

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good



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PRAYER FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY



Epiphany emphasizes REVEALING Christ to the world as the Messiah.

Pray that every Jccian will respond to the CALL to make Christ KNOWN to the world as Messiah through our lives today.

May the world see Christ in action through all of us through our vocations, at all places.



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人生的日子越过越少;
剩下的日子越来越重要!



*As the number of days in
our life get fewer,
the remaining days get
more important!*

STEPPING INTO 2021

By John Lee

We have just stepped into another New Year – which means that we are all one year older, or one year more mature.

“Life is short,” people say. “So, live well.”

To live well has different connotations to different people. It can range from seeking a life of decadent pleasures to living a life that is holy and pleasing to God.

I am reminded of the 17th Century classic *“The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come”* by John Bunyan.

In the book, a hero named CHRISTIAN took advice from a man to flee from the weight of his sin and so he ran crying out *“Life! Life! Eternal life!”* and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. (1 Peter 1:4)

Our life as a pilgrim in this world may be short, but we have an eternal destination (*That Which Is to Come*) past the narrow gate where the light from the Cross shines.

To CHRISTIAN’s friends, named OBSTINATE and PLIABLE, he was being foolish to forsake much of what he had. While these friends fixed their eyes on

what was seen which was temporary, CHRISTIAN wisely pressed on in faith with his eyes on the unseen which is eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

Our existence in godliness is founded *“in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time.”* (Titus 1:2)

As pilgrims, God’s plan for us embeds content with purpose and within such purpose we find value for our sojourn in this world until the time *“the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”* (Ecclesiastes 12:7)

For 20-year-olds, adding a new year to their age gives them cause for celebration that they are joining a new club named ADULTS with all the attendant privileges that they had been looking forward to as “kids”. To a group of adults, adding a new year means an advancement to the respected SENIORS’ CLUB with entitlement to extra benefits denied to “junior adult citizens”.

No matter what your status is, a Chinese idiom 姜是老的辣 (ginger gets spicier as it gets older) provides a positive vibe; the older you get, the wiser you become. There are exceptions, of course, but it is

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certainly fine to hope the best is with us as we enter a New Year, and that spiritual wisdom prevails over temptations towards the foolishness of the world as we face up to our challenging environments.

Life is full of distress because of our sin whereby we dwell under the wrath of God. (Psalms 90:11) We can hold no sins secret in the light of His presence. (Psalms 90:8) *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:9) If we know how to number the days of our life and thereby appreciate how fleeting life is (Psalms 39:4; 90:12), we can wise up to using this little time to seriously do something of eternal significance. The wise heart is the heart that yearns for eternity, humility, service to God and dependence on Him; *"for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."* (Philippians 2:13).

Cherish the dawn of life before it turns to dusk and sunset:

"Honor and enjoy your Creator while you're still young,

Before the years take their toll and your vigor wanes,

Before your vision dims and the world blurs

And the winter years keep you close to the fire. "

- Ecclesiastes 12:1-2ff (MSG)

If indeed we grow one year older and wiser into the New Year, knowing that our days are numbered, we want our work to count and bear fruit; we want to see God's eternal plan and glory through our work.

No matter what work we are called and equipped to do with our blessed talent, we play a role producing a whole tapestry of beauty, thanks to the willing partnerships of brethren in Christ. No matter which stage of life we are at, God is with us if we do not forsake Him. *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."* (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

RESTORATIVE PARENTING WORKSHOP: CHILDREN (5-12yrs)

Saturday 20 March 2021, 2 - 5pm
@ Jurong Christian Church, MPH 1

This workshop is specially organised to equip parents with principles and skills in parenting, with a focus on having effective and restorative conversations, building relationships and resolving conflict between children and parents. Lutheran Community Care Services (LCCS) trainers will guide participants through challenges in raising the next generation.

Note: workshop fee is subsidised by JCC and is limited to 40 participants. Priority is given to JCC members. Register by 7 March 2021.



Register now via the QR Code or forms.gle/2M1q77h4XG68n2hDA





JOSHUA CULTURE 23

By John Lee

There are many examples of mentorship (discipleship) in the Bible. A noteworthy example is Moses' mentoring of Joshua for several years. In time when Moses became old, Joshua was ready to take over the baton of leadership from Moses to lead God's people into the promised land. (Deuteronomy 31:1-8)

The mentorship process did not stop at Joshua. In fact, Joshua went on to mentor the leaders under him. In time, Joshua himself became old. Before passing away, he summoned all Israel to make his farewell address. The success of the Joshua Culture of mentorship:

"Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel."

- Joshua 24:31

How is our mentorship programme, JOSHUA CULTURE 23, doing for disciple-making (leadership formation) in JCC?

Do we have mentors like Jethro to Moses, Moses to Joshua, and Joshua to others – wise and trusted positive role models keenly interested in forming a productive mentoring relationship with their mentees?

Do we have mentees like Moses to Jethro, Joshua to Moses, and others to Joshua – humble, showing good potential with love and dedication to the Lord?

Thank God for our mentors and mentees. Below are testimonies from two of our mentees under the JC23 programme. We welcome:

- Others under the programme (mentors or mentees) to share their testimonies;
- More JCCians to join the JC23 as mentors or mentees.

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JC23 Testimony by Haniel Mentored by Henry Lim

Hello, my name is Haniel and I would like to share about my experience in JC23.

Growing up I have always wanted to grow deeper in the Word and to have a close relationship with God. However, because my flesh is weak, I often drift away from the path of walking with God. I succumb easily to natural human desires for academic grades, accolades, etc. Sometimes, I find it a real struggle to be good in my words, thoughts and deeds as a Christian, especially when times are rough and things get unpredictable. Thus, I was keen to join this JC23 programme to strengthen my spiritual discipline with the help from a mature Christian who might have gone through a similar experience as mine.

I am very blessed to have brother Henry as my mentor to guide me to stick to the right path of a Christ-like life. I was encouraged by Rev. Anthony to share this testimony of my experience. I was hesitant at first, being a new participant in the programme. However, through the preparation of this testimony, I am reminded of how blessed I am to have a mentor to guide and shape me into what God really wants me to be. I pray fervently that in 2021 I will be able to grow deeper in Christ together with my mentor, brother Henry.

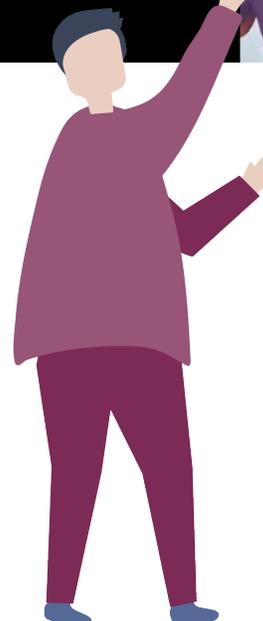
JC23 Testimony by Roger Mentored by Lawrence

Hello, my name is Roger and I am gladly in the Joshua Culture 23 programme with brother Lawrence as my mentor.

I would like to share a little about my experience in the programme.

My mentor and I had our first meeting just a few months ago to get to understand and warm up to each other. We shared about the Word and how God can impact our lives.

Through the Word, brother Lawrence has impressed upon me the need to rest from my busy schedule. I am encouraged by the open sharing and the support in this JC23 journey. We will progress through learning the Word together, exploring spiritual living, spiritual fruitfulness, spiritual warfare and other spiritual stuff.



Click to hear Haniel and Roger share their testimonies here and above instead.



EZEKIEL 1:28

By Alicia Wong

“Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”

Just started on the book of Ezekiel Chapter 1 and I still find myself pondering on its contents over the next few days. I was struck by the kaleidoscopic visions that Ezekiel saw that seem more like Star Wars than Scripture. Four-winged human being with four faces – on wheels? Why would God give this wild vision to Ezekiel? Must be to enable him to press on in his difficult ministry. This is probably a one-of-a-kind experience that Ezekiel would return to for the rest of his life. The vision of an all-powerful, majestic God leaves no doubt He is the absolute Sovereign over all creation and history.

Talking about his difficult ministry, Ezekiel, like most of the Biblical prophets, endured his share of shame and often appear foolish to his people. I certainly do not think that being a prophet is his dream job so what sustained him in such a difficult and thankless task?

Reading about Ezekiel reminds me of a conversation I shared with a sister (a senior in my dance class) a few months back regarding my call to dance for God. Something she remarked struck me. That I could not sustain what I am currently doing on my own if I was not called to it. The conversation directed me to the thought of my brothers and sisters in their respective ministries. I am sure there are days where we feel unrewarded. On such days, where do we usually look for motivation? I recalled that in the past, I would remark to my husband that I wish God would speak to me through a burning bush instead of beating around it. Nowadays, I do not need to look far. He reveals Himself to me through people, the Word, music and dance. His beauty and majesty encourage and strengthen me.

What is your vision of God? What keeps you staying with the job He has called you to do? Whatever your task, boldly ask the holy, Sovereign God of Ezekiel to reveal Himself to you. May He sustain, encourage, direct or even inspire you in your ministry, task or job.

THANKSGIVINGS OF 2020



Going Through a Difficult Year with God's Blessings

By Chih Chiang

2020 was a very difficult year for most of us. Despite that, we can still choose to remember God's goodness and acknowledge His sovereignty in our lives. A central theme for me personally will be that God is my Jehovah Jireh. He is the God who sees and provides for me. I count my blessings in three areas of His provision: Health, Shelter and Money.

Health

I fell ill frequently from 2019 to the early part of

2020, I caught a bacterial infection in my lungs. Since then, I have adjusted my eating habits to eat more fruits and vegetables. I thank God that I have been well during this COVID-19 period.

Shelter

I thank God for a room at Admiralty that my wife and I have rented since early this year. We have freedom to cook and to use the landlord's home appliances. God has answered our prayers for a house of our own by providing us a 3-room HDB flat that will be ready in 2021.

Money

Many know the ministry calling for me and my wife to serve in Thailand with Thailand Campus Crusade for Christ for a 1-year ministry assignment in 2020. God fully covered our financial needs through JCC and the church members. Due to COVID-19, we were stuck in Singapore, but God provided for us opportunities to do our ministry online with our Thai colleagues.

Give thanks to God for His provisions and leading through the challenging circumstances!

Divine Healing For My Third Brother

By Seline Ng

Glory and praise to our great and mighty God for His grace and mercy in blessing my third brother with divine healing!

On May 2, 2020 at 9.20 a.m., my 55-year-old third brother suffered a serious stroke with bleeding in his left brain. His brain swelled.

The doctor advised surgery. He also mentioned that it was uncommon for someone at such an age to have a serious stroke. He felt that if my third brother did not regain consciousness, he would always need someone to assist him because he

continued next page



would then not be able to use his right hand and legs. Our hearts plunged.

A few hours after he was admitted into ICU at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the scan results showed he had white patches in his lungs also, which they suspected could be COVID-19. He was then transferred immediately to an insolation room in NCID. After a few swab tests showed negative results, he was transferred back to ICU two days later.

Visitors were not allowed, but the doctor would still update family members on his condition once a day. My family, together with brothers and sisters in JCC, could only pray earnestly and plead for God's

divine healing. We trusted that nothing was impossible for our Almighty Lord, who is our Jehovah Rapha.

The bleeding in the brain stopped and the swelling subsided; my third brother didn't have to undergo brain surgery. After nine days of unconsciousness, he awoke and stayed in the hospital for two months.

He has recovered about 80%. He is now able to talk, eat, do most of the basic daily activities and walk slowly on his own. We are really thankful to our loving Heavenly Abba Father for His divine healing. We exalt His Name. All glory be unto Him!



My Husband's Healing

By Lily Lee

2019 was a very taxing and challenging year for me; so, when 2020 came along I thought it would be better but it turned out to be even more challenging.

In July 2020, my husband David was diagnosed with a brain tumour (second stage). He went through nine hours of surgery. Thank God it was a successful one.

A few days after his brain surgery, he had swelling

eyes and nosebleed. To stop the bleeding, he underwent a nasal surgery. He stayed in NUH for a month.

After his discharge he still needed to go for physiotherapy at St Luke's Hospital. A month later his MRI scan showed there was still some residue of the tumour near his right optic nerves. He needed to go for six weeks of radiotherapy.

Going through this season of stress and fatigue, faith in Christ gave my family the strength and hope to persevere. As a caregiver going through the tough moments, I learnt to lean upon God, trusting in His love and mercy. God is good. I give thanks to Him for my husband's healing.

I am also very thankful to God for my two children and my son-in-law for their love and support. Just as importantly, I give thanks for the big family in JCC for the love, care, concern, support and prayers: Rev. Anthony, Deacon Peter and the Hokkien fellowship, my mentor Beng Lay, CG members and many more among my brothers and sisters in Christ.

God has inspired me to be a good steward, to serve with joy and a willing heart. He assures that He is in control of all situations. He is always with us. He is watching and will never forsake us.

IS THERE ANY OTHER WAY?

By Martin Cheah

Galatians 2:21

"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Acts 4:11-12

This Jesus is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.' Salvation exists in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.

How can anyone be saved?

John 3:16-18

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. For God did not send

His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever **believes** in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not **believe** has already been condemned, because he has not **believed** in the name of God's one and only Son....

Acts 16:30-31

Then he brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household."

John 20:29

"Because you have seen me, you have **believed**; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have **believed**."



Your story is God's story. He is the author of our lives. How has God written the chapters of yours?

Send your story to jccwinepress@gmail.com
We'll get it ready for an upcoming issue.

Share your testimony



WHY EVERY MEMBER SHOULD BE IN A CELL GROUP

By Rev. Fredric Lee

We are born into the family of God

Just as people are born into a family of brothers, sisters, uncles and aunts, Christians are born into the family of God, the big family of the Church. You and every believer in JCC are re-born into the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. “We were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body.” (1 Cor 12:13a).

The Covid-19 situation has made us spend more time with our families and reminded us how essential the family is. A healthy family relationship strengthens us not only emotionally but also spiritually.

However, interaction like shaking hands, having a conversation, and gathering after Worship Service in Church are now not allowed. This affects our congregational fellowship and the opportunity to encourage one another in the Lord. If you are not in a Cell Group, you will be even more isolated.

God's family come together

Among other core essentials, the early church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and to fellowship ...,” gathered in homes, shared their possessions, and “ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God ... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:42ff) It is a church filled with care for one another in God’s family. A church that gathers together very often to eat together. A church rejoicing in the Lord, worshipping together. A church growing in the apostles’ teaching and in number.

Although a Cell Group is a small gathering of brothers and sisters, it is essential to our spiritual well-being, especially so in this time when we need the fellowship of God’s family even more.

JCC, God's family growing in CG

As members of Christ’s body in JCC we need one

continued next page

another. One part of the body cannot exist alone. "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'" (1 Cor 12:21)

We need to come together to experience the life and fellowship of God's family, and a small group gathering such as a Cell Group plays an essential role of meeting our need of fellowship, worship, prayer, learning from God's Word and growing spiritually.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

- Hebrews 10:24-25

Our CG ministry helps us grow in Christlikeness through CEMR (Connect, Equip, Mentor, Release) in order to fulfil God's Great Commandment and Commission.

In the CG we can connect with one another at a deeper level to encourage one another, care for one another, pray for one another and spur each other to grow together. We make time to worship together inspiring love for the Lord and stirring one another to love and good works. We learn to serve each other. We study God's Word and learn to apply His teaching in our lives. We grow in discipleship and are released to reach out to newcomers and non-Christians. Serving in the CG ministry will bear the fruit of new leaders. Praise the Lord!

If you are not in a CG, let 2021 be the year you join one.



In this segment, WinePress invites cell group leaders in JCC to share more about their vision and the different ways they strengthen fellowship and celebrate their love for God.



Introducing the Cell Group: FROGPOLE CG By Isaac Yee

In January 2010, an unassuming group of young Christians from Jurong Christian Church was tasked to decide on a name that would define them for the rest of their life on Earth. Being guided by the Holy Spirit and their knowledge of primary school level biology, we were henceforth known as 'Frogpole'. No, it is not a pole for frogs nor a pole made of frogs.

We defined Frogpole to be the stage where the tadpole has grown its legs but is not yet a fully-formed frog as it has not lost its tail. It is this stage of incompleteness that we thought would be the perfect representation of Christians living on Earth - we are constantly being transformed by God into Christ-likeness but never completely reaching a state of perfection until we enter His heavenly kingdom. This spurs us to

continued next page

continue feeding on God's word, praying and growing in the Spirit as we look forward to our complete transformation.

This is reflected in our theme verse, James 1-2-3-4 (James 1:2-4):

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

Over the past 10 years, we have indeed faced trials

of many kinds - battling the ‘Zzz’ monster and attending cell group every week in church at 9am, being tested by our cell leaders on our theme verse once every 3 years, sharing our cell leaders with their spouses after they got married, giving up our games and shows to pray with one another on Fridays, joined several spontaneous overnight cycling challenges, and much more. By God's grace, we have thrived amidst these trials and are now serving in many areas in Jurong Christian Church, some with disciples of our own. We look forward to many more years of serving and growing with you, till the day we finally lose our tails and become complete in Christ!



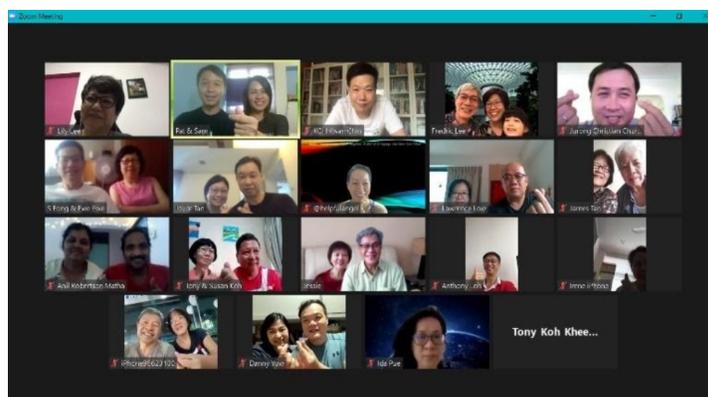
♥ PASTORS' APPRECIATION

By Teck Chai & Joyce

We thank God all the time for the Pastors, leaders, brothers and sisters-in-Christ at Jurong Christian Church (JCC). This year, Tony, our Cell Group (CG) leader reminded the Core teams and fellow CG members that we should continue the appreciation for our Pastors, Deacon and Parish Workers. Teck Chai was tasked to lead the effort of expressing appreciation, mobilising the ABCG 1 and 2 groups into action! Give thanks to God!

Lo and Behold! We had such a wonderful time with the Pastoral team. ABCG members in attendance were all in good spirits. It is our prayers that all of us will continue our walk with God, deepening our understanding of His Word and showing His Love through our actions because HE is our God, Saviour, Redeemer and friend.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. cf Acts 20:35.



Zoom Appreciation on 26 Dec 2020

We were pleasantly surprised that Deacon Peter in turn sent us an encouraging video:



OPEN TALK WITH GOD

With Bryan Tay



Dear Lord,
I feel anxious and uncertain about my future.
I do not seem to know what I am doing or where I am heading.
I need clarity.
I want to know YOUR WILL and plan for my life.

HOW CAN I KNOW YOUR WILL?

My precious child,
I have a good plan for your life.
I have said it in my WORD and I will do it.
You need to spend time to understand my WORD and act on it with faith and courage.
I promise to lead and guide you all the way.

ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT IT?

Upsize your faith ... **Go BIG!**

Believe In God!

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- Jeremiah 29:11

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, *nor his ear too dull to hear.*

- Isaiah 59:1

'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'

- Jeremiah 33:3

What You'll Learn About:

- God and His Son
- Faith and Belief
- Heaven and Hell
- Church and Fellowship
- Sin and Forgiveness
- and much more!

LUTHERANISM 101 - PART 1

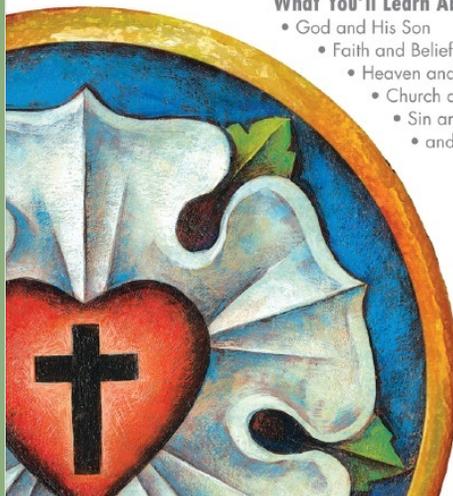
LCS Course for Credit Programme - 3 credits, 8 sessions

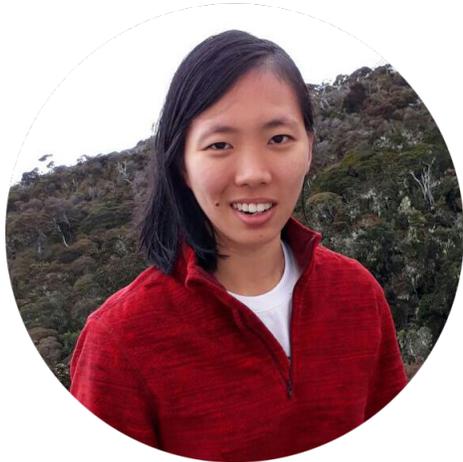
Every Saturday from 20 Feb - 10 Apr 2021, 10.30 am - 12 noon
@ Jurong Christian Church and Zoom
By Rev Fredric Lee Tiong Chen (Jurong Christian Church)

[Click to Register](#)

Pay \$10 to register and \$36 for the textbook by online transfer to Lutheran Church in Singapore, UOB Acc. 347-302-242-5

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NEW YEAR, NEW STAFF

By Kylie Chia

It is the new year. As this spells new beginnings (and hopefully a better future), Jurong Christian Church receives a new staff into the family. Kylie Chia, a recent Corporate Communications addition, assists with streamlining and improving our various online platforms. Alicia Wong finds out more about her.

Alicia: Describe your spiritual journey briefly.

Kylie: Despite having grown up as a teen in church, it was a staff in the missional agency, Singapore Youth For Christ (SYFC), who provided the foundation for my faith in Christ as well as taught me the dire need of sharing the Good News. Later, a Singapore Polytechnic Navigators Club staff assimilated me into fellowship, in-depth study of the Word and mentoring those we led to Christ. I had to make an intentional lordship decision then, about living the rest of my life for myself or for Christ. From young, I had figured my life was not my own anyway (being asthmatic, you feel your mortality quickly). However long or short a life I lived, I'd determined to give my best to live my best; and since God knew best, He was one I could live for. Hence, with the major lordship life decision (commitment to obedience) made, the little daily life decisions (acts of obedience) now fall into place more easily.

Alicia: How had the past year been for you?

Kylie: I was unemployed for a good part of 2020 due to Covid-19. I had left my job with The Navigators Singapore in January 2020 as Corporate Communications staff to pursue a fitness business idea in Johor, with the concept of Business-As-Missions (BAM) and as outreach to the youth within a Johor residential estate. When God shot down the idea with the lockdown, I was upset that the culmination of years of spiritual and physical training had ground to a sudden halt. Angry with what was happening globally, I

redirected my energy into self-publishing my first book "Faith of a Woman" and making some pocket money from personal fitness training and GrabFood delivery.

The effects of COVID-19 are still felt this year, and perhaps will last for years to come. Joel 2:23-27 nonetheless holds a powerful promise for the new year, "I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten ... You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed."

Alicia: What do you think is an important value for believers?

Kylie: The Kingdom of God is one that sees all His people advance together towards a common goal: becoming more like Christ. Our English congregation's theme of 2021 is "Discipleship: Be One, Make One, As One"; that is, being a disciple and a disciple-maker in unison with the body of Christ. I believe this should be the lifelong goal of any and every believer. This combined with the Chinese congregation's theme "在基督里的盼望" or "Finding Hope in Christ" should be the compelling reason for our vision for this year and beyond.

Alicia: On a side note, what do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Kylie: I hit the gym weekly, go on monthly nature hikes with friends, and am currently helping a senior friend produce her non-fiction Christian literature book.



OUR BEGINNINGS

By Tan Swee Leong

“REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY OF JCC” is a series we will be featuring in THE WINEPRESS to provide JCC members and friends a look-back to our beginnings and the journey we have taken to reach who we are today. The reflections are those of our founding missionary pastors, our ministry leaders and those who have contributed to building the spiritual body. These reflections contain many lessons for us and give us an understanding of our roots, heritage and how God has been at work leading us. To the younger generation, may these lessons not be lost but be the foundations to build upon as the Church transitions through the generations.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR BEGININGS

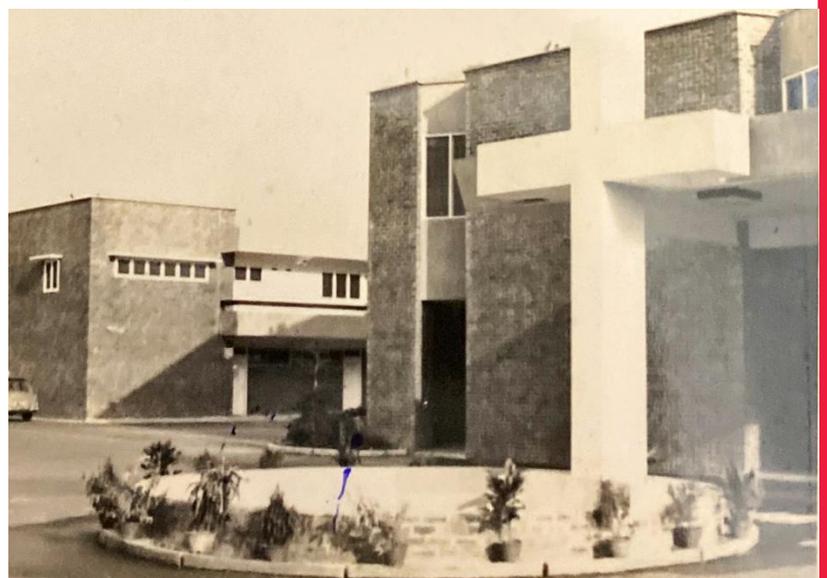
In 1965, Singapore was a young struggling independent country trying to establish herself and find her place in the world. Jurong had been earmarked as the area for a major industrialisation programme. Taman Jurong was a new satellite town serving as a key housing estate for workers

in the industrial estate. Residents in Taman Jurong comprised Malaysians who came to Singapore to seek employment and locals who were resettled from their kampongs. It was a fresh beginning for this ‘ulu’ part of the island.

A SOMEWHAT TURBULENT START

Providentially, the Lutheran Church in America which had started work in Malaysia since 1953, extended its work in Singapore establishing Lutheran Church of our Redeemer in 1960 and Queenstown Lutheran Church (QLC) in 1965. Jurong presented an opportunity for another Church in this new town. Initial work was started in 1966 in a shophouse at Block 61, Corporation Drive directly across from where JCC currently stands.

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Pastor John Nelson who was then pastoring QLC was assigned to start the work on a part-time basis and Paul Chong was assigned as an evangelist. In Feb 1967 Anita Ewing joined as a non-pastoral staff. In May 1967, Rev Daniel Nelsson, a Swedish Lutheran pastor, was assigned from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia as the Senior Pastor.

Jurong Christian Church at 2 Tah Ching Road was completed and dedicated on July 28, 1968. Financed by a grant from Board of World Mission (BWM) and the Bread for the World organisation, the project cost \$300,000. The Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore (LCMS) allowed a part of the Church premises to be used as a Civic Centre supervised by the Singapore Industrial Mission (SIM) which was later renamed Jurong Industrial Mission (JIM). This was a project aimed at providing the community needs of the new township. In Nov 1968, the SIM invited Ronald Fujiyoshi to spearhead the work and train Community Officers (CO).

However, problems soon arose as the aggressive approaches of the COs caused tensions with various parties overseeing the development of Jurong. To draw the community to the Civic Centre, the COs allowed community activities and even non-Christian religious groups to perform ceremonies within the Church premises. Members of the Church found these activities objectionable and raised the issue with LCMS requesting that JIM leave its premises. In July 1971, the Registrar of Society disallowed Jurong Christian Church from using its premises as a Civic Centre and in Jan 1972 JIM ceased its activities.

Reflecting on this development, there are lessons on community engagement while keeping true to our faith, no compromise.

1st Easter Sunday School at shophouse Blk 61





REFLECTIONS OF A PIONEER MEMBER

By Julie Kao née Yow Swee Kee



How shall I begin to write about half a century worth of memories?

My parents worshipped at the Chinese service during the founding years of JCC under Pastor Chin and Pastor Han. My younger brother Sai Cheong and I were already exposed to worship during our kindergarten years, but we did not attend Sunday school until our Japanese neighbours invited me to join the Sunday School held in JCC.

I do not know how the Japanese Sunday School came about in JCC, but our teachers Mr. Ogawa and Mr. Makino were associated with OM (Operation Mobilization). Would be interesting to find out how a Japanese Sunday School got started in JCC. Sometime later, the Japanese Sunday School was discontinued and I stopped attending. My neighbor, Betsy Cheong asked me to join the English Sunday School during my Primary School days. I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart when I was in Secondary One and truly experienced God's goodness, grace and mercy.

I remember vividly that Sunday School would organize outings and one such outing was going to a place to swim. It was not exactly a swimming pool. (I realized later that it was the workplace of one of our church members - Uncle George.) These were simple pleasures which we enjoyed.

JCC then had a big circular pond in the front driveway and this pond would be filled with water during baptism. We held barbeque parties on the 3rd floor rooftop. At that time, the Sanctuary and Parish Hall were separated by a huge full-height sliding wooden partition. When we had combined services and needed a larger hall, members would physically slide the partition open so that the Sanctuary and Parish Hall would be connected as a single large space. It required the effort of more

than 10 people and even more in the later years as the partition tended to get jammed. I am always amazed at how this worked and looking back, the architecture for our old church building was really advanced in design. There was a stage in the Parish Hall which hid a storage space beneath it where we would store all kinds of things like Christmas props and unused furniture.

Today, we have a small chapel on the 5th floor which is modelled after the old church sanctuary; I thank God that our memory of the old JCC is preserved in some form. It evokes very special and personal reminiscences for those who have lived and grown up through the years in JCC.

This is the place where I grew up - went through my childhood, teenage angst, exciting adulthood, got married, became a parent and a grandparent. As members we are all still making history by continuing God's story and may God continue to bless Jurong Christian Church that we can be a blessing to others.

Coming next: Reflections on the Journey of JCC ... Our Missionary Roots and Calling



From left: Swee Leong, Rev. Nelson, Wilfred and Julie



LUTHERAN MEMBERS' TOUR OF JCC

By Peggy Tan

As part of LCS' 60th anniversary celebrations, our Lutheran brother Lim Chee Peng of LCOR organised the Lutheran Bus Trail to bring the Lutheran community closer together as they visited the five congregations under the LCS umbrella.

His motivation: "We are often too busy with our respective fellowship and ministry groups to see the bigger picture of what God is doing through our small denomination amongst other more established church groups in Singapore. It is especially important for the younger generation of Lutheran members to understand the sacrifices and efforts of those who established the foundation of our current churches, as it will lead us to ponder over the legacy we wish to leave to those who will come after us."

On 12th Dec 2020, we were glad to welcome our



Rev Samuel Wang (left) shares about our ecumenical past while Bishop Terry Kee shares his story too.

fellow LCOR brothers and sisters, showing them around JCC and sharing with them our pioneering days in Jurong and the noteworthy milestones on our journey in the Lord's service.

Bishop Terry Kee also shared significant memories of our heritage.

We recollected with gratefulness the many blessings God has bestowed on us by His grace.

Here is a sample of much positive feedback from the participants on their bus-trail experience:

- "God can do a mighty work out of small beginnings. Hearing these stories inspires us."
- "It will help to justify and explain the need for



Rev Mike Hoffman sharing about the Seafarer's ministry.

continued next page

and the presence of Lutheran churches in the various locations and Singapore. Knowing what and how the pioneers did will encourage church planting and evangelism."

- "It reminded us that God is omnipresent. How our earlier brothers & sisters obeyed and trusted God and now we can witness the fruition of the churches."
- "The LCS have a common identity and that should not be forgotten. We have marvellous lay leaders and pastors working together ministering to the community around us, building the nation, ultimately bringing God's kingdom into hearts that wait to be filled."

These two are particularly apt:

- "Each Lutheran congregation has a part in Singapore history and growth."
- "To remind us the work of our pioneers to advance the gospel and how we should continue to do the same."



In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked Peter, James and John to keep watch and pray. Did He need the support of His group to pray for Him, together with Him? Perhaps not, since He is the Son of God. Some commentators think that He was giving them the opportunity to help Him in His hour of deepest agony. However, they fell asleep and lost the opportunity.

Cell groups during the time of ACTS, "were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42, NASB). Group or corporate prayer knits believers together and encourages the troubled one. When a group of believers pray together, the result is unity. "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12) "Again, truly I tell you

IS GROUP PRAYER NECESSARY?

By Martin Cheah

that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

In December 2020, a member of Jurong West CG (JWCG) requested for prayer for her knee problem and I also requested the group to pray for my mother-in-law who was hospitalized with a swollen leg due to water retention. Praise the Lord, both prayers were answered.

Sometimes we hear people say, "Don't be a Lone Ranger Christian". Actually, the Lone Ranger had a companion, Tonto. We all need each other to be "As ONE".



NEW YEAR QUIZ

The year 2020 is now history, the old leaf blotted with the marks of despair resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. We have just turned a new leaf of our calendar – a new leaf, unspotted. Does it bring us fresh hope, or does it still fill us with anxiety as we trek on a path unknown?

May our contemplation on this quiz inspire us with hope.

1. The first of January is the first day in the _____ calendar.
 - a. Christian
 - b. Egyptian
 - c. Gregorian
 - d. Hebrew
2. Chinese New Year is also known as “Spring Festival” in China. Which of the following festivals are also celebrated during nature’s season of spring:
 - a. Easter
 - b. The Passover
 - c. The Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - d. All the above
3. Each of the following Bible passages says something positive about spring. Which one tells us that spring is nature’s season of regeneration emerging from winter?
 - a. Song of Solomon 2:11-13a (blossoming of fresh life and fragrance)
 - b. Ps 104:10-13 (very much desired divine blessings)
 - c. Isa 41:17-20 (barren land blossoming with life by the hand of God)
 - d. None of the above
4. When things looked hopeless, the suffering of the people would not be permanent. God’s assurance in Isa 43:19 is that:
 - a. He is making a way to meet the people’s needs.
 - b. Springs will arise in the mountains and hills.
 - c. He is making a new thing to stamp His authority.
 - d. He will make Israel prosper.
5. New Year means new things, new experience, new happiness and disappointments, new friends, new job, new bank account, etc. Which of the following NEW thing mentioned in the Bible verses is not welcome?
 - a. NEW king (Ex 1:8)
 - b. NEW “natural” benefits of the land for faithfulness to God’s commands (Deu 11:13-15)
 - c. NEW creation (2 Cor 5:17)
 - d. NEW house as reason for exemption from going to war (Deu 20:5)
6. New Year can also mean another year on the path unknown, another year to trust Jesus, another year to serve Him. Which of the following does not instruct the Christian on holding the right attitude in the New Year?
 - a. Philippians 4:6
 - b. Jeremiah 29:11
 - c. Ephesians 4:22-24
 - d. Psalm 20:4
7. Which of the following is JCC’s theme for 2021?
 - a. Connect, Equip, Mentor, Release
 - b. Discipleship
 - c. Empowered
 - d. Impact 5

8. Which of the following is good for New Year resolution?

- a. Delight in the Word of God, making a regular habit to study the Bible.
- b. Build bridges, not walls. (Actively participate in Cell Group fellowship.)
- c. Resolve to devote myself in the Lord's service in at least one ministry area.
- d. All the above.

9. Moving into 2021, the new ministry team with technical expertise to spearhead the development of JCC's online presence is called:

- a. JCC Internet & Social Media Brigade
- b. The Techannels Team
- c. JCC-SMF (JCC Social Media Force)
- d. The WinePRESS

10. Which of the following can help us to start the New Year right?

- a. Prov 14:30 (Have a heart at peace.)
- b. Philippians 4:6 (Be anxious for nothing.)
- c. Prov 3:5-6 (Trust in the Lord; do not lean on your own understanding.)
- d. All the above.

Answers to New Year Quiz above: 1c, 2d, 3a, 4a, 5a, 6d, 7b, 8d, 9b, 10d

ANSWERS FOR LUTHERAN CONNECTION (DEC QUIZ)

1. A seminal figure in Lutheranism is: (c) Martin Luther.
2. The confessions of the Lutheran Church are contained in: (a) The Book of Concord.
3. An indulgence offered for sale by the Roman Catholic Church was: (a) A piece of paper issued by the Pope granting pardon for sins.
4. _____ does not belong to the Lutheran Church: (d) The Tridentine Creed.
5. This hymn was famously written by Martin Luther: (c) A Mighty Fortress is our God.
6. The Lutheran Study Bible is: (b) A reference resource with useful notes aiding bible study.
7. Reformation Day falls on: (a) The last day of October every year.
8. Martin Luther was summoned to the Diet of Worms. (a) He was then outlawed.
9. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melancthon for the following reason: (d) Defend the Augsburg Confession.
10. All the following are required to constitute a Sacrament: (d) God's institution; Earthly, visible element(s); Impartation of divine grace.
11. Holding sacraments as real means of grace (contrast "mere outward signs of an inward grace"), the sacraments in the Lutheran Church are limited to: (a) Baptism and Holy Communion.
12. When a pastor says, "The Lord be with you," the typical Lutheran response is: (c) "And also with you."
13. Which of the following is not a watchword of The Reformation? (c) Soli Credo.
14. Martin Luther translated the Bible into: (b) German.
15. The Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS) is affiliated with: (b) ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).
16. The LCS is also affiliated with: (d) Lutheran Church of Australia; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria; Lutheran Church in Malaysia.
17. Including JCC, the LCS has (b) 5 congregations across Singapore.
18. The following is not one of the Missions of LCS: (a) Malaysia Mission.
19. Lutherans believe that salvation is: (a) 100% God's work.
20. Lutherans are well-pleased to be Lutherans because: (b) They have the conviction that Lutheran theology faithfully proclaims the freedom we have in Christ.