

The Fine M^{ulti}media Ministry

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JCC Family FUN Day

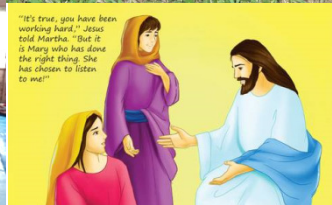
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The Vine Committee

Editor:
Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:

John Lee
Alicia Wong
Joyce Tan

Photos:

Nick Wong
Martin Cheah

Cover Photo:

JCC Family Fun Day
@ East Coast Park
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HOM'S Reflections

When David Bowie (10/1/16) and Prince (21/4/16) passed away, it did not bother me a whole lot because I am not a fan of their music. It really should bother me to

think that they are going to an eternity without Christ as they were not Christians. Some may say it is unfair but it is only logical. If you chose to marry Mr A, then you cannot expect to live in the house of Mr B. There is an idiom, "You've made your bed and you'll have to lie in it." There is no unfairness, there is freedom of choice. Nobody can force you to be a Christian but we will always want to present you with the choices.

Recently, I learnt that **Bernard Paul**, a long-time ago member of the Jurong

West Care Group, had gone home to the Lord. The news saddened me because he was a young man and a member of the CG during the time of Mr Khoo's leadership. From our conversations, his life was not a bed of roses and he lived an unfulfilled life. Despite his short unnoticed existence, I feel he is better off than those well known stars because he is in the safe arms of Jesus.



From what I remember of Bernard, he did not do well in his studies and found it hard to get a job which he liked. He went back to live in Johor with his mother but came out to Singapore for work. We kept in touch but hardly met except that one time, some years ago, when he misplaced his passport and could not go back to Johor, so he came to stay with us for one night.

Then one day, he called to tell me his mother passed away and he was very sad and lonely. That may have been the reason that he himself

passed away not very long after. Indeed loneliness can affect one's health. *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone."* (Genesis 2:18a)

After an exhilarating high of experiencing God's provision of good weather for the Family Day, I experience a new low the very next day when my car was involved in an accident. I am not writing an accident report, it has already been submitted. I am just pondering why after driving for about 26 years and just when the car has only 6 months left before being scrapped, that an accident should happen. It is not like I had an accident free driving experience but there were very few over the years and I had not expected one just before I stop driving.



However, since it is insured, I made a claim for repairs. After the repairs, one of my colleagues said the car looks brand new and can be extended for another 5 years. The external may look new but the internal is 10 years old. As I write this, the car air-con is not giving cool breeze, looks like I need to top up the coolant again.



To be sure, if the COE for 5 years were to drop to \$10k, I would consider extending the life of the car. I will have to wait and see what is God's purpose for making my car look like it's born again.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Death of a star, of a friend and of a car – everything must have an end one day. When it comes may we find our eternity with Jesus.

Martin Cheah

GOD SPEAKS

God speaks. Sometimes as soft as a whisper, other times as loud as thunder. How does He speak to me?

I remember hearing Him the clearest when I was a single, not distracted by affairs of the heart or the responsibilities of the family.



"Look at these beautiful flowers. Miss Chan (my maiden surname), how can we call them weeds?" one of my students asked during a weeding session at the nearby garden just outside the school. Some of them even kept the wild flowers in the bags they brought along for weeding, intending to give them a good home. At that moment, Matthew 6:28-34 came to

mind.

28 *"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'* **32** *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

A further observation of my students' tender loving care of the wild flowers brought in mind another meaning - that what we call weeds and deem as useless in our eyes are precious to others. I was reminded not to judge others with tinted glasses. Down the years through

different parts of my life, the interpretation of this memory varies but the key verse remains.

God speaks, prompts, reminds and teaches beyond the Bible but first, we must be grounded in His Word in order to recognise His voice, His Words and His message because our personal feelings or prejudice can cloud judgement even in the best of us. That is why reading and reflecting on God's Word is so



important. It forms the foundation of our base. Many things can speak to us but not all come from God for we must know that even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

Let's pray that God will give us a heart of discernment, that we will not be led astray by this chaotic world while straining to hear His voice. That we can hear and recognise the voice of our shepherd despite all the distractions and have Him lead us down the right path home.



Alicia Wong

Mission Is Possible

I was delighted, yet stunned, when Samantha messaged me to share her reflections in “The Vine”, on Abundance Cell group’s latest adventure and mission trip to the outskirts of Batam. I was thinking of penning this article through the eyes of the others in the Cell group since we returned from the trip.

While I procrastinated in thinking how I should pitch and angle the story, Samantha’s has encouraged me to write this article. This is a story of a group of people whom we visited on 19 March 2016. You can imagine how “stunned” I was when I received the message from Samantha. It was like a wake-up call every morning with my alarm. This led me to think about the Story of Jonah when we needed to do something and we did not? For me, this was one of the realisations since I started writing articles and it is not just about having an inspiration to do so, right? ☺

Through Samantha’s reflections, I incorporated my observations on the mission trip in this article as well. Thank you, Samantha!



The temperature is definitely hotter than our comfort zone in Singapore. No air-con, no shoes, no clean floors, insufficient food, no proper toilets, no lights, no education, no help from anyone except themselves, no future? You got the message?

We are fortunate and thankful to be where we are and to have what we have. Giving thanks with a grateful heart and giving thanks to the Holy One! Most importantly, giving thanks to God for the opportunity to give and care for others who are in need.

As we started unpacking the food and things into the Chief’s house, we felt the warmth from the villagers. Many of us did not expect to see the dilapidated state of their living environment with many of



them walking around without shoes. At that point, the heat from the scorching sun and the lack of sanitary facilities did not matter as we melted into a state of compassion and embarrassment of how sometimes we are still complaining about the things that we have. ☹️

Worship and Fellowship through Songs

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.” (Ps 96:1-3)

We gathered together for worship. Songs were first sung in English, then in Bahasa Indonesia. As many of them are illiterate even in their own language, they sang based on the tune and their memory of the songs. How marvelous, how wonderful and my song shall ever be. How marvelous, how wonderful tis my Saviour’s love for me!

Bonding and Fun through Games

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt 18:20)

And there were ice-breaker games, where the young and the old had fun. From the picture, could you tell what games we had?

Prizes were shared with the teams. Laughter could be heard despite the differences in language. The common language of the Love of God through the games is universal. Glad everyone had fun!



Learning and Sharing through Bible Study

“He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason that you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.” (John 8:47)

The men’s class was led by William Wong with translation from a fellow villager in the group. It was a long session with sharing from the group seated on planks in the hot and humid weather.

Samantha with support from Susan and our Indonesian translator were with the women’s group and the sharing was wonderful as many of the women attended the session. This is the sharing from Samantha.



“The women’s group that I shared with, they totally cannot read, except for one young lady. I was very encouraged by their efforts trying to recite last month’s memory verse as well as trying to do the same for the new memory verse that we had just given to them. I personally would not have been able to do so. These ladies encouraged me that I should not stop trying.”



Ethel with support from Danny, Mong, another Indonesian translator and I, were at the Children’s class. How impressed we were when the kids were able to memorise the Bible verses and

articulated them with confidence and belief!



The children from the Cell group, Caleb, Lucas, Kieran, Jian Rong, Jian Jing and Celeste taught, helped and interacted with the children of the villagers through the art of origami.

It was heart-breaking to see scars from falls or scratches on most of the children. Some of

the scars were still fresh and others healed leaving a deep mark on their young tanned skin. When I heard the sharing by others on how the villagers would just pull their kids out of the water if they fall in, my heart just sank. Would we not have fainted just having that thought? How different are the lives of many others that we do not know nor see. God's love goes beyond all the difference in race and nationalities. So, are we there to help them or have they been teaching us instead on what are the more important things in life? What can we really do for them?

Love and Care through Medical Assistance

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength...Love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:30-31)

Together with Alistor, our nurse on the trip, Tony, Susan and Teck Chai assisted the villagers with checking of blood pressure and providing medicine to those who were not well. Advice was given after listening and checking of their symptoms before medical assistance was administered.



Food and Giving through Donations

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Matt 7:7)

It is better to give than to receive. Susan was extending the donations to the mothers in the group. They thanked everyone by shaking our hands in return for the generosity.



Effort and Time through Visitations

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...” (Matt 28:19)

I was reading an article, “The True Treasure of Life” by Philip Ng. He shared how Jesus Christ has brought true meaning to his life and he realised that knowing God involved a relationship more than just in an intellectual way. How true! How ignorant we are in the eyes of God that we do not know that there is no worldly measurement to understand the ways of God and His Plan for us in our lives.



This relationship with God is about Love in action, isn't it?

Samantha shared further on her heartfelt thoughts.

“The most meaningful time I spent was during the home visitations. Mong and I visited 5 homes. We sat with them and listened to their stories. As we asked them how we can pray for them, all they had asked for was for us to pray for their family and safety; schooling opportunities, health and overall well-being of their lives. Although they were poor, they did not ask for material things. Our children made friends with their children, playing together. I was touched as there was no barrier among us and this is only possible if we are willing to reach out first.



Faith comes from hearing and I am thankful to God that I have been given such privilege to serve His people.

Also, I like to share the story from one of the ladies during the visitation. This lady had an accident 8 years ago and it cost her one leg. She shared with me that she was trying to climb a coconut tree one morning and she fell from the tree as it was slippery. What was worst was that she was pregnant then. Her baby is now all grown up and was with us that day. I told her that God had protected her baby from the fall. She told me if it is not because of God, she would have committed suicide as her husband was in jail for fighting during that time. She was depressed.

I am sharing to encourage everyone and hope it does. Sometimes we are not sure if the works that we do have any impact on them and we will still be wondering whether they understand our intentions or not. But her testimony revealed how impactful it is when someone knows God and how God's word and the works from missionaries can make a difference."

There were also observations on how we can help the villagers to understand about hygiene and that could be one of the reasons why many of them fall sick easily. Similar messages on educating them on the harmful effects of smoking could be taught to them as well. These comments were conveyed to the organising committee.



“...The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few...”(Luke 10:2)

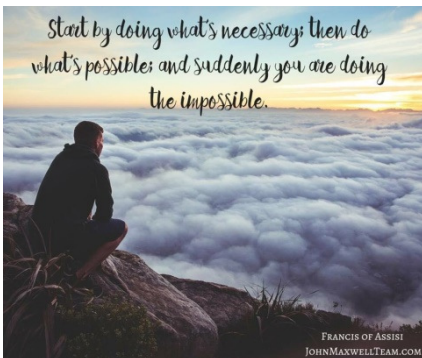
As we gazed at the setting sun through the window of the ferry returning to Singapore, we were exhausted, but happy from the trip. It was a meaningful day for many of us with a meaningful message about the Love of God and doing beyond what we think we can do.

So, can we do much without God or can we do a little more with the help from God? Yes, I pray that we can do much with the help from God. Alone we can do little, but together, we can do more in the name of our Lord.

If you are interested to join us for the next trip, let us know. Hope we will have another trip sometime soon. ☺

Thank you for the sharing and the reminder to write this article, Samantha. On behalf of the Abundance Cell group, indeed, we can start doing what is necessary; then do what is possible and suddenly, we are doing the impossible, with help from God!

Joyce Tan



SNIPPETS

Monthly Bite-size News



1st May

There were a number of baptisms and transfers of membership. We pray that they will find a home in JCC.

Bro Kin Siong is now in Japan on work assignment.

Only one man away but more than 5 roles (*Dialect Worship Leader, slides arranger projectionist, English Worship Leader, backup Singer*) have to be replaced.



Dear Readers, you can share just snippets of happening events! A photo and a few words that is all.



Samuel Chong is in Cambodia – you can read his daily journey with Jesus in Cambodia at the undermentioned blog: <https://tendegreesofdiscovery.wordpress.com/>

Martha and Mary

A lesson on priorities

Question: Why do people attend a company AGM?

Answer (Tick your choice):

- For the free meal
- To gather information about the company
- To participate in discussion on company affairs
- To vote for the right management
- To look for hints on how the share price will move

Your meeting is a high priority if there's free food.



Nobody would say that an AGM is unimportant. Yet, there are shareholders who attend AGM for the wrong reason – such as treating the AGM as an “Annual General Makan” session. Instead of adding value to the meeting by their attendance, they are distracted by a constant watch on the time when the “boring meeting” would draw to a close and they can start their scramble to be first in line at the buffet table.



There are also criticisms that the management itself is sometimes responsible for the state of shareholders' disinterest in the affairs of the company by the way that the meeting agenda are given reluctant attention while the provision of hospitality is wholehearted.

DON'T DO WRONG THINGS FOR THE RIGHT REASONS, AND DON'T DO RIGHT THINGS FOR THE WRONG REASONS.

The excessive “misbehaviour” of some (thankfully, only some; not all are in the wrong) has been given negative coverage in the media. There have been suggestions that the host (management of the company) holding the AGM should encourage participants to be more concerned with the meeting agenda instead of the food. It is perfectly

right for the management to show a respectable hospitality with a decent provision of food or refreshment, but there should not be an over-attention on the catering part to the extent that the convivial hospitality raises an unintended distraction from the purpose of the meeting:

- It is a distraction to the host (management) when a premium is placed on hospitality instead of pleasing the shareholders by diligent preparations to present a good accounting of matters concerning the company.
- It is a distraction to the participants (shareholders), who are being side-tracked by the smell (literally or figuratively) of the food that the time-keeper never too subtly makes known is waiting, when their attention should be directed to the importance of matters being discussed at the AGM.

The agenda of the meeting are important; the provision of hospitality is basic. Should the host prioritise an extent of hospitality that becomes a problem, or focus more on **“few things are needed – or indeed only one”** – the one thing that is the purpose of the periodic meeting?

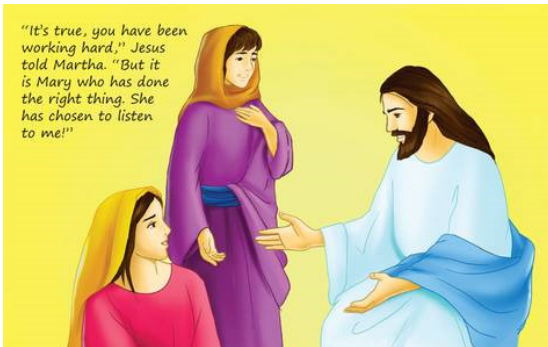
[The story of Martha and Mary](#)

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

*“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but **few things are needed—or indeed only one**. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” – Luke 10:38-42*

Martha and Mary were two sisters who welcomed Jesus the King to their home. Both of them were faithful disciples of Christ; but they had different ideas of what was more important, different interests and different understandings about the visiting intention of the special guest (Jesus). Martha was more concerned about hospitality, less interested in what Jesus had in His agenda and prioritised busyness with many things although only **“few things are needed – or indeed only one.”**

Martha was wrong in her priority, and therefore became anxious and upset. There is nothing wrong with busyness per se, but overworking with the less important things to the neglect of the more important becomes wrong. While Martha was glad to receive Jesus into her home, she ended up feeling hassled and neglecting the Lord.



In the church, Christians have time to be active in serving, but they also must know the time to be silent and contemplative. For example, in church service when the preacher is preaching, it is not the time for the congregation to be busy with activity. It is the

time for feeding on the Word. When Jesus was speaking, Mary “sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he said.” Hers was the posture of a disciple, serious about the Word of God. She knew her priority for the moment. She therefore gained the praise of the King for being willing to listen. It was not the activeness of Martha in work but the contemplative spirit of Mary in showing attentiveness to the King that conveyed the real warmth of hospitality (welcome) that Jesus valued.

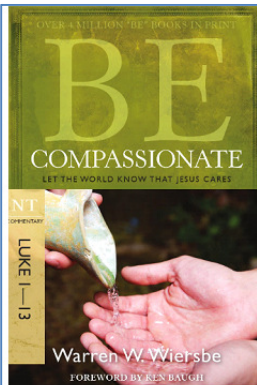
Traditionally during the Christmas season, Christians go carolling to spread cheer and goodwill. For this reason, carollers are usually

welcome by people including non-Christians. Some families take a keen interest to invite carollers to their homes. Carollers are more than happy to accommodate all requests as best as they can. It is blessed to be a blessing, so being able to bring Christmas cheer to others is a joy to self. However, there may be some people who are hesitant about inviting carollers because they may have the Martha-like misapprehension that it would entail a lot of preparations for serving when, in fact, **only one thing is required** – a readiness to be contemplative of the message of glad tidings that the carols bring. The message of Christmas via the carols is also a message of “**One thing**” that everyone can go for, beyond the festive cheer, to enjoy the true blessings that come with faith in Christ:

***One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple. (Ps 27:4)***

Whether we are organising or attending a meeting (secular or otherwise), serving as carollers or inviting carollers, playing host or being a guest, teaching the Word in Sunday School or making use of an opportunity to learn the Word ..., what is the **one thing** that is relevant to the occasion? There is nothing wrong to be active in preparations for basics that are needed (e.g. hospitality and conveniences) if this is not overdone to eclipse the contemplativeness that should be rightfully focused on the primary object of the occasion.

In the church, both activeness and contemplativeness are needed too. However, we must be astute to strike the right balance between activeness and contemplativeness so as to guard ourselves against being physically strained and spiritually drained (which is as undesirable as being lacking in zeal for service that Rom. 12:11 warns against). In this regard, I am not immune to failing at times. As a Christian, I like the following as a constant reminder:



“Few things are as damaging to the Christian life as trying to work for Christ without taking time to commune with Christ. “For without Me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). Mary chose the better part, the part that could not be taken from her. She knew that she could not live “by bread alone” (Matt. 4:4).

“Whenever we criticize others and pity ourselves because we feel overworked, we had better take time to examine our lives. Perhaps in all of our busyness, we have been ignoring the Lord. Martha’s problem was not that she had too much work to do, but that she allowed her work to distract her and pull her apart. She was trying to serve two masters! If serving Christ makes us difficult to live with, then something is terribly wrong with our service!

*“According to John 12:1–2, Martha must have learned her lesson, for she prepared a feast for Jesus, the Twelve, and her brother and sister—that’s fifteen people—and did not utter one word of complaint! She had God’s peace in her heart because she had learned to sit at the feet of Jesus.” – **Warren W. Wiersbe***

John Lee



New Councilmen for English Section:
Justin Tay and Patrick Boey.



Being part of the organizing committee was like running a relay race, you were passed the baton and you had to run without dropping it until you can pass it to the next person.

I am sure everyone would have preferred to spend a restful day

under the shade of a large tree but someone had to organize the games, the transport, the food, etc. Thanks to the committee who did the work so that the rest of us could just sit in the shade.



I woke up at around 4:15 am to use the toilet and then went back to sleep. Suddenly, I heard a voice that sounded like Debra's, say, "Hello!" I woke up and jump out of bed because it was already 7:15 am. Debra and Joo See were still asleep. So it was a dream? Joo See and I rushed through breakfast and shower and arrived at 101, slightly late. I went straight to work, taking some videos of the worship led by the Bethel CG. (watch it here: https://youtu.be/fz_4SB-SW_8)



What the committee was afraid of was rain because the whole event was held in the open field at the East Coast Park next to carpark E2. Thanks be to God, it was a sunny day. It was only after we had reached back to 101 did it rain very



heavily in the Jurong area.



The youths organized many fun games for the active people and they had a lot of fun in the sun. However, the inactive people had the shade of a few large trees to sit under and enjoy the breeze. It is very challenging to try to engage these 2 types of people. If we try to entertain the inactive people, the active ones will feel bored and vice versa. Perhaps the inactive people just enjoyed watching the active ones in the sun from their shady position.



View the photos at : <https://youtu.be/tJIVefY3tiE>

A Lesson on Leaven

Extracted from an email by
James Candiah

Why Fuss over a Little Leaven (Yeast)?

“A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” (Galatians 5:9)

In the Bible, yeast symbolizes sin. Just like yeast eats away at the sugars in the dough, sin eats away at us. And sin causes us to become separated from God.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.” (Isaiah 59:2)

Leaven and the Sin of Pride

“Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?” (1 Corinthians 5:6)

Scripture especially relates leaven to the sin of arrogance, boasting, conceit, and pride. We know that arrogance is not pleasing to the Lord, and pride often precedes our own downfall.

“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18)

Passover in the New Testament

In the Bible, the Apostle Paul exhorts the Believers in Corinth to get rid of the sin of malice and wickedness. *“Therefore let us keep the Festival [Passover], not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”* (1 Corinthians 5:7–8)

The Leaven of False Teachings

In the New Testament, leaven can also represent the corrupting influence of false teachings. Yeshua (Jesus) warned people to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:11–12).

Passover, Leaven, and God's Plan for Israel and the Church

As Passover approaches, let's remember that only a temporary blindness has come upon the Jewish People in order that salvation would come to the Gentiles, and after that to the nation of Israel.

“Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.” (Romans 11:11)

May we search our hearts for the leaven of sin, so that we may walk in humility, with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.