



**A Parent's Love**

by Joyce Tan



**JCC Retreat 2017**

by Kao Huiling,  
Yap Xiu Zhen &  
John Lee



**JCC's 50 Years of History**

by John Lee



More photos of  
Li Nanxing in the  
Back Page



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Li Nanxing Outreach



**Brother  
Martin  
Writes**

Two major activities took place in June. First was the Retreat at Pulau Springs and then the Li Nanxing Outreach immediately following the week after. When we have big events, The Vine will be overwhelmed with testimonies and sharings that some of the articles have to be carried forward to the next issue.

Then in July, we will have another major event, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. With this event and the overflow from June, I foresee that I do not have to work too hard to come up with something to write to fill up The Vine next issue either. You may realize that when you write for The Vine, you are making my work easier. Please send in your articles; there are many good and encouraging stories that I have no access to.

A funny thing happened to me at the Retreat. I videoed the 2<sup>nd</sup> day's message on a new micro SD card which I bought online. When I came back to Singapore, I found that the SD card was corrupted and the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> day's message was lost. I started to imagine that God did not want the 2<sup>nd</sup> day's message about "Speaking in Tongues" to be shared with the rest of JCC. Some time later, one of the church's PA Tech requested me to get a bigger capacity thumbdrive to record the Sunday sermons. I bought the thumbdrive and found inside that there was a free 1-year's subscription to a data recovery program.

I tried the program on the corrupted SD card; and lo and behold, the data was recovered. However, the data was recovered in like 2-minute fragments and so I am now trying to stitch the 500 plus files back together. With all the media flowing at me from all the events, I am flooded and need time to restore to basic conditions again.

Besides media, there is also the upcoming Cambodia Missions Trips to prepare and publicize. The optimum number of people each trip is 20 persons. The 1<sup>st</sup> trip in mid-October is a Children's Camp and the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip in early-December is a Children's Christmas Party and Outreach. If God is calling you to be one of the twenty, please register your interest with Julian Chong Yew Moi, HOM, Missions. The earlier the better as airfares cost cheaper now than later.

The takeaway from the Retreat, "If you don't use the talents God gave you, what will you say to Him when you meet Him?"

*Martin Cheah*

# A Parent's Love

There were days when we were growing up, wishing that our parents could be nicer to us without scolding or hitting us that much. Then, as we are older and are more matured in our thinking and when some of us become parents, we truly understand why our parents had to do certain things and reacted in certain ways.

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honour your father and mother – which is the first commandment with a promise – so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.” (Eph 6: 1- 4)*

Expectations on how parents should react and express themselves matter to the children. They are watching and learning from their parents and family members every day. This influence is far greater than learning through the schools, friends and media. Where a child spends more time, the impact will be greater. Well, family as how we define it, is always close to the hearts of children, no matter what happens.

This love from our Father in Heaven bears some comparison to how our earthly father under normal circumstances would react. They love us and practise tough love at times. This love nurtures us to be who we are today in the world that we live in. Of course, we do attribute the molding of character and survival instincts to different situations in life. Really, when we are at the verge of facing death, who do we think of? Loved ones deemed as family to us? Those who have been there at such times would understand what it means to love when we have a chance to. Please treasure every moment to show love no matter how tired, angry or nonchalant we are. We give thanks to God when our parents are still around. For those who had never known or had lost their parents, our Father in Heaven understands and loves them too.



On 4 June 2017, Jurong Christian Church (JCC) dedicated this day to brothers and sisters-in-Christ who are parents. In addition to the lunch provided after the service, there were dedicated songs sung by the youths and young adults to the families at JCC. A montage on families at JCC was also presented.



I had the chance to obtain the poem recited by a group of older kids from JCC on that day. For those who missed it and to the parents out there, this is for you, "A Parent's Love".



*"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (1 Thess 2: 11 – 12)*



To my Heavenly Father, I am speechless as always with gratitude to you for being there for me all this time. Thank you for your love and the hope in life.



Joyce Tan

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### *A Parent's Love*

No gift on earth is greater  
 No treasure held above  
 The joy that comes from knowing  
 A parent's endless love

In spite of how it's tested  
 It grows from year to year  
 Providing strength and comfort  
 It always draws us near

It warms and it protects us,  
 And guides us from afar,  
 Shedding light upon us  
 Like a bright and shining star

And when all things are measured,  
 Not one shall rise above  
 Or be compared in value  
 To a parent's endless love!

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# JCC RETREAT 2017

*PULAI SPRINGS, JOHOR, MALAYSIA*

*(105 participants – including 3 babies)*

When asked to write my reflections on the recent Church Retreat, my first instinct of course was to shy away from the request and my mind was already thinking of a million ways to turn down that request. However, a nagging feeling inside of me went: Rev Phillip Huan said, if you have a gifting in that area, you need to learn to hone it till 100% and not be satisfied with the 10-20% that you are using now. Well, that woke my idea up.

To give some context on what the people who didn't go missed out on – Rev Phillip Huan (our guest speaker) spoke about spiritual giftings and how we should use them to help advance the kingdom of God. He focused not so much on the former, but the latter. Of course, I cried after every single session (I vaguely remembered telling one of my youths, I am so tired of crying), though for good reason! I think the part that broke my heart the most was seeing how much God has blessed us with, and yet we have not lived up to the fullest potential that God wants us to be. Many a time, we choose to squander away our time and energies on things that have no eternal value, and being content just being a pew warmer.

In short, let me share just 2 things that I learnt:

1. God is not going to hold you accountable for the Gifts that He did not give you.

For those who have been on my team for games, one would have observed that I am a very competitive person. And therefore, in my spiritual life, I perpetually covet the Gifts that others have, and secretly compare them with myself. Like, if only I had the gift of faith like so and so, or if only I could play the piano better like X and Y, but I have come to realise that we are only called to be accountable for our own giftings, and to make sure that we have honed them to 100% and be not satisfied with less. And the only way to do so? To regularly find a way to use the gifts that God has given us.

2. You discover more of God's will in your life when you discover the purposes of your Gift.

As Rev Huan so aptly pointed out, many of us wonder about God's will for us in our lives. However, discovering the purposes of our Gifts can help us streamline what ministries God may want us to be in. Let me urge the people who aren't sure where God wants them to be to attend Sam Tay's upcoming session on Spiritual giftings, and prayerfully ask God which ministries they can best activate these giftings at. There is definitely a place for everyone at JCC as long as we are willing to be used.

I would love to talk more, but according to Google, an article should be kept at approximately 500 words. Hence, as a concluding thought, I urge everyone in JCC to have a good think of our lives, and where are we investing our giftings at or if we are even utilising them. As for those who are already serving, press on and let love be the motivation as to why you serve!

In His Love,  
Huilin



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## *A WONDERFUL RETREAT*

*where my questions and doubts  
were answered*

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Initially, I had troubles deciding whether to go for the retreat as I had work. However, through God's grace, I could make it to the retreat and I did not regret it one bit. Through my 19 years of life so far, I was struggling with some questions and doubts that many of the youths, I believe, are struggling with as well. Am I good enough? What gifts do I have? Am I contributing enough to the church community? And so on. As Reverend Philip Huan delivered his messages at the retreat, many of my questions were answered.

Before deciding on going to the retreat, I did not have a single clue on what the message was going to be about. However, I had a strong urge to go not for the fun nor bonding, but truly to hear more about God's word. And true enough, it was indeed encouraging and fulfilling.

Through this retreat, I learnt how to embrace the fact that no gift is ever too small in God's eyes. Even if you do not hold a role in the church, you too can make an impact just by your words and small actions. All these are possible when you look to God and live a Christ-like life. The gifts you have, or will have, are determined by God. To discover your gifts, you must first discover God. I am also encouraged by the message where Reverend Huan mentioned that we are all one body in Christ and each one of us must play our part for the church to function.

Reverend Huan also emphasized an important point, that we are all wearing masks. Which is what many of us are battling with today. For a church to grow, we must be true to others and true to ourselves. This can only be done when we put down the mask and start interacting and connecting with one another through fellowship on Sundays or any other days.

After the the last message, the entire camp formed a circle and we were given a task by Reverend Huan. Each person would go to at least 10 people and thank them for being part of his/her life and telling them that they are loved by God and by him/her. That night was genuinely a stirring experience as I watched many shed tears of encouragement and thanksgiving. It was a heartwarming scene and I believe many of us were touched and encouraged by the words of others.

Messages from God aside, we had loads of fun with the indoor jacuzzi, swimming pools, gym, arcade and pool tables. The activities planned were fun and yet not mentally and physically draining. They were interactive and suitable for all ages. All of us had tons of excitement and laughter and we got to bond on a deeper and different level.

A shout-out to the committee members for planning such a detailed and wonderful retreat. And to Reverend Huan for taking the time out to inspire and encourage us with his words and the mini activities he planned. 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. Hope to see you at JCC Retreat 2018 ☺

Yap Xiu Zhen



## *Retreat 2017*

### *A refreshing time drawing closer to God*

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This year's church retreat was a much-needed break for me. Having taken on several projects both inside and outside of church, I started to feel myself drifting further and further from God, fooling myself with the feeling that I was "too busy" to draw close to Him.

The retreat served to dispel that notion completely. Through the words of Rev. Phillip Huan, I came to realise that my sense of busyness stemmed from not knowing who I do all this work for. I had lost sight of the Creator God who should be at the centre of our ministries and lives.



Thus, I am extremely grateful towards Rev Phillip Huan and, by extension, the Retreat Committee for "Opening my eyes, to see the things that make God's Heart cry".

On that note, I would like to thank the worship team for the stellar worship sessions. Your hard work and dedication to the gifts God has given you allowed everyone at the retreat to draw closer to God.



Lastly, I would like to thank everyone else who came to the retreat for being so warm and fun to fellowship with.



See you all next year!

*Jonathan Goh*



## Looking forward to the next retreat

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



## JURONG

## CHRISTIAN

## CHURCH

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS  
OF GOD'S BLESSINGS  
1967 - 2017



In the early 1960s, Jurong was a lightly inhabited place without a church.

In 1964, with industrialisation budding, the Lutheran Church in Malaya (LCM) decided to start an evangelical work here in Jurong.

It was ordinary for large gatherings to be held in a makeshift tent.



At that time, the roads in Taman Jurong were named in sequential order, and Tah Ching Road was called Taman Jurong 12.

The Taman Jurong Community Centre was an unassuming single-storey building.



In December 1965, the LCM was appointed by the Council of Churches to bid for a religious site, supported by all members of the Council.

The successful tender for land at Tah Ching Road was officially confirmed on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 1966. Construction for a church building soon commenced.

Meanwhile, the LCM rented a shophouse nearby for her work. It can be said that Jurong Christian Church began at the shophouse. **Regular church services started on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 1967.**

**Our first church building was dedicated to God on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1968.**

Representatives from various church denominations were present to take part in the dedication ceremony, presided by Rev. Dr. Ray Nyce, President of the LCMS (Lutheran Church in Malaysia & Singapore, as LCM was then known.)

They included Archdeacon Lau Teik Oon (Anglican Church), Rev John J. K. Lu (Vice-moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and Malaysia), Mr. P. S. George (Mar Thoma Syrian Church), Rev Clement Muyanzi (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Central Synod) and representatives from the German Embassy, Y.W.C.A., the Boys' Brigade, the Singapore Industrial Mission, etc.



The bronze dedication plaques for our first church building bear testimony to our age as a church in Taman Jurong, and the denominational mix in our formative years provide us with an interesting reminiscence of a “multi-hued” past.



In the early years, we were called JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH AND CIVIC CENTRE, a name that resonated with our dual roles in the realms of spiritual care and of care to the whole community regardless of whether members of the community were part of the Church or “outside” the Church.



As a CIVIC CENTRE, we provided a host of programs including literary classes, sewing lessons, cooking instructions, instrumental groups, moderate library facilities, counselling, Boys’ Brigade activities, First Aids training, martial arts training, etc. to serve the industrial community.

We dropped the CIVIC CENTRE part of our original name in 1971 at the instruction of the Registrar of Societies and became simply known as JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH. Nevertheless, we have never stopped our active engagement in useful ways with the community.

The Straits Times, 15 December 1970 The Straits Times, 10 July 1971  
 Party for 1,500 children Children's camp





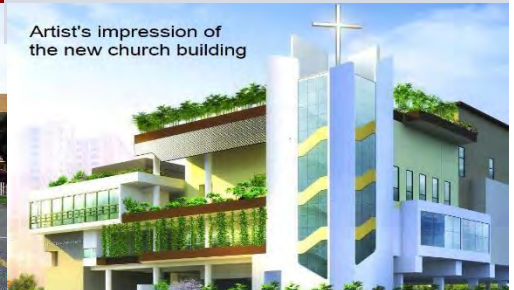
From JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH & CIVIC CENTRE to JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH, our commitment to serving the community led us to grow in strength. There are always new challenges for us to march forward in tandem with the growth of the nation and changing needs of the community.



28th December 2014 (Sunday) was our last day at the old church building.

Bishop Terry Kee delivered his last sermon of the year and the congregation gathered for a nostalgic group photo.

Then we moved to temporary premises at 101 Yuan Ching Road in preparation for the church building to be torn down and rebuilt. We anticipated a new multi-storey church building to rise up as a church hub housing several churches, facilitating God's people to worship Him under one roof and continue serving the community with love.



Artist's impression of the new church building

## 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 – An “exodus” from 2 Tah Ching Road

A walk to our temporary premises at 101 Yuan Ching Rd, where we would stay for two years while the new building is being constructed.







Land at 2 Tah Ching Road cleared for new building.



Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, at our Rebuilding Ground-breaking Ceremony on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015.



Construction work in progress.

Give thanks to God for the capable team of construction workers.

# Church Dedication Service

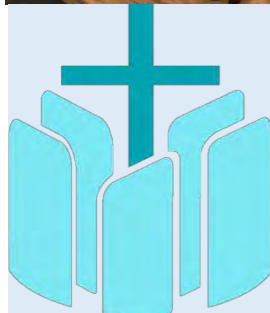
## 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016



God has blessed us with a marvellous new building for His Kingdom's work.

He has blessed us with faithful servants.

We are impressed by God's provisions. We give thanks and sing praises to the Almighty, and dedicate the building and our service to Him.



At the top of the church building is a cross encircled by 5 walls. This design is reflected in our church logo. It reminds us of our Christian convictions to the 5 Solas of the Reformation:

Sola Scriptura ("Scripture alone"), Sola Fide ("Faith alone"), Sola Gratia ("Grace alone"), Solus Christus ("Christ alone") and Soli Deo Gloria ("to the glory of God alone").

**4 MARCH 2017**  
9am - 1pm



**JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**OPEN HOUSE**

特别来宾: 副总理尚达曼先生

**Guest-of-Honour: Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam**  
Deputy Prime Minister & Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies  
Adviser to Jurong GRC, Yuhua and Bukit Batok Grassroots Organisations

3月4日是裕廊基督教会开放日, 从早上九点到下午一点。  
我们期待且欢迎你们阖家前来与我们同欢。



**We are a church strategically positioned.**  
**Our name is JURONG CHRISTIAN CHURCH.**  
Let us be the light that shines before men so that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. (Matt. 5:16)



### Li Nanxing – the Aunty Magnet

The photos do not tell the story of the man who fell from grace but was saved from a bottomless pit. It just enhances his legend of being an Aunties Man.

His testimony brought salvation to twenty persons and planted the seed of the Gospel into more than 400 people.

In God's time, the harvest will be plentiful and we have to wait for it patiently.

