voiceofhope

the newsletter | Jan - June 2021

Make The Most of Every Opportunity



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Dear Reader,
WE are still not out of the pandemic after one and a half years. In fact, things are not looking good. Our Health DG has asked Malaysians to prepare for the worst on 25 May 2021. Most religious, social and economic activities are curtailed. HGC only managed to meet on site seven times in the first half of this year. How we wish things were before the invasion of the corona virus.



Make The Most of Every Opportunity

Despite the limitations, we thank God that the VOH team continued to work at getting this issue out. And as you go through its pages, may you praise God along with us for all the articles and testimonies that came in.

As we remain on guard and vigilant in staying safe, we are thankful that our ultimate security is the presence of God in our lives. Pastor's article on Psalm 78 – "He led them on safely" – reassures us that no matter what season of life we are at, God's faithfulness and goodness continues. He never fails. You will also find Janelle's story, on facing her next phase of life, very enlightening.

This issue also carries interesting stories of our members who have reached their retirement phase of life. And they testify that retirement is anything but boring. Their personal stories are on pages 30-31

And despite the restrictions, we thank God for brothers and sisters who made the most of the opportunities they had to touch lives for Christ. Their inspiring testimonies are on pages 20-21

Also read about the inspiring life of the late Pastor Lasnini of Bagan Siapiapi in the Missions Talk article by Chan Tham Seng.

This issue also carries an article on lessons we can learn from the fall of Ravi Zacharias. Such stories break our hearts but if we fail to learn from it, it would be sadder still.

There are many articles and testimonies in this issue you would surely enjoy. Check out the youth wave, especially the story – Imagine a Tiny Acorn.

Be Blessed and Filled with the Spirit,
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

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- *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

He Led Them On Safely

By Khor Hoe Chai, Pastor

WE are now into the second year of the pandemic and things are getting worse even though the vaccine has already been rolled out since Jan 2021. As of 1 May 2021, the number of infections worldwide has reached 151 million and 3.2 Million people have died due to covid 19. In Jan 2021, the average new cases a day was around 500,000. By the end of April 2021 it was about 800,000, an increase of 300,000 per day. In our own nation the number of cases is still rising with more than 4000 infections a day. This indeed is worrying as no one can foresee how things will be. In view of such uncertainties, how shall we live?

The conditions that we are in can be compared to the times when the Israelites were journeying through the wilderness to the Promised Land. They had God's promise that He would bring them into a good land. However, what was before them were just harsh, dry, barren wilderness. The promised future is great BUT how are we supposed to get by each day now with the pandemic reeling and economies tumbling resulting in many other problems for example emotional problems like anxieties and fears, problems of relationships breaking down and health issues. How did God's people, the Israelites of well over two million survived in their journey through the wilderness?

Psalm 78 recounted God's faithfulness to them in their journey through the wilderness and eventually to possess the promised land. And it was despite their unfaithfulness and rebellion. The purpose of the Psalm was for God's people to tell of His faithfulness to the future generations so that they might set their hope in God in whatever present circumstances they might be in and not forget His faithful works in the past but to keep trusting in Him and holding fast to His promises.

Ps 78:7-8
That they may set their hope in God,
And not forget the works of God,
But keep His commandments;
And may not be like their fathers,
A stubborn and rebellious generation,
A generation that did not set its heart aright,
And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Let us look at some of the amazing ways God dealt with His people despite their unfaithfulness in this Psalm and be encouraged to remain steadfast towards Him.

Ps 78:14-16
In the daytime also He led them with the cloud,
And all the night with a light of fire.
He split the rocks in the wilderness,
And gave them drink in abundance like the depths.

He also brought streams out of the rock,
And caused waters to run down like rivers.
The Lord supernaturally guided them and provided for them in the harshest circumstances. In the same way God can supernaturally guide us and provide for us in these difficult days!

However, verses 17 to 22 described how they sinned even more against God. But when we look at verses 23-28 we see God's continual goodness towards them.

Psalm 78:23-25
Yet He had commanded the clouds above,
And opened the doors of heaven,
Had rained down manna on them to eat,
And given them of the bread of heaven.
Men ate angels' food;
He sent them food to the full.

Psalm 78:27-28
He also rained meat on them like the dust,
Feathered fowl like the sand of the seas;
And He let them fall in the midst of their camp,
All around their dwellings.

God was indeed good but verse 32 says, "In spite of this they still sinned." But again, we see God was so merciful in verse 38. "But He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity."

God continued to amaze us with His unconditional goodness towards His people not because they deserve them but because of His faithfulness as we see in verses 52 to 55.

Psalm 78:52-55
But He made His own people go forth like sheep,
And guided them in the wilderness like a flock;
And He led them on safely, so that they did not fear;
But the sea overwhelmed their enemies.
And He brought them to His holy border,
This mountain which His right hand had acquired.
He also drove out the nations before them,
Allotted them an inheritance by survey,
And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.

Yet again despite God's goodness verse 56 says, "Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God."

Hence God allowed their enemies to defeat them. But when God saw them in their troubles, He again had compassion on them and rose up against their enemies in verses 65-66.
Then the Lord awoke as from sleep,
Like a mighty man who shouts because of wine.
And He beat back His enemies;
He put them to a perpetual reproach.

It is about God's faithfulness, and not about our faithlessness. It is about God's ability and not our inabilities. It is about God's goodness and not about how good we are.

The Psalm concluded with God raising up David to be shepherd and king over them in verses 70-72.

He also chose David His servant
To shepherd Jacob His people,
And Israel His inheritance.
So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skilfulness of his hands.

This is God's prophetic promise that He will provide Jesus, the Son of David, the Messiah to Israel and to us to be our Shepherd forever.

What can we learn about God dealings with His people in Psalms 78? We know that our God is the same God yesterday, today and forever. As the Israelites then had God with them; as they experienced God's protection from dangers and from enemies around them; as they experienced God's supernatural providence of water and food; as they experienced God, the loving, compassion, merciful, good and faithful God, so we can experience Him being with us today. We can experience Him meeting all our needs faithfully and even supernaturally despite our unfaithfulness and failures. It is about God's faithfulness, and not about our faithlessness. It is about God's ability and not our inabilities. It is about God's goodness and not about how good we are.

The Israelites had God with them. Today we too have God with us. AND EVEN MORE WONDERFUL than that; in the NEW AND BETTER COVENANT through the finished works of our Lord Jesus in His death and resurrection WE HAVE GOD IN US by the Holy Spirit dwelling inside of us. By His Spirit we have "the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night" with us. We can live constantly in His presence and in His power. We can live a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led and Spirit-empowered life! We can experience God dwelling with us daily and moment by moment. How amazing is that! All it requires of us is to believe, to have faith, to trust Him and walk by faith not by sight. Jesus calls us to abide in Him by abiding in His Word and His love and we will bear fruits to glorify the Father. As branches in the Vine we need to see ourselves being joined together not only to Christ but to one another. Therefore being in unity is vital for us. Let's stay together, pray together and serve the Lord together and come what may we will always have the Lord with us. And with Him we are secure now and forever!



In Memory of Ps Lasnini Ang

By Chan Tham Seng

THE demise of Ps Lasnini Ang on 4 January did not really surprise me. Rather I was amazed that this humble maid of the Lord could remain so quietly faithful and focused till the final week we communicated by phone.



Probably Ps Lasnini's last message in Medan

Recently during a family devotion, we read through Ecclesiastes. The third chapter of this book talks about a creator God who has set "a season and a time for every matter under heaven (v 1)." This includes "a time to die (verse 2)." At times of a global pandemic, people everywhere are dying, mourning and suffering.

God's plans for His children are always wise, just and good and Ecclesiastes encourages us to seize every opportunity for good work. We should always be doing something because none is sent to this world to be idle. It is our business to live according to God's plan in this life and even for that we should seek to redeem time because life is short and uncertain.

In this column I wish to share with you the life of our Indonesian mission partner Ps Lasnini as one that has been worthily spent according to God's plan.

I first met Ps Lasnini in May 2006 during our mission trip to Bagan Siapiapi of Riau province, Sumatra. Since then, for more than a dozen years we had been working cordially in this impoverished coastal region on the other side of the Straits of Malacca. Up till the 1930s, the seas encompassing Bagan Siapiapi, Panipahan and Pulau Halang was the world's second largest fishing ground before siltation, pollution and overfishing destroyed it all together.

For all the years we knew her, Ps Lasnini remained a humble maid of the Lord. She was not the charismatic type in preaching or pastoring the Bagan Wesley Methodist Church. Initially she travelled for three hours to the Dumai pier to fetch us to the Bagan parsonage. There she made



Bagan Siapiapi School (primary and preschool)

sure we were comfortably settled down in a clean, self-sufficient church hostel reserved for guests. In Bagan, Ps Lasnini would personally prepare us meals at the parsonage or take us for exotic roadside food offered by Hokkien-speaking locals. When it came to ministry, she would take us to church member homes for cell meetings or schools for student ministry.



Home-cooked food at Bagan parsonage

All things ran smoothly until 10 years later in August 2017 when Ps Lasnini told me of her medical condition. Way back in 2001 at age of 45, Ps Lasnini was with other Indonesian pastors in Malacca where they decided, conveniently, to do medical checkups. To Ps Lasnini's surprise, the test revealed a serious blood condition which required immediate treatment.

Back in Jakarta, a hospital confirmed her blood disorder and its link to her pancreas. She then made arrangement for admittance to a Zhangzhou hospital in China. By the start of a three-month therapy there, winter was becoming so unbearable that she decided to return to Indonesia despite her acute condition ("my body swelled to twice its normal size"). God preserved her life and since then she had been

making regular trips to Singapore for treatments ("I am living on borrowed time and continue to move about").

Since August 2017, Ps Lasnini did not talk about her condition till the final week of her earthly life. In December 2020 we were still exchanging Christmas greetings through WhatsApp. We had been keeping in touch since our last Bagan visit in May 2018 and making plans for more Bagan trips. Three times we postponed the trips due to the outbreak of sporadic political tensions, Covid 19 pandemic and other reasons.

On 30 December, Ps Lasnini mentioned a wedding plan of her daughter Debora on January 16. She disclosed her need to sit down while preaching due to her feeble legs. She passed away five days later on 4 January in Medan at the age of 66.



Debora and husband Yacobus

The life of Ps Lansini shows the creator God who guides the lives of His children and blesses the faithful ones. God added 20 years to her life since the discovery of this rare disease. God also brought forward Debora's wedding so that Ps Lasnini could witness its solemnization on her hospital bed a few hours before she was called home.

For the final chapter of her life, Ps Lasnini must have prioritized her focuses. The focuses probably included making sure her daughters were well established and our mission partnership fruitful.

Debora and her younger sister, Allen, were daughters of Lasnini's siblings in Jakarta. Due to unforeseen circumstances, Ps Lasnini assumed the responsibility of bringing up the two infant nieces ("Sometimes with the help of Bagan church board members") in the parsonage. Being single, Ps Lasnini devoted portion of her pastoral time to dispensing maternal care and love for her two foster daughters.

Debora, 29 today, had completed her post graduate study in a university in China. Allen, a 23 year old undergraduate student in Taiwan missed the last farewell with her mom due to Covid 19 travel restriction. Meanwhile Debora and her betrothed Yacobus ("an Aceh-born Chinese who grew up in the Bagan church and now working in Jakarta"), were declared wife and husband in a simple ceremony in a Medan hospital. What a great joy for Ps Lasnini to take this memory into eternity!



Ps Lasnini with daughters Debora (left) and Allen

Ps Lasnini, I reckoned, must have been pleased with our working relationship in that she gave us a free hand to conduct ministry in the four mission schools under her parish care:

The Pulau Halang School (student population: 400) remains the poorest where its students still drink rainwater and are deprived of a round-the-island concrete walkway (Note 1). The Panipahan School (800), a timber and zine structure built on miry seabed still vibrates in strong wind and rain (Note 2). The Sungai Bakau School (few primary classes), threatened by coastal erosion, had just relocated further inland. The Bagan Siapiapi School (biggest enrolment from preschool to senior high school levels), a tattered old structure, continues to shine for Jesus in this township "with a thousand kelendeng (temples)" under the rule of an orthodox Islamic administration.



We helped needy Bagan School pupils

The four schools have a good mix of Chinese, Batak, Javanese, Nias and Malay students. Despite an Islamic dominance, the Indonesian government allows mission schools to teach the Bible and say prayers in class. We had

always prayed for a long-lasting partnership with Ps Lasnini in reaching Indonesian students with the gospel.



Our team doing a praise session in Bagan church

Because of different conditions of the schools, we used different methods in our student ministry. We organized gospel cum fun gatherings involving primary pupils. We spoke to Christian fellowships and student assembly in a hall. We showed gospel films to students and local folks. For closer contact with students, we preferred teaching Chinese and English in smaller classes (usually with less than 30 students) which always ended up with some students making personal commitments to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Over the years, many of our church members were involved in the Indonesian ministry by serving in mission trips, giving toward needy students and praying in the background. According to my personal records, about 440 decisions for Jesus were made. In terms of education aid given to needy students, some RM43,870 were contributed by our church members. This amount did not include support given to two Batak students from Pulau Halang School for theology education in Jakarta.

One of them, fisherman's son William Fernando Simatupang, had completed his seminary training (2012-2016) and is now serving as a pastor in Western Sumatra. Another Batak student, Yohannes Andri, son of Pulau Halang School teacher, has just completed his first year in the same Bible School attended by William.

We are grateful to God for using us to bless our Indonesian brethren. Our thanks also go to the late Ps Lasnini for making this possible by her faithful and obedient life. God willing, our church will continue to minister in this part of Riau province in partnership with Ps Lasnini's successor.

Note 1: Incidentally, Ps Lasnini was posted to serve in Pulau Halang (1979-1983) after completing her Bible School training in Medan (1975-79). The fishing island then was only served by rickety wooden platforms as walkway.

Note 2: Ps Lasnini played an active role in the founding of Panipahan School. She helped purchase a piece of seabed in 1995 for building a school which started operation in 1997.



Panipahan School canteen has a sea view



A wet and cold morning to Panipahan School



Sharing Jesus story with Panipahan students



Pulau Halang School



Our team with Sungai Bakao School pupils



Our team at Pulau Halang School hall



William (R) received Jesus in school



Pulau Halang students received Jesus



William, with wife and child, is now a pastor



Sungai Bakao School



Johannes, another student we sponsor for bible school

Heaven Comes & Fight For Me

By Joseph Teruel, Pastor

IN MAY 2021, I fell sick for one week and recovered immediately. I went to church on Sunday, thinking and believing that I had fully recovered. But as soon as I reached home from church, I felt weak and breathless, my mouth was tasteless, and a fever was rising high all over my body. The symptoms that I had were the symptoms of corona virus, which has caused panic everywhere now. I decided to isolate myself from my family. My wife checked on me from time to time, asking me how I felt. I always told her I was okay but then I was not. My body was feeling weak, and the thought came to me that I could be gone anytime.

A week had passed but my fever was still high. I could not even stand up alone due to the weakness of my body and the lack of breath. My family wanted to bring me to see a doctor but due to our current situation in the pandemic, I asked them not to bring me. Instead, we asked our partners in the ministry to uphold me in prayer and give it to God.

As I laid down for almost three weeks, I talked to God asking Him what His word was to me. I remembered that when I was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and was given 6 months to live, God gave me a word. He said that He wanted me to do greater things in my life and ministry. And soon after God did a miracle and healed me. This time God gave me the very same word which was given to me during that battle with cancer. I know after this God will open more opportunities to share His message and to work for His Kingdom, in seaon and out of season.

Early one morning, I was sitting and listening to a song. Suddenly the song "Raise a Hallelujah" played, and the lyrics said, "I raise a hallelujah, my weapon is a melody, I raise a Hallelujah, Heaven comes to fight for me." Knowing and believing that Heaven is fighting for me in my difficult situation strengthened me.

God gave me a word. He said that He wanted me to do greater things in my life and ministry.

It has been three weeks now since I was healed, and I am now continuing the work that the Lord has entrusted to me in our ministry. On 12 and 13 June, we baptized 38 people who accepted Christ and decided to follow Him through baptism. It was God's powerful work in their lives even during the pandemic. Hallelujah!

I give glory to God for everything He has done during trials and blessings. We may not comprehend His thoughts, but we all know that it is for our best.











Photo Caption

1-4 *Donsol Outreach Baptism 12 Jun*

5 *Youth prayed for my healing and recovery*

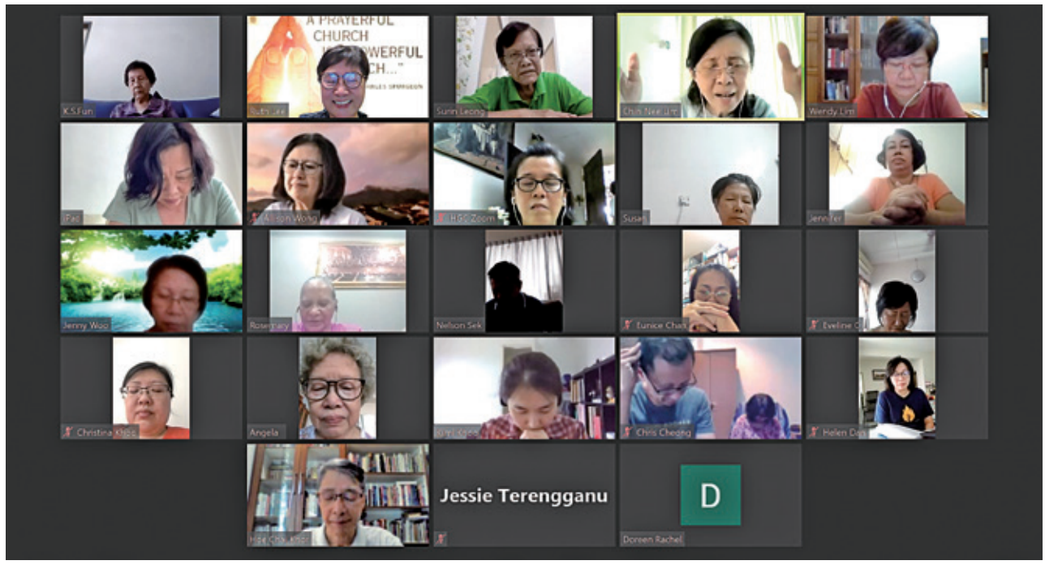
6-7 *Baptism outside our church in Tabon-Tabon Daraga Albay on 13 June*





2021 Prayer School Semester 1

By Ruth Lee



PRAISE God for a wonderful conclusion to the Prayer School Semester 1. For the first time ever, HGC received an overwhelming response to the School. We were so full of joy to see so many eager to learn how to pray. Special thanks to Ps Khor for mooting the idea and to all the teachers (Ps Khor, Sumitta Cheong and Ruth Lee) for their hard work and diligence in preparing for the four lessons. The lessons were held on Sunday afternoons from 2.00 to 3.00pm in the month of April. The lessons taught followed the theme of the Malaysian United Firewall in its early stages: Prayer for Ourselves, Prayer for Our Family, Prayer for the Church and Prayer for the Body of Christ.

Special thanks also for the team leaders who facilitated the practical sessions via zooms and the technical team (Amy Lim and Festus Chen) who faithfully hosted and recorded the sessions for the participants. A total of 31 participants joined the School. Here are some of the very encouraging testimonies:

"Praise the Lord. It was an enriching time for me. I gained a deeper understanding through the sessions on how to make my prayers more effective and structured according to the standard prayers given. It was also wonderful to be able to practise what we have been taught in smaller groups after each teaching. Thank you to all the teachers for the wonderful teaching" – **Wendy Lim**

"Thank you, Pastor, Festus, Amy, Ruth, Sumi and team, for organizing this Prayer School. My learning point is to learn to pray systematically and putting more thoughts into my prayers. I have also learnt to adopt a prayerful lifestyle rather than just running to God during moments of crisis, emergencies or illness as most of us do" – **Surin Leong**

"Thank you for organizing this Prayer School. It is my greatest blessing to join HGC. Everyone of you is so encouraging. Last night, I went through what Pastor taught on the different rooms in the Lord's Prayer. I went through room by room, focusing truly in prayer. Finally, I heard the Lord speak to me, "Trust Me, Trust Me, Trust Me." And I continued to surrender myself to our Father." – **Kimberly Khoo**

"Praise the Lord. The classes gave me a lot of encouragement and an understanding on how to pray effectively step by step. God is good. He can hear my cry, and He knows my heart. I have learnt so much from this School." – **Susan Lee**

"This Prayer School really guided me to pray better with powerful prayer points. I always desired to improve on my prayers especially when I am surrounded by those who can pray so well. Now after the classes, I have more confident to pray in a group. Even though I am far away (in Kemaman) yet we can still pray together in a virtual prayer community. Praise the Lord for HGC, who has impacted my spiritual life a lot." – **Jessie Oh (Kemaman)**

"I went through the slides and God gave me understanding of the teaching. Thank you for the amazing teaching. I am blessed." – **Tricia Liew**

Old Covenant vs New Covenant

By Ruth Lee

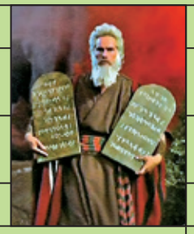
WHILST researching on Exodus 19 to prepare for my session at the Morning Devotion, I came across this wonderful comparison of the two covenants. God gave Moses the Old Covenant at Mount Sinai for the children of Israel. However, that covenant is only a shadow of the better things to come. It prepares us for our inheritance in the New Covenant in Christ.

I think maybe some of you are like me being rather confused with the differences between the Two Covenants and the Two Mountains.

The Old Covenant was given to Moses at Mount Sinai but the New Covenant was given to us through Jesus Christ at Mount Zion (the spiritual city of God which dwells in our heart). I hope that you through reading through the comparison will fully appreciate what Christ has done for us.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

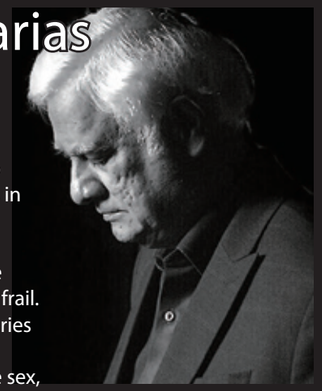
Old Covenant – Mount Sinai	**New Covenant – Mount Zion**
Written on tablets of stone and scrolls (2 Cor 3:3,7; Exo 31:18)	Written on human hearts (2 Cor 3:3; Jer 31:33; Heb 8:10)
Inaugurated with the blood of animals (Exo 24:1-8; Heb 9:18-20)	Inaugurated with the precious blood of Christ (Matt 26:28; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 13:20)
Entrance by physical birth (Gen 17:9-10)	Entrance by spiritual birth (John 3:3-7)
Earthly land promised and given (Gen 13:14-15; 17:8; Josh. 21:43; Deut. 7:1)	Heavenly country and new heavens and new earth promised (Heb 11:16; Phil 3:20; John 14:1-3)
Earthly city of Jerusalem (2 Sam 5:9; Psalm 48:1-2)	Heavenly city, the new Jerusalem (Heb 12:22; 13:14; Rev 21:2)
Messiah promised (Deut 18:15-19; Isa 7:14; 11:1ff; 52:13-53:12)	Messiah given (Acts 3:20,26; Gal. 4:4)
Aaronic high-priesthood (Exo 28:1,29,41,43; 29:1-9; Lev 8)	Perfect Priesthood of Christ (Heb 3:1; 4:14-16; 7:25; 9:24)
Ordinary priests as mediators (Luke 1:5,8-9)	Priesthood of all believers with no human mediators (1 Pet 2:5,9; Rev 1:6; cf. Heb 13:15-16; Rom 12:1-2)
Many and varied physical sacrifices of animals and birds (Lev 1-7; Heb. 9:22)	Single, once-for-all, perfect sacrifice of Christ (Heb 9:11-14, 24-28; 10:11-12)
Clear distinction between priests and Levites, and the common people (Num 3:6-10; 18:21-24)	Every Christian serves with special gifts from God (Rom 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Pet 4:10-11; 1 Cor. 12:7-11)
Passover a memorial of physical deliverance from bondage in Egypt (Exod 12:1-28; Deut. 16:3,6)	Lord's supper a memorial of spiritual deliverance from sin through Christ (Matt 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
Tabernacle and temple incense offered to God (Exod 37:25-29)	The "incense" of prayers offered to God (Rev 5:8; 8:3-4)
Earthly tabernacle and temple (Exod 25:1-9, 40; 26-40; 1 Kings 6:1-38; 8:17-21)	Spiritual temple of God – His people (1 Cor 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Peter 2:5)
Veil separated the people from the presence of God (Exod 26:33; Lev. 16:2; Heb. 9:3)	"Veil" removed in Christ, giving full access to God (Heb 6:19; 10:19-20; cf. 4:14-16)
Physical circumcision of the flesh (Exod 12:48; Lev 12:3; Josh 5:2-3)	Spiritual circumcision of the spirit by Christ (Col 2:11; cf. 1 Cor. 7:19; Gal. 5:6; 6:15)
Holy Spirit not given to indwell the people of God (John 7:39; 14:16-17)	Holy Spirit promised, given, and indwells the obedient believer (John 14:16-17; 15:26; Acts 2:38-39; Rom 8:11; Eph. 1:13)
Focus on doing (Gal 3:10-12)	Focus on faith (Gal 3:1-9, 22-26)





Lessons from the Fall of Ravi Zacharias

By Deborah Yap & Lim Chin Nee



WHEN Ravi Zacharias International Ministry (RZIM) released a report acknowledging the sexual misconduct of its founder, the late Ravi Zacharias, it sent shock waves throughout the Christian circle around the world. He was such a highly popular and well-respected Christian apologist and evangelist. His ministry which spanned more than 40 years had touched many lives. How could it have happened? Was it a sabotage? It was all so unbelievable, yet evidently true according to the investigation report. Many of us were terribly disturbed and heartbroken, for another giant of the Christian faith had fallen. And no doubt, the enemy will mock and the faith of some adversely shaken.

Sadly, the report of his sexual misconduct was posthumous. Ravi was no longer around to face the accusations, be it to challenge it or confess to it. We feel very much for his wife, Margie, and family. They must be devastated. How does one cope with such charges against one's dearly loved and respected husband or father? Margie had recently come forward to defend her late husband and to deny the alleged claims. She said, "There is not one whit of evidence to support what were alleged." The ones that are hurt the most when a minister falls are his family. And regrettably, Ravi Zacharias was not the only Christian leader who fell from grace.

"How is it his staff and close associates seemed clueless about Ravi's double life?" "Didn't anyone suspect something was amiss in his 40 years of ministry and confronted him?" "Did his colleagues assume he can do no wrong?" "Why weren't there investigations while Ravi was still alive?" "Did he ever have to give account for his questionable decisions?" So many questions filled our minds.

However, for now, moving forward, the imperative is to learn from such scandals and mistakes, so that such shame and disgrace may not be named among us. The leaders of HGC gathered on Saturday, 17 April 2021 to discuss on how we should face it and respond to it in ways that honours Christ. Below are some take home points for us leaders.

1. Never idolize any Christian leader no matter how godly he may be.
   Rom 3:23 'For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'
   1John 1:8 'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.'

2. Put our faith in Christ alone, not man. For it is Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us. So, keep our eyes on Jesus the Author and Perfector of our faith, Heb 12;2.
   Gal 1:4 Jesus Christ… who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age…
   Psalm 118:8 'It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.'

3. No man is infallible no matter how long he is in the ministry. Ravi Zacharias' case brings out the reality that we are all vulnerable and frail. Therefore, set boundaries to protect ourselves. Between the opposite sex, other than one's own spouse, avoid hugging, meeting in enclosed room or having one to one counselling.

4. Be accountable. Have people whom we are accountable to, check on us. Allow ourselves to be questioned. This is our safeguard. Always be teachable. Have a thankful and open attitude when corrected or confronted.

5. Guard our hearts with the Word of God. Identify negative emotions that make us susceptible to temptations. Are there any open doors for the serpent to creep in? We need to watch especially against the spirit of deception. particularly self-deception and self-justification. Always seek to remain humble with a broken and contrite heart.
   Psa 119:11 'Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.'
   Pro 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

6. Character matters to God most, not the charisma, giftings and abilities. The Lord looks around to see the hearts of those who are loyal to Him,
   1 Sam 16; 7b Man looks at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart.
   2 Chron 16:9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

7. Do not judge. Remember what Jesus said in John 8:7, "Let him who is without sin, cast the first stone." God is the ultimate Judge. Nothing escapes His eye.
   Luke 12:2 For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.
   1 Cor 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

We ended our time by giving the right to our co-labourers in Christ to speak the truth in love into our lives and to correct us should they see something amiss. To be our brothers' or sisters' keeper. But most importantly, we must each be responsible to guard and examine our own hearts vigilantly and remember sin will always find us out.

On Entering My 6th Decade

By Ruth Lee



WELL, I have entered and passed my 60th birthday. This year I will be 61. Do I notice any changes, or do I feel as good as when I was in my 50s?

The other day, I suddenly took a hard look at my hands. Suddenly I saw my 'papery' like skin glaring at me in the noon-day sun! I was shocked. For someone who diligently applies moisturizer of whatever brand and quality (the more expensive the better, they must be good), I thought to myself, "Hey, what had gone wrong?" Thus, I went to the pharmacy to look for the moisturizer that will help the extra dry skin and started slathering them all over my hands.

Another thing I noticed is that the knee pain got worse than usual. I had been putting off surgery to try all sorts of the much touted 'miracle' cure (whether drinking or external application) and spending thousands of ringgit just to avoid surgery but the pain was incredible. I could literally feel the bone knocking against bone so I decided to try learning to swim, perhaps the low impact exercise will help me strengthen my knees. After an hour of violent kicking, I did feel the pain left me! Of course, my life group members also prayed hard for me!

Then the grey hair started showing, first in the middle parting then the wisps of hair near the ears so I decided to look for the easy to apply hair dye as I could not see myself sitting an hour at the hairdresser getting a hair dye. Well, the wisps still looked faintly greyish.

Then the 'cream puffs' as one actress puts it keep piling on. It seems the metabolic rate drops when you are past 60! So, I have to reduce the portion of my meals to avoid more cream puffs in the wrong places.

Finally, the memory. I was really concerned because I could not remember names or places I visited, or restaurants I just ate at a week ago. Therefore, I did the next best thing, record them through photos taken, labelling them, and asking my hubby to put them on FB. Then I decided to go back to school to study for my Master's in a field that was totally different from my legal field. I felt really good about it.

I just realized that as Solomon said in Ecclesiastes, there is a time for everything under the sun. In my own words, there is a time to age, a time to retire, a time to turn 60…. I cannot avoid ageing but I can do whatever I can do within my own power and ability to make this an enjoyable and meaningful journey.

Focus on the things that really matter – family, activities suitable for people my age, giving back to society.

No matter how many more years God may give me on this earth, I should not focus on the outward because the outward man is perishing but I can focus on the things that really matter – family, activities suitable for people my age, giving back to society in whatever way I can and keeping my mind and body as active as possible! To God be the glory!

Prayer Is Rising

By Lim Chin Nee and Khor Hoe Chai



THINGS were not looking good in Malaysia by the end of May 2021. Covid cases were on the rise. Our Health DG Tan Sri Dr Noor Hisham had warned Malaysia to be prepared for the worse in anticipation of a vertical surge in covid cases and corresponding fatalities. People were generally not happy with the way the country is being run. Even our PM Tan Sri Muhyiddin seemed to have come to a place where he was even resigned to having people call him stupid. Chaos was experienced at some ill managed vaccine centres where tempers flared. And on 24 May, a horrifying and disastrous LRT crash, left 600 injured and six in critical condition.

In this critical time, thank God for His Word and direction that has come to us through Ps Lee Choo of SIB. God has called His church in this nation to rise and build the Malaysian United Firewall. And praise God, churches throughout Malaysia including HGC are responding, and prayer is rising like never before. Believers are consecrating and committing themselves to pray in various time slots of 15 minutes or more for our nation. Together we cry the same prayers for our own selves, for our families, for our pastors and leaders, for the body of Christ and for the nation. Hallelujah, 24 hours of prayer, every minute of every hour, every day of every week and month, are being lifted up day and night.

Together we cry the same prayers for our own selves, for our families, for our pastors and leaders, for the body of Christ and for the nation.

For the recent Pentecost on 23 May 2021, a solemn assembly was organised where pastors of every state in Malaysia, irrespective of language, united in a 24-hour relay. Every state took a two-hour slot, including special language slots for BM, Tamil and Chinese pastors. It was certainly a move of God uniting the Malaysian Church!

Ps Khor was involved in the planning and anchoring for the State of Selangor and this was what he had to say.

"A team of seven pastors quickly organised ourselves. We met on zoom every day to pray and plan together for our slot on 24 May 2021 from 4.00 to 6.00am. We all felt the desperate need to humble ourselves and yield to His Spirit. We worked through technical matters to ensure that the two hours would flow seamlessly to allow the Holy Spirit to have His way.

"On that morning when I went into the zoom room around 3.45am, 145 Tamil pastors were in the 2.00 to 4.00am slot praying fervently. The Selangor pastors took over at 4.00 am. There were about 100-120 of us. Our slot began with a time of exalting King Jesus which was awesome. The music and the vocal were clear and beautiful. I could feel the Lord's tangible presence as the incense of worship arose to Him.

"The LORD gave a clear word from Psalm 32. It expressed our current crisis, and our dependence on the LORD as our hiding place. The call was for those who trust Him to rejoice in Him gladly and SHOUT FOR JOY!

"The LORD through Ps Raymond Mooi highlighted to us that David's grave sin of adultery and murder was due to his earlier sin of omission. David failed to go to war at a time of war and chose instead to remain behind giving in to laziness and lust. A time of humble confession and tearful repentance before God followed for our lack of prayer, neglect of the Word, of love and of the Great Commission.

A vision of dawn was received, signalling revival is arriving."

It is only just the beginning. The Holy Spirit is moving and stirring a revival in Malaysia. May we be willing to pay the price to see revival breakthrough and stay.

For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:11-12

What's Next?

By Janelle Lim



"WHAT is the meaning of life?"
"What is my PURPOSE in life?"
"What's next?"

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deut 31:8

I believe many of us face times where we are at a crossroad, unable to decide what's the next step. Oftentimes, these are the thoughts and questions that cross your mind in those situations. Similarly, many of these thoughts filled my head as I was nearing the end of my university degree. I was worried about whether I would be able to find a job, whether I would like it, would it benefit or help me grow? What if I get stuck in a miserable job that I hate? What if I end up unemployed for the next 6 to 12months, or for as long as the pandemic is still ongoing? I continued to spiral on into a mess of negative thoughts, fear and anxiety.

Desperate and lost, I talked to friends, adults around me for advice, hoping to seek answers or a peace of mind. But despite trying to analyze the "best routes" or "perfect way to find a job" I found that it was not any use, I was still stuck at the crossroads without any sense of direction. At that time, one of my friends bought a book titled "Growing Deeper In Faith" by Edmund Chan, which I read. I have had so many revelations after reading it and it really encouraged me to step out in faith. One section of the book was titled: "God of the ALREADY". What does this mean?

In the Bible, Joshua was leading the Israelites to cross the Jordan River, which was 60 miles or 24km wide. Now, we all know the story of the crossing of the Red Sea, where the waters immediately parted when Moses stepped into it. But, it did not happen in the Jordan river. The priests carrying the ark stepped into the water, yet nothing happened. They went deeper, nothing happened again. At this point, if it were me, I would be thinking to myself, "God, did I make a mistake? Am I doing something wrong? Should I retreat for now and plan to come back again some time later?" But Joshua had such faith in God, he continued to press in further. In Joshua 3:16, the Bible says that the waters had already ceased on the OTHER end of the river. This meant that even though the priests and Joshua were wading waist deep in the river, God had ALREADY done something on the other side!

This story taught me to walk by faith. I believe we all have experienced God, where God has revealed Himself to us on more than one occasion. If we proclaim that God is faithful or that He has never let us down, why do we doubt where He is leading us? We, as humans or even Christians get discouraged and give up too soon. "I would never get the job", "He wouldn't want to listen to me share Christ", "I don't think I am capable enough to serve in church". Driven by fear, we let fear paralyze us and we remain… stuck. But this story tells us differently, the truth is God is WITH US, and He wants us to follow Him. Faith is rooted in the conviction that God is with us. And the obedience of this faith is expressed by us following Him.

After reading this, I decided to just apply for a few jobs and leave the end result to God, having full faith in Him that He has greater plans for me, better than what I can imagine for myself. Like Joshua, even if I don't see immediate results of God working, I believe He is the God of the ALREADY, He has gone before me and won battles for me. Thus, I am ALREADY victorious in Christ.

Journeying With Jesus Through the Passion Week

By Lim Chin Nee

2021 PASSION week was special. The Lord led us to do a series of devotions at our online Morning Altars, tracing the last week of our Lord's journey in Jerusalem, leading to His death and resurrection. It began on the Thursday morning of 25 March with one of the most significant miracles of Jesus recorded in John 11:1-46, the raising of Lazarus who had been dead for four days! This miracle of Jesus, a messianic sign, gained Him a huge following but provoked the religious leaders to conspire against Him and plot His death.

Jesus wants each of us, His followers, to be at the top with Him.

Morning by morning till 3 April, we walked with Jesus through the Scriptures, considering each of those final days of His mission on earth during the Passover. We learnt so much from the Devotion teachers who opened our eyes to see the background, context and significance of events and the teachings of Jesus, the fulfilment of Bible prophecies and the divine timing of events. It was a meaningful experience, and through it our faith in the amazing sovereignty of God has been deepened.

On the morning of Good Friday, we were at the arrest of Jesus and in the courtrooms for His unfair trial and conviction despite His innocence. In the evening, during the Good Friday onsite service, Pastor painted vividly how Jesus was scourged and led up to Golgotha to be mercilessly crucified on the cross for the sins of the world. After which we thankfully took the Holy communion in remembrance of His great sacrifice for us.

The Passion Week journey ended on Resurrection Sunday with a fitting message by Jenny Ooi, a pint-sized but nevertheless vibrant speaker. Her message "See You At the Top" reminded us that Jesus is already triumphant and at the top seated at the right hand of the Father, far above principalities and power. And He wants each of us, His followers, to be at the top with Him. Jenny inspired us to keep on journeying with Jesus and not to allow comforts and conveniences or troubles and trials of life to cause us to give up mid-way. Rather, go all the way to the top where Jesus is. We can do it because Jesus understands us and is always present to aid us.





Remembering all that Christ did



Onsite Easter Service



Youth Worship Team



Jenny Ooi brought a clear message



Ps Khor sharing on Good Friday

Make The Most of Every Opportunity

Compiled by Lim Chin Nee



MAKING the Most of Every Opportunity. A fine example of this is the Apostle Paul. While held under house arrest and in chains in Rome, Paul wasted no time murmuring or complaining. Instead, he made use of his time to preach and to teach the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ to all who would come to him (Acts 28:31). As a result, some believed, including Jewish leaders and even a runaway slave by the name of Onesimus.

Guards and chains could not deter Paul from ministering to the needs of churches. He could not go in person, but his letters could. So, he took time to write to them to encourage and strengthen them.

While a prisoner in Rome, Paul was still an ambassador of Jesus Christ. He did not pray for release. He prayed to be bold and fearless to share the gospel even while in chains (Eph 6:19-20). He prayed for more opportunities to speak for Christ (Col 4:3). Such was Paul - a man who knew why he was there in Rome to bear witness for Jesus. (Acts 23:11).

Similarly in our trying circumstances and trials of today, may we know our calling and MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY too for Christ!

Here is a collection of testimonies from our brothers and sisters who made use of opportunities during the MCO and CMCO period to make a difference.

Michelle Liew:
While taking care of two children, a girl and a boy, whom I fetch to and from school, my daughters and I took the opportunity to guide them in their studies and homework. Initially, they were weak and more interested in games. With the help given to them, both the children showed improvement and could write so much better.

I also invited them to join my family Prayer time. At first, they were not keen but by the third day, the girl came to me on her own and asked for prayer. As I sow the seed of God's love into them, I can gradually see the changes in them.

Elsa Foong:
I had the opportunity to lead a small Life-Group of four sisters. Over the year, we have progressed and are now closely knitted and bonded. I also had the opportunity to reach out and support a member of a singing group whose mother was infected with covid 19. I prayed with her for her mother's healing.

Voon Ching:
During the MCO, I am thankful for the opportunity to join Morning Devotion and the Corporate Prayer. This is an answer to prayer. I am also given the opportunity to lead the Glory Club of FGA, a ministry to autistic children.

Kweh Gim Gaik:
I was able to help a close friend make her first move to come out of depression by keeping her company and bringing her to see a Stress Professor at a government health clinic in Ampang. And in helping her, I was helped too.

Wendy Lim:
Praise the Lord for opening the way for me to learn how to host zoom meetings, to share the gospel to extended family members and go deeper into God's Word by attending Bible Studies and our church online morning devotion. During this season of time, I experience the grace and strength of the Lord carrying me through in every aspect of my daily life.

I also had the opportunity to guide Kimberly Khoo through the Baptism lessons. It was a great joy during class where we shared with each other how God's grace and mercy saved us from sin through the finishing work of Jesus at the cross. It was also an opportunity for me to share my experiences about having Christ in me.

Allison Wong:
God gave me opportunities to share to or disciple young people.

Susan Lee:
During the pandemic, I stepped out in faith and trusted God to take me to another level by joining Life Group. I learnt so much about God's character through the teaching of the Word of God. I also shared with boldness my testimonies on the goodness of God with my LG sisters.

Kuan Suet Fun:
During this pandemic, I made the most of every opportunity to follow the morning devotion faithfully to have a better understanding of the Bible Scriptures and to enjoy His presence during the time of worship.

Tricia Liew:
This pandemic turned out to be fruitful for me. I found God and with boldness, confidence and obedience, I got baptized. I received abundant blessings. My faith and love for God increased through the trials I faced. I was able to share the gospel to my family and friends. I now prioritize time with God, reading His Word and learning to pray, making baby steps to grow daily.

Kimberly Khoo:
During the first MCO, I reminded myself that since there was nothing much I could do, it was time for self-cultivation. "Sharpening the Saw" became the motto to keep me sane during those times. Being the hyperactive person that I am, I knew I would not be able to settle on just doing one thing and hence, I started by doing the following:

- I bought a piano so that I could pick it up again and revive my creativity,
- I started building presentations so that I could do online presentations to clients and potential clients.
- I watched videos on Christianity and bought a Bible.

At the end of that MCO period, I was playing two simple classics properly, I had three new clients and found my new faith which I am now deeply in love with.
I am reminded that in every situation, there will be somethings that I cannot do which is beyond my control, but, there will be much that I CAN do which is within my control.

Lim Chin Nee:
My two youngest nieces of 12 and 13 years old accepted the Lord on 14 Dec 2020. During the MCO, they chose to stay with their "Popo" to keep her company. Both pastor and I saw this as a God-given opportunity to teach them the Word of God and help them grow in their faith. Therefore, each time we were back at my mum's, I spent time with them reading the Bible, helping them to know God a little more each time through His Word, answering their questions and praying with them. It is my joy to see them growing gradually in their faith towards God.

Be very careful, then, how you live--
not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil.
Therefore do not be foolish,
but understand what the Lord's will is.
Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

God Given Opportunities to Show His Love & Kindness

By Jay R



I AM grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ for His abundant love, grace, mercy and blessings. I am also thankful for this opportunity to share my journey with Him, and the opportunities to serve Him wherever I am by showing love and giving hope to others in their struggles.

Quarantine Chapter
In March 2021, I was assigned to a project on an offshore platform in Bintulu waters in East Malaysia. I had of course to adhere to a 14-day quarantine.

One morning around 9.00am, on the sixth day of my quarantine in a designated hotel, after joining HGC morning watch, I took a quick look outside through the window. Immediately, I spotted three people (a man, a woman and a child) walking from one end of the hotel building towards the other end. I noticed that the man had difficulty walking as he was limping. Coming to the road junction, they turned right. The woman then placed a mat on the roadside, and they sat down with the child who was playing with a toy.

Instantly, I felt for them and took a moment to pray, seeking the Lord for His grace as to what I can do for them. Henceforth, I kept all the packet drinks which were provided for me daily during the quarantine, including some crackers, potato chips till my quarantine was completed.

End of Quarantine Chapter
After the removal of my quarantine tag, I took the packet drinks and food down to the lobby to meet my colleague who asked me about the things in my hands. I told him that I wanted to give them to a couple and a child whom I saw from my hotel window. He then felt the same and went up to his room and brought down his drinks and chips as well.

Meeting the Trio
Ten minutes later both of us were walking away from the hotel towards a place for dinner. As we were going up the pedestrian bridge across the main highway, I instantly noticed the couple and child resting below the stairs on the other side. The three of them were laying on a dirty mattress. Feeling compassion for them, I immediately approached them and talked with them. They were shocked at first, not knowing who we were or what our intentions were. However, after introducing myself, I told them that we have come to give them some food and drinks. They then welcomed me to sit beside them.

Getting to Know One Another
During our conversation, I found out that they were a family and the man is an Iban. He is a humble man who used to work in a construction company. However, during the earlier Covid-19 pandemic, he lost his job and house. Since then, they had been forced to move out and move around to find temporary shelter. No one wanted to hire him because of his physical condition. He was limping and his face a little swollen, I told him to stay strong, that there will be help for him if he prays and seek the Lord Jesus Christ. They were grateful for the compassion shown towards them and said that no one had come to talk to them like this for a long while. Before leaving, we gave him some money.

They were grateful for the compassion shown towards them and said that no one had come to talk to them like this for a long while.

Continue to Labour and Care with God's Love
On the following two days, before my sign-on date to the offshore platform, we continued to visit them each night, sending them food and drinks and having a quick chat with them. We told them we will keep them in prayer.

After returning from offshore, I managed to visit them once again, and this time I introduced them to three of my other colleagues who came along with me after our dinner. We gave them more food and drinks.

Opportunity to Share
On the last day of my stay in Bintulu after signing-off from the platform, before my flight back to KL on the next day, I did a quick dry clean of my work coverall suits at a laundry shop just across the hotel. While waiting for my laundry and sipping my Milo ice, I noticed a man approaching two stalls in the food court trying to buy some food.

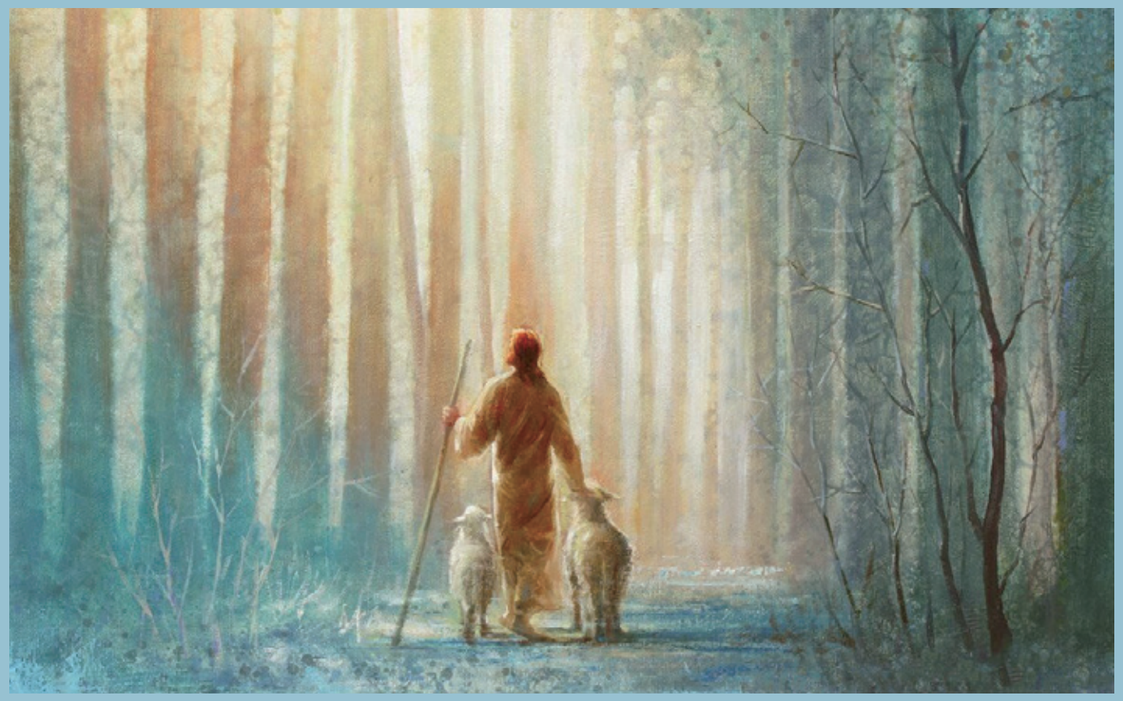
Offering Help & Sharing Kindness to Others
As I stood up to approach him, he came towards me, showing some coins in his hand and hoping to get some cash to buy food. Then I asked him whether he wanted to eat. And he said yes. I walked him back to the stalls and asked him to choose what he wanted to eat and requested the 'taukey' of the stall to prepare what he desired including drinks.

Sharing Hope and Trust in God
While waiting for the food and drinks, I brought him to seat beside me (observing physical distance). Noticing that he was a little bit sober, I asked him where he was from and what had happened to him. He told me he is 30 and an Iban native. He used to work as a timber worker in his village with his friend. However, he lost his job and moved to Bintulu with his friend who left him alone after a while. He admitted that he is a drunkard and that his problematic habit had caused him to be unable to find a job.

I then shared with him about my past and my problem with alcoholic too and how God had transformed me. Since then, I have been growing in my faith in Christ Jesus. As he showed more interest in what I was sharing, I told him how God will change him too if he puts his trust in Him and prays to Him unceasingly. He told me then that his father is a non-believer, but his mother is a Christian. I advised him to stop drinking and to start seeking God and to put his trust in Jesus Christ. I also advised him to look for any odd job around the area and to show interest in his work, assuring him that God will open a door for him as he trusts in Him.

After receiving his food and drinks, I gave him some money. He asked perhaps we could meet again the next day and get some advice. I told him I would be travelling back home to KL but will continue to uphold him in prayer. Perhaps one day, we can meet again, and he can share his testimony.

I have continually experienced life changes through the GRACE of God in my life. Although I lost my job last year, Jesus still blessed me with work. This present situation that I am in is a time God wants me to continue growing in Him. God has given me an opportunity to show others His kindness, love and attention. Praise to the Lord Jesus Christ in whom is our hope always. Be bless and be a blessing.



God's Perfect Plan in the MCO

By Chia Voon Ching



PRAISE God for the MCO! I do not know why but I just want to praise Him and believe He is working for the good of us all. In the MCO, I can do so many things without needing to leave the house. (Going out is a tedious task for me because of personal issues.) I could join Morning Devotions, Cooperate Prayers and Sunday Services, all of which I could not or hardly could join.

Through the Morning Devotions on Facebook, I could receive God's words anytime of the day. And the beauty of it is that I can listen to it over and over again!! God's plan for me is worthy of praise, is it not? I could attend Sunday Services virtually every Sunday at home and worship God without restrictions. I can sing my heart out, even though it may be out of tune. But who cares, God knows my heart's desires and sincerity. And again, I could listen to the sermons a second and third time.

Praise God that in the MCO, I could build the church and be the church in my very own home. Building the altar at home has helped me to rise stronger and grow deeper in prayer to God. And I am sure for all of us too. He desires each family to connect and seek Him together.

Concerning my work. From Jan – Mar 2020, I was struggling to learn how to teach my students. Then during the MCO, lessons shifted to e-learning and I found myself struggling again to learn to teach online. How can I teach my students with just words without being able to guide or support them onsite physically? I thank God for His perfect arrangement and plan. I did not have to be too troubled. I just need to learn at my pace and at the students' pace. E-learning was a platform that the Lord had prepared for me. Through the multimedia and by God's grace, I was able to reach my students and see them, although unable to be with them in person. Furthermore, I saved travelling time.

Praise God for His steadfast love that enabled me to pull through. I believe that with these recurring MCOs, God wants me to be still and to come back to Him again and again. He is always ready to welcome me with His warm embrace. God is telling me not to look so much at the world and its desires but to desire Him and His love, to seek Him wholeheartedly. Before the pandemic, many Christians including me, were so inspired by the successes of the world that we became lukewarm in our pursuit of God, and perhaps at times even shaken in faith.

What does God actually want of me? All He wants is my love for Him because He loves me so much that He sent His only Son to die for my sins. The Lord said, "Be still and know that I am God." Yes, my heavenly Father wants me to come to Him fervently, looking up to Him always, keeping a good and close relationship with Him and being attentive to His calling.

I believe that with these recurring MCOs, God wants me to be still and to come back to Him again and again.

I want to praise God for creating so many opportunities through the MCO to reach Him and to grow deeper in my relationship with Him. I want to hold on to God's Word which is sown deeply in my heart, "They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the Lord is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him." Psalm 92:14-15.

I need to keep walking for my daughters. The journey seems endless; therefore, the verses encourage me. It lifts my spirit each time when I am weary and down. I have learnt to take one step at a time and whenever I need to, I will run to Him in prayer. God's word in Ps 62:8 assures me, "O My people, trust in Him at all times. Pour out your heart to Him for God is our refuge."

I will continue praising God for all His plans in my life because my life belongs to Him, my Lord, my Rock, My Saviour, My Creator, My Redeemer and My Most High and Mighty God.

Lastly, I praise God for His grace upon my family. I praise God for all the doors He has opened for us to go to Him. I praise God for His goodness upon my life. I praise Him for His protection upon us. I praise Him for enlarging me to serve Him. I praise Him for His peace and calmness that surpasses all understanding.

America and Me

By Abigail Cheong



I TRAVELLED to America on the 13 January 2021 after I succeeded in getting my visa. There are many things I am thankful for as I think back upon how I got here and what I have been doing these past months.

When I first arrived in the US, I had to undergo 14 days quarantine. It was lonely, but it was nice to have some time to just focus and calm down after all the hecticness that my parents and I went through to get my visa, my flight ticket, even just getting to the airport because of the fear of all the roadblocks. I remember we had to rush to the police station just to get a letter of permission which says we could travel to the airport. During the flight there, my shoes broke while in the transit (Japan), and I had to throw them away. Thank God one of my friends had an extra pair of slides that she graciously lent me.

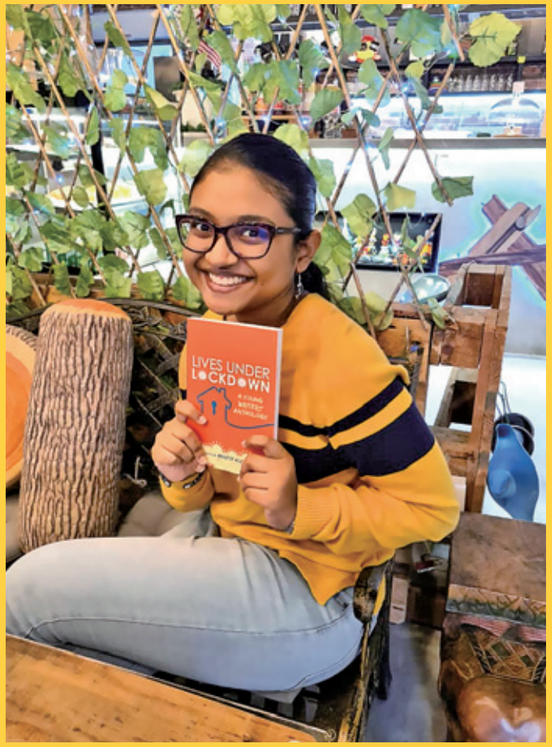
There are many things I am thankful for as I think back upon how I got here and what I have been doing these past months.

During the quarantine, I had time to get used to the jet lag. I am very grateful for all the people I met that helped me get used to my new surroundings. I had many seniors and dorm mates that brought me on tours to show me where everything was. So, I am happy that I had lots of support during my transition. At first, it was difficult to get friends because of social distancing and COVID restrictions. We could not sit together in classes or in cafeterias, and there were very few events in which we could socialize. After a while, I was able to meet a group of friends that I really love and that have been with me all throughout my time here, and I am so thankful for them as they make university life so much easier. I thank God for my Aunty as well who would drive 1.5 hours just to see me and take me out for some food or to buy groceries. Also, I got a really good grade for my semester, and we managed to get vaccinated by our very own nursing students which was really cool.

America has just been an adventure and there are so many things I am grateful for. Every day is still exciting as I discover something new with my amazing friends that God has blessed me with.

Dreams Come True Through God

By Alicia Joy



SINCE I was young, I have always had an interest in writing stories. My mother encouraged me to write my stories down, so that one day other people could read them. This led to a love of writing that blossomed in me as I grew older. God has truly blessed me, as He has been giving me opportunity after opportunity to grow in my passion.
One day, my mother registered me for a writing workshop that would last over a couple of months. This writing workshop was not a normal one – it was specifically made for young writers who wanted to hone their talents, so that they might be able to write books. At the end of the workshop, we would get a chance to have a short story feature in a book.

At first, writing for the topic of the book was difficult. What good story could I write about COVID-19? Our teacher had already told us to avoid writing things about fantasy, such as dragons or fairies, which is what I had originally thought of when she told us the topic of the book. When I asked my mom for help, she advised me to pray and ask God for help. After I prayed, I still had no idea what to write. So, I decided to join my family in watching the news. The newscaster was talking about roadblocks being increased in the country to stop inter-state travel. It hit me suddenly – what if I wrote about the people behind the roadblocks, the policemen and their families? Thus came the idea of my story "Road Block."

I actually nearly cried when I held the book for the first time!

So, I wrote my story and submitted it to my teacher. She helped to proofread and edit it, making it better and better. Finally, in December of 2020, the book was officially printed and published by MPH. All the young writers were very excited to have their stories in an actual book. I actually nearly cried when I held the book for the first time! It had been a dream of mine for so long that I never expected it to come true so soon.

I really want to thank God, my mom, and my teacher, Ms. Brigette, for supporting me and helping me. Without this amazing opportunity, I would not have felt the joy and inspiration to continue pursuing my dream of having a book with my name on the cover someday. Although things may seem impossible for us, through God all things are possible.

Confessing With My Own Mouth

By Pauline Khoo

I WAS a born into a Christian family. My grandparents were Roman Catholics. A Catholic tradition is to baptize the baby when it is born to take away the first sin. I was similarly baptized as such.

When my grandparents passed away, things changed. My mother who came from a Buddhist background, only accepted the Christian faith when she married into the family. Her understanding of Christianity was not deep or strong. We occasionally attended church for special ceremonies or during Christmas. For me, I just followed her to church but did not understand the true meaning of it. I could not feel God's presence and sometimes I felt so far away from God.

Time passed so quickly. I was married and divorced. My marriage was a very challenging one, but God was gracious to me and gave me two girls. He also faithfully walked me through all the trials of my life and protected me under His mighty arms.

By a divine appointment, I met with Foo Ai Ling and Christine Lim on my way to work in the LRT. They started a conversation with me, and we became LRT friends. Soon, they invited me to their church on Sundays. This was how I found The Hope of Glory Centre, the church that made me feel at home and has so much of love, peace and joy. I learned and grew tremendously in the Lord in this church.

He faithfully walked me through all the trials of my life and protected me under His mighty arms.

I understand that I need to follow what Jesus did during His time on earth - that is to be water baptised. Even though I was baptized as a baby, I know that I need to confess with my own mouth that I believe in Him. As a mother, I would want my two girls to similarly follow the steps of obedience to God. It took years to build them up and grow strong in the Lord. God is so good to us and shows us that with God everything is possible. Without any planning but with God's perfect timing, my two girls and I were baptized together by Pastor Khor in Church on Friday, 11 December 2020. What a privilege we have in Christ. We know that this is a new beginning of our journey with Christ.





Pauline was baptized with her 2 daughters Melanie & Natalie.

Hidup Berubah Setelah Mengenali Yesus

By Rotica Anak Isap



NAMA saya Rotica Anak Isap. Saya seorang Bidayuh dan berasal dari Kampung Semapu, Lundu, Sarawak. Saya adalah anak ke-8 dari 8 orang adik-beradik.

Sebelum saya mengenal Tuhan Yesus, kehidupan saya tidak tenang. Tanpa saya sedari, bermacam-macam kelakuan buruk dan perbuatan yang berdosa saya telah lakukan. Saya tidak tahu macam mana bercerita, hanya Tuhan sahaja yang tahu masa silam saya.

Memang dari dahulu lagi saya telah ada keinginan mengenal Tuhan Yesus. Semasa saya masih seorang kanak-kanak, ada juga juga kawan-kawan di kampung yang mengajak saya mengenali Yesus. Tetapi masa itu saya masih kecil dan tidak faham. Puji Tuhan saya diberi peluang lagi untuk mengenali Nya daripada Norika a/p Norgi. Dia banyak mengajar saya berkenaan dengan Tuhan Yesus dan apanya agama Kristian. Dia juga mengajar saya berdoa.

Saya percaya kepada Tuhan Yesus bukan sahaja kerana pertolonganNya dan berkatNya dari segi kebahagian, rezeki dan kesihatan tetapi dari segi rohani, kerana Dia menyelamatkan saya dari segala dosa-dosa saya, Yesus memang ajaib kuasaNya.

Saya percaya kepada Tuhan Yesus kerana Dia menyelamatkan saya dari segala dosa-dosa saya

Setelah saya mengenali dan percayai kepada Tuhan Yesus, hati saya mula berubah menjadi perasaan yang tenang dan memberi kesedaran yang luar biasa.

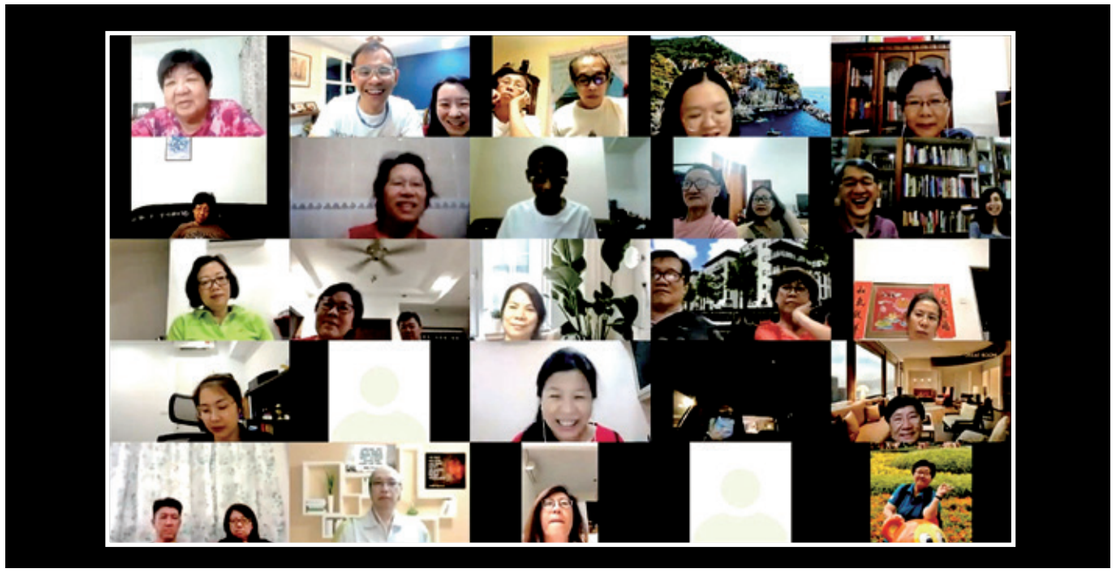
Puji Tuhan, pada hari Rabu 16 Disember 2020 saya telah dibaptiskan.



Rotica is engaged to Norika, one of the believers in our KKB ministry

Combined Life Group Gathering

By Ruth Lee



Combined Lg via zoom

WHAT a blessing to have Jenny Ooi share with us at the first combined life group gathering on 19 February 2021 via zoom. For the first time, about 40 plus of us peered through the small screens on our handphone or computer to listen to our special speaker. Jenny was a former high ranking HR practitioner with a US based billion-dollar company who left her job to start her own consultancy. Today, she is a successful director of a company selling "Thermomix" a kitchen equipment.

Her very inspiring sharing had many wonderful quotes but my favourite is, "Give them what they want to reveal what they need."

Her very inspiring sharing had many wonderful quotes but my favourite is, "Give them what they want to reveal what they need." Just this month, I gave a talk to a group of university students and lecturers on how to manage stress. I believe that in doing so I was giving them what they want and hopefully, the needs of their hearts will be revealed in their process. I did ask the students to contact me if they need a listening ear.

It was refreshing to hear how she and her husband did life group differently. They started with only two families and it grew to a church. They organized gatherings (pre-MCO days) to give quality talks which touch on interesting and practical topics like bitcoin and resolving conflicts. Another marked feature of the gatherings had to do with good food and a little conclusion where the host would share about the love of God thus introducing the Gospel in a non-threatening way. No wonder so many came. Many accepted the Lord and were baptized as well.

Her testimony about her early days in USM also touched many of us. Coming from a poor family, Jenny tried to save money by studying at the basement of USM. Once a security guard approached her and she panicked because she thought that he was going to stop her from using the basement. It turned out that he wanted her to teach his family member how to use the computer!

Her final challenge was for us to bring at least one person to church (online) this year. Sis Jenny was later invited to share our Easter message "See you at the top" which really inspired many of us!



Who Says Retirement is Boring?

By Compiled by Ruth Lee

2020 is a defining year for some of us. Not only is it the year of covid19, it is also a year of retirement for some of us. This article is dedicated to church members who have retired whether in 2020 and even earlier. Indeed, retirement is a wonderful season in life to rest, relax and enjoy after years of 'hard' labour, sleepless nights and unreasonable demands or work targets! We have interviewed four retirees to find out how they are spending their retirement, and it is really interesting to hear their updates.



John Chen, 61

"I retired in March 2020 after a hectic 35 years of working life in three financial institutions. Since retirement, I have been doing gardening, landscaping, helping my wife with the housework and monitoring my investment. My lifestyle is also healthier – no work stress, no boss stress, no deadlines, no KPI (s) and all those administrative details associated with work. I simply love my retirement life. I feel carefree and get to do what I love to do including enjoying the beautiful nature created by God around my housing area. Since spending time at home and being together with my wife who is active in God's 'business', I have more opportunity to hear about Him and to learn more about Christian living which is in the world but yet not of this world. Indeed, in Christ, our retirement is certainly not boring; it is absolutely fulfilling."



Jenny Woo, 65

"I retired at age 65 in July 2020 after 38 years of working life in three companies. You can call me a faithful employee. After my retirement I kept myself occupied by taking care of my mother who is bed ridden, since my maid's contract had ended. I also take care of the housework. Being the eldest in the family, I carried myself well as the Ta Ka Jie (eldest sister) shouldering all responsibilities. I am glad after my retirement I have a more meaningful and fulfilling life compared to my working days. I am my own boss now and can achieve and accomplish greater things which I was unable to do before. It is by God's grace I am healthy physically, emotionally, and still look good at my age."



Tricia Liew, 64

"I retired in October 2016. I started working in 1983 after finishing my studies in London, I had worked 33 years all in with a total of four employers and my last employer was CIMB bank where I worked the longest – 23 years. After my retirement, I pensioned off my maid and started doing domestic work and cooking. I managed to travel a few times a year before the pandemic and reunited with my classmates and friends. My most valuable retirement journey is finding God in 2020. Now I spend quite a bit of time, reading God's Word, praying and fellowshipping with family and friends. My retirement is really fulfiling and I am always grateful to God for keeping me healthy and financially stable. How blessed I am to daily sense His peace and joy. Oh yes, I need to add one more exciting thing in my retirement journey, I have started learning the piano recently as it is my wish to glorify God in music."



Ruth Lee, 61

"I retired in August 2020 after 34 years of working life. I had only two employers, one in a legal firm and the other with Affin Bank where I spent the last 31 years of my working life. Concerned that my mind would deteriorate if I do not continue to use it (someone once told me that if I stop using the part of the body that I normally use, I might lose the use of it eventually), I prayed and considered whether I should be doing a Master's in Law or a Master's in Biblical Studies. After all, I had a really pressure-cooker work environment where I had to constantly used my mind to write, analyse and argue my position to the bosses. God prompted me to select the Bible School option because of 2 Tim 2:15, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth." This rhema word came to me and I felt that I wanted God to 'approve' of me which will certainly be the case if I were to study His Word. Bible School merely facilitates my studies and helps me in this area. Though the pace can be very challenging with many assignments, tests and project papers to do, the knowledge I have gained from men and women of God who have given themselves to the in-depth study of God's Word is really invaluable. My mind is enriched each time I deep-dive into God's Word and my heart is filled with joy."

Imagine A Tiny Acorn

By Alicia Joy

NO, really, imagine the tiniest acorn in the world, so small it is barely as big as your pinky. This seemingly insignificant acorn drops down from its mother tree and is carried away to a spot just by a gushing river. It plants itself there, knowing that the water from the river will nourish and care for it.

As the years go by, the tiny acorn soon sprouts into a powerful and majestic oak tree. One day it rains a little too much, the river soaks into the soil a little too much, then the roots cannot breathe, the trunk goes limp, and by the next day the tree is dying. The river that gave the oak tree life is now killing it.

If we were the tree, what would be the river?
The world today has many rivers we can plant ourselves by – for younger generations, we may feel comfortable planting by social media. Like the river, social media provides many benefits to the youth, especially in these times, as COVID-19 forces schools to opt for online learning through platforms like Zoom and Google Meet. But on the other hand, social media has been proven to increase the level of mental illnesses present in today's generation.

Other rivers we plant ourselves by may be more physical. Alcohol and drugs are a dangerous river to rely on, as it does not take much for these rivers to overflow and take over your life. Things like watching TV or eating junk food may seem harmless at first but doing these things too often can be detrimental to our health.

The world is full of dangerous rivers we can plant ourselves by. Sometimes, when we think about it, we may feel





overwhelmed by just how difficult it is to choose the right river. Even rivers that seem right may become dangerous over time. Plant yourselves by education? It could overtake your life to the point where you do nothing but study all the time. Plant yourself by your family? You could forget about everyone else in your life.

The insignificant acorn drops down from its mother tree and is carried away to a spot just by a gushing river.

But there is one river we can always rely on.
The river of God.

"And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing." Ezekiel 47:12

An oak tree can live for nearly 1000 years in the right conditions. It can grow up to 45 meters tall and may produce millions of acorns (fruits) in its lifetime. Like any good gardener, God wants to make sure His trees grow healthily and plentifully and bear many fruits. This is why He offers us His river, a river that will give us life and life abundantly. If God's river ever overflows, we can be assured that it will never destroy us. Instead, when God's river overflows, our lives too will overflow with blessings and joyfulness.

Dating

By Alicia Joy



DATING – quite a controversial topic when it comes to parents! If you are above the age of 13, you have probably heard of this term quite a lot. Maybe you have heard it from your friends, who show you picture of their significant other while smiling sillily. Or maybe your family members always pester you about it whenever you meet them at weddings and family reunions. Perhaps you yourself have wondered about it, or maybe even tried it before.

"How do you start a relationship?", "When is the best time to start a relationship?" and "How do you know if a person is right for you?"

It was a surprise when brother Calvin Lim announced that, for the next few weeks, the youth would be discussing this topic. Many of us had a lot of questions about dating and relationships, such as, "How do you start a relationship?" "When is the best time to start a relationship?" and "How do you know if a person is right for you?" In the following few weeks, we discussed these questions together and found the answers were not as simple as we thought.

One of the topics we discussed was online dating. We talked about the dangers of it, but we also talked about the advantages of dating online rather than physically. In today's world, online dating helps people who are socially awkward to be able to communicate openly about their feelings. It was very eye-opening for someone who had previously thought that online dating was never a good idea.

Another topic we talked about was the responsibility of getting into a relationship. Not only would you be caring for yourself, you would also have to care for the other person. Additionally, being in a relationship affects all the people close to you, such as your close family members and friends. The older members of the youth reminded us that, although dating seems fun, we need to remember that it requires a lot of maturity and work in order to maintain a good relationship.

In conclusion, although some of us are still in school and do not want to currently date, it was very interesting for us to discuss these things with older and more experienced members of the youth. I am sure that the things we learnt will be very useful for us in the future, when we decide to go out and start dating!



What happens if I still sin after asking God to forgive me?

Answered by Loke Wai Keng

SIN came into this world since the time of Adam and Eve when they disobeyed God by taking the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Hence, Romans 3:23 pronounced that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Man inherited the sinful Adamic nature. (Roman 5:12)

But God in His grace and mercy provided a way of redemption. Romans 6:23 states that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. So, a person upon accepting Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and confessing his sins, Christ becomes his righteousness. God sees him as righteous through Christ. He then receives Christ's nature and becomes a new man in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Adamic nature is dealt with and replaced by Christ's nature. (Romans 5:18,19)



Positionally, he is right before God, but experientially he is still capable of sinning. However, when a believer sin,1John1:9 states that If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is the assurance that we have; when we confess our sins Jesus will forgive us of all our sins and will even cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is the grace of God, a gift from Him (Ephesians 2 :8) He will not condemn us as if there is no hope, for there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Christ dwells in believers and He sanctifies believers, convicting them of sins. The Spirit's conviction within us is a movement of love and grace, made possible through the shed blood of Jesus. We can always be made clean if we humbly seek God's forgiveness. A child of God also has to be alert and be aware that the enemy is like a roaring lion waiting to kill, steal and destroy.

As Christians we do stumble, but we do not live a lifestyle of continual, unrepentant sin. Some believers find it difficult to overcome some form of habitual sin and fall into the guilt trip, bringing self-condemnation. It is then advisable to seek professional help to overcome any form of bondages. Some sins that are difficult to overcome may need help eg: sexual sin, addictions to drugs or harmful habits like gambling.

The apostle Paul writes about the struggle between a mind which wants to serve God and a sinful nature which just keeps on sinning. And he writes that Jesus Christ delivers him from this body of death (Romans 7, especially verses 24-25). So, Jesus' blood is powerful enough to wash away ALL your sins, even repeated sins. You are NEVER beyond forgiveness.

But you must repent sincerely. The idea that God cannot be mocked (Galatians 6:7) basically means that God sees right through someone who is not repenting sincerely. SOMETIMES, repeated sin can be an indication that the person has not really repented and is only saying that they repent. God is not fooled by that.

Repeated sin is a sign that you have a particular weakness to that sort of temptation - and I believe that we all have it to varying degrees. For some it may be anger, for others it may be jealousy. That you continue to sin in the same way should indicate to you that you need to work particularly hard in that area.

Pray that God will help you overcome the sin, and then take practical steps to avoid it. Try to work out what situations, decisions, activities, or friends lead you into this sin, and then take steps to avoid them. That way you will not even get close to it. It is a good idea to tell a Christian friend about the sin so they can pray with you and encourage you. That would obviously need to be someone you could trust to keep it confidential. And if you fall into sin, turn back to God and ask for forgiveness and then keep trying - remembering that a day will come when it will no longer be a problem.

SO, IN SHORT, God is always ready to forgive, but we must never get complacent about sin and think it does not matter. Rather we do whatever we can to avoid temptation and deal with sin when it happens.

I hope this helps, and I have prayed for you.

Nyonya Zongi

By Magdeline Chin



INGREDIENTS:

1.6kg	Glutinous rice
150g	Chinese dry mushroom (soaked until soft and cut into cubes)
750g	Pork (cut into cubes)
500g	Candied winter melon (cut into cubes)
110g	Coriander seeds (washed, dry fried and blended into powder)
30g	White pepper powder
1 tbsp	Fermented bean paste
2 tbsp	Sugar
300g	Minced shallot & garlic
	Cooking oil
30 pcs	Dried blue pea flower
64pcs	Bamboo leaves (soaked overnight, washed and blanched in boiling water)
	Some straws

METHOD:

1. Soak the glutinous rice for 2 hours. Drain and add 16g salt and 1.5 tbsp of white pepper powder.
2. Wash the blue pea flower and drain. Boil a bowl of water, add in the blue pea flower and simmer for 2 minutes. Sieve and collect the blue water.
3. Heat up the wok, add oil and fry with a quarter of the minced shallot and garlic until fragrant, add in the glutinous rice. At very low fire, fry the rice until slightly warm.
4. Divide the glutinous rice into 2 steaming trays, ¼ tray and ¾ tray.
5. Steam the ¼ tray glutinous rice with blue water and the ¾ tray glutinous rice with plain water for about 40 minutes. Steam them separately.
6. The water level for steaming the glutinous rice must be same level with the rice.
7. Leave them to cool.
8. While steaming the glutinous rice, fry the fillings.
9. Marinate the cubed pork with 20 g of coriander powder.
10. Heat up a wok, add in oil and fry the rest of the minced shallot and garlic. halfway add in fermented bean paste and fry until fragrant.
11. Add in pork, 1 tsp of salt, fry a while, add into cubed mushroom. Continue to fry and add in the balance coriander powder and white pepper powder.
12. Drizzle about 2 tbsp of water and add in the candied melon cube. Fry until sticky. You may add in 1 tbsp of sugar if you prefer it to be sweeter.
13. Wait till the glutinous rice and filling are cool before wrapping.
14. Have a bowl of cold water to wet your hand to prevent glutinous rice from sticking to it when handling glutinous rice.
15. Fold 2 bamboo leaves into cone, add in a small amount of blue rice at the bottom, surround the side with white rice. Scoop in 1 tbsp of filling and top with another layer of the white glutinous rice. Place another small amount of blue glutinous rice where you want.
16. Fold the bamboo leaves to cover and tie with straws.
17. Steam in medium heat for 1 hour.
18. Remove from steaming and hang up to dry.

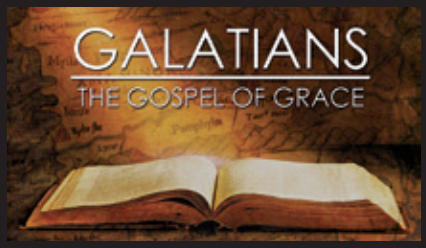
HAPPENINGS IN HGC

CHURCH EVENTS | Jan to June 2021

CHURCH EVENTS



Leaders Meeting 16 Jan



Bible Study on Galatians with Loke Wai Keng 17,24,31Jan 7,28 Feb 6 Mar



Combined Life Group Zoom Gathering with Jenny Ooi 19 Feb



HGC Prayer School – Fundamentals of Prayer 4,11,18,25 Apr



Good Friday Service 2 Apr



Resurrection Sunday Service with Jenny Ooi 4 Apr

NATIONAL EVENT



"It Is Time To Seek The Lord!" - 7 days Fast & Pray 18-24 Jan



Malaysia United Firewall

IN LOVING MEMORY



Lim Nee Kin 24 Dec 2020
Jimmy Khoo Kay Hooi 7 Feb 2021
Joanne Wong Siew Ching 6 May 2021
Yeow Ooi Yong 5 Jul 2021

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

The Hope of Glory Centre