voiceofhope

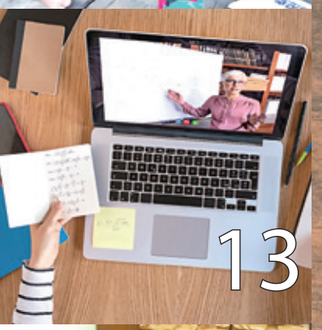
the newsletter | July - Dec 2020



A publication of The Hope of Glory Centre. For private circulation.











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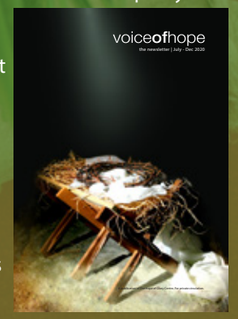




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the newsletter | July - Dec 2020

Dear Reader,
A very meaningful Christmas to you and your family! May the light of Christ shine upon you and into your heart and circumstances to bring you joy and hope.



Christmas 2020 - Good News of Great Joy

As we look back at the birth of Christ, we remember that Jesus Christ was born in dark times. Israel was at a time of spiritual darkness for God had not spoken to them for 400 years. They were under the oppressive rule of the Roman empire and Judea was ruled by the ruthless Herod the Great, an Edomite appointed by Rome. The Davidic line of kings had long disappeared.

Then amidst that darkness, there was good news! The Light of the world had come into the darkness to break it and bring light. Angels were despatched to bring the good news to all people – the good news of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Today, Jesus shines out in the darkness of our times to bring us hope. He says to us, "I am the light of the world. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." May we trust Him and keep following Him.

HGC experienced God's amazing move in the darkness of 2020 and we have good news to share. The LORD indeed reigns and is in control as our pastor wrote in his column on pages 4-5. Our OA believers in Kg Gerachi can now stand on their own feet. Read more about it in the Missions Talk article on pages 7-9. And there are many personal testimonies in this issue, including those of three sisters who have come to personal faith in Christ during the RMCO and were baptised.

Our Children's Church is doing well despite not being able to gather onsite, thanks to the dedicated and innovative teachers. Find out more on pages 22-23. Catch up on what our youth have embarked on in the Youth Wave on page 34. HGCians have also gone out excitedly to touch the market community during the mid-autumn festival. You can read about it on pages 18-19

Enjoy reading this issue of VOH and do help to share it.

Hope in Christ,
The VOH Team

The Hope of Glory Centre

1A,1B & 1C,
Jalan Wawasan Ampang 2/2,
Bandar Baru Ampang,
68000 Ampang,
Selangor, Malaysia.
Tel : 603-4295 1700
Fax : 603-4295 2701
Website : www.hgc.org.my
E-mail : mail@hgc.org.my

Voice of Hope (VOH) is published thrice a year by The Hope of Glory Centre, a church organisation. Reproduction in whole or in part is welcomed with acknowledgement.

- *Chief Editor*
  Ps Khor Hoe Chai
- *Editor*
  Lim Chin Nee
- *Copy Editors / Writers*
  Jeanette Chan
  Abigail Cheong
  Ruth Lew
  Janelle LIm
  Alicia Joy
- *Columnists*
  Ps Khor Hoe Chai
  Tim Chan
  Ruth Lew
  Loke Wai Keng
- *Art Director*
  Eva Soo

There is Good News!

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

IS there any good news and can we sing "Joy to the world" this Christmas? The world is reeling because of Covid 19. We have yet to experience the full impact of this pandemic and can expect further bad news. Currently the number of people that has been infected has reached 46 million with a new record of 500,000 infections a day and over 1 million fatalities. Malaysia sadly is experiencing the third wave with highest daily infections in recent days. It seems like the shaking is not slowing down but intensifying. And for us Malaysians, we are also inflicted with political turmoil and uncertainty.

How are we, the church to respond and to live at such a time as this?

Psalm 93 helps us to focus rightly on the LORD and to trust Him during such times. The psalmist and his people were facing some overwhelming dangers depicted by the raging floods.

Let us read Psalm 93.
The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty;
The LORD is clothed,
He has girded Himself with strength.
Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved.
2 Your throne is established from of old;
You are from everlasting.
3 The floods have lifted up, O LORD,
The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their waves.
4 The LORD on high is mightier
Than the noise of many waters,
Than the mighty waves of the sea.
5 Your testimonies are very sure;
Holiness adorns Your house,
O LORD, forever.

We can see three powerful truths from this short Psalm that brings good news and hope. And where there is hope, there will be joy and peace!

1.THE LORD REIGNS! V1-2
The psalmist says, "The LORD reigns, He is clothed in majesty…."

Beloved, let us never forget or lose focus of this FACT, the LORD reigns! The personal name of God, **LORD** spelled in capital letters, is repeated five times in this short Psalm. The name LORD was revealed to Moses in the Burning Bush experience when God called Moses to deliver the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. In Hebrew it is Yahweh, or Jehovah in English. In Exodus 3:14, it is was translated as, **"I AM WHO I AM"**. God is saying to Moses that **HE WILL BE EVERYTHING** to His people. God in various encounters with His people revealed Himself in this name to their specific needs. For example, "Jehovah Jireh", I AM the LORD your PROVIDER (Gen 22:14); "Jehovah Rapha", I AM the LORD your HEALER (Exodus 15:26); "Jehovah Nissi", I AM the LORD your BANNER in your battles (Exodus 17:15); "Jehovah Shalom", I AM the LORD your PEACE (Judges 6:24); "Jehovah Rohi", I AM the LORD your SHEPHERD (Psalm 23:1).

The psalmist began this Psalm with the triumphant declaration, "The LORD reigns!" He rules over everything from His throne! He described Him clothed in majesty and girded with strength reigning on His throne, the same majestic throne that was revealed to John in Revelation 4 and 5 where angels and elders representing all His creation bowed and worship Him day and night crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, LORD God Almighty!" All throughout the Bible and in history we see the LORD reigning. The kingdoms of this world come and go BUT His Kingdom is forever because He is the LORD Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. That is, from forever till forever HE is the LORD Who reigns and Who is in full control. No matter what we see happening in our world today, the LORD is in full control! Indeed, there is good news because the LORD reigns!

2.THE LORD IS MIGHTIER! v3-4
The psalmist further declares, "The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters."

Today we see floods of uncontrollable diseases, of economic instability, of political upheavals, of religious extremism and persecution, of racial tensions and of sin lifted up. The mighty and turbulent waves of the floods are so powerful that they are overwhelming the nations.

The LORD who is mightier than these floods can easily still the storms and stop them with one command, "Peace, be still." He can and He will in His timing. But right now, He has not. God is taking His hands of mercy and grace off and allowing these floods of filth and wickedness in this world so that humankind will be awakened to the destruction of their own pride and sin, and choose to return to Him and be restored back to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.

A time of judgment and reckoning will come which will be much worse than what we are seeing now, when God pours out His wrath on the world in judgment. In the meantime, He is still longsuffering desiring that the nations wake up and repent and turn to Him. It is His will that the greatest awakening, the greatest revival, the greatest harvest of souls will take place before that Day comes on the earth. And we are now living in this window of His calendar where

His Throne of Grace is still open for us to approach with boldness to obtain mercy and find grace.

As we see the floods, let us remember to **LOOK UP to the LORD who is MIGHTIER than the greatest flood**. Let us not fear but pray to Him who is merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands and forgiving our iniquity, transgression, and sin, by no means clearing the guilty…" (Ex 34:6-7). When Moses heard that, he bowed in worship and interceded for God's forgiveness and favour on behalf of his people. And the LORD heeded his intercession and pardoned the Israelites. This is the time for us to bow humbly before the LORD in worship and intercession, crying out to Him for His mercy and grace on behalf of our nation and the nations of the world. And as we do so let us trust that He is in full control, that He is all wise, that His ways are higher than our ways and that His timing is perfect. There is good news for the LORD whose mercy endures forever is MIGHTIER than the most ferocious flood.

The LORD who is mightier than these floods can easily still the storms and stop them with one command, "Peace, be still."

3.THE WORD OF THE LORD IS FOREVER SURE V5
The Psalmist declared of the LORD in verse 5, "Your testimonies are very sure."

As we consider the testimonies of the LORD, we are assured of His faithfulness to His Word. There are numerous prophecies concerning the first coming of Jesus Christ, and every one of them has been fulfilled to the letter. For example, in approximately 700 BC, the prophet Micah named the tiny village of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Israel's Messiah (Micah 5:2). What is the probability of its fulfilment? Yet, this prophecy was fulfilled for Jesus was indeed born in Bethlehem, a widely known and celebrated fact in history.

Consider now another prophecy. 740 years before Jesus Christ was born, the prophet Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and give birth to Him. And it came to pass just as it was prophesied in the Word of God.

Yet another example concerns the prophecy of the death of Jesus Christ. Hundreds of years before crucifixion was even invented, both King David and the prophet Zechariah described the way Jesus would die in words which perfectly described the crucifixion. David prophesied that Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced and that none of the bones would be broken; and Zechariah said he would be pierced (Psalm 22, 34:20, Zech 12:10). History and the New Testament confirm its fulfilment. Jesus Christ died on the cross, and His unusually quick death made the usual breaking of His bones unnecessary. Instead, a spear was thrust into His side to ensure that he was, indeed, dead.

The LORD's testimonies are sure, and He will triumph over every foe of His people as He says in Word. He is the LORD who parted the Red Sea and drowned the mighty Egyptians. He stopped the River Jordan and brought down the walls of Jericho. He slew the Assyrian armies and killed King Sennacherib and many more. As He had done it before He will do it again.

"The word of the Lord endures forever" (1 Pet 1:25). "Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). "The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever" (Psalm 119:160). "Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:165). "For You have magnified Your word above all Your name" (Psalm 138:2b).

When Jesus spoke of the end-times, He said in Matt 24:35, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

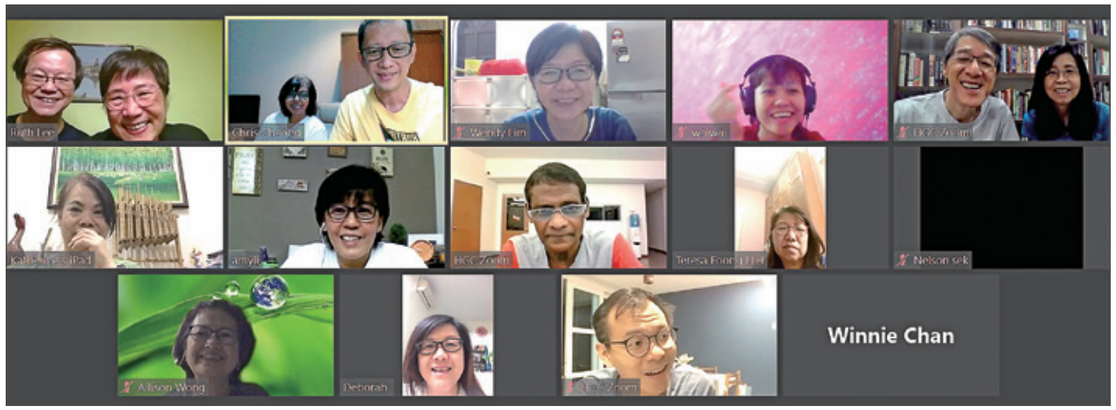
Because the LORD is forever faithful to His word, let us lay up His Word in our hearts richly, (Col 3:16). Let us delight ourselves in His law and meditate in it day and night and be like trees planted by the rivers, (Psalm 1:2). Keep His word in our mouths and meditate in it to observe to do according to it so that we will make our way prosperous and good success. There is good news because we have the very sure testimonies of the LORD!

Is there good news amidst all the bad news? YES! Because the LORD who is mightier than the floods reigns. Because we can hope in the LORD Who keeps His Word and promises forever.

This Christmas, much more than any other Christmas we ought to sing, "JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD HAS COME!" Let every heart prepare Him room and welcome Him into their hearts, homes and community!

Prayer in the Pandemic

By Ruth Lee



Prayer via zoom

THE pandemic has redefined many things in our life – working from home, shopping online, stay at home, virtual meetings, social distancing (among others). In terms of our church life, the pandemic has also changed the way we attend Sunday Services and our Morning or Corporate Prayers.

Much as we love going for prayer meetings in person where we can pray together and 'feel' the presence of God, we have no choice but to adopt the 'new normal' i.e. online praying. There are many things about online praying that are not so exciting – we cannot 'feel' God's presence, we get easily distracted, we can close our video so that others cannot see what we are doing. We can even have a shut-eye while the prayer meeting is going on! Of course, the issue of data bothers us. Like Veveonah Mosibin who had to find a tree to get the best reception, some of us have to sit near the router to ensure that our connection do not hang! Even then we can also experience hiccups such as "your internet line is unstable" – the most frequent statement popping out from my computer!

However, there are also advantages with online praying (our popular choice is via zoom) which are the connection with many prayer partners nationwide and even worldwide. Since joining the daily noon prayers, I have connected with prayer partners in Sabah and Sarawak, and also in Indonesia and Singapore. I have even heard the anointed worship of the House of Prayer in Batam. Indeed, so anointed was their worship that many of us wept.

This article is written to encourage praying together during the pandemic. Prayer is more alive than ever. Prayer will never go away. Prayer can never be stopped by the pandemic. The Spirit of God can sizzle the airwaves even as we lift up our voices to pray and intercede for our nation.

During our corporate prayer times via zoom, we were blessed not only by our own prayer leaders but also by prayer leaders whom we can invite from other places to join us in prayers. We have knitted our hearts together with them in the online prayer meeting.

Though at times, we experience the technical interruptions, we persevere in coming together to pray because we are doing this unto the Lord and not unto men!

Just some tips to encourage online praying.

- Praying is an act of will and not just of feeling. Jesus said "when we pray" not "if we pray" thus by joining the prayer meeting online, we are being obedient to the Lord.
- Prayer is a momentum thus prayer slides shared during corporate prayer (for e.g by Ps Lam in our session praying for Sabah) is for us to continue in our other times of prayer.
- Prayer is an act of faith. Jesus said if 2 or 3 of you agree in prayer concerning anything it will be done for us. Thus, the breakout rooms in zoom prayer is ideal to actualize that.
- Find a quiet place when you are online to avoid being distracted by other sounds.
- Worship along with the worship leader.
- Be fully engaged during the times of prayer by following the flow of the prayer leader.
- Be bold to pray aloud. After all in the zoom prayer, you have the option to close your video when you pray so no one can see your face when you pray! Sometimes, I write out my prayer to ease the prayers.

See you during our corporate prayer via zoom on Wednesdays!

Rise of Indigenous Church

By Chan Tham Seng

MINISTRY plans are put on hold or subject to adjustments during the pandemic months. We submit that our thoughts are not God's thoughts and our ways not His ways (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Twenty years ago, we were starting a ministry on the Yunnan side of the Lugu Lake. The following year in August 2000, God took us to Zuosuo on the Sichuan side of the lake by a force of circumstance. At Zuosuo, stronghold of primitive Bon religion, we met a Mongolian who led us to a "Mongolian Prince", the son of Zuosuo's last feudal lord (tusi).

Since then we kept returning to Zuosuo where we led a dozen members of this tusi family to Jesus who included the Mongolian Prince and his step-mother, the "Last Mosuo Queen". Zuosuo did not feature in our original plan of Lugu Lake ministry. Indeed, at Zuosuo we encountered harassments from local officials, policemen and members of public (over student ministry). However the Zuosuo episode was worth it because that is God's plan: He wanted to bless this tusi family at Zuosuo.

Apostle Paul and his team had no plan for Macedonia. Not yet. Possibly they would, one day, as the gospel continued to saturate Minor Asia. God then gave Paul a vision to quicken their plan for the European thrust. That is God's ways: He thought it was time that the gospel quickly broke out of the Jewish confine (Acts 16).

In the case of the Kg Gerachi ministry, there was no lack of plans over the last eight years.

On 3 August 2019, on the eve of completing our seven years of ministry, I shared a message in the adult meeting on "Berdikari untuk mencapai harapan gereja kita" (Standing on your own feet to accomplish objectives of our church).

With James 2:14-17 as text, I cited four "harapan" that God had expected of the Gerachi church:

- There are members to lead in worship and prayer during service (this is being fulfilled)
- There are members to become teachers /helpers for children church (this is partly being fulfilled)
- The number of Christian families in Kg Gerachi keeps growing (baptism continues once or twice yearly)
- Kg Gerachi will one day be identified as a Christian village.



Photo Caption 1-4
Maintaining contact with Gerachi folks during MCO period.

Self-reliance
To foster the growth of a self-reliant indigenous church in Kg Gerachi, we planned for a one-day get-together cum workshop with selected Gerachi believers. The event was scheduled to be held at a homestay in the Kuala Kubu Baru town after our 7 December Christmas celebration.

The get-together plan was postponed due to year-end activities in our mother church. Meanwhile on 31 December, China reported her first case of Covid-19 infection which got mentioned in our adult meeting on 8 February 2020.

Hoping that the epidemic would dissipate over time, we met on 1 March to finalize plan for a 2-day get-together cum workshop on 25 and 26 April. A homestay in Kampong Asam Kumbang, KKB was subsequently booked and deposit paid.

Things have since moved swiftly worldwide with Covid-19 downgraded to a pandemic. On 18 March, Malaysia came under MCO (Movement Control Order), hence we were no longer able to conduct normal meetings in Kg Gerachi, including the plan for a workshop on 25-26 April.

Unfazed with this restrictive order, we made efforts to stay close and caring with our Gerachi members. On 6 April, HGC released RM2000 worth of foodstuff for distribution to Gerachi members comprising 20 families. The effort was carried out by our dedicated co-workers working closely with our KKB contacts through the use of cell phones.

Meanwhile, we continue to take advantage of the loosening movement control orders which slowly moved from MCO to CMCO (Conditional MCO) and finally to RMCO (Recovery MCO). We dropped our earlier plan for a get-together cum workshop and adjusted it to helping Gerachi members start a life group.

It became clear to us that a life group is the correct way for believers to resume their worship in the village since the authorities continue to bar outside groups from conducting worship with the indigenous community in the villages.

To push for this, we got a meeting place in the KKB town on 31 July to conduct briefing and training sessions with selected Gerachi believers. The meeting was well attended, and its objectives achieved.

Life group
On15 August the first Gerachi Life Group meeting was held at Kak Biah's house under the leadership of Chegu Aina. Chegu, a long-time village kindergarten teacher, was well accepted and respected by other members and some teenagers including Puteri.

The LG meeting is held on Thursday at 7pm on weekly or biweekly basis. The meeting incorporates worship, prayer and Bible study, following a model we proposed. We have also prepared simple Bible Study passages for the leader to use at each LG meeting.

Apart from Chegu, we have also identified Luna Yahaya, Sham Awang and Rohani Yahaya as alternative LG leaders. This is to enable more members to be trained as leaders especially when Chegu was about to go on her maternity leave (at the time of writing, Chegu and Sham have been blessed with a baby boy, their fourth child.)









Photo Caption 5-8
On 31 July at KKB town, we held a Life Group training which ended with a meal.

The Lord must have been very pleased with the running of the Gerachi LG. It was God who speeded up its formation in line with His indigenisation plan for the Gerachi church.

We saw the need for indigenisation, but it is God who pushes us along using Covid-19 as an impetus.





Photo Caption 9-10
Visiting Kg Gerachi on 3 October with gift of face masks.

In the days ahead, it is therefore important that the Gerachi LG as an indigenous group to increase its presence in the village. Holding worship in different houses in the village without our presence will strengthen the perception that an asli church has indeed arisen in the village. This is God's ultimate aim for Gerachi believers.

Meanwhile, let us continue to help and encourage the indigenous believers from behind till they become strong to stand on their feet.









Photo Caption 11-14
Gerachi LG started since 15 August on Thursday evening at different houses.



Photo Caption 15
Sham and Chegu Aina blessed with a healthy baby boy on 25 October.

Churches Were Strengthened & Grew

Sibu Mission Trip 21 Jul – 05 Sep 2020

By Chong Wah Yaw, Pastor



Sharing & teaching in a member's home

IN our last mission trip to Sibu, my wife, Seol Mei, and I were assigned by Ps Shin to teach and preach in the longhouses and church members' houses in town. Besides that, we also helped to train some Iban full time workers and pastors.

Seol Mei and I served in different teams most of the time due to the lack of pastors, workers and guitarists. Our day would start with morning devotion from 9am to 10am from Monday to Saturday. From 10am to 11.30am, I would give Bible Studies to four Iban youths. By 2pm we would head out and minister in various longhouses and would not be back till 11pm. On Sundays, we would go to four or five members' houses in Sibu town itself to worship and preach.

I had an experience in which I felt unwell while attending a three-day, two-night funeral service at Pakan. After the wake on the first night, I experienced giddiness and was neither able to attend the service on the second night nor the funeral. I believe that it was a spiritual attack and therefore strengthened myself by praying in the spirit. When I arrived back to the Sibu Centre on the third day, thank God I was already well and could minister that very night at a member's house.

Praise God, we witnessed the baptism of 57 new Iban believers, consisting of both adults and children from three longhouses: Rumah Libau, Augustine and Mamcha. It was such a great joy to see children and adults being baptized in the river.

The harvest is indeed plentiful but the labourers are few. Some of the longhouses have not been visited for more than two to five years, 70% of which are without electricity and water supply. There are so many more longhouses to be visited but a great lack of manpower to minister and cater to all of them. We conducted a survey among 24 longhouses and a factory and found out that 16 of the longhouses as well as the factory wished to have a worship service twice a month.

Praise God, we witnessed the baptism of 57 new Iban believers, consisting of both adults and children from three longhouses.

Although Sarawak has the highest Christian population in Malaysia (42%), most are nominal Christians. Some are third or fourth generation Christians who are unsure of their salvation. I needed to teach them on the assurance of salvation and lead them to say the sinner's prayer.

By God's grace, I had the privilege to visit 29 longhouses and 27 members' houses; preached and shared my testimony 32 times; taught the Iban pastors and penginjil (preachers) and conducted Bible studies and Emotional Healing with four Iban youths.

Seol Mei visited 45 longhouses and 27 members' houses. By God's grace, she also had the privilege to preach, share her testimonies and teach. Praise the Lord for the 14 new longhouses added to the kingdom of God over the five days of survey. It is truly the joy of salvation! Truly, we rejoice as expressed in Acts 16:5, "So, the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers."





Teaching in longhouses



Seol Mei praying for a member



Ministry time



Training & teaching Iban pastors & Penginjil



Training the next generation





Baptism of Iban believers

#BLM movement

By Janelle Lim



Protesting against the American police force

SOMETIME in May, a movement known as Black Lives Matter or #BLM began to go viral, circulating the internet. This movement was sparked by the incident where an African American man was suffocated to death by an American police officer in an attempt to detain him. Floyd's death was caught on video, where a policeman knelt on his neck for close to 9 minutes while he kept repeating, "I can't breathe." This tragic death has caused nationwide protests in America, even during the pandemic.

One way Christians walk in the Spirit is when we love our neighbours as ourselves.

As the saying goes, there are always two sides to every coin, two groups of people formed in support and also in opposition to this movement. With the majority being in support of the movement and participating in riots against the police force in the US. Stories of black people being unjustly treated by police authorities began surfacing on the internet. Videos and stories started making its rounds on large social media platforms namely Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The #BLM movement has brought to light a few significant matters that have been simply overlooked by even the Americans themselves, such as: systemic racism, racial injustice, anti-black sentiment and even casual racism.

The Malaysian Relevance:

We can also see a similar pattern in Malaysia, our attitude towards people outside of our own racial community. Being a multi-racial and multicultural country, I think Malaysians are openly tolerant but are we silently being racist? Is cracking a joke about someone's race just a 'friendly' thing among pals, or is it insensitive no matter what the context? What about badmouthing other races when they are doing well, but keeping silent when your own race is having the advantage? In addition, we should not also neglect the immigrants that come to our country to work and make a living for their own family back home. The constant stereotypes and negative sentiment that 'they do not belong here' when we see Rohingya or Bangladeshis working in restaurants or construction sites reflects. This reflects on us and our community poorly.

The Church Response:

As Christians, we must intentionally oppose racism because God through Christ both empowers us and commands us to walk in love with the power of the Spirit. One way Christians walk in the Spirit is when we love our neighbours as ourselves (Gal. 5:13–14). Complicit racism is just another way of the devil trying to ensnare us into not loving our brothers and sisters in Christ. We must be aware and watchful of our words, actions and thoughts because it may come subconsciously when we become complacent. We must oppose racism whenever and wherever it appears because we are all created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and are made as new creations in Christ (2 Cor 5:17-21).



Get Ready!

By Ruth Lee

THE parable of the 10 virgins was told by Jesus after His discourse on the end times in Matthew 24. The end times started from the time of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts and is still ongoing. It is also called the church age. The church age or end times will not end until the church is raptured. Thus, we are not waiting for a specific time but the end times is here and now; we are already living in it.

Jesus told about a significant event that will happen in the end times which is His return to earth a second time. He gave instructions to us in Matt 24:42 to prepare ourselves for this event, "Therefore stay alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come" and in v44 "Therefore you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him". In v45 "Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom the master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their food at the proper time?"

There are 4 sure truths on the end times, the age we are living in:

1. Jesus will come again the second time
2. Jesus will come at an hour when we do not expect
3. Jesus wants us to be alert and ready
4. Jesus wants us to be faithful and wise while waiting for Him to return a second time

Let us summarize the parable.

There were 10 virgins. All had oil in their lamps but five brought extra oil and five did not bring extra oil. All were waiting for the bridegroom but because he delayed a long time, all fell asleep. When he finally arrived, which is at an odd time (midnight) there was a shout. All awoke and trimmed their lamps but because five did not bring extra oil, they asked the other five for the extra oil. However, their request was rejected because the five wise ones said that the oil they had (even with the extra oil) was just enough for them. The suggestion was that they go and buy the oil. While they went to buy, the five with the extra oil went into the wedding banquet and the door was shut. The five who came back later asked to be let in but the bridegroom replied, "I do not know you," and the door was shut.

Firstly, this parable describes the condition of the church at the time of the second coming. The 10 virgins represent believers in the church at the end times.

Secondly, they were all similar in most aspects i.e. they were all invited to the wedding celebration and waiting for the bridegroom, but they fell asleep as the bridegroom was delayed in his coming. The only difference is that five brought extra oil but five did not bring extra oil.

Thirdly, the oil that each of us have cannot be shared with another as salvation and our walk with God is personal to us. Our daily infilling of the Holy Spirit (represented by the oil) is something we have to personally ensure. We can ask for prayers and the laying on of hands but ultimately to keep the fire burning and the Holy Spirit flowing, we have to be responsible for it ourselves.

Fourthly, extra oil must be brought or purchased. This means the five wise virgins have paid a price for the extra oil which they brought along. To me, this speaks of our opportunity here and now to grow our faith in the Word of God and in the infilling of the Holy Spirit. To buy something is to put in some sacrifice of time, so we would have to prioritize our time for the things of God. Solomon in Proverbs admonished us to buy the truth along with wisdom and understanding (Prov 23:23).

Fifthly, there will be self-professed Christians, who talk like Christians, mix with Christians but may not be genuine Christians. When Jesus told this parable, Judas was among the disciples, but we realized that in the end he was not a genuine believer.

Finally, the meaning of this parable teaches us that shortly before Christ's second coming, there will be believers who will be so slack in their spiritual duties that they will not have enough of God's Spirit and God's Word in order to help them endure to the end. All true Christians and disciples of Christ should make sure that they have the faith and are diligent in their spiritual lives to be faithful and wise!

Let us make every effort to ensure that we have extra oil in our lamps so that we can hear the cry of the Holy Spirit when Jesus comes a second time.

Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus Come! The Spirit and the Bride say Come!



Is Our Bible Corrupted?

By Danny Pang, Pastor

ON 26 August, 2020, Pasir Putih MP Nik Muhammad Zawawi Nik Salleh made a remark in the Dewan Rakyat during a parliament debate that the Bible was corrupted and distorted. He also said in defensive of his statement that Christians should not be offended, claiming that his statement was "a fact".

Is it a fact? Has the Bible, the Word of God, been distorted and corrupted as claimed? How should we respond? Do we know how to handle such an accusation or criticism?

Do we know whether our Bible is authentic? Do we know whether it is reliable?

It is imperative that we know because our faith hangs on the Word of God. We need to know so that we can give a defence for our faith when asked or confronted.

Below is a reprint of an article by Danny Pang (VOH Apr-Jun 2014, pages 44-45).

Christians have tried to preserve all the manuscripts that are in existence today (including those with variants) because the Gospel message that was inspired by God cannot be changed through spelling mistakes.

THE Bible is made up of 66 books - 39 in the Old Testament (OT) and 27 in the New Testament (NT) - was written by 40 authors over a period of some 1,500 years. It is true that the original text had gone missing. In addition, researchers of the early biblical documents have found "mistakes" in the Bible.

Nonetheless the Bible is the trusted Word of God and extremely reliable.

1. **Large Amount Of Manuscripts To Support Its Credibility**
   When the New Testament was completed, they made duplicates of it so that many more could read it. Since there were no printing machines during the early centuries, the manuscripts were handwritten, or hand copied. There are more than 5,300 Greek NT manuscripts copies and over 15,000 other manuscripts in other versions. So, although the original copy is missing, there are more than 24,000 manuscripts or documents in existence today.

2. **The Variants Do Not Affect The Doctrines**
   The so called "mistakes" are variants, the majority of which are strictly grammatical and spelling mistakes. Since the manuscripts were hand copied, it cannot be denied "errors" occurred while copying. There are an estimated 200,000 known variants. However, there is an ambiguity in saying 200,000 known variants. If a single word were misspelled in 3,000 different manuscripts, they are counted as 3,000 variants. Once this is understood the significant variants are surprisingly few in numbers.

   The variants contributed by variations in spelling, minor grammatical differences, an alternative preposition or pronoun, do not significantly change the teachings. They do not affect the meaning of passages and no biblical truth or doctrine is affected.

   Christians have tried to preserve all the manuscripts that are in existence today (including those with variants) because the Gospel message that was inspired by God cannot be changed through spelling mistakes.

3. **Not Just the Written Word but the Living Word**
   We believers do not just have the written Word but the Living Word, Jesus Christ Himself. John 1:1 tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Jesus is the Word. And the Word is God.

   Variants may occur in the manuscripts due to human error, but Jesus Christ does not change. We have the assurance that the Gospel message that was inspired by God cannot be changed or falsified through additions, subtraction or spelling mistakes. Also, we must remember that the true Gospel message is not only in the written form but the Living Word i.e Jesus Christ Himself. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). Jesus came, died, rose and ascended! No one can change that fact. We put our whole faith in this Living Word.

4. **Divinely Inspired**
   Although our Bible is written by men it is still the Word of God. The writers wrote as they were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. It came by divine revelation and divine inspiration. And as we know, the Holy Spirit does not give false inspiration.

   2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God

   2 Pet 1:20-21 No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

   1 Thess 2:13 When you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.

5. **External Evidence**
   Furthermore, there are many non-biblical manuscripts that confirm the reliability of the facts recorded in the Old Testament and Gospels. For example, Ancient Near Eastern Text, Nabonidus Chronicles, Elephantine test, Josephus Antiquities, Babylonian Chronicles, ancient texts from Egypt and Assyria, Tacitus, Kaiser, Pliny and others.

   Overall, at least 17 non-Christian writings record more than fifty details concerning the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus, plus details, concerning the earliest church. Dated approximately 20 to 150 years after Jesus' death, these secular sources are quite early by standards of ancient historiography. Altogether, these non-Christian sources mentioned that Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy, performed miracles, led disciples, and that many thought He was divine. Furthermore, they claimed that He was crucified for blasphemy but rose from the dead and appeared to His disciples, who were themselves transformed into bold preachers.

   The impact of Jesus' life and teachings were so significant that ancient historians and even opponents of Jesus would make reference to Him in their writings.

   The verdict is that the Gospels are not myths or fictional stories but accurate and real accounts of history.

6. **Archaeological Evidence**
   Archaeological discoveries further confirm that real people and real places exist as recorded in the Bible. More than 25,000 sites in the Bible have been discovered. Topographical study of Asia Minor for over 30 years confirms the existence of 32 countries, 44 cities and 9 islands as recorded by Luke in Acts.

7. **Closeness Of The Gospels To The Actual Date They Were Written.**
   One of the tests that historians use to evaluate the reliability of historical documents is how close to the actual events they were written. The closer the reporting to the date of the event, the better it would be. All the NT letters were written in less than 100 years (between 40-100 AD). This means many eyewitnesses and followers of Jesus were still around after the death and resurrection of Jesus in AD33. They are considered the first-generation witnesses who would be able to verify the truth of the documents, detect discrepancies in the manuscripts and refute any distortions.

8. **Prophecies About The Messiah**
   There are many prophecies about the Messiah in the OT – prophecies about His birth, life, death and resurrection.

   Consider just 8 of these prophecies which were made centuries before Jesus was born:
   Born of a virgin (Isa 7:14)
   Of the Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10)
   Place of birth (Mic 5:2)
   Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech 11:12)
   Manner of death (Ps 22:16)
   People's reaction (Ps 22:7,8,17)
   His side pierced (Zech 12:10)
   Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa 53:9)

   What is the probability of these 8 prophecies being fulfilled in one man? The probability is likened to filling the whole of India with 50 cent coins until they are a metre deep, then throw in a fifty-cent coin marked red into the pile of coins. Blindfold someone and ask him to find the red coin. What is the probability? Very, very slim.

   The probability of all the OT Messianic prophecies being fulfilled in one man can be considered improbable. Yet all of them have already been fulfilled in Jesus Christ; all except for one – His second coming. Rest assured this one will come to pass.

   Fulfilled prophecies also proved that God exists - what God spoke and promised came to pass.

9. **The Test of Consistency**
   What is written by a prophet is repeated by other prophets. The Bible was written within the duration of at least 1,500 years by 40 authors. Yet, there is a consistency in all the major themes of the Bible – Who is God, What He did, Humanity, Sin, Grace, Mercy, Salvation…

The Bible is the trusted, inspired Word of the Living God. We can rely on it.

NB. The Pasir Putih MP has since apologised and retracted his controversial remarks about the Bible in a Dewan Rakyat sitting on 3 Nov 2020.

A New Look for the New Normal

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

OUR first-floor church sanctuary had never been refurbished since we first moved in some 20 years ago. Many things were looking dull, stale and tired. The church board and staff had on a few occasions considered doing some renovations but then came the highway construction which was rather dusty and messy, and we felt to wait until "the dusts have settled". And then the Covid-19 struck.

When the recovery MCO was announced, we felt that this would be the perfect time to get the refurbishment done before reopening the church for a few reasons. First, we had the time to do so as the service was still online. Second, we already had the plan to do so and was just waiting for the right time. Third, we wanted our members to have a wonderful homecoming, having been away for months since the lockdown.

We wanted a new look with new colour schemes and fresh new materials. The Lord provided us with His best for various things. The carpet tiles look fresh and modern and are easily replaced as it comes in 2 feet by 2 feet tile sizes. Our old chairs were costly to reupholster and we opted for new chairs with a new design. As we are also into live streaming our services, we took the opportunity to install new cameras, to upgrade our computers and add necessary new equipment. We also had generous contributors who blessed us with new curtains.

The Lord provided us with His best for various things.

When the church was reopened on the Sunday of 16 August 2020, members who came back onsite to worship the LORD were pleasantly surprised by the clean and fresh new look of the sanctuary. It was certainly a warm welcome. They were beaming with joy for being able to come back to the House of the Lord to worship Him in one accord.



Painting work



Rewiring the stage



Laying on carpets



Welcome Home



Reopening the church following SOP

Stress during the Pandemic

By Ruth Lee

STRESS and depression are very real. In fact, experts say that depression is a sickness. The problem with stress is that if we do not deal with it when it comes, it can accumulate and when it accumulates it can become a sickness called depression.

The pandemic has brought about stressful situations that can trigger depression, signs of which are as follows:

1. Social isolation – a desire to just retreat into a shell
2. Worry about jobs and income
3. Worry about getting the virus
4. Sense of loss of control over situations or circumstances
5. Having meaningless thoughts about the future

Tips to handle stress during the pandemic thus nipping depression in the bud.

Symptoms of depression – life seems bleak, hopeless, you can't think straight, you feel a loss of energy, sleep eludes you, you are unable to focus, every day seems to be without any purpose, you feel that no one can help you and no one understands you. You also feel a sense of despair and helplessness and suicidal thoughts also come at your weaker moments.

A letter to the Star written by Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye on 30 Oct 2020 entitled "The mental aspect of the covid-19 crisis" highlighted how real this is in our nation. Two out of every five Malaysians or 44% have had their mental health affected during this pandemic. Of this, 7% reported feeling down all the time while 37% felt down some of the time.

In Japan, people are buying up small robots to keep them company. Robot dogs such as Aibo are soothing toys to help the elderly feel sage and well. As we will not be able to buy a robot to accompany us, here are some tips to handle stress during the pandemic thus nipping depression in the bud:

1. Distract yourself – break out of the cycle of isolation and focus on something that can give you new meaning and purpose in life. Perhaps you can learn a new language, take up baking or cooking, grow your own vegetables. Focus on a small project to add a sense of meaning to your days.

2. Simple sources of joy – watch funny videos on YouTube or listening to uplifting music. Dance around a bit. Make running errands to buy groceries a big thing. Dress up and put on a bit of gel or make up so that it becomes a fun and meaningful outing.

3. Limit the news – fake news, sensational news can only hike up our negativity and fear. Delete all the WhatsApp that just make you more stressful when you read them.

4. Get a real pet – this really helps because pets do provide us a source of joy. Caring for the pet also keeps our mind away from negative thoughts. Pets have been known to help in overcoming depression.

5. Maintain a routine – this adds some structure to the day. Include times for exercise and zoom or video call. I have a to-do list that helps me get through the day. After completing each task, I will give myself a treat.

6. Join a zoom prayer meeting – there are so many prayer meetings we can join to connect with people online. Join the church corporate prayer meeting or join the 12-noon prayer meeting that meets every day for 2 hours. You will be surprised how energized you feel even though you are just a 'silent' participant. After all, in zoom, you can close the video and remain incognito!

7. Deep worship music – for me personally, I love to listen to deep worship instrumental music. Somehow, I totally relax and calm down listening to the deep, gentle and powerful rhythm of the sound. It helps me overcome insomnia.

8. Share with someone you can trust – is there someone whom you can trust. Open up to that person. If you are the someone that others can trust, offer a listening ear. Don't judge or give advice unless solicited. Sometimes all the person needs is just someone to listen to them.

9. Join a life group (if you are not in one) – when we are sharing in a life group setting, it is easier to open up with our struggles. During this pandemic, people do share more freely about their job or income losses. Do not be ashamed to ask for prayers.

See a doctor – if all else fails and you cannot shake off the depression like a cloak, do make an appointment to see a doctor. As mentioned earlier, depression is a sickness and there are doctors who are trained to help us with this sickness.

A prayer: "Dear Father God, we do need Your help to overcome stress during this pandemic. We confess this stressful situation in our life. We are facing so many challenges that are just beyond us. The winds, storms and waves assail us. We are almost drowning. Please help us Lord. Calm our hearts. Calm our minds. Speak to the waves and the storm. BE STILL. IN JESUS NAME. AMEN"

Saying Thank You to Market Vendors

By Christina Auyong

27 SEPTEMBER 2020, what a beautiful Sunday morning! Together with brothers and sisters from both the Chinese and English congregation, we gathered at the Charis Hope Centre. Happily, we placed mooncakes and face masks into paper bags to be given out as an appreciation gift to the Ampang market vendors. This community event was a joint effort with the Ampang Market Association in conjunction with the mooncake festival. We wished to express our appreciation to the market vendors who fearlessly opened their stalls even during MCO to serve the community in Ampang.

It was such a beautiful sight to see the vendors with broad smiles on their faces, beaming with joy and gratefulness as they took the gift from us.

Once the gifts were all packed, we prayed and headed out to the market. Upon arriving at the market, I could hear Christian songs being played through an amplifier speaker at the entrance. Wow! Praise the Lord, the Ampang market is the first market I have been to that played Christian songs. As usual there were lots of aunties and uncles going in and out doing their marketing. We were divided into a few groups which were designated to different lanes in the market. With our hands full of paper bags, we went from stall to stall greeting the vendors with a smile and handing over the gift to them. It was such a beautiful sight to see the vendors with broad smiles on their faces, beaming with joy and gratefulness as they took the gift from us.

During the RMCO, when most were trying to save as much as possible for themselves, yet there were some people who would give to bless others. This is really an act of faith. May our Father God bless the sponsors with abundance.

This event is another breakthrough in building relationships with people in the market. For the future, the Charis Home Centre is planning to help more who are in need. The event ended with singing. One of the songs was an oldie "月亮代表我的心" (The moon represents my heart) by the famous singer Teresa Tang. Since, almost everyone knew how to sing the song, many joined in and sang with love springing out from our hearts although we were standing under the hot sun. I was so blessed to be a part of this community event.



Packing gifts



Sam Liew giving instructions to the team



Team of volunteers moving out



The pork seller had a surprise





Passing out gifts to market vendors



Bringing joy



What joy on their faces



The team singing at the market

Flashback

Flashback 2020 – Take Root Downwards, Bear Fruit Upwards



JAN
- 1 Sunrise Service
- 4 Leaders' Prayer at Peacehaven
- 11 First KKB trip of the year
- 19 Ps Shanker – Seated at the Table
- 25 Chinese New Year Combined Service



FEB
- 8 Chap Goh Mei at KKB
- 9 Ps Christine Phang – The River
- 9 Ushers Appreciation Lunch
- 9-11/3 Sibu Mission Trip Ps Wah Yaw
- 16 Rev Daniel Ho – 3 Crucial things in Life
- 23 Ps Tryphena – Church A Safe Place for Everyone
- 23 Bible Study on Hebrews with Wai Keng



MAR
- 3 Sibu Missions – Ps Chong Wah Yaw
- 7 Youth Cooking Competition
- 15 HGC 26th Anniversary
- 18 Online Morning Prayer begins via FB
- 22 1st Online Service on Facebook



APR
- 10 Good Friday online service
- 12 Resurrection Sunday online service
- 19 Ps Tony Phang – Behind the Scenes
- 26 Ps TT Quah – The New Normal
- 28 Birth of Ho Sze Ning - Ho Peng Fong & Sook Yee's 2nd baby



MAY
- 10 Happy Mothers' Day
- 23 Andy Wan went home to the Lord
- 31 Pentecost Sunday



JUN
- 14 Ps TT Quah – From Success to Significance
- 21 Happy Fathers' Day
- 21 Ps Lee Wee Min – Fathers Who Dare Win
- 28 Ps Victor Lee – Fear Not



JULY
- Church Renovation begins
- 12 Ps Tony Phang – Victory in the Wilderness
- 21-5/9 Sibu Mission – Ps Wah Yaw & Seol Mei
- 25 All Leaders' Mid-Year Meeting
- 31 KKB LG Training



AUG
- 6 Launch of 40 days Prayer & Fasting by NECF
- 7 Start of 40 Days Prayer & Fasting
- 9 Ps Lee Yew Meng – Dealing with Discouragement
- 16 Reopening of new sanctuary
- 29 Baptism – Tricia Liew Chee Cheang



SEP
- 9 Prayer at Peacehaven
- 15 End of 40 days Prayer & Fast
- 20 Ps Voon – The Gospel of the Kingdom
- 27 Mid-Autumn Community Project



OCT
- 17 Ps Damien Chua – When bad things happen to good people



NOV
- 1 Ps Danny Pang – Glorious Vision of the Divine Christ
- 7 All Leaders' Meeting
- 8 Ps Kevin Loo – Faith Works
- 17 Kenneth Leong went home to the Lord
- 21 LG Leaders' Meeting



DEC
- 5 Baptism – Lim Chien Joo and Siew Wen Chee
- 11 Baptism – Pauline Khoo, Melanie Phang and Natalie Phang
- 12 LLH Graduation Ceremony
- 16 Baptism – Rotica Anak Isap
- 13&20 CC Christmas Online Celebrations
- 20 SS Christmas Online Celebration
- Christmas Project – Do a Good Work & Share the Good Word
- 25 Christmas Service

Children Church on the Line with Jesus

By Jane Oo



Father's Day Art -Jay R family



Father's Day Art -Jesinth Cheerson Family

HELLO from The Little Lighthouse Children Church! Since the MCO in March, we have been running Children Church (CC) online via zoom. Months have passed and the teachers and children are now getting used to the new normal. We continue to testify that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Even though CC is online, the activities such as: Pledge & Shine, worship, games, prayer, and lessons still go on and the children are loving it! Here are a few words from the children:

"The worship & games are great fun! I learn about courage and not to give up easily. I also want to thank God for giving me brothers who protect me from bullies." - **Jayden, 10 years old**

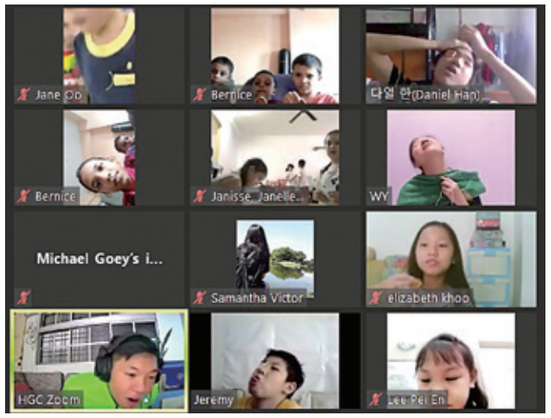
"I get to know more about God and I enjoyed the lesson about Bible characters." – **Vivien, 12 years old**

"I experienced sleeplessness and when I told Vivien about it, she prayed with me the Lord's prayer. After the prayer, I'm able to sleep peacefully". – **Lena, 9 years old**

"Yes, I like Children Church even though it's online. I miss my friends in CC especially Jeremy. I was bullied by a friend in school, the boy bit my hands and I got angry. I'm happy that I was able to share about it during the CC breakout room (small groups)." – **Magnus Goey, 8 years old**

"Thank you, Sis Jane and team. I enjoyed every CC session. You give your best effort to cheer and feed us with so much nutritious food of God's word, helping us to grow in the Lord Jesus. I thank God for giving you and your friends with big loving hearts to reach us. May you all be blessed with all your desires. God Bless you." – **Yi Hern**

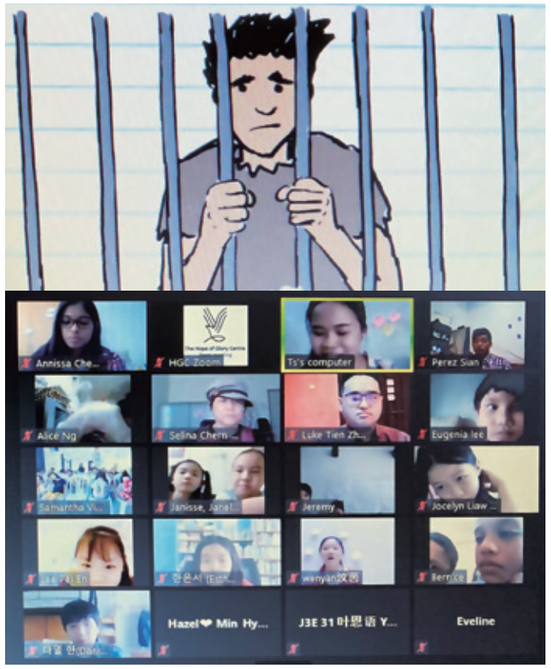




Games Time -Cookies on the face



Worship Video – Esther Han (C) been trained to worship lead



Lesson Time – Story telling



Jane with Vivien & Lena at Sunbeams



Worship - Sunbeams in Action



Teachers and children

Experiencing God's Steadfast Love

By Chan Yi Hern



MCO, RMCO, CMCO!
Everything stagnant, standstill and frozen but not God's love. His love is steadfast, constant, consistent.

He reaches out to the poor, blind, deaf, lame, and to the lost children, bringing them home safely and healthily. He protects them with all His might and touches them through every means of communication and mass media. He is polishing, equipping, feeding us with His love especially, during these tiring moments through songs of worship, psalms and hymns.

I have been lost a couple of times, but my loving Lord graciously holds me and draws me back to His arms, embracing me tightly. Wow! Hallelujah! That is true love! My heart was empty, but God filled me with hope that is unexplainable, flowing swiftly like a stream of river.

Psalm 86:3-5
Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am calling on you constantly.
Give me happiness, O Lord, for I give myself to you.
O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive,
So full of unfailing love for all who ask your aid.

Psalm 13
O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever?
How long will you look the other way?
How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul, with sorrow in my heart?
How long will the enemy have their upper hand?

Turn and answer me, O Lord my God!
Restore the light to my eyes, or I will die.
Don't let the enemy gloat by saying, We have defeated her!
Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.
But I trust in your unfailing love.
I will rejoice because you have rescued me.
I will sing to the Lord because he has been so good to me.

My spirit was low. However, God always has a special way to cheer me! Why was my spirit low? Let me share with you. A few months ago, I lost a very dear aunty, my mommy's younger cousin. She was a bubbly, cheerful and jovial person. She always brought me out. I still remember the last trip she visited us. We went out for food only because she especially loved to eat. She led a well-balanced Christian life; always equipping herself, attending Bible classes, serving in the homeless ministry, and reaching out to the less fortunate children. She had such great, huge faith in Lord Jesus!

Somehow, at the end of June, the Lord brought her home, taking away her pain of battling with cancer. She was a great fighter and warrior, I would say. She never gave up till the very end!

God filled me with hope that is unexplainable, flowing swiftly like a stream of river.

That was a similarity which both she and mom shared! Also, both were the youngest in the family!

No words can express how much I missed her even till today. Only, God has a better answer and a purpose for bringing her home at an early age. I will always keep her in a very special place in my heart. I know one day we will meet again. On the lighter side, probably our Abba father loves her more than us that was why He chose her first. Also, her cheerful spirit and laughter will surely cheer heaven!

God knows me inside out. My struggles, my fears even my concerns for my future or for the next year. Sometimes, I wish to shout my heart to Him but I know He hears me!

Your words Lord are power, strength, and glory!
Your words are the only weapons that can turn darkness into light.
Your words save life, bring hope and a future.
Your words are the best medical care for the sick and despairing.
Your words bind the broken, restores lives with inspiration.
Your words bring the future generations to a better life.
Your words heal the wounded souls.
Your words Lord, we need Your words to arise, Lord.
Your words lead us out from the valley of death
Your words lead to peaceful streams
Your words bring faith, hope and love
Lord! Roar out Your words!
May the thunder of Your words be heard among the nations!

Class Buzz

By Abigail Cheong



WHEN the virus hit, all my plans to study abroad were stopped. I could not get a visa, could not get a plane ticket and had to quarantine. Because of all this, I did not know what I could do, whether I should still wait until I can continue my plan, or just give it up. I had already applied and got accepted to my university, all I needed was my visa, which I could not get because the embassy was closed.

I thank God that I could start my classes here in Malaysia!

Thankfully, the university announced that all their classes could be done online. So, I was very happy and I decided to register for my online classes. After registering, I thought everything would be great. However, my advisor came back again and again, saying that some of my classes could not be done online. I was angry and frustrated, because in the first place, they had said that ALL classes could be done online. So, I asked my advisor about this, and she apologized and just said that things were not stable because of all the new changes. So, I decided to defer this semester (take a break).

My parents were frustrated as well, and they wanted a reason. My father wrote an email to the university. After that, they looked into my case, and came up with a study plan that had all the original classes I wanted at the beginning. This happened one day before classes started. I thank God that I could start my classes here in Malaysia, and not waste my time waiting for my visa.

A Simple Act of Kindness

By Chin Wai Wai



ALTHOUGH MCO was a tough time for me, I felt the presence of the Lord even as I worked from home. The best thing was that I did not have to rush to work by getting up early and getting stressed up with the traffic. I could also have a longer and more meaningful quiet times with the Lord.

In a small way, this act of kindness was a testimony to my class students that being their teacher, I care for them.

After MCO, I went back to school. I took notice of one of my students who was placed to sit at the back according to class sequence number. I felt the prompting to ask the boy to sit in front. As he walked to the front, I felt the prompting of the Holy Spirit telling me that he did not change his mask daily. Rather, he was recycling his masks by using them repeatedly.

This caught my attention. I then decided to check and see if this was true. Indeed, I could see that the mask he was wearing looked old and used. I asked him immediately to confirm my feeling.
Quickly, I took out a packet of five masks for him and asked him to change his masks every day. I think his parents were either not aware of this or were just too busy to guide him on the need to change his masks.

The other students in the class saw what I did and were taken aback by my action. I felt that the Lord was pleased with what I did. In a
small way, this act of kindness was a testimony to my class students that being their teacher, I care for them.

After the above incident, I made it a point to check his masks whenever I see him and ensure that he gets to wear a new one.

Praise God! I learnt that we can be a testimony by just obeying the Holy Spirit with a simple act of kindness.

Experiencing God through Challenges

By Siew Wen Chee



I GREW up in church. Since young, my mom brought me to church, and I joined the Children Church (CC). The CC teachers taught me the Bible and I came to know that Jesus is a Saviour who died on the cross for me. I just followed what the church required me to do but personally, I had not yet experienced God, not until I encountered challenges in life.

One challenge came to me towards the end of Form One. I suffered from a serious skin allergy that needed me to stay at home for about two weeks. After recovering, it left many scars on my skin. I felt ashamed to meet people including my friends. I felt everyone looked at me with a strange look in school. Only my friends would sit and play with me. After that skin allergy, my lifestyle changed and there were many things I could not do. I cared deeply about my appearance and was troubled by it. Until one day, a church leader shared with me that God looks at my heart not at my appearance. Since then, I invested my time in books and the Bible so that I could become mentally and spiritually stronger. Sometimes, I fall into temptations, but God always comes to my rescue with verses in the Bible. He strengthens me no matter what situations I faced.

During my journey with God, I encountered different things that changed my view of the world. I get to meet people of different ages when I serve in church, and learn from them, including children. You may wonder what I can learn from children. While I was struggling with my scars, trying to hide them and avoiding conversations with people, I saw the children playing freely, flipping here and there on the carpet of the church without any self-consciousness. It started me thinking. Was I like that too when I was young? Why was it that the more I grew up, the more I cared about what people thought of me? Am I good-looking, pretty, smart?

Thank God that His Word set me free. I realized that everyone is different and that I am special in God's eye. I learnt that I am a daughter of God. Why should I let others judge me then?

The children's curiosity also caused me to recall how bold I was in my younger days. I was always the only student in class to ask my teachers many questions. My teacher always asked, "Wen Chee, do you have any questions for me today?"

God does not promise us a garden of roses in life, but He promises us that He will never leave us.

I know that I will be facing other challenging times and temptations in the future, but I know now Who to turn to for protection. Even if I do fail or fall at times, I know God will be there to hold me up and help me see my mistakes, learn from them and grow. When I look back now at my secondary school life, I thank God for every down time in my life, for through them I am what I am today. I truly experienced God's presence throughout my difficulties.

God does not promise us a garden of roses in life, but He promises us that He will never leave us. He is with me every day guiding me. After experiencing the Lord's presence in my life, I accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour and Lord. He is good and His love endures forever.

On 5 Dec 2020, I was water baptised.

Taking A Leap of Faith

By Tricia Liew Chee Cheang



THE COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 was a dark period for the world but in that dark time, I found God by His grace.

My sister-in-law, Wendy Liew, had given me a copy of the 25th Anniversary book of The Hope of Glory Centre (HGC) but I never got to read it. Due to the lockdown, I picked up that book to read since I had run out of reading materials. The Holy Spirit touched me while I was reading. I was so impressed, touched and inspired by what I read about the church. Somehow the Holy Spirit urged me to search more about God.

God who knew that I was searching and hungry sent a messenger in the person of my good friend Chin Loi who had, out of the blue, texted me as to whether I wished to listen to sermons about God; and I agreed. She also gave me an online Bible study link so that I could read and understand God's words. Diligently I read the Bible daily.

How true the words of a friend who told me that reading God's Word is like reading a love letter. The more you read it, the more you love God and the more your relationship with Him increases. My hunger and thirst for God's Word increased to the point that I wanted to obey and commit my life to Jesus Christ.

On the morning of 2 June, I woke up with the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be baptized. I boldly texted Ps Khor of my intention to be baptized. He arranged for his wife, Chin Nee, to guide me through the baptism lessons and to teach me the Word of God in more depth. On 12 June, I had my first baptism class and I felt His Word touching me more and more as I prepared myself towards the day of my baptism. I know God has heard my prayers and has sent friends and a good teacher to guide me steadily towards Himself.

When I shared with my late mum that I wished to be baptized, she candidly said, "You already go to church when you were in Form 3." That is true. My brother Steven and I used to go to church in our teenage days. My late mum gave me her blessing before she was called home to the Lord Jesus on 16 July.

In the midst of my hunger for God, I saw the suffering of my sister Rosalind who is inflicted with 4th stage cancer. I sought Chin Nee to teach me how to pray for her. She sent me a personalized version of Psalm 23 to guide me to pray for my sister. One afternoon, I spend time talking to my sister and I was so happy that she was willing to allow me to read the words of the Psalm to her. Two days later, on 24 August, Rosalind accepted Jesus as her Saviour in the hospital waiting area when Wendy prayed for her. I am happy that in this painful time, Rosalind could turn to God to give her strength. Praise the Lord

One thing I know - God knows me and all my deepest secrets. I thank Him that by His Grace, I have found peace in Him.

I must confess though that two days before my baptism, I felt low in spirit with many negative thoughts. Satan was attacking me to the point that I had thoughts of dropping the baptism. That night feeling troubled, I read the Bible, revised my baptism notes and prayed with my friend. However, the fear remained.

I thank God that by His grace, I have found peace in Him.

At five in the morning, I suddenly jumped out of bed, knelt down and prayed and cried out to God. I questioned God as to why He had called me to follow Him yet put me through many tests. It was there and then that I felt the Holy Spirit falling on me. I felt such a peace and went back to sleep soundly until 9.30 in the morning. I woke up recharged with a new confidence and readiness to obey God in water baptism.

My daughter, Audrey, sent me a small gift to commensurate my baptism on 29 August 2020 and a card with these words, "Congratulations on taking this leap of faith!" I loved that phrase - Leap of Faith.

Getting baptized on 29 August was a leap of faith which confirmed my decision to love and obey God, my Saviour and Lord. I believe the Lord will surely lead me to take other leaps of faith as I journey with Him and will show me how I can serve the church and the kingdom of God. I am grateful and thankful to God for His abundant blessings upon me.

Experiencing God Through Trials

By Tricia Liew



Tricia overjoyed after her husband's successful bypass

AFTER being water baptised on Saturday, 29 August 2020, I was thrown into two trials two to three weeks down the road of my new life as a Christian.

Firstly, I discovered that I had lost a box of jewelry which was kept in the top drawer of my dresser in my house. I searched and searched through my drawers not once but many, many times. My husband and daughter also helped out in the search; but the box of jewelry was nowhere to be found. I felt some anger initially because of the sentimental value of the jewelry but God spoke to me through His Holy Spirit that my lost was a charity to the person who took it and who might need the money urgently under the MCO economy. Somehow, I felt consoled.

Secondly, my husband had complained of gastritis since the end of August. He consulted a doctor but there was no improvement to his condition. On 8 Sept, the Holy Spirit urged me to bring my husband to a hospital for a checkup. My husband is a very stubborn man who usually refuses to go for any medical checkups, but praise God that time, he agreed.

I drove him to the Gleneagles Hospital to see a gastroenterologist. It was at the nick of time for while waiting for me at the entrance while I parked my car, he experienced difficulty in breathing. When I saw him, he could not breathe at all. Quickly, I asked the receptionist for a wheelchair and to admit him to the emergency ward. God was there to give me strength all the while.

At the emergency, it was found out that my husband had a heart problem. His heart was very weak with less than 50% efficiency and his lungs had fluid in them. The emergency doctor, finding out that we had no preferred cardiologist in Gleneagles hospital, referred us to a senior consultant. He was a God-send cardiologist: experienced, humble and caring. My husband had actually suffered a heart attack and was admitted in the hospital for nine days, out of which five days was in the ICU, getting treatment for his heart, lungs and kidneys. Seeing the need for my husband to do a bypass, the consultant referred us to a top notched surgeon in University Malaya Specialist Centre. On 16 Sept, Gleneagles did a hospital to hospital transfer. Thanks to God's grace, my husband underwent a very successful bypass on 18 Sept which happened to be my birthday also.

My husband had an express recovery. On 22 Sept, just five days after his bypass, he was discharged from the hospital. His post-surgery recovery was also amazing. God's mercy covered all our worries and anxieties.

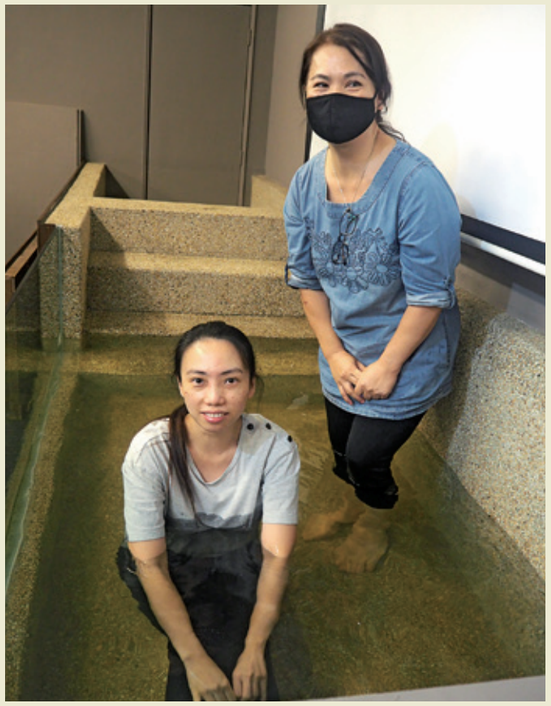
I experienced the mercy, love and power of the Lord in the midst of simultaneous trials.

During those first three weeks of my new Christian life, I experienced the mercy, love and power of Lord in the midst of the simultaneous trials that I went through. I realized that my faith in Him is growing steadily. I feel so much joy within me and am so grateful that He has saved a lost sheep like me. I must glorify God and obediently just do what He prompts me to do like writing this testimony. I know that I need to keep believing in Him, seeking Him, praying to Him and know that all my trials and worries would be taken care of.

Let me finish my testimony on my jewelry box. After my husband was discharged from the hospital, I received a gift from my youngest daughter; and when I opened my dresser drawer to put in the gift, to my utter surprise and amazement, the box of jewelry was right there! Praise the Lord! Until today I still can't understand the missing jewelry box. Can you?

Touched By God's Word

By Lim Chien Joo



I WAS born in a Buddhist family. I came to know about Jesus through my primary school teacher and my neighbours. However, I was not able to attend Children's Church or Sunday Services. During my university years in Kuala Lumpur, I met my husband who is a Catholic. Through him I had a second opportunity to know Jesus.

I attended Sunday mass with my husband but my relationship with the Lord was weak. Although I had a Bible, I seldom read it. And even my first attempt to join a baptism class was unsuccessful.

Recently, however, I felt depressed at work and the Lord Jesus led me back to Him. Through that, I felt the need to grow deeper in the Word of God and to build a strong relationship with Jesus.

As I read the Bible, the Word of God touched me and healed me. I know I have sinned and have done or thought many wrong things. I am a sinner and need Jesus' forgiveness. I desire to have a new life in Him. The Bible tells me that through baptism, I am dead and buried with Christ and then am raised with Him to walk in newness life. I am glad that I have been saved by the Lord Jesus.

I have also taken the step of obedience to be water baptised on 5 Dec 2020.

Miracle!

By Lim Lee Ping, Pastor



I WANT to praise God For His protection and grace. I woke up one night around 2.30 with my face swelling up, from my mouth and slowly up to my nose. I could feel it swelling up and I found it difficult to breathe. I just kept on coughing.

My stomach was also hurting to the point that I felt like admitting myself to the hospital. I kept on praying. Then I heard a voice repeating the words, "Miracle." After praying for a while, I felt my nose starting to clear and I was able to breathe again. Although my face was still swollen, I was able to breathe and could return to sleep.

In the morning, I went to Dr. Chan for a medical examination. He said that it could be very dangerous for it is an allergic reaction. Praise the Lord that I am alright. Thank God for His protection.

The Beautiful Gift of Tongues

By Chuppy Lim



IT all started when a couple of church leaders prayed for me to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and to be able to speak in tongues. Perhaps due to self-conscious and stress I did not receive it.

I felt somehow (wrongly) that I was less of a Christian or not a strong one for not being able to speak in tongues, especially when people around me are doing it. So, I joined a prayer group; the Prayer Tower in KL, where I received the gift of tongues. It was not fluent, a bit of stuttering and stammering; like a toddler learning to talk. Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

Then something happened to speed that up! My right eye was swollen and itchy and the medication did not help. I was referred to the hospital to do a biopsy but then the first Covid 19 lock down came and the biopsy had to be postponed. I was anxious, down and a bit scared so, I prayed in tongues. As I prayed, I was rather surprised at how clear God's assuring voice was, telling me that He is taking care of everything and that I have nothing to worry about. I had heard, with disbelief of people who prayed for hours on end, and it was happening to me now! It was a full hour when I finally finished praying in tongues. I was amazed. The day of the operation came; by that time, not only a biopsy had to be done but also the removal of the swell as pus had set in. On top of that, the doctor feared that it could be cancerous. That was the first surgery ever in my life and I was quite fearful. I was shivering in trepidation. It felt as if I was in a movie – being wheeled into the operation theatre with the round, white ceiling lights, the extreme coldness, the white clad team of doctors and nurses…. All these were scary, but I just kept praying in tongues and God assured me that He was in control, and not to worry. The doctor told me to expect quite a lot of pain in the eye after the surgery but assured that I would get the painkillers. However, the pain was so minimal that there was no need to take any painkillers. Praise God!!

As I prayed, I was rather surprised at how clear God's assuring voice was, telling me that He is taking care of everything.

While waiting for the biopsy result, I made an effort to live my life as normally as I could, pottering around my plants, playing with Milo, my dog and drawing. Praying in tongues throughout helped steadied me and strengthened my trust in Him.

The result of the biopsy; the problem in my eye was the result of lymphoma cancer of which I have been diagnosed with. I just kept praying and trusting in God's word. Again, His reassuring words came to me; do not worry, all is taken care of. I experienced peace and faith, peace which can only come from God Himself! The Holy Spirit's gift of tongues really helped strengthen my trust in Him. I am learning to wait on Him; enjoying His presence and fellowship, as well as enjoying life due to His promises and faithfulness. With all the gratitude and praise from my heart, I thank God!!



Power of a Soft Answer

By Helen Dan



DUE to the Covid-19 RMCO, and having to take public transport to work, I am usually early in the office, around 6.30am.

One Monday morning, the lady boss was very mad. She shouted from her desk because the printer cum photocopying machine had not been working for more than a week. She requested my favour to get it done.

When I went over to inspect the Xerox (Printer) machine and opened the cover of the toner storage, I had a shock. All the toner powder had fallen over the compartment and floor. Since I did not have the skills to repair it, I contacted the servicing company.

An hour later, an IT technician came to see me and inspected the Xerox (printer) machine. The moment he stepped into the Xerox room, he started making so much noise and shouted at me non stop. He kept saying the word, "Stupid! Stupid, stupid!" and refused to work on it, instead, he told me to get a Xerox machine technician instead of IT.

Since it was early in the day and during the 40 days of prayer and fasting period, I just kept silent and calm, not saying a single word. Instead, I just smiled even when he used harsh words towards me. He left in ANGER!

Two days later, a blue screen suddenly appeared on my office laptop with a message, "Please get the help of desk administrator."

Following the instruction, I brought my laptop to the IT Customer Service at level 8. After taking my number, I waited for my turn. The moment my number was announced and appeared on the big screen, I walked to the counter. What a blessed day! The same IT guy was there to serve me. I prayed in my heart. Looking around his cubicle, I noticed that his name was Viki.

I started my conversation by calling his name and wishing him, "Good morning." Then I explained to him the problem with my laptop.

This time, the tone of his voice was more friendly and helpful. During our conversation, he asked me, "Are you a Christian"? I replied, "Yes."

He apologised to me for the earlier incident and thanked me for not filing a "workplace harassment" against him. He could lose his job if I took action against him. He commented that Christians are nice, very calm, and always forgiving.

I just smiled even when he used harsh words towards me. He left in ANGER!

Actually, I thought it was pointless to defend myself when he was angry. Furthermore, I did not want to spend my energy unnecessarily as there was still a long day to go.

I informed him nicely that I needed the laptop badly and requested him to help me save my laptop and the files.

After 30 minutes, he informed me that he could not rescue the laptop. He issued a loaned laptop to me and told me not to worry. He would get a new laptop for me, latest by Monday.

Praise the Lord, I received a notification on Friday morning, asking me to collect my new laptop. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

Our actions of love can make the difference, It is better to have a friend instead of an enemy. People come from different backgrounds and beliefs. We may meet difficult people and face challenges in life but, as long as we have Christ in us, we can shine no matter where we are. We will have His peace of mind and spend our time and energy praising Him!

God at Work in Crisis

By Joseph Teruel, Pastor



Blessing the frontliners

MY wife and I urgently decided to go back to the Philippines on 21 March 2020, despite a lockdown in the entire Philippines due to Covid19. We flew back with our son from Malaysia and travelled all the way to Bicol, a region in the southern part of Luzon. While on our way, we did not stop praying for God's favour and protection, so that we could safely pass through all the Police checkpoints that we needed to go through. We are grateful that God was really in control all the way until we reached our province, Albay.

We were quarantined for 14 days, following the IATF (Inter–Agency Task Force) protocol. During our 14 days of quarantining, God remained faithful to us, in spite of the negative treatment we experienced from our neighbours who thought that we were Virus Carriers. God revealed to me the real purpose why He had allowed us to be quarantined. It was to turn a negative situation into a positive one. He showed me the effects which the pandemic would have on the lives of many people around us. It would affect their source of income; some would lose their jobs and the Government assistance would not be enough to sustain the needs of the people. This created a burden within me to help them – somehow. I decided to talk to my family about my desire and asked them to help me in their prayers. And the Lord answered our prayers. He gave us partners that had the same burden as we had. Some gave cash and others sacks of rice. My heart's desire was finally met.

Firstly, we distributed packed lunch to all the front liners in our municipality. They were grateful for the support that they received from us and were blessed as we prayed for them. On the following day, we were amazed at how God worked. Twenty sacks of rice were delivered to us from our generous partner in the ministry. Thus, we asked the Barangay (village)officials to assist us in the distribution of 5kg of rice to more than 200 indigent families in our area. We also visited our church members and handed them 10 kg of rice each. The church also distributed rice to 100 families in the Barangay where the church is located.

God revealed to me the real purpose why He had allowed us to be quarantined. It was to turn a negative situation into a positive one.

Secondly, we did house to house evangelism for the two Barangays. Praise God for the souls that got saved. We were able to give them small packs of groceries, and to start new Bible Studies in their homes. After one week we started 11 new Bible Study groups in the two Barangays.

The Lord used this as a way for us to share our faith especially to the family of our church members who were not yet believers. Now, because of this simple act of giving, we have additional church attendees every Sunday. We realized that God is with us amidst the Covid19 crisis. Sharing with love can change lives, give hope and help people to realize that God never abandoned them in their difficult situation.

May the gracious God bless us continually in every aspect in pursuing the mandate that He entrusted us with, to share the Gospel in different ways. So, please pray for us because we are planning to pioneer a church in Donsol, a neighbouring municipality in the province of Sorsogon.



House to house evangelism



Giving out provisons





New Bible Study classes

Alpha Youth Program – Asking the Right Questions

By Alicia Joy



THE Alpha Youth series is a series of nine interactive videos that were produced by Alpha UK. Alpha, in its own words, is "a series of sessions designed to engage us in a conversation about some of life's most important questions".

The Alpha program helped us to engage in meaningful conversations with each other, where we shared stories and life lessons we had learnt

When we, the Youth, gathered for our first Alpha session in church, we were hesitant to believe it. Then, as the video went on, we realized that we had never taken the time to examine ourselves and ask those simple questions before, such as "Why do you think Jesus is so famous?" or "How do you see sin in the world around you?" We got to watch as other people, Christians and non-Christians alike, answer these questions on the screen as well. The Alpha program helped us to engage in meaningful conversations with each other, where we shared stories and life lessons we had learnt.

Our most recent Alpha session had parents along with the youth, so we got to hear from different points of view, which made the session even more interesting. One of the most impactful lessons I learnt was when we were asked, "What does forgiveness mean to you?" I found out that everyone, young and old, sometimes found it hard to forgive. Some of us shared how people had used us in the past, or hurt us in the past, and how difficult we found it to let go and forgive them.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the Alpha Youth Program and we all learnt something new from the thought-provoking questions and interesting points of view we all had to offer.

Tattoos

By Abigail Cheong



TATTOOS. We all know what they are, some are scary, some are pretty, but can we have them? It is not easy to give a direct answer to this, so let us look at the different perspectives in this article.

There are many various kinds of tattoos, and the reasons people get them are very different too. The reason for getting a tattoo is extremely important because it will be on our bodies for the rest of our lives. It can be used as a memorial, art, to cover up a scar, aesthetics, to stand out, to express themselves and many more. All these reasons are not wrong, but one thing that we must always do is to live in obedience to God's will. Especially for something permanent on our body, I think it is absolutely necessary that we ask God whether it is the right thing for us.

'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD.'

Can we get tattoos?

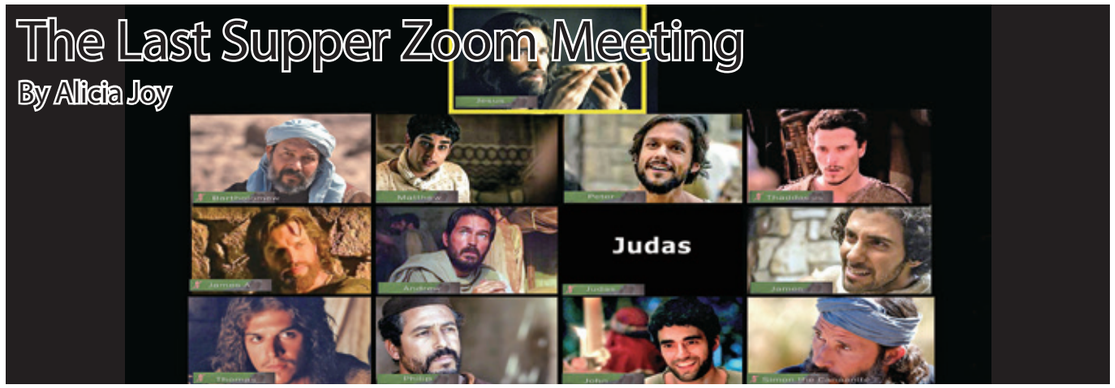
No. The most quoted verse against having tattoos is Leviticus 19:28, 'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD.' If we take it word for word, the answer is straight forward: God says no. Tattoos also may hinder the way people look at us, as many have a certain prejudice against them. Also, in the media, gangsters are always portrayed to have tattoos. Of course, different types of tattoos have different effects.

Depends. The chapter which Leviticus 19:28 is taken from also includes other rules that we do not practice nowadays, such as not wearing clothes with two different fabrics combined and not cutting our sideburns. So, why is the tattoo rule focused on, while the others are excluded? If the verse is looked at in context, it is actually talking about pagan religious rituals. Some Canaanites would tattoo themselves with names or symbols of their 'gods', this was what was being condemned. However, what we tattoo and why we tattoo, are also very important. As mentioned earlier, different types of tattoos have different effects. For instance, a tattoo of a favourite verse and a tattoo of a dragon give off very different vibes. One thing is that tattoos should never be done impulsively. Always seek and ask God, especially before doing something permanent. Also, 78% out of 600 people regret at least one of their tattoos, so think carefully.

Ultimately, I do not think all types of tattoos are okay, and it is scary to think that they will be on our skin forever. But, we should not judge people based on their tattoos, whether they are Christian or not.

The Last Supper Zoom Meeting

By Alicia Joy



This is a funny and imaginative article – What if the Last Supper was held on Zoom instead.

WHO would have guessed the opposition against Jesus would be so hostile? Certainly not the twelve disciples – but the ministry of Jesus must go on! Using their Facebook group for their daily prayer meetings, streaming Jesus's sermons on YouTube, and using their WhatsApp group to keep each other posted, Jesus and His disciples are still working as hard as ever. Then, Jesus suddenly wants to have Supper with them, the disciples will have to tackle a new challenge – using Zoom…

John:
Hello? Hello? Can anyone hear me?

Jesus:
Welcome John.

Peter:
Jo-n h-ai-u –ow- thi- su- mah--

James:
Peter's having some internet difficulties tonight, as you could tell.

Matthew:
Can someone try and message Judas? I'm trying to remind him about the meeting but – oh, Judas, there you are!

Judas Iscariot has entered the call.

Judas Iscariot:
…

Matthew:
Judas? Can you turn on your camera so we can see you? Or at least your mic?

Judas:
(in chat) No camera

Thomas:
Leave him be, Matthew, I'm getting hungry! When can we eat?

Jesus:
Your food should be arriving any minute now.

All at once, everyone gets a knock on their door. Jesus has ordered food for them using Inn Food, the biggest online food ordering app. Who knew Jesus was tech-savvy?

Matthew:
Food from outside! How long has it been since I've eaten like this? Hmm…

Phillip:
Wow, this smells a thousand times better than my sister's cooking!

Phillip's sister, who happens to be walking by, gives him a knock on the head. Everyone laughs.

Jesus:
You'll all find a cup of wine and some handmade bread I made inside your food packages. I included it as a little reminder of me. Please, everyone, dig in.

Thomas:
Amen to that.

Peter:
Wai- go – wash hands

Jesus:
Oh, Peter, allow me.

Jesus takes a bowl of water in his hands and proceeds to hand it to Peter- through the screen!

Phillip, with his mouth full of bread:
Did you guys see that?

Peter:
Je- how did you- screen-

John the Beloved:
Seriously guys, we all know Jesus can walk on water, heal the sick, and turn water into wine. I'm pretty sure there's nothing he can't do. Am I right, Jesus?

Jesus:
All things are possible, through the power of the Father.
Everyone murmurs their agreement.

Bartholomew:
Hey, did you guys see the Pharisee's Facebook page this morning? They were posting all sorts of articles from "The Priesting Times". They're writing a petition to get your YouTube channel banned, Jesus. It's really pushing down the ministry.

Andrew:
Oh, yes I read that one. It seems they've got 40 signatures already. And did you read the one where they said Jesus was a-

Matthew:
Um, Andrew, Jesus is right here, you know.

Andrew:
Oh, right. Sorry about that, Jesus.

John:
Besides, no one really follows the Pharisees' page anyway. All they post about are articles from the Times and long paragraphs on how to follow "Moses' rules in this day and age."

Everyone starts complaining about the Pharisees, even Peter (although no one understands what he is saying). Only John notices that Jesus is silent, with a worried look in His eyes.

John:
Jesus? Are you alright?

Everyone goes silent to look at Jesus.

Jesus:
My brothers, for a long time now I have been warning you of a day when the Son of God will be persecuted and killed. Truly, I say unto you, one of you will be the one… to betray Me.

Everyone is shocked, their mouth hanging wide open. Then they all start to panic.

Peter:
HOW – WH- CUT- KILL –

Andrew:
Betray? It couldn't possibly be one of-

Phillip:
If you could just explain it further to us, maybe we could understand-

Thomas:
Did any of you know this beforehand? James, did-

John:
Everyone, please, calm down!

Matthew, who is the host of the meeting, mutes everyone's mic for some silence. After a few moments, John turns his mic back on.

John:
Rabbi, which one of us will be the person who betrays you?

Jesus:
The one who will betray me… Is the one who will leave the call now.

Judas leaves the meeting. No one knows what to say.

Matthew:
Oh, Judas messaged me. He has an appointment with some people, which is why he left. It seems he's going to negotiate a charity event with the bank.

Thomas:
Judas is such a generous person with money, isn't he? I feel quite glad he's our treasurer.

James:
Oh, thank goodness. Our prayer meeting at the Garden of Gethsemane is still on tonight, right?

Matthew:
Jesus? Would you like to close us in prayer?

Everyone closes their eyes as Jesus prays. Before they leave, He has these final words.

Jesus:
Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for Me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13: 33-35)

Peter:
Well I cert – won't have love – for the – betraye –r –

Singing a song of praise, they exit and head toward the garden.

Well, we all know what happened after that. Judas really was the betrayer, and through him the Pharisees managed to capture Jesus and bring Him to court – and charge Him the penalty of death! That, however, is another story…



What will happen to souls of people who die without hearing about Jesus or the gospel?

By Loke Wai Keng

2 PETER 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

From this verse we know God wants everyone to be saved. So, for those who do not have the chance to hear about Jesus or the Gospel, God can reveal Himself in different ways. Two major ones are listed below

1. God reveals Himself through creation

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:18-20

This means that God has revealed Himself plainly and clearly through His creation. He has shown what He is like and how great His power is. It leaves no reason or excuse for anyone to say, "I don't know God."

2. God reveals Himself through our conscience

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus (Romans 2:14-16).

This means that people know what is right or wrong because God has written His laws deep inside them. Their conscience tells them, "That is wrong," or, "That is something right." Sadly, most violate their own conscience. As such on the day when God judges man, man's conscience will stand either to accuse or excuse him.

The gist is all people "know God," even if they have never heard the Gospel or about Jesus. What can be known about God is plain to them through creation and through their conscience. The Bible tells us it is the hardness of their hearts which caused them to suppress the truth. (Rom 1:18). Therefore, they are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). That is, they are guilty and deserve to be punished.

In Genesis 2:7, when God created man out of dust, He breathed into man, into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. So deep within man is a vacuum only God can fill. Thus, no matter what religion a person may have, deep within him would be a longing for God Who is able to help him, especially in times of need,

Therefore, if a person sincerely seeks for God to fill that vacuum in his life, God will reveal Himself to him. Acts 10 tells the story of a God-fearing man by the name of Cornelius. He sincerely sought-after God and even did deeds of kindness, God saw his heart and sent apostle Peter to share the blessings of salvation to him and his family.

God's heart and desire is to reveal Himself to mankind; and He knows those who earnestly seek Him. And if a man seeks God, he shall find Him; and God will provide the way of salvation for him. Thus, even if he does not have a chance to hear the good news of Jesus, God's mercy and grace will reach out to Him. God is the eternal Judge who knows the heart of those who longs for Him.

Apple Strudel Braided Puff Pastry

By Magdeline Chin





Ingredients:

400 g green apple, skin removed, cored and cubed
115 g sugar
70 g raisins
2 tsp cinnamon powder
2 tbsp water
1 tbsp corn flour mixed with a bit of water
Frozen puff pastry sheets, completely thaw before rolling
1 egg beaten for egg wash

Method:

1. Put cubed apples, sugar, cinnamon powder and water into a pot. Preferably thick stainless-steel pot.
2. Cook on medium heat until apples are tender and add in raisins. Continue to cook for a while.
3. Scoop the apples and raisins onto a bowl. Continue to cook the balance juice until syrupy.
4. Reduce heat and slowly add in corn flour mixture, keep stirring until thicken.
5. Add in the drained apples and raisins. Continue to cook until sticky.
6. Remove onto a bowl to cool.
7. Roll out the puff pastry into 9" x 11" on parchment paper. Roughly estimate and divide the pastry into 3 sections and put the cooled apples on the middle section.
8. Cut parallel strips on the outer 2 sections, cut off 4 pieces at the 4 corners.
9. Fold the strips of dough in a crisscross pattern over the apple filling, forming a braid.
10. Brush the surface with beaten egg wash and bake at a preheated oven at 190°C for about 25 minutes or until lightly brown.









HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | July to Dec 2020

CHURCH EVENTS



All Leaders Meeting	25 Jul & 7 Nov
SS Children Sunday	16 Aug
Love Ampang Project @ Ampang Market	27 Sep

NATIONAL EVEN



40 Day – Fasting & Prayer "Hearing The Holy Spirit for The Times We Live In"	7 Aug – 15 Sep
Pastors' Prayer Shield	1-31 Oct

MISSION



Sibu	21 Jul – 5 Sep
KKB LG Training	31 Jul

CHRISTMAS



Christmas Project	Dec
CC Christmas Online Celebrations	13 & 20 Dec
SS Christmas Online Celebration	20 Dec
Christmas Service	25 Dec

COMMUNITY



Little Lighthouse Graduation Ceremony	12 Dec

IN LOVING MEMORY



Kenneth Leong	17 Nov

BAPTISM



Tricia Liew	29 Aug
Lim Chien Joo	5 Dec
Siew Wen Chee	
Pauline Khoo	11 Dec
Melanie Phang	
Natalie Phang	
Rotica Anak Isap	16 Dec

COMING EVENTS JAN - MAR 2021

THEME

Spirit Filled Living



Sunrise Service 1 Jan

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

1A,1B & 1C, Jalan Wawasan Ampang 2/2,
Bandar Baru Ampang, 68000 Ampang, Selangor, Malaysia.
Tel : 603-42951700 Fax : 603-42952701 E-mail : mail@hgc.org.my

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