

# The Vine

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## HOM'S Reflections

Being the HOM in charge of the Library did not give me the privilege of choosing my own book for the Christmas giveaway. It was a random selection by the Librarian but

with all random acts, is God's hand in it? The book I received was IN HIS FACE by Bob Sorge. Bob writes about many things and in one chapter he discusses the meaning of pruning the vine to make it more fruitful. "Jesus' foremost concern is not your personal happiness or comfort. His primary concern is that you be fruitful."

Read the book you received on Christmas Eve and let me know if God is speaking to you through these books.

These last few weeks since the last issue of The Vine, many terrible things have happened around the world. A plane crashing into the sea; a tug boat sinking in a river while on trial run, a number of people killed in Paris over some newspaper articles.

The first month of 2015 is only past the halfway mark and so many deaths had occurred already. Is 2015 more disaster prone than other years? According to a US source, 100 people die per minute, so in reality this is just normal.

Can we normally go on with our lives as if these deaths mean nothing? You might argue that these people are so far from us that there is no way to connect with them. In the past this would be a valid argument but not in the current socially well connected world we live in. You can send links like this all over the world <http://knowwhatyoubelieve.com/> to people you know or even to strangers in Facebook. What's stopping you?

*Martin Cheah*

## *How I became a Christian*

When I was young child I followed my brother to a Catholic Church for six years. After that I stopped because my dad passed away. My mum was sick and facing financial crisis so I had to look for a job to pay the medical bills. Throughout those years, I grew apart from God. I still believed but I didn't worship. I prayed only if I needed something.



I got married and thought life would be better but I still had to struggle and had a tough life. I didn't wait on the Lord. I tried to be strong, to do everything myself. It was quite tough being married and having two sons.

My mum was a diabetic patient. One day, the vein on one of her legs burst, bleeding onto her room's floor. My good neighbour called for an ambulance and sent her to NUH. The doctor said that her leg must be amputated. It was sad to hear the upsetting news. She wanted to keep her leg. It broke my heart that we had no choice but to follow the doctor's advice. If not, she would die from the non-stop bleeding. After the operation, she stayed with me. My kids were small and I had to work for money to survive and pay the medical bills. My mum had one leg now and needed assistance and attention. I prayed, "God, please help me. I am not strong. Guide me on the right path. Maybe an answer from God in my dream."

I was an adopted child from social welfare. I approached them for help. They helped me well. I told them my mum was fussy and not easy to get along with. They did their best to find her a nice home, the Villa Francis Old Folk Home. My mum liked it greatly. "Thank you, God. Amen." She stayed there for 18 years. She even got herself baptized and entrusted her life to God. When she passed away, a pastor Thomas, guided me on my future needs. He said, "God helps. Go to a church near your place. Your



mum is in heaven. You will be blessed.”

CPF and Social Welfare (Lee Foundation) gave me a cheque of \$8,000 for my mum and I gave it to the Home. I was grateful to them for taking care of my mum. Friends and family suggest I go to church. Yes, it is time to serve God. I was happy to come to JCC. All pastors and friends so kind and good just like my own family. I feel it. Thank you, God. All along you have been helping me.



I was baptized on 25th December 2014.

Amen.

Veronica



### ***The Vine***

*Besides Veronica, 3 others were baptized, while 4 youths were confirmed and Ricky Ho and family and Doreen transferred membership to JCC on Christmas Day 2014.*

# Baptisms at the Dialect Service

25 December 2014

Christmas Day at the Dialect Service was filled with joy as a number of people came up for baptism, including a three generation family of grandmother, mother and children.



Baptism should always be a time of joy for Christians as they see family members and others being saved by the Grace of God.

It should never be viewed as an event that should be over and done with fast before the all important sermon. I am glad to hear cheers from the youths when one of their numbers comes up for baptism. *"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* Luke 15:10



# Complexity: When 1+2 becomes 4

The title of this article is copied from a news headline in AsiaOne News.<sup>1</sup> It was captivating, but when I plumbed the depth of the news report, I couldn't figure out what the link between the report's content and the headline was. Actually, the report was about an interview with the director of a "Complexity Programme" in Nanyang Technological University. About complexity, indeed!

Anyway, I managed to pick up some bits of the news to ferment in my fertile brain and come out with some thoughts to share. If you find this article a complexity, never mind; just discard what you cannot fathom and try comprehending whatever bits here and there, and maybe you can come out with your own thoughts to share.

Although I could not understand the link between the news headline and its content which was about complexity in the world, I came to realize that in the world, there are people who can "prove" the impossible as possible. Here, I show you a possibility to "prove" the "fact" that  $1 + 2$  can really be 4:

$$\text{Let } x - y = z$$

$$\text{Rewrite as: } (4 - 1 - 2)x - (4 - 1 - 2)y = (4 - 1 - 2)z$$

$$4x - (1 + 2)x - 4y + (1 + 2)y = 4z - (1 + 2)z$$

$$\text{Rearranging terms: } (1 + 2)z + (1 + 2)y - (1 + 2)x = 4z + 4y - 4x$$

$$\text{Factorizing: } (1 + 2)(z + y - x) = 4(z + y - x)$$

$$\text{Cancelling common factor: } (1 + 2) = 4$$

It can also be "proven" that  $-1 = 1$  and  $6 = 8$ . I can provide you the "proofs" if you ask for them.

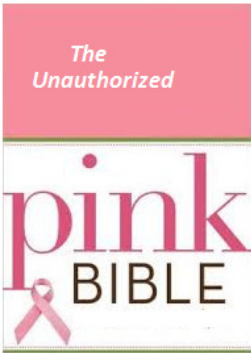
It is expected that some readers will find it a breeze to find fault with the so-called "proofs" whereas some will feel lost. However, I believe that if you are literate enough to read *The Vine*, you must have completed enough of basic education to be sure that  $-1 \neq 1$  and  $6 \neq 8$ , and that  $1 + 2$  cannot become 4 no matter how "convincing" the "proofs" appear. So even those few who feel lost to rebut the fallacious mathematical arguments will not be taken in by the deception, because they know that something that is obviously false or obviously true cannot be proven otherwise.

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<sup>1</sup> AsiaOne News headline on 27 Aug 2014: <http://news.asiaone.com/news/asian-opinions/complexity-when-1-2-becomes-4>

**Sophistry**

In the English Language, there is the word “sophistry”, which means the use of clever but false arguments, especially with the intention of deceiving. Analogously, the “proofs” of the above false mathematical “facts” can be said to be mathematical or logical sophistry. However, let me assure you that I am not out to deceive you, but to share in an amusing way how we often find ourselves at a loss to rebut people who come out with “clever” arguments to support their fallacious ideas.



Suppose that I have to argue with the gay lobby until the cows come home without reaching any consensus. Despite not having the capacity to pierce through the sophistry of my gay friends’ rationalisations, I can still stand very much assured of the following truths:

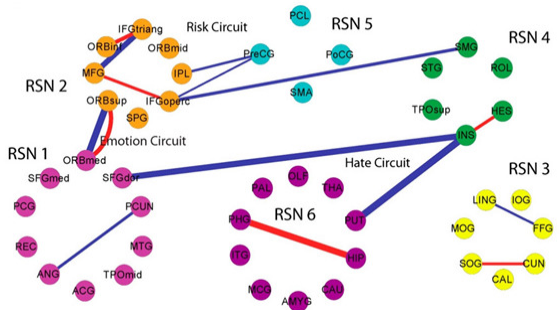
- God made humans male and female and “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.” (Gen. 2:24, 25 AKJV)

- The Bible does not say, ““Therefore shall a person leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his partner, *a person of either sex*: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the person and his partner, and were not ashamed.” (Gen. 2:24, 25 AKJV)

Maybe there exists a pink bible somewhere that sanctions same-sex unions, and adherents of such a pink bible would argue “convincingly” that marriage is meant to be two in human couplings in modern times but not necessarily male and female, and not necessarily to become one flesh or with an aim for progenies.

**Our Brain Circuits – The Mother of all Complexities**

The world is full of complex problems – problems so complex that we need the specialised “Complexity Programme” set up in 2011 at NTU under the directorship of Mr Vasbinder.



At the interview with AsiaOne News, Mr Vasbinder cited examples of cancer cells finding “ways to avoid the effects of therapy” and even quoted 【老子】道德经 (a Lau-Tzu classic on morality) to suggest that the Chinese philosopher was displaying a pure complexity thinking in claiming that “Everything is connected, and everything relates to each other.”

I found the mention of cancer cells’ evasion skills thought-provoking. I began to think about a comparison between a human brain that is cognitive and a computer “brain” that is man-made. To say that a person can find his way past an obstacle is to acknowledge that he has a brain and a mind to think. To say that a computer can find a solution to a problem is obviously not saying that a computer has a brain and a mind for reason. In reality, a computer cannot think. In computer jargon, it is GIGO<sup>2</sup>. It only works in accord with the intelligence or stupidity of its human programmer. If the human programmes it with a “logical process” that produces the results  $1+2=3$  and  $2+3=6$ , the computer will just “obey”. In the computer, it is all about electronic circuitry at work, a circuitry that is laid out by man’s design.

If groups of cancer cells begin to “find ways” to avoid the effects of therapy, it is not that they have a mind to sense what is welcome to accept and what is unwelcome to reject. Rather, it is all in the “circuitry” (networks of molecular structures) that produces effects on other cells in the host’s body. The questions to ponder are: If it is man who gives the computer its circuitry, who makes the “circuitry” of the biological cells and how does the “circuitry” work in its “logical processing” of information? If the computer’s semi-conductor cells require external input of programmer’s intelligence to produce outcomes, what is the external intelligence that provides the input for the human biological cells to operate the chemical factories structured around tissues, cells, molecules and atoms?

In fact, in September 2014, NTU conducted a workshop discussing the “cultural circuits in the human brain – East-West connections” – about the human brain being the most complex structure in the Universe.

The complexity of the human brain must be the mother of all complexities! If we think of a computer “brain” that produces the computational wonders that makes us amazed at its power, could such a prodigious “brain” come into being without

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<sup>2</sup> GIGO: “Garbage In, Garbage Out”, meaning that it depends on humans for the right input; it can’t think for itself. If we input garbage, it will spew out garbage.

its human masters assembling the wires and imposing the codes for its performance? Only the human masters directly engaged with the conception and formation of the computer brain will understand fully the simplicity of the complexity in the way the computer “brain” works; the rest of us, who know nuts about the functioning of electronic circuit boards and of the sensibleness of Boolean logic in helping out humongous computations simply with zeroes and ones, can only stare in awe at the “computer being” without realizing that it is the “human being” that activates the ability of the “computer being”. Now, if we think of the huge wonders of human inventions that become relatively modest when compared with the great natural wonders on Earth and in the Universe, do we realize the simplicity of our brains and wonder about the presence of a Divine Being behind us the human beings? It is this Divine Being we call God who gives the cells in our body the ability to “think” and interconnect with one another to produce tissues which can “make decisions” to cooperate with one another to form themselves into operating organs that are powered by the “breath of life” from our Master. I don’t think a “computer being” has the capability to understand that it owes its human master its “life”. Do you think we human beings have the ability to grasp the “simplicity” of our body system and brain “circuitry” that our Master put together?

### A Warning



Our brains are often influenced by subtleties. When we use words or expressions in certain ways, the words and expressions can take on a life and influence our thoughts. Words are not simply tools of communication but also tools that form ideas. For example, if you understand only the Hokkien dialect with a limited vocabulary, you can’t think, and hence converse, substantially on topics like Philosophy, Politics, Medicine, Religions, etc. It is not just your communication ability, but also your contemplative ability, that is affected by language. Sophistry involves the use of words to intended effect. A good salesman can sell you something with the right words. After you take your purchase home, you realize that it does not work as you had wished, but you may not be able to fault any of the verbal sales pitch. In other words, you are not conned directly by the sales explanations and illustrations, but you are conned by your extraneous imaginations about the product’s functionality that are formed around the sophistry that you picked up.

Apostle Paul warns about sophistry:

*“I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present*



*with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.” (Col. 2:4-5 NIV)*

Many a time, when we are in church, we hear and learn the right things. However, once we leave the church, and become exposed to the wrong things outside, we have a hard time dealing with the sophistry of worldly arguments. Paul told God’s holy people in Colossae to remain disciplined and firm in faith in Christ even though he (Paul) was not with them. Similarly, our pastors might also from time to time tell us the sheep to take care of ourselves spiritually even though they (our shepherds) may be absent from us in the body. This is a very important advice, for even Jesus was tempted in the desert. (Matt. 4:1-11) Despite His state of weakness and solitude after fasting for 40 days, he remained disciplined and firm in adherence to the Father’s will. Despite Satan’s sophistry, Jesus did not capitulate. To every temptation with sophistry, Jesus was able to rebuff using God’s Word. For example, when Satan reasoned with Jesus that “it is written” that God would command His angels to come to his aid if he threw himself down from the highest point of the temple (Matt. 4:6), Jesus retorted with a countervailing instruction from Scripture, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Note in particular the words “deceive” and “fine-sounding arguments” in Paul’s advice to the Colossians. I highlight the word “sophistry” in another translation of the Bible:

*“I say this to prevent your being misled by any one’s plausible **sophistry.**”*  
*(Col. 2:4 WEY)<sup>3</sup>*

Note how often we were deceived by sophistry (smooth talk) in the marketplace when we made purchases or signed into contracts only to regret later. Our discernment is not made easy by our natural sinful populist tendencies. Real truths are often hard to digest, but urban myths that spread like wildfire on the Internet are too easy on our minds. We have to admit that from time to time, we have cause to reflect on our foolishness to be taken in so easily by untruths that are wrapped in attractive coats. In the spiritual realm, we also face struggles to discern truths from falsehoods. About foolishness to fall for sophistry, Apostle Paul rebuked the Galatians as well:

*“You foolish Galatians! Whose **sophistry** has bewitched you, you to whom Jesus Christ has been vividly portrayed as on the Cross?”*  
*(Gal. 3:1 WEY)*

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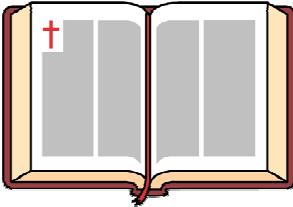
<sup>3</sup> Weymouth New Testament Online Bible

We must remember that Paul was a Pharisee before he became an Apostle of Christ. Therefore, he was all too familiar with the legalistic traditions of the Jews. In Col. 2:6-15, he pinpointed the theological errors in the polemical discussions and raised his argument against a theology without Christ:

*“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” (Col. 2:6-7)*

**Nothing that displaces the teachings of Christ can stand**

It is inevitable that we are often confronted with divergent views. Not just in Colossae and Galatia in Paul’s time, but also here and today in the world. Even great theologians are still in arguments about theologies. Who are right, who are wrong? It is bewildering in a complex world. It is right to hold on to a Christ-based theology, nothing less. Any learned arguments, profound dogmas or dazzling spiritual experiences can only stand if they do not displace the teachings of Christ. Hopefully, complexity is made simple when we focus on Christ and get the help of the Holy Spirit with our prayers and meditations.



*John Lee*



## Visit to St. Luke's Eldercare Centre

On the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014, 22 JCC members (majority from the Dialect Ministry Team) led by Rev. Anthony visited the St. Luke's Eldercare Centre at Yishun.



We set off happily with our bus loaded with goodies, anticipating a good time interacting with the elderly folk at the Eldercare Centre.

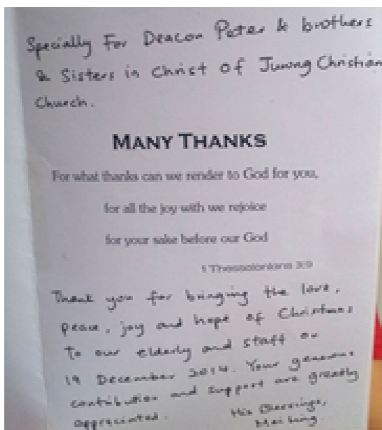


While it was our intention to bring cheer to them, we were in the end also being cheered by their bubbly joyfulness and positive reception. Deacon Peter shared a short Christmas message and we sang Christmas carols. We also played some games and encouraged all to participate in a few simple physical

exercises.

助人为快乐之本。

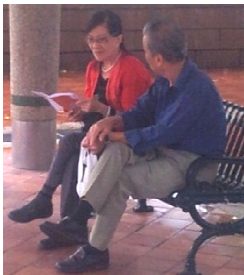
The joy on their faces and the joy on our faces blended in an affable fellowship.



This extended to the lunch time together over a sumptuous serving of catered food with mains, sides and soup together with the fruit (banana) we had brought along. The appetites of the elderly folk were good.

After the lunch, each elderly member of the Eldercare Centre was given a bag of goodies to take home. Their excitement and eagerness to get hold of the gift (comprising both edible and useful items) was palpable.

Our sister Mei Ling, the supervisor of the Centre, thanked us for bringing the love, joy and hope of Christmas to the elderly folk. Actually, that was not the only purpose God had in His plan for us to be there in Yishun at the planned timing.



It was God's planned moment for a slight drizzle at about our time of departure. Right in front of the Eldercare Centre was a comfortable pavilion where a man found it right to take shelter from the rain.

What a precious opportunity that our sister Mary Chia, who is an active dialect member of JCC, pounced on to share the Good News of Christmas with this stranger and invited him to our Christmas service. As can be seen in the picture, he was attentive.



It is our prayers that the seeds of the saving grace of Christ sown both within and without the Eldercare Centre will bear fruit.

May God continue to bless the work of His humble servants.

*Peggy Tan*



*We have just celebrated Christmas on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Celebrating Christmas is celebrating the birth of our Messiah, although nobody really knows the exact date of the Messiah's birth. Below is a sharing by our beloved brother, James Candiah, who is a Messianic Jew. (A Messianic Jew is a Jew who believes in the Messiah.) As we digest the message, and have some insight into the Messianic Jews' Community's understanding and practice of celebrating the Messiah's birth, let us pray that no matter when and where we celebrate the Birth of Christ, the celebration duly reminds us that Jesus is God's perfect gift to us and that the love of God and family is enjoyed and cherished not just on one day but on every other day going forward. Let us share God's love and pray for peace to dwell among God's people. – John Lee*

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## **REMEMBERING THE BIRTH OF YESHUA FROM THE BIBLE'S PERSPECTIVE**

As believers around the world prepare to remember the birth of Messiah, many will turn to the stories and traditions that they heard growing up. The question that we must ask is, "Do these stories and traditions follow the Bible's teaching on His birth? The answer may surprise you! Nowhere in the Holy Scripture do we see the disciples or anyone else ever celebrating the birth of YESHUA (Jesus) of Nazareth.

It is unfortunate that we have lost sight of the true story of the birth of Messiah. For example, how many wise men visited Him? Most people will tell you three because that is what the stories of Christmas say. The truth is the Bible does not mention how many people visited, just what was brought as gifts. What about decorating a tree or giving presents and was the Messiah really born on December 25? While these traditions might be nice, are they really teaching people to share their faith with others?

Before you start thinking this is one of those articles that claims that everything about Christmas is of pagan origins, I will encourage you to read on as it is not. The purpose for this teaching is for us to look at the Bible to see how we can remember this great miracle.

The truth is that many of the stories and traditions that we have today were not started by the disciples or even the early followers of Messiah. The Christmas tree did not come to the scene until 1441AD. It wasn't until the

10th Century that gift giving took place and the celebration of the birth of Messiah did not commence until after 324 AD.

The question that we must ask is, 'Do these stories and traditions follow the Bible's teaching on His birth'? The answer may surprise you! Nowhere in the Scriptures do we see that the disciples or anyone else ever celebrating the birth of YESHUA (Jesus) of Nazareth.

So the question is, 'Is it wrong to celebrate the birth of Messiah'? Coming from a Jewish background, I can understand the importance of remembering great events that God has done for His people. It's good to remember the birth of Messiah. The question is how!

While the Scriptures do not tell us the exact date of YESHUA'S birth, it does give enough information to figure out a time frame. The dating of the conception of YESHUA and the birth of Yochanan (John) points to a late September or early October. When we take into account Zacharias' time of duties at the Temple, then we can come to a date around the Jewish Feast of Sukkoth (Tabernacles) which means 'God dwelling among us'. For this reason, many in the Messianic Jewish community will celebrate the birth of Messiah during Sukkoth. This Feast is celebrated in late September or early October. We remember that God is dwelling among us once again as we fellowship under the Sukkah. It is also interesting to note that the word in Hebrew for manger is Sukkah. To learn more about the timeline and how we celebrate the birth visit our website: [www.bethadonai.com](http://www.bethadonai.com) and then click on FAQ and then "Does the Messianic Community celebrate Christmas?"

The Bible does not tell us how to celebrate it, but we can learn from the other Feasts in the Torah. First, the holidays are family focused. They also are used for teaching and remembering what God has done for us. Many times the story is retold of the event, and each one has its own symbols and customs. Since Yeshua was born during Sukkoth, I can imagine the disciples as they celebrated the Feast and fellowshiped together under the Sukkah. I can imagine them as they would invite unsaved friends to join them as they retell of the events that happened in Yeshua's life and how on the Spring Feast of Passover, First Fruits and Latter Fruits, that YESHUA died, was resurrected and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, all which took place on the Jewish Feast.

As we remember the Birth, we need to focus on the Word of God and not

man's traditions. Let's remember what God has done for us. He sent His only Son so that our sins could be forgiven. If you want to give gifts, give it to the poor, widow and orphans. Yeshua said we will always have them among us.

As we begin a New Year (based on the Gregorian calendar), I want to encourage you to learn more about the Jewish roots of your faith. I know that it will bring new insights into and understanding of the Word of God. Let's ponder over the words of the prophet Jeremiah (6 :16), and prayerfully ask of GOD what is it HE wants us to know, and having grasped the truth, let us move proactively and diligently in meeting HIS standards so that we may receive HIS favor in full measure.

Even as I stand in prayer with you over there, while here in the Holy Land, claim with me Psalm 34:15 specifically for JCC, and that the latter will find great favor with our GOD.

Amen  
Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.  
Shalom

In HIS Love,  
Greetings from Jerusalem, and may  
you shine for HIM as we  
commemorate YESHUA'S first advent.

Rabbi (Dr) James (Ya'akov) Candiah

12 am Jerusalem Time

December 25, 2014



# To Brisbane and Back

Thank God we still managed to arrive on the 13<sup>th</sup> December after the debacle at Changi Airport (see previous issue of The Vine). We checked in and waited for Debra to come over. When she came over, she brought us to one of the largest shopping centre in the area. We shopped till we dropped, big mistake. I didn't have a car. We had to travel by bus and then walk along the hilly footpaths to Debra's house carrying a heavy load.



The following day, we went to town to rent a car. I am finally behind the wheel again but what a stressful situation because all the roads were unfamiliar to me and the GPS had an Australian accent, using Australian slang, eg "bear left" meaning "keep left". I even had to take a sharp turn as advised by the GPS, but it was an illegal U-turn.

On Sunday, we attended the Hope Church in the University. Comprising mainly of young people studying in the same university, there were only a handful of oldies like us, parents who came over to witness their child's graduation. As expected the singing was boisterous with lots of animated youngsters raising hands and tapping feet. The communion was a very simple affair probably because the church does not hold a high regard of it – merely a remembrance.



What was surprising was the simple message followed by an altar call drew a large response as many youths came forward. After the service, the people hung around enjoying fruits and fellowship for a somewhat long time. Perhaps this model which our Dialect Service also adopts is an effective one for attracting new people?

That night as we drove in the city, I took a wrong lane. As I waited for the lights to change to green, it didn't. After a 10 minute wait I realized that I must be in the wrong lane that is why the lights did not change, so I reversed and move over to the correct lane and immediately, a car from an adjacent lane turned into the lane where I just vacated. Thank God that the roads were so empty at night that I was able to reverse out of harm's way and no traffic was heading my direction until I vacated the spot.





We visited the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, which PM Lee visited while he was there during the G20 meetings. We watched a sheep dog show and then I realized how lost a sheep can be. The dogs come barking and the sheep just run about without thinking. Do we want to be

like these lost sheep?



The next day, we drove to the Gold Coast. There was lots of walking as we visited the sites and shopped. Then we drove further towards the border with New South Wales and

more walking as we visited a remote lighthouse. It was there in that remote wooded area that I took a tumble on a wooden stairway and suffered some abrasions on my right knee and right hand. Thank God, no broken bones because I can't imagine how long it would take an ambulance to arrive at such a remote location.



On 18<sup>th</sup> December, we were all dressed up for Debra's graduation. There



were many parents and friends at the Great Hall where the ceremony was held. After the ceremony, we spent an inordinately long time taking photos with all and sundry in the bright sunlight. Finally



satisfied with the photo taking we took a lift down to the carpark where lo and behold, we ran into Pastor Brian Shek, who housed Debra when she first arrived in Brisbane 4 years before. We were very surprised and happy to meet with his wife and him – small world you say or God's arrangement?



We thank God for His provision and protection throughout and bringing us all safely home. In all I took more than 1000 photos. What I have presented is just a summary of the whole experience. Perhaps you would like to read more but that is another story for another Vine.

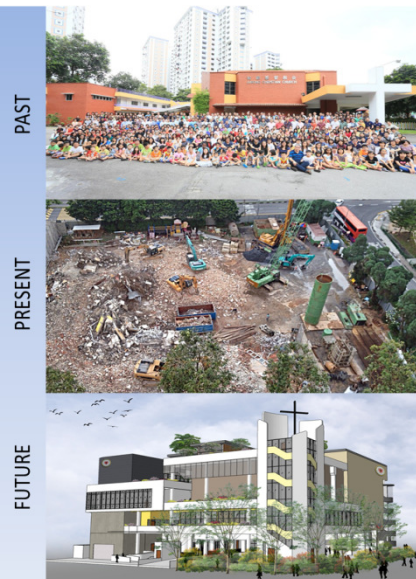
# A MOVING EXPERIENCE

28 December 2014

The final worship service was held at 2 Tah Ching Road in the old building, a nostalgic moment in its 47 years history.

At the end of the service, the cross and some articles from the altar were removed and carried over by the English and Chinese councilmen to our temporary facility at 101 Yuan Ching Road for the next 2 years.

Life goes on @ 101 while at 2 Tah Ching Road, the old building was torn down within the next few days. Indeed there are no stone markers left of our past 47 years existence but God willing, we will be back.



## **CHRISTmas JOY - JOY UNSPEAKABLE**

CHRISTmas isn't complete without the sharing of "the UNSPEAKEABLE" experienced by MARY who conceived and gave birth to the LORD and SAVIOUR of humanity, and it is with this Unspeakable JOY that our Red Army - JCC Dialect Ministry Carolers faithfully shared the JOY and Good News of CHRISTmas – GOD and sinners reconciled, with pioneer seniors at the invitation of Caroline and Mark's family who actively served these seniors at the Home below their Apartment.



Certainly all were blessed with the UNSPEAKABLE JOY as our seniors listened to the CHRISTmas Carols being sung and enjoyed fellowshiping with us all.

### ***ABUDANCE Cell Fellowship* House Blessing for Danny and Mong**

Another JOY unspeakable as our cell shared the house blessing JOY with Danny and Mong. The house blessing liturgical service is a good and timely reminder of the gracious provision of GOD and certainly we are thankful to Danny's Family for taking the step of faith to honor GOD in offering their new home to be blessed.



Our leader of the house blessing service together with all members of the cell was indeed honored to share in this JOY.

To GOD Be the Glory

**TONY KOH**





24 January 2015

The organizing team arrived at around 8.30 am and was busy preparing to welcome our guests who slowly came in around 9.00 am. By 10.00 am all were still standing around chit chatting but were instructed by the MC, Admond, to take a seat before the arrival of our guest of honour.



At precisely 10.00 am, Mr Tharman arrived and was warmly welcomed by the people, who were greatly appreciative of his presence in all our events. Bishop Kee gave his message about the church being a blessing to the neighbourhood. Following, Mr Tharman continued in the same vein, to reinforce that the church

must love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Next the Dialect Team presented 2 songs and Mr Tharman commented that they gave a spirited performance.

Rev John Nelson who was present at the first ground breaking ceremony 47 years ago was also present for this event.

Thank God for the fine weather, protection and good fellowship.



*Martin Cheah*