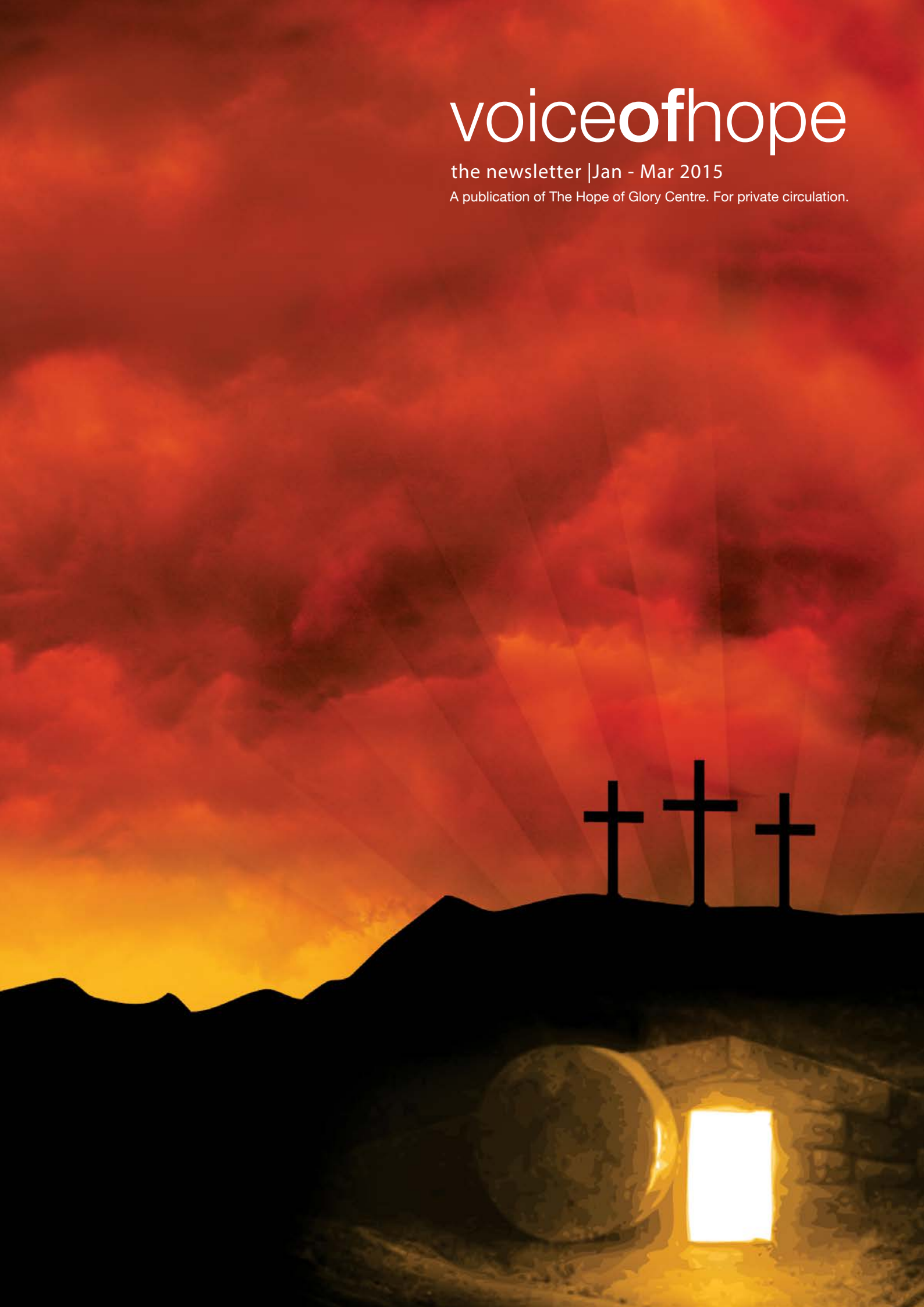


voiceofhope

the newsletter |Jan - Mar 2015

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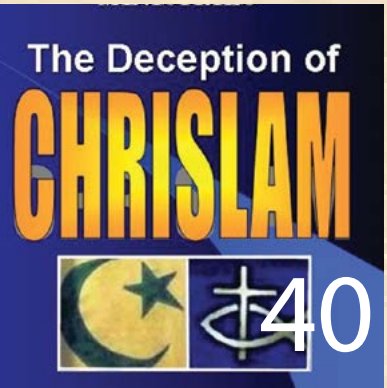
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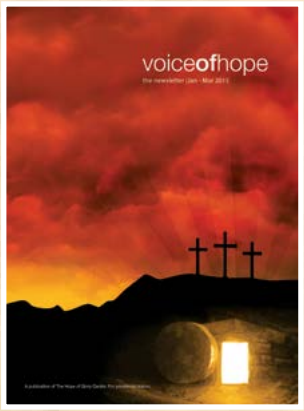






Dear Reader,

HGC just turned 21! A big and hearty congratulation on our 21st Anniversary!



Easter 2015

It didn't seem that long ago when God called HGC on a journey of building His church and fulfilling the Great Commission through the power of His Spirit. No arm of flesh but leaning on the Person of the Holy Spirit – being led by the Spirit, walking in the Spirit and serving in the Spirit.

God showed us His clear plan in Colossians 1:27. He wants everyone, regardless of age, background and beliefs, to know that each can have the tremendous hope of sharing in His glory in Christ Jesus, the risen LORD. And our part in His plan is to preach Christ, to warn, to teach in the power of the Holy Spirit which has been generously given to us.

For the past 21 years, HGC has gone through joy and tears, progress and setbacks, ups and downs as we strived in all sincerity to be true to what God has called us to do. And we will carry on not relying on the arm of flesh but in the Person and Power of the Holy Spirit. We began in the Spirit, we will move on in the Spirit.

As our theme for 2015 is to disciple our community for Christ, let HGC journey on with the Holy Spirit. Let His fire be kept ablaze in us. Greater things, greater promises, greater miracles, greater works, greater transformation are in store as we focus on our LORD and serve in the power of HIS Spirit.

In this issue, we have highlighted the Charis Hope Centre, a new community work among the elderly. Do read about it on pages12 &13 Also in the centre page is a pictorial report of the different community projects HGC has embarked on.

As Good Friday and Easter is approaching there are many articles highlighting the death and resurrection of Christ. Read about the power of Christ's resurrection in the lives of HGCians on page28 &29 and the Jerusalem Times on page 24 & 25. The QnA column on page 40-42 answers an interesting question on - Did Jesus die on the cross?

Enjoy reading and pass on a copy.

Christ In Us the Hope of Glory,

VOH Team

The Hope of Glory Centre

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Discipling The Community

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

THE theme for this year is "Discipling the Community." What a tall order! Hey! How about setting your own house in order first? What do you mean by discipling the community anyway?

The Great Commission

The call to make disciples of all the nations was a charge given by our resurrected Lord Jesus, spelt out in what we call THE GREAT COMMISSION in the Gospel of Matthew 28:18-20. *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and* ***make disciples of all the nations****, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

From the very beginning when the Great Commission was given it was a tall order from the Lord. The small band of Jesus' disciples who waited and received the Promise of the Holy Spirit in the upper room were commissioned, authorised and empowered to make disciples of all the nations beginning in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. And this they did until the Gospel reached Rome. Down through church history the disciples of Jesus eventually reached the nations around the globe. Today, people of every tongue, tribe and nation call on the name of Jesus and are His followers. The same Lord who commissioned the early church has commissioned us to do the same. And the starting point of the Great Commission is our community.

The simplest definition of a community is "a group of people living in a locality." They are the people who live in the same place, experience life together, work or study together and so forth. And we are called to disciple our community of people around us and then go beyond that to include ALL THE NATIONS.

Why Do Our Community Need Discipling?

Spiritual darkness is increasing in our society. We are shocked and abhorred to hear of and see the evil and troubles that our society and nation is confronted with. From young people to even national leaders come deeds and words that are senseless, offensive, divisive and dark. Lawlessness abounds and morals are decaying speedily. Why are such lawlessness, evil and destructive behaviours running rampant. What can stop these and bring changes and transformation towards righteousness, harmony and peace?

Only Light Can Overcome Darkness

As someone rightly said so, "When there is darkness, don't curse the darkness. Just light a candle!" What a profound yet simple but powerful truth. Only light can overcome darkness.

God is light and in His great love He sent Jesus into this dark world to save it. The coming of Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 9: 2 recorded in Matt 4:16 *The people who sat in darkness have seen* ***a great light****, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death* ***Light has dawned****."*

Jesus Is The Light Of The World

In John 8:12 Jesus said, *"****I am the light of the world****. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." John 1:4-5 describes Jesus, "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." John the Baptist in John 1:9 described Jesus as, "The true light, which gives light to everyone."*

When Jesus walked the earth, He lit up individuals, families and communities wherever He went. What He spoke and did, released the light of God that exposed, dispelled and destroyed the darkness of lies, fears, sicknesses, oppression, sin and every work of the devil.

Now, since, Jesus is no longer physically on earth, how can the darkness in our world be overcome?

You Are The Light Of The World

In Matt 5:14-16 Jesus said to His disciples and that include us today, *"****You are the light of the world****. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.* ***Let your light so shine*** *before men, that they may see your* ***good works*** *and glorify your Father in heaven."*

We are not only to believe that Jesus is the light of the world but believe that WE, HIS CHURCH, ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

This Is How We Are To Disciple Our Community!

We disciple our community by being lights wherever God places us. This includes our neighbourhood, working places, schools and colleges, shops, markets and streets. God wants us to be lights in these places.

How Do We Shine?

1. By being disciples of Jesus.

When we follow Jesus, He promised that we will have the light of life (John 8:12). Our lives are different from the world and should reflect His love, joy, peace, wisdom, truth and power. Keep growing in Him and becoming more like Him in character. Be good examples and shine brighter and brighter in our community. Through our influence, we will win some to Jesus. And as more believe in Him, His light will increase and darkness will decrease.

2. By doing good works.

Matt 5:16 ***Let your light so shine*** *before men, that they may see your* ***good works*** *and glorify your Father in heaven."*

What are these good works? It refers to the good works

that God has prepared for us to do (Eph 2:10). It is not just referring to works of charity. It speaks of the outward expression of the inward faith that we have in Christ. James said that faith without works is dead. Because of our faith in Christ, rise to our calling as His witnesses – pray for the sick and those bound by darkness, help the poor, share the Gospel, give to the needy, comfort the grieving, defend the helpless and lift up the downcast.

The Welfare Ministry of our church seeks to help the poor in the community by providing some basic provisions for them. The Charis Hope Elderly Centre serves the elderly community. Our up and coming Youth Centre seeks to help the needy youth in our community by providing amenities and help for their studies. These are the more organised good works. However, good works are not to be done only when it is being organised. We can do good works wherever we are and whenever opportunities arise. For example, we can pray for our colleague who is unwell, lend a helping hand to our neighbour or offer assistance to our classmate.

3. By speaking good words

Eph4:29 *Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but* ***what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*** Words can bring life or death. Hurtful, provocative, offensive and seditious words spoken bring much harm, even to our country. We must not be sucked in. On the contrary, speak good and truthful words with love. Speak gracious words that encourage and build up people. Use words that bring comfort, healing and strength. Speak wise and godly counsel that helps people. Speak peace and be peacemakers. We are to bless our neighbours and our country. Our words can release light that dispels the darkness. God created the world by speaking it into being. Similarly, He wants us to speak light and life into every situation, believing there will be light!

During one of the morning watches, I was led to pray for people in our community who were bound by darkness. As I was praying, it dawned on me that THE ONLY PEOPLE in our community who has the authority and power over darkness are the people of God. AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF GOD! If we don't stand up to who we are, if we don't take up our call from God to be the light of our community, darkness will continue to increase and go rampant. We must not allow that to take place!

We are the light of the world. Arise and shine. Take up the authority given to us by our KING JESUS and begin to pray, to proclaim, to declare, to decree, to bind and to loose. Show the way for our community for we are the light.

We must disciple our community!



Looking At Kampong Gerachi From Dollars And Sense

By Chan Tham Seng



KAMPONG Gerachi entered 2015 with more space for ministry. Even the Kuala Kubu Baru (KKB) town was in exciting mood.

On 14 February, we were greeted by the pre-Chinese New Year colours and sounds of this nostalgically beautiful town. We find this town increasingly useful for sourcing supply of goods and services needed for our orang asli ministry in Kampong Gerachi.

KKB town sits on the eastern flank of Peninsula's Main Range. Sometimes we stop by there for food before moving on to Kampong Gerachi 15 minutes away up a hill. In the last 30 months, a small group of faithful HGC members have been regularly making the 80km journey (one way) from Ampang to conduct tuition classes, children Sunday school and adult believers meeting in Kampong Gerachi.

The Kampong Gerachi ministry has been blessed with the help of other HGC members and life groups. On our 14 February visit, young Jonathan Liew came along and shared a message with the OA children.

While Johnathan was doing so, some 18 OA adults gathered at Kak Biah's newly extended porch for a "cooking session". Katherine Koo and Linda Ngimat assisted by Kak Sila were showing them how to fry Kuih Kabul (Chinese new-year cake sandwiched between yam and sweet potato). It was a great session participated by 8 village women who joined us for the first time. The cooking session was introduced this year as an effort to attract more women into the adult meeting.

The bigger attendance fits well into the new porch which can accommodate 30 people. Many HGC members have contributed toward the building project in Kampong Gerachi by direct giving or support of food sales.
Let us, at this juncture, review last year's Kampong Gerachi ministry in terms of dollars and cents. For the year ended 31 December 2014, the ministry posted annual expenses of RM10,900. This amount does not include the Rm22,000 spent mainly on doubling the porch area at Kak Biah's house to about 180sq ft.

The annual figure of RM10,900 looks high, averaging to RM436 per trip (based on 25 ministry trips carried out in

2014). The annual expenses included two biggest items, namely RM2,623 (being expenses involved in bringing the Kampong Gerachi folks for a HGC event in June) and RM2,426 (for Christmas).

Even if we were to exclude the RM2,623 and RM2,426 as extraordinary events, the total expenses still come to RM5,851 or RM244 per trip. That's still a little on the high side.

Surely we can't do mission without dollars and cents. However, mission is not all about dollars and cents. Mission is about whether or not it makes good sense to put money, time and energy in a Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) project. In the case of the Kampong Gerachi ministry, we believe it does.

The Kampong Gerachi ministry involves regular visits hence incurring sizeable transport expenses (RM1,448 being petrol and toll charges). The orang asli are under-privileged people (most only having one meal a day), hence we've been generous in providing food for their children and adults at each visit (RM2,105). This also includes special events in which the rest of the kampong folk are invited to join in for the purpose of connecting with them. We love them as individuals worthy of our concerns (RM540 as gifts for babies, Mothers' Day and wedding). We have started supporting a sister's baby born in Nov 2014. This sister is a single mother and we are giving a monthly support of RM60 for a period of one year while encouraging her to look for a job to support herself and baby in the future.

Having done our best does not mean that the 2014 ministry was all smooth sailing. Over the year, we have been disappointed twice when two Kampong Gerachi sisters became pregnant out of wedlock. We realize the need for more teaching on Christian moral and repentance to the Kampong Gerachi youths as well as their parents.

Still, we feel that the Kampong Gerachi ministry is worthy of HGC's devotion for three reasons. Firstly, over the last 30 months our presence in Kampong Gerachi is gaining wider acceptance among the villagers. We feel comfortable in visiting their houses, among them some Muslim families. People respond to our waving of hands and "hellos". The eight village women present at our 14 February cooking session was an indication of their acceptance of us and also trusting us to coach their children in school subjects like English and arithmetic. To the adults, we are also inculcating positive values like self-confidence, hard work, self-reliance and gratitude.


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Secondly, the Kampong Gerachi ministry offers HGC a good learning experience at church-planting (Isaiah 54:2). By God's grace, we were able to complete the porch extension without stirring untoward reaction from certain quarters. We shall work hard to increase the number of Christian families in preparation for the construction of a full-fledged church building in Kampong Gerachi. The 2016 deadline for the church-planting project will be pushed backward while fund-raisings will continue as planned.

Thirdly, the Kampong Gerachi ministry represents a golden opportunity to reach out to indigenous people groups in Peninsular Malaysia as allowed under the Federal Constitution of Malaysia. Article 11 of the Constitution says: "Every person has the right to profess and practice his religion" and that "Every religious group has the right to establish and maintain institutions for religious purposes." Proselytization of orang asli is no monopoly of any religious group. What we've been doing among the animistic people in Kampong Gerachi is totally legitimate: Sharing Jesus with them, teaching them the Scripture and helping them to put up a church building. We are doing this in obedience to Christ's Great Commission.

In view of our long-term plan for the Kampong Gerachi ministry, we're stepping up efforts to connect with more villagers this year. We shall carry out more house visits to get to know the people by names and pray for the sick and needy whenever possible.

We shall also do regular prayer walks in this village and invite life groups to participate in this spiritual exercise.

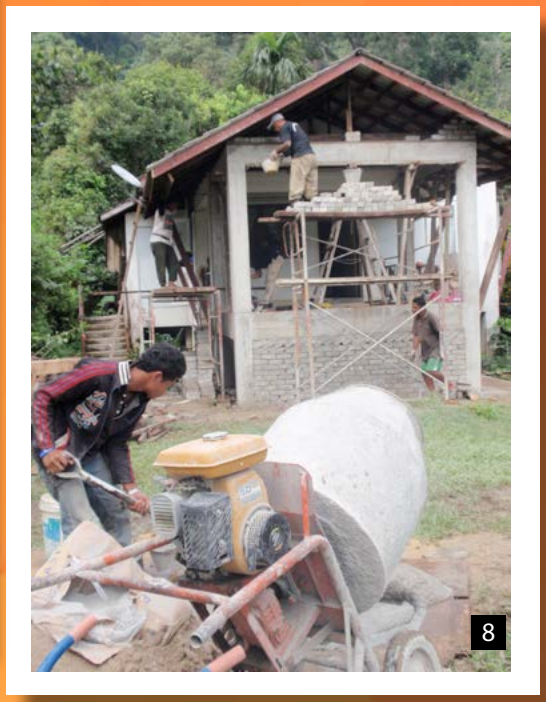
Ed Note: This ministry needs more teachers and helpers. If you are led to help out please contact Bro Chan Tham Seng or Sis Helen Dan.


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Photos:

1 Group posing at Kak Biah's extended porch.
2 HGC LG involved in Gerachi's Christmas celebration.
3 At times we eat in KKB
4 We rejoice with Kak Luna on her baby girl.
5 Nutritious drinks are good for growing kids.
6 We try hard to get Noradika (left) to our meeting.
7 Kat and Linda showing how to fry yam-CNY cake-sweet potato.
8 We use a KKB contractor for the extension work.
9 Village women joining our meeting for first time.

Party Of The Year

By Abigail Cheong


1

WHICH one are you? It does not matter if you're big, fat, thin or small, all that matters is that you are on God's side. This year's KENG Youth Christmas' dressing theme was floral or forest. It was like an explosion of flowers in church that night. Everyone looked amazing and many new friends attended too.

It was a really fun celebration for me, because it was the first time I invited a friend to church. She said she enjoyed it very much and would definitely come again next year. The games were great and they helped us to get to know everyone better. The worship was wonderful and I thought the performance of 'Beautiful Things' was splendid.

I liked how the gospel message was delivered through a drama. The actors were amazing and must have practised extremely hard. It was something new and creative, plus it was capturing everyone's attention. The countdown to Christmas was really exciting and it was awesome the way we jumped, sang and praised the Lord. That was my favourite part of the night.


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Photos:
1 Praise and worship the Lord
2-3 Drama was really good
4 Getting to know you
5 Fun games
6 Calvin was the speaker for the night

How to Shine For Jesus in School

By Abigail Cheong





ALL of us ought to shine for Jesus whether we are working, studying or even retired. And by shine I mean give glory to Jesus and make His name known to the people around us. This may sound easy but it's actually pretty hard.

First things first, we have to have a good relationship with God. We can read the Bible and pray every day to grow and find out more about Jesus. Listening to the Holy Spirit and obeying what He says is also very important.

Besides that, we should not follow the crowd. Do not just follow what our friends do, instead, we should think before we act and do the right thing. For example, our friends may hate someone just because they did something bad. We should not copy them but we should love our enemies because that's what the Bible says.

Next, we got to dare to be different from others. Be bold to stand out from the crowd, for the Lord our God is with us. It does not matter what other people think of us. What's important is what God thinks of us, whether we obey His commandments or not.

Another way to shine for Jesus in school is to do well in our academics as well as co-curriculum. To achieve this, we need to work very hard and be attentive to what teacher teaches us. We should also be an example to others by helping the students around us.

I know these are all pretty hard. I have not managed to do all of the above yet. However, just do what we can to be a witness for Jesus, and one day, I know we will be able to shine perfectly for Christ.

Charis Hope Centre - Aging With Grace

By Jeanette Chan



1

Q: GOOD morning, Ps Lee Ping, I must tell you that I was filled with excitement when I was given the assignment to interview the head of a new ministry, The Charis Hope Elderly Centre, and to find that it is none other than you. Well, I am bursting with curiosity to know what led to this move in a different direction. Have you left your flock at the Hope of Glory Centre or is this a new ministry of the church?

LP: Thank you, Jeanette, old friend! No, I have not left my flock, they are in good hands. This is not a sudden decision either. Let me begin with these considerations.

1. The monthly Saturday Service – For the past 10 years it has been held in the Kindergarten for the wheelchair bound, the infirm and those who find walking up the church staircase difficult, and those who couldn't attend the Sunday Services. Due to lack of manpower and the increasing difficulties, a fleeting thought came, to end the Saturday Service. But during my musings over this matter, God spoke to my heart in a crystal clear voice, "Do not strip away my people's right to worship Me. If they do not know how to worship Me on earth, they will be lost when they come up to heaven."

2 The Elderly Life Group held on Thursdays fortnightly in church – It was difficult for the elderly to climb up to the 2nd and 3rd floor. Henceforth, I had thoughts to have it on the ground floor.

Q: Wow! My goose pimples just popped up when you repeated how God spoke so clearly to you! How did you feel? After God spoke, was it easy?

LP: Hahaha! No, it wasn't that easy. Although I felt rejuvenated and strengthened for this purpose, I had to persuade the shrinking congregation of the Saturday Service, not to give up, as I would find a place of our own to worship. Yes, we had the use of the premises of the church kindergarten. Though it was on the ground floor, it had its inconveniences. God has His plans. After my sabbatical leave He started to move everything.

1. Ps Michael Liau, who knew of my heart and that of my husband, Sam Liew, for the elderly ministry came to us one day with the news that his ministry for the aged and infirm would be moving to distant Mantin. Rather than surrendering the licence back to the authorities, he freely gave the Persatuan Kebajikan Rumah Charis Cheras to us.

2. Knowing that we needed a place, Calvin Lim asked if we had checked out his mother's place which is strategically nestled right in the midst of the bustling Ampang wet market. It is ground floor space, inexpensive and with the promise of a lifelong lease. Surely, that was a bright green light!

3. Then, last but not least, one of the mothers from our church kindergarten asked the principal, Teresa Tham if our church would like to use her friend's bungalow for free; for charity purpose. I was approached to consider the approximately eight thousand square feet bungalow in Ampang Jaya for an Old Folks Home. Plans are being made right now for renovations, hopefully completed by June 2015.

   Actually, I have always been on the lookout for a place, but had always come to a dead end. I gave up looking. It was just too tiring and disappointing. I told God that I would just pray and not move until He brought someone to me with the proposal of a place for the ministry, and He did.

Q: Would you say it is a different walk of faith for you? Was it difficult waiting for God to say when the next move is?

LP: I need to exercise a greater measure of thoughtfulness, care and concern. The years of learning to wait on God has helped, when one wants and is ready to move

but God hasn't given the green light. Now that it has been given, we had a soft launch of The Charis Hope Elderly Centre on 20 Dec 2014 with the theme, "To age with grace." Sam who is serving with me works with Ps David Wong, a professional herbalist and physician. Sam was trained for three years in the ministry school in Cheras as well as professionally trained by a Hong Kong Christian physician, in a newly developed massage that realigns the bone structure and muscles, relieving pain and relaxing the body simultaneously. With every massage, a blessing is uttered and released into the recipient..

Q: Ha! So Sam will put his hands on the plough with his other half in this! Hmmm! I like the tagline – To age with grace.... that certainly sounds comforting! May I know what plans or goals do you have?

LP: Yes, activities are planned to enrich the lives of the elderly as I believe God has no intention of His creation withering away, feeling useless and just waiting to die. On the contrary, He wants their lives to vibrate with purpose, radiate joy. The simple hearts of these folks can find comfort and favour in God's presence. Birthed through prayer, the purposes of this ministry are as follows: providing care and concern, learning and living life to the full, mending and building lives and facing death with hope.

Available activities for church members at the centre:
Thu – Elderly LG, 1pm two to three times a month.
Sat Service – 1pm twice a month.
Fri – Bible study and counselling sessions with Ps Lee Ping and Sis Carrie Chow.
Fri night – Chinese LG.

Activities to reach out to the community:
Wed – Body realignment massage 10.30am to 2.30pm

Since the first Wednesday massage service on 18 Jan, we have had 18 non church members and 15 church members. The purpose of this service is to bring relief to people's pain through massage and prayer. Different teams are serving: Sam leads the massage service, I train the elderlies to run the Chatime sessions, prayer and hospitality. No fees are charged for all services but a donation box will be inconspicuously placed for those who wish to help with the running costs: Utility bills, rent, purchase health products, day trips, health talks, cooking and English class, art and others.

Q: Woohoo! Sounds jolly good! Err, may I register? Well, you folks out there, do check out this happening place, The Charis Hope Elderly Centre!

Q – Interviewer **LP** – Ps Lim Lee Ping


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Photos:
1 Ps Lee Ping preaching at the new centre
2 New friends visiting the centre
3 Saturday Service

The Diagnosis Of Malaysia's Problems & The Prescriptions - 2014 In Review

By Ruth Lew



I SAW a really good doctor recently who correctly diagnosed my knee problem. All the previous doctors I have seen said I had broken cartilages and spurs which caused me to suffer from osteoarthritis, but not this third doctor.

He said, "Before I can prescribe you the treatment, I need to diagnose the actual source of your problem." As it turned out, he said that the pain was not due to my cartilage or spurs but due to the tendons surrounding my knees. With that, he proceeded to treat me with his own patented treatment and immediately after the injection on the tendons (not the knees), I could squat, run, walk up and down the stairs without any pain! It was a miracle to say the least as I had not been able to straighten my left knee for about a year without feeling pain.

Lesson Learnt from My Knee Pain

The Lord asked me the same thing when I pondered on the question why our nation had to go through so many tragedies in 2014, "Do you really know the source of the nation's problems? Have you made the correct diagnosis? Like the doctor who gave you the correct diagnosis and described your pain symptoms correctly, you need to make the correct diagnosis before you can prescribe the treatment to cure the pain."

The Issachar Anointing – Diagnosis and Prescription

During one of the morning watch, the Lord spoke to a sister and me on the Sons of Issachar. The blessing of the Issachar is that this tribe had the grace and the wisdom to make the correct diagnosis of the problems of Israel and what Israel ought to do to remedy the problem (prescription).

1 Chron 12:32 "Of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred and all their brethren were at their command."

What is the diagnosis of the problem plaguing our nation? In 2014 the list of calamities has been just tragic – MH370 mysteriously disappeared, MH17 shot down in Ukraine, an Airasia flight crashed into the ocean, water crisis, floods in the East Coast, our currency crashed in a very short time, falling oil prices causing adjustments in the budget, inflationary pressures, dengue scourge, Allah issue, religious extremism.

I believe God is judging the world system which is very much entrenched in our nation. The world system is represented by Pharaoh of Egypt. Pharaoh represents the god of this world. God had to judge the religious, political, financial, social and military systems of Pharaoh so that He can draw His people's attention back to Him.

Pharaoh's gods

For too long I have become enraptured with this world and all the materialism, pride, pleasures, accolades that this world offers. For too long I have become captivated with money, position, assets, possessions and fame – pursuing them like that these goals were the all and end all of my life in this earth. In my bowing down to the gods of Egypt, I have lost sight of the eternal purpose for which God has created me for, to worship Him and Him alone and to love Him with all my heart, mind and soul!

Remember the judgments of God upon Egypt:

1. Religious – The power of magicians and diviners were broken. They could not turn back the plagues/tragedies.
2. Political – Pharaoh's hold and control over the Israelites were broken. He could not stopped them from leaving Egypt
3. Social – Drought, floods, diseases, sicknesses, natural disasters
4. Financial – The Egyptians were plundered. They gave their gold and silver to the children of Israel.

The Diagnosis
God is allowing our trust in the world, its systems and values to be broken in order for us to run to Him. No more idolatry of looking to the world for our provision and security. No more looking to the government to fix the economy or the weather, to solve the rising extremism or racial rhetoric or our problems for us.

Our allegiance has to be in God and God alone. God is jealous for us and He will shake everything that can be shaken in this nation so that we would have no choice but to look to the One who cannot be shaken.

This kind of judgment is mercy towards the Bride of Christ. How precious is His church to Him that He wants His church to return to their first love. For out of the failure of the world's system will come the greatest salvations the world will ever know. People will become desperate in looking for the meaning and purpose of life. Darkness will increase but so will the light of Jesus in us.

One sister was sharing how the tragedy of the East Coast brought the light of God to many families affected by the flood. Groups of believers came with cars and convoys to clean up homes, bring gifts and offer help. They came to clean up homes irrespective of race or religion.

The Prescription
This is the church greatest hour, filled with the Holy Spirit, with supernatural provision and supernatural power to fulfill the Great Commission through good works. This is the time for us to stretch ourselves in prayer and fasting, worship and meditating on the Word of God. It is time to draw near to God in our spiritual Goshen.

The picture of the prayer booklet speaks to me of Goshen, a place of everlasting light and the wonderful presence of God. As we dedicate ourselves an hour a day or an hour a week to fast and pray for our church and nation via the 24/7 NECF call to prayer, we will bring not only ourselves to Goshen but also our church members and all our loved ones.

God is raising up His Church to save the world. God is raising up His church to be powerful and to move in great authority and wisdom even when others are running helter-skelter seeking for answers.

Let us prepare ourselves in prayer and fasting, worship and meditating on the Word of God by participating in the morning watches, corporate prayers, small group prayers and family altars.

The Divine Providence of Goshen
Do not fear. The Lord has set a pattern in Scriptures. Whenever He judges the world, He will provide for His own. When He judged Egypt with famine, Joseph was sent ahead to provide.

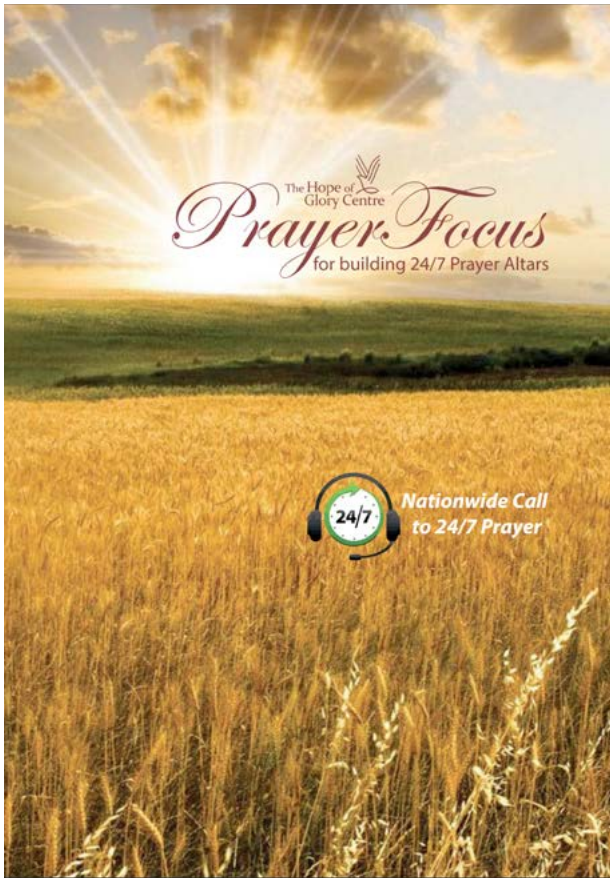
When the wells were dry, Isaac dug wells overflowing with water to the point that he prospered a hundredfold. When the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God gave them manna from heaven.

We need to see this pattern so that we can have confidence in the God of our eternal covenant, who through Jesus Christ has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

While we will see people losing hope, losing vision, losing purpose, confused and lost, the church will have such abundant supply that when the world is suffering lack, we can provide for those who come to our doors with a little oil or a bin of flour that will not run out!

God will make a distinction so that those who are oppressed by the gods of this world will see the difference in us who live in the spiritual Goshen. They will be in a position to make the choice for salvation in Jesus!

Check out prophecies of the morning watch in our prayer blog www.hgcprayer.blogspot.com



Article

Facing Up To The Year 2015

By Justin Yong



IT is interesting to note that the secular Gregorian calendar denotes the year 2015 written with its designation as A.D. 2015. Anno Domini (A.D.) in medieval Latin means, "In the year of our Lord" or sometimes more specifically as Anno Domini Nostri Iesu (Jesu) Christi (In the year of our Lord Jesus Christ). This statement is in reference to the period which began after the birth date of Christ (as agreed approximately by scholars). So, as we usher in the New Year, let us be reminded that this year 2015, is 2015 in the year of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Scripture in James 4:13-15 reads:
Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.'

Whether it be a coincidence or a divinely orchestrated coincidence, however, the modern day calendar system employs the reference point of our Lord Jesus' birth date to map out future history. Hence, in facing up to 2015, let us keep in perspective the salvation which has already come and our place in God's history making plans. Scripture tells us how we are able to do this. James 4:13 compares two manners of thinking in living life. The first pattern of thinking involves those who make plans, work the plan and spent off their year. These plans are based on a misplaced confidence of a certain future. The second thinking asks the question of, "...if it is the Lord's will..." Such a person consults the Lord's purposes prior to or before making plans and working out the plans.

This year, Anno Domini 2015 is a time to reflect on the completed work of God for salvation and His continual purposes to establish Himself a kingdom. As we make plans for the year, let us regularly flashback to the birth of our Saviour and look forward to God's overall plan for His glory. So in living our Christian life on earth, we ask ourselves, "Where do I belong in the grand purposes of God's kingdom building plans this year?" If we realise this, we would not simply ask of the Lord, "God give me a better year." But as Jonathan Liew, Sam and Ps Lee Ping's son, puts it so simply, "God give me not a better year but a better me."

Because this year is 2015, it is 2015 in the year of our Lord.





Fifty Shades of Lies

By Joann Lim

YOU must have heard of it by now - Fifty Shades of Grey. In 2012, the novel was a bestseller in bookstores worldwide with over 100 million copies sold. Then this year, on Valentine's Day, it was released as a movie and proudly held the no. 1 spot on the U.S. box office for weeks.

If you have not watched the movie or read the book (I strongly advise against it), let me summarize it for you: Fifty Shades of Grey is about a young lady who falls in love with a handsome millionaire only to discover he has a fetish for S&M, short for sadism and masochism. Out of their 'love' for each other, she eventually indulges in the practice, and submits to his way of 'loving' her (which involves ropes, chains, whips and beatings).

Now, what exactly is S&M? S&M is also sometimes known as BDSM which is derived from combining the words Bondage & Discipline (B&D) or Submission & Dominance (S&M). Basically, S&M can be defined as the practice of using pain as a sexual stimulant.

Critics have called the book literotica (or erotic literature) and the movie a form of soft porn. Therefore, the fact that the story is reaching widespread audiences on such a viral rate is not only worrying, but also disturbing.

What are the dangers that Fifty Shades of Grey carries?
Firstly, it advocates S&M (rape, pain and selfish dominance) as an alternative lifestyle but still part of a healthy relationship as long as both partners are consensual.

This is WRONG. People who genuinely love each other have trust and mutual respect for one another; and will not seek to wilfully hurt the other for one's own pleasure.
Secondly, Fifty Shades of Grey paints abuse (both physical & verbal) as acceptable as long as:

1. The abuser is rich and attractive
2. The abused is (somehow) consensual (because she didn't say no)

Abuse is never okay in any circumstance. In the story, the protagonist, constantly threatens his lover, stalks her, cuts off her interaction with other people, and of course, exerts his dominance on her during sex by tying her up and inflicting pain on her. This is abuse. Don't call it a fetish, don't call it 'cute jealousy', don't call it erotic, and don't call it love. We need to call a spade, a spade and label abuse exactly as we see it.

In spite of the misogynistic stance Fifty Shades of Grey is taking, the terrifying fact is that most of its fans are predominantly female. What this means is that women are seeing these practices as okay. The boundary of right and wrong is pushed back, and what was once seen as morally unacceptable is now societally more welcomed. Like its title, people are now viewing this abhorrent practice as shades of grey instead of Black & White (right & wrong). With the number of rape and domestic violence cases against women increasing with each year, the situation is more than worrying.

I believe that the church and family institution needs to be stronger than ever in the face of such blatantly evil lies. Fathers and mothers need to be role models to their children in portraying a truly healthy relationship. Children (especially young girls) need a safe environment to learn what true love is. And young boys need to have present father-figures to learn what it means to be the stronger sex, and that dominance simply means having to take on more responsibility with love, not cause pain. The younger generation needs to be affirmed that they are loved and are worthy of love. They need to learn how to love and respect themselves, so that they can relate to others in the same way. Most of all, they need to be deeply rooted in Jesus Christ and submit only to Him, because if there is one true love involving whips and blood and pain, it was Christ's death on the cross for the price of sin.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Cor 13:4-8)

Blessed 21st Anniversary

The Hope of Glory Centre

Celebrating God's faithfulness in raising us up for His glory!



Ps Khor Hoe Chai

Beloved HGCians, For all Christ is to us and for all He has done for us, let us continue to abide in Him , pressing forward towards maturity as His end-time church that pleases Him and does His will to glorify Him!.



Ps Nick Nip

To All HGCians, Happy 21st Anniversary! Let us continue to move forward to finish well not by our might nor by our power but by the Spirit of the Lord.



Ps Chong Wah Yaw

As HGC celebrates its 21st Anniversary, what is the one thing that has changed in your life that will impact society? To me, it is LOVE. Love makes me do more things for God. Let us live out the love of God by loving people and making a difference.



Ps Lim Lee Ping

I thank you, HGCians, from the bottom of my heart for your continual support and heartfelt encouragement for the past 21 years. The love that you have shown have melted the hearts of many. Your love burns and shines brightly to everyone. Without all of you, we might not reach this far. Let us continue the race of faith together as one, to embrace the Father's heart and impact the community

BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW BY BUILDING THE CHRIST LIFE IN YOU

Christ in you, the Hope of Glory Col 1 : 27



OUR CORE VALUES

(What defines us)

1. We are Christ-Centred

We submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the King of Kings. He is the Word and therefore we value being Bible based and Biblically principled in our faith and lifestyle. We value the study, teaching and preaching of the Word of God. As Christ is the anointed one of the Holy Spirit, we value being Spirit filled, Spirit led and Spirit empowered in who we are and in all we do.

2. We are People focused

We value people and building loving relationships with them. We value discipleship that builds and develops people with grace and truth unto maturity in Christ, reaching their full potential in Christ. We value leadership development for greater fruitfulness. We value the development of the Next Generation.

3. We are One Body in Christ

We value teamwork and unity "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them." Rom 12:4-6

4. We are a witnessing Church

We are called to fulfil the Great Commission and to be His witnesses. We value Evangelism, Missions and Community work to make Jesus known so that the lost will be saved and disciples will be made and His Kingdom reign will be extended.

5. We Hope in the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ

Therefore we live as pilgrims and sojourners in this world having eternal perspectives. We recognise that this world is temporal and that our eternal home is in heaven with the Lord Jesus. Therefore we do not lay up treasures on earth where moth and rust destroys but we lay up treasures in heaven by the way we use our life, our talents, our money and our time to serve Him and His eternal purposes.

"S-T-R-E-T-C-H Assignment @ the Morning Watches"

By Ruth Lew



Helen Dan



Melody Wan



Allison Chen



Sumitha Cheong

THE Morning Watches in two-hourly slot from 6 am to 8 am started during the 40-day fast and pray in August 2014 and continued till this year. The church then decided to select the said 2-hourly watches as part of its participation in the two-year NECF 24/7 Prayer Watches which was launched on Malaysia Day on Sept 16 2014.

Attendance averages about 5 people for the first watch and an equal number for the second watch. Since the Prayer Watches started, we have seen a number of answered prayers most prominent among them were the good turnout at all the Christmas events and a record number of souls saved at all the Christmas evangelistic events.
Here are some testimonies of those who came to watch and pray:

Helen Dan – I have been receiving visions in the Morning Watch. I saw this vision on Saturday morning on 31 Jan 2015. The first vision I saw was a white cloth thin as tissue but its colour is not very white (a little greyish). The cloth was swallowed by a big black cloth.

Meaning: If we (Christians) are not active or serious in our prayer life nor walk closely with GOD, we may fall and end up swallowed by the world pattern.

In the second vision I saw that a row of bulbs were not as bright when compared to10 rows of bulbs. When many bulbs were lighted up together, they shone like a huge spot-light, and lifted us up higher and higher.

Meaning: We Christian should stand firm; unite and pray together because prayer is the power that can destroy the darkness.

Melody Wan – It is one way to cultivate spiritual discipline for me. It is spiritual discipline to take time to seek the Lord first thing in the morning, singing and lifting up my voice to Him in worship and prayer. What a wonderful way to kick-start my day. I am covered by His grace and His presence as I venture into the world.



Peggy Lai



Margaret



Ruth Lew

Allison Chen – The Morning Watch has helped me to focus and to draw closer to God. I have learned to depend on God more, and less on myself. I can also sense God's direction on my life. All glory to God. It is a joy to be in His presence.

Sumitha Cheong –The Morning Watch helps me to focus on the Lord by seeing that He is bigger, stronger and greater than any problem I am facing. It makes me aware of the needs of others and helps me to obey the command to watch and pray.

Peggy Lai – I feel refreshed, like a hand phone being charged.

Margaret – I struggled in my early days as a Christian to come for Morning Prayers. I question my motive for coming. Was I coming to please man or coming because I love God? I knew in my heart that I was coming for Morning Watch because I love God and want to be close to Him. The Morning Watch has encouraged my soul and lifted up my spirit. Words cannot describe the divine sufficiency that has been given to me through the Morning Watches. Getting up one hour earlier in order to make sure that I am not late, setting my alarm so that I would not oversleep, ignoring the complaints from my husband as to why I had to leave so early, I have persevered in coming. I endured. I overcame. Christian studies often mention this as a sacrifice. To me it is LOVE. I LOVE MY GOD and by coming for the Morning Watch I am showing by my action that I really do.

Ruth Lew – When we discussed Ps Paul Ang's sermon outline, I knew immediately that mine was the 6 am Watch being my STRETCH assignment from God. Not too keen in the initial stage because I would have to wake up at 5 am, to have my personal devotion before coming to church. But I knew I had to because of the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit. In fact, before the suggestion came from a sister last year during the start of the 40-day fast, the Lord had already spoken to me to propose this to Pastor. But I was most unwilling to open my mouth as I knew there would be sacrifice involved. The sacrifice of sleep! However, as I persisted in coming for Morning Prayer, I began to experience success in my work that has never happened before. Six cases solved in a year is the norm for me but to solve six cases in one month alone is a miracle.

Also, when I faced problems with people in the office and it troubled me, the Morning Watch helped me get out of condemnation and oppression quickly. Problems get solved without my intervention. The very person who cursed me turned around to praise me the next week!

I also find a great desire to evangelize, to tract and to distribute the VOH to my friends. Also sitting in the presence of God (sometimes falling asleep) I will continue downloading visions, prophetic word, teaching and strategies for my work and the ministry even when I leave the Morning Watch. Yes, there is sacrifice but the rewards surpass the sacrifice many times over!

Reaching Out To With

Welfare Ministry



Provisions to the poor



Gifts at Christmas



Helping the needy



Cleaning homes

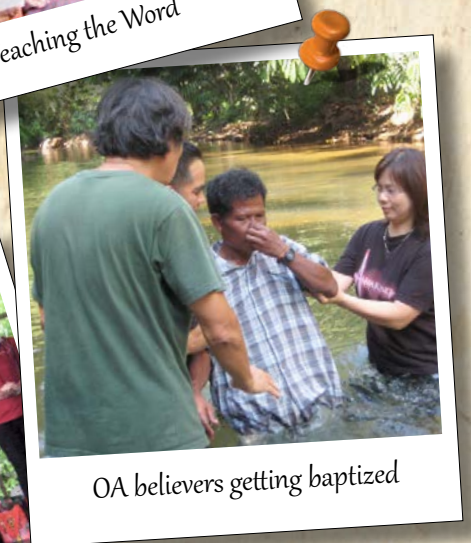
Orang Asli Ministry



Tuition for OA children



Teaching the Word



OA believers getting baptized



Sunday School

Our Community Love

Kindergarten Ministry



Nurturing children for their future



Learning is fun



Happy graduates



Learning different instruments

Charis Hope Ministry



Ps Lee Ping carries the vision for this ministry



Ministry to the elderly



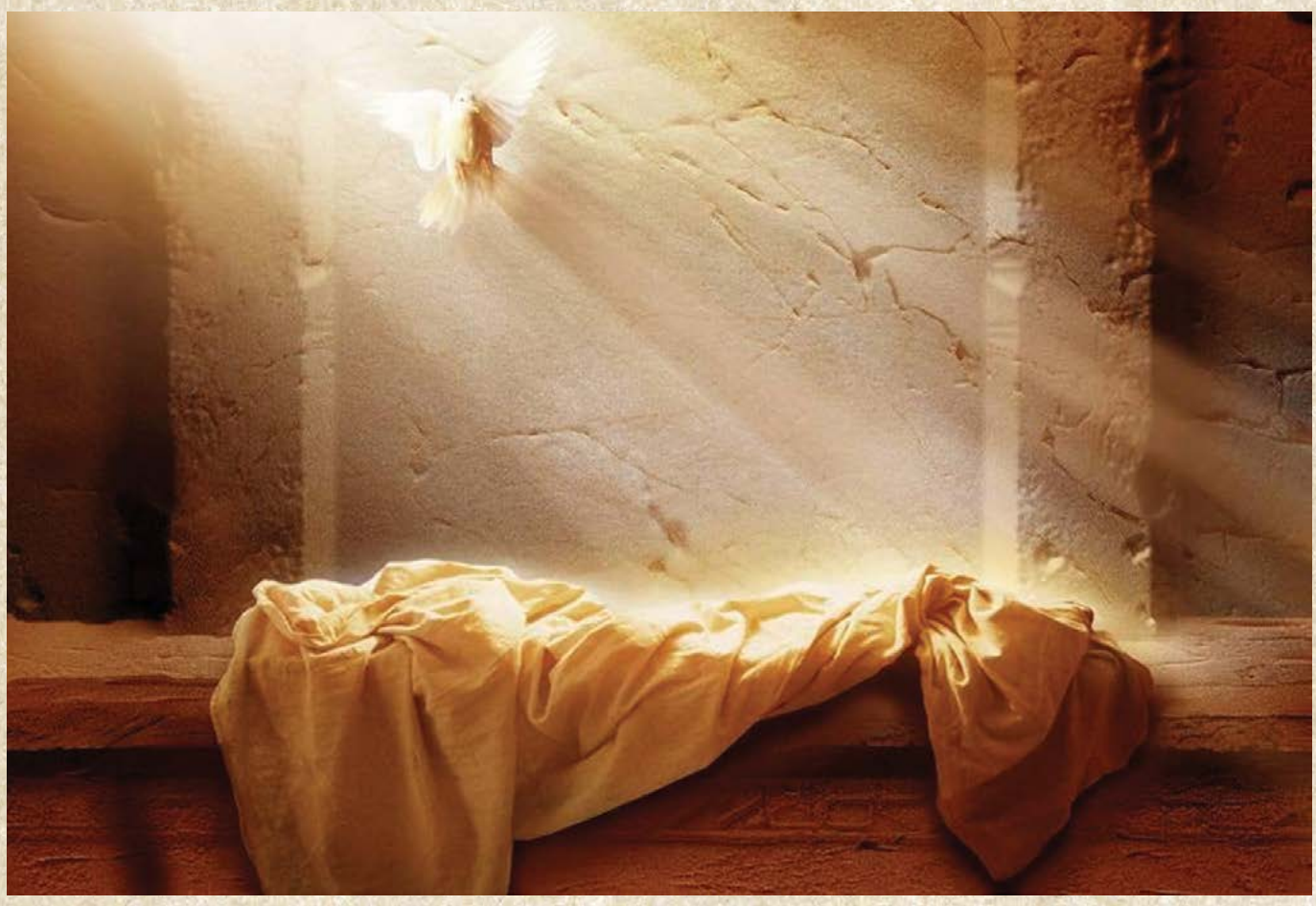
Giving elderly massages



Finding out needs

JERUSALEM TIMES

FREAK EARTHQUAKE EXPOSES EMPTY TOMB



JERUSALEM, SUNDAY: Soldiers protecting the tomb of Jesus were petrified to death and numbed by fear when a strong earthquake rocked the tomb site where Jesus was buried. They said, "The earth reeled and rocked under our feet." There were reports that they had seen an angel in shimmering white clothes rolling back the huge stone that was across the doorway of the tomb to reveal an empty tomb.

TOMB RAIDERS

When questioned, a few of the guards kept mum and would not say more. However, some of the guards denied the encounter with angels and the resurrection of Jesus. "There were no angels and no resurrection," they claimed. "What happened was a simple case of tomb raiding. Jesus' disciples came in the night and stole the body while we were asleep." When asked why they were sleeping, when they should be on guard, they had no answer and left quietly.

JESUS' BODY MISSING FROM TOMB

Sightings of Angels

SUNDAY: Two women who went to the tomb early Sunday morning to anoint the body of Jesus attest to the presence of angels. They claimed that an angel removed the stone and then sat on it.

The women said, "The angel knew we were looking for Jesus. He told us not to be afraid and that the crucified Jesus whom we seek is not there because HE IS RISEN from the dead! The angel even invited us to have a look at the place where Jesus was laid. And when we looked in, indeed Jesus' body was not there. We were then instructed to go and tell the good news to His disciples.'

MAN FOUND HANGED

THE body of a man found hanged in a field outside of Jerusalem has been identified as Judas, the disciple who for 30 pieces of silver handed Jesus over to the Jewish authorities. No foul play was suspected.

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT

We Saw the Risen Jesus!



One of the women, Mary Magdalene said, "I can't explain how we felt on hearing the awesome news that Jesus was alive. Mixed emotions ran through us – we were fearful but yet so full of joy." They claimed that as they were running quickly to tell the good news to the disciples, lo and behold, Jesus stopped them in their tracks. "With our own eyes we saw Him. He is alive! It was totally amazing. He greeted us and told us to tell His disciples to go to Galilee where He would meet them."

FURTHER APPEARANCE OF JESUS

He Walked With Us



SUNDAY: There were more sightings of the risen Jesus. Two of His disciples were on their way to Emmaus when they were joined by a stranger who seemed to be at a loss as to the latest happenings in Jerusalem. Cleopas, one of the two, said, "When we told him of all that had happened and how certain women had seen visions of angels and seen Jesus alive, this stranger started to explain the Scriptures to us. And as he did that, our hearts burned. We didn't know it was Him - Jesus, how blind we were. We only knew it was Him when we sat down to have a meal with Him. It was the way He took the bread and blessed it. Then He just disappeared before our eyes. And we returned to Jerusalem."

HE CAME THROUGH CLOSED DOORS



SUNDAY EVENING: Peter, the spokesman for the band of disciples, claimed that Jesus came to them while they were hiding behind locked doors. He said, "After the crucifixion of Jesus, we were so afraid of the Jews that we fled and remained in hiding. All of a sudden, there stood in our midst before our very eyes, Jesus – totally alive. He greeted us with words of peace. He even showed us His scarred hands, feet, and side. How exuberant we were to see Him alive! It has happened just as He told us beforehand of His sufferings, crucifixion and resurrection on the third day. It is all true!

This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, was crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised Him up, defeating death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it. His Word is truth!
He said, "He is the Resurrection and the Life! Believe Him!"

AUTHORITIES DENY THE RESURRECTION

Statement From the Chief Priests

You will have no doubt heard the rumours going around in Jerusalem about that blasphemer Jesus having resurrected from the dead. Do not believe these rumours. The truth of the matter is, His disciples had come at night and stolen His body away. The guards that were on duty can verify to this.

So fellow Jews stop listening and spreading the rumours!

Idea was taken from The tabloid Bible by Nick Page

New Beacon of His Lighthouse

Interview by Jeanette Chan

SEATED next to each other one late Saturday, were the present head of The Little Lighthouse Children Church (CC), Mark Charis Yong and the previous head, Chern York Ling. Mark who grew up in CC has in this year taken over the challenging role of superintending CC, while York Ling who had spearheaded this ministry, had relinquished and handed the torch over to Mark . To hear their musings on the 'in's and 'out's of this important ministry, one needs to hear it from the lions' mouth:

Q: What were your thoughts and feelings when you were informed of this promotion, Mark!

MC: It wasn't really a surprise as Sis York Ling had mentioned numerous times that she would not be in CC forever. We were prepared and not taken by surprises.

Q: It has been on the job training for you for the past two years! Would you say you are ready?

MC: I will never be totally ready, there is no class which one can take to be the leader of the CC. I just have to jump in and trust the Lord to catch me, just as I have been doing all this while.

Q: Of which the Lord is extremely good at – this catching business! Well, what then are your plans for 2015?

MC: Well, I have barely been in but plans are afoot of course. My plan is to see that the CC services are more focused; and then to move on to outreach. The adults who have been coming in as guest speakers have had a meaningful impact on the children. I plan to create more opportunities for adults to share more of their wisdom to the children.

Q: Interesting! When do you intend to start the outreach and how?

MC: Oh, we have started with picnics, which was great for bonding. Once we are more stabilised, there will be a reshuffle of the core team as well as launching the outreach in earnest.

Q: What are the challenges you anticipate?

MC: One challenge is the transition of children to Keng Youth and Sunday Services, as we seem to be losing some of them. There's a need to plan a smoother and better transition.

Q: York Ling, if I am not mistaken, you spearheaded CC ministry at its inception. How long ago and how had it been?

YL: 21 years ago. Well, being in the corporate world helped me see things from different perspectives. It had not been easy but I have learnt to lean hard on God's wisdom and guidance. The years had been worthwhile.

Q: Although Mark has been 'on the job' training the past two years, he seems to have a wee bit of qualms. Are you out of the picture, now that you have handed over to Mark?

YL: As a third generation Christian (children from Christian homes), life for Mark has not been as rough as it had been for some of us, first generation Christians who were 'persecuted' for our faith. We had to cling desperately to God in times of trials which built our faith. However, I believe the challenges in CC will see Mark experience deeper spiritual intimacy with God. He will also face the challenge of teaching and inspiring second generation believers.
As for my involvement in CC, I will still be in the picture indefinitely as an advisor.

Q: Any gems of advice to the newly appointed head from you?

YL: Mark will need to learn to see things in totality since he needs to work with a team. He needs to stay connected. The Holy Spirit will guide him step by step and reveal the big picture to him as he surrenders and seeks God humbly.
The support from the church is supremely important. I am happy with the coming in of the Adult Life Groups (LG) every first Sunday which is bringing a fresh breath to the children as well as relief to the team. Their spiritual maturity and exposure in the working world can bring a positive impact to the CC. The LGs are a pillar of support and help to build a sustainable CC team and enable outreach plans to be reachable.

Q: Is there any criteria to be part of this ministry and what are the operation hours?

MC: Anyone coming in will begin from ground zero working their way up, learning each department and its operations. Time in, begins at 11.15am and ends at 1.15pm. Lesson plans and material will be provided.

Q: What is it you wish to see in CC in the future?

YL: CC producing children with a strong foundation in God's Word and the team doing mighty exploits far greater than I can ever do.

Q: Well, I envision this 'new wave' will certainly make waves with an enriched advisor 'pushing' him on. As the Chinese saying goes: Back waves push the front waves! One sees only the frontal waves rising to its heights but in actual fact, it has been backed by strong waves from behind! Kudos, Selina Chern York Ling, for the tireless, prayerful, heartfelt work you have sown in the Little lighthouse Children Church and congratulations, too, as one of your seeds, have stepped up to take the beacon from you in the race the Lord has set. The generations will be blessed.

(**Q**-Interviewer **MC**-Mark Charis Yong **YL**-York Ling)



Experiencing the Power of HIS Resurrection

By Lim Chin Nee



"THAT I may know Him and the power of His resurrection…" what an exclamation Paul, the apostle, made in Phil 3:10. Being a believer and follower of Christ, Paul considered nothing comparable to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord. More and more, he wanted to know Him and experience the tremendous power that raised Him from the dead. He knew this awesome power was available to him and he would forgo all to experience it.

What is this resurrection power? It is the power of God that raised Jesus Christ from death to life. It is the power of the risen Christ, working actively in our lives. It's His power within us to overcome sin and temptation, to transform our lives and to become true followers of Jesus. And this very power is available to all of us who place our trust in Christ. Imagine that! If we tap into this power, we will see amazing transformation in our own lives.

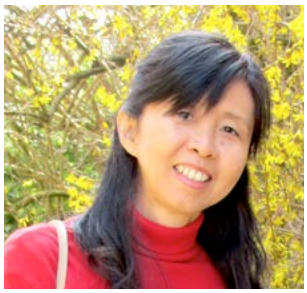
Paul himself experienced the amazing power of Christ's resurrection in his life in a dramatic way. From a harsh persecutor of Christ, he became a fervent proclaimer of Christ. From one who had every reason to boast of himself, he boasted of nothing except Christ and the cross. With the power of the risen Lord in him, he took the gospel of Jesus Christ to much of Asia Minor and Europe. What amazing transformation and he wanted more! Paul also prayed for believers to experience this incredible greatness of God's power which is available to them who believe (Eph 1:19-20).

Christ's resurrection power is more than a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the point of salvation – when we who were dead in sin were made alive in Him. It is a continuous experience; for His resurrection power has the ability to keep on transforming our lives, our thoughts, attitudes and conduct. Like Paul, we must earnestly desire to know this incredible source of power and allow it to work in our lives actively… daily… till Christ be formed in us and His destiny fulfilled in our lives.

Below are short testimonies of church leaders and members personal experience of Christ's resurrection power.

Overcoming Fear

By Lim Chin Nee



CHRIST'S resurrection power to change and transform is very real for I experienced this in my own life. I guess if you were to meet the old "me" before I knew Christ, you might not recognize me. As a child and teenager, probably due to my upbringing, I was extremely fearful, insecure and self-conscious. Each time when approached (except by close friends), my palms would get really sweaty and sticky. My tongue would be stuck and all I could offer were one or two word answers. I seldom found courage to express my thoughts and feelings because I believed people didn't like to hear what I had to say nor did I dare offer a smile, for fear it would not be returned.

All that changed gradually, when I met my Saviour Jesus Christ. He told me through His Word that He had not given me the spirit of fear but the spirit of power, love and sound mind. That truth liberated me. I realised I had been trapped in my own fears by the devil. The more time I spent with the Lord and His Word, the freer I became. The more conscious I grew of God, the less conscious of self I became. His power worked within me, I died more and more to my fears and insecurities, and became more alive in Him. I am now more people conscious and outward looking. I smile at people irrespective of whether I get smiles in return as I am smiling for Jesus. I have emerged out of the tomb of fear and insecurities and am enabled to serve my Lord with a new identity and boldness in Him.

Transforming Power

By Yap Yuet Ching



EVER since I came to know Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life at the age of 16, I have been experiencing His grace and power in my physical, emotional and spiritual health. God has not promised me a smooth life in this imperfect world; but He has promised to be with me through it all. I learned from the Bible that God is my Healer. At the age of 18, I remember that I developed gastric pain that caused me discomfort quite often. One day I prayed to God to heal me and He did. With the healing, I can enjoy coffee everyday now and the gastric never occurred again.

No one is exempted from suffering in this incomplete world. Whenever I am faced with anger, anxiety, depression, insecurity, fear of old age and death, I can run back to God to seek help. I am convinced that as I am securely rooted in personal intimacy with Jesus - the source of my life and the lover of my soul, it is possible for me to remain flexible but not compromising, convinced without being rigid, willing to confront without being offensive, gentle and forgiving without being soft and a true witness without being manipulative. With this I am truly grateful to God as according to what His word says in Jeremiah 17:7-8. We can trust Him!

Healed In Jesus Name

By Helen How



IT was a very low time in my life, about 27 years ago. I was then just a young Christian and I had a very serious sickness. My head would spin very badly and many times I was at the verge of blackout. In addition to that, there was this 'hammering' noise in my left ear, which resulted in me not being able to hear anything from my left ear.

When I went for medical checkups, the doctor would advise me to go for an operation on my ear to see what was wrong with me. I cried out to Jesus to help me. I did not want to be operated on. I trusted by faith God could heal me. I stood on 1 Peter 2:24 and confessed, 'By the stripes of Jesus I was healed.' Nine months later, I was totally healed until today. I give God all the glory for His resurrection power of healing.

Changed View Of Life

By Luke Tien



NOTHING in the world is comparable to the life of a true believer, living by the grace of God day by day. The resurrection power of Christ in me changed my view of life. It caused me to humbly face my own arrogance. Three simple words explain what a resurrected life is to me. I thought I have everything in life figured out, but Christ showed me, there is more. I thought all of life is vain, but He showed me, there is more. Never a time was I disappointed in Him as He showed me, there is more. However, the life of following Christ is not easy, it is paved with doubts, societal pressure, fears and challenges, but what can I say? It is worth it.

Dead to Self, Alive In Christ

By Margaret Tien



I DID not know my identity in Christ when I first became a believer in 2011. Neither did I quite experience "the new life" after baptism or even my season in the school of Acts in 2012. It was only through the weekly Life Group (LG) meetings from 2013-2014 did I begin to experience the new life, the resurrected life in Christ.

Listening to my LG sisters testifying and the Word of God shared and practically applied has helped me. Attending Bible Studies in church also gave me understanding as to why I must STOP complaining, STOP judging, STOP scolding and STOP trusting myself.

I have seen visions of my burnt body on the altar of God many times, but did not know what it meant. Now I got it. I am dead and now in Christ only I live. Now I pray for a dynamic growing relationship with Jesus my Lord. Jesus came to save.....ME from MYSELF.

My Back Was Restored

By Susan Tay



I HAD been suffering from back pain due to an injury many years ago. I needed physiotherapies to feel better whenever the pain struck. Usual movements could trigger off the pain and I would need to rest completely for at least a week. Because of my weak back, my two beloved children and husband had to constantly support me in challenging pathways and when riding on public transport.

One evening, while cooking dinner, the pain shot through my back and it became so severe that I had to stop cooking immediately. In my agonizing pain and anguish, I dropped to my knees and cried out to the Lord, "Today I am surrendering my all to you. I have enough of this pain." I got up and lifted up my voice and began to sing "I lift my hands" and "In Jesus name." As I moved around the house and danced, I realized that I had been set free and healed of the back pain! Praise God and Glory to His name! My family had a fantabulous meal that night and the pain never strike again. Jesus is my healer!

Empowered To Live A Victorious Life

By Wendy Liew



AS a child of God, the most fundamental truth is to believe and recognize Christ died, was buried and raised up from dead. Jesus conquered and defeated death for me by His glorious resurrection.

I have become more aware and conscious of His living presence; and this helps me to reflect on my daily thoughts, speech and actions as to whether they are pleasing to Him. The power of His resurrection has also changed me to be a humble person. Whatever I do, I acknowledge that wisdom, strength and plans truly come from Him and not me.

Facing temptations, challenging situations, fear or feeling discouraged are part of a believer's life, including mine. With the new life in Christ, the Holy Spirit gave me the power to see all these challenges from God's perspective and to realise that these are His ways of moulding my character. In every situation I encountered, I have come to know more about God's divine nature and His purpose. I thank God that Christ lives in me and enables me to live a victorious life. To God be all glory!

The Year Of Extra Blessings

By Christina Au Yong as told to Jeremy Chew



IF I were asked to describe 2014 in a short phrase, I would say it is "The year of extra blessings!" Throughout the year, God has poured into our family, extra grace, love, health, provision, protection and favour.

As my daughter Esther prepared for her Piano Grade 7 exams, her music teacher texted me many times, "She is going to fail FOR SURE. She is not practising enough." I was at my wit's end. Besides asking her to practise and pray, there was not much I could do. After all, her music teacher knows best. After the exams, imagine my joy! Esther not only passed, but she did well, being placed third in class. My son, Kenneth's studies has not been good and Mathematics was his worst subject. In 2014, we saw improvements and breakthroughs.

My husband, Jimmy's contract with an overseas company was renewed. He basically works from home until the company contacts him and sends him throughout Asia where machines require servicing. Due to new terms in the new contract, we have more income. Whenever he is home, which is quite often, he creates all sorts of smoothies for me and each time, greets me with a new flavour. Besides feeling loved and cherished, I also feel healthier and more energetic.

Some time ago, we felt the need to get a new car because the one we had required servicing more and more often. We decided to buy a used car. It looked beautiful. Jimmy found that the car we just bought somehow did not feel right even though it looked nice on the outside. Its brakes just felt wrong. After some investigation, I contacted the first owner who was surprised that we had bought his car. It had been wrecked in an accident and pronounced a total loss.

I contacted the second-hand car dealer who sold it to us telling him that we wanted our money back in total even though we had had the car for one week. The dealer was unwilling but he agreed after I told him that I would make a police report as the car was not meant to be used at all after being declared a total loss. Eventually, we got the money back.

Still, we needed a new car urgently. We went to a Honda dealer but were told that it would take a month for delivery. The salesman then added, "There is one available now because the buyer couldn't get a bank loan. It's black and you might not like it." I was overjoyed. I WANTED a black car. We couldn't get the registration number we wanted, but God gave us something better, the alphabet and numerals remind me that God's way is excellent and He is perfect.

Lost and Found

By Ho Gek Neo (Aunty Teh)



ON Sunday, 28 Dec 2014, my son came to pick me from the church. On the way home, as I needed do some shopping at Spectrum, he stopped the car by the road to let me down. As I got down and walked towards the building, **a snatch thief came from behind me and grabbed my handbag**. Thank God I was not hurt. I called out for help and passers-by who saw the incident chased after the thief. The thief seeing that he was being pursued threw the bag away and managed to escape.

When I got back my bag, I felt that it was lighter than before. Upon checking, I realised the Bible which I had been using for 17 years was missing from the bag. The thief must have thought that there was money inside. Everything else was inside my bag except for my Bible! I loved my Bible very much as I read it every day, write notes on it and mark it. It was most precious to me. I was really sad that my Bible was lost!

My son saw my disappointment and bought me a new Bible the following day. I thank the Lord for my loving son who wanted me to have a new Bible almost immediately. He knew that I read my Bible daily. But I prayed to the Lord quietly that I could get back my old favourite.

On the Wednesday of the same week, I went to Spectrum again to do some shopping. When I walked in the entrance I saw my missing Bible on a counter near the entrance. I told the person at the counter that the Bible belonged to me. She asked me a simple question, "How do you know that it is your Bible?" "It has my name written on it," I told her. I showed her my I.C. to verify my name. She was stunned. And immediately she returned my Bible to me. Joy flooded my heart as I embraced my Bible and laid it on my heart! "Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord!" I kept thanking Him and prayed, asking the Lord to forgive the thief who took my Bible.

Praise the Lord! He is so good! He knows my heart and cares for the details of my life. He knows how much I love my Bible and has amazingly kept it safe and returned it to me. I will cherish my Bible till the very last day of my life on earth.

My YWAM Experience
A Time Set Apart To Pursue God

By Jane Oo

INDEED life is a learning process and one can never learn enough. As a Christ follower, I have always desired to know God more and grow deeper in my relationship with Him. June 2013 was the turning point when I decided that I want to set apart a period of my life to intentionally pursue God. The constant demands from work, family and ministry drew me into a dry season. I felt like I was the church of Ephesus, the church that had left her first love. I could hear God calling me but I kept getting distracted with so many things in life. When I heard about YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and the DTS (Discipleship Training School) they run, I was excited and the moment I read the description online; I knew I was meant to go for it.


1

June 2014 was where my journey with YWAM started. However, a couple of months leading towards it, God had started the work of preparing me. How I decided to tender my resignation when my boss informed me that my sabbatical leave approval was still pending was a story in itself. I had to let go of the world's standard of security. It wasn't easy especially when the people around me were truly concerned over my wellbeing. I loved my colleagues, bosses and my financial freedom! It was a step of faith but I have no regrets over it. I believed God had a greater plan for me. The months before it, was also a time of redeeming relationships. God gave me new goals and I remember spending time praying for my family members, colleagues and friends. I was also greatly blessed by the encouragement and affirmation over breakfast, lunch and dinner treats!

YWAM is a large international community worldwide. I was based in Melbourne for 12 weeks of lectures and thereafter another 10 weeks of outreached in Tasmania, Thailand and India. My school consisted of only 6 students and 5 staffs. It was a small group therefore we got acquainted very quickly. DTS means 'Discipleship Training School', therefore the whole course was based on discipleship in every area of a person's life. Examples of my few favourite topics are 'Hearing God's voice', Evangelism, Identity, Holy Spirit and Lordship. The main theme of the whole course is 'To know Christ and to make Him known', based on Matt 22:37 & 38. We learned not only from the lectures but from one another as well. Each one of us is different in personality, background, age, level of maturity in Christ and nationality. The experience of learning from one another was my richest experience. It showed me that God is not bias nor favour one over another.

One of my personal goals was to have what I call 'Mary time' or 'Selah' as in Psalms which means waiting on God. I just wanted to sit at the feet of Jesus and experience God in a deeper level. In the world of smart phones and a fast paced life, I find myself not being able to be 100% present in most of life's moments. I get sucked into information and more knowledge and I forget about 'being'. God desires to have relationship with us. God is love and love is an action word. The funny thing was that I actually found it difficult to sit still initially. It took time and a lot of letting go of myself to wait on God. It was truly a refreshing time and I encourage each of us in our walk of faith to set aside a time of 'Selah'. You will discover a new aspect of God's character.

Outreach was our practical test and we had the opportunity to be in Tasmania, Thailand and India. All three places were so different in terms of climate, culture, language and people. It was my first mission trip in a Western country and the experience was eye opening.



2

It is not only the poor or third world countries that need Christ but everywhere in the world. The only difference was the approach and the activities that we did. In Tasmania, there were a lot of local church ministries and street evangelism. The people were generally more open and polite; however there was a lot of resistance and we couldn't go deeper than sharing about our day. We were in three different towns, Hobart, St. Helens & Launceston. A

particular highlight was the opportunity to preach in a local church and to meet with a lady named Wendy. Wendy was a divorcee who opened up her house for us to stay. She had a passion for dance and in her beautiful beach front house; I noticed all the flags that she had. She shared with me that she was greatly discouraged by the local church and she had stopped dancing for some time. It was a divine appointment just being able to share and encourage her. There was great healing just teaching new dance steps and dancing with her at her home.


3

Thailand, our neighbouring country, is so near yet so different culturally. We were at Bangkok for two weeks and Ubon Ratchanthani, a village at North East of Thailand, for the next two weeks. In Bangkok, our ministries were targeted towards university students. We stayed at the YWAM training centre which was just across the street from the government university. We focused a lot on encouraging the believers in their walk in Christ. Most of them came from very poor families and doing God's work full time was always discouraged by their family. 90% of the people serving were ladies. Seeing the opportunity and need, we hosted a pampering session for the girls. It blessed them so much as they have never experienced the luxury or just the simple act of love.


4

In the village Ubon, we were hosted by a beautiful couple Noom (Thai) & Karis (Australian) and their son, Eli. They supported the local churches and ran a performing arts and sports ministry. They were also in the midst of building their house which would be used for ministry. We had the privilege to build the house as well as pray over it. We spent a lot of time just being with the locals such as harvesting tapioca, weaving baskets, playing volley ball, football and etc. Many local churches as well as schools were opened for us to share. One of the highlights was the three day English Camp. It was a combined camp of three schools and we had students aged 8 to 12. Most of us weren't teachers but through the camp, we learned and supported one another. I had the privilege to teach the 10 and 11 years old students. There were about 30 students in our class and just the interaction, playing games, and getting to know them was really enriching. We incorporated godly values such as love, patience and kindness into the subject lessons. I couldn't help but hope that years down the road, these kids would remember that there is a God that loves them and there's greater hope in their life.

I hope you are blessed reading this. There's nothing compared to the love of God and if we are willing, He'll do mighty things through us. I will write on India in my next testimony as it has many great testimonies in itself. I will end by restating the two greatest commandment in Matt 22:37 & 38, Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'


5

Photos:
1. English Camp in Ubon
2. English Camp in Ubon – Games time
3. Tasmania street evangelism
4. Building houses in Ubon, Thailand
5. English Camp in Ubon --Preschool

He Understands

By Jeremy Chew



"A MAN'S heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." (Pro 16:9) "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21)

2014 was a year of endings and new beginnings. Not according to my plans but God's. It was a time of sorrow and joy, fear of the unknown and trust in the Lord. It was a year of adventure into places I have never been and doing things I have never done before. It broadened my understanding of God and increased my faith in Him.

One year before my Golden Retriever, Sasha, passed away in March 2014, I believed I heard God telling me to leave my business, Canaan Optical Centre and to seek a job serving Him. To strengthen that belief, He showed me a job that would utilize the talents He has given me. I was then living quite comfortably in my own quarters inside the shop premises. To give up my Optical practice, I would need 3 things – a buyer to take over the business, a home and a job.

In June, three months after Sasha's passing, out of the blue, a man came to my shop and told me he would like to buy over the business. That was one and half years after I started spreading the news in the Optical Industry that my business was up for grabs and advertising in the local dailies. The buyer and I agreed on the price, but he allowed me to carry on until the end of July which was very generous of him. I found an apartment nearby and started the tedious work of moving my stuff. Again, thankfully, the landlord kindly allowed me to start paying the rent not immediately but beginning with the month of August. On Aug 1, I left the shop premises and moved into an apartment nearby. It was a Friday and our Life Group had planned not to have a meeting that week but Vincent and the rest came to my apartment to start me off on this new chapter of my life with a prayerful Life Group gathering. What a blessing! Again, I am reminded of God's perfect timing because this apartment is not dog-friendly and I would NEVER abandon Sasha as long as she lives.

It was time to look for a job. But God had other plans for me. He wanted me to take some short holidays and experience how real He is. A friend, Mario, invited me to go to Thailand with him. All expenses would be paid and I would be given a salary as well. We stayed in Phuket where some football celebrities from various parts of the world were staying while a football function was being held over a few days. My job was to take photographs of my friend posing with them.

After the Phuket trip, I had barely unpacked when another friend, Absalom from Libya, approached me to go to Indonesia with him to give English tuition to his family members and friends. He would pay my travelling expenses. It was in Malang, Indonesia, that God spoke to me again and showed me His amazing power over all circumstances in my life which I had described in the previous issue of the Voice of Hope.

On my return from Indonesia, Mario approached me again to go to Thailand, this time, to Bangkok, to stay in the same hotel as some football celebrity who had played in The World Cup and won. Again God showed us His might. Mario had wanted to be photographed posing with each footballer in a portrait. He did not want to be photographed with groups of fans all around which meant that we had to find an opportunity to be alone with each footballer. The first day, all attempts were in vain. I was really worried. That evening, I prayed and requested through text messages to my Life Group to pray for us. The next day, we just bumped into the celebs going in and coming out of lifts, leaving the dining room and going to their rooms. Those accidental meetings with the footballers cannot be explained except by God's providence. I am deeply grateful to God as I was paid to take the photographs and I HAD to do my job well. It was an excellent and interesting holiday for me, all expenses paid.

To appreciate the significance of these trips, one must understand that during the 14 years I was taking care of Sasha and running Canaan Optical Centre, I had only gone for 3 holidays, i.e., to Indonesia, Australia and a HGC church camp. The Lord understood how much I needed to get away. So very often He gives to me answers to unsaid prayers whispered in the heart known only by Him because He knows me more than I know myself. And that is the wonder of His personal relationship with us - He understands!

Healed By The Power Of God

By Joanne Wong



I HAD been experiencing pain in my lower back for one whole week. That Friday, 6 February 2015, the pain was extremely bad; so much so that I didn't even feel like going to my Life Group that morning.

About late afternoon my husband came home from his outstation trip. I reminded him of the Healing Meeting by Rev John Ng that night in church at 8pm. I told him that we had not invited any friends. To my surprise, he posted the Healing Meeting on Facebook and invited his friends to the meeting.

After dinner, I sent my husband and my daughter to church but as for me, I went home with my younger son thinking it was best I rested while my son finished up his huge amount of homework. I took my own sweet time to clean up the kitchen and have my shower. Although I didn't feel like going to the meeting, I felt it wasn't nice of me not to go since I had reminded my husband and my neighbour, Kim, to attend the Healing Meeting. Eventually, I ended up at the meeting and I am glad I did.

While Rev John Ng was ministering, he shared the healing testimony of a lady who suffered severe back pain and could not lift herself up. Seated right at the back near the registration corner, I thought of myself as I was having a similar problem. The pain was there when I came into the church and it was really painful when I sat down. As I listen to Rev John Ng's preaching and funny jokes, I really had a good laugh.

When he started praying for healing, I tried to twist my back and shake my hip. To my amazement, I realized the pain on my lower back was gone. Although I didn't go out for prayer, I was healed. God's healing power was so strong.

When I went to bed that night, I didn't have the painful problem of lying down on my bed. It was painless when I laid down on my bed and when I got up from bed too. My back was pain free and healed because of Jesus. Praise the Lord! All glory, honour and praise goes to Jesus our healer.

The Malaysian Indonesian Connection

By Helen How

IN 2010, I left the bank and started to be involved full-time in prayer and intercession ministry. When Ps Ann Low of Malaysian National Prayer Nurturing (MNPN) asked me to be the prayer leader at Plaza 138, Jalan Ampang Prayer Base, I saw a vision that many people would come to pray at this base. Two months after that vision, the Indonesian Bethany churches partnered with us, interceding for Malaysia on Fridays or Saturdays noon time.



Now 5 years later, we have not given up but are still growing strong praying and interceding that Malaysia would be revived just like Indonesia.

I believe only our Father God can connect us and unite us to be persistent and never give up to pray for the extension of His Kingdom and for His name sake.

A Christmas I Will Always Remember

By Margaret Thien



PA'S response of walking out for the altar call - I still find it hard to believe that it really happened.

Every Sunday, after the first worship service, I would rush to meet up with my father. At 85, Pa stays alone in PJ since my mother died in 2009. He still rides a motorbike to his workshop in Pudu and has never stopped working.

Without fail I would meet up with him every Sunday, hold his hands, bring him out for breakfast or lunch and sit with him the entire day. It is only once a week for the two of us, hardworking souls.

So the Sunday before Christmas, I told him I would not be seeing him on Christmas day itself even though it was his OFF day. I felt a tinge of sadness in his tone. I didn't feel any better myself....so I was at his door at 7.30 am on Christmas day. I waited for him to awake, took him for breakfast and off to church. I told him the thought of leaving him alone at home on that great day was just not me. So I drove to church with Pa.

When pastor invited those who wanted to receive Jesus as their Saviour to lift up their hands, I did not bother to translate. (Pa does not understand English.) When pastor made the altar call, I said, "Pa, people are going out to receive Jesus." That moment he actually wanted to stand up but I pressed him down. Then I asked "Pa, you want Jesus?" This time he had already stood up and was walking out. Holding onto his arms, I whispered, "Pa, you are standing out here to receive Jesus as your Saviour." I reaffirmed to him while trembling with disbelief. I was already praying in tongues.

While in the car, along the jammed Federal Highway (it took us 2 hours to reach home), I asked my father, "Pa, do you know what you did just now?" He replied, "Receive Jesus." Then I touched on reading the Bible and talking to God daily. (I bought him a Bible some time back, chosen by Bro Tham Seng from our library) And though he did not ask questions, he was listening intensely.

Pa's name was the first one on the wall of salvation (a board put up for members to stick on names of unsaved friends or relatives for prayer). As I stuck his name on the wall, I spoke to God that all the men, the heads of households, must be saved first and foremost, including my Pa.

Our God is a prayer answering God and I experienced this. I am overflowing with thankfulness to God. To Him be the glory, forever and ever!

My Encouraging Neighbour

By Sua Wui Chee



IT is hard to believe that a few months ago my entire family and I had no real idea who Jesus is. We had never been to church as a family nor did it enter our minds that we would start going to one. However, in a short matter of time we have come to know and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

My surname is Sua, by which I am commonly addressed. To many in church, I am a new face in the congregation. I always bring my wife and two daughters for church worship services on Sunday. Although I was from a very staunch Buddhist background, I was exposed to church activities and Christianity from young. I often went to church with friends. In fact a number of my friends back in my hometown have already become Christians. But as for me, I lived a life without reference to God.

It was not until 6 years ago when I shifted to Taman Kosas, Ampang that things began to change. I came to know a loving and hospitable neighbour, Wong Siew Ching. To us she is known as Joanne. She kept encouraging me to bring my children to Sunday School. Obediently, I brought them to church but I didn't join the service. There was always a question in mind, "Is Christianity suitable for me? Would I be so easily influenced?"

Once, Joanne planned for a meeting with some of her church friends so that I could know more about Jesus. But I felt the time was not right then, so I did not respond to what was shared. In August last year, Joanne invited me and my family to her church again. Out of curiosity, we went to church for the very first time. That very first meeting left an impact on us and brought changes into our lives. I could still remember that there were many people in church. When the chairman welcomed us, many stood up, clapped their hands to welcome us. We felt so warmly received and welcomed.

The congregation sang happily one song after another. It was like attending a concert. We enjoyed the whole atmosphere as the songs were sung. It was so different from the traditional image of a church that I had. After the praise and worship, we heard testimonies from other believers and also heard Ps Khor's inspiring message. In that short two hours, we didn't feel uncomfortable or strange. Very quickly, after the service, we got to know a few church brothers and sisters. Joanne, our hospitable neighbour, came round and generously presented us with a Bible and a CD of songs.

Joanne always found opportunities to take us to life group. Under such loving encouragement, the whole family started to learn how to pray and read the Bible. We also tried our best not to miss any church services.

Even though we still don't know Jesus very well and there are many areas we need to learn about Him from brothers and sisters but we can say to every one clearly and loudly that Jesus Christ is enthroned in our lives. Praise the Lord.

Encouragement From God For The New Year

Compiled By Ruth Lew



AFTER the Watch Night Service on 31 December 2014, some brothers and sisters stayed back for an overnight prayer to seek the Lord for His Word and instructions for the year. Many words and visions were received at the overnight prayer on 1 Jan 2015:

"I asked the Lord, 'Can this New Year be a happy New Year?' Yes it can if we hope in the LORD. God gave me Jeremiah 17:7-8. "Blessed or Happy is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit". God has also called the church to be the light of the world. These are oppressive times. We are called to be the light that will shine in these dark times. Arise and shine for your light has come – Isa 60. Arise because the light of the church is a greater light than the darkness in the world. The church is called to be a witness for Jesus. Now is the season for the church to shine for Jesus. Make known the manifold wisdom of God to all men that the world may know Him. Do not be self-preserving but self-sacrificing; for if we try to save our lives, we will lose it but if we lay down our lives willingly, we will gain it back and much more" – **Chin Nee**

"But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more" – Rom 5:20. Let us draw more grace from God this New Year. If we humble ourselves before God, we will receive more grace. Goshen, where the children of Israel live is a humble place. The Egyptians abhor the place. Egypt symbolize pride, glory and shame but Goshen symbolize a place of humility and dependency on God" – **Ps Khor**

"I saw a lot of things in gold – gold chain, gold thread. I also saw colours of white, purple and gold. I am reminded of Isa 35, the highway of holiness even as I saw the gold colours. God wants us to be holy. 2 Cor 3:18 also came to me clearly. We need to behold the glory of the Lord face to face. Just as Moses talked to the Lord face to face as a man speaks to his friend, God wants us to be in that deep intimacy with Him so that we can mirror Him and be changed from glory to glory" – **Nitta Arul**

"I saw a feather dropped gently to the ground. It was white and glowing. There was also a bright light around me as I saw myself walking with Jesus. I also saw myself walking in a hall full of photos" – **Festus Chen**
(Interpretation – there is a need for us to reach out this year to the people that God brings to our mind in prayer)

"We need to fall in love with Jesus all over again. Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice. In this world we shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, He has overcome the world!" – **Sumitha Cheong**

"While we were declaring the names of the Lord, I felt that God wants me to complete reading the BM Bible in one year" – **Helen Dan**

"The Holy Spirit will take us this year to another level where we have never been before. He will take us deeper like never before" – **Allison Chen**

"As we worshipped, I saw a brood of snakes. As we continued to worship, I saw that they fled…." – **Chern York Ling**

"Just like what York Ling saw (I felt that her vision confirmed the word I have been receiving for the past few months) I receive the word that we need to be engaged in spiritual warfare but to war, we need the weapons of warfare which are not carnal but spiritual. 2 Cor 10:4 "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God to the pulling down of strongholds". To fight this spiritual war, we need to have our waists girded and our lamps burning. To be girded at our waists is to be always full of the Word of God (which is one of the most effective weapons of spiritual warfare). To keep our lamps burning is to ensure it is always full of the oil of the Holy Spirit and full of incense which is our prayers. If we do this we will always be ready for His return. Luke 12:35-36 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes they may open to him immediately." – **Ruth Lee**

Discipleship & Submission At The Workplace

by Dr Nitta Arul

IN my younger days I always felt it was easy to serve people such as my parents, teachers, older family members and bosses at work. In my fifties now and working for a new boss who is 10 years younger than me, I was thrown with the challenge of how to serve him and obey his orders. He is new to the industry and not as experienced as I am. As with most bosses in today's highly competitive working world, he too is very demanding. There are tight deadlines to meet and high goals set for the staff for peak performance. As I struggled with this new and difficult situation and prayed about it, the Holy Spirit spoke to me from the following scriptures:

Submission to Masters (1 Pet 2:18-23)

18 Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. 19 For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. 20 For what credit is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God. 21 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:
22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Life as a Christian includes suffering and it is through the path of suffering that we learn patience and obedience. It is difficult to submit at times to bosses who are harsh, aggressive and punitive but it is through this painful process that we can learn how to draw strength from the Holy Spirit. Sometimes our all wise God permits trials such as this to mold and shape our characters to become more Christ- like. Pain punishes but it also polishes.

Another point to note is that Christians are called to servant hood and humility. In the life of our Lord Jesus we see this clearly displayed especially when he washed the feet of His disciples. There was no necessity for Him, being the Son of God and the Lord of Glory to stoop so low for this task. Yet he did it. Why?

It was basically to set us an example and teach us how to be humble and serve one another in simple, daily tasks. Discipleship can be defined as living a life of discipline through suffering, submission and servant hood. In thinking about this, we find that there are many practical ways that we can serve our bosses, suppliers, customers and colleagues in the workplace and here are some practical suggestions:

- Going the extra mile by delighting them with excellent service, far above their expectations
- Smiling, greeting and wishing our bosses, suppliers, colleagues and customers with a bright and happy face
- Caring and helping our colleagues during times when they are going through some difficulties at work and at home.
- Praying for our Christian friends at work and even starting an office fellowship with the boss' approval.
- Being kind, loving and forgiving to all the people that we encounter including our peers and subordinates
- Being sincere, honest and genuine in all our dealings at the workplace

By these practical ways we can bring the church into the workplace and be the "light" and the "salt" where it really matters, i.e. the darkened world. In this way too, we can be effective witnesses for Christ since the majority of us are out there in the workplace for the most part of our lives. The impression that we will make on the unsaved by living out in practical and loving ways is an evangelistic tool in itself. Basically, our life and our actions of servitude will speak volumes, so much so that when we share the gospel with others at the workplace, they will be more easily won over to Christ.

Going to work after all need not be just to earn a living and climb up the corporate ladder. We can make our working lives much more meaningful and purposeful by seeking after opportunities to sow seeds of kindness, serve others out of genuine Christ-like sacrificial love, learning how to be humble and being a servant to others. We can also make it known to others that we are a source of help to whoever is in need. It is possible that if we make this our daily prayer, God will send people across our paths who we can be a blessing to.



Did Jesus die on the cross? Was it really Him? What is the proof? Does Jesus' death make sense as a means of salvation?

Answered by Danny Pang

Why must salvation come through the death of Jesus?

CENTRAL to the need for salvation through the death of Jesus is the fact that God is a God of justice and all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Man cannot be saved through good works. The wages of sin is death and without shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

Jesus Christ is God's only plan of eternal salvation for the world. When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He did not only bear our sins. He also bore the wrath of God which is supposed to be upon us. **The wrath of God** is His justice to punish sin. As God's justice cannot be compromised, it must first be fulfilled or satisfied. By satisfying God's justice by the one-time atoning sacrifice of Christ, God no longer pours out His wrath upon us. Instead, He now richly pours out His grace and mercy towards His believing saints! Paul puts it in another way in Rom 8:4, "that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled IN us" (notice that he did not mention 'fulfilled BY us' but 'IN us' through our union with Christ). Thus Christian doctrine of salvation **makes sense** because Christ died for our sin as the perfect sacrifice in order to **meet the righteous demands of God's justice and His law**. As a result, s**alvation is now available** for us!

In addition, Christ's death and resurrection was necessary to **overcome the power of sin, death and Satan**. Christ died to pay for the penalty of our sin so that we can be reconciled to God and He arose proving that He has conquered sin and death. Furthermore, through Christ's resurrection, He ascended to the right hand of the throne of God, signifying His divine status that is far above all powers and principalities. The implication for believers is that through **our union with Christ's death and resurrection**, we are dead to sin's power and freed from Satan's dominion, thus giving us salvation to eternal life.

If every sin requires death and punishment, how could Christ's death cover all the sins of the world?

What is accounted for is not the amount of sin that must be covered but God's justice must be satisfied and His laws fulfilled.

Does that mean God's justice is now set aside through the death of Christ?

No. God is still just in judging sin today and we should tremble with fear at the thought of God's wrath. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God," (Heb 10:31). But the good news is that **salvation is readily available and assured.** We do not have to wait until death or the Day of Judgment to know if we are saved. We can know that we are saved TODAY by receiving His wonderful gift of salvation. In fact, the wrath of God can be viewed as good news, because it made us realise that we are sinners and that we cannot save ourselves unless we run to Jesus who has fulfilled all the just requirements of the law so that we may live.

Did Jesus die on the cross?

Heb 9:28
So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Rom 5:10
For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Col 2:14-15
Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

This all important fact of Jesus' death on the cross has been misunderstood and even rejected. Two theories that reject the fact that Jesus died are the Swoon Theory and the Substitution Theory

The Swoon Theory was formulated by Venturini. It holds that Jesus didn't really die but fainted on the cross, that He was merely unconscious when He was laid in the tomb, and later recuperated in the cool of the tomb. Was this possible?

There are several reasons why this Swoon Theory is not valid and can be proven as false.

1. It was impossible for Jesus who had suffered brutal beatings in the hands of ruthless Roman soldiers and crucified on the cross for six hours

    a. to have survived in the darkness of the tomb without food, drink and medical help.

    b. to have escaped with His body tightly wrapped with grave cloths.

    c. to have removed the heavy stone from the tomb; and this without disturbing the Roman guards.

    d. to have walked 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus in a weak, sickly and hungry body.

2. At least three different persons or groups involved in Jesus' crucifixion verified the fact of Jesus' death on the cross.

    a. The Roman Guards – These soldiers in charge of the crucifixion were professional executioners. They knew and did their job well. Jesus could not have survived the crucifixion for these soldiers would make certain Jesus was

dead before His body could be taken down from the cross. John 19:32-34 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.



b. The Sanhedrin – They were the ruling council of the Jewish people who wanted Jesus crucified and dead. If they weren't satisfied that Jesus was already dead, they would never have allowed His body to be removed from the cross.

c. Pilate - Pilate gave the order for Jesus to be crucified and entrusted the task to be carried out by a Roman centurion, a commander of 100 Roman soldiers. Pilate verified the fact that Jesus was dead with the Roman centurion, before releasing His body to the care of Joseph of Arimathea.
Mark 15:42-45 "Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marvelled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And **when he found out from the centurion**, he granted the body to Joseph."

Another theory is the Substitution Theory which holds that another person other than Jesus was crucified on the cross. This theory is also not valid.

1. There were witnesses at the cross.

   a. Mary, Jesus' mother, was at the foot of the cross. She would have easily recognised if Jesus was not the one on the cross.

   b. John the beloved disciple was also there at the cross.

   c. There were other women who were faithful followers of Jesus like for example Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.

      John 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing by…

2. The witness of Joseph Arimathea and Nicodemus. They were secret believers. Joseph was the one who asked for Jesus' body from Pilate and took it for burial. Together with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews, he bound His body in strips of linen with spices and buried Him in his own tomb. They would recognise the body of Jesus. (John 19:38-42)

3. The testimony of the religious leaders and the guards. If it wasn't Jesus who died on the cross or His body that was buried in the tomb, the religious leaders would not have taken the trouble to ask Pontius Pilate to command that the tomb be made secure until the third day. They were concerned His disciples would steal His body and say that He had risen from the dead. Not only did they set the guards at the tomb, they even sealed the stone.
   The soldiers also would not have guarded the tomb if they knew it was not that of Jesus'. Their actions verified that it was Jesus' body in the tomb. Matt 27:62-66

4. Extraordinary events. When Jesus breathed his last,there was darkness all over, the veil of the temple was torn in two, there was earth quake and the rocks were spilt, and the graves were opened and saints who had died were raised. If the man crucified on the cross was an ordinary man, it was not possible that these extraordinary events could have happened. These incidents could not have occurred by chance. Jesus, the Son of God was really crucified and died. Even the Roman soldiers who saw the incident, admitted that Jesus is the Son of God, glorified God and said, "Certainly, this was a righteous Man!" (Lk 23:47).

Yes, it was Jesus Christ who died on the cross! Indeed Jesus was a righteous Man, perfect to be the atoning sacrifice to redeem us from sin's power and penalty. God "made Him who knew no sin, to become sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor 5:21). 1 Pet 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

What is Chrislam and what do believers have to be alert about?

Answered by Loke Wai Keng

CHRISLAM is an attempt to blend Christianity with Islam. While it began in Nigeria in the 1980s, Chrislamic ideas have spread throughout much of the world. The essential concept of Chrislam is that Christianity and Islam are compatible and traced their similarities to the first five books of the Bible, and both believing that Abraham was the father of the Jews through Isaac and the Arabs through Ishmael. Hence, Chrislam believes that one can be a Christian and a Muslim at the same time. Chrislam is not an actual religion of its own, but a blending of the differences and distinctions between Christianity and Islam.



Chrislam points to the fact that Jesus was mentioned 25 times in the Qur'an. It also points out Christianity and Islam have similar teachings on morals and ethics, and the need for the two largest monotheistic religions to unite to fight against the rise of atheism and other religions. Chrislam is viewed by some as the solution for the ongoing conflict between the Western World, which is predominantly Christian, with the Middle East, which is predominantly Muslim. It could also be the starting point toward a "One World Religion"

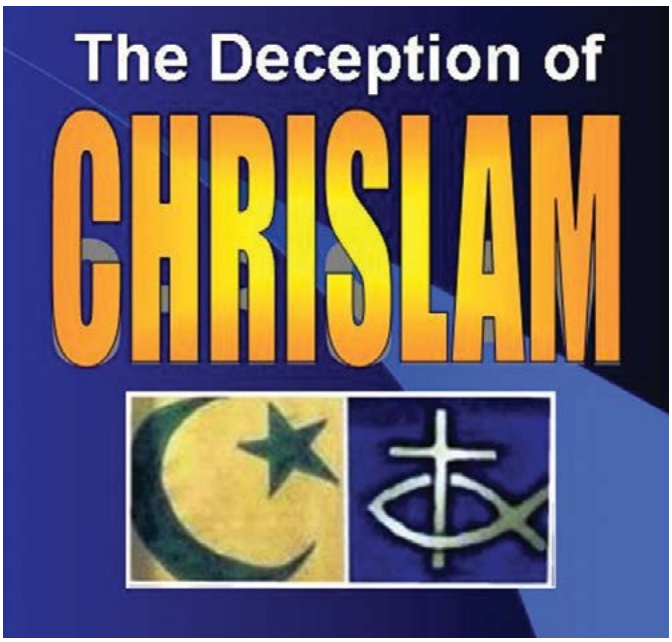
While it is undeniable that there are many similarities between Christianity and Islam (and Judaism, for that matter), Chrislam ultimately fails because Christianity and Islam have differing view on the most important issue – the deity of Jesus Christ and basis of salvation. True Christianity declares Jesus to be God incarnate. For Christians, the deity of Christ is non-negotiable, for without His deity, Jesus' death on the cross would not have been sufficient to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the entire world (1 John 2:2).

Islam adamantly rejects the deity of Christ. The Qur'an declares that the idea that Jesus is God is blasphemy (Surah 5:17). Belief in the deity of Christ is considered shirk ("filth") to Muslims. Furthermore, Islam denies the death of Christ on the cross and His Resurrection (Surah 4:157-158). The most crucial doctrine of the Christian faith is rejected in Islam. As a result, the two religions are absolutely not compatible.

What do believers have to be alert about?

We must get back to teaching believers and proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation without fear of reprisal. We must defend and preach the deity of Jesus, that He is the one true God and there is no other. Then we must also boldly proclaim the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God. To deny the deity of Jesus is to deny who He is, and what He has accomplished on Calvary's Cross 2,000 years ago, when He gave His life for the sins of the world! And worse off, it is an open acceptance of the Spirit of Antichrist (1 John 4:3) and this will bring swift destruction and ultimately, yet sadly, the damning of the soul.

We must guard ourselves against the deceit and lies that would fool the world and deception is rampant today. The time is short until Evil reveals its true self, and we must all declare our trust in Jesus and the Father. Our eternal lives depend on it!





Dhall

By Sumitha Cheong

Ingredients:

250g Mallawi dhall
2 to 3 cups of water
½ teaspoon turmeric
Salt to taste
1 thumb size ginger sliced
1 medium carrot sliced
1 potato cubed
1 small aubergine sliced
2 shallots sliced
½ teaspoon mustard seeds
1 sprig curry leaves



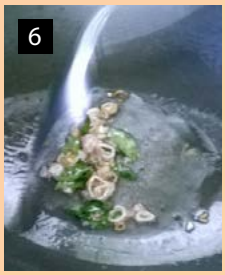
















Method:

1. Wash dhall until water runs clear.
2. Boil dhall with ginger pieces for about 10 minutes.
3. Drain out the water and all the scum.
4. Add around 2 to 3 cups of clean water, turmeric and salt.
5. Add all the vegetables, cook on slow fire until vegetables are soft, usually 20 to 30 minutes.
6. In separate pan, fry shallots until golden, add curry leaves and mustard seeds.
7. Pour this mixture together with the oil on to the cooked dhall and vegetables.
8. Stir and add salt to taste.

For a spicier variation, you can fry dried chillies with the shallots or even curry powder.
Different types of vegetables such as long beans, tomatoes, white carrot also can be substituted according to your liking. More water can be added if you want a watery consistency.

HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | Jan to Mar 2015



Healing Evangelistic Meeting with Ps John Ng
6-8 Feb



21st Anniversary Celebration at Wisma MCA
29 Mar

Beginning New Life
11 & 18 Jan

XEE Semester 5 launched
25 Jan

Bible Study on Esther
11 Jan-15 Feb

COMING EVENTS | Apr to Jun 2015

Good Friday Revival Meeting with Tony & Christine Phang
4 Apr

Chinese Easter Revival Meeting with Ps Michael Liau
4 Apr



Easter Evangelistic Meetings
5 Apr

Chinese Leaders Retreat
3-4 May

English Church Camp with Ps Clement Wong
4-6 Jun

Chinese Youth Camp
8-10 June

INVITATION

Do you know that Jesus loves you very much? He loves you so much He was willing to die on the cross and shed His blood for your sins. His blood can wash and cleanse away our every sin. He was willing to suffer so that everyone who believes in Him will not die and go to hell but will have eternal life. Not only did He die for our sins, but He also took our sufferings and carried our sorrows. He also bore our sicknesses. He was wounded so that we can receive our healing. He also came to give us abundant life (life in fullness and abundance). He is a good God who cares for us and is able to meet our every need. Would you like to believe in Jesus? Would you like your sins forgiven and have an abundant and eternal life? Would you like to have peace with God? All you need to do is open your heart to Him and say the prayer below. He will immediately come into your life and be your Saviour and Lord.

"Lord Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for me. I believe in You and confess that You are Lord. I open the door of my heart to You. Please come into my heart and be my Lord and Saviour. I ask that You forgive me of my sins and cleanse me with Your Precious blood. Please take control of my life and help me to love You and be the person You want me to be. In Jesus Name, Amen."

If you have said this prayer, praise the Lord. Your sins are forgiven and you are now a child of God.

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