



**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

By John Lee



**Interviews with Bernice & Amos**

By Alicia Wong



**CHANGE IS A CONSTANT**

By Joyce Tan



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Dedication Service

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**Brother  
Martin  
Writes**

Christmas is almost here again. More than two thousand years ago when Jesus came, he could not travel around in cars. He had to travel by **Boat**, **Mule** or **Walking**. So he did not travel far. He probably did not travel out of Israel during his 3 years of ministry. Yet today, He expects us to go into the whole world to share the Good News. Today we have cars, planes and ships to bring us to the farthest places on this planet and beyond yet we are quite reluctant to move from where we are. Is the call to mission an option? Sometimes we think it is for those who are called and not for everyone. For example, I think missions is for Zewen but not for me.

Romans 10:15, "And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?" Did you realize that for a missionary to go, he has to be sent? Most, if not all of us, claim that we are not cut out to be missionaries so that means we fall into the category of Senders. What can Senders do? They can

pray for the missionaries, write letters and cards to them, house them when they return from the field or simply give \$10 a month to the Mission Account. Giving \$10 a month is "Soooo Simple!" as the Visa uncle would say, just write \$10 into the row for Missions in the pledge envelope. Of course, you have to put the \$10 into the envelope, or the chargehands will have a headache.

Small amount you say. Not if 200 members give \$10 per month for 1 year. It would be \$24,000 by end of 2017. This amount would be sufficient to send a team to Cambodia in Dec 2017, to support the work there.



Even as we bid farewell to 101 and welcome to JCCHub, let us also welcome the call to be Senders.

*Martin Cheah*

*What's the*

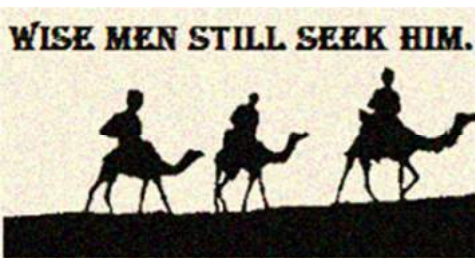
## **ONE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

*For Christmas 2016?*

Christmas 2016 is dawning. It is the time of the year when people can get very busy with preparations, including shopping. According to a legend, this is the time when little children anticipate Santa Claus is coming to town. Parents who do their Christmas shopping should not forget one important thing in their shopping list – a large Christmas stocking in bright red colour, the bigger the better. It is not for the little children to keep their feet warm in winter, but for hanging by their bedside so that it can be well stuffed with Christmas goodies when St. Nicholas does come down the house chimney. If you do forget this important item on your shopping list, then your children may just miss out on their Christmas presents and blame you for it. ☹



The above is a secular Christmas story. It is up to you whether to impart it on your children, making them wish that indeed Santa Claus will be flying in with his team of eight reindeer pulling a sleigh with lots of presents for good boys and girls. No, he will not be flying in any of the modern aeroplanes. Perhaps when we were little children, some of us also heard the same story repeated year after year. Christmas might be a time of joy, but not everyone of us had parents who went so far as to put Christmas presents in stockings waiting for morning to give us a pleasant surprise. We don't have snow in Singapore, and our houses don't have chimneys for a roly-poly man in fine dressing to squeeze through. ☺ Even if we have the chimneys, pity Santa Claus having his red suit all blackened by soot if the story were to be believed!



According to the Bible, when Jesus was born, wise men from the East brought great gifts to the baby, and angels sang songs of praises to God. The birth of Jesus is a great event worthy of a grand celebration. Christmas is celebrated around the world not just by Christians. Even if non-Christians cele-

brate Christmas without getting the core message from the Bible, the exchanging of good wishes and the engaging of a pleasant time together speaks a season of cheerfulness and harmony.

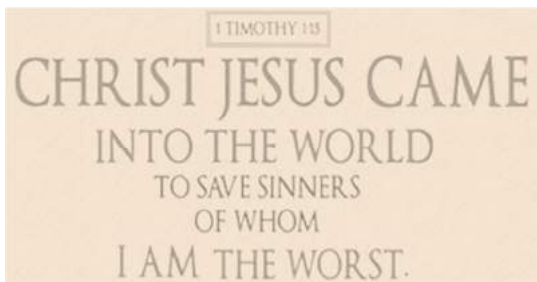
The Christmas carol “*I heard the bells on Christmas Day*” begins with lamentation over the strife-ridden state of the world where the Christmas carols of

*"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*



peace and good will are being drowned out by ill will and aggressions. Yet, despite the existence of hatred and violence, hope is not lost. It is good to accentuate the peace message of Christmas – Peace on earth and good will to men – against the noises of conflicts. The greater such oppositional noises are against peace and good will, the louder and deeper we ought to peal the Christmas bell for peace on earth and good will to men, as a carol rightly proclaims:

It is great to usher in the Christmas season with carols. When the voices ring out from hearts of thanksgiving, they sound so musically sweet and spiritually edifying even though the carollers may not be A-listers vocalists or chart-busting pop singers. To the carollers in particular, the most beautiful God-given gift of the Christmas season is their voices. Thank God for such lovely voices that share the Good News of Jesus Christ – the most precious gift of Christmas for all men, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)



***“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.” – 1 Tim. 1:15***

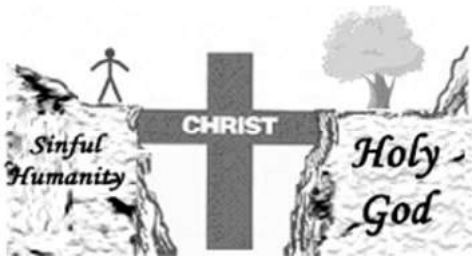
***“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save***

***the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” – John 3:17-18***

Every year, we repeat our celebration of the one and only Christmas, the one and only event of the birth of Jesus Christ. Each time we repeat the celebration, we repeat the reminder to everyone that:

*“Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” – John 3:19-21*

What does this reminder mean to us personally as Christians who have claimed acceptance of Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and what does it mean to those who have yet to come to the knowledge of the saving grace of Christ? I believe that the answers are obvious.



Ever since our first human ancestor sinned, the depravity of man's fallen nature has built barriers between us and God; we have lost our way of peace and there is no justice in our paths. We have turned our paths into crooked roads. (Isa. 59:2, 8) Is there any wonder, therefore, that freedom

from strife is so elusive in the world today? As we ponder at the sins of the Publican in Isaiah 59, let us be slow to wag a finger at anyone but be quick to take cognizance of our own unworthiness.

Separated from God by our own rebellion, Christmas brings us Good News that, by God's amazing grace, Christ came into the world to bridge the chasm between us and God. Because of the depth of our sin, we are caught in a position that we cannot help ourselves. Since we as children have flesh and blood, Christ too shared in our humanity *“in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement of the sins of the people.”* (Heb. 2:17)

At the Advent of Christ, an angel said to the shepherds in the fields, “Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news that will cause great joy** for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Savior has been born** to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” – Luke 2:10-11



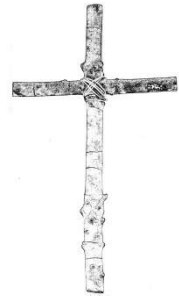
The joy of Christmas is definitely because of the Good News that a **Saviour has been born to us**. We can identify this unique reason for joy in the following carols:

- “Joy to the world, the Lord is come ...”
- “Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant ... Come and behold him, Born the king of angels ...”
- “Shepherds why this jubilee, Why your joyous strains prolong ... Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ the Lord, the new-born King.”

A long list of carols can be cited with joy as the common theme, and this joy is invariably linked with the Good News of a saviour being born. In other words, this joy is not a mere feeling of pleasure or the countenance of cheerfulness that people associate with contentment or satisfying circumstances. This is the Christmas joy of salvation that we can claim upon the mercy of God who accepts our reconciliation with Him not because we have our own merits for justification but for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who was born to make His all-atoning sacrifice on the Cross.

Christmas is a time for celebration of the joy we have in our Saviour King, and a time for joy that we can claim God’s appointed way for us to be redeemed from our sin.

Christmas is a time for all to focus on the **ONE MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE**. What message is it? I shall leave this question for personal meditation by each and every one.



*John Lee*



*His mercies are new every morning!*

*New every morning.  
Great is His faithfulness!*

Glory to God in the highest. His name is always to be praised.

### Introduction

13 Nov. 2016 was supposed to be another normal Sunday morning to me: to have breakfast, go to church, enjoy a fellowship lunch with brothers and sisters, getting groceries for dinner, then back to home.

That morning, at about 9 a.m., I was on my way home after a morning breakfast downstairs with my wife. As my wife went for her pre-appointed hair treatment, I was intending to prepare myself for the briefing in church, scheduled at 10 a.m., on the new JCCH. Thereafter, I would attend the church service and then ...

However, the plan for a normal Sunday was not to be. As I was having my bath, I felt a sharp pain in my chest. Whilst dressing up, the pain did not go away. Instead, my chest got tighter. At about 9.30 a.m., I set off for church as planned and thought to myself that at the end of the activities I would have all the time to consult the doctor for my chest pain. As I stepped out of the lift, I distinctively heard a voice telling me to go to Westpoint Hospital, which was just a block away from my home. A right-turn from my block would lead me to a bus stop where there is a bus service to take me to church. But, without hesitation, I just followed the voice and turned left towards the hospital. The saying that 'A man plans but God disposes' is truly right.

At the hospital's reception counter, the staff asked me for the reason of my visit. After hearing about my chest symptoms, she signalled a nurse to bring

me to the sickroom immediately. I was hooked up to the ECG machine and given some medications, including an aspirin. With the results printed out, the doctor was called in. After reviewing the report, the doctor told me that he was calling for an ambulance for possible heart attack.

Within minutes, the ambulance officer arrived and was briefed by the doctor about my condition. Without time to waste, I was lying on a stretcher on my way to hospital. I was put on a drip and hooked up to a machine in the ambulance. The officer confirmed from the machine readings that I was positively having a heart attack. So, I was sent to NUH instead of the original plan for Ng Teng Fong Hospital.

I reached the hospital at about 10 a.m. Within minutes, I was pushed into the "Procedure Room" and the hospital would contact my wife. I was in the room until about 12.00 noon. During this time, I was awake and aware as the interventionist carried out some emergency procedures on local anaesthesia. Later, I was wheeled to the ICU Cardio Ward where I stayed for 4 days.

### **HIS Glory, HIS Providence, His Guidance, His Protection**

As I reflected on the whole episode, I want to give all glory and thanks to our Lord God Almighty for His wonderful and loving hands working perfectly in every process and timing.

- ***Westpoint Hospital to ICU:***  
Investigations, briefings, takeovers, and transfers were very smooth without undue delays - Westpoint Hospital → ambulance → NUH Emergency ward → finally to Procedure Room.
- **Procedure Room:**  
No hiccups occurred. No pains felt. Ballooning and stent procedures went smoothly.
- ***ICU ward:***  
Thank God for the friendly and efficient team who attended to me. The senior doctor informed me that I had more than 90% blockage in the main artery in front of my heart.

Praise God for open doors to share with one of the nurses. She came from China in 2006, received Christ in 2007 through one of the members in the welcome party, who became her mentor. She is attending a church in Pasir Panjang. I told her that receiving Christ was the best gift in her life, to continue to grow in Christ and never to give it up for anything else, because it is for Eternity. I passed to her an "Identity in



Christ” foldable card for her to carry it on her and memorise the verses printed on it which can strengthen her in times of need. Told her that it is important to always remember who we are in Christ and not what people think or say. She was very thankful for the card.

- ***Normal ward:***

An ultrasound investigation showed that I had a faulty/leaky valve on the left side of my heart. A further test clarified the extent of my condition. A procedure could be done to rectify it. After advising me of the possible consequences (with minimal risk of death), the doctor asked me if I wanted to proceed with the procedure. With my questions answered about the possible situation if I left it alone, since the condition had been with me for the last 64 years, I gave consent for the hospital to go ahead but requested for it to be after the Chinese New Year.

The Professor came on the next day (4<sup>th</sup> day). I was examined by him and re-examined by 2 junior doctors accompanying him. I heard the words “murmuring sound” and “distinct 3<sup>rd</sup> sound between heart beats” from the conversation among them. They were to further discuss my medical condition in the Professor’s office.

The next day (5<sup>th</sup> day), the Professor came again with the 2 doctors and informed them to replace my medicines and to remove me from one of their trial studies, named IMMACULATE, which involved the replaced medication; and to cancel the proposed procedure. Alleluia! Meanwhile my gout was acting up and I could not walk properly. However, PTL, the attending physiotherapist said that he would write a report to release me because my unsteady walking was not due to effects of medications or procedures done on me, as he told me that he saw me walking when I was first transferred to the ward. Amen.

### **Prayers**

I seek your continuous prayers for complete healing and protection as my heart undergoes recovery from the damages from the heart attack. Also, for safety and mercy journey as I go ‘to and fro’ to NUH for exercises, follow-up and medical check-up over the next several months.

Praising the Lord and thanking all of you who visited me during my hospitalisation or at home. Finally, also thanks to those who had prayed for my recovery and well-being. May the Lord Jesus bless you.

**Giving thanks to God in all circumstances. Amen!**

Richard Lee

*After a short hiatus from journalism, I am back. Today we will go behind the scene of worship and know a little more of our projectionist Bernice Lee and sound crew Amos Lee, siblings who are serving in the same ministry with their father, Derrick Lee, a guitarist.*

## **Bernice Lee (Projectionist)**



**Alicia:** What is your favourite time of the year?

**Bernice:** My favourite time of the year is definitely Christmas i.e. the month of December. I really enjoy the festive spirit, where the atmosphere is filled with joy and merriment. The food during this season is fantastic and of course the presents too. Christmas is also the rare occasion where my extended paternal and maternal families meet and get together so this season has significant sentimental value to me.



**Alicia:** I know you are currently a student. How's the stress level like?

**Bernice:** The workload is relatively manageable at the beginning of the year but builds up and can get very intense during the exams period as the term ends. I guess one needs to have proficient time management and discipline to balance studies, CCA and your personal life. For me I think my friends and classmates were invaluable during my school life as we encouraged and helped each other. Despite being so pressed for time, I continued to attend church and cell as I felt that seeking God is still important even when one is busy, and it was like taking a break from studying as well.

**Alicia:** Why made you sign up as a projectionist?

**Bernice:** I signed up as a projectionist when I was in Secondary One as I wanted to start off with something easy. Subsequently, I continued on as a projectionist as I realised its importance to the worship service despite playing a behind-the-scenes role. Also even though it is a small job, it is still a form of serving God and my way of showing my love for Him and I know that God recognises it.

**Alicia:** What are the possible situations you may encounter as a projectionist?

**Bernice:** Aside from setting up the computers and projectors before service, I also need to check the slides for the liturgy and the worship e.g. making sure the bible verses are correct, the worship slides are in order etc. Some situations that have happened to me would be like the worship leader not following the slide order during worship, hence I would have to quickly adapt and find the correct slide. Also, some issues would be that when I have to show a video e.g. during announcements/ sermons, the video cannot be displayed on the screen or there is no sound coming out from the video. It can be quite a nerve-wrecking situation when the entire worship hall waits for you to fix the problem!

**Alicia:** Is there any training provided for new projectionist?

**Bernice:** Yes there is. New projectionist will first be given several lessons from a trained, projectionist who will teach all the necessary skills, information or even give helpful tips. After learning how to do it, the newly trained projectionist will try to serve in the actual worship service, with his mentor sitting beside him to guide him. Gradually, the mentor will be less involved, eventually allowing the projectionist to serve on his own when he is ready. The role of a projectionist is fairly manageable and can be picked up in no time!

**Alicia:** What advice would you give to someone who is considering signing up as a projectionist?

**Bernice:** I would strongly encourage him or her to just go for it as long as your motive is to serve God and not because your cell leader asks you to do it or anything. The projectionist role is honestly one of the easiest roles in the service ministry and does not require much time to be invested in it. It is probably a great way to slowly ease yourself into serving God and I know of many musicians in the service ministry who started off as a projectionist and eventually progress to serving as a guitarist, pianist etc.

**Alicia:** Just a side question. I've seen you on stage at times. Sometimes playing drums, other times standing beside the drummer...

**Bernice:** Well, as I mature in my walk with God, I begin to feel the urge to be more involved in serving Him and I think that being a drummer could just be it. I also think that drumming is very cool and probably easier to pick up compared to learning the piano as I do not have a music background. I'm currently an understudy of a drummer and I play some of the easier hymns during worship.

## Amos Lee (Sound crew)



**Alicia:** What is your favourite time of the year?



**Amos:** Christmas!! We all have families that drive us crazy sometimes, but nothing is better than being with them as we all gather for Christmas dinner. It reminds me that I am loved and cared for, something that can never be replaced. The Christmas decoration and lights all around SG and the jazzy Christmas songs keep me in a good mood :)

**Alicia:** A little background of you please!

**Amos:** I'm currently studying medicine in NUS. It's my second year and I'm definitely enjoying what I do! I'm also a cell leader of youth cell and part of the youth leadership

team.

**Alicia:** How long have you been serving as a sound crew?

**Amos:** I've started serving since secondary 2.

**Alicia:** Are there any training provided for someone who just sign up to serve as a sound crew? If yes, what are the things there are to learn?

**Amos:** Any PA sound crew needs to undergo training, especially as we have a new and more complicated sound system in JCCH. More information will be given about the training from the worship ministry.

**Alicia:** Does a sound crew have to be present during worship rehearsals?

**Amos:** Yes. We need to be there especially as the new sanctuary requires sound crew to be there to operate it. Also, we need to familiarize ourselves with the worship songs too.

**Alicia:** What are the possible situations that could arise during worship for the sound crew?

**Amos:** Main concern is the “feedback” which are high-pitched sounds that can happen at unprecedented times. These are things we can't control, but we always do our best and leave the rest to God. That should always be the mindset as we seek to serve Him!

**Alicia:** Any advice to give to someone who is thinking of joining as a sound crew?

**Amos:** Do think about the commitment to serve! Don't worry about the skill, the ministry will equip those who are willing and committed to learning.



## The First Wedding

to be held in the new Sanctuary at 2 Tah Ching Road is that of Jonathan and JieMin, who had a nail-biting time wondering if the building would be ready in time for their wedding solemnization on 17 December 2016. Thank God, He made it possible.

Among the guests were some past JCCians who were given a very warm welcome.



## Reflections:

# Change is a Constant

Goodbye 2016 and welcome 2017!

Many of us would like to close 2016 with nice memories and receive 2017 with new dreams and aspirations. For some of us, we feel that the years passed quickly after we turned 21 years old. Many others felt younger everyday even after turning 60 years old.

Is age just a digit to determine our state of mind and heart for living the life we have? Is our love for God limited by the years of toil and service, only to realise that we do not know God well? Have we neglected praying each time we face a challenge or giving thanks to God as often because we forget that all things are from our God, Jesus Christ?

*“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.” James 1: 2-4*

### **Is Change really a Constant?**

Everything around us is moving fast and furious. Most of the time we will go with the flow of events to live the life, hopefully praying and seeking God in all that we do as well. Do we embrace change then since it should be part and parcel of our life? Yes, we should because this is life?

Before I become too philosophical and my melancholic nature takes over, yes, change is a constant. We grow old and mature every day. Our hair grows a little every time and our body changes every day. Change is already a constant from the beginning of time!

### **It is a matter of perspective?**

It is a perspective that we have and can choose to have. I received this sharing from my Cell group and think that it is apt for this article.

Worries at the start of the day means You are still alive.  
Clothes that don't fit means You have a good appetite.

Tears in your eyes means There is somebody you care for.  
The mess to clean after party means You have friends around you.  
Roof that needs fixing means You have got a house.  
Taxes to pay means You are not unemployed.  
Message on your mobile means There is somebody who remembers you.  
Let's be optimistic in life, because Everything around you Happens for a reason.  
Keep Smiling When you Run alone It's called RACE.  
When GOD Runs with you It's called GRACE.

What did I choose to think about throughout the days of my life? Do I focus on the glass half full or half empty? As I reflected and prayed to God, I am conscious that when we run the race fast or slow, doing more or less for God, God would not change His Love for us.

He gave us life to live the life He wants us with Him. He gave up the life of His Son, Jesus, on the Cross so that we might live. What do you want to do in the New Year? I am praying about it too.

### **Does God change and is His Love a Constant?**

No, He does not change. His Love for us will always be the same.

As I sat in the Multi-Purpose Hall on 18 December 2016 attending the service at the New Jurong Christian Church building, I recalled a time as a young girl when I was staying in Toa Payoh. I heard worship songs streaming through the living room windows every Sunday. Then, I did not know what the people in the Church were doing.



Now, when I think back, how life works out differently for every one of us! It is amazing how God works, isn't it?

As I proceeded to the Main Hall for the Lord's Supper, I saw that our new church building is looking really good. Most importantly, let's continue to focus

on God as we continue our race with Him because He first loved us regardless of where we are and the venue we worship Him.



We are not bound by what we have or what we do not have. We are not judged by what we can or cannot do. It is a journey with God where we embrace our life through giving thanks and continue to rely on Him in all that we do. I am still praying.

This is not a new message or something that we have not heard. It is a reminder and encouragement for all of us to remember that Jesus is the love of our life and the focus should be on Him.

For me, we are constantly changing for the better in Christ where His Love has always been there for us through the years of change. Change is a Constant but God's love will always be the same for us throughout our lives. Stay strong, my brothers and sisters-in-Christ!

**Joyce Tan**

*God is good  
all the time,  
all the time  
God is good!*



4 Dec – Thomas Tan  
first sermon



9 Dec – some of the Dialect Team  
a meal together



11 Dec – Farewell to 101 Yuan Ching Rd





## A Retreat to Sabak Awor



December is the month when the travel bugs are super-active. At least they (unlike mosquitoes) don't suck blood; they only suck dry your wallets which you can refill on your next payday. 😊



For those without ample cash to travel, it is not the end of the world. There are nearby places that afford good country retreat away from the stress of the concrete jungle here.



We were in a group with 30-plus other residents of Taman Jurong

So, 7 of us from JCC, with little dough to spare, were wise to pick Sabak Awor for a 2-day-1-night (3 – 4 Dec) relaxing time beside the Muar river. There were fresh air, wonderful company, ample food ...

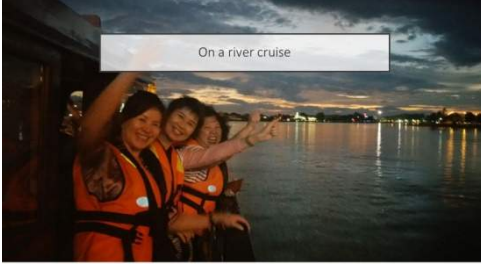
Yes, AMPLE FOOD is worth noting – What do you think of 9 meals being provided, packed into 2 days and one night?



Some readers prefer pictures to words. So, I shall save thousands of words here and let a selection of photos speak about the enjoyment we had, both at the

Sabak Awor itself and at some places along our journey.





There is time to work, including serving God in the church; there is time to take a break for recharging our energy and spirits.

The photos provide a great memory of a great trip!



My takeaway from this trip is that much can be achieved on low budget, with ample blessings from God who makes a lot of things possible.

*John Lee*

*Thankful to God that He moved humble servants to render drops of talents and sweat to total up the success of the rebuilding project to His glory!*



**Thoughts of NJCCians**  
**after New Building Dedication Service**  
**18 Dec 2016**

*Now that the church's 'hardware' is complete and we've seen God's amazing providence and guidance, we now need to focus on the 'heartware' of God. How can we serve God better? How can we be part of the Great Commission in reaching out to pre-believers?*

*Was touched by God, especially when I was singing the song 'Amazing Grace'. God convicted me that when our chains are gone and we are set free from the bondage of sin, we can freely worship Him*



Derrick Lee



Chong Yew Moi



Saw Peh Ern

*The worship service was extra excellent!*

*This is what I shared with my family as we were walking to our new church : Lord, may your people be united in JCC Hub to bring glory to your name and draw many more into your Kingdom.*



Joash Liang



Saw Peh Ping

*Humbled by the process in which God led us through and grateful for it. Praise be to God!*

*A new beginning where everyone learns to love and be considerate to each other.*



Roger Tan

Submit your thoughts to [alicia.hweili@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.hweili@gmail.com)

# Dedication Service 18 Dec 2016

Thunderous applause followed the announcement that we are back home. The worship team led the people into a time of glad worship to the Lord for what he had done for us.

The Sanctuary and MPH1 were full to capacity. Bishop Terry Kee blessed various items and dedicated them for the use of sharing God's Word.

There was excitement and joy, hopefully in anticipation of what God will do for us, rather than for the new building.

