



NATIONAL DAY REFLECTION
by John Lee



URBAN MISSIONS
by Jonathan Tan



BOYS' BRIGADE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
by Samuel Chong



The Vine This Month

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Solemn Assembly @
JCC



**Brother
Martin
Writes**

Recently in Yahoo News, there was a story of the granddaughter of a Pentecostal preacher from Kentucky who converted to another religion. According to her story, she had a lot of questions that most Christians or the Bible could not answer. For example,

“Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25?” and “Why was the Trinity introduced after Jesus died?” She also felt upset that people were not praying directly to God but instead to Jesus. To confuse her further, while attending an Introduction to Religion class, she was taught that the Bible had missing books. It upset her because she had put all her faith in the Bible, but it wasn’t even 100 percent there.

After reading this story, I was quite troubled because this girl was a Lutheran before her conversion.

Let me help us with some of her doubts. I remember our late Mr P. S. George, whose birthday was reckoned as 1st January. Every year we celebrated it but that was not the actual day because in the village he came from the people were illiterate and could not remember the actual birth date; so, for registration purposes, the authorities just chose 1st January. Perhaps many of your grandparents have on their NRIC their birthdays on 1st January too. Despite not knowing the actual date of birth, the purpose of the celebration is served. When we celebrate Christmas, we reflect on the momentous event and rejoice. Knowing the actual day or hour of our Saviour’s birth is not of overriding significance to our faith.



John 10:30, Jesus said. “I and the Father are one.”

John 14:9: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

In 2Cor13:14, Apostle Paul expressed his good wishes to the Corinthian church: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the

fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Although the word “Trinity” does not appear anywhere in the Bible, it is a word in the English vocabulary that truly describes the inherent nature of God revealed in Scripture and displayed in God’s actions in biblical history.

The truth of the Trinity was alluded to by Jesus and the Bible authors in many places in both the OT and NT. Here is one of the most explicit command by Jesus that underscores the Trinity:

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...” – Mt 28:19

Our God is so Great that finite man cannot understand Him completely.

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.” John 14:13 There is nothing wrong in praying in Jesus Name.

Are there really missing books in the Holy Bible?

There is nothing disconcerting about the so-called “missing books” in the Holy Bible. The so-called “missing books” were books excluded from the Holy Bible because they were not considered as inspired. So, their absence from the biblical canon (list of biblical books accepted as sacred and genuine) does not undermine the completeness of the Bible.

One of the amazing facts about the Bible is that though it was written by a wide diversity of authors (as many as 40) over a period of 1600 years, from many different locations and under a wide variety of conditions, the Bible is uniquely one book, not merely a collection of sixty-six books. Its authors came from all walks of life. Some were kings, some peasants, still others were philosophers, fishermen, physicians, statesmen, scholars, poets, and farmers. They lived in a variety of cultures, in different experiences and often were quite different in their make-up. Regardless of this diversity, as one book, it is bound together by historical sequence, type and antitype, prophecy and fulfillment, and by the anticipation, presentation, realization, and exaltation of the most perfect Person who ever walked on earth and whose glories are manifest in heaven.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 2Timothy 3:16

The Holy Bible is quite a remarkable book in comparison to other religious books.

It is normal for Christians to have questions. Christians can deal with questions by being patient to seek the answers and humbly acknowledging that we are incapable of knowing everything because we are not omniscient like God. Therefore, we have all the opportunities to exercise our faith and develop it along with our spiritual understanding.

When we wish to seek answers to questions, we can approach a few persons who know, example, our pastors.

There is a story told that bank tellers are taught to identify the real currency so that they can tell what is counterfeit. As long as you know the True Way, there is no need to study the rest.

Martin Cheah
with additional ideas from *John Lee*

12th Aug, something new may catch on in the Dialect Service – flag dancing! This date will be a record of the Anniversary of the beginning of flag dancing in the Dialect Ministry for those who are a stickler about celebrating the actual date of an event.



NATIONAL DAY REFLECTION ON PATRIOTISM

“Nero played the fiddle while Rome burned.” – This is a statement that speaks about the irresponsibility of an emperor who immersed himself in his private preoccupation oblivious to the crisis that was raging around him.

Whether the statement reflects a genuine fact or is a mere legend, the metaphorical truth of it is not far away from what we observe of events around the world, with some countries and peoples in dire crises of human making while their leaders and governments are self-absorbed in many things but are seemingly disengaged with the suffering on the ground.

OUR DUTY

Singapore is well known for her great geographical location shielded from many natural disasters. We are blessed with a peaceful life. Yet, in a highly-connected world, we are not immune from the rumbling tumults elsewhere – trade feuds, currency wars, territorial hostilities, terrorism bloodshed, political chicanery, economic strife ...



As we celebrate our 53 years of nationhood this year, showing appreciation for an efficient government and an admirable progress over five decades of independence, it is well for us to be reflective on this Chinese saying, 国家兴亡·匹夫有责, which means that the rise and fall of the nation concerns everyone. Plainly, it is a reminder that everyone bears responsibility for the success or failure of society. We individually do not have to be shy to give ourselves a little pat on the back for having a part in the success.

Yet, we still must be sober about the high challenges in a new world today, putting ourselves bravely at the forefront of a struggle to continue our march and recognizing that whether we rise to greater heights or fall by the wayside is very much the responsibility of individuals to be INTERESTED instead of being INDIFFERENT to events that impact the wellness of society.

National Day to us is not just a day for celebrating the past glory and the present fortune, but also a reminder for us to keep ourselves INTERESTED in shaping the type of future life we want for our children and grandchildren and

be NOT INDIFFERENT to nicks problems in the bud. Within society, there are expectedly some people who would miss this point of importance as they are either drunk in their contented life or are self-despising of their abilities to be influencers for positive national development.

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Being concerned for the country (as contrast navel-gazing) is an expression of patriotism. While patriotism to us is a citizen's expected responsibility, we as Christians should also note another perspective of it – as our sacred mission to fulfil.

In the memorable OT prophecy on the advent of the Messiah, the prophet Isaiah said: "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders ..." – Isaiah 9:6

In our spiritual understanding of Isa. 9:6, Christ is the ultimate King who will have the governance of the nations under Him. (cf. Daniel 2:44; Zechariah 14:9) As citizens of the Kingdom, we know that God works through us.

In the human aspect of running the country, we elect the secular government worthy of our confidence to lead; but this is not to shirk our citizen duties by shaking our hands off all matters and saying, "I have nothing to do with the society; it's the government who has everything to do with our rise or fall as a nation!"

Our PM Lee once said to PAP Members of Parliament, "We are servants of the people, not masters."

It is not for us to be arrogant with the thought: "Ah ha ... the government works for me; I am the employer who calls the shots."

Instead, we recognize that the government does not work for herself but works for the people who elect her because the people need leadership to govern themselves. Now, good leadership is a rare commodity to be desired. Notwithstanding our inability to do the work of governing directly, we do have the ability to exercise our wisdom to elect the right people into the government and to play conscientious roles as citizens without undermining the good work of the government. Whatever we can, we should contribute to improve upon the country's achievements.

Acknowledging that Christ "has the government on His shoulders," we also recognise that God works for those who wait for Him. (Isa. 64:4) Clearly, it

does not mean that we sit back and have no work to do. God does work in many ways through us.

Accounts revealing of patriotism permeate the OT. Here, let's just look at Psalm 122 to appreciate the close connectedness of our faith and the patriotic feelings for our country.

PSALM 122

The psalmist (David) felt joy for being invited to visit the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.

“Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together.” – v.3

David, upon entering the city, must be much spellbound by its splendour, with its impressive government houses, citadels, dwellings of the affluent, busy thoroughfares full of activity, etc. It was an earthly city, like we see of Singapore, neatly built up and exuding a sparkle which captivates a first-time visitor from a less developed place who would feel the sense of joy like David's for having the opportunity to set foot on.

David went up to Jerusalem for the purpose of worshipping God. In other words, his trip was spiritual in motivation. However, that did not obscure the physical and social reality of the city he witnessed as a blessed place that played a key role in forging a national identity to unite tribes who would usually think in terms of their tribal identities. Hence, the praise in his song did not stop at the house of worship but extended to the entire city.

“That is where the tribes go up — the tribes of the LORD — to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.” – v.4

David was cognizant of the close connection between the house of the Lord and the city. With the existence of the city there was the house of the Lord. With the existence of the house of the Lord where the people worshipped the LORD, the city flourished.

David loved the holy city and praised God for it. He prayed to God for peace and security *“for the sake of my family and friends”* (v.6-8); and he prayed *“For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your prosperity.”* (v.9)

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he chose for his inheritance. – Ps 33:12



Singapore today is a modern city with charming infrastructures. Here, we enjoy freedom of worship. It is a blessed place where a national identity as Singaporeans unites people of different cultures. With the existence of this city, there is the Church. With the existence of the Church where Christians go to worship the Lord freely, we envisage blessings upon the city for continuing progress! (You can visualise our blessedness in sharper focus if you look at spiritually barren places where freedom of worship is curtailed amidst a dismal panorama of life.)

We may have taken for granted our convenience of direct flights to many places in the world via Changi Airport without realising that people from many other countries in the region often must take connecting flights through Singapore. So, besides being located smack in the middle of the busy trade route between Europe and the Far East, Singapore is also an essential crossing point for many air travellers. Billy Graham prophesied in 1979 that Singapore would be the “Antioch of Asia”. As a cosmopolitan city, where massive human traffic from around the world pass through, we can sing as David sang – praying for peace, security and prosperity “for the sake of family and friends” and “for the sake of the house of the Lord, our God.”

NEVER TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED

The Hebrew nation of David’s time was in a prosperous era. King David later passed on the reign to his son Solomon.

After taking over the kingdom’s rule from his father, did Solomon take things for granted as he inherited the prosperous nation?

In the first part of 1 Kings (chapters 1-9), we read of Solomon's greatness. However, from chapter 10 onwards, we begin to read about his decline as he made bad decisions. We read about:

- His extravagant wealth
 - Solomon received yearly 666 talents of gold (1 Ki 10:14), a vast amount to the nation of Israel.
 - He "was greater in riches and wisdom than all other kings of the earth." (1 Ki 10:23)
- He married many foreign wives besides Pharaoh's daughter, and consequently descended into apostasy and idolatry (1 Ki 11:1-8)

Seemingly, the extreme wealth of Solomon led him into moral corruption, for which his purported wisdom was of no help to turn his shame around. The punishments had to come:

"The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command.

"So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates.

"Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen." – 1 Ki 11:9-13



[FAITH AND PATRIOTISM NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE](#)

Our 53 years of nationhood has been an excellent era of progressive development and

prosperity due to our hardworking ancestors with decades of rule under a far-sighted government.

From our Christian standpoint of faith in God, and in patriotic spirit, we give thanks to God for His grace, and pray for this nation that she will continue to roar as fitting her description as “a Lion City” – “for the sake of family and friends” and “for the sake of the house of the Lord, our God.”

A spirit of faith in God and a spirit of patriotism towards the country are not mutually exclusive.

PRAY SINGAPORE
 SUNDAY • 7 OCTOBER 2018 • THE NATIONAL STADIUM • 4PM - 7PM

<p>VISION</p> <p>DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant moment in this Year of Prayer. • A spiritual act in humble obedience to God. • A sacred trust to shape the future of our nation, uniting all who are hungry enough to fast and desperate enough to pray. • A strategic step towards God's promised revival harvest in this kairos window. <p>web prayingsingapore.sg hotline 91371982</p>	<p>THEME</p> <p>SEEK THE WELFARE OF THE CITY</p> <p>Seek the welfare of the city... and PRAY TO THE LORD ON ITS BEHALF, for in its welfare you will find your welfare... For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will CALL UPON ME and COME AND PRAY to me, and I will hear you. You will SEEK ME and find me, when you SEEK ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART. I will be found by you, declares the Lord... AMOS 9:1, 4</p>	<p>Nations rise and nations fall. Studies reveal that nations decline primarily because of a weakening sense of duty and an increase in selfishness and the desire for wealth and ease. 一个国家的兴衰取决于其国民的责任心和奉献精神。新加坡也不例外。</p> <p>True, Singapore is a miracle nation admired around the world. Yet, beneath that gleaming facade, there are signs of decline that threaten to undo her.</p> <p>We see a weakening sense of duty to stay faithful in marriage, to procreate, and to parent our children. We see the rise of secularism and youth shunning religion. We see a society fragmented along class divides.</p> <p>We are not in the pink of health. We are a nation at war with diabetes and depression. As one of the fastest ageing societies in Asia, eldercare will escalate. Dementia could become a national crisis sooner than expected.</p>	<p>We see a lack of rootedness and emotional bonding to Singapore. ESM Goh Chok Tong has warned that Singapore will decline when her people cease to value her, and begin to treat her as a stepping stone, a temporary station in life to get an excellent education, grow wings, and fly off to sink roots somewhere else to seek their own fame, fortune, and future.</p> <p>We love Singapore.</p> <p>We cannot be complacent. We cannot brush these issues aside and conveniently leave them for future generations to tackle. That would be totally irresponsible. God expects us to do the right thing on our watch. Humble ourselves. Repent. Seek his face. Seek the situation of the city. God loves Singapore.</p> <p>When we seek him wholeheartedly, he promises to show up. He will show the way, turning Singapore Godward!</p>
<p>ONE NAME ONE HOPE</p>	<p>ONE HEART ONE VOICE</p>	<p>ONE FOUNDATION ONE FUTURE</p>	<p>ONE PEOPLE ONE DESTINY</p>

“皮之不存，毛將焉附？ (Without the skin, what can the hair attach to?) At the ground level of our human affairs, this Chinese saying should prompt the following reflections:

- Our faith in God and patriotism to country work together in producing outcomes that are good for the people and a glory to God.

- The government and the people are in an inseparable relationship as skin and hair; the proper functioning of the nation cannot do without the conscientious effort of either.

We must remain sober in faith – not to turn away from God as Solomon did. As we celebrate this 53rd National Day, we thank God for 53 years of blessings, and we pray for wisdom that the ship of the nation will continue to steer forward steadily with capable leaders at the helm.

May the citizens of Singapore be a patriotic people – not complacent about the contented situation they are in – guided by the National Pledge in marching on in a world with great changes taking place.

Majulah Singapura!

John Lee

Baptism @ Dialect

Ten days after National Day, on 19th August 2018 – two ladies were baptised at the Dialect Service. They are 91 year old,

Koh Loh Nee and 51 year old, Chua Kwee Hong. Let us celebrate together with the Heavenly hosts for the two souls saved.



BB 50 Years

The 28th Singapore Boys' Brigade Company was started in 1968 in JCC. On 28th July 2018, the Company celebrated its Golden Jubilee right where it all started. Our theme for this year's celebration was "Partnering God, 50 Years of Building Boys".



Old Boys from the 1970s to 2010s gathered for a reunion, along with our past Chaplains, Captains, Teachers, BB officers from our sister Lutheran churches, and church members who know some of our old Boys. Just like old times, we had Sing-a-long and devotion; the devotion was shared by Rev Edmund Lim, our Chaplain from 1982-1985, in which he emphasised the call to come back to God. Next, we had Chak Mun sharing his

experiences in Cambodia and how his training in the BB has equipped him for the task. We also screened a video of three batches of Boys sharing their BB experiences and what they had learnt from it. The event was capped off with a cake cutting and dinner. Conversations and laughter filled the ground floor as everyone mingled and reminisced about the good old days.



We give thanks to God for seeing the Company through the last 50 years and giving us the chance to share the Gospel with many batches of Boys. We also thank God for allowing us to continue the Company in Yuhua Secondary School from next year onwards. Just as the past 50 years were filled with numerous challenges, we can expect the next 50 years to be so too. But with Jesus as our Great Captain and Anchor, our Company will



stay Sure and Stedfast. May God continue to bless us in this ministry in JCC.

In Christ,

Samuel Chong



While watching the free preview Travel channel on cable TV, I chance upon this little trivia. The magnificent stone church of Agios Lazaros is one of the most remarkable examples of Byzantine architecture in Cyprus and lies over the tomb of the saint. Built by Byzantine Emperor Leo VI in the 9th century, the church was restored in the 17th century.



Saint Lazarus came to Cyprus after being resurrected by Jesus. He was ordained as Bishop of Kition by the Apostles Barnabas and Paul and lived in the town for 30 years. His tomb can be seen under the sanctuary. The saint is so revered that a procession is held in his honour eight days before Easter. During the procession, the icon of Saint Lazarus is carried through the streets of Larnaka.

So now it seems we may have a closure to the story of Lazarus.

URBAN MISSIONS

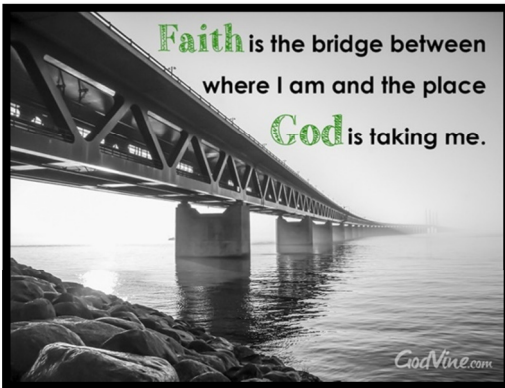
POSITIONING HANDS, PREPARING HEARTS
BY CHILDREN MINISTRY HOM (JONATHAN)

It's been 18 years since the beginning of the Millennium (Year 2000), where technologies continue to rule the world and changes world history, changes nation's culture, changes the lives of the society in which we live in. Internet has invaded our lives, leaving behind our once pre-loved gadgets such as pagers, walkman, compact disc player, Gameboy, etc. Undoubtedly, human interaction has been influenced through introduction of new technological devices. Obviously, there are positive and negative impacts on people communication that technology is responsible for. However, moving forward, living in this hi-tech urban society, the question that we need to ask ourselves, is how can we embrace and tap on these new resources to (1) acknowledge God's existence, (2) reveal His truths, (3) generate spiritual curiosity, (4) co-create relevance in this new generation? Well, that's what our JCC's children from the English section has undergone, has been exposed to, during the 2-days children programme at the Go-Forth Conference 2018 in the month of June.



Prior to this conference, our children ministry MLT and I did have in mind to run our

own kids camp during the first week of June, however when the Go-Forth Conference was publicised island-wide, Rev Anthony recommended me to re-consider tapping on their resource and participate in their programme instead in the 3rd week. I was doubtful and hesitated because I do not ever recall tapping on external resources to run our yearly kids camp for the past many, many, MANY, years even when I was once a JCC kid and would “missions, church planting, social media,



media, technologies, etc” be something that our kids would be interested in? Many “what-ifs” clouded my mind and the more I ponder about the affiliation, the heavier

my thought of “How am I going to challenge my kids to sign up?”. I needed great faith. I needed God to intervene.

The 2nd shocking news came after giving the programme coordinator an estimated number of JCC children that might be coming for the programme, we were informed that an adult need to accompany our kids (depending on the ratio) as they are expecting 400 children for the programme. Firstly, I got to find JCC members who are willing to take work-leave during these 2-day children programme and secondly after attending their programme briefing at a later date, we found out that adults who are accompanying the kids, have been ‘volunteered’ to be group leaders for respective teams of 20 kids each. I was dumbfounded. We did not sign up for this! My only goal was to sign the kids up for the programme, and now the accompanying adults have to “serve” as group leaders? Honestly, I wasn’t prepared to serve in such a setting. Did I make a wrong decision in the first place? I struggled, but I know I need to make right with God.



I could still recall very clearly when I first announced in end April about the 2-day Go-Forth conference’s children programme followed by a 1-day overnight Day camp in JCC for our children. The first words from them were “...Don’t want, not interested”, “Huh, why must join another church?”, “Can I just come for the overnight day camp in JCC?” I was discouraged



and speechless, I told God, “Lord, this is Your camp, these are Your beloved kids, Lord, only You can convict them in Your own special way.” Nevertheless, I kept my trust in God and the next few Sundays, my team and I continued to encourage and inspire them to sign up. I still remembered that we had to creatively use different modes of “baits” to entice them to sign up for it and even seek support from respective parents to encourage their children.



We called into action all our teachers **A.S.A.P.** (Always Say A Prayer) each day as the Children Programme approaches closer to date.

The first day of the Go-forth conference's children programme finally came to pass and 10 JCC children boarded the mini bus and we're on our way to our Children Programme's destination. Though it was a small number, I was grateful to God that it was a manageable size as we have another 10 more non-JCC children awaiting to be part of our team which might require a little more "hand-holding". The first day went by very well, the children were quick to adapt to their new environment and got to understand what 'Urban Mis-

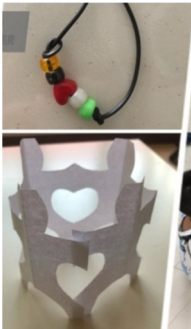


sions' and 'Church Planting' was all about through the aid of gospel magic. Everyone was fascinated by the magic tricks and sharing by the main speaker. Seeing our children totally immersed in the respective innovative stations was a great comfort, learning how they could use platforms such as social media, life storyboards and even song writings to creatively acknowledge



• **Canvas painting** •

God's existence, revealing His truths and generate spiritual curiosity socially. Our children even participated in writing and drawing their own life story boards of how they got to know Christ. They got to learn that praying for their friends is a way to



3 Evangelism Tools

show God's love to them. They were also taught how they could use their fingers as a tool for prayer as well. Of course, 'work' with no play, makes Jack a dull boy, hence games were introduced to keep the children's energy up. We were surprised that Zaneta, one of our children, went up front confidently and participated in their Mi-

nute-to-win games. It's really great to see how our children are coming out of their comfort zone to learn new things.

For Day 2, I am really glad that Derrick and Samantha came on board to volunteer to be part of the accompanying adults for the Go-forth Conference, together with my wife, they guided the children in the learning process. The Day 2 programme's emphasis was on equipping the children with evangelism tools to reach out to their pre-believers classmates, relatives, etc. These evangelism tools eg. Cut-out of a church (people). The children were also given an opportunity to learn to hear from God and draw out on a small canvas how they have pictured God's love to be. It was truly amazing and encouraging to have a glimpse of God's love through the eyes of these children. Once the children were back to JCC, they were greeted with BBQ food by the youths as well as a night of "Nerf Gun Battle".

For Day 3, we concluded the camp by giving the children the opportunity to apply what they have learnt throughout the conference and to reflect deeper who they would like to share the gospel with. Rainbow Ribbon and Salvation Bracelet were very well received by the children and they were very enthusiastic in wanting to learn, practice and demonstrate to the volunteers (PULSE Youths) who supported the kid's camp. We re-emphasised that one way of demonstrating God's love to their loved ones / friends (who have yet to know Christ) is to pray for them. Thereafter, each child took time writing down their friends' names on pieces of "hands" and took turns to pray for their friends listed down, with the guidance from the youths. The entire camp ended with all the teachers and youths praying for each child (aka the next generation) to have boldness, courage to live out being the light of the world and to continue to have that desire to continue pursuing Jesus in their walk of faith. Though it's the end of the kid's camp, but it's the beginning of declaring and anointing our children to rise up, regardless of their age, to be part of the Great Commission and partnering together with Jesus Christ, reminding them what it means to be "Positioning Hands and Preparing Hearts" for the lost.



I was reminded of this verse in 1 Timothy 4:12, "*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.*" God could use Gideon, Daniel, David, Joseph, the young boy with his lunch of 5 loaves & 2 fishes in His time and I believe that our God will

continue to use His children in this generation to expand His Kingdom because He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. All Glory be to God!!

Looking back, from the initial pre-planning of the camp to the execution, to the wrapping up of the camp, the journey has been a blessing for me. I'm grateful to all who had come forward to support the camp. Everyone who supported in the camp also felt that they had been blessed to see how God could use our young to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. Even parents had also provided feedback that the children were very eager and excited to demonstrate what they have learnt to their parents at home. Do continue to keep our children in your prayers, that the seeds planted in them will grow in good soil, and would one day bear fruit. My hope is to also to see more church members rising up as volunteers serving in our children's camp. Yes, we could tap on external resources, but you could be part of the resources too. Come, join us in the next kid's camp in 2020 and be blessed.



"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

1 Corinthians 3:6-9



Jonathan Tan

Being a helper in the 2018 kid's camp was a rewarding and fun experience. It was inspiring watching the children showcase the evangelical tools that they had acquired from the workshop and it inspired me to want to have such a desire to evangelize to my friends in such creative ways.

I also enjoyed playing with the children, who were so energetic and excited about the camp. Special mention to Jonathan Snr and the team for wrapping up the camp by having the children think of names of who we to evangelize to and apply what they have learnt. - Winston

Through the kid's camp, the kids taught me an important lesson which is to step out of my comfort zone to share the gospel, regardless of age. Seeing how willing they are in sharing the gospel fearlessly shows the amount of love they have for their friends and family members. Even though they are not very familiar with the tools, but with their hearts for the lost, they are willing to step out of their comfort zone to pray and share with their friends. -Ruth

Serving in kid's camp was really fun. Seeing the kids being so enthusiastic to share the evangelistic tools they had learnt reminds me that I too am a child of God and I should follow God with child-like faith. - Gabriel



NATURE WALK @ TAMPINES ECO GREEN



On 22nd July, brother Teh K P and I joined a group from the Jurong Central Community Sports Club on a trip to Tampines ECO Green for a short Nature Walk. It was simple enjoyment of a relaxing time of fellowship with each other while having a good morning exercise

and exploring a place we had never been to before.



The Tampines ECO Green is just a modest patch of nature preserved and surrounded by housing blocks within the Tampines HDB Estate. For nature lovers who lament the destruction of nature by man and its replacement by concrete jungles, the small patch of green for people to enjoy some

nature recreation observing the flora and fauna in their natural habitat is little consolation. Reason: Even this small patch of nature's greenery is being encroached on by fresh construction work (as you can see in the picture). It dawned upon me how ravenous man is in his urge to destroy nature in favour of man-made conveniences.

In 2014, Pope Francis said about destruction of the natural environment:

"To destroy creation is to say to God, 'I don't like it.' "

"This must be our attitude toward creation: safeguarding it. If not, if we destroy creation, creation will destroy us. Don't forget that!"

How will we be destroyed by our destruction of creation?

The pressure of relentless population growth in Singapore demands more nature's space to be vacated for human constructions. There might be little or no nature's green left for our near-future generations to reflect on God's creation (the beauty of life in all its forms) – when all they can see become man-made and all the knowledge they have is about the works of human unimaginativeness. Therefore, they become hindered from understanding, "through creation [nature], the greatness of the love of God and his profound relationship with every creature."

"The Bible tells us that God's revelation through nature and through Scripture each have their place. The natural world gives plain evidence of the glory and power of God. (Psalm 19)" ~ *Holman Concise Bible Commentary*

Go ye, therefore, to study nature and not restrict yourself to Scripture solely. There is much we can gain spiritually to know God through His creation. Those of us who don't have the prospect of travelling abroad to smell the roses of nature, we still can explore the diminishing nature here in Singapore a.s.a.p. before they disappear into concrete.

John Lee

Solemn Assembly



A little background. Way back in Feb 2018, the Solemn Assembly Organizing Committee, chaired by Alan Soh, was formed to prepare JCC to host brothers and sisters from all the churches in Singapore. No one in the committee knew what to expect as all did not have experience in running such an event before. Therefore some of the committee visited other churches hosting this event to see what it is all about.

At the end of the day, the committee came up with its own uniquely JCC style and it was quite successful with the help of some sister congregations and tenant churches. If we have to do it again, with God's help, we can do it. Catch the spirit from the photos in the following pages.







