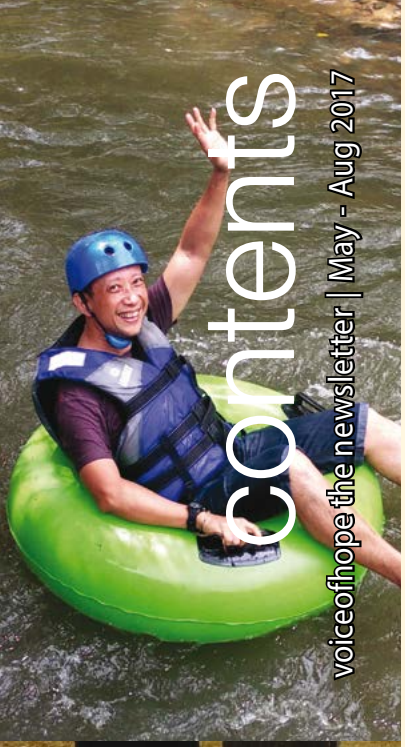
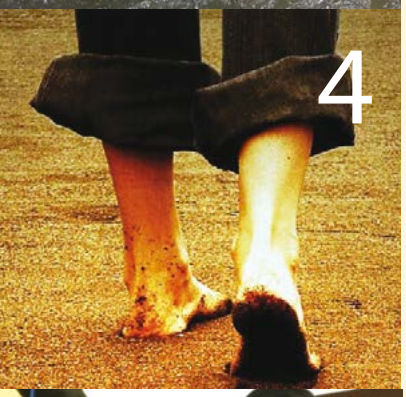


voiceofhope

the newsletter | May - Aug 2017

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Dear Reader,

Happy Merdeka Day! 60 years ago, our first Prime Minister, the late Tunku Abdul Rahman let out the historic and jubilant shouts of, "Merdeka! Merdeka! Merdeka!" on 31 Aug 1957. It meant freedom – freedom from British colonisation.

Today, freedom is what many long for: freedom from pain, depression, sicknesses, debts; freedom from social injustice and abuse, political harassment and religious persecution. And most of all, freedom from slavery to sin and demonic oppression! Who has the answer?

The Bible tells us that there is freedom in Christ; and that wherever the Spirit of the LORD is present, there is freedom. What's more, it is through His church that this awesome freedom and power is to be made known and demonstrated.



Recently, 30 June-2 July, the churches in the Klang Valley, including HGC, were so blessed to witness the powerful move of the Holy Spirit through the Supernatural Encounter Healing Rally where 30,000 gathered every night at MBPJ Stadium. As worship rose and faith was instilled, we saw thousands of lives set free, healed and delivered in Christ. It was simply supernatural.

Many more continue to need this freedom in Christ. HGCians, let our faith be activated. We have the message and the power. Go in the character and power of the Lord! Make known His freedom and demonstrate His power!



Church Camp 2017 – Love Remains



We continue to be thankful for the mission trips HGC is making yearly. Read about the recent trip to Indonesia on page 6 -10. Also be inspired by the missionary lives of Paul on page 34 and that of John Sung on page16 -17. Ps Khor also challenges us in his column to be disciple makers.

In this issue, there are numerous testimonies and write ups that bear witness to the supernatural work of God. Be blessed and pass a copy to someone.



Freedom in Christ,
VOH Team



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Keeping The Main Thing The Main Thing

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

A Most Important Thing
The last command of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the Ruler of the universe is a MOST IMPORTANT CHARGE to His disciples! Know His charge; take heed of it seriously. Do not be ignorant or negligent of it.

Let us examine the text in Matt 28:18-20 and allow the Word of the Lord to speak to us.

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 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,

20 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.

The Lord Jesus at the point of giving the Great Commission was about to ascend to heaven, having risen from the dead triumphing over sin and death, and all the powers of the devil.

Therefore
When Jesus said, "Go therefore" we must know why the therefore is there for. There is a reason and a basis for us to go and make disciples; and it is found in v18 where Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus, through His perfect obedience to the Father, took back the authority to rule the earth; the authority which satan stole by deceit from Adam. Because of His obedience, the Father exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above all names that at His name every knee should bow in submission; whether those in heaven, on earth or those under the earth. Every tongue shall confess that He is Lord! The Great Commission is backed by Jesus' GREATEST AND HIGHEST AUTHORITY! And we go in His name and with His authority, representing Him.

We need to know this especially in our days of increasing evil and persecution. The enemy is out to intimidate the church and to prevent the gospel from being preached and disciples from being made. Knowing that Jesus' authority is far above all, we must stand to obey His command at all cost. We must listen to Him and not fear man, just as the apostles did when they were being persecuted (Acts 4:17-20).

Go
Go means go. Don't remain where we are. Don't be stagnant. Go to the nations. Reach out with love to people around us who have yet to know Jesus. Let us not conform to a self-seeking lifestyle and keep to our own comfort zone. Go and reach out. Our Lord Jesus has given the command and the world is desperately in need of Him. How will they know Him if we don't GO!

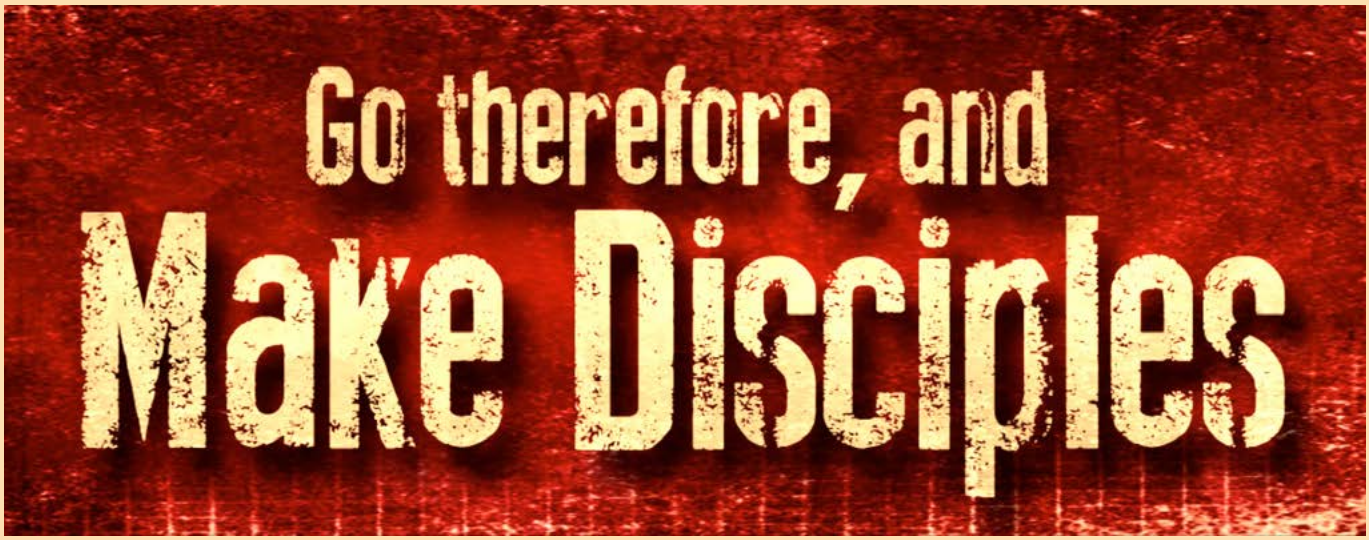
Make
Making speaks of being constructive and creative. It requires a goal, resources and plans. We cannot build a building without a blue-print, unless it is just a shed. It speaks of being hands on. God is the most creative craftsman and we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus. Our goal is to make Christ-like disciples who will pass the tests and be approved of God.

Disciples
What are disciples? Disciples are the "products" we are commanded to make. They are followers and learners; following a teacher not just to learn from him but to become like him in character, in purpose and in works. Whose disciples are we to be? We are all to be disciples of Jesus. And Jesus wants His disciples to make disciples. It is not just about attending a class and gaining more knowledge. Discipleship is really apprenticeship. It is not just learning about life but learning how to live. It is practical, life changing and relevant.

Paul had called his disciple Timothy to follow him as he followed Christ and commended him for doing so in 2 Tim 3:10. Timothy had diligently followed what Paul taught, how he lived his life, his purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance. Paul also charged his disciple to teach the truth which he had heard from him to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Tim 2:2).

Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
In discipling someone for Jesus, the foundation is Christ. The disciple must first of all come to know the GOSPEL, the finished work of salvation that Jesus has provided through His death and resurrection. Then he needs to accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour and be baptised. Jesus said in Mark 16:16a, "He who believes and is baptised will be saved. In Acts 2: 38, Peter said, "Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins…."

I am with you always
The Lord has promised that He will be with us always even to the very end. What a great and wonderful assurance! We will never be alone in making disciples. His presence will be with us to strengthen, to guide, to help, to give wisdom, to protect and to meet our every need to ensure that we will make disciples. As this is His Commission, He, the Lord God Almighty Himself backs it up. Because He backs it up, all of heaven is for us. WOW!!!



Water Baptism through identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection is the starting point and foundation of discipleship. Only IN CHRIST can we be LIKE CHRIST. Discipleship is the process of abiding in Christ and growing in conformity to His image.

Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you
The disciple who is now IN CHRIST and have the life of the resurrected CHRIST IN HIM can now be taught to observe all things that Jesus had commanded him. What did Jesus command us? It can be summed up in the Great Commandment which is to love God with our whole being and to love others as ourselves.

Let us consider just one verse in Matt 5:44 in the commonly known Sermon on the Mount. "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you".

Is it possible to obey Jesus' command above? It is impossible if our old sinful nature is still not dead. It is impossible if we are not living in the power of the Holy Spirit.

However what man cannot do, CHRIST DID! And because we are now IN CHRIST we can. Truly we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Truly as we abide in Him we can walk as He walked. And a disciple who has been taught and trained to walk in the Spirit, to walk in newness of life can disciple another new believer IN CHRIST to abide in Christ and led by the Spirit.

Concluding thoughts
The Great Commission is certainly of great importance to God, to us and to our world. The fulfilment of it will bring about His Kingdom come and His will done on earth as it is in heaven. Obedience to Him is the main key to its fulfilment.

Matt 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Today, our Lord still see multitudes weary and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. They are lost and blind; in darkness and bound. Who can He send into His harvest? He needs labourers. Firstly, He needs willing labourers. But He also needs labourers who are equipped. Equipped labourers are Christians who have been discipled. The labourers are few because within the church so few are equipped disciples of Jesus, so few are making disciples.

Can you hear His call in these dark days where the need is greater than ever before? Let us give priority to it. Let us give our hearts and our all to it. It is the most important thing. Let us not allow the temporal trivial things of this world to side track us. Everything else pales in comparison to it in the light of eternity. Let us go and make disciples!

In Bagan We Play It By Ear

By Chan Tham Seng

I have wanted to introduce Pak Ahok to Jesus ever since knowing him 10 years ago in Panipahan. So you know I am not talking about the famous ex-Jakarta governor Purnama (popularly known as Ahok), now jailed for blasphemy.

At our first meeting in August 2007, Pak Ahok struck me for his soldierly physique and gentle smiles below his "handlebar" moustache. A posture of toughness with humility is perhaps the best way for ethnic minorities to survive in turbulent Indonesia.

Pak Ahok fled the Kalimantan rebellion during Sukarno time when his father moved the family from Pontianak to Sumatra's Medan. Pak Ahok continued to live cautiously during the Suharto era (1967-1998). By 19, he relocated southward to Panipahan where he subsequently took a wife, raised five children and started a food business. I liked Pak Ahok's sweet-sour fish and 'ais jeruk' (a local citrus fruit juice in crushed ice) but he showed no interest in Jesus. In subsequent years, Pak Ahok's attitude remained unchanged.



1

In our latest trip (7-13 July), the 63-year-old Pak Ahok was still evading the gospel when it came to deciding for Jesus. However, this time he gladly accepted my offer to pray for his health: he is perceptibly losing his toughness due to health problems. Not only that, his wife also accepted prayer of blessings for her health.

In a way, Pak Ahok was a disappointment. In missions, we always make adequate preparations based on expectation. However, we are open to all possibilities and ready to play it by ear as the Spirit leads.

Another disappointment was our inability to teach languages (English or Chinese) in classes (usually less than 30 students each) which offers opportunities of close contact with students and winning them for Jesus. This was because on the first few days of a new academic year, the schools were still juggling their curriculum and classes.

However, we gladly accepted the alternative: In Pulau Halang and Bagan Siapiapi, the schools gathered all secondary school students (150-200 students each) in a hall for our ministry. Team members Amy Lim, Ian Tan and Fergus Chen (all worshippers in HGC) did admirably well in Malay to handle changing needs. During altar calls after messages, 14 students from Pulau Halang and 16 from Bagan Siapiapi schools prayed to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour.


2



One observation: The 30 who accepted Jesus are mainly Batak students with very few Chinese. What hindered the Chinese students from responding to the gospel? In Bagan and its surrounding, most Chinese homes look like mini temples; and at every 10 houses or so is a full-fledged temple. Many local Chinese youths, including students, are involved in temple activities and temple festivals go on all year round. Bagan is described as a township with "a thousand kelenteng (temples)".

Idolatry is the hallmark of Bagan where its people are blinded and their hearts instilled with fear vis-à-vis the gospel. A number of local Chinese we witnessed to, showed interest in the gospel but being fearful of their gods, they stopped short of accepting Jesus as Saviour.

We believe that power evangelism is the most effective way for Bagan churches to fight this spiritual warfare. We believe that signs and wonders would help convince the locals of the reality of God. We also believe that Christian schools should continue to play their useful role as Bagan parents generally have faith in putting their children in the hands of Christian schools.

The Indonesian Methodist Church has for decades been operating Christian schools in Bagan Siapiapi, Panipahan, Pulau Halang and Sungei Bakau. For the past 11 years, HGC has the privilege of working with Bagan Wesley Methodist Church under Ps Lasnini Ang who also oversees the four schools. Since 2010, HGC has raised RM 36,000 to help Bagan's needy students pay their fees.

In this trip, we brought RM4640 to Ps Lasnini for distribution. We also visited the beneficiaries of previous study aid. One of them is Dicky Angwyn whom I came to know in 2010 when he was in primary one. I remember Dicky for being extremely nervous and keeping his head down at all time. He just lost his father due to sickness and is living with his mother who sews for living.

Dicky is today in second year of junior high school. His school performance is average and his mother regards him as playful. Dicky is exposed to the gospel but has yet to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Another beneficiary is Suyanni who has recently completed her senior high school and being employed as a Chinese teacher in the primary school beginning July.

In June 2014, Suyanni was about to enter senior high school when an accident at home resulted in a 45% burn to her father Tie Sui Teng. With her father hospitalised and unable to work for a long time, Suyanni accepted the fate of quitting school. HGC fund came in time that year to put her back to school.

In our meeting in Bagan, Suyanni was glad to learn that her fees had come from a Malaysian church. She was confronted with the gospel but it was her 15 year old brother Toni who immediately took Jesus as Lord and Saviour. We also visited their home and prayed with their father who is unemployed. The family is supported by a working mom and an elder daughter who works in another town.

Suyanni's dream is to open a Chinese tuition centre, a popular ambition among the enterprising ever since the Susilo government (2004-2014) lifted the ban on the language. However the Indonesian situation remains fluid under President Jokowi and it's important that we play it by ear in all things, including missions.

Religious and racial tensions were brewing near boiling point during the Ahok incident in Jakarta. When the Chinese Christian governor dropped his blasphemy appeal in May, it brought great relief all over Indonesia including Bagan. The Holy Spirit must have spoken to Ahok and that he had played it right by ear.


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PHOTO CAPTION

1. Toni with father with burnt arms
2. Suyanni with Amy during home visit
3. Bagan primary school under renovation
4. Bagan is a township crowded with temples
5. Pak Ahok at his Panipahan shop
6. New academic year in Panipahan school
7. Fergus and Ian leading fellowship in Bagan church
8. Ps Lasnini treated us with sumptuous dinner
9. With Pulau Halang School principal and teachers
10. Team members at Panipahan bridge
11. Amy and Ian befriending Panipahan locals
12. Pak Tim with Bagan Siapiapi students
13. The 16 Bagan students took Jesus as Saviour
14. We visited Dicky and mom (2nd and 1st from left)
15. Fergus and Ian leading fellowship in Bagan church
16. Pak Tim speaking with Pulau Halang students

Weekend in Kemaman

By Ruth Lee

The weekend of April 22 and 23 was wonderful for 11 of us, eight from our life group and three from different ministries in our church. We made our way in two cars to Kemaman to minister at the Kemaman Presbyterian Church at the invitation of Jessie Oh.

We made a trip there last November and felt led to go again to see how members of the church were doing especially the ones whom we ministered to last year. As we recalled, many were in tears when we prayed for them and some received word of wisdom and knowledge from the Lord

Our objective was to help usher in the presence of God through a night of extended worship during their Saturday night service. We were privileged to boost up their worship and to strengthen the church by being there with them. In Kemaman their weekends are Fridays and Saturdays, but on Sunday, we also conducted an additional service for those who were able to attend.

On the first day, the Lord led Jessie to invite York Ling and me to visit Aunty Eng (Helen Dan's mum) who lived just a few doors away from the church. She was so happy to see us. Whilst York Ling shared her father's testimony in Hainanese and Jessie shared the Gospel in Mandarin, I quietly interceded for her salvation. Praise the Lord, she willingly followed Jessie in praying the sinner's prayer in Mandarin with clarity and conviction!

During the worship, I saw three angels all dressed in white behind the worship team. They had huge wings. When their wings quivered and touched each other's wings, silver dust fell like stars from them. I saw the angels walking down from the stage to the aisle. They laid hands on the shoulders of members present, embraced them and comforted them. I believe that they are the guardian angels assigned to the church. I also saw the Lord of Hosts walking in our midst right after the angels came down from the altar. There was just a holy hush when He appeared. I felt the Lord saying, "There is a need to build an altar of prayer in this place and to never ever let the fire go out. It is here at the altar that the church will receive His plans and strategies for Kemaman and to hear from God directly what is in His heart for the church, not someone else's vision or plans. No need to import elsewhere but seek God at this prayer altar for His blue print for the church. Keep the morning altar going and worship burning! The Lord is pleased with the morning altar in this place. I am also so happy to see each one of you using your gifts to serve God."

Below are testimonies of some team members:

Chern York Ling – shared the gospel & blew the shofar
God had a purpose for me in Kemaman. I was so blessed to testify and share in Hainanese to Aunty Eng. I have never shared before in my dialect with such fluency. Like Jessie said, if I am meant to come, I am meant to come. I am glad that Aunty Eng gave her life to Jesus and came to church on Sunday.



The mission team with Jessie Oh (1st L) and Aunty Eng ((3rd L)

Amy Lim – led in worship
I felt the joy of being here in Kemaman again. The Saturday night service was just so awesome. I felt so blessed coming here to encourage and to serve members of the church. The team really ministered in unity.

Chin Wai Wai – helped with worship & Mandarin interpretation
Thank God that we could pray together on Friday. I found that praying together before going was just fantastic as we were praying in unity. We could sense the unity when we ministered together. We lifted up banners and flags in the church sanctuary and the presence of God descended upon us powerfully. I also sense God's love flowing in the church. God will never leave nor forsake His church in Kemaman as God loves them very much. His love really touched me during this trip.

Sumi – back-up singer
On Friday during our prayer meeting, I got the word that when we lift up His name, He will draw all men to Him. I also felt so joyful to see each of us serving God with our different gifts. God really wants us to worship Him with all our hearts.

Chris Cheong – co leading in worship
This is my first ever mission trip. I felt that we were like Jesus coming into Kemaman to touch the Samaritan woman. All we need was to touch only one person but we touched more than one person. Each of us did our part and moved as a team using our respective gifts.

Jo – lifted up prophetic banners & flags
I was not well due to my cough but I decided to come in faith. I was blessed to lift up the banner of the Lion of Judah. I believed healing flowed when the banner was lifted up. I believed someone was touched and ministered to. The presence of God was very strong. My tears kept flowing and flowing.

Gomee – blew the shofar
People in Kemaman were so full of love. The food was cooked with love. The people treated us with so much love. We were just melting in His love. When a sister by the name of Cindy shared about her losing contact with her son for many years, I recalled the testimony of my missing sister who came home one day out of the blue. We had prayed and prayed for her safe return and one day God just answered our prayers.

New Life in Christ

By Jiwani Zoe



My name is Jiwani Zoe and I hail from Punjab, India. I was a former Hindu before I came to know my Lord Jesus Christ who loved me so much! In November 2016, I came to Malaysia as I wanted to lead a more peaceful and better quality of life.

However, being a single girl in the city of Kuala Lumpur and also coming from another country, I was quite wary of befriending people; I had to be careful with whom I meet. I did not want to meet the wrong group of people or to be taken advantage of.

I am thankful and blessed to have come to know Christians in the Hope of Glory Centre (HGC). I was actually in a restaurant when a brother by the name of Jesse Dass approached me and invited me to HGC. I decided to attend the church (my first visit was to the church anniversary service on 25 March 2017) and since then, I have never looked back. In fact, I looked forward to going to church so much. I thank God for Jesse Dass who introduced me to HGC.

Not only did God bring me to church, I found the prayer meetings and church services really wonderful. I love the worship songs, the messages and the friends I have met in this church. I can feel their genuine love for me and I can see the love of Christ in them.



It was during one of the services that one of the sisters shared with me the 4 –spiritual laws after service and read to me John 3:16 proclaiming that God loves me so much that He gave His only Son for me. What struck me was the verse in John 14:6 where Jesus said He is the only way, the truth and the life. I wanted so much the everlasting life that Jesus promised me. I want to go heaven to be with Him when I die and I wanted to experience abundant life on this earth.

When the invitation for water baptism came, I took the bold step of faith to be baptized. When I went into the water, I felt something wonderful happened to me. I believe that the Spirit of God is in my heart and the love of God has been poured out to me by the Holy Spirit.

As my original name is Shivani which is derived from the name of a Hindu god, a dear sister changed my name to Jiwani which means life. Another sister gave me the name Zoe which also means life in Greek.

I am so blessed to know all of you in HGC!

The Joy Of Salvation

By Lim Chin Nee

We first met Hoh Thien Chow (or better known to us as Uncle Hoh) when he came up to the church to discuss about the printing of our church newsletter (VOH). That was so many years ago. He is the father of one of our church members, Hoh Chun Meng. Uncle Hoh is a soft-spoken, kind and responsible elderly gentleman. Each time the artwork for both the Chinese and English VOH were ready, he would come round to collect them. And when the VOH were all printed and bundled up neatly, he would come by to deliver. It was no easy feat for him to carry stacks of VOH up the stairs to the first floor. They were really heavy. Some of the staff would hurry downstairs to give him a helping hand. He always tried his best to deliver on time, even the few times when he was given less than seven days to complete the job.

Uncle Hoh's last printing job was the Jan-Mar 2016 issue of VOH. He retired due to his age, at the insistence of his family members.



Uncle Hoh's baptism

For more than a year, we did not hear anything from Uncle Hoh. However, sometime in June, we received a message from Choon Moi, his daughter-in-law, telling us that he has grown weak lately and he was looking for a Bible. It was a clear indication to us that Uncle Hoh is looking for God. A photo of him left us alarmed and burdened to share the gospel with him. How thin and frail he has become.

Once we had the Bible, Ps Khor, Yun Fei and I visited him on 22 June. Although he had lost a lot of weight, his mind was still very clear and we had a wonderful time conversing with him in the presence of his wife and Chun Ming. Before we could even start sharing Jesus with him, Uncle Hoh started to tell us that Jesus is good because He died on the cross for the sins of the world, much to our delight. He shared his experience of how he had called out to Jesus when he had a terrible pain in his leg. When he placed his hand on his knee and called out the name of Jesus, the pain left him.



A photo after the baptism

He also related a recent dream that he had. In that dream, he saw someone standing outside at his window grille. When he looked closely, he saw that it was Jesus!

Taking that opportunity, Ps Khor told him that Jesus is standing at the door of his heart, knocking and inviting him to open his heart to receive Him as his Lord and Saviour. Without a moment's hesitation, Uncle Hoh replied, "Yes, I want." What a joy for Chun Ming and us as we witnessed Uncle Hoh saying the sinner's prayer. The heavenly Father and His angels were rejoicing with us too.

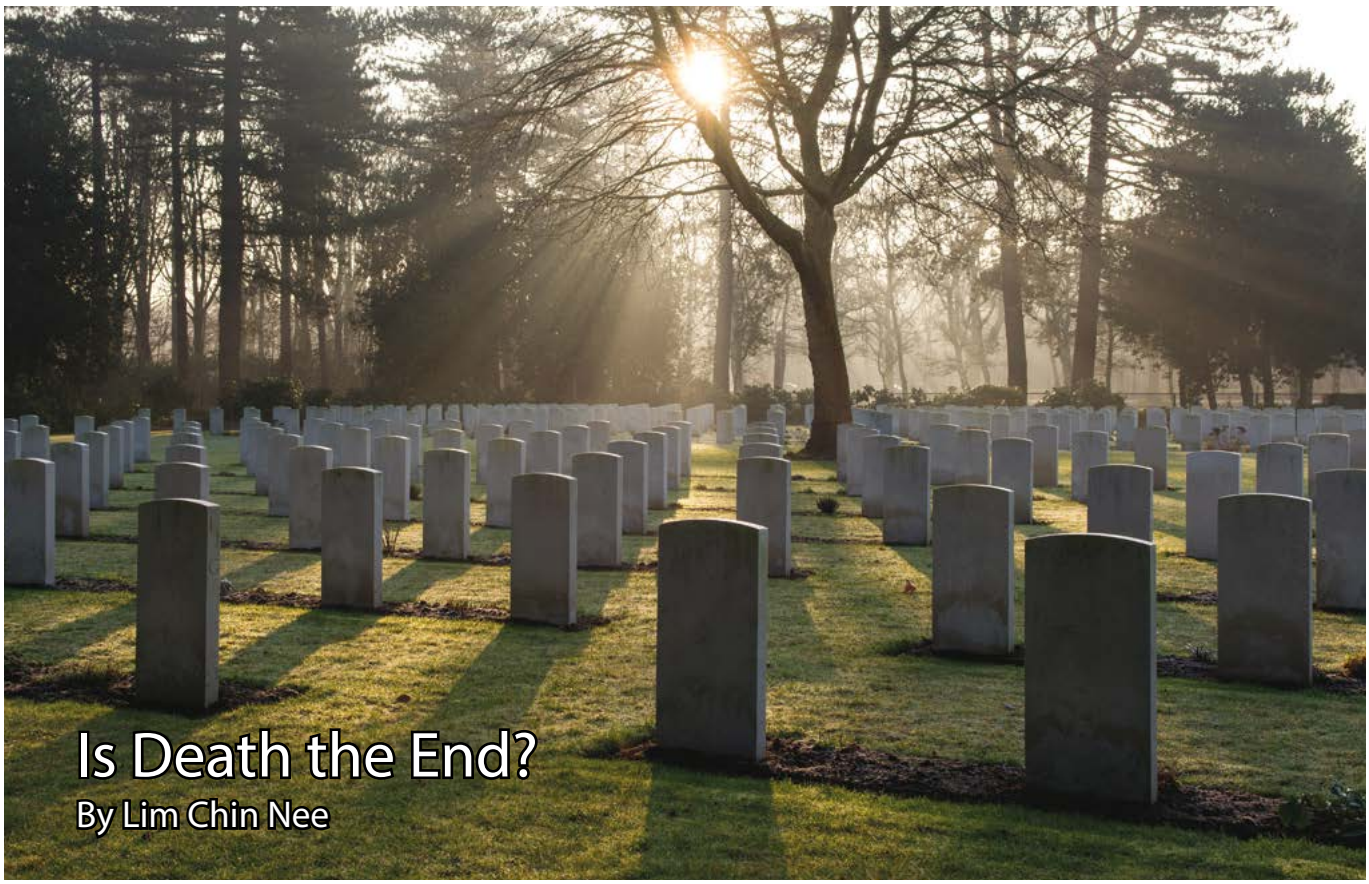
On the Sunday evening of 23 July 2017, Uncle Hoh was baptized in the presence of his family members and church members.

After the baptism, Uncle Hoh shared that he had followed a friend to church when he was a young man and have heard about Jesus. However, when his friend left for East Malaysia, he had stopped going to church. Praise God, that although he had stopped for so many years, the seed of God's incorruptible Word remained. At the right time, it sprouted and bore the fruit of salvation.



Uncle Hoh saying the sinner's prayer

Editor's note : Uncle Hoh went home to be with the Lord on 3 Sep 2017



Is Death the End?

By Lim Chin Nee

"Oh, when I die, I'll just become fertilizer for the earth!"

That was the quick response which Ps Khor, Lee Lee and I received while having an amicable conversation on the hope of life after death with a relative of ours who was suffering from end-stage cancer. Although the cancer had spread and he was paralysed waist down, he was mentally very alert.

His response did not surprise us for he was a medical doctor with a very scientific mind. He found it hard to believe anything that was beyond the physical world and beyond his reasoning. It did not make sense to him how a body that is subjected to sickness, death and decay could have life after death. To him, there is nothing more after death.

Death is no respecter of person. Whether young or old, rich or poor, nobility or commoner, educated or uneducated; death strikes all. Yes, we will all die one day. But there is Good News in Christ Jesus - death is not the end. We will not end up as mere fertiliser or ashes, without consciousness, completely zilch like a candle snuffed out. Rather, we will be like seeds or grain sown in the ground.

That is how the Bible describes us, in death; like seeds or grain sown in the ground. Jesus said in John12:24, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels - a plentiful harvest of new lives." In simple words, out of death comes life.

The seed sown undergoes a dying process. It disintegrates and out of it comes new life – a new plant. What is sown and what grows out of it, is completely different. When we sow a seed, we don't expect a seed to come up, do we? The seed that dies and the plant that grows out are one and the same; yet they are entirely different in nature and form. Life actually continues but in a new and glorious form.

The believers in the church of Corinth in about AD 54 had a hard time too understanding and believing how material bodies subjected to corruption could resurrect and live eternally. Paul used a similar illustration of the seed to explain how God would change the natural bodies of believers to immortal bodies.

Paul wrote to them saying,
"When we die our earthly bodies are sown in the ground,
but they will be raised to live forever.
Our bodies are buried in brokenness and corruption,
but they will be raised in glory.
They are buried in weakness,
but they will be raised in strength.
They are buried as natural human bodies,
but they will be raised as spiritual bodies.
For just as there are natural bodies,
there are also spiritual bodies."

Our present natural bodies are bodies suited for our temporal and earthly stay here on earth. But one day, in our future resurrection, we will have spiritual bodies that

are eternal; spiritual bodies suitable for our new heavenly environment in the very presence of God, where pain, sickness, death or decay do not exists.

Paul went on to say that just as we are now like the earthly man, Adam, who is made of dust; we will someday be like the heavenly Man, Christ, who is from above. Our future glorified bodies will bear the image of Christ: spiritual, heavenly, glorious, imperishable and incorruptible. And we will use our new bodies to serve and glorify God for all eternity



Paul, being a tent maker, also used the image of a tent, a weak and temporal structure, to describe our present earthly and temporal body. He said that when the earthly tent which we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God Himself and not by human hands. We will not be disembodied spirits but we will have new glorified, eternal bodies. It is like changing clothes; removing the old and putting on new ones. It is awesome.

We are also led into a wonderful secret. Not every one of us will die but "we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown at the return of Christ. When the trumpet sounds, believers who have died in Christ will be raised first to live forever. And we who are still alive will also be transformed. Our dying bodies will be transformed into bodies that will never die.

When that happens, then this Scripture will be fulfilled: 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

Can we be sure of this Good News about the resurrection? Yes, we can.

Firstly, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the Resurrection and the Life. He is alive and not in His tomb. He was crucified for our sins, was buried but on the third day, He rose victoriously from the dead because it was impossible for death to hold Him down!

And since Christ our Saviour rose from the dead bodily, we can be assured of bodily resurrection after death. Jesus is our guarantee; He is the very first of many who will be raised to life again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "Since I live, you also will live," and, "Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this, …..?" (John 14:19, 11:25-26)

What an assurance Jesus gave! He is saying here that death is not final for those who believe in Him. Whoever believes in Him shall live, even after death. Some of us will die physically and experience being raised up imperishable, in strength and in glory.

Paul also wrote reassuringly to the Corinthian church, "We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to Himself …." (1Cor 6:14, 2 Cor 4:14)

Secondly, God has also given us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee or down payment of all that God has wonderfully prepared for us and of the glorious transformation that awaits us. (2 Cor 5:5, Eph 1:13-14)

What a glorious hope and future we have in Christ!

Here, I would like to express my thanks to God for bringing the reality of this truth and the conviction of who Jesus Christ is to my relative. For on the last day of his temporal journey on earth, he told his daughter three times in a faltering voice, "I accept Jesus Christ." I know for certain one day we will meet in heaven, not in old perishable bodies but in our new, glorious resurrected bodies.

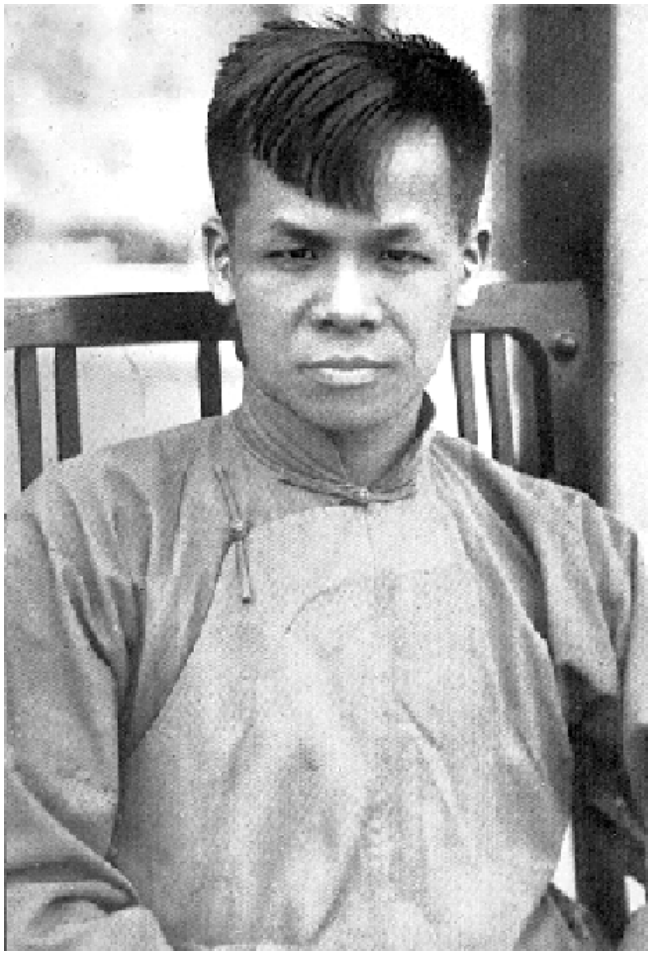
Reference: 1 Corinthians 15, 2 Corinthians 5 NLT

Article

The Life of John Sung

A Life Renewed & Abandoned for the cause of Jesus Christ

By Justin Yong



There is much to be said on the life of John Sung. His work in strengthening the Malaysian church is well known among the local Christian community — in laying a foundation crucial to the conviction of the church, ever since stepping onto the shores of Singapore on 28 August 1935. John Sung was an evangelist popular for his fiery sermons on repentance and holiness — regularly speaking out against the hypocrisy within the church and threat of modernism creeping in at that time. He greatly exemplified this in his own life through sacrificial living and personal holiness in the highest regard. While these aspects on his life are certainly worth telling, this article would focus mainly on his life prior to the start of his missionary works — on a man who wondered away from his first love only to be found again by God: Freely forgiven!

John Sung was born on 27 September 1901 as Sung Shang Chieh in Hong Chek village, Fujian Province, China. He was the son of a Methodist preacher, and had regularly assisted his father in the administrative tasks for services, preaching in his father's absence when he was ill, leading the singing, handing out tracks, etc. He was so well known for his assistance, that people in his village gave him the title "little pastor." In recounting this period on his life, John Sung stated:

"...Looking back at those days before I was born again, I realise that my enthusiasm in working for the church was driven more by the need to satisfy my own ego and reputation than anything else... "

Sometime in April 1920, John Sung acquired scholarship and was admitted to the Wesleyan Ohio University for his excellent results in school (He had outperformed other students graduating from Zhe Li secondary school). On arriving at Ohio, John Sung was still active in his faith. He had formed an evangelistic band with several classmates to preach to the village churches in the country side. He recounted his experiences where he was allowed by a pastor to preach in two churches. As his sermons were well received by the villagers, he was asked to preach a third time on a sermon entitled, "A living church." In a letter to his parents, John Sung wrote:

"...I am attaching my diary to you, so that you will know that the Kingdom of Heaven is constantly within my heart everyday..."

It was during this period of time that he received a vision of himself on a cross which hovered over an ocean and drawing drowning people to itself. With this, John Sung, took inspiration on the work which he was called to. Nonetheless, following his graduation from his PhD (He had completed his Bachelors, Master and PhD in Chemistry within the span of 6 years from 1920-1926), John Sung was offered a place to study theology by the Wesley Foundation representative at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. During this period, he remarked that he thought he had landed himself in a seminary devoid of spiritual life. He was disappointed in regards to both the students and the teachings conducted in the seminary. He became

disillusioned with the lectures which he thought students took to as if they were "watching a show." Additionally, he was cynical of students being passionate in their prayers and often branded them as emotional and unclear in thinking. During this time, he took an interest in comparative religions and soon dabbled in the teachings of other faith.

In the Christmas of 1926, John Sung attended a Christmas evangelistic meeting with some friends where the preacher in place was a 15 year old girl. During the meeting, John Sung became move by the sermon on salvation which he stated was powerful and anointed. His friends, however, were sceptical and dismissed her preaching as being "superstitious." In reply, John Sung defended the girl and questioned if they were empowered by the Holy Spirit in their ministries. As he wrote the letter, he sensed a sense of guilt coming on him as he reflected his own hypocrisy as a theological student sliding from his faith. He resolved at the point to seek out the Holy Spirit and the New Life.

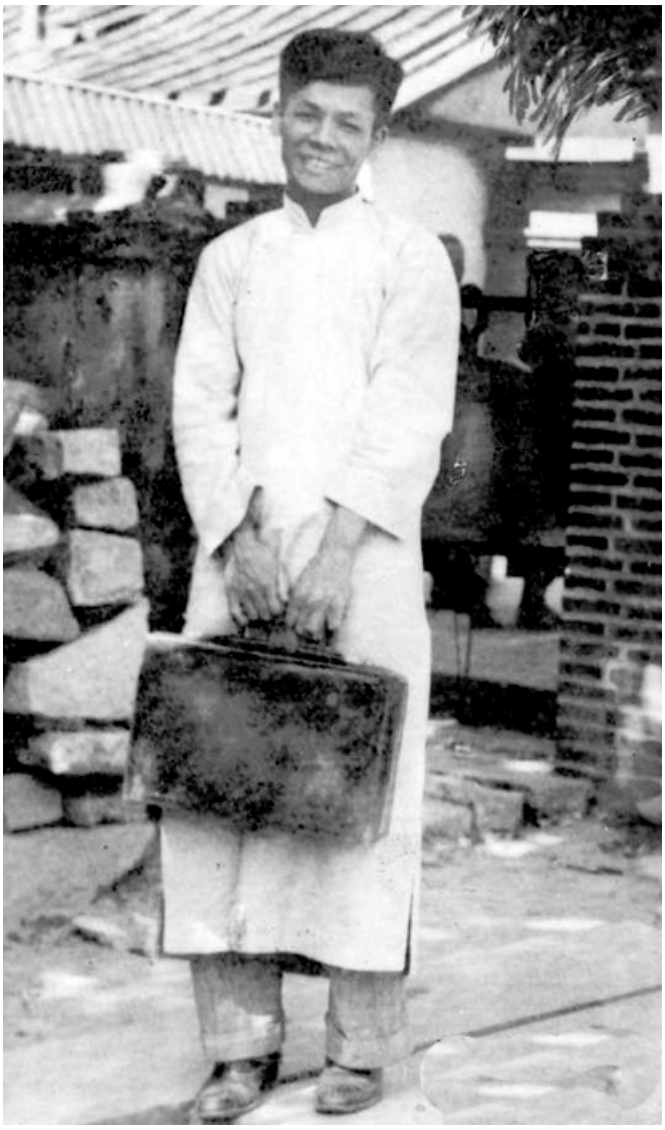
John Sung spent the new year's eve of 1926 kneeling in prayer before God. He stated feeling a great sense of sin weighing down on him and seeing the scenes of his sinful life playing out in front of his eyes. At this point, he saw the Lord hanging on the cross with blood oozing from his hands, where he then asked God to cleanse him from unrighteousness. He felt God responded to him, "Son, your sins are forgiven!"

After his re-conversion experience, John Sung became very emotional with his new found belief that he started sharing himself very intensely. It came to a point that some people in the seminary thought he was out of his mind, with the principal ordering him to a mental hospital for monitoring. He stayed a total of 193 days at the Bloomingdale hospital where he took the opportunity to read the Bible over 40 times. He recounted this period as some of the most difficult times of his life and questioned God repeatedly on allowing that to happen. However, in hind sight, he stated that he believed that God had planned for this period of time as a "special theological seminary" in preparing him to leave America. Thus, John Sung — the evangelist, renewed by God — arrived back to China on 5 October 1927. On his journey home, John Sung acted to discard all his academic medals and degrees (apart from one degree, which he stated he had to show his father as a matter of formality) off the steam boat he was travelling back on. This he did as an affirmation on his new found faith and determination to preach the gospel on his return.

John Sung did not live to fulfil the potential of his academic qualifications – a life of comfort lecturing in the university. He chose instead to pursue his first love and to live a life abandoned for the cause of Christ. Philippians 3:8-10 says:

8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.

May God grant us the grace to live a life worthy of Himself, in pursuit of Him as the ultimate and most precious possession of our lives!





How Jesus shared the Gospel

By Ruth Lee

The way Jesus shared the Gospel is an inspiration to me. I am inspired to do what Jesus did, for if He could do it, so can I. Jesus shared the Gospel as part and parcel of His day to day activity. It was so natural the way He approached a Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar (John 4). If I were there at the well, I could have missed the opportunity to share but Jesus did not. He used the chance encounter to share the Gospel to the Samaritan woman. This was the manner in which He did it.

1. **Share one to one**
   Jesus had entered Samaria with His disciples. While they went into the town to get some food, He sat by a well, hoping someone would come by to draw some water for Him. One person did – a woman. Whether it was to a big crowd or to one, the Samaritan woman, Jesus did not shy away from taking the opportunity to share the Gospel.

   At our recent trip to Kemaman to minister at a local church we took the opportunity to visit an elderly lady. Like Jesus, we had entered a town i.e. Kemaman and were led by the Lord to Aunty Eng's house (Helen Dan's mum).

2. **Share even when inconvenient/uncomfortable**
   Jesus sat down to share the Gospel at the well. It was inconvenient for Him to share the gospel as He was tired, thirsty and hungry. But He shared the Gospel anyway with the woman at the well. Doing God's work was more important to Him than physical water or food!

   In Kemaman, although I was tired and sleepy (after a good lunch at Hai Peng restaurant), I decided to join York Ling and Jessie Oh to visit Aunty Eng. There are rewards when we deny our flesh to do God's work. My reward was to witness Aunty Eng praying the sinner's prayer with great clarity and conviction. On Sunday, when she attended church for the first time after her conversion, she stood up to testify.

3. **Share boldly and in faith**
   Jesus dared to share boldly about who He is.

   This is the same approach we should adopt as well in faith. We need to tell others all about Jesus and who He really is. He is the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6). We do not need to water down the Gospel to win souls. Be bold to share the full Gospel. In this story, He told the woman at the well that whoever drinks of the water that He is able to give will not thirst again. How absolutely bold and uncompromising that is!

4. **Share without partiality**
   Jesus shared the gospel to the Samaritan woman who had a shady past and present.

   No matter seniors, elderlies, youth, young adults or adults, children, strangers or foreigners; no matter what their past, background or occupation may be – student, saleslady, hawker, security guard, manager, boss or adulterer – they need to hear the Gospel.

5. **Share to sow**
   At the end of the story, the woman went into town to tell everyone about her encounter with the Lord at the well. She became an evangelist after meeting the Lord! She went around sharing with others how she was touched by the Lord.

   I learnt that evangelism is really about sowing the seed and the salvation message. A person's response to the message is really beyond our control. No need to be stressed about this at all. Our mission in life is just to share the Good News and let the Holy Spirit bring the conviction. This is what I aimed to do every month of 2017 – sharing to sow the seed of eternal life.

In fact later in the same chapter when the disciples came back with His food and asked Jesus to eat, He answered them saying that the fields were white unto harvest. He asked them to pray for labourers to go into the harvest field. To me that speaks about the importance of sowing the seed of the Gospel more than anything else.

Let us continue to share one to one, share even when inconvenienced, share boldly, share without partiality and share to sow with faith!

Note: The church has circulated book-marks for us to write the names of 7 our friends/family members for the purpose of reaching-out. Prayerfully write their names and pray for open doors to share to sow the good news to them.

Come Alive 2017

By Abel Cheong

It was 27 May, a big day for all of us from the Children Church (CC) team as it was the first day of the CC camp. Each one of us came that day hoping and expecting God to use us effectively for those three days. It was particularly stressful as we were really hoping that the camp would go smoothly. Praise God, everything went well because of all the prayers and encouragements from everyone who supported us during this event.

On 24 Dec 2015, God gave me the theme of the camp - Come Alive. Based on this theme the lessons throughout this camp focused on the story of Jesus during His ministry before and after the crucifixion. And because the theme was "Come Alive" we wanted the children to know that Jesus did not stay dead. Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today!

The three days camp started with a short meeting and prayer. Once the children arrived, the camp began with a few minutes of morning exercises. Each day had its balance of games, worship sessions and lessons. Of course the children were also provided three wonderful meals every day, thanks to the Mothers' Ministry. Other than the normal games we usually have on Sundays during CC, more advance games such as prison break and tower defense were prepared for the children during the camp. Moving on, worship sessions, were aimed to lead the children into a deeper level of worship and to get the children ready spiritually and mentally for the lessons afterward. Aided with props and videos, the lessons were presented with oomph and with the aim of teaching the children about Jesus according to the theme.



We ended the camp with an altar call. Ps Khor led the altar call. The presence of God was tangible and the children could sense it, and respected it. A few children came out for prayer so the CC team with the help of Ps Khor prayed for them. After the camp, I was happy because I knew that God had done something in each of the children that came for the camp. Furthermore, I felt that God had done His work in each of the CC team teachers and helpers as well. All glory to God!







Your Love Remains

By Chris Cheong, Camp Coordinator

Finding the perfect venue for church camps is not an easy task as there are various needs to consider. Reasonable travel time from KL, good and squeaky clean accommodation at super low prices, friendly to mobile restricted persons, good and tasty food, conducive meeting room, easy accessibility and amazing extra-curricular activities!

It seemed a daunting task at first to find that suitable venue but the team was hopeful and we forged ahead with vigour and faith. In His own ways, the Lord led us to narrow our search down to Bentong, Karak and the Bukit Tinggi area. We organized two scouting trips with countless food tasting meals; we finally found the ideal venue: Cherengin Hills Resort. However, although the venue was perfect, the price was certainly beyond our budget! We continued to stay hopeful nonetheless and proceeded to meet the resort's Head of Sales to negotiate a better deal.

Surely it was God's plan, for the camp dates, 1-3 June, coincided with the first weekend of the Ramadhan fasting month. These periods were always the lowest rates with minimal travelling by Malaysians except for 'balik kampung'. This gave us the added advantage to negotiate for an incredible deal. Praise God, they dropped a discount of 30% from the initial quote. Even though the price remained slightly higher than our camp fees two years ago, this was by far a better package. Following the confirmation of venue, we quickly started planning for the actual camp fees; itinerary and promotional materials, with enrolment started in early April.

This year's church camp was cantered around the theme "Your Love Remains". The theme was chosen in line with our church focus for the year 2017. Concurrently, Ps Khor informed Ps Danny Pang, our appointed camp speaker to focus his message from the book "1 John". Initially, I was not able to see the correlation between the theme and 1John. However, upon studying further, it quickly reaffirms that both are speaking about the unchanging love of God.

1John 4:16, "...whoever lives in love, lives in God, and Christ in them..."

This is God's love that will always remain, regardless of what is happening around us!

A total of 86 HGCians gathered for the 3 days 2 nights at Cherengin Hills Resort. The journey to the resort started with a sumptuous lunch at Bukit Tinggi village. Thereafter, a 30 minutes convoy drive through dense rainforest arriving into Janda Baik where Cherengin Hills Resort perched majestically on top of a hill.

The camp got under away soon with an elaborate and extensive activity taking all 4 groups across the length and breadth of the resort whilst capturing group images in interesting angles and poses! In the evening, we had a wonderful 45 minutes extended worship session to start off the church camp followed by Ps Danny expounding the book of 1 John.

The next day, most of us gathered at the river bank nearby, to experience "River Tubing". It was exhilarating and fun to float down the river on a giant tube. We all had so much fun with nature!



In the afternoon, an indoor activity took centre stage! Each group was assigned an item and were required to create an advertisement to market an item given to them! It was a hilarious and creative overload, witnessing each team's innovative and sometimes outlandish declarations!

Ps Danny had a total of four sessions to drill deep into the book of 1 John! It was so refreshing and fulfilling sitting at God's feet feeding on His word! I could see that people enjoyed the intimate sessions with God during the sessions.

I believe for one, that this year's venue provided an excellent and conducive environment for God's presence to come down in a mighty way! Even so, may we be ever reminded, even after the camp, that "His love remains" and will take its residence in our hearts.

PHOTO CAPTION

1 *2017 Campers*
2 *Sumptuous lunch at Wonderland Valley Restaurant*
3 *Hilarious & fun drama time*
4 *Getting ready for river tubing*
5 *Love & care was truly in the air*
6 *Our speaker Danny Pang and daughter Hannah*
7 *Standing on firm foundation*
8 *The brave ones who sailed down the river*
9 *Advertising the beautiful camp T-Shirt*
10 *Ministering to Ps Khor & Chin Nee*
11 *Children got to know each other better at the camp*
12 *Father & son having fun floating down the river*
13 *Hilarious & fun drama time*
14 *Congrats to the winning team!!*














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Learning Discipline from the Japanese

By Ruth Lee



We were doing lessons on church discipline at our once-a-month leaders' discipleship time. The lessons came alive for me during my May holiday to Japan (Hokkaido).

From this trip to Japan, I learned that discipline has to start with us before we can even think about disciplining others

The Japanese people are exemplary of great self-discipline. It is because of their self-discipline that they are able to discipline others including Malaysians (like us) who visit their country.

From my experience during the short stay at the various cities of Hokkaido, it was just amazing to see the following in Hakodate, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu, Kutchan & Furano:

First – No queue cutting to see the cherry blossoms at the cherry blossoms park at Hakodate. You cannot cut from the opposite side of the road and hope to cut into the parking when other cars had patiently lined up to park their cars. The parking attendant (dressed immaculately in blazers and tie) immediately gave us a glare that would make you shrivel even in the 10 degrees temperature. He then placed his hand in the form of an X indicating that such a behaviour was utterly unacceptable. So much for Malaysia Boleh! In Japan, definitely 'tak boleh'!

Second – At the airport, we were made to queue systematically line by line. There was no jostling and no pushing or shoving (quite unlike what happened to us at KLIA upon our return where there was no one directing the foreigners to the correct lane) thus cutting into the Malaysian lanes as well. At every entrance or exit, smartly dressed airport workers directed the human traffic with great precision and dedication to their job.

Third – After viewing the amazing lights of Sapporo at Mount Moiwa there was a big rush to board the tiny cable car down. Thinking that we could beat the crowd we took a lift down to the ground floor only to be told to line up with the rest of the crowd from the third floor.

Fourth – At the Mitsui Shopping Outlet food court, we saw people wiping the tables and returning the plates and cutleries to the stalls food was taken from. The food court was spotless.

Fifth – While travelling in Sapporo in our rented car, we saw a Japanese man picking up rubbish from the street. How about doing this after the "Pasar Malam" or Night Market near our church?

Sixth – We practically saw no dustbins in town. We had to pocket our rubbish and bring it home. The reason being, the rubbish could be meticulously recycled into combustible, non-combustible, plastic bottles and cans.

Seventh – Motorbikes do not weave in and out of traffic but wait patiently either behind or in front of cars. Even if the traffic light is green, cars stop to wait patiently for pedestrians to cross the road.

WOW!

God taught me the following principles about discipline just by observing the Japanese:

1. We cannot hope to discipline others unless we exercise self-discipline. Self-discipline is the respect we give ourselves when we take pride in doing tasks assigned to us, no matter how small, in the service of God. It can be shown in the way we talk, the way we behave and the way we respond to others.
   Self-discipline is also about treating others the way we want others to treat us.

2. Discipline = Respect. I realized that we cannot have discipline without respecting God. If we have respect for God, we will respect the fact that it is an honour to serve the King of kings and the Lord of lords. We will strive to be early in church or life group and to have a ready smile on our face while carrying out our duties for the glory of God. Give God the full attention during worship and the ministry of the Word.

3. Discipline = Respect for property and facilities. Whether at home, work or church, let us respect property and facilities by keeping workplaces spick and span, picking up rubbish and recycling them. Buy recycled bins to use in homes or offices. Put back things in their proper places after we have used them.

4. Discipline = Respect the laws of the country where it is morally right to do so. Obey traffic laws, do not bribe traffic policemen or park indiscriminately.

5. Discipline = Respect others with our words, attitude and actions; and use the following expressions often – 'arigato gozaimas' - thank you, 'sumimasen'- excuse me please, ' gomen nasai' - so sorry, 'yuku yata'-good job'! Keep your tone friendly and soft and SMILE!



222 Prayers in the Bible

By Ruth Lee



Thank God for the Bible Project, a Bible reading program launched by the church in 2017. The Bible Project includes praying a Psalm a day. In fact it is designed in such a way that if we were to follow it, we will be able to pray through the Psalms at least twice a year!

Personally I found praying a Psalm a day most beneficial. I felt particularly empowered when I pray it aloud during the morning watches in church. There is the sustaining power of God's Word throughout the day.

Speaking aloud God's Word in prayer is not only feeding our spirit, it is also reminding God of His promises towards us and reinforcing our faith. It also helps me to stay positive and confident throughout the day.

It is interesting to note that there are 222 direct prayers in the Bible and that 72 of them are found in the book of Psalms with the longest prayer in Psalm 119. Many Bible scholars call the book of Psalms a book of prayers as many of the Psalms were written by David, a man after God's own heart.

It is also amazing to note that 176 out of the 222 direct prayers to God are found in the Old Testament with the balance 46 in the New Testament.

The 222 prayers accounted for are actual worded prayers mouthed by Bible characters. They do not include references to prayer such as "he prayed, he entreated the Lord, he called upon the name of the Lord".

Almost 90% or more of the prayers were answered. It would appear that some of them were not answered because the prayers were made not according to the will of God such as when Abraham asked God to make Ishmael a great nation or when Moses asked God to allow him to go into the Promised Land (this prayer was not answered because of sin). Whenever prayers were uttered based on God's promises, those prayers were always answered. For example, Jacob's prayer asking for deliverance from Esau was answered as it was based on a promise that God had made to Jacob to bring him safely to his home.

It is also interesting to note that Jesus Himself also prayed directly to the Father about 25 times in the Gospel with His longest prayer recorded in 638 words! The shortest prayer in the Bible is that uttered by Peter, "Lord, save me!" (Matt 14:30).

To God, it is not the number of words used in our prayers but whether our prayers are uttered in faith, trusting God will keep His promises in His Word.

Here are some records of prayers in the book of Psalms:

1. David uttered prayers in 50 prayer-psalms for various blessings most of them were answered because of his faith in God's promises – Ps 3-7, Ps 9, Ps 22, Ps 25, Ps 119 (to name a few).
2. An unknown Psalmist (possibly David) prayed for many kinds of blessings which were granted or to be granted – Ps 10, Ps 43, Ps 71, Ps 102 (to name a few).
3. Asaph made many requests to God (in 5 prayers) for various kinds of blessings which were granted or to be granted - Ps 74, Ps 79, Ps 80, Ps 82 & Ps 83.
4. Moses made requests to God – Ps 90.
5. Ethan made requests to God – Psalms 89.

Bible scholars have concluded that 72 of the 150 Psalms appear to comprise personal requests to God, making them definitely prayer-psalms!

On another note, prayers directly uttered by the Lord Jesus are found 17 times in Matthew, The most notable among them was when Jesus prayed at the cross, "Forgive them for they know not what they do". In the other Gospels, Jesus prayed:

1. 2 prayers in Mark
2. 7 prayers in Luke
3. 5 prayers in John. Most notable among them was when Jesus prayed for Lazarus to come forth in John 11:41-43, for His glorification in John 12:27-28 and for His disciples in John 17.

Besides the 222 prayers actually worded in 31 books of the Bible (the majority of them in the Psalms), there are many passages which contain no prayers but rather give instructions to prayer such as in the epistles where it is mentioned that the apostles prayed to God to bless the believers, to help them, to strengthen them, to give them wisdom and understanding or just to give instructions to them on how to pray and what to pray. Nonetheless, just as powerful as the direct prayers to God!

Get started on the Bible Project today (if you have not done so) and get into the flow of praying the Psalms. You will be richly blessed. You will also see your prayers answered like the majority of the 222 prayers in the Bible.

Notes: References made to https://www.hopefaithprayer.com/prayermew/222-prayers-of the Bible/

The Bible Project With A Difference

By Compiled byJeanette Chan



Towards the end of 2016, Ps Khor introduced The Bible Project to the church with the aim of stirring HGCians to follow its Bible Reading Plan for 2017. This is a project with a difference! Every book of the Bible begins with a lively short summary in fully animated video which provides a good background and outline of the book. It is produced to help people understand the unified, Jesus-centred story of the Bible with the aim of making the biblical story accessible to everyone, everywhere. The Bible Project App can be easily downloaded online for free.

The brains and heart behind The Bible Project are Tim Mackie and John Collins. These two long-time friends came up with this brilliant and creative idea while tossing around with ideas as to how to help people read through Scripture while avoiding common pitfalls and misunderstandings; and to present complex themes of the Bible in a way that was real, approachable and unapologetic.

Tim is a writer and the creative director for The Bible Project. He has a PhD in Semitic Languages and Biblical Studies. He wrote his thesis on the manuscript history of the book of Ezekiel, with a focus on the Septuagint and Dead Sea Scrolls. He is a professor at Western Seminary and served as a teaching pastor for many years.

John is a writer and creative director for The Bible Project. He has a BA in Biblical Studies from Multnomah University (where he met Tim). Jon is affectionately known by the team as the Architect of Ideas. He is a master of making complex ideas simple, and has spent the last decade founding and leading digital media and marketing companies.

HGCians who have been using The Bible Project have found it to be really heipful. Below are a few reviews on it.

Wendy Liew



Reading through the entire Bible had been quite a challenge for me. While reading, I tend to skip passages which seem less important to me or give up on certain books which are too difficult to grasp. However, at the beginning of this year when our church introduced the Bible Project, a tool that can assist me to read through the entire Bible, I was very interested and enthusiastic in following the project.

I find the Bible Project a truly helpful tool. It provides me with a reading plan covering every book of the Bible. It brings me on a journey of a new understanding and revelation of the events which happened in every book. What I found most interesting and impactful are the creative visual-storytelling and animated videos which provide a short summary of biblical stories of each book. This helps me to focus on the themes and key scriptures. The video viewing of each book takes less than 10 minutes but it provides me a good grasp of the overview of the book. It has opened up my mind and heart to understand God's Word more clearly and with a better perspective.

Apart from this, it encourages me to pray through a psalm each day. Indeed, the Word of God is very important and is our daily spiritual food. His Word is perfect and refreshing to the soul. I thank the Holy Spirit for bringing me to this amazing journey of discovering the nature and character of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

Jeanette Chan



The first time I saw the Bible Project Videos when it was launched in January 2017 in our church, The Hope of Glory Centre, I was mesmerized. I just could not take my eyes off the pencilled lines magically transforming the white sheet into the live story of a book in the Bible. It makes the Bible come alive and prods one to delve more in depth. Personally, I do like comics and it is fascinating the way the narrator and the pen kept in sync which makes it absolutely interesting. It certainly adds colour and variation to my Bible reading and keeps me going back for more. Chronicles was a boring book to me with all the names of long, long family lines. However, the Bible Project Videos brought it out in a way that stirred an interest in me to actually want to delve more into it, "A story in search of an ending" as quoted by the narrator.

Try it folks, google Bible Project Videos.

Jane Oo



The video of the book summary gives me a glimpse of the overall picture. It was constructed nicely for the viewer to understand more of what the passage means in the dimension of time, culture and God's view. It motivates the reader to dig deeper into the Word. On the other hand, the application is very easy to use and I can always track where I stop. No more excuses for not reading the Word of God.

Rosemary



I like to read the Bible and when Pastor told us to use the Bible Project, I obeyed and focused on it. It was very interesting to read. It opened my eyes to see God's Word clearly. Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." All glory to God!



XEE – Evangelim Discipleship Training

By Nick Nip, Pastor

The 2017 Xee Semester 6 ran from January 8 to May 7. We had four trainees – Bernard Chong, Shirly Ngu, Nicholas How and Kenneth Yong; and six trainers – Ps Nick Nip, Helen How, Karen Sim, Chin Wai Shin, Lee Soon Nyen and Amy Lim. All the trainees were very diligent in their learning and did very well in their Evangelism Discipleship Training. Over that period, we conducted 13 class sessions and connected with 37 people. From our connect activities, we had five people confessing their faith in Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.





Sharing the Gospel With NO Stress

By Kenneth Yong



Being in XEE for only 13 sessions, I have already learnt the skill to share the gospel to the outside world. This skill will keep me spreading the gospel and of course, growing in my faith too.

Personally, I have grown by learning how to share the gospel, with no stress. XEE has taught me how to share the gospel in a right and orderly way. I have grown personally becoming more outgoing and comfortable speaking in public as well as with strangers. I have gained more confidence in sharing the gospel. I am now more ready to share if there is an opportunity. It also helps me to understand the gospel and appreciate my salvation better.

Therefore, I would like to ask others to join XEE because you will have a lifetime skill in just 13 sessions.

How XEE Impacted Me

By Nicholas How



Before Xee, I was uncertain about sharing the gospel to others as I was terrible at communicating with people in general. I was initially filled with skepticism about committing to the course as I was preparing for my upcoming IGCSE examinations in May this year. But I gave it the benefit of the doubt and joined. Since then, I never had a moment's regret. Through the countless exposures of meeting friendly strangers and interacting with them, my fear of interacting with any individual was conquered. As of now, I can confidently say that I can talk to a stranger without being hesitant. And I also learned more about God through this process which is jaw-dropping.

My Perspective Has Changed

By Shirly Ngu



To be honest, I was not sure of joining XEE at the beginning as it was a commitment for 5 months. As time went by, however, I realized that I had learnt a lot through XEE. My perspective or view of people whom I see on the street has changed. Through the team going out to do connect activities, I realized that everyone has different stories to tell and is going through different difficulties. Many of them needed to know about Jesus Christ.

I did not know how to share the gospel but XEE has helped me to have an idea as to how to approach strangers and share the good news in simple ways. The stories in XEE are simple to understand yet engaging. I am glad that through XEE I have shared the good news to strangers whom I meet for the first time in my life. Most importantly is doing it without pressure, when I come to know that it is the Holy Spirit who is doing the work. It is amazing to see how God works wonders in many ways by using just an ordinary person like me.

Answering The Call of Evangelism

By Amy Lim



It was two years ago, in 2015, that I joined XEE as a trainee. Throughout the training I felt the spirit of evangelism calling out to me. It started as a spark in my soul and then ignited into a fiery passion to go forth and share the gospel.

In XEE, we are taught five fundamental scriptures that we are to meditate and reflect upon. These scriptures are like fuel which set my soul ablaze for the sharing of the gospel; strengthening and empowering me to push forward at it.

Therefore, this year through the prompting of the Holy Spirit I joined XEE again not as a trainee but as an Associate Trainer. For I am passionate to share my experience and to embrace the joy of discipleship as I train others and help ignite a burning passion in their hearts as I was ignited by the flames of my trainers.

I would really encourage others to join XEE to learn some basic guidelines on sharing the gospel and also to take that first step outwards into the harvest field just as Jesus Christ did. Soon you will begin to see the fruits of your labour. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few (Luke 10:2). Therefore let us take up our spiritual sickles, hoes and shears; and put on our farmer's outfit with our faithful belt of truth, shiny yellow boots to walk the fields, a hat to protect us from the heat of the sun, long sleeved shirt that is clean and new, and not forgetting our basket of faith. As we walk along the harvest field, our boots making lovely marching sounds, we will use our sickle to cut off the crops from their stalks and put them into our basket. We work faithfully as servants of the Lord of the Harvest until He returns.



Experiencing God – His Nature & Character

By Loke Wai Keng

In February 2017, I was given the privilege to teach on the nature and character of God in the Discipleship Training School in YWAM Petaling Jaya for five days. God laid upon my heart to teach on His names that reveal different aspect of His nature and character in the context of how He dealt with the children of Israel as He appeared to them in the wilderness.

While I was preparing to teach, I had a problem with a trigger right thumb, it was so painful that I could not even hold a pen or write.

Teaching God as Jehovah Rapha, our healer, was easy but to experience Him as healer would take me to another level of faith. I told the Lord that I want to experience Him as my healer so that the students would see Him to be real. He was gracious and healed the trigger thumb before I completed the five days teaching. Indeed, I experienced Him to be my Jehovah Rapha.

On the last Sunday of February, during the sermon by Ps TT Quah, he said something which struck me and set my mind wandering. A mental conversation started, "My maternal grandmother passed away at 98, and my mother has celebrated her 100th birthday, what will I be Lord?" I could hear God telling me this, "it doesn't matter what you will be Wai Keng. Whatever happens remember that I will be with you..." This was certainly a good reminder of God as Jehovah Shamma THE LORD IS THERE!! I was so assured to know that my God is already in my tomorrow. He already knows what my future looks like and He has complete control over it.

In Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT) Jehovah-Shamma says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope".

THE LORD IS THERE!! I cannot be in my future now, but He can. I cannot control the future events of my life, but He can. Jehovah-Shamma will walk with me into whatever tomorrow holds because of His great love for me. God is THERE in my tomorrow. He simply desires that I trust Him with all my heart. Trusting God is an experience and not merely a mental knowledge. I learnt that God will take me through different experiences in life to enable me to grow in knowing Him more as I place my trust in Him.

I like the way Francis Frangipane puts it. "When you pass the test from God, three things occur,

1. You gain new spiritual power.
2. You will experience the Lord's presence.
3. And then after a short season you graduate to something more difficult."

In early March, I began to have difficulty breathing especially when I walk up the staircase, but I just ignored my condition. When it became more alarming, I decided to seek medical advice in Ampang Mewah Hospital. An x-ray

of my lungs showed that my heart and lungs were enlarged and I was required to admit immediately for investigation. It caught me by surprise but I had no choice. However, the doctor discharged me after a one night's stay with some antibiotics, thinking I had lung infection.

My condition did not seem to improve after completing the first course of antibiotics, so I sought further medical help. The new x-ray showed that my lungs had deteriorated and warranted another admission for further investigation. Unfortunately after four nights stay, the doctors discharged me without a definite diagnosis of my condition. I was discharged with instructions that if I needed more attention I would be referred to the Respiratory Hospital (IPR) for further investigation.

I knew it would be difficult to stay on my own upon my discharge. I had much difficulties moving from my bedroom to the kitchen or toilet. I needed practical help and a place to recuperate. Jehovah-Shamma reminded me of Charis Home. Ps Lee Ping graciously accepted me. God has prepared a place for me. I also do not want to miss out saying that members of HGC and friends from far and near supporting me in prayers and other forms of practical help while I was in hospital were all part of God's promise to me that He will be there for me.

My condition did not improve and I felt it would be beneficial to go for a second opinion but I did not know where to go. I prayed and the Lord reminded me of IPR. Unfortunately, the clinic in IPR was not open for that day and I had to check into the emergency department in GHKL (General Hospital KL).

I was admitted. While in GHKL the echogram of my heart showed that the breathlessness was not due to my heart. This was quite reassuring for me. The Lord clearly reminded me, "I am your good Shepherd," do not be afraid. I could feel the Lord's peace and comfort even while I was wheeled in to do the echogram.

I was discharged from GHKL but admitted to IPR on the same day. The high resolution CT scan of my lungs showed 30% of my lungs were hardened. It was first stage of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. The doctor comforted me that this hardening could be arrested by using steroids and physiotherapy. She was kind to prepare me with a list of side effects of steroids.

I was discharged with the help of oxygen therapy for an indefinite period. For this I had to purchase two units of oxygen concentrator to help me. Jehovah Jireh provided sufficient finances for this. It was not easy to move about with the portable concentrator wherever I went and to adapt to a new lifestyle. I am grateful that I can still drive and not allow my sickness to limit my movement. |

Someone asked me how I felt while I was in and out of hospital with such a sudden change of my health and being limited with my movement. My family and some friends who know me well were all concerned for me, and my sisters found it difficult to accept. Personally, I had mixed emotions about the uncertainty of my future. I had to relocate myself, giving up the comfort of living in my own home and return back to community living in Charis Hope. (I had almost 10 years of community living while I was in YWAM Penang.) Yes, I encountered changes but I am really grateful that God has been faithful in fulfilling what He promised that He will be with me wherever I go. If I had not gone through all these, I would not have experienced the grace of God being with me.

The most painful part for me emotionally was when I had to pack all my books, downsized my collection of resource materials for my teachings. I have a set of nicely laminated maps and to part with these maps was like Misbun Sidek hanging up his rackets and not playing badminton anymore. "Lord, is this the end of me teaching your Word?" God reminded me, I have to depend on Him as I teach, not the resource materials or my own strength. I am thankful too that I can pass these materials to others who need them more.

A month after my discharge I went for another full lung function test and the doctor remarked that there was a marked improvement in my lungs. She was very pleased with my progress. Hallelujah! Jehovah Rapha continues His healing process. I continue with physiotherapy and rehabilitation of my lungs in IPR and most importantly continue to trust God for complete healing. Now, I have begun to understand how Paul felt when he prayed three times for the thorns in his flesh to be removed but the Lord did not answer his prayers, but each time he knew God's grace was sufficient; his strength was made perfect in weakness.

After this experience, I will not take things especially my health for granted, but learn to live one day at a time believing God and desiring to live to the fullness for His purpose and glory. Through all these, I have come to know God more and have learnt to trust Him deeply at all times. God has given me 68 years of life. Out of 50 years of living with Him, He has never failed me. I enjoy walking with Him, though sometimes life may not be easy. If I were to go through the same problem without Jesus, I think I would not go far. Like Paul, I can say, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."



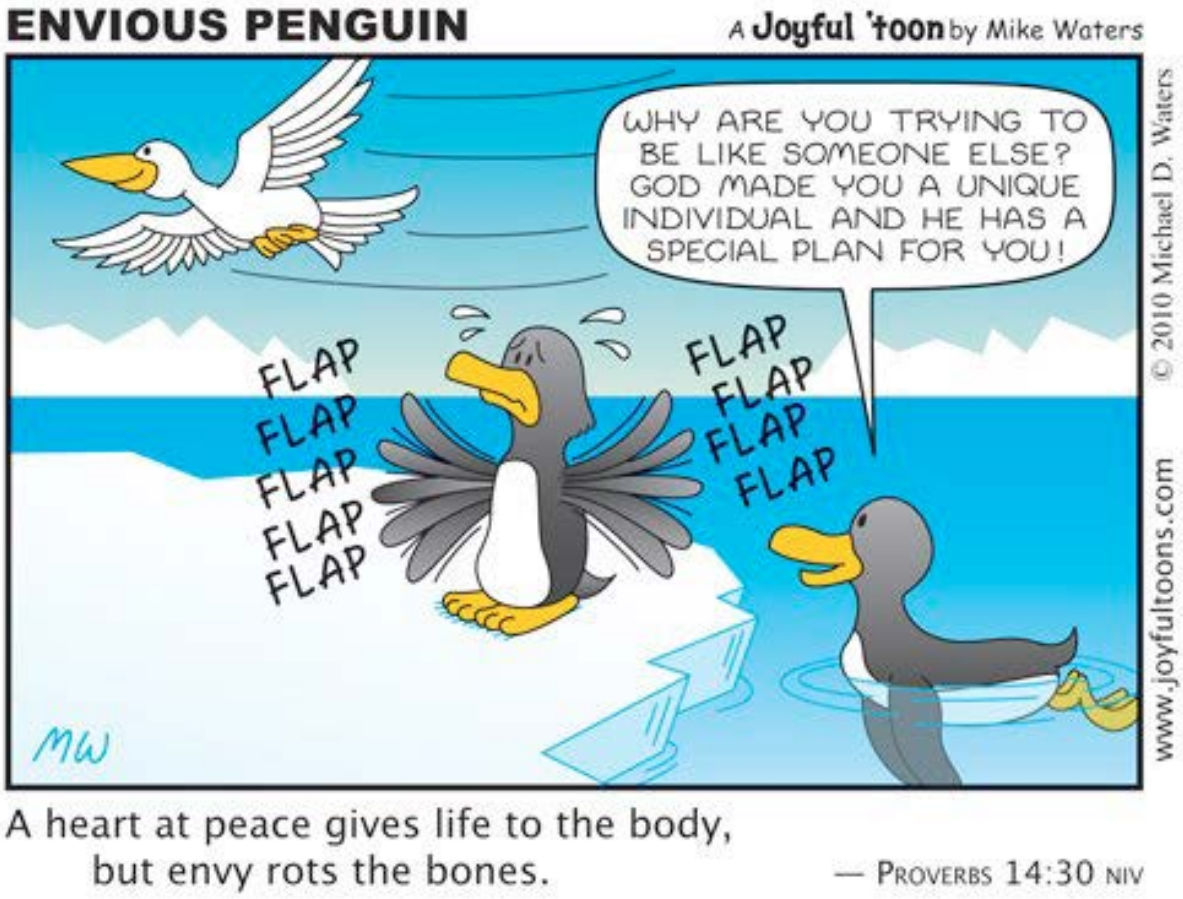
God is My Healer

By Aline K Paul

Last November, I had a boil filled with pus in the inner lining of my eyelid. Initially, I thought it would just dissipate but eventually I was feeling some form of discomfort. To be truthful, I was reluctant to get it checked in case I was going to be diagnosed with something that I did not want to be diagnosed with.

The pus filled boil was my constant companion and there were a few instances when I was almost brave enough to find out what it was but eventually chickened out. Few of my close friends who knew about it were concerned. To appease them I said, "God will take it away," although I was a wavering Thomas who thought I was going to be blind soon. Eventually, it became a part of me and I got so used to it that I almost forgot about it.

After a period of time early this year, I realized that my eye was no longer itchy or swollen due to the boil. When I looked at myself in the mirror, I realized that the boil with its pus and all had disappeared into thin air. Although I was sceptical and doubtful, my Jehovah Rapha remembered me and healed me.





All Things Work Together For Me

By Sekar C

Jesus said unto them "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

The above verse is quite a familiar one to most of us. I have always liked the King James Version (KJV). This particular verse in the KJV intrigued me for a long time, particularly where it says, "Preach the gospel to every creature." Does it mean we are to preach to animals as well as human beings? I did a bit of search and found that it means we are to preach to anyone and everyone.

I had always asked the Lord to show me which area I could serve Him; and what happened in my life was simply His amazing work leading me to where He wants me to be.

I was working in the logistics line for a long time. All of a sudden, Kellogg, the company I was working for, handed over its major share to the state government. My job was reallocated to another person as part of a reshuffle in various departments.

I left and did a few jobs here and there. Honestly, I was getting very worried about my situation when, lo and behold, Teresa Foong and Ps Khor approached me asking if I would be interested to work in the home-school at D'Bridge which was to take off soon. Truly all things (good and bad) work together for good to those who love God. (Rom 8:28

I was glad at first, as any desperate guy would be but as I thought about it, I said to myself. I am the kind of guy who would either just fool around with the kids or completely avoid them.

However, the Spirit of God impressed upon me of my past and how I had become a Christian by attending Sunday School. Although I went through some severe ups and downs in my adult life, what gave me the strength to overcome various issues in my life were all those things which I had learnt as a kid in Sunday School. So I agreed knowing the impact one can have on children's lives

Currently, I am both facilitating learning and also handling some basic administrative work at the home-school. I am also beginning to discover that I do have a God given knack for engaging with children, be it school work or devotions with them. Praise the Lord! I know now "creature" also includes little children.

I am beginning to realise that it is a great responsibility. However, God is faithful and continues to guide me in this ministry. It is quite a challenge at times but I take pleasure in knowing that I am investing my life into these young lives. Not many can say, "I love my job," but I am one of the blessed ones to gladly say this!! All glory to our heavenly Father.



Is Your Soul Insured?

By Wendy Liew

Two weeks ago while my husband, Winson, was clearing some old documents in an insurance file, he realised that our household policy had not been renewed since 2014. I really thank God for His grace and protection over our house that nothing happened during the last three years.

How amazing was the work of the Holy Spirit which opened a way for me to share this message with Winson.

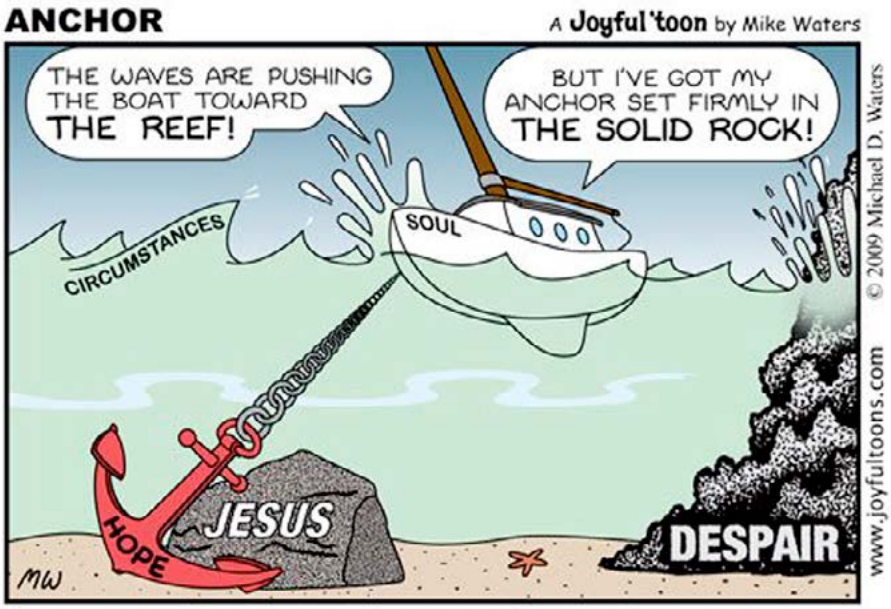
I began by saying, "Indeed having an insurance coverage is very important and most items such as our house, car, our daughter's education and even our personal health are being covered with insurance so that in case of any accident or unforeseen circumstances, the loss would not be huge."

I then asked him, "Do you know that our souls also need an insurance coverage? Jesus Christ has already saved our souls by covering us with His blood. Because of what He did on the cross, our souls are forever saved."

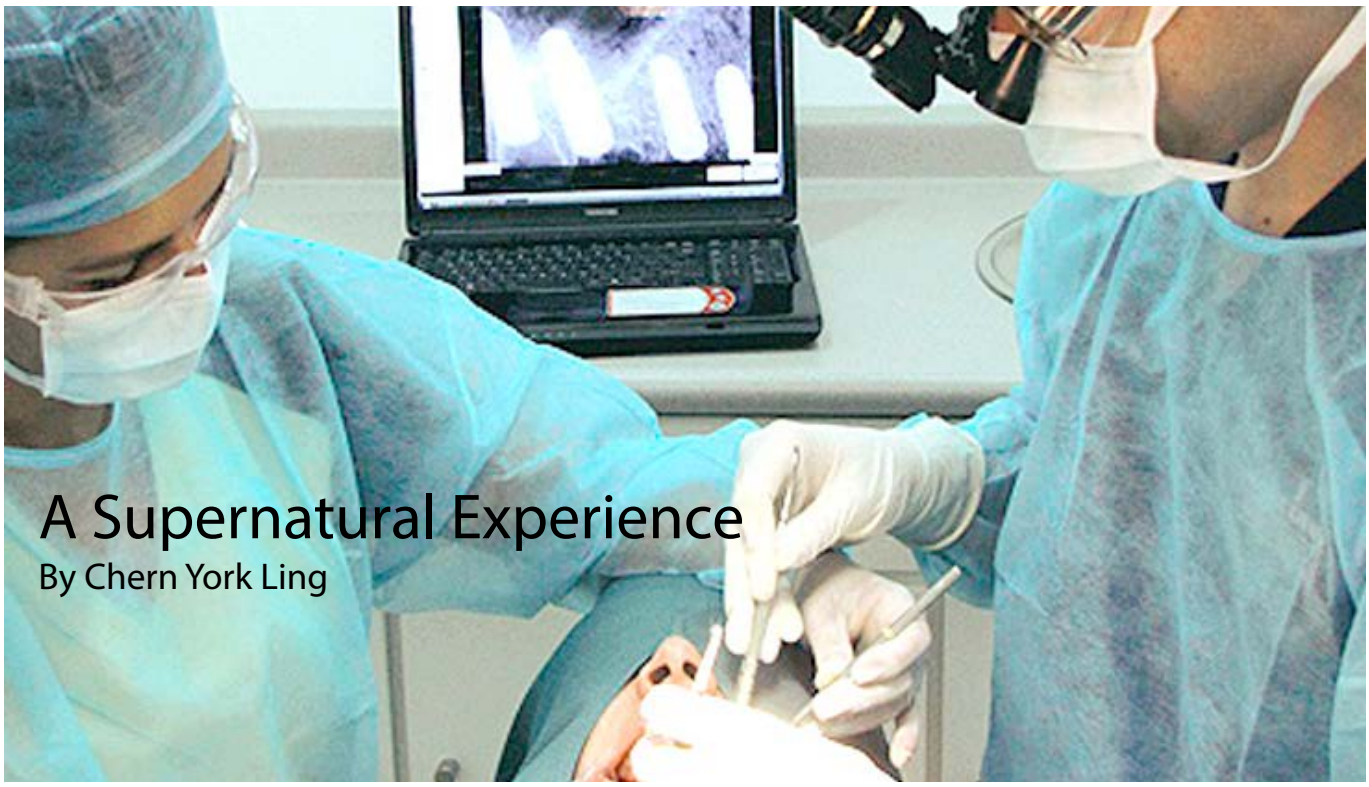
"This coverage is eternal. There is no expiry date and it does not need to be renewed. Also, it is free and there is no need to pay any premiums. All you need to do is believe and accept His insurance coverage."

Though he did not respond to what I said or to my question, I believe this illustration about God's salvation will cause him to think.

I trust the Lord is working in His amazing way in the heart of Winson, convicting him of the truth of every message he has heard. As for me, I will continue to trust and seek God by praying and declaring His promises over my family according to Act 16.31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved, you and your household"



We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.
— Hebrews 6:19 NIV



A Supernatural Experience

By Chern York Ling

"Jesus! Help me! Jesus! Help me…..!" I cried and prayed unceasingly while lying on the dentist chair.

When Dr Cheah gave me four injections on the gum, he voiced his concerns as I coughed and cleared my throat every now and then. He said that it would be too messy for me to get up from the dentist chair with surgery cloth draped all over me. I assured him I will try to control myself.
"But how to suppress a cough?" I asked myself. While waiting for my gums to be numbed at the waiting area, I texted my siblings about my current dilemma and sought for their prayers.

When I went back to the room, the whole room was sanitized and every space was covered with green cloths. I too, was covered from head to toe with an opening near my mouth. For the next one and a half hours, I prayed unceasingly crying out to God as Dr Cheah cut through the gums and drilled through the bones to place a metal into the bones in replacement of a broken root. The procedure is called tooth implant.

Soon it was over. I didn't cough or have the need to clear my throat. Praise God!

I was given five days' supply of antibiotics and two tablets of Arcoxia (o painkiller). Each Arcoxia lasts for 24hrs. This meant I will be pain free for the next two days. Stitches would be removed one week later. However, should pain set in, I was to return immediately to check for infection. Dr Cheah told me to expect a swollen cheek and dark bruises from cheek to neck where the blood flows. Both medications were to be taken immediately as the injection was starting to wear off.

I was naughty. I took the antibiotic but not arcoxia. On top of testing my pain threshold I wanted to know the difference between surgery pain and infection pain.

Praise the Lord! While there was discomfort when I touched the stiches I did not experience any of the expected throbbing pain. Apart from some restrictions due to a slight swell, there was no discoloration on my cheeks. When I went back to the clinic one week later to remove the stitches, the nurses were surprised when I told them I did not take the arcoxia and there was no pain. Dr Cheah confirmed some patients do not experience any bruise discoloration but it was not normal for any patient who went through the cutting of gums and bones not to experience pain after the surgery. I told him I was praying throughout the surgery.

Perhaps because of that, Dr Cheah did not give me any injection prior to removing the stitches.

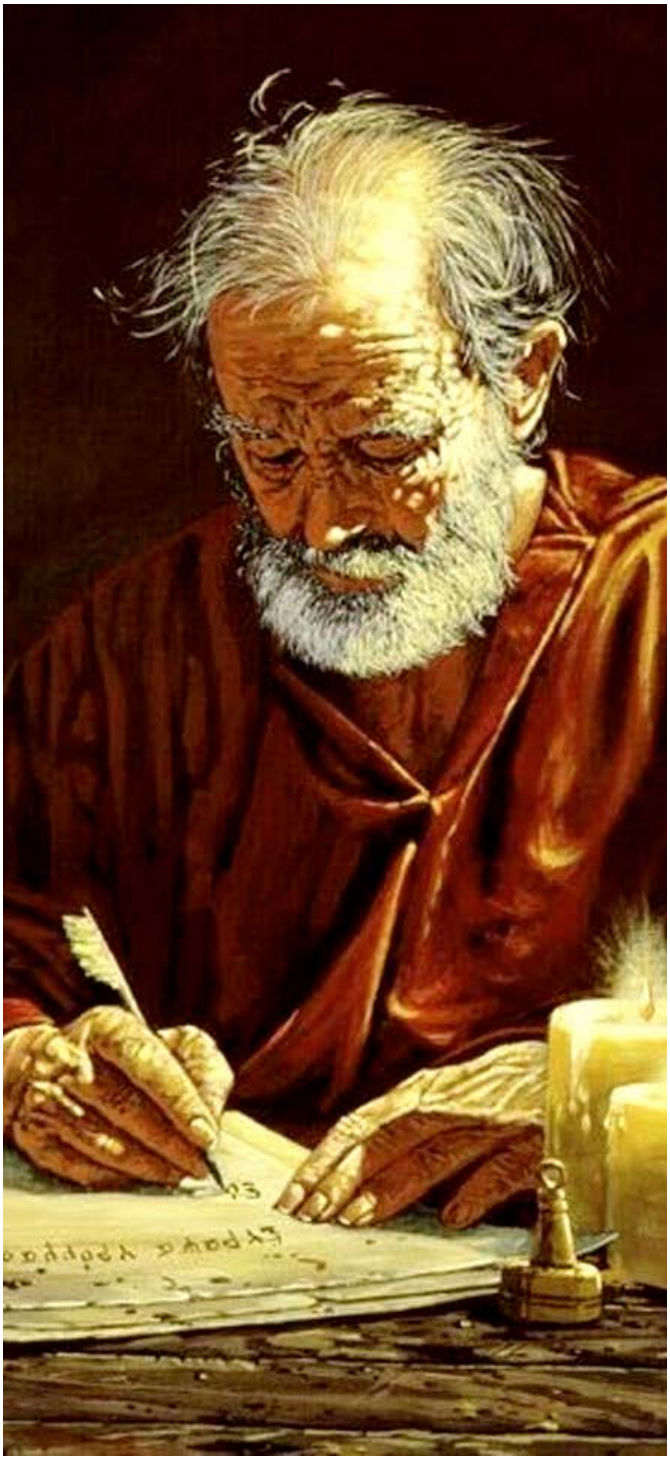
Oh dear!" I thought. "What if there is pain when he removed the stitches? Should I ask for an injection? Err… after my testimony of painless post-surgery? Never mind. I will brave through it." Then it came to my mind, "Woman of little faith ….." Ah! I am human after all. Anyway, there was no pain when the stiches were removed.

When I had a wisdom tooth removed in a government hospital many years ago, my cheek was swollen and I lost a few kilograms over a week. Perhaps it was God's grace to grant me this supernatural experience in order to restore my faith and remove any root of fear stemming from past bad dental experience. He is good!

I Consider Everything Rubbish

By Abigail Cheong

"But whatever was to my profit, I now consider loss for the sake of Christ." (Phil 3:7) One day, I hope that I will have so much faith to say these words that Paul said. He even went on to say, "I consider them RUBBISH that I may gain Christ and be found in Him." (Phil 3:8) How did this man who started by persecuting the church turned into this remarkable man who loved Jesus more than anything else?



The apostle Paul formerly known as Saul was a Pharisee under the teaching of Gamaliel who was one of the greatest Jewish teachers of his day and one of the most highly esteemed of the Pharisees. So, we can see that Paul definitely had one of the best educations during those times. This was shown by his beautiful speeches namely his speech in Athens where he even quoted pagan poets and Greek literature.

We all know the story about how Paul met Jesus on the road to Damascus. However, this story is truly amazing. Just take a moment to remember that Paul was actually on his way to arrest Jesus' followers and bring them back to Jerusalem. But, Jesus was merciful to him. Instead of punishing Paul for the persecution he brought onto the church, Jesus on the other hand poured His love onto Paul and showed him forgiveness beyond measure. Jesus even chose this very man to serve Him, make His name known to GENTILES and KINGS and to the PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. Jesus has such incredible power to completely change a man!

In conclusion, because of God's love and forgiveness toward Paul for his horrid acts, Paul was completely changed. He became a man who realised everything would have been worthless if Jesus had not appeared to him on that road to Damascus. And therefore Paul said, "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ." (Phil 3:8)

Why We Must Love

By Chan Yi Hern



We ought to give our love to the unloved. Love will save and heal their empty hearts. If they are willing to open their hearts to receive love, then it is easy to share and show the love of God to them.

God is love and His love is priceless, limitless and eternal. My heart goes out to those who do not know this love, neither know how to receive this love nor give this love. Whenever someone is upset or unhappy, they need love to cheer them up. "Love is the greatest of all!" 1 Corinthians 13:13

Why must we love?
Love breaks down walls.
Love is Jesus being the propitiation for our sin.
Love is the medicine to fullness of life.
Love is the greatest of all!

Love brings us happiness which we can only receive with peaceful hearts; and there should not be any difficulty in loving others if we are truly children of God.

My love for God will greatly affect my future in the Lord. My love for God will grow as I walk closer to know Him deeper just as He knows me, seeking Him more frequently for loads of advice as He is my highest Abba Father who created me and blesses me abundantly because He loves me so much.

"I always love You, my Almighty Lord with my heart and soul!"

So dear all, let's sow love and win victories for our nation for the Lord! Let us always sow God's sacrificial love to others and let us love one another, just as God loves us when we were still sinners.

"Hallelujah! I love You Lord!"

Ed Note: Yi Hern is a special needs teenager.

KENG Youth Outing

By Janelle Lim



Group selfie with an object

Ready? Set? GO! Four teams rushed towards the IKEA main doors, holding their instructions in hand. Rushing past strangers, bumping into each other, with only one goal in mind: to WIN.

The English youth and the Chinese youth leaders collaborated to organize an Amazing Race (HGC Edition) in IKEA on 29 April 2017. Four teams of six gathered at HGC, all geared up and ready to go. Simple instructions were given to the youths; and tasks were to be completed before they could call themselves champions. A few examples of the tasks would be to take a picture at a specific location or with a specific object in IKEA and let me just say, it was like looking for a needle in a haystack!



Pose with a specific object

It was a lot of fun for the youths exploring the newly opened IKEA and playing an exciting game in the meantime. Because of the busy crowd on a Saturday afternoon, it was actually quite difficult locating the spots and taking a picture, without getting "photobombed" by random strangers. In spite of that, the youths managed to find the locations and complete their tasks within the time slot given. After the race was over, we tallied up the scores and gave out prizes to the teams. Everyone was exhausted but went home injury-free and happy.

This was a new experience for a lot of the youths as the Chinese and English Youths seldom get to mix together, and I think it's safe to say that everyone enjoyed themselves on that outing. Hopefully, there will be more opportunities to rally the youths of the whole church together, despite our language barriers, to serve Him and to unite as one body of Christ. Praise Jesus for this wonderful event!



Pose creatively with furniture

Knowing the end is near, how are we to prepare for Christ's return?

By Answered by Loke Wai Keng



Jesus Christ Himself and different writers in the New Testament have given us sufficient instructions regarding His return. There are also no shortages of books written on this topic too. Bible scholars hold at least four different views in regards to events happening before Christ's return. The differences in views can be confusing at times. For simplicity, let us see how Paul instructed Timothy from 2 Timothy 3 to prepare for Jesus' return.

1. **Be aware that in the last days perilous times shall come v1**
   Perilous times will be dangerous times with great suffering that will be hard to bear. So we are to anticipate that life will be marked by increasing difficulties and miseries. Do not be caught unprepared if things do not turn up the way we expect. Rev 12 states that the serpent knowing that his time is short is all the way out to destroy believers. He is the great influence for the increasing wickedness we see in this fallen world. We will continue to witness wars, the conflicts in our daily papers, the random killings and natural disasters.

2. **Be aware of the conditions of man's heart especially those who do not walk in the ways of God and avoid them v 2-5**
   For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

3. **Be aware of being led astray in the last days v 8-9,13**
   It happened even in the days of Moses, when men like Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses and resisted the truth in exchange for lies and foolishness. Be alert to the increasing influx of false teachers and prophets who can derail one's faith. They could be found everywhere even creeping into houses to deceive women folks.

   Paul gave Timothy instructions to guard his life, keep himself pure and holy for Jesus' return.

a. **By observing the manner of life Paul had lived and following His example. v 10-12**
   You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

   Timothy knew Paul's teaching, dedication to Christ, testimony and suffering for Christ. Paul was trying to teach the gospel in word and deeds. This was in contrast to the other false teachers who were enticing Timothy. In view of the increasing wickedness, we need to be prepared to live godly lives and not be fearful of persecutions that come along.

b. **Continue to follow the standard that Scripture requires of us. v 14-16**
   But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

The Bible is the source of our knowledge of God. Paul told Timothy from "infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in

Christ Jesus" (3:15).

Paul advocated a coherent understanding of the Bible bringing believers to a richer faith in Jesus. This requires mentoring, solid Bible teaching, personal study, prayer and a passion to learn about Jesus. This will safeguard us from the temptation to compromise or to deviate from Scripture when life gets difficult, as the deception and attack of the enemy will intensify as he knows his time is short.

The charge given to Timothy, and to us, is to live this out. Specifically, live it out and pass it on to others as stated in the Great Commission (Matt 28: 18-20).

We are called to be ready for Jesus return and to prepare as if Jesus is coming back tomorrow; and not to wait till He returns to start preparing. In summary, set goals for mentoring others or being mentored by someone, stay focused in this hostile world, personal study of the Bible, sharing your faith with others and remain pure as a bride waiting for the return of her glorious Bridegroom.

Will we be raptured or do we have to go through the Great Tribulation?

By Answered by Loke Wai Keng

The word rapture does not appear in the Bible, but it is a term frequently used in conjunction with events relating to the Second Coming of Jesus. The English word "rapture" is derived from the Latin verb "Rapere" meaning "to carry off," or "to catch up".

Those who accept the Rapture theory believe that all non-believers on the earth will be left behind for the tribulation period. Most Bible scholars agree the tribulation period will last for seven years. It will be the final seven years of this age, until Christ returns to set up His earthly kingdom during the Millennium.

There are three main theories regarding the time frame of the Rapture:

PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

The most popular view taught among Christian faith is known as the Pre-Tribulation Rapture, or "Pre-Trib" theory. Those who accept this theory believe the Rapture will happen just before the tribulation period.

The Rapture will usher in the final seven years of this age. True followers of Jesus Christ will be transformed into their spiritual bodies in the Rapture and taken from the Earth to be in Heaven with God. Non-believers will be left behind to face severe tribulation as the antichrist prepares to take his place as the Beast half way through the seven year period.

According to this view, non-believers will still come to accept Christ, in spite of the absence of the Church during this time. However, these new Christians will endure extreme persecution.

POST-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

Another popular view is known as the Post-Tribulation Rapture, or "Post-Trib" theory.

Those who accept this theory believe that Christians will remain on the Earth as witnesses during the seven year tribulation period, until the very end of this age. According to this view, believers will be protected from the terrible wrath of God and predicted to be raptured at the end of the seven years.

MID-TRIBULATION RAPTURE

A less popular view is known as the Mid-Tribulation Rapture, or "Mid-Trib" theory. Those who accept this perspective believe that Christians will be taken from the Earth to be in Heaven with God at some point during the middle of the seven year period of tribulation.

Whichever view you hold on to according to Paul's teaching in 1 Thess 4:13-18 believers will always be with the Lord (v17), whether we die before the second coming, or are still alive on earth when He comes. There will be a reunion with those who have already died. Therefore, Paul ended with an exhortation to encourage one another with these words (v18). Teaching on the second coming should always bring hope and encouragement to believers, rather than fear and confusion.

The word "tribulation" is a translation of the Greek word "thlipsis" and mean, "pressure, affliction, anguish, burden, persecution, tribulation or trouble". In the New Testament it is used over forty times, and in these places it refers to persecution or suffering which is currently experienced by believers, rather than describing a particular period of suffering in the future.

Paul told the believers in Galatia, "It is through many persecutions (thlipsis) that we must enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22), and warned the Thessalonians that they will suffer persecution (thlipsis) (1 Thess 3:4). Jesus also warned his disciples that in the world you face persecution (thlipsis) (Jn 16:33). Paul wrote that we boast in our sufferings (thipsis) (Rom 5:3). Each of these passages is describing a current experience, rather than a distinct future period of history.

Whether one goes through the Great Tribulation depends on which view one holds regarding the rapture theory.

Whichever view one holds, be ready for Christ's return and remain faithful to Him to the end.

Fried Chilli Paste (Sambal Goreng)

By Katherine How



Ingredients:

- 60 gms dried red chillies
- 100 gms garlic
- 200 gms shallots
- 300 gms onion
- 100 gms sugar
- 20 gms salt
- 10 gms shrimp paste (belacan – toasted; optional)
- 20 gms tamarind paste mix with 5 tbs water (strained)
- ½ cup cooking oil
- 10 kaffir lime leaves (optional)









Method:

1. Remove seeds from the dried chillies, then soak in hot water for 15 minutes to soften the chilies.
2. In a food processor or blender: blend together dried chillies, garlic, shallots, onions, toasted shrimp paste with a bit of water into a fine paste.
3. Transfer the paste to a wok or frying pan. Cook the paste on medium high until the paste becomes thicker and drier (to evaporate the water as much as possible before adding oil to prevent splattering). Stir frequently to avoid burning.
4. Transfer the paste into a bowl.
5. Add oil into the wok and kaffir lime leaves. Add the chilli paste and cook for 5 minutes. Stir to mix well.
6. Reduce the heat to medium low. Cook for another 20 minutes or until the oil starts to separate from the chilli paste. Stir frequently.
7. Add sugar, salt and tamarind juice. Cook until everything has been incorporated into chili paste. You can adjust salt, sugar and tamarind to taste.
8. Turn off heat. Let the chilli paste cool, and then transfer to glass jar to store. If not used immediately, store in fridge for up to 1 week. It's advisable to freeze for longer storage.

The chilli paste can be used to make egg, anchovies or prawn sambal

HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | May – Aug 2017



English Church Camp
1-3 Jun



Hear & Obey Seminar with Bishop Dante & Cynthia
14-16 Jul



Time with Ps Dato' Dr Daniel Ho
26-27 Aug



BAPTISM
Zoe Jiwani, Chia Ah Loy, Ow Wei En, Yong Zhi Yue
11 Jun



MISSIONS TRIP
Indonesia Mission Trip
18 Mar



WEDDING
Justin Tan & Wan Mei Yee **6 May**
Benjamin Lau & Jamie Teh **1 Jul**



NEW BIRTH
Angela Leong Yong Ai daughter of Dato' Steve & Datin Elsa Leong
5 May

COMING EVENTS | Sep-Dec 2017

Leaders Retreat	**31 Aug – 2 Sep**
Missions Convention	**23-24 Sep**
LLH Kindy Graduation Concert	**14 Oct**
China Mission Trip	**12-23 Oct**
Baptism Sunday	**26 Nov**
Keng Youth Camp	**27-30 Nov**
Christmas Celebrations	**Dec**

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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