

**THE ROMANS' ROAD**  
by John Lee



**COME ON and CELEBRATE**  
by Joyce Tan



**HILLSONG UNITED X**  
by Alicia & Alvin Wong



**The Vine This Month**

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YAM on Retreat @

Kukup Johor



**Brother  
Martin  
Writes**

In the fictional movie Saving Private Ryan, six men out of a platoon of 8, died trying to save Private Ryan. Near the end of the movie, the dying Captain Miller weakly mutters something.

Private Ryan: [leans in closer] What, sir?

Captain Miller: James, earn this... earn it.

In other words, Miller asked that Ryan continue to be a good man and worthy of all the men who had lost their lives to save his. Captain Miller had earlier in the movie said, half jokingly: He better be worth it. He better go home and cure a disease, or invent a longer-lasting light bulb.

Back in the present, the elderly veteran is revealed to be Ryan at Miller's grave. He asks his wife to confirm that he has led a good life and that he is a "good man," and thus worthy of the sacrifice of

Miller and the others. He then salutes Miller's grave as the camera pans down the gravestones to a placid American flag and fades out as it shows the number of men who died during fighting in Normandy.

In another story, a true one, Thai boys rescued from deep inside a flooded cave in a dramatic mission had their heads shaved for a Buddhist ordination ceremony in honour of a diver who died during the operation.

The saga of the "Wild Boars" football team transfixed the world as divers worked to get them out of the Tham Luang cave where they spent up to 18 days.

Now eleven of the footballers are preparing to live as novice monks and stay in monasteries for nine days to "make merit" for former Thai Navy SEAL diver Saman Kunan, who died while installing oxygen tanks along the rescue route.

While Christians are not saved by good works, do we at least try to live a Christ-like life for his glory?



*Martin Cheah*

# The Romans' Road to Salvation



The Bridge of Life is a very familiar model that Christians use to explain the Gospel. There is also on YouTube a fascinating one-minute illustration of the Gospel by folding and cutting a piece of paper. There are quite a number of other models that Christians use to share the Gospel

message to pre-believers. One of these is called the Romans' Road to Salvation, based entirely on Scripture verses taken from the Book of Romans. It is a method of witnessing to pre-believers by taking them systematically through the Word of God. The verses of Scripture all from a single Book are easy to mark down in the Bible for handy reference. Those with the inclination to memorise them may also do so.

There are various versions of it, each adopting more or fewer selections of the Romans' verses and in different orders. Whatever the variations, I realise that this is a good model not just for pre-believers to get the message. It is also invaluable for those who have already known the Lord to refresh their minds and their hearts with the Good News as they journey along the Romans' Road hand in hand with the pre-believers.

Here, I have chosen the model with 7 verses in sequential order. In preparing to share this with you, I had to "recce" the route through the 7 stops myself. It has been a spiritually profitable exploration of God's Word through the epistle of Apostle Paul to the Romans. Therefore, I recommend that you too take the challenge of this journey and be blessed yourself apart from blessing pre-believers that you may bring along.



### **1<sup>st</sup> checkpoint: Romans 3:10**

**“As it is written: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one;’”**

We begin our journey with the recognition that we are all sinners, without exception. In all honesty, hand on heart, can anyone say that he never commits any wrong against the voice of his conscience? What we do wrong affect others, and what others do wrong affect us, adversely. We are not just sinners, but very bad sinners as the strong words of Apostle Paul in verses 11 – 18 indicate:

- There is no one who seeks God.
- All have turned away from God.
- They have become worthless.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> checkpoint: Romans 3:23**

**“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”**

Those who criticise others think of themselves as good above criticisms. Similarly, others who criticise them think likewise. Romans 3:23 tells us unequivocally that absolutely no one is innocent. Hence, humans face a lot of troubles in the world because of themselves. We need help:

- We need to seek God.
- We need God’s saving presence.
- We need to be made worthy with God’s help

### **3<sup>rd</sup> checkpoint: Romans 5:8**

**“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

By the Cross, God demonstrates His love for us. While we turned away from God and become worthless, God has not abandoned us to ourselves. Christ did not die for good people; anyway, there is none who is good in the world. Christ died for sinners that you and I are. Why did God have to send His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sin? The answer is found at the next two checkpoints of our journey on the Romans’ Road.

### **4<sup>th</sup> checkpoint: Romans 5:12**

**“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned –”**

At the start of our journey on the Romans Road, we recognize the fact that we are sinners. Humans are under the clutches of sin because of one man – Adam – and the consequent price we must pay is death.

### **5<sup>th</sup> checkpoint: Romans 6:23**

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

It is not difficult to grasp that one man’s action of sin can result in a very bad outcome for others. It is also not far-fetched that one man’s action of righteousness can result in a very good outcome for others. In similitude, “just as sin reigned in death [because of one man, Adam], so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:21) We received death through Adam’s disobedience of God; we receive eternal salvation through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

### **6<sup>th</sup> checkpoint: Romans 10:9**

**“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”**

The message of the previous checkpoints is clear. What is left is your determination:

- Do you confess that Jesus is Lord?
- Do you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead?

### **7<sup>th</sup> checkpoint: Romans 10:13**

**“for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”**

This is a reiteration of God’s promise as declared by Prophet Joel in the OT (Joel 2:32). This is a guarantee to all who have faith in Jesus. This is Good News – the Salvation Christ brings! People cannot believe unless they hear.

*“Paul argued that only a remnant of Israel ever believed (9:27–29). In rejecting Christ Israel was following a precedent already at work in earlier days. The Jews’ zeal was commendable but nevertheless misguided. The only way of acceptance before God was faith in Christ and was (and is) within the reach of all. Those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth “Jesus is Lord” will be saved. People cannot believe unless they can hear, and they cannot hear without a preacher. Though Israel heard, they still rejected God’s message.”<sup>1</sup>*

### **Concluding the journey**

**Have you heard? Do you believe? Will you call on the name of Jesus to save you from your sin?**

*John Lee*

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<sup>1</sup> Dockery, D. S. (1998). The Pauline Letters. In D. S. Dockery (Ed.), *Holman concise Bible commentary* (p. 550). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

# 《黄金年华之斗歌竞艺》

## GOLDEN AGE TALENTIME

*(Dialect Ministry afternoon outing on 4th July)*



The **GOLDEN AGE TALENTIME BY MEDIACORP** showcases the singing talents among the senior folk, with the hopefulness that such a healthy interest in singing will be passed on to the audience.

On 4th July, the Dialect Ministry organized an educational visit to the new MediaCorp venue within Mediapolis@one-north (Buona Vista). The outing was also aimed to provide our 42 participants a personal on-site experience of a live television recording of their favourite Channel 8 afternoon program. Besides, we welcomed this opportunity to catch up and connect with some previous and new participants in our activities.

Despite an earlier Radio 95.8 announcement about rain over the whole island, the weather turned out to be no impediment to us on this excursion. We were in fact the very early birds to be seated in the Mediacorp theatre. Occupying the first four rows of seats patiently waiting for others to fill the theatre, the outward patience of our golden agers in waiting for the show recording to start hid the excitement fluttering in their hearts.

An opportunity to go on an outing with like-minded friends in the Dialect Ministry (with all conveniences arranged for them – transportation, meal, “chaperone” service) has always been thrilling for these elderly Dialect members. This time, it was added excitement to be first time to watch in person (seated in first four rows) the singing contestants on stage belting out the familiar oldies songs with their strong voices belying their age.



We greatly appreciated the Mediacorp staff – from the security professionals to the ushers – for being very friendly and kind in answering our questions and guiding these senior citizens to settle down in the theatre.

After the show, we had our dinner (fried rice or beehoon, with hot drinks) in the comfortable environment of the MediaCorp cafeteria.

The Dialect seniors would treasure the delightful memories they took home with the well-taken group photos showcasing their cheerful faces. Indeed, the lyrics resonating in their minds brought delightful memories of the oldies songs that they once actively sang upon a younger year! They can watch themselves again in the studio when the show is telecast on TV on 7th September.

Give thanks to God for all things possible!

**PEGGY TAN**



19 July 2018

Iris shared about her mother's mahjong and other bad habits and how Jim faithfully came home to preach to his mother, who finally received Christ as her Saviour. A total transformation took place and her mother started to study the Bible seriously everyday instead.

# BADMINTON TOURNAMENT



Love Badminton? Members of JCC Badminton Group surely do. They are very active and alive.

On 7th July, there was a badminton tournament as part of an annual community event (called #ROMP 2018) organized by HARVEST Care Centre. With the encouragement of Mr Fong, who is both a member of the JCC Badminton Group and a volunteer Badminton Convenor with the Taman Jurong CC, a team of 6 young players was assembled



to participate in the tournament at Singapore Badminton Hall in Geylang. The team included two members who are with the JCC Badminton Group – Soon Wei (Mr Fong's son) and Winn.



The tournament was a full-day event, stretching from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Despite being a non-player at the tournament, I was happy to be there to lend my prayer support. Very much appreciated the time and effort of Mr Fong who was ever so encouraging to the players. Hurray to the team for playing very well to get into the Quarter Finals!





Getting a place in the Quarter Finals was an achievement, noting the huge participation level coming from communities throughout Singapore. There was much more to be happy about in the exposure to friendly competition that our young badminton players gained and therewith the encouragement to **#DREAMITBIGGER** – which was the motto and vision of the tournament.

Ultimately, what mattered most was not the winning, but the sportsmanship and getting to know one another better, firming our network of friends.

You can read more about our badminton group in the article “*Bring Your Friends for Badminton*” in the [June 2018 issue](#) of The Vine. If you have friends in the neighbourhood who are interested to join us, you can get in touch with me.

May God bless our badminton players!

**PEGGY TAN**



“Ah, to be young again”, this thought may have crossed the minds of the elders when the young people from a nearby childcare joined the Dialect Cell Group on 20<sup>th</sup> June.



Leviticus 19:32 *“Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly.”*



# WORLD CUP @ JCC

It was an exciting World Cup Final between France and Croatia – on screen at JCC.



Despite the late kick-off at 11.00 p.m. Singapore time on 15<sup>th</sup> July, there was no lack of soccer fans among JCC members who willingly stayed wide-eyed into the early morning of 16<sup>th</sup> July to shout for their favourite team – France or Croatia. There were about equal numbers supporting each side.

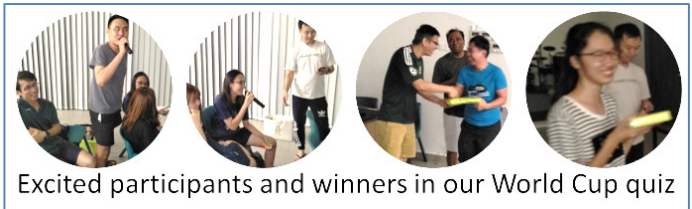
The two groups of fans had a fight too – not fisticuffs though; just a prize fight for predicting whether France or Croatia would lift the cup at the stadium in Russia.



Congratulations to France for a game well-played to lift the World Cup. Congratulations also to our brother James Tan for earning the badge “I AM THE WINNER” for predicting correctly the World Cup champion. (See how happy he was in receiving his big prize from Rev. Anthony.)

There were other winners too – in the World Cup quiz. There were no losers, because everyone went home a winner with a nice goodie bag.

Basically, apart from sharing the excitement of watching the World Cup, we took advantage of the occasion for some fun in fellowship with one another as brothers and sisters. Life is not boring in the JCC family.



Excited participants and winners in our World Cup quiz

*John Lee*

Singapore  
Indoor  
Stadium  
June 19  
2018

# Hillsong United X Young & Free

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*For the first time ever, multi-platinum-selling, award winning Hillsong United teamed up with the next generation of Hillsong music, Young & Free for this concert.*

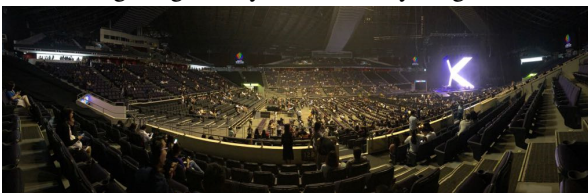
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For the uninitiated, Hillsong United is one of contemporary Christian music's most influential bands and surprise! We do use some of their songs in worship! They hold their yearly concerts in Singapore but I had never been to their concerts as I do not see myself as one of those who would go rapture singing for 2-3 hours, even if they are songs of praises. Last year, Alvin revealed that he was keen to attend one of their concerts, hoping to pick some things up since he serves as a drummer in our church's worship band. Therefore, I began keeping a lookout for their concert dates in Singapore. Once their tickets were made available, I told Alvin and he booked the tickets, choosing the side of the stage, hoping to get the best possible view of Hillsong's drummers.

### **Alicia's experience**

As expected, the crowd was made up of young people though we do see some of the older adults and an occasional elderly couple as we went looking for our seats. The

younger band started the concert with unfamiliar disco-sounding songs to my ears but the younger crowd



**Us taking a photo before the concert**

seemed to know them well, jumping and singing (lyrics were all at the top of the gigantic screen on stage). Not everyone was like the youths though. Some of us continued sitting on our seats, enjoying the music and the atmosphere. After an hour, there was intermission before a singer (Jonathon Douglass) from Hill-

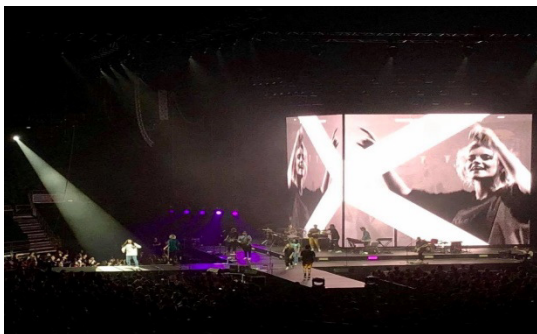


**During intermission: Audience switching on the torch in their handphones and waving it during a period of darkness.**

song United came up the stage to share about sponsoring children. At one part, he was expected to see details of the sponsorship on the screen but he saw his face still being projected on it. Instead of publicly shaming the projectionist by pointing out his mistake, Jonathon Douglass broke off his sharing and cracked some jokes about his hair being long and needing to be cut. Knowing his cue, the projectionist switched to the correct slide and the singer continued where he left off. I felt it was very tactful and Christ-like of the presenter and we can all learn a thing or two here.



**Jonathon Douglass who shared about sponsoring kids**



**One of the main singers Taya Smith**

When the main band came up after the intermission and began belting out familiar hits, some of those who were sitting started getting into the mood, standing up to sing, dance/jump and worship. I thought it was strategic having the younger band play to drain the energy of the younger audience so that when the main band came out with the slower songs, the lyrics of the songs would sink deeper in, drawing us into worship.

### Alvin's experience

I have been looking forward to attend a Hillsong worship concert since starting to play drums in Jurong Christian Church. Other than attending this concert to worship God, my main intention is still to learn and improve the way I play for worship. Hence my sharing will be more musically inclined.

Very strong bass and kick drums. Hillsong sound engineers boosted the low frequencies of kick drums (lowest sound from the drums) that our body resonance with every beat. This creates a very personal experience with the music as you can literally “feel” the beats and rhythm. However, this cannot be implemented in our church setting due to many factors, of which I will mention only two.

**One:** Acceptance by the congregation, especially the elderly. Not because they are backward thinking or such but rather their hearts may not be able to take the excitement. As our body “feel” the beats, it will speed up our heartbeat as a natural response because the experience is not natural and is preparing to run or flee. It is precisely this bodily experience that the young would particularly enjoy.

**Two:** Budget. To create such audio experience requires expensive equipment and high technical skills of sound engineers.

With all that said, my take away to improve my worship as a drummer: to have strong and consistent kick drums (the lowest drum sound). This will help the congregation by giving them a rhythm to move their body to a beat, hence making worship a more personal experience.



## COME ON + CELEBRATE!

### His Gift of Love!

On 22 July 2018, the Abundance Cell Group (CG) was invited to Soon Eong and Ewe Ewe's place to share the joy and celebrate Soon Eong's birthday. It was also a moment where we got together to celebrate the start of a new chapter in his life after retirement. Hmmm, he is not retired yet, technically.

### We will Celebrate

Soon Eong first led us in songs before we started to indulge in the home-cooked food prepared by the hosts.



Yes, this is how we did it with food, drinks, fellowship with one another and God!

The CG also took Uncle Roy by surprise where we did the same for him with plaques and well wishes for both of them as they enter the gates of the retirement phase.



*“Let us  
come before  
him with  
thanksgiving  
and extol  
him with  
music and  
song”*

### Celebrate & Sing

A lot of photos and videos were taken. Soon Eong and Roy gave their “speech” in their own ways, knowing that God will be there for them and their families.



It was a heart-warming moment as we gave thanks to the

Son of God who loved us and gave us His Life! 🎵

After mingling with each other, the cake-cutting ceremony began for Soon Eong's birthday at 8 p.m.

*"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

*(1 Thess 5:11)*



🎵 We will shout your praise as you give us joy that nothing else can bring. We will give you our offering in celebration and praise! 🎵

🎵 So let's lift up our voice to praise the name above every other name, Jesus the Christ who saved us from sin and death. Let us bend our knees to Him with our tongues confessing that He is Lord indeed. 🎵

### Celebration & Praise



Let's give to Him our offering in celebration of praise! 🎵

As the night fell, we thanked Soon Eong and Ewe Ewe for their hospitality as we left with laughter together. We give thanks to God for all the get-togethers that were made possible in His Name!



Let us pray for Soon Eong and Roy that they will continue the work in our Lord Jesus Christ as they journey the path and complete the race with Him. Stay steadfast and cling on to the faith in our mighty God! Amen.

Joyce Tan

*\*Article was written with the support and blessings from Soon Eong and Roy ☺  
Parts of the article were extracted from the song, "Come On And Celebrate"*

## *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit Seminar*

Saturday 21 & 28 July

Rev Keith Lai and Team came to share their experience of the Holy Spirit.



There was a practical session on prophetic vision followed by prayer for healing.



I went up to receive prayer for my right eye which has a polyp inside the retina causing straight lines to look like there is a curve on it. May God grant healing to all.

MC.





# *My Reflection on the YAM Retreat 13 – 15 July 2018, in Kukup, Johor*

## Thanksgiving:

A good time for rest from work, going to Kukup where there was the sea, seafood, very awesome accommodation, meaningful games, free fireworks & bonding through watching World Cup between Belgium and England. Thankful to the committee (Shihui, Lester, Joey, Benedict, Huiwen and Terence) who painstakingly planned all the logistics and programmes, and ensured that we were all safe and sound.



## Lessons Learnt:

I have learnt much from the speaker, from fellow retreat participants and from the events at the retreat.

Key things that I have learnt through the messages:

- Recognising that in seasons of transition, change can be rapid and situational; yet, transition can be an arduous process, bearing in mind the psychological impact beyond the changing circumstances.
- My husband and I also thanked God that the messages were very apt in helping us to reframe the current situation we might be going through (e.g., the test of submission, etc.) in being refined to become the person He has moulded us to be, in this season of transition.
- Through the messages, my husband and I have also learnt the importance of knowing what SPACE comprises (Spiritual gifts, Passion, Abilities, Character values & Experience) so that we may flourish spiritually and physically when we dwell in the SPACE God has called us to function in, particularly in our workplace.

## Why a retreat is vital in the context of Cell Group:

A retreat allows us to extend our interaction to embrace brothers and sisters from the young adult ministry who are outside of our own cell group and enables us to bond with one another at a deeper level through fellowship, prayer and sharing of how the Word has spoken to us.



A retreat also allows us to have that platform whereby we could be intentional in building a deeper relationship with our own cell and discuss about things that we have heard from the messages that are very relevant and applicable to our life

stage.

## I have been encouraged to encourage:

I have been much encouraged by the retreat experience and will strongly encourage people to participate in retreats. Even if they are not in any cell, the



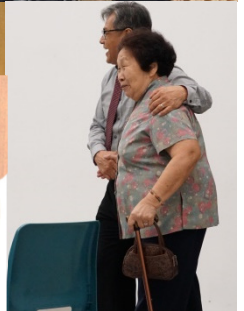
different functions and objectives of a retreat will also bless them much. At the end of the day, we are functioning as a body of Christ and we will need each other to sharpen ourselves instead of just relying on our individual relationship with God alone.

*Jie Min Yeo*

JCC

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Anniversary



# Jamming session

22 Jul – The worship teams from the various churches supporting JCC in the Solemn Assemblies Prayer week came to test their equipment on our sound systems.

We truly appreciate and thank them for their support. May God be glorified by our united effort.



Day	29 Jul	30 Jul	31 Jul	1 Aug	2 Aug	3 Aug	4 Aug
Church	JCC	QLC	LCOR	JTMC	HA	NLBC	JCC