



Life is SHORT by John Lee



Pray for the Opportunity? by Joyce Tan



BB Enrolment Service by Clement Tan



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Cover Photo: BB Enrolment Service on 15th April 2018





Recently a report came out in the press that the Pope claims that there is no Hell. What does this news tell you? That the Pope is not infallible after all or that he was misquoted, as the Vatican claims.

About a week ago when discussing about some Christian colleagues, my boss told me that some Christians are just as bad as others (non-Christians). I replied that 100% of Christians are bad. The non-Christian argument is, "Why should a good person go to Hell and a bad Christian go to Heaven?"

Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. Mark 10:18

Christians realize they are sinners, that is why they turn to Jesus for salvation. If we depend on our "good works" to

save us then we do not understand the need for Jesus to come into this world. We are saved "not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:9

Why would Jesus come into this world to suffer painfully and die just to prevent people from annihilation? I believe that many people would rather enjoy now and after death to face annihilation rather than to go to Heaven. Many non-Christians believe that death is the end of it all and that is why they look forward to death to end all their earthly troubles. Christians should only view death like Paul, who said in Philippians 1:23: *"I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far."*

So we come to the question, "Is there a Hell?" I wish there wasn't such a place but who can answer the question better than Jesus? Jesus taught that Hell is a place of torment and fire as these Scriptures reveal:

In Matthew 13:42, Jesus says: "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

In Matthew 25:41, Jesus says: "Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire . . ."

In Mark 9:46, Jesus speaks about Hell: "Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."

Revelation 20:15 says, "And whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Would a loving God send anyone to Hell? NO! For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son (Jesus), that whoever believes in him shall not

perish but have eternal life. 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. John 3:16-18

Are there a lot of complicated rituals we must do to be saved?

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Acts 16:30-31

Can we be saved by some other means?

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Man in his pride feels that he is good enough to deserve a place in Heaven and therefore do not need to call on Jesus to be saved. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:17

It is hard to tell a person that their righteousness is like filthy rags. That is why unless a person is convicted of their sins, it is very difficult for them to believe in Jesus as Saviour.

In the cell group meeting last week, somebody said that Grace is a license to Sin. Let me answer with the words of Pastor Joseph Prince, "If anyone is living in sin and claims that he or she is living under grace, let me be the first to tell you that this person is not living under grace. How can he or she be when God's Word clearly states that "*sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace*" (Rom. 6:14)? Based on the authority of God's Word, a person who is under grace will not be dominated by or want to continue living in sin!"

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **By no means**! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Romans 6:1-2

Read Romans 6 and let God speak to you. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

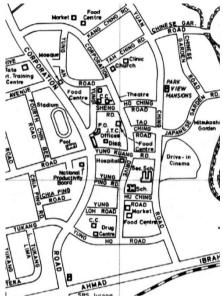
Martin Cheah

The meaning of Tah Ching Road

Rev Samuel Wang sent us a little history of the road names of Taman Jurong dispelling the rumor that a road was named after the PM's wife.

The even numbered Taman Jurong roads were renamed "____ Ching", continuing the garden/ scenery theme from Taman Jurong.

- Yuan Ching Road (园景 "garden scenery"), formerly called Taman Jurong 2.
- Hu Ching Road (湖景 "lake scenery"), formerly called Taman Jurong 4.
- Tao Ching Road (岛景, "island scenery"), formerly called Taman Jurong 6.
- Ho Ching Road (河景 "river scenery), formerly called Taman Jurong 8.
- Kang Ching Road(岗景, "ridges scenery"), formerly called Taman Jurong 10.



• Tah Ching Road (塔景, "pagoda scenery"), formerly called Taman Jurong 12.

The odd-numbered Taman Jurong Roads took on romanised Chinese names which embodied Chinese value of eternal progress such as:

- Yung Loh Road (永乐, "eternal happiness"), formerly Taman Jurong 1.
- Yung Ping Road (永平, "eternal smoothness/ steadiness"), formerly Taman Jurong 3.
- Yung Kuang Road (永光, "eternal brightness"), formerly Taman Jurong 5.
- Yung Sheng Road (永升, "eternal rising"), formerly Taman Jurong 7.
- Yung An Road (永安, "eternal peace"), formerly Taman Jurong 9.

Hope this slice of history will help us to remember all the similar sounding road names around JCC.

It is a fact: Life is short! Did you say: "So what?"

A famous scientist died recently at the age of 76. Someone pointed out that Albert Einstein also died at age 76. The fact that these two great scientists died at the same age is just coincidence. Nevertheless, the age number reminds me of what the psalmist (Moses) said:

"Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." (Ps. 90:10)

Of course, we can cite examples of people who departed well ahead of the age of 70 or of centenarians who defied the odds to enjoy long life. Still, without focusing on the number, we should have no difficulty to be honest with ourselves to recognize that longevity (no matter how enduring in human terms) does not detract from the following absolute truths:

• Human life is frail and brief, like a watch in the night

"Like a dream he flies away, no more to be found, banished like a vision of the night." (Job 20:8)

• Death and judgment are inescapable, regardless of whether we are great men and women, or forgotten people living in abject conditions.

"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." (Heb. 9:27-28)

If human life is frail and brief; death and judgment, inescapable; are we prepared for it? Do we care to plead with God: "Show me, LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is."? (Ps. 39:4)

"We cannot apply our hearts unto wisdom, as instructed by Moses, except we number every day as our possible last day." What then, if we get to know our life's end and the number of our days? Do we gain a heart of wisdom to know how to prepare for it? (Ps. 90:12)

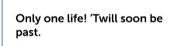
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

Actually, counting our days is not meant to be in the literal sense of knowing exactly how long we will live. Rather, it is Moses' plea for God's help that we may overcome the trouble and sorrow and make each day count for God by living holy lives.

Seeing our transitory life for what it is against the backdrop of eternal life, the trouble and sorrow are conquerable. Instead of surrendering to despair, we can apply the annoying experience to sharpen our wisdom to focus our spiritual sight right, on the future – the eternal!

Man's greatest problem is not primarily his frailty and brevity of life, but the cause of these – his sin – whereby he has consumed God's anger and become terrified by His indignation. (Ps. 90:7) Because of sin, we face trouble and sorrow in all spheres of our life. Death of our self-seeking plots supervenes our hopes and duly leads us to spiritual death; i.e., separation from God in eternity.

After the lamentation of 90:10, Moses followed on in vv.13-17 with his pleading to God for an outpouring of His compassion and love. Thankfully, despite the bad news of death through Adam, we have renewed hope by <u>The GOOD</u> <u>NEWS</u> of <u>LIFE THROUGH CHRIST</u>! (Rom. 5:12-21)



Only what's done for Christ will last.

JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

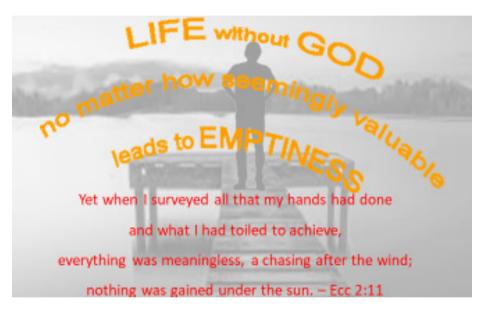
The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is God's love manifested in its utmost. This love is for everyone who seeks, to experience. Sadly, people do not often seek this love but the love for perishable things and selfish desires.

In v.17, Moses asks God to "establish the

work of our hands." This is an acknowledgement that whatever we can do, we need God to be behind us in establishing (or "forming") the work and giving His blessing.

If it was just our wants to have a nice church building, without seeking out God's will and guidance through our prayers and petitions, we would be all toiling in vain. On hindsight, we can tell very clearly that the miraculous provision by God was an indication of His presence in the whole project.

In the accounts of Moses' life and struggles in the Pentateuch, we can see that despite his faithful response to God's calling in "evolving" the history of Israel, he had no lack of "very human" and spiritual struggles to contend with. Our Christian life experiences undergo different shades of the same too. Due to our human weakness, we vacillate between a clear sense of God's calling and doubts about what we are doing. We cannot be on our own. In fact, we are never on our own in respect of any calling from God. With each calling, God is at work, establishing the work of our hands, whereby struggles may make our hearts dither but the work that God establishes will be finally done – soli Deo Gloria!



Whatever you are, great or little in the eyes of men, life is short – as a matter of fact. Whether you soak yourself in a life solely of your own will, or seek God to establish the work of your hands, you know your chance of hearing the Father say:

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" – Matt. 25:21, 23.

John Lee

Why do we still worry all the time when we believe in God?



The fact that we still worry is evidence of the reality that our faith is imperfect yet. Our faith is in the process of ongoing development. We humbly confess that our spirit is willing but our flesh is weak.

We cling on to Christ with hope; our life like clay in the Potter's hand continually feeling the heat of the furnace

and being fashioned into the shape that God desires of each and every individual piece of His handiwork?

It may be self-deception if we tell others "Don't Worry" and expect them to instantly act upon as they are told. A modicum of worry may be a good thing if it pulls us towards God. When worries come upon us, we should recognise that it is an indication that we cannot be detached from God.

Matthew 6:25-34 records Jesus' instruction which calls us to put our faith in our heavenly Father:

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

"And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ...

For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

The advice against worrying is an acknowledgement of the presence of worries even among the disciples of Christ. The last sentence in the above passage also suggests the commonness of having trouble for us to face up to each day. The trouble lies at the root of our worries because, despite Jesus' assurance, our faith is not strong enough. Dealing with the trouble by our own strength without leaning upon our heavenly Father has the tendency to grow our worries instead of diminishing them.

However, the message of our Lord telling us not to worry is not the same as the message of the hit song "Don't Worry, Be Happy" which seems to be advocating a carefree attitude. It may be cause for big woe indeed if people of God become complacent in their faith, sit back with feet up and become "bochap" (indifferent) to circumstances with potential implications that may well be ameliorated if a little worry serves as a prompting for them to turn their attention towards God.

The message of our Lord is **NOT** this:

"Whatever you want to do, JUST DO IT. Don't Worry about the consequences. Leave the consequences to God. Your Father will take care of it!"

Instead, the message for us to take away **should be** this:

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." – 1 Pet. 5:6-7

"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." – Philippians 4:7

Ideally, everyone is alive to an active conscience on personal responsibility. Putting our faith in God does not mean a shirking of our personal responsibility to set things right within our abilities. We cannot behave like immature children or youngsters who buy into the habit of "JUST DO IT", expecting that someone else will be there to deal with the results of their defiance.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." – Philippians 4:8



John Lee

TODAY is the TOMORROW we worried about YESTERDAY.

Even before there was The Vine, there was the **Ecumenical News**.



M.C. (P) 2510

SECOND QUARTER - JUNE 1967

lurong Ground BISHOP Lundy, Presi-dent of the Council **Breaking** of Churches, turns the first spade of earth at the Ground Breaking

Service for the Jurong Christian Church. May 1.



He said: "The Jurong Christian Church is the first

Church in Malassia and Church in Malaysia and Singa-pore, the Jurong Christian Church located in the fast grow-ing industrial complex of the island, will involve most of the churches and organizations of the Council of Churches in its maintee

the Council of Churches in its ministry. Although the funds are comple-tely subscribed by the Lutheran Church the word 'Lutheran' does not appear in the name. In an agreement with the Council of Churches, the Lutheran Church has stated that it is willing for churches, the nectionarioal team ministry with the following pro-restation

ministry with the following pro-posals: 1) That though mjost of the time services would be con-ducted according to Luthe-ran rites, at such times as when non-Lutheran clergy officiate they would be free to use the rites of their own divisited they would be free

discipline. 2) The LCM hopes there will monoturally be created a The LCM hopes there will eventually be created a single common form of wor-ship for use by the Jurong congregation and its elergy and it asks that all churches who commit themselves to participate in the project plan for such a common order.
The LCM, though it recog-nises and accepts a peculiar

oh will be on the same b ecumenical team ministry

One of largest

Use of largest provide a standard term multify the special to be completed within a year, will be one of the largest churches in Singapore. The churche building will not only provide a standard provide a

New films: Mr. T. K. Lee announces that 45 education-al films hay correct and nine Moody Science Religious films have been recently re-recived. The Coronet films and Moody films 40-45 min-nutes. A new Japanese film and Moody films 40-45 min-nutes. A new Japanese film with Equilab subtitles is now available. These are also new filmset topses and scripts-For fuller details, contact Mr. Lea et 3-A. Rosie Rd. Singapore 11, Tel: 56008.

Billy Graham coming?

IN response to an official invi-The response to an official intri-tation by a responsible group of church leaders: Organisa-tion sent a readers: Organisa-tion sent a readers: Organisa-tion sent a reader to discuss the possibility of Pr. Graham hold-mite anyors in Singapore and Malynais in 1968. Although a de-finite anyors it still not possible, there was hope that a date might be found to fin with the Aus-tralian Crusade in May, 1968.



Queenstown Revisited

A YEAR ago Ecumenical News reported the dedi-cation of the Queenstown Lutheran Church. What has Lutheran Church, what has taken place in the intervening year? How does a church make a witness when it is the focal point of hundreds of grindows in surrounding flats?

Rev. John Nelson reports: A formally organised congre-gation of 35 adult members with assumes its full responsibilities and meets all its expense except for a portion of Pastor Loke's salary.

Bill Bolm Bill Bolin, short tetti mis-sionary, is readen in the church and in charge of the Paglish classes and director of yould activities. With special transmission woll with statistical Paglish at the Value sity of Michigan, he has the attention Source are provided at attention Source are provided by other for without

KON 2752

Softball team

The recreational programme list is providing a needed service for the Queenstown community. X graduate of Western Michigan



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Mr. Loke Hoy San of Queenstown Lutheran Church, Dr. R. Nyce, President of Lutheran Church in Malaya and Singapon Bishop Lundy, Rev. James Wong of the Anglican Church, an Rev. John Nelson, LCMS, at ground breaking service.

Pray for the Opportunity? ASK GOD! Huh?

I have always enjoyed watching movies on adventure, mystery and classic love stories. Cartoons are my favourite even at this stage of my life. The movies such as the "Prince of Egypt" and "Evan Almighty" are usually shown during Good Friday. For me, it is like watching a new movie all the time. Of course, the Bible should always be the reference and key point for us to know God better and deepen our insights into God's love and wisdom. ©

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea. blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord." (James 1:5-7)

I have seen "Evan Almighty" several times and this particular scene only struck me when I had a chance to watch the movie again on Good Friday. You see, Evan's wife could not understand why he had to build an Ark. She was not the only one who could not understand his socalled "absurd" behaviour, claiming that "God had asked him to do it". Evan was mocked, teased and ridiculed by people all around him. The unusual happenings on his looks and attire, which he could not control, with animals attracted to him, did nothing to help his situation. He was holding an important and high-level position of influence with contacts to the Senate officials. What else could go wrong!



What can a wife do to comprehend such a situation? So, it was a particular scene when Evan's wife left him with the kids and they stopped at a cafe to have food. It was then that God, acted by Morgan Freeman (MF), showed up as a waiter and had a brief, yet interesting, conversation with her.

He asked her if she was alright. She admitted that she was not doing fine after a second reply to the question asked. She avoided explaining her state of mind with an answer that we sometimes used, "It is a long story". When we think that people will not probe further with such a reply, she was faced with a surprised answer by MF, indicating that he loves stories and he is a great storv-teller himself.

The conversation continued where MF brought in the story of Noah and the Ark, found in the book of Genesis. Many people loved that story, but missed the point of thinking that it was God's wrath that we see illustrated through the story of the Ark. MF explained that it is a love story where it can be referred to couples believing in each other as the animals turned up in pairs. They stayed with each other through the circumstances.

"They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. The animals going in were male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in." (Genesis 7:14-16)



I am not promoting this movie, but just reflecting on the scene, linking it to interesting dialogues that we have through the people around us. The understanding about how God is and what God's love is all about, matters at this point. It is true that God does not give us the patience and love through magical powers instantly and overnight. He provides us the opportunity and situations to learn and grow in His Love to have patience and the kind of love that we should have for ourselves, others and God.

He does not run away from us, leaving us to face and feel the situations all on our own. His Love goes beyond the circumstances to guide us in the decisions that we need to make through the situations as opportunities for us to grow. He does not give us immediate answers all the time. We need to live and go through the circumstances, good or difficult times, to understand it. This means that only you will know what God has done for you and learn the patience and love that we always seek and wish to find through it all.

So, what do we do when we pray for patience and love to God? Has it ever occurred to you how God will do it besides being careful of what you pray for?

Never underestimate what will happen? Whoa... (Hold your breath here). Read on.

Quote from MF: He said if someone prays for patience, do you think God gives them patience or does God give them the opportunity to be patient? If someone prays for courage, do you think that God gives them courage or the opportunity to be courageous? If someone prays for a family to be closer, does God zap them with warm and fuzzy feelings or does He give them the opportunity to love each other?

I am speechless as this scene continues with MF leaving the table with food appearing out of nowhere on the plate. Amazing! Whoa.

Wait a minute! Huh? We pray for the opportunity not knowing what will come? How do we handle such situations when they occur? We must be crazy to ask for patience in situations and then suffer through them when we can live life without such torment and not knowing the ending? These questions are very real and being asked frequently.

Would you pray for the opportunity that will lead us to grow in love through God and be matured in Christ, even though there are times when we do not receive any answers or a clear indication of what we need to do? With this opportunity to pray, only you would know what you have decided to do next!

Joyce Tan



MEETINGS DO NOT SAVE

One Thursday night, I was rushing (sometimes I am a "Russian" also) to a meeting. At the bus stop, I noticed a young mother trying to dig something that obviously must have fallen into the slot between the seat and the wall panel, at the same time trying to prevent her young boy from running around.

I had no time to stop and offer help. Besides, I thought to myself, what can I do? The bus came and I boarded it. On the bus, the story of the Good Samaritan came to my mind. Then ideas also came to my mind about what I could have done.

In my bag, I was carrying a very bright light, a camera and some plaster. I could have used the light to shine into the dark slot and used the camera to locate the fallen item. Then using the plaster attached to a piece of wood, I could have fished out the item.

It sounded like a plausible solution but it came too late when I was already on the bus to church.

Do we sometimes face such testing situations and fail miserably? We place priority on things instead of people, ignoring people for meetings. That was the story of the Good Samaritan, updated in my life.

We may excuse ourselves by saying that it is only one life saved but if we attend the meeting, many lives could be saved. The story of the Good Shepherd who left 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep should put that excuse to rest.

This is not a story of how great I am but of how great I could have been if I had made the right choice. I hope I will make more right choices than wrong ones in life. However, the most important choice we could ever make is to choose Jesus as our Savior. All other choices are of secondary importance.

We all have choices to make. You will always tell yourselves that there is nothing you could have done. You have other more important matters to attend to or that you are not capable.

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2Corinthians 12:9

Martin Cheah

Happenings IN APRIL 2018

1st April Dialect Ministry's 10th Anniversary Celebration

The Attendance at the Dialect Ministry's 10th Anniversary Celebration was 141 persons. Thank God there was enough food to feed all of them.

15th April Boys' Brigade Enrolment Service

21st April Sisters' Fellowship 21st Annual Retreat



Sister Lucy Tan was all stressed out before this event but thank God all things work out well.





22nd April Pre-AGM

At the Pre-AGM, I asked the members in attendance how many actually read at least 1 or 2 articles in The Vine every month. About 40% present put up their hands. That is beyond my expectations. Keep it up The Vine team.



22nd April Project Kampong Spirit # 2

Together with Isaiah and Xavier, I was assigned to visit this elderly couple. In God's plan Xavier was able to get along with Mandarin while I stumbled and struggled with a sprinkling of Hokkien, after 10 years of lessons.

For the rest of the happenings, they

are all recorded in the photos on the following pages.



Project: Kampong Spirit #2





Candid Camera

As a photographer, you may wonder if you have the rights to take photos indiscriminately. There are cameras all over Singapore and even in JCC, taking photos of every move you make. Do they have the rights? Do you?

Sometimes you might clearly be invading someone's privacy, even though they have no grounds for any reasonable expectation of privacy doing what they are doing where they are doing it. In such cases it's up to the photogra-

pher's sense of ethics to decide whether or not to take the picture. It's also up to the photographer to use common sense. If you're thinking about shooting pictures of a street gang who don't want their pictures taken it would clearly be unwise to do so, especially if you are alone and on foot. *Quoted from Photography, the Law and Photographers Rights*

I tend to take photos of families and camaraderie which tell a story without the subjects being aware. Seldom do I take posed photos, although some photos may look posed. Maybe the subjects noticed me pointing the lens at them.

Here are some photos I took at recent events in April.

Martin Cheah







Boys' Brigade Enrolment Service

On 15 April 2018, the 28thSingapore Boys' Brigade Company had their annual Enrolment Day in Jurong Christian Church. The BB Enrolment Day is an important time to enroll our new recruits and rededicate existing members.

We are grateful to our guest-of-honour, Mr. Jim Lee, the former captain of the 28th to be present at our event. Mr Lee handed the Boys their hard-earned badges and awards during the parade. Our chaplain, Rev. Anthony, led the Company in the act of enrolment during the service. Our Junior Boys came forward to present two songs: Peace like a River and The Wise Man Built his House. Well done Boys!

2018 is a special year as it is our 50th anniversary. We would like to especially thank a group of highly dedicated officers for their time, effort and guidance to our Boys and younger officers:

- Mr Chin Yew Neng,
- Ms Pamela Lim,
- Ms Chng Sook Hwee
- Mr Kong Chak Mun.

We thank God for helping to us to grow the company till today and we trust in Him for more years of fruitful ministry to come!

Clement Tan

Captain, 28th BB Company





Images from Edwin's Nikon

BB Enrolment Service 15th April 2018

