

# Dialect Retreat

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21 Nov 2018 (Wednesday)

Wow, even our dialect senior folk had a retreat to call their own!

It was our very first dialect retreat and it was held on a weekday – here in Singapore, here in JCC. No passports needed. it was very convenient for all the participants (close to 40 of them, besides the DLT and helpers). The planning team for the retreat was eager to make it an enjoyable experience. As it turned out, the elderly folk were not disappointed.



Never underestimate our dialect seniors for the energy and readiness they showed in having their morning singing and physical workout exercises together to kickstart the retreat which had more interesting activities ahead to occupy them well into the late afternoon.

We don't expend our energy without going for replenishment, do we? Well, and thankfully, we had not forgotten to cater an appealing high-tea nourishment for all. Meanwhile, our Deacon

Peter was getting himself ready to deliver his Gospel teaching from the Book of Genesis after the high-tea session.

Sharing in Hokkien about “Noah and the Ark” and “the Rainbow Promise of God after the Flood”, Deacon highlighted the Chinese character for boat, 船 (舟 + 八+口) with its symbolic image of the ark (舟) carrying 8 lives (八口) (i.e., Noah & his wife together with their 3 sons and their wives), serving to remind us of God’s everlasting love and salvation plan for His people. His divine purpose is to multiply and fill the earth again with all His beautiful created living things – 2 by 2, male and female of each kind. This clearly underlines the error of the LGBT’s opinion which is contrary to God’s commandment. The “Rainbow Promise” declares to us God’s goodness, His covenant of grace and His blessings.

After the spiritual food intake for the soul, it was positive that our church office staff was able to join us in fellowship at the lunch table with physical food for the body. Although the food was not five-star delights, it was very sufficient to satisfy the tastes and hunger of our beloved elders.



With advancing age, health and fitness issues rear their head and attention is appropriate to handle these confidently for us to live our life to the fullest. Most at the retreat were either senior

citizens or pioneer citizens. In this regard, our invited resource person, Ms Li Wen (former NUH staff) delivered a very relevant talk to equip the audience with the requisite familiarity with the dangers around them (e.g., obstacles and the risk of falling at home) and the means by which they can cope with the challenges of age.

The informative talk was good for the elderly folk, and it was encouraging to see them attentive (not fidgety). However, allow me to guess (or jest) that the organizer was kiasu a bit or had a deficit of trust that the audience retained what they listened to. So, it was “obligatory” to have a short quiz session with prizes for our elders to prove themselves. 😊

A refreshing afternoon tea break with red bean soup followed, and then it was time to sit back for a movie entitled “Long Long Time Ago”, a heartwarming story that resonates with many of our



elderly participants. It traces our old kampong days and life in early 60s, Singapore’s progress after its independence, and the important contributions of racial harmony and kampong spirit to the progress and economic development of our nation.



Thereafter, our dialect elders were entertained with a group flag dance performance and a harp presentation by Deborah Kang: “*As the dear pants for the*

water, so my soul longs after Thee.”



Blessed talents among God’s servants put in the great effort to convert ordinary trans-parent bottles and jars into colourful artwork using simple threads and strings.



Before the end of the day, each participant was given a goody bag. Included within was the nice bottle



art that could be put to good use as deco items and conversational pieces in the home. Certainly, the hard work behind the artwork is much appreciated.



retreat!

All glory to the Lord for a great



*Peggy Tan*

