

The Vine Committee

Editors:

Martin Cheah

mart5003@yahoo.com

John Lee

jpbislee@gmail.com

Printer:

Nick Wong

digi_ics@yahoo.com

Writers this issue:

John Lee

Peggy Lee

Martin Cheah

Photos:

Peggy Lee

Martin Cheah

Samantha Chin



According to Singapore's statistics, total population stands at 5.1 million in 2012 and is expected to grow to 6.9 million in 2030. All the government ministries are planning for this growth. The HDB planners are planning for more flats, the transport ministry will be extending more MRT lines and even the MOH is planning for more hospitals.

Therefore, in tandem, we too are planning for more people to come to our church. However, besides having a bigger building to house the people, we must also have more ministries to handle the growth. For instance, now we only have 2 chargehands to count the weekly offerings, in future we may need to double the number as the offerings grow. Are there many members training now to be chargehands? What about ushers and all the other background ministries?

Growth in numbers will probably translate into need for more Adult CG shepherds and Youth CG shepherds, Sunday School teachers, etc. Are the people being trained for these roles? Do we wait till it happens or plan in advance like the government?

What would happen if we planned for this projected growth and none of it materialize? Would having too many HOMs and shepherds cause friction in the body as a power struggle ensue due to having too many leaders and too few members to lead? In the body of Christ, there should be no such conflicts. It will just mean that we have more members to rotate in the various leadership roles, especially the council.

Indeed even before the Chinese New Year celebrations ended, God provided the growth when about eleven people came forward to receive

Jesus as Savior at the Dialect Service on 24 Feb. I can share the joy of Thomas, Yen Luan, Seline, Beng Lay and many more as they witnessed their relatives come forward to be prayed for after accepting Christ.

When we were shorthanded, Esther and Cassidy being absent for a time and there was a shortage of hands to help out in ministering to the almost 150 persons who came. Our catering was planned for only 100 people but we managed to feed everyone and still have plenty of leftovers. This reflects God's promise in 2Corinthians 12:10, "*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*". It was beyond our expectations and our great joy to witness God's saving grace at work through the ministry of Rev James Lim and



his team.

We cannot credit man's wisdom



but all glory be to God. As Joo See noted, this is the first time the guest speaker prayed with the team before the service. If you have never seen God's power at work, then witness this. It is not the changing of water into wine, nor the healing of the sick, nor the raising of the dead but the saving of many souls.



It may not be just this event but the many seeds planted along the way over the years that culminated in this day of harvest. Many of the elderly we had visited during the

CNY only a few weeks earlier and many of them had been coming every Sunday for a number of years. Rev James Lim may be credited with the message but the Dialect Team must be remembered as the dedicated force working behind the scene, toiling for years. They must not rest on their laurels but press forward for there are many more souls to rescue.



I joined the Dialect Team on their 2nd CNY home visit as I was not in Singapore during their first



round. We started at around 11 am and visited 7 homes singing dialect CNY songs until many lost their voices by the time we reached the last home.



At each home we prayed over the people we visited. This may be the prequel to what transpired on Sunday 24th Feb when we witnessed the great harvest.

Prayer is the power which we seldom use. We prefer the more showy waving of hands or speaking a word of healing. Maybe this way we share some of the credit. However when we pray and God works, to God be the glory and we cannot claim any credit.



Finally getting back to the additional 1.8 million additional neighbours who are coming our way, if we just get 1%, we are talking about 18,000 new church members. Will the new building be big enough? Will there be 1,500 shepherds to watch over 12 sheep each? Sounds impossible but if it does happen, it is God who makes a way where there seems to be no way. Start today to pray for that miracle to happen.



Martin Cheah

CNY SHOPPING SPREE

There is nothing like shopping to keep Singaporeans happy – senior folks are no exception. So on **1 Feb 2013**, the grey-haired or greying-hair uncles and aunties of the Dialect Ministry showed their eagerness by being early birds (all of them) to assemble in JCC before the expected time of 8.45 a.m. to go SHOPPING for Chinese New Year goodies.

They were all very well-prepared; or rather, with their pockets, purses, wallets and handbags well-stocked with Vitamin M. The proof: Right at the first stop at Defu Lane frozen foodstuff centre, these uncles and aunties surprised with their energetic mobility to grab lots of items for their reunion steamboat dinner. What a sumptuous dinner they were preparing for!



There was more shopping to go for other CNY necessities. More shopping meant that these senior citizens had to recharge themselves with more energy to last a few more hours. No hurry though; a leisurely recharge would do. Hence, we proceeded to Bishan Park for lunch under a shady tree with wooden seats and table, and a convenient washroom facility nearby. As we had our bites, a few



drops of rain were a blessing to tame the heat of an otherwise sunny day.



The shopping spree continued after lunch with a trip to Woodlands/Senoko.

If you were not with such shopping enthusiasts, typically Singaporeans kiasu at losing out on things to buy because they thought all “lelong lelong” new year goodies would probably be sold out soon, you might still imagine

the aroma of barbecued pork (bak kwa) from Bee Cheng Hiang and Fragrance Foodstuff wafting inside the bus on the journey back.

Altogether 22 persons went on the shopping trip, but the big bags of goodies purchased were easily double this number. Just imagining the tastiness of the different types of sauces and tim-sum foods would make you dream of getting a CNY meal-fellowship invitation from such cheerful uncles and aunties.



Never underestimate these senior folks for their energy level that could last them all the way from early morning to 4.30 p.m. in the evening, with enough reserve to enable them to tow home the goody bags of their purchases upon their disembarkation at the church after a contented SHOPPING trip!

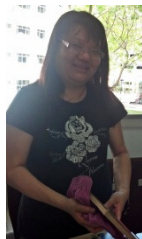
Peggy

The Library

Two years ago when we rebooted the Library, the librarians gathered to clean the books and the shelves. Last month, we again gathered to clean the books and shelves and next month, a new initiative will be introduced to try to get the members to borrow more books to read.

Much effort have been put in to provide good “clean” books for the members as the photos taken by Samantha shows. Please borrow the books so that it will not gather dust lying on the shelves.

“Reading requires actual concentration. If you skipped a paragraph, or even an important sentence, you could lose the entire story. With most TV shows, though, you didn’t have to concentrate at all. You could space out for a good ten minutes, then come back and still figure out what was going on.” — Daniel Ehrenhaft



OUR Latest Bangkok Trip

For many years since my father-in-law passed on, we had brought my mother-in-law to Bangkok during the CNY to avoid pressure on her to cook the Reunion meal. We will normally have the Reunion meal in a posh Bangkok Restaurant and this year it was at Shangri-la Bangkok.



In Bangkok, we let our guard down and eat very heartily. This could be detrimental to our health. Hopefully the statins and aspirins I am taking did their jobs to keep me healthy.



We realize this year that mother-in-law tire more easily and so our shopping spree had to be curbed. We brought back a lot of Thai Baht unspent.



On the day of return, on the way to the airport, our bus broke down. With the heavy Bangkok traffic, it was very stressful as we waited for a replacement bus. The bus did come and we did make it to the airport on time. However, there was no time to have dinner before boarding the plane. On board the plane, dinner was served around 9.00 pm Singapore time.



Immediately on touchdown at Changi Airport, my mother-in-law went to the toilet. At home, she had diarrhoea the whole night and the next morning we rushed her to the hospital. She suffered some heart irregularity brought on by stress from the diarrhoea.

I was worried that she was another statistic of JCC but thank God she recovered within two days. There are many things to thank God for. We managed to get to the airport on time, my mother-in-law managed to survive the flight and only got sick when we reached home.



Count your blessings.

Martin Cheah

The Season of Lent (beginning on Ash Wednesday)

In the last issue of The Vine, I shared on the topic “The Epiphany of the Lord”. Now, we enter the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on Feb 13. Ash Wednesday (1st day in Lent) comes immediately after the Transfiguration of the Lord. After the Transfiguration, Jesus told Peter, James and John ““Make certain that you tell no man, not even your brethren, what you have seen and heard on this mountain until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.”

Certainly, the three disciples were taken aback by the idea of their Master dying when it was only a moment ago that they beheld Him in His radiant glory. In answer to an indirect question by Peter, Jesus said, “Elijah indeed comes first to prepare the way for the Son of Man, who must suffer many things and finally be rejected. But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they received him not but did to him whatsoever they willed.”

Note that only a week before, Jesus had told His disciples that “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Luke 9:22)

The Transfiguration was not the be-all and end-all of the Lord’s Epiphany. It was a trailer to the Messiah’s post-resurrection glory when he would reappear to His disciples and strike reverential fear in them. At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared and conversed with Jesus. Upon Peter’s ridiculous suggestion to put up three shelters for Jesus, Moses and Elijah, a voice from heaven rang out with this command to the disciples,

“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!” – Matt. 17:3-5

Compare this with the voice from heaven at Jesus’ baptism:

A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” – Mark 1:11

We have fully journeyed through the season of the Epiphany of the Lord and should therefore be left in no doubt about the deity of Christ, who has sovereignty over all. While Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus, the voice from heaven was unequivocal in directing the disciples to listen to Jesus instead of “listen to the prophets”. Jesus displayed no condescension of the Prophets, hence of the Law. Without abolishing the Law or the Prophets, Jesus has come to fulfill them (Matt.

5:17); and having fulfilled them, we are now privileged as God's children to be living under grace and Gospel. Our obedience to Christ as we live out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission would necessarily fulfill God's will without the coercion of harsh punishments under the Law and Prophets.¹

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the "Law and Prophets" was not fully out of the way yet; but descending the mountain, Jesus was ready to be farther on his way to fulfill it, as he had just warned His disciples about having to "suffer many things and finally be rejected" and mentioned the triumphant climax that "the Son of Man has risen from the dead." Thus, the Transfiguration of the Lord (observed by the Church on the 5th Sunday after The Epiphany) leads on to the Lent season – a period of 40 days leading up to Easter – with its penitential character as we meditate on the suffering of Christ necessitated by our sinfulness.

Lent is not a season for celebration (festivity). It is not the season to be joyful and singing Alleluia. It is a season of sadness as the Passion of Christ comes to the fore in our meditation and as we reflect on our lives in sin. Why did Jesus have to suffer for us? Think of the Father's words "This is my Son, whom I have chosen ..." and "This is my Son, whom I love ..." at the Lord's baptism and transfiguration respectively. Why did the Father have to sacrifice His beloved Son for our sake? There is no sacrifice like a loving Father's sacrifice!

Not all churches observe Lent. The reason for observing Lent in the Lutheran Church is best encapsulated by Martin Luther, "Lent, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week² shall be retained, not to force anyone to fast but to preserve the Passion history and the Gospels appointed for that season."

There is no compulsion for anyone to observe Lent just like there is no compulsion for anyone to celebrate Christmas. If you celebrate Christmas with the wrong reason ("worshipping" Santa instead of Christ), then it is better for you to cease and thereby not continue in your mistake. If we observe Lent for the right reason (even if our friends do not observe it), why not continue with it – and

¹ *Food for Thought: You love your brother, so you don't murder him. You satisfy God's will because of love, not because of the threat of a death sentence under Law. On the MRT, you give up your seat because of your love for your neighbor who needs it more. Is this better than giving up your seat because of the coercion of punishment under Law? Is grace you receive that motivates you to offer grace better, or would you think that life is more pleasing if everybody is placed on his best behavior by a sword (Law) above his head?*

² Last week of Lent; week before Easter; begins on Palm Sunday.

treasure it as an opportune season for us to meditate for spiritual renewal the Passion history and the Gospels as we recall the tears of anguish of Jesus' followers flooding the Via Dolorosa starkly contrasting the sadistic pleasures of the Roman soldiers who rejected Christ?

I wish you a spiritually rewarding journey with Christ through the 40 days of the Lent season.

John Lee

28th Feb 2013

The Pope Resigns



The Prophecy of the Popes is a series of 112 short, cryptic phrases in Latin which purport to predict the Roman Catholic popes beginning with Pope Celestine II. The prophecies were first published by Benedictine Arnold de Wyon in 1595. Wyon attributes the prophecies to Saint Malachy, the 12th century Archbishop of Armagh.

The current pope, Benedict XVI, would correspond to the pope described in the penultimate prophecy. The list ends with a pope identified as "Peter the Roman", whose pontificate will allegedly bring the destruction of the city of Rome and the beginning of the Apocalypse.

The above short extract from Wikipedia identifies Pope Benedict XVI as the 2nd last pope before the end of the world. As Pope Benedict XVI steps down on 28th February 2013, will his replacement be Pope Peter?

This is the prophesy for Pope Peter:

In the extreme persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will sit Peter the Roman, who will pasture his sheep in many tribulations, and when these things are finished, the city of seven hills [i.e. Rome] will be destroyed, and the terrible judge will judge his people. The End.

Will we again be stressed by the impending end of the world fear? Can we just rest on Jesus who said, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Let us continue to walk in faith.

Martin Cheah

LOST IN TRANSLATION. DIDN'T THE BIBLE SAY THIS? DID THE BIBLE NOT SAY THAT? WHAT IS THE BEST BIBLE TRANSLATION?

Jackie Chan travelled around the world in 80 days.³ That was no great feat, really. In my childhood days, I could have followed my parents around three worlds in



three days; i.e., a world per day – New World, Great World and Gay World.

The three worlds were actually the names of three amusement parks set up in Singapore in the 1930s; they were the favorite places for children to have fun. Gay World (the last of the three),

as the name implies, was such a joyful and carefree place where many gay (joyful and carefree) people gathered. There was nothing wrong to be gay. If you told people you were gay, they wouldn't give you a disdainful look.

Presently, these “worlds” have disappeared⁴, and replaced by cities. No, I am not referring to cities like Kuala Lumpur, Paris, London, Tokyo and such. I am referring to cities (so many of them) that we can complete touring in a day or two if only we have our car – Great World City, Raffles City, Ngee Ann City, Suntec City and Vivo City.⁵ How does a shopping centre become a city, so that we end up with cities within a small city (Singapore)?



It is interesting how words change drastically in meanings with time. Today, if you shout out to someone, “Hi, my gay pal!” you may be treated to a Punch – either the unwelcome type that is delivered straight into your face or the happy-hour refreshing fruit drink in a pub if your friend enjoys your company and the

³ This is referring to his acting in the 2004 Comedy Adventure of the title “Around the world in 80 days.”

⁴ However, if you miss exploring different “worlds in a city”, there is still Beauty World in Singapore, in Bt Timah area not far away from JCC.

⁵ Maybe Jackie Chan would like to think about a movie sequel to be titled “Around the cities in 80 days.”

pinch of humour in your greeting. Oh, you would certainly be quite fine after the pinch and fruit punch.

Actually, the term “Gay World” was a mis-translation of the Chinese name 繁华世界; it is not that the Chinese name was a mis-translation of the English or that it was intended to be different. Originally, the park when it was built was called 快乐世界 (Happy World). Later, with a new owner, the name was changed from 快乐 (Happy) to 繁华 (Bustling and Flourishing). Clearly, it was the intention of the new owner not to retain the “快乐 Happy” in the name, and to present the park in a new light, the fresh idea being to portray a bustling and flourishing playground. Since happiness was not the new focus, why should the park be called “Gay World”? The proper English name should be “Bustling World” or “Thriving World” or such other choices of words that carried the correct meaning of 繁华. It was the custom of that period in Singapore history (1930s) for the Chinese towkays (bosses) to think in the Chinese Language and then do a rendition in English.

Fast-forward to the future: It is the year 2222 and a Chinese historian is poring over a pile of manuscripts in a foreign language. He is investigating an interesting place called Singapore near the equator. In the manuscripts, he spies the following lines:

“Singapore was a booming city. Long ago, there were three ‘worlds’ in Singapore – ‘New World’, ‘Gay World’ and ‘Great World’; these ‘worlds’ were the main recreational places for Singaporeans in the 1930s – 1970s. The Gay World was the last to be demolished. However, at the location, a small inn by the name ‘Gay World Inn’⁶ still remains.”

The historian is very good with the languages, but he does not have a sound grasp of the culture and custom prevailing at the time of the manuscripts. He translates the lines smoothly, so he thinks:

以前新加坡是个繁华的都市。它有三大世界 ---
‘新世界’、‘同性恋世界’和‘大世界’；
它们是新加坡人 1930 -
1970年代娱乐消遣的主要去处。同性恋世界是
最后拆除的。但是，它的地点还留着一家与它
同名的客栈--- 同性恋世界客栈。

⁶ Fictitious inn



If you understand English and Chinese, you will surely be put in stitches by the translation, with every phrase flawless, based on the meanings of words in the year 2222. The translation is easy, without intricate idioms or proverbs to crack; yet, the content in the original manuscripts has been seriously distorted, creating a wicked impression of the decent businesses of the Gay World Amusement Park and the Gay World Inn.

I can only use English and Chinese better to give an idea of the treachery of translations if all relevant aspects (culture and custom of the time, vernacular tradition, spins created by puns, etc.) are not respected. I do not understand Hebrew, Aramaic or Greek. Nevertheless, I came across an interesting example⁷ of confusion due to translation regarding a verse in the Bible:

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 19:24)

What has a large animal like a camel got to do with the eye of a needle? Even if it is a colloquial expression, it is very queer. To force an interpretation, it is never never possible for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, no matter how determined you try; so it means that it is never never possible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God if the camel can’t. Does this mean that all rich people are condemned to hell? Didn’t God bless King Solomon with great wealth? (Chron. 9:22). Just like the mis-translation of 繁华 to “Gay” followed by another mis-translation of the word “Gay” back into Chinese (as 同性恋), there was a mis-translation of an Aramaic word that had two meanings: camel and rope. More suitably, the verse in Matthew should read as:

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a rope to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 19:24)

Now, it is not so queer, with a semblance of reasonable hyperbole (like in our familiar English similes) to compare a rope to a thread that goes through the eye of a needle. Looking deeper into the patois of the Aramaic people, the reasonableness becomes greater; for in those days, they would say with exaggeration, “This is a rope!” to refer to a thick string. Finally, we find that what

⁷ I browsed a book in a bookshop; here I recollect from memory. Regrets that I cannot recall the book’s name and author.

Matthew said is realistic after refining the translation fully taking into consideration the time-relevant linguistic attributes (formal and informal):

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a thick string to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 19:24)

Yes, it may be difficult for a thick string to go through the eye of a needle, but it is not “never never possible.” So it is not 100% impossible for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. **So anybody who tells off people who are rich on the basis that the Bible says they are destined to be denied entry to heaven is patently wrong.**

Frequently, a word or phrase may be the same in different languages but they have completely different meanings. For example, the phrase 小人 in Japanese Kanji means a child, but the same exact phrase in Chinese means a despicable person. Suppose you are in Vietnam and you pass by a fruit stall. You point out a rambutan to your child and say, “chôm”. Woe betides you if you are misunderstood for instructing your child to pinch it, as that is what the word means in Vietnamese. The proper phrase you should use for a rambutan should be “chôm chôm”. (In Vietnamese, by this example, a word repetition changes the meaning unlike in Malay when it simply changes a noun from singular to plural.)

Some old folks like to play mahjong to keep themselves occupied and to keep their aging fingers active. I enjoy playing number games (e.g. Sudoku) and have fun with words, finding amusement in the funny ways people subject words and phrases to twists and turns and in the humorous distortions in translations. Sometimes the distortions bear serious implications and have to be corrected. My hobby with numbers and words help to keep my aging mind active and functioning. ☺

In the history of languages, words always undergo twisting in use. Gradually, new meanings become standard and the old meanings fade out. For example, “gay” is now infrequently used to mean “joyful”. To those who are active in using the language, they have no problem; but to those who come into contact with the language only occasionally, or even rarely, they may completely misunderstand/misinterpret what they read/hear with the aid of outdated definitions in dictionaries. Sometimes, such errors of comprehension just produce some mirth; at other times, it can be serious. The serious nature of it is borne out in the way in which Bible readers ascribe inappropriate interpretations to Scripture and come out with faulty criticisms, or get to adopt misplaced teachings. Didn't the Bible say this? Did the Bible not say that? We are all too

familiar with such questions thrown at us by non-believers. Even Jesus was tested by such questions in the wilderness. (Matt. 4:1-11)

It is important to note that we understand the Word of God not simply by what is written or translated in human languages, but also by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit working through our meditative contemplations, our life experiences and the contributions of God's servants (pastors, Bible scholars, teachers, etc.). Therefore, it is quite understandable why we do hear Christians who say that when they read the same passages of the Bible on different occasions, they get fresh inspirations each time from the very same physical words in the verses which reveal the spiritual Word within. If we read the Bible like we read any other book, spiritually detached from God, it won't be like this. If we read with the Holy Spirit providing guidance, the limitations of human language and inadequacies of human effort in translations will not put us off.

The human shortcoming in translations results from his sin, whereby God confounded the language of the children of men and scattered them abroad in the Tower of Babel incident. (Gen. 11: 5-8) However, God's help is always there for His faithful people and we who are faithful do not have to tangle ourselves with gratuitous arguments about which Bible Translation is best. Even the best translation is imperfect, whether you think of the KJV (English), Septuagint (Greek), Hebrew Bible, Luther Bible (German), Latin Vulgate or whatever else with a stronger smell of antiquity. Some people think that the older a translation, the better it is, being closer in time to the Church Fathers. They are mistaken. Even the newest translation serves its great purpose to breathe God's Word to those who are faithfully seeking the Truth with God's help and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If we give a new Christian the oldest translation of the Bible that is voted as the best by most scholars, will it give him the best learning of God's Word? If not, in the case of this person holding the finest Bible in the world, the "best Bible" becomes the worst in usefulness.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the best Bible Translation is the one that can help you comprehend God's Word (the spiritual Word captured within a physical book) most easily with the help of the Holy Spirit. You read the Bible meditatively, not like any other book. God bless all who are faithful!

John Lee

Test yourself The following is an "accurate" translation of a very common Chinese idiom:
"A dynasty was bitten by a snake. For 10 years, it became afraid of a well's rope."

Word for word and phrase for phrase, there is no linguistic error. However, one Chinese character has a double meaning.

What is this Chinese idiom and how should it be properly translated into English?

□□□□□, □□□□□ ○ (10 Chinese characters)

____ _ (4 English words)

Have fun!

DEBRA IS BACK IN BRISBANE



Two times a year the three of us will go to the airport but only two of us will go home as Debra takes her leave to return to her studies in Brisbane.

I look forward to the other two times a year when the two of us go to the airport and the three of us come home during her study breaks.



This year as Debra goes to Brisbane, it is her 3rd year and there is one more year to complete. Back home we hear news of flooding in Queensland and Debra requested for prayers. God is gracious and the expected floods did not

affect her area.

Then we heard that she had difficulty finding a placement and we prayed for that too. As Joo See prayed, a verse from Isaiah 50:2, “*Was my arm too short to ransom you?*” came to her mind. Later the next day, she received a call from Debra saying that she had found a placement in a pharmacy in the city area. Apparently she had gone round to the various pharmacies dropping her resume but at this pharmacy, she had run out of the resume and only wrote her name and contact on a piece of paper. She received a call from them while on her way home.

We can classify this as a gracious miracle of God who revealed to Joo See that He will do the work. “*‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty*” (Zechariah 4:6).

Often times we try to protect her with our own strength like when I wait for her late into the night to call me to fetch her from the MRT. However now that she is in Australia this has become impossible. We have to totally trust her welfare to our Father in Heaven. The only thing we can do for her from this end is to pray.



“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

Martin Cheah

BE FAITHFUL, EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE. Rev 2:10

I met up with Harry Jee 3 times to have a serious chat with him on his financial needs.

During those meetings, I got to know him better and discovered that he was a multi-talented guy. We all know that he was a musical talent able to play

a number of musical instruments but did you know he could also draw, invent useful household items, eg. multiple toilet paper holder and write. Yes, write!



When The Vine came out with an article on The Avengers, Harry Jee wrote to me in an email stating his disagreement with my review. His writing was good and during my last meeting with him, I urged him to write his story so that we can share the experiences of his life. I don't know if he got down to writing but now it is too late to press him for it.

Indeed he wanted to try many things in life but his health prevented him from taking the risk. He needed the money for his weekly dialysis.

God gave him many talents and he used his musical talent for JCC. Now the Master will say to him, *“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!”*

JCC had already missed him for some time because he was too weak to attend service and now we will miss him until we meet him once again in the sweet by and by.

“For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

Martin Cheah

Sunday Worship Services:	9:00 am Youth Service (MPH)
	10:45 am Adult Service (Sanctuary)
	10:45 am Sunday School
	3:30 pm Hokkien Service (MPH)