

# URBAN MISSIONS

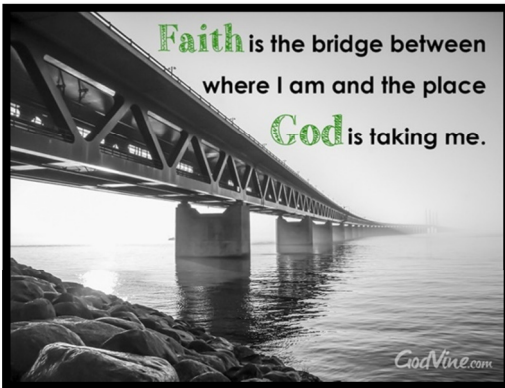
POSITIONING HANDS, PREPARING HEARTS  
BY CHILDREN MINISTRY HOM (JONATHAN)

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

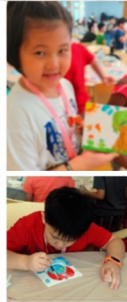


We called into action all our teachers **A.S.A.P.** (Always Say A Prayer) each day as the Children Programme approaches closer to date.

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 evangelistic 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

