

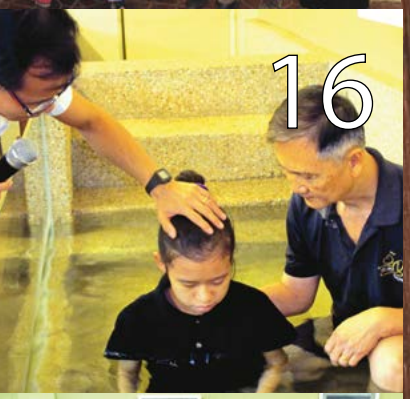
voiceofhope

the newsletter | Sept - Dec 2017

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Dear Reader,

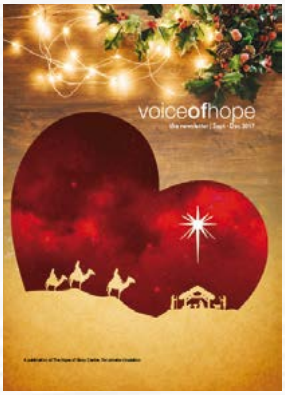
The spirit of Christmas is love! For God so loved us that He gave us His greatest Gift – His Only Son, Jesus Christ.

Thus, Jesus took the greatest step from heaven to earth; to be the greatest sacrifice; to pay the greatest price to bridge the greatest gulf between holy God and sinful man; to offer the greatest pardon for sin and the greatest restoration of man back to God; and to establish His greatest kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!



This is the greatest news of the greatest love! Is there any love greater?

The essence of Christmas is not in the presents we receive, but in the Presence of Christ and His love in us. This Christmas, may we celebrate His love and presence! And, spread it around.



The Greatest Love

This issue is filled with wonderful testimonies and stories of God's love in the lives of different individuals. You will find these testimonies in pages 40-45



In 2017, our church has been emphasising a lot more on making disciples. Ruth Lee writes on four marks of a disciple of Christ in her article, Disciples Please Stand Up, on page 28. Read about how the disciples in Yunnan are doing after 20 ministry trips over a period of 18 years in pages 6-9. HGC has also been making effort on one to one discipleship. Be encouraged by the testimonies of those who went through a 7-8 week discipleship time, pages 36-39.

Enjoy every article in this issue and give out the VOH as gifts to family & friends. Surely they will be blessed and encouraged.



Spreading His Love,

VOH Team



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Why We Ought To Believe In The Gospel?

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor



THE word GOSPEL means good news.

One day when entering his office, the CEO was greeted by his receptionist, "Good morning Sir!" To that he said, "What's good about the morning?"

Today we have a lot of bad news. Things are not going well. Problems, problems and more problems! Problems at home, at work, in school, in the community, in our nation and in the world! So what good news is there and what difference will it make for me?

The word Gospel appeared about 100 times in the Bible. It is often described with an adjective added to it. For example; the Gospel of the Kingdom, the Gospel of Christ, the Gospel of God, the Gospel of His Son, the Gospel of Peace, the Gospel of the grace of God and the Gospel of the glory of Christ. This Gospel was proclaimed by Jesus and then by His followers. Jesus has instructed His disciples to proclaim this Gospel to the ends of the world to all peoples.

Why do we need the Gospel?

If we are hit with a disease, that's bad news. But when there is a cure and the cure is free, that's Good News!

If we are lured into something harmful that get us bound and trapped, that's bad news. But when our wrong decisions can be reversed and we can start all over again, that's Good News!

If we feel powerless to overcome weaknesses in our lives, that's bad news. But if we can be infused with the ability to overcome, that's Good News!

If we see the injustice, corruption and evil in our world growing worse by the day, that's bad news. But when we know that it's all going to end and evil will be banished, that's Good News!

If we are grieved by the passing away of our loved ones and have no certainty of where they have gone and of seeing them again, that's bad news. But if we know for certain that they have gone to heaven and that we will see them again, that's Good news!

This is the Gospel!

The Good News is that there is healing from the disease of sin; our wrongs can be wiped out and we can start again with a clean slate; we can receive power to overcome evil and weaknesses in our lives; the evil in our world will come to an end; righteousness will prevail in our world; there is a heaven that we can be certain that we will go there when we die.

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, Jesus to be the Saviour of the world. This is the Christmas story, the Good News! That's the reason we should celebrate Christmas for Christmas is the announcement of the Gospel!

Luke 2

8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

This Jesus is God who chose to enter this world as a man born through the virgin Mary, and became for us the perfect and sinless Saviour. He proclaimed the Good News and He demonstrated it when He healed the sick, cast out demons, raised the dead and forgave sinners. He then went on to accomplish the greatest victory for mankind by His death on the cross, burial, resurrection and ascension to heaven having overcome sin, death, the flesh (man's sinful nature) and the world (fallen and filled with lusts and pride).

Jesus offers His victory and His resurrected life as a gift to all who would believe and accept Him. And all who believe and receive Him will have a new life. This new life is about new relationships. First, we have become children of God. God is now our Father and He loves us His children; provides for us, guides us, teaches us and so forth. This new life brings us abundant blessings from Him right now; forgiveness, healing, goodness, faith, wisdom, love, joy and peace. With these blessings we are a blessing to our families, communities and nations. That's not all; this new life is not only for now but is eternal. It is forever and glorious in heaven when we pass from here.

How should we respond to the Gospel?

We just have to believe in the Gospel and we will receive the free gift of Christ's life – His resurrected, victorious and eternal life. This gift is not a "thing" but a life! To believe in the Gospel is to receive His life; initially like a seed, like a new born babe. And so to believe in the Gospel also means that we will continue to grow in our new life like a baby that keeps on growing till maturity.

Every child of God has the potential to grow unto maturity to be like Christ; to be like Him in character, in purpose and in works. The Gospel is not for us to just get a "passport" so that we can go to heaven when we die. It is for us to become children of God who will grow in our relationships with Him; growing in love, in wisdom, in faith, in humility, in courage, in faithfulness and in every aspect of life.

It is also growing in the service of God, wanting to do His will and serve His purposes just like Jesus. The finale of the Gospel is that Jesus has been crowned King of kings and Lord of lords, exalted to the highest place of honour, authority and rule. And all who believe in Him and submit to His Lordship or Headship have become His people who share His life, authority and destiny. We are called to have life in Him and to rule and reign with Him on earth! Wow!!! This is the amazing, wonderful and awesome blessing, privilege and honour of believing in the Gospel of Christ!

CERTAINLY EVERY PERSON OUGHT TO BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL!

And all who have believed in the Gospel ought to share it and preach it! No wonder we are called to proclaim it to the ends of the earth. How can we who have been blessed by this Gospel keep quiet about it? This GOSPEL is the GREATEST AND BEST NEWS OF ALL! If we are quiet about it, it means we have not understood NOR know the scope of the Gospel!

So as I wish you a blessed Christmas, I pray that we all will come to a much greater and deeper appreciation of the GOSPEL that began 2000 years ago when the angels first jubilantly, joyfully and loudly proclaimed it!

JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD HAS COME!



More reflection along Yunnan's ethnic corridor

By Chan Tham Seng



WE came under some pressure during the Oct 12-23 Lugu Lake trip and this was not due to the 19th Communist Party Congress in Beijing. Security in public places in Yunnan has always been tight ever since a terrorist attack at Kunming Train Station in March 2014.

Somehow we felt this could be our last ministry trip to the Lugu Lake hence the pressure to end it well. The Lugu Lake ministry started in Aug 1999 involving some 20 trips. This time we had no specific plan to hold training for our believers though we prepared for all eventualities including, as always, sharing gospel with the locals.

Esther desired for, among other things, open doors to engage the lama monks at Zhamei Lamasery in Yongning. Our son Chien Lit, joining us for the first time in China missions, had perhaps wanted to see how we "do ministry" in Yunnan. I was ready to flow with the Spirit and also to tighten up some loose ends for writing purposes.

For that, we were not disappointed: God gave us meaningful encounters with the Gelugpa (or Yellow-Hat) lamas including a "Living Buddha". Gelugpa is the most widespread of the four main Buddhist schools of Tibet, land of occult rites and other mystics.

At the Lijiang Passenger Terminal, I engaged a wine-robed young lama in conversation. He turned out to be a Tibetan returning to a Gelugpa lamasery in Shangri-La, north of Lijiang. From there, the 21 year-old Gerong Nima would shortly leave for a five-month study at India's Dharamsala where the Gelugpa's supreme leader Dalai Lama resides as an exile. Soon our conversation turned to Jesus and Gerong Nima listened and gladly accepted a gospel VCD from us. In return, he presented us three pieces of white scarf (hada) expressing his respect and good wishes.

At Lugu Lake we journeyed northeast to Zhemei Lamasery of Yongning Township. The Zhemei Lamasery is nostalgic to us. In April 2007, Esther and I did a 7-round prayer walk outside the temple and led young lamas Lobsang Jiba, 21 and Songna Pincong, 17 to Jesus (VOH Apr-Jun 2007). The next day at Zhemei we witnessed a spiritual manifestation of violent wind and blizzard. In October 2009, we ran into some problem with the Yongning police (VOH Oct-Dec 2009).

In May 2011 Zhemei's head abbot, a Living Buddha by the name of Luosang Yishi passed away at 82. A Living Buddha (or tulku) is said to be a reincarnate custodian of a specific lineage of leadership in Tibetan Buddhism. A person so verified (and approved by local authorities) as the reincarnation (often while as a toddler) is believed to possess divine empowerment and will undergo special training at a young age to be the next Living Buddha.



The Living Buddha who succeeded Luosang is a local Mosuo by the name of Guangjia Yixi. Upon arriving at Zhemei, all the young lamas were in training in Kunming and a Zhemei caretaker suggested that we meet Guangjia. We gladly complied though we had no gift for the Living Buddha and knew nothing about the protocol involved. Guangjia, a tall man in his 50s, appeared equally casual as he received us in his small room crowded with colourful artefacts behind a cloth curtain.

Initially, the Living Buddha was at ease and offered us three cans of walnut drinks as we exchanged niceties. We told him we were Malaysian Christians involved in a modest way in helping poor students in the Lugu Lake area. Guangjia told us that Zhemei too was active in community ministries including supporting some 400 students following the Wenchuan quake in Sichuan. When Esther switched the conversation to Jesus being the only way to save mankind from sins, the Living Buddha appeared baffled and offended.

Esther's statements on salvation through God's only begotten Son probably sounded strange to him. His monastic trainings tell him that all Tibetan Lamas have their sins cancelled through the merits of religious practices and are assured of liberation and rebirth. As a Living Buddha himself, he just has to wait for his time to reincarnate in the body of a child as his successor.

In his displeasure, perhaps, Guangjia blurted out that he knew the people of "lianghui"or the "two committees" which oversees all activities of Christian and Catholic churches in


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Jsut Dolt.







Photo Caption

1. *Langfang becoming a tourist village today*
2. *Corn harvesting season is on everywhere*
3. *Gerong Nima becomes our friend since our Lijiang encounter*
4. *Esther and Chien Lit talking with Enci Gexi*
5. *Prayer of blessing over Chunyan*
6. *With La Zhimeng, eldest son of La Laoshi*
7. *Pipe-smoking Yi woman in Yongning*
8. *Chunyan prepared us a rich chicken stew*
9. *Zuosuo school girls like Esther's gospel*
10. *Ministering prayer over Chunyan's father*
11. *Chunxiu and Chunyan with the third child*
12. *Visiting Bima's parents in Touzhi Village*
13. *Esther returning to Zhemei Lamasery*
14. *Solar recorder outside Gedengzi Lamasery*
15. *Wife of La laoshi, the late Mongolian Prince*
16. *Chunhua rents out bicycles in Langfang*







China. He was probably hinting that he could make our stay in Yongning unpleasant. I don't doubt that, for I've been told that some lamas are police informants on Christian activities in Yongning.

Nevertheless, our brief encounter with the Zhemei's Living Buddha was a worthwhile experience. Our next experience at the Gedengzi Lamasery in Luoshui was both pleasant and encouraging.

We had visited the hillside Gedengzi complex on two occasions previously. A new cement track now weaves through a pine forest leading to the lamasery. This gives the temple a panoramic view of Luoshui Village and the Lugu Lake. At Gedengzi, we had the rare chance of meeting its grand lama who signed off his name as Enci Gexi.

Gexi is a monastic conferment equivalent to a masters or doctorate degree in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy and theology. Whenever possible, a Gelugpa lamasery is headed by a gexi holder who is responsible to train the novices.

When we arrived at Gedengzi, the 45 year old Enci was having his morning devotion all alone in the big hall of the newly built main temple. He was seated cross-legged on raised platform reciting sutras spread on low table in front of him. At the courtyard, still devoid of flowers and blossoming vines, several solar-driven recorders were playing non-stop the familiar mantra: Om Mane Padme Hom.

Enci, who must have noticed Esther and Chien Lit loitering outside, invited them into the hall and, in the course of conversation, made a profound statement: "I am learning about Buddhism, not worshipping Buddha."

He became interested as Esther explained, by the Chinese character Yi, how one becomes righteous by the blood of the lamb. Enci asked if all must confess their sins with Jesus. Throughout the one hour dialogue, Enci displayed spirit of humility and wisdom. He accepted a copy of bible and Story of Jesus as parting gifts and invited us for future visits.

The encounters with the lamas were bonuses to the joy of ministering to our Lugu Lake believers. We could not meet them all: a harvesting season and other stresses of life keep them busy. Lugu Lake, Lijiang, Zuosuo and Yongning where our believers reside today continue to pose challenges to their daily walk with Jesus. Some update:

- In Langfang Village: Our earliest believers Yang Chunxiu and cousin sister Yang Chunyan are mothers of 3 kids today. Both remain faithful after 18 years and request prayer for better ties with husbands Yang Zhiyong and Zhang Chunsheng respectively.

- Chunyan and sister Chunqing show good spirit of gratitude and generosity. They are also playing peace-maker role over strained relationship between believers.

- They evangelise on personal level: Chunxiu led Qiongci Zhouma to Jesus; Zhouma led family members and a former schoolmate Hu Hezhen to Chirst. Chunyan and Chunqing led primary school teacher Chen Laoshi to the Lord.

- In Luoshui: Chunqing works with a travel agency and asks for prayer as she was planning to marry non-believer Deng Ping.

- In Zuosuo: We visited residence of Last Mosuo Queen at Duoshe Village, bastion of "Black Lamaism". Ministered to La Zhimeng, one of the 11 family members who accepted Jesus previously (VOH Apr-Jun /Oct-Dec 2009).

- In Zuosuo Township, Esther shared gospel with 4 high school girls who showed interest and accepted gospel materials.

- In Yongning: Visited home of believer Yang Bima at Tuozhi Village. Bima is now married with a child living in another township. Her Mosuo father and Tibetan mother were excited at our visit.



In 1999 when HGC decided to focus on Lugu Lake for cross-cultural ministry, a veteran missionary felt that we should choose an "easier" target. The main reason, as I realise today, is that Lugu Lake sits in the Big Triangle at the intersection of Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces. The site is known to scholars as an ethnic corridor where Tibetan culture predominates. The presence of spiritual forces against the gospel is still real.

A recent count indicates that some 80 students and adults have come to Jesus after 20 ministry trips spanning over 18 years. Not so many, perhaps, but a worthwhile investment! All praises to God and the church for prayer support!



Pastors' Conference in Bangalore

India Mission Trip 23 Oct – 1 Nov 2017

As Wise Master Builder

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

THE main goal for this mission trip to India was to minister in two Pastors' Conferences in Bangalore and Nandi Hill with the theme - AS A WISE MASTER BUILDER – 1 Cor 3:10.

Chin Nee and I arrived in Bangalore on Tue, 24 Oct. just past midnight. (Timothy and Ruth arrived a day later.) We took a cab to the hotel and as we were checking in at the front desk, Ps Daniel's car pulled up in front of the hotel with Sis Lata, after 9 long hours on the road from Hyderabad. What perfect timing!

That same day, later in the morning, the two days Pastors' Conference in Bangalore began. About 40 pastors attended. It was held in a church situated on the second floor above a shop lot along a very busy and noisy road. We were very encouraged to see the humility and unity of these pastors who had such hunger for God and for the building of His Kingdom.

After completing the Bangalore conference, we travelled about 30 km to a village church in Nandi Hill to conduct the second two days Pastors' conference where another 40 pastors and leaders, mainly from the villages, participated.

As we were about the Lord's business, we were very much aware of His enabling, leading, provision and protection. He gave us appropriate and anointed messages. We flowed perfectly as one team, together with Sis Lata and Ps Daniel, with our varied gifts and experiences. Indeed the Lord is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.

Through the conferences, the pastors were encouraged, envisioned and equipped by the Lord to continue building His church. At the end of the two conferences, many pastors came forward to testify as to how the ministry of the Word and Spirit had motivated and strengthened them.

Overall it was a most inspiring and edifying time. For us who went to serve we were more blessed. The church in India is indeed advancing forward despite the persecutions and challenges they are facing. Each of the pastors whom we had the pleasure of getting to know had stories to tell of God's amazing work in their lives and ministries.

Undergirding our mission trip was the daily morning prayers we had together; worshipping, reading the Bible, praying and interceding as directed by the Word and the Spirit. We were very conscious of His presence and power enabling us in all we did.



Pastors enjoying lunch break in the open

Sis Lata and Ps Daniel have many ministries and responsibilities; and we are inspired by their zeal to see His Kingdom come and His will done in India. They have obeyed the Great Commission and sacrificed much to fulfill it as directed by the Holy Spirit. As we partner with them to build His people, we trust that the Lord will cause what we have sown in His name to be fruitful and multiply.

We pray that all the pastors will continue to build their lives, their families and their churches as wise master builders, building upon the ONE and ONLY SURE FOUNDATION which is JESUS CHRIST THE LORD OF ALL!



Ps Khor praying for orphans from Grace Homend



Ruth & Timothy ministering in Pentecostal Central Church



Pastors at the conference eager to learn



Ruth & Timothy ministering in Pentecostal Central Church



SIBU

Sibu Mission Trip 27-29 Oct 2017

A Trip Like None By Loke Wai Keng

Youth preparing for drama

CALVIN, Daniel, Christina, Jane, Melody and Wai Keng made up the team to Sibu in answering the request by Ps Shin to help conduct an Iban Youth Camp. For Daniel and I this was our maiden trip to Sibu while the rest had been there either to the long houses or helping youth in the Mission Home.

Getting the attention and cooperation of over 80 youths from different villages was no easy task, but through the highly action packed and competitive ice breakers, the youth began to feel at ease with each other. They displayed so much creativity and team spirit especially in the drama presentation acting out different Bible stories to bring out the lessons they had learnt.



Exhaustive outdoor games



Praying for deeper hunger

We went by faith, not knowing what to expect but trusting the Lord to work through us. We offered four different workshops with youth interests in mind. Topics like "how to manage your finances", "discovering your spiritual gifts" and others, were offered to help them plan for their future. Surprisingly they participated with eagerness.

Four of us taught on different topics with the goal that they



Happy campers

would encounter God. By the grace of God and His anointing we saw each topic like a layer laid upon each other building to the climax where they were challenged to a greater commitment to God by walking in the Spirit. During the ministry time we saw over 90 percent of the youth responding and were ministered to. We also witnessed a handful of the youth receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with new tongues.

The trip created an awareness of how future trips to Sibu can be more intentional in discipling the Iban youth so that they can disciple their community in the long houses. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the people. We hope through this partnership with Ps Shin, members of HGC can venture out to serve the Lord as He directs



A night of encounter – Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit



KUALA TRENGGANU

New Life Fellowship Centre – A Beacon of Light & Hope in KT

By HGC team

WE were so blessed to be invited to minister at the New Life Fellowship Centre, Kuala Trengganu, from 19 to 20 Oct 2017. A convoy of two cars made its way there for a time of prayer and ministry in the church. For many of us, it was our very first time stepping foot into this city.

Many sincere thanks to Katherine How for helping us to make this trip a reality. We also wish to record our thanks to Elder Lin and Siew Lee for their warm hospitality. Special thanks also to Samuel and Elizabeth for arranging all the logistics. To all prayer warriors at HGC – Thank you for praying for us.

Ruth Lew

During Thursday prayers, I saw a huge angel with a drawn fiery sword standing guard over it, protecting it. The church must not close its doors. God has planted it for a purpose. The prayer group may be small but the fire they make in this place is big.

I also saw a huge lighthouse looming up from where the church was located and beams of light shining/piercing all over the darkness at KT. There are people to be saved in this city and this church has been planted for this purpose.

The worship was excellent and the message which God gave me for the church touched many people. Many responded to the altar call with tears in their eyes.

Michelle Liew

God gave me the word 'revival' for the church.

Jo Liew

During prayer meeting on Thursday, I saw children. The Lord said they are important to Him. During worship dance, I

sensed the need to bow down. When I stood up, I noticed some church members kneeling at the altar too. I could feel the awesome presence of the Lord.

Jeanette Chan

I saw a dove with an olive leaf in its beak symbolizing the Holy Spirit.

Amy Lim

On Thursday night I saw a mighty river of God flowing in the church. During the altar call on Friday, a young man stepped forward asking me to pray for him. I perceived that he was not a Christian. God stirred me to share the Gospel with him and he accepted Christ.

Yap Yuet Ching

I could sense that God was very pleased with the faithfulness and steadfastness of the leaders in this church. A lady came up to me for prayer. She was having migraine and having all kinds of fears. As I prayed for her, she broke down in tears.

Katherine How

Ruth's message to the church "They had been with Jesus" was very timely. It ministered to the people. God does not want us to look down on those who are uneducated or untrained. What is more important to the Lord is that we have been with Him.

The word I received for the church during the prayer meeting was from Gal 6:9-10, "Do not be weary in doing good especially to those of the same household of faith." Persevere and do not give up building this place as a spiritual stronghold for the Lord!

Sebastian Goh

I thank God for the team that came to NLFC, my home town church. The anointing of God was so strong during the worship and it set many free. The message was simple yet profound. My friend Tan got saved during the altar call.

Sincere thanks to all members of the team who chose to come all the way from KL to bless us with their intercession, worship, message and prophetic word. You have all done a great work for the glory of God!



Many came forward for prayer and ministry.





Walk In Newness Of Life

By Alice Chan

I can say that I do not consider myself born into a Christian family although my mother is a believer. She often told Bible stories to my sister and I and taught us who the living God is. Therefore, since young, we have come to know about Jesus Christ through her. She also taught us to be godly and righteous. Every night, we have our devotion together. However, personally, I did not seek God's help often although I go to church every weekend.



Alice Chan

I am an introvert who is quite shy and very quiet. I do not know how to express myself. This can cause people to misunderstand me and be offended by me. I have some friends but we seldom talk. In August 2016, I offended a few friends because of my expression and attitude. As a result our friendships broke. They started to ignore me and seldom mixed with me. Our misunderstanding lasted a year. At that time, I always felt miserable, alone and lacked confidence.

Each time when baptism classes were announced in church, my mother would always talk to me about it and ask for my decision. I did not know how to reply her because I was not ready for baptism. I even began to have doubts about baptism.

Thank God a Scripture verse impacted my heart. "Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life."(Roms 6:4 KJV) This verse helped me to realise that through baptism my old nature is buried with Christ, and I rise to a new life with a new nature just as Christ rose up from the dead.

One day, I joined my mother's Life Group. Aunty Jo Liew taught us during the LG meeting that we must be converted and be cleansed. The passage and lesson taken from John 2 spoke to me. My mother advised me to be baptised.

Because of the Scripture verses and encouragement, I decided to receive Christ as my Lord and Saviour and be baptised.

Finally, I went for four baptism classes every Sunday starting from Oct 15. Brother Calvin Lim taught us the baptism lessons. I began to seek God's help. It has been good after seeking His help. My friends have forgiven me and I promised not to do what I did before. I felt glad and happy that my confidence has begun to build up again.

Praise God on 26 Nov 2017 I was baptised.

God Is Real

By Alicia Joy

My name is Alicia Joy and I am 12 years old. I was born into a Christian family, so I grew up believing in God. I didn't exactly realize how powerful God is until He started talking to me; literal whispers in my ear when I was younger. The whispers soon stopped, but then God began filling me with the Holy Spirit during worship sessions in my school. At that moment I decided to put my faith to the test and prayed to God, asking for something very specifically. Although not all my prayers have been answered yet, I know that my faith is anchored only onto Jesus the Rock!



Alicia Joy

Earlier this year, I decided to stop going to Children Church. I felt that God wanted me to grow closer to Him, and going to Children Church was just going to keep my relationship with God at one level. I wanted to go to the next level, so I joined Keng Youth. I have not once regretted my decision! 2017 is a year of new beginnings for me. So, I did not hesitate when my mom asked me if I wanted to get baptized. I hope that after this, I will grow closer to God and extend His Kingdom reign.

All glory to God!

I Choose To Follow Jesus

By Yaaswini (Wini)

My name is Wini. I am 13 years old and the youngest in my family. I became a Christian at the age of 5 when Aunty Ruth and Uncle Tim Lew came to visit us at the request of Ps Victor of Sunbeams.

At the first meeting, they shared how Jesus died on the cross to reconcile us to God. They shared that there was a gulf between man and God and that gulf was sin. Jesus came to close that gulf by taking our sins upon Himself, thus opening the way for us to return to God. We learnt that Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life and to believe in Him is not only to have eternal life but also to have an abundant life on earth!

My whole family including me prayed the sinner's prayer to invite Jesus into our hearts when we heard the wonderful message. Joy and peace filled our hearts after we responded to the gospel and our whole family started attending HGC after that.

At the request of Aunty Ruth and Uncle Timothy, we agreed to open our house for Life Group and that was when we saw the blessings of God start to flow. God gave us much needed furniture to fill our bare and empty house such as a sofa, beds, a fridge and even a car for my mum to drive us around. My mum later got a job at Sunbeams.



Yaaswini (Wini)

More blessings flowed; my elder brother got a good job at a tour company and my second brother got a place in a local college to do skills training. God also blessed one of my sisters with a place in a local university whilst my second sister won many awards as a state sprinter. God's blessings have not ceased to flow in my family ever since we came to know Jesus!

I am so full of joy and peace. God's love and faithfulness has been so real to me and my family. I really enjoyed the baptism classes as I got to learn a lot about Jesus and what He has done for me on the cross. The lessons opened up my eyes to many things I did not know about. I am inspired to follow Jesus' example in water baptism.

His blessings have never ceased since we came to know Jesus!

The Right Thing To Do

By Yohanes Mark

My name is Yohanes. I am 14 years old. I thank God for my grandmother who taught me the Scriptures when I was young. I accepted Jesus because of her. However, I came to know Jesus as my Lord and Saviour when I acknowledged that He died for my sins and when I encountered Him personally. I felt His help during difficult times in my life. When I was sick, I called upon Him and He healed my pain. His joy was renewed in my times of sorrow.
I have decided to be baptized because it is the right thing to do as a follower of God. I want to identify myself with Christ and His death.

I know I still have a long way to grow but I am proud to be a Christian.



Yohanes





How Can We Love Our Country

By Ruth Lee

THE Malaysia Day celebration at Metro Tabernacle on 16 Sept 2017 was full of joy and Spirit-filled. The glory of God was so strong and tangible in our midst.

Worship was truly in spirit and in truth as we stood in unity with our hands raised together with people from different churches. The shofar blowers, the dancers and the choir were dressed in traditional costumes of the various races in our nation. As the flag bearers marched in with the flags of the 14 states and took their places on the stage, the strains of Negaraku could be heard and we sang it wholeheartedly (and prophetically for our nation).

NECF had invited Bishop Efraim Tendero, Secretary-General of the World Evangelical Alliance to deliver one of the keynote address. Here is a summary of his lovely and inspiring message.

Message summary

As Christians we are commanded to love our country because God gave this country for us to live in. He chose it for us since the time we were born. Thus, being Malaysians is indeed God's will for us.

Acts 17:26 states, "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings."

In Rom 13:1, Paul commanded us to be subject to the governing authorities for there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Although there are times that civil disobedience may be allowed, Christians are generally to respect authority. We may not like a person in power but we still need to respect them for the position they hold. In fact during Paul's time, the emperor Nero was in power and he was wicked and murderous having killed his stepbrother, his mother, his first wife and his second wife!

Bishop Efraim then gave us 10 practical principles on how to love our country:

1. Learn the history of our nation.
2. Treasure the symbols of the nation – flag, national anthem, flower (among others).
3. Talk positively of our country – look at the bright side of the nation. Give thanks for all the good things.
4. Seek solutions to the problems.
5. Obey the laws of the land (so long as we are not asked to dishonor God).
6. Respect those who are in authority.
7. Be an asset to the nation.
8. Be a good steward of our resources. Look for ways and means to do our part to take care of our environment and natural resources.
9. Seek the transformation of our nation.
10. Pray for our nation.

We then broke into groups to pray for three areas – Revival in the Word for the churches in our nation, GE 14 and peace and security in the light of ISIS threats to our nation.

Finally, we stood up to make a pledge of the Rukun Negara reciting the 5 principles with our hand to our heart. We pledge to have faith in God, to be loyal to king and country, to uphold the sanctity of the constitution and to be courteous and respectful of others.

It was a fitting finale to the nationwide 40-day prayer & fasting 2017!

I'll Always Be There For You

By Author Unknown



IN the country of Armenia, in December 7, 1988, Samuel and Danielle sent their young son, Armand, off to school. Samuel squatted before his son and looked him in the eye. "Have a good day at school, and remember, no matter what, I'll always be there for you." They hugged and the boy ran off to school.

Hours later, a powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake rocked the area. In the midst of the pandemonium, Samuel and Danielle tried to discover what happened to their son but they couldn't get any information. The radio announced that there were thousands of casualties. Samuel then grabbed his coat and headed for the schoolyard. When he reached the area, what he saw brought tears to his eyes. Armand's school was a pile of debris. Other parents were standing around crying.

Samuel found the place where Armand's classroom used to be and began pulling a broken beam off the pile of rubble. He then grabbed a rock and put it to the side, and then grabbed another one.

One of the parents looking on asked, "What are you doing?" "Digging for my son," Samuel answered. The man then said, "You're just going to make things worse! The building is unstable," and tried to pull Samuel away from his work.

Samuel just kept working feverishly. As time wore on, one by one, the other parents left. Then a worker tried to pull Samuel away from the rubble. Samuel looked at him and said, "Won't you help me?" The worker left and Samuel kept digging.

All through the night, Samuel dug. Parents placed flowers and pictures of their children on the ruins. But, Samuel just kept working alone. With strength and endurance beyond himself, the faithful and loving father continued digging... for 8 hours...12... 24... 36 hours. Then, as he heaved away a heavy piece of rubble, he heard a faint cry. "Help! Help!"

"Armand!" Samuel screamed. He listened but didn't hear anything again. Then he heard a muffled voice, "Papa? It's me, Armand."

Samuel began to dig furiously. Finally, he could see his son. "Come on out, son!" he said with relief.

With strength and endurance beyond himself, the faithful and loving father continued digging... for 8 hours...12... 24... 36 hours.

"No," Armand said. "Let the other kids come out first because I know you'll get me." Child after child emerged until, finally, little Armand appeared. Samuel took him in his arms and Armand said, "I told the other kids not to worry because you told me that you'd always be there for me!"

Fourteen children were saved that day because one father was faithful.

How much more faithful and loving is our Heavenly Father who has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Heb 13:5b)

Whether trapped by fallen debris of sin and condemnation, or ensnared by life's hardships and struggles, you are never cut off from His faithfulness. He will always be there for you. He is true to His character. He is reliable and trustworthy and can always be counted on.

In fact, He has made the greatest effort and sacrifice to save your soul from eternal destruction through His one and only Son, Jesus. He is reaching out to rescue you, no matter what your troubles may be.

Reach out to Him with simple faith, believe in Jesus and let Him help you and save you.

Kingdom At War: A King's Pursuit of Peace

By Justin Yong



THIS story is told about a kingdom in a distant land — a kingdom where her king and people resided together during a time of peace. The king was a perfect king, who was perfect both in his glory and majesty. He had ruled over his kingdom with two royal sceptres — the first, a sceptre of love and and the second, of justice. The king does not depart from each of his sceptres, for if he did, he would cease to be perfect in his kingship.

There were no wars in this kingdom, no famine, because the people lived looking after the interests of their fellow countrymen. The people saw to the needs of the kingdom — taking only what they needed, and never what they wanted for themselves. As the people revered their king, and submitted to his sceptres of love and justice, peace prevailed in the kingdom.

This kingdom had a general, who similarly also submitted to the king's rule of love and justice. He abided by the king's instruction during his reign, serving faithfully as his trusted general.

Nonetheless, the desire for power corrupted the general's conscience. He wanted for himself the majesty and glory of the king. In his attempts to up seat the king, the general poisoned the hearts and minds of the people against each other; and ultimately against their king. He took armies of soldiers and burnt crops, accusing the king of not looking after his people's needs and welfare. He told the people to hoard for themselves, declaring that the king was no longer in control. He told them they now knew better, they were wiser and that they were better equipped to lead their own lives independent of their king. Ultimately, he told them that the king could not be trusted.

Succumbing to the lies of the general, the people subsequently abandoned their king and came under the rule of the devious general. They sought a new way to live amongst themselves — where each man lived for his own and did what was right in their own eyes. As each man's heart was deceived with pride, they began to enforce authority over their neighbours oppressively. Skirmishes soon descended to fights, fights led to factions that ultimately brought them into a state of war and unrest. The people were not able to hold their own, for they were never meant to live independently of the king's rule — a rule of love and justice.

The king in his grace had taken a step back in complying with their abandoning of his kingship. He knew that as time went on, the people would soon destroy each other in their attempts to preserve their pride and self-centred leadership. Hence, the king desired to re-establish a kingdom for himself.

The king had to him a prince, who in all manner like him, was of royal bloodline. As a descendent of the kingdom, the prince desired reconciliation with the former inhabitants of the kingdom. However, if he wanted to, he would have to leave his nobility, and enter the general's domain and live among the people as one of them, in order to fight against the general and lead the people out. This prince of peace exposed the lies of the general and spoke of his father's kingdom, one where the people would no longer need to strive, and whose rule was governed by love and justice. Flashes of memories returned to the people, who remembered their king who had once loved them.

The general went on an all-out war against the prince to destroy him but the prince prevailed triumphantly.

The people who believed the words of the prince came back to their king, who re-established his kingdom to its former glory. The king thus re-affirmed his rule on the people, who in turn lived in submission to his kingship under the sceptres of love and justice for the rest of their lives.

Christmas Greetings



Merry Christmas from Penang!

By the time you read this, it would have been 3 months since I've been called to serve in YWAM Penang. All is well; rest assured that celebrations are definitely going on about our Saviour Jesus' birth. We are in the season where we are hosting outreach teams coming from all over the world visiting Malaysia for their short term missions. We are also preparing for our own major events, the GO Fest, a short 5 days of equipping youths for missions that happen just a fortnight before Christmas.

Sometimes we forget that Jesus was just simply a Son who loved God, and did whatever God did. Let that be in your thoughts, as you enjoy the end of the year in jubilee and celebration."

With Love from
Ignatius Tien



A Blessed Christmas to All !

Thank you for the support you have given us.

May the blessings and warmth from the Lord be with you all always!

From Us at
Charis Hope Elderly Home



Blessed Birthday LORD JESUS and
a Love-filled Christmas & joyous New Year
to all HGCians and Readers.

From All of Us at
The Little Lighthouse Kindergarten.



"Kamin mengucapkan tahniah dan selamat hari Natal deken igun jemaah gereja Ampang. Semoga Tuhan memberkati gereja dan igun muhai."

Daripadak kamin penduduk
Kg Org Asli Gerachi Jaya

We send Christmas greetings and wishes to all believers at Ampang church. May God's blessings be upon you all at the church.

From us residents of
Orang Asli village at Gerachi Jaya



Greetings!

Christmas is a season of great joy a time for remembering the past and hoping for the future. May the glorious message of peace and love fill you with joy this wonderful season.

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

From
Filipino Ministry



To All HGC members,

Merry Christmas! May the Lord fill you all with His Love, Peace & Joy. May God be glorified and Happy New Year!

From
Ps Daniel & HGC Switzerland



Blessed Christmas to everyone back in HGC!

Pray that God will continue to pour out His blessings as we celebrate His gift of love.

Zachary Yong

Flashback 2017

Building With Love

the BIBLE PROJECT





JANUARY

1 Launching of Bible Project
8 XEE Launch
14 Leaders' Meeting
21 KKB Ministry - First visit to Kg Gerachi in 2017









FEBRUARY

4-5 Seminar with Steve Cioccolanti – Living on the Cutting Edge
11 Celebrating CNY in Kg Gerachi
19 Welcoming new members
26 Sun Service with Ps TT Quah









MARCH

Life Group Emphasis Month
5 VOH Writing Skill Training by Chan Tham Seng
10-12 Sibu Mission Trip
11 KKB Ministry – Baptism of Ita bt Norgi
18 Nicolas Lim & See Shae Lyn's Wedding
19 Baby Dedication – Lucas Jared Tan & Paul Chan
25 HGC 23rd Anniversary
31 HGC Annual General Meeting









JULY

1 Benjamin Lau & Jamie Teh's Wedding
2 Dr Chiu launches her new book with Ps Lee Ping's testimony
7-13 Indonesia Mission Trip
9 John Robb and Lori Robb visit HGC
14-16 Seminar with Bishop Dante & Team - Hear & Obey
16 Bro Sean Lee and family from Shanghai Ministering in Chinese Service and Chinese Worship Team
23 Baptism – Hoh Thien Chow
23 A Call to Disciple Making begins







AUGUST

12-16 Spiritual Retreat @ Cameron Highlands
20 Keng Youth Sunday (Chi)
26-27 Seminar with Ps Daniel Ho – Life Message
31 Leaders' Retreat in Melaka









SEPTEMBER

1-2 Leaders' Retreat in Melaka
3 Filipino Fellowship – First Anniversary
4 New Born- Ho Sze Yuet
9 KKB Sport's day with Keng Youth
10 XEE Graduation
11-15 Sibu Mission Trip
23-24 BCM Team Ministering weekend
24 Commissioning of Ignatius Tien

Building With Love






APRIL

8-16 Ps Daniel & family back for holiday
14 Good Friday Service with Ps Ankia
15-16 Easter Meeting & Easter Service with Ps Andrew Lim
16 Easter Service with Damien Chua
22 KKB Ministry – Cooking Demo & Birthday Celebration



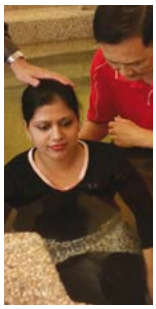




MAY

1 Chinese Service Family Day
6 Justin Tan & Wan Mei Yee's Wedding
14 Mothers' Day
21 CC Training with Ps Lata & Safina Lincoln
27-29 CC Camp






JUNE

1-3 Church Camp – Love Remains
11 Baptism –Zoe Jiwani, Chia Ah Loy, Ow Wei En, Yong Zhi Yue
18 Fathers' Day
18 Ps Linu from UAE ministers in HGC






OCTOBER

7 KKB Baptism – Haida & Kurun
12-23 China Mission Trip
14 LLH Kindy Graduation Concert
15 Children Sunday School Musical Drama Sunday
15 Parenting Talk - Prepare Your Child for the Future by Dr Ng Meng Lek
19-21 Kuala Terengganu Mission Trip
23-31 India Mission Trip
27-29 Sibu Mission Trip




NOVEMBER

3 Keng Youth Sunday
14 Birth of Lucas Chan Hymn Lok
26 Baptism –Yaaswini S, Yohannes Mark, Alicia Joy Prakash Rau, Alice Chan Ai Li, Angy Cheng
27-30 Keng Youth Camp (Eng) @ CheeFoo, Cameron



DECEMBER

2 KKB Christmas Celebration
12-14 Keng Youth Camp (Chi) @ Rumah Methodist, Fraser's Hill
15-17 Healing & Evangelistic Weekend with Ps John Ng
17 Sunday School Children Christmas Celebration
17 Children Church Christmas Celebration
23 Saturday Service Christmas Celebration
23 Filipino Fellowship Christmas Celebration
24 Combine Evangelistic Christmas Celebration

Little Lighthouse Kindy Graduation Concert

Let's Celebrate LOVE

By Mrs Teresa Foong (Principal)

LITTLE LIGHTHOUSE Kindergarten held its annual graduation concert on 14 Oct at HELP-CAT, Fraser Business Park, KL. The theme chosen was "Let's Celebrate Love" which flowed well with the theme of the church "Building with Love." Beautiful and bright heart-shaped balloons were used as décor.

This year there was a very special item in the program - the Parent-Child Dance. The dance was a collaboration of the Kindy with the parents in which we had some parents to dance with their 6-year old children to a medley of songs. It was indeed a beautiful and touching sight, to see daddies holding their little girl's hands, twirling them around and smiling lovingly at them. It was the same with the mommies as they danced with their 6-year old sons, blowing kisses and hugging each other. We believe many loving memories were made that would be remembered for a very long time. In fact, that dance was so touching it brought tears to many that day.

Another thing that made the Graduation Concert Day special were the family selfies or photos that we had the parents sent in to be projected up on the big screen during some performances. I believe many were smiling at the happy pictures of so many happy families. There was just so much 'Love' shown and felt.

The Parenting Talk by speakers Ms Celine Veron Chai and Dr Ng Meng Lek from Singapore was well received by parents. 59 parents registered and attended the talk. Parents are now better informed on, "How to raise healthy, happy and successful children."

We believe the entire Graduation Concert Day went very well – it was truly a great Celebration of Love, thanks to all involved. We had some good feedbacks from parents and church members too. To God be the Glory!

It was indeed a beautiful and touching sight, to see daddies holding their little girl's hands, twirling them around and smiling lovingly at them.







Photo Caption

1 *The talented young MCs.*
2 *I Want to Dance Dance Dance*
3 *Beautiful Colours*
4 *Graduating Class 6-Goodness*
5 *Mommies dancing with their boys*
6 *Dadadada ... 1234, Back 234*
7 *Welcome to 4-Kindness 'Food Paradise'*
8 *Doe a deer, a female deer, Ray a drop of golden sun .....*
9 *Choral Speaking by 6-Year old boys ... 'We love you daddy, mommy*
10 *The talented MC with his distinguished Stormtrooper bodyguard*





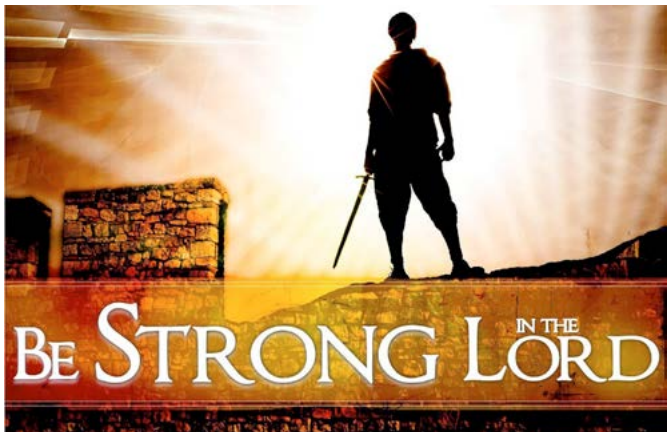






Disciples, Please Stand Up

By Ruth Lee



WHILE reading John aloud during morning watches (we have been reading scriptures aloud since the 40-day prayer and fasting), this verse, John 8:31, suddenly hit me "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My Word, you are my disciples indeed".

Why did Jesus emphasize this to the Jews when they had already believed?

The question then is, "Does believing in Christ make you a disciple?" There can only be one answer to this question, mere belief in Christ does not make you a disciple. You only qualify to be called a "disciple" if you abide in His Word.

It is also interesting that in John 12:42, another group of prominent, rich and very influential believers was mentioned. This group feared to confess Jesus publicly lest they should be put out of the synagogue for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. They were the rulers of the city and house of God. Jesus did not recognize them as disciples. Instead, He put a caveat – they could only be called disciples if they remained or abided in His Word.

I heard this fascinating testimony which was told to me by one of my prayer partners during a morning watch which showed the difference between a convert and a disciple.

"A general had caught some Christians and intended to kill them. However before doing so, he decided to parade them and get them to renounce Christ. After a severe beating, he stripped them naked in the shivering cold and made them stand before him as he himself sat before a table laden with the best kind of food and wine. He also brought piles of warm clothes with him. He taunted them and jeered at them. He then asked them if they wanted to eat the food and to drink the wine. They had to renounce Christ as a pre-condition if not he will let them die in their hunger and in the biting cold.

Suddenly God opened his eyes. He saw many angels descending upon the Christians. The angels carried crowns with them. On those who refused to renounce Christ for the food and the clothes, the angels placed the crown even as they crumpled to the ground and died in the extreme cold. Their spirits then ascended to heaven with the angels that had placed the crowns on their heads.

However, there was one person who was undecided. He was tempted by the clothes and the food. The general saw an angel going up and down above this person, up and down, up and down in tandem with the wavering faith of the Christian. Finally, the angel with the crown took off and left this person alone without crowning him. This was because the person chose to renounce Christ by surging forward to eat the food on the table and to take the warm clothes for himself.

The general believed in Jesus as a result of what he saw and gave up his worldly position to follow Christ and to suffer along with the saints who had died."

I think the answer is clear to us as to who are the disciples and who are not.

There are 4 distinct marks of a disciple:

1. He is a worshiper – a disciple worships Jesus exclusively. He gives his full allegiance to Christ and Christ alone. He sets aside time to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). His prayers and worship rises like incense before God. Worshiping in truth, he spends his time in the study of the Word of God and in fellowship with Jesus - the only way, the truth and the life.

2. He is a servant – a disciple is willing to serve others even if it means to wash the feet of others including the feet of Judas. A true disciple treats those who hate and despise him with the deepest of mercy and love (John 13:14-15).

3. He is a witness and wins others to become like him – a disciple points others to Jesus and makes "copies" of others like him who will follow after Jesus (Matt 28:18-20).

4. He is willing to give his all to Jesus (the highest call of a disciple) – he counts all things loss for the attaining of the riches and glory of his eternal inheritance in Christ. "He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life."(John 12:25)

Are there any disciples out there? Please stand up!

Christmas In The Persecuted Church

By Justin Yong

LOUIS SAKO is a member of the Roman Catholic Church in Baghdad, Iraq. He remembers celebrating Christmas as an occasion of silence and tears. He tells of a Christmas in Iraq where Christians celebrate together in deplorable conditions. He believes that as the situation in his country declines, Christians would continue to be segregated and face exclusion from other communities as a whole.



Significant areas in Iraq continue to be occupied by the ISIS including Mosul and cities in the Nineveh plain. The extremist militants continue to threaten confiscation of homes in Baghdad particularly of Christian homes. As a result, Louis Sako says, since 2014, many Christians have been forced to live in camps, where their needs are only being provided for by the church or civil society. Nonetheless, he says that, "We remain sustained by (an) inner peace that perpetuates the joy of faith and hope that we will, despite the trials, work towards a fairer country and a better future ."



We survey the Christmas experiences of Christians in other areas around the world and find many continue to suffer persecution at different scales. "Voice of Martyrs" in Australia highlights that in Iran, Christmas is celebrated but almost always underground. Iranian families would gather, give thanks, and feast in the secrecy of their homes. Although the Iranian constitution guarantees protection of most religious minorities, Christians believe that freedom has been increasingly reduced. Nevertheless, many are still able to observe the occasion of the birth of Christ there.

Elsewhere, in Saudi Arabia, Christians are allowed to worship in their private homes, as they are not allowed to practise their faith in the open. Being one of the strictest Islamic nations in the world, however, does not deter Christians from celebrating Christmas alongside their fellow believers around the world. In this article are some photographs of Christian experiences of Christmas through the years in different places around the world.



As we celebrate Christmas this year, let us pause to remember our brothers and sisters from around the world in the persecuted churches. Let us pray that God would strengthen the churches and grant them the grace to go through the various challenges in their countries. May the Lord also inspire us to bless these persecuted believers!



Leaders' Retreat 2017

SOLD Out for Christ

By Lim Chin Nee



Group Photo

IT would have been really great if all our leaders could have made it for the retreat in Melaka, but nonetheless, for the 23 of us who made it, we had a wonderful time together. We made an early exit on 31 August which was wise for traffic was smooth sailing all the way.

When we reached the Orkid Hotel at 10.45a.m, we were pleasantly surprised that most of the rooms were ready for an early check in. Well, we wasted no time; putting our luggage down, we headed for lunch and then window shopping at Mahkota Parade! This was by far the most 'free and easy' leaders' retreat. There was so much to see, taste and eat especially the Nyonya food; but more importantly was being together to relate, review, receive and re-envisioned in order to move forward together.

In our first session, after a hilarious icebreaker - Toki Toki! Om Chit Chit - a test of quick reflexes and coordination, the leaders were divided into four groups: Servanthood, Ownership, Leadership and Discipleship, which formed the acronym SOLD. Yes, HGC leaders are sold out for Christ!

Our morning devotion which covered the book of Haggai was simply superb. It was soul searching, enriching and motivating. In our sessions, Ps Khor introduced the leadership pipeline – which is a process through which leaders can be spotted out, enlisted and trained. Topics covered within that pipeline were Ownership, Servanthood, Discipleship and Transformation. There was quite a lot to take in and chew. Vincent Foong also shared helpful and needed tips on the Art of Feedback. There was also reflective and interactive group discussion time. Some topics discussed were: three good things about HGC and an area to improve; how to build greater ownership in HGC and how to demonstrate servanthood practically.



Enjoying Melaka street food

Much good took place in our three days, two nights retreat. Below is a compilation of feedbacks from some of the leaders:

"It was amazing how quickly each group came out with their group cheer. The names of the teams really embraced and captured the essence of what this leaders' retreat was about and the direction we need to have; moving forward."

"We have an amazing team of leaders who see the work and are ready to plow. As we gathered in this manner, I felt we were empowered. Praying for one another not only sharpens rusted vision, but lends encouragement that we all so dearly need."

"Melaka provides the best of food and shops. The journey was easy. Fellowship in the car keeps the bond strong."

"The leaders were able to convey from their hearts about their expectation and hopes for the church, the pastors and leaders especially during the last session."

"The discussions in small groups were enriching. All the topics from Ownership, Servanthood, Discipleship and Transformation are useful reminders for the leadership."

"The morning devotions were excellent as we gleaned from the book of Haggai. We felt challenged to honestly reflect

on the conditions of our own lives and church; and yet encouraged to stay strong to carry on the work of building God's house because the Lord is with us. There was great unity in our prayers together after the devotion time. Prayers were focused and on target to what the Lord had revealed in the Word."



Leaders' retreat is not all serious

"The time spent together leisurely, which may not be achieved on Sundays or during other meetings in church, helped to foster a closer bond between leaders. This is important in order to have better understanding among leaders and to encourage prayer for each other."

"The praise and worship before each session was awesome. Leaders in unity pressed in deeper into worship. The presence of the Lord was strong and tangible; encouraging and reassuring."

"The fellowship amongst leaders has grown better; and because of this it was easier to give feedback with honesty. Small group dynamics had improved and there is a greater willingness to participate in the discussion."

"Programmes were balanced, giving considerations to both serious matters and fun time for fellowship."

"The intentional tracting and reaching out on one of the afternoons was meaningful. At least 4 people gave their lives to Christ as a result."



Sharing the gospel in Melaka

Some constructive feedbacks were received too:

"There needs to be better communication and more time given to planning for the retreat in the future."

"Give leaders a rough agenda of what had been planned so leaders can be better prepared and come expectantly."

"At the end of the retreat, decisions that have been agreed upon and embraced need to be tabled out clearly so that they can be shared with other leaders and implemented together. It would be good for leaders to return back after the retreat on a high note, envisioned and motivated to keep building God's Kingdom with love."



Leadership group energetic cheer



FINALLY! After three long years, the youth camp is back with the theme "EMERGE". The word "Emerge" is defined as "becoming apparent or prominent". It also is an acronym for 'Emerge from hiding', 'Moving towards holiness', 'Embrace God's word', 'Relate with purity', 'Glowing for Jesus' and 'Exclaim Jesus'! These are all so powerful phrases that EVERYONE, not only the youth, needs to hear and know. During the camp, we had exciting games, great fellowship, and spirit-filled worship sessions. I believe ALL the youth who attended the camp encountered God in one way or another. Here are some of their testimonies:



It has been a joyful, powerful, and memorable four days. The feeling of seeing the younger ones experience the presence of the Holy Spirit is indescribable. It is the feeling we get when others are experiencing the joy which we've experienced. How this camp was different from other camps that I've attended is that this camp does not only let us sit down and listen, but allows all of us to participate and share our thoughts. It wasn't only Ps Jody Count who prayed for us, but we prayed for each other. Ps Jody also shared many things which were relevant and applicable during the camp. The moment that I will never forget was the night where everyone went to the front and shared their deepest and most real thoughts, and what they were thankful for. At that moment, I felt so thankful for this big family where thoughts were allowed to be freely shared, without any fear of being judged. I thank God that through the camp, everyone grew spiritually. There will definitely be highs and lows in the journey with God, but let us keep the fire burning, continue to set our hearts and eyes on God. Let us strive to love one another just as how God loves us, and never let go of this greatest love. May God continue to bless our youth and use us mightily for His plans!

Abigail Cheong

When I first heard about the camp, I thought that there would be no way I could go because the first day of the camp was my last day of SPM. So I'm really thankful to Loo Yee for offering to send me and a few others up later. Also thanks to Nicholas Chan who actually sent us there. This camp is very meaningful to me because it really helped me get closer to God and to my other peers. I felt like we really bonded and I had a great time. It was great seeing everyone getting touched by God and I feel we have all taken a big step towards emerging from our own respective hiding place. Bro Joshua Park's testimony was also very relevant and helpful. He spoke about an issue that we don't usually address which is post-camp depression and encouraged us to find a community of friends that we could share everything with. I'm also very grateful for Ps Jody and Bro Ignatius' teachings. They taught that emerging from hiding is only the first step and we have to keep on growing and moving towards holiness.

Justyn Jiwa

The day before the camp, I had butterflies in my stomach because it was my first ever youth camp with any church, and I didn't know anyone who was going. So I prayed that God's will would be done in this camp. When I entered the van, Bryan and Yohannes asked me to sit with them and the others in the van were also so friendly to me. Slowly but surely my doubt was removed and from then on I knew God was at work.

As we reached the camp, we were allocated into our respective groups. My group leader was Fergus. Initially, I was intimidated by him but as I got to know him he acted like a big brother to me. He made sure I was alright, and suggested we pray on a particular verse and for each other.

Furthermore, every morning we had devotion. I would wake up, contemplating for more sleep but something always kept telling me to go, so I obeyed and went for it every morning. During the morning devotion everybody was so honest about their thoughts and shared everything that they were going through. It was also the first time I shared my problems with others instead of keeping it to myself. It felt good to share my problems and to pray for each other. I could really feel the Holy Spirit during our devotion sessions.

Ps Jody preached his first message about how we see ourselves and more importantly how God sees us. This really appealed to me because I used to feel useless and felt that I was not good at anything, but Ps Jody told us to think how God would see us. I felt more secure about who I am. Furthermore, he preached to us about love and now, I understand that we as a church should do God's work with love. God shows us unfailing and everlasting love and we in return should do the same for our church. In 1 Cor 13:13, it says, "…and these three remain faith, hope and love but the greatest among these is love."



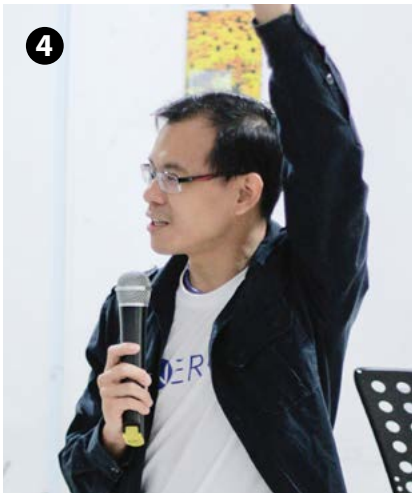












Photo Caption

1. *Sight-seeing at the tea plantation*
2. *Praying for one another*
3. *The speaker of the camp, Ps Jody*
4. *Bro Calvin sharing*
5. *Group named Meraki*
6. *A big group hug*
7. *Group named Energeia*
8. *Game 1 – Strategizing during games*
9. *Game 2 – Collecting as much lather as possible*

KKB Mission Trip

By Janelle Lim



Group photo with the KKB kids

WHENEVER I think of mission trips, I think of mosquitoes and dirty toilets. That was exactly what flashed through my mind when Bro Calvin Lim proposed the youth to go on a one-day mission trip. Besides that, Bro Calvin even approached me to be in charge of one game for the children in KKB. I was a little nervous and thought, "Aiyo! My BM cannot make it la." But I agreed anyway. The youth core team brainstormed on what type of games we should play, and how the event should be run. After weeks of preparation, a total of 15 youths headed off to Kuala Kubu Baru (KKB).

The weather that day was good. It was sunny, but not too sunny. We stopped at a Chinese restaurant near KKB for lunch before continuing the journey. When we reached, we started preparing the games area. Some curious children came out of their homes to look at what we were doing. After preparing, we rounded up all the children in the village and split them into 4 teams. Then we did some face painting for them, each with their own group colour.

Finally, WE LET THE GAMES BEGIN! The games were fun and exciting. Playing with flour, hula hoops, colourful balls and even water balloons! The children definitely enjoyed themselves, running back and forth, doing relays after relays. After the games ended, we gave out some goodie bags and curry puffs for them to munch on. To end the event, we sang a classic Malay Sunday school song "Kiri, Kanan, Goyang-Goyang" The children were shy to follow at first, but we all had fun dancing and singing together!

All in all, it was a successful event! I pray that the children took something valuable home that day (excluding the goodie bags and curry puffs) and I was happy to see them leave with a smile on their faces. Praise God!



Transporting the balls using a hula hoop



Face painting for the blue group



Holding the ping pong ball with a spoon

Believe In God's Love

By Chan Yi Hern



MERRY Christmas!

Christmas is celebrated worldwide regardless of age, language or nationality. Images of Christmas trees and of Santa Claus giving out gifts, spreading joy and happiness especially to children can be seen around town. Is that Christmas? What is the celebration really about?

It is about the coming of Jesus to save the world!

For God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to save the world that anyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). God's love for us is extremely HUGE!

All we sinners are saved by God just by believing in Him. Yes, just BELIEVE! Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, SAVING EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES…"What a wonderful God! He never asks for anything in return but keeps giving or blessing. Whenever we go to Him, we must believe in Hìm, the Almighty God! He'll bless us who sincerely seek Him (Heb 11:6).

Let's celebrate this Christmas by believing in God's work of saving souls and seeking Him sincerely.

One word to describe my personal journey with God this year is the word "believe". God made my journeys possible for me. I cannot believe it myself but I'm the writer for my school's project! I have ventured into typing my reports instead of writing them! God made me believe that His power is at work in me. I even made it through my school's talent time recently with God's courage.

Joy to the world! God is love! He forgives, He saves, He pardons and He loves unconditionally. In whatever shapes and sizes we are in, His love has never changed. We are His precious jewels that He cherishes.

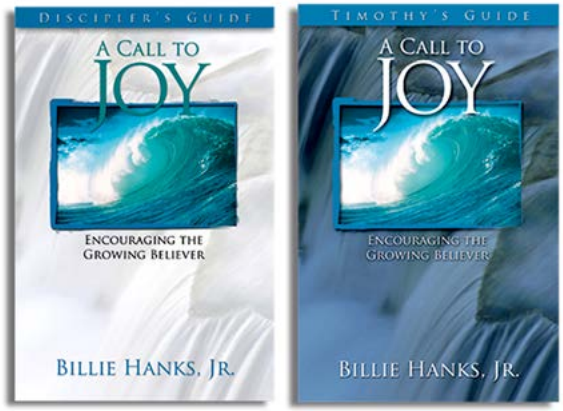
So Christmas, let's celebrate Jesus' birthday with joy, happiness, hope, faith and endless love for our loved ones near and far because we believe in Him, our one and only God! Let's extend His love in various forms of kindness and blessings!

This Christmas, I'll shower my family, relatives and friends with the power of "Believe" that my Almighty God's love is the greatest!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A FRUITFUL NEW YEAR!

A Call To Joy

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor



THE Great Commission which is the last command of our Lord Jesus Christ is HIS MOST IMPORTANT CHARGE to His disciples! As a church we have always been trying to fulfil the Great Commission. In 2017, the Lord provided us with a timely tool, A Call To Joy, with the sole objective to help every Christian become a Maker of Disciples who makes disciples. Some of the unique characteristics of this course are:

1. Relational Format – Through a healthy biblical and Christ-centred friendship, a more mature Christian spends quality time with a new or younger believer to show him or her how to walk by faith, develop godly character and proficiency in ministry.

2. One-to-one & life-to-life – It is personal, private and practical in nature.

3. It focuses on training and equipping disciples with the skills to feed themselves spiritually, to enjoy a lifetime of personal growth and effective ministry

4. Flexible schedule – As the course is one-to-one, it is very flexible and the two can meet anytime and anywhere convenient to both. If they miss one week, they can easily catch up another week.

5. Easy to follow – The course materials for both the trainer (Disciple Maker or DM) and the trainee are easy to use and follow with practical assignments that help both to be trained.

As of today 19 mature members of HGC have availed themselves to be DMs to disciple younger believers. The following are some testimonies on how this course has impacted them thus far.

A Great Blessing

By Daniel Wong

To have the time of discipleship with Bro Calvin Lim, learning and studying from him and from the book (A Call to Joy) was a great blessing for me. The content of the book is simple yet powerful. The Scriptures highlighted in it was sharp like a double edged sword and spoke to me.



It helped me in my spiritual life and developed in me the habit of writing down sermon notes each week and also of jotting down spiritual insights from my devotion. I would like to encourage everyone to participate in the discipleship for it surely will impact your life greatly.

Brought Closer To God

By Jennifer Shanta

God seems to be carrying me to church each Sunday. Despite road blocks and traffic congestion, I will always be able to make it for my discipleship lessons. I do face a lot of tests and challenges after my baptism and now even while being discipled.

One of my greatest challenges has to do with how to react to abusive words being hurled at me from people close to me. I felt my mind coming under attack as cursing words were hurled at me for no rhyme or reason. Sometimes I experience evil thoughts that just seem to come from nowhere. I do get very frustrated at this kind of random thoughts that do not edify God.

I would weep and cry to God during my times alone with God asking God why I had to go through all this. I thought that after baptism and being discipled, I will be delivered from all this.

When I shared this with Sis Ruth Lew who disciples me, she advised me to reject the abusive words and to pray for the blood of Jesus to cover my mind. She shared with me that God allows all the testings to strengthen my faith.

angry with a person, the anger would not last long. My attitude has changed for the better. Forgiveness comes easily to me now. Previously back in India when I close my eyes after waking up in the morning, I see darkness and a



I am learning to build muscles of faith each time I attend the discipleship lessons. The discipline of doing the Quiet Time exercises, sermon writing and prayer has indeed brought me closer to God. Even though I have so many questions, Sis Ruth will be patient to answer me. I am blessed to be discipled and always look forward to my one to one lessons with her.

lot of evil things. For many years I dared not close my eyes. Since I came to this church and attended the discipleship sessions, I am surprised that whenever I close my eyes, all I see is the Lord Jesus Christ. I see Him appearing in a vision to me each time! What peace, what joy, what love has filled my heart!

I Am Blessed By Being Discipled

By Zoe Jiwani

I have been blessed being discipled. I have learnt many things from Ruth Lee, the sister who disciples me. Through the discipleship sessions, I have learnt day by day to put God first. The fire of the love for God is burning in my heart and I could feel myself so hungry and thirsty for Him. I like to do the Quiet Time exercises and have also learnt much from the chapters in the book, Call To Joy.

It is during the discipleship sessions that I found the answers to my many questions. Ruth patiently explained the answers to me. Through the one to one sessions with her, I am finding the Bible easier to understand. In fact at times the Bible became very real to me especially when I face challenges in my work. My love for God has deepened as a result of the sessions with her.

I find great peace after each session with her. Even if I was

I am glad to have a friend and teacher like Ruth. There was a time when I was really in desperate need. I really do not know anyone whom I could call to help me out. Ruth's face came to me. I contacted her and she readily agreed to help me out. It is not easy for a foreigner like me in this country to find a friend.

Through the discipleship classes, I have learnt the spiritual discipline of quiet time, reading the Word of God, prayer and writing sermon notes. My faith is growing day by day. I really look forward to all my discipleship sessions!

Good Spiritual Habits Developed

By Aw Wen Han

Back in mid-August, Bro Wai Pooi asked me whether I was interested to join the DG class and I said, "YES!" immediately. At first I thought it would be a casual session where we would start with an icebreaker, discuss and chit-chat on some particular topics and not so much on studying the

Bible. But it was totally the opposite.
During the first session, Bro Wai Pooi told us that throughout the whole program we would have to read a lot, do daily devotion and also jot down notes during Sunday service. At that moment I thought, 'Wow!' This is interesting yet I was feeling nervous at that same time because I did not have the habit to do any of the above. I have to thank Bro Wai Pooi as my teacher because after weeks of classes, I now become more independent and have developed the habit especially of doing daily devotion and writing down notes during sermon. Moreover, I have also learnt a lot on prayer, building a Christian character, sharing the gospel etc.

A Fun Experience

By Nicholas How

The few weeks of having this discipleship meetings with Uncle Vincent, alongside Wen Han, William Wong and Christian Foong, has been really a fun experience especially being in a group rather than individually. I loved the way Uncle Vincent taught because he always tried to incorporate the topics of the book into a reality based situation, rather than pounding out knowledge, he would question us and get us to think how we would react in various 'nowadays' situations. Throughout the sessions, it has been really good relearning things that were truly essential to Christians like us. And the best part was doing the devotions because I have come to know how having daily devotion consistently is hard but yet super fun and super healthy. Last but not least, it felt like we were a family because we would always look out for each other whether each one did what was needed to be done for the week before we met up.

Growth of Faith In Christ

By William Wong

Joining the discipleship group on a weekly basis has been benefiting my devotional life. We were accountable for each other to be faithful in our devotions and it made devotion more exciting each day. As we came together to share and pray about our challenges in life, it also provided us the strength and faith to press on with the Lord. Lastly, I would like to encourage more and more members to participate in this program for the growth of our faith in Christ.

It Taught Me Discipline

By Christian Foong

The discipleship group was an enriching two months. It taught me to be discipline and take initiative in my relationship with God. Spending 15 minutes reading and praying God's Word everyday was something I have cultivated through the discipleship program. Being in this group have also created stronger relationships among us as we shared our personal life and what we have learned from our daily devotion when we meet every week. It's a blessing to grow and encourage each other through the discipleship group.



A Call To Joy

By Samantha Tan Sen

Good Morning Samantha.. when is your holidays starting? I would like to see you grow strong as a disciple of Jesus.Would you like to spend an hour and a half each week during your holidays with me?

Sure

will start 4th July at 11:30 am. See you dear sis.

THIS was how I was invited to begin my journey on 'A Call to Joy' in one of the whatsapp conversation with Sis Chin Nee. It was going to be my first Bible Study with a personal mentor and I felt really excited about it. Let me share the things which I had discovered throughout this journey with my teacher, Sis Chin Nee.

Previously, I had some basic knowledge about the Bible and God. I thought this Bible Study would be all about the things I have learnt before. However, I was not only taught biblical knowledge but practical skills as the author of the book inserted some illustrations which apply to everyday living to support the points which were taught and as such made it easier to absorb. And the further I progressed in this , the more I also realised how shallow was my knowledge of God and how far I was from Him.



From young I attended the Children's Church but my spiritual walk with Christ was not what it was supposed to be. My faith in God was really weak and I always depended on my feelings as the basis for my assurance in salvation. I did not know how to trust God or to rely on Him. I had so many doubts about my faith which was easily shaken by the trials in life. Yet, to be honest, I always assume that whatever I did on this spiritual journey with Christ were alright until it was proven incorrect at the discipleship classes.

Firstly, I was taught the proper way of having a Quiet Time with God. I discovered that quiet time was not only about prayer and Bible reading but most important was the decision to apply a spiritual insight for the day itself. This was an eye opener for me. It was really amazing how it helped me to get the gist of the Scripture as I meditate on it all day long. God's Word became alive in my daily life. I started to realise the effectiveness of my Quiet Time. As a result, I gained spiritual strength through the spiritual insight of the day. Most of the time, Sis Chin Nee and I would discuss our insights with each another. It was encouraging as we were often reminded of God's promises.

I was also required to take notes during the Sunday Service sermons. What a good habit to cultivate! I became more attentive during the sermon and the message became more meaningful to me. The habit of taking notes allowed me to refer back and to get a spiritual insight for the day as well! I learned a great deal more when it came to prayers. Prayer is not a monologue; just me delivering a speech to God. It is a dialogue where I take the time to listen to what He has to say. Besides that, I was also taught to appreciate the different dimensions of prayer as I realised that prayer is not all about my petitions but also the aspect of intercession for the needs of others. During my Quiet Time I began to think about and pray for the needs of others.

One other important lesson is effectiveness in sharing the gospel using the gospel book "A Step to Peace". Initially Sis Chin Nee shared her experiences of sharing the gospel with others to encourage me because as a novice I didn't know how to start. Now I am more equipped and bold to share.

Lastly, the one thing I treasure most about those seven weeks of discipleship classes is its relational format. Sis Chin Nee was not only my teacher or mentor but a friend! She spent so much quality time with me in the discussions, prayers and Bible study including the sharing of our life stories; we came to know each other so much better. Through her encouragements, support and patience, my faith in God grew measure by measure and my life more Christlike as I developed godly character. Doubts and insecurities no longer trouble me. I am assured of my position in Christ! There is the love of God and the joy of God in me!



God Found Me!

By Dr Chan Weng Sam

I HAVE heard of the expression "I found God!" Actually, it should be "God found me!"

I was the one lost and not God! God was the one who found me at a time when I went through some challenges. I was the lost sheep and God found me! The interesting thing was where. It was not in Malaysia but in Russia.

I left behind many good friends in Malaysia to go to a place which I had never been before to study medicine in 2003. Everything was so different. The culture was different. The weather was so cold. I knew no one there when I first arrived. I was so lonely. I was really homesick. One of my roommates was a Christian but because we changed roommates so often, we could not get to know each other very well.

However, God has His plans for my life; and they have been laid out from the start. There was this person from my course group who always talked about Jesus and invited me to go to the international church. I did go eventually but with ulterior motives. I wanted to make some friends and also to learn English. I am from a Mandarin background but desired to be more conversant in the English language. The pastors at the international church were from Texas, USA so the messages were in English. I felt comfortable in the church and went regularly.

Then came a time when I encountered a problem which troubled me very much. I was so unsure of what to do or who to turn to. I decided that men would not be able to help me so I turned to the Jesus I heard so often in the church. This happened on a "Praise and Worship Night" in the church. I gave my life to Jesus!

Accepting Him as my Lord and Saviour was the greatest decision I have ever made. I experienced such joy, joy that I cannot explain. It was like I found some precious gems. A treasure that is priceless! A Mandarin Bible was given to me. The Bible was so enlightening. I grew in my faith albeit at a slow pace. I was also so excited to share my salvation experience even though it was nothing very dramatic. I spent a lot of time in church from then on but God was gracious to me and helped me in my studies and exams. From then on I totally depended on Him and trusted Him with every issue and aspects of my life.

Hallelujah! God found a lost sheep, me, and led me back to His fold!



Dr Chan with his lovely wife, Jaswine and son, Paul



A Small Cut Changed My Life

By Simon Lim

IN 2015, after coming home from Australia, I had a disagreement and conflict with my elder brother. As a result, we didn't speak to each other for about three years. We refused to call each other or make any move to patch up. I guess it is the matter of saving face, like the Chinese say, or the pride in us.

In July this year, something very traumatic happened to me. While cleaning the roof of my house one day, I got a small cut on the sole of my left foot which changed my life. I tried to treat the wound myself but the wound turned septic; and gangrene set in very quickly. I was running a temperature and the colour of two of my toes was changing. It was not a good sign and I was quite alarmed. By the time Ps Lee Ping admitted me into the hospital at the emergency red zone area, I was totally blur as I was shaking and vomiting, due to the fever I was having as a result of the infection.

While in the hospital, I turned to God in prayer for help and for the courage to face my condition. Ps Victor Maniam who visited me gave me a word from God, "You must forgive." I know I must so that I can receive the blessings and healing of God.

I also saw the Lord In a vision, telling me that I must first ask for His forgiveness; and then say sorry to my brother and be on good terms with him. It wasn't enough just forgiving my brother. I had to say sorry. It is humbling. The Lord also said, "No matter who has done wrong, you can make the first move."

Initially, I did not call my brother but instead requested a cousin of mine to inform him and to ask him to visit me but my brother did not show up in the first week. (I found out, later on, he was actually outstation.)

Then I picked up courage to call my brother. The moment the call got through and I called him, "Kor," (brother in Chinese) tears just began to run down my cheeks. I was sniffing and had to put the mouthpiece away. Then I heard my brother say over the phone, "It is okay, it is okay."

When I obeyed the Lord, His blessings and healing flowed. All the pride and unforgiveness broke completely. I felt so good after that phone conversation with my brother. He visited me and bought me lunch. We talked and talked. Each day after that, he visited me at the hospital, unless of course he was outstation. He would bring me food and we would chat for hours.

God had encouraged me to mend my broken relationship with my brother because He cares for me. As much as I was terribly concerned and afraid that gangrene was eating my toes, I believe God was even more concern about unforgiveness eating up my heart. Truly, I am thankful to God for healing my relationship with my brother.

It was a tough road going through what I had to go through. I was hospitalised four times, went through three rounds of amputations and lost four of my toes.

When I realized that I had to go for a third amputation to remove another two more toes, my tower of faith and relationship with God fell. I asked God, "Why?"

I now know why. God had allowed my tower which was built on shallow foundation to crumble so that a new tower can be built. Coming out of this traumatic experience, my relationship with God and my faith towards Him has become much closer and stronger.

Praise God, after that third amputation, the infection was kept under control and the condition of my foot is improving day by day.

My trial is not completely over. The healing process will take time. But I am assured that the grace of God will carry me through and the love of family and friends will encourage me.

A Rough Gem Polished For God

By Ignatius Tien



Ignatius (far R) with YWAM staff, lecturers and students

THE hostel room was quite packed, allowing only a little three feet gap of walking space between the two beds that had already been backed up against the wall opposite each other. In that gap was a young man of 18 years old. He was on all fours on the ground, tears streaming non-stop from his face onto the ceramic tiles. Depression had pushed him to the edge, and an act of selfishness made him jump off the edge. He struck rock bottom. At that very moment of having absolutely nothing, he wanted to become nothing, and he was a rope and a knot away from it.

He was me.

To be honest, I was not entirely sure what happened after that. Maybe I cried myself to sleep; maybe I took a blade and really wanted to slice myself there and then. But whatever it was that happened, the next moment was the most memorable that has burned in my mind. All I remember was that I looked up, and a bright light blinded me. In the bright light was Jesus, and He just stood there, looking straight at me. He neither said a word, nor stayed long. And as fast as He appeared, He disappeared, leaving a rather disorientated me in the room. My depressive train of thoughts broke at that moment, I suddenly had peace in my heart, and then I went to sleep.

Little did I know how God really worked or how my sins were forgiven! All I can testify is that, I should have been in jail for years but I was given only two months of community service. By right I should have been expelled by my college, but I was just told to retake my semester in another class. I should have been cast out by my family but was sent away to another country, to Australia. After the period of restitution, I was honestly a blank. And in that emptiness, God had space inside my heart. I got baptized shortly after I went to Australia, not because of what the pastor preached that Sunday, but because the Holy Spirit had already been working in me, a long time ago.

However, I was still a rough gem to be polished. I found that as I focused more on God, He polishes me, just like how a knife is sharpened, pitting itself against a rougher and tougher surface. I was pushed against rough situations that could either bring back the old me, or make me walk in humility and obedience; letting my rough edges be polished into a finer surface. To make a house, one needs to start on the foundation. To start on the foundation, one needs to have pillars first driven into the ground; the ground below the plot for construction has to be reinforced. So with my life, I have to hold tight to a few pillars of truths, clear out my bad soil, reinforce my heart with the Word of God, and grow strong. Even the construction of a foundation takes stages to complete, so am I being lead through stages of training to be complete in Christ.

All I can testify is that God have been good to me. While in Australia, I received my calling to be a messenger for Him. And after my studies, He called me to return to Malaysia. He brought me to The Hope of Glory Centre, a family that nurtured me in my growth. After that He called me into a hard and gritty job to teach me about how the world works. He brought me colleagues and companions to share Christ with. He brought me impossible jobs and projects, to remind me that He is always bigger than my problems, teaching me to trust in him. He brought me clothes, shoes, car, and things that I never would have thought to own. I could go on and on and on over all that He has provided.

In retrospect, God has been with me all the time, from the first time I opened my eyes, till now. It has filled me with awe; and though I still struggle at times with insecurities, let it be as clear as day, that today I stand, albeit imperfect, but with the heart to go into missions to serve the Lord.

To be entirely honest, serving the Lord takes everything from me. As I walk longer in Him, I am learning the meaning of what John the Baptist said to his disciples in John 3:30 (NIV), "He must become greater; I must become less." I cannot deny that there is a struggle to becoming less, but I continue to aim at letting Jesus become greater in my life. And I am filled with joy each time I humble myself to allow the Lord to work in me.

At the beginning of this year, in January, I attended the Discipleship Training School by YWAM (Youth With A Mission). The six months training has further taught me how to humble myself, and I found that joy comes each time I humble myself, surrender my rights, obey what the Lord says and go wherever He leads.

However, my journey with God has not been a smooth ride. In fact, more often than not it is filled with potholes, unnecessary detours, pit stops, distractions, and self-inflicted tyre blow outs. Through the trials, I have learnt to have grit in the Lord, to hold fast onto Him, and not to give up or ever let go no matter how dark or tough it is. And as I hold on long enough, I was able to hear that still small voice in the storm.



Commissioning of Ignatius on 24 Sept to serve in YWAM for 2 years

Currently and for the next few years, I am serving with the YWAM base in Penang. There are many ministries here I am involved in. It will a great time for God to train me up here. I am serving in the soup kitchen ministry, where breakfast and lunch are served to the homeless, the poor, and the needy. I am also involved in the campus ministry college where students will be discipled. I am also involved in hosting Outreach teams from around the world that come to Penang to serve God's kingdom.

Please pray for me, that the Lord will be the only one I turn my eyes to. Pray also that my desire, my peace, my joy and everything will always be for the Lord. Pray that I will be financially independent, that the Lord will provide me sufficiently and faithfully so that I would not be a burden to anyone, and instead, be a blessing to everyone I encounter. And also pray that my love for His sheep grows even more, as I learn to obey and love the Lord Jesus, my salvation.

Editor's note: Dear Reader, Ignatius Tien does not receive a salary from YWAM. Should the Lord stir your heart to give a love gift to him, or make a monthly pledge to support him, please put your offering into the church offering envelope and tick 'Love Gift' and indicate for Ignatius Tien. The church will send the money over to him.

Never Give Up!

By Sekar Suppiah

I WOULD like to share this testimony, to encourage all my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those coming from non-Christian families or background not to give up praying.

I come from a predominantly Hindu family. Most of my siblings and I have received Jesus into our hearts. There are many testimonies to share about our conversions. However, this testimony is about a relative of mine who recently passed away.

Nathan, a very staunch Hindu, was an uncle to my niece, Darshini. We met many times over the years, and I had shared the gospel to him. But he always had some Hindu philosophy to counter my appeal. It seemed almost impossible to get him to know the truth. Although I had given up having such conversations with him, I had every now and then prayed for the salvation of all my siblings and relatives including Nathan. Some of my brothers and sisters had also been praying for this.

Not too long ago, I was told that Nathan was admitted to the hospital for heart issues and doctors had said that he did not have much hope. I decided to visit him at the hospital and when I did, Nathan told me that he had received Jesus. It was so wonderful to hear him quoting Scriptures to me, while we conversed. He knew he was going to die soon and while his family members (his siblings) came to see him, he insisted that his funeral be conducted in church not according to the Hindu ceremony.

Although, some were not pleased, the eventual wake service and funeral were held in a church.

No matter how difficult it may seem, no matter how hard or impossible some things may seem, never give up! Never give up praying. Prayer is a most powerful weapon God has placed in our hands. Just the slightest touch of the Master's hand and everything completely changes. Praise the Lord! All glory and honour and worship belong to Him and Him alone!



A Divine & Interesting Journey

By Desmond Wong

A Place For The Homeless, Needy And Elderly

IT was on a cool, rainy November night. As I was planning what to do for my journalism class assignment, my phone rang continuously with a buzzing sound which disturbed my concentration. Curious, I unlocked my phone and stared at the countless notifications which appeared. I clicked on one, and the message I received was that Penang was flooded badly. Then I thought to myself, "There is nothing to worry about, the flood will reside soon." However, the following day, I heard news that the floods had become worse. Many of my classmates who were from the northern parts of Peninsular Malaysia had returned to their hometown to help with the flood relief.

Though I was not affected, however, the sense of horror and desperation in not having a place to sleep for a few days shocked me. Then I remembered a promise which I had made when I was young to a man of God who worked with youths in a local prison. I had promised him that I would one day go with him to help the homeless and needy in Penang.

That promise was long overdue and I needed to do something about it. That night, I just couldn't sleep thinking about it. The next day after breakfast, I quickly found the number of that man of God, and called him. At first, he didn't recognise my voice as he had not seen me for a long while, but when I told him the promise that I had made, he remembered. He was overjoyed to hear what I had to say and through our conversation, I received a confirmation to go. I was so excited because God had awakened something inside of me which I needed to do. After the excitement phase, reality struck me — how was I planning to get there? Where would I stay? What would be installed for me? These questions suddenly came up like a wall stopping me from going. It felt like I was having a spiritual battle leading to procrastination whether to go or not.

Then I prayed and asked God what the next step was. Suddenly, I remembered a good old friend known to many in HGC who recently left to serve God in YWAM Penang — Ignatius Tien. I called him and asked whether he knew about the ministry that feeds the poor and homeless. To my amazement, Ignatius told me that he was partly in charge of the ministry and help was much needed. And on top of that, I could stay with him at the YWAM house named The Hub. There was a free room available for me to stay in. It was indeed confirmation upon confirmation.



A Place To Rest Their Head

Not wanting to test God any further, I quickly packed my bags for a three-day stay in Penang. I took whatever clothing that was available and in thirty minutes I went on a great journey. I left KL from TBS (Terminal Bas Selatan) to Penang which took me six hours. Throughout the journey I was wondering how on earth I got myself here, volunteering to help out the flood victims.

When I arrived in Penang, that night was just rest and preparing myself to do God's work — To help people, to show God's love and shine His light to the people who have

not seen it before. I met great men and women of God who really put their lives on the line for God, wanting to make a difference to society which they continually did so. The life that they lived truly portrayed the life of a missionary. I meet a brother in Christ from Brazil whom I had a long conversation with over breakfast. The many great things he told me about what happened in his life, and on how he became a missionary, were very inspiring and motivating to me along my journey in discovering ways to help people in need.



Food Cooked With Love

I soon arrived at the place I was assigned to — Kawan at Love Lane; a centre where the homeless, jobless, prostitutes and elderly come and go. Through the centre, they had two meals a day on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and a place to shower and a place to sleep. I was there on Friday and was greeted by many volunteers from different countries including Americans and Germans.



Most of the volunteers are Christians who eagerly share the love of God as we packed, sectioned and distributed food, clothing and necessities to the victims. Throughout the three days that I was there, I learned many things that were not available in textbooks — that some people are just not that fortunate.

I met 63 year old Uncle Hak who was sitting at one corner of Kawan centre. He was alone, sleeping on a table and I was moved to talk to him. His story really broke my heart. He is from Penang, has no family members and is suffering from sickness. He told me his struggles and his happy moments. I could see that he was in pain but his positive attitude and hope of getting well inspired and motivated me. He needed help and also to know God. I wanted to pray for him but he was not open to me. Ignatius told me the people that come to Kawan are rejected, unwanted, bullied and not appreciated, which was why it would take a while before they would open up their hearts. He asked me to take it slowly, step by step.



Volunteers At Work

On my last day, Ignatius asked me how my trip was and whether it was up to my expectation. My answer was, "More than I expected." I really experienced the love of God. The people in YWAM have truly been a great blessing to me and the society. Ignatius told me that it was God's perfect timing, that the arrangement of my trip was God's plan. Everything was so smooth. He told me before I left for KL, to tell people what you have seen and done here and encourage people to come and help. Therefore, I am writing my experiences and testimony for the VOH. I hope our readers will be greatly blessed.



Service with a smile

Why are there mentioned, in the family tree of Jesus, people with questionable past?

By Answered by Loke Wai Keng



MATTHEW began the Gospel with "the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham," and then listed other 42 men in the family tree of Jesus. These names were tied to the different stages in Israel's history, and they all culminate with Jesus, the Christ - Matt 1:1–16.

Biblical genealogies usually list only men but Matthew's list is unusual because it includes five women.

1. Tamar recorded in Genesis 38 disguised herself as a prostitute, slept with her father-in-law, Judah, and had twins. Why was that so? In the story, Tamar's husband had died and under the Levirate law, Judah's two sons were supposed to raise up children for Tamar to continue the dead brother's line. Because they failed to do so, Tamar had resorted to trickery to get Judah to produce her son for her. One of the twins, Perez, was the ancestor of Boaz, who married Ruth also listed in this genealogy.

2. Rahab was better known by her occupation as the harlot. She helped the two Israelites sent out to spy the land of Jericho. Her confession of faith is found in Joshua 2:11, "The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." With her help, the Israelites gained success in Jericho. She later married Salmon (one of the two men) of the tribe of Judah. Her story certainly affirmed the power of God to transform a sinful and ignorant woman to one who was loved by God and praised for her goodness. She was listed in the hall of faith in Hebrews 11 (11:31) because of her faith.

3. Ruth, a Moabitess (Ruth 1:1–5), was not part of God's covenant people Israel; she was a pagan; but she had loyally followed her mother-in-law Naomi back to Bethlehem – a community of people she did not know. Ruth boldly declared to Naomi, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth's loyalty and faith was rewarded and she became the wife of Boaz and a part of the lineage of Jesus.

4. Bathsheba, was referred to as "Uriah's wife" (Matthew 1:6), emphasizing the fact that Bathsheba became King David's wife only after committing adultery with David who then arranged for her husband to be killed in battle to cover up their shame (2 Samuel 11-12). When David had brought about Uriah's death, Bathsheba mourned for her husband (2 Samuel 11:26). What we learn from this sordid affair is that God can transform situations and bring about newness and hope. David repented of his sin and had a genuine marriage with Bathsheba, resulting in the birth of Solomon, known for his wisdom.

Four unlikely women in Jesus' family tree: What does that mean to us?

When we examine this list in context of Matthew's gospel and the history of Israel, a few things stand out that we need to take note of:

1. God's plan would be fulfilled. Though these women mentioned might have questionable past, yet they were made a part of God's sovereign plan to fulfill His promise to Abraham and David; that the Messiah would came through the line of Judah. God can use any vessel even broken vessels to fulfil His plan. He is sovereign.

2. God's plan was not dependent on their righteousness. Ruth worshipped other gods, Tamar seduced her father-in-law, and Rahab was a prostitute, but these facts did not foil God's plan. This principle extended beyond the women in this list: Judah, David, Solomon, Manasseh, Amon – these men too made many mistakes in their lives.

3. Right from the beginning, Jesus had identified with sinners. He was at the end of a long line of sinful people, and this was Matthew's introduction of Him in the New Testament. He is our king, but He is not ashamed to be counted among us. He came to seek and save the lost through His death and resurrection.

God included sinners be it men or women, the insignificant and the unlikely to be part of the family tree of Jesus. As each one of them responded to God in faith, He is able to take them and transform them into important witnesses to the power of God.

God also wants to include many more into His family, regardless of our mistakes made, sinful past or condition. All it takes for us is a demonstration of faith towards Jesus.

Angku Kuih

By Ng Siew Fong



















INGREDIENTS for Skin Dough

200gm sweet potatoes (orange in colour)
500gm pulut flour (glutinous rice flour)
3 spoons of shallot oil
1 soup bowl of hot water
1½ soup spoon sugar (melted)
Banana leaves

METHOD for Skin Dough

1. Cut sweet potato into half and steam.
2. Remove skin and mash it up with a ladle.
3. Add the pulut flour.
4. Add in 3 soup spoon of shallot oil.
5. Add in 1½ spoons of melted sugar.
6. Add in hot water a bit at a time.
7. Mix and knead together.
8. Once dough is ready, divide dough into small parts depending on size of mould.
9. Shape into small balls.

INGREDIENTS for Filling

300 gm beans (split yellow mung beans, no skin)
3 soup spoons shallot oil
200 gm sugar (melt in l½ rice bowl of water)

METHOD for filling

1. Rinse and soak beans for 1-2 hours.
2. Drain and steam over high heat for 1 hour and leave to cool.
3. Melt the sugar and leave to cool.
4. Add melted sugar to the beans and blend,
5. Cook the beans in oil until dry over low heat (Takes about an hour).
6. Cool it.
7. Shape into small balls.

METHOD for shaping Angku

1. Cut up the banana leaves into pieces slightly bigger than the mould.
2. Take a ball of dough.
3. Press and flatten between your fingers.
4. Place filling in the centre and wrap it up.
5. Dust the angku with some flour.
6. Lightly dust the mould with flour before gently pressing in the filled dough.
7. Then lightly tap the mould on the table to dislodge the angku.
8. Grease banana leaf with oil before putting the angku on it.
9. Apply oil lightly on the angku as well and trim the banana leaf.
10. Steam for 5 minutes over medium heat.
11. Remove from steamer and they are ready to be eaten.

HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | Sept – Dec 2017



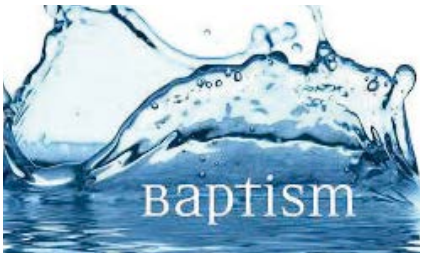
CHURCH EVENTS

Leaders' Retreat	31 Aug -2 Sep
Filipino Fellowship 1st Anniversary	3 Sep
XEE Graduation	10 Sep
Commissioning of Ignatius Tien	24 Sep
Chinese Children Ministry Musical Drama of Jonah	15 Oct
Keng Youth Sunday	3 Nov
Keng Youth Camp (Eng)	27-30 Nov
Keng Youth Camp (Chi)	12-14 Dec
Healing & Evangelistic Weekend with Ps John Ng	15-17 Dec



COMMUNITY

LLH Kindy Graduation Concert	14 Oct
Parenting Talk: Prepare Your Child for the Future By Dr Ng Meng Lek & Celine Chai	15 Oct



BAPTISM

Baptism Sunday: Yaaswini S, Yohannes Mark, Alicia Joy Prakash Rau, Alice Chan Ai Li, Angy Cheng	26 Nov



MISSIONS TRIP

Sibu Mission	11-15 Sep
China Mission	12-23 Oct
Kuala Terengganu	19-21 Oct
India Mission	23 Oct – 1 Nov
Sibu Mission	27-29 Oct



NEW BORN

Ho Sze Yuet daughter of Sook Yee & Peng Foong	4 Sep
Lucas Chan Hymn Lok son of Chan Weng Sam & Jaswine	14 Nov



CHRISTMAT CELEBRATIONS "THE GREATEST LOVE"

Children Church	17 Dec
Children Sunday School	17 Dec
Filipino Fellowship	23 Dec
Saturday Service	23 Dec
Combine Evangelistic Christmas Celebration	24 Dec

COMING EVENTS | Jan to Apr 2018

Sunrise Service	I Jan 6.00 am
HGC 24th Anniversary	18 Mar
Good Friday	30 Mar
Easter	1 Apr

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.

The Hope of Glory Centre

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