



JCC/YCCL Dialect Ministry  
@ National Day Thanksgiving Service

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**TOP SECRET**

**Parenting Talk**



**The Vine Committee**

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Dialect Teams @ St  
Andrew's Cathedral  
on 18 Aug 2016



# HOM'S Reflections

We were on the ECP going towards the MCE after visiting my mother in the East Coast when we got the Whatsapp message from the church. The PM had collapsed and the church is rallying all members

to pray. Even while I continued to drive, Joo See began to pray for healing as well as for PM to know the True Living God. We agreed with Amen.

It is hard to ignore 2 ACS boys who worked hard for Singapore. The late S R Nathan, sixth president of Singapore and Joseph Schooling, winner of Singapore's 1<sup>st</sup> and only Olympic Gold.

"Mr Nathan's life is an inspiration to all of us. His life was a story of how a young boy strove to triumph over his circumstances, rising through the ranks of the public service, to one day occupying the highest office in the land as our longest-serving President." – *Lee Hsien Loong.*



Joseph Schooling - a story of a young boy who comes from a tiny country, no more than a little red dot on a world map, beating swimming champions from much larger nations, like America, South Africa and Hungary. It is a story of someone who dared to dream big.

At the recent National Day Thanksgiving Service on 18<sup>th</sup> August, which I attended with the Dialect Team, the preacher spoke about two sea creatures, the salmon and the jellyfish.

The salmon will for some undiscovered reason when it is fully grown turn and swim thousands of kilometers, even against the currents, back to where it was born to lay its eggs. The jellyfish on the other hand, does not even swim but just float and flow with the current in a directionless life. Its apparent purpose in life is to sting anyone that gets in its way. The speaker compared Joseph Schooling to the salmon and asked us if we are like the jellyfish or the salmon.

Let us consider JCC, which have been drifting about for the past 48 years but suddenly we turned and dream big. Now the big vision is about to be realized, do we see our purpose in life, like the salmon or like the jellyfish? The URA

have a vision for Jurong Lake District (JLD), many enterprises have their vision for JLD business and entertainment expansion, so too must JCC have a vision for NJCC. We did not build a bigger hall so that we can sit further apart from each other. I am told that the big churches in Europe are empty and that is not my dream. *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count.... Revelations 7:9*

God has revealed that there will be a great multitude in Heaven, so how can it be empty on Earth? We must be like the two young men who strove to achieve great things for Singapore, but in our case for the Kingdom of Heaven. This is our purpose to gather the harvest and not to drift aimlessly stinging people.



How can we gather the harvest? Pray.

Isaiah 6:8

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Genesis 7:7-9

*And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, male and female, **came to Noah** and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah.*

Did you ever wonder how did Noah fill the Ark with animals? Did he go on a safari to capture all the animals? From Genesis 7:9 we find that the animals came to the Ark and so should we expect the people to come to NJCC.



1 Corinthians 9:24

*Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.*



*Martin Cheah*



*Part 1: Whatever swallowed Jonah, I do not discount the message about a gracious and compassionate God.*

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Here is a simple children's quiz. Choose the correct answer.

Jonah was swallowed by:

- (1) a fish
- (2) a whale, which is a mammal
- (3) a great sea creature.

It is called a "simple quiz" because every answer a child chooses can be supported, if the teacher is not going to be too strict about it.

If you refer to Jonah 1:17, most English Bibles say that Jonah was swallowed by a fish.

**Answer (1)** is therefore acceptable. ☺

However, there are precocious children with big questioning minds that can flummox some adults. They exclaim, "Teacher, teacher ... wrong ... Jesus said in Matt. 12:40 that Jonah was swallowed by a whale."

Here is what Jesus said:

*"for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." – Matt 12:40 (1901 ASV)*

It was similarly recorded in the 1873 Authorized Version where "Jonah" is spelt as "Jonas."

Referring to the Book of Jonah in the Septuagint<sup>1</sup>, the relevant verse reads as follows:

*“Now the Lord had commanded a great whale to swallow up Jonas: and Jonas was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights.”*

**Answer (2)** of the quiz is thus also acceptable. ☺

If you are in doubt about choosing (1) or (2), you may have no difficulty accepting answer (3) for surely a huge fish or whale is not inconsistent with a great sea creature. The following (including square brackets) is an exact quotation from an Analytical Literal Translation of the Old Testament (Septuagint). You can check it out online by googling it:

*“Now the LORD commanded a great sea-monster [or, sea creature, and throughout book] to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the sea-monster three days and three nights. [cp. Matt 12:40; 16:4]”*

**Answer (3)** of the quiz is clearly well-supported too.☺

Whatever creature it was that swallowed Jonah, there are people who think of the story of Jonah as a fable as they simply cannot accept that a man could be swallowed by such a creature and survive. The following account taken from the *Princeton Theological Review*, Vol. 25, 1927, p. 636<sup>2</sup> may throw some light on the truth:



*“In February 1891, the whaling ship Star of the East was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands and the lookout sighted a large sperm whale three miles away. Two boats were launched and in a short time one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the **fish**<sup>3</sup>. The second boat attacked the whale, but was upset by a lash of its tail and the men thrown into the sea, one man being drowned, and another, James Bartley, having disappeared, could not be found. The whale was killed and in a few hours was lying by the ship’s side and the crew were busy with axes and spades removing the blubber. They worked all day and part of the night. Next morning, they attached some tackle to the stomach which was hoisted on the deck. The sailors were star-*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ellopos.net/elpenor/greek-texts/septuagint/chapter.asp?book=36&page=2>

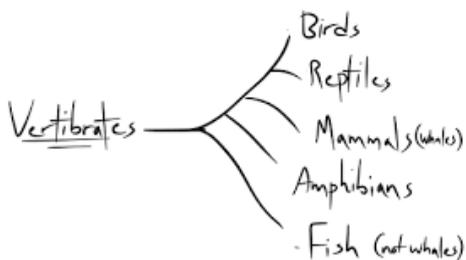
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/homeofcd/christian2.html>

<sup>3</sup> Emphasis mine

tled by something in it which gave spasmodic signs off life, and inside was found the missing sailor doubled up and unconscious. He was laid on the deck and treated to a bath of sea water which soon revived him... He remained two weeks a raving lunatic... At the end of the third week he had entirely recovered from the shock and resumed his duties.

*“Bartley affirms that he would probably have lived inside his house of flesh until he starved, for he lost his senses through fright and not from lack of air. He remembers the sensation of being thrown out of the boat into the sea... He was then encompassed by a great darkness and he felt he was slipping along a smooth passage of some sort that seemed to move and carry him forward. The sensation lasted but a short time and then he realized he had more room. He felt about him and his hands came in contact with a yielding, slimy substance that seemed to shrink from his touch. It finally dawned upon him that he had been swallowed by the whale... He could easily breathe, but the heat was terrible. It was not a scorching, stifling nature, but it seemed to open the pores of his skin and draw out his vitality... His skin was exposed to the action of the gastric juice ... face, neck and hands were bleached to a deadly whiteness and took on the appearance of parchment ... (and) never recovered its natural appearance ... (though otherwise) his health did not seem affected by his terrible experience.”*

Evidently, Jonah surviving in the belly of a sea creature for three days and three nights could not be said to be absolutely impossible. There is no lack of unusual and miraculous events happening in history. If non-objective criticisms of the Jonah narrative are acceptable, then it would become open season to similarly dispel all other accounts of miraculous events in the Bible with a single brush stroke.



The incident concerning Jonah happened thousands of years ago. The word used in the OT to describe the particular sea creature could not have been conforming to the phylogeny and taxonomical classification schemes of the modern scientific community. Under-

standably, in those days, a whale might be considered as a fish; or maybe all

sea creatures that swam like a fish were named as fish. ☺ As a hint of a nomenclature problem, a whale is a “fish” (鱼 *ikan*) if we take a word by word literal translation from today’s Mandarin name (鲸鱼) or Malay name (*ikan paus*) for it. ☺ According to Hebrew and Greek scholar Jack Lewis, both the Hebrew word (in the Book of Jonah) and the Greek word (in the Septuagint and as used by Jesus in Matt. 12:40) “designate sea creatures of undefined species.” Incidentally, I also note that in the *Princeton’s* article above-quoted, the word “fish” was also applied “acceptably according to the times” or “mistakenly” to the whale.

I do not lose sleep over what the exact type of sea creature was that swallowed Jonah. Whatever it was, whether a whale, a Great White Shark, a huge coelacanth or a thingamabob, it does not distract me from the primary message that God wants us to receive from the Book. **What is more important – to be “distressed” over what the truth is regarding the type of sea creature that swallowed Jonah, or to be more devoted to grasping the truth about God’s grace in Jonah’s adventure?**

*John Lee*

## **PROGRESS OF NJCC** We have reached the Top floor.....



# Holiday Time

Originally we planned to take a holiday in Taiwan or Penang in July but things didn't turn out as planned, perhaps for the better. In the news these two locations suffered some weather issues and other incidents in the month of July. Taiwan had a train blast injuring 25 people, a tour bus crash killing 26 people and a typhoon while Penang suffered a flash flood that even affected the airport.

Maybe if we had travelled, all these disasters would not have affected us because we are under God's protection. *"... no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent"* Psalm 91:10

We could have been protected like some of our brothers and sisters who travelled to Europe recently, in the midst of train collision in Italy, terror attack in France and a coup in Turkey. However they did have some interesting encounters which I hope they will share in The Vine one day.

Which is better? To go into a dangerous situation and expect to have protection or to stay at home and avoid all the risks?

Perhaps missing all that excitement in life makes it a dull life but spending all that money to get into a risky situation could it be a miscalculation? However there are those who will quote Mark Twain, who said: *"Twenty years from now you will be **more disappointed by the things you didn't do** than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."*

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Philipians 4: 6-7



*Martin Cheah*

# Dialect Ministry's Family Outing on 10<sup>th</sup> August

## We are a great family in Christ Jesus!



46 of us were able to make good use of the school holiday on 10th of August to go on a tour of places in Singapore. It was almost a full bus load.

Our first stop was the **Geok Shi Food Supplies** outlet in Westview Food-Factory, Tuas. Elders in the group know this company very well as "Boon Lay Curry" from its humble be-

ginning as a spice stall at the Boon Lay Market in the 1970s. It is now a leading supplier of chilli paste and assorted condiments that are minced or ground into pastes ready for cooking. Many of us took the opportunity to pick up some of the popular spices that were available for sale direct from the factory.

In the picture, you can see the big family of JCC Dialect Ministry filling up the space at the **Birdnest Museum** within D'Kranji Farm Resort where we had a free sampling of Bird's Nest chocolates, cookies and coffee after listening to an educational explanation about the swiftlets (producers of the edible bird's nest) and the facts and myths of the bird's nest industry. The exhibits and pictorials on display at the museum presented interesting information clearly that even those who were not the intellectual type to grasp the details of knowledge would be able to absorb quick visual images of informative value that would stay with them.

The **D'Kranji Farm** was not the only farm we visited on our day tour. There were other farms on our itinerary.



*Crowd gathering around where the famous spices are weighed and packed for sale.*





We visited the farm of **KIN YAN AGROTECH PTE LTD** near Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve where visitors were able to view the vegetables being

grown organically (without chemical fertilizer and pesticide) and purchase on site the healthy farm products – wheatgrass, Aloe Vera, edible cactus, etc.



We also paid a visit to **BOLLYWOOD VEGGIES** at Neo Tiew Road. In this farm, there is a bistro for the hungry called “Poison Ivy Bistro”. However, all of us already had our lunch earlier at the **Farmart Centre at Choa Chu Kang**; so we didn’t give our tummies any chance to try the possibly “lethal” food-and-drink creations of “Poison Ivy”. ☺ Anyway, it was only a brief stopover for us at **BOLLYWOOD VEGGIES** before we proceeded to the only goat farm in Singapore – **Hay Dairies**.

What a smell when we entered the domicile of the goats! Alright, the goats didn’t invite us to their territory; so we had no complaints as “welcome” or “unwelcome” guests. ☺ Admittedly, the goats were all young and cute and not apprehensive of the human presence with cameras taking candid shots without their permission. At the end of touring the goat pens, thanks to the goats, we even had opportunity of drinking fresh goat’s milk that was on sale.



Imagine how we were able to squeeze so many places into a day tour.

Oops! Did I mention about **Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve**? That was another interesting place we visited for a leisurely stroll to enjoy the sounds and sights. What a great day of visiting places and enjoying fellowship with one another in the family of Christ – no passport needed!



*John Lee*

# PRACTISE, PRACTISE, PRACTISE

There are no shortcuts to great achievement. Joseph Isaac Schooling spent more than 7 years training and a million dollars to achieve the Olympic Gold medal for the 100m Butterfly swim in 50.39 seconds at the Rio Games. We



are proud of his win which is Singapore's first Olympics Gold.

Our Dialect Team had to practise countless times and at various locations the two songs which they presented in front of the President of Singapore and some Ministers and MPs, as well as many Leaders of the various NCCS denominations at the St Andrew's Cathedral on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016.



They won the hearts of the people. We received accolades from the people and the Ministers who liked the Hokkien song. We should be proud of the team.

*Martin Cheah*

<https://youtu.be/FKZ4Mnlh6l8>



# Testimony of one who was rescued from the brink of retrenchment

This personal experience was written so that all may know that Our Lord Almighty, Yahweh is a powerful and Gracious God and that there is no one like our Lord God. HE delights to show HIS power and HIS grace in our daily lives as we seek HIM.

It was a day of gloom when I learnt that my job could be at stake as part of a retrenchment exercise in my workplace. I had worked for 14 years and by now and was quite settled with the job I was doing. It all started when my team and I were asked to be moved to another department suddenly. It was an organizational decision to align functions. I came home that night and could not sleep or pray as I tossed around in my bed with thoughts about my job. I shared with my wife as she could sense the change in me and asked her to pray for me.

As I tried to pray the next morning, I could not focus and worry got me to focus inward. I wondered whether my heart is finding it hard to trust that God will provide and this verse kept coming to my mind:

*“Why are you so downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.”* Psalm 42:11

I sent a text message to Pastor Andrew and a brother from my CG that morning explaining my predicament and asked them to pray for me. Both sent me messages highlighting that God Knows, He will provide and to rest in HIM.

Meanwhile God was busy working in the background, while I was going through this turmoil.

Earlier this year, I had been sharing about a job change to Pastor and this brother who had been praying with me for God’s will to be done. I had applied for an internal role in another organization at my workplace in May and had 2 interviews completed for that new role in June though the results were not known. I found out that the retrenchment exercise would be initiated on 15th June and my name was on the retrenchment list. As I continued with my regular routines at work, there was turmoil within my heart which was at war with God’s word (Proverbs 3: 5-6) to me which assures that HE cares when we trust.

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways submit to HIM, and HE will make your paths straight”*

While trying to pray during one of these long days, I was reminded of the “prayer war room” movie where the WIFE prays that Jesus is the Lord of this house and Satan who comes to kill, steal and destroy would have no say over their house. This encouraged me to seek God more in prayer and commit my problems to God, who has pro-

vided for me since I landed in Singapore without a job. As I prayed, an inner voice reminded me something in the book “Prayer Altars” by John Mulinde:

“Prioritizing our time and giving our first fruits of time to God are key elements in building the prayer altar” (I was found lacking in this aspect for sure)

and

“The altar is a gateway between the spiritual and physical realms – they provide an opening for the spiritual realm to intervene in the physical realm”

During this time, my CG members prayed together about my job situation and my immediate family members and close friends too started to pray for me.

As the prayer altars were being built for me, God started to move “mountains at my workplace”. I came to know that the retrenchment exercise was postponed by a week. I was updated that I would have to appear for a third interview for the new job. In addition, my manager who would have to be around during the retrenchment exercise was going on vacation with his family for the next 10 days.

I think it was divine intervention when Reverend Anthony started sharing daily worship songs with few of us from 21st June onwards and those songs became a great source of inspiration and strength to worship in the midst of my circumstances. My interview went well and I was told that a decision would be made later. On that same day evening, our Pastor Andrew shared this word of encouragement with all JCC Shepherds:

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.  
And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”*

Philippians 4:6-7

I shared about how God has started to make things happen at my workplace and prayers were offered for me that night.

The retrenchment exercise started and colleagues who were impacted were starting to be notified. Next morning, while going to office by MRT, I was praying for strength to face the day in office but God spoke to me through the song “Still” by Hillsong (I will be Still and know you are God - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?hl=en-GB&gl=SG&v=z3wwWFsSINQ> ).

“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You”

Psalm 56:3

“Be Still and know that I am God”  
Psalm 46:10

No one reached out to me at work that day regarding my job while everyone else impacted were notified. I wondered why but decided to be still. There was another of God’s miracle in the making – my retrenchment letter was held back for some reason. This has never happened before to the best of my knowledge as it is quite well planned and there had been 3 such retrenchment exercises earlier this year – this was the finger of God.

The next day, I was informed informally that I would be offered the other job I applied for but it needed to be finally closed with HR. Praise be to God that HE shows a way where there seems to be NO way – I shared this with Pastor Andrew, the CG brother who prayed for me and my family/friends who prayed for me.

*“Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you”* Psalm 63: 3-5

Encouraged by God’s leading in dire circumstances during the last few weeks, I went to JCC that Sunday, to worship and seek HIS direction regarding my work. God’s presence was felt during the worship service and the sermon preached that day seemed like God was speaking to me in person. Message (Exodus 5:22 – 6:13) on that day was:

- When faced with problems,
- Trust in the Person of God
  - Trust in the Promises of God
  - Trust in the Plan of God

How wonderful to know that God is Near and ever-present when we seek HIM:

“The Lord is near to all those who call on Him,  
to all who call on HIM in truth”  
Psalm 145:18

As prayers continued that HIS will be done in my life, HR scheduled a final job interview with me but there were more hurdles to cross at the workplace. I went to office earlier to get ready for interview but my US boss and Local manager were trying to reach me which was quite unusual. I had only an hour to get ready for the HR interview and I realized why they were calling me which is to give me the letter. At that moment, I was reminded of David at Gath (1 Samuel 21) and decided not to respond to their calls. I gave an excuse for not taking the calls which made my managers and department HR to move the meeting with me to the next day.

Immediately, I left my desk and went into a room to pray for HIS strength and while sitting in the room, I shared this with few who were praying for me and requested them to intercede along with me for God's guidance. Before the interview, my cousin n NZ who was praying for me that day/moment sent me these 2 verses as promises given by God:

Isaiah 45:2-4

*"I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:*

*And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that,*

*I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel. For Jacob my servant's sake and Israel mine elect,*

*I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me"*

Exodus 4:12

*"Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say"*

I used these verses to pray and God strengthened me. The HR interview went well that day and at the end of it, HR told me that the final decision and hiring process usually takes till end of the week to close. I praised God and left it in HIS hands.

God works in marvelous ways and HE made things happen that day in line with HIS promises – HR notified the new hiring manager within an hour that they are ok to take me for the new role and my new manager reached out to me formally that day at 2pm that I am offered the role. I accepted the role and informed my US manager and department HR through email as the onus was on me to plan the transition. Next morning, the meeting scheduled did happen as planned at the same time with my US manager. What was meant to be a retrenchment exercise, turned out to be a congratulatory and appreciation sessions with my current manager agreeing to a 2 week transition date that I asked for. This was reminiscent of Esther's story and God turned that day meant to be a day of darkness into joy and celebration.

Glory, Honour and Power be to God Lord Almighty who "broke in pieces the gates of brass, and cut asunder the bars of iron" and "gave me the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places" - Never has such a thing happened at my workplace that a job offer and transition are all closed out within 24 hours.

Many colleagues at my workplace knew by then that my name was on the retrenchment list but could not believe that I got a job internally before the letter was given – the gravity of this can be understood only if you know the fact that no one got an internal offer at my workplace during the last 3 cycles of retrenchment. I shared this

experience with my close colleagues at work and all were surprised that God led me by the hour the day before, which made them see that this was indeed a miracle from Lord Almighty. One of the non-Christian colleagues even came to me and said that my prayers were answered by God and HE never lets us down.

O! How Great is our God and the Works of HIS hands and I cried along with the Psalmist David as exclaimed in Psalm 40:1-5

*“I waited patiently for the Lord: HE turned to me and heard my cry.*

*HE lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; HE set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.*

*HE put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in HIM.*

*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.*

*Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you have planned for us.*

*None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.”*

I share this turn of events in my life that all may be encouraged and edified in our Lord God, Yahweh. I leave you with these thoughts which I learnt:

- God loves to work in unexpected ways at unexpected times – HE is a daily, On-time provider and that is our Jehovah Jireh  
Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God — Psalm 20:7
- God uses ordinary people/brothers/sisters to minister in extraordinary ways – One may sow, others may water but it is GOD who makes it grow.
- Prayer altars are an integral part of growing to be Christ like – HE is the one who can do the impossible. HE longs to have this relationship with us and HE loves us

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. — Matthew 7:7*

- Our God Knows our every need - HE always fulfils HIS purpose in HIS time as per HIS will. Trust in HIM alone.

May this testimony bring Glory and Honour to our Lord of lords, the God Almighty.

# My Thoughts on the Parenting Talk

30 July 2016 (Sat), 2.00 – 5.00pm  
 Jurong Christian Church @101 Yuan Ching Road  
 (Organised by Parents' Prayer Group)

I went to the parenting talk hoping to gain some insights on parenting and communication with my son, Joash. Evelyn Khong

## Communicate & Bond



Evelyn Khong, Family Central  
 Fei Yue Community Services

was an engaging speaker who shared many insights on how to improve our communication with our children. As the group had parents of children with ages ranging from 4 to 20 plus, she did an admirable job of trying to address the different concerns of the parents of children at different stages of their development.

## Communication Blocks

Not or Half Listening	Judge	Criticize
Interrogate	Subject Change	Invalidate
Compare	Give Advice	Placate

She shared about the blocks of communication and what stayed with me was the point of validating the feelings of our children. Often our children, especially during the teenage years, feel that they are not understood by their parents. We need to learn to listen without being defensive. To listen to understand what they are feeling even if we may not agree with them. To hold and wait for the right time and place before we talk or give advice. We also need to learn to see things from their world because they are really living in challenging times of digital technology and constant change.

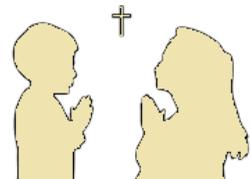
## Time and Place

Wrong Time Wrong Place	Wrong Time Right Place
Right Time Wrong Place	Right Time Right Place

Evelyn also shared a tip of learning to date our children. To bring each child to a place that they like to hang out and to connect with them one-on-one and talk about the child's interest. She also encouraged us to invest time to bond with them at the first 12 years before they hit the teens, so that the bond will be strong to withstand the challenges ahead. She reminded us that we should not only focus on the IQ of the child but the other 'Q's of SQ (Social Quotient), MQ (Moral Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient) and AQ (Adversity Quotient)

which contribute to the whole person.

I believe it was an eye-opener for most of the parents who attended the talk, including me. Evelyn also shared some of the mistakes that parents have made. Whatever mistakes we have made as parents, we need to leave it in the past and to



move ahead. If I may add some thoughts of my own, we are not perfect parents and we will definitely make mistakes along the way. We need to be on our knees to ask for our Heavenly Father to show us how to love our children as he loves us. And to trust that God's grace and love will fill in the gaps for our children in any way that we may be lacking. To point our children to the perfect parent, our Father, who loves them unconditionally and understands them fully.



Friday 5 Aug – Our pastors met up with some of RCC and NLBC pastors over lunch. They had a good fellowship. Pray that God will bind us together in Love.

Saturday 6 Aug – Xavier Loke's Uncle Anthony was baptized at NUH. Continue to pray for his healing from cancer and also for salvation for the rest of his family.

Monday 8 Aug – A number of our youths attended the Day of His Power.



Did you miss Uncle James Tan the last few weeks? He is suffering from a crippling lower back pain. Please pray for healing.

Peh Ern



# TOP SECRET

For the past few issues in The Vine, I have been alternating between collating the interviews, preparing them for publication and writing articles. Out of the two, which one do I prefer? I got to admit that interviewing people is a lot more fun because of the unknown. I never know what I would get from each of them. Sometimes I get to know the interviewees a lot better, other days I would be intrigued by their unique points of view, enlightening me. This part of my job definitely appeals to the sanguine part of my personality.

Writing articles, on the other hand, might not be as exciting. However, the benefits I glean from writing upon my reflections on my flaws and victories, past events in my life, God's Word and its impact, etc. are what help me mature as a daughter, a teacher, a wife and a friend. This is the reason why I decided to take a break from journalism to do a little reflection here, before I get drawn into the hustle and bustle of life, losing myself.



Recently, someone whispered a secret to me and told me not to share it with anyone else. This secret was shared to her by someone else who had also instructed her not to share it with anyone.

It is indeed very hard for anyone to keep a secret. A secret squirms inside us like a chick waiting to be free of its shell or a moth quivering inside a cocoon. Secrets want to be told. That is the nature of secrets. It wriggles inside you till you share yours. Then it stops wriggling and starts wriggling inside the one you confide in.



## What does the Bible says about secrets?

Throughout the history of Israel, political and military secrets were kept. Scripture does not pronounce any moral judgments for or against the keeping of those secrets. However, in the story of Samson and Delilah (Judges 16:4–22), Samson reveals the source of his strength, an act which, based on the aftermath of his admission, was awfully stupid. It was one secret he should have kept.

Esther's story provides a positive example of someone keeping a secret. Queen Esther's decision to hide her nationality (Esther 2:20) became an integral part of God's plan to save His people (Esther 4:13; 7:3–6). The same story also supports the morality of revealing a secret that, if kept hidden, would cause great wrong or serious harm (Esther 2:21–23).

Proverbs, the central book among the “wisdom literature” of the Bible, is most explicit about keeping secrets. Chapter 11 says that “a man of understanding holds his tongue. A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret” (verses 12–13). Keeping a secret can be noble but secrets kept for the wrong reason earn a person the title of “wicked,” for “*a wicked man accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the course of justice*” (Proverbs 17:23), and “*whoever slanders his neighbor in secret, him will I put to silence*” (Psalm 101:5).

Is keeping secrets a sin? Not usually, but in some situations it can be. There are some things that people shouldn't know and others that they should. We must be careful though of our reasons for keeping secrets. If someone tells you something private, we are not to start babbling about it. Christians should create **trust**, not **drama**. Use your own discernment on how the secret is to be used, whether the secret will protect others or harm them.

*Alicia Wong*

## A Healing Miracle

(A testimony by a “hopeless” accident victim who turned to Jesus)

### The Traffic Accident

At about 10 p.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> February this year, I met with a serious road accident near Singapore Polytechnic, Commonwealth Avenue West. A car turning from the left crashed into my motorbike while I was riding along a straight road. My injuries were as follows:

- 6 broken ribs on the right chest, with one piercing into and collapsing the right lung
- Right femur (thigh bone) was broken
- Right lower leg was fractured
- A very deep and nasty wound on right ankle
- Right shoulder blade dislocated
- Spine injured
- Blood clot in brain
- My whole body was riddled with bruises and abrasions



### At NUH

When my family received the news and rushed to NUH, I was covered in blood and unconscious. There were about 5 to 6 doctors attending to me. They were wondering where to start to operate first as I had multiple major injuries.



The doctors told my family that my condition was critical. They shook their heads and were not optimistic about my condition.

I had my first operation that night to insert metal rods to support my broken femur. My sisters and their church prayed intensely for God to heal me.

Later, Pastor Anthony also got wind of my situation from a friend. They also prayed for me earnestly.

For the next few days, my family was told that I was not out of danger yet. My right lung was bleeding

*“Looking at my brother’s condition, I knew it’s a restoration job only God can perform. My sisters and I quickly asked for prayers from our church and cell groups.”*

*– Josephine Lee*

and a tube had to be inserted to drain out the blood. At the same time, another tube had to be inserted to aid my breathing.

I was unconscious in ICU for a few days. When I woke up, I felt hopeless. I had no idea what had happened.

### *Miracle of God's Grace*

Here I would like to share with you this:

I was admitted into hospital after a car accident. A few things happened. If not for God's love, with my family and my dear brethren praying fervently for God to save me, I think I wouldn't be here now standing in front of you giving this testimony. Many thanks to all!



I want to share about God's grace in these three incidents:

- 1) There was blood clot in my brain. Through prayers, God preserved my brain from damage. Tests were done by a nurse and confirmed that my brain is normal. Thanks be to God!
- 2) Inflammation of my lungs with water retention. The doctor had to insert a tube to drain out the water. A few days later, the tube was removed. The doctor said that if I couldn't breathe and cough out phlegm on my own, he would have to open a hole in my throat. Family members prayed earnestly for God's intervention so that I would not have to suffer more. Thanks be to God that I was finally able to breathe and cough on my own.
- 3) I had a high fever after my lung surgery. A blower fan had to be used to bring down my temperature or else my mental and physical well-being would be affected.

The doctor also said that my fever would affect the next operation on my leg by at least 5 days. My mother prayed for me, seeking God's blessing for the operation to proceed as soon as possible, for the wound at my ankle was rotting. Two days later, when my mother came to hospital to visit me, the nurse was preparing to send me to the operating theatre because the surgeon had decided to go ahead with the operation.

Thank you, Heavenly Father!  
You have heard our prayers!  
The sincerity of prayers reaches the heavens, and God surely sends His blessings!  
This is indeed the Father's grace, the basis for people to rejoice!

### *Giving my life to Jesus*

I have experienced the amazing grace of God again and again in the ICU. I gave my life to Jesus and received Him as my personal Saviour.



My body gained strength daily. I left ICU and was transferred to normal ward. I was able to get out of bed, received physiotherapy, began to walk, progressing from wheelchair to walking frame to walking stick – and today, I am able to walk again.

I have heard about Jesus for many years. It is only through this incident that I came to know Him more and felt His love.

My healing was God's grace and miracle at work, because all was not possible by my own effort. Doctors could only treat me but could not be certain that I would recover well. They could only say, "Slowly, slowly ... over a few days we see how it will be ..."

At that time when I was unconscious, I could only depend on family and you all to pray, pleading to God for His help. Fortunately for His grace, love and care, He heard the prayers and thereby extended His blessings!

I thank God that He let me live. Because of God's mercy, tender love and blessings, I can stand here today to testify about God's greatness and the power of prayer.

### **There is power in the name of Jesus!**

Thank you everyone for praying for me. May God bless you. Wishing you peace and joy of the Lord.

*Jackson Lee*

# Combined CG Fellowship

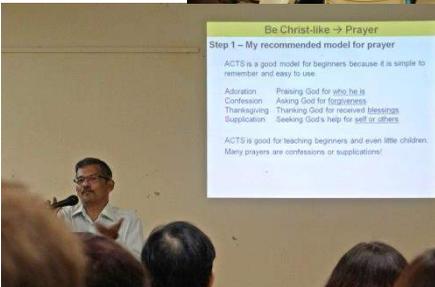
20th August 2016 – We all paid \$2 per pax and were expecting a simple packet dinner but to our surprise were treated to a sumptuous buffet spread, enough for more than 70 persons and still have leftovers to pack home.

Without a worship team, we sang to some karaoke tracks. Not too successfully as the tracks went like a high speed train.

This was followed by an interactive time of sharing as we broke up into 6 teams to share on the various subjects, which were picked by lots. I am sure we got to know each other slightly better through this exercise.

Pastor Andrew then taught us about prayer and I know a couple of my CG members benefitted from it.

We had a good time of fellowship and getting to know others from the various CGs.



2016 Fund Raising Dinner Updates: **35 Tables sold, another 65 more to go...**