

The Vine This Month  
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## HOM Editorial

When Debra and Rueben chose their wedding date last year, they did not

consider if there may be a DORSCON ORANGE situation. Most couples would not have considered it too because last year it was not a known threat then. In fact, most people asked them why they chose a date which is 1 week before the CNY.

Their wedding day (on 18/1/20) went smoothly, their friends were able to fly in and out from all over the world, and their guests were not fearful of virus, need not wear masks or have their hands sanitized. Two weeks after their wedding, flights were restricted and another week later the situation was DORSCON ORANGE. Thank God that they did not have to

go through the situation where guests could not travel, had to have their temperature checked before entering the sanctuary and also not advised to shake hands. It would be a more sombre event when all these precautions are applied.

*“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”* Proverbs 19:21

I would be missing the elephant in the room if I did not mention how COVID-19 has impacted JCC. Before the Coronavirus issue, everyone was not particularly concerned about holiness (ie set apart).



However in the advent of the COVID-19, many precautions have been taken by JCC to keep the members safe from infection.

As members arrive at the ground level, temperature checks are carried



out by ushers and contact tracing records are taken down.



Offering bags being passed around are replaced by Offering boxes placed at strategic locations along the aisles.

Members are advised to wave and smile as a form of greeting instead of shaking hands.



Communion servers are to wear surgical masks when serving the elements.

Live streaming of the Worship Service where members can participate in the worship in the isolation of their homes was started by a band of dedicated fellows. This was a foresight by Rev Anthony as all the above interim measures are deemed to be ineffective and the authorities have closed all religious activities where large numbers congregate. You can access the live streaming by typing <http://JCC.sg/live> in Google or Internet Explorer.



Perhaps the evil one may have stopped us from meeting in JCC but he cannot stop us from sharing the message wherever we have a connection to live streaming. In Acts 8, God used persecution to bring the Good News to the ends of the world.

John Piper said, "Therefore we must not judge too quickly the apparent setbacks and tactical "defeats" of the church. If you see things with the eyes of God, the Master strategist (who cannot lose because he is omnipotent), what

you see in every setback is the positioning for a greater advance and a greater display of his wisdom and power and love.”

Many planned activities have also been put on hold for example the Easter skit and choir presentation. Perhaps we could have these recorded on video and released through the live streaming. It would have a wider audience.



When things are going well, we think we are in control. Then the Corona virus brings the entire world to its knees.

All human confidence is an illusion. The only thing that is certain is that

nothing can “*separate us from the love of Christ.*” Especially in uncertain times like this, we believe that neither “*trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword*” can separate us from God. Rather, “*in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:35–39).

I am about to retire in around 2 months’ time and people usually travel around the world or go to parks and other entertainment centres. Is it God’s plan that I should just stay at home?

Proverbs 19:21 Living Bible “*Man proposes, but God disposes*”

*Martin Cheah*