

BATAM ESCAPE!

FRIENDSHIPS IN CHRIST

Do you remember the song by Keith and Kristyn Getty, “In Christ Alone”? When I reminisced about the retreat, I was reminded of the significance of Christ in our lives where fellowship amongst Christians should be a natural part of our walk with Jesus if we loved Him. He changes our lives no matter which stage we are in.

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)”

The sun has not risen when our day started with all of us gathering at the Harbour-front Ferry Terminal for our 2-day retreat. Uncle Roy and Juria, our Tour Directors, prepared and coordinated for the trip on 24 & 25 November 2018. Excitement was in the air as the Abundance Cell Group (ABCG) squeezed through the crowds from Singapore to Batam under the hot weather before we arrived at the new Harris Resort.



The fellowships over the weekend had heart-to-heart sharing and prayers. There were worship by Patrick and the sharing of the Word led by Soon Eong on a separate occasion.

Teck Chai conducted the morning exercise for the ABCG. Ouch, their backs! Phew, I was the photographer!



Samantha reminded us that we need to pray and get to know each other better despite our differences. There were rounds of ice-breaker games that tapped on teamwork and created rapport for ABCG. Praise be to God!

Of course, there were free and easy networking moments and fun in the sun activities around the resort.

In Christ alone, my hope is found.
He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save.

"Til on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid,
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the pow'r of Christ in me.

From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no schemes of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand.
"Til He returns or calls me home,
here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



A sumptuous seafood dinner needs no description. There were crabs, prawns, fish, vegetables, crackers, clams and fresh coconut juice. Wow! Give thanks to God for the food.



We celebrated birthdays and most importantly, Christ's presence with us. Hallelujah! Amen.

Tony and Susan made sure that everyone was included during the trip. No pressure and always pray as Tony would say it. ☺

The Batam trip would not be complete without our adventure into the city where shopping, massage and food packed the remaining hours on Sunday after our worship.

*“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”
(1 John 1:7)*

Do you know that the most heart-warming and touching moments were the care and concern shown by the ABCG during the trip for those who had cough and were not well. The spirit of wanting to come together in Christ and the camaraderie love for Ewe Ewe, Doreen, Amy (for me too as I had a slight fever during that time) just topped the charts for the retreat. The Word and Love of God shone through fellow brothers & sisters-in-Christ were beyond comprehension.

For in Christ alone, we will always have hope in uncertainties and mercy from God in our destinies with Christ. Let’s spur one another to build friendships in Christ!



Joyce Tan