voiceofhope

the newsletter | Jan - Jun 2018



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Dear Reader,

Time is flying by all too quickly. It is already midyear. In case you have been wondering why the VOH has not come out with any issue until now, it is because the editorial team has decided to publish only two issues this year as we are working with others on the challenging and ambitious book project for our 25th Anniversary. Nonetheless, we believe that with God all things are possible.



Looking back at the past six months, we have seen this promise of God to be so true. With God's help, HGC continues to build in the spirit of unity under His grace and power. Leaders and members rally together in one heart and mind to do His will and the results were beautifully seen in our Anniversary service, the Easter celebration and the most recent HGC Family Day. You can read more about these events on pages 22-29.



HGC 24th Anniversary

For the next half of the year, HGC will continue to look to the Lord to lead us forward to do His will. One very significant and exciting one is the Kg Gerachi church building project which Chan Tham Seng wrote about in his Mission Talk column on page 6-8. Doing God's will not be easy but with God it is possible.



In this issue, once again, there are many amazing miracles and testimonies that testify to the fact that our God is alive. Look out for them.

Yes, Jesus is alive. He died for our sins but rose again victoriously over the grave. You may find it interesting and informative to read the articles Who Killed Jesus on pages 10-12 ; and His death and His resurrection as the basis of our faith on pages 14-15 . And would you like to know where in the Bible it says Jesus is God? If you do, go to pages 41-42 for the answer.



Building in Unity,
VOH Team



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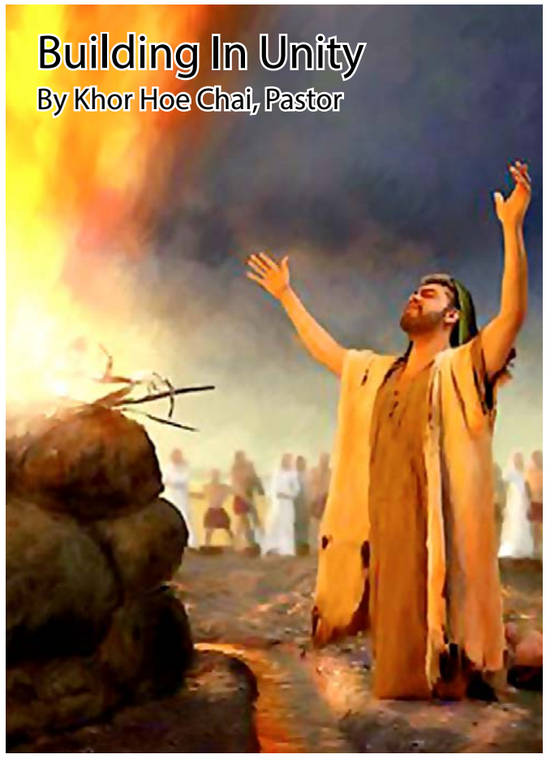


IN the days of the evil King Ahab and his wicked wife Jezebel in 1 Kings 16-18, God's people have turned their backs on God and have worshipped Baal; the idol that was supposed to bring them prosperity, fertility and pleasures. Baal was the storm god that was to bring rain but for three years there had been no rain because of God's judgment. Jezebel had her 450 prophets of Baal whereas Elijah was the one prophet of God who stood against them. Although Elijah was alone, he was in UNITY WITH GOD as he sought to lead God's people back to Him and build them up. God wrought a great victory through Elijah, destroying the forces of darkness and bringing a great outpouring of rain and turning His people back to Him.

We are living in a time much like the days of King Ahab with his wicked wife, Jezebel. We see evil in our land increasing. However, just as God had an Elijah, so God has His church in Malaysia.

What is required of the church to bring victory and transformation?

One way is that the church needs to be in UNITY with GOD FIRST and also with one another! How is the church to build in unity with God and defeat the forces of darkness and see His reign manifest in our land?

Let us look at what Elijah did in 1 Kings 18:30-33, 36-39

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come near to me." So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.
31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Israel shall be your name."
32 Then with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD;
33 And he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces,….
36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.
37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You are the LORD God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."
38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.
39 Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"

1. He repaired the altar of the Lord v30

He put FIRST THING FIRST. He repaired the broken down altar of the Lord and rebuilt it to offer sacrifices to the Lord. The worship of God had been neglected with great detriment. The Israelites had Baal above God. Today, we may not be worshipping Baal like the Israelites but we need to repent from the worship of what Baal represents today which is the exaltation of self; seeking pleasures, money and power above God. Today we can allow many distractions and attractions to fill our hearts and shut God out. We can easily go about our daily life with little regard for His Word, praying to Him and serving Him. Nowadays we can even easily neglect honouring Him in the weekly worship service. We need to realise that this can lead to our destruction.

Repairing the altar speaks of having a right relationship with God. We thank the Lord for the many in HGC who are having a thriving and growing relationship with the Lord. They have a love for His Word, for prayer and for the Lord's ministry. Praise the Lord! Nevertheless, we all need to maintain our altar to ensure that the fire is ablaze continually. The Lord is also stirring those of us who need to repair our altars to do so urgently. If you know that your spiritual life is dry. If you know that your heart is lukewarm towards Him. Do not delay. Repair your altar!

2. He took 12 stones and built an altar to the name of the Lord v31-32

What do the 12 stones represent? They represent all the tribes of Israel, i.e. Israel in unity. As for us, we are all ONE in Christ. This unity in Christ belongs to us but we are to possess this unity and dwell in it. This requires an endeavouring, i.e. we need to put effort into it.

We want to thank the Lord for leading us to build the daily prayer altar in the church. 2018 will be the 20th year that the daily Morning Prayers have been going on. We want to thank the Lord for faithfully bringing different ones to build this altar. I must say that all who have come have been blessed and I have been greatly blessed this 20 years building the Morning Altar.

We also want to praise the Lord for the weekly Corporate Prayer Meeting and the faithful members who come to pray. We can all testify that the presence of the Lord in our prayer meetings is rich and empowering. We also want to thank the Lord for all who faithfully come to worship Him in the Sunday Services which is an altar of worship. I believe that the presence of the Lord released in the church has empowered and blessed HGC in many wonderful ways.

We have leaders in our church board who are humble and faithful, working together in unity. LG leaders and assistant leaders are faithfully caring for the members and building them up. (Eph 4:12) Ministry leaders with their team members like AV team, Ushers, Librarians, Welcome Hosts, Mission team to KKB, CC team, Youth team, Kindergarten and Home School team, Old Folks Ministry team, VOH team, Evangelism team and Prayer Ministry team are all doing their part to supply to the joints faithfully and fervently. Every member of HGC from our children to our youth and adults are being enabled to keep pressing forward as the Lord pours out His grace upon us in answer to our prayers. Glory to God!

In our 24th Anniversary the Lord led us to perform a very significant prophetic act of 1 Pet 2:4-5.

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We made a wooden cross that represents who Christ is and what He has done for us. HE IS THE LIVING STONE – THE ETERNAL ROCK OF SALVATION! And we have come to Him and accepted Him as our precious Saviour, the Chief Cornerstone that we build our lives upon. Having Christ in us, we have become living stones built together into a spiritual house, a worship altar, to offer spiritual sacrifices to God. Every member came forward and each took a white stone, which represents their lives and placed it into the cross. It was such a beautiful sight to see old and young (including little children) coming forward to place the stones into the cross. While we were doing this we sang together ONE WITH YOU! This act made a declaration that we are all ONE IN CHRIST and IN UNITY!

We have mounted the cross with all the stones in it on the staircase wall going up to the church as a reminder that we are now in Christ and in Unity. Let us ALL IN UNITY worship Him, pray to Him, seek Him, receive from Him and obey Him TOGETHER! For those of us who do not come for the Morning Prayer or the Corporate Prayer Meeting regularly I would like to make an appeal and beseech you to do so as God's call to all of us. Your presence like that of the 12 stones that Elijah gathered will make a great difference!

Being involved in United Prayer in Malaysia, I can really see our God at work stirring churches to come together to pray in unity. As never before, there has been a growing unity of churches building prayer altars in this nation. I believe with all my heart that we are at the tipping point where His Spirit will be poured out like a mighty waterfall to transform our nation! Let us all join in!

3. He offered the sacrifices v 33,36

Elijah laid the wood and sacrifices on the altar. Today the sacrifices are no longer wood and animals but we carrying our own cross and being living sacrifices presented to Him. The sacrifices God is looking for are our sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise, worship and obedience to Him. I want to thank the Lord for all the leaders and members of HGC who willingly give themselves sacrificially to serve Him. The Lord remembers all that you do in His name, Heb 6:10. Although we are all glad that we can serve our King, there are times that it will require us to make sacrifices. Such sacrifices will become a sweet smelling offering to God like our Lord Jesus who gave Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God, Eph 5:2. Let us encourage one another to make sacrifices gladly as we consider the supreme sacrifice of our Saviour.

4. He prayed according to God's will v36-37

Elijah just prayed a short prayer. A God-centred prayer according to God's will. He just prayed two sentences. That's it! Our prayers to Him in UNITY according to His will bring great impact!

THE FIRE OF GOD FELL ON THE SACRIFICES! v38

Just as the fire came down on the sacrifices on the altar Elijah built, so it will come down on the church as the church offers acceptable sacrifices through Jesus Christ to God. It will be like the fire that came down on the 120 disciples in the upper room. And the fire of God will empower us to be His faithful witnesses. His Spirit will make us overcomers! No challenges of our day, no schemes of the devil, no temptations and no distractions can stand in the way. We will preach the Gospel and make disciples!!! We will be salt and light in our nation for His glory! We will have His promised presence with us!!! We will be one with our God who is seated on His throne! We will reign with Him!

So let us heed His call and unite in worship and prayer! Let us take up our cross daily and follow Him. Darkness will be dispelled and His glory will shine forth and fill our land!

LET US ARISE AND BUILD IN UNITY!





Kalau Nak Buat, Buatlah

By Chan Tham Seng

A church building will soon rise here

TWENTY-EIGHTEEN is crucial in certain ways. At the time of writing this column, the nation is awaiting an announcement on GE14 which will witness the fiercest electoral battles in Malaysian politics. On global scene, America has recognised Jerusalem as the Jewish capital and is relocating its embassy to this biblical City of David in May, a move vehemently challenged by the Muslim World.

In Kampong Gerachi, 2018 is the year for church planting following an approval granted by the village headman Tok Batin Ramsit Angong on 10 March. The timing appears perfect: God knows when the local situation and local initiatives are most ready for His house to be built in this indigenous village. We had wanted to build it in 2016 but couldn't for lack of a site. Instead we extended the front porch of Kak Biah Reman's house for ministry purposes which involve gospel work among adults and children as well as children's education.

One of our tasks is to continue our effort to steadily increase the number of believers among children and adults. On 25 November last year, our co-workers specifically shared gospel with some 27 Gerachi kids and almost all of them prayed to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

A week later on 2 December at the Christmas celebration, 10 people responded to an altar call, among them were four adults who prayed to receive Jesus as Saviour. The four were: Mak Sendu (mother of believer Kurun), Pak Yusof bin Dais (former chairman of Jawatankuasa Ketua Kampong) and village youths Man and Siti.

The response of Pak Yusuf (better known as Ayah Tira) is most encouraging for he is the one we have been making effort to bring to the saving knowledge of Jesus. Since starting our Kg Gerachi ministry beginning August 2012, we have been making attempts to build rapport with Batin Ramsit and later, his son-in-law Pak Yusof. We realise they are the two individuals who have been vested with authority to decide on matters such as allowing a church to be built in the village.

Batin Ramsit is the son of former headman Angong who practised spiritual healing and deliverance by Temuan songs and musical instruments. Ramsit's mother Mak Minah was well-known for singing *asli* songs in protest of the Selangor Dam project at the turn of 2000. Ramsit converted to Islam after succeeding his father as Gerachi headman and allows his grandchildren to attend our classes.



Many Gerachi kids accepted Jesus on 25/11/17

In early January this year, Pak Yusof's 22-month-old son Affin suffered bowel difficulty and doctor was preparing him for scanning and surgery. Our team was mobilised to pray for the toddler. The night before the scanning at HKL, Affin moved his bowels for the first time in a week without medication. And to Pak Yusof's great relief, the subsequent scanning showed no surgery was needed for his son.

God uses Affin's incident to bring us closer with Pak Yusof and his wife Ita Ramsit. I feel welcome at Yusof's home where I got to know his mother Ibu Lima (a believer from Kg Pertak) and mother-in-law (that is Batin Ramsit's wife). Though Pak Yusof still needed more time to consider baptism (for obvious reason of religious sensitivity), he was nevertheless willing to help the Gerachi believers in seeking approval for the church project.

In terms of for local initiatives, we noticed the Gerachi believers have grown in faith and confidence. Over the years, we encouraged our believers to regard the Gerachi church with a sense of ownership. We also urged them to exercise their



Kak Sila and husband Norgi giving testimony



Ten adults responding to altar call



Baptised on 7/10/17: Haida (left) and Kurun



Potential co-workers Rohani (left) and Norida



Singing carols after Christmas celebration



Pak Yusof and wife with son Affin at HKL



Batin Ramsit approves the church project

legitimate rights as Gerachi villagers to request Batin Ramsit for a church planting site. This they did with courage and wisdom!

The March 10 encounter with Batin Ramsit took place at an unscheduled occasion involving Kak Biah, Sekat, Luna, Rohani and a few other villagers. When Kak Biah took the lead to break the subject with Batin Ramsit, the latter's reply was clear and simple, "Kalau nak buat, buatlah…di tapak dekat rumah". His unambiguous endorsement, heard by others, means that a "rumah sembahyang" can be erected within the compound of Kah Biah's house. The headman's approval was conveyed to Ps Khor who immediately agreed that HGC proceed with the church planting project.



Believers dancing and praising God

As evident elsewhere in Peninsular Malaysia, building a church in an indigenous village can be a sticky undertaking and Batin Ramsit's blessing will hopefully discourage objections from certain quarters. It is therefore wise to quickly and quietly work on the project starting with identifying the site and clearing the land for our purpose. The architectural plan and costing will have to be determined and a contractor be appointed. We have to date accumulated building fund of RM39,162 as start-up but would certainly need to raise more resources as we go along.

To cultivate greater sense of ownership, we shall encourage local believers and villagers to participate in the construction work and perhaps even help to raise funds in their own ways no matter how small the amount will be.

A more important task is to speed up the preparation of local believers as full-time workers of the Gerachi church when it is ready for use. We have previously identified cousin sisters Norida and Rohani as potential candidates and suggested that they enrol for short-term training in SIB-sponsored Bible School in Mentakab, Pahang. The plan fell through then as both were burdened by having to take care of their infant children.

Today the situation has changed somewhat for the two single-mothers: Norida, now 25, is mother to a 3-year-old son while Rohani, 23, has a 4 year old daughter. Both are working and their children are entrusted to the care of family members. Perhaps, we can now revive our plan with them as their present condition is more feasible for ministry training. The Mentakab school is offering a stay-in course this coming September to December for equipping indigenous believers in foundation scriptures, prayer, praise and worship.

The year 2018 looks like a busy year but our co-workers are ever ready to meet all challenges in church-planting. By God's grace, the Gerachi church will be ready before March 2019 as a fitting dedication to the All-Mighty One when HGC celebrates its 25th anniversary.



Christmas celebration on 2 Dec 2017

Servanthood, The Christian Lifestyle

By Vincent Foong



RECENTLY my cousin's wife was commenting to me that his son just became a Christian. This is good news indeed as he is the first Christian in his family. What stayed in my mind from this short conversation was her mention of her son using his own car to fetch members to the Sunday worship service. Even though she is a yet-believer, she said that she didn't mind at all and viewed it as an act of service – servanthood in action. In fact, she was impressed with this new selfless attitude of her son. In the Bible, the word "serve" means to work for, to do labour for someone, to be a servant and to worship. To serve, is to worship. It is very much a part of Christian living.

Why do we need to serve?

1. **Jesus is a servant Himself, even unto death.**

   Jesus demonstrated servanthood when he washed the feet of His disciples. The disciples were just waiting for the other to make the first move. To them, whoever does it will mean that he is the lowest in status, because that was a task of a servant. Jesus wanted to teach the disciples an important lesson – that greatness is in serving. If the Master can do it, so can you. Jesus was the servant of all. He served by giving His life as a ransom to all.

2. **It shows that we love one another.**

   Jesus commanded us to love one another, love our neighbours and love our enemies. To obey His commandment to love, we cannot but serve. Just like how you cannot see the wind, but you can see the effects of the wind when the leaves of a tree move or the flag on a pole waves. When you love someone, that love will be demonstrated in tangible and practical ways.

   For example:

   - If you love your wife, you would serve by helping her with the housework, or babysit the kids.
   - If you love your parents, you would serve by washing your own plates after meals and keeping your room neat and tidy.
   - If you love your church, you would serve by coming earlier to help ensure things are in order and by leaving later so you can tidy up the place.

3. **It is character building.**

   When we serve, it builds up our character in two distinct ways.

   - One is in the area of humility. Matt 20:26 reads, "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant." It is the opposite of pride. It is natural for servants to serve as it is part of their job description. But it is another thing when we choose to serve others, even when it is not expected. It demands lowering of one's position and stature – being humble enough to serve.
   - The other area is of giving. Serving is an act of dying to self and giving one's life for others. It removes self-centeredness but shifts our attention to the interest of others. We are always extending ourselves, stretching our boundaries. When we serve, we are constantly reaching out to bless the other person.

Servanthood should be the lifestyle of a Christian. We are never too young or too old to serve. The amazing thing is that when we begin to serve, we will want to serve more. It is contagious, and soon others will catch "it" and will want to serve as well. Let's aspire to be a servant.

Who Killed Jesus

By Allan Webb, Pastor



ONE of the great statements relating to the death of Jesus was the statement in Phil 2: 8, "HE BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS."

The death of the cross was usually reserved for the lowest and the most degraded of criminals and yet this was the form of death the Son of God suffered. HE BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS. Constant usage has taken away something of the horror and the shame from this form of death. But in ancient times there was no more abhorrent or dreaded method of execution.

Cicero the eminent Roman historian describes it as the CRUELEST and the MOST HORRIFYING of all forms of deaths.

Tacitus another Roman Historian describes death by crucifixion as the MOST DESPICABLE death imaginable.

Dr Norval Geldenhuis an eminent New Testament scholar describes it as the MOST AGONISINGLY PAINFUL and SHAMEFUL method of execution ever devised by man.

Death by crucifixion always followed a set pattern.

First the victim would be scourged – that is his bare back would be lashed 39 times with a whip lined with jagged metal strips until it was bruised, lacerated and cut to pieces. Then the victim would be compelled to carry on his bleeding back the heavy, rough, wooden, splintery upright beam of the cross upon which he was to be crucified. Arriving at the scene of his execution already drained and exhausted, the victim would then be tied or nailed by the palms of his hands and by the soles of his feet to the cross. The cross would then be lifted up and cruelly jolted into a hole in the ground and there the victim would be left to suffer excruciating pain and agony; not dying immediately, for no vital organ of the body had been mortally affected, but suffering a long, lingering, agonizing painful death.

It was not uncommon for some victims to hang there for days in such a condition, suffering excruciating agony from torn tendons, from a throbbing headache, from insatiable thirst, from inflamed wounds, beneath a scorching, blazing sun.

Well, this was the form of death our Lord Jesus became obedient to.

Dr Luke in his account of the death of Jesus puts it very simply – he writes, "When they came to the place called Calvary, there THEY crucified Him." It is interesting that it is Luke alone of all of our gospel writers who tells us the name of the place where Jesus was crucified. Calvary is actually the Latin translation of the Aramaic word Golgotha which literally means the place of a skull - a public place of execution. It was situated outside of the walls of Jerusalem, and within close walking distance to the city on or near a public thoroughfare.

When they came to the place called Calvary there they crucified Him. That little word "THEY" is intriguing. Who were the THEY?

WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS?

Our immediate answer of course would be

1. THE ROMAN SOLDIERS

Certainly the Roman soldiers were the ones who drove the nails into His hands and feet and who plunged the spear into His side. But were the Roman soldiers solely to blame for the death of Jesus?

Apparently Jesus Himself did not think so, for on the cross He prayed for them, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

You see these men were only doing their job. They were only carrying out orders. They were only obeying a command.

2 . PONTIUS PILATE

Of far greater blame than the Roman soldiers was the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, the man who gave the order, and who issued the command. What a tragic and pathetic person Pilate was. Pilate himself was personally convinced of the innocence of Jesus. In fact, three times at the trial of Jesus, he testified, "I FIND NO FAULT IN THIS MAN." And yet still he authorised His crucifixion.

But is it fair to lay all the blame upon Pilate? In fairness to Pilate he didn't really want to crucify Jesus but he was subjected to tremendous pressure to do so by the religious leaders of Israel.

3. THE CHIEF PRIESTS, THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF ISRAEL

Of even greater blame than Pilate were the chief priests the scribes, the elders and the rulers of Israel.

Even Jesus Himself said to Pilate concerning these men, "These who have handed Me over to you are guilty of a greater sin."

The chief priests and the elders of Israel were insanely jealous of Jesus. In their jealousy they lied about Him, they cursed Him, they swore at Him, they blasphemed Him. In fact they resorted to every imaginable means to have Him crucified. They finally accused Him of leading a political rebellion and uprising. Then at His trial they themselves did the greatest about face in history, when in reply to Pilate's question, "Shall I crucify your King," they said, "We have no King but Caesar."

Whereas, all the while deeply engrained into their history over thousands of years was the fact that God alone was their King.

4. THE COMMON ORDINARY PEOPLE

However, while the religious leaders of Israel were the initiators and the instigators of the crucifixion surely the common ordinary people were just as guilty.

Indeed it was the strength of their cry which ultimately forced the hand of Pilate. Thronging the palace courtyard they yelled and they screamed for Jesus' blood, "Away with this Man, crucify Him, crucify Him."

And when Pilate saw that he could no longer reason with the people and that a possible riot was on his hands, he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Later, in a most memorable sermon preached on the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter squarely laid the blame for the crucifixion upon the hands of the common ordinary people for he said to them, "You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, even though he had decided to let Him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and you asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the Author of Life."

WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS?

The Roman soldiers - Yes. Pontius Pilate - Yes. The religious leaders of Israel - Yes. The common ordinary people - Yes.

Yes, all of these but not only these.

For you see, You crucified Jesus, I crucified Jesus, We all crucified Jesus.

Jesus went to the cross not just because Pilate condemned him, not just because the chief priests accused him, not just because the common ordinary people rejected him but because of sin. Your sin, my sin, our sin! The sin of a world which had separated itself from God!

The Bible records in I Peter 3:18 - THAT CHRIST died for sin, once and for all, the righteous FOR the unrighteous the just FOR the unjust that HE might bring us to God.

That little word "FOR" means 3 things. Christ died for the sake of, He died on behalf of and He died in the stead of others. He died as our substitute, He died as our sin bearer, He died in our place.

The prophet Isaiah said, "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed."

We may not know, we cannot tell what pains He had to bear but we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
The famous Dutch artist Rembrandt in a magnificent portrait he had painted of the crucifixion included within the crowd surrounding the cross, a portrait of himself. He recognised that he himself was there at the scene of the crucifixion, he himself was there not just as a spectator, he was there as a participant.

The hymn writer Horatius Bonar puts it so very beautifully when he wrote: "Twas I that shed the Saviour's blood. I nailed Him to the tree, I crucified the Son of God, I joined the mockery."

WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS?

The Roman soldiers? Yes. Pontius Pilate? Yes. The chief priests and elders of Israel? Yes The common ordinary people? Yes. You and I? Yes! We all had a share.

Yet the marvellous and wonderful truth is that nobody really crucified Jesus, but that He gave Himself up to die.

Over and over again He emphasized, "I am the Good Shepherd, the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. No one takes My life from Me, I lay it down of My own accord."

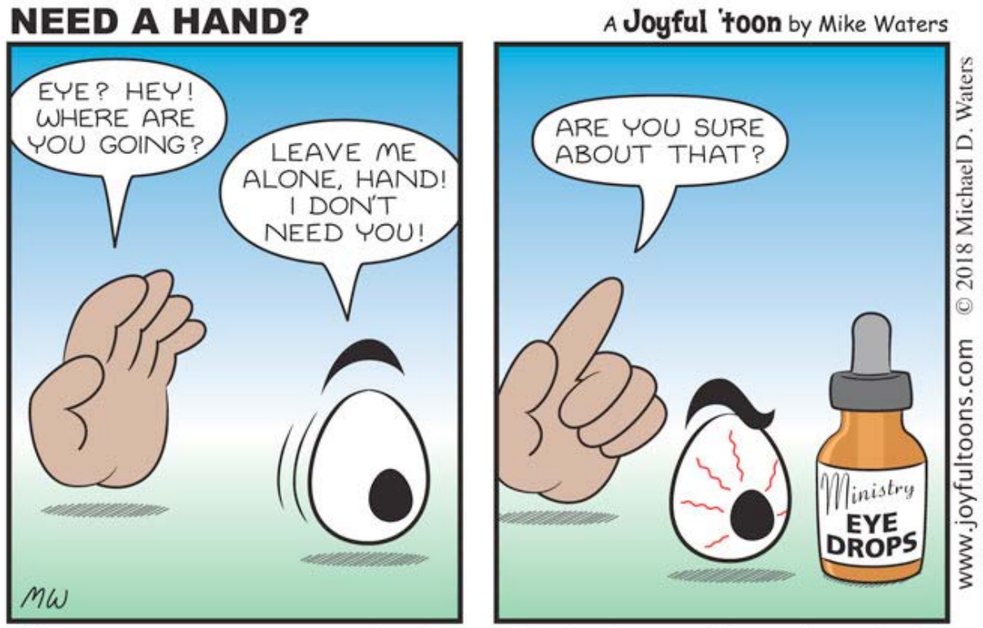
Jesus was not killed, He died.

He died willingly, He died voluntarily. He died for the sake of, He died on the behalf of, He died in the stead of others. He died for sin, not His own but for the sin of others. He died for your sin, and He died for my sin. He died for our sin.

He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.
For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.
JESUS CHRIST deliberately, voluntarily and willingly CHOSE to become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross on our behalf.

Think about that as you survey the cross and reflect upon these words, "HE BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS."

Editor's note: Allan Webb was the former OMF director, Australia and served many years as the pastor of Swanston St Church of Christ, Melbourne.



The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"
– 1 Corinthians 12:21 NIV

The Principle Of God's Bank



IT was midnight in a poor part of Hull, a town in Ireland. Young Hudson Taylor lived there and it stank terribly. His little room was in an old house by the canal which flowed through the town. The people threw all kinds of rubbish and litter into the canal. Suddenly someone hammered on his room door. "Please come quickly, my wife is dying. Pray for my wife with us."

Hudson Taylor grabbed his coat and hat and set off with the stranger. The passageways got narrower and darker. Gloomy scowling people crossed their path. Hudson Taylor looked at the stranger from the side, studying him. "Is that really true what he told me?" he considered and folded his fingers around the last coin in his pocket – it was really his last coin.

"Why didn't you go to the priest?" he asked the man.

"He would have asked us for money and I don't have any. We haven't had anything to eat for days. And we can't afford a doctor either," answered the man.

"If I had two coins I could give them one," thought Hudson despairingly. "If I hand over my last coin, the only money I have, then I will starve tomorrow. No one could expect that of me."

"God, what should I do? God, You can hear my prayer. Please help me," he prayed in his heart.

When they reached their destination, Hudson Taylor had not expected – a room without furniture, windows without curtains, empty boxes in a corner and in the other corner laid a meagre, pale woman on a sack of straw with a newly born baby next to her. A little candle was lying on the ground which gave off some light. There were older children sitting in an alcove staring at the visitor with big, hungry eyes. Hudson thought about his coin again and turned it over again and again in his trouser pocket. "If I only had two coins ... enough now!" he reminded himself. "It is my job to announce the gospel to these people." He began slowly, "You do not need to despair. We have a God in heaven Who cares for us and loves us if we believe in Him and place our trust in Him ..."

Hardly had he managed to get those words out when his heart condemned him, "You talk about trusting in a caring and loving God yet you are holding on to the coin in your pocket and not prepared to trust Him yourself."

Then he remembered the words of the Lord Jesus, "Give to those who ask it of you." Give it! Hudson Taylor slowly pulled his hand out of his trouser pocket and handed over his last coin to the family, his whole possession. Then, he was free inside to give the dying inconsolable woman the best message possible, "Jesus loves you, believe in Him and confess your sins to Him. Then He will forgive you your sins. You will be saved by Him forever."

Hours later Hudson Taylor arrived back home. He now had nothing; no money and only enough food for one meal. In his Bible he read, "He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." (Pro19:17) Now Hudson Taylor understood that the money which he had given to the poor family the day before was actually lent to God. Somehow it would be returned to him one day.

On the following morning, as he sat at the table, eating his last bowl of porridge, not knowing where his next meal would come, his landlady knocked on his door. "This package was delivered to you by the postman."

"Who would send me a package?" he wondered. As Hudson opened the package he found a pair of gloves wrapped in silk paper. "Strange," he mumbled and carefully studied the interesting present.

Suddenly, something fell to the ground. Hudson lifted it up – a gold coin, worth 10 times his coin! There was no letter in the parcel and no sender's name was on it.

Hudson Taylor would never find out who sent him the parcel with the money. However he had learnt something much bigger – The principle of God's bank. He had lent a coin to God and God had given him a gold coin in return.

Thus at nineteen years of age, Taylor learned he could trust and obey God in every area of his life.

May we all too learn to give to those in need trusting God to supply to our needs.

N.B: Hudson Taylor was an English Missionary to China and the founder the China Inland Mission.

Source of story – www.youthwork-practice.com



The Basis Of Faith In The Death And Resurrection Of Jesus Christ

By Justin Yong

WHEN we accept Christ, the Holy Spirit performs a supernatural act in our hearts to convict us of sin, and of God's righteousness — leading ultimately to our need for salvation. We actualize the Holy Spirit's work through reaching out in faith and accepting the death of Jesus as atonement for our sins and His resurrection as promise of a new life in God. For many of us, our belief in the Christian faith is grounded on this indescribable and immeasurable spiritual experience, made possible only through the power of God. However, what does it mean to reach out in faith at the work of the Holy Spirit? When we say we "have faith", we are effectively saying we have made an intentional decision to accept the claims of Christ — His divinity, His death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave — as the truth. However, how is one to know for certain the veracity of these historical accounts, if we had never experienced these events for ourselves nor heard the testimony of witnesses' to verify?

While acknowledging these disadvantages, what we are assured is that the Christian faith was founded alongside historical developments of the Jewish people. As such, investigation on the claims of the Christian faith can be conducted systematically both historically and archeologically, to determine the basis of our belief in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Nabeel Qureshi in his book Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus highlights numerous aspects which we can be confident in. Firstly, pertaining to the certainty of Jesus' death, scholars agree that the spear thrusted by the Roman soldiers into Jesus' side would have killed him instantly on the cross. This is concluded as the reason for the stabbing was to ensure beyond a doubt that he was dead. John's gospel account further observes that blood and water gushed out, thus indicating at Jesus' death, as only dead people would be able to release "water" — a kind of serum after being separated or fluid from around the heart.[1]

Some people who disagree with the certainty of the death of Christ argue that Jesus could have survived easily crucifixion for a few hours. Nonetheless, history demonstrates that in the practice of Roman crucifixion, no one had ever been recorded to survive a full Roman crucifixion as this method was designed to be a definite method for execution. The Roman soldiers used a tool called flagrum, a whip which was designed to rip skin off the body and cause excessive bleeding. Muscles would tear off like ribbons, with arteries and veins laid bare. Many people died at the flogging stage alone. Furthermore, it was also easy to tell if the victim had died on the cross. According to scholars, the crucifixion worked in such a way that nails pierced on the hands would make it impossible for the victim who hanged to breath. The victim would need to push himself up from his legs to take in air. Once the victim is tired of exhaustion, he would stop pushing up and die of asphyxiation. This is the reason the soldiers broke the legs of the robbers next to Jesus. Without their knees, they couldn't breathe, so they died.

David Strauss, a highly respected non-Christian scholar, argued a key point: not only was Jesus' survival of the cross highly implausible, it would have nipped the Christian movement in the bud. "You see, the disciples went from being afraid of associating with Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane to being willing to die for proclaiming Him the Risen Lord. If Jesus had just barely survived the crucifixion, he would have come to them broken and on the verge of dying. That is not the kind of appearance that would inspire a total transformation and a disregard for death. That boldness was the ethos of the early Christian movement, and without it, there would be no Christianity. "[2]

Secondly, pertaining to the resurrection, there are reasons to believe that Jesus' tomb was empty after His crucifixion. We know that the Christian movement was founded on the knowledge that Jesus had been raised alive. Hence, if Jesus' body had still been in the tomb, the Jewish authorities could have easily ended Christianity by parading Jesus' body throughout the city. That they didn't do it indicates that the tomb must have been empty. The tomb was also most likely empty if we consider the Jewish concept of resurrection. According to Nabeel:

"…most Jews believed in a bodily resurrection, that the very body that died and was buried would be raised on the day of resurrection and transformed into an immortal body. It would seem that if the disciples were proclaiming Jesus' resurrection, they envisioned His very body having been raised, and that implies the empty tomb... "[3]

Consider also the position of the Jewish leadership. When asked about Jesus, they said that the disciples had stolen His body, thus, implicitly agreeing that the tomb was empty.

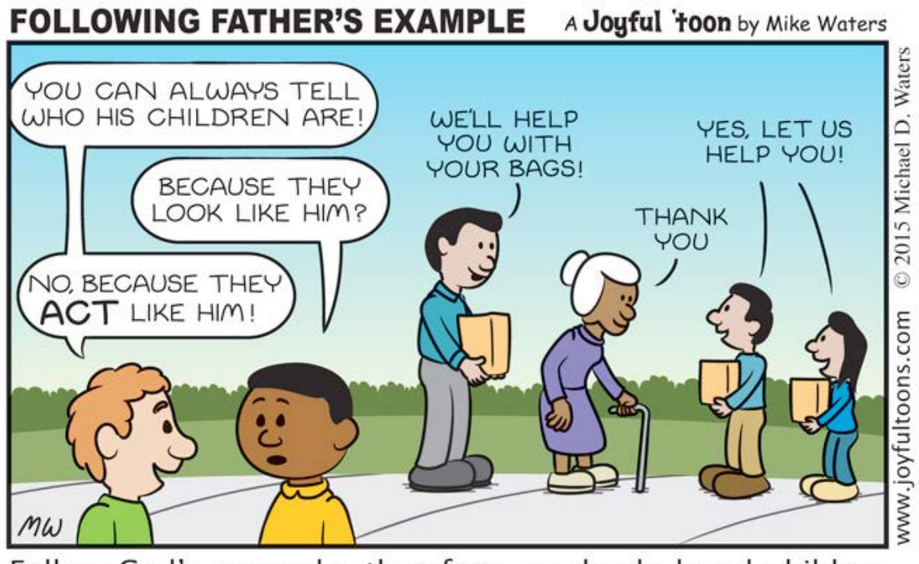
The last reason to believe in the resurrection is the testimonies of the risen Christ. Disciples and enemies of Jesus: Paul and James had attested to the risen Saviour unto their death. In this regards, the early church was noted to have started upon the belief that Jesus had risen. For the fact that the disciples were all willing to die for their belief that Jesus rose from the dead demonstrates credibility of the message. While being a martyr alone does not prove the event of the resurrection directly, nonetheless, the fact that the disciples were first hand witnesses to these accounts shows their martyrdom was of a higher value

As such, in light of these researches, we can further ground our belief and be certain of the basis for our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

1 *Nabeel Qureshi, Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus (Michigan: Zondervan, 2014), 189*

2 *Nabeel Qureshi, Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus (Michigan: Zondervan, 2014), 197*

3 *Nabeel Qureshi, Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus (Michigan: Zondervan, 2014), 208*



Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
EPHESIANS 5:1–2 NIV

Y.E.S. Camp

By Janelle Lim



YES Batch 2018

Y.E.S. stands for Youth Enrichment School, and it is catered for youths above the age of 17, after graduating from high school. True to its name, Y.E.S. is more like a school rather than a camp. This "school" lasts for 2 weeks, and it also provides classes on many interesting topics such as: cults, end times, evangelism, addiction and Bible Study lessons. Furthermore, it also provides lessons from a more artistic perspective such as drama, dancing and vocals. My favourite classes were the ones where we get to know ourselves, taking personality and spiritual gifts tests, and also teambuilding activities. Last but not least, we were all required to serve and run a youth service in different churches. Through this camp, I believe everyone can learn so much more about God and His Word. Here are some testimonies from our own youth:

James Yong *(YES Batch: 2013)*

It was a very fun filled weeks of my life, with many new firsts. Every class had something new to learn, and every day we could feel God's presence around us. Making friends have never been so fulfilling either, being able to learn about people from different walks of life.



Giving out of certificates by Ps Danny

Janelle Lim *(YES Batch: 2017)*

The most memorable thing about this camp is the presence of God in the camp. It was literally everywhere, I was so filled with joy and peace throughout this whole camp and I knew that it was God basking me in His love. I also met really amazing people and friends in this camp, being able to serve with so many talented young people made me strive even harder to serve Him, wholeheartedly. God changed me and I was never the same person I was before.



YES Batch 2017

Shirly Ngu *(YES Batch: 2018)*

YES camp was a whole different experience I've had compared to all the other camps, it's a blessing to have known a group of friends who have the same passion for God. The highlight of this camp was taking over other church services. Through this experience, I learned how leaders prepare for services every week, and it was such a joy to do it! Throughout the camp, we also had classes to deepen our understanding in Christ. Every day, we had to do devotion, and from this I realised how important it is to have spiritual discipline. Ever since, I've always reminded myself about it and became more consistent in reading God's Word every day that I felt it made such a huge impact in my daily life! I'm glad that I could see changes within myself and Nicholas! Lastly, I thank God for giving me a clearer vision, and a deeper assurance of where the right path is, through this camp



Certificate of completion

Nicholas How *(YES Batch: 2018)*

Having signed up just four days before the camp, I had no idea of what to expect but this camp left me flabbergasted. God's presence touched my heart so strongly in this camp, countless times, to the point where I would just burst out in tears. One of the many things I found intense was the teaching about "Answers In Genesis" and making a précis for this lecture which offered profound answers to questions unanswered or were left purposely mysterious. One part about the lecture that spoke to me the most was the evidence that the Great Flood did happen, and it is not a myth to put people in awe but rather to show how powerful God is. Taking the gist of the testimony, it changed my style of living in a way of being more dependent on God, doing daily devotion and to stop using profanities.



Weekend Ministry time at GTPJ



YES 2017 collage

Bible Knowledge for SPM?

By Abigail Cheong

BIBLE Knowledge is a subject in SPM that focuses on the book of Luke and Acts. It is not a subject that is taken by many students because of the lack of teachers and the lack of awareness about the subject to some students. I happened to have the privilege to take this subject. To learn it I had to travel every Friday after school to Methodist College Kuala Lumpur. Although it was hard to study for it because it involved a lot of memorizing, it has helped me improve in many other ways.

Bible knowledge has helped me understand the Bible much better. Through it, I learned to study the footnotes and the entire context of the passage. The class was kind of like a Bible Study. And it felt like I was going back 2000 years ago to the time when Jesus was ministering on earth as a man. Studying in depth about the Scripture made it come alive. It also helped me grow closer to God as I learnt more about Him. I would read the Bible more because I had to study it and that improved my relationship with God.

Not many people take Bible Knowledge, and every time I say that I take it, it makes people realize that I am actually serious about my faith. Besides, they always ask why and through that I can share a little bit about Christianity.

"I would read the Bible more because I had to study it and that improved my relationship with God."

I enjoy reading the Bible a lot more thanks to Bible Knowledge. I encourage all Christians who are going to sit for SPM to take this subject. Sure it is difficult but in the long run, the one who will get the most out of it is you.



Abigail (2nd L front) with her teacher, Miss Moey (2nd from L) & classmates

Prayer Bowl Initiative

By Ruth Lew

WHEN I heard Chern York Ling's testimony on Sharon (pg 40), it set me thinking on why we initiated prayer bowl initiatives for our church Christmas evangelistic thrusts in the first place.

It has been two years now that this has been done:

1. 2016 – Paper fishes were cut out from coloured papers and names of our friends were written on them. We prayed through the names in the morning watches and during corporate prayer

2. 2017 – Instead of cutting out plain fishes, we made origami fishes. This time not only did we write the names of others but we also wrote our names at the 'spine' of the fishes

What are the principles gleaned from this prayer initiative?

1. Prayer of agreement – The prayer is a prayer of agreement or unity for the simple reason that we did this collectively as a church effort. During one corporate prayer, we stood in a circle, took out some fishes each and read out the names together in agreement

2. Prophetic act of faith – Faith is involved in this exercise for by putting the fishes in the prayer bowl we are in essence praying, "Lord Jesus, we commit the souls to You. Reveal Yourself to them in a powerful and mighty way, open up their eyes that they may see You. Amen!"

3. Patience in prayer – Is it all right to write the same names again and again? My take on this is YES! It is aligning ourselves with God's Word in 2 Pet 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." It is a reminder to us that we still have our friends and family members in our hearts.

However, I am also aware that there is no magic in the paper fishes or prayer bowl but God sees our hearts when He sees us patiently taking the fishes, patiently writing the names again and again, patiently putting them into the bowl. There is constancy in our prayers as we do this and it is a self-reminder that we need to keep on believing, keep on trusting and keep on waiting on our Almighty God to act on our behalf!



Little Lighthouse Sports Day 2018

By Jeanette Chan



WHAT an exciting and eventful Saturday for the Little Lighthouse Kindergarten children, and their parents too. The children came flowing in with their families, relatives and friends, and sat obediently according to their respective house colours. The team of fresh faced teachers and volunteers, who had come as early as 8.00 in the morning, were busy managing the children, setting up the place, equipment and props.

At 10.30 am sharp, Ps Khor declared the Little Lighthouse 2018 Sports Day open and blew the shofar. After which was the impressive march-past by the children and their teachers.

Below are the photos of action-packed day.























Photo Caption

1 *The dedicated team of teachers still looking fresh after the Sport's Day. They were at the hall as early as 8 am to prepare the props and paraphernalia*

2 *After the march past, children bearing the country, state and school flags with their team members sang out the National Anthem and recited the Rukun Negara. What a patriotic sight !*

3 *An energetic pompom cheerleader dance by representatives of each house was soon in full swing.*

4 *The little ones collecting the right coloured balls in their mini baskets and emptying them into large baskets.*

5 *Next, the Zigzag Walk brought tears of laughter as Basil did it as a tightrope walker whilst another little girl pitched the coloured ball into the basket.*

6 *The Spade Roll was certainly a test of patience and nimbleness for the young ones.*

7 *The same goes for the parents too as they participated in the same game adding points to their children's houses.*

8 *The fourth game resembled an obstacle track with hoops, little bridges and balls. The little big hooped kids got to cross the bridges before shooting the balls into the baskets.*

9 *Last, but not least the Clap, Catch n Cross over required the kids to flip the mini bean bags into the air, clap and catch them. No mean task eh!*

10 *Shark Run! No sweat! Just getting across without feet getting 'wet' using pieces of 'stepping stones'*

11 *Families of each house colour came up with short and simple cheers for their little heroes. The support from them vibrated around the premise. "GO GO BLUE! GO GO GREEN! RED RED RED!!"*

12 *The beaming winners with their gold medals..*

HGC's 24th Anniversary!

By Abigail Cheong



HGC members and friends worshipping the Lord in unity

IT was a day of great joy and thanksgiving as we celebrated the 24th anniversary of our church. We have almost reached a quarter of a century, isn't that amazing! We started off this happy day with a hearty breakfast prepared and served by our HGC ladies in blue. Everyone had a lot of fun especially because a special backdrop was set up for photographs. It was a beautiful backdrop with a lovely waterfall, big trees, and lots of rocks. Three huge eagles were also painted on it to remind us of the beginnings of the church.

After that, we gathered in the hall and worshipped God. There was a very special cross that Ps Khor had prepared for this great day. It was hollow inside and Ps Khor explained that he wanted each member of the church to come and place a small white stone into the cross. This was an extremely symbolic and wondrous moment. It represented the unity of the church and that we are all part of the same body that is Christ.

Ps Samuel Soh then preached a message on Haggai. He gave a word for our church which is, "The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former." This word just shows us that God has much more planned for us. Let us give glory to God for our 24 years and look forward to many more fruitful years ahead!



Cutting the 24th Anniversary cake



Leaders of HGC gathered on the stage



Our dynamic speaker Ps Samueh Soh



Ginna & Calvin painting the beautiful backdrop.



Thumbs up for the celebration



Samantha and Jonathan were our young and gifted MCs of the day



The ushers having their photo taken in front of the 24th Anniversary backdrop



The ladies in blue serving joyfully together

HGC Family Day

By Jeanette Chan



Happy faces at HGC Family Day

FIRST May, 8 am: Ulu Pudu Park was invaded by 155 HGCians on this Labour Day holiday. Indeed, it was a labour of love by the team who made it a morning of fun and fellowship.

The picnic table which was under a tent was groaning under the weight of goodies waiting to be consumed: nasi lemak, noodles, curry puffs, apples, biscuits, ice cream and 100 plus. YUMS! DROOL!

On the dot at 8, Chris Cheong's voice could be heard over the microphone. "Aha, he's gathering everybody to announce the breakfast," I thought. After a briefing of the ground rules Chris said, "Sebastian will now lead you in a time of exercise before breakfast." I was sure I heard silent groans.

After Sebastian Goh led us through a series of body warming exercises, followed by graceful swaying of arms, stretches and flamingos leg stances, it was finally, foodie time!

The sight of little groups relishing their breakfast and bonding with one another reminded me of Jesus' command to love one another. Well, it is love that prompts the work committee to plan and put the event together, love that gears people to come support each other and love from our shepherd Ps Khor to be present though unwell. Love keeps us together, amen?

Calvin Lim and the games team divided all of us into five groups. Game number 1 was "Tower Power" where flimsy newspapers were given to build an indestructible tower. Once ready, it's time to be tested. Yes, by strongly sloshing a bucket of water against it. Poor towers! Ahem, needless to say, Ps Khor's group won with him being a former architect.

Next, "Catch n Stack" needed deft hands to shuffle the cups and then a quick eye to catch the little balls into each paper cup. Whoops! There you go Jenny, deftly caught! Oh, the yells and laughter were deafening!

The 3rd game was the last since there was shortage of time. Empty soda cans strung through a straw was 'carried' by two person's mouth and stacked up one after another. Unity is the key word here. Pheeep! Scores were tabulated whilst another round of ice creams and 100 plus drinks were handed out. Finally, Calvin announced, "And the winning team isss..... Group 3!" Whose group? Ps Khor's of course! The day concluded after the prizes were given out. Hurrah for us all!



Steady does it



Building the highest newspaper tower



Time for breakfast



Shuffling plastic cups with speed and accuracy



Building in unity



Sebastian leading the exercise regime



Leg exercise



Giving high-10



Sunrise Service – Jan 1 2018

By Ruth Lew

Arise to praise and worship

WHAT a way to welcome the New Year – a sunrise service was held on Jan 1 2018 with an attendance of more than 200 people from both the Chinese and English services!

Co-incidentally believers in Australia also launched a sunrise prayer rally calling upon prayer groups all over the world to pray before dawn breaks for 30 minutes on New Year's Day. Surely this was God's plan for us to join in unity with them!

A spiritual altar of praise, worship and thanksgiving was established at 6 am in the morning till about 9 am in HGC on New Year's Day. It was a pleasant surprise to see the church so full of people before sunrise!

We sang the hymn "Great is Thy faithfulness" with all our hearts welcoming the dawn of a new year – 2018, and thanking God for a great 2017.

We prayed prayers of repentance, asking God to take away our stony hearts, replacing it with hearts of flesh. A hymn of surrender was also sung where we consecrated and dedicated ourselves to God asking Him to have His own way with us.

We had different ones stepped forward to lead in prayers:

- for families
- for the spirit of discernment and revelation of God's Word by His Spirit
- for love for God's Word
- for the 2018 theme which is "Building in unity with a servant's heart"
- for children's workers
- for youths
- for the elderlies

"We sang the hymn "Great is Thy faithfulness" with all our hearts welcoming the dawn of a new year"



Praying for the young people

We also read the following Scriptures aloud both in English and Chinese – Psalm 1 and Genesis 1-3. After the declaration, we broke into small groups to pray through the Word we had just declared aloud.

The following prophecies were released:

1. "God wants to bring a revival of the love for His Word, a revival in our hearts for prayer, a revival in our hearts for reaching out to the lost and a revival in our hearts with fresh hunger for spiritual things in 2018."
2. "God wants a church united to seek God, united in prayer, united in obedience, united to serve Him. God wants us to be united in going out to the harvest field and to be united in building His house, building the children, youths and adults."

3. This word is especially for the elderlies who pray and intercede for our church:

   "I had a vision of the elderlies mending walls, repairing walls through prayer. I saw them cementing the gaps and sealing it back. They were doing it unto God faithfully serving Him. Even though some find it hard to walk, their hearts toward God is so full of love. They are standing in the gap for us"

What a wonderful way to welcome 2018! Simply unforgettable! May the Lord honour our morning sacrifice of praise and worship unto Him and remember all our prayers.

Ps 5:3 "My voice You shall hear in the morning O Lord. In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up"



Arise to praise and worship



Ps Khor & Ps Lee Ping leading in prayer fervently



An Awesome Weekend!

By Lim Chin Nee

Exuberant praise & worship

IT was a very fresh and unusual Good Friday and Easter Sunday celebration that we had this year.

The Lord was behind it all. First, He placed in the team of leaders who were planning for the weekend to have a 6.00 am Sunrise Service on Resurrection Sunday which fell on 1 April. We had our fair share of doubts. Would it work? Would members come? Would they think it was an April fool's joke? Eventually we decided to just flow according to the prompting that we received. Very quickly, Vincent Foong who was the main coordinator, confirmed the speaker to be Damien Chua for the two days.

Besides the evangelistic meeting on Good Friday night, we were stirred to share the joy of Jesus' death and resurrection to our neighbours around HGC, especially the construction workers who were working on the SUKE Highway just outside the church. On Saturday morning, 31March, we gave hot cross buns and canned milo or coffee to the workers. Though it was a token gift, it gave us an opportunity to bless them and tell them the meaning of Good Friday & Easter. Interestingly, one worker from Indonesia whom we chatted with knew about the occasion. He said, "Ini Hari Paskah."



Giving out buns and cans of drinks to the workers

Next, the Lord dropped the idea of having a backdrop of the tomb scene. That was challenging but He provided the idea, an easy way to create rocks out of paper, the materials and the creative and skilful hands to do them. When we embarked on the task, we found a giant roll of paper in our storeroom. We were not sure how it got there but it was just perfect. When God desires something done, He provides. We stood in amazement when the whole backdrop and stone were done and put up.

Praise the Lord for an awesome service on Friday night. The hall was filled. We were encouraged to see some new faces and faces of those whom we had missed. The Lord's glory, love and revelations touched many of us. There was a beautiful dance by Jo Liew to a most touching and meaningful song "At The Cross I bow My Knees." Truly, there is no greater love than the love of Jesus Christ who shed His blood for us.

Damien Chua shared his powerful life story which many identified with. Although he grew up in church, he did not have a genuine encounter with Jesus. He struggled with depression, low self-esteem and resentment. There was also no real peace in his family. Damien said that it was not until he went forward during an altar call while studying in Australia and asked the love of Jesus to touch his life that he experienced the electrifying presence of God. The Bible, from that day, came alive to him and he began to hear the voice of his heavenly Father. One of the promises he heard was that God would save his family. And God certainly did, for today his entire family is saved. He encouraged the congregation to take hold of God's promises and believe, for God will make all things beautiful in His time. Damien experienced great miracles in his life and family, including his father's deliverance from demonic possession and his own supernatural escape from kidnappers. Nonetheless, he said the greatest of all miracles is a change of heart and character.

It was a joy to see many responding to the altar call for a fresh touch from God.

The Easter Sunday service at 6.00am in the morning was awesome. The Lord brought His people. The turn-out was almost unbelievable. The hall was packed to the brim with



Many responded to the altar call

hardly much walking space left. One little boy told his mother, "Mummy, Mummy wake me up on Sunday morning. I want to go to church. If I don't wake up, please beat me until I wake up." Such a desire to come! That young boy was in church very early that morning. Ps Khor said he was moved to tears when he saw so many in the church so early to seek the Lord.

The service began with us commemorating the Lord's death and partaking of the Holy Communion. With the song "When I surveyed The Wondrous Cross" being played in the background, members came forward to remember and to receive all that Christ had won for them through His death and resurrection.



Remembering the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus

The focus then turned to the stage. As Matthew 28:2 was being read out loud, an "angel" began rolling back the stone from the door of the tomb on the stage and the worship dancers began lifting up the flags and gold-coloured cloths to the song "I am Yours", the atmosphere felt charged. That moment was indescribable, just awesome. The presence of the Lord was so tangible. Jesus is alive and He was with us.

The dance which Amy Lim received from the Lord was indeed so beautiful and glorious. You can watch it on YouTube – HGC Easter Sunrise '18. Worship that morning led by Chris Cheong was exuberant and faith-filled as we celebrated Christ's victory and exalted Him as Lord.

That morning, Damien Chua brought another impactful and stirring message. He spoke on the secret of power in a Christian life. We need to live more than the normal Christian life. We must not allow good to be an enemy of God's best in our lives. We must not be unbelieving Christians. Damien exhorted us to celebrate the resurrection of Christ every day, to live in the power of His resurrection, to let faith be our lifestyle and to move in the supernatural and the extraordinary. Jesus is risen and alive in us. Stop living fearfully and doubtfully. Walk by faith. It is a no sweat ministry when we understand the secret to power. The secret is learning how to have intimacy with God. Spend time in His presence and we will be like Him.

Many responded to the altar call that morning and we saw so many touched and ministered to by the power of God.

Service ended so early, at 8.00 am in the morning. On usual Sundays, service has not even begun. Buns and cans of milo or coffee were given out to members and friends as they were leaving the church,

We pray each of us will daily pursue intimacy with God, the secret to power in our Christian life.



A beautiful dance celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Glad Tidings To You

By Lim Lee Ping, Pastor



Singing carols in the market

IN the beginning of December 2017, I received a thought from the Lord to celebrate Christmas with the people who work in the market. Due to their business it would be quite difficult to invite them over to celebrate Christmas. Our goal was to celebrate Christmas, bless the people and to declare the peace and love of the Lord.

Many years ago, my late father and uncle would partake in heavy worship during the Hungry Ghost Festival in the place where the Charis Hope Centre now stands. Therefore, this is the moment for us to ask for forgiveness and to declare that this land belongs to God.

On 21 December, the elderly members with the help of our pastors, Chinese KENG youth and other brothers and sisters gathered to bring the Christmas cheer to the people in the Ampang Market. The total number of people present that day was about 65. We were divided into four teams. Three teams went around from store to store singing carols and two simple songs of blessing to bless the community while the youths went around playing simple games with the people.

The people in the market accepted us with open arms as we sang in front of stores and coffee shops. Stores would ask us to come to their shop to sing and bless them and passers-by would stop to listen. While the carolling team went about singing, the youths went about engaging the community in simple games for prizes. As the carolling teams go about singing, they would also bless the stores with gifts. The atmosphere was lively and filled with the love and joy of the Lord. Throughout this event, we could see that the elderly members were very brave and happy to share the joy of the Lord. While the youths showed their liveliness and energy in engaging people with their games. Everyone who participated had a wonderful time serving the Lord, sharing the blessings of the Lord out to the community and as a result brought a change in the spiritual atmosphere over Ampang.



Youth helped out with games

I would like to give my heartfelt appreciation to all who served with us on that day and may the Lord richly bless you and your families. Also a special thanks to the Chinese KENG Youth for preparing the herbal tea for us. May the Lord reign on high in the land of Ampang forever.



Bringing Christmas joy in Ampang market

A Life & Death Situation

By Chandra Sekar

IT was 15 December 2017. Our Life Group had decided to have an early Christmas gathering as some might be off for vacationing at a later date. It was to be a pot-bless gathering at Bro Chan and Irene's home. My contribution was a fruit salad.

That evening while preparing, I pulled out a salad bowl from the cabinet where I keep my glass wares. As I did that, a glass fell from the shelf, shattered and cut the artery on my wrist. Blood gushed out as it would from a broken pipe. It took me a few seconds to realize the danger of the situation. Anyway, I wrapped my wrist with a cloth very tightly and called Vincent Foong, my Life Group member, to take me to the hospital. Sure enough he came within ten minutes and we rushed to the nearest clinic. But the doctor said he couldn't handle this and that we should call an ambulance. However, Bro Vincent persuaded the doctor to at least slow down the bleeding and he did just that. We knew it would take some time for the ambulance to arrive so Vincent drove me over to the Pandan Mewah Hospital.



The life threatening cut on Sekar's wrist that has healed

I was admitted. I had lost a lot of blood and could feel myself fading away as I was beginning to lose my breath. As they were rushing me to control the situation, I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to fight back and that all my LG members and friends who had been informed were praying for me. So, I took a deep breath and managed to hold on. I was wheeled into the Operating Theatre where my artery was sown back and my wrist stitched up and my hand placed in a cast. After a time of recuperation, I am now fully recovered.

I must thank the church and especially my dear LG members for the way they came alongside me and showed such great care. I also want to thank Ps Khor for showing so much concern and praying for me when he visited me. I was deeply touched when he helped to cut the chicken into smaller pieces to make it easier for me to have my dinner.

"I felt the Holy Spirit telling me to fight back and that all my LG members and friends who had been informed were praying for me."

I also have to mention that I had the opportunity to share the gospel with a fellow patient. I led him to say the sinner's prayer as he asked Jesus to come into his heart. Later on he had difficulty breathing and the doctors and nurse tried to stabilize him. However, they could not do it. So they put him on oxygen supply and were getting him ready for a heart surgery. When the medical team left him for a while I went over to pray for him. He could not speak but I could see tears flowing from his eyes. There was a sign above his bed saying - "Puasa". Ready for surgery!

Anyway, I went back to my bed and eventually slept. At about 2 am I got up to drink some water and I found him sitting on his bed eating. I told him that he should not do that as he was supposed to be fasting. But he pointed to the sign that was taken away which meant that he was alright and did not need the surgery. He thanked Jesus over and over again.

I want to conclude that I am very grateful to God for our church and my dear LG members.

Jesus said, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another." (John 13:35)

God's Grace Upon Me

By Jay R



Jay with his lovely wife and children

SHALOM! Jehovah-Raah (The Lord My Shepherd)! Jehovah Rapha! (The Lord That Heals)!

First of all, I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to my Lord Jesus Christ for His LOVE and GRACE upon my life and for the opportunity to share my testimony and experiences of how God saved me and worked in my life, moulding me to be what I am today and blessing me with my beautiful wife, my adorable lovely children and loving people around us.

Life Before Christ

I am a Kelabit from Sarawak. I grew up in a Christian family. I am the eldest boy among four other siblings, all girls. We attended church services regularly and had good fellowship with church members, going out for outings or picnics. My sisters and I spent most of the time with my mother as my father works abroad in offshore oil and gas industry which kept him away from the family most of the months.

Although, I had experienced God's touch and healing in my life back in 1997 during a youth camp, it did not leave a lasting impact on me. My life did not really change. Temptations and influences around me kept both my feet in the world.

When I entered college in 1998, I started getting into trouble. Being away from my parents, I began socializing with troublesome groups of youth, drank alcohol, smoked, womanized and constantly skipped classes and college programs. My attitude caused me to be distant from my parents and to change three different colleges or institutions in three years.

My father who had been transferred then to Kemaman, Trengganu, asked me to return home from college to live with them in 2001. I was at that time in my third year in the third college. I made my decision to stop studying and start working. My first job in August 2001 was in the oil and gas field in Kemaman. I never expected that to be my career path as I was still a troublesome young adult at that time. Nonetheless, I made good progress in the company.

In April 2007, I got married to my beautiful wife Glowie. In July that same year, I was promoted and accepted the offer to be transferred to Labuan Island, located off the coast of Sabah.

Sadly, my drinking, smoking and womanizing habits had not stopped. I thought since I had entertainment benefits from my company as a supervisor, I should make full use of it. I had so many drinking friends and we partied almost every weekend and after work, until I had very little valuable time at home with my wife and daughter, and to the church. 2009 was a challenging year for me. My father passed away, I had credit card debts and my relationship with my wife was "cold". However, that was the year God started renewing my life!

How I Met Christ

It was a weekend morning. I had woken up sober after the effects of my usual partying wore off, and felt the need to go jogging at the beach. While on the beach, thinking of the issues, troubles and harmful habits that I had, a desire to pray and seek for God's help rose inside of me.

Walking slowly while looking up at the sky, I began to pray and pray. Tears began to flow without me realizing it as I prayed to God (in both Bahasa and the Kelabit dialect), "Lord Jesus, I need you. Forgive me. Please help me, show me the way that I can walk through with You and resolve my troubles as I have no other way God."

Immediately, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and a change came over me. I rushed back home smiling. Without hesitation, I grabbed all the cigarette packs in the house and threw them all in the trash bin; and flushed the balance stocks of alcohol down the toilet bowl. I was delivered instantly from all my bad habits and quit smoking entirely. Praise God I have never been tempted since.

Psalm 34:17-19

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all

How My Life Changed Since Knowing Jesus

From that point, I received compassion from my wife and I began discovering more love for my family, friends, neighbours, relatives, brethren at the church. There was a passion in me for God's presence each day, a passion for sharing God's salvation in my life, for fellowship and partaking in church ministries and events.

I believe God has been working and is still working to bring salvation to those who seek Him (Jesus) including me. John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working." He began cleaning me up instantly when I called upon him.

I am thankful to Jesus for shedding His blood and dying on the cross for me to save me from my sin. His love for me endures forever.

It was indeed by grace through faith that I was saved. It was not my works but the gift of God. There is nothing I can boast except in His grace. Whatever I had gone through was a process God led me through to bring me to the point where I knew I could not go on without Him. Everything was according to His timing and will.

Praise the name of Jesus, my Lord my Shepherd. I have seen wonderful changes and blessings in my life since my encounter with Him.

In 2012, I moved back from Labuan as I was promoted. Glowie was so grateful to be back in Kemaman, Terengganu. Towards the end of 2014, I was once again promoted, and transferred to KL.

Wherever the Lord places me, I carry on walking in His ways and serving Him. The Lord God blesses me in the land which I go to possess.

By His grace, I have experienced life changes. The Lord has blessed me in my work and protected me. I have grown abundantly in love, forgiveness, joy, healing, peace, faith, hope, strength and wisdom.

Every day, week, month and years, God has made my family and I recognize the importance of fellowshipping with loving and caring pastors, brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing the gospel, praying for each other and reminding one another to build faithful relationships with God together.

Indeed, God's love endures forever and He will bless His kingdom's work on earth, the families who seek for His face, His church that seeks Him together in faith.



Seriously Challenged

By Angy Cheng

Angy during her baptism

BEING educated in a convent, I was in some ways influenced by the Catechism lessons and was baptized in a Catholic church when I was a young adult. Though I had a Bible, I seldom read it. I only continued faithfully in the religious practices of saying my prayers with the rosary and with other booklets as my guide. I felt that I did not communicate with Christ effectively.

A few years ago a friend took me to HGC and to one of their weekly Life Groups. I felt so welcomed by Ps Khor, Chin Nee and other church members. The warmth of the church members touched me greatly and I felt taken care of.

I was very impressed by how friendly and concern the sisters in the Life Group were. I remembered one of them saying "we are all one big family". I agreed totally. Through this, I dealt with some of my fears and began to grow. I felt the need to grow deeper in the Word of God. Reading the Bible through following the Bible Project has opened up ways of knowing God more.

In 2017, one of the sisters took time to disciple me, following the Discipleship program that HGC uses. It was during those studies that I was seriously challenged to accept Jesus as my personal Saviour. It was not an easy decision for me because it meant that I had to cut off completely with my previous practice of prayer using the rosary and acknowledging Mary. Instead, I have to put Jesus first in my life.

As I continued with the study, the Spirit of God convicted me not only to accept Jesus as my Saviour but to go through the water baptism too. I consulted my children (they are all Catholics) before making the decision. Praise God they gave me their blessings. I felt like a whole new person, being a child of God who is my Heavenly Father, knowing Jesus as my Saviour and friend and the Holy Spirit as Comforter and Guide for my life.



Gripped By Death

By Jeanette Chan

Jeanette with her husband Francis

I had a phobia of death because when I was in my twenties, I had a suffocating experience. It was not as if I disbelieve Jesus, I know that He will resurrect me on the day I leave this big blue orb for heaven. I had no answer to this fear and shared not with anyone as it sounded so inane. The fear continued to live in me!

Much later in 1995, three years after I was married, I finally conceived. As chronicled: I went to work without breakfast or lunch and was silly enough to consume a packet of jackfruit on an empty stomach which resulted in pains throughout my tummy area. Francis, my husband sent me to our family doctor who tested me positive for pregnancy. I was thoroughly alarmed at the pain I experienced and the charcoal pills prescribed helped little. I was admitted to the hospital and found to be having an ectopic pregnancy (the embryo had attached itself in the fallopian tube). Needless to say, I was scheduled for surgery. Agonised, I could only weep endlessly at the thought of losing my baby. The world crashed around me and hopelessness set in until Chin Nee arrived to pray for me before the operation. A little consoled, I was pushed into the operation room which to me was like being pushed into my grave.

Once sedated by the anaesthetist, I saw myself visiting three places dearest to my heart: first to the Hair Topic Salon, which was being renovated by the late brother Hoe Seng at that time. I stood there wanting to tell him to hurry up with the water tank etc. Immediately after that thought, I was in the Hope of Glory Centre where I saw Ps Khor, Chin Nee and a few other leaders at the front altar discussing about the church. I wanted to walk to them to say farewell as I was on my way to heaven when it suddenly struck me, "Hey, I'm dying right now or dead….. Hmm it's not frightening at all!!!" Delighted at the ease of this painless death, I asked, "Okay Father, what's next? Am I going to see a tunnel of light, spot Jesus in Tees and jeans or see the pearly gates?

Before I could fully grasp the wonder and incredulity of it all, I was whisked to the third place, my home! I gazed lovingly at the home I had built with my beloved husband the last three years and at my favourite corners. Where is Francis? Oh, of course, he was at the hospital waiting for the surgery to be over. Anxious that he be comforted by my death, I was immediately near him. He was anxiously pacing up and down the operation theatre with a frown. Why the anxiety? Dr Goon had affirmed the surgery to be an hour plus but it had taken four and a half hours. The fallopian tube had ruptured, like a blood bomb exploding inside of me and I almost had hypothermia. I moved forward to assure him but was already back in my operated pain wracked body!

It was three days later before I had the energy to confirm with Francis of his expression and actions, out of the seven day stay at Pantai Cheras Hospital. By then, I know God had cured me of the phobia of death and have been sharing this story whenever the occasion arose! Jesus and only Jesus could heal permanently! All glory ascribed to Jehovah Rapha, our God the Healer!



Believing

By John Chen

John and Allison in front of their lovely new home

IT has been my wish to stay on a landed property after my three boys have grown up. In 2004 I purchased a landed house. The development project consists of both 2.5-storey super-link and 2.5-storey semi-detached houses. Although a semi-detached house with spacious land was really my wish, I could only afford to purchase a 2.5-storey link-house then. However, due to unforeseen circumstances the project came to a halt after almost 60% of completion and approximately RM250K of part / progressive payment was made.

For almost the next 10 years, there was no further progress on the house. There were frustration and anger at the beginning but as time passed God's grace comforted me and gave me the faith to believe in His goodness and His faithfulness.

In the December of 2012, HGC invited Tan Sri Chan Ah Chye as the speaker for the Christmas luncheon celebration at the Ampang Water Front restaurant. Tan Sri was the key boss of that failed housing project in which I was one of the many victims. Before he took the microphone, I reminded myself to have a forgiving heart and be open to listen to what he had to say. His speech, amongst many, touched on the economy crisis then and how he found goodness in God. What impressed me was the mention that his company was willing to face those victims and discuss how best a solution could be reached.

A few weeks later the Holy Spirit prompted my wife Allison and I to go to the developer's office. With God's grace and favour upon us, a fully completed 2.5-storey semi-detached house with legal title was counter-offered to us, a swap for the abandoned 2.5-storey link-house at a favourable market price. The new semi-detached house has already been completed with renovation and furnishing by end 2017.

"There were frustration and anger at the beginning but as time passed God's grace comforted me and gave me the faith to believe in His goodness and His faithfulness. "

Looking back at the journey, I can only attribute the matter to God's goodness, kindness, mercy, and faithfulness to me and my family. To own a nice hill side semi-detached house in my life time was beyond my imagination. There were groups and committees set up to take legal action and to revive the abandoned project but somehow God had led me to walk on a different path so that I can give glory to God and to testify to His goodness and His faithfulness.

God is so good! With His timing and provision I was able to fully settle the purchased amount. It is His grace and love for me that has enabled me to live a blessed life without debt. God had also shaped and moulded me to be more patient, putting my trust in Him, believing in Him wholeheartedly and holding on to His promises in Mark 9:23, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."



Luke at Love Bakery

Honour Your Father & Mother

By Luke Tien

2017 had been a year of ups and downs for me. Something major happened to me that year in July to be precise.

My mother had been speaking to me about helping out with the family bakery business. I was not too keen because I was doing well in my job and enjoyed the fringe benefits that came with it. I was also able to put to use what I had learnt in the university in my job then.

I told my mum that I would pray about it. As I was asking God to give me one good reason to leave my job, I heard God speak to me clearly one morning, "Honour your father and mother". I must say that it was the fear of God that made me take the leap of faith and I immediately tendered my resignation.

My boss asked me why I wanted to leave and I explained to him how I came about making the decision. He was happy to hear about me wanting to honour my father and mother and even allowed me to leave much earlier than my notice period. I did not have to serve the full notice period.

Today I must say I am enjoying myself in the bakery and experimenting with new taste for bread and cakes!

God will honour those who honour His word to honour their parents.



Timely Help

By Rachel Nathan

TRULY I will never forget the day the Lord sent me a wireman who did something so wonderful for me and my family. He changed the entire wiring system of my house!

The wiring system in my house had gone haywire for some time. I suspected it as the electrical equipment like my kettle broke down several times and there were frequent power trips in my house. The water heater that Dorothy Koh, a sister in church, gave me also broke down frequently which made showering my son, Isaac, really tough as I had to boil the water separately.

I decided to ask Dorothy to help me. She requested the wireman whom she knew to check on my rented house. He checked through all the electrical installations and gave me the verdict – the entire wiring system of my house was messed up. The whole house was a fire trap as the red, white and black wires were all wrongly placed. Thank God for sending this man to highlight the matter to me before something awful happened!

Not only did he highlight the condition of the wiring system to me, he willingly spent almost four to five hours changing and rearranging the different coloured wires in the house to ensure that there would not be any wiring trip-up and to prevent any potential fire mishap.

Such a work would have cost me RM3,000 if the wireman had requested for payment but he refused to accept any money for his services. Even when we offered him a small 'angpow', he refused to take it. Instead he gave an 'angpow' to my son, Isaac!

God is so good. He has never failed to send us help in times of need.



God Gave Me A House

By Sara

I STARTED facing problems with my old rented house in 2014. It was my in-law's house in Taman Saga. I had rented it for my family of five at a reasonable price. However, a family dispute arose over the house and my relative wanted the house back. As a result, I had to look for a house for my family.

With my salary, I knew I could not afford to buy a house so I prayed really hard for God to provide me with one. Then the opportunity came for me to apply for a house with DBKL and I took the step of faith to register my name.

One morning while reading the Bible, the verses in Deut 6:10-11 jumped up at me so clearly, "Just as the Lord your God promised your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, He will give you a land with large and prosperous cities which you did not build. The houses will be full of good things which you did not put in them…." (Good News Bible)

I was so happy when I read that verse. I continued meditating on the promise of God that He would give me a house full of good things which I did not put in them! Although at times I wondered how God would do it, I did not waver concerning this promise but kept on praying the verses for myself and my family.

In Nov 2014, I actually received an order of eviction to vacate the house. At that time, my children were having major exams. Somehow God arranged for an alternative place for us to stay. For this I need to thank Ps Alvin Tan and Ps Victor Maniam of Yayasan Sunbeams Home for their kindness towards me and my children. Truly their ministry has been such a great blessing to so many people.

In Sept 2015 the good news came from DBKL, I was assigned a unit and at a good location too! God answered me exactly as He promised. The things in the house started coming one by one – the fridge, washing machine, sofa, beds…things were put in my house by others. I was thanking God all the way!

I have learnt since then to be very specific in my prayers. There was once when I asked for a blue coloured shirt but what I got was of a different colour. I was fine with that too as I thought at least I got a shirt! But God told me, "You asked for blue shirt so you will get a blue shirt." Later, I was given the blue coloured shirt that I wanted.

Today I have learnt to pray very specifically for the things I need. I prayed for each of my children in the area of their education to get places in certain colleges. My eldest daughter at first got a university placing that was far from KL. She rejected it and the second time she applied she got a place at a university at Tanjung Malim which was nearer home. Wow…even after rejecting the first offer, God gave her the desire of her heart. Truly our God is so awesome!

Start praying today specifically and see Him at work. He longs to BLESS US!

She Won't Give Up

By Chan Yi Hern



Yi Hern with her Aunty Fong (L) and Mum (R)

AUNTY Fong! The tall beautiful, cheerful always laughing aunty in my life. She is so much taller than Mom! Sometimes, I feel like asking her, "How's the weather up there Fong yiyi? Hahaha!"

I admire her energetic character especially her cheerful, laughter and loud but sweet voice. Besides, she is courageous, independent and a loving lady.

She has tons of courage! I wish she could donate some to me!

To start with, when she told Mom and I she is involved in a street ministry for many years, my reaction was, "Why street people? Strangers? Unrelated to us?"

The homeless come from all walks of life including the poor, drug addicts, ex-prisoners, those who are mentally ill or from broken families and etc. But she diligently served them every weekend without fail and has never stopped serving as it is a calling from God. There were times she was scolded for no reasons at all while serving but yet she did not give up as she has hope, faith and love as in 1Cor13:13.

My heart feels for her, wondering where she charges her courage? Yes! From our Almighty Abba Father of course as in Joshua 1: 9, "Be strong and be courageous. Do not be afraid nor discouraged for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!" I believe this verse is sown deep into her!

She has chosen to reach out to the homeless to share Christ with them. Caring is sharing in Jesus' eyes. She empathized with them and even walked alongside with them in their journey of life!

She shares her life experiences with them, to open their hearts to Jesus! Whatever background they may be from, my Fong yiyi believes each one of them should be given a chance of a new life in Christ! This is the most awesome gift from God. These people are the ones who need love and care the most and also the help to recover! It is not easy for them to accept love, what more to love others. It takes courage to love again for fear of being hurt once more.

I have to admit that I admire my dear Fong yiyi and value her greatly for her work in the streets.

I also admire her for never quitting. I know that many things have happened in her life but she never gave up hope. She gets up on her feet again and again to walk closer and closer to the Lord. I still remember her advice from Prov 3:5, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Last year was a most unforgettable year for her. She was diagnosed with an illness.

She admitted that she was frightened initially, sad, frustrated, angry, confused, hopeless, depressed and etc. She couldn't accept it! There are so many things she wants to do. She cried and lashed out and began to query God's love. All those questions popped up in her, "Why me? Why now?" She complained to God for leading her to this hard road. Life is real hard to accept!

But interestingly she said that the angrier and sadder she became, she felt God walking closer and closer with her!

God brought her through amazingly as she grieved over her lost youth, health and even loved ones who had gone to heaven. God even gave her courage to reconcile with some family members. She began to trust God's plan and thank Him for saving her from the pit of despair, loneliness, grief, bitterness and filled her with His light, peace and joy.

Praise God, my Fong yiyi is healed in Jesus name and I want to THANK GOD for answering my prayer. I have been secretly praying daily to God to heal her.

I would like to dedicate Psalms 16: 5 - 11 to my Fong yiyi who has been an inspiration in my life and to anyone who is going through life's challenges.

"Lord, you alone are my inheritance, my cup of blessing.
You guard all that is mine.

The land you have given me is a pleasant land.

what a wonderful inheritance!
I will bless the Lord who guides me,
Even at night my heart instructs me.
I know the Lord is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for He is right besides me.
No wonder my heart is filled with joy,
And my mouth shouts His praises !
My body rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead
Or allow your godly one to rot in the grave.
You will show me the way of life,
Granting me the joy of your presence
And the pleasures of living with you forever.

Note: Yi Hern is a special needs young lady who has been given the gift of writing.



"ARH? You listen to Christian motivational messages online?" I asked my beautician in awe last Saturday. I mean I have yet to do so and here we have Sharon, a non-believer who makes it a point to do so during the weekend. Sharon relies on the Chinese translation when the spoken English is too deep for her. She said that 30 mins seems a bit long for her hectic schedule but before she knew it, she has finished and enjoyed listening to one message after another!

As per previous years, our prayer leader Ruth Lew encouraged us to write the names of friends we are planning to invite for Christmas on a piece of paper. The church then prayed in agreement for God to touch these souls. This year, Ruth prepared origami fishes for us to write our friend's names. A most symbolic act as we are called to be fishers of man.



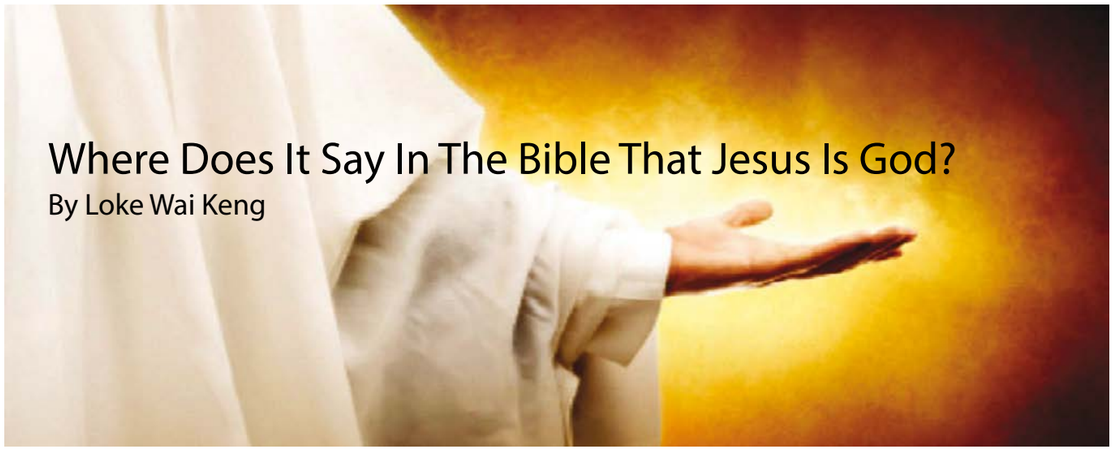
Though it is a tradition for me to spend Christmas with my family in Singapore, I felt led to write Sharon's name on a fish and drop it into the glass bowl during corporate prayer last year.

Two weeks later, I had a facial appointment. Sharon was reading the Bible while waiting for me. One of her customer gave her an old Chinese Bible. Sharon was struggling to read the Old Testament. I encouraged her to start with the New Testament to know more about Jesus which she did and say that she enjoyed reading the Bible.

I did not expect her to progress so fast within these two months from reading the Bible to listening messages online, all by her own initiative. Praise the Lord!

"I encouraged her to start with the New Testament to know more about Jesus which she did and say that she enjoyed reading the Bible. "

There is indeed much power when the church prays together in agreement. Though Sharon is not ready to say the sinner's prayer, her faith will grow as she reads and listens to His Word. His Word will address the queries in her heart. She will be set free soon. And all those who agree say Amen!



THE Bible does not record the precise word of Jesus saying, "I am God." However, there are many references in the Bible that indirectly declare that Jesus is God including references where Jesus Himself claims and shows His divine nature as God.

1. God's Declaration

Hebs 1:8 But of the Son, He (God) says: Thy throne O God, is forever and ever, the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of Thy kingdom." This is a remarkable passage. God the Father calls His Son, "God". It is a reference to the Old Testament passage in Psalms 45:6-7. This put Jesus at par with His Father as God.

In Hebs 1:6 God the Father also says that all the angels should worship God the Son. Here, God ascribes the worship of Jesus by angels.

In these verses, God acknowledges Jesus as God, the same status as Himself.

2. Only God can be Worshipped, Jesus was Worshipped.

Worship can only be rightly given to God, as we know from Exod 34:14 and Deut 8:19.

Deut 6:13, 14 states that the children of Israel are to fear and worship God alone.

Luke 4:8 Jesus answered, "it is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.

On many occasions, we see Jesus accepting worship. For example Matt 14:33, 28:9, Luke 24:52, John 9:38. He did not rebuke people for worshipping Him. If Jesus were not God, He would have told people not to worship Him just as the angel told John not to worship him in Rev 19:10.

3. Given same Honour.

John 5:22-23 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father.

This means that Jesus should be honoured equally with the Father.

In the book of Rev 4:8,11, God the Father was worshipped. The same words of worship are used to worship Jesus in Rev 5:8, 12-13

Jesus is God because He is worshipped with the same honour due to God the Father.

4. Jesus Existence- He is Eternal

John 1:1, 14 (RSV) In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God….(14) and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth, and we have beheld His glory, glory as of the Only Son from the Father.

This is one of the most well-known "proof texts". Jesus is eternal ("beginning" in this verse means "eternity past"). Jesus was with God the Father, and is God the Son. To make sure that the reader has no misunderstanding, John in vs 14 reiterates that the "Word" referred to is the Son, and that He "became flesh" (the incarnation). Only the Son has a body. So John was expressing the truth that the Word was Jesus who is God becoming flesh.

Another direct and profound example of Jesus claiming to be God is found in John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

This may seem like a confusing answer, but the Jews knew exactly what He was claiming. By using the term "I am," He was making Himself out to be Yahweh (God) of the Old Testament. He was claiming to have existed not only before Abraham, but



eternally. We find the name "I AM' first used when God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

5. Equality with God

On another note Jesus said in John 10:30 that "I and the Father are one."

To the unbelieving Jews, it was very obvious that when Jesus stated equality with God, it was blasphemy to them because in verse 33 the Jews tried to stone Him. In their words, "You being a man, make yourself God."

It is obvious here that Jesus claimed Himself to be God, though He did not say directly that He is God.

Jesus was God so He could do miracles. In vs 38 He supported His claim of being God and performing miracles by saying, "Believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me and I in the Father." John10:38

6. Disciple's Declaration

John 20:28 Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God."

This had to do with the famous "Doubting Thomas". Thomas did not believe Jesus had risen, so Jesus appeared for His sake and told him to touch the wound in His side. Upon seeing Jesus, Thomas believed and said "My Lord and My God". If Jesus was not God He would have corrected Thomas. He did not and commended him because he believed upon seeing Jesus.

7. Jesus' Work

Another important reason that Jesus has to be God is that, if He is not God, His death would not have been sufficient to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. (1John2:2) A created being, which Jesus would be if He were not God, could not pay the infinite penalty required for sin against an infinite God. Only God could pay such an infinite penalty. Only God could take on the sins of the world (2 Cor 5:21), die and be resurrected, proving His victory over sin and death.

8. His Attributes

Many attributes that describes God are similar to the attributes of Jesus in Scripture.

God the Father states in Is 43:11 …besides Me there is no Saviour. Jesus is called the "saviour" of mankind, for example in Luke 2:11.

Is 45:23 God the Father states, "To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear." These same words were used to describe Jesus in Phil 2:10-11.

The Bible teaches that God is judge (1Sam 2:10, Ps 50:6, Ecc 12:14), so too is Jesus described in John 5:22,27; Acts 10:42; 2 Tim 4:1.

God the Father sits on His throne in Heaven (1Kings 22:19; Ps 11:4; 47:8), so too is Jesus on the same throne too (Rev 7:17, 22:1,3).

Conclusion

There are so many verses that can be picked for this huge subject which needs a life-long study and understanding. At every turn in the Bible and to make sense of all these statements taken together as a whole, only one conclusion is possible, Jesus is God. He is the eternal, all powerful, all loving self-existent God.

Winter Gourd & Pork Curry

By Magdeline Chin



Ingredients A:

600g pork belly
600g winter gourd, cut into chunks
10 pieces kaffir lime leave
100g Thai basil
150ml coconut milk
500ml water
3 tbsp oil
Salt to taste

Ingredients B:

4 green chilies, 4 red chilies
200g shallots, peeled
150g garlic, peeled
4 stalks lemon grass
1cm galangal
6pcs candlenuts

Ingredients C:

1 tbsp curry power mixed with water into a paste

Method:

1. Cut pork belly into thick pieces.
2. Blend ingredients B except lemon grass into paste.
3. Smash the lemon grass slightly.
4. Heat oil in low fire and add in blended ingredients and smashed lemon grass. Continue to fry until fragrant.
5. Add in pork belly and salt, fry until the pink colour of the pork belly disappears.
6. Add in winter gourd
7. Continue to fry for about 10 minutes.
8. Add water, kaffir lime leaves and continue to cook until it thickens.
9. Add in basil leaves and coconut milk.
10. Cook until the coconut milk starts to boil.
11. Dish out and serve.

HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | Jan– Jun 2018



Sunrise Service


HGC Family Day


Easter Sunrise service

CHURCH EVENTS

Sunrise Service	1 Jan
HGC 24th Anniversary	11Mar
Good Friday Service	30 Mar
Easter Sunrise Service	1 Apr
HGC Annual General Meeting	6 Apr
Church Planting Seminar	21 Apr
HGC Family Day	1 May

COMMUNITY

Kindy Sport's Day	9 Jun

MISSIONS TRIP

Switzerland	11 – 24 Apr
Indonesia	28 Apr – 4 May


COMMUNITY: Kindy Sport's Day


MISSIONS TRIP : Switzerland


MISSIONS TRIP : Indonesia

COMING EVENTS | Jul to Dec 2018

Prayer Conference	14 Jul	Kindy Concert	6 Oct
40 Days Fasting & Prayer	7 Aug – 15 Sep	Christmas Celebrations	Dec
Leaders' Retreat	20-22 Aug		

INVITATION

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

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

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

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