



The Vine

JCC 40th Anniversary Edition

For Internal Circulation Only

Volume 6/2007

EDITOR'S WORD

What can I write about except God's faithfulness to JCC. When we first mooted the idea of celebrating the 40th Anniversary of JCC, there were many concerns for the committee. How do we fill up a 500 seat capacity dining room? How do we cover the costs of the magazine publication? Is there a need to celebrate at all?

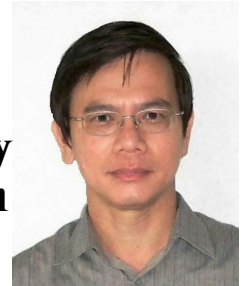
Well, for some people, at this same night, 30 June 2007, they have paid \$40 to celebrate the tearing down of the National Stadium. For us it is a celebration of 40 years of God's faithful building up of JCC. Remember that Heaven is a place of celebration, not a place of sadness and tears.

As you look around, you will probably not find an empty seat because somehow it is all filled up and there are people left outside because there are no more seats. And the 40th Anniversary magazine must now be called a Book because it is so thick, and fully paid for by contributions from well wishers. How did all this happen? I don't know, but thank God for His faithfulness.

Martin Cheah

JCC Centre of Opportunity and Growth

Edmund Ng



Attending church and becoming a Christian were not in my agenda when I got married in 1986. But a couple of years later, my wife, Rose, being a back-slided Christian, was prompted and nagged by the Holy Spirit to attend church once again. We then began to look for a church in Jurong. It was then that I remembered attending Jim's wedding (we were colleagues in the Air Force) and this led us to Jurong Christian Church in 1988. Hence, our spiritual journey began.

Coming to JCC.....

Liang Peh Ern

Looking back, it's amazing to see how God has led our family to him and brought us to the family at JCC. My father contracted kidney disease and began to question the meaning of life and his search led him to God. He then began attending the church on his own nearby our house. However one day when my mother noticed that he did not go to church on Sunday, she initiated to go together as a family. I still remember that I was in the car and my father



Peh Ern, her parents and some other youths when they were still children

JCC – Centre of Opportunity and Growth

continued from pg 1

I must say that JCC is a place not only for spiritual growth but also personal growth. On my initial days in church, I was impressed with the band and thought how nice it would be if I could play some music. But having no talent or skill in music, it was just a dream. As far as I can recall, JCC had a long history of having a shortage of musicians. I guess this was partly due to the financial situation of our parents. As a child, for whom paying school fees of \$1.50 was already a problem, learning music was a luxury reserved for those who could afford it. But dreams came true in JCC. When the youth worship service was formed, a void was created in the adult music ministry, as the core of musicians was formed by the youth. It was a problem, but problems also create opportunity.

A desperate recruitment attempt resulted in what we see today as “OJT Musicians”. With our already aged organs and limbs, learning to play music on-the-job was as difficult as teaching my mother how to use the computer. It takes time. The situation however, presented an opportunity for people like me to learn to play some music. Sometimes, there were criticisms on our standard, but we were comforted that God looks at the heart. As long as we do our best to serve Him, whether in music or otherwise, He will be smiling on us from above.

Coming to JCC.....

Liang Peh Ern continued from pg 1

told me that we were going to my alma mater, the kindergarten that I used to attend. We were introduced as a new family attending the church and after that it's history for us attending the church for nearly 23 years! JCC is a family to me, just like any family there are imperfections but it's through its imperfections that we learn to love and accept one another and grow together as a family. Indeed God has been faithful to us and has seen us through the storms and the joys of living together as a community of God's people.

There are many areas in various ministries that still lack workers and these create opportunities to learn and grow. As long as you are willing, God will make a way for you.

In my 19 years in JCC, it has been joyful to make many friends and even watch their children grow up. From babies learning to walk to today, when many are in tertiary education or doing National Service, we watch them grow week after week. My wife commented to a relative that we are closer to the children in the church than our relative's children as we see the children in the church much more often than our relative's children.

I must thank God for JCC and its group of very dedicated servants. Whatever storms they faced, they are still standing in JCC although it would be easier to pack up and leave. Truly, that's the kind of spirit that God demands.

My family and I have grown physically, morally and spiritually in the last 19 years. JCC has become like a big family to us and is the reason why we are still staying in the Jurong area. Moving away from the industrial air and loud aircraft noise was a consideration, but for the convenience of traveling to JCC, we decided to stay put.

So, Happy 40th Anniversary to JCC! May God continue to bless each one of us to carry JCC into the next decade of growth.



The memorable wedding that brought Edmund to JCC.

Finding JCC....

Martin Cheah

Joo See and I were married in the Catholic church of St. Bernadette at River Valley Road. After our marriage, we lived a while with my mom in Toa Payoh, then we moved to Jurong West when we were allocated a flat. Actually, we originally booked for the Hougang area but the wait was too long, so we switched to Jurong.

At first we attended the Catholic church in Boon Lay. But after a while Joo See decided she wanted to attend a Christian church as per our prenuptial agreement. So hunting around, we found JCC, and as they say, the rest is **His** story.



Our first contact in JCC was Mr Khoo Teng Choon. That was another historical milestone. He was later to be my mentor, cell group leader and friend. We came to JCC when Pastor Terry Kee was the pastor. From then till now we have seen the growth of JCC with God's blessings. Originally, the hall upstairs was divided into two parts by a heavy partition wall and we only used one-half as a sanctuary. Later, pressing needs for space led to the decision to remove the partition. Then, as needs continued to grow, we had to expand into space downstairs by converting an open fellowship area into an enclosed Multiple-Purpose Hall to be used for a separate Youth Worship Service.

I have been to the Luis Palau rally at the National Stadium. The crowd was in the thousands and the speaker was some hundred yards away from you. You don't know the person to the left or right of you, you don't know the preacher and he doesn't know you. Here in JCC, I know practically everybody from the front to the back of the sanctuary and the pastors and leaders are my friends. Do I envy those in the mega churches that have stadiums for their sanctuary? I don't think so, JCC is home to me.

May the Lord direct
your hearts into God's
love and Christ's
perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

Blessings from

Mak Chee Meng & family
USJ, Subang Jaya Selangor, Malaysia

**For you have been my hope, O
Sovereign LORD, my confidence
since my youth.**

Psalm 71:5



Young Adults Ministry. Formed in 2005 to equip young adults to live holistic, effective and God-honouring lives in their workplace, families and church

Greetings from Overseas Happy 40th Anniversary!

First and foremost, we want to congratulate JCC on her 40th Anniversary. We as a family were greatly blessed for being welcomed sincerely in the church.

When we just arrived in Singapore, a Christian church, a house and a kindergarten for our son Othniel were our main concerns. God, who has always been faithful, guided us to a good HDB flat at Jurong East Street 21 at just the right moment. We then looked for JCC which was on the map. Our enquiries were welcomed by Mervyn and Bro. Anthony. Leaving, we met Bro. Roy Ang who invited us to attend the Sunday service. And the rest followed.

We enjoyed a great fellowship with our Abundance cell group, which had quite a few active couples like we were. They were very supportive in sharing their wisdom, time and effort. We had much fun together. (Your loving kindness will always remain with us.) "Hurrah!" to the Abundance Cell Group.

I also would like to thank Pastor Sam for the patience, humility and courage he has shown. His sermon on the deity of Jesus Christ was somehow helpful to my father, who after working so long in the Middle East had been confused about the person of Jesus Christ.

We would like to thank everybody in the Church for all the smiles, handshakes, embraces and greetings that we received.

We pray that JCC will continue to be a messenger of God's love to every individual.

With Love and Thanks,
Jun, Elena, Othniel & Julia Luzon



Hi Praying Friends,

Greetings to you.

18 youths have signed up for the camp on 4th-7th June 07. Please pray for salvation and inner healing for the young people, and for fine weather and God's protection upon all of us. Pray for the sighted helpers who are helping for the first time, that they too will be much blessed as they serve. Praise and thanks be to the Lord for answering prayers. Four sighted young men have committed to come and help us at the camp.

Cyriana has stepped out of the ICU at Tan Tock Seng Hospital into her eternal home where there is no more pain and suffering.

Choon Lee had been readmitted into hospital, and has been there for about nine weeks to treat a wound which hasn't heal.

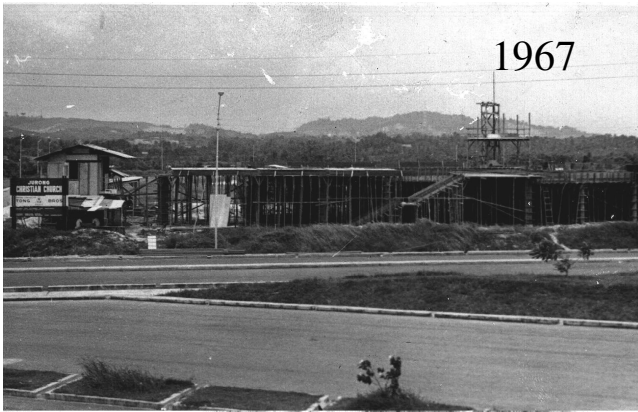
Charmaine's creatinine (toxic) level rose to 1070, and was readmitted into hospital. They have brought it down to about 850, but is still not good. Normal level should be around 140. Pray for her parents to make a right decision, as they are very reluctant to let her go for dialysis. The doctors in NUH would normally suggest that the parents donate one kidney to the child.

May the Lord bless and reward you.

Yours in our Father's service,

Cheong Cheng Choo
Gospel Mission to the Blind Ltd
8 Lorong 27A Geylang
#02-06 Guilin Building,
Singapore 388106
Tel: 96563225/67486371/67414490

JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH THE BUILDING 1967 - 2007



Jurong Christian Church building has not changed much since its inception in 1967. However, its surroundings have, from empty plots of land to flats being built and torn down and re-built.

God has planted us here and He has tilled the soil around us, giving us ample opportunity to reach out to numerous people. Very soon another new group of people will be moving into the buildings now being constructed in front of us.



Thank God for the opportunities.



JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

THE PASTORS (English Section) 1968 - 2007

1968



Daniel Nelsson
1968 - 1971



John Nelson
1972 - 1973



Ralph Kusserow
1974 - 1981



Edmund Lim
1982 - 1986



Terry Kee
1987 - 1988



William Chang
1989 - 1993



Frederic Lee
1994 - 1997



Martin Yee
1998 - 2004



Samuel Wang
2005 - 2007

Thank God for providing JCC with shepherds,
may He continue to do so.

2007

JCC Kindergarten's FOOD & FUN For FUNDS

John Lee



A big **“Thank You”** is deserved by all supporters of the JCCK Family Day last month. We managed to raise \$13 000 with expenses of only several hundred dollars, much better than we did last year. This would not

have been possible if not for the many church members (in addition to parents of our kindergarten children and staff of the kindergarten) who have stepped forward to be counted among all who have a beating heart for the JCCK as an important ministry that reaches out to a significant segment of the community – little tots whose parents choose JCCK despite numerous other options of early childhood education in the neighbourhood.

As I researched the history of the church for her 40th anniversary celebration this month, I have also been glad to come to know more about the kindergarten. I realize that JCCK has a long history going back to the early years of the church. Our octogenarian brother, P. S. George, who was a founding member of the church, gave testimony to this fact in the recent oral history recording made by Pastor Samuel Wang. Bro. George said:

“Actually the children centre was started by the YWCA, they had no place to build in Jurong, so they made use of our place. But when they had their own place, they left all the children’s furniture and all these things behind and they went off. So we thought that maybe it was better to start a children centre of our own. That’s how we started.”

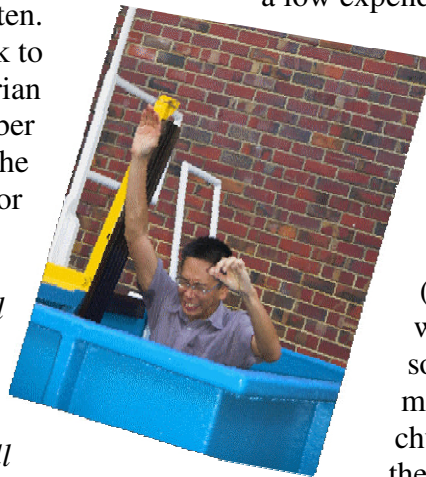
“I think, the children centre was already going on soon after the dedication of the church building, then they (YWCA) withdrew after one or two years. And at that time I was the Treasurer of the children centre and I was Treasurer for about 6 years.”

So our kindergarten has a history going back to the 1960’s. Right from the beginning, the church has been a life-force to the operation of the kindergarten. **It was, and is, and will be for members of the congregation to see the importance of supporting the work of the pre-school education ministry in providing an educational service with the infusion of Christian values.** Where we have been imperfect, or have fallen short, we should always in unity (between the church and the kindergarten) seek to better ourselves instead of being discouraged. The way church members have rallied to make the Family Day a great success is very encouraging. Brothers and sisters in Christ have dug into their own pockets very



generously to set up the funfair stalls to make the occasion enjoyable to young and old who came to spend their funfair coupons. Helpers took precious time off from their personal activities to man the stalls. Supporters also provided free loans of heavy games equipment; free donation of helium gas and balloons, prizes, food, goods for sale ... the list goes on. This explains why we were able to run the Family Day with such a sizeable collection but a low expenditure. On the day itself, we even sold close to \$1000 of coupons. Praise be to God!

heavy games equipment; free donation of helium gas and balloons, prizes, food, goods for sale ... the list goes on. This explains why we were able to run the Family Day with such a sizeable collection but a low expenditure. On the day itself, we



In a confused moment during the early period when the children’s centre (as JCCK was then known) was in its infancy, there was some quibble over funding matters. The fact that the church should be supporting the children’s centre and not

the other way round was firmly established by Rev. Choong Chee Pang when he was assisting in the church’s Chinese section, when we were without a Chinese pastor. This is the oral-history recollection of Bro. P. S. George. To say that the pre-school ministry would not be standing from the 1960’s until now if not for the vision of the church to take over from YWCA (instead of just letting it go quietly) and the consistent sustenance by God’s grace working



through the big-hearted congregational backing cannot be more accurate. **The single-minded espousal of the church to have the ministry, to develop it, to grow it and not let it fall is the buttress that secures our survival in good times and hard times.** Yes, we have had joys and sorrows, but when did we ever say ‘die’ or call it quit in service to the Lord? Mdm Chan Yoke Lin, a long-serving faithful teacher in JCKK shared something poignantly. Here is a translation from her sharing in Chinese:

“29 years is a long period of time, with all sorts of joy and sorrow, with God’s hand leading us through it all. At different times, the Lord raises different managements (the governing committees); blessing them with wisdom, intellect and vision to employ varying methods to take care of the kindergarten. Besides, we are also blessed with different principals at different points of time. They all bring with them different personalities, different backgrounds, different perspectives and management styles. However, I believe that it is by God’s will. Give thanks to the Lord!”

“We know that wherever the Lord’s name is lifted up, His grace is manifest. Now, the Lord has placed more and greater visions (with His grace) in our surroundings – new houses keep appearing in our Jurong area. God wants us to do more, do greater things and do better. Give thanks to the Lord!”

Indeed, God wants us to do more, not less, and we can do so only if members of the church continue to rally for the ministry to ride through thick and thin. In service to the Lord, do we never have gains to be thankful for, even if not all gains are readily visible? As an example, our present parish worker, Ms Saw Peh Ern, was a little girl who went through the doors of JCKK in the 1980’s. At that time, she didn’t know the Lord; nevertheless, the seed was sown well even if it did not sprout instantaneously for all to see. How many people in the church have the privilege of being there in the field of the Lord’s harvest, battling the trials and tribulations and yet remain strong and steady in God’s unassuming service? Isn’t it great for us to have the opportunity to hear from these



privileged humble servants’ own mouth to have a feel of what keep them going despite rough rides from time to time? Here is the reflection we should not miss, the reflection of none other than Grace Tuang, our JCC faithful member and dedicated teacher of JCKK for many years:



“Jesus said, “Let the little child come to me ...” (Matthew: 19:14)

“Jurong Christian Church has been a channel God uses to bring His Gospel to numerous children in Jurong. Seeds of God’s love are sown in their little hearts while they receive their Preschool Education at JCKK. The greatest joy is to see parents of these children come to worship and serve the Lord in JCC.

“I joined JCKK in year 1989. It’s my privilege to witness the growth and development of God’s work in the lives of the children in the last 18 years. Thank God for the opportunity to be part of the work here. He has granted me strength, wisdom and confidence to help and nurture children.

“My most memorable year was 2002. There was a child who had cerebral palsy, was bound to a wheelchair and could only mobilize his right hand. Despite his shortcomings, he was an encouraging child to us. He was a cheerful and enthusiastic boy and his presence brought much joy and harmony to the class. It was a real-life lesson of practising love and care, accepting one another in accord with Bible teaching. The class also displayed such a loving scene to the parents and guests at the Graduation cum Concert. It brought surprise and warmth to all our hearts. Praise God! Only in Him can I experience such joy in serving the children.”

It warms the heart to come across testimonies from time to time of grown-ups who remember how JCKK had been a memorable and beneficial part of their growing-up years. Rev. Warren Lau, in his book “A Heavenly Vision” (1993, LCMS, pg 113) said that “although the ecumenical aspect [of JCC] was terminated, it was nevertheless a bold step and gave a glimpse of what was possible for the church that is

concerned first for mission and not for denomination.” Concerning what was possible, he went on to say,

“In 1991, they [the church] undertook a major renovation to the sanctuary costing \$246 000, of which about \$85 000 came from a loan from DGM on a five-year, 4% interest arrangement, \$45 000 came from a two-year interest-free loan from their kindergarten, and \$30 000 was an outright grant from the kindergarten.”

As I chew on the words of Rev. Warren Lau, I realize that it can also be said that the bold step of the church in taking over the children’s centre from YWCA enjoined with a trusty, win-win, collaborative, hand-in-glove, synergistic bond between the church and the kindergarten has given us a glimpse of what is possible for us all as brothers and sisters in Christ if we are all concerned first for mission, putting faith in God in dealing with secondary issues as they arise.

I hear an idea from the principal of JCKK that next year we shall try something different from a funfair – and I believe that it can be something more exciting. Well, the idea is still raw, so members of the church who love JCKK (I assume all do) can come forward to offer their suggestions of different ideas to cook to produce an aroma. JCKK is, after all, a significant ministry of the church like other ministries – it belongs to us all, and each and every one of us has a part to play to overcome challenges in the current tough pre-school environment to make the kindergarten stand tall above our challengers!

PHOTOS TAKEN ON 26 MAY 2007



JCC - The first 20 years in Photos



Youth Fellowship 1973



Confirmation Service 1973

Front row (L-R) Michael & Moses Christian, Ai Kian, Erika Nelson, Pushpa, P.G. Thomas and P.G. Samuel

Back row (L-R) Rev John Nelson, Bishop Chew Ban It, Rev VE Thomas, Pastor Chin Tao Sum



Sports Day 1974



Communion Service 1974 - Pastor Kusserow



Retreat (Chinese section) 1978



Baptism Service 1986 - Pastor Terry Kee



Youth Barbeque 1985



Church Outing 1979

JCC - The last 20 years in Photos



1988
GB
Enrolment
Service

1989
BB holiday @
Cameron
Highlands



1990
Picnic @
Sembawang
Park

1991



Choir Presentation



Christmas Presentation

1992

1993

Church
Retreat



Bethel Series Graduation

1996



1999

Outing at Botanic Gardens



Kids' Camp

2003

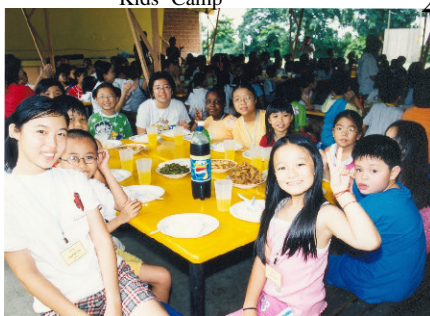
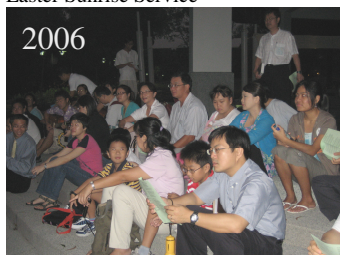
2005

Martin's Shield Bible Quiz



Easter Sunrise Service

2006



Kurt Kusserow

elected Bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of ELCA

CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Latrobe (Trauger), Pa., was elected June 15 to a six-year term as bishop of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Kusserow, 43, will succeed the Rev. Donald J. McCoid. McCoid, 63. Kusserow will assume the role of bishop on Sept. 1. He will be installed Oct. 20 at Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh.

Born in Shelby, Ohio, Kusserow is the son of parents who were missionaries in the former Lutheran Church in America. In 1966 the family moved to Malaysia, and they lived in Lenggong and Ipoh. In Singapore they lived in Jurong, where Kusserow's father served as one of two pastors of Jurong Christian Church. Kusserow graduated from Singapore American School in 1981.

After returning to the United States, Kusserow attended Thiel College, where he received a bachelor's degree in English in 1985. In 1989 he received a master of divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, one of eight ELCA seminaries.



Kusserow was ordained in 1989. He was pastor of the Westmoreland Unit of Town and Country Lutheran Ministry, serving Faith Lutheran Church, Apollo (Oklahoma Boro), Pa., and Hebron Lutheran Church, Avonmore, Pa. before he became pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in 1997.

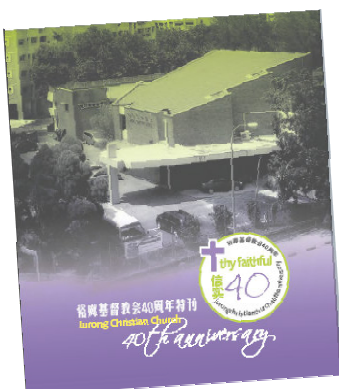
"If there is one thing that I have learned in the few years I have been a pastor it is that there is never, ever a congregation where the pastor can do everything. In fact, the reality is that the pastor does only a small part of what takes place there," he said.

He is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant, where "the people are the ones who do the ministry. I watch and marvel and rejoice at what they do," he said.



Back Row: Kurt, Benjamin, Brittany & Kathryn Kusserow, Terry & Joan Inge, Rupley & Sylvia Maday.
2nd Row: Barbie, Pam, Karen & **Ralph Kusserow**, Bryan Crider, Ted Hofer, Terry, Ralph & Barbara Ankenman, Carol & David Hommel.
Seated: Tim + Hannah, Hans, & Carol Kusserow, Jeanne Crider, Beverly Hofer, Jeanne Zigler, Lucy, Bruce, Mistie + Eli & David + Joslyn Ankenman
Floor: David, Beth & Abigail Kusserow, Tricia & Kevin Fout, Paul, Marie & James Ankenman
Not Present: Beverly & Stephen Ankenman, Virgil Maday

Missing from the 40th Anniversary Book



In the article, **JCC @ 40 - Reminiscing through the years**, Swee Leong mentioned about his beloved. He gave me a photo of his beloved but it was inadvertently left out by the editor and so here it is.



Roy passed me a photo of his family to be added to the Thanksgiving verse but this was not allowed for 1/2 page size, so here it is.



2nd Cambodia Mission Trip

Julie Kao

Prae Ong Sro Lai Ngiak*

+In Khmer, that's "God loves you" and He loves the Cambodians too. Cambodia has gone through over thirty years of war. Up to 2 million people died of starvation and overwork, bombings or were executed under the communist Khmer Rouge regime, Vietnamese invasion as well as the country's political infighting. This trip has opened my eyes to the reality of the atrocities done to humankind. The visit to Choeung Ek, one of the many killing fields, will remain etched in my mind: the myriad of bones and scraps of clothes of those killed. A Cambodian lady I met still harbours hatred for the Khmer Rouge as all these happened to her. I was in my teens safe and secured in Singapore, oblivious of all these happenings in Cambodia. The Cambodians are just beginning to recover and have the peaceful life taken for granted by us.

It is so beautiful to experience a group of us, about 20 over people, consisting of Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists & Presbyterian, bonding and working together as brothers and sisters in Christ for the sole purpose of sharing God's love and blessing the people in Kampong Thom and Kampong Chhnang.

The YAM (Young Adults Ministry) decided that as far as possible to go for mission trips this year. So Peh Ern, Wong Mui, Beng Lay, Wilfred and I started the ball rolling with the rest of the CG members intending to go in June. It was some time after I signed up that it dawned on me about the reality of the trip. With trepidation, I checked with Beng Lay if we were going to stay in huts and what the living conditions will be. Peh Ping (she was actually the first YAM representative who went in December last year) was consulted and we were reassured that we will stay in air-conditioned comfort in hotels. Hey we were supposed to go on a mission trip not holidays, I was reminded! I read somewhere that it is better to have sacrificed oneself than to have merely served. Service comes from slaves, sacrifice from sons. We are after all sons and daughters of our Father. Not that our time there was such a big sacrifice compared to the persecution presently faced by our fellow members in the family of faith elsewhere in the world.



It was tougher for me personally as I have difficulties sleeping in new environments. There were many sleepless nights (maybe 3 to 4 hours max of sleep), so you can imagine my relief when we could stay for more than one night at the same place. The weather was not the most conducive (about 38°C) but do note that the month we were there, April, is the hottest month in a year. However, all these are not important when you realise and experience that sense of fulfillment that you have done something that is pleasing to our Father in heaven.



I would like to challenge my family in Christ in JCC to not only have a pilgrim mindset but a mission mindset as well. We are called not only to walk in the Lord but also to "GO" and share the gospel,

be it to the people around us or further away. The experience is all the more gratifying when you know that you are doing your part as God's child. As mission trippers, we may not be able to do much but what we can do is bring some happiness and share our blessings to the people there. Whilst we were in Cambodia to bless, we in turn were ministered and our souls refreshed.

Prae Ong Pro Teen Po – God bless you !



Fulfilling The Great Commission

Thailand



Malaysia



Cambodia

Mongolia



Indonesia



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE - A PROBLEM BASED LIFE

Several years ago, a preacher from out-of-state accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas. Some weeks after he arrived, he had an opportunity to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much in change. As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount anyway, and the bus company gets too much fare already; they will never miss it. Accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet." When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change." The driver, with a smile, replied, "Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday."

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, "Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter." Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test! Always be on guard -- and - remember -- You carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself "Christian." How many people have you turned away from Christ because of your character?

The above story is a stark reminder of a real truth about how people are constantly benchmarking Christians against a certain measurement of their own perception of what a Christian standard is. I remember many situations when my colleagues asked me to join them in playing 4D or TOTO. However, should I have accepted their invitation, they would probably turn around and say, "Aren't you a Christian, can you play 4D?"

This can be verified when I took an illegal U-turn while driving with my colleagues and one of them said, "Hey, you are Christian, yet you break the law." However, it was he who suggested I take the turn. Isn't that how the Devil works? He tempts us then he accuses us.

We preach to our family, friends and colleagues about our faith in Christ. You can be sure of one thing, they will want to test your faith. For instance, Christians are supposed to

trust Christ for our daily bread. What your friends will expect of you is that you give them all your money, if you truly believe that Christ will provide all your needs. Have you experienced that?

Did you know that all your pre-Christian relatives are watching to see what you will do at a Chinese funeral service? They are ever ready to batter you with the 5th Commandment to honour your father and mother.

Perhaps your boss may ask you to tell a white lie that he is not in office so as to avoid meeting up with certain creditors. Have you wondered whether he is actually assessing your trustworthiness as an employee? What if he asked you about your colleagues? If you answer truly you would be seen as a "sabor" king, a telltale. However, your boss may be expecting that you as a Christian would be telling only the truth. What would you do?

As an accountant, have you to "beautify" the accounts? Do you know that your boss may appreciate it but the Inland Revenue will put you in jail?

Everyday and in every way, you may be tested. Pray for wisdom and pray that you will not be tested. It boils down to this, we have to walk the talk.



The Vine Committee

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OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Christmas Presentations



Senior Citizens Ministry



Visit to New Water Plant



Christianity Explored Program

Camps for the Kids



Picnic at East Coast Park

