

For internal circulation only

The Vine Committee

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HOM'S Reflections

On July 22, a truck ran over a man at Boon Keng Road. Fortunately for that man more than 30 bystanders ran to help lift the truck off . This is indeed

a show of unity in spirit. One or two alone would not be able to lift the truck but with a combined might of 30 over people, the truck was moved.

I believe some of the people who helped were women. So is there a limiting factor in helping? Can anyone say because I am not Arnold

Schwarzenegger, I don't have the strength to make a difference. In fact, can Arnold alone lift the truck?

The theme of Unity ran through our recent Carnival event. Everyone helped out in one way or another, from the very young to the very old. Could we have accomplished this feat if some sections of our congregations failed to help? Yes, but probably not as successfully. However there is a unity story I like to share.



My colleague who came for the Carnival had been estranged from her family for almost a year due to some misunderstanding. However since she had tickets for the Carnival, she invited her nephew along and his parents and grandmother tagged along. So because of our Carnival, my colleague and her mother and sister are now on speaking terms again. Did God orchestrate this whole event for this purpose?

Working on the Carnival opened my eyes to the different work styles of youths and adults. For one thing, the young people work a lot with the PC and communicate late in the nights. If you are not computer savvy or an owl, you will not be able to keep up with them. When you are sleeping, they are

working and when you are working, they are sleeping. While the young men are having visions, the old man is dreaming dreams. Regardless of the differences, by God's grace, we managed to work things out and at the last minute everything fell into place, not by our own wisdom but by His.

Indeed, it truly is not by our own strength that we can raise funds for the rebuilding. While we struggle organizing events and going on road shows to the various LCS congregations, God is working. The money comes in unexpectedly from various sources. The latest was a cheque of \$250,000 from Far East Organization. So let us pray to our Father for His provision.



Road show at LCOR 2/8/15

Indeed it is like the story of the people who rush to help prop up the truck so as to rescue the man trapped beneath. NJCC will be rebuilt with the help of God's people whom He has prepared beforehand to help fund the rebuilding. Are you one of them?



Photo taking for calendar

We still have many events to prepare for. There is the upcoming back to back events of the Chinese Concert and also the Golf Challenge in October 2015, the Fund Raising Calendar and followed by the Fund Raising Dinner in April 2016.

For the Chinese Concert which will have a 2-day run (16 & 17 Oct) at the 1000 seater Trinity Christian Centre, we hope that everyone who comes will donate \$100 so that we can raise about \$200,000 from this event. The Golf as usual is at \$2000 per flight of 4 persons (ie each person is \$500) and the Calendar is expected to sell at \$17 each. Much effort but with only a small expected amount raised. We pray that God will provide us generous blessings from people whom He has blessed.



Martin Cheah

In a shop till you drop scenario, a lady in a shopping centre in China fell into an escalator and died. Because repairs cost an arm and a leg, a man lost his leg in an escalator accident in China. Perhaps it is a blessing we are not having escalators in NJCC.

LOL @ 101

JCC Fundraising Carnival Reflections

All glory be to God, our Father, who has seen us through all the planning for the carnival and has watched over us during the actual day of the carnival.

The youths initiated the carnival as part of a fundraising effort for the rebuilding of New Jurong Christian Church. The objective of the carnival was not only to raise funds but also to foster unity within the Church. The committee was made up of youths from both English and Chinese sections and also adults from the fundraising committee who rendered us great help with their experience in planning events. Being part of the committee was not easy. It was difficult for us to set a common time to meet up to plan for the carnival, given our different schedules. Meetings dragged on to late at night as we strove to cover the agenda set for the meetings. However, it was through all these months of meetings and preparations for the carnival that we got to know one another better despite coming from different language sections.

With the need to juggle between planning the carnival and school, it was indeed a trying time for many of us. There were just so many things to do, so many things to consider and worry about. Executing the event seemed like an impossible task. God's Word encouraged us to press on and trust that God was in control. During one of the meetings, the head of the committee shared his devotion on Genesis 16. God had promised Abraham a son. To us humans, it was not possible since Sarah was barren. Even so, God still provided Abraham with a son, Isaac, through Sarah. We were reminded that nothing is impossible in Christ and we just have to put our trust in Him and claim on His promise that He is with us as long as we remain in Him.

Once, I was assigned to liaise with the principal of Jurong Christian Church Kindergarten (JCKK) to publicize the carnival to the children and their parents. It was during my exam period but I agreed to do so since I thought all I needed to do was to liaise with the principal and pass her the flyers about the carnival. It was later that I found out that I had to come up with a consent form that would be given to the parents. I panicked as I had no idea what should be written in the consent form and was also burdened by the need to prepare for my upcoming exams. But thanks be to God who came to my aid in time of need. A church member who is gifted in writing somehow heard about the need for the consent form and sent me a copy of the consent form which he drafted. This may seem trivial to some; but to me, it was a reflection of how real God is and how He will send help at the right time.

As the day of the carnival approached, most of us were stressed and worried as we did not know how the carnival would turn out to be. Thankfully we were able to commit all our worries to the Lord and cast all our anxiety to Him because He cares for us. (1 Peter 5:7)

On the day of the carnival, we had a mass briefing for everyone who had taken time off to help out in the carnival. It was indeed very heartening to see so many church members donned in red, filling up the sanctuary where the briefing was held. It was the first time in my memory to see the whole church come together as one to put up an event for the Lord. Despite all the miscommunications and slight unhappiness during the course of planning for the carnival, we all still came together to put up the carnival. I was touched by the willingness of each individual who came to help out. During the carnival, God was gracious. He brought in the crowd and held back the rain for most part of the carnival.

It is an honour for me to be part of the committee for the carnival. From the experience, I have learnt to trust God, to focus on Him and not on our problems or the many things that need to be done. I am also blessed to have made closer friendship with other committee members especially those from the Chinese section. Though it was tiring, it was all worth it.

Hannah Koh



Hi everyone, there are two parts to this article: one part is to share what was done before the Fundraising Carnival and the other part is to share what happened on the day of the event. The reflections were narrated through a series of emotions I felt. I am glad to have this courage to share what the Abundance Cell group did throughout the planning and preparation for the two game stalls. This article is supported by photographs from the Cell group, received over the weeks before the date of the event. The resolution of the photographs may not be fantastic, but for all of you who have been involved in one way or another in the Carnival, you get the picture. 😊

Part I - Together We Pray

Days before the Fundraising Carnival

Have you encountered occasions when things are planned and everything just goes awry? I am having a swollen right foot and I am in excruciating pain lying in bed. My husband, Teck Chai, just left for work after seeing me home from the clinic. My emotions weigh in more as this is the day that I have taken leave to help out in the last stretch of preparation work for my Cell group's participation in the Fundraising Carnival on 17 July 2015.

I had thought that the planned effort at the last minute before the event could help make up for the lost time over the last few months when I was not able to help out because I was away for work frequently. With the prior thought that things were nicely planned, the disappointment that now descends on me is just indescribable. (Lesson learnt: Don't wait to do things at the last minute!🙏)

I am thankful for the Abundance Cell group members whom I am getting to know better gradually through the group chats, Cell group meetings and get-together sessions. Perhaps, there are other things that I can do even if I am "bedridden" during this time. I prayed and started typing this article.

I am encouraged by the efforts taken by the Cell group members to plan for the activities, making sure that everyone has a part to play from developing of ideas, preparing for the game booths to the selling of the tickets and encouraging daily prayers for the Fundraising event in support of the Rebuilding of NJCC. The focus on doing it for God is just amazing. Giving thanks to God for the people who serve and love Him and wanting to do more to reach out to others for Him! All glory to God who made all things possible. Thank you, Jesus!



The photographs tell of the efforts behind the scenes. You see the work in progress: building and painting the structures and card-boards; tying of strings; cutting and sticking of pictures for the game stalls, etc. All hands on deck! Everything worked!



☺

The Cell group members had many sessions of meetings to prepare for the event. These pictures provided a snapshot of the Cell group members and their families in action. It was a heart-warming sight because

everyone was doing it together, including the children. A family that prays together stays together!



Through the sharing of the preparation work from many other groups in church, I know that the Fundraising Carnival will be a success because God is in it all this while. We will see it come together as a result of the dedication and persistent efforts from the JCC Family. Really, if God is all we have, we have all we need!

But wait, I will conclude this part of the article with this prayer.

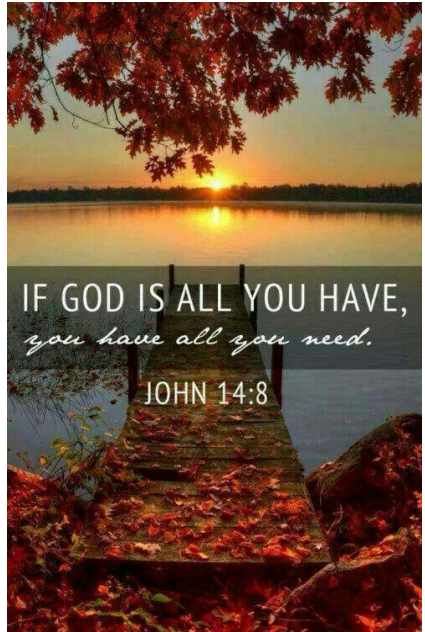


“Dear God, I learnt that it is never too late to do anything for you and never too presumptuous that I have all the time available to do something for you. Praying that I will do what I can when I can for you, even through the busyness of work and family commitments, help me find ways always through our daily lives in big or small efforts, long or short prayers, to get to know you better and do things for the good of Your Name. Pray for healing of my right foot in your

precious Name. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

Remember the end is just the beginning to a new day of the Fundraising event.

“Dear God, we pray for good weather that will bring the hearts of many people to the Fundraising event. To obtain contributions is one of the reasons why many have slogged hard over the countless months, weeks and days, working for you. We pray for good health of the church members and praise you for their zeal and love for you. We pray for good outreach to the many people who will come to know Jesus from the efforts of the NJCC members. In Jesus Name, Amen.”



Part II - Together We Stand

Day of Fundraising Carnival

The day started with the setting up of the stalls at



7.45 a.m. The place was all ready to welcome the guests to the Carnival at 9.00 a.m. As I arrived with Teck Chai in the early



afternoon, the Carnival venue was packed with people and many types of food were selling fast. For late-comers like me who was still limping that day from a Bursitis condition, I was eager to join the queue for the food quickly. Oh yes, please continue to pray for my recovery.

Despite the hot weather, there were already crowds at the game and retail stalls. Laughter could be heard almost everywhere. We thank God for the people who came and supported the event!



For the Cell group members who worked hard to build the structures, the “angry bird” and marble games would not have been possible without them manning the stalls as well. The team and volunteers never gave up on what they believed in doing for the Lord, giving willingly their time to be at the Carnival. Giving thanks to God for all of them! I am sure they had fun too! ☺



At 4.30 p.m., dark clouds started filling the sky, sending gushes of wind to signal the arrival of the showers of blessing to cool down the weather. Despite the rain in the late afternoon, the indoor activities



continued. The Carnival came to a close at about 5.45 p.m. with most of the items and food all sold out. Many stayed and started to clear and clean up the venue.

I am thankful for this opportunity to write this article and dedicate it to the Abundance Cell group; praying that this will be a testimony of their walk with the Lord Jesus.

May God grant us His wisdom to grow in His Word, stand steadfast and pray together as one in Christ Jesus! Amen.

Joyce Tan

Celebrating 48 years of JCC



On Sunday 12th July, we celebrated the 48th Anniversary of Jurong Christian Church.

As the church leaders cut the birthday cake, my mind took off to a time in history when JCCCC was born as “Jurong Christian Church and Civic Centre”. There were 4 Cs in the original name – telling clearly that we were set up to function in two parts; firstly, as a congregation of God’s people devoted to church-

oriented activities in fulfilling God’s Commission; secondly, engaging in diakonia as a testimony of our Christian love towards the community.

The 48 years have not been smooth-sailing without problems. There were moments when the problems seemed insurmountable as the “church part” and the “civic centre part” of the JCCCC tussled over different ideals that were diametrically opposed. At times, disagreements simply arose out of conflicting cultural preferences of different groups. Here is an example of this. Looking at it from today’s vantage position, we might muse over it and draw modern lessons:

“The Chinese section tended to be content with a fairly limited range of activities and types of programmes and to put a very strong emphasis on traditional types of devotional contexts for its activities while the English section was at times open to unconventional forms of expression. These differences were the most notable among the youth; and at that particular age range, their significance was quite great, at least when viewed against the broad cultural differences and prejudices between English-educated and Chinese-educated students in Singapore.” – Ray Nyce¹

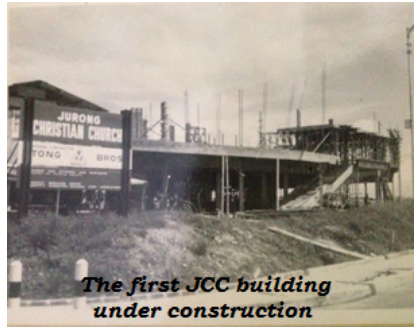
I cannot possibly go on and on about the trying moments we faced in the past. Thanks be to God that despite challenges, God has seen us safely through the 48 years. Where trials and tribulations abound in our journey, the more we grasp the grace and mercy of God sustaining the church through it all!

¹ From “Development & Significance of The Jurong Christian Church of the LCMS” by Ray Nyce, October 1973

The following is a pictorial sequence of our journey – a journey that we are still continuing on to our Jubilee year in two years' time, and beyond for many more good years of service to God for His glory!



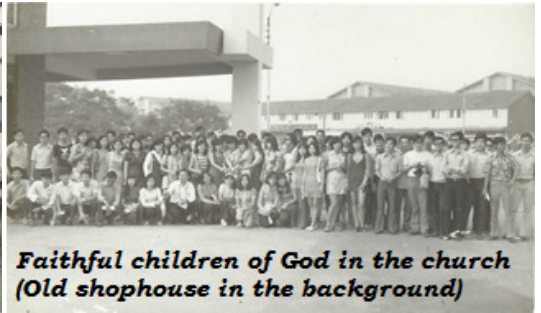
Congregation in a makeshift tent



The first JCC building under construction



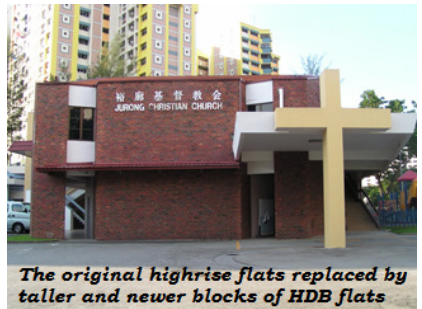
A small congregation in the old JCC



Faithful children of God in the church (Old shophouse in the background)



Original shophouse in the background replaced by highrise flats



The original highrise flats replaced by taller and newer blocks of HDB flats



In the temporary premises at 101 Yuan Ching Rd, after moving out of the old building at Tah Ching Rd



Old building being demolished

As we rejoiced in celebrating our 48 years of God's blessings, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ also put their signatures on a large picture of New JCC building – signifying that we are all hands on deck in playing our roles to see the NJCC project to fruition. Let us all be reminded that the project entails a lot of work, a lot of funds ... a lot of everything that is necessary. Think about all the sweat and prayers of all of the various project committees and of all the players including yourself in one role or another.



As we look forward to the new JCC building, let us also be united in our vision as a reinvigorated new body – One Jurong Christian Church – on Christ the solid Rock we stand!

John Lee
(in red t-shirt)



Dialect Ministry Outing on 24th June

The last time I went to the National Museum was eons ago – and I can't really remember when it was.



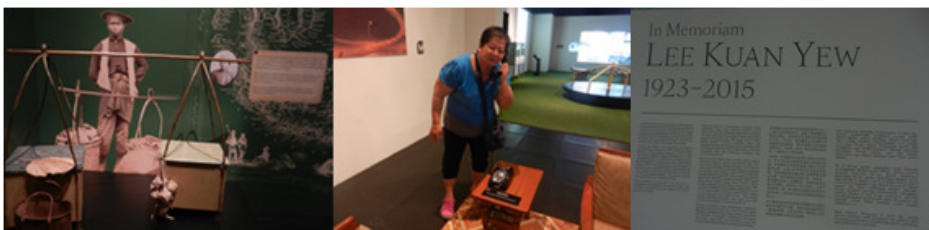
If you ask the elderly folk when they first visited the National Museum, many of them would probably tell you: 24th June 2015.

Yes, on 24th June 2015, whether we were able-bodied or wheel-chair assisted, there was no hiding the pleasure of getting to church early in

the morning to join an excursion to the National Museum.



It was nostalgic to take a walk down memory lane as we viewed the exhibits of Singapore history. Attracting a lot of interest was the memorial exhibition that paid tribute to Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first Prime Minister.



When the clock struck eleven, it was time to adjourn for lunch.



It was God's blessings that instead of going to Clarke Quay for lunch as originally planned, the museum staff gave permission for us to have our packet lunch in the



museum lobby. So we were all able to enjoy our lunch in the cool air-conditioned museum and avoid the hot and warm weather outside. It was cool time for fellowship

too as the Dialect Ministry members, after having done touring the various stations in the museum, enjoyed themselves chit chatting with one another while tucking into the food.

After lunch, we proceeded to go Hari Raya shopping at the Geylang Serai New Market, shopping being the perennial favourite of Singaporeans. It was also a convenient place for them to prep themselves with a cup of mood-enhancing and energy boosting beverage for the next item in the itinerary – a visit to the Jurong Bird Park.



A trip to the sprawling Jurong Bird Park did not turn out to be as exhausting for the senior citizens as we might worry about. Even though most of them were unable to walk up the slopes and down to the valleys, they were able to enjoy their pleasures of “bird watching” with the services of trams taking them around the Park in comfort. They were even given free admissions into the Park. How much more blessing could we ask for?



To sum it up, it was a wonderful outing for all!

Peggy Lee

BB & Dialect at Bo Tien Home on 25 July 2015

This has been an annual event with the Dialect Team joining the BB to visit the home for the aged. Every year new boys replace the older ones who grow up and move on, the elderly grow older and pass on but the Dialect Team remain the same.



FIRST JOHN 4

In March Vine, I shared from Chapter 3 of the First Epistle of John, the Epistle that the Jurong West Care Group has been studying. The message was about loving one another. Now, I am going to share from Chapter 4. Observe the following points:

1 John 4:1-6	To guard against falsehood.
1 John 4:7	Let us love one another.
1 John 4:8	He who does not love does not know God.
1 John 4:9-11	We ought to love one another because the love of God was manifested toward us.
1 John 4:12-16	Seeing God through love.
1 John 4:17-19	The consummation of love
1 John 4:20-21	He who loves God must love his brother.



There are altogether 21 verses in Chapter 4, and 15 of them relate directly to love. In fact, the main theme of the First Epistle of John is about love and fellowship with God. We talk about love, but do we breathe love? Do we dream about love? God first loved us; when we have fellowship with God, the love of God flows freely toward us; when we have fellowship with one another, this love in Christ Jesus

flows vertically down and continues its horizontal flow among us and we ought to be consumed by it. If there is a lack of this flow of love among us, then there may be a blockage somewhere in our love for God. **Verse 4:20 tells us that one cannot say “I love God” and then hate his brother.**

Love is incompatible with hate.

It is not easy to love. God manifested his love toward us and it involved the sacrifice of His beloved Son on the Cross. Parents manifest their love toward their children and this involves a lot of heartaches and despair because children do not always respond positively in the reception of this love; it is much like children of God not readily acknowledging God’s love and hence failing to fully consummate it. Brethren manifest love for one another in care and concern from time to time, but this love does run into human barriers because of sin. As we contemplate why it is so hard to love, we do not condemn the love; instead, we ought to think about the source and consequence of the hardness of human hearts. **When the SOFTNESS OF**

LOVE runs into the HARDNESS OF HEARTS, hurts emanate from the clash!

When we see the hatred in the world, around us and in us today, we know that the situation we are in is little unlike the situation at the time when Apostle John wrote his epistles. Look at the following order of messages Apostle John delivered to the church in his time (1 John 4):

- Firstly, a caution against the Christians being taken in by falsehoods. (vv. 1 – 6)
- Secondly, from v. 7 onwards, the exhortations to the Christians to love one another.
- Thirdly, the warning that hate is incompatible with Christians' proclamations about loving God. (vv. 20-22)

It seems clear to me that the church that Apostle John addressed was lacking in love and occupied with acrimonies; and all this had the source in false teachings that the Christians were ensnarled in, absorbing their energy into arguments. The outcome was a lot of bitterness diverting them from accepting and loving one another.

Our situation today, a situation lacking in love but abounding in resentments and hostilities – in the world, around us and in us – has partly to do with our energy being absorbed and misappropriated by the falsehoods of the world that are more attractive for our engagement than talking about love, breathing love in our life and sharing love by living through Christ whom God sent into the world in manifestation of His love toward us.

We are not to believe in every spirit, but to test the spirits. We are not to believe in every person who claims prophecy “because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” We have to be alert to “the spirit of the Antichrist, which ... is now already in the world” and be discerning of “the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.” (vv. 1-6)



I would like to remind that the exhortation about love in 1 John 4 (or, alternatively speaking, the absence of love among the Christians) is very much tied to the distracting side issues arising from a spiritual warfare.

As we study the epistle and contemplate the message's relevance to us in JCC today, let us ponder

about the evil distractions and worldly agitations that are messing up the spirit of love in us that we find difficulty to manifest it toward one another? We do well to be wary of this:

“All deception in the course of life is indeed nothing else but a lie reduced to practice and falsehood passing from words into things.” – Robert Southey

Rom. 5:5 tells us that “the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Some commonly asked questions are: How can we feel the Holy Spirit in us? How do we know the Holy Spirit is working in us?

A brief response to the questions would be that a Christian who always prays and keeps a close relationship with God is a Godly person who will at any time feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in him as he walks by the Spirit and desists from carrying out the desire of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16-17) He will not be alone and, God with him, he will feel the fullness of life in spirit and in truth, freely sharing God’s blessings upon him with his neighbours. The fullness of the Spirit in him is borne out beautifully by his visible testimonies in daily living.



“Fullness” implies 100%. In reality, of course, Christians display varying degrees of this fullness of a Spirit-filled life – 90%, 60%, 40% ... hopefully not 0%. If we make no effort to grow in the percentages, we risk fading off the Spirit’s influence in our life. If we at least try to keep showing “a bit more” love to the “unlovable” among our neighbours, struggles notwithstanding, we can have hope to see improvements on our “fullness scale” of spiritual empowerment in our life. It is a fact that many of the great achievements of our early Church Fathers and current Christian field labourers in breaking down barriers to their spiritual work were strongly founded on love and not quarrels – with unavoidable human annoyances handled adeptly without ruining their God-assigned work.

This kind of questions being asked today also existed in the early church. We can also see evidence of this in Apostle Paul’s clarifications about “Spiritual Gifts: Unity in Diversity” in 1 Cor. 12. There is a clear distinction between “having the Holy Spirit indwelling, upon one becoming a Christian” and “having certain manifestations of the Holy Spirit.” Everyone who is truly a Christian (one who truly believes in Christ) ought to have the Holy Spirit abiding in him:

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” – 1 John 3:24



Apostle Paul tells us that not everyone has the same gift, but they have the same Holy Spirit. Not everyone has the same ministry but they have the same Lord. While the same God works all in all, not everyone has the same activity; and not everyone is given the same manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But **one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**” – 1 Cor. 12:7-11*

The warnings about false spirit and false prophets in 1 John 4:1-6 were relevant in the early church as they are relevant in today’s church. And the testing of the spirit – whether it is of God or of the Antichrist – requires our due diligence in the study of Scripture and in prayers.

1 John 4:4-6 reminds us that children of God are firm in their foundation of faith and thereby they give stout testimonies of overcoming the spirit of the Antichrist in the world because they know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. It is of utmost importance to note that the spirit of truth speaks of knowing God through love, not through vanity.

Referring to Luke 4:6-7, imagine that you are confronted by a hard-to-resist invitation by the spirit of the Antichrist:

“All this authority I will give you, and all glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if you will worship before me, all the wonders that you see and envy will be yours.”

How would you respond?

The terms “of God” and “of the world” are used by Apostle John to distinguish between whether we place God first in our life or we centre our life on self and earthly things. Apostle Paul advises on how not to walk and how to walk (Philippians 3:17-21):

- Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
- For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.
- For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

If we are of God, then we are of Love, because God is Love. Therefore, it is perfectly apt for Apostle John to carry on from warning us against being taken in by the spirit of error (1 John 4:1-6) to explaining at great length the spirit of truth encompassing:

- KNOWING GOD THROUGH LOVE (vv. 7-11),
- SEEING GOD THROUGH LOVE (vv. 12-16) and
- THE CONSUMMATION OF LOVE (vv. 17-18).

He closes the Chapter 4 of his First Epistle with the commandment that “HE WHO LOVES GOD MUST LOVE HIS BROTHER ALSO.” (v. 21)



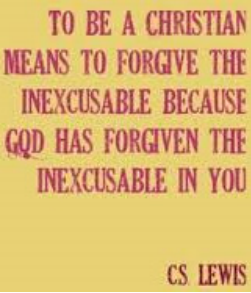
It is LOVE, LOVE and more LOVE in this First Epistle of John. It is not surprising because the two greatest commandments are about LOVE, and it is to be emphasized that “**ON THESE**

TWO COMMANDMENTS HANG ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.”
(Matt. 22:40)

Can Christians do any wrong to emphasise LOVE. If we have LOVE for God, will we worship idols in the world? If we have LOVE for our neighbours, will we commit murder against a brother or sister (1 John 3:15)?

LOVE conquers all, because LOVE covers a multitude of sins! (1 Pet. 4:8)

1 John 4:10 tells us that we are not the source of love. Rather, our capacity to love derives from God who first extends His love toward us by sending His Son to redeem us from our sins. If God so loves us, ought we not be touched and influenced by it to love one another?

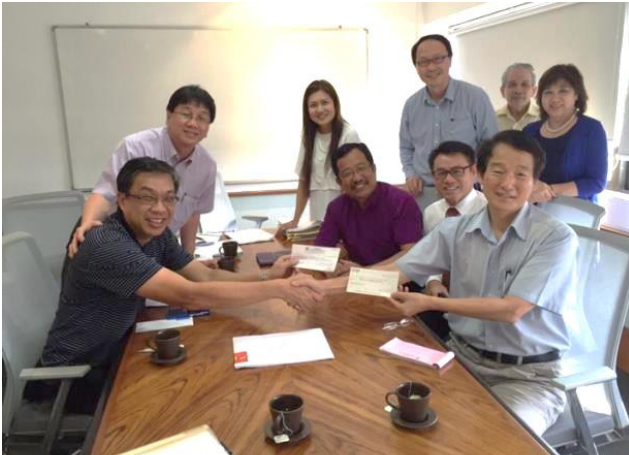


Love makes the world go round – Life is more pleasant when people treat one another lovingly.

John Lee

History Archive Note:

On 30th July 2015, we secured our first tenant for NJCC. The contract was signed around 5:00 pm with **New Life Baptist Church**. The contract is about 6 inches thick (about 3 of church NIV bibles stacked up). May God bless our 2 churches with peace that we may never have to refer to this tome.



We thank our leasing sub-com headed by **Chee Haw** for the hard work and perseverance. May they press on to finish the work of signing up another two tenants who are still pending. The tower crane is already up and the building should soon take shape.



Debra stayed back in Brisbane for more than two months after her graduation, looking for a job. There were many leads but all were false hopes. Finally all hope was gone when her student visa expired and she had to come back to Singapore. However we had great hope for her on her return because there were two job interviews waiting for her.

Upon her return, she arranged for her interviews with a hospital and a polyclinic. Debra went for a job interview in April and was told that a reply would come within 2 weeks. It was on the 2nd week that this thought kept lingering in my mind to call the HR Department to find out the result of the interview. I was familiar with the HR Department because they liaised with me while Debra was in Australia.

On 20 April 2015 at about 4.30 pm as I was preparing dinner, I heard over the radio the DJ mentioning that somebody applied for an events management job and the father tried to call the HR to find out the result of the interview. The DJ said, "Parents, I know you love your kids very much, but please don't call on your kids' behalf because the company might as well employ you. The DJ advised just like the Disney song, 'Let It Go.'" I was stunned when I heard that. How could the situation be so similar when nobody called in to the station to ask? It was just the usual Gold 90.5 FM hour of song playing but suddenly she just mentioned this to my amazement. This was really God speaking to me to tell me to let go and let Him handle the problem because I had been praying to God about Debra's job and asking whether I should call to find out. God is really so real. He used a DJ to speak to me. Was it a coincidence?

I was still very worried and anxious because after about 2 months there was still no news of the interview. During this time I kept praying and asking God to provide a job for her because Debra could not apply for jobs anywhere she liked, but could only approach certain training institutions specified by the Singapore Pharmacy Council. I was so anxious and worried and God in His faithfulness kept reminding me to be still and wait for Him to act. He gave me a lot of Bible verses to encourage me.

2 Chronicles 20:15: "This is what the LORD says to you: "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours but God's."

John 11: 40 – "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

About a week before the job offer came for Debra. He showed me this verse:

Isaiah 61: 2: "The day of the Lord's favour has come"

During a CG meeting in June, we prayed for God's favour on Debra's job seeking. After that, she was called up to attend an interview with a community pharmacy and was offered the job immediately.

We want to give all praise, glory and thanks to our God who has shown Debra His favour. While we had been thinking that it would be good for Debra if she could work in the hospitals, God had His plans. We believe His ways are definitely higher than ours and He has a calling for her in the community pharmacy.

To this day, we don't know why the 2 earlier interviews did not give her a reply but with the MERS virus coming to Singapore as predicted by our PM, it is probably best not to be working in those environments for the moment. We should wait for the virus to pass over. Amen.