

Looking forward to the next retreat

The retreat 2017 was planned as follows: We would leave for JB on the morning of 15th June and return from JB on the afternoon of 17th June.

The following frame of mind might not have escaped some people as it had not escaped me: “I am badly in need of a retreat, to take a break from my stress. The retreat duration – so short, so much rush, minus off the time to cater for traffic jams at the causeway ... the programme would be tight, and there would be no real break for a good relaxation ...”

Nevertheless, I did make my decision to join the retreat for whatever it had to offer. Was I surprised? Despite the short duration (2½ days and 2 nights only), the retreat committee was able to squeeze in big blocks of free-and-easy time (a few hours each day) and altogether 4 spiritually edifying messages delivered by God’s humble servant, Rev. Philip Huan.

With the spacious accommodation, good fun and good food (both food for the body and food for the soul), I can say that I was much refreshed physically and spiritually at the end of the retreat. Thank God that our journeys by bus across the Woodlands Causeway both ways were smooth, the school holiday period notwithstanding.



I shall not go into all the enriching messages that Rev. Huan shared, but one point stood out: All of us have talents. When we are willing to seek the Spirit’s anointing, our talents can be transformed into spiritual gifts that enable us to perform specific tasks effectively for the purposes of God, and reveal God’s presence and character. Our consistent use of our spiritual gifts will lend to the common good of the community and lead our growth and vision.

Certainly, our brother Young Kwang and his team discovered their various spiritual gifts that enabled them to power the retreat with their excellent planning and organizational efforts. They were blessed to be a blessing to all at the retreat. At the end of the retreat, new faces in JCC stood up one after another to share their thanksgiving for a retreat they had enjoyed very much. Among them, our brother, Peter Krishnan, showed that he was gifted and eloquent in his own way in sharing an inspiring account of his life, his backsliding and his return to serving God.

If you have missed out on this retreat, you can start making an early determination that you won't want to miss the next one which, as our sister Yap Xiu Zhen says, "will be even more breathtaking ..."

John Lee

As always, the retreat ended on a high note and it has brought us all one step closer to God spiritually as we become 1 Spirit, 1 Family, 1 Heart. I believe the next retreat will be even more breathtaking as new members answer God's calling for them.

YAP XIU ZHEN

