



Interview with
Pastor Andrew
By Alicia Wong



Spiritual Maturity
By Joyce Tan



Happy Chinese
New Year
By John Lee



First Christmas in new JCC

The Vine Committee

Editor:

Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:

John Lee

Alicia Wong

Joyce Tan

Photos:

Martin Cheah

Cover Photo:

Baby Jerrica's

First Christmas

@ 2 Tah Ching Road



**Brother
Martin
Writes**

On 30th Dec, my department had a dinner at Jack's Place. Besides the steaks, fish & chips, lobsters, chicken and appetizers, they had 72 cans of beer. Actually 72 cans of beer is nothing to these guys but the cost of beer at this restaurant put them off

from drinking more. By chance, I was seated between two colleagues who had attended church before but no longer do so. Out of the blue, one of them said that he remembered that the Bible has a verse that went: "Ask and you shall receive." Immediately the second fellow said that he will believe if he ask and gets a million dollars.

Have you all come across the million dollar question? Well here is my answer to him: Two years ago about 500 people decided to rebuild a church which costs \$25 million. Today the church is built through God's provision of funds. We could not have done it without God's help.



There was no rebuttal and suddenly the first guy started singing 10,000 Reasons. He had drank about 4 cans of beer. To my embarrassment, I could not remember all the words of the song. I thought of telling this story during the Thanksgiving Service the next day but it wasn't a personal thanksgiving, it is an entire church's thanksgiving to God for His blessings of \$25 million. (PS. You can find more reasons why you do not receive the million dollars you ask for at this link: <https://www.gotquestions.org/ask-and-you-shall-receive.html>)

Pastor Andrew mentioned that if we are not grateful and do not count our blessings then we will not be thankful. After moving back to JCC, have you got more complaints or more thanks to God? Do you notice all the nitty gritty problems with the new building and thus not able to appreciate all the comforts and space that this new building provides? *If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.* Mark 3:25

These days when I take the MRT, unfortunately I am given the reserved seat, that means I look like the reserved type (which I am). But I am thankful to those (usually Indian foreign workers) who surrender their seats to me.

Opportunity often comes disguised in the form of misfortune, or temporary defeat. - *Napoleon Hill*

Martin Cheah

As you celebrate the New Year,
May your future be as bright as
the promises of God!

新年快樂

Happy New Year

It is natural for people to wish one another happiness in a new year.

The Chinese also celebrate Chinese New Year in January 2017. To the Chinese, there are many common idioms to use to extend good wishes to people we meet:

祝你 Wishing you : 一元复始，一帆风顺 二龙腾飞，三羊开泰
四季平安，四海增辉 五福临门，百业俱兴 六六大顺，合家欢乐
七星高照，八方来财 八方和协，九九同心 。。。

The Chinese are very creative in the ways they devise their auspicious words of greetings. Indeed, there are hundreds of such idioms, some with superstition undertones.



Not all the greetings (even if non-superstitious) are always appropriate. It is good to understand what we mean when we extend a greeting, instead of just

spouting out the common idioms mechanically. For example, when we greet others 心想事成 (which means “May all your wishes come true”), we must be aware that people are naturally sinners with inappropriate thoughts from time to time. If someone I greet happens to covet the wealth of others and wish bad of his wealthy rivals, then do I say to him 恭喜发财，心想事成 (“May you be prosperous, have all your wishes come true!”) and become unwitting “abettor” of his iniquitous thoughts?

Some people may think that the common New Year greetings are just pleasantries and we don't have to be fastidious about having to understand what the words out of our mouths actually mean. Nevertheless, if someone greets me with a simple 新年快乐 (Happy New Year) knowingly, I would receive the words gladly as a simple wish for happiness. Who doesn't like to be wished to enjoy happiness? If someone instead tries a greeting that is mechanically articulated without understanding, saying to me 祝你新年里双龙戏珠，中华腾

飞，鹏程万里， I would be fascinated by the greeter's effort and at the same time amused by the greeting's irrelevance to me. ☺

I believe that recipients of greetings usually don't take offence for greetings that are well-intentioned even if inapt. So, greeters who realise having said something not quite apropos can just humorously laugh the matter off and not worry too much. There is always room for learning for all of us to pick up a repertoire of greetings that we understand and are appropriate for different categories of people – ordinary acquaintances, close friends, colleagues, students, elders, individuals with a different religious persuasion, etc. – to warm the relationships.



福 is a very familiar character in CNY greetings. It means “Blessing”. One of the auspicious greetings with this character is 五福临门: “May the 5 blessings be upon this home!”

It is not surprising if you see this saying posted on the doors or walls of Chinese homes. Not every Chinese who is able to express this greeting knows what the 5 blessings are. These 5 blessings refer to longevity, wealth, health, virtue and a natural peaceful end to one's life.

The blessing of wealth means the blessing of 财 in Chinese, and is understood to be referring to material riches. 恭喜发财 (*Kong Hee Fatt Choy*)!

When we wish people *Kong Hee Fatt Choy* or 五福临门 (*5 blessings be upon your home*), the wish for material prosperity is inherent.

While 五福临门 contains 5 blessings, Chinese Christians celebrating CNY can perhaps wish one another with a modified auspicious wish for 8 blessings: 祝你

一元复始八^福临门!

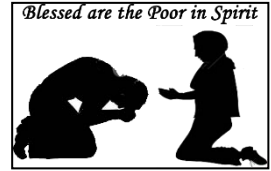


In the modified greeting, I have inverted the 福 and raised it slightly higher to signify that it does not refer to the 5 traditional blessings favoured by the Chinese but refers to the 8 supreme blessedness (the Beatitudes – Matt. 5:3-12) descending from above into every home. Whether you celebrate a New Year based on one calendar or another, I send you my best 8 wishes based on the Beatitudes.

As a new year begins:


1. May the supreme blessedness of the kingdom of heaven be upon the poor in spirit!

This is not a castigation of those who are wealthy. Having money is not wrong. However, there is a difference between having money (which is necessary) and coveting it (1 Tim. 6:10). Rich people can also enter the Kingdom of Heaven but, if they are focussed on wishing for a lot of material wealth, it is easy for them to neglect their spiritual health to the point that it becomes difficult for them to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. (Matt. 19:24). The wealthy who are greedy may end up spending much of their time monitoring and worrying over their excessive investments and end up losing their wealth and becoming poor.



The materially poor by human comparisons may not necessarily be Godly too, if in their hearts they covet a lot of bad things. Therefore, “poor in spirit” is a quality to be sought by everyone irrespective of their prosperity or poverty. One who is poor in spirit is utterly aware of his inability to meet the high demands of the law to merit salvation, and that he is utterly dependent on Christ for salvation. The salvation is God’s free gift. Receiving this gracious gift of eternal life with honest gratitude and humility, we become impelled in our heart to respond to God’s mercy with love for one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34-35).

Contrast the poor in spirit with those who feel that they are “rich in spirit” like the Pharisee who “stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!'" (Luke 18:11 NLT)

The Pharisee disparaged everyone else as sinners but not himself, particularly with the emphatic pointing finger – “**even**  like that tax collector!”

“But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'" – Luke 18:13

I need say nothing more about who is poor in spirit – someone like the tax collector who felt inadequate or someone like the Pharisee who was full of himself.

2. May the supreme blessedness of being comforted be upon those who mourn!

Ordinarily, we think of mourning as associated with a bereavement. However, mourning is not always ordinary. Take for example the time when Israel was facing a crisis of faith. It was indeed a time of mourning, a time of great pain for many in Zion! Yet, in mourning, the servant of God was still anointed to preach good news to the humble, to comfort those who mourn, to give them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment for the spirit of heaviness. (Isaiah 61:1-3) In brief, even during an exilic time of great distress, God was never far.



When people find themselves in grief by any natural or unnatural cause of great loss, they must not lose cognizance of the comforting hope of restoration in the Lord, “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’” (Rev. 7:17)

Nobody likes to anticipate facing up to a time of mourning even though exultations and miseries are commonly unavoidable seasons of life. In the former season of jubilation, it is easy for people to encounter a real loss of God and His blessings, even if they don’t feel this real loss immediately because they are losing their pleasure-loving selves to light-heartedness. The time of mourning is a time when we are unavoidably confronted with the serious issues of life – not only grieving over a loss but also grappling with the reality of human fragility and the evils in the world.

The Message Bible says, “You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.”

3. May the supreme blessedness of inheriting the earth be upon the meek!

Meekness carries the virtuous qualities of placidity, self-effacement, patience and long-suffering. It is not embedded with the undesirable qualities of cowardice, diffidence, shyness and faintheartedness. Understanding the true virtuous qualities should dispel the myth that the meek are spineless to be despised, bullied, intimidated or subjugated by the impertinent aggressors and oppressors.



There is a hymn by Charles Wesley that has this starting verse: “Gentle Jesus, meek and mild; Look upon a little child; Pity my simplicity; Suffer me to come to Thee.”

We come to Jesus as children of God, and look to Jesus, meek and mild, as our example of one with a tender, caring spirit and a strength of moral character that surpasses the ordinary. In writing to the Corinthians, Apostle Paul appealed to them “by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.” (2 Cor. 10:1) but he made no bones about the fact that he had the courage of his convictions in battling the world with divine power to demolish strongholds of evil.

With meekness, “if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently.” (Gal. 6:1) With meekness, you as the Lord’s servant is not quarrelsome but kind to everyone without being resentful. (2 Tim. 2:24-25) With meekness, you are obedient to rulers and authorities, “ready to do whatever is good, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.” (Titus 3:1-2)

Blessed indeed are the meek who will inherit the land, and they also deserve to “enjoy peace and prosperity” (Ps. 37:11) this CNY and beyond. This is contrasted with the wicked who “will be no more” after a little while. (Ps. 37:10)

4. May the supreme blessedness of being filled be upon those who hunger and thirst for righteousness!

When you are literally hungry and thirsty, your desire to fill your stomach and quench the dryness of your mouth must be intense. Where will be your source of food and water?



Similarly, you who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness in a metaphorical sense must be passionately longing for righteousness. Where will be your source for the satisfying of your hunger and the quenching of your thirst for the righteousness? We can draw an answer from the Psalmist’s cries:

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” – Ps. 42:1,3

God is whom we go to for our needs. The righteousness to hunger and thirst after is not “the righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.” (Philippians 3:9) It is not attainable by mere human endeavour. Seek and you will be given. (Matt. 6:33)

Hence, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness “will be filled” (Matt. 5:6), which means that God will fill them. It is a great blessing to be justified freely by God’s grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Rom. 3:24)

John Lee

... to be continued

(In the next issue of The Vine, I shall talk about the other 4 supreme blessedness.)

DIALECT MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PARTY



What a party we had on 21st Dec 2016! The huge attendance (exceeding 70) was not restricted to dialect-speaking members of the church but also extended to friends from different corners of the Taman Jurong neighbourhood, in-

cluding even those who were physically challenged – in wheelchairs, with walking sticks, etc.



Starting at 2.30 p.m., it was simply a great wonderful opportunity to make friends as the participants, regardless of whether they are members of the church or not, regardless of where they came from, mingled sportingly as simple games were played, such as scissor-paper-stone and ball-putting with an umbrella.



An opera movie in Hokkien entitled “The Prodigal Son” was played to a rapt audience. There was no problem for everyone to understand the story as both English and Mandarin subtitles were included.

At about 5 p.m., a welcome pack and prizes for games and quizzes were given out to the happy participants before adjourning for enjoyment of another kind – feeding the hungry stomach with an appealing variety of simple but delicious fares that catered to everyone’s taste.



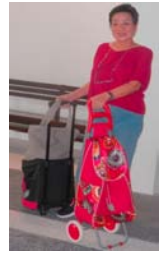
This was our first party to be held in our new JCC building, with a high percentage of first-timers attending as compared to previous years.

We wish all a blessed Christmas season and a Happy New Year!

John Lee

CNY SHOPPING TOUR 2017

In response to popular demand, the Dialect Ministry again organized the Annual CNY Shopping Tour on 18th January. The participants all punctually gathered themselves in the church before 9.00 a.m., well-equipped with their trolleys and bags, ready for a great time of filling up on New Year goodies.



We visited more than a dozen factory outlets in Pandan Gardens and Woodlands where affordable New Year favourites of fresh seafood and dry foodstuffs were irresistible for our JCC "shopping tourists" to buy and buy.



Cycle & Carriage Singapore (Pandan Gardens Centre) was very kind to permit us the use of its big and spacious air-conditioned meeting room for our lunch break at 12.00 noon.

It was cool that even a baby in our midst had the opportunity for a good rest on a comfortable sofa.



When we returned to church at about 5 p.m., the bus was heavy laden with all the purchases. Following this enjoyable shopping trip, all are ready to celebrate a Happy Chinese New Year.

John Lee

THANKSGIVING



...for blessing her with a baby girl despite having medical conditions which made it difficult to conceive.

Selia Chong



... for taking care of his father all these years and now his father can retire without worry.

Jason Tan



... for blessing her with a new job which affords her better pay and more family time.

Esther Goh



... for healing his mother and letting her experience the love of Christians who showed concern for her during her time of illness.

Boris



... for blessing him with a healthy baby despite the Zika scare during the time of the baby's birth.

Lian Khup



... for answered prayers that her brother will come to church and he did.

Angelina



... for blessing his wife and himself while they were in England with a church family to take care of them.

Jonathan Tan



... for bringing her father to salvation, after 30 years, through the Hokkien ministry.

Yen Luan



... for helping him through his National Service inspite of his medical condition.

Jonathan Goh



... for helping him manage the rebuilding of JCC as chairman of the Rebuilding Committee.

Thomas Tan

An interview with Pastor Andrew Thinagaran



Looking back at May/June 2010 issue of The Vine, I saw a photo on the installation of Pastor Andrew Thinagaran. Has it been that long since he and his family joined the JCC family? How is someone whose

background is not Lutheran but felt the calling to join JCC, a Lutheran church, doing so far? I'm sure our curiosity is piqued so let's see if he has answered some of the burning questions in your minds!



Alicia: Some casual questions to kick off the interview! What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Pastor Andrew: In my spare time, I prepare sermons, DE materials, pray, bible study, bring the family out, play handphone games, badminton on Thursdays, watch television and make a fool of myself with my youngest daughter Tricia.

Alicia: I know you do not live in the west. Considering the long distance you and your family have to travel every Sunday, has everyone settled down well?

Pastor Andrew: No choice in the matter. Praise God, we have good public transport and now that I am driving (for another year), it is safer and easier. My children will face challenges as they join youth programs that are organised on days other than Sundays. My wife is unable to have stable fellowship as she works in the east, stays in the north and church is in the west. She makes up by joining the pastors' wives fellowship led by Bishop Terry's wife, Sally. My thanks to Sally for this.

Alicia: For those who are new to our church, can you share about your job as a pastor?

Pastor Andrew: Best job on the planet. Work and ministry synergised. Enabled to study God's word and be involved in the lives of members and Taman Jurong residents. Conformed to behave by expectations of everyone and transformed to grow in order to grow others. Can only survive by Christ's enabling and daily grace.

Alicia: What are the challenges you face as a pastor? What keeps you going despite it all?

Pastor Andrew: The greatest challenge I face daily is to die to self and live for Christ. The next challenge is to get leaders and members to see the goodness and greatness of God in Christ so that they may find true joy in the Lord. Naturally and by our orientation in Singapore, we are works, goal and achievement oriented. It is hard for us to enjoy God and be satisfied in Him, to allow God to work in and through us. I believe work-life balance comes as we in love submit to God first.

What keeps me going --- Christ! As the great missionary C.T Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him." I believe in the biblical worldview of the reality of death and resurrection in Christ. Life is only worth living because death makes life precious (make use of time wisely) and resurrection makes life worth living (God is the absolute truth in life and following his ways leads to abundant and eternal life).

Alicia: At the scale of 1-10, rate how busy you are now.

Pastor Andrew: When I joined full time ministry, my home church leader was concerned. She asked me, "Do you think there is enough work for you to do in fulltime ministry?" My answer then and now is the same. I am as busy as I want to be. I can choose to do the minimum expected of me and get by or I can initiate and open up new ministries and be very busy.

However, I do not judge my work by how busy I am but if I am doing God's work and in His strength and grace. In JCC, besides the usual pastoral work of preaching, prayer, teaching, home and hospital visitations, funeral and weddings services, attending various meetings, leading CG ministry with our CG Shepherds, etc., I use my technical skills to help in web and IT works for JCC, JCKK and now LCS.

Besides JCC, I am also chairman and board member of Singapore Bible College Alumni. In this capacity, I hold meetings, run events and alumni AGM. I try to keep my outside involvement to a minimum, accepting preaching invitations about 3-4 times a year.

Basically, I am an introvert. I prefer to be by myself. If I can play computer games all day long with breaks for food and toilet, I would be a very happy person. However, since I have known Christ, I believe in his mission to proclaim God's kingdom and to serve others as Christ served. I have chosen to do not what I like but what I believe.

Alicia: This question is by John Lee. What do you think about the denominational distinctives in theology from your background and Lutheran?

Pastor Andrew: People who stay in one denomination all their lives tend to grow deep and faithful to their own distinctive. People who cross denominations tend to have a broad view and acceptance of other church distinctive. Today there are no pure denominations in Singapore's context ... other than Roman Catholic Church. This is due to interdenominational seminaries (TTC and SBC), interdenominational events (Full Gospel Businessman Fellowship, LoveSingapore, crusades, etc.) and interdenominational Christian bookstores (Techman, SKS, etc.). As a result, we see in all churches, leaders and members who have mixed denominational experiences.

When I came into the Lutheran setup, I was a Bible-believing, Christ-centred Christian. Denominational distinctive I appreciated as giving form and structure. I still hold this view. However, as I have been helped by our Lutheran clergy to understand the Lutheran distinctive, Lutheran theology and Divine Liturgical Service, I have come to appreciate the value of all these. Today I would highly recommend Lutheran distinctive and all things Lutheran as a Biblical way of living the Christian life. To this extent, when I setup DE, originally the classes focused on general Christian life. Today, with the help of Rev. Martin Yee, we complement biblical studies with Lutheran distinctive lessons.

I appeal to our members to go beyond the basics of Christianity and to learn Lutheran distinctive so that we may practice our way of worship with understanding.

Alicia: What would you like to see in JCC in 5 years' time?

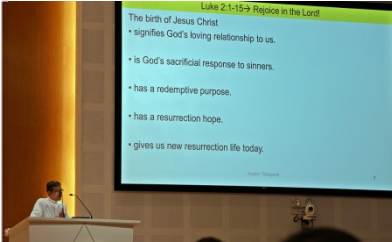
Pastor Andrew: Personal growth of self, leaders and members. Christianity is not an option. Church is not just other organisation. If done Biblically, these are God's means to life and salvation as well as God's means for social life and support. For this to be real, lives must be touched and transformed. By this I do not mean that we become better individuals but that we die to self and live for Christ. Just as our vision says, "Be Christ-like." This is what I wish to see happen; that Christ is formed in us and together with Paul we can declare, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

Glory be to God in Christ and peace to all who trust and obey God in Christ.

DEDICATION SERVICE 18/12/16



Christmas 24&25 Dec



Spiritual Maturity

Does it Exist?

A colleague of mine sent a message on "Spiritual Maturity" to me recently. She wanted to encourage me as I was going through the throes of work stress and praying for better work-life balance. I am appreciative and encouraged by her actions.

This is the message, "What is Spiritual Maturity?"

1. It is when you stop trying to change others, instead focus on changing yourself.
2. It is when you accept people as they are.
3. It is when you understand everyone is right in their own perspective.
4. It is when you learn to "let go".
5. It is when you are able to drop "expectations" from a relationship and give for the sake of giving.
6. It is when you understand whatever you do you do for your own peace.
7. It is when you stop proving to the world, how intelligent you are.
8. It is when you don't seek approval from others.
9. It is when you stop comparing with others.
10. It is when you are at peace with yourself.
11. It is when you are able to differentiate between "need" and "want" and are able to let go of your wants.
12. Lastly, you gain Spiritual Maturity when you stop attaching "happiness" to material things!

These are practical tips and thoughts! As usual, I asked myself if I should be looking for work-life balance by understanding work in a larger spiritual context where work should be a part of the Spiritual Life.

Do you know that the trend in the market nowadays is to have work-life integration i.e. the synergies of work to include family, health, well-being, friends and social activities unlike work-life balance which creates a struggle between work and life? Does it sound ridiculous? Not really. It is a matter of perspective.

For Christians, is “Spiritual Maturity” attained by living our lives to move on from where we are to continue the walk with God through learning and not just reading His word; praying to God at all times and not just talking to Him when we need Him; serving as much as we can and not just whenever we can and not be burdened by service as a routine work for God?

How about loving our neighbours as ourselves even when we do not really love them through our own thinking and remember to grow to know God more through the stages of life in happiness, pain and sorrow?

When I received the message above, my first impression was to refer to the Bible for answers. I cannot find anything literally on “Spiritual Maturity”, but realised that it is an understanding of how much we know and have God in all aspects of our lives. It is also how much our lives have been rooted in Christ Jesus and how much we have grown in Him. Hmmm

It is a journey with God. We should not stop trying even when we fail and we should try even harder when life is stable and smooth with blessings from God. The latter is easier for us to take God for granted and forget many others who are going through the suffering in their lives. Ironical, isn't it?

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him...” (James 1:2-5)

I almost hit a deadlock in writing this article, wondering, “Would we ever have spiritual maturity in any stage of our lives?” This is too abstract for me to expound and maybe even to understand.

Maybe we will only know the answer when we meet Jesus at the end of our lives. Hmmm

An article “What does It Mean to Be Spiritually Mature” by Gordon MacDonald (www.christianitytoday.com) sums up to indicate that Christians must go deeper in every area of their lives to have maturity in Christ. This is what he wrote (quoting from the article):

“...Of course, we can't attempt to answer these questions until we explore what deep people look like. Here's my working description: Deep people are those whose lives are organized around

Jesus, his character, his call to serve, and his death on the cross for their sins. Their abilities or giftedness may be quite diverse, but each has the power to influence others to follow Jesus, grow in Christ-likeness and live a life full of service. They love the world, mix well with people and are wary of spiritual entrapments. They are known for their wisdom, their compassion for others, and their perseverance in hard times...

So, when do we have “Spiritual Maturity”? Is it when we stop drinking milk and start eating solid food?

“In fact, though by this time, you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, it is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is only for the matured, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguished good from evil.

“Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptism, the laying of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement. And God permitting, we will do so.” – Hebrews 6:1-4

Never give up! The Bible illustrates “Spiritual Maturity” in several versus and in different ways. It is about the depth of faith and meaning of God’s work in our lives. The Bible has the answers. Read on.

“...to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does it work.” (Ephesians 4:12-16)

Spiritual Life is the core to balance work, family, health, well-being, friends and social activities. God is our umbrella of strength that should be used not only when it rains or shines. It is there for us anytime.

So, Spiritual Maturity does exist, but when do we know it?

Let God tell you by allowing Him to show you the journey of His Word through His Life! Let our hearts and minds walk and grow in Him through His Love for us!

Pray with me for wisdom from God and courage to go through life with Him!

Joyce Tan



15 Jan – Briefing for English Worship Teams by the various Team Leaders.



15 Jan – Baptisms (from left, Li Yahun, Martina Lee, Eunice Lau, Gary Lee and Terence Kherh)



and Transfers (from right, Stephanie Cen, Yeo Jie Min, Katherine Lim, Cynthia Soo)



18 Jan - Condolences to Mr Ng Kim Tiaw's family on his passing. He was a Dialect member living in Pasir Ris.



**More thoughts from JCCians
after New Building Dedication
Service
18 Dec 2016**

We praise and give thanks in the journey of faith in the rebuilding of JCC, that as a family unit(3 generations) we can be involved and contribute to it.

The projector screen is big and now I can better see the screen!

Enjoyed the buffet!



Tony Koh and family



Caleb (9 years old)



Kieran (13 years old)

Privileged to be there to witness such a historical moment, honoured to be part of this project. Heartfelt praises and thanksgiving to God that a small fry like us can handle such a big project...

Seeing the raw emotion displayed on the bishop's face and feeling the Holy Spirit moving in our midst as the service was being conducted, touched me deeply.



Samantha

God is good. He provides the new building and He filled it to the brim at the first service, just as Noah built the ark and God filled it.



Agnes Chow
Chinese Congregation



Patrick