



AUGUST 2022

THE WINEPRESS

O TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD



WHAT'S INSIDE?

2

I AM SENDING YOU

4

MAJULAH SINGAPURA

6

YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH

9

ALPHA TO OMEGA:
NILE

11

ALPHABET SOUP:
JOURNEY WITH
THOSE IN NEED

15

BARANG FAIR



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Hannah, Chih Chiang, Bee and Zewen are currently serving overseas in various ministries.



I AM SENDING YOU

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

We are looking forward to our mission month (September) with excitement to renew our commitment to our missionary calling.

We thank God for our missionaries in the mission field – Hannah Koh, Chih Chiang, Bee and Zewen. Apart from them whom JCC is supporting, we are also contributing to the mission work of the International Lutheran Seafarers’ Mission in Singapore which is affiliated to the LCS.

Is mission only for a few selected, the chosen ones? What does the bible say regarding mission?

Answer: All of us are sent!

Jesus sends forth his disciples without any distinction. He says, “As the father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

God is still looking for people who are willing to show the tangible Christ to the world today.

We are a church on a mission and with Christ’s purpose – To bring light to a dark world and to save sinners.

We can learn a few lessons from John 17:

1. In John 17:3, we pick up two key points: Firstly, it is eternal life to know the only true God; and secondly, knowledge of a true God is acquired through Jesus Christ whom God has sent. (The mystery of God is revealed to us through the tangible Christ; i.e., the Second Person of the Trinity who descended from heaven in human form.)
2. In John 17:13-17, Jesus prays for His disciples to be joyful in their mission while facing danger (because the world hated them). They would be engaged in challenging work with slow progress.

How about us today? Are you tired and disillusioned in the midst of all the challenges? We have the invisible enemy. Many are persecuted.

For all the danger, Jesus’ prayer is not for God to take his disciples out of the world, but that God would protect them from the evil one. (v. 15) If his disciples were to give up their mission, then they would leave the world unblessed by their testimony.

Continued on next page

In the words of Pastor W. Penny:

"The church is not a community that heals people just so that they will be whole (though healing is important);

"it is not a community that teaches so that people will be gratified by knowledge (though wisdom is valuable);

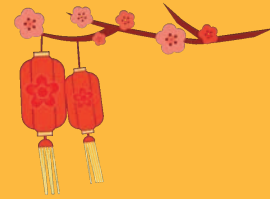
"it is not a community that evangelizes so that it will grow its ranks (though its mission to the world is crucial).

"The church is a community that invites people to touch the glory of God, to be changed by it, and to bear it to the world"

"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (John 15:8) Spiritual fruit is essentially that which glorifies God.

We are a church on a mission – the mission of God.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER



A) MISSION MONTH:

JCCians will be praying for our missionaries Chih Chiang and Bee (Thailand), Hannah Koh (OM Ship Ministry), and Zewen (Cambodia).

May God bless these faithful brothers and sisters in Christ with strength, perseverance, spiritual protection, and His provision for their needs.

B) MISSION SUNDAY SPEAKERS:

The Lord will inspire our Sunday speakers to deliver the right message to touch hearts to share the gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all people.

C) JCC LANTERN OUTREACH ON 3RD SEPTEMBER:

As parents and kids stream in for this leisurely family bonding event, let us pray for the hand and favour of God to be upon them so that open doors to faith will naturally follow as relationships are built.

D) GOSHEN BRIDGES:

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." (2 Cor 9:10)

Pray that JCCians will continue to grow in faith and numbers in reaching out to the community through the Goshen Bridges, with the confidence that God can pour on His blessings in astonishing ways.



MAJULAH SINGAPURA

BY JOHN LEE

9 August 2022 marks Singapore's 57 years of independence from Malaysia. This is the National Day of Celebrations for Singaporeans.

After independence, Singapore has evolved from a Third World backwater to become a First World nation towards the end of the 20th Century and is a source of bewilderment to many countries. As a cosmopolitan nation with a diverse demographic, we have many non-Singaporean friends join us in activities that bond us together. The harmony we enjoy is particularly precious in a tumultuous world.

A ROARING LION

Singapore has been given quite a few interesting names. She is called Singapura, the Lion City. It signifies a city that roars with courage and strength to surmount challenges.

ANTIOCH OF ASIA

For Christians, most would have heard the label "Antioch of Asia" that Billy Graham affixed on us in 1978, signifying that Singapore is a centre of major influence in the region, like the small Antioch city in the Bible. This is a possibility because of our excellent geographical position along the trade routes between East and West and our stability as a nation with strong governance and freedom of worship.

Isa 42:6 says, "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations."



LITTLE RED DOT

Singapore was nicknamed "Little Red Dot" by the third Indonesian President B. J. Habibie in 1998. Thanks or no thanks to him, this nickname has stuck as a succinct reminder that despite our physical size and limitations, we can still achieve success and be well known internationally.

Singapore may be a little red dot, but it is a beacon shining a bright red light, not hidden under a bushel. It is seen from afar. In 2017, US Secretary of Defence James Mattis commended Singapore as a beacon to the region and the world.

As we think of the many reasons for us to rejoice as a nation, as we contemplate our milestones and achievements, remembering our pioneer generation of leaders led by our first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, drawing important lessons on selflessness and dedication to continue our progress, do we see God behind all the blessings?

Continued on next page

PATRIOTISM

Singaporeans, just like citizens in any country, may have their different political leanings. However, where love of the country is concerned, they cry MAJULAH SINGAPURA with a unified voice. They may express their patriotism conspicuously in diverse ways – in form and deeds – all fuelled by a depth of conscience and emotion.

“Patriotism is a thing of the heart. A man is a patriot if his heart beats true to his country.” – Charles E. Jefferson.

“There is much more to being a patriot and a citizen than reciting the pledge or raising a flag. I believe patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary. It is a feeling of loyalty and allegiance that is the result of knowledge and belief.” – Jesse Ventura

Patriotism is not pride and arrogance. It exudes love for nation and people. With love, we think the right thoughts and do the right deeds; we treat people with grace and kindness and use our gifts and talents to advance the well-being of the nation for God’s glory.

FORWARD SINGAPORE

We continue to seek peace and progress as we prudently navigate the exigent geopolitical environment and manage the malaise in the economic environment.

In his National Day address, our PM Lee Hsien Loong says:



“We must never stop imagining and building the Singapore we want, even as we strengthen our guard against what can go wrong. Covid-19 will not be Singapore’s last crisis. More storms and turbulence lie ahead. But do not fear. If we stay united and resolute, we can keep our nation peaceful and secure, build a more prosperous economy, and forge an inclusive society that all of us can belong to and can be proud of, for many years to come.”

As we celebrate the occasion of our National Day, we give thanks to God and continue to pray for His blessings to keep Singapore peaceful and secure amid the ill wind that is blowing globally.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.” – 1 Tim 2:1-6a

“May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.” – Ps 67:4



YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH (MATT 5:13)

BY TAN SWEE LEONG

Jesus loved to use everyday item to communicate God's truth to his followers. He calls them "salt of the earth". This reference has often been explained to mean adding flavour to the world and to prevent it from becoming rotten.

Jesus also associates salt with fire and living in peace with each other. Neither seems to fit with the idea of taste and preservation: Everyone will be salted with fire. *"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other."*
Mark 9:49-50

There are at least four purposes of salt in the ancient world that are relevant to Jesus calling his disciples, "salt of the earth."

1) FLAVOURING

Salt does make food taste better. Christians as salt of the earth are to enhance flavours to things which would otherwise be bland, adding blessings and goodness and proving a contrast by being distinct and different. Paul says, *"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."* (Col 4:6)

We "enhance" the flavour of life in this world – enriching its goodness and making God's work stand out from the normal way of doing things – when we abide by Jesus' instruction: *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked"* (Luke 6:35).

2) PRESERVING

Salt was valuable and Roman soldiers were sometimes paid in salt (*sal* in Latin, which means salary).

By using this salt metaphor, Jesus may have meant that His disciples are called to be "preservatives" in the world, slowing down the advancement of moral and spiritual decay. Psalm 14:3 says, *"All have turned away, all have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one."*

Disciples of Christ are sent into the world in a sense to keep it from decay, preserving truth and goodness in a fallen world.

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3) SACRIFICING

Moses explained to the Israelites, how they are to present their sacrifice: *Season all your grain offerings with salt. Do not leave the salt of the covenant of your God out of your grain offerings; add salt to all your offerings. (Lev 2:13)*

Salt was a necessary part of Israel's sacrifice; it represents God's covenant with them. Disciples are salt in this sense as well, as we offer ourselves in obedience as a living sacrifice to him: *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* (Rom 12:1)

4) DESTROYING

In the Bible salt is used for judgement and destruction. When Lot's wife turned to look at Sodom she was turned into a pillar of salt (Gen 19:26), Jesus refers to this incident in regard to the day of his coming: *"Remember Lot's wife!"* (Lk 17:32). Moses warned Israel that if they break God's covenant - *"The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it."* Deut 29:23.

Jesus in teaching about the judgement of God, proclaimed, *"Everyone will be salted with fire."* Mark 9:49.

There is a sense in which the disciples as salty Christians judge the world, in preventing wickedness, lust, greed or preventing injustices.

However, the Church has failed to live this way and has been a contributor to worldly evil than a bulwark against it. It is for this reason that all the words of God's judgement are directed at the people of God rather than the unbelieving world.

LESSON FROM BEING SALT OF THE EARTH

Do we recognise our calling as "salt of the earth"? Do we flavour, preserve and sacrifice for the purposes of God, or would we suffer judgment when God has to use salt in judgment and destruction.

After telling His disciples that they are the salt of the earth, Jesus goes on to say, *"But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."* Can salt become less salty? Strictly speaking, no. Sodium chloride is a stable compound and can't become less of itself. True disciples of Jesus cannot lose their saltiness. They are new creations and completely changed. Someone who is an imposter cannot become salty again. The imposters are to be "thrown out and trampled underfoot" because they have no effectiveness.

JCC LANTERN FESTIVAL

中秋联谊会



Saturday 3 September, 7-9pm
@ MPH1, 2 Tah Ching Rd
\$3/pax for adults and kids
9月3日星期六, 晚上7点至9点
@MPH1, 2 Tah Ching Rd
成人和儿童 \$3/人



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何淑美传道 98320797

In this family bonding event, kids will get to make their own lanterns with the help of the parents, followed by a lantern walk. Mooncakes and light refreshments will be provided.
在这个家庭联谊活动中, 孩子们将和父母一同装饰灯笼, 接着一起提灯笼。我们也将提供月饼及简单的茶点。



JESUS' ATONING SACRIFICE

BY MARTIN CHEAH

1 John 2:2 says, "He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." Why then do we need to evangelize the world since all our sins have been atoned for?

In Singapore, the government offers many benefits to its people. There is the SkillsFuture Credit, CDC vouchers and most recently, the NS55 Recognition package. However, these benefits are there just waiting for the individual to receive it. If you don't sign up for a course, register for the vouchers or join the LifeSG mobile app, then you will not receive these benefits.

Some people may feel that they are not interested to collect on these benefits, they are well off enough. Others may be opposed to the government and do not want to accept their offers. Still others are not too sure how to receive these benefits because it requires some computer skills to access them.

Do you see the similarity between Jesus' sacrificial death for the whole world and the need to do Evangelism? We need to bring the Good News to those who don't know that Salvation is waiting for them to receive it. As long as they don't receive it, they are lost.

There is also an expiry date to the Salvation offer. As long as you are alive, the offer is still valid. You can claim it anytime, even at the hour of your death. But the offer expires when you are dead.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, to die for the sins of the whole world. That is the Good News. It gets better, it is free - that whoever believes in him (Jesus) shall not perish but have eternal life.

This is the message (Good News) that we are to bring to the world, especially to our loved ones, relatives, friends and neighbours and even to the whole world. They need to know there is a Credit, a Voucher or a Package waiting for them to receive before it is too late.

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" - Isaiah 6:8*

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." - 1 Timothy 2:3-4

ΑΩ ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG

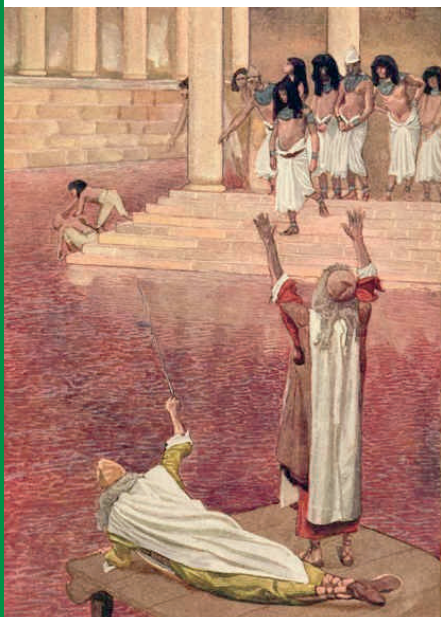


N IS FOR NILE

"[Moses] raised his staff in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood" (Exodus 7:20b)

WHAT IS THE NILE?

The Nile is the longest river in Africa and historically considered the longest in the world (the Amazon is slightly longer). It played a foundational role in Egyptian civilisation and its rise to power by supporting agriculture and fishing. The Nile is also mentioned several times in the Bible, both as a symbol of Egypt's power and as an avenue for God to display His might.



"Water Is Changed Into Blood" by James Tissot (1903)

thereafter flows northwards through Egypt, ending at the Mediterranean Sea.

The Nile is not to be confused with the River of Egypt (some translations use "Brook" or "Wadi"). The latter is a smaller river located to the east, flowing from the Sinai Desert into the Mediterranean Sea. It defined the southern border of the land God promised Israel (Genesis 15:18, Ezekiel 47:19).

THE COURSE OF THE NILE

The Nile has two major tributaries – the White Nile and Blue Nile. The White Nile has its source in Lake Victoria, Uganda while the Blue Nile originates from Lake Tana, Ethiopia. The two rivers converge at Khartoum, Sudan, and

THE BREADBASKET OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

Egypt had a long and wealthy history due to the flow of the Nile with its fertile banks and delta. The Nile overflows its bank annually and deposits new layers of silt, resulting in very fertile land. By tilling this land (Isaiah 23:10), the Egyptians could cultivate and trade wheat, papyrus and other crops. The Nile itself also served as both a water source for people and livestock, as well as an efficient means of transportation for people and goods. Abundant food and excellent connectivity made Egypt a major food producer and military power – the "breadbasket of the Mediterranean".

Egypt's status as a world power declined at the hands of Assyria, Babylon, and Greece. The Romans relegated Egypt to a province but valued it for its grain production that fed an Empire. The Nile nonetheless remained an important factor in Egyptian life.



Course of the Nile by "Hel-hama", Wikimedia Commons

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Nile Delta from space. Note the green irrigated land along the river in contrast to the desert.

The Egyptian calendar was based on the flooding cycles of the Nile. Hapi, god of the annual floods, was thought to control the flooding along with the pharaoh. The Nile was even considered the causeway from life to death and the afterlife. All tombs were situated west of the Nile (where the sun sets, symbolising death) as opposed to the east (where the sun rises, symbolising birth and growth).

THE NILE IN THE BIBLE

The Nile is prominently featured in the first part of Exodus due to its setting in Egypt. Moses was “drawn out of the water” from the Nile by Pharaoh’s daughter and thus given his name (Exodus 2:1-10). The first two plagues (blood and frogs) also displayed God’s power over the Nile (Exodus 7:14-8:15).

The Nile is mentioned elsewhere in the Old Testament as well. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh’s dream which involved cows emerging from the Nile (Genesis 41:1-4). Later prophets referenced the Nile when prophesying about Egypt:

- Imagery of the surging river is used to symbolise Egypt’s power and to subsequently rebuke Israel for depending on Egypt for protection rather than on God (Jeremiah 2:18, 46:7-8)
- Imagery of a dried-up Nile (and the resulting economic collapse) is used to convey Egypt’s ruin after experiencing God’s judgement (Isaiah 19:5-9, Ezekiel 30:12, Zechariah 10:11)

MAN’S CONQUEST OF THE NILE

An object of fascination for millennia, mankind only fully explored and mapped out the Nile in the mid-19th century. Portuguese missionaries had reached Lake Tana (the source of the Blue Nile) in 1618, after the establishment of ties between Portugal and Solomonic Ethiopia. British explorers would reach Lake Victoria (the source of the White Nile) only in 1858.

The Nile’s potential for harnessing hydropower was studied in the 1950s and the first dam, the Aswan Dam, was completed in 1970. The ability to better control flooding, provide increased water storage for irrigation and generate hydroelectricity helped drive Egypt’s industrialisation. Damming of the Nile at various points has inevitably led to water sharing disputes between countries along the Nile.



President Gamal Abdel Nasser observing the construction of the Aswan Dam (1963).

CONCLUSION: REAL RIVERS

The Nile was the foundation of Egypt’s wealth and power. Israel would find itself continually entangled with its powerful southern neighbour – as slaves, trading partners, and political allies. But the God who created the Nile has called us to trust in Him only, rather than fallible earthly powers (Ezekiel 29:6b-7, 16).

For further reading:

[Nile](#)



JOURNEY WITH THOSE IN NEED

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. - Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

In God's family, no one should be left alone to fend for themselves. We are all members of one body - The Body of Christ. God commands us to love Him and to love our neighbours as ourselves. With faith, love and charity as the defining hallmarks of our manifested Christian living, no one should turn a blind eye to anyone in need. It is more blessed to give than to receive. No one is too poor to give time, resources, love, encouragement or just a listening ear. Faith without works is dead. We must demonstrate God's love in tangible ways so that others can see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. It is also to demonstrate love for one another as children of God. For this is to be the distinguishing mark of Christians as commanded by our Lord Jesus.

What does God say about this?

*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
- 1 Corinthians 12:26 (NIV)*

*Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you tells him, "Go in peace; stay warm and well fed," but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that? So too, faith by itself, if it does not result in action, is dead.
- James 2:15-17 (NIV)*

*Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.
- 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NIV)*

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PRACTICAL LIVING?

As we go about our daily routines, we can look out for opportunities to help those in need, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ. If you belong to a Cell Group or Care Group (CG) in church, that is a great place to start. As CG members share their life situations with one another, look out for opportunities to meet their needs. Start by praying for one another, check-in with them during the week via phone calls, social media messages or house visits.

In the larger context of the church, respond to calls for help when announcements are made or when issues are presented in newsletters, bulletins, notice boards or social media platforms. God does not require each of us to deal with every problem. When you encounter such needs, simply pray and ask God if there is something that you can do about it and follow His bidding.

Remember what our Lord Jesus said, "My sheep hear My voice." When you know in your heart that you can and ought to do something to help, that is the voice of God prompting you. Do not harden your heart.

REFLECT AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- Recall a situation when someone had helped or journeyed with you by just being present. How did you feel?
- Why is it important to look out for the interests of others, especially in the family of believers?
- How have you positioned yourself to be of ready help to those in need?

LET'S THINK & TALK STRAIGHT

BY BRYAN TAY

"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty." Malachi 1:6



In each family, parents expect children to grow up, be knowledgeable, be mature in thinking, deal with life issues confidently and act responsibly as they grow in size, wisdom and stature. Teachers expect the same of students. Employers expect the same of employees. We even expect the same of our friends. Why is it then, that when it comes to our Christian family, we don't expect the same of each other? Or worse, we don't even expect that of ourselves! What a shame!

The fact is: Babies need milk. Adults need solid food. How long have you been a Christian, a disciple of Christ? A three-year-old boy may look or act cute through sheer innocence. A fully-grown teenager or adult certainly does not. It may even seem repulsive to others.

How long are you going to remain an L-plate Christian?

The Bible says: "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, (but still) you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You (still) need milk, not solid food!" - Hebrews 5:12 (NIV). [Emphasis in brackets, mine]

GOD IS ASKING

1. Are you an overgrown "toddler"? How long more do you plan to be an L-plate Christian?
2. If everyone does not bother to make efforts to grow and mature as a Christian, how can the church play its role in fulfilling the Great Commission to preach the Gospel and make disciples of all nations?

I welcome your comments, thoughts and sharing on this reflection. Write to jccwinepress@gmail.com. We will publish your contribution in the next issue.



DGP'S FLYER DISTRIBUTION ON 11TH JULY (SUPPORTING THE DGP MINISTRY)

BY JOHN LEE

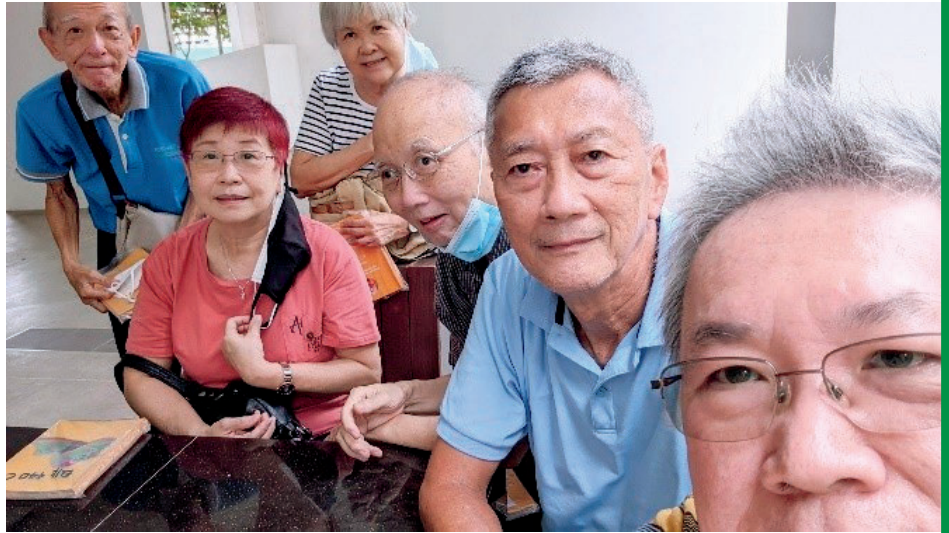
ABOUT DGP

Our David & Goliath Preschool (DGP)'s mission statement is: *To develop wholesome children in partnership with their families and the community.*

DGP is not "just a preschool like any other preschool." As we see the beautiful little souls under our care, we recognize God's blessings upon them and His calling for us into a very crucial ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity and a great responsibility for us to bring into our fold as many children as we can manage, to train them up in the way they should go so that even when they are old they will not depart from it.

FLYER DISTRIBUTION (JWCG EXPERIENCE)

To publicise DGP to more households, the latest publicity flyer distribution exercise has been launched for the three months from June to August.



Once again, JCCians are called to lend their support. Different Cell Groups are assigned different clusters of HDB blocks.

JWCG had expected that they would be distributing flyers in Jurong, in the vicinity of the church. Therefore, the CG was quite taken aback when it was assigned to five HDB blocks in West Ridges @ Bukit Batok, which is quite a new HDB estate. Not only is it so "out of the way", but it is also not reachable by any direct bus; and the nearest MRT station (Bukit Batok MRT station) looks quite distant in the street directory.

There are altogether about 600 households in the list. Our JWCG leader, Martin Cheah, was pensive about how to mobilise his men and women to go 2 by 2, most of whom are not in the springtime of life with sprightly mettle. He pondered, "Do we need a Plan B?"

There was no feasible Plan B. Then, he had a brainwave. He said, "If we have at least 6 of us stepping forward, then we shall proceed."

In John 16:24, Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete?"





Oops! I almost forgot to clarify. God provided our JWCG leader with “at least 6 to go” – actually more than 6 with a few extras going another day in the evening to complete the flyer distribution for the remaining 2 HDB blocks.

The whole experience in the flyer distribution is a lesson on hope with humility in God’s service as we incline towards God’s empowerment rather than spotlighting our human strength or weakness.

Our anxious CG leader, Martin Cheah, was not to be disappointed. Finally, God provided him with “at least 6 to go.”

So, on 11th July (a public holiday), six of us made our way to the meeting point at the West Ridges @ Bukit Batok. Our appointed time was 10.00 a.m., and we were all there on time without missing a beat.

It was breezy work for us moving in pairs distributing the flyers floor by floor from the top floor down. Work was completed uneventfully. This was not the only thing noteworthy. Worth mentioning also was the fellowship we had, seated altogether at a roundtable in a breezy coffeeshop to enjoy a meal. And our good brother volunteered to temporarily put aside his shepherd’s staff and become the amiable kopi kia (coffee boy) serving us our warm drinks to pair with our warm fellowship chit chats.

PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED FOR DGP

In the latest AGM report, DGP Chairman Justin Tay mentioned about DGP going through many changes and challenges. Truly, the heavy tasks of transiting from JCKK, the arduous battle against Covid ... *(the list can be scary to the faint-hearted).*



DGP Chairman said: *“With all these changes and challenges, comes different opinions inevitably. Do pray for us that God will grant the teachers, staff and MC unity and focus as we labor in His ministry, for ‘our struggle is indeed not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms’.”*

Notwithstanding the unavoidability of different opinions, God’s will is ultimately fulfilled despite human imperfections – whether in bit parts JCCians play in support like in the flyer distribution, or in the decision-makers’ major tasks of policymaking or wrestling with giants.

An important point is that while we aim for the best, we must not end up being discouraged in faith when we face the reality of imperfections or seeming incomplete attainments at any time.

In Matthew 21:22 Jesus again emphasizes faith: *“If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.”*

While respecting different opinions, we do pray for DGP and for the brave hearts in the ministry. So long as our prayers are in line with the priorities of our Godly mission, we can be confident of God’s response.

♥ BARANG FAIR: MY EXPERIENCE

BY MARTIN CHEAH

Jurong West Cell Group brought more than 200 items of clothes, bags, pots and pans on Friday night for the Barang Fair on Saturday 6th August. Each CG was assigned 1 table to display their goods. We had CG meeting that night, so we did not display our stuff on the table that night but left it in the MPH1. As JWCG is closely affiliated with Dialect Ministry (since almost half of DLT comprise of JWCG members), I was told that we will be sharing the same table space with Dialect Ministry.

Next morning when I arrived at 9:00am, I was shocked that our table space was completely used up to overflowing on the ground. Apparently and unexpectedly, the Dialect people had lots of things to give away too. When I added the JWCG stuff from the MPH1, the only space available was the floor. Indeed, we did not have a good area to display all the stuff we have, to give away. So, a workaround was for JWCG promoters to take out the items individually from the plastic bags on the floor and try to generate the interest of the visitors to take them.

In the beginning, I was quite fearful of the number of bags of stuff we had to lug back home as the members who donated them did not want them back.



However due to the group's promotion tactics, we eventually dwindled the stuff and we started to see space forming on the ground.

We managed to give away lots of stuff (without asking for the coupons). Bags, cookware, umbrellas and stationery were fast moving items but clothes were dependent on the size and fashion sense of the visitors. I guess the plus-size members need not donate their clothes because the visitors were mostly small or medium sizes.

As Henry was having a Prayer Booth at one corner of MPH1, part of our promotion efforts was to direct the people to have a prayer and a cookie. Some of the dialect visitors also came for prayers and Deacon Nathan stepped in to help out.

At the end of the day, we had a good time (5 hours) of fellowship, promoting, encouraging, praying and seeing the items depleting as the ending time approach.

Unfortunately, we had to donate 2 large bags of clothes to the sanitation engineers by placing them in the bin outside the church.

We look forward to the next round but this time we will hold back on the slow or not moving items.



The JCC Bicycle Club held a fellowship gathering on the evening of 14 August. The active participation of cyclists and family members (total 37 pax) was very encouraging.

As we engaged in leisurely conversations over a humble serving of dinner with some basic BBQ foodstuff, I suppose that all felt it as a wholesome get-to-know-each-other-more opportunity and a good break time for de-stressing after a full week of busy life.

The JCC Bicycle Club has been a vibrant club since its inauguration on 9 Jan this year.

Every Sunday from 3 – 4 p.m. we welcome all and sundry bikers, friends and invitees who come for bicycle repairs, chit chats or prayers. Our hardworking team fronting the Club activities includes many familiar faces among JCCians – Patrick Low, Daniel Chew, Michael Christian, Freddie Low, etc. They are all enthusiastic in their areas of expertise.

BBQ TO JOIN THE BICYCLE CLUB

BY PEGGY TAN

Apart from the routine bicycle repairs/maintenance and friendship offerings on Sundays in the church, the club has also organised cycling tours around Singapore from time to time. Within this inaugural year, three such tours have been organised, and a fourth is “akan datang” (on the way):

- 16 May – 12 pax on a ride around Singapore, starting and ending at Taman Jurong
- 17 July – 17 pax tour of Marina Bay area, cycling from Taman Jurong and back.
- 30 July – 19 pax encore of the 17 July Marina Bay “escapade”.
- “Akan datang” – 24 Oct, 80km from Taman Jurong to AMK.

Will the number of participants for the “Akan datang” event break the previous record?

We are thankful to God for friendly sunshine upon the bikers and for blessing them (including senior-citizens) with the healthy stamina for the long-distance rides.

If you are thrilled about the activities in store for you, BBQ (Better Be Quick) to join the Bike Club. You will be welcome with open arms.



 **DESTINATION: MBS**
BY PATRICK LOW

Sixteen of us started from JCC to ride to Ghim Moh for breakfast. This was part of a 50km group cycling trip to Marina Bay Sands and back. Seniors and beginner cyclists were invited, and were spurred to complete the distance. We endeavored to leave no man, woman or child behind, and this helped each rider to accomplish what seemed to be a daunting task.

Along the way, we captured a photo of an eagle perched on a tree. At the Singapura Railway another 3 riders joined the group.

We reached our destination at 11am and cycled around the area. Then we proceeded to Zion Hawker Centre for lunch. On our journey back to church, we met a new friend, Wen Hui, who accompanied us on the last lap of the ride. We completed the journey and reached JCC by 4pm.

Our next ride will be **Destination: Ang Mo Kio (about 80km) on Deepavali (24th October 2022)**. Come join us for the fun and exercise!

CYCLING TIPS ON THE ROAD



I intend to *turn right* or *move out to the right*



I intend to *turn left* or *move out to the left*



I intend to *slow down*



I intend to *stop*





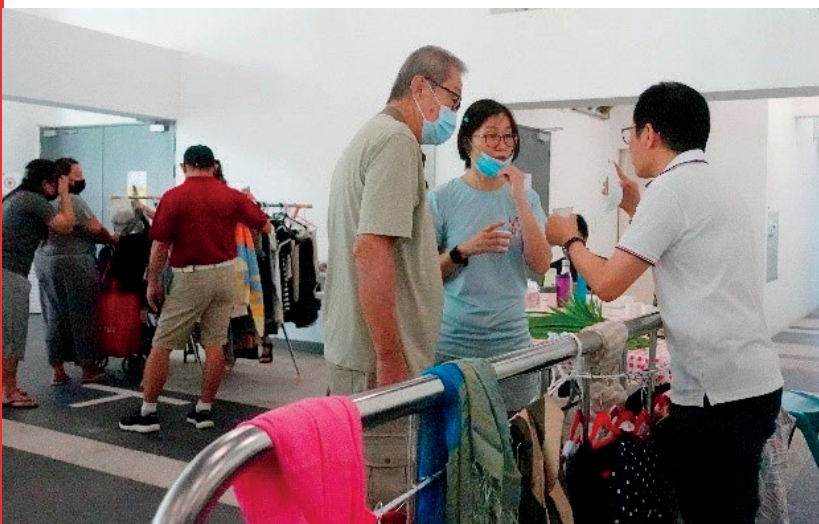
INAUGURAL DIALECT MINISTRY MEN'S WALKING FELLOWSHIP

BY DEACON NATHAN

Saturday, 6th August 2022 - The brothers of the Dialect Ministry led by Deacon Nathan went walking together through Chinese Garden (orange line on the map) from JCC at 08:30 am. When they reached The Oval, they took a break of around 10 minutes. Then they completed their walk with breakfast and coffee at the nearby Hawker centre.



The group took a bus back to JCC to join Barang Fair at 10:15 am. It was a good time of fellowship and the men have grown closer to each other since.



Look out for more Fellowship Walks on every 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. Come and join us to keep **FIT** (Fellowship Interaction Together).





FOODBANK DISTRIBUTION

BY PEGGY TAN

The Parable of The Talents in Mt 25:14-30 talks about different servants entrusted with different quantities of talents from their Master.

To the unproductive servant, the Master says, "Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest." (Mt 25:27)

The parable conveys the message that in our duty as productive servants of God, we are not always right to think that His expectation of us is "hard".

Our outreach work via the Goshen Bridges (e.g., Manna Bridge and VIC visitations) has brought us into contacts with many needy and low-income families. How to help them? Does fear of God as a hard master (like the "fear" excuse offered by the servant with least talent) put us off?

We can't aim to testify of our excellent faith and love by seeking after great achievements if we do not attempt to fulfil with an honest heart the least that we can do.

In partnership with The Foodbank Singapore to serve the community, some members from JCC went out to distribute foodstuff on 5th August:

- It is a simple and beneficial task for us as servants to do with the humble talent our Master has entrusted us.
- It is a risk-free alternative to gain value with our talent, even if little, instead of just doing nothing.
- We shun the "fear" raised by the servant in Matthew to excuse his apathy.

Everyone has their God-given talents in different measures – one is given 5 bags of it, another 2 bags, and another 1 bag. (Mt 25:14)

The Goshen Initiative offers various avenues to reach out to people. The Food Distribution is a worthy one. It is simple and rewarding.



Cpl Dayan is standing centre.

BB CARES BY CPL DAYAN

BB CARES stands for Boys' Brigade Community Activities Rallying Everyone to Serve – an annual event where we volunteer our services to help those in need. This year, on 30 July, we engaged the residents of St Andrew's Nursing Home Taman Jurong for the first part of our BB CARES project in 2022.

Several Boys participated in the programme, putting in their time and effort to make sure that the residents had an enjoyable time. Some activities that we had were a singalong session, station games, and a light stroll along the perimeter of the nursing home. Pulling off a successful programme meant that the preparations behind it were quite hectic. We planned for 5 to 6 different games for the station games segment. Tasked with taking care of the logistics, I had to ensure that all the necessary items were ready at least a week before the day itself. With all the items prepared in time, we tested the games a day before the programme.

During the programme, I paired myself up with two residents, Mr Lim and Mr Tan, who keenly participated in the activities.



They told me about their life stories, and we had a great chat especially during our stroll. It was a humbling experience to listen to these elderly folk and pick up beneficial nuggets of wisdom from them.

Continued on next page



I was quite happy that we have such a programme like BB CARES as the charity work provides a good opportunity for the Boys to develop people skills that will be useful in life.

The accomplishment of the programme was itself a great reward for the planning committee. Initially, there was a lot of anxiety partly due to our inexperience.

Finally, seeing the smiles on the faces of the home residents, it warmed our hearts to know that our effort was worthwhile.

For future BB CARES activities, I look forward to bringing the beneficiaries to explore interesting places around Singapore.




BAPTISMS & TRANSFERS

On 17th July 2022, Johan Tan Kai Xiang and Goh Kun Meng were baptised.



Hau Lian Khup and Trina Kwek Kah Choo transferred their membership to JCC.



May the Holy Spirit always bless you all with a long-lasting, strong faith.