

The Vine Committee

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**Brother
Martin
Writes**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. - James 4:13-14.

"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!" - Benjamin Franklin.

Is there a dichotomy between the two quotations? Is James advocating not making any resolutions or plans? In Luke 12:24, Jesus said, *"Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storehouse or barn, yet God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than the birds!"*

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails. – Proverbs 19:21

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. – Proverbs 16:3

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. – Philipians 4:6

So do we need to plan or live life free like the birds?

From the verses above, it is clear that man must make plans but it will only succeed if it is according to God's will. So we must submit our plans to the Lord and pray for His direction and blessings on our plans.

In 2018, JCC have two plans which will be launched soon. One is the ***Koinonia*** (Christian fellowship) Lunch on the last Sunday of each month where lunch will be distributed at \$3 per packet by assigned Cell Groups. Hopefully, the people will then sit together and have a fellowship lunch at level one. The second is the ***Kampong Spirit #1*** project, where a team of 3 or 4 volunteers will visit one of the 15 selected households in the neighbourhood to have lunch with them and build bonds of friendship. We bring these 2 plans before the Lord and pray for His blessings and favour.

Martin Cheah