

Inside this issue:

THE CHANGING GENERATIONS



By John Lee

COUNCIL SUMMIT



By Joyce Tan

DO THEY COLLIDE



By Alicia Wong



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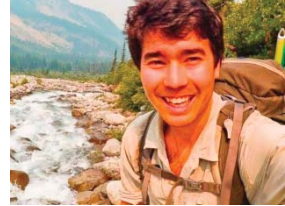


HOM Editorial

News Report:

22 Nov 2018 - PORT BLAIR,
INDIA (AFP) - An American
missionary was killed in a hail of
arrows by an island tribe untouched by modern civilization.

Mr John Allen Chau, 27, was attacked as he set foot on the remote North Sentinel Island in the Indian Andaman Islands in the Bay of Bengal. He was crying: "My name is John. I love you and Jesus loves you... Here is some fish!"



It might not be right to call Mr John Allen Chau a missionary, as someone called by God and sent by a church.

Another piece of unsavory news for Christians:

Pastor Lee Jae-rock of the 133,000-member Manmin Central Church in Seoul, South Korea, has reportedly been banned from leaving the country after five women accused him of rape.

Lee set up the Manmin Central Church in Guro, once a poor area of Seoul, with just 12 followers in 1982. It has now grown to 130,000 members. "I was unable to turn him down," one of them told South Korean television. "He was more than a king. He was God," added the woman.

The 74-year-old pastor is facing legal complaints from five women who say that he sexually assaulted them from the late 1990s to 2015, local broadcaster JTBC reported.

Do all these bad news upset you?

In the first story, was John Allen Chau trying to emulate the exploits of the famous American missionary, Jim Elliot, who was killed by the Auca Indians of Ecuador on 8 Jan 1956? I believe that God is not constrained to sending out missionaries to be sacrificed for His work in this manner only. In reaching out to the ¹UPG, we should also prayerfully be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction and take advice from our church elders to avoid high risks.

In the other story about the cult Korean pastor, let it be a warning to us that when a pastor rises to the level of a god, we should be wary of being taken in by the devious stratagem of the evil one. Let no one fall prey to a self-styled leader who performs inappropriate acts in the name of the Holy Spirit. "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Matthew 7:15

"As you do not know the path of the wind, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things." Ecclesiastes 11:5

Martin Cheah

¹ Unreached People Group

Auld Lang Syne/The Changing Generations

We are all familiar with the words “Auld Lang Syne” which means “Days Gone By”.

The lyrics of the song “Auld Lang Syne” begin by posing two questions:

*“Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot And days o’ auld lang syne?”*



Surely, the answer must be: “No, we should never forget our good old acquaintances.”

Even if people lose contact with one another, the memory of the good old times together contributes pleasant nostalgia with cherished hope of being able to meet up again by God’s arrangement.

It was by God’s arrangement in an unexpected way in October that I got to meet up with my Singaporean Indonesian friend, Alston Manik, an elder in Huria Kristen Batak Protestan Singapore (HKBP Singapore) after more than 30 years. Let me

share with you a piece of history that is even much longer than the decades that I have known this brother.



Mr. Manik, Leader of Bahasa Section in Queenstown Lutheran Church, delivering a speech, before 1982. He was appointed in 1977 when Malay language was officially registered as a third language section of the Church. - <http://eresources.nlb.gov.sg/printheritage/detail/040b3185-a965-4d30-8548-339c23143743.aspx>

In 1974, an Indonesian Lutheran service was inaugurated in Queenstown Lutheran Church (QLC), catering to a small number of expatriate Indonesians. **One man with the surname Manik, an elder in the church, faithfully served as the service leader and took up the responsibility of preaching God's Word when a guest Indonesian**

preacher was unavailable. (I shall come back to this point again later.)

At that time, Reverends Noel Anderson and Myron Danford (as some of the old Lutherans in LCS may remember them) handled the administration of the Holy Communion.

On 31st Oct 1981, the new church building of Bedok Lutheran Church (BLC) was dedicated by Bishop Peter Foong. Not long after, the Indonesian Ministry was shifted to Bedok. Elder M Manik was the preacher with support from invited guest preachers from time to time, and Rev. John Nelson administered the Holy Communion Services.

It was around that period that I began my attendance at BLC as a young Christian. A little earlier, in 1979, I had come to know Alston Manik, who was serving his National Service in MINDEF where we attended the same workplace Christian fellowship group. We got along quite well. He was a nice brother, gentle in conduct, and a humble guy with a willingness to ask questions to understand more about God's Word. I remember that he would occasionally share his thoughts in the newsletter of QLC while I would help him with some editing work.

As time went by, our good times together had to take a long break, which turned out to be 30-plus years. He completed his National Service and I also shifted to Jurong, and so I left BLC. The exact occurrence of our parting of ways is not well-registered in my memory. All these 30-plus years that we had lost contact, I have been thinking that he had gone back to Indonesia, and wondering about how his spiritual life had been. In fact, he had gone to Scotland for his further studies.



Then, on 28th October 2018, this brother, Elder Alston Manik, the 2nd son of the late Elder M Manik (snr) came to JCC, leading a large bevy of

beautiful Indonesian sisters praising God with their sweet voices bursting forth in Christian songs. He had no difficulty recognising Peggy and remembering my name despite the passage of decades from the time we were together in MINDEF and Bedok.

Above, I said about the late Elder M Manik (snr) in QLC, **“One man with the surname Manik faithfully served as the worship leader and took up the responsibility of preaching God’s Word when a guest Indonesian preacher was unavailable.**

Today, I came to know “by accident” (or more properly, “by God’s arrangement”) with gladness that one man with the surname of Manik (i.e., Alston Manik, my old friend and brother-in-Christ) is growing well spiritually with a happy family and that he is taking after his father Elder M Manik (snr) in faithful service to God, playing a significant role as one of the spiritual elders in shepherding His flock in Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) Singapore (a Lutheran-affiliated church serving the Indonesians in Singapore). **Like his father, Elder Alston Manik leads worship service and at times takes on the preaching role when a guest preacher is unavailable.**

The two of us enjoyed a great time of lunch fellowship early this month, recalling our old times together and giving each other the encouragement to continue in our Christian service, allowing God to lead us through the ups and downs.

When old friends get together, we reminisce fondly the years gone by and and look forward to what is yet to come.

In the church, the changing generations are like what a Chinese proverb (长江后浪推前浪，一代新人换旧人) reflects about the rear waves of the Yangtze River driving on those that pass on. We pray that as each new wave replaces the old, each new generation will surpass the previous in faithful service to God. Amen!

John Lee

Do they collide?

Two worlds

To some people, they would think that Christian dancers and artists live between two strange worlds – one that is the mysterious world of arts and the other that of the church. In fact, our faith in Christ seems odd to people in the dance community for there do not seem to have any place for that. However, I do not see why these worlds have to be separated from each other. Christians called to draw, paint, sculpt, sing, act, dance and play music have the same extraordinary opportunities as anyone to honor God in our daily life and to bear witness to the grace, beauty and truth of the gospel.

The two worlds do not collide.

They are one.

A little background

I have always been keen in arts. I was in the art stream during my secondary school days but did not have any exposure to dance. My mother picked up ballroom dancing **after her kids had**



started working and she had been pushing me to join her in it. When I finally went into it, I was there for 2 years. Didn't particularly enjoy it and being terribly scarred by my instructor and the complicated world behind it, I left ballroom dancing thinking I was not really gifted in dance, even though I did partake in several competitions. When I left that dance world, I stayed as far away from it as possible. However, I became aware of other dance genres and began following US dance competitions but I was not that keen to pick it up, preferring to admire them from a distance, as an audience.

A year ago, I had a break in work when I lost a bulk of my students due to them graduating or moving to a new place and hardly any referrals to replace the ones I lost. Usually, I would have a continuous stream of work. When that stopped, I realised I have a choice of using this break to pick up a new hobby (arts or dance) or start looking for new students. During that period, I was greatly inspired by a humble U.S contemporary dancer who shared he wasn't talented but credited his achievements as being diligent. I decided to cast aside my inhibitions and venture into contemporary dance. I gave myself a year since this dance genre is considerably hard to pick up as an adult since it is ballet based. Anyway, I decided that in this one year, I will work hard. If it



Light scrapes from car accident

doesn't bear fruit, I'll just do something else. Even in simple decisions such as this, I commit it onto the Lord as I believe in involving Him in my everyday life. He did involve Himself in many parts of my life – from guiding me to good dance instructors to keeping me intact in a recent car accident. Skinned and bruised, I was still able to attend dance classes a few days after the accident. To a dancer, being involved

in an accident is the least thing one would want. Even my ballet instructor sweated a little on my behalf upon hearing about the car accident.

God's involvement

A few months ago, I became very apprehensive of a certain dance instructor. It really made me want to quit dancing due to that horrible experience. For the subsequent lesson, I prayed very hard for some miracle to happen, that I would be inspired instead.

A replacement instructor came and boy he was good. His lines seem to go on forever and he was so kind, patient and experienced. He was so good that every student in class started asking him where his regular classes were. We were still talking about him the next few weeks. That replacement instructor was God sent for I was very much inspired by what he had shared.

When that *evil* dance instructor returned, she seemed daunted by the attention received by the replacement instructor and subsequently, she began injecting more passion into her work. Though I was still very wary of her, I was once again interested in honing my craft.



Me, in a dance class

Honoring God

Being called into dance might seem odd and incomprehensible to some as not everyone has the same appreciation and understanding to the different art forms. In fact, most would just see dance as just any other workout, serving no other purpose

than to keep our body, God's temple, healthy. My dedication to the craft seems incomprehensible even to fellow fresh dancers. One asked if I have a goal to achieve. I told her that I desire to be good enough to perform in church one day using the skills I've acquired. She tilted her head in thought before nodding her head in understanding.

Don't get overly excited, asking me when my 1st praise dance is going to be. I don't know yet. As God leads is the convenient answer but seriously, I don't think I'm led in this direction simply just to perform in church. My ballet instructor once remarked that I seem very different from other Christians. I laughed as she struggled to describe the differences between us because it did sound like she was describing the Pharisees. (Matthew 23:3 came into my mind at that point, *that everything they do is done for people to see*) Basically she was saying that there are those who talk about God but their lives and attitude seem separated. What she observed about me is that I do not deliberately bring God into the conversation but will naturally share about Him as He is very much involved in my life. Whenever I talk about God, it doesn't sound deliberate but natural. She did further highlight several positive aspects of my behavior.

My response?

I smiled and said plainly, "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. My words and actions are governed by a healthy fear and reverence of Him."

God's call

I once remarked to Alvin that I wish God's messages can be as loud as a burning bush, at which he quaintly replied that I really wouldn't want that to happen. Oh. If it happens literally, I wonder what my response would be...And yes, God speaks in whispers at times and there are times I miss hearing them too. I just go about life as per normal, praying, hoping that I don't mess up too much along the way, believing that as long as I am with Him, He is with me. Whatever direction I go, He leads.

I don't really know if there is anyone who is as passionate in dance as I am. If there are any like-minded people who would like to talk about it or even work on some projects with me, please approach me. I don't believe my journey in dance ends with this sharing because I feel the tapestry God is weaving has yet to stop. What I can see is just the back of the tapestry where it seems like some unorganized mess. However, I trust that whatever direction it may take me, I pray that God is always in me and with me.

Alicia Wong

Appreciating the Marshes

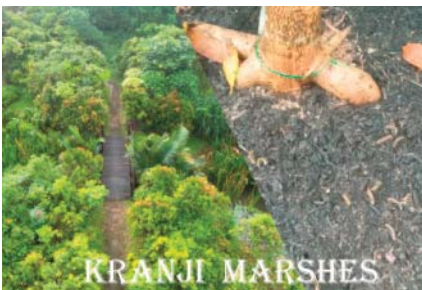
11 Nov 2018



Don't focus your attention on the two persons in the picture. Take a good look at what you see immediately behind them.

Does it bring to mind the papyrus and

reeds that provided the ancient material on which our Scripture was written on?



The importance of the papyrus and reeds links us to the importance of the marshes.

“Can papyrus grow tall where there is no marsh? Can reeds

thrive without water?” – Job 8:11

It is sadly true that when people progress with more well-paved surfaces for easy walking and well-architected edifices to comfortably relax in, the marshes are often despised for their sodden and miry ugliness. As a result, these dwindling marshes are pushed farther and farther into oblivion. Going ... going ... gone are the swamps together with the richness of Earth's biodiversity.

In contemplating biodiversity, which is by God's design in Creation, every single life form in the marshes is as critical as any in other habitats to the balance of nature.



Brother KP Teh and I were at the Kranji Marshes to appreciate nature. Our trip was organized by the Jurong Central Community Sports Club, but we also saw other nature lovers from the Nature Society of Singapore over there, some toting bulky cameras, enjoying what little natural heritage left in Singapore.

As beneficiaries of nature's abundance, man is ironically full of attitude in diminishing it instead of appreciating it as good stewards.

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.” – Job 12:7-10

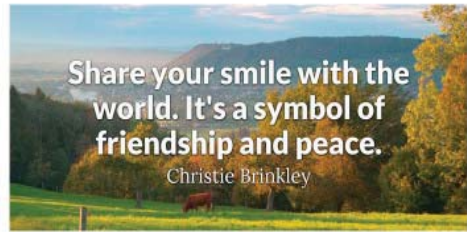
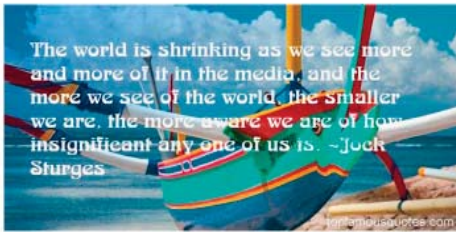
Even if man treats sparrows as worth only two pennies, not one of them is forgotten by God. (Lk 12:6)

Thankfully, we still have nature lovers around, like members of the Nature Society of Singapore who, through their battles in nature's conservation, have gained praise from like-minded people. To the nature lovers, the Kranji Marshes are one of the favourite spots for birdwatching – to delight in the sight of majestic birds not forgotten by God!

The visit to the Kranji Marshes provided a kind of memorable experience, right here in Singapore, without the crowds!

John Lee

😊 YOU ARE WELCOME 😊



With modern transportations and communications technologies, the world is indeed getting smaller. Interestingly, before we GO from this little red dot to meet people there (in all nations), people from there (all nations) COME to this little red dot to meet us.

This little red dot can be described with a big word: COSMOPOLITAN.



In fact, Jurong Christian Church is a COSMOPOLITAN church. From time to time, our sociable Outreach Team would find time to fellowship with new friends we meet in the church. We welcome our friends from all corners of the world, and we want them to feel welcome in this blessed house of God. Yet, the Outreach Team feels great to be welcomed too by these brothers and sisters with whom we are one in Christ.

It was with such a convivial spirit that the Outreach Team gathered with the families of Sijio and Jandrajupali Punniyah at the latter's home in Jurong for a warm Friday time together on 2nd November, with a simple dinner, singing, games and chit-chatting before Sijio's wife (Bronsy) and two children went back to India.



Sijio & Family

J. Punniyah & Family

At the same time, it was a great fellowship with our brother J. Punniyah and sister Sowjanya with their two children Samuel & Michelle.

J. Punniyah's family came to Singapore four years ago and they had attended a church near their home.

Since they shifted to Jurong West and the children are attending an international school in Taman Jurong, they came to JCC some time in August 2017.

On 4th November 2018, P. Punniyah and Sowjanya transferred their membership to JCC while their two children received their water baptism.

We are delighted to welcome our brothers and sisters who hail from other nations. It is a small world after all, and we are one family in Christ!

Peggy Tan

COUNCIL SUMMIT

A FELLOWSHIP OF LEADERS

It was my first Council Summit and you can imagine my excitement when I received the permission to write about this event held on 6 November 2018, a Public Holiday for Deepavali in Singapore.

At YWCA, the event started with worship led by Joel from the Chinese Council followed by ice-breaker games conducted by Beng Lay from the English Council. This effort brought the English and Chinese Council members together and we got to know each other better in Christ. We give thanks for this opportunity as a starting point for the leaders to meet with the Reverends and Pastors of Jurong Christian Church (JCC) on leadership and Church matters for 2019.



“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden for that would be of no benefit to you.” (Hebrews 13:17)

There are many books in the market place about Leadership and Management practices. Many of us know about it either by having the experience in a Leadership capacity or by reading about it. Do we incorporate our market place mentality about Leadership in the Church? I borrow the concepts and Bible verses from the articles that I have read. Pray that this is going on the right track with the wisdom from God. This is indeed not an easy topic.

As a leader, it takes courage, discipline, commitment, determination, persistence and a keen mind to see the reality behind the situations/ circumstances for decisions to be made. If leadership is applied in a Church context, how would it differ or should it be different from a Christian perspective? It is crucial to have God in the equation coupled with our exposure and experience in the corporate world to execute our service in Church and as stewards and servants for God. Our experiences fall under the umbrella of God's direction for our service to Him. Yes, I am sure we all know about that. 😊

A leader gets judged, assessed and observed for decisions made where the actions have to be done appropriately and exemplarily. In an article by Mike Ayers, "5 Distinctives of Biblical Leadership", he wrote that possibly the saddest moments with the rise on the understanding of leadership is that it drifts God's people away from the Bible as the standard of truth. So, it is important to have Character, Calling, Competence, Community and Christ in it.

Leadership is a lot about power, authority and empowerment driven by Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and SMART Goals; assessed by the Performance, Efficiency and financial results in the market place. Outcomes and expectations vary on the type of Industries/ Sector and strategies undertaken on business needs. It is a professional and commercial concept of what success would probably be.

For the leadership in a Church, it should be biblical, starting with having a faith in God, the love of Christ and the love for God's people in addition to the competencies of a leadership team. So, I was thankful to see how the events continued as serious, open and candid discussions ensued with perspectives and constant reminders through prayers on the actions to be taken.



There were break-out groups for brain-storming and presentations scheduled for the discussions. Though the topics will not be shared at this point, there is still much work to be done with the wisdom and direction from God. Please continue to pray for the leadership team and our Pastors.

“Jesus called them together and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:25 – 28)



The Church leadership and Pastors need the support and prayers from everyone. It is definitely an arduous journey filled with watchful eyes from the evil one too. ☹

While I close this article walking away knowing that leadership in a Church (wait! it is leadership in Christ), is about Stewardship, Servanthood and being a Shepherd for God, let's keep our eyes on God's Word and pray.

Dear God, please grant the leadership in the Church Council, Ministries and JCKK to stay steadfast in the Lord; serving together and submitting to God's love in faith and good works for Christ. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Joyce Tan

CAMBODIA TRIP (My Experience)

ជំរាបសួរ (chum reap suor) Hello in Cambodian. I am glad and privileged to be in the Cambodia Mission 0118 team. After the first announcement, the Holy Spirit prompted me to sign up for this trip. I struggled internally as during that weekend, I have a discussion board which I would need to send in my views on some addiction topic. I decided to trust God and sign up for the trip.

A few days before the trip, struggles came to me again. I struggled whether to bring my laptop to the trip so that I could submit my discussion along the way. Knowing that Uncle Henry and Aunt Bee Teng would not be going for the trip due to his health issue, I spoke to God and told Him that I would like to trust Him and to leave everything behind in Singapore. No laptop with me! This will allow me to see His work in Cambodia without distractions.

After we reached the hotel in Cambodia, it rained heavily. The rain was so great that the area outside our hotel was muddy and it was difficult for people to travel in and out of the place. We went to visit the Rainbow hotel and spend time fellowshipping and getting to know the place well with Chak Mun. We went in the rainy weather to find a provision shop and a place for dinner. God led us on a long walk and it opened my eyes to see what goes on, on a rainy night. It was great to see how busy it was and that although we do not know how to speak Khmer, the people were trying to lead us to the provision shop. Indeed, God prepared the place before us.

Saturday, the first day of the camp! We were excited and ready to give our best to God although we do not really know what to expect. We went in faith to stand in the gap. Indeed, God is good, and He raised up a young generation of leaders. I am encouraged to see how God sent in missionaries to groom the youth to lead the songs, sharing, facilitation and many other functions which is something that was lacking previously.

The youth led the children camp with confidence and they were able to translate for us too. We led games, sharing and interact with the children during the lunch time. As the objective was to go and pray for the people staying the in the Kampung, we managed to spend time talking to villages during the lunch and after the Sunday services. We prayed for them and encouraged them to stand firm in God. It was a short 2 day camp. We built lasting friendship with the youths, connecting with them through the social media and encouraging them in what they are doing in Cambodia now. We also managed to spend time talking to various pastors from the various churches in Cambodia and understand their struggles. The strength of the Lord could be seen through the work that everyone is doing. I am amazed by how God works and is going to work in Cambodia. I also marvelled at His creation and enjoyed every moment of this trip.



Soon it was time to go back to Singapore and I felt that it was a very short trip but yet it allowed me to pull myself out of the busy work and school life to be recharged by Him. I am thankful to God for allowing me to go at such a timing for His purpose and I learned to be thankful and trust in God for everything.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3: 5-6



Roger Tan

Why I joined the Martin Shield 2018

Not the same thing as dementia, but forgetfulness is a common complaint among many of us as we get older. Sometimes your names just drop out of my mind and at other times I can recall it. The Quiz was all about names and seriously, I couldn't answer any questions from the first round. So why join the Martin Shield?

As a CG leader, when one from the group wanted to take part, I was in a no-win situation. How can I not support even though I only wanted the role of a coach. So I was there in the play with three very young (about 3 years old Christians) players. However, it was not a disadvantage because they managed to remember more than I can, to be precise; they scored 5 out of 12 points.

We managed to survive the 1st round but the eventual winners shot us down in the 2nd round, to my relief. Out of the game, I was then free to do what I usually do – take photos.



Martin Cheah

The Winning Team



Martin Shield 2018

The MCs

The Judges