Christians but I was not in those categories, so I decided that the 3-month programme was not for me. However, early this year, I began to consider attending, especially after having seen the programme being advertised in the Ipoh Echo newspaper too, in addition to the advertisement at Canning Garden Methodist Church every year.

One day, when I was buying lunch at a restaurant in Canning Garden, a lady (whose name I didn't know) greeted me. I was puzzled as I didn't know her, so I asked her who she was. She told me she remembered me as I had enquired about the Alpha programme the previous year when she was at the Alpha registration counter at CGMC's concourse after Sunday morning worship. But I decided not to register at that time. That was 1 year ago but she could still remember me! I thought it was such a coincidence as I had just been thinking about Alpha but I didn't tell her that and she was no longer involved in Alpha this year. Subsequently, I registered for Alpha this year and the person who attended to me at the church's concourse was Lana Lim. However, a few days before the commencement of Alpha in February 2019, I had second thoughts and considered not attending it. Then, one day before Alpha started, as I was buying lunch at another restaurant, I bumped into Lana Lim there who reminded me to attend Alpha the next day. Another coincidence! So I asked, "Is it You, Lord?? Are You asking me to attend Alpha by causing these two coincidences of me bumping into two different ladies connected to Alpha at two different restaurants?"



Alpha commenced on 24 February 2019 during which Lana Lim chose the song 'Getting to Know You' after the ice breaking session. Another coincidence because this song's melody had played on my mind (though at that time I didn't know the song) soon after I had prayed to God for me to really know Him. I didn't know the lyrics then and wondered why an unknown melody kept coming to my mind spontaneously. After discovering its title, 'Getting to Know You', I googled the song and was surprised to find that it's a song from an old movie, 'The King and I'. I had not seen the movie or sung the song so there was no reason for the melody to be playing in my mind. Had the Holy Spirit inspired Lana to choose this old song as a response to my recent prayer to 'get to know the Lord' better?

After attending several sessions of Alpha, I felt inspired. Although the weekly video shows and discussion topics on the Christian faith were nothing new to me, I was inspired by the testimonies of the people featured in those videos, which made me realise I should also give my testimony to inspire others, since the Lord had reached out to me in many supernatural encounters and coincidences from my childhood to my teenage years and finally as an adult.

But my greatest inspiration came from the volunteers of Alpha. I felt so touched by their kind gestures of offering to wash my plates after lunch and the care shown to me. I saw the love of Christ in them and realised that was the best way of evangelisation. Mr. Yeoh Kit Khoo also touched me, although his advice and insight were nothing new to me, having been a Christian and having known Scriptures for decades. But his words left a strong impact on me although they were Christian principles which I've known all these years and this had made me realise the importance of Christians re-affirming one another.

A week after Easter, it was the Alpha Weekend on the 27th and 28th April, 2019. Although I was told that something good would happen to me there, I became strangely anxious and felt disturbed about attending the getaway in Kampar. The devil must have created this unreasonable fear in me which nearly prevented me from attending it. During this getaway, the Holy Spirit led me to ask Pastor Andrew Tan to pray over me for deliverance. Although I felt uncomfortable having to personally approach Pastor Andrew as I didn't know him very well, God had chosen him to deliver me because his short, simple prayer healed me! God sometimes leads us to people we don't know, just like how Ananias was led to the blind Paul of Tarsus, and healed him. The next day, after the prayer by Pastor Andrew, the evil thoughts that had begun plaguing me soon after the commencement of Lent, disappeared. In fact, my alarm couldn't wake me up at the hotel in Kampar but I was awakened by a voice calling, "Rosalind! Rosalind!" God woke me by an audible voice, so I wasn't late for the morning session of the Alpha Getaway on 28th April!

I am blessed that God has made Himself known to me even by supernatural ways, i.e. a vision (apparition) when I was a 5-year-old girl and now an audible voice too.

Alpha Testimonies ~ Holy Spirit encounter

Liew Sup Keam



My personal encounter with the Holy Spirit

It was during the worship session in Kampar that I encountered the physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit. As I raised my hands to worship the Lord I found my hands started to shake. Then my legs felt weak. I just wanted to lie down. All these happened in an instant. I wanted it to stop but I could not.

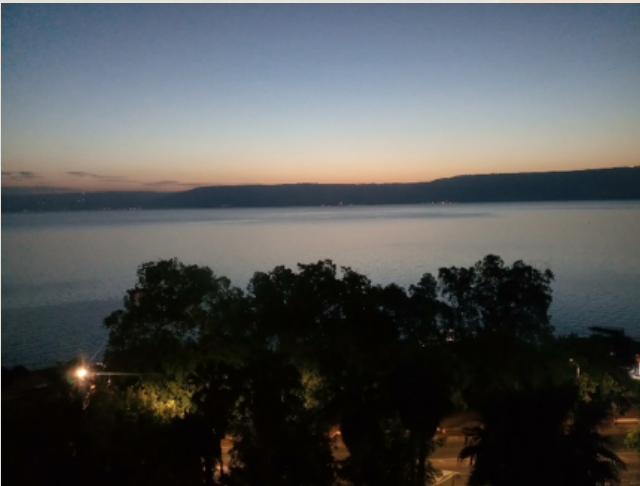
I want to thank our Almighty God for giving me this exhilarating experience.



Testimony ~ God's awesomeness in the Holy Land

Elissa Wong

I have always heard of other people's stories of their pilgrimage to the Holy Land. But never would I have imagined I would also be able to go on my own pilgrimage. When my cousin sister approached me about going for this trip to Jerusalem, I was initially sceptical of making the trip due to my job where I am not entitled to take so many days off. However, she told me that the trip was smack right in the middle of the first school term break. I jumped at the idea but still needed to discuss it with my husband. After much prayers, we decided to sign up for the trip in faith given my health condition and also my fitness level to do so much of walking.



The view from our hotel room in Tiberias overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

So, on 22nd. March, 2019, we were all set to fly to Amman, Jordan with 12 other brothers and sisters-in-Christ for this pilgrimage. When we touched down in Amman, I couldn't contain my excitement of starting the journey in the land where our Lord Jesus and the other prophets walked. Every day was amazing as we saw God's hand of protection upon all of us. Every time we arrived at our new destination, it was already evening as we checked into our hotels. But as we awoken the next day, we were always blessed with the wonderful sight of God's creation and the beauty of the blessed land.

On the fourth day, we went up to Mount Hermon which was also known as the Mount of Transfiguration. We were informed by our tourist guide that it would be cold but never did we imagine how cold it would be until we arrived at the place itself.



The view from the base of the mountain



The view from our ski chair lift ascending Mount Hermon

As we ascended the mountain, the thrill of feeling the crispy, cold air and some snow flakes falling on us was so surreal. We had never experienced snow before so it was really like a bonus from God because according to the local people, the longest the snow has ever lasted was until February but here we were in the last week of March and still experiencing the snow. God must have heard our prayers! The scenery gave us a sense of serenity and peace. We really enjoyed the view from the ski chair lift and could not stop praising the Lord for this blessing and privilege He gave us.

Soon, the summit was vaguely seen as the mist was thick and the temperature was diving lower. Then, we noticed ahead of us our team members were slowly ‘jumping off’ their chair lift as there was no proper station to alight. As we neared the place, we noticed that there were people on both our right and left to assist us to jump off our chair lift. When I ‘arrived’, I jumped off and the man looped his arm into mine and I felt I was being swung in a circle probably due to the momentum of getting off the chair lift. I began to panic as I realised that I couldn’t balance myself as the concrete ground below me was slippery and wet. Worse was when the man let go of my arm and I fell backwards. I hit my head on the hard ground. I heard a loud cracking sound as though a coconut was being cracked open and in my heart, I cried out, “Not my skull, Lord!”

The next thing I felt was an excruciating pain in my head and some dizziness. I also felt as though there was something oozing out of my head and I prayed that I was not bleeding. I heard a lot of voices around me and my fellow sisters who had alighted from their chair lift rushed over to check on me. My husband kept asking me whether my back was alright as I had undergone a spine surgery a few years ago and had implants and screws fixed to it. He and the Israeli men helped me to my feet and took me to a small little shack by the side of the chair lifts to check on me. Praise God, as they removed the hood of my winter jacket to check on my head, they noticed that there was no bleeding but there was huge bruised bump on my head. Then the paramedic came quite immediately to check on my condition. He then moved me to the summit station to check on my blood pressure and blood sugar while communicating with the paramedics at the base station at the foot of the mountain. I was then informed that he would continue observing me and taking my blood pressure every 10 minutes for half an hour until another two paramedics made their way up the mountain in an MPV to transport me down. They would not allow me to go down by the ski chair lift. All through these happenings, my brothers and sister-in-Christ were all praying for me. I praise God for each of them. My husband, my cousin sister and our Malaysian tour guide who was also a pastor, Pastor Jamie, were with me in the observation room. Meanwhile, our Israeli guide, was also very helpful telling me if necessary, I would need to get a CT scan done in the local hospital in Tiberias. All these expenses would be covered under the Tourism Ministry of the Israeli government.

My heart plummeted to my feet as I felt so disappointed I could not ride down the mountain by the chair lift. I did not even manage to take a look around the summit although I had arrived there or even make a snowball. I was also worried I would have interrupted our group’s itinerary. However, I pushed all these thoughts aside as the paramedics were ready to transport me to the base of the mountain for further medical observation. My husband, my cousin sister and Pastor Jamie accompanied me on the ride down. As we were going to the MPV, my husband mentioned that it was our first trip to Israel and also the first time we saw snow but alas we didn’t manage to touch it. He requested whether he could take a photo of me holding a snowball in my hand before we got into the MPV and the paramedics graciously allowed me to do so.

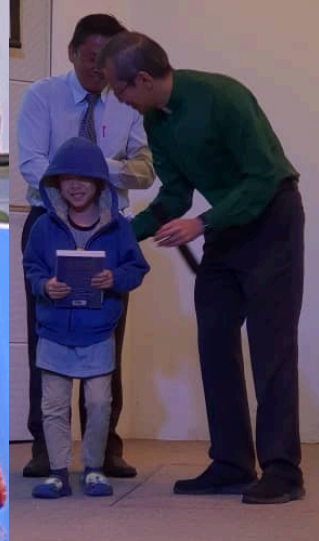
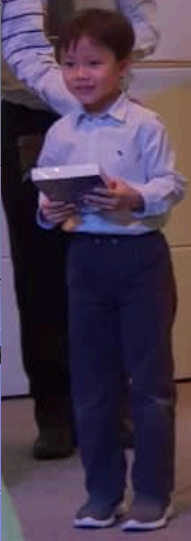


When we arrived at the base station, I was given another round of examination by two other paramedics there. The Israeli ladies were very helpful and I was grateful to God for them. They concluded that generally I was okay as I didn't have any nausea and I didn't vomit. However, they asked me get a CT scan done as any trauma to the head can be quite unpredictable.



When they were satisfied that my condition was stable, they released me with a report which I could take to any hospital for a CT scan to be done. As we bid goodbye, all I could say was, "Thank you, Lord Jesus, for protecting me." I even managed to get a few snapshots when I left the base station. Throughout this trip, God's awesomeness was seen and His goodness prevailed. All glory to God for His protection upon my life!





OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To **DISCIPLE** every member into Christian maturity and to be effective in the service of God.

To **EVANGELIZE** the city of Ipoh and to set up congregations in strategic areas.

To **TOUCH** a needy community with God's transforming love and justice.

To **SEND** Christian workers into the harvest fields and to be involved in missions.