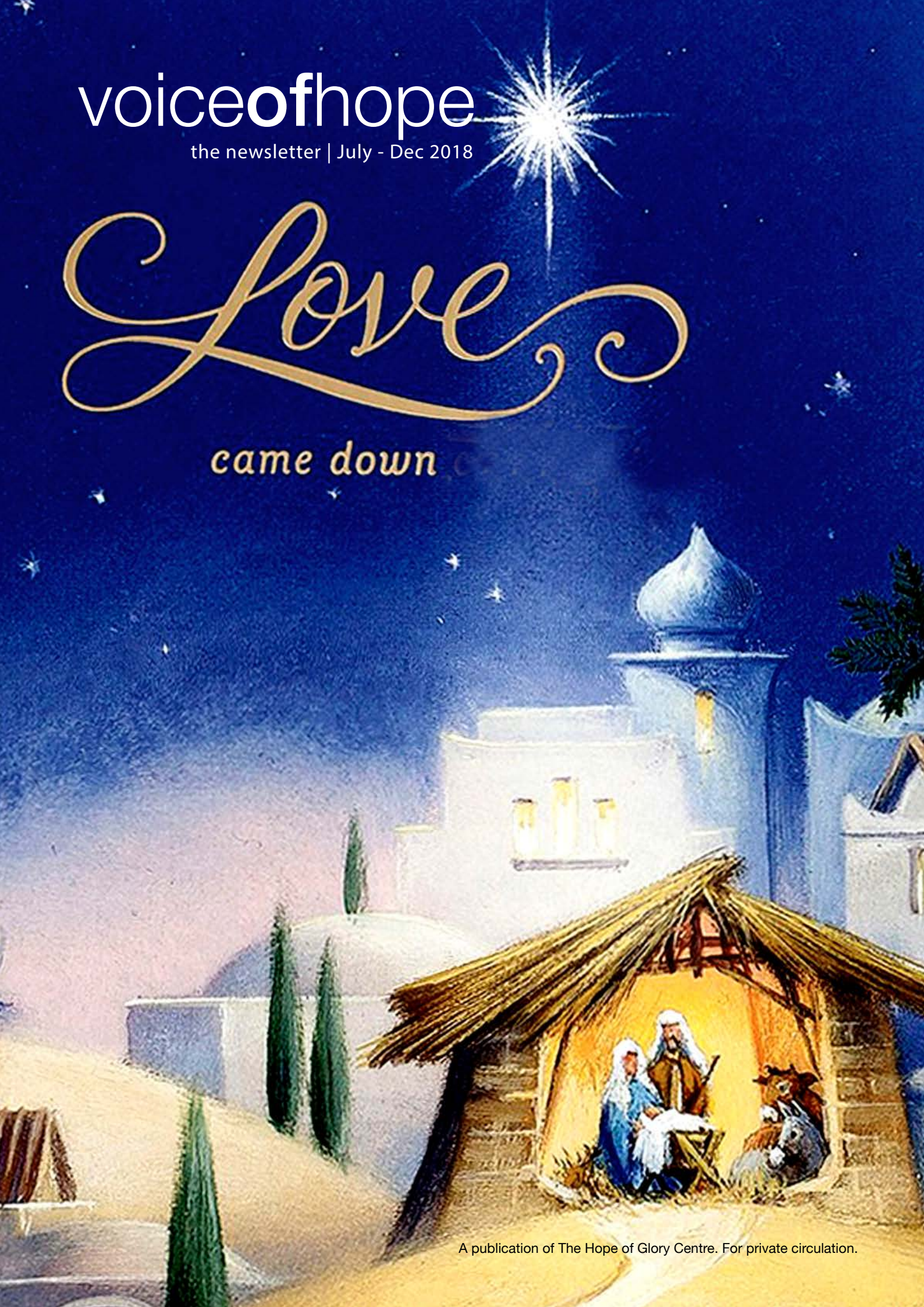
voiceofhope

the newsletter | July - Dec 2018



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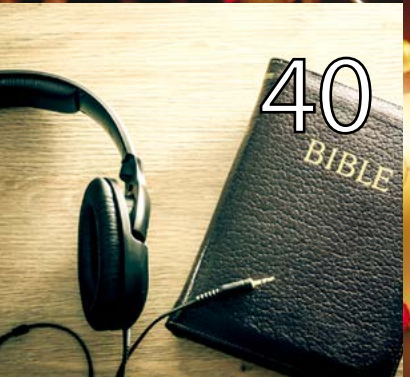

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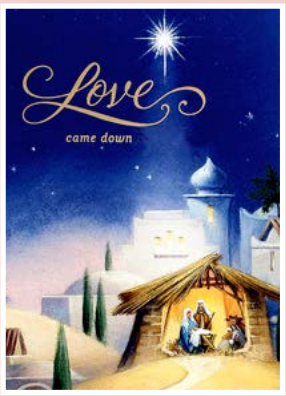
Dear Reader,

A Very Blessed Christmas and a Fruitful 2019 to you and your family! Love is in the air and may you come to experience the LOVE of Christmas anew! A simple childlike faith, that's all it takes to open the door to this infinite grace and love of God which is more than able to save and carry you.

2018 has been a most exciting and busy year for HGC. We started the year with a meaningful sunrise service and now, we are in the Christmas season, and fast approaching the New Year.



Christmas 2018 - Love Came Down

In 2018, we saw how HGC built together in unity. There was much display of teamwork, resulting in positive and encouraging outcomes that glorified the Lord. HGCians are a very helpful and supportive lot.

We saw it in the "Sayangi Ampang" project where a big number of HGCians without qualms of getting soiled and dirty turned up to help spruce up Bandar Baru Ampang. It was a great experience for the team in charged to be working with MPAJ councillors, the garbage contractor and the management of Bandar Baru Ampang. Read about it on pages 24-25.

Besides that, there was the KKB Fund Raising Project, a day of fun and purpose. We saw the organizing team working hard, with many HGCians helping so willingly in one way or another. This event is covered on pages 28-29.

The success of the 2018 Kindy Graduation and Concert also speaks of the collaboration among teachers and children, including HGCians who volunteered to help out as backstage hands, makeup artist, ushers and hosts. Read more on pages 20-21. Together, we have made the difference in building God's kingdom!

There are many interesting articles and miraculous testimonies in this issue. Enjoy reading them.

Love at Christmas,
VOH Team

The Hope of Glory Centre

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Love Came Down

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

IT IS Christmas again! The special season of the year of joy and celebration! In our celebration this year we have chosen the theme: Love Came Down!

2018 is a very special year indeed. It is a year of new beginnings and for us Malaysians it has been a year of the miraculous birth of our New Malaysia filled with joy and fresh hope. As I write, I recall a prayer that was prayed for our beloved nation in a prayer meeting in an overseas nation a few years ago. The prophetic prayer says that God loves Malaysia so much that as He bent down to kiss the earth, He kissed Malaysia! Malaysia is loved of the Lord! Malaysia is the Lord's treasure!

This theme of "Love Came Down" is especially dear for us. As we celebrate Christmas 2018, let us rejoice that God, who is love, came down in the person of Jesus Christ to do extremely more than to kiss the earth or Malaysia. He came to seek the lost and to give His own precious life as a ransom, as a price in exchange for the lives of many held under the bondage to sin.

The Bible tells us that God demonstrated His love towards us in that while we were still sinners, He sent His Son Jesus to bless us, to be our Saviour and Lord. He loved us not when we were deserving but when we were still undeserving.

The Bible in John 6:33-35 describes Jesus as the Bread of life that has come down from heaven to satisfy man's hunger and thirst.

"For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

"And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Also in John 4:14 Jesus said that He shall give living water for the thirsty and they shall never thirst.

John 4:14 whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Today people in poverty-stricken nations are starving to death from lack of food. But it is not only in poor nations that people are starving to death. Multitudes in developed nations are also starving to death. They are starving from the lack of love, joy, peace, identity, purpose, security, self-worth and significance. These ones may have all their material needs met but their souls are hungry and thirsty. They feel lost, aimless and confused. This has resulted in the worldwide increase of suicides to an alarming 2,160 every day. It is even more alarming to know that suicides among South Korean youths are the highest in the world due to the intense pressure of stress and competition in schools and colleges.

Jesus brought God's love down from heaven to earth to meet every need, to satisfy every hungry and thirsty soul. Jesus made this astounding statement that He is the bread of God that came down from heaven to give abundant life to the world. All it requires of anyone who is hungry is to come to Him and believe in Him. This would mean believing in WHO He is to them, believing in the WORD that He has promised them and the WORKS of Salvation that He has done for them.

As we celebrate Christmas let us be reminded that Christmas is all about Jesus. It is NOT about Santa Claus and Christmas trees and shopping and feasting. Let us come back to the FOCAL POINT of Christmas – JESUS.

WHO is He?

He is God, the creator, who came as a man, born through the virgin Mary, to become the sinless sacrifice for sinful man. He is love and He is holy. He is good and He is righteous. He is merciful and He is gracious. He is true and He is faithful. He alone is worthy of our worship.

What did He promise us – His WORD?

He promised to satisfy us. If we will humble ourselves, turn from our sins and confess them to Him, He will forgive us. He promised to love us and bless us with His presence, His peace and His provisions. He promised us a new life; an abundant and eternal life. He promised us that we will have an inheritance with Him now and forever. We can trust Him forever.

What WORKS of Salvation has He done for us?

He died on the cross to reconcile us back to God. He rose again from the dead to give us life and the certainty of resurrection. He ascended in heaven to prepare a place for us and He sent His Spirit to be with us, to bless us and fill us so that we can live victoriously for Him.

WOW! What amazing blessings are ours because LOVE CAME DOWN!

There is so much to celebrate for those of us who are believers and followers of Christ. Let us hold fast to all that Christ has won for us and allow Him to daily change and transform us to be more like Him. Never let go of your rich inheritance in Him for whatever seems so good and tempting in this temporal world. Focus on Him and look forward to His coming again.

If you have not believed in Jesus, I hope you will come to believe in Him this Christmas! Then your sins will be forgiven. You will have the promise of new life and a new relationship with God as your Father. You will receive His love and acceptance; His peace and security as His precious child. He will give you strength, wisdom and guidance. He will help you and protect you. He will answer your prayers and bless you beyond your wildest dream. He will flood your heart with His love, joy and peace now and forever.

A Blessed & Joyous Christmas to All !

Sowing Blessings in Indonesia

By Chan Tham Seng



Christina (left) and team at Sungei Bakau

AS our boat was nearing Pulau Halang in the morning of 3 May 2018, I saw students on a rickety jetty of a banglio. I asked them about their teacher, one Pak Simatupang, who used to come with a motorcycle team to fetch us. They told me that Justin Simatupang had died in November 2017. What sad news to weigh upon us as we rode to the island's Methodist School.

Everything else in the Pulau Halang School looked old except for its new resident pastor cum school principal, Ps Lo Sien Gen who has replaced Ps Amsaruddin Sihombing last July.

On a familiar bench sat a familiar man, a school teacher for sure, though I could not immediately recall his name. He was neatly dressed in a red shirt, dark pants and black leather shoes like all Methodist school teachers. He looked listless, hardly able to return my smile. Pasaribu (aka Horasman Saruksuk) is his name and he now carries a four-legged crutch around ever since his stroke in May last year. Another piece of pathetic news about God's people succumbing to enemy's attacks with misfortune!

Pak Simatupang's departure at 56, due to cerebral vascular rupture, was sudden. Formerly headmaster of the primary section of the Pulau Halang Methodist School, Simatupang was regarded as "the best teacher" in school. His wife, also a teacher, has since been promoted to take over his place.

Pak Pasaribu was 55 when he suffered the stroke. He taught Geography and Mathematics and had served in the Pulau Halang School since 2001. As he could not recover to his previous self, Pasaribu gave up his teaching job, hence losing his regular income. But he continues to dress like a teacher and limp to the school, partly for the physical exercise he needs and partly for the classes he misses so much.

Simatupang and Pasaribu are our two dear brothers in Christ who could have avoided the mishaps if there are better medical facilities in the Riau province. The Indonesia missions have certainly sharpened our sense of compassion. We are grateful to HGC members who, though most of them unable to travel with us to Sumatra, are giving generously towards the educational needs there.

In this mission trip to the Riau province (28 April – 4 May), your gifts of RM7480 plus Indonesia Rupiah 976,000 were distributed to three Methodist schools there: Bagan Siapiapi (RM4500), Panipahan (RM2400) and Pulau Halang (RM580 for 2 students).

At Pulau Halang, some team members searched their pockets to come up with a love gift (RM300 plus IDR100,000) for Pak Pasaribu. Back home in Malaysia, the team members dipped deeper for an additional RM312 to add on to the undistributed IDR976,000 (or RM280). The total: IDR2 million (or RM592) was sent to pay for one year school fees for Yohannes Andri, youngest of Pasaribu's five children. Yohannes is starting his SMA2 (form 5) in the Pulau Halang school in July. Thanks to God for the opportunities to shower blessings for the needy especially those in the household of God!

Yohannes reminds me of William Fernando Sianturi who is known to some HGC members and had enjoyed their

financial supports during his years in Pulau Halang and Bible School in Jakarta. Both the Batak students attend the same school though Yohannes is junior to William by nine years. William's story must have encouraged Yohannes for the latter too aspires for a full-time Christian ministry after completing his senior high school two years from now.

Some update on William:
After completing his bachelor of theology in a Jakarta Bible College, William was posted to serve in a rural church in Lahat of Sumatra Selatan. There he also married Sriyani Hia, his Jarkarta classmate from the Nias Islands. In July this year, William was posted to a church in Mukomuko near Padang. The church is sited within a huge plantation comprising three estates with many workers. In the church, William serves under a senior pastor while Sriyani takes charge of a Sunday School. The plantation is poorly served by dirt roads and some estate workers require an hour to get to William's church whose members come from 40 families.

In our last mission trip to Bagan Siapiapi, our six-member team (the other five being Amy Lim, Katherine Koo, Abel Cheong , Chin Wei Shin and Christina Auyong) made two ministry breakthroughs. One was doing a session with the children at Kampong Sungei Bakau Methodist School and another conducting a praise and worship session at the Bagan Siapiapi church.

Our team, led by Ps Lasnini, arrived at Sungei Bakau at 7.45am on 1 May. Though a public holiday, some 80 school children were already there waiting, in their colourful dresses, as if some big shots were coming from Malaysia. Malaysians but certainly no big shots, our team brought little gifts and joyous times to them, thanks to Chin Wei Shin, Christina and Abel.

I first visited Sungei Bakau in August 2012. It is a pathetic village sitting on swampland choked with riverine mangrove. Due to coastal erosion by the encroaching waters of the Malacca Straits, part of the village was relocated elsewhere. Meanwhile, the Methodist school with 100-plus pupils was planning to operate junior secondary classes for local kids.

In this latest visit, we saw a new wing standing on concrete stilts in full operation, thanks partly to a Jakarta Christian group which made yearly visits to help raise fund for the extension project. We are glad that God is using HGC to add blessings to this school which is headed by a faithful Batak sister from Medan, Rayanti Sirait, and some local teachers.

In the second breakthrough, our team conducted a praise and worship seminar in Bagan Siapiapi church under Ps Lasnini. The seminar comprising two night sessions was led by Amy Lim with assistance of Katherine and Christina. Some 30 people attended the seminar including a few students from Bagan secondary school. From response of participants and Ps Lasnini, the seminar had positive impact upon the church. This is because, having been used to traditional liturgy, participants found spirit-free worship pleasantly different. God willing, we wish to do more praise and worship seminar in the Bagan church.

Apart from the two breakthroughs, we ministered as usual to students: Bagan Siapiapi school (5 decisions for Jesus), Panipahan school (56) and Pulau Halang school (13).

We thank God that rural students are claiming the blessings of Jesus each time we minister in Indonesia where lives come under frequent attacks. Calamities since our return from Bagan in May: Lombak quake, July (casualties 450), Sulawesi quake/tsunami, September (2000 with missing 5000), Mandaling Natal flood/landslide, Sumatra, October (about 50).



Breakfast at Bagan Siapiapi

Photo caption

1 *Amy conducting praise & worship seminar*
2 *Gathering in Panipahan school*
3 *Gathering at Pulau Halang school*
4 *Pulau Halang Ps and Mrs Lo*
5 *Pasaribu and son Yonannes*
6 *Five Pulu Halang students received Jesus*
7 *Amy and team at Bagan church*
8 *Ministering prayer after seminar*

















The Tibetan Connection

By Chan Tham Seng



Rizun Lamasery overlooking Lugu Lake

THE Zangs or Tibetans never entered our scope of Lugu Lake ministry all these 19 years. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the Zangs are a "faraway" people (many found in Tibet) who are politically sensitive (to Beijing) and resistant to the gospel (being Tibetan Buddhists).

However, my wife and I became friends to two Zangs in the last two years: the first is Gerong Nima (see VOH Sept-Dec 2017) and the second, Ruoba Daji, whom we met in our recent Yunnan trip (5-24 Sept).

We first met Gerong, a 22 year old lama monk at Lijiang bus terminal and since then he invited us to visit his home in Waka village of Sichuan province by the Yunnan border. Unsure of any gospel opportunity with that visit, we nevertheless added Waka to our list of ministry destinations in our 2018 trip.

When Gerong disappointingly called off the Waka trip upon our arrival in Kunming, God opened a door for us to connect with Ruoba, the first Zang Christian we met in China. Like Gerong, Ruoba hails from Sichuan's Ganzi county where there are many Khampas, a subgroup of Zangs.

A 2010 census put the worldwide population of Zangs at 7.5million of which 6.3 million are found in China. The Zangs make up the dominant people group (about 3.3 million) in Tibet Autonomous Region. The rest dwell in other Chinese provinces including Yunnan, Sichuan, Qinghai and Gansu. Outside China, there are Zang communities in India, Nepal and Bhutan.

For several centuries, Christian missionaries including the Nestorians had tried to evangelise the Zangs but with no lasting success. In recent decades, local Chinese Christians found it even harder to reach out to the Zangs due to their historical animosity towards the Han nationals. A Zang believer like Ruoba is rare and hence our great delight in meeting him in Baisha in the outskirt of Lijiang town.

Ruoba's testimony shows that Christian compassion works on the Zangs whom God loves. In 1990 at the age of 21, Ruoba went to the southern Indian state of Karnataka where he spent six years studying Tibetan Buddhism. While there Ruoba was taken ill and sought medical help in a charitable hospital run by Western Christians. The kindness of doctors and nurses left a lasting impact on Ruoba. It was also while studying in the monastery that he found a tattered Tibetan Bible, and read the Scripture for the first time.

Ruoba returned home in 1996 and served as a lama monk for several years before he opened a little shop selling Tibetan artefacts and trinkets. Finally in October 2006, Ruoba the Khampa lama invited Jesus into his life ("I was truly touched by Luke 6:29. No others taught like Jesus about loving our enemies.")

In 2012, Ruoba married a Pumi believer, and today they have a five year old daughter. In Baisha, the couple worship with some local believers. Ruoba is not worried about being Baisha's only Zang believer; he hangs a signboard at his shop depicting two crosses ("The local authorities didn't give me any trouble").

The Zangs' resistance to the gospel is linked with Lamaism or Tibetan Buddhism. Among the tenets of Lamaism is the belief in reincarnation and that that salvation is gained by practising rituals and self-mortification. On the highways, pilgrims are seen prostrating and inching their way like caterpillars towards Lhasa, capital of Tibet. Tibetan lamas spend lots of time offering incantations and sacrifices to gods and demons amid drumming, rattling and ringing of bells.

Outside Tibet, a place like Yunnan's Lugu Lake keeps the flame of Tibetan Buddhism and culture alive. Strings of prayer flags flutter in the hills surrounding the lake. Local folks mumbling prayer as they regularly walk round stupas with prayer wheel in one hand and rosary beads in another. Local houses always maintain a lighted fireplace in sitting room where food is offered to gods before meals. In Lugu Lake, young Mosuo boys still enrol for Tibetan education at local lamaseries. At later age, some promising ones will travel to Lhasa or India for stringent training in monkhood.

Enci Gexi is a local Musuo boy from Lugu Lake who makes good in the world of Tibetan Buddhism. We first met Enci in October 2017 when my wife and I were doing prayer walk and looking for gospel opportunity at Rizun Lamasery overlooking Lugu Lake. As head lama of Rizun, Enci impressed us with his humility, friendliness and inquisitiveness. Our meeting him this September was therefore a follow-up on last year's conversation with him on religion.

Enci became a novice in a lamasery at age 13 in 1984. Like Ruoba, Enci subsequently went to India's Karnataka state and spent 21 years in Bangalore, the capital city. He became the first Mosuo to qualify for a gexi (equivalent to a doctorate) degree and returned home to Lugu Lake in 2013 at 41.



The second meeting with Enci brought us closer. In the one hour conversation at the Rizun hall, Enci politely heard Esther as she expounded on the Great Commission, the Great Tribulation and the second coming of Christ. He humbly accepted a Bible and other spiritual materials which Esther brought along from home. In return, Enci gifted us with two bananas each.

I have previously gone through some writings on Tibetan Buddhism and it helps in this trip. The meeting with Ruoba and Gexi has increased our interest for the Zangs and followers of Lamaism. As for further commitment, we are seeking more leading from the Lord.

To conclude, here is a brief on what else we did. In Lijiang, we had a two-day seminar on healing and deliverance for 10 believers including our earliest converts from Lugu Lake. Today, local community in Lugu Lake forbid them from meeting as a house church in their Langfang village. Nevertheless, the believers keep their faith in Christ and remain grateful for how we have nurtured them through thick and thin for nearly 20 years.

Because of the tension in Langfang, we avoided Langfang village and proceeded to Zuosuo to visit family members of the "Last Queen". In Zuosuo town, we did some evangelism work among high school students and other locals. On our way back from Zuosuo, we led a 27 year old driver, Shen Quifu, to Jesus. Qiufu, member of the Yi minority, agrees to be followed up by a Langfang believer.





Photo caption

1 Zhuoma with husband Guohui
2 Street evangelism at Zuosuo
3 Advising Ruoba on the trinkets he sells
4 Seminar on healing and deliverance
5 With Langfang believer Yang Chunxiu
6 With Enci, head of Rizun Lamasery
7 With participants after seminar











The Door is Closing

By Lim Chin Nee

Low turnout on the 1st night of film festival due to intimidation

DESPITE a very busy schedule, I chose to go with Pastor to Guntur India as I did not want him to travel alone. In the dawn of 8 Oct 2018, we flew from KLIA 2 to Chennai. After a few hours of transit, we took a small domestic jet plane with propellers to Vijayawada where we were picked up and driven close to two hours to Guntur.

Guntur is a small city on the east coast of India. Although over 85% of its population are Hindus, I saw a number of churches as we travelled around. Sis Lata Lincoln whom we work with, said that she had done crusades in that city many years ago with very wonderful and positive responses.

She has a good team of people working under her and liaising with some local pastors. Much prayer was lifted up and ground work done in preparation for the two day Pastors' Conference and the three nights of Film Festival which was evangelistic. The expectation was high.

However, while there for six days, I realised that the door of the gospel was closing. The BJP Government has taken strict measures to stop foreigners from teaching the Word of God or preaching the gospel. In the hotel where we stayed in Guntur, Sis Lata was asked to write a letter giving full details of her guests and their itinerary. Besides the two of us, there were three Americans who were sponsors of the events. Pastor has been to India close to nine times and this kind of information had never been required. Sis Lata avoided writing the letter but was given warnings that she would be reported to Criminal Bureau of Investigation. We did not allow fear to enter but faith in God to rise.



Ps Khor leading an elderly to Christ

As soon as the Pastors Conference, which received many good and positive reviews, was over, the decision was made to move to another hotel, an hour's drive away. We faced no scrutiny in the new hotel but the hotel management in Guntur would not let go. They reported the case to the police who came to question Sis Lata and warned her not to allow her foreign guests to speak in the film festival. We were

not allowed to sit on the stage, hold a microphone nor say a word of greeting. However, we could wave our hands to the crowd from the stage. We were also told that BJP people would be on the grounds.

Due to the intimidation, rumours went out that the film festival was cancelled. Sis Lata had expected a crowd of several thousand on the first night but only a few hundred came. Though clearly disappointed, we chose to rejoice. Sis Lata preached a powerful gospel message and quite a number of hands went up to receive Christ.

Praise God after the meetings were over, close to midnight, the people came towards us seeking prayers. We had opportunities to minister to them and to pray for the sick. Pastor even had the opportunity to lead one elderly lady to Christ.

Praise God, in the second and third night, thousands turned up and many gave their hearts to Jesus.

Travelling through the streets of Guntur and its outskirts, I could clearly see that harvest is truly plentiful…. Pray indeed for the Lord of the harvest to send in workers into His harvest (Matt 9:37-38). And as the door to ministry seems to be closing to foreigners in India, it is time for the nationals to rise up to preach the gospel to their own. In everything God has His purpose.

Let us pray for Sis Lata and the many Indian pastors to train up their leaders and members for the work of the ministry.

And for us here, may we seize the opportunities for ministries while the doors are still open.



Ministry to the pastors



Pastors Conference in Guntur

Seeing Sibu

By Compiled by Abigail Cheong

PASTOR Khor led a team of four young people to Sibu from 11 to 15 June 2018 to help Ps Shin run a camp for the Iban youth. About a hundred enthusiastic young Ibans turned up for the camp which was a great success.

Below are the encouraging feed backs from our youth.

Siew Wen Chee

This trip to Sibu was my first to East Malaysia and also my first outstation mission trip. There is a difference between mission trips and a holiday; that is, mission trips are more meaningful.



Wen Chee (R) with Abigail at the jetty

I was happy I could build bridges with some East Malaysians especially the Ibans. This trip allowed me to interact directly and in depth with the Iban natives. I had a chance to visit a longhouse and share my testimony with them. It helped me grow in confidence as I stood in front to share my testimony. Their supportive reactions also encouraged me a lot.

The Iban believers really enjoyed worshipping the Lord and singing out loud with us. What I learned from them in this trip is to have faith in God, commit everything to God and allow Him to direct our ways. I also had the opportunity to be a games master, my very first effort. I felt nervous, but our team supported each other throughout the trip. I really appreciate every one of them.

Ps Khor really guided me throughout this trip. His faithfulness and perseverance in God's ways had a great impact on me. He was my alarm clock in the morning because I could hear his voice praising the Lord. I learned a lot from him and his messages throughout the youth camp.

"All in all, the Spirit moved mightily amongst us in our lessons, plans and even games, in which the youth showed overwhelming support and enthusiasm."

Abel Cheong

This was my second mission trip after Indonesia. It was very fruitful. We were tasked to run a youth camp for Ps Shin. Before this mission trip, God gave me John 4:24, which says, "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth". Hence, I felt that God wanted the Iban youth to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.



Abel (front)and Ps Shin (R)with lively Iban youth

On the last day, after the session ended, all the team members prayed in tongues. After that, Ps Khor prayed for all the youth to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Immediately, the Holy Spirit started touching some of the young people who were hungry for God and they started praying in tongues. This was a very new experience for me, because I

have never prayed for people to be baptized in the Spirit. Overall, I am thankful to God for letting me experience this during the camp.

Luke Tien

Before a mission trip, in preparing my lessons, I would always ask God what I should teach and how to teach it. This time, it was about the Holy Spirit and I prayed that the Holy Spirit would move mightily amongst the youths. I kept my prayer request at the back of my head, being assured He is with us.



Luke with his team of Iban youth

The mission trip started excitingly and there were no complications during our travelling. However, the schedule was packed, because we arrived at 10pm, and we were expected to start morning prayer at 6am the following morning. There was not much time for us to prepare, less to bathe and then sleep. Nonetheless, when it was 6am, the hall was full of people ready for the morning prayer. My spirit was lifted up to know that they were excited for the Lord. When it came to the time of worship, the Holy Spirit moved mightily amongst us all. Ps Khor hearing from the Spirit, gave a Spirit filled lesson.

All in all, the Spirit moved mightily amongst us in our lessons, plans and even games, in which the youth showed overwhelming support and enthusiasm. Furthermore, when we invited the Holy Spirit to manifest amongst them, many of them spoke in tongues. The camp ended without complications, and the youths brought back a renewed vision for a transformed life through the touch of the Holy Spirit.

I, myself, on the other hand, hope that the little advice I gave to them on how to save up their money, could be planted inside of them and help them manage their finances. To God be all the glory and honour for the things that have been done.

Abigail Cheong

Going to Sibu was a last minute decision for me, but I thank God that He gave me the chance to have this amazing experience. It was a hard decision for me as I had just started college and I had a lot of assignments piled up. I even brought my laptop with me to Sibu to finish them. Our schedule was really packed tight, from early in the morning all the way to late at night. It was very tiring to be honest.



Abigail ministering to a young girl

On one of the days, I felt especially tired. However, after the worship at the night session, I felt all my tiredness just left me and I felt so light. I thank God that He had helped me throughout this mission trip. I met many Iban friends, and I am really happy to see them rejoice and worship the Lord with all their heart. If I could, I would love to see them again next time.



Prayer & Faith

By Ignatius Tien

The prayer team with the Tamil Methodist Church Kuantan (Ignatius is 3rd from left)

WHAT would you do when you're called to pray for cities in Malaysia?

That is the question that formed our 'Pray for Cities' group in YWAM (Youth with a mission). To be entirely honest, it was only a small group of three when it started. Now, it has grown slightly bigger since the nine months of its establishment. Our Mission in the small group is to research the cities in Malaysia that God has placed in our hearts, and then to find the man of peace in the cities, and form a tangible relationship with them, either through blessing them, or supporting them with prayers. We are to be the bridge between churches. We also know in the spirit, that doing online research and prayer is not enough. So in line with the Lord's guidance, we decided to hatch a plan to visit two cities that were in our list ; Kuantan and Mersing, in a single 3 days 2 nights trip. The drive would be as long as nine hours from Penang on the first day, and nine hours on the last day. The finances were divided among all of us going. Sorting through the pictures I just realised that though we have many pictures to share, it is wise to only show a few.

The first stop down from Penang would be Kuantan. We located an airbnb that was just five minutes off the city centre. Our initial goal for Kuantan would be to find out if the bauxite and flood were still plaguing the town, and also to find a man of peace that we could establish a connection with there. On arrival, we had a prayer walk, as well as chatting with some people. But as great as it is with our planning, the following day was Wesak Day, and much to our discouragement, most of the places that we planned to visit; museums, universities, government facilities and churches, were closed for the public holiday. Yet in faith, we drove around the town, seeking for our 'man of peace'. And that's when God moved and gave us the place. With the urge to just stop outside of the gate of a church to pray over it, we ended up getting the opportunity to drive into the church compound. It was a Tamil Methodist Church which was having a special Bible study class that day.

Rev Jeva, with both looks of surprise and confusion, greeted us as we got down from our car. But as soon as he heard our mission and where we were from, he opened up and shared with us. He shared with us about the need for discipleship that bears fruit; in short, making disciples that make disciples. He also shared the need for unity amongst the churches and having peace with the authorities. There is also the urgency for missions, especially for the lost, both locally and abroad. After an hour or so of sharing, the Reverend and his elders sent us off to the next stop of our journey, the town of Mersing.



Mersing Town Centre

Taking the east coastal road is not really a smooth ride. It felt like a combination of going to Cameron Highlands, Genting, and Port Dickson. But our skilful driver at the time brought us to Mersing safely, albeit car sick. The town of Mersing has a beautiful view that has not changed since the 20th Century. The Jetty is famous for ferrying tourist to the nearby Islands such as Pulau Tioman. The Masjid Jamek holds the best view across the whole town. However, its population has declined due to the flowing out of its work force to the city centre of Johor, leaving Mersing with only a population of roughly 26,000. That was our mission, to investigate, and pray, for Mersing. We had a prayer walk around the town: its high places, its governing places, as well as historical places. Ending with worship before sunrise at the beach, we gave thanks to God for His provision and providence, before heading back to Penang.

There were many places that we visited and activities that we did during this trip which encouraged us. They will remain in us as we hold them up in prayer before our Lord. To the question that was placed at the top of my testimony, my answer is, "Yes, I will pray, and go in faith."

They Drowned So Others Could Live

Compiled by Lim Chin Nee



Empress of Ireland

Jesus says, "Greater love has no man than this,
than to lay down one's life for his friends." John 15:13

TWO years after the Titanic sank, another ship sank. It was the RMS Empress of Ireland which was going from Canada to London.

On the early foggy morning of May 29, 1914, the passenger ship carrying 1477 passengers and crew collided with a freighter ship on the St. Lawrence River in Canada. 1012 people drowned. Only 465 were rescued and survived. The sinking of this ship was very different from the Titanic. It sank very fast. Within 14 minutes, it was under the water. There was not enough time to lower the many life boats. Only seven life boats managed to escape the rapidly sinking vessel.

On board this ship that day were 169 Salvation Army youth leaders. They were on their way to London for an international conference. When the ship sank, their cabins happened to be next to where the life-jackets were stored. They grabbed a life jacket each and jumped into the freezing water. How blessed they were to have the life jackets.

However, out of the 169 Salvation soldiers, only eight survived the ordeal – an unusually small number. And of those who drowned, not one of their bodies had a life-jacket on. It was puzzling. An investigation started. What happened to these youth leaders? Didn't they put on the life jackets?

During a survivors' meeting, the stories that came out were all the same. Many of the survivors told how those brave young people swam through the cold waters, seeking out people who did not have a life jacket and struggling to survive. Each time they found someone, they asked, "Do you know Jesus?" If the person's reply was no, they did the most unbelievably courageous and sacrificial act. They took off their own life jackets and strapped them onto others, saying, "I know Jesus, so I can die better than you can."

One of survivors said, "A young man swam up to me, took off his life jackets and gave it to me. He laid down his life for mine." After they had no more life jackets, they knew they didn't have much time. The water was too cold but they swam around, asking people, "Are you a Christian?" and leading people to Christ and praying for people. Until eventually, every one of them died.

There was a survivor who told his story. He was a big, macho, strong and tattooed guy. He was in the water. A young girl of about 17 or 18 years old swam up to him, took off her life jacket and gave it to him. He took it and put it on. But after a while, he felt, "I am a man. How can I take the life jacket from a young girl? He swam back after the girl and gave back her life jacket. The girl asked him, "Are you a Christian? He said, "No, I am not a Christian." "Do you want to be a Christian." "No, I am not ready to be a Christian." The girl got upset with him. She took the life jacket and threw it back to him and said to him, "I will die better than you. If I die I will go to heaven. If you die you will not go to heaven, so you got to live. This man with tears in his eyes said, "That night I was saved twice – once from the water and once from my sin!" He gave his life to Jesus.

The supreme sacrifice and faithful words of these young people are both courageous and inspiring. They had faced death fearlessly. They drowned so that others could live and have more time to discover Christ. Being assured even if they drowned, they would be with the Lord.



Lifejacket used in the early 1900

In this Christmas season, we remember Jesus Christ who said, "Greater love has no man than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Jesus came more than 2000 years ago to selflessly lay down His life on the cross so that He can bring us back to God. Through His birth, death and resurrection, He has become our life jacket to save us from drowning in sin. He died so that we can live. By believing in Him and allowing Him to save us, we can live an abundant life; and in days to come, have everlasting life.

Do you believe in Jesus? If you don't, may you come to believe in Him this Christmas season! Receive the help, He offers you today.

For those of us who knows Jesus, may we be a selfless and sacrificial generation to lay our lives down for others to know Him.

Ref:
Our Daily Bread 1980
Sharper Focus "Why did Jesus have to die?"
Wikipedia – Empress of Ireland
The forgotten tragedy of the SS Empress of Ireland



Why is Jesus Christ the Only Way to God or Heaven?

Answered by Loke Wai Keng

RELIGIOUS beliefs and practices differ from culture to culture. They are all working towards the same goal of reaching God but do the "how" matter?

The philosophy that all religions are the same is widely held by many people. People base this idea on the thinking that there are different and varying religious roads and routes, but all lead to the same place -- God. The outward practices of different religions may differ in form - prayer, worship, church ordinances, etc – but they all preach love, peace and compassion towards fellow human beings, ultimately leading us to God (heaven)?

As such, when Christians make the bold claim that Jesus is the only way to God, it can be offensive to many. How do we handle such easy claim of other religions that undermines the whole purpose of Jesus coming on earth to show He is the only way to God the Father?

God's Perspective

Firstly, Christianity is not just a religion but a relationship. When God created man in the Garden of Eden, His main intention was for relationship with man. But this relationship was broken when man sinned in the Garden of Eden through disobedience (Genesis 3). The Bible states in Romans 6:23 that the wages of sin is death – which is separation from God since the relationship is broken. God being a God of Love is not willing to see man separated from Him by banishing them to hell. He provided a way for man to be restored to Himself through Jesus Christ's redemptive work on the cross. 1 Peter1:20, Rev 5:9, Rev 13:8 state that Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world. These give strong evidences that God values this relationship and had a rescue plan in mind. His plan was Jesus Christ which makes Christ the only way to God.

Jesus' Perspective

Secondly, Jesus Himself made a bold claim in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus alone can make such a claim because He is the only One who lived a sinless life and provided the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind by dying on the cross. He lived on earth as man, but He was also the divine God. He was the only Man who died and came back to life on His own – and then ascended into heaven. While the founders of various non-Christian religions of the world have died and are buried, Christ is very much alive. Only Christ could fulfill the requirement of God to reconcile man to Himself. He is now seated on the right hand of God interceding for mankind. Since He claims to be God in flesh, then it is logical to believe what He has said... that He is the only way.

The Disciples' Perspective

Thirdly, not only did Jesus Himself demonstrated that He was the only way to God, being one with God the Father, the early followers and apostles believed the same. Peter, in one of his early sermons said, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

The apostle Paul had hated Christians before he became one himself. After his conversion he spoke frequently about Christ with clear conviction that He was the only way to salvation. Speaking of Jesus, he said, "Therefore, God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord." (Phil. 2:9-11) He was willing to be a prisoner for the sake of declaring Christ, and was bold to say in Phil 1:21, "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

In similar fashion the apostle John wrote, "Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah is born of God. God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life." (1 Jn 5:1, 11-12)

Personal Perspective.

Lastly, the unique personality of Christ and His ministry while on earth captivated me. I am convicted that He is alive in me. He was the only person who dared claim that He was sinless, died for my sins, buried and arose on the third day not only giving me eternal life but abundant life. For the last 50 years as a child of God, the more I get to know Him through the Word and through my personal experiences, I am even more convicted that Jesus HAS to be the ONLY way back to GOD. I will continue to declare and testify that Jesus IS the only way to God. He is now seated on the right hand of the Father and I know without any shadow of doubt that one day, He will come back for the church, including me as His beloved Bride.



21st Century Students

By Jeanette Chan

A kaleidoscopic whirl of energetic little big shots of the day! Oooh, it does the heart good to see these little ones enjoying themselves. A better tomorrow! Save the world!

Certainly, tremendous work must have been put in by both the children and teachers. Admiring the transformation of the four to six year olds amidst the hustle and bustle of feverish preparation backstage; one must certainly remark on the smooth transitions from a little toddler to sophisticated sparkling performer.

One can see why Mrs. Foong, the principal spoke about 21st Century Students during her speech at the Little Lighthouse Kindergarten 17th annual concert. The children are grounded to possess the imminently important 4 Cs: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical thinking. These are glimpsed both backstage and onstage.









Photo caption

1 *Well done!*
2 *Year 6 graduates; the future stars of tomorrow.*
3 *Steady & sturdy builders toward a better world.*
4 *A colourful dance by 4 Kindness*
5 *Adult students of the day with guru Celine V. Chai; parenting talk*
6 *Ballerinas and ballerinos from 5 Grace pirouetted airily!*
7 *5 Wisdom. Be happy, life is colourful and full of cheer*
8 *A cleaner world*


2



3




5


7


6

Flashback 2018









JANUARY

1 Sunrise Service
6 All leaders meeting
14 Blessings for Annas & Simeons
14 Blessing Ps Nick Nip as he leaves to plant a church







FEBRUARY

1 Adult zone leaders meeting
11 Ps Tony Phang ministers in HGC
24 Chinese New Year festivity in Kg Gerachi, KKB
28 Ps Lucrece ministers in HGC









MARCH

4 Tom Moye ministers in HGC
11 HGC 24th Anniversary
25 TT Quah ministers in HGC
30 Good Friday service with Damien Chua
31 Giving out buns to the SUKE construction workers

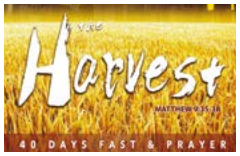




JULY

1 KKB Ministry Appreciation Lunch
14 Prayer Conference with Ps Lee Choo









AUGUST

4 Guitar Class in Kg Gerachi, KKB
7-15/9 40 days Prayer & Fasting
19 Baptism: Carol Soo, Wong Kok Boon, Kwong Kian Lap, Jordan Tai, Shawn Choo, Kevin Leow
25 Calvin Lim and Jane Oo tied the knot – What a beautiful day!
26 Prayer for Abel Cheong before he leaves for further studies
26 Children Sunday (Chinese)









SEPTEMBER

2 Danny Pang ministers in HGC
5-24 China Yunna Trip: Tim Chan & Yen Fung
8 Board members prayer meeting
9 Filipino Service 2nd Anniversary
10-11 Leaders' Retreat at Lanson Place
14 Our beloved Isaac Bobby went home to the Lord
15-17 Chinese Church Camp
22 Project "Sayangi Ampang"
27 Xavier Lau Wen Kai – Congrats to Benjamin Lau & Jamie Teh

Building in Unity









APRIL

1 Easter Sunrise service
6 Annual General Meeting
7 Ampang Prayer Altar
11-24 Ps Khor & Chin Nee minister in Switzerland
21 Church Planting Training with Pastors from the Philippines
28-4/5 Indonesia Mission trip









MAY

1 HGC Family Day
6 Ministry by Howard Williard
13 Mothers' Day Celebration
20 Colin Chow ministers in HGC
26 Life Group Leaders Training









JUNE

9 Kindy Sports Day
10-15 Mission to Sibu
30 Leaders half yearly meeting
30 The birth of Wong Hansel – Congrats Michelle Teh & Eugene Wong









OCTOBER

6 Kindy Graduation & Concert
7 Parenting Talk by Celine Veron Chai
11-14 East Coast mission
14 Kul Bal ministers in HGC
8-14 Ps Khor & Chin Nee: Ministry in Guntur India
20 KKB Fund Raising Bazaar Day

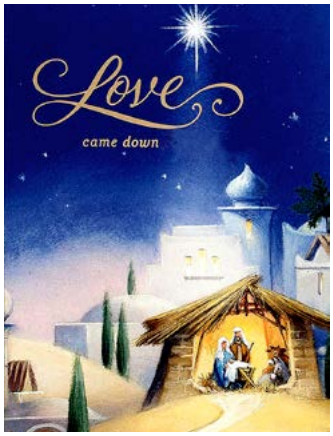






NOVEMBER

3 Wedding of Andrew Thavid & Evengeline
4 Youth Sunday (Chinese)
4 Yun Fei graduates with a Diploma in Grass Root Ministry
4 Chong Fau Seng, Wee Fook Kim, Ng Sew Fong, Angie Ng, Eunice Loo, Molly Por, Tham Chuen Hoong & Tay Mee Mee graduated as Senior Soldiers of the Kingdom
11 Baptism: Aleh Shyakila, Amira, Kalsia Suli, Annie Lai, Grace Choo, Eunice Wong
12-15 Staff Retreat



DECEMBER

2 Mandarin Worship Service begins
8 KKB Christmas Celebration
12 Caleb Lau & Khoo Kim Yen are joined in Holy Matrimony
16 CC Christmas Celebration
20 Charis Hope Centre Christmas Event
21 Chinese Youth Christmas Party
22 Chinese Sunday School Christmas Celebration
22 Sat Service Christmas Celebration
23 "Love Came Down" Christmas Celebration

Project Sayangi Ampang 2018

By Justin Yong

ON the morning of 22 Sept 2018, the people of Bandar Baru Ampang bore witness to Project Sayangi Ampang, an initiative by HGC to clean up the area surrounding our township. This "gotong-royong" project was aimed at cleaning up the greater area we call our home and to demonstrate our Christian community's presence in the area. Collaboration was made with the local municipal council, MPAJ, through the connection with Cikgu Subra, who assisted the organizing of the event accordingly. Volunteers gathered as early as seven in the morning in church for a time of worship and prayer. Then after a short briefing, they proceeded to the designated base, at the tent beside a bistro. There, we met up with some nearby residents who participated in the event too. This event provided a platform for us to know these neighbours of ours.

The event started at 8.00am with breakfast for the volunteers. Cleaning commenced at 830am where we were divided into eight zones headed by Jeanette Chan, Calvin Lim, Nigel Teh, Ps Khor, Chris Cheong, Chan Hon Ming, Steven Lee and Khoo Boo Boon. A quick shout out to the team leaders who did an excellent job managing the cleaning of their respective zones excellently! While some zones were noticeably cleaner than other zones, likely due to the routine clean up conducted by MPAJ via their outsourced company KDEB, none the less, there were areas within the "cleaner zones" which still required other forms of cleaning including clearing clogged drains, sorting the rattan trash bins, and clearing pamphlets off walls.



An area in Bandar Baru Ampang which required particular attention was the manner waste disposal was handled at the building blocks. As the architectural design was such, rubbish would be thrown into rubbish chambers built beside the drain. This design made it such that rubbish could easily litter the drain and clog up the drainage system. Efforts were made to clear the litter that had fallen out of the compartment into the drains or onto road sides. They were carefully placed into plastic bags which were then properly disposed of into the rubbish dump.

Among some comments by the members is Ann Teh's. She said that cigarette butts were a plenty in the area and people acted as if they did not care. She corroborated that most cleaning occurred in the drains and walkways instead of on the road itself. Yaw Sook Ngan observed that people seemed to notice the cleaning taking place but were shy to engage on the matter. She believes the event could be used as an opportunity to connect with the community to make HGC more visible and also for evangelism.

Following a total of more than two hours of sweat and hard work, the cleaning came to a grateful stop as the area surrounding Bandar Baru Ampang took a more spruced up look. The volunteers gathered back to base where we were greeted by the arrival of YB Haniza, the exco of Selangor state government. She thanked the people of Ampang for coming together to clean thereby giving a good ambience and adding harmonious value to life. She stated that Selangor has high incidences of mental illnesses due to various challenges living in the urban city centres. She stated this in particular to the communities which dwelled in the local flat areas. She highlighted the importance of having trees, parks and more open spaces to affect better emotions and lifestyles. This was echoed by Ps Khor who highlighted HGC's past efforts in engaging the people of Ampang.

While this activity is seen as an out of church event and for some a social concern activity, the saying still goes that "cleanliness is next to godliness."



Look what Amy picked up - a dead rat !!



Serious cleaning in progress



YB Haniza addressing the crowd of volunteers. On her right is Cikgu Subra.



Ps Victor cleaning up the clogged up drain



The elderly also lent a hand



The young and energetic turned up to help



Throwing rubbish into the garbage truck



Clearing rubbish out of the drain

As the saying goes, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness."

A Promise to Carry You even to Gray Hairs

By Jeanette Chan

DATE: ***4 OCTOBER 2018***
VENUE: ***CHARIS HOPE ELDERLY CENTRE-AMPANG***



Hairstyling

TEN in the morning saw the whole centre being transformed into a hub of beauty activities; a photo studio cum hair and beauty parlour! What a flurry of excitement!

Eight volunteers from The Hope of Glory Centre (HGC); professionals in their own right; armed with their tools of trade; together with Ps Lim Lee Ping and staff welcomingly ushered in 37 Ampang community seniors, including those from the Charis Hope Elderly Home (CHEH). They were to be beautified by the four make-up artists and have their hair styled by the two hairstylists before the photo session at the 'studio' by T.T. Voon.

Voon's wife, Janet, then stylishly draped them in scarves and jewellery. Besides that, she cajoled these dolled up, camera shy ladies to pose and smile before Voon deftly and expertly clicked away. The efforts by Janet in getting them ready for the camera ensued in sounds of merriment throughout the five hour plus session; with the laughter still ringing in Janet's ears after the event was well over.

There was such excitement in the air; Sis Wan and Sis Hoong were thrilled with this great occasion where there they reiterated that they had not felt so pampered, young and beautiful for ages. Some of them at the home have had their hair coloured before the event. Remarks of feeling like brides were overheard which vibrated the joy they must surely have in their hearts. What joy it is to bring joy!

"Remarks of feeling like brides were overheard which vibrated the joy they must surely have in their hearts."

Three weeks later, some ladies were approached randomly for their thoughts of this occasion. They unanimously vouched their immense gratitude to God for Ps Lee Ping, for this initiative which was lovingly thought and planned out. According to Grace, one of the elderly, "I am very happy with the make-up which was so pretty and natural. " Sis Siew Fong remarked, "It is such a great opportunity to participate in this initiative and I am so glad to have such a beautiful photo to remember me by when I go home to heaven."

Aunty Kwee had never tried a photo shoot before and would never have gone to a studio to do it. She commented that it was such fun, especially with people she knows. She expressed her gratitude to God for the volunteers who made time and effort to do this for them. Evon, the supervisor of CHEH, felt grateful to Ps Lee Ping for organizing this beautiful indelible function and Diane, one of its inmates was so happy and excited to see a different her and expressed her appreciation to all the eight volunteers. Eunice, a volunteer at CHEH truly feels the warmth and love from Ps Lee Ping ever since she came to HGC two years ago and loved the surprises that spring forth.

Just as Jesus had promised in Luke 14:14; volunteers and those involved will be blessed because the elderly cannot repay them but He can and will!



Making up



Beautifully make-up



The before



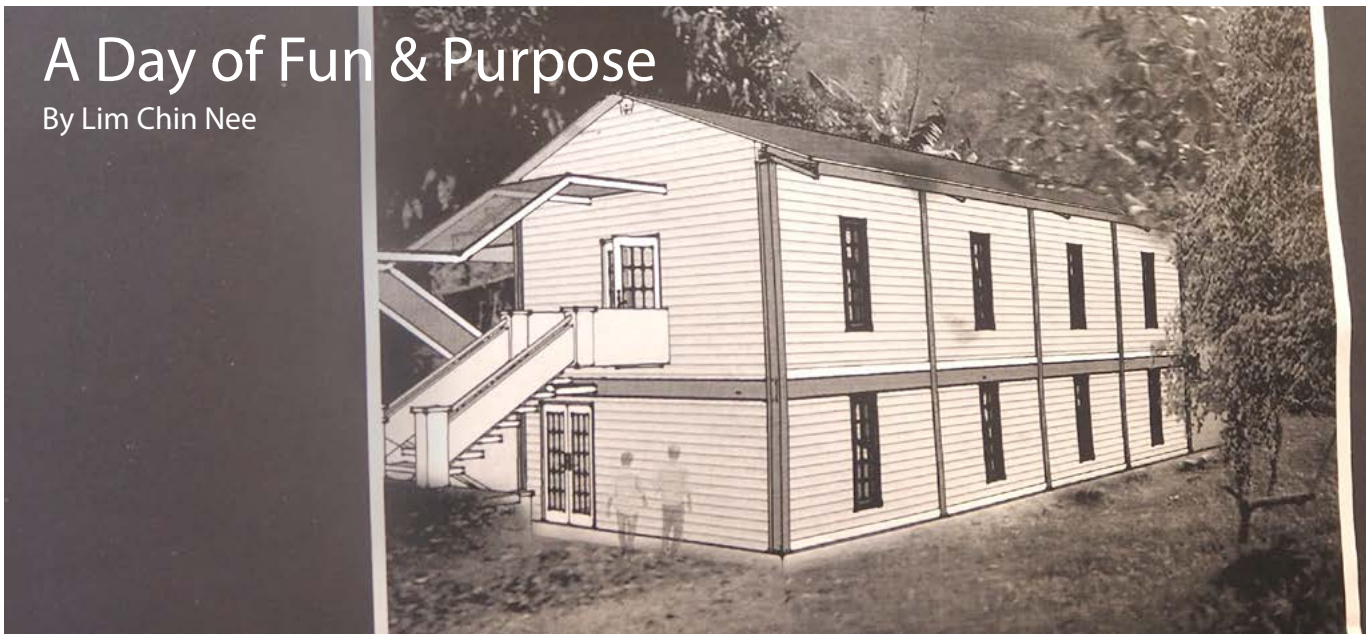
... and the after - amazing transformation !



Photographed - Ready, 1, 2, 3, SMILE.

A Day of Fun & Purpose

By Lim Chin Nee



A sketch of the proposed worship hall

WHEN a verbal green light to build a house of worship in Kg Gerachi was given by the Tok Batin, the headman of the village, early this year; the team of dedicated workers in this ministry began to consider how we can raise funds for the building.

Rather quickly, a fund raising sale was agreed upon. The team decided we would have it on a Saturday instead of a Sunday. We would sell coupons to ensure that there would be a crowd and that whatever food and things prepared would be sold off. With the date and time, 20 Oct 2018, 10.30am - 3.00pm decided upon, the team went into action. As early as July the first batch of 300 coupons was ready. As the coupons got sold out mainly to church members, family



Lovely handmade baskets

and friends, more and more coupons were made. Eventually, a total of 675 coupons were sold. Generous donations in cash and kind were also received for the work. A well-done publicity video of the ministry work among the Orang Asli in Kg Gerachi was also shown twice in our church services to garner support. Posters were also put up to create awareness.

Life Groups were roped in to help sell coupons and to cook or sponsor items. The support was most encouraging. All the food items were top notch, homemade with the best of ingredients and absolutely tasty. One-of-its-kind cloth bags were sewn with love in every stitch and creative baskets were laboriously made. Useful household and fine dining items were also up for sale, a steal for any who has an eye for them. There was even organic rice from Bario and fish keropok from Kuala Terengganu up for grabs.

After several months of careful planning, execution and hard work (including the eve when stalls and tables were set up), the day finally arrived. D'Bridge, where the sale was held, was a hive of activity from as early as 7.30am to 3.30 pm. The sale went well and smooth; thanks to all who helped out, including a few children. The pictures on these two pages paint a thousand words. The collection at the end of the day went far beyond our expectation. Praise God!

To all who has supported this cause, THANK YOU and God bless and reward you richly.



Ps Khor enjoying a good massage by Nelson



The best 'chung' in town



Organic Bario rice brings smiles



Supportive church members



Special kelabit food



Homemade yummy buns



A closer look at the delicious cookies



Preparation work



Beautiful Orchids for sale

Leaders' Retreat

By Foong Wai Pooi



IT is a yearly fixture in HGC calendar that we have a Leaders' Retreat, a time for the leaders to gather as one, for an extended period to seek the Lord and to fellowship together to strengthen our bonds. This year our Leaders Retreat was held on Sep 10-11 at the Embassy Row Hotel (also known as Lanson Place). We have ventured out to towns like PD, Melaka, Kampar and Cameron Highlands before but this year we were led to hold it in a city hotel to allow leaders who have challenges of travelling and staying overnight to attend. The hotel has very comfortable meeting room facilities and meal arrangements at a very reasonable price; thanks to Amy Lim who is a staff there. The hotel provided a conducive setting for leaders to fellowship as well as to work together to review and plan for the church goals and strategies for the coming year. Overall, many of the leaders said that it was one of the best retreats. The presence of the Lord with us was very tangible throughout the whole retreat. We had great fellowship together as we had lots of time to relax and chat during the meals and break time. We never ate so much as we had breakfast, lunch plus two tea breaks every day, thanks again to Amy.

We began early in the morning in both the days with worship, prayer and group devotion on the book of 2 Timothy. We learned so much from the heart of Paul and how he discipled Timothy; and we were inspired to become better Pauls and to raise like-minded Timothys. The planning sessions were based on the HGC Bases of Growth, which uses an analogy of the 4 bases of the baseball diamond. The basic objective of the game is for the batting team to advance its players through the 4 bases. A "run" is scored when a batter touch each of the base on his way to home plate. All must go through the bases and no short cuts are allowed.

This is similar to how a HGC member ought to grow in Christ. The goal is to "present every man perfect (complete and mature) in Christ Jesus", and the framework of the 4 bases are:

Maturity – members to grow deep in encountering God through the Word, prayer and worship

Membership – members to connect and build loving relationships with one another

Ministry – members to be enlisted and equipped to serve effectively in various ministries to build up the church

Mission – members to be equipped and engaged in reaching out through ministries outside the church to impact the community and through evangelism to win the lost for Jesus

Every member is to seek first to grow in maturity in the Lord and to be connected to one another in loving relationships before serving in various ministries and reaching out to the lost.

At the retreat, the leaders were divided into four groups representing the 4 bases. While each group had extensive time in planning strategies and initiatives for each base, there was also time allocated for the plans of all the bases to be shared with the entire leadership team. This provided a platform for leaders to review and deliberate on the importance of each base initiative other than their bases. This process gave a sense of collective ownership of the overall strategic plan and how each base is vital to one another. We know that the leaders must first see and embrace this plan before the members can catch it.

At the end of the planning, the leadership had a good idea of the focus and initiatives for the church in 2019 and beyond. This would not be possible if the leaders had not taken time out to gather at the Leaders' Retreat. While there is still much work in front of us, we believe that with much prayer and help from the Holy Spirit, we will advance the bases and score many "runs" for The Hope of Glory Centre, and in doing, fulfil the Lord's Great Commission and advance the kingdom of God.

A Sneak Peek at the New Premises

By Jeanette Chan



Ps Lee Ping leading the first prayer meeting at the new sanctuary

PASTOR Lim Lee Ping, of the Hope of Glory Centre (HGC) who is in charge of the Chinese congregation, has finally realised the birth of the vision she had of having a Mandarin Sunday Worship Service. This vision was germinated years ago!

Since the beginning of the Chinese Worship Service in 1997, the services were mostly conducted in Cantonese. However, with a growing younger generation who are educated in Mandarin and not that fluent in Cantonese, the need arose to have a Mandarin Worship Service.

Ps Lee Ping sensed in the spirit that the time was ripe to begin the Mandarin service. The church board unanimously agreed and things began to move very quickly. As there is a constraint of space in our present premises to house four services on a Sunday, a new place was needed. Round about the end of July, a shop lot on the ground floor was available for rent. It was ideal! It is only three doors away from our present church and is on the ground floor, perfect for the physically challenged and the aged. Furthermore, it has just recently been renovated. After some negotiations, the rental was agreed upon.

Ps Lee Ping shared the vision with the Chinese congregation of not remaining stagnant but crossing over to greater plans God has for the Chinese work. As members caught the vision, their hearts were excited and ready to move.

Renovations got underway in September. Once beautifully completed, a hub of activity ensued: dusting, sweeping, scrubbing and cleaning. But that was not all; the most important is the building of the altar of prayer before worship services begin. The first prayer meeting was held in the new premises on 26 Oct 2018, a Friday night. Members of the Chinese congregation gathered there with fervent hearts offering up worship and prayers to God. To saturate the new sanctuary with the presence of God before moving in, harp and bowl worship was held every Sun at11am after service in our present premises.

On the morning of 25 November, after Ps Khor's message, the entire Chinese congregation made their momentous move of faith, over to the new sanctuary of the Chinese church with a seating capacity of 110. We are all extremely excited about what God is going to do through them. We believe they will very quickly outgrow that place. Greater things are yet to come.

The Cantonese service will be at 8.30am and the Mandarin service will be at 11.00 am.

Much more about the growing Chinese ministry has been recorded in our up and coming 25th Anniversary book, "Out of Ampang". Be sure to look out for it next March.



First prayer meeting at the new premise

God is Merciful – It's a Miracle that I Survived

By Chai Su Boon

HEALTH is important in our life, without health we have nothing.



Bro Chai hospitalised in Japan

Other than the two strokes I had in year 2000 and another one in 2006, my health condition to me was considered okay. I have a phobia of doctors. As long as my physical condition seemed okay, I would never go to see a doctor. That was why I never have a medical insurance policy as they would need me to see a doctor for a medical report. The last time I had my medical check-up was in 2007. However, every month I would go to the pharmacy to buy the medication that the doctor prescribed.

This year my life group (LG) leader, Karen Chin, wanted to organize a trip to Japan for our LG members and her relatives. In the end, five LG members confirmed going, I was one of them. The trip was from 15 to 27 April 2018. It covered Osaka-Kyoto-Nagoya. The highlight was Tatagama, located at the peak of the mountain. We walked through the snow, travelled by bus, went through a tunnel and up the mountain by cable car.

The trip to Japan was so carefree and relaxing. We had plenty to eat. Nearly every day we had Japanese buffet breakfast, ramen, udon noodle, sushi, Kobe and Hida beef, and of course green tea ice cream.

On the second last day of the trip, I developed breathing difficulties. At first I thought it was the cold weather. Bro Chin suggested I should go to the pharmacy to get an inhaler to ease off my breathing but the shop would not open till an hour later. So we drove around and found a government hospital. The doctor who saw me said that I was not fit to fly in such a condition and that I must be admitted immediately. I insisted that I should go home and struggled with them until I had no choice. They gave me a jab to sedate me. The test showed that my condition was very serious. My oxygen level had dropped to 40%, my blood pressure was over 200, sugar level 17 and I had fluid in my lungs. I might collapse anytime.

Karen notified my wife and she flew immediately to Japan with Jet, our son. When they saw me, I was still under sedition and was unconscious. The hospital staff was so good and helpful. They even helped to look for accommodation for my wife near the hospital. When they knew that I was not covered by insurance, they gave me 50% discount for my medical bill.

I was drowsy when I woke up after five days. My wife had to fly back due to passport expiration issues, leaving my son to accompany me.

When my mind was stable, I really appreciated what the Japanese hospital staff did for me. They were polite, humble and patient. Their healthcare was excellent. Most importantly, I thanked GOD for His great mercy as my life could have ended right there in Japan. I felt that God was saying to me, "Cling on to my hand and hold on." God gave me a chance to live and I must treasure it.

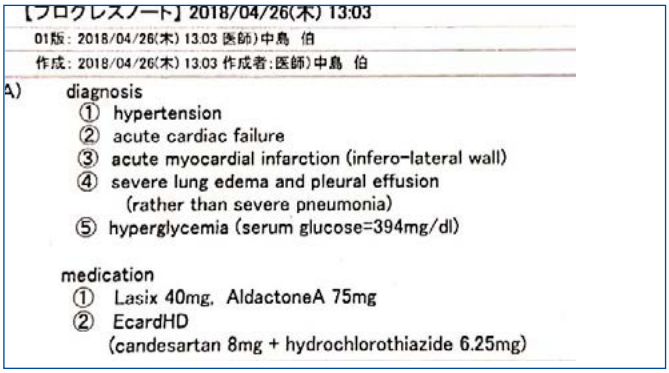
From the time I woke up, it is like a miracle. I recovered very fast. On 6 May, the doctor informed me that I can be discharged. On 8 May, my prayers to go back to Malaysia were answered, When I flew back to Malaysia, I was so touched to see Karen and Bro Chin at the airport to welcome me home.

Thank you for all your prayers. I knew my family, pastor, my LG members and church members and friends all over the world were praying for me.

Our God is great! I survived because God is merciful. Glory to our GOD!

Comments from fellow LG members:
Karen Sim: The doctor sent us a message in Japanese which we translated, It said, …"He is not conscious and he is going to die." I was totally shocked and almost fainted. I believe that God would not allow Bro Chai to leave us this way. I prayed and prayed.

Danny Here: Looking at his medical report, his condition was extremely critical. We needed God's healing miracle. I immediately prayed asking God to let him live and bring him back; and God answered our prayers.



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A) diagnosis
① hypertension
② acute cardiac failure
③ acute myocardial infarction (infero-lateral wall)
④ severe lung edema and pleural effusion
(rather than severe pneumonia)
⑤ hyperglycemia (serum glucose=394mg/dl)

medication
① Lasix 40mg, AldactoneA 75mg
② EcardHD
(candesartan 8mg + hydrochlorothiazide 6.25mg)

Bro Chai's medical report

God is Good – It's a Miracle!

By Danny Here

ON 9 August 2018, which was the third day of the 40 days of prayer and fasting, I had to travel to Cambodia. I made sure I packed my prayer and fasting booklet with me as I made that trip. I chose to remain committed to those 40 days.

I drove myself to the airport at 4.00am for my 6.40am flight. Upon arrival at around 4.45am, I proceeded directly to check in my bags and went to the entry check point with my boarding ticket and passport. That was when I realized that I have brought the wrong (old) passport…. PANICCCCC.

With my heart pounding (over 100 bpm), I rushed back to my car thinking to drive back to get my passport. When I reached my car and sat for a moment, it dawned upon me that I would not have enough time to go and come back in time for the flight. I immediately called my wife. Praise God, she was not asleep and could answer the handphone although it was on silent mode. I told her (breathing hard and grasping for air) of the situation and to bring the passport. She quickly called her sister to see if there was a possibility that they were going to the airport, as sometimes they had to send her brother to work in the airport. Lo and behold…. that week, he was on the morning shift and was about to leave for the airport. They would rush to bring the passport to me.

Knowing the above, I walked back to the terminal and sat down somewhere to rest. I checked my heart rate: it was still high, around 96 bpm. Knowing that I have a weak heart, the ongoing drama could have killed me. Imagine if I had driven back in such a state of panic. It could be disastrous.

As I sat, I realized that I might still not make the flight as time was short and the gate might be closed. I need to grab the passport once it arrived and dash to the gate. Needing to know exactly which gate, I walked to the information board to get the gate number. The big information board has more than 50 flight information.

I checked to see my flight detail on the board and I was astounded to find:

My flight was delayed: delayed by not 15 mins, not 3 hours, not the next day but by only an hour. Just the time it takes for a one way trip to the airport.

Miraculously, every other flight was on time that morning except for one single flight….only one and that was the flight that I was to take.
Praise GOD!!



Flight data showing the only flight delayed was to Phnom Penh.

Peace was upon me as I know that God was in control. My heart was calm and I just kept praising God.
I waited for the passport and when it arrived around 6.30 am, I thanked everyone and apologised for the inconvenience caused. I collected my passport and strolled back into the airport. My brother in law commented, "Why is he not hurrying?" He didn't know that GOD had stopped the plane from leaving.
Brothers and sisters look deep into the above message and you will find not one but many signs and wonders. Truly our God is a God of miracles.

A Miracle in My Life

By Marylyn B del Rosario



A smiling Marylyn showing the bad cut on her wrist

FRIDAY, 13 July, 2015, between 12.00 and 1.00 pm. Some people say that Friday 13 is bad but for me, it was a day of miracles.

On that afternoon, I had started preparing dinner for my boss. However, when I looked at the clock, I told myself, "Oh it's too early. I think it is better I clean the two glass vases inside the bathroom first." Those two vases were about three feet in height. After removing the plant, I proceeded to clean the inside of the vase in the bathroom. Then I held the bottom and neck of the vase. As I lifted it up carefully with both hands, tilting it to pour out the water, the vase suddenly broke at the neck. Some of the broken pieces of glass landed on my hand and cut my wrist.

Blood was spurting out and flowing like a fountain. I did not know what to do at that time. I was all alone. I shouted, "Oh! Lord God, save me!" Images of my son, my husband, all my family members and my bosses flashed across my mind. I was in a state of panic. "Lord God, save me," kept coming out of my mouth.

I grabbed a kitchen towel, wrapped it round my wrist and headed towards the back door when I heard a voice telling me, "No! Run to the main door."

As I ran to the front door, leaving a trail of blood behind me, I saw my hand phone and access card to the lift. Taking them quickly, I went to the lift lobby. As I waited for the elevator, blood was dripping profusely. It was so bloody, like a gory crime scene.

When I reached the ground floor, I shouted for help. The guard and management staff ran towards me asking what had happened. They brought more towels to wrap my wrist and called for an ambulance. I waited and waited until I lost consciousness. One of the management staff was so kind as to hold my hand up. When I regained consciousness, the ambulance still had not come. It had almost been an hour. I was crying out, "Help me, Lord!"

In my predicament, God sent someone to help me. A man standing by at the door saw my condition and noticed the pallor on my face. He called for an ambulance again, commanding it to come immediately. Sternly, he said, "It has almost been an hour already and she is losing a lot of blood. Bring an ambulance here at once. This is a serious matter." identifying himself as a Dato', he told them, "Accept this patient!" Within five minutes, the ambulance came from the nearest hospital.



Thank God for speedy healing

The nurse in the ambulance, upon checking on me and taking my blood pressure, said in astonishment, "Your pressure is still normal." Is it possible that after I had lost so much blood that my blood pressure could still be normal?

I was in tears, and within my heart expressed my thanks. "Thank You Lord! You never leave me. You didn't forsake me. You have made me strong."

At 6.00pm, I was wheeled into the operation theatre (OT). The operation took five hours with four doctors operating on me. My friends were so supportive. They had waited for me outside the OT till they were told to leave and come back the next day.
When I finally came around it was 12 midnight. I had survived my ordeal.

My boss, whom I had worked for 10 months only, was away in Vietnam when the incident took place. He flew back to settle the enormous bill of more than RM 34,000. His wife who was in Switzerland, en route to France, made a detour to come back just to see me for a couple of hours before flying off again. I was deeply overwhelmed by their love and concern.

Although I was far from my family in the Philippines, I realized I was not alone. God was with me and He had used different people to help His daughter.

Three days later, on Sunday, I was discharged. By the grace of God, my recovery was fast. After a month, I could wriggle my fingers and at the time of this writing in October, the cast was removed and I could bend my fingers.

For it is by grace, you have been saved through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
Eph 2:8

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
James 5:16



That God be Glorified

By Jeanette Chan on behalf of Nelson Sek

BORN with only a 10 to 20% vision, 12 year old Nelson Sek despaired of a much bullied school life to the point of contemplating suicide.

At that tender age during the early 70s, medical assistance was not what it is today. Due to this impairment, Nelson could not read nor write much even with Braille. What with the bullying and eyesight issues, life was dark and miserable until one of his older brothers suggested a public school which offered integrated programs for the visually impaired. Hence, the 18 year old, timid, insecure and inferior Nelson began life anew and afresh, especially after his teacher introduced him to the school's Christian Fellowship (CF). There he got to know who Jesus is, and later accepted Him as his personal Lord and Saviour during one of the CF camps.

Nope, life was not smooth sailing; rather, it was a thorny bed of roses; inundated with thorns and storms. However, weathering the storms with Jesus meant a world of difference to Nelson; and thorns became bearable with Christ's love, grace and strength. The Scriptures means a lot, where the words of God gave him hope, confidence and strength to face each and every challenge.

Working as a telephone operator, later in life, was insufficient to make ends meet especially after the birth of his second son and his wife, Chai Fong, resigned to be a homemaker. God had opened the door for him to learn therapeutic massage when he first got married which had helped control his eczema crisis. However, he was a bit hesitant initially, as 'massage' was frowned upon as hanky panky business those days. He finally took it up seriously after being strongly encouraged by two sisters in Christ.

Today, Nelson is a professional therapeutic masseur at a hair salon in Sri Hartamas, where he is extremely contented and glad to bring a bit of physical comfort and relief to his customers as well as meeting people from different walks of life; such as professionals, cabinet ministers and the royalty.

He invested in a piece of property for his boys' education but it was almost a total loss. Both he and Chai Fong placed their faith and trust in their faithful Father God. He stepped in, providing scholarships for the two boys. Gratitude knew no bounds when both their sons, matured and responsible, married Christian wives. Both of them are joyful and grateful to God for these tremendous blessings.

At 60 today, Nelson stands strong, confident and secure in the knowledge of his position, as beloved in his Saviour, Jesus. He desires only to delight the heart of God and to continue to glorify God as written in John 9:1-3…the man born blind is not due to the sins of the parents nor himself, rather it is to glorify God…

In his own words, Nelson said, "Indeed, had I been healed, I might not have enjoyed these exciting adventures He had planned for me. The Scriptures say in Rom 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. This is my heart's desire; to know His purpose for me."

In my Father's House are Many Mansions

By Rachel Nathan



Rachel, Nathan and dear beloved son, Isaac

GOD took my beloved son, Isaac, back to Him on 14 Sept 2018. He was just about a month away from his 41st birthday. As Ps Lee Ping said, "We had him with us for 41 years." God blessed us with a wonderful and loving soul to accompany us the past 41 years on earth.

Nathan and I felt so much grief in our hearts to see him go. He died of infection in his lungs. We cried for days. It was not easy. Though taking care of Isaac was challenging at times, I did not complain as he had also given us so much joy. He had his own ways of calling on Jesus and praying to the Lord, calling Him, "Jo Jo!"

Isaac was born six weeks premature with hydrocephalus (water in the brain) and suffered from severe cerebral palsy with twisted and gnarled limbs. Through prayers and the assistance of a doctor (Dr Khoo), our son lived to adulthood defying all odds.

I recalled the days, Nathan and I stayed up late taking care of him, wiping tears from his eyes, understanding his language and sucking up life-threatening phlegm from his lungs. He soldiered on. He loved the Lord Jesus with all his heart and would often times pray for us in his own way.

His greatest joy was to go for the Saturday service. Birthday celebrations and excursions gave him much delight (especially one where we took him to Port Dickson to see the ocean.) He also loved it so much when the life group members come to his house.

God took away my sadness when He gave me two verses which assured me on where Isaac is now. Psalm 16:10 "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" and John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

My son is in heaven because he believed in Jesus Christ! Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine, O what a foretaste of glory divine!

This was confirmed when members of our life group visited us on the day Isaac died and held a small wake at our house. Some of them saw Isaac in heaven playing with Jesus in the river of life. He was completely healed with a brand new body untainted by sickness.

This life is temporal. One day, we will leave our mortal bodies for a permanent destination. Death is not to be feared if we have put our faith and hope in Christ; for it is only in Christ that we can be sure of our eternal home in heaven where God dwells.

This Christmas, it is my prayer that you will give your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, if you have not already done so. He gave His life for us on the cross to deliver us from sin and the fear of death. O death where is your sting! O grave where is your victory!

Blessed Christmas!



A joyous moment for the family

God is Faithful in Answering Our Prayers

By Yap Yuet Ching

TWENTY ONE years ago, after graduating from Australia, and while deciding on whether I should come back to Malaysia or stay in Australia to work, I felt the Lord speaking to me from Isaiah 1:19. "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." The Lord was leading me to come back to Malaysia for good. My parents' salvation was most important to me even though back then my parents were not in favour of me and three sisters believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

Truly, God is faithful in answering our prayers for my parents' salvation. The process had not been smooth and easy through the years as my parents had expressed that they would follow my late grandfather's will to remain faithful to ancestral worship and would not embrace Christianity. To them such actions of not being filial to their ancestors would bring shame and bad luck to our family.

It is all about the grace and lovingkindness of God. Through the years, my sisters and I did not cease in caring for both of them. Whenever they shared with us about any family challenges, we always let them know that we were praying to Jesus to help the family. Slowly, they grew to experience the love, care and peace of Jesus in the family. They began to know that believing in Jesus would bring good instead of bad luck to the family.



Yuet Ching's mother being baptized by Ps Lee Ping

My late father accepted Christ in 2015 and my mother accepted Christ in 2017. She was baptized on 23 June 2018. My mother is very strong, diligent and capable. She is very independent and carries every burden herself. As such, she used to be worried over things and had problem sleeping. It is indeed an overwhelming joy for me as I heard her testified on the day of her baptism that she is very happy and peaceful ever since accepting Christ.



Malaysia needs Revivalists

By Ruth Lew

TWENTY eighteen is the 18th year of the 40-days nationwide prayer and fasting organized by NECF and participated by over 80,000 of various denominations all over the nation. This year's theme was on the harvest; and prayers were focused on a state per week.

To celebrate the end of the prayer and fasting, we gathered on 16 Sept at Full Gospel Tabernacle for the annual Malaysia Day united prayers. Young people dressed in various traditional costumes of the different people groups in our country paraded into the hall carrying flags of the different states.

"We need to be healed of our soul wounds before God can use us to heal the wounds of others and the wounds of our nation or community."

Rev Eu Hong Seng shared a message on the first revival involving Cain and Abel from Gen4:1-15. There are four ingredients for true revival:

1. Worship has to be restored – we need true worshipers like Abel to offer up acceptable sacrifices to God. Abel offered up an animal sacrifice with fire.

2. Deal with the sin crouching at the door – we cannot allow ourselves to give in to sin like Cain. We need to restore discipleship in our churches to help us deal deeply with sin and uncleanness.

3. Unity in the churches – Cain murdered his brother Abel out of envy and jealousy. In the New Testament, the sin of hatred is like the sin of murder. When we hate or envy our more successful brothers or sisters, there is sin in our hearts. Where there is the sin of hatred or murder, there is no true unity. And where there is no true unity, there will be no revival.

4. Cries of the blood – millions are going into eternity without Christ. For true revival, we need to repent of our complacency and lack of compassion for the lost.

He then shared briefly on revivals over the ages:

1. Hebrides Revival (1949) – Two elderly ladies in their 80s started praying for revival in the island of Lewis in Outer Hebrides. Duncan Campbell answered the call of God to preach in the local churches and after several days of meeting, the island was suddenly gripped with a new awareness of God. Campbell was convinced that a true revival not only affected church members but alsoaffected the community i.e. bars closing and crime ceasing. The second was the definite experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit after conversion.

2. Welsh Revival (1904) – the movement kept the churches of Wales filled for many years with seats being filled in the aisles. It carried on for 20 years or so. Later, it swept the rest of Britain, Scandinavia, parts of Europe, North America and even the mission fields of India and the Orient. Evan Roberts was the key leader of this revival where over a 100,000 were converted.

3. Moravian Revival (1727) – started as a round the clock prayer in Herrnhut, Saxony. It continued nonstop for over a 100 years. By 1791, 65 years after the 24 hour prayer, thesmall Moravian community had sent over 300 missionaries to the ends of the earth. Some of the missionaries even sold themselves to slavery in order to

preach to the slaves in the plantations. The leader of this revival was Count Zinzendorf. On Aug 27 1727, 24 me and women had covenanted themselves to spend one hour a day in scheduled prayer.

4. Pensacola Revival (1995) – started on Father's Day at Brownsville AG in Pensacola, Florida. Characteristics include acts of repentance and a call to holiness. More than four million people were reported to have attended the revival meetings from 1995 to 2000.

Rev Eu Hong Seng ended his message with this clarion call, "Malaysia needs revivalists!" We then spent some time interceding giving thanks to God and interceding for the government, the nation and the church.

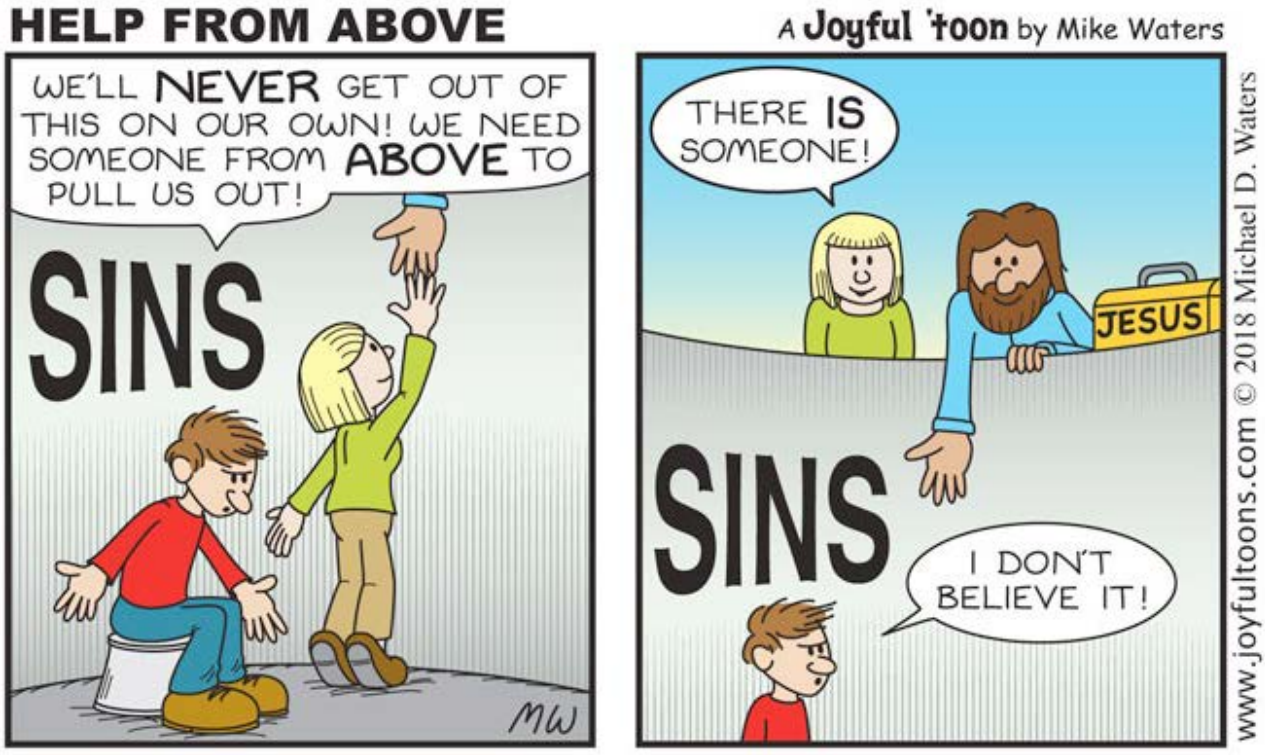
More than a month after the Malaysia Day prayer rally, Ps James Kawalya gave a three-day training on "Healing the wounded soul" at the same church (23 to 25 Oct 2018). He brought a message of cleansing, healing and consecration as a necessary pre-requisite for revival. We need to be healed of our soul wounds before God can use us to heal the wounds of others and the wounds of our nation or community. During the seminar, we spent extended time in prayer and worship, repenting of bloodline iniquity and waiting upon God, We also learnt how to walk in repentance as the foundation for warfare and intercession.

On the third day, this vision was released by an intercessor. She saw the whole map of Malaysia lighted up like a huge bonfire. She saw angels adding more fire to the bonfire and the fire grew bigger. She saw another angel blowing on the fire and carrying pockets of the fire in a basket to East Malaysia. Soon East Malaysia became lighted up as well. Then she saw the angel carrying the fire to the nations. The word that came was that Malaysia is a Fire Altar nation and God had accepted our sacrifice at the prayer altars.
Ps James confirmed this vision by declaring that Malaysia is a Fire Altar nation and that there is an open heaven over our land. This open heaven will be for many more years to come. How long are we to maintain the fire at the altars? Until Jesus comes again!

When I heard this vision, I suddenly saw the altar of altars – the National Prayer Altar at Peacehaven. To me, this is the biggest prayer altar in our nation that has brought about an unprecedented unity in the body of Christ.

In the coming year (2019), may we dedicate our time to join the National Prayer Altar, as well as join our church prayer altars (morning prayer or corporate prayer) and tarry till

REVIVAL COMES! AMEN!



But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."
– John 8:23–24 NIV



Hearing God's Voice

By Loke Wai Keng

SEVERAL times I have been asked, "Does God still speak today and how does He speak?" As I ponder over this, I think it more pertinent to ask, "Are we quiet enough to want to listen to God?" We live in the world that is advancing fast especially in the area of multimedia via internet. As such, we are bombarded with all types of noises, so it is difficult to stay still to hear God's voice.

God created mankind for relationship and right from the time of creation God was in constant communion with Adam till he sinned and was fearful. So, he hid himself from the presence of God. (Gen 3:8-10)

I believe the Bible is the means through which God communicates with mankind. So we need to establish the biblical basis and importance of getting into God's Word if we desire to hear Him. The writer of the book of Hebrews affirmed in Heb 1:1-2, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds."

Just as in the time of Adam, sin affected the way people hear from God. A clear example is mentioned Exodus 20:19 when the children of Israel sinned against God, they were fearful to approach God so they came before Moses to hear on their behalf. "You speak to us," Moses was told, "and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die. It is sad that the line of communication with God is hindered by our sinful nature. However, the rebellious nature of man does not stop God from speaking to His people.

Jesus in John 10:14-16 said, "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. What great assurance given by the Lord Himself that as His sheep, we will be able to hear His voice. Just like a child who is so in tune with the mother, could easily recognise her voice; we too have to tune into Christ's voice by staying close to Him constantly communing with Him.

God is Almighty and we cannot limit Him in the way He speaks. The Bible recorded for us how God spoke to people face to face as in Abraham, recorded in Gen17, or Moses in Exo 33. He spoke through prophets as in King David when He sent the prophet Nathan to convict him of his sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam 12). Samuel in his earlier years as a child heard God's voice (1 Sam 3) and so did Paul when he was on the way to Damascus. God spoke directly to him (Acts 9). Daniel had experiences of God coming to him in dreams and visions with angels helping him to understand. Interestingly, we see in the life of Joseph, God spoke to him through the circumstances of his life and he was able to assure his brothers of God's plan as in Gen 50:20. We read in Num 22:21-39 that God spoke to Balaam through a donkey.

So how about today? God is unchanging and faithful. I believe He still speaks today in ways that seems fitting to the hearer. In my personal journey, I recognise God speaks to me quite often through the reading and studying of His Word. Sometimes, I could hear clearly in the midst of my preparation or when I am teaching. Such revelations were life changing not only to me but to those whom I teach. Often, when I do not know how or what to teach especially to different audiences, God would show me when I asked Him.

Sometimes, I hear God from books that I read or through people who mentored me. On some occasions, God spoke through an audible voice, inner convictions or visions. I believe whatever way He chooses to speak and on whatever occasion, it will be God's desire to reveal Himself to me so

that I continue to develop an intimate relationship with Him with growing trust and reliance on Him.

Some pointers I take into consideration whenever I draw near to God to hear Him:

1. Expect to hear from Him in the way He chooses to. I cannot dictate the way God speaks to me.

2. Submit to His Lordship. Ask Him to help me silence my own thoughts and desire only His voice. 2 Cor 10:5

3. Confess any sins, as a clean heart enables us to hear His voice more easily and clearly. Ps 66:18

4. Resist the enemy, do not let him deceive me but use my authority to silence him. James 4:7, Eph 6:10-20

5. Beware of counterfeits. Satan has a counterfeit for everything of God (Acts 8:9-11). Guidance of the Holy Spirit leads me closer to Jesus and true freedom, and must be in line with God's Word.

6. Get my own leading from the Lord. God will use others to confirm the guidance. I need to hear His voice directly. It will be dangerous to rely on others to hear for me. 1 Kings 13

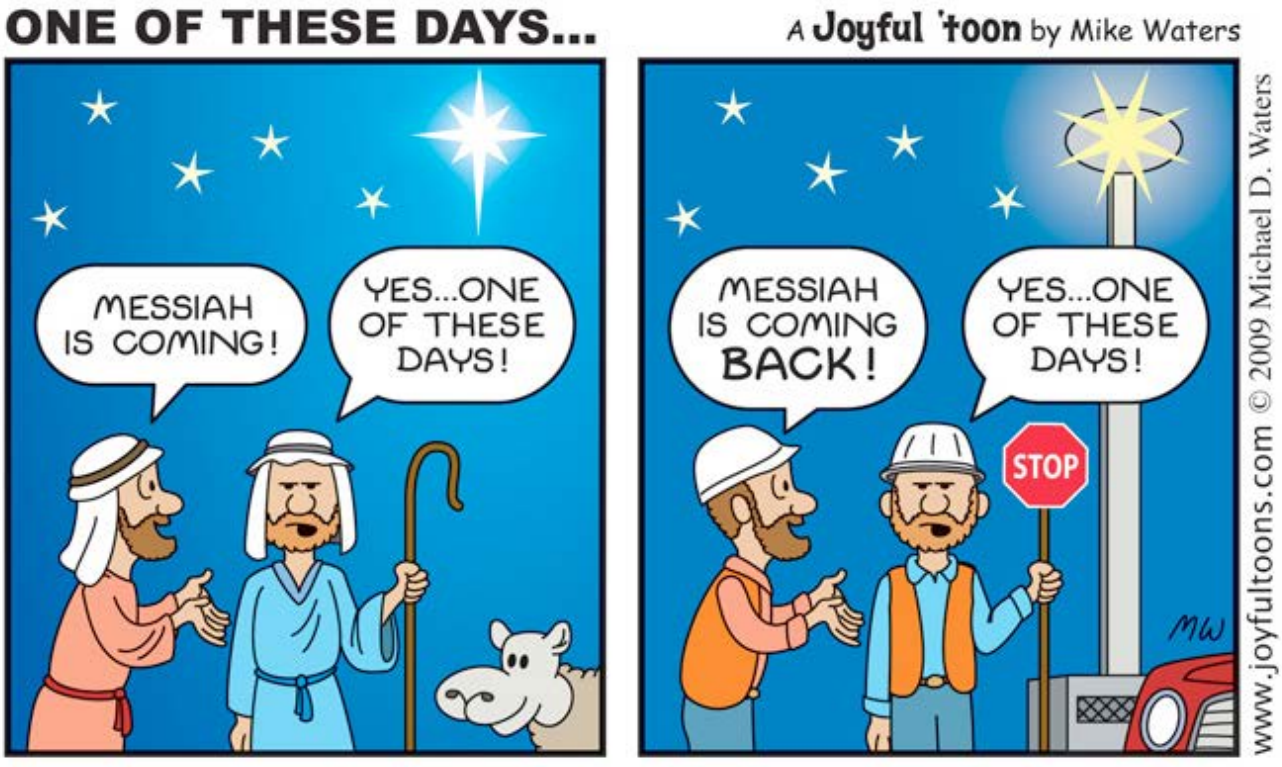
7. Do not talk about the guidance until God gives me permission to do so. This is to protect me from

    a. pride - with an attitude "God spoke to me"
    b. missing out on God's timing
    c. presumption - by speaking before I have full understanding
    d. bringing confusion to others, they too, need to hear from God especially in a group decision.

8. Use the axe head principle – a term from 2 Kings 6. If I seem to have lost my way, I need to go back to the last time I knew the sharp cutting voice of God. Then obey! The key question is "Have you obeyed the last thing God told you to do?"

9. Practice hearing His Voice and make this a daily habit whenever I go before the Lord. The more I train myself to hear God the more I will recognise Him speaking

After having said all these, I feel that I am still a learner in hearing God's voice. We are all travellers on the same journey and may we learn from each other. Bottom line is that we are His children. God loves us unconditionally and will not spare any expense to speak to us. On our part, we have to believe Him and be diligent in seeking Him.





Can Man Live Without God?

By Justin Yong

CAN man live without God? This question has long remained at the heart of every man's continual pursuit of happiness and his attempts at attaining the full life until today. During the times of Noah, the Bible recounts that the people mocked and scorned God's only righteous man as they enjoyed their revelries. Their despising of Noah indicated a belief that they neither needed God nor acknowledged Him in their lives. They were satisfied with themselves, and did not find a reason for God to interfere as such.

Today, modern day society has not changed much. Our belief system tells us that God is dispensable and we can still attain all there is to life, without Him. It offers in place of God the promises of a meaningful life, happiness, and contentment. We see this in our lives every day. Some non-Christian neighbours would preach on the importance of spending quality time together as a family, working out for good health, maintaining adequate finances, and doing charitable deeds to aid their conscience. Some would even tell us about the importance of keeping in touch with nature to keep our mental wellness in check. This philosophy is summed up by 'existentialism' which emphasizes on the human experience, and their freedom to define their own meaning in life. While it would seem that developed countries have perfected existentialism, however, the fact still remains — God exists, and the emptiness left in the deepest recesses of our heart will tell us that something crucial is still missing.

In Genesis, God told Adam that if he ate the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil, he would surely die. As we know, Adam did not die physically that day, but his death was spiritual. Along with spiritual death came a severance of communion with God, and the joys of fellowshipping with Him. Since then, man has lived in constant hunger of spiritual fulfillment. We try to fill this by fashioning a life imitating what we had before sin: working without the toil, complete health, establishing good relationships, finding fulfillment in nature. Following which, we create a belief system on how life can supply this contentment, which I find vacant in life.

Ravi Zachariah, renowned Christian apologist highlights four questions which must be answered by every man in determining their belief system: origin, meaning, morality and destiny. These questions are expanded further below:

1. How did life come to be in the first place? (Where did I come from?
2. To what purpose is my life?
3. How may I choose between right and wrong?
4. What happens to me when I die?

When we consider these four questions thoughtfully, there seems to exist a variable outside our human experience which we must measure up accordingly. This same variable seems to provide a yardstick to measure morality and offer meaning to the life we live. It would likely tell us how life came to be and where life is going. I could choose to ignore these questions and go on living my own life, but doing so would come at the expense of affecting my conscience and ultimately ignoring the very essence of my humanity.

Can man live without God? No, we can't. For the greatest need of man is still a spiritual need which only God can fill. It is a need to be known by God, to be loved by Him and to be in communion with Him. For this reason, we celebrate Christmas and the joy of being reconciled with God through Jesus Christ.

Chicken Pie

By Magdeline Chin





Ingredients

Ingredients:

1 packet	Shimeji white mushroom
180g	Carrot, cubed
100g	Celery, sliced
100g	Onion, cut into wedges, and open the layers
200g	Tomatoes, remove skin, seeds and cubed
160g	Potatoes, skinned and cubed
50g	Green peas
320g	Chicken fillet, cut into cubes
2½tbsp	Whipping cream
10 pcs	4" readymade frozen puff pastry
10 pcs	Aluminum cup
3 tbsp	Cooking Oil
1 tbsp	Butter
1	Egg, lightly beaten for glazing

Seasoning: Salt, chicken cube, white pepper powder



Ready fillings



Fillings in aluminum cups



Glazing of pastry

Method:

1. Heat up a tablespoon of cooking oil in a wok, lightly fry the onion and remove from wok.
2. Toss green peas in hot wok for 1 minute and remove from wok.
3. Add a tablespoon of oil, heat up and add potato cubes. Keep stirring and fry until half cooked. Remove from wok.
4. Heat a clean wok, add cooking oil and melt butter on low fire, add in chicken cubes and fry.
5. Add chicken cube and salt. Stir fry until meat is cooked.
6. Add in carrot and potatoes. Continue to fry until potatoes are almost cooked.
7. Add in Shimeji white mushroom and fry for a while.
8. Add in tomatoes, continue to fry.
9. Add in the green peas and onion and white pepper powder.
10. After a few stirs, add in whipping cream, fry a while till the sauce thickens.
11. Remove from wok and ready to assemble.
12. Scoop the ready filling into the aluminum cups.
13. Lightly roll the pastry and put on the pie, apply egg glazing.
14. Bake at 200°C for 18 minutes or until the pastry puffs up and browns.

HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | Jul– Dec 2018



CHURCH EVENTS

• Prayer Conference with Ps Lee Choo	**14 Jul**
• 40 Days Fasting & Prayer	**7 Aug –15 Sep**
• Leaders Retreat @ Lanson Place	**10-11 Sep**
• Chinese Church Camp	**15-17 Sep**
• KKB Building Project Fundraising	**20 Oct**
• Staff Retreat	**12 –15 Nov**



BAPTISM

• Carol Soo, Wong Kok Boon, Kwong Kian Lap, Jordan Tai, Shawn Choo, Kevin Leow	**19 Aug**
• Aleh Shyakila, Amira, Kalsia Suli, Grace Choo, Eunice Wong, Annie Lai	**4 Nov**

FILIPINO FELLOWSHIP

• 2nd Anniversary	**9 Sep**



COMMUNITY

• Sayangi Ampang Project	**22 Sep**
• Kindy Concert	**6 Oct**



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

• KKB	**8 Dec**
• CC	**16 Dec**
• Charis Hope Centre	**20 Dec**
• Chinese Youth	**22 Dec**
• Saturday Service "Love Came Down"	**22 Dec**
• Christmas Celebration	**23 Dec**



NEW BORN

• Wong Hansel, son of Eugene Wong & Michelle Teh	**30 Jun**
• Xavier Lau Wen Kai, son of Benjamin Lau & Jamie Teh	**27 Sep**



NEWLY WED

• Calvin Lim & Jane Oo	**25 Aug**
• Andrew Thavid & Evengeline David	**3 Nov**
• Caleb Lau & Khoo Kim Yen	**12 Dec**



LOVING MEMORY

Isaac Bobby	**14 Sep**



MISSIONS TRIP

• China Yunnan Trip	**5 – 24 Sep**
• India Guntur Trip	**8 – 14 Oct**

COMING EVENTS In 2019

• Study on the Gospel of John	**26 Jan**
• HGC 25th Anniversary Celebration	**10 Mar**

INVITATION

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

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

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

The Hope of Glory Centre

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