

Jurong Christian Church

The Vine



For Internal Circulation Only



LENTEN SEASON

by John Lee



DISTINGUISHING OURSELVES

by Alicia Wong



HOUSE BLESSING

by Tony Koh



Live Streaming:

<http://jcc.sg/live>

The Vine This Month
Editor:
Alicia Wong

Writers this issue:
John Lee
Alicia Wong
Peggy Tan
Tony Koh
Jonathan Tan

Photos:
Martin Cheah

Cover Photo:
Live Streaming Team



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

Outreach Team supporting HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Upon Malaysia closing its borders on 17th March, the following news followed:

- The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) together with tripartite partners swiftly went into action to help find temporary accommodations for affected workers.
- Malaysian workers unable to find accommodation slept at MRT stations and other public spaces.



How distressing it was for the stranded workers who were totally unprepared for the situation!

Hence, the project HOME AWAY FROM HOME was started as a collaboration between a group of churches and NGOs to provide urgently needed shelter and solace for the stranded workers.

Transit Point @ Margaret Drive, occupying the premises formerly belonging to Queenstown Polyclinic, was only recently

opened as a shelter managed by New Hope Community Services (NHCS) to house the homeless. It is now used to temporarily accommodate some of the stranded Malaysian Workers.

Understanding The Lenten Season

[Starting on ~~ASH~~ Wednesday \(26 Feb 2020\)](#)



We are in the season of Lent, which commenced on ~~ASH~~ Wednesday (26th Feb 2020).

The liturgical colour for Lent is **purple**, which symbolizes honour, repentance and self-sacrifice. At the start of Lent (~~ASH~~ Wednesday), the ~~ASH~~ (traditionally applied to the forehead in the shape of a cross) symbolizes grief over our sins. We believe in the Gospel and repent (Mk 1:15), recognizing the fragility and shortness of human life. (*Gen 3:19b – “for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*)

[Holy Week](#)

The Holy Week starts on Palm Sunday (5th Apr 2020); i.e., the Sunday before Easter (12th Apr 2020). It is also the last week of Lent.



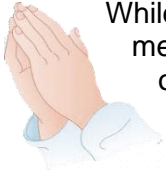
Maundy Thursday (9th Apr 2020) and Good Friday (10th Apr 2020) are within this Holy Week.

Counting from Ash Wednesday (excluding Sundays), the 40 days of Lent end on the Saturday (11th Apr 2020) before Easter (12th Apr 2020).

[Lent is not a joyful \(celebration\) time](#)

Lent is not a joyful (celebration) time. It is aptly called the Passion season because the work and sufferings of Christ is the key theme of

the season. This is reflected in our weekly sermons and lectionary readings. According to the Gospels, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to fast in the wilderness for 40 days and nights before beginning his public ministry. Hence, there is a church tradition of exhorting fasting exercises in the 40 days before Easter (excluding Sundays) with reference to the 40 days and nights in which Jesus fasted and prayed.



While the Lenten season is not a joyful time, it is also not meant for us to put on a sad face. Rather, it is for us to take on a solemn spiritual disposition to imbibe lessons on humility and obedience, sanctifying our faith life as we contemplate the hope and joy when the misery of the Passion ends with the triumph of our Saviour over death through His Crucifixion and Resurrection as prophesied in the Scripture.

[Palm Sunday](#)



We commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, as recorded in all the canonical Gospels (Mt 21:1-11, Mk 11:1-11, Lk 19:28-44, Jn 12:2-19). We also meditate on how, notwithstanding the warm cheers and welcome with palm fronds, He saw evil lurking among the

Jewish leaders; and people who disbelieved that He was the Messiah wanted to have Him killed. It was to be His last visit to the Holy City and a short week before He would be betrayed by one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot.

[Maundy Thursday](#)

We commemorate The Last Supper – on “the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.” (Lk 22:7)



This is Maundy Thursday, when Jesus instituted the Holy Communion for us to partake of His body and blood regularly in remembrance of

Him. “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” (1 Cor 11:26)

It is deeply significant that our Lord spoke of the bread as “my body” and of the wine as “my blood”.

The fact that “the day of the Unleavened Bread” (i.e., the day of the Jewish Passover celebration) was chosen by Jesus as the Day of His Last Supper made the link between the old covenant and the new covenant:

- a) Under the old covenant – the past mercy of God in separating the Jews out for salvation involving the flesh-and-blood sacrifice of an unblemished lamb whereby they were **passed over** by God when His judgment came upon Egypt. (Ex 12)
- b) Under the new covenant – the present anticipation of salvation with Jesus being sacrificed as our unblemished Passover Lamb whereby we who believe and thus become reckoned as deserving of God’s mercy would be separated out and **passed over** from death into eternal life.

The Passover sacrifice in the exodus from Egypt was liberating for the Jews by the old covenant; while “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Cor 5:7) is liberating for God’s people by the new covenant in His blood. (Lk 22:20)

Foot-washing on Maundy Thursday
(It is seriously more than about humility)



It is not surprising that the foot-washing by Jesus (John 13) is often well-noticed as an act that our Lord used to teach His disciples on servanthood. This understanding has a strong basis in John 13:14-17, foot-washing being a common expression of humble hospitality in those days. However, the symbolism is more than about humble service.

When Peter opposed Jesus' attempt to wash his feet, the Lord responded tersely, ***“Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”*** (John 13:8b)

Certainly, to have or not to have a part with Jesus is not simply a matter of showing humble service. Can a disciple be “One with Christ” if he has no part with Jesus? It was not good enough for disciples to be humble servants to serve (wash the feet of) other Christians but not willing to be served (washed). Consider the following analogies of dubious humility:

- A Christian is humble in serving other Christians but is reluctant to accept humble service from others.
- A disciple of Christ goes about spiritually cleansing others of their filth (sins) but is not inclined to first receive cleansing from the Lord because ... “Oh my Lord, I don't wish to impose on you.” 🤔

The message of foot-washing goes beyond the ethical or courtesy imperative of rendering humble service as disciples of Christ, but also carries a salvific symbolism of being a part with Jesus. In other words, our acts of servanthood must have its source of grace in Jesus Christ.

[Good Friday](#)

What happened on Good Friday?

- ✝️ In the morning Jesus was subjected to a sham trial on fake charges.
- ✝️ He was then sentenced to die on the Cross.
- ✝️ At noon, darkness came upon the whole land until three in the afternoon. (Mk 15:33)
- ✝️ His body was pierced by soldiers with a spear (John 19:34)



- ✠ That evening, He was laid in the tomb by a disciple of His, with a big stone rolled in front of the entrance. (Mk 15:42-47)

Was that the end of Jesus?

If so, then the Friday would not be called “Good” (or “Holy”).

Indeed, it was not the end of Jesus’ story. He did not die in vain. He is God’s Son, and He died for our sins. *“He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.”* – 1 Thess 5:10

[Thereafter](#)

After Good (Holy) Friday, the Easter story beckons to be told.

Our reflective spirit in Lent leads us to Eastertide when great rejoicing will break forth, because: **HE WAS RESURRECTED ON THE THIRD DAY!** (1 Cor 15:4)

John Lee

Distinguishing Ourselves

When situations become difficult, unfavorable, damaging and even life threatening, sometimes people go by the assurance that God is in control, that there is no reason to do anything because God is the one controlling everything.

Recently, I found myself in situations. I felt so hapless over having no control over my situations that I was furious with Him.

I ran. I hid myself. From God. From everyone. Like [Jonah](#).

Surprise, surprise. God didn't let me run too far or too long. On the 2nd day, while browsing through one of my dance instructors' Instagram, I saw this:

Your strength is made perfect in my weakness.

I recognise this coming from 2 Corinthians 12:9. At that time, I had no idea why this verse stayed in me. Over the next few days, God had me come to the realisation that I do have control over my situations.

The man and his boat

A man was rowing his boat upstream, against the river's strong current. Along the way, he passed larger and more luxurious boats heading downstream. The people on these boats were laughing and drinking, at ease. Sometimes they would look over at the man battling the river's



strong current and mock him.

After some time, the man grew tired and discouraged and put up his oars. Due to his initial momentum, he continued drifting upstream. Then something sad and terrible happened. Even though his boat was pointing upstream, it began drifting downstream.

After some time, he came across another boat that was pointing upstream but drifting with the current. The people there were at ease, laughing and drinking. Since the boat was also pointing upstream, he decided to join them.

Interpretation

The river represents the world, the current as the flow of the world which is under the sway of the evil one. The man in the boat is a fellow believer. By the oars of **God's grace**, the man **has the ability to resist the current** and move upstream to his destiny, advancing in His kingdom.

Sadly, his strength wanes and he grew weary of the fight. Even though he stopped pedaling, he still sees some fruits in his life as he saw his boat continue moving upstream. He erroneously thinks he still leads a successful Christian life. Soon the boat came to a standstill and begins drifting backwards slowly, eventually at the same speed as the current. He now has the appearance of Christianity – knowing the talk, the songs, the mannerisms of the kingdom but in reality, he is conforming to the ways of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

The man spots another boat, a party of 'believers' like him. They too, know the talk, the mannerisms, the songs of the kingdom. They are at ease because they are no longer persecuted and mocked by the non-believing world. They are accepted and sometimes hailed by the

world's top influencers. They no longer press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). These drifting believers have little or no resistance to the ways of the world.

This story depicts 3 types of people:

- **The unbeliever** – drifting with the current, oblivious to the reality of wanting.
- **The believer** – pressing on in the fight of faith for the advancement of the kingdom
- **The deceived** – outward Christian appearance but hides his motives of wanting

Which person do I resemble?

Personal reflections

At first, I was angry at God. If He has control over everything, why did He allow adversity to happen? I know I was being petulant. I might as well be asking why God didn't intervene and slap the forbidden fruit out of Adam's hand. God indeed, has the control and authority but He has also given us the freedom to make our own choices.

He has mapped out our lives, but it is up to us to make the right choices in order to walk in the exhilarating path He created for us. Wrong choices can detour us but genuine repentance can right our ships (as mentioned in my previous [article: Take Cover](#) written

Take cover

Met up with an old friend and the topic of the gravest sins one can commit came up in our conversation. Some of the things we discussed stayed in my mind. I am not sure if it is just me but I feel that as the people around us grow older, the lines between right and wrong seem to blur. Along the way, I hear these...

*That's the way I was raised.
Everyone else does it.
He started it.
I was tired.*

in February). We are called to build bridges between heaven and earth. Life on this earth shouldn't rule us for through the power of Christ we become influencers as we rise above adverse circumstances in life, a light in an unenlightened world, guiding the blind. Each of us is called to a different sector of the society but wherever we are located, we should distinguish ourselves in the midst of a dark society.

God's design is to make us a showcase for Jesus's power. Not necessarily the way the market demands - by getting rid of all our weaknesses (circumstances, situations, experiences and wounds) but by giving us strength to endure and even rejoice in tribulation.

Being connected to God, disciplined in staying close to Him, God will distinguish us from the rest of the world like how He did with Joseph (Genesis 37:2-50:26) and Daniel in the Old Testament. The passing of centuries changes the tests of the faithful very little. The path will always be marked by trial, for this is God's way of proving His sufficiency for every circumstance.

All I need is to have a relentless spirit – to be unyielding in faith, hope and obedience to God regardless the adversity. Not only to start well but also be committed in every way to finish well.

Alicia Wong

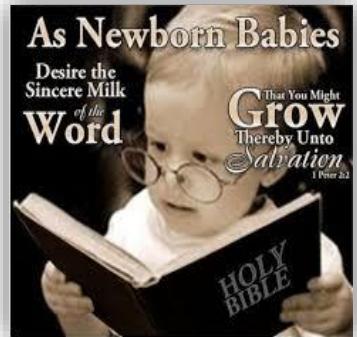


Greetings,

Parents, what do we do in desperate times like this?

With a push of a button, many precautionary measures have been put in place in schools, offices, community areas, shopping malls, hospitals, religious buildings, even at home! Parents are filled with uncertainty and fearful of their children being infected, especially when children are either too young to understand what is personal hygiene or not able to see the seriousness of the current COVID-19 situation. We might see parents ‘drowning’ their children with education about personal hygiene and how to protect themselves day and night (some called that nagging); some parents may possibly also ‘ban’ their children from going out or even schools (maybe not in Singapore). We might see parents stocking up food, medication, diapers, thermometers, hand sanitizers, etc for their children. Parents being parents, will go the extra mile to ensure the safety of their children:- physically.

What about the spirituality of our children in JCC?



With the temporal stand down of JCC's Sunday School, do we, parents, make time to put into place spiritual measures and go the extra mile to 'educate' our children in desperate times like this? Are there teachable moments of where is God and how our children can play their spiritual role during these times of crisis, eg. Being a prayer warrior? Is it an excuse that perhaps our children's spiritual growth is our secondary focus during such a crisis?



Your children may have questions about COVID-19, and about sickness and disease in general. As we talk to them, it might be a good opportunity for us to share how these things relate to our Christian faith. What does the Bible tell us, and what biblical wisdom can we share with our children to point them back to Jesus in such troubled

times?

I recently read an interesting article and have pulled out some pointers to share with all parents:

(cited from <https://biblical-parenting.org/articles/how-to-talk-to-your-children-about-disease/>)

Our Comfort And Confidence Is In God

There is no need to fear any virus because we know that God is more than able to walk His people through sickness, disease and even death. In short, God is our comfort and confidence as we face troubled times.

We know and can trust in Him 100%: God is with us. And, He cares.

Death Came From Sin

The current focus on COVID-19 might be an opportune time to engage our children about the origin of death and what the Bible says about disease and sickness, even to good people like Job. The most important point to emphasise to our children is that even though death is God's judgement for sin, God is in control and He has a plan to save us. **Share with your kids to be other-people centred. In other words, to be loving to others.**

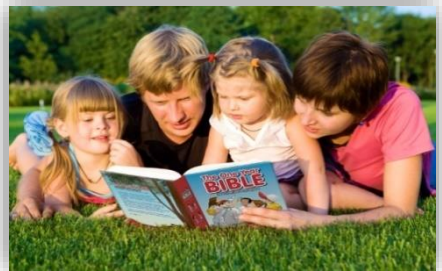
God Is In Control And He Implemented A Plan To Save Us

As Christians, we of all people are able to confidently and joyfully share with our children the happy ending of this story: God is in control. He continued to love the fallen world and sinful man; and He showed this by sending His one and only son Jesus to become a man, take on our sin, and die for us on the cross. Through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, we have been freed from sin and death. What this means is: trusting in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour doesn't just give us comfort and confidence to face troubled times, it also gives us the ultimate hope that even if we die physically, we will live eternally in heaven with God. **There is hope in God, no place for fear and panic.**

Keep Calm and Hope on

Encourage your children to be calm and confident, even as they see others complain, despair, or panic. Keep reminding them to look at the Big Picture Plan that God has already put in place to save us. **Their hope in God is the basis for being calm and confident.**

Parents, in the temporal absence of our Sunday School Teachers during this period (not sure how long the current virus situation would take), and as a parent myself, I urge all of us to rise up to the Call to be Spiritual Teachers of the Word, and be the Shepherds that would give time to love and feed our sheep. Our own children are with us 24 hours day, 7 days a week, if our children are not growing spiritually from us (parents), they will pick up new teachings elsewhere, from social media, from peers, from the world. Parents, who have been consistently disciplined to ensure spiritual teachable moments with your children, give yourself a pat on



your shoulder! BRAVO to you and continue to press on!! Parents, who may be struggling and need additional spiritual materials or resources to teach your children spiritually in this long haul, and needed support, please do check-in with HOM of the Children Ministry.

7 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD GROW SPIRITUALLY

1. MODEL YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE TO THEM.

The reality of anything related to parenting is that you pass on what you do. If you want to pass anything on to your kids spiritually, you must model it for them. They will watch you for 18+ years.



They will see you read your Bible (or not), how often you pray and what your prayers contain (so much is taught in this), how often you attend church and how important spiritual things are to you.

3. READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.



Part of why kids dislike church is they don't understand the relevance of the Bible and the things that happen at church. It is something their parents do, apart from them. So do it with them.

I know this is difficult, and they don't always want to sit still, but doing something is better than nothing.

5. LISTEN TO THEIR QUESTIONS.



This might be one of the most overlooked aspects of your kids' spiritual life because it is out of your control as a parent and doesn't come on a schedule.

But your kids have questions, and when they ask them, engage them. Don't shoo them away or scold them for asking a question. If they are skeptical or have doubts, talk with them. You are telling them it is OK to ask questions, to wonder about something, to be unsure.

7. PRAY FOR THEM AND PRAY TOGETHER AS A FAMILY



If you're a follower of Jesus you know this, but it is easy to overlook the power in it.

If you aren't praying for your kids, who do you think is?

Pray for them. Pray with them. Ask them what you can pray for, even if they say nothing, which will often happen as they get older.

2. INVOLVE THEM IN A CHURCH.

Just like the first one, they will often do what you do. So do what you'd like to see them do. Many times we might hear parents say, "I don't want to force spiritual things onto my kids."



The problem with this is that we don't apply this to anything else. We force our kids to do math, learn a language, eat broccoli, turn off their electronics and take a nap, often when they hate every moment of it.

4. READ BOOKS TO THEM.

One of the things you can do is read books to your kids and discuss the spiritual themes in them.



Whenever we watch a movie, we always talk about how it is like the one true story we see in Scripture. What are the themes and how do those themes influence us?

6. INTERACT WITH THEIR FRIENDS AND TALK WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT HOW TO PICK FRIENDS.

Don't sit on the sidelines when it comes to their friends. You have an enormous impact on their spiritual lives, but so do their friends.



Be involved in that.

Dear Parents, though I have attached some online resources below to aid you in biblical teachings for your child(ren), I would like to encourage and urge you to use the GFH materials (*Growing Faith at Home*) that our church has invested and purchased for our spiritual health and **it's downloadable** from our website.

Click here:

<http://jcc.lutheran.org.sg/family-devotion-materials/>

Remember,

God's Ministry starts **FIRST from the Home,
Regardless of how young or old our children are.**



BIBLE ONLINE RESOURCES

FOR YOUR KIDS

click on link to browse

<https://www.thispilgrimlife.com/bible-resources-for-kids/>

<https://open.life.church/categories/314-kids>

<https://biblestoryprintables.com/>

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/>

<https://kidsbibleinfo.com/bible-guides/>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lessons/>

<https://vibrantchristianliving.com/children-bible-study-method-printable/>

<https://scripturelady.com/free-sunday-school-resources-elementary-children/>

<https://www.sundayschoolsources.com/>

<https://childrensministry.com/free-sunday-school-lessons/>

Jonathan Tan

House Blessing & Fellowship

Abundance Cell Group 2

It was the joy of ABCG 2 that we were able to join Danny, Mong, Lucas, Celest, and Danny's parents at the house blessing on 21 March 2020. The fellowship was simple and heart-warming.

There were prayers and singing in this household of Faith as we journey together, pray, ask and testify God's Grace, seek His Protection and receive His Blessings for the family that we hold dear to our hearts.



Danny and Mong with their family, worship at Jurong Christian Church (JCC). The three generations are attending church and worshipping God together. The family decided to move to have their kids closer to their schools. I believe many of you can attest to this decision as you journey with your kids. This is the sacrifice that Danny and Mong made because of their love for their kids. This love is possible because of the Love from God.



Danny serves behind the scenes as a Charge hand and Mong serves in the kid's church. Danny donated a counting machine to JCC recently. Our prayers for this family as they continue to walk with our Lord Jesus!

To God be the Glory and no pressure for the Cell Group as we gather to fellowship and learn more about God! Be the iron that sharpens one another to always be better for God!

Tony Koh

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" Prov 27:17



We all can understand the generally cheerless mood pervading the country because of Covid-19. This notwithstanding, the Outreach Team believes that life and activities ought to go on as normally as possible.

In the pictures, you see the outreach team in some of the

homes they visited in the Taman Jurong neighbourhood. Bearing sponsored gifts of grocery items (packet rice, biscuits, beverages, cooking oil plus fruits), they brought warmth and cheers to the residents.

Sharing care and concern in the spirit of Christian love, it is the aim of JCC to engage the community to build a healthy relationship in which no one is a stranger.

It was a blessing that the team was able to find the time convenient for 9 homes altogether to welcome the visitation, and that the residents accepted our prayers for them although they are non-Christians.

ABOUT THE PROJECT KAMPUNG SPIRIT

(Feb 2018 - Feb 2020)

The PKS (Project Kampung Spirit) is a project of the Outreach Ministry. It was started in Feb 2018.

It is now 2020, and members of the Outreach Team are still excited about this ongoing project which has shown great promise in fulfilling our

purposes of community engagement.



Ever since the PKS started, the number of residents we engage have been growing. Among them was one friendly and cheerful senior-citizen auntie. Each time we visited her, she would enthusiastically tell us about her children and grandchildren. Her neighbour, another senior citizen, would walk to her house and we would have joyful time of chit-chatting and fellowship together. Rev. Anthony also

conducted holy communion in her home.

Under PKS, we have team members adopting families to look after. There is always joy in sowing love.



Are you excited to know more? Maybe you are thinking of joining the team. 😊

JCCians, come and join us for our next PKS visitation some time in May. It will be a great Christian experience of building bridges to forge new friendship with our neighbours.

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour.” ***–Matthew 5:43***

From: Spurgeon, C. H. (1896). *Morning and evening: Daily readings* (with archaic words translated into modern English)

“Love your neighbour.” Perhaps he rolls in riches, and you are poor, and living in your little cot side-by-side with his lordly mansion; you see every day his estates, his fine linen, and his sumptuous banquets; God has given him these gifts, covet not his wealth, and think no hard thoughts concerning him. Be content with your own lot, if you cannot better it, but do not look upon your neighbour, and wish that he were as yourself. Love him, and then you will not envy him.

Perhaps, on the other hand, you are rich, and near you reside the poor. Do not scorn to call them neighbour. Own that you are bound to love them. The world calls them your inferiors. In what are they inferior? They are far more your equals than your inferiors, for “God has made of one blood all people that dwell upon the face of the earth.” It is your coat which is better than theirs, but you are by no means better than they. They are men, and what are you more than that? Take heed that you love your neighbour even though he be in rags, or sunken in the depths of poverty.

But, perhaps, you say, “I cannot love my neighbours, because for all I do they return ingratitude and contempt.” So much the more room for the heroism of love. Would you be a feather-bed warrior, instead of bearing the rough fight of love? He who dares the most, shall win the most; and if rough be your path of love, tread it boldly, still loving your neighbours through thick and thin. Heap coals of fire on their heads, and if they be hard to please, seek not to please *them*, but to please *your Master*; and remember if *they* spurn your love, your Master has not spurned it, and your deed is as acceptable to him as if it had been acceptable to them. Love your neighbour, for in so doing you are following the footsteps of Christ.

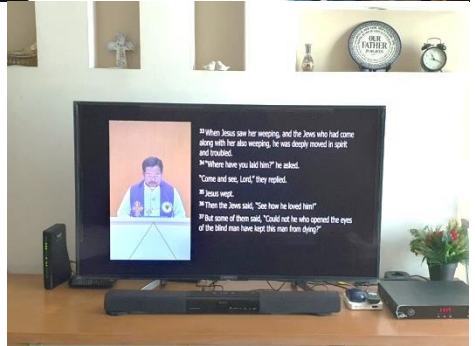
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Worship Service @ home



29 March 2020 – Did it ever cross your mind that one day we will all worship from our living rooms? Well that day is here. The first official live telecast of the LCS Chinese and English worship service was launched today from JCC.

I have watched such services a long time ago while I was holidaying in Australia and I have also watched some preachers on YouTube but I watched in a relaxed, reclining position. Today it was different, I had to stand up to sing and listen to the Gospel and sit on a hard chair to listen to the message. It takes some getting used to.



Overall, it was well done and the team even managed to recover from a hiccup when the camera went blank for a few minutes during the English service. Well done Live Streaming team, you have done great things with a small budget.

In the long term, even after the COVID-19 era, we can continue this service for those who are homebound, travelling overseas, in hospitals or too far from a church.



For the record, 440 viewers tuned in to the Chinese service and 621 to the English service today. If each statistic is a family of 3, then actually 1,320 and 1,863 persons watched the services today. Let's pray that we can even reach out to our non-Christian contacts with the GOSPEL.

Martin Cheah

