

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good



What's inside?

2 WAIT ON GOD, AND PRAY,
DURING CRISIS TIME

4 THE GOLD STANDARD

7 REFLECTIONS OF THE
FOUNDING COORDINATOR OF
PULSE MINISTRY

14 A WALK IN THE GARDEN ON
EASTER SUNDAY

PRAYER FOCUS FOR JUNE

- Wisdom for our councilmen and pastoral staff to lead JCC to fulfil His plan for the church.
- Opening of doors for Project Goshen (G47). Pray for good opportunities to build bridges with our community and to touch lives.
- JCCians to continue their keen participation in our discipleship program (JC23) – to grow together in the Lord, sharpening each other to be fruitful in God's ministry.
- "David and Goliath" (our childcare centre) to be effective as God's channel for JCC to touch young lives and be a blessing to the community.
- God's Presence to be experienced by all participants in our online ministry/seminars/workshops for children, youth, young adults and adults.
- Pray also that the Holy Spirit will empower our Online Sunday Worship Service to be spiritually impactful – inspiring worshippers (believers and pre-believers) to respond to God's Word.

 **SUBSCRIBE NOW**

Not subscribed yet? Get The WinePress newsletter delivered straight to your inbox every month.

 Simply email us at jccwinepress@gmail.com



WAIT ON GOD, AND PRAY, DURING CRISIS TIME

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

Many were held on tenterhooks when clusters of Covid-19 cases formed quickly over a few short weeks this month. My messaging apps blinked non-stop as questions were raised by concerned church members on what we would have to do about it.

Although we were better prepared for contingencies this time round, we were still somewhat taken aback by the government's swift announcement of stricter safety measures, with the tightening of rules covering church activities.

The JCC's Covid-19 taskforce and leaders of the church who had been coping with ever-changing guidelines scrambled again at short notice to inform church members of the latest restrictions affecting our on-site worship services.

All in all, the church is in for a bumpy ride again!

With all our plans out of joint, the stifled moods of JCCians are understandable. Yet, despite an overcast sky, we are never out of God's sight.

We may not have all the answers to the problems that the world is facing because of Covid-19, but we can trust God and rely on His grace and guidance.

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

THE STRAITS TIMES

Offices, malls, hawker centres quiet as new curbs kick in

Anjali Raguraman, Luqmanul Hakim Ismail and Ivan Kwee

Many office buildings and hawker centres lost their usual buzz as Singapore defaulted to working from home under tightened restrictions yesterday.

While queues of up to 15 officegoers getting takeaway food were seen at Market Street Interm Hawker Centre yesterday, another lunchtime hot spot, Lau Pa Sat in Tanjong Pagar, was almost empty.

Ms Shanas Ibrahim, 32, a sales assistant who works in Tanjong Pagar, welcomes the return of work-from-home as the default so she can spend more time with her two-year-old child.

"It is a win-win situation for me," Ms Shanas said. She has also stopped sending her elder daughter to pre-school as a precaution.

Law firm OC Queen Street has allowed all its employees to work from home by default for over a year, and is already considering downsizing the office and keeping only meeting spaces once the lease expires next year.

"We are working towards an



The usual office crowd was missing in Raffles Place at 8.40am yesterday, as Singapore moved to working from home as the default. ST PHOTO: JASON QUAH

RETAILED547 continued on A2

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

WAITING ON GOD

In Psalm 27, David expresses his confidence in God when besieged by his enemies. In time of crisis, we can follow the example of David in expressing our triumphant faith. We have no fear because God is our light and our salvation and is the stronghold of our life. (v. 1)

continued on the next page

Therefore, *“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!” (v. 14, NKJV)*

I concur with J. Gaston who defines “Waiting on God” as “Remaining in readiness for some purpose.”

It is not to drag ourselves down with weariness, fear, despair or hopelessness; but getting ourselves ready for actions in God’s Time!

Let us learn to develop David’s attitude toward Waiting on God in times of trials:

1. Being patient – *“I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry.” (Ps 40:1)*
2. Rejection of distractions – *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.” (Ps 37:7)*
3. A sense of longing for Him – *“I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.” (Ps 130:6)*

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

As we Wait on God for direction out of our crisis, we can pray for:

1. **Salvation of our loved ones.** Adopt the strategy 5-3-1 at personal and cell level. Actively pray for 5, be ready to link up with 3, and do intentional discipleship with 1 who is willing to know more about Christ.
2. **Goshen Project (G47).** The G47 core group

(comprising of Bryan Tay, Peggy, Susie, Wei Liang and Caleb Lee) is exploring ways to build the Goshen bridges to connect with the community. Meetings with Fei Yue and NLB and efforts to collaborate with other relevant official channels are under way. Pray for opening of doors for JCC and wisdom to make good decision in charting plans progressively.

3. **Joshua Culture 23.** Let us invest our lives in each other! Let us be a model to each other – in loving Christ, serving Him and growing in the knowledge of the Lord.

4. **Cell Group.** Don’t walk alone but be involved in spurring one another to grow in Christ. This is the time to be united and learning to keep the passion for Christ burning. Of course, be ready to receive the harvest that God brings into our Cell Group.

ASSURED OF GOD’S PRESENCE

Someone says, “If a tiny virus can do this much damage, imagine what faith the size of a mustard seed can do!”

JCCians, when we walk with God, we will always reach our destination!

As we wait upon God with our prayers, we are assured of His presence:

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.” (Isaiah 43:2)

Lutheran Church in Singapore presents

WOMEN AND THE BIBLE SEMINAR



Saturday 26 June, 10.30am - 12.30pm

Register now via [eventbrite.sg/e/153916158373](https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/153916158373)

Or scan to register



Rev Dr Maggie Low (PhD) is a faculty member of Trinity Theological College, teaching all the Old Testament subjects including Hebrew and Exegesis. Formerly trained as a lawyer, she is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore and has served as a pastor for 11 years.



THE GOLD STANDARD

BY MARTIN CHEAH

“Money, in and of itself, has no actual value; it can be a shell, a metal coin, or a piece of paper. Its value is symbolic; it conveys the importance that people place on it. Money derives its value by virtue of its functions: as a medium of exchange, a unit of measurement, and a storehouse for wealth.” – Andrew Beattie

Before money, bartering, which involves the exchange of goods and services was the medium of exchange. In Aesop’s fable, “The Milkmaid and her Pail”, a girl was dreaming of exchanging her cow’s milk for some eggs, then raise chickens and exchange them for a dress.

The Chinese were the first to devise a system of exchange using coins, in approximately 770 B.C. Around 700 B.C., the Chinese moved from coins to paper money.

The gold standard is a monetary system that ties paper money’s value directly with gold. The gold standard was essentially abandoned in 1862, in order to provide financing for the American Civil War.

The Legal Tender Act was passed in 1862, where paper currency made its debut but was only backed – on faith – by the government.

In August 1971, President Nixon terminated the US dollar’s peg to gold and established a new monetary system, with paper currency being backed only by the word of the government.

Money will evolve into Cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin) eventually. Bitcoin was invented in 2008 by a person or group that remains unknown. Your faith in its value must be even greater, given that we know so little about it.

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.” – Matthew 6:24



Despite the whims of monetary systems and the pitfalls of capricious monetary policies, people have no qualms investing their faith in the “security” of money in clear competition with their faith in God.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” – Matthew 6:19-21

Do you really want to serve money which has no actual value (considering Andrew Beattie’s comment above), or would you rather put your living hope into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time? (1 Pet 1:4-5)

“He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more; He who loses faith, loses all.” – Eleanor Roosevelt



JCC REFLECTIONS - MARTIN YEE, PASTOR 1997 - 2004

I came to Singapore in 1983 from Malaysia with only a suitcase, to start work in a factory in Jurong Industrial Estate. I was a member in 9th Mile Cheras Lutheran Church and my Pastor contacted Pastor Edmund Lim in JCC to receive me.

I stayed in the guest room of JCC for a week before moving out to a rented room with other JCC members from Malaysia. Thus, from the beginning I keenly felt the hospitality and the vibrancy of JCC.

I attended the Youth Fellowship with Sammy Wee, Lena, Ivan, Wilfred Kao and many others. I met my wife Betsy and we have two wonderful children by God's grace, Sabrina and Isaac.

Rev Edmund Lim started the Cell Groups, and I was asked to lead a group which included Mr. Saw Hin Teong.

In those early days we were young but very evangelistic and enthusiastic. We were active in door-to-door evangelism, participated in evangelistic rallies, and followed up those who had made their decisions for Christ.

Jerry Lam and Chong Yew Moi were among those I followed up on after the Luis Palau Crusade. Jerry later became an OM missionary and Yew Moi still serves actively in JCC.

I subsequently started two cell groups, one in Jurong East and one in Taman Jurong. As I could not lead two groups effectively, Anthony Loh took over the Taman Jurong group to relieve me. Anthony Loh also did a good job in starting the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and developing the worship and cells.

The cell groups have played a significant role in the church life of JCC in extending care, Bible study and fellowship. The Bethel Series was one Bible



Study program we used, and it significantly contributed to Bible literacy among JCC members; but lamentably, has not continued.

JCC was also involved in mission quite enthusiastically - the Sengoi in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia and the Akha village in Meng Kuo, near Chiang Rai, North Thailand. Yoke Meng and myself were mission committee leaders.

Through the mission trips, Michael Christian, Anthony Loh and myself felt called to the full-time ministry as we sensed that indeed the harvest was ripe and the labourers few.

We entered Singapore Bible College in 1993 and graduated in 1997. All of us are still serving in various callings of the church and mission field.

During my tenure as pastor in JCC for seven years from 1997-2004, there were many facets of church life I cherished such as the badminton games, marriage renewal vow, church outings and retreats, councilmen retreats, evangelistic concert, various seminars and workshops to develop the Christian life conducted by Dr Gary Choong, Mr. Chong Ser Choon and others. I have taught several Discipleship Education classes on Sunday mornings together with Pastor Andrew Thinagaran.

Ronnie Lim and Tan Swee Leong were two dedicated JCC church leaders whom I worked alongside with. They gave much time and energy to JCC to help build the vision, strategies and church life so that it will not stagnate into a rut.

Currently, I am working in the LCS Office assisting the Bishop in administrative and other duties.

I give thanks to God for His grace and mercies to

me. He has blessed me abundantly through JCC and its members.

Looking back, the only regret was that I was put into main pastoral leadership role too early without enough experience, exposure, and mentorship by a more senior pastor as there was a shortage of pastors in LCS then. I could have done better in many ways.



Kindergarten Name Change

Dear JCCians,

We are delighted to inform you that our school's name, Jurong Christian Church Kindergarten (JCKK) will be changed to David & Goliath Preschool (DGP) as a part of our intent to convert into a childcare in January 2022 (tentative).

Established since 1967, our school has come a long way. We began on the same humble premises of Jurong Christian Church (JCC) as the Children's Centre, and was later renamed as Jurong Christian Church Kindergarten. In 2022, we will celebrate 55 years of history as an MOE-approved and registered preschool.

We decided to rename ourselves David & Goliath Preschool based on the renowned biblical story many children and adults are familiar with. David started his training/journey while he was young, fending off "lions and bears" to protect his father's sheep before Goliath the giant came into his path.

Defeating Goliath was not a fluke victory but it was a victory consistently built from years of training since youth. The fundamental training blocks of his growing up years were discipline, honour, excellence, responsibility and integrity – values we subscribe to as an institution of learning.



幼稚园名字更新

亲爱的裕廊基督教会成员，

我们很高兴地通知您，我们学校的名称裕廊基督教幼稚园（JCKK）将更名为大卫与巨人学前教育（David & Goliath Preschool, DGP），这是我们在2022年1月（暂定）转变为托儿服务的计划之一。

自1967年成立以来，我们的学校已经走了很长一段路。我们在裕廊基督教会（JCC）内以儿童中心的名义开始，后来改名为裕廊基督教会幼儿园。2022年，我们将庆祝经教育部批准并注册我们学前班这55年的历史。

我们决定根据许多儿童和成人都熟悉的著名圣经故事更名为大卫与巨人学前教育。大卫年轻时就开始训练/履行，抵御“狮子和熊”来保护父亲的羊，最后面对巨人的挑战。

击败巨人并不是一次侥幸的胜利，而是从青年时代开始就经过多年的不断训练而取得最终的胜利。他成长过程中的基本训练原则是纪律，荣誉，卓越，责任感和诚信—我们作为学习机构采纳的价值观。



Follow us on our various digital platforms:



facebook.com/
DavidGoliathPreschool



instagram.com/
DavidGoliathPreschool



davidgoliath.sg



您可以参考我们的新网站和社交媒体以获取更多信息：



facebook.com/
DavidGoliathPreschool



instagram.com/
DavidGoliathPreschool

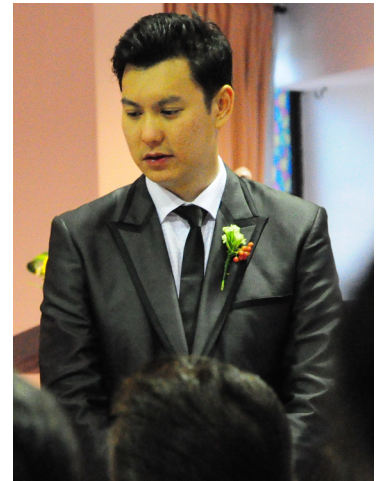


davidgoliath.sg





REFLECTIONS OF SAMUEL TAY, FOUNDING COORDINATOR OF PULSE MINISTRY



MY SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

My mother brought me to JCC Sunday School when I was 5 years old. There, I got to know some young adults such as Jonathan Snr, Timothy, Nicholas and Alexis. (Wong Mui was the Sunday School principal.)

In my youth, I joined the Sunday Bible study classes which were designated as a Discipleship Training Program. My cohort was taught by Kin Siong, Seline, Christina and Alex. We also had youth events led by older youths such as Varian, Joseph, Peh Ern and Peh Ping.

Throughout my childhood and teenage years, I had some knowledge of Jesus but was not ready to accept Him as my personal Lord and Savior. When I was 21, at one of the low points of my life, I somehow called out to God and made the commitment to serve Him. I became more active in the DTP and thereby grew my faith.

Upon entering university (NTU) in August 2003, I was drafted into Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC, now called "Cru Singapore"). Accepting CCC's challenge, I became a Disciple Group Leader and joined their leadership team.

At about that time, Pastor Anthony requested me to be the leader of the JCC youth ministry which was in the process of growth (and came to be named as "Pulse" in the following year). I doubted my ability to juggle more commitments – with existing schoolwork, CCC activities and family responsibilities. I prayed to the Lord for guidance to make the right decision.

One afternoon while walking along Corporation Drive, I was prompted to look up a Bible verse that Mervyn (my mentee) had texted me. In the verse, King David strongly encouraged his son, Solomon, to take up the charge to build the LORD's house:

"Then David said to Solomon his son, 'Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God ... is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished.'" (1Chr 28:20 ESV)

With that verse, I felt the call to build "the house of the LORD" – to build the youth ministry of JCC.

BIRTH OF PULSE

Gestation of the Pulse ministry could be said to have commenced at the end of 2002 when Pastor Anthony, Patrick, Timothy, Selia, Joseph, Peh Ern, Peh Ping, Jason, Peilling and myself started planning for the youth ministry to initiate its own contemporary worship service. A few of us held a planning retreat at an Aloha Loyang chalet (left) where we did the first vision casting. Follow-up work gathered pace. The ground floor space of the old JCC building was converted into a Multi-Purpose Hall for the new youth contemporary worship service.



continued on the next page



Blessed with an expanded leadership team, we set up 4 cell groups, with 40-50 youths including the 16 leaders named below:

1. Inspiretuo (Pre-U/Poly/Uni) – Mindy, Timothy, Chih Qiang, David
2. Novo de Apados (Pre-U/Poly/Uni) – Patrick, Sam Tan, Peiling, Jonathan
3. YRF (Sec 3-4) – Ps Anthony, Sam Tay, Selia, Jason
4. AAT (Sec 1-2) – Joseph, Peh Ern (above), Stephanie, Mervyn

Alexis, Angeline, Jonathan Jnr and Alicia were brought in as leaders in subsequent years to helm cell groups FOTS and S2S.

The Youth Ministry (soon to be known as “Pulse”) held its inaugural contemporary youth service on the first Sunday of May 2003.

How did the name “Pulse” come about?

“PULSE” AND “PULSE TALK”

Year-end in 2003, our first ever youth camp was held with the theme “Pulse – Dead or Alive?”

To challenge our youths to take the pulse of their spiritual life, we had a skit of a doctor performing a resuscitation in an operating theatre.

The poignant theme of the camp so impressed the youths that, in 2004, they overwhelmingly decided on the name “Pulse” for the youth ministry.

With a strong vision, the Pulse leaders (mostly tertiary students) served with fervency. The church leaders provided attentive support and oversight, yet allowed us a good measure of autonomy to decide how best to minister to our youths.

Our monthly leadership meetings were subsequently known as Pulse Talk. We organized camps once in 2 years.

THE NEXT GENERATION

In 2006/2007, I and a couple of leaders (Sam Tan, Angeline, Mindy, Jonathan Snr) founded “Project Joshua”, a cell group focused on equipping the next generation of youth leaders.

Among the cell group members were Huiling, Minhui, Benedict, Debra, Roger, and Josel, many of whom are the youth and young adult leaders of JCC today.

I served 5 years as Pulse Coordinator, until 2008 when I entered the workforce.

The reins of the Pulse ministry were handed over to Benedict Lee as Pulse Coordinator. I moved on to work with Wong Mui and Beng Lay to start the young adult ministry.



Throughout the years, I have seen God’s blessings upon the young people of JCC. I see the importance of the continuity in leadership across the generations.

When I read 1 Chronicles, I thought that “the house” the Lord wanted me to build was just the youth ministry.

As I continue to grow in faith and spiritual maturity, I begin to see that the “house” also refers to the Young Adult ministry and the broader church community.

I know I have the assurance that as long as I am building the house of the Lord, the Lord will be with me and will not fail nor forsake me.



THE STORY OF ZACCHAEUS - LUKE 19:1-10

BY JOHN LEE

This beautiful and moving story elicits some comparisons.

ALL ABOUT ATTITUDE

Let's compare this wealthy man Zacchaeus (**Luke 19:1-10**) with another unnamed wealthy man (a ruler) mentioned in **Luke 18:18-25**. Both were eager to approach Jesus, but Jesus responded to them differently.

- When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and asked Zacchaeus to come down immediately from the sycamore-fig tree. (**Luke 19:5**) Jesus further assured Zacchaeus that salvation had come to his house. (**Luke 19:9**)
- In contrast, Jesus' reception of the rich ruler was not warm. While Zacchaeus readily displayed evidence of his repentance without being instructed (**Luke 19:8**), the rich ruler became sad and did nothing when he was directly advised on what he had to do (**Luke 18:22**). In response to the rich ruler's attitude, Jesus commented, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!" (**Luke 18:24**)

While it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom of God, Jesus' acceptance of Zacchaeus shows that it

is not impossible.

It is all about one's attitude. Jesus already knew Zacchaeus without need for the latter to introduce himself. Surely, He also knew the rich ruler before the latter showed up.

Only Zacchaeus passed muster as being genuinely sincere in desiring salvation: He received Jesus with joy (**Luke 19:6**) and showed his repentance with action. (**Luke 19:8**) Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life." – John 6:47

Zacchaeus was saved because of his faith, not of his wealth. Very clearly, wealth and authority (of the rich ruler) held no merit for salvation.

GOSPEL FOR SINNERS

Instead of steering clear of sinners, the Son of Man came to seek and to save them. (**Luke 19:10**) He did not come to save the pure and righteous. (**Mark 2:16-17**) His acceptance of Zacchaeus shows that our salvation hope is not based on our perception of righteousness. As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God." – Romans 3:10

continued on the next page

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (**Luke 18:10-14**), concluding with this statement:

"For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

ARE YOU LIKE ZACCHAEUS WHO NEEDS MORE THAN WEALTH?

As a chief tax collector, was Zacchaeus happy? Despite his wealth, there seemed to be something missing in his life. Are people ever contented with their possessions – whether as a humble wage earner or a high-flying millionaire? What's wrong with having more?

"Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" – 1 Cor 1:20

Whether you are a modest wage-earner or an ultra-rich tycoon, pause your dreams for a moment to contemplate whether there is any spiritual void in your life that wealth cannot fill.

Apart from wealth, Zacchaeus and the rich ruler had another thing in common – desiring salvation. Zacchaeus didn't voice it directly, but he got it because Jesus knew what was in his heart. The rich ruler was candid in asking about the way to eternal life (**Luke 18:18**), but his heart for wealth clouded his judgment. The contrast between his sadness and the joyfulness of Zacchaeus speaks to us volumes:

"For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe." – 1 Cor 1:21

THE CALL

Jesus called Zacchaeus out of the Sycamore-fig tree, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately." (**Luke 19:5**)

Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus and wanted to know more about Him. Hearing Jesus' call, he didn't hesitate. He came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly. (**Luke 19:6**)

Isn't it sad that many people in the world have heard about Jesus, but have no desire to know more about Him?

Equip yourself for Community-based Evangelism

**Sundays June 6, 13 & 20, 9 - 10.30am
& Saturday June 26, 2 - 4pm
Conducted by Dr Albert Ong via Zoom
with a Saturday outreach session**

Scan the QR code or register at forms.gle/L3urYDqUQZS5gZar8 to receive the Zoom ID. For queries, email Peggy Tan at outreach_eng@jcc.sg.

The heart of our Christian faith is to share the Gospel. Jesus has commanded each of us to do so. JCC is thus launching the GOSHEN Project to mobilise all members to reach out to the community by showing God's love in tangible ways. Come and learn how to:

1. Reach the community through prayer.
2. Build relationships and share your faith with the community.
3. Handle obstacles to faith.
4. Go into the community with the Outreach Team.





ENDURING THE PANDEMIC - WITH THE PERSEVERANCE OF JOB

BY JOHN LEE

The Book of Job tells the story of a man who suffered, with his prosperity taken away and his family asunder, not because of sin.

God Himself considered Job to be His servant with “no one on earth like him ... blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” (1:8)

It was at the insistence of Job’s accuser (Satan) (1:9-11) that God permitted the misfortunes upon Job as a test of his faith and rectitude. (1:12)

It is common understanding among Christians that sins carry a price, but the story of Job tells us that not all sufferings are punishments.

The Covid-19 pandemic is overwhelming the world and even innocents are not spared. Many faithful servant-Christians have similar feelings like Job:

“For sighing has become my daily food; my groans pour out like water. What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me. I have no peace, no quietness; I have no rest, but only turmoil.” - Job 3:24-26

Job’s grumbles were seemingly endless, covering more than 20 chapters from chapter 3 onwards, engaging in a lengthy and tedious dialogue with his

friends who sermonised about his blameworthiness. On the surface, the friends’ denunciations of Job seemed to be a praiseworthy defence of God against Job’s grouses. However, in the context of Job, the friends’ accusatory stance was misguided and self-righteous whereby God was angry with them for not speaking the truth about Him to Job. God thereby commanded them to make atonement for their folly. (42:7-9)

Note that despite his moaning, Job did speak the truth about God. (Lesson: It is ok to cry and express emotions, but not ok to speak untruth about God.)

“After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes and gave him twice as much as he had before.” God also restored his family and “blessed the latter part of his life more than the former part.” - Job :10-11

Here, I quote from TLSB about what Luther says:

“The book of Job deals with the question, whether misfortune comes from God even to the righteous. Job stands firm and contends that God torments even the righteous without cause other than that this be to God’s praise, as Christ also testifies in John 9[:3] of the man who was born blind.”

continued on the next page

It is understandable that many feel downcast under the weight of restrictions and fears because of Covid-19. We may not have people like Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar (Job's friends) to criticize us with their pontifications, but do any wallow in self-condemnation because of faulty logic and weigh down their faith in Christ as a result?

We can draw encouragement from this comment in TLSB:

"Job finally recognizes his real insignificance in comparison with Leviathan's might and defiance.

Today, many view defiance as a virtue, but reliance on the Lord is the only hope we, like Job, have.

Though we can tame or cage most any animal today, the beasts of war, disease, and turmoil constantly break free and trample us. They overpower us and certainly remove our self-reliance.

Yet God's own greatness and love for us overcomes

them all. Despite the seemingly insurmountable nature of evils around us, God is not only in control, He is also working for us in Christ."


Only when facing adversity do Individuals, groups and nations find themselves forced to reckon with their real insignificance and the futility of their defiance of God with their human hubris.

"As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy." - James 5:11

Job, a servant of God, endured adversity and passed the test of his faith, to the disappointment of Satan.

Facing a tough challenge, will you endure or surrender?

"Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory." — George S. Patton



CHATBOT CHALLENGE

Prize: 2 x \$50 Cash!

Techannels is launching a challenge for JCC members to create a Workbot of their choice. Simply sign up for a FREE account at botspice.com, create a conversation and publish the Workbot to URL.

You may form teams too.
Deadline is 31 May 2021.

Try this sample workbot: botspice.com/JCC/BCG3

Here are some ideas:
Promote your CG; Change the Sunday bulletin into a Workbot; Structure a Bible study with Quiz; Create a church survey on important topics; Teach a hobby.

Winning Criteria for Workbot conversation:

1. Fun and engaging
2. Contains interactivity
3. Coherent and logical conversational flow
4. Use of media elements (videos, images)
5. Aesthetically appealing

Judges: JCC members' user experience from 1-15 June. Results will be announced in WinePRESS June issue.

Submit Workbot URL to: bryantayhh@gmail.com

SHARE THE GOSPEL ANYWAY

BY MARTIN CHEAH

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” - 1 Corinthians 1:18 The apostle Paul states that the Gospel which we share sounds foolish to non-believers. The people you are trying to share with will think you are a fool or crazy to believe such a story.

For years I struggled with the lack of success in sharing the Gospel. I had all kinds of arguments on hand, like evolution vs creation, the resurrection, the historical evidence, accuracy of the Holy Bible and so on. It never occurred to me that non-believers had “faith” in their own beliefs. For example, evolutionists actually believe that evolution is a scientific fact even though it is really only a theory.

Then I read **1 Corinthians 1:22-23**, *“Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,”* and realized that what we are sharing with them sounds like foolishness. *“The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.” - 1 Corinthians 2:14*

The key comes in **1 Corinthians 12:3b**, *“no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”* It is not wise arguments that can convince a non-believer; it is only through the free gift of God, as stated in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by*

works, so that no one can boast.”

If you have been sharing the Gospel with your loved ones, friends, colleagues, neighbours and everyone else, that’s your purpose in God’s plan. Salvation comes from God and it is not your problem if there is very little result. *“The Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” - 1 Corinthians 3:5b-7*

Here are some simple acronyms to help you share the Gospel:

YMCA

YOU are loved by God. “For God so loved the world...”

MAN is sinful and separated from God. “...shall not perish...”

CHRIST died on the cross as the only payment for our sin. “...that He gave His one and only Son...”

ACCEPT God’s gift of eternal life by faith. “...whoever believes in Him shall... have eternal life.”

ABC

ADMIT to God that you are a sinner.

BELIEVE in Jesus Christ as God’s Son.

CONFESS your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

GOSPEL

GOD created us to be with Him.

OUR sins separate us from God.

SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.

PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.

EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.

LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

JCC

Justified by

Christ’s death on the

Cross -Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. - Romans 3:28



Abundance Cell Groups (ABCG 1 & 2) organised a fellowship walk at Jurong Lake Garden on Easter Sunday before the Easter Service. We were pre-arranged into three teams, each comprising fewer than 8 persons.

It was raining heavily with lightning and thunder on the night before the walk. I was thinking that the rain might continue until morning and the walk would have to be cancelled. Just before I went to bed, I committed the walk unto the Lord's hand.

I woke up the next morning and gave thanks to God for stopping the rain before I left the house. Teck Chai and Joyce came to fetch me. The place was dark when we arrived, but there were already many people in the park. As soon as all of us reached the park, we began the walk.

I was in the team with Jim and Michelle Lee, Susan, Teck Chai and Joyce. Teck Chai led our team, assisted by Tony Koh of ABCG1. He was careful to remind us on maintaining safe distancing as we took a different route from the other two teams.

As the sky was still cloudy, we could not see the sunrise which we were hoping to see. Nevertheless, the weather was cool. We enjoyed what God has created and the fellowship we could still have despite



A WALK IN THE GARDEN ON EASTER SUNDAY

By Yap Mei Yah

challenging times. We were glad to encounter JCC members of the other Cell Groups in the garden. We were thrilled to see a monitor lizard swimming in the lake. We also took photographs along the way.

Each team was given a task to submit a photo which is related to a Bible verse. Our team submitted a photograph which was related to Psalm 23:2.

After the walk we proceeded to the nearby S11 coffeeshop for a good chit-chat time over a hearty breakfast.

We were very much refreshed in body and spirit before attending the Easter service.

I look forward to more fellowship walks with my cell members. Praise the Lord and rejoice in Him always!





☞ 迦南团契的见证-之三

胡映玉/高国梁

迦南团契的成员绝大多数都来自中国农村，其中不少是东北人。所以每逢春节能看到一道特殊风景，那就是春节的饺子宴，年年都会举办。2019年，团契的成员欧宁飞将海峡时报的记者请来参加团契的饺子宴，并将饺子宴的情形发表在海峡时报上。这是2019年2月7日海峡时报的报道（附照片）：

Migrant workers ease loneliness with dumpling party over Chinese New Year

“Yesterday, Chinese migrant worker Wang Yong and 150 other migrant workers gathered to eat dumplings

together and celebrate the Chinese New Year.”

“This year, however, due to the large volume of dumplings, volunteers prepared them in their homes or dormitories and took them to Jurong Christian Church, where the event was held.”

团契的弟兄姐妹们都来自中国不同的地方，在团契里成为一个基督里的一家人。每年我们在春节团聚在一起吃饺子，饺子宴年年举行，这么多饺子，从头到尾都是团契成员们自己动手亲自做，分享基督的爱，见证基督里一家人的团聚，也像过年的一家人一样，充满基督里的美好温馨。

洪福弟兄也是东北人，他的母亲是一位虔诚的信徒，他曾经取笑母亲的信仰，到我们团契来信主后并写了见证，这是关于他的三句半：

7.1 洪福弟兄妈疼爱，
最好的要给是主爱，
年轻气盛很悖逆，
不乖。

7.2 年轻初劳重体力，
一不留神伤腰肌，
菩萨基督求谁呢？
合计。

7.3 老妈靠主信心足，
限期考验接“战书”，
诚心祷告求耶稣，
胜出！

7.4 虽然感激基督恩，
未曾跪拜赞美神，
婚姻破裂种下恨，
发狠！

7.5 仇恨累积整八年，
压力郁闷也八年，
最后跪到主面前，
读诗篇。



7.6 合：“耶和华阿，你会把我的灵魂从阴间救上来，使我存活，不至于下坑。”（诗30:3）

甲：原来这八年我竟在罪中！

合：在十字架上的耶稣说，“父阿，赦免他们。因为他们所作的，他们不晓得！”

乙：主的爱如此伟大，我的恨如此渺小！

丙：神的话点中罪之人，

丁：猛醒。

7.7 从此旧人变新人，
生活工作笑盈盈，
洪福真的有洪福，
感恩！

(未完待续)



OPEN TALK WITH GOD

BY BRYAN TAY



Dear Lord,

I have tried hard but I don't seem to see the fruit of ALL my labour. I admit that sometimes I rely on my own strength and forgot to seek your counsel. Sometimes, I put my trust in men and riches rather than you. Sometimes I get carried away by my small successes and victories.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

My precious child,

My ways are higher than your ways. I can see the end from the beginning. But **you have to choose** whether to trust and obey Me and My Word. I cannot and will not force you. Just as I have set the laws of nature, I have also set the mechanism for faith and grace to work in your life to bless you.

BUT I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

What will your choice be...

TRUST IN GOD OR MEN?

Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save.

Psalms 146:3 (NIV)

Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

Psalms 62:10 (NIV)

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse—the **blessing if you obey** the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today; the **curse if you disobey** the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

Deuteronomy 11: 26-28 (NIV)

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but **whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night**. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither - **WHATEVER THEY DO PROSPERS**.

Psalms: 1: 1-3 (NIV)