

January 2020



# **Canning Garden Methodist Church**

# **FAMILY FOCUS**

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

If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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 will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14







# MESSAGE from the Editor...

Shalom brothers and sisters in Christ.

As 2019 draws to an end, I would like to thank the Almighty God for His wonderful blessings. Edmund and I had been believing God for a second child for some time, as our eldest son Josiah was already 6 years old. It had also been Josiah's daily prayer to God to grant him a younger sibling. In Deut 7:14, it says, "You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or your livestock". I believed and claimed this promise almost every day for several years. God was faithful and He gave us Joel.

Nonetheless, the path was not always exactly straight. During the initial part of pregnancy, negative thoughts kept flooding in. Being a doctor, I knew about different complications which can happen to the baby from what we call as "advanced maternal age". Those fears came to reality when an initial follow up scan at the clinic during early second trimester raised suspicion of hydrocephalus, a condition where there is excessive fluid in the brain which is associated with brain malformations. I was depressed, fearful and even doubted at that point whether having him was a blessing. Yet, family members and CG members got to know, and we all started praying, including Pastor Andrew and aunty Anna. I even dragged my feet to get a detailed scan due to fear of confirming the worries. At the same time, I was reminded that God is faithful through Psalms 139:14 which says, "I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. "It was only at 22 weeks gestation that I finally brought myself to do the detailed scan, which showed that everything was normal.

As it is written in Matt 7:10-11, "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!" Indeed, God affirmed His faithfulness and that He is my loving Abba father who gives good gifts to his children.

Encouraged with increased faith in God, I started praying for his delivery. I read a book entitled "Supernatural Childbirth" by Jackie Mize which detailed the promises of God in childbirth, hence I chose to believe in God for 3 miracles during childbirth:

- 1) that it would be painless,
- 2) that no stitches would be required, and
- 3) because my first born required hospital admission after delivery, I prayed that Joel would not need that.

Again, the path was not always exactly straight. At about 39 weeks gestation, I was advised for admission for a procedure called "induction of labour", using medication to initiate the labour process as the scan showed that Joel was a tad on the large side (estimated 3.7kg). It was a dilemma whether to induce early or to go for a planned Caesarean section later if his weight exceeded 4kg at 40 weeks. God provided us with good guidance by way of my obstetrician, and we decided to go ahead with the induction of labour. Anyway, even before the induction, I started having some signs of labour, hence the medication was not needed. The early part of labour did not progress well. The cervical opening remained at 4cm after 4 hours and pain started setting in. I became tired and started to doubt God. Thoughts of having to go for Caesarean section and receiving stitches for the surgery started to flood in. At this time, God comforted me with a song entitled - Break Every Chain. The words in the song, "there is power in the name of Jesus" encouraged me. I began to declare and speak to my body, "cervix, dilate fully in the name of Jesus". To cut the story short, God sent an anaesthetist who happened to be a friend and she started me on epidural which made my pain go away. God also sent a few nurses who were my old friends to encourage me and help me in the labour process. God also provided good obstetrician friends who used their knowledge and skills to deliver baby Joel. Finally, after a long 9 hours, Joel was born.

The 3 miracles were granted in that:

- 1) there was no pain during the final stages of delivery with the decision by the anaesthetist for epidural
- 2) no stitches were required as Joel was born via spontaneous vaginal delivery (only a small stitch was used for superficial skin tear which was itself a miracle given his birth weight of 3.9kg - Joel was the largest baby born in the labour room that evening)
- 3) and most importantly, God granted Joel good health (he recovered quickly from a short period of breathlessness and did not need hospital admission).

Indeed, God works in ways beyond my expectation.

Jesus loves me, this I know !!!

God is good, all the time. All glory and praise belong to Him.

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](mailto: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

## Thoughts on Coming to Church

After preaching through the book of Exodus, I would like to pen down some thoughts that stood out specifically with regards to “Coming to Church.” What can we learn from Exodus about coming to Church?

### 1. *Saved to Worship*

God’s purpose in saving the Israelites out of Egypt was not just to free them from slavery. His goal was that they might worship Him. From the beginning, the Lord had said to Moses, “When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain” (Ex. 3:12). Moses was to carry the same message to Pharaoh, “Let my son go, so he may worship me” (4:23). When God had finally delivered the Israelites and gave them the Ten Commandments, it is clear that they were to worship the Lord, and to do so exclusively.

So then, worship is the reason why God saves us. He does not just save us from sin, but He saves us to worship Him, to know Him (and His Word), and to obey Him. It is sad but true that many Christians do not even have such an understanding. To worship God is to love Him. The *shema* tells us explicitly that to love God means to embrace Him in all aspects of our life i.e. to “Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deut. 6:5). This will include obeying His commands as the next verse makes it clear, “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts” (Deut. 6:6).

One way to worship God is to have communion with Him. To have communion with God is to dwell in Him intimately or to “rest” in Him. God becomes our new environment and the air we breathe. He fills our thoughts. He becomes the lens through which we see the world. We have a new set of God’s laws to live by. This change of mindset (called repentance) will not happen overnight but once the mindset has changed, it is a matter of time and process. We call it the renewal of the mind (See Romans 12:2). This comes about as we read His Word, worship Him, know Him, and obey Him.

### 2. *Observing the Day of the Lord*

We can worship God through our personal communion or Quiet Time with God. But God has called His people to observe a special day to worship Him corporately. We find this teaching implicit in the New Testament. The Church met for worship on Sunday which is also called the Day of the Lord. And if the Christian Day of the Lord succeeded the Jewish Sabbath Day, then the Old Testament teaching on the Sabbath is instructive for us about observing the Lord’s Day.

I believe that the Lord’s Day succeeded the Sabbath Day in view of the resurrection of Christ. The Israelites celebrated their deliverance from Egypt by observing the Sabbath on the seventh day of the week. We Christians celebrate our deliverance from sin by observing the Lord’s Day on the first day of the week. Jesus Christ accomplished the new exodus by His resurrection on Sunday.

What does the Sabbath have to teach us about observing the Lord’s Day? First, it is a strict observance as a sign of the covenant. The Israelites were to “to celebrate the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant” (Ex. 31:16). We should make it a point to set aside Sunday for worship. All other competing activities should be put away. We should not be absent from Sunday worship for the slightest reason. We should make it a point to be in Church every Sunday. We should not be putting up programs (golf, business, tuition, etc.) on Sundays that prevent us from attending Sunday worship. Even when we are overstated, we must make it a point to go to Church for Sunday worship.



**REV. DR. ANDREW TAN**

Pastor-in-charge  
Canning Garden Methodist  
Church



Second, it is a day of rest. We should make sure we rest, and we should make sure that our maids and workers also get a rest day, if not on a Sunday, then another day of the week. We should not try to pile up work on Sundays. The rest in Scripture is physical rest but it also alludes to the spiritual rest for God's people. So, our Day of the Lord should be unencumbered with other activities. We should be resting in the Lord i.e. enjoying His salvation. We do this by immersing ourselves in His presence, His assurance, and His love. Just as the Israelites rested in their exodus salvation by reflecting on how God had saved them by His mighty arm, so we Christians rest in our salvation by reflecting on how Christ has saved us. We reflect on His birth, life, teaching, ministry, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension, and His second coming.

Third, it is to promote the knowledge of God. Ex. 31:12-13 says, "You must observe my Sabbaths ... *so you may know that I am the LORD*, who makes you holy." God had entered into a relationship with His people, a covenant relationship in which they were to know Him as their God. By observing the Lord's Day, we become conscious that we are a "holy" people of God. The more we know God, the more we know who we are. The central feature of Christian worship is the proclamation of God's Word. In hearing God's Word, we become conscious of our identity and therefore our ministry (one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world). Besides listening to God's Word in Church, we can spend time to read and meditate on it at home. Our TRAC quadrennium (2017-2020) emphasizes that we should read through the Bible at least once.

### ***3. Approaching God Who Is Holy***

We learned from the "thunder and lightning" narratives of Mt. Sinai that God is awesome and holy. The Israelites had to keep their distance from God's holy mountain. Yes, God is intimate; He came down to them on the mountain. But still, His people drew near only with fear and trembling. Put in today's Church worship, it means that God has come near to us but we still approach God with reverence. If we have the slightest inkling of God's holy presence in the sanctuary, we will not find it easy to come to church late. In any other formal function, when we are late, we would feel embarrassed and apologise about our lateness. But so many church members come to church late without a second thought about it. This drives home the question whether such worshippers even think they actually come into God's presence in worship. How else do you explain that they can walk into God's presence so carelessly?

We also learned from the tabernacle that it was only the priests who could enter the tabernacle, and that with proper priestly garments and with sacrifices and with ablution. That means we come aware that we can only enter into God's presence by His grace on account of the sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ. That means we come cleansed from all our contaminations and distractions. So, when we come to worship, we ask God to cleanse us from all guilt and wrongdoings, and to tune our heart and mind wholly to Him. It takes time to silence ourselves before Him to confess and to be aware of His presence. We do all these before our service begins. That means coming to Church early. We are not exempt from greeting one another and having a quiet conversation before service. However, five minutes before service begins, we should observe silence to be ready to worship God.

### ***4. Coming to God with Sacrifices***

Exodus talks about many kinds of sacrifices. But today, we do not offer God any sin offering or burnt offering because Jesus has made that one "full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice." Instead, "we offer ourselves ... as a holy and living sacrifice" "in union with Christ's offering for us." Because we celebrate on Sundays what Christ has done for us, every worship service appropriately ends with our offering of ourselves to Him. We end our worship service by renewing our commitment to Him. We commit ourselves specifically what God has spoken to us about.

At the beginning of each service, we should bring our sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. We come prepared to give thanks to God for His goodness towards us, and to praise Him in celebration of who He is and what He has done for us in Christ. We can thank and praise God before and / or during our worship service. So, when we come to Church, come bringing all your thanksgiving and your praises.

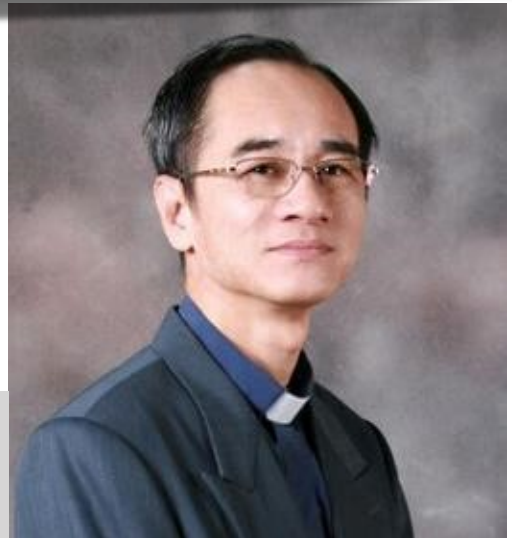
We learned from Exodus the offerings the people brought animal and grain sacrifices to support the priests and the tabernacle. In other parts of the Bible, offerings were also given to the poor and the needy. In our worship services today, offering and pledging are practised. Our offering and pledging are acts of worship. They are our sacrifices to God. So, we need to prayerfully decide how we want to give to God.

***If you are a Christian or a member of CGMC, have you thought through how you are supposed to come to Church? The above pointers are a good pointer for you to begin.***

# MESSAGE from Rev. Yu Chiew Song



REV. YU CHIEW SONG  
Associate Pastor



我亲爱的弟兄们、这是你们所知道的。但你们各人要快快的听、慢慢的说、慢慢的动怒。

(雅各书1章19節)

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,

(James 1:19)

## 快快的听

神造人有双耳单口，  
表明聆听比说重要。

不能听一面词，不能道听途说。  
不能只听一半，不能左听右出。  
不能选择性听，不能只说不听。

## 慢慢的说

一言兴邦，一言丧邦。  
一言为重，百金为轻。

说造就人的话，不发怨言。  
说鼓励人的话，不为谄媚。  
说确实真诚话，弃绝谎言。

## 学习聆听

听身体传达的讯息  
听良心发出的警告  
听圣灵微小的提醒  
听上帝真理的训诲

## 智言慎语

良药苦口利于病，  
忠言逆耳利于行。

我们花了几十年学会说话，  
却要花多少年学会闭嘴。

尤秋松牧师 共勉之。



# MESSAGE from Rev. Richard Leow

**Saya ingin kongsi renungan saya pada pemulaan tahun tahun ini 2020 dari Ulangan 8:1-6 yang saya beri tajuk “Belajar Untuk Berubah, Supaya Kita Dapat Hidup Pada Tahun 2020”**

**Ayat 1** Segala perintah yang kusampaikan kepadamu pada hari ini wajib kamu lakukan dengan setia supaya kamu dapat hidup, bertambah ramai, dan dapat memasuki serta memiliki negeri yang telah Tuhan sumpah untuk memberikannya kepada nenek moyangmu.

**Ayat 2** Ingatlah seluruh perjalanan yang kamu tempuh dalam pimpinan Tuhan, Allahmu, di gurun selama empat puluh tahun ini. Melalui semua itu Dia bermaksud untuk merendahkan hatimu, menguji kamu, dan mengetahui apa yang ada dalam hatimu, sama ada kamu mahu berpegang teguh pada segala perintah-Nya atau tidak.

Semua perjalanan yang kita tempuh pada tahun 2019 adalah dalam pimpinan Tuhan.

Melalui semuanya itu Tuhan bermaksud untuk:-

1. Merendahkan hati kita.
2. Menguji kita.
3. Dan untuk mengetahui apa yang ada dalam hati kita, sama ada kita mahu berpegang teguh pada segala perintah-Nya atau tidak?

**Ayat 3** Dia merendahkan hatimu, membiarkan kamu lapar, dan memberi kamu makan manna, iaitu makanan yang belum pernah dikenali, baik oleh kamu mahupun oleh nenek moyangmu, supaya kamu sedar bahawa manusia hidup bukan dengan roti sahaja, tetapi dengan setiap firman yang keluar daripada mulut Tuhan.

1. Pada tahun 2019, kita juga ada mengalami kekurangan dalam kehidupan kita dan ada juga mengalami kecukupan dalam kehidupan daripada Tuhan.
2. Tujuannya pengalaman itu ialah untuk kita pelajari bahawa manusia hidup adalah dengan setiap firman yang keluar daripada mulut Tuhan.

**Ayat 4** Selama empat puluh tahun ini pakaianmu tidak menjadi usang pada tubuhmu dan kakimu pun tidak menjadi bengkok.

Bukan sahaja hanya pada tahun 2019, tetapi tahun-tahun yang lalu, Tuhan sentiasa bersama dalam kehidupan kita.

**Ayat 5** Maka sedarilah dalam hatimu bahawa seperti seseorang yang mendidik anaknya, demikianlah Tuhan, Allahmu, mendidik kamu.

Walaupun pengalaman didikan dari Tuhan kepada kita, rasanya bukannya selalui indah, akan tetapi, ianya adalah didikan yang penuh dengan kasih sayang dari Tuhan.

Kesimpulan Belajar untuk berubah, supaya kita dapat hidup pada tahun 2020 dan tahun-tahun selanjutnya adalah terdapat dalam ayat yang ke 6 “**Oleh sebab itu peganglah dengan teguh pada segala perintah Tuhan, Allahmu, dengan cara tetap melangkah mengikut jalan-Nya serta takut kepada-Nya**”.



**REV. RICHARD LEOW**

Associate Pastor

Canning Garden Methodist Church

## 庆祝中秋节

~ 柯雅凤

今年提早庆祝中秋，年初十月亮未圆，但我们桂和园卫理公会中文堂的弟兄姐妹已经团契在一起，共庆中秋。下午六点，弟兄姐妹已纷纷来到。姐妹们准备食物：剥柚子、切月饼、蒸点心.....弟兄挂灯笼、弄音响、排座位.....忙得不亦乐乎。



在致欢迎词和祷告后，主日学的小孩子和青少团员一同献诗。他们唱的是：“一闪一闪亮晶晶，满天都是小星星，挂在天上放光明，好像许多小眼睛，万物都要赞美你。这是天父伟大的创造，星宿海洋全部都属祂。我受造奇妙可畏，我的一生都要赞美你。”青少儿是爸妈的心中爱，也是天父珍珠宝贝，耶稣这么说：“小孩比大人更有资格进天国呢！”







成人组献唱了三首歌：《主的爱》、《靠主喜乐》和《月亮代表我的心》。还有姐妹们的青春舞蹈：《好心情》，逗趣可爱。最后是李泓章弟兄的证道，

他也顺便讲了中秋节的来由。天地万物，皆神所造；人间万代，唯上帝是主。

之后大家在Concourse彼此交流，享用中秋应节食品，其乐融融！



# Nabawan Mission Trip

Priscilla

From the time we arrived in Sabah, I was really excited to see what God had in store for us. In the comfort of church and home we talk a lot about God's goodness, providence, guidance, leading, prompting, God's presence etc. But out on the mission field, more than at home, I see these things so clearly and strongly.

Relationship with God deepens and becomes like a precious possession, when we move forward into the unknown with hearts prepared to be instruments to be used by Him. I left home physically and emotionally very tired due to the many commitments in daily life and family, and also in preparation for the trip. But His presence was refreshing, and despite the travelling and activities, I was always energized and filled with joy. I truly experienced the joy of the Lord, my strength. It was also in the mission field that God gave me answers to some of my personal prayer.

Our travel itinerary was as follows:



<b>24 May 2019</b>	
6.00am	Left CGMC Ipoh
10.00am	Left Penang Airport
1.00pm	Arrived at Kota Kinabalu
6.00pm	Arrived at Keningau. Had dinner together. Spent time in prayer as a team and looked forward to our travel to Pensiangan the next day.
<b>25 May 2019</b>	
8.30am	Packed our van, had breakfast, and shopped for some things we needed for the rest of the trip
10.00 am	Traveled to Nabawan
11.00 am	Met with our counterparts in Sabah – the organizing committee of the Pensiangan Youth Camp and started our 3 hour journey in six 4WDs to Pensiangan through rugged, muddy logging trails
3.30pm	Arrived at Pensiangan and were warmly welcomed by the community, students and teachers there.
4.00pm	Part of the team conducted the first program – English language workshop and the rest of the team tried to settle into the provided accommodation
7.00pm	Dinner
8.00pm	Youth Camp commenced with Introductions and a movie
11.00pm	End of the camp session
<b>26 May 2019</b>	
8.00 am	Sunday church service at camp location
10.00 am	Youth camp sessions
8.00 pm	Official opening of youth camp graced but community leaders and presentation of souvenirs and gifts to and from us. Our team leader Dr. Gill shared a very powerful message on the Father's Love.
10.30pm	Session ended after a very meaningful time of prayer and ministry to the youth who were present

<b>27 May 2019</b>	
8.00am	Youth camp session started after a short time of praise and worship
11.00am	Time for Q&A, some of the youth also shared their thoughts and gave feedback
1.00pm	Youth camp ended after a very meaningful time of prayer and ministry
	We packed our belongings and had lunch
	Prayed with the organizing committee and said our goodbyes
3.30pm	Left Pensiangan
5.30pm	Arrived at Nabawan
7.30pm	Arrived at Keningau, dinner and laundry
	God blessed us all with a restful night
<b>28 May 2019</b>	
7.00am	Left Keningau to Nabawan
10.00 am	Left Nabawan for Kampung Saub
11.30 am	Arrived at Kampung Saub
	The villagers organized an official welcoming ceremony – with speeches, dances and souvenirs
	They appreciated Lighthouse Hope Society and CGMC for all the work done in the village especially the solar panel installation.
12.30pm	Brunch was served and the Medical Clinic commenced
	Sunday School teachers training workshop went on concurrently
4.00pm	A sumptuous lunch was served. The whole village came together to prepare this meal.
5.00pm	Left Kampung Saub for Kota Kinabalu
10.00pm	Arrived safely at Kota Kinabalu
<b>29 May 2019</b>	
11.00am	In Kota Kinabalu Airport
7.00pm	Back home in Ipoh



As we returned home to Ipoh, my spirit was so uplifted. Every mission trip is unique with its own set of experiences that leave me in greater awe and wonder at how our Lord works. He worked out everything in His perfect way to lead us to the mission field, fulfill His purposes and bring us back home with our faith in Him, elevated to a higher level.

The youth we met have truly been blessed with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and I am overjoyed meeting Sunday School teachers who were so open and eager to learn from us.



The important thing was never our plans, and what we want to achieve in the mission field, but our hearts open to Him, open to hear his voice. It is also about letting Him give us a clear perspective, His perspective; to see things in the mission field through His eyes. And then to obey and follow as He leads.

Ephesians 4:3-6, 11-12 has also impacted me greatly.

*[3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called ; [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism; [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. [11] So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, [12] to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up*

We are called to make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. We are one in Christ. He calls us to serve Him in the field. He is God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Over all of us who went on this trip, over all those interceding at home, over all in CGMC, over all His people in Sabah, all the youth in Pensiangan, all the Sunday School teachers in Nabawan, all the children there, ALL.



He equips us, with skills and talents, for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Built up in Sabah as it is built up here in Ipoh. Whether in Sabah or in Ipoh we are one in the body of Christ, we worship the same God and His heart for all of us is the same.

God has started a new work among the Sunday School teachers in the Nabawan area and I'm looking forward to great things He has in store for us and the teachers there in the future.





In closing, I would like to share an object lesson that I shared with the Sunday School teachers in Kampung Saub.

The object: A small bag of wheat

‘If you were a baker and I gave you a small bag of wheat., and asked you, how much bread can you give me with this bag of wheat? You would say you could make a small loaf of bread. This is a great thing.

Now, if I gave that same bag of wheat to a farmer and asked, how much bread could you give me with this small bag of wheat? The farmer would plant it. And get loads more wheat and he could get loads of bread. And he could plant some of that wheat and get more harvest and endless amounts of bread.

Our perspective of ourselves is like the baker. It's not wrong or bad perspective. BUT God's perspective of us is like the farmer. Seeing huge n endless potential in us as the farmer does in that small bag of wheat. ‘

Isaiah 55:9 NIV

*As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

This object lesson does not just apply to the Sunday School teachers in Sabah or to the mission team. It applies to all of us as beloved children of God. He can use each of us in mighty ways if we only let Him.

*All praise & glory to God !*





# Lotus home visit

Tan Sau Chun (CG 28)

In the wonderful book of Isaiah, Chap. 52:7, we read, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God Reigns."

Christmas is indeed a joyful season with a reason to celebrate the birth & love of Jesus Christ to others. On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019, CG28 led by Bro. Cheah & May, organized a visit to Lotus Home which is our Bless Project. We were also privileged to have Pastor Andrew & Sister Anna come alongside to witness this wonderful event.



It was indeed a great joy to see the old dears glowing with joy & laughter seated patiently to welcome us. With the beautiful strumming by our guitarist, Bro. Kean Teik, the music filled the air & almost everyone was deeply engrossed in the singing of Christmas carols & clapping of hands with joyful hearts.

We had a great fellowship chatting with the residents & some even shed tears of joy, thanking us for bringing cheer to them. Every one of us were also overjoyed to see them enjoying this time & indeed our hearts had a great sense of fulfillment in accomplishing this meaningful event.

After this wonderful blessed visitation, we proceeded to lunch in Menglembu. We took this opportunity to appreciate our Pastor Andrew Tan, a man who's after God's heart, who has so fervently pastored our church. He has set an example by being so thoughtful, understanding, caring & encouraging that, we have certainly grown in our Christian maturity through our growth map.

At the same time, we also celebrated the birthdays in December of three lady CG members + a guest. We had a worship session followed by thanksgiving; Pastor gave thanks for the sumptuous meal which followed. This ended with the Birthday song, a Birthday Blessing & a beautiful & delicious cake.

This is indeed the Day the Lord has made for us; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us not love with words & tongue, but with action & in truth. 2 Corinthians 2:14 says, "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us, spread everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. Amen!"



# A memorable journey to the Holy land

Aaron Lim

On 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2019, our Pastor, Rev Dr. Andrew Tan led twenty six pilgrims to the Holy Land. Three were from Wesley church, Kampar, two from Canning Garden Baptist Church, one from Full Gospel Assembly and the rest from CGMC.

I append below Pastor Andrew's thoughts:

*As the Spiritual Director of the above pilgrimage to Holy Land to sites in Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, I am pleased to pen the foreword of the testimonies collected from the experiences of the 27 pilgrims.*

*We went with a prayer to be open hearted, "Open my eyes so I can see what you show me of your miracle-wonders" (Ps. 119:18). We came back with at least a 'memorial stone' (Jos. 4:1-9), something we take with us to be remembered. These memorial stones are shared in the form of our testimonies found in this booklet.*

*We had a most wonderful experience thanks to the capability of our travel agency, World Discovery Travel and the local guides in holy land, capable leaders who organized the pilgrimage, various persons who took up some sort of responsibility, and the cooperation of all the members. But most important of all was what happened to our faith through the devotions, guides' narrations, and our experiences as we visited the sites.*

*We were able to reaffirm our baptism at the site, "Bethany beyond the Jordan" where John the Baptist baptized Jesus. Four couples reaffirmed their marriage vows in Cana where Jesus attended a wedding and performed His first miracle of turning water into wine. Then we celebrated Holy Communion at a place where Jesus taught the Beatitudes, which is just a little above the place where He multiplied the five loaves and two fish.*

*At the various sites, God spoke to us in different ways: a few were moved at the grotto where Jesus was born, many more moved to tears at the 14 Stations of the Cross, the via dolorosa, identifying with the sufferings of Jesus. We were able to touch Calvary, the site where Jesus was crucified, and looked into the tomb where Jesus' body was laid and then raised. At the 'valley of the shadow of death', the road between Jericho and Jerusalem, we meditated on God's protective care of our spiritual pilgrimage, and we felt God's presence.*

*We went to Old Testament sites, Mt Nebo where Moses was able to look into the Promised Land, Mt Carmel where Elijah contested with the prophets of Baal, Mt Megiddo where many battles were fought, Dan where the 'alternative' temple was set up by Jeroboam and the 'gate' which Abraham must have passed through. In Egypt, we rode camels at least halfway up Mt. Sinai, while seven brave ones went right up to the peak. We visited other New Testament sites, Mt. Tabor where Jesus was transfigured, Caesarea Philippi where Peter confessed Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God, Caesarea where Paul was imprisoned, Bethlehem where the angels appeared to the shepherds, the house of Peter in Capernaum, the house of Caiaphas the high priest who sent Jesus to Pontius Pilate to be sentenced to death, the Kidron Valley where Jesus rode on a donkey on Palm Sunday, and the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus agonized the night before He suffered death. In all of these narrations by our guides, the Bible came alive to us. It stirred a desire for us to read further into the Bible, especially the Old Testament.*

*Each morning, usually in the bus, we had our daily devotion. We had the opportunity to have a group sharing on our last night before we left Jerusalem for Egypt. And in Egypt on our last night at our closing night devotion, we were challenged to commit ourselves to God since our faith had been strengthened by all these experiences. This little booklet is a collection of the high light of each of our story.*

Rev. Andrew Tan





## Extract of Testimonies of the Pilgrims:

**Yip Yoke Chee**

This pilgrimage has revealed to me that all that matters in my life is my journey with Jesus, ..... Jesus is my shepherd & He is all that I need in my life. And His goodness & mercy will follow me all the days of my life.

**Foo Lee Kim**

It gave me an insight of what life was like more than 2000 years ago from the beginning (Genesis) to the present day. I will forever cherish that God so loved us that he gave his one and only son to die for our sins to set us free.

**Sally Seow**

The Bible has become more alive to me after seeing these places with my own eyes. Now I read the Bible and it's like, "I have been there, I have seen the place!"

**Alan Seow**

I will remember these "precious moments" of experiencing God's lovingkindness, mercy and love for the rest of my journey on earth. It was indeed a wonderful "coming home" to the Promised Land.

**Dr. Su Too Kiat**

I give thanks to God for enabling me to complete this pilgrimage with my church members. The love and fellowship shared, has drawn us closer physically and spiritually. All Glory to God for His faithfulness and protection to us throughout our journey

**Su Lee Fun**

The Holy land tour is indeed the "5th gospel".

**Anna Tan**

I come away having being "fed" by the Lord at many of the sites and wanting to feed His lambs in return.

**Shirley Lim**

Gleanings from a second visit to the holy land were indeed very different from my 1st encounter in Jerusalem. This time it was purposeful, experiential of the awesome Presence of Jesus.

**Ng Poh Anne**

One of my memorable moments is the communion service on the Mt of Beatitudes. Tears flowed & I had the 'bumps' knowing Jesus knew what He had to go through.

**Winnie Goh**

It gave me a better understanding of the people and the events during those periods, my heart was stirred especially during the stations of the cross along Via Dolorosa.

**Annie Pon**

my most memorable moment was at the place where Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer. During the short devotion time, not only the tears flowed but God said to me, 'I'm always with you.'

**Jackie Yeoh**

God spoke to me very clearly as we came down from Mt Sinai that night. He reminded me to stay close to Him and take one day at a time.

**June Kuan**

Visiting the sites mentioned in the OT and the places where Jesus walked, preached and ministered, not only make the bible come alive to me but it enhanced the reality of my faith.

**Su Suek Hua**

The most emotional moment was when I followed the way of Jesus' journey from Pilate's court to Calvary and the Tomb.

**Amy Chow**

I could feel that God was walking with us closely. He was in absolute control over every situation that happened on our trip through all our prayers

**Charles Chow**

This visit will surely make reading and studying the holy scriptures in the Old Testament books, more meaningful from now on.

**Dr. Khoo Yee Leong**

Going to all the holy sites gave me inner peace and numerous chances to pray.....I had a feeling that I was near to our Lord

**Quay Bee Ing**

I am refreshed spiritually. Renewing baptismal covenant reminded to be more resolved to rise up & be more committed as a follower of Christ Jesus, who suffered so much to redeem me from power of sins & eternal death.

**Rose Ong**

I felt the presence of God's healing and protection from the day we landed to the day we departed.

**Charmaine Lau**

Every visit to the Holy sites and Churches, made the BIBLE come alive. Walking through the Stations of the cross, I felt the Lord's presence walking close to me.

**Amelie Wan**

The climb to the summit of Mt Sinai, where I felt the closeness of His presence, was the highlight of my trip.

**Aaron Lim**

I cannot thank God enough for sustaining me & allowing me this pilgrimage which has resulted in a closer relationship with HIM!

**Lana Lim**

during this trip I could see the hand of God over each one of us especially those who were not well, yet God provided us with doctors and prayer warriors.

**Foo Lee Chiu**

God blessed us with great joy and delight as we walked in places where Jesus once walked.



# Testimony ~ new year prayer & meditation

Alicia Choong

Yes, I struggled.

Eventually, I listened to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Instead of following my own preference I came for the 'New Year Half Day of Prayer and Meditation'.

I had chosen the passage from Mark 10:46-52 about 'Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight' during the scripture medication. Two words that seemed vivid to me were 'faith' and 'received'. Mark 10:52 "Go," said Jesus, "Your FAITH has healed you." Immediately, he RECEIVED his sight...

I've been 'attacking' myself with my own thoughts telling myself I'd done something or spoken something wrongly. Thinking of myself as 'no good' and nothing good could happen to me made me depressed and down. These arrows and darts of lies were choking me. It was those thorns that choked the plants.

During the meditation, I saw a vision - a downpour of water from a pail filled with flowers of blessings. I felt God telling me through this scripture that I need to have FAITH like Bartimaeus. I just have to BELIEVE & RECEIVE blessings from the Lord. I deserve blessings from Him. Good things may happen. God will provide. (Genesis 22)

And now, my soil is cleared off choking thorns. It's dampened rich black soil ready to be sown with seed and one day plants will grow and fruits will be harvested. This resonates with Pastor Andrew's sermon on 'Which Way Are You Going?' He said, "The way of the righteous lets one experiences the blessed life."

*That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,*

*Which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither*

*— whatever they do prospers.*

*Psalms 1:3*

# Christmas harvest event

Susan Khor (CG 22)

Friday 13th December 2019 was a combined cell group harvest event held in CGMC. The two cell groups involved were CG22 & CG30.

Our cell leader Albert Loh and Lily had a combined meeting discussion for the event on 29th November and we had a one-time combined practice on 12th December 2019. Every cell member involved was present for the practice. It was combined teamwork between the 2 cell group members. Everyone had a big or small role to play. Some were involved with worship, others with narrating, sharing John 3:16, doing the presentation, MC-ing, food menu planning, doing the icebreaker, presenting the powerpoint slides and giving the welcome speech. It was like a whole family of God's children busy preparing for the harvest event. Children were also busy decorating the Christmas tree.



We came for the event on 13th December 2019 at 7.00pm. Most of the members and guests turned up dressed in red t-shirts or red attire for the event. We started with Jenni carrying out the ice-breaker. It was a very enjoyable ice-breaker with everyone taking part. Thanks to Jenni for coming up with such a wonderful ice-breaker. We had many parts of the ice-breaker which involved art and thinking. I really enjoyed seeing the members cracking their heads to find solutions for it. We formed into 4 groups for this part of the event. At 8.00pm we adjourned for dinner at the concourse.

Dinner was served with a delicious and sumptuous menu. All cell members enjoyed having fellowship with each other at the concourse. At about 9.00pm we started off with the Christmas tree story presentation to the members and guests. Ken Wye and I were the 2 narrators for the nite. We narrated the story and in between it was filled with Christmas songs. I observed that everyone was engrossed in the story telling and they also enjoyed singing the meaningful Christmas songs. Next we had Dorothy giving a good testimony as to how God had worked wonderfully in her life and that her family was blessed and her children were baptised too.





After the testimony sharing, Dr Gill showed us a video story on God's Love describing a father and son's love for each other. It was a touching story on how everyone of us must be able to know God's love and put ourselves on the right path with God. The story depicted how a father's son was sacrificed to save the lives of the passengers in a train. And this story showed us how God sacrificed his one and only son Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for our sins. It reminded us that God's presence is everywhere watching over us.. It is our choice to open our hearts to make the decision to follow him and to experience the joy and love that God has provided for us. Dr Gill also shared a part of his own story and experience of God's love for him.



Pastor Andrew came to visit us and said the closing prayer. He later joined us for the exchanging of Christmas gifts. Thank you Pastor for your kindness and concern to see our event. You really showed a Christlike concern for all the brothers and sisters in Christ and the invited guests.

When the sharing of John 3.16 was over, we had the final part of our event which was exchanging of gifts. Everyone held on to their gift and walked around to exchange their gift with someone else as the music and singing of "We wish you a Merry Christmas and Felix Navidad" went on.

Joy and happiness was on everyone's face as they exchanged gifts.

Well, I should say this was one of the very joyful and meaningful harvest events which I have attended over the years. The event was well planned and it ended at about 9.45pm that night.



Our almighty God really blessed the combined CGs with good fine weather and the invited guests that turned up for the event. As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up" and we can do so through such events.

*To God be the glory !!*

# Testimony ~ God's healing grace

Yeoh Kit Koon

The Bible says,

*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans.8:28*

Many will ask, how can any good come out of a man who, so active and strong, and overnight was reduced, in an instant, to complete immobility on the right side of his body. But thanks be to God, that was never my question because I only know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him. Therefore, on my bed, unable to move around without help, I started on my journey looking for the good God will work in me, even as a stroke patient.

I lifted up my paralysed hand with my left hand and asked God, how I could be a blessing in my condition. From my bed in the care center I could see trees, luxuriant and green. But God turned my attention to a dead tree stump with branches bare as in winter. What I saw brought tears to my eyes. On the bare branches of the dried up tree trunk were many birds resting on them. Even a dried-up tree has its use.

I was among the sick and the hopeless in the center. Many have checked in and will not be going home anymore; until death do they check out. How can there be joy in the sick, the dying, the hopeless and the Godless? But I have God living in me and I have God with me. In His presence is fullness of joy. I knew I would get better to leave the center and to go back home.

Hallelujah! I know why God placed me in the Attia Care Center. As I have been blessed to be a blessing, I started to bring joy to all the residents in the Center, cheering them up as best I could, as best as I knew how. I got to know all the workers and nursing aides in the Center by name and I addressed them by their names. Soon, the solemn atmosphere at the dining table was transformed into that of cheer and laughter when they all responded and started conversing with one another. Those workers serving us food also joined in the fun seeing the gloomy faces of the residents responding with smiles. As they say, "when you smile, the whole world smiles with you."

The joy I had in the center was made possible only by the presence of God and made complete by the love God showed me through the visits of the people of the church and others. The people at the Center - the staff and the residents alike, noticed the constant flow of visitors to Room 6. They all knew most of the visitors were from the church just down the road and surely, God's Name was lifted up. The foodstuff and the fruits were enough to fill a shop. The residents and especially, the staff, were richly blessed by the gifts too. "In all things God works for the good of those who love Him."

Beside my bed, at the Center were three books; the Bible, Brother Lawrence's, Practising the Presence of God and the Praise and Worship song book. Being immobile and unable to go anywhere without help, I spent about thirteen hours in bed every day, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 a.m. the next day. I allowed no negative thoughts to invade my mind during my long hours alone. I filled my mind with the three books beside my bed.

*"I delight myself in the Lord."*

*"My delight is in the law of the Lord and on His law I meditate day and night."*

*"If His law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my afflictions."*

I read the Bible and I praised the Lord aloud with Psalms and worship songs on my bed. Hallelujah! Within a few days, my speech was back to "normal" again.



I therefore drew near to God and the faithful God drew near to me, as He has promised. God spoke to me through the visitors “at many times and in various ways”.

A visitor from Singapore spoke, “Pick up your mat and walk.”

On the third day after my stroke, a young physiotherapist came, and spoke, “Get down from your bed. Walk.”

A good friend, a highly qualified physiotherapist, spoke, “You are going to get well very fast.”

A doctor from CGMC spoke, “You will recover very fast.”

A Hindu doctor spoke, “What are you doing here? Go out. Go to church.”

Having been very active physically and overnight reduced to zero mobility, at the right side, I was indeed devastated. I had no time to ask, Why? Why me? I only wanted to get well and having been told all the above, I felt very uplifted because the words spoken and the people who spoke were God-sent. I looked for signs of healings. I waited expectantly on God my Healer. And so God's presence was tangibly felt whenever He gave me a new movement, a new skill every day. During the month of my stay at the Center, I watched for new skills every day. Without fail, our faithful God gave me a new skill every day. He gave a little at a time. Having lost it all, the little that is given back brings joy beyond words. “You need to have lost it to appreciate it. We always take for granted what we have until we lose it.”

Beside the pains of immobility I suffered from this stroke is also the pain of watching my dear wife giving her all, just so that I would be more comfortable. As the days went by, I watched her getting burnt out. I saw my need to recover quickly, to be less dependent on her. Here is where I needed divine mercy and grace.

With the SDE Classes praying for me; the MSF, many cell groups and the whole church praying for me; I know I was already surrounded by a very great cloud of witnesses and I must run with perseverance the course that is marked out for me.

And by God's blessings and grace, and with His help, I worked diligently to be more independent. Hallelujah! I am quite independent now. Praise God! As I get to move more and more, my love for my dear wife also grew more and more. As an old man of 74, I must also confess that in my 51 years of marriage to Phoenix, I have never loved her more than now.

*John 9:3 ..... ”this happened so that the work of God may be displayed in my life.”*

The church witnessed the healing grace of the Almighty in my speedy recovery and has never failed to praise our God, the Healer for His mercy. Brothers and sisters alike have joyfully approached me to praise God for giving me such a speedy recovery. Many who have prayed for me remember also the prayer-answering God and will be encouraged to be more prayerful. As for me:

*I will exalt the Lord at all time,  
His praise will always be on my lip.  
My soul will boast in the Lord,  
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.*

*Glorify the Lord with me,  
let us exalt the Lord together.*

Amen



# CG 20 Multiplication Celebration

Dr Cheah Sene Kar (CG8)

In the Book of Genesis chapter 13, Abraham and his nephew Lot were greatly blessed by God. They had numerous flocks and herds, manservants and maid servants, so numerous to the extent the land could not support them. There was not sufficient pasture and water from the wells. As a result, they decided to go their separate ways. This was not because they were fighting each other but because of God's blessings upon them.



Similarly tonight, we are celebrating the multiplication of CG 20 because of God's blessings. CG 20, under the leadership of Sister Julie Liew has grown in number and also in maturity so much so that logistics were strained and the sharing during sermon discussion was less than ideal. It became sensible that we multiplied for the benefit of everyone.

How then, did I come to fit into God's plan in our church? It was about 6 years ago when I first stepped into this church on the invitation of Brother Wan Sai Pun during the year-end celebration coinciding with a farewell party for Pastor Jeyakumar who was leaving as the church pastor. I was a non-believer then.

It was also the first time I set eyes on Brother Dr Su, who a year later led me in the sinner's prayer and has been mentoring me ever since. As God had planned, I enrolled in the Foundation class subsequently where Pastor Thomas Chin and Sister Wye Ming passionately taught me about the things of the Bible, even up to today. Soon after that, I joined CG 20 where many brothers and sisters guided me and encouraged me in my walk of faith. Church-wide, I am truly inspired by the energy that many of you display in your service to God, in particular, Pastor Andrew Tan, who gives me the impression that rest and sleep are optional! I thank God for all of you whom God has placed in my path to mould me and prepare me to be a servant of God.

As I grew deeper in Christ, my priorities changed. How I spent my time changed. I just realized that I have not been watching TV for the past 4 years. I now turn down social engagements that clash with my Bible study classes, CG meetings and weekend church services.

My reading materials have changed too. Daily newspapers are now a biweekly affair. My once favourite National Geographic magazine has given way to the Holy Bible and related books. The reason for inviting a friend for a cup of coffee has changed from a mere social get-together to catch up on each other. It is now an opportunity to share the Good News. Even my job description has changed. From a seemingly important job of saving lives, as is the duty of all doctors, it has now become an even more important job of saving souls - that all God's children can do and are called to do.

Years down the line, Brother Su and Sister Julie approached me one day and told me that I had been selected to be a cell leader intern (CLi). I was utterly surprised by the appointment because as I saw it then, many of my brothers and sisters in the CG were definitely more qualified for the job, so I asked Brother Su, "How is that so?" He replied, "You are selected because God looks at the heart." I did not really understand what he meant by that at the time. I could have given him 101 excuses to back out but somehow I did not. The idea of being a CLi and serving in the Cell Ministry ignited a small fire in my heart, a fire the size of a matchstick fire. Also, since I didn't relish the thought of being thrown overboard, swallowed by a big fish and kept in its belly for 3 days, I went along with the flow!

Subsequently, Mee Li and I had a meeting with Pastor Andrew and Sister Anna. After that meeting, it was confirmed that we would be leading a new CG when we multiplied. Even at that point in time, I was still feeling insecure about the appointment. I asked Brother Su again, "Brother Su, are you sure you picked the right person for the job? I think many others in my CG can do a better job." Brother Su looked at me with brotherly love, a broad smile on his face and answered in a reassuring tone, "Brother, you have been picked because God looks at your heart."

Since then, I underwent the Cell Leaders' training and attended the Cell Leaders' retreat for more training. I availed myself to attend as many weekend courses as possible to equip myself to face the challenges of a cell leader. As time went by, the matchstick fire in me grew to become a bush fire and today it has become a forest fire!



And yes! I am ready. It is my hope and desire that the flames of this forest fire spread over to you to ignite a corresponding fire in your hearts, so that when we are all on fire together, we may participate in a passionate revival of our cell group ministry. As a new CL, one of my duties is to look out for one or two new cell leader interns (CLi). So, if I approach you and tell you that you have been selected as my CLi and if you ask me, “Why?”, I shall put on a big smile, approach you with brotherly love and with a reassuring voice, quote to you, 1 Samuel 16:7, “Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart.”

I shall conclude by sharing an analogy with you to capture the vision of a cell group (CG). When we belong to a CG, it is as if we are in the same boat together. We are heading to a destination that God has planned for us. To get there, we use a compass that God has provided. That compass is our Holy Bible.

To reach our destination, we need to learn to row effectively together, in unity and in synchronized rhythm. If some were to row forwards while others row backwards, our boat will not be getting anywhere. If on one side of our boat, some are rowing very hard while on the other side, some are hardly rowing at all, our boat will move in circles. Therefore, to move forward effectively, we need to be united in our hearts, minds and strengths. As we are made differently, we have different strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, we need to complement one another in our walk of faith. We use our strengths to complement the weaknesses of others in our CG and at the same time allow the strengths of others to complement our own weaknesses.

In our journey of faith, do not expect smooth sailing, for Jesus has forewarned us in John 16:33, “In this world you will have trouble.” He did not say, “You may have trouble” but “You will have trouble!” Therefore, expect trouble and be prepared.

I do not know about you but ever since I became a member of MSF, I tend to forget things easily. However, there are 2 promises of God that I will never forget:-

Joshua 1:5, God says, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

In Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, “And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.”

On the one hand, we have these 2 great promises of God. On the other hand, we have a God who is an unchanging God, a God who is the same yesterday, today and forever! When we put 2 and 2 together, we know we have Jesus there with us in our boat. Surely, always and to the very end, whenever we encounter stormy weather, gale-force winds, torrential rain and rough seas, we can call upon Jesus to calm the storm.

However, many a time when we do that, we tend to hear a voice, the voice from Satan telling us, “No doubt you have Jesus with you in your boat but when you call upon your sleepy Jesus, He will be slow to react and His power will not be full. Your boat will take in water and sink!”

It is times like this that we need our cell groups and each other more than ever, to help one another to remain steadfast in our faith and to grow stronger in our faith.

If I ever hear those words from Satan, I shall turn to him and say this to his face, “If whatever you say were true, that our boat will take in water and sink, I am certain that we will still reach the destination that God has planned for us. Only this time, left without a boat, we will all follow Jesus walking on water!”

To God be the glory.





# 主内一家，相亲相爱

~ 柯雅凤



在平日的教会生活中，除了主日崇拜以外，我们其实没有太多的机会能够整个教会一起活动。为了让不同年龄层、不同团契或小组的弟兄姐妹有更多彼此认识和了解的机会，教会因此在每一年都会举办家庭营或家庭日。我们在刚过去的 11 月 1 日假期举办了今年的家庭日，非常感恩弟兄姐妹都非常踊跃地报名参加，而且也带了新朋友来参加。

感谢主，在当天赐下美好的团契，让我们所有大人小孩，都能够享受这段在一起活动的时间。







在节目方面，我们非常感谢国锋和金菱带领全体参与了七项趣味盎然的游戏。比比看，谁排的最长是把身上所有的物件排在地上，登时看见鞋子、裤带、丝巾、袜子都是可以利用的器具；还有看谁打得准、翻杯子 Tic Tac Toe、招兵买马、大家来猜拳、

气球不落地等等，都让弟兄姐妹，从小孩到成人，能够参与其中，透过一起游戏，来增加彼此间的认识。





# 见证 ~ 神的大爱

~ 柯筱筠

我想要做的见证是神的大爱。

今年时 2020 年，回首过去的一年，我非常感恩神给我们这一家人的祝福。2019 年的我们并不容易，因为从两个孩子增加到三个孩子，我常告诉加里的大宝和小宝，你看，妈咪只有两双手，你们再加上弟弟就有三个了，妈咪需要你们合作，要不然妈咪会发狂哦。是的，一个带着三个娃，确实不容易，但是神的恩典真的够我们用。才不久替我们家的小小宝庆祝了一岁生日，看着他的成长，我是心里满满地感动。我们举办了一个小小的感恩生日派对，告诉来宾们，他们都在我们的生活里扮演者很重要的角色，我们的家常常都很热闹，要不是孩子们的哭声，就是我们两公婆提高声亮来警告孩子的声音。但是神从来没放弃我们，教会里的兄弟姐妹在我们去主日崇拜的时候，伸出援手来主动抱抱我们家的小小宝。我和丈夫也常带着小小宝去教会的活动，讲座。从他一个月的时候，我们就带他去主日崇拜，两个月大的时候，就上金马伦去上 spiritual formation and leadership 的课程，还有之后每个礼拜的小组聚会和教会举办的活动。小小宝还上过亲密之旅的第二阶的培训讲座。要不是神的恩典，放那么多爱我们的兄弟姐妹在我们的身旁，我们如何能度过今年且蒙神恩的一年？每每我们去到哪，神必保守我们，用身边的弟兄姐妹来鼓励我们，让我们知道孩子不是我们去敬拜祂的绊脚石，而是用我们当教育孩子的器皿。



凡事谢恩，因为这是上帝在基督耶稣里给你们的旨意。

帖撒罗尼迦前书 5:18 CCB





当然，我们有辛苦的一面，我们两公婆也在带着三个孩子的时候，起了不少的争吵。但通过这些摩擦，让我们更能依靠上帝的恩典来和好，不住的感谢神，因为我们都深知只有上帝才能让我们和谐的原因，让我们放下各持己见，因着神的爱，我们化解心中的怨气，为了荣耀神而做让步。我们家的大宝和小宝也学会如何解决纠纷，虽然不是每次都能赢，但是大家还是愿意让步，小小年纪从我们大人的身上吸收得那么快。当然他们也有不让步的时候，但是十次里只要有那么一次让步，我们都感到欣慰了。我们心想，爱我们的上帝是否看到祂的孩子们如果能好好的相处，互相让步，而感觉到欣慰呢？



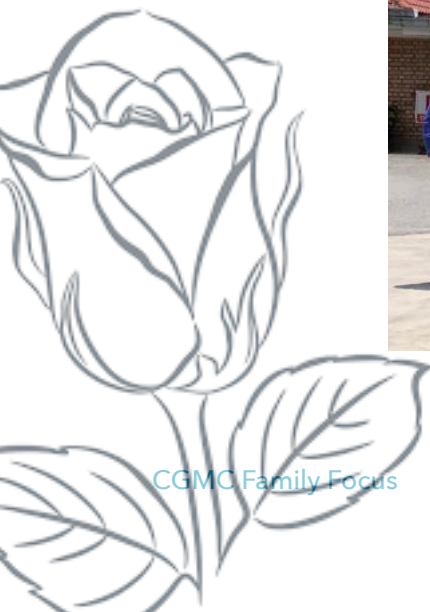
你们互相指控，已经是很大的失败，为什么不能甘愿受欺负、吃点亏呢？你们反而欺负人、亏待人，而且欺负、亏待的是自己的弟兄姊妹。

哥林多前书 6:7-8 CCB

要感恩的话太多了，这次很想通过教会的书刊，来称颂耶和华！就像我们小小宝的名字的原意：戴继颂。我们祷告我们得小小宝犹如起名那样，继承我们对神的称颂，无时无刻都颂扬我们的上帝！

普世要向耶和华欢呼！你们要高高兴兴地事奉耶和华，到祂面前来欢唱。要知道耶和华是上帝，祂创造了我们，我们属于祂，是祂的子民，是祂草场上的羊。要怀着感恩的心进入祂的门，唱着赞美的歌进入祂的院宇；要感谢祂，称颂祂的名。因为耶和华是美善的，祂的慈爱千古不变，祂的信实世代长存。

诗篇 100:1-5 CCB



# Testimony ~ Blessing from God

Tan Lay Goon

I became a christian when I was in university. When my friends brought me to church, the worship song lyrics - Trust in Him struck me. I encountered many difficulties in my studies and social life. I'm very quiet person and so did not have many friends. God guided me through the ups and downs in my life. His love and grace touched me and i decided to get baptized in my second year.

Throughout my spiritual life journey, my faith was tested. In the bible, God said

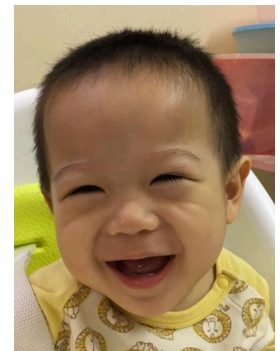
Sons are heritage from the Lord.  
Children a reward from Him. Psalm 127:3



It had been almost 2 year since we planned for a second baby. I still remember when we first joined CG 4 in June 2017. We felt very welcome. The CG members asked if we had any prayer request. Undoubtedly, we told them about the plan. And they prayed for us. It really touched my heart for the faithful praying. However, our faith was tested while waiting for God's timing. We went for investigation in an infertility clinic and even went through assisted method to conceive.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

So, that's how God tells us to trust Him and wait for His timing, which is always the best. It was not easy to wait for God's plan. Many times I cried, feeling sad and in distress when we failed to conceive. However, thank God that each time when i nearly gave up praying, Lord would reassure me with encouragement and support and prayers from CG members.



Finally, God answered our prayer and i conceived a baby. Again, it was not easy. I went through threatened miscarriage 2 times. But I trusted that God would protect this baby in my womb. Throughout the pregnancy, the hormonal changes affected my emotions and I fell into the deepest valley. Thank God that He saved me from the despair.

Our baby was born and the moment I heard his cries, I was so amazed with God that He had life through me! It was such a touching moment which reminded me that God is in control of everything, that everything is in His hands.







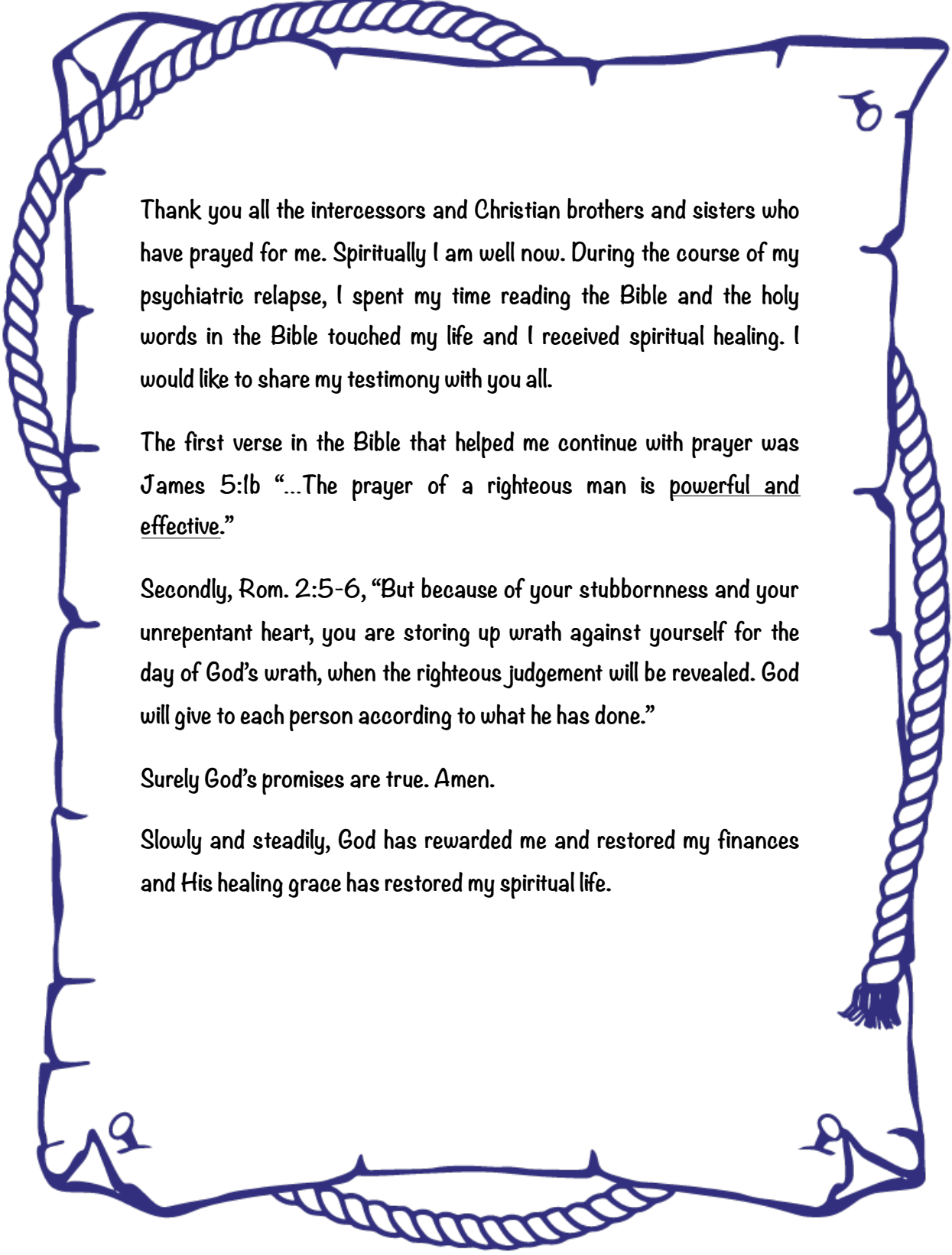
This second record of motherhood was very challenging. After 6 years, I also learnt a new thing for the very first time in my life – breastfeeding. It seemed very strange to me as I didn't have enough experience in breastfeeding. The memories of my first child's admission to hospital for dehydration due to inadequate breastmilk haunted me. I could never forget the hard time seeing my first son being poked so many times and a sense of guilt overwhelmed me. So, for this time, the word 'Exclusively breastfeed' seemed impossible and strange to me. I breastfed my baby as well as mixed with formula in the beginning because of the fear of my baby not getting enough milk.

God is good all time. He send many Angels to help and support me. My family members and expert mommies in my CG gave me good advice. Thank God that I wasn't alone during the journey of breastfeeding. And most importantly, God reminded me of His story about 'manna'– the milk supply was just enough for my baby, no less or more . And I didn't need to worry about the supply. The confidence in God about breastfeeding was definitely very important. I trusted Him from the beginning even before baby was born. I knew He would provide everything that I need. There were times when I almost gave up breastfeeding when the challenges came. But i focussed on God and He held me up whenever I fell down. Thus, the journey of breastfeeding has been full of tears and joys. And I'll never regret it in my lifetime. I continued to trust in God and finally I am able to exclusively breastfeed my baby from the second month onwards until today.



# Testimony ~ God's sure promises

Stephanie Yoong



Thank you all the intercessors and Christian brothers and sisters who have prayed for me. Spiritually I am well now. During the course of my psychiatric relapse, I spent my time reading the Bible and the holy words in the Bible touched my life and I received spiritual healing. I would like to share my testimony with you all.

The first verse in the Bible that helped me continue with prayer was James 5:1b “...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

Secondly, Rom. 2:5-6, “But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when the righteous judgement will be revealed. God will give to each person according to what he has done.”

Surely God’s promises are true. Amen.

Slowly and steadily, God has rewarded me and restored my finances and His healing grace has restored my spiritual life.



## Baptism & Membership December 2019

### English Congregation

#### ❖ Confirmation



EUGENE  
YOONG JIN,

#### ❖ Preparatory Membership



ABIGAIL AUBER  
PETERSON



DANIEL  
TAN JIA LE



ARVINDER  
SIMON SINGH  
A/L NAVINDER  
SINGH



ADVINDER  
BRADYN SINGH  
A/L NAVINDER  
SINGH



ALLYSSA DIANA  
KAUR A/P  
NAVINDER  
SINGH

#### ❖ Profession of Faith



CHEAH SIEW  
HENG



KWEE MOI



SAW POH JEE



REVATHY  
LETCHUMANAN



SOUMYA D/O  
RAJAPPAN



YONG CHIN  
KUEN, EDWIN



TAN SUAN TIN,  
CINDY



CHAN BORG  
HUEY



LIM LI-ANN



DEBORAH  
LING HWEI ERN

#### ❖ Transfer of Membership



DAVAM A/P  
SUPPIAH,  
KATHERINE



R JAMES A/L  
RATNAM



LAU WUAN PENG,  
ESTHER



DOROTHY  
KIRUBAI A/P  
SIMON  
DEVASAGAYAM



CHEONG NYOK  
TAI

## Chinese Congregation

### ❖ Confirmation



KOK SEOW  
CHING

### ❖ Profession of Faith



PHUAN SUET  
YING



LOW KOON SOY @  
LOW YONG KONG



MOO SAI CHIN



CHOONG CHING  
YAN

### ❖ Transfer of Membership



LEON BOON  
HONG

## Bahasa Congregation

### ❖ Preparatory Membership



STACY  
PRUNELLA  
STEPHEN



MAH XIAO YING,  
JESHINE



MAH XIAO YOKE,  
MELODY



KRISTIAN  
EZEKIEL  
LARUMUNDE

### ❖ Profession of Faith



STEPHANY  
ANAK  
STEPHEN



SHELIA  
KOH ING TING



KEENNY  
KOH ING TANG

### ❖ Transfer of Membership



BURAN ANAK  
GALANG



SHALINI  
RAMANATHAN



ENGELHARTH



KRISTINA



KLEROTHEOS  
EZRA LUTHER  
LARUMUNDE



KAINOTHEOS  
ELIEZER  
LARUMUNDE







## 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.