



For internal circulation only

Volume 01/2014

The Vine Committee

Editor:

John Lee

jpbislee@gmail.com

Printer:

Nick Wong

digi_ics@yahoo.com

Writers this issue:

John Lee

Lissa Low

Yap Xiuzhen

Gabriel Lim

Alyna Khoo

Amos Lee

Bernice Lee

Diana Khoo

Erina Yam

Photos:

Martin Cheah

Rev Anthony Loh



The Vine will celebrate its Silver Anniversary in Nov 2014. Has it been so long already? Barring the few times when I had writer's block, I must have written over 300 reflections and articles. Counting the digital photos of JCC events in my harddisk, I have over 5,000 pictures. This excludes the years when I took photos in film. But what does all this account for, "*If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.*" (1Corinthians 13:3)

One day, my daughter and I were standing at the perimeter of the wet market waiting for my wife to finish her marketing when she asked me a question about Predestination. Not really an ideal place to ponder on such a difficult theological topic. I realize that whenever the topic of Predestination arises, the question of God's fairness also arises. Is it fair that some people are predestined to go to Hell? Was it fair that Judas to be "chosen" to betray Jesus? How would you answer such a question in your shorts and slippers standing in a market?

The short answer to her was that Judas and Peter both betrayed Jesus but the difference was that Judas did not believe that Jesus could forgive him even for this betrayal, but Peter believed. Someone help me out here, I might be wrong.

The real question is if some people are predestined for Hell, then what can be done for them? This question has stopped many people from going out to fulfill the Great Commission because they figure if a person is predestined, then don't waste the time evangelising.

I want to start out this new year when JCC is focusing on the Great Commission to tell you that "*Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** This is how God showed his love among us: He*

sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.” (1John 4:8-10)

*“Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for **true and just** are his judgments.” (Revelations 19:2)*

I want us to know that God is Love and Truth and Just. Don't let the enemy sow seeds of doubt about God's fairness.

I attended an ex-colleague's son's wedding recently, during the Christmas week. The table of 10 comprised my ex-colleagues, some with their husbands. When I was working with them, all these ladies were non-Christians. In my younger days, I had more energy to banter with them about Christianity and spent years arguing with them and inviting them to Christian rallies. While I was with them, not one became Christian. However, now about 20 years later, all but 2 are Christians. Of the 2 non-Christians, one attends church with her son and the other is considering Christianity if her in-laws do not object. If I had harboured in my heart that these ladies were predestined to Hell, then I have been proved wrong.



The photo shows two of them who have become Christians and even the husband has been converted. Is God fair to save only these and not all the other colleagues, friends and relatives who are still non-Christian? Only time will tell but for my part, I must follow Paul's admonition: *“But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” (2Timothy 4:5)*

How to explain the unfairness which people perceive about predestination? Just know that *“your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.” (Matthew 18:14)* **“God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)** This is more than what man considers fairness.

Receive your destiny by His Grace.

Martin Cheah

A NEW YEAR — A FRESH BEGINNING



We have just stepped into Year 2014, thankful that 14 years have gone by that the much-feared Millennium (Y2K) bug failed to strike. The hysteria surrounding the imagined bug even spawned a movie about how a family sought to insulate themselves in some remote forests, only to get themselves into real trouble. To the superstitious Chinese, the number 14 sounds like “sure die” in Mandarin or Cantonese, and some claim that it is analogous to the “unlucky” number 13 that Westerners dread.

There were predictions by self-appointed prophets that the world would end in 2013. The world did not end at the turn of the Millennium and it did not end in 2013. Now, you can be sure that there will be more “prophets” appearing out of nowhere to prophesy that 2014 is going to be the year of the Apocalypse, citing what they see that half or three-quarters of the signs of the end (as told in the Gospels) have already appeared. Importantly, the Bible clearly says that no one knows the time of the Lord’s second coming, not even the Son of God himself (Matt. 24:36); so how is it that there are so many earthly mortals who seem to have such prophetic powers to forecast the dates of the Apocalypse? In fact, such predictions from time immemorial to as recently as 2013 A.D. have been amply shown to be hogwash. As we expect more of such to come in this New Year 2014 and beyond, make sure we do not get troubled, even when there are wars and rumours of wars. (Matt. 24:6)



False Prophets

Matthew 7:15
“Beware of false prophets, who
come to you in sheep’s clothing,
but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.
You will know them by their fruits.”

Rev. Keith Lai, senior pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, preached on the message of “The Return of the King” based on Matt. 24:36-44 in JCC on 1st December 2013. He showed us a snippet of the 2006 documentary film on Global Warming – “*The Inconvenient Truth*” – which had startling scenes of the disasters that climactic change wreaks on Earth. He said:

“Everyone is waking up to the fact that things are getting from bad to worse, but the problem is that people who are watching global warming, troubled by how the world is going to disappear, are too fixated on one thing – when this will happen in accord with what the Bible says about the end times when everything will be wiped out. But the Bible doesn’t encourage us to be so fixated on when all this will happen – what is important is not about getting the right timing but getting our hearts right. This is the whole thrust of the message in Matthew!”



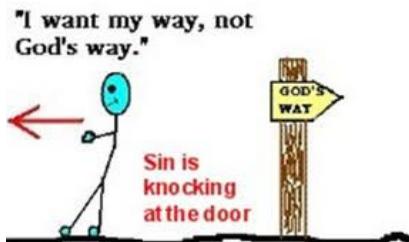
Getting our hearts right is not about making predictions or being troubled by the predictions others enjoy making and amending. The whole thrust of Matthew is in concert with what Rom. 13:11 tells us; i.e., we are to wake up from our spiritual slumber, not to be caught sleeping and unawares when the King returns. We are to be constantly ready because there is no way we can work out a timetable to figure out the exact moment Christ will come. Rev. Lai

warned us to be cautious of being stumbled by our cultures of seeking comforts, hankering after conveniences and going after consumerism:

- A culture of seeking comforts – While there is nothing wrong to enjoy a comfortable life, too much of it can be dangerous as it will create a slumbering spirit.
- A culture of hankering after conveniences, which sinks into the church in a very subtle way so much so that our commitment to God is dependent on our convenience – for e.g., “attending prayer meeting is not convenient”, “giving to God is not convenient”, etc. We are so influenced by the world that our Christian commitment is defined by our comfort and convenience.
- A culture of going after consumerism – We set our sights on what we want, and we just go shopping for it. A sign of this culture seeping into the church is when everything in church becomes based on a consumerist attitude. Christians go church-shopping, trying out this megachurch for its attractions or that latest church in

town because it is the in-thing. Our attitude of being a consumer (“Whatever fits my taste, I go for it.”) breeds complacency.

Jesus warned us that His coming would be like in the days of Noah – “people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in to marriage ... and they knew nothing about what would happen ... That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matt. 24:37-39) The things that the people did in Noah’s days were like the things we do, mundane things that are our preoccupation with life, taking up a lot of time and keeping us so busy and distracted from what is eternal. Our careless indulgence in cultures of seeking comforts, hankering after conveniences and going after consumerism can lead us to lose sight of what is of eternal value, and become like the people in Noah’s days who were led by complacency and caught unawares.



Rev. Lai’s message to us on 1st December 2013 could be regarded as a New Year message delivered exactly one month ahead of us stepping into 2014, a message for us to contemplate in advance the New Year’s resolutions we wish to make (with exultation over Christmas and anticipation of the second coming of our King) to become

better Christians sans the excesses we may have had in our pursuit of our cultures. Frankly, we all know that it is not easy to make resolutions, but too easy to break them; that is why many choose not to make any. For the courageous, they make big resolutions. Surely their courage is to be esteemed, especially if it is coupled with a strong willpower to keep the course. To the faint-hearted, petite-sized resolutions are also worthy of admiration. Whether a resolution is big or small is unimportant; what is important is that you seek God’s wisdom to make a prayerful decision (James 1:5) and are serious about mustering effort to commit it to the Lord (Ps 37:5-6). Here are sample resolutions that some Christians may consider:

- I shall quit my bad habit of _____ (*insert whatever is appropriate: gossiping, foul tempers, impatience, sloth, being unforgiving towards others ...*) and work towards being a kinder, loving person to my neighbours.

- I did not attend church regularly in 2013. I commit myself to attend church regularly this year.
- I have missed out on fellowship with my brethren in 2013. I resolve to join a Cell Group meeting faithfully henceforth.
- I have been inactive in the church. I shall discuss with my pastor on taking up a suitable ministry role (e.g. as a church usher) that is within my ability, noting that I have on-and-off work duties on Sundays.
- I have not been reading the Bible. I shall make effort to read through the whole New Testament by 31st December 2014.

If you feel that you were not in your best form during the foregoing year, the dawning of a new year is an opportunity for a reappraisal of your life with a view to making a fresh start.



“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year’s resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.” – G. K. Chesterton

Someone told me in jest, “**Blessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed.**” This is humorously a “fair reason” for not committing to anything such as a New Year’s resolution in case it becomes a heavy burden, and I liked it for the way it poked my mind and gave me the inspiration to share this with you. Actually, the saying originated from an 18th Century English poet, Alexander Pope, and it has been cited often enough that it has become light-heartedly treated by some people as a witty or cheeky add-on to the Beatitudes in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. I find it interesting and feel that it deserves some proper credit – NOT A DISTORTED ONE – for what it is worth. Luke 6:35 tells us to love our enemies, “do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back.” So, thanks to Alexander Pope for the reminder that we can consider this for our FIRST RESOLUTION: To do good to others expecting nothing in return so that we shall never be disappointed.

New Year's Resolutions

1 Choose to love, rather than hate.

To do good and lend to others our charity and generosity, expecting nothing in return so that we shall never be disappointed.

Would this FIRST RESOLUTION be too heavy to carry? If you make a resolution and at the end of the year you keep only 90% of it, 80% of it, 65% of it, or any other percentage of it, it certainly is better than if you do not bother to make a fresh start at all at the beginning of the year whereby you do zero thing effective.

Hopefully, your best effort will see a high score on performance. Something is better than nothing. For whatever shortfall in the fulfilment of your resolutions, banish any guilt feeling – as you have continuing chances to build on your attainments from year to year and therefore be a better and better Christian as time goes by.

How old are you? Your age tells the number of New Years you have passed through in your life; and I would like to believe that you have not missed out on the opportunities that those New Years provided to make you a better Christian from year to year.

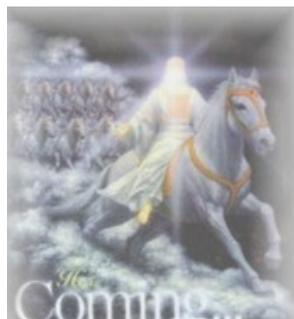
“Fear melts when you take action towards a goal you really want.” – Robert G. Allen



Not only is January the beginning of New Year 2014 anno Domini (of the Christian era), it is also the month in which the Chinese New Year called the Year of the Horse falls. Tradition-

ally, Chinese families would get themselves organized and do their spring cleaning to send the old and bad away and welcome a better New Year. Those who believe in Chinese horoscopes say that the Year of the Horse (commencing 31st January) carries both strengths and weaknesses.

I don't believe in horoscopes, but the *fengshui*-believers' "horse-talks" reach my ears and remind me that the horse is an animal which is



Now I saw heaven opened,
and behold, a white horse. And
He who sat on him was called
Faithful and True ...

Rev. 19:11

also frequently mentioned with symbolic meanings in the Bible. The four horses of the Apocalypse – a white horse in Rev. 6:2; red horse in Rev. 6:4; black horse in Rev. 6:5; pale (greenish) horse in Rev. 6:8 – carry four different prophetic meanings.

Whatever we understand of the prophetic meanings, whether or not we know when Christ will come, we don't really have to be concerned with what is beyond our comprehension and control so long as we are wise enough as the five wise virgins among the ten virgins in the parable told in Matt. 25:1-13.

Whether the New Year we celebrate is based on the Gregorian calendar or the Chinese calendar, it is a good time to do the following:

- Learn from past mistakes. (Hebrews 12:10-11)
- Put aside the past. (Philippians 3:13-14)
- Spiritually spring-cleaning our lives, to send away the old and bad in our “cultures of seeking comforts, hankering after conveniences and going after consumerism” and welcome a better New Year with a better heart. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)
- Wait on the Lord. (Psalm 37:7)

The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him. (Lamentations 3:25)

JOHN LEE

NEW LIBRARY RULES



The librarians have come up with a very radical plan to make The Library more user friendly. The Library will now be open to everyone and they can just walk in to borrow the books and other material for as long as they need. There will be a return box for them to drop in the

borrowed material when they are finished with it. (**No time limit.**) Our belief is that people must make full use of the library material and we should not stifle them by placing a time limit.

MY JOURNAL – MY JOURNEY

As the year ends, it is time for me to reflect on the year gone by to see what lessons I can draw from it.

How has my walk with the Lord been? My habit of keeping a journal is helpful in reminding me of my thoughts, promises and questions in different times and situations. My journal is not a diary record of what I do but a note of my impressions and thoughts like a child relating to God, my Father. Today the society is so high-tech connected to Facebook and Twitter, and the lives of many people are like an open book. I just wonder how many of them still write hard-copy journals. My hard-copy journal is my personal letter to God in which I can just bare it all – my thoughts, my dreams and my questions. I do not have to worry what the world thinks as it is for God’s eyes only.



The Bible says in Acts 2:17 “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”

I usually sleep well and seldom have dreams. On the few occasions I had vivid dreams, I recorded them down and reflected on them while they were still clear in my mind when I woke up. As I scan through the past 2 years’ journal, I realize that I have recorded 4 dreams in 2012 and 2 in 2013. As I record and reflect, I sense the same message and burden for the salvation of the people in my dreams. I just noticed that the last 2 dreams in 2013 had in them the same group of people as in my last 2 dreams in 2012.

I remember reading this book which I picked from JCC Library: “As you sow – the adventure of giving by faith” by Bill Bright.



It says “Stewardship means a life as a ship loaded with cargo of many things on its way to many people in many places. God is the Owner but I am the captain of the ship, and He holds me responsible for the distribution.”

Promises that I have written in my journal I have long forgotten. Reading back my journal reminds me to continue to pray and plan small steps to touch, and connect with, the group of people in my dreams.

Truly God has blessed us so richly and each Sunday our pastors pronounce blessings on us to be shared with everyone. Have I been an obedient captain delivering the cargoes of blessing to the many people whom God has tasked me to care for? Have I sailed from port to port or have I stayed put in one port and forgotten many of my undelivered cargoes of blessings still in the ship. Gen12:2-3 reminds me that I am blessed to be a blessing to others and God says in Luke 15:31 that "everything I have is yours." I am assured once again of His rich promises, and resources that I can appropriate. Our responsibility as stewards extends beyond the administration of finances. Our task is to manage our time and talent as well as our treasures to bring glory to His name.

A Letter from our 3rd pastor who served from 1974 to 1981...

Lissa Lew

Dear Friends,

My wife and I thank you for your kind greetings. We have very fond memories of the happy years that we spent at Jurong Christian Church.

For the 50th anniversary of my ordination, I was recognized at the synod assembly (which is the annual general meeting of our synod of the church) and one of the blessings that I had was that my bishop, who handed me my certificate, is our son, Kurt! Kurt is our second son.

Our eldest son, Hans, is a mechanical engineer and works for a company that makes medical prostheses, which means such things as replacement hips and knees. Our youngest son, Tim, is a missionary, serving with SIM, and is in Niger, West Africa, where he is a Bible translator.

My health has improved steadily since coming home from Africa in 1998. When we came home, I could hardly walk. I am much better now but still have to be careful that I do not do too much. A second health concern I have is that I have damaged my vocal chords because of acid reflux. Unfortunately, the damage is done and cannot be repaired. However, my doctor is helping me to keep the damage from getting worse. I still preach once a month but don't know how much longer I will be able to do that.

My wife and I are living with our second son, Kurt, and his wife, Pam. We moved here about one and a half years ago. It is very good being with our family now that we are getting older.

Again, thank you for your greeting. Please give our greetings to anyone at JCC who still remembers us.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Kusserow



Pastor Kusserow with son Kurt

JESUS AND FORGIVENESS - David Wilkerson

The most difficult thing in all the world for Christians to do is forgive. For all the talk in the Church about forgiveness, restitution, and healing, very little of it is truly demonstrated. We all like to think of ourselves as peacemakers, lifters up of the fallen, always forgiving and forgetting. But even the most deeply spiritual are guilty of wounding brothers and sisters by not showing a spirit of forgiveness.

Even the best Christians find it hard to forgive those who injure their pride. Let two good Christian friends have a "falling out" and you could have a lifetime grudge going. They seldom admit it, because they cover their unforgiving spirits with a facade of courtesy calls, nice words, and an invitation to "Come and see us sometime." But it is never the same. We really do not hate that other party; we just seem to be saying, "I've got nothing against him, but just keep him out of my hair. Let him go his way, and I'll go mine." We simply ignore people we can't forgive.

The most difficult person to forgive is someone who is ungrateful. You loved someone without being loved. You sacrificed to help a friend in need, only to be criticized or taken for granted. The person you went out of your way to help shows nothing but ingratitude and selfishness in return. Your good intentions are misinterpreted and your good deeds are misconstrued as being selfishly motivated. Do we ever forgive that ungrateful person? Hardly ever. We smile at them, wave a greeting from a distance, but we determine to "never do anything for them again."

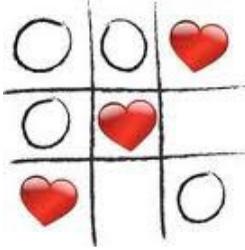
Then we get to those who deceive us. We find it nearly impossible to forgive such a person. We are most anxious to be forgiven our own lies and failures, but nothing infuriates us more than to discover someone has lied to us.

And what about the person who tells us we are wrong? Convinced we have good reasons for everything we do, we find it extremely difficult to forgive the person who suggests we have made a mistake. Rather than take an honest look at what that person is saying to us, we justify our actions.

In His teaching on prayer Jesus said, "Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:11-12).

IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE - WITH GAMES AND MUCH FUN!

The above title aptly describes the Combined Camp that the youth from both the English and Chinese congregations participated in. The camp was held from 27th to 29th December 2013 at the Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade Campsite.



LOVE was the theme of the camp, with the organizers drawing inspiration from 1 John 4:10, which says, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Cheerful reports have been flowing in to the Vine Editors. Our youth were effusive about enjoying themselves with one another, learning about five different love languages and making new friends; and they were looking forward to a second combined camp. Don't you think they have a big camping appetite? ☺



This is what Yap Xiuzhen said:

"These love languages enabled me to understand my church mates better and know what they really need. I thank God for the camp committee comprising Josiah, Huiling, Nathaniel, Zi Fang, Si Wei and Cassandra. It has spent a lot of time preparing and making the camp as enjoyable as possible. I also want to thank the leaders of the different groups who led us in devotion and made the camp a fun-filled and exciting one.

"One unforgettable moment was the mini gathering that we had on the second night. We gathered in a huge circle and just talked and played games. This really helped build our camaraderie. Through this camp, I have made wonderful friends from both the Chinese and English congregations. We have learnt about God's love through this camp."

If you wish to know what the 5 love languages the youth were taught, read the reports by Diana and Erina Yam. In her report, Diana even produced a cute little graphic which clues



us quite clearly that the message of love got retained well by the youth at the camp.



It is good that the youth who enjoyed themselves did not forget to appreciate God for all things good. Gabriel Lim's thanksgiving reflected similar sharing by other participants at the camp:

"There were a lot of people and events that I would like to thank God for. I would like to thank God for the camp committee members for putting in a lot of effort to organize this camp for us

and bringing out the theme message very clearly and memorably through the activities.

"I would also like to thank God for this wonderful opportunity to get to know many other youth my age. Without the enthusiasm and the unity of the campers, the camp would not be as fun as it was. We learnt together, ate together and played together. Though the time spent together was a bit short, I am still glad that we were able to have an enjoyable time at the camp.

"I would like to thank God for being with us throughout the camp to bless us with safety and good weather."



We who were not at the camp could only imagine the fun and excitement by the participants' descriptions. There was a game called Fear Factor. Wow! Did it send shivers down the spines of the youth upon hearing the name of the game they were going to play? I don't know exactly what it was, but I guess it just turned out to be fun-glazed fear (of losing something one holds dear) that drove home a message on trusting God, as according to the following narrative by Alyna Khoo Yi Jie:

"The first session on the first day was about how God loved us. We learnt that God loved us so much that He gave us more than what was needed. But many people did not believe in him because of many different reasons. Some reasons are that they do not believe that such a good thing existed

whereas others wanted to hold on to their worldly wealth or successes, not willing to give it up for they have worked so hard for it. And all these mentioned were summarized into a simple activity. My own takeaway from that session was that no matter how hard we work, we cannot get eternal life based on our own ways and means. So, we should just accept the gift God has given to us and leave it all to Him since nothing is impossible in Him.”



Did I guess right? The youth participants can tell me later but even if I have guessed wrongly, it is ok. I am just trying to enjoy a bit of fun guessing to make me feel young at heart with the youth when I did not have the privilege of joining them in their games. Obviously, I had my own fear factor to disqualify myself for the camp – the fear of my aged bones not surviving being pushed around with the energetic craziness of the youth. As Diana reported, it was one of the “craziest” camps. ☺ And here is a hint of the craziness the bouncing youth enjoyed:

“On the second day, we played wet games at the nearby park and almost of us got covered with soft drinks, soap, water and scraps. All of us had a lot of fun but most importantly, we bonded a lot through the games.” – Alyna Khoo

The multi-tasking ability of the youth to enjoy physical fun while at the same time imbibing spiritual lessons from the Word of God is highly admirable. Here are some encouraging testimonies from them:

- *“We had ‘Fun Night’ in which each group had to insert a verse or part of a verse into a commercial selling a certain product. From that activity, I learnt about the many verses from the Bible that I never knew existed!” – Alyna Khoo*
- *“The new generation (both the English and Chinese youth) came together to experience GOD’s love through this camp, and through the knowing of this sacrificial love, enable us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and even loving the unlovable (our enemies). This love was made evident to us through the 3 sessions through games, acting and discussions, in hope that the youth would be*

able to grasp that since it was God who first loved us, we should love to the extent of giving up our lives for others just like how Christ did for us.” – Amos Lee

- *“From this camp, the main message that I have taken away is: Show unconditional love to everyone. I feel that in my life I have not been doing this, so this camp was a really good eye-opener for me. Through the 3 sessions and the sermon, I learnt why we love, how we can show love, who and how much we should show our love. The devotions also spoke to my heart as they all talk about the sins in my life that I have been committing rather unknowingly. After what I have learnt from this camp, I really want God to change my attitude in my life and make me a person who shows agape love. I want to be a Christian who shows God’s everlasting and abundant love for the world, through my daily words and action, so I pray that God can use me when he thinks that I am ready.” – Bernice Lee*

Here is a good hope that Gabriel Lim shares:

“I hope to have more of such fun and interactive camps in future. I hope that the bonds created in this camp will stay strong and that the campers will continue to share the love of God with one another even after the camp.”

Great work done by the camp organising committee! This is the first and should not be the last of a combined-language camp. When the next camp planning committee is set up, it won’t be surprising that some among the youth who have enjoyed this camp are promoted to become our camp leaders sharing their blessings with the next cohort of eager youth participants.



May God continue to bless our youth to become our leaders of tomorrow!

JOHN LEE



The first ever Chinese and English combined camp was so awesome! At this camp, I was reminded of how God shows His unconditional love to each and every one of us and how we should do the same to one another. Thank God for having this opportunity to go for this camp.

If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. – 1 John 4: 15-16

凡认耶稣为神儿子的，神就住在他里面，他也住在神里面。神爱我们的心，我们也知道也信。神就是爱；住在爱里面的，就是住在神里面，神也住在他里面。(约翰一書4:15-16)

According to our theme song, which I find very meaningful, it tells us to love because God first loved us. – 1 John 4:19

我们爱，因为神先爱我们。(约翰一書4:19)

With this love we can make a difference in the world. Thank God for providing us good weather so that the outdoor sessions went on smoothly. Thank God also for the hardworking camp committee members who were so willing to take time out to plan the camp for us.

Throughout this camp, I got to roughly experience why non-Christians find it hard to accept and receive what is given freely to them, the unchanging love that God gives to all of us. I have also got to know the 5 love languages and how God encourages us to show love in different ways to one another. The 5 different love languages are:

1. Words of affirmation
2. Quality time
3. Acts of service
4. Tangible gifts
5. Physical touch

I have also learnt to depend on the Holy Spirit to guide me to love those who I think are hard to love, to focus on God and place Him in the centre of my life so that whatever I do will glorify our Father in heaven.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. – Matthew 5:16

你们的光也当这样照在人前，叫他们看见你们的好行为，便将荣耀归给你们在天上的父。- 馬太福音 5:16

Thank God for keeping all of us safe during the camp and allowing us to grow together as a church, and also allowing us to continue to love one another with the help of God.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. – 1 John 4:10

不是我们爱神，乃是神爱我们，差他的儿子为我们的罪作了挽回祭，这就是爱了。- 約翰一書4:10

The 爱/Love Camp I attended

reported by Diana Koh



(Don't just read this report, but read the whole thing – **the Bible** – if you want to know the Love of God)

The 爱/Love camp was not only one of the craziest, most fun, bonding camp, but also one in which God's love was so real and present in us.

Many of us youth know on the surface that God loves us and we are called to love one another; yet, sometimes we forget the true reason why we love, who to love and how to love (the way God wants us to), thereby not truly loving God and loving one another. However, through the various engaging sessions and activities at the camp, we were given the chance to uncover for ourselves the reason why we love.

In a session game, we had to work hard to attain different colored bands to add up to a certain point. In order to gain the bands, we sought attention, traded in possessions and listened to others' commands. However, there was someone who offered us one rubberband which guaranteed our points

in the game. All we had to do was to surrender the bands we acquired and accept the rubberband. Some campers gladly gave up what they had and accepted the rubberband, while others refused to let go of the bands that they had worked so hard for. (I was one of them *sobs*)

In today's context, the colored bands we had to attain represented the temporal love the world gives us, but we had to strain ourselves to get them. However, God gave us his all by surrendering Jesus on the cross. All we had to do was believe and surrender our lives to him and we could gain God's love and eternal life.

And that is the reason why we should love others.

Also, we were taught to love both Christians and non Christians with the correct attitude and the 5 languages of love. Some people require words of affirmation; others, quality time spent with loved ones; some, acts of service; some feel loved with tangible gifts while others with physical touch. We can then be sensitive to others' needs and love them in a way that does not hurt them.

Lastly, we learnt how to further exemplify God's love, to love even those who do not love us. We can do this by having God's love in us, and relying on the love God gives us. This way, we can be strengthened from the inside out to love others with God's love. (Refer to the graphic.)



Besides the content part of the camp, one of the ways I thought God was working in us was the bond that we forged between the Chinese and English sections. At first, some of us felt upset to be separated from our usual cliques and put into a group with strangers. (Ok, to be truthful, I was one of them.) However, God works through miraculous ways and He really changed my heart, to learn to open up and try to love others as He did ☺ and then I realised MY GROUP IS AWESOME. It is called "chubby potato". (Cute, right?)

All in all, it was a wonderful camp. There are just so many more awesome things to share but there is not enough space for me, and I really thank God for all the valuable lessons that we all have learnt about love. I pray

that we would also love one another with the love of God (because it is greater far than tongue or pen could ever tell) and spread this great love!

Thank you, committee and group leaders, for the awesome camp!

(AND if you can understand Chinese, you could go listen to this Mandarin song called 我们爱- 世界不一样 (“We will love – we will make a difference”). Its lyrics are really nice)

D A Bm
你和我 是天父愛的創造
G D Em A
每個人有最美的夢想
Bm Bm D E
一路上彼此照 亮 扶持擁抱
G A D G
我們的愛讓世界不一樣



D A Bm
我們愛 因神先愛我們
D G D
雖你我不一樣 我們一路唱
Em A
走往祝福的方向



D A Bm
我們愛 因神先愛我們
D G D
心再堅強 也不要獨自飛 翔
Em A
只要微笑 只要原諒
G A D
有你愛的地方 就是天堂



NEWS IN PICTURES



Baptism on Christmas Day

Jake Jedidiah Tay
Bernice Tan
Eunice Tan
Aldeira Leong
Adryl Leong



Baptism on 22 Dec 2013

Tan Siew Lan
Kua Go Mui
Diana Chen



Transfers on 22 Dec 2013

Yeo Lai Huat
Tan Geek Moi



Carolling



Nerf Battle on 1 Jan 2014



Group of oldies in front of JCC



Not many chances left to have a photo with JCC building as background.

But you say it is more than 1 year to go and I say to you how many times do you come to church during a year, at most another 50 times...