

Jurong Christian Church

# The Vine



For Internal Circulation Only



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by Various Writers

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**The Vine This Month**  
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Church Retreat 2019



## HOM Editorial

Jurong West Cell Group (JWCG) had our first home cell meeting after almost 2 years as a church based CG. It was held in the very cosy home of Ronnie and Nancy (not the former US President) although it is just as grand as the White House with lots of artefacts. They had prepared a very sumptuous spread for us, over-estimating the attendance.



The difference between holding a CG meeting in

JCC and holding it at someone's home is clearly the food after the study is over. In the church environment, there is no time or place for food, as we are constrained to leave by 10pm and not to eat in the classrooms.



JWCG bids farewell to one of its pioneer members, Patrick Neo, who passed away recently. Way back at the beginning of JWCG, Patrick and Lydia were supposed to be the host but due to Lydia's pregnancy, we hosted the CG at our home which is a block away.



Patrick was a very cheerful person and liked to talk to everyone. He had cancer for 17 years and he did not mention it. I only found out a few months back when I saw him, a shadow of his former self. I prayed for his healing, *“God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...”* Revelation 21:4. Lydia mentioned that it was good that the Lord took him home because Patrick was in great pain in the last months of his life.

*Martin Cheah*

# THE RETREAT THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Hi all, my name is Henry Lim. At first, I was very reluctant to write my testimony, but in my heart, I knew that God wants me to write it down and share with everyone who may have gone through the same situation of having depression, was once lost (now found or still in the process), and questioning themselves where is God when he or she needed him. So here is my testimony and is my battle against fear, anxiety and panic attacks as a Christian.



Since I received Christ on Good Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017, I am constantly struggling with my health, especially my heart problem which has led to fear, anxiety and panic attacks which in turn became depression and contemplating suicide. Since April 2017 till before the 2019 retreat; I was in and out of hospital for almost 2 to 3 times per month. From a medical point of view, I was suffering from Cardiophobia. I spent a lot of money for a Psychiatrist to treat my phobia but it did not work. My wife Bee Teng and 2 teenage sons; Darren Lim and Malcolm Lim has suffered because of my condition. Sometimes at wee hours of the night, I can have sudden panic attack and my wife will send me to either NTFH or NUH.

The suffering is very real and it paralyses me totally. I would be so scared to be alone that I can't even take a bath or go to toilet, cannot travel alone in a bus or even take the lift alone. The worst part is that every night I am very afraid to go to sleep and in the morning I have a fear of waking up which everyone will take for granted. This caused me to suffer from Stress type level 2 and 3. It led to health disorders like fatigue (constant tiredness and lack of energy), severe gastric problems, constant high blood pressure that damage my heart muscle, dizziness and almost every week have sore throat and flu, constant diarrhoea and poor diet. Besides these disorders, I also have a 3 cm cyst in my right brain and my left kidney, backache, torn left shoulder tendon and neck slip disc that causes numbness to my left facial muscles and limb.

All the above condition has forced me to step down from my post as an Assistant Operations Manager in my company. A lot of high-profile meetings and projects I was not able to undertake or commit. But my General Manager

was kind enough to accept my condition and retain me in his team. However, I am not sure how long this will last, if my condition doesn't improve.

My only comfort come from attending church service every Sunday and cell group meeting every fortnight on Friday evening. Every day is a real struggle. Before I have this condition I was a very confident, independent and a can-do guy. I was so confident to a stage that every difficult task was possible. Nothing is impossible to me and the more difficult, the more I like to take it up. A very competitive person, taking all things and people for granted. I was a Christian when I was young. I joined Boy's Brigade and did Bible Knowledge study when I was in secondary school. I also attended church service during my primary and secondary school years. But after I left secondary school, I stopped attending church till April 2017 as I still resent God for taking away my mother (Lung Cancer) when I was doing my PSLE. During that period of time; my heart was always hollow and was always looking for something to fill it up. I always cursed and swear at God for things that didn't go my way. I numbed myself by working hard and climbing up the corporate ladder very fast. I became an emotional eater, stuffing myself with buffet every week, smoke, lead a sinful life and prayed to idols during the Chinese 7<sup>th</sup> month festival.

Then on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2017, something started to happen. While working at my office desk, my heart suddenly beat very fast and I experienced chest pains. My colleague called an ambulance and I was sent to NUH A&E. The doctor had to inject me with morphine to stabilize me. In the A&E, I started to pray sincerely to God to forgive me and give me a chance. I promised him that I will be a good person and find a church to attend every Sunday. Three days later, I was discharged from hospital and back to normal health. But I did not do what I promised to God, I continue with my old lifestyle. Then on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 after coming home from a very late night of working. The same fast beating of my heart happened again and this time it was more painful than the first one. Ambulance was called and I was in NUH A&E again. I tried praying to God but I felt this time He was very angry with me for breaking my promise to Him. Nothing happened and my fast heart beat continued throughout the night till next day. From there, I started to suffer from anxiety attacks and it melted me down totally. I was warded for about 10 days and since then my health and mental condition started to deteriorate. From then on I was in and out of hospitals (NUH and NTFGH) as if it was my second or third home. Even with many prayers from church members and pastors, it did very little to help improve my condition.

Starting of this year, God in my heart told me to pick up the Bible and read it. He also told me that healing will be coming soon but at His timing. He told me



to listen to His voice and instructed me to learn and carefully study every condition that each time caused me to be admitted to the hospital. And every time, I fall He will tell me to stand up and be of courage. Certain times he told me to be still and trust in Him. But sometimes I was able to make it and at other times I wasn't able to, as the panic attacks were too intense. I continued to fall more and more. January and June this year was my worse months of suffering. I felt that Satan was playing with my mind and he was constantly breaking me down to a point of total depression and contemplating suicide. But because of Rev Anthony, Deacon Peter and my mentor Martin Cheah teaching, caring, concern and prayer, I was able to hold on. (I did not tell them I have thought of suicide and not even to my family members).

In June before the church retreat, God told me to be patient and stay strong with a word from Isaiah 41:10 and Psalm 23:1. It was also the Pentecost week 9<sup>th</sup> June 2019, I started to question myself if there really is a Holy Spirit and if there was, where is He. How come he did not help me when I needed him most? It was written in the Bible John 15:26 and John 16:5-8. What gift do I have as it was also written in 1 Corinthians 12 and why all this suffering as I have already repented my sin and was baptised in Dec 2017. I also had doubt that was I baptised by water or Holy Spirit as in 1 Corinthians 12:13. I started to question God and my mentor Martin Cheah. But in my heart; God keep on telling me to be patient.

Then the week of church retreat came, I was very eager to attend as I heard that there was teaching of healing and restoration by Rev Philip Tan. However, 2 days before the retreat I was having my medical appointment and my blood pressure for no reason went up to 200/101 mmHg. The pressure did not come down after a few more measurements and I was rushed to A&E which subsequently warded me for observation that Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning, my blood pressure still didn't come down even after the doctor changed my heart medicine the night before. I was monitored every hourly and still no improvement. I did tell the doctors that the next day I was to travel to Johor for my church retreat. They said that they cannot discharge me as I was a high-risk cardio patient and my blood pressure wasn't stable. Feeling lost and dishearten, I messaged Rev Anthony and my mentor Martin Cheah about my situation and requested prayers. I also started to pray very hard to Jesus. I spent my quiet time with Him on my hospital bed in my ward. Suddenly my heart became very calm as it seems that everything will come out fine by trusting Him. Then at 17:00hrs in the evening; the nurse came to me and said that I can be discharged. What a miracle; Hallelujah!! I was so happy that I quickly called or messaged everyone that knew my situation. My wife Bee

Teng came and brought me home. We packed everything and were ready for the retreat. I was so joyful that I couldn't sleep that night.

At the retreat, while at lunch in the hotel, Sister Se Ping brought Rev Philip and his wife to sit with us. I can sense that it was God's arrangement for us to start a conversion with Rev Philip and tell him about my brokenness. However, I dared not tell him. That night after the sermon I was told that whoever wants to do the prayer walk can stay behind. In fact, it was a miscommunication and the actual prayer walk was to start the following day morning after the service. I believe that God set up this miscommunication in-order for me to have personal time with Him by rebuilding my altar with Him. After sitting at a chair facing the wall for about 45 mins, I suddenly feel weighted down by a force with electrifying sensation travelling all over my body from the hair on my head to my toes. Then I suddenly started to cough forcefully. Nothing came out from my mouth; I quickly forced myself to wake up and get out of the chair to find my wife. I thought I was being overcome by an evil spirit. That night I was badly shaken and had a panic attack. I took my anxiety pill and after a while I went to sleep with fear.

The next morning, while having breakfast, Rev Philip Tan and his wife came to sit with us. This I believe was also God's arrangement. I related to him what happened the previous night and also my health condition. Being concerned, Rev Philip Tan said that he wanted to minister to us privately after his sermon.

That afternoon after the durian session and queuing for our turn, Rev Philip Tan invited us in and asked us how he can help me. I told him my life story from the passing of my mum, how I resented God, my health situation with anxiety and constant panic attacks and my encounter with a spiritual force the night before. Rev Philip Tan explained to me that I was filled with lots of negative thoughts and toxic feelings in my soul. This needed to be removed in order for the Holy Spirit to fill me and start His work in me. I also ask him to pray for me to have JOY and to LOVE people again.

He said that he will pray for me but I will vomit out those toxins inside me. At first, I thought it was only a normal prayer like those from Rev Anthony or Deacon Peter. But this prayer was very different, the Holy Spirit came to me with the same sensation and feeling and I started to cough nonstop. No food came out except for stomach juice and burping. This coughing happened twice. After that Rev Philip Tan continued to pray for my restoration and healing. With that prayer I can see bright light with my eye closed and the feeling of JOY and LOVE. I also started to cry with joy. Before Rev Philip Tan said AMEN; I suddenly saw a beautiful rainbow in my mind. Rev Philip Tan

told me that it was my covenant with GOD that He will give me His PEACE, LOVE & JOY. With that I also believe that my healing process has started as I continue to experience the Holy Spirit when I continue to build an altar with Him for every prayer, learning and Bible reading. The most amusing thing is that on Tuesday night which is 3 days after returning from the retreat, I had a family prayer with us holding each other's hands. During the prayer; the Holy Spirit came upon me and assisted me in prayer and both my 2 teenage sons felt the same electrifying sensation. AMEN.

Sometimes we need to learn to be still, trust His timing and GOD will do the fighting for you (Exodus 14:14). When He tells you to be patient; you better do so. (Hebrew 10:36) Be courageous (Psalm 56:3-4, Isaiah 41:10-13, 1 Corinthians 16:13 & Hebrew 13:5-6) and always remember Psalm 23. Even though my healing is still incomplete and I still experience anxiety attacks. I strongly believe that I need to walk in faith in Him and the calmness that He has given me to overcome all odds and difficulties. I also know that He will fully restore me and use me to be His vessel to help others.



I will like to give praise and thanks to GOD for giving me this salvation. Glory to Him! His LOVE for us is faithful and forever. Aside to that I also want to thank Rev Philip Tan and his wife for their prayer and love. Rev Anthony for his constant prayer, care and concern for my family and I. Deacon Peter for his wonderful teaching and prayer when I suffered panic attacks and finally my mentor Martin Cheah, for his guidance, teaching and being someone who I can relate my situation to. There are also many more people that I want to thank that are not mentioned in my testimony and in my heart, I give thanks you to all JCCIANS. AMEN.

*Henry Lim*

## A WELL-ORGANIZED CHURCH RETREAT

God has to be prominently manifested in our midst. There has to be time for prayer, preaching of the Word and fellowship.

So far, the church retreats organised by JCC, past and present, have fulfilled these basic requirements and exceeded expectations.

Retreat 2019 even had a prayer walk for retreaters to get close to the heartbeat of God. We had good food, including durians. Good programmes to have fun and relaxation. What more can we ask where we paid a highly affordable fee subsidised by our Church?

Well done, JCC! I am looking forward to future retreats organised by JCC!

Yew Moi



## GLAD TO HAVE ATTENDED THE JCC RETREAT 2019

It was my first time attending a church retreat. The JCC Retreat (20 – 22 June) which I attended with my daughter Pamela and my son-in-law Wai Yuen was a good experience. We enjoyed ourselves.

Above all, I enjoyed the prayer walk very much as it was very inspiring and meaningful. I started with a stone in my hand and walked from one station to another. As I walked to the first station, there were many sauces which represented sins. I confessed my sins and applied the sauces which represented my sins on the stone I held.





Next, I proceeded to another station to pray for forgiveness and seek God with the heart to draw closer to him.

I threw my stone into a box and got a new shining crystal in return. This represents that our sins and old selves are gone. The new and shining crystal represents our new life where our sins are washed away by Jesus. This is in line with our retreat theme “Arise and Shine”.

I also enjoyed Rev Anthony’s devotional message on Repairing our Altar. I learnt how to draw closer to God and know Him deeper. To do so, I would need to repair my own altar and repent. I should change my mindset, attitude and allow God to correct and redirect me. I should trust God to deal with my situations and refine my thoughts. God will lead me, and I should trust in Him and give Him full control.

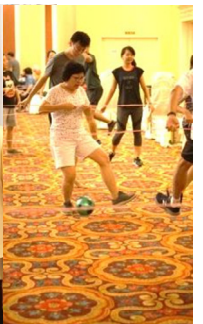
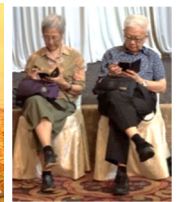
Lastly, I would like to thank all the committee members and youths for their hard work and effort in organizing the church retreat.

Lily Lee



# JCC Retreat 2019 @ Batu Pahat, Malaysia

Living an  
Impactful Life



## PARABLE: A SOURCE OF HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE

In Luke 15:1-2, we read about the Pharisees grumbling over the fact that Jesus was receiving sinners and eating with them. Interestingly, the Pharisees had a strong aversion towards sinners, but not towards themselves as sinners too! Before starting on the three parables that Jesus told in response to the Pharisees' complaint, there is already an important lesson all Christians can learn right at the beginning of Luke Chapter 15 if they do not wish to earn any rebuke from the Lord: We are not to be self-righteous like the Pharisees!

It can be irksome when encountering "Pharisees". This said, I must confess that I am not infallible; there are times when I veer towards judgmentalism against others but not myself. Each time, I must quickly seek God's forgiveness and correct myself to be gracious towards others just as I bask in God's graciousness.

### **Parables are not just simple stories to entertain listeners.**

They are stories with a serious message – in fact, a parable may contain multiple messages – that reveals "the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven" only to targeted listeners rather than to everyone. (Mt 13:10-15)

Therefore, when different persons listen to the same parable, they are often able to uncover variously the messages "hidden within". As an example, let's look at the case of the three parables recounted in Luke 15:

- 1) Parable of the Lost Sheep
- 2) Parable of the Lost Coin"
- 3) Parable of the Lost Son

The 1<sup>st</sup> parable, some see it in the positive sense about our Heavenly Father's concern for His lost sinners; others see in it the negative sense of Jesus rebuking the self-righteousness of the sinning Pharisees.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> parable, the word "son" and related pronouns referring to the lost younger son appear overwhelmingly in the passage as compared to similar words referring to the elder brother. The immediate understanding of the message by the hearers, especially when considering the 3 parables together, is justifiably about our Father in heaven rejoicing over one sinner who repents.





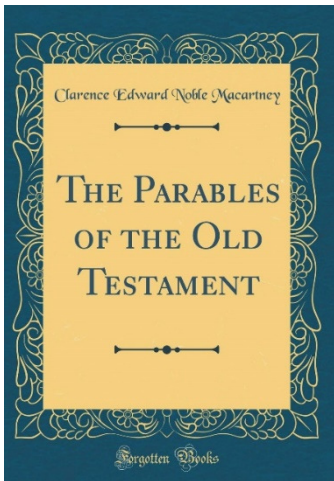
This is a consistent point in all 3 parables:

- Lost Sheep – “there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent” (v15:7)
- Lost Coin – “there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (v15:10)
- Lost Son – “But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (v15:32)



The 3<sup>rd</sup> parable has been regarded by many as being the longest and one of the most evocative parables in the whole Bible. Apart from the message on repentance for running away from the father (re: the younger son), there are many other important lessons “hiding within”, which I shall explore another time.

### Parables are also adopted by God in the OT:



- “My people hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old” — Ps 78:1-2
- “I spoke to the prophets, gave them many visions and told parables through them.” — Hosea 12:10
- In 2 Sam 12:1-10, David was rebuked by a parable. (Ouch! What a bombshell.)

Parables are a rich source of knowledge that God gives to believers but keeps veiled to those whose heart has become calloused (Mt 13:11,15). In Bible studies, it is good to pay

attention to the parables.

*John Lee*



Recently, I have been unable to move away from 2 Chronicles 2. In the past, whenever I come across this, I would quickly skim through it. After all, what about all this dry information regarding the building of God's temple got to do with me? Isn't it all just a simple 'ordering others to prepare the best materials'? How hard can it be when you are a king? Yet when I came across this passage, this time round, I kept re-reading it - for days and weeks. I just can't move past it. Yes, I am still chewing on it. At times, I am not able to finish the chapter because the thought of building a temple for God sounds daunting. What a daring project. That he, a mere mortal, took it on. He spent seven years to produce the most magnificent temple possible. The best workmanship. The finest materials. The choicest offerings. Would it cause visitors and worshipers to think great and high thoughts of God? Would it reflect God's beauty and His grandeur? Would it be *good enough*? I can almost imagine all kinds of thoughts running through King Solomon's mind.

Currently, I am being directed into this beautiful enterprise for God. Actually, I first heard His call years ago, I did not act on it due to the very same fears that face me now. *Who am I? There are better choices than me. Surely not me. Where do I go? How am I to go about it?* Now that I am older, I do regret not heeding His call right there and then, giving my best years to what He had called me to do. When I was younger, I should have just asked from Him the same thing I have been asking ever since I started this – that He will provide the people, the resources. If it is His Will, then things will happen. If it is not His will, I doubt things will be smooth sailing.

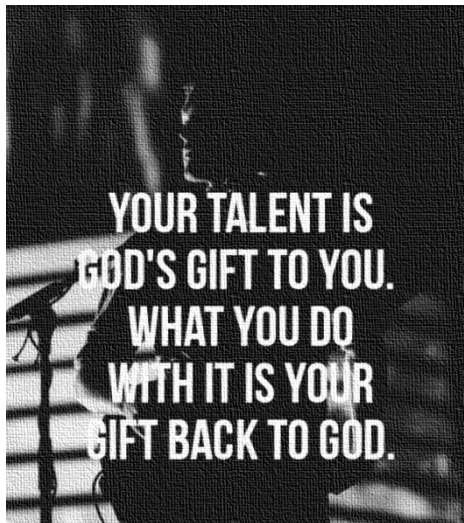
So far, it has been smooth sailing and things seem to be drawing to a certain direction again. Some of you might have begun asking if it is my

will or His. I would say it's His because truth to be told, I wouldn't have the audacity of taking this enterprise on if He hasn't been leading me to it. At times I prayed for a certain thing to happen. Nothing. So... I went into another direction, a supposedly harder path. Surprisingly, I am actually enjoying the process and constantly astounded by the resources God is bringing to my table.

In what beautiful enterprise might God be directing you to be involved in? It could be people, projects, aptitudes or art. You may have the ability to create something that reveals and reflects some of His greatness. If so, ask Him to provide the resources. Find the helpers and materials needed to accomplish the goal. Go ahead and enjoy the process and when it bears fruit, enjoy the fruit of your labour like Solomon did. Whatever gifts and talents you have, give fairly and generously to your author. Do a God-sized work for Him.

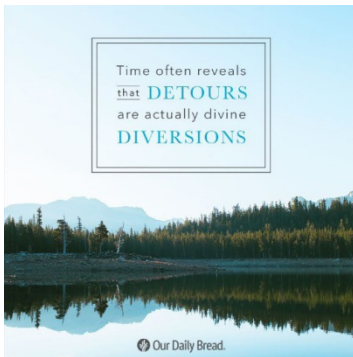
He deserves it.

*Alicia Wong*



# A CRITICAL DETOUR

## – Guided by the Holy Spirit



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*Extract from: Our Daily Bread 28  
June 2019*

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Twice in Acts 16 Paul and company were redirected by God. First, they were “kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia” (v. 6). Then, “When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to” (v. 7). Unknown to them, God had other plans that would be right for His work and workers. His no to the previous plans put them in a position to listen to and be confidently led by Him (vv. 9–10).

Who among us hasn't grieved what we initially thought to be a painful loss? We've felt wounded when we didn't get a certain job, when a service opportunity didn't materialize, when a relocation got derailed. Though such things can momentarily be weighty, time often reveals that such detours are actually divine diversions that God graciously uses to get us where He wants us, and we are grateful. – **By Arthur Jackson**

***Father, I praise You that in Your wisdom You know how to best arrange my life. Thank You for protecting me through Your detours***

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### *Personal Reflection*

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Praise the Lord for today's topic on DETOUR.

I am sure if we take stock and reflect on what God has done in our lives, we can recall many detours. Many minor ones but some are major ones, like protection from serious or even fatal consequences. My reflection brings me all the way back to Year 2004.

My family was supposed to go for our annual trip, planned for a seaside resort in Phuket in 2004. However, this time when my wife, Margaret, suggested a quiet family retreat to Phuket, my spirit was somehow perturbed. I didn't really know why, and so I just told my wife, "Let's see about it and I will let you know."

As the days dragged on, my wife asked me for my decision on several occasions. Each time, I told her that my spirit was restless over this trip to Phuket. When she queried why I was so indecisive, I told her that I really did not know the reason. I had prayed many times; but no answer was given, not even a clue.

As the intended date for the trip drew near, I eventually told my wife that my spirit was not stilled and my heart pumped quicker each time I thought of it. I told her to change to another destination for our Christmas over the New Year family trip from 24 Dec 2004 to 1 Jan 2005.

So, our holiday destination was finally changed to Hongkong.

We didn't have the slightest prescience to know the news that would come to us. It was only after returning to Singapore at the end of our holiday that we got the shocking news that there was a huge tsunami over the Phuket resort.

Thousands of people perished in the watery grave, thousands more were injured. The resort was totally demolished by the tsunami.

I felt sorrowful for the sufferers in the tsunami. At the same time, there was this tremendous appreciation of how God had quickened my spirit to consider a detour for our holiday, saving my whole family from this sad and devastating disaster.

I told my wife that God saved us, because He was not finished with us yet.

We are forever thankful to Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. All glory be unto Him.



Amen!

*Richard Lee*



# EYE SEE STRAIGHT LINES NOW

Way back before Jul 2018, I noticed that my computer monitor had curves on some of the straight lines. Well my laptop has served me well and it was time to upgrade to a new one. However, I started to notice that other straight lines, eg the rooftops of flatted factories that I pass by in the MRT on the way to work also had curves on what should be straight lines. That's odd, so I had my eyes checked.

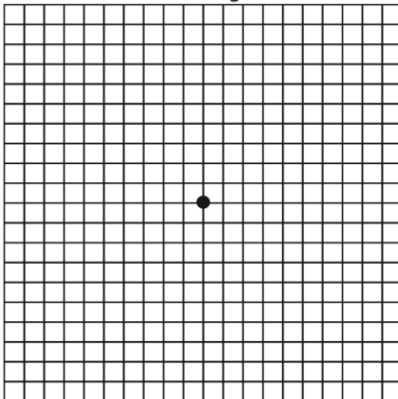
The eye specialist at NTFGH's eye centre found that I had a polyp (growth) in my right eye, which was in the path of the light from the cornea to the optic nerves at the back of the eye. This was the cause of the refraction that appears as curves on a straight line.

## AMSLER GRID

### *Instructions:*

1. Wear your reading glasses.
2. Use good light.
3. Observe the grid with only one eye.
4. Look at the central dot while observing, at the same time, the entire chart and details of the grid.
5. Report any changes or abnormalities to your eye doctor.

### Your Testing Grid



(Abnormalities include any wavy lines, distortion or missing areas of the grid)

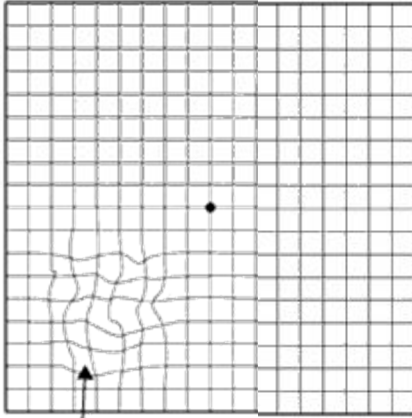
There was no treatment other than to inject straight into the eyeball, which I felt I could live without. The specialist suggested that he will keep observing the situation before rendering some treatment. Around that time, Rev Keith Lai came to JCC to teach and I requested prayer for healing. He prayed 2 times over me.

At the next 2 visits to the doctor in Sep 2018 and Nov 2018, there was no change. However in early 2019, he observed that

the polyp had grown slightly. No problem, he said that we will continue to observe the situation. My CG prayed for me and I continued to see curves in straight lines. I got so used to it that it didn't bother me anymore.

While at the church retreat, the nurse called me to reschedule my appointment because the doctor was not available. Then on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019, I rush from office to keep the appointment. While on the MRT from Tuas to NTFGH,

I suddenly realized that the flatted factories rooftops did not have curves anymore. I thought to myself, if the doctor tells me I am healed, I will say, "Praise the LORD!" When I went into the consultation room, the doctor told me that he could not locate the polyp until he enlarged the eye scan. It had shrunk. I said, "Praise the LORD" in a soft voice. He may have heard it but he did not respond. He just arranged the next appointment six months away in Jan 2020, just to ensure it is completely gone.



METAMORPHOPSIA  
(DISTORTION)

Previously, when I gazed at the Amsler Grid, I would see something like the wavy lines at the bottom half of the grid. Now I see straight lines as what a normal person should see.

The doctor was just an observer, so he can't claim the credit for the healing, in fact, he thinks it might even grow again.

Sometimes healing is not immediate, and sometimes, like in the case of Paul, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

To God be the Glory, Thanks be to God and **Praise the LORD.**

*Martin Cheah*



# JCC & YCCL Joint *Dialect Retreat*



27 July 2019



# BE HUMBLE AND ACCEPT YOUR GIFT

*In the recent weeks, I felt that I am being stretched in many ways from work, family to church; trying to do a balancing act to sustain and go with the flow in my life. Despite all that, I give thanks to God for being alive and that He has always been with me. The latter is a blessing by itself and better than many other good things that happened to me and around me. You will agree with me that without Jesus Christ, we would not have been saved and for us to be here today.*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”  
(John 3:16)



*The title of this article came into my mind after a Cell group session a few weeks ago. Uncle Roy told me, “Accept your gift. It is alright to let others know what we are doing.” Something in me just snapped and then clicked. Is it the humility in us that we do not announce or admit what we are good at or it is just our upbringing that we are taught to be modest in expressing the better side of ourselves? Well, I am challenged by my own thoughts and behaviours as a result.*

*Be humble? Accept your gift?*

*Do you struggle with all these thoughts below?*

*I really do not know what to do! What is happening? I can't do it as I am scared that it will not turn out right. Oh no, I don't think I am good enough to get this done. Ask others who are better and more experienced. I am not sure. Do the above sound familiar to you? Were there moments that you reacted like this? Or you are always on the roll and feel that you are on top of the world; nothing can stop you in doing what you want to do? Thoughts like, “I am good and I know I will do well. No worries, God is with me. I am better than many others and I can help others. I can do it even if others cannot or are unable to do so.” Be careful if all these statements described you.*

*All the above are not about humility or about not knowing our gifts. It is about ourselves and how complacent we are. We are trying to play down what it should be. Humility is not about denying or suppressing what we can do or cannot do. The use of humility as our excuse for not trying makes it “pseudo”*



*humility in disguise, to get around what God has created for us to be who we are in Him.*

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (Col 2:18-23)

*Be humble. Accept your gift.*

*Ironical and hypocritical at times, isn't it? How we react sometimes reveal the opposite of what we want to show. It is about recognising that the gift is from God and allowing God to work the gift through us for the glory of God! The using of our gifts after recognising them takes work and effort with God's wisdom and strength. Sometimes, it requires us to take risks to develop our gifts and move forward even if the outcome may not be favourable or we do not know how it will turn out to be.*

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve, if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Rom 12: 6-8)

*Let us learn and re-learn what God is teaching us at the different stages of our lives; accepting our gifts and be ready to take on the role that we are called to perform. Say “Yes” humbly in the sight of God and men with His wisdom. The outcome of all recognition and responses will be to His glory!*

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.” (1 Pet 5:6)

*Joyce Tan*

# GOING OUT

21 July 2019 – Valerian and I visited Israel (aka Mr Bean) at the St Andrew's Nursing Home at the end of Yuan Ching Road. We had visited him at his home during the first PKS in Feb 2018, after that we visited him at a nursing home at Jurong East and very recently, he was transferred here.

The home is very new and is located very close to the Jurong Lake Gardens. However I don't think the inmates have access to the gardens as they are securely housed in the home. We had to tap a pass at every doorway to gain access in or out.

It is not easy to chat with the inmates because they are very incoherent. Best bet is to just give them a listening ear because they may not have many visitors from what I observed over the two hours we spent there.



That morning in the church service, the people prayed for Caleb as he is sent forth into Northern Thailand for a 2 month mission trip, ministering to youths and prisoners.

In the evening, we welcomed back Daniel and Clement who spent 1 month in Cambodia teaching English, Guitar, etc. to the Cambodian youths.

And in about 2 weeks' time, ten intrepid ladies will be making their way to Cambodia over the National Day holidays. Let the love of God spread abroad.

*MC*

## ORDINATION OF PASTOR ANDREW THINAGARAN



According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, **Ordination**, in Christian churches is a rite for the dedication and commissioning of ministers. The essential ceremony consists of the laying of hands of the ordaining minister upon the head of the one being ordained, with prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and of grace required for the carrying out of the ministry. The service also usually includes a public examination of the candidate and a sermon or charge concerning the responsibilities of the ministry. Christianity derived the ceremony from the Jewish custom of ordaining rabbis by the laying on of hands (the Semikha).

On 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019, Pastor Andrew Thinagaran was ordained after having served more than 9 years as a pastor of JCC. A large number of members from his new church QLC came in support of their new Reverend.





7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

# JCC 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

