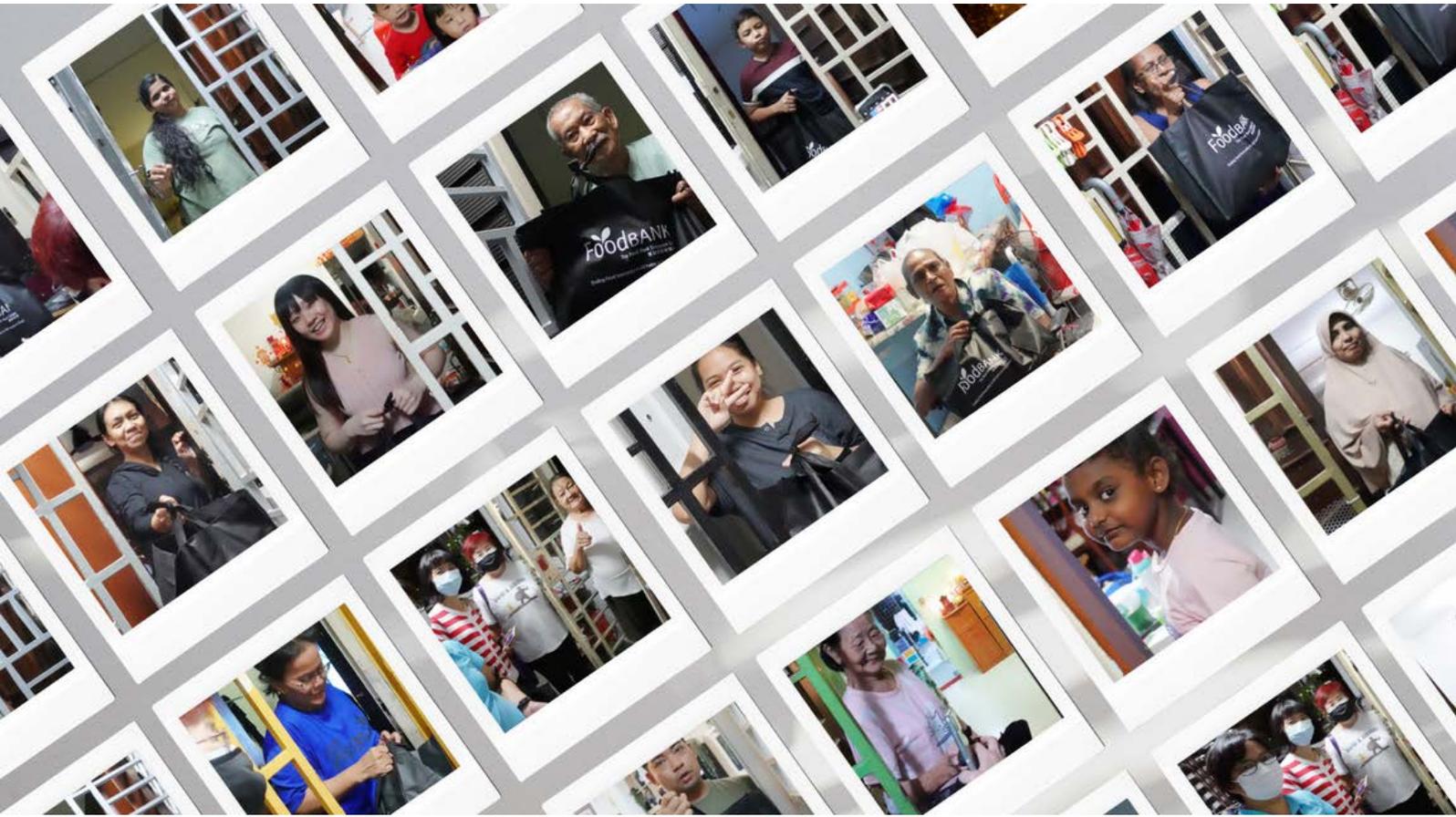




SEPTEMBER 2022

THE WINEPRESS

TO TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD



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BLESSINGS FOR AND FROM LITTLE CHILDREN

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

The first Friday of October will be Children's Day in Singapore. It will be an exciting day for our primary school children because they will be the focus of celebration with many interesting activities and goodie bags to look forward to. As I think about the happy children, I reminisce the time we were children. I am led to think about the inspiration of adults to children and vice versa.

Children are great imitators. Alternatively speaking, children look to adults for a lot of their learning. Adults are mostly seen as "givers" of knowledge to the children who are the "takers" of our influence.

A question to ponder is whether there is a possibility to switch the labels "givers" and "takers" between the adults and the children in some respects.

Do the children in fact have something to offer us in God's plan for them as "givers"? I mean, are there lessons we can learn from children?

Let's look at some examples.

Example 1: Jesus

The Lord Jesus was an exemplary child. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man. He was well-versed in the Scriptures. Even as a child at the age of twelve, Jesus could discuss spiritual truths with the religious scholars in the temple.

Luke 2:41-47 recounts Jesus' parents losing their child (Jesus), and then after three days finding him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking

Continued on next page

them questions where everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

"Then he [Jesus] went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." - Luke 2:51-52

A bible commentator says, "By stressing Jesus' continued obedience to his parents back in Nazareth and by commenting on his intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social growth, Luke portrays Jesus as the ideal child who develops into an ideally well-rounded adult."

Example 2: Samuel (1 Sam 3)

Samuel was an exemplary child. Even as a child he was ministering before the LORD. He grew up in the presence of the LORD and grew in stature and in favour with the LORD and with people. As a result, at a time when the word of the Lord was rare, the Lord spoke to the child Samuel.

"Then the LORD called Samuel. Samuel answered, 'Here I am.'" - 1 Sam 3:10

The Lord did not choose to speak to the older priests but chose to speak to a child who was serving him faithfully. The Lord chose Samuel to become a great prophet to the Israelites.

Example 3: The boy with five loaves and two fishes

The boy with the five loaves and two fishes was an exemplary child in John 6:5-13. When Jesus was teaching a great multitude, the people needed food to eat. There was no food available except the five loaves and two fishes the boy had. "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" - John 6:9

When his food was needed, this boy was unselfish and generous to share his food with the people. Therefore, the Lord used him as an instrument to perform a great miracle. This boy was a channel of blessing to meet the needs of a great multitude.

Lessons from children

Let us not assume that children are only "takers" of blessings from adults but be conscious that they can be channels of blessings to us as God uses them in marvellous ways.

Sometimes the unassuming faith of a child (so-called "childlike faith") teaches us awesome lessons about God and His Kingdom.

Raising a powerful generation

Thus, when we celebrate Children's Day 2022, beyond the mundane activities and goodies, we can be inspired to add on ideas of spiritual blessings. I believe that God can raise a powerful generation through us.

As parents we can bring up our children in the ways of the Lord and teach them the Scripture at an early age. We should be concerned about their relationship with the Lord and get them involved in activities that would enhance their spiritual nurture. Read the bible together as it will allow the children to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

When we raise up our children to serve the Lord even at an early age, they can also experience hearing the voice of the Lord and be a great blessing to others. Bring them to join the monthly prayer meeting, prayer walk, worship session at the national level, etc. so that the hunger for God's things is built from an early age.

We must also raise our children to be unselfish and generous. Then the Lord will be able to use them as an instrument to bless great multitudes. Bringing them to join the manna project is a good example and we pray they will grow up with the spirit of sharing and have greater compassion for the lost.

PRAYER FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

A) JCCIANS:

Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit in JCC, empowering every JCCian to rise up in serving the Lord actively.

B) GOSHEN BRIDGES:

Pray for willing hearts to reach out to the community via the Goshen Bridges, to share our love and to support the needy in restoration/healing. Pray also for blessings of wisdom as we pursue the Great Commission for the multiplication of God's people.

C) JOSHUA CULTURE 23:

Pray for more JCCians to step forward to invest their lives in disciple-making within the Cell Groups and in line with JCC's mentorship programme JOSHUA CULTURE 23.

D) DAVID & GOLIATH PRESCHOOL

Pray for the DGP – principal, teachers and management committee in their effort to provide a well-rounded development of the kids in partnership with their parents. Pray for God's blessings that seeds of faith are sown on fertile soil to produce a good harvest.

JOURNEY THROUGH 1 & 2 TIMOTHY BY JOHN LEE

DAY 6: REFLECTING ON 1 TIM 2:1-7

The book "Journey Through 1 & 2 Timothy" by Robert M Solomon provides 50 days of bible passages for reading and reflecting. You may draw basic lessons on biblical truths to guide your life. You may also find some messages speak deeply into your heart with regards to your spiritual testimony as a Christian.

JCC encourages every member to own a copy of the book for personal devotions. It is available at \$2/copy while stocks last.

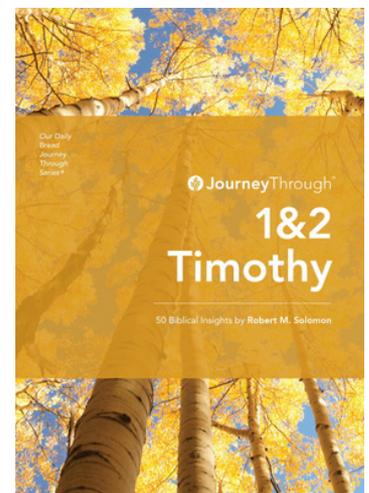
Day 6 of the "Journey" brings us to 1 Tim 2:1-7. Reflecting on the passage, Robert M Solomon wrote:

"Mahatma Gandhi told Dr E. Stanley Jones, a missionary to India, that he had no problem with the Christ of Christianity; his problem was with Christians. He observed that many of them did not live according to the teachings of Christ.

"There are many people like Gandhi who are turned away from Christ because of the bad testimony of Christians. **It is important to remember that Christians are, to the watching world, the living examples of the truth and power of the gospel.**" (Emphasis by Robert M Solomon)

Ouch! Anyone who is not guilty as charged, raise your hands. Apostle Paul speaks for himself and for us:

Continued on next page



"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do ... As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." (Rom 7:15-18)

It is our normal human nature that we all struggle with sin and fall short in our Christian testimony as **the living examples of the truth and power of the gospel**. This was what Mahatma Gandhi failed to grasp. It is because of our sinful nature, which we acknowledge without reservations, that we turn to Christ – *"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."* (Eph 1:7)

Mahatma Gandhi was a great man in his own right. If he had no problem with the Christ in Christianity, it would have been good if he also had no problem with what the Bible says about many things, including the universality of sin (Rom 3:23). I feel for all pre-believers, praying that the true message of the gospel will bear fruit in their life and continue its advance throughout the world as it has been growing among the believers from the day they heard it and understood God's grace. (Col 1:6)

We praise God for His provision of grace, especially since our sin nature has not yet been totally eradicated while our sanctification is running its course. Nevertheless, it still behoves us to consciously progress in step with the Spirit's direction in our Christian testimony:

- Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. (1 Tim 4:12)
- In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness. (Titus 2:7)
- Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Mt 5:16)
- Follow God's example as dearly loved children. (Eph 5:1)

Whenever I do my morning walk in the exercise park behind my house, I would see the huge words **"better beats perfect"** painted on the track.

Without doubt, there will always be room to do better. Mahatma Gandhi and like-minded pre-believers would not be entirely unhelpful to us when they constantly prompt us to put into practice what we have learned or received or heard from Jesus, or seen in Jesus. (Philippians 4:9) While they helpfully point out Christians' shortcomings, they are unfortunately being unfair to themselves to expect perfection and deny the work of grace in God's scheme of salvation for all sinners that we are. (Rom 3:23-24)



1 Tim 2:1-7 states clearly that we need to pray for everyone, including pre-believers, including persons in high places of authority (v.1-2), for their salvation because God "wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." (v. 4)

Prayer is clearly an important underpinning for outreach to pre-believers, particularly to soften hardened hearts to receive the humbling gospel message.

To whom do we pray? TLSB (quoting Augsburg Confession XXI): "The Scriptures do not teach that we are to call on the saints or to ask the saints for help. Scripture sets before us the one Christ as the Mediator, Atoning Sacrifice, High Priest, and Intercessor [1 Timothy 2:5-6]. He is to be prayed to. He has promised that He will hear our prayer [John 14:13]"



CAN JESUS SAVE ME?

BY MARTIN CHEAH & JOHN LEE



When reading Lev 20:10-21, I was astounded by the long list of sexual sins of the Canaanites. Even today, these sins are particularly awful by the standards of most societies.

Here is just an abridged list from the passage to give an idea of the sins of moral depravity that attracted God’s punishment:

| VERSE | SIN | PUNISHMENT |
|---------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Adultery | Both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death |
| 11 | Sex with Father’s wife | Both the man and the woman are to be put to death |
| 12 | Sex with daughter-in-law | Both of them are to be put to death |
| 13 | Homosexuality | They are to be put to death |
| 15 & 16 | Bestiality | He or she is to be put to death, and you must kill the animal |

God makes it very clear about His expectation of His people:

- “You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you. Because they did all these things, I abhorred them.” – Lev 20:23
- “You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own.” – Lev 20:26

God wiped out the Canaanites because they did all the above things which were disgraceful, dishonourable, impure and detestable.

Christians as people of God are different from all others. We are promised blessings if we obey His commandments. We distinguish ourselves from others by our holy living.

Let us learn a lesson from John 8:3-11. It tells the story of a woman caught in adultery. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sought to condemn her. However, Jesus was not quick to make a hasty judgment.

“Jesus calls the sinful woman to consider her error. The Lord’s greatest desire is to deliver us from sin through repentance and faith, rather than condemn us for our sins. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, even the worst of us, by His sacrifice on the cross.” – TLSB

Do we want to follow the ways of the ancient people of Canaan and suffer the consequences of being ‘cut off’ from God?

Turn from your past and let Jesus save you.

1 John 1:7b – “... the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”

Hebrews 3:7-8 – “So, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts’”

Acts 3:19 – “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”



KINDLE (REKINDLE) YOUR FIRST LOVE

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. -- James 4:8 (NIV)

Every big fire starts with a momentary spark of ignition. If there is no flame, there is no fire. We aspire to live as Spirit-filled Christians, speaking the Word of God boldly, sharing the gospel with family and friends fearlessly, praying fervently to see the power of God in action to save souls, heal the sick and deliver those in bondage. Remember how excited you were when you were born again as a newborn babe in Christ? Somehow, through the years, the daily grind of life and growing up has doused those flames. We become more “sophisticated” in our faith and can even justify our spiritual lethargy.

Where has all the godly zeal and passion dissipated to? We need to kindle and rekindle the small flames and fan them into a big fire again if we want to see revival of godly living and hearts turned to Christ in these last days. God is doing a mighty work in these last days. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. Only our strong anchor in Christ can keep us steadfast and faithful to Him until we see Him face to face.

What does God say about this?

*For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
2 Timothy: 1:6 (NIV)*

Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

Revelation: 2: 4,5 (NIV)

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14 (NIV)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PRACTICAL LIVING?

For a start, we should pause and find some quiet moments to take stock of our spiritual life. If God uses a “thermometer” to measure your spiritual temperature, in which zone would your temperature fall within: **“Frozen, Cold, Lukewarm or Passionate”**? We know our own spiritual condition. We try to take good care of our physical body and pursue worldly objectives with careful planning, regular monitoring and remedial actions to stay on track. What about our spiritual health and mission?

Without deliberate reflection, we will not be able to retrace the steps we took and identify where we went off-track. Remember that Mary and Joseph, when on the way back from Jerusalem,

Continued on next page

realised that they had lost Jesus only one day later! Thankfully, they found Him after three days. It is never too late for us to retrace our steps and recover from where we veered off our intended course.

Consider the type, frequency and intensity of life activities and routines that you are currently engaged in. Make changes to bring your thermometer reading into the “Passionate” zone. Spark new flames and re-spark the glowing embers to press on towards God’s calling for your life.

REFLECT AND RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

- Recall some of the thoughts and ideas you had when you first knew God and learned about His Word. What have you done with them?
- Why does walking and working with God not sound “exciting” or relevant compared to when you first knew God?
- Identify one spiritual discipline that you know you must return to and work out a plan to practise it.

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

We all want to enjoy life. And rightly so! Our Lord Jesus came to give us life, and life abundantly! We might have no problem saying that or even quoting that scripture.

But the problem is: Perhaps at the back of our minds, we are secretly asking: Does Jesus really know what I want? Will He dictate what He wants to give me or will He really give me what I want in life? When we think that way, we are saying 2 things to God. Firstly, “God, I don’t trust You enough to know what I need and want.” Secondly: “God, I think I know myself better.”

You are what you think, what you read and what you watch!

The fact is: Do we really know what we want? Up to now, we are the sum of what our life experience has been. How have we lived life so far? For example, if we have been mixing with bad company, we may be desiring unholy things. So, before we “accuse” God of not knowing what we want, perhaps, we should reflect on the things that we have been doing, reading, watching and

the company that we are mixing with. Once we have done that, repent before God and I am sure that God will put in us the desire to seek after things that truly benefit us and His kingdom. We can be sure of this: He wants the best for each of us.

The Bible says: “Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

Psalms 139:16 (NIV)

GOD IS ASKING

- What have you been reading, watching and doing? Do they help you to strengthen your personal relationship with God?
- What have you been desiring from God in your prayers? Are they aimed at gratifying your selfish desires or at helping to establish God’s kingdom on earth?

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

ΑΩ ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



OLDHAM, WILLIAM FITZJAMES

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it" - Proverbs 22:6 (KJV)

WHO WAS WILLIAM OLDHAM?

Rev William Fitzjames Oldham (1854 – 1937) was a missionary in South and Southeast Asia and later bishop of the Methodist Church in Malaya. He is best known for being the founder of the Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) in Singapore.



Portrait of William Oldham
(date unknown)

EARLY LIFE AND CONVERSION

Oldham was born in India where his father was serving in a British regiment. He attended Madras Christian College, where he developed a prowess for apologetics (i.e. defending the faith via systematic argumentation).

After completing his studies in the USA, Oldham worked as a government surveyor in India.

In 1873, Oldham attended a preaching service of visiting American missionaries. The experience impacted him so much that he became a Methodist and under the influence of the missionary Bishop James Thoburn, committed himself to work as a missionary.

WORK IN SINGAPORE AND ACS

Oldham and his wife accompanied Thoburn to pioneer Methodist work in Singapore in 1885. The first local Methodist church was dedicated in 1886. It moved to Fort Canning in 1907 (where it still stands today) and was renamed Wesley Methodist Church in 1910.



Postcard depicting Wesley Methodist Church (date unknown), Wikimedia Commons

Chinese parishioners introduced Oldham to the Celestial Reasoning Society, a debating society formed by the Straits Chinese to develop their English skills and moral thinking. There he met Chinese merchants who were keen to have their sons receive a Western education. Oldham thus started the Anglo-Chinese School in a shophouse at Amoy Street in 1886 with only 36 boys. Enrolment grew to 100 within a year and money

was raised to build a new school building at Coleman Street (currently the National Archives). One of Oldham's noteworthy pupils was Goh Hood Keng, who later became the first Straits Chinese to be ordained a Methodist minister.



The original premises of ACS along Amoy Street by "Sengkang"

Continued on next page

Oldham also helped to establish schools besides ACS. Little known is the fact that the first school he established was actually the Anglo-Tamil School in 1885 as part of his ministry to the Tamils; Oldham was fluent in Tamil owing to his upbringing in southern India. Oldham also gave strong support to Sophia Blackmore who founded Methodist Girls' School (1887) and Fairfield Methodist School (1888).

Four years of teaching and preaching took its toll on Oldham's health and he had to take leave for the USA in 1889. Even in America, Oldham continued to serve actively, leading churches and promoting missions in Southeast Asia.

In 1904, Oldham was appointed as Missionary Bishop of Southern Asia, an opportunity which he used to return to the region.

He now organised the Methodist missions into four key language groups – English, Tamil, Malay and Chinese, a structure that continues to exist in the Methodist churches of Singapore today.

RECALL TO AMERICA

Despite his popularity and success in Asia, Oldham was recalled to New York in 1912 to serve on the Methodist Board of Foreign Missions, which was facing a financial crisis. Oldham resolved the crisis within four years with his abilities in fundraising and networking.

He also used his position to encourage more indigenous leadership in foreign missions. Oldham was later appointed as Bishop to South America in 1916. Even there he continued his educational mission, establishing schools in Argentina.

During this time, Oldham experienced two major losses to his missions in Asia: i) the Java missions were discontinued in 1928, and ii) the Methodist Publishing House, whose founding he contributed to, was relinquished to a secular company in 1927. It would be renamed "Malayan Publishing House" or MPH for short – the current MPH bookstores we know today.

LAST YEARS AND DEATH

Oldham returned to Singapore in 1934 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Methodist Church in Singapore. This was to be his last visit before his death in 1937, aged 83.

Today, Oldham is remembered annually on 1 March, designated as Founder's Day at the Anglo-Chinese Schools in Singapore. Wesley Methodist Church also erected stained glass windows in honour of him. Oldham Lane in Dhoby Ghaut is named after him.

CONCLUSION

Oldham was crucial to the development of Methodism and the education system in Singapore; the schools he helped to set up are still around and active today. His life also exemplified the importance of teaching, preaching, and wholehearted dedication in having effective missions.



Anglo-Chinese Junior College c.2007, Wikimedia Commons. Oldham Wing, named after the ACS Founder, is the building on the left. The author spent two happy years in this college.

For further reading:

[William Fitzjames Oldham](#)

[Wesley Methodist Church, Singapore](#)



PRAYER WALK

BY PEGGY TAN



Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Mt 17:20-21)



The Life Shine Community Services (LSCS) – a collaboration with our tenant churches in the JCC Hub – fully feel the mountains we must climb in our works of service in the community "so that the body of Christ may be built up." (Eph 4:12)

What shall we do? Do we find encouragement from Philippians 4:6-7, to turn to the Lord in prayer?



At 1.00 p.m. on 28 August, Christians (numbering somewhere between 150 and 200) joined by Rev Anthony and Rev Fredric gathered in the sanctuary of the Renewal Christian Church for a time of worship before proceeding on our first combined Prayer Walk.

Rev Philip Abraham of Jurong Tamil Methodist Church delivered his message of welcome and exhortation in English as our sister Jinfay (Jurong Christian Church) interpreted in Mandarin. Eric Koh (New Life Baptist Church) and Jinfay also delivered useful instructions in English and Mandarin respectively.

It has been said: "There is power in prayer. When men work, they work; but when men pray, God works."

We believe! Armed with just our faith to claim God's promise (Mt 7:7), we organized ourselves into groups of 3 – 5 persons before making our way to the assigned areas, taking our prayers for God's blessings to the schools (to the children and youth), to the hawkers and residents, to the needy people living in the rental flats, to the workers in the industrial areas, etc.



In one hour, we walked immersed in continual prayer (1 Thess 5:17), in spiritual intercession for the neighbourhood and reaping personal benefits from the spiritual fellowship and faith-building as we also gained greater awareness of our neighbours and their needs.

Thank God for the fine weather, and for keeping us "joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." (Rom 12:12)



♥️ WCG ON MANNA BRIDGE (9TH SEP)

BY MARTIN CHEAH

This was our first experience distributing Foodbank items to the residents of Blk 116 in Taman Jurong. Previously, it was a loaf of bread which can easily be carried by hand but this time it was 60 bags containing various food stuff and weighing considerably more than a loaf of bread.

Nine of us ventured out from JCC pushing 3 trolleys of Foodbank carrier bags which balanced precariously on the trolleys. Some of the bags did fall off when we hit bumps on the pathway but there was no breakable stuff in the bags, maybe some crackers got more cracks, that's all. Lesson to learn, we may need to buy cages for the trolleys to secure its contents from falling or shrink wrap the items.

The nine of us split up into 3 groups covering floors 1 to 5, 6 to 7 and 8 to 10. On the lower floors, we managed to give out the Foodbank items as many of the people were home. However as we went higher, there were more homes that seemed like no one was home. Despite the closed doors which we skipped, we managed to give out all the 60 bags that we brought and there was even not enough

for about 6 homes which had open doors. We met quite a number of residents who seemed to be sitting in darkness and when they came to the door, some were shirtless. Hope we didn't interrupt anything.

We are still inexperienced in this area of Manna Bridge food distribution as we rushed from house to house with the aim of completing the delivery as soon as possible. We completed the whole block by 8:45 pm.

Probably, what we need is to slow down and spend some time talking with the residents as what the MP normally does. Find out their needs, concerns and even their beliefs. Take some time to share the Gospel and pray for them, if possible.

The group gathered downstairs and Henry prayed for the people in the block and then we dispersed. Some adjourned to have coffee at the nearby S-11 and some to return the trolley back to JCC and eventually all went home safely for a blessed rest. There will be other opportunities. We will improve with practice.



LIGHTS IN LANTERN FEST

BY KYLIE CHIA

Jurong Christian Church (JCC) partnered with David & Goliath Preschool (DGP) on Saturday 3 September night to gather families with young children to bond meaningfully during the "Lantern Fest" event.

JCCians and parents with children in DGP, and members of public, enjoyed the time with their biological family as they got to mingle with and be introduced to the spiritual family. Parents enthusiastically partnered with their children to paint designs on their lanterns, took photos under the stars at the Chapel's open garden, played a carnival game before ending the night with refreshments and songs.

Teachers from DGP acted as chaperones to groups of families, taking the initiative to assist with child-minding and snapping family portraits on the parents' behalf. Samantha Chin said: "The family I was engaged with was curious about JCC and its church service, so it gave me an opportunity to share our service timings, Sunday school and give them our corporate brochure. Overall, they feedback that they had fun with us."



Pastor Grace Ho Shoo Mei, who assisted through the organising committee, reflected: "It was heartening to see children and their parents bonding as they designed their lantern, and then later working as a team to score for prizes during the tic-tac-toe throwing game. This kind of interaction is helpful for families in deepening their relationship with each other. It takes them out of the dull routine of sending them to tuition or enrichment where parents would not get to participate with them. This was a really exciting event for a change. Some feedback that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

The efforts behind the scenes is also key to the success of the event. "My role was to assist in the refreshment preparation so I was assigned to the kitchen to cut the abundant supply of mooncakes, watermelons and lay the tables," Peggy Tan Kwee Choo shared. "In close quarters, I got to chat with the other Chinese section volunteers who shared about their family life and issues as we worked. It was an overall vibrant and uplifting atmosphere to serve side by side."

Mid-Autumn Festival traditionally celebrates the end of the autumn harvest, and is a time to enjoy its fruits. As part of outreach efforts to Jurong and beyond, may we see a field white for harvest, reap and eventually enjoy the fruits of our labour too.



Two days before Nat & Flo's big day, Nat was tested positive and emergency changes in plans had to be put in place to proceed with the wedding with some very major tweaks. For one thing, Nat was not able to be present, on site, in the church as he was isolated in his room, at home. The live streaming team was activated and they came up with an alternative whereby Nat will be at his wedding virtually while his wife-to-be Florence (Flo) will physically walk up the aisle to a virtual Nat who is on screen.

Rev Anthony mentioned that this was a magical event, a first for JCC, and may even be a first in Singapore and some say the world.

How was all this magic done? The magician's code says that I cannot reveal it but I can give you some clues. It involves ZOOM, YouTube, live streaming and of course, multiple cameras and computers. You can watch it in YouTube and go figure it out yourselves [here](#).

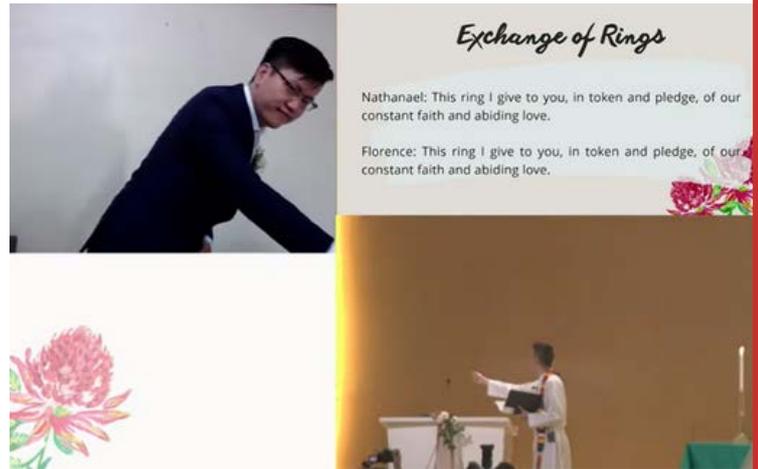
Some magical moments include Rev Anthony passing the ring to Nat and Nat passing the candle to Rev Anthony.

Maybe the next time we have a virtual wedding, technology would have improved so that we can have a holograph of the groom to give a more realistic and immersive feel to the proceedings. Then kissing the bride may even be pronounced.



VIRTUAL WEDDING CEREMONY

BY MARTIN CHEAH



Group photography was also a problem but they opted to have Nat posing in a tablet PC. As a photo enthusiast, I would have preferred to post process using photoshop to add Nat into the photo.



The guests and family members had a magical time and responded with loud claps and laughter at each magic moment.

Nat & Flo, remember: Forgive, Love and Offer.

God bless your marriage.



BAPTISMS & TRANSFERS

BY MARTIN CHEAH

Sunday 11th Sep 2022 - The Dialect service witnessed the baptism of Mr Charlie Ong and the transfer of membership of Mr Kwan Jin. Officiating the ceremony was Rev John Tan assisted by Deacon Nathan.

We welcome these 2 brothers into our Dialect family in JCC. May God bless and guide them.

