

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good

Let's live out biblical stewardship, lest we wind up wasted opportunities to glorify God and advance His kingdom on earth.



"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."

- Proverbs 11:30

What's inside?

3 STEWARDING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

5 MISSION TO THAILAND DURING THE PANDEMIC

13 COMMEMORATING THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

20 DOING LIFE TOGETHER AT CHRISTAL CELL GROUP

PRAYER FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

What should you pray for in this brand new month?

Seek the Lord in your journey of stewardship with God and for David and Goliath Preschool.

Prayer pointers can be found on the next page.

 **SUBSCRIBE NOW**

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

 Simply email us at jccwinepress@gmail.com

Cover image: Photo by Morgan Housel on Unsplash



PRAYER FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER

David and Goliath Preschool:

- DGP Opening Ceremony in December. (We will welcome Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister of Singapore, and his team to grace the occasion.)
- Pray for good support from JCCians and non-JCCians to our Bursary Fundraising Project.
- Pray for full-house registration of children for the preschool year 2022.

Stewardship Month (November)

G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together)

- To renew our hearts of love unto the Lord.
- JCCians remaining steadfast in serving the Lord in this challenging season.
- JCCians cheerful in giving financially as each has decided in his heart, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Ministry planning for new year

- Wisdom to be upon all the HOMs and MLTs in planning for the new year.
- For continuing progress in our Discipleship and Disciple-making initiatives.
- May God open new doors and guide our ways in reaching out to the community.



Photo credit: Freepik @Jocop

STEWARDING FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

2021 is a year of great struggle with the pandemic. Questions arise about where God is in all this and whether He hears our cries. The fact that we do not know from where the coronavirus came and to where it will go is a humbling experience to “smart” humans. Here are two lessons from Scripture:

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” - 1 Peter 5:6-7

“We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.” - Romans 8:26b

The grace of God is never far from those who call upon Him, and His steadfast love sustains His people through every storm. Soon, we will bid farewell to 2021. Has the pandemic challenged your faith? Are you challenged to strengthen your faith and draw closer to God as we look towards 2022?

Rom 8:26 assures that the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for us. A clear example of this is seen in how, despite the severe challenges of the pandemic on missions, God paved a way when there seemed to be no way for our sister Hannah Koh to make her Mission Trip to Thailand. Read her testimony in this issue of WinePRESS!

We are encouraged that we can still reach out to nations despite closed borders. In November,

continued on the next page

Antioch 21 (the global missions arm of LoveSingapore) will be re-launched to re-cast the vision and the calling that God has given to Singapore. JCC is always conscious of obedience to the Great Commission as a church that is a part of the wider missional community.

Despite hard times, we can still count our blessings. As we reflect on what God has done for us by His grace, we offer up our thanks to Him. It is right for us to do so and think of how we can be more faithful as good stewards. As Peter said, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Pet 4:10) November is Stewardship Month. I would like to share the following points about biblical stewardship:



Illustration: Jonathan Tan

God is the Owner of all things, and we are the managers only.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" (Ps 24:1)

'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. (Haggai 2:8)

"For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything." (Heb 3:4)

Stewardship is all about management and not ownership.

Every JCCian is simply a steward or manager of what God has entrusted us with. Stewardship is a call of God for His people to assist in managing the affairs of the earth in accord with God's plan from the beginning of creation.

Stewardship is a thermometer of our spirituality and discipleship.

Our spirituality and discipleship are made visible in our daily decisions and in our usage of the resources we possess- Talents, Time and Treasures.

In our daily occupations, we exercise good stewardship of our talents in fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

We invest time wisely when we enjoy our families or build relationships with our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord and reach out to our loved ones and our neighbours.

Good disciples of Christ are warm-hearted Christians who are focused on God's Kingdom where their treasures are also invested.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Luke 12:34

Investing our treasures in the Kingdom would include generously using them to help others. - Luke 12:33

It is human nature that many Christians find it difficult to look past their own needs. The essential thrust of Jesus' teaching is that if our heart is directed heavenward instead of earthward, God's faithfulness will far exceed our needs.

God wants you to bless others when He blesses you.

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." - 2 Cor 9:8)

I have underlined three parts in the above verse:

- 1st is about God being able to bless you abundantly.
- 2nd is about you having all that you need.
- 3rd is about you doing good work (i.e., blessing others).

The sequence shows the continuity from “God bless you” to “You bless others.”

“The blessing of the Lord brings [true] riches, And He adds no sorrow to it [for it comes as a blessing from God].” - Prov 10:22 AMP

Here, I am not preaching a prosperity gospel. Let me sound this warning:

“Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” - 1 Tim 6:9-10

The true riches that God brings as a blessing to you for your good stewardship (benefiting others) is without the sorrow of ill-gotten wealth desired by fools who procure their own ruin and destruction.

Psalm 35:27 - “Let the Lord be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.”

As the Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30) tells us, God desires to bless His people according to their abilities to invest as good stewards.

Good stewards do not mishandle what is gifted to them by God – whether spiritual blessings, physical possessions or abilities to serve Him in works of ministry.



What does “stewardship” mean to you?

- Contributing money to the church
- Giving time to bless others through activities and fellowship
- Using my abilities to serve in ministry
- Doing my job well in my occupation
- Managing my responsibilities well in the home
- Avoiding laziness and other bad habits
- Other: _____

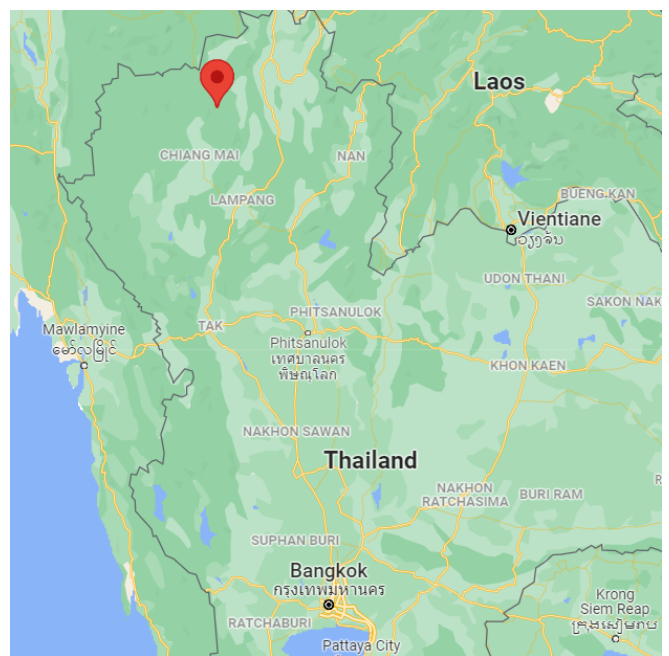


MISSION TO THAILAND DURING THE PANDEMIC

HANNAH KOH

The Covid-19 changed everything for missions as borders were closed and movement were restricted. How can we still support our missionaries overseas? Do we wait till the Covid-19 comes under control? These questions weighed on the minds of the Missions Committee. Personally, having been on a few mission trips to Cambodia, I missed the time when we could easily book a ticket to travel to the villages in Cambodia and carry out activities for the children.

The Missions Committee had to consider new ways to do missions as the pandemic dragged on without any sign of waning.

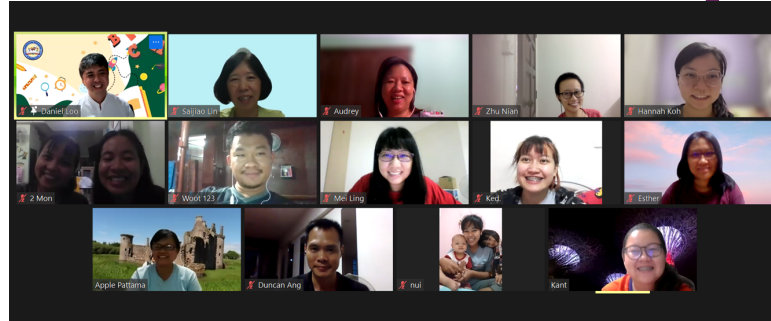


My Cell Group Leader, Chih Chiang, shared how Cru Singapore had been carrying out digital missions, which sparked my interest.

continued on the next page

I decided to sign up for the REDproject, a project initiated by Cru Singapore for anyone desiring to digitally serve God in a cross-cultural context. I felt that joining the REDproject would be more meaningful than spending my time watching television dramas as I did during the lockdown last year.

I signed up for the mission trip in late May and applied for leave. The trip was from 19th to 22nd July. I was so excited to learn how the mission trip could be carried out digitally and could not wait to meet the team. There was some delay in the team's formation due to Covid-19 circumstances in the country we were to conduct the mission. Finally, we were contacted by our team leader, Rebecca, in early July, and we were set to go on the trip to Little Candle Methodist Church located at Phrao, Thailand.



After a few rounds of ZOOM meetings, I was paired with sister Mei Ling, an experienced Sunday School teacher, and managed the children's program. She came up with a detailed lesson plan on the four spiritual laws, and I only had to come up with the resources according to her lesson plan. Through working with her, I learnt what it means to give God our best. She would include interactive resources like games, songs and videos to engage the children. She would also revise her lessons every night after each session to ensure the next session would cater to the children better.

We also worked closely with the youth leaders from Little Candle Methodist Church. They gave us feedback on how we could better engage the audience and capably translated all our presentations. They even gave us an orientation about Thai culture and taught us to sing Thai songs. We also got to meet missionaries from the Philippines who were there to teach the children English.

I am thankful to have the opportunity to be part of this digital mission team to Phrao. I worked with people from different churches and got to see how God can use our diverse gifts to serve the community in Thailand. By His grace, God used each of us and helped us develop the different sessions required, even in such a short period and with such a small team. I felt tremendously blessed by both the Singapore and Thailand team and would love to be part of a team like that again.

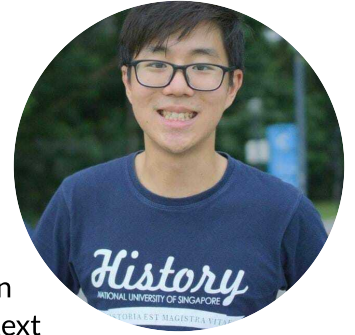
What is God calling you to do today? Would you take a step of faith and be blessed by the journey he will bring you on? Indicate your interest in digital missions in the link that follows: <https://welcome.jcc.sg/missions/>



We were briefed on the profile of the people we would be ministering to. During the four days of the mission trip, we had to conduct six morning sessions for the church workers and kindergarten teachers (some of whom are non-believers) and eight evening sessions for the youths and children. I felt so lost as I had no idea what I could suitably talk about during the sessions. The pastor from Little Candle Methodist Church suggested that music, cooking, computer or handicraft workshops could also be carried out if we had the skills. One by one, my team members came up with the topics for their sessions – a teacher would be talking about sensory and emotion learning while a parish worker would be talking about identity in Christ. I pondered: Should I talk about the common medication used for minor ailments since I am a pharmacist? Would it be beneficial for the people there?

THE ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



AΩ

Introduction

Through this series, we hope to bring readers through the history of Christianity using the 26 letters of the English alphabet.

Each letter will feature a person/ place/ event/ item that helps us better understand the Bible, the history of the Church until today and how our lives

have been impacted.

We hope that you will have a better appreciation of the historical context surrounding biblical events and those thereafter, and see how God moves throughout history – His Story.

D

is for Diet of Worms

"Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen." - Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms (allegedly)



Luther at the Diet of Worms by Anton Von Werner, 1877

What was the Diet of Worms?

The Diet of Worms (pronounced “vorms”) was a formal assembly convened by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V in April 1521 in the city of Worms (near Frankfurt) during which Martin Luther was summoned to answer for his views challenging the Catholic Church’s doctrine and authority.

Background - 95 Reasons Why

While there were reform movements before Luther, the Protestant Reformation is usually considered to have started with Luther’s publication of the Ninety-five Theses on 31 October 1517. Luther’s

views and challenges to Church teaching proved controversial yet popular, and Pope Leo X eventually responded with a papal bull (i.e., decree) in June 1520 that threatened Luther with excommunication if he refused to recant within 60 days. Luther refused and responded by publicly burning a copy of the bull, leading to his formal excommunication in January 1521.

These events took place during the reign of the powerful Emperor Charles V who ruled much of Europe and the Americas. The Diet was convened to discuss imperial matters; as Luther’s teachings were perceived as a heresy disrupting the integrity of the Holy Roman Empire, his summons became part of the Diet agenda. Prince Frederick III, Elector of Saxony and prominent defender of Luther obtained an agreement for safe passage to and from the Diet. This was to avoid the fate of Jan Hus, a prominent reformer from a century earlier, who was executed after being summoned in 1415 despite a promise of safe conduct.

The Diet

Luther was interrogated by Johann Eck, one of his chief theological opponents, who also served as the Emperor’s spokesman at the Diet. Eck asked if Luther had authored a collection of books (which probably included the Ninety-five Theses) and if he was ready to revoke their heresies. Luther asked for more time to present a proper answer.

continued on the next page

The Diet reconvened the next day and Luther remained defiant. He placed his books into three categories:

1. Works which were well-received even by his enemies – these he would not reject;
2. Works that attacked the abuses of the Church – Luther felt that their rejection would encourage further abuse; and
3. Works that attacked individuals – Luther apologised for the harsh tone but did not reject their substance.

It was here that according to tradition, Luther made his famous “here I stand” statement, but there is no indication in the Diet transcripts or eyewitness accounts that he ever said this, and most scholars doubt these words were ever spoken. Nonetheless, it is clear that Luther refused to recant.

Luther was dismissed without arrest due to his letter of safe conduct. However, fearing for his safety, Prince Frederick staged a highway attack to abduct Luther on his return journey and hide him away in a castle.

Aftermath

Frederick’s worries were not unfounded, for in May 1521 Charles V, with Church backing, issued the Edict of Worms which declared Luther as a heretic and outlaw to be apprehended and punished; reading and possession of his writings were also banned. Luther evaded arrest by remaining in seclusion for several months, during which he worked on translating the New Testament into German, eventually publishing it in 1522.

Luther’s powerful testimony at the Diet made an indelible impression upon many, including George, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach. George was the first of many German princes who supported Luther and allowed his ideas to be freely taught in their lands, which sharpened political divisions in Germany. Lutheran princes and nobles now

emerged in opposition to Catholic rulers and the Church. What had started out as a theological debate was now evolving into a fundamental reshaping of political and religious boundaries, a process that would be often violent.

The Reformation and Church History

The Reformation was a pivotal moment in History, forever altering the course of the Church, politics, economics, science, and culture in Europe and eventually around the world. The Diet of Worms was also a pivotal moment within the Reformation for there Luther crossed the point of no return with his refusal to recant. On Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday in October) each year, we Lutherans remember what our Faith is about and what it took to return us back to basics. The Diet of Worms was one of several episodes where Luther publicly defended his Faith in the face of opposition; while we may never be in the same harrowing position as Luther and the Reformers, we too must have the same conviction and trust in God as they did.

All information and images were taken from the relevant Wikipedia articles.

Let’s see what you remember!

Click on the image below to access a short quiz.





Photo credit: Freepik, wirestock

JESUS, OUR BREAD OF LIFE (PART 2)

ADAPTED FROM SERMON BY REV FREDRIC LEE

Importance of the Holy Communion

We need to commune together as a congregation because in partaking communion, we are reminded of our union in the body of Christ sharing the one bread of Christ.

In the Church, the thorns of fellow Christians can tear at our faith. In communion the Lord reunites us in his body, healing us in the forgiveness of sins. Jesus purchased the church with his blood to become his holy bride. In communion, we treasure his love for every one of us. In communion, His grace empowers us to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (Eph 4:3)

When we come to the Lord's table to receive his forgiveness, we all come down to the same level, kneeling at the foot of the cross – no boss-servant distinction, no senior-junior distinction – for we are all sinners saved by grace through faith in need of the Bread of Life.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were

called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Eph 4:4-6)

Seen vs Unseen: Blessings, ephemeral or eternal?

Christians generally feel that Singapore is blessed. Let us take a moment to think: Apart from the visible accomplishments and beauty that people celebrate, what blessings can we look forward to that will count for eternity? Do many people in Singapore believe that Jesus is the bread from heaven for eternal life? Jesus says:

“I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die.” - John 6:48-50

continued on the next page

We, as Christians, are not immune to temptations of worldly things.

We should “fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Cor 4:18). We may be oblivious to this because the health, wealth and success in Singapore are the popular stuff that many eloquent preachers on the Internet rave about to soothe itching ears. (2 Tim 4:3) Many Christians have bought into the false doctrine of the prosperity gospel, which has been rightly named “the gospel of greed” because it is manifestly materialistic in outlook although cloaked with references to Christ and salvation.

Our Prophetic Calling

As Christians, we should ask what God's vision for Singapore is. Spiritual forces of evil have deceived nations (including Singapore) to worship at the altar of materialism instead of dealing with the real issues of sin, righteousness and judgment. Today we hear that Jesus gives his life for Singapore.

Worldly success is not what Singapore needs, it is what Singapore wants. But what Singapore needs is Jesus, the Bread of Life.

We have a prophetic calling to fulfil, the prophetic calling to challenge the false worldly presumptions. First of all, we need to lead a life worthy of our calling in order to take on our prophetic calling with conviction to speak God's truth to the nation – speaking out for what is right, just and pure; proclaiming the gospel truth and to defeat the forces of darkness, forces of idolatry.

We can begin with manageable steps through our Goshen initiative – reaching out and turning people from darkness to the light of Christ one soul at a time.

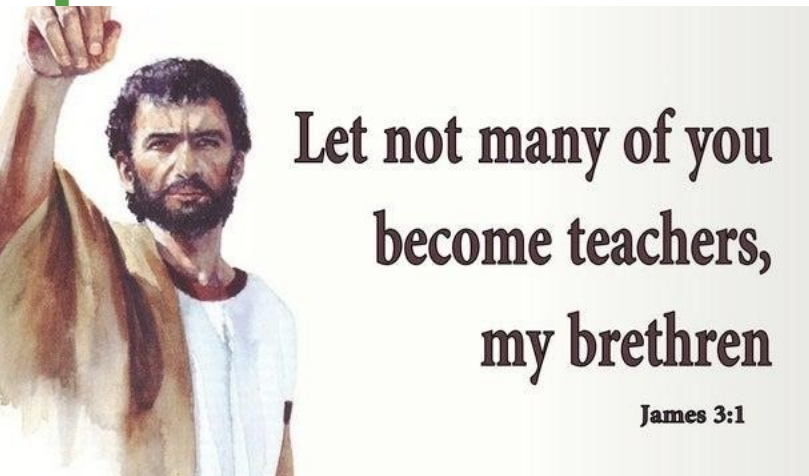
Elijah fed on the bread from heaven to reach the mountain of God. Jesus, our bread from heaven will strengthen our faith till we reach our heavenly mountain. Like Elijah who handed his mantle over to Elisha when his time came, our next generation of God's children will continue the battle and with a double portion of the Spirit. (2 Kings 2:9ff).

ANSWERS TO HOME RETREAT PUZZLES IN SEP WINEPRESS

T	H	N	O	C	E	C	A	O	F	I	N	O	R	K	E	W		
W	O	F	O	R	T	O	P	T	H	E	N	S	G	O	D	L	R	D
N	O	F	O	R	C	E	I	N	T	H	E	W	O	L	R	D	C	A
N	S	T	O	P	T	H	E	W	O	R	K	O	F	G	O	D		

3	-	6	+	5	2
+		-		+	
7	+	9	-	4	12
-		+		+	
2	+	8	+	1	11
8		5		10	

5	×	8	+	1	41
+		+		+	
7	-	3	+	4	8
×		-		÷	
6	+	9	+	2	17
47		2		3	



Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren

James 3:1

Photo credit: Knowing-Jesus.com

James 3:1 tells us, “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

In recognition of all teachers (including Sunday School Teachers and Cell Group Leaders), an Appreciation Event was held on Sunday 5th September before the English service. Each teacher was presented with a potted plant, like Thai Basil or Chilli or some other herb. An appropriate gift as it is a reminder that a good teacher is one who nurtures and cultivates his charges to full bloom.



Not having green thumbs, I fear that the blooming green plant (Thai Basil) may end up wilted in no time. I water it daily and even use water that was used to wash rice. (Heard somewhere that this water contains nutrients for plants.)



TEACHERS' APPRECIATION 2021

BY MARTIN CHEAH

What does James 3:1 mean? Here is the answer given to Cell Group Leaders for the Bible Study materials: “The same lusts that drive our tongues to foolish and coarse speech can dominate a teacher’s heart. He is tempted to speak just to hear himself or to receive honour from his listeners or to have a forum for spouting his own opinions. Teachers must control their tongues, speaking only what God’s Word says and speaking to God’s glory.”

I hope that my Thai Basil plant will continue to grow and flower for many years. And I pray that cell group members will also grow in maturity and branch out to lead their own group after a time.

While CG Leaders are recognized for Teachers’ Appreciation, I see them more as facilitators of spiritual learning and development. Here are some expectations of their roles:

Roles of CG Leaders (source: “JCC Cell Group Ministry 2021”)

- To organize regular CG meeting and to ensure CG activities are carried out.
- To disciple and develop Core Teams
- To provide care by calling or meeting with the CG members regularly.
- To pray for your CG members consistently.
- To disciple the cell members and ensure the cell members grow together
- To be constantly look out for opportunities and encourage CG members to be developed.

Do you want to be a CG Leader and/or Sunday School Teacher?


**LEARNING
RESOURCES**
BY BRYAN TAY

Recently, I came across some interesting learning resources offered by the Lutheran Hour Ministries ([LHM](#)). From as far back as 1917, the LHM has evolved to provide Christian education and encouragement to the church and millions of people around the world. The LHM's ministry efforts include Bible Correspondence Courses, Outreach Training, Bible Studies, Daily Devotions and The Lutheran Hour. Go ahead and explore! For now, let me share some of the Apps that I found useful. You can use these as learning materials for your personal devotions, bible studies or Cell Group discussions.



**LHM Video Bible
Studies**
Subsplash Inc

This App contains a range of bible-based topics contributed by Christian leaders, scholars and pastors. In each topic, you will find a series of bite-size videos, PDF notes and even worksheets where relevant.

I particularly like the 3-part topic entitled "A Man Named Martin". Materials are well-researched. As Lutherans, there is a great way to start our Lutheran journey.

This App contains a series of weekly sermons on various topics. You can listen to the audio (~30 minutes) or choose to read the full transcript. You can also download them for later access.

As you read/listen to each sermon, you can also take notes. If you like, share the resources with others. Consider listening to sermon topics and discuss the issues relevant to your Cell Groups.



**The Lutheran
Hour®**
Subsplash Inc



**Project Connect
Booklets**
International Lutheran
Laymen's League

This App contains a series of e-books covering a wide range of life issues and Christian topics. Each e-book is about a 30-page read.

Alternatively, you can also listen to the audio version (~20-30 minutes) or download it for access at a later time. If you have no time to read long discourses, you will love this. There are also e-books for kids.

This App contains topics for daily devotions. The structure and layout is simple and straightforward. You can choose to listen to the narrative (~3-5 minutes) or read the transcript. You can also download the audio clip.

Each devotional segment ends with a prayer snippet. I like the 3 Reflective Questions that accompany each topic. Use it for your quiet time or as a conversation topic when fellowshiping with someone.



**Daily Devotions
by LHM**
Subsplash Inc



A Plenary Indulgence

Why do we commemorate the Protestant Reformation year after year?

On Oct 31, 1517 (504 years ago), Martin Luther publicised his 95 theses criticising the Roman Catholic Church on her sale of indulgences. (Indulgences were certificates issued by the Pope to people for their sins to be pardoned.)

This indulgence system was a corrupt scheme in two senses:

- Spiritual corruption – being against the pure teaching of scripture on salvation by grace through faith. (Eph 2:8-9)
- moral corruption – feeding human greed to fatten the church’s coffers through the sale of the “pieces of paper” that were devoid of any spiritual power or efficacy.

News about Martin Luther’s protest was rapidly spread across countries, aided much by the timely invention of the Gutenberg (printing) press. In the course, rising challenges to the Roman Catholic



COMMEMORATING THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

BY JOHN LEE

Church doctrines cohered into the Protestant Reformation with other significant early contributors like Huldrych Zwingli in Switzerland, John Calvin in France, etc. In sum, the Protestant Reformation is said to have begun with Martin Luther igniting the “fireworks of debate” with his 95 theses made public.

Lutherans know why Martin Luther is so well remembered. Nevertheless, we also recognize that the most important point regarding our annual commemoration is this: Because of the Reformation, we are vested with the right understanding of the truth on justification as encapsulated by the five *solas* (foundational principles):

Sola Scriptura (Scripture alone)

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," (1 Tim 3:16)*so we depend on Scripture alone as final authority for Christian doctrine. Church creeds and traditions are less important.

Sola Fide (Faith alone)

We are justified to receive God’s grace through our faith in Christ only. We are not justified by good works, repentance, confession or love.

Sola Gratia (Grace alone)

It is by Christ’s atoning work that we receive the saving grace from God. Apart from the saving grace only, which is God’s free gift through our faith only, nothing else justifies us before God.

continued on the next page

Solus Christus (in or by Christ alone)

We do not agree with the traditional RC Church's elaborate system for mediation between believers and Christ (e.g., through Virgin Mary; through the priests' roles in sacramental works such as extreme unction and requiem mass; etc.). We believe in the priesthood of all believers. TLSB says, "All Christians are priests, having direct access to God through Christ." (Ref 1 Pet 2:4-5; 1 Co 3:16) This means that every believer can go directly to Christ in prayer and petition. It is not a requirement to pass through the mediation of the papacy/clergy.

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." - Rev 4:11

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." (Ac 4:12)

Soli Deo Gloria (to the glory of God alone)

Firstly, everything God does is for His own glory. (Ps 106:8; Isa 43:25; 48:11; Eze 36:22; Eph 1:16) Secondly, whatever we do, it is for God's glory. (1 Cor 10:31)

The 2nd, 3rd and 4th *solas* above can together be expressed by this statement: Justification is by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone.

The five *solas* have lived on in the Protestant churches of the Lutheran and Reformed traditions

for over 500 years.

Unfortunately, I can't help feeling that the erosion of truth is a continuing threat that churches are constantly fighting with mixed success:

- Are there palpable signs that *Sola Scriptura* (authority of scripture) is giving in to pop culture, social expediency, diplomatic correctness, etc.?

"In the gospel, the whole truth is clearly contained." - Ulrich Zwingli (Switzerland)


- Are *Sola Fide* and *Sola Gratia* being compromised by preachers of the gospel of good works for salvation?

"We do not become righteous by doing righteous deeds but, having been made righteous, we do righteous deeds." - Martin Luther (Germany)

- Are *Solus Christus* and *Soli Deo Gloria* being battered by the rise of permissive individualism as well as the confusion of worship and entertainment?

"The surest source of destruction to men is to obey themselves." - John Calvin (France)

As much as the Reformation history reminds us of the legacy of truth that we inherit, it also reminds us not to repeat the mistakes in church history that necessitated the Reformation.

 **What are two good reasons for commemorating the Reformation?**



Register to find out more!
jcc.sg/goshenbridge

JCC's Goshen Initiative seeks to connect with our community by creating outreach channels to share God's love in tangible ways. We call them Goshen Bridges. We are now calling for professionals and hobbyists who would like to impart their knowledge and skills through short sharing sessions (face-to-face or online) on a voluntary basis.

You can conduct workshops and create learning resources for online access. Through these community engagements, we hope to build rapport and establish relationships with our community to create opportunities to share the gospel

**Note: this is a non-paid voluntary programme for all JCCians, to provide skill-sharing for all members of public. Register to find out more!*



THANKS JOYCE FOR SERVING 6 YEARS IN MMM

BY JOHN LEE

Joyce officially signed up to be a writer in the Multi-Media Ministry in Jan 2016.

Even before officially joining the Multi-Media Ministry, she had been contributing writings to The Vine (the previous name for The WinePRESS).

Subsequently, Joyce accepted roles in the English Council and as Assistant Leader in a Cell Group. Soon, the workload affected her writing output. Also, her multiple responsibilities weigh heavier during the pandemic.

In September, Joyce decided to step down from the MMM so as to dedicate more time on her Council work and Cell Group.

We will miss Joyce in the MMM, but we will still be one with her in serving the Lord in JCC.

Joyce, many thanks for your years of serving as a Writer in the WinePRESS and representing MMM in the Council. We wish you all blessings in your



Council work and Cell Group ministry. We also huddle the thought that from time to time when you find a break from your busy schedule, you will still pick up your pen to share your blessings through the WinePRESS.



CALL FOR WRITERS

If you have a hobby in writing, you'll likely serve best writing for our monthly newsletter "WinePRESS" produced by Multi Media Ministry.

God will provide the creativity and wisdom in the topics you'd like to address. Serving through the written word allows God to speak to you personally in order to bless our readers. (Submissions are ad hoc and voluntary.)

Sign up during Stewardship Month in November:

[Stewardship Form](#) > [Multi Media Ministry](#) > [Writers / Editors](#)



Scan the QR Code if you would like to start now, or email Martin Cheah at mart5003@yahoo.com

OPEN TALK WITH GOD



By Bryan Tay

Dear Lord,

I hear some Christians say that we are living in perilous times...living in the last generation. But we are to live holy lives because You are coming again. While we do not know when You are coming, we need to be prepared. I am not sure what that means. I go to church, I pray and read the Bible....

My precious child,

Yes, this world will not last forever. It is corrupt and tainted by sin, sickness and death. In these last days, wickedness will increase because Satan knows his end is near. He will try to deceive as many people as possible and cause them to perish. As Christians, you need to keep watch...

HOW CAN I BE JOYFUL ALWAYS?

I HAVE PUT MY JOY IN YOU

ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS WHEN HE COMES AGAIN? ...anchor your faith firmly in Jesus

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:3 (NIV)

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

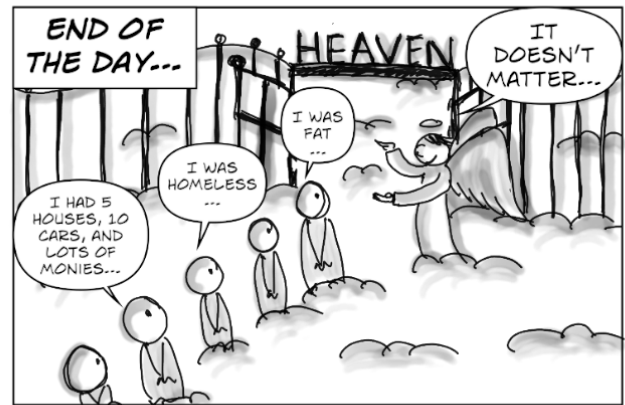
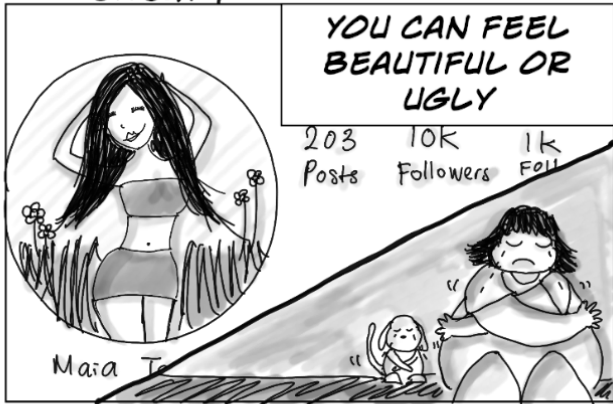
2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Matthew 24:10-13 (NIV)



It doesn't matter...



© J.OHX

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” - Colossians 3:1-4

About beauty

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” - Proverbs 31:30. A woman may be blessed with beauty but “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” - Isaiah 40:8. Truth be told, most of us would have physically waned by the time we are about to reach Heaven.

Rich vs Poor

Martin Luther criticised the Roman Catholic Church on her sale of indulgences because if it

were true, then only the rich could buy their way into Heaven. James 2:5 says, “Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?”

Power belongs to God

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. He changes the times and seasons; He removes kings and establishes them.” - Daniel 2:20-21. “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.” - Romans 13:1.

Godliness with contentment is gain

“For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it.” - 1 Timothy 6:7. Neither beauty, riches nor power can go with us when we die. Only Jesus will be there to receive us into Heaven, if we believe in His Name.



TAMAN JURONG CELL GROUP

BY CHONG YEW MOI



1998. Recognise anyone? How we have matured over 23 years!

Some twenty years ago, a group of us joined Taman Jurong Cell Group. We were young couples/parents settling down in the new HDB flats around JCC.

not always gloomy. We had laughter, sightseeing and good food, thanks to God's blessings. We participated in our ministries and committed ourselves to prayer, learning scriptures and fellowship. Our children grew spiritually in JCC. They are the next generation of JCCians as we age.

Moving forward, where do we go from here? Most likely, it is status quo. We uphold an unwritten motto: "Journey through life with Jesus Christ as our Chief Shepherd." For sure, there will be challenges ahead. With Jesus by our side, we shall prevail.



2007 at JCK Playground. Old premise.

We met at various members' homes. When the children group got bigger, we started to have our CG sessions in JCC. We even had a kid's CG programme that ran concurrently while the parents had Bible study. Today most of our kids are serving in the Pulse ministry.

Apart from coming together for Bible studies, our group built bonds through fellowship meals and holiday trips to nearby places such as Penang and Sarawak.

In our years together, we had our fair share of life challenges. We encountered health, career, family and relationship issues. We supported each other with prayer and practical help. However, all were



2014 at old JCC. Saying goodbye to our good old premise.



DOING LIFE TOGETHER AT CRISTAL CELL GROUP

BY ELAYNE YAM

Our cell group consists of youths born in 2004 & 2003.

Our cell name 'Christal' derived from the concept of a diamond's formation when carbon atoms undergo a great amount of pressure but do not crumble.

As a cell, we are like carbon atoms bonded together amidst the trials in life. We become a tough Christal. We also overcome the hardships in our lives because we remember that through it all, Christ always loves (Christ.a.l) us!

Every Sunday morning, we share about our week and pray for each other, showing love and care for one another. We also spend time studying the Bible together, growing in the knowledge of God. Pre-Covid, we would have cell outings to strengthen our fellowship bonds through good fun and healthy activities (cycling, picnic, sleepovers).

While we are unable to do so now, we still meet regularly on Zoom and play virtual games together occasionally.

We wish you would join us to experience and share God's love with one another as carbon atoms inseparably bonded into the Christal (a diamond) that sparkles bright for Christ.

