

January 2021



CANNING GARDEN METHODIST CHURCH

FAMILY FOCUS

**GROWING DEEPER IN CHRIST,
IMPACTING &
TRANSFORMING LIVES !**

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

CGMC Family Focus

Ephesians 3:16-19



Christmas Service



MESSAGE from the Editor...

Shalom brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is that time of the year to reflect upon the events in the past one year, about things which were planned, things which were done and things which I would have done differently.

Year 2020 proved to be totally unexpected. The onslaught of the infamous COVID-19 pandemic threw many plans topsy turvy. Work was difficult, having to balance patients' need for healthcare while trying to be safe and protect my family against infection. Many new norms and standard operating procedures were put in place, none which totally reassured me.

Many events had to be cancelled in the name of social distancing. Meetings and conferences were pushed online, making the same job doubly hard to accomplish. This was particularly difficult for my son, Josiah. Being a sociable person, he struggled to adjust to the many different movement control orders imposed. He missed going to school. Attending class online just wasn't the same for him. My heart broke each time he expressed his longing to meet his friends and fellow CG mates. During the recent announcement of MCO to battle the 3rd wave, I cannot forget his disappointed face as he said to me, "What? MCO again? When is this going to end?". His disappointed look said it all.

Nonetheless, God's blessings have been with me. He has protected me through at least two close encounters with COVID. Indeed, I'm glad that I am still able to serve Him through my vocation. As my younger son, Joel, turned 1 last year, my heart was filled with warmth each time I watched my two sons interact with joy and laughter. Their presence reminds me of God's amazing love for me.

On another note, the pandemic had pushed the church scrambling to get online. I disliked the change and found it an entirely different experience having to worship God without physical fellowship. Yet, I was thankful for God's providence through technology. I am glad that we can still worship together online. I am encouraged by my fellow CG members who have never given up meeting online. While I may have seen this as a limitation at first, I realized that God is not limited by what my eyes can see. In the days of Paul, evangelism had to be brought physically from town to town. How laborious was that! With church online, the gospel is now made easily available with just a click of the phone or computer. It is open even to those who had physical/emotional/social barriers from attending CG/church before this. I am also encouraged by the willingness of fellow church members to embrace these changes. Indeed, God can move in wondrous ways!

Looking forward to 2021, I will continue to put my faith in the Lord and hold on to His promises of my salvation and His spiritual blessings! Yes and Amen!

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (NIV)

Li Fan



Josiah's lego mask



CANNING GARDEN

Methodist Church

Worship Celebrations

SATURDAY

08:00pm English

SUNDAY

08:45am English

09:00am Chinese

10:30am Bahasa Malaysia

Sunday School (*English*)

Sunday School (*Chinese*)

03:00pm Youth Fellowship (*English*)

Contact us

Address: 23, Jalan Keliling,
Canning Garden,
31400 Ipoh.

Tel: +6 05-546 2023

Fax: +6 05-545 1135

Email: cgmecipoh@gmail.com

Website: www.cgmecipoh.org

About Family Focus...

Family Focus is published 3 times a year (in January, May & September) under the Membership & Evangelism (M&E) Committee of CGMC, Ipoh.

It seeks to fulfill the church's theme of "Growing deeper in Christ, Impacting and transforming lives" by sharing Christ with each other and strengthening the community of Christ through writings and testimonies.

THE EDITORIAL TEAM

ADVISOR

Dr. Wong Lai Yin

EDITOR

Ling Li Fan

COMMITTEE

Datin Ann Muttiah

Elissa Wong

Lim Kim Bee

Ling Lidi

Chew Cheng Gaik

Andrew Ong

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michael Wong

Antonio Wee

Yew Mun Khean

Loo Liong Vei

Phon Kon Sen

Philip Ho



We welcome you to submit your articles & testimonies to us for the coming issues.

Each article should preferably be less than 1500 words and can be submitted to any of the editorial team members above, to the church office or emailed to cgmecipoh@gmail.com.

All articles should be accompanied by the author's full name, contact number and cell group where applicable.

We reserve the right to edit the articles, keep the articles for subsequent issues, or withhold the articles from publication.

January 2021 CONTENTS

Messages from our Pastors

Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan	Page 1
Rev. Richard Leow	Page 3
Rev. Yu Chiew Song	Page 5

Remembering 爷爷 ~ David Ho Lim Cheng	- Emily Ho	Page 6
Blessings from TOKYO	- Foo Mei Ling	Page 11
Character of Moses ~ my take on the exodus sermon series	- Ch'ng Ai Yoon	Page 13
Christmas harvest event ~ What Christmas means to me ~ "Christmas at home"	~ Ko Siow Jin	Page 14
我的见证 ~ Little feet, sowing seeds	~ Samantha Chieng	Page 17
Junior Kids Church ~ We are zooming	~ Priscilla Ebernesan	Page 19
Alpha course ~ we are online	~ Chong Seong Foe & Dr Wong LY	Page 21
Introduction to the CG1 family	~ CG 1	Page 24
Testimonies ~ Purpose in the midst of adversities	~ Chan Kok Sun	Page 27
~ Challenges faced during COVID-19 pandemic	~ Susan Liew	Page 29
~ Rainbow after the rain	~ Ch'ng Ai Yoon	Page 32
~ My God is faithful	~ Ko Siow Jin	Page 33
~ Great is Thy faithfulness	~ Moy Ooi Thy	Page 35
~ Our beloved CG 28	~ Cheah KW & May	Page 37

MESSAGE from Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

Much has been said about the pandemic and MCO. They have preoccupied us and will continue to do so for a long time to come. But whether there is a pandemic and MCO or not, discipleship must carry on. The end of the Gospel of Matthew brings the focus to the Great Commission, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19-20). The vision statement of CGMC is written large on the front page of her bulletin: “A Disciple Making Church.” But how do we go about making disciples?

First, a disciple must be baptized. How does the Great Commission tell us to make disciples? It says, “...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is the entry point into the church. Many churches have their baptism font at the entrance of the church door to make this point. In baptism, we covenant with God. God makes us His holy people (and redeems us and makes us His children) and we pledge to trust Him, to love Him, and to obey Him.

Second, a disciple ought to be a member of the local church. When we covenant with God to be His people, we are automatically bound to each other by covenant. That is why in our Baptismal Covenant liturgy, membership immediately follows baptism. In our membership vow, we pledge “to faithfully participate in its ministry by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service.” The paragraphs 112ff. in the Methodist Book of Discipline on “Duties of Members and Meaning of Membership” make many other significant points about our privileges and responsibilities as a member.

Third, a disciple is to become holy. This is because the compulsory task of the whole church is to be holy. God has made us His holy nation (Exod. 19:6). But He has also given us His laws and commandments to actually transform us to be holy. That is why once members covenant with God through baptism, they are to be followed up by “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded...” So the business of church life is to transform her members to be holy by teaching them to obey Jesus’ commandments. This is not referring to cognitive teaching but life transformation. Becoming holy is not something we can achieve by cognitive teaching. It has to do with the renewal of mind and the change of heart.



REV. DR. ANDREW TAN

Pastor-in-charge
Canning Garden Methodist Church

This is where I meet with many challenges as a pastor because so many Christians have a misconception of what it means to be a disciple. Some think that once they are baptized, they have arrived. They have become members of the church just like members of a club. No, not at all! When you are baptized, you signed up to be a life-long disciple of Jesus Christ and do so with fellow members of the church. You begin the process of learning and obeying all that Jesus has taught you. Others think that once they have been in church for a long time, they don't need to learn anymore. Granted, if there are no more new courses to attend. But then part of learning is by teaching. So what about teaching the courses they have attended? However, it is not learning or teaching that I am concerned about here. It is about life transformation. In the first place, we never arrive, and so we never stop learning and growing. But if we think we have grown pretty mature, what about offering ourselves to disciple others?

Fourth, a disciple is to be accountable to fellow members. When we covenant with God and with one another to be God's holy people, to live up to it, we become accountable to one another. We are accountable to our leaders just as our leaders are accountable to us. The early church understood this point clearly when it exhorts, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Heb. 13:17). We are also accountable to one another in the following exhortations: "See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God" (Heb. 3:12), and "See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Heb. 12:15).

If discipleship is to be effective it must take accountability seriously. This is why when John Wesley set up the Methodist Society, the essential structure was one of accountability. Those who wanted to join the Society had to agree to these three clauses:

First: By doing no harm, by avoiding evil of every kind, especially that which is most generally practised, such as: (then he names a whole list).

Second: By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men: (then he names a whole list).

Third: By attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are: The public worship of God. The ministry of the Word, either read or expounded. The Supper of the Lord. Family and private prayer. Searching the Scriptures. Fasting or abstinence.

And this is how he ends on accountability in the General Rules, "If there be any among us who observes them not, who habitually breaks any of them, let it be known unto them who watch over that soul as they who must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways. ... But, if then he repents not, he hath no more place among us."

We don't like to make covenant (promise) and then to be held accountable for it. However, the nature of our covenant with God binds us to one another. But this binding is not only a responsibility but also a privilege. It is not only a burden but also a joy. It is not only an obligation but also a freedom borne by love. Without this discipline of accountability, our discipleship will not take place. Once we are baptized, we become members of one another. We are covenanted with and therefore accountable to one another. It is in the structure of a community where we practice accountability that discipleship will happen.

MESSAGE from Rev. Richard Leow

Pengalaman Dengan Corona Virus Mengajar Saya Merendahkan Hati Dan Diri.

Ayub 33:13-17 (AVB) Mengapa engkau berbantah-bantah terhadap Dia kerana Dia tidak menjelaskan segala tindakan-Nya? Allah berfirman dengan satu dua cara, tetapi orang tidak memperhatikannya. Dalam mimpi, dalam penglihatan pada malam hari, ketika tidur yang lelap melanda manusia, atau ketika dia mengantuk di tempat tidur, pada waktu itulah Dia membuka telinga manusia dan memateraikan teguran-teguran bagi mereka, supaya manusia dipalingkan daripada **perbuatannya dan kesombongannya** dilenyapkan.

- Firman Tuhan berkata manusia berbantah-bantah terhadap Tuhan kerana kata Tuhan tidak menjelaskan segala tindakan-Nya seperti kenapa terjadinya wabak penyakit corona virus dan sebagainya.
- Firman Tuhan berkata Tuhan berfirman dengan satu dua cara, tetapi orang tidak memperhatikannya.
- Firman Tuhan berkata Tuhan berfirman melalui mimpi.
- Melalui penglihatan pada malam hari, ketika tidur yang lelap melanda manusia, atau ketika dia mengantuk di tempat tidur, pada waktu itulah Tuhan membuka telinga manusia
- Untuk memateraikan teguran-teguran bagi manusia.
- Supaya manusia dipalingkan daripada perbuatannya dan kesombongannya dilenyapkan.
- Firman Tuhan menggunakan perkataan yang keras iaitu **dilenyapkan** perbuatan dan kesombongan itu.

Mari kita senaraikan perbuatan dan kesombongan hati dan diri yang perlu dilenyapkan pada masa kini dalam melalui pengalaman-pengalaman dengan Corona Virus yang juga sebagai teguran dalam pengajaran untuk melenyapkan perbuatan dan kesombongan manusiawi.

Perbuatan dan kesombongan manusiawi masakini:-

Kesombongan Kekayaan Yang Berlimpahan - Melalui Corona Virus ekonomi menjadi melesat.

Kesombongan Teknologi Canggih - Melalui Corona Virus kita sedari bahawa ia bukan sesuai juga untuk di gunakan dalam perhubungan selamanya.



REV. RICHARD LEOW
Associate Pastor
Canning Garden Methodist Church

Kesombongan Sains Modern - Melalui Corona Virus kita sedari bahawa sukar juga untuk temukan ubat untuk menyembuhkan dari Corona Virus.

Kesombongan Kebebasan Yang Bebas - Melalui Corona Virus kita perlu hidup dalam kawalan penggerakkan dan penjarakkan.

Kesombongan Kesihatan Yang Modern - Melalui Corona Virus, manusia boleh mati begitu sahaja dengan cepat dan dengan banyak.

Kesombongan Rohani - Melalui Corona Virus kita harus sedari bahawa kita tidak dapat melawan kedaulatan Tuhan dengan amalan kerohanian kita seperti orang-orang Farisi dan Saduki dalam Kitab-Kitab Injil.

Kesombongan Bahawa Tidak Takut Mati (Berani Mati) - Melalui Corona Virus, manusia menjadi hidup dengan ketakutan akan kematian.

Kelihatan semua kesombongan-kesambongan yang tersenarai di atas dan yang tak tersenarai di atas, membuat umat manusia tidak memerlukan Tuhan lagi, tidak besandar pada Tuhan lagi dan tidak mengandalkan Tuhan dalam kehidupan lagi, dengan demikian Tuhan tidak dapat memimpin umat manusia untuk mengikuti cara dan jalan Tuhan untuk kehidupan manusia di muka bumi ini sementara untuk menuju ke kehidupan yang kekal di surga. Saya percaya Tuhan juga takut kalau dibiarkan umat manusia terus menerus dalam perbagai kesombongan, umat manusia akan menyimpang daripada cara dan jalan-Nya yang merupakan satu-satunya kebenaran. **Renungkan Yesaya 58:1-12.**

Walaupun keinsafan kita bukan mewakili sejagat umat manusia untuk mengubah keadaan wabak penyakit yang merebak ini, tetapi keinsafan kita akan membawa diri kita didalam berkat-berkat Tuhan kerana di tengah-tengah badai corona virus, Tuhan juga sediakan berkat bagi mereka yang insaf dan bertaubat.

Kerana mata Tuhan tertuju kepada orang yang benar dan telinga-Nya mendengar doa mereka, tetapi wajah Tuhan menentang mereka yang berbuat jahat." **1 Petrus 3:12.**

MESSAGE from Rev. Yu Chiew Song

I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 1:14

我见日光之下所作的一切事、都是虚空、都是捕风。

传1:14

For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

因为人所作的事、连一切隐藏的事、无论是善是恶、神都必审问。

传12:14



REV. YU CHIEW SONG

Associate Pastor

Canning Garden Methodist Church

若我可以..

我不优秀 但不虚伪
直肠直肚 坦坦荡荡

若我可以 喜欢真诚
不挖苦 不讽刺 不虚伪

我不聪明 但也不傻
能明事理 不愿拆穿

若我可以 诚信真挚
不喜欢 心机重 城府深

我不糊涂 情愿吃亏
心无所恃 随遇而安

若我可以 难得糊涂
豁达明智 坦然泰然

我不知晓 但心明彻
日光之下 毫无新事

若我可以 数算日子
游山玩水 捕风捉影

我不明了 一生年岁
所能矜夸 转眼成空

若我可以 蒙主洪恩
为主而活 荣耀天父

尤牧师 共勉之

Remembering 爷爷—David Ho Lim Cheng

(17.03.1934–20.11.2020)

Emily Ho

(Expanded from my eulogy at his funeral—celebrating the life of David Ho Lim Cheng and his return to his Maker)

My Yea Yea was nothing short of an excellent man. He was defined by a few unchanging values. Some of those values were all-important: for example, that all of life is lived to God's glory, that you use your might not to serve your own interests but to serve God and others, and finally, that you never stop serving, not even in old age. These were the values that yea yea held to strongly, and it determined how he spent his days.

There were also those values that yea yea held to quite strongly but which were perhaps less serious: for example, you never give up an opportunity to eat *oh chien*, however many there are in front of you, you always bring your granddaughters to KFC when your son drops them off at your house, and, as became evident in the last few weeks, you never decline *tau fu fah*, not even if you are semi-conscious and bedridden.

Yea yea lived by his values, and it was apparent to those around him: for example, those who listened to his preaching at Grace Methodist Church, those who sat under his and ma ma's Bible study every Tuesday, and those who ate the abundance of food from their table.

There were many things yea yea did which were less on display for everyone, but which I as his granddaughter was able to see and admire. And what a gift it has been to share in the life of such a remarkable man. These are three things I will remember him by.



First, yea yea loved tirelessly, through gifts and acts of service.

Every time we got exam results back, yea yea would trek around town, even in his old age, looking for a shop that would inscribe a pewter plate with “*Congratulations, from Grandpa David*” to celebrate our achievements. When I confirmed my plans to study law at uni, yea yea gave me some money to spend on whatever I wanted. I got a haul of books from Kinokuniya, and he signed the front pages of each one, his elegant script memorialising a message he never failed to live out: “Love, Grandpa David”.

Towards the end of his life when he was still able to cook, yea yea would make us dinner every Thursday. His signature dish was *mamak mee goreng*! Sometimes he would also prepare an elaborate steamboat meal, and he would scour *Kampung Simee* market to get only the best ingredients for us.

This is how yea yea loved—unrelenting, quiet service, that bared his tender heart without flamboyance.

Second, yea yea never forgot the stories of his past, and listening to them has taught me to fully live and value every single day.

Yea yea was born in Falim, Ipoh to parents who owned a tin mine during the British occupation, and he was a child when the Japanese took over in 1941 and then surrendered in 1945. His father died from a stabbing during a robbery when he was a teenager. He remembered it vividly.

Yea yea was a very good student and got to study at St Michael's Institution (indeed, there were so many candidates at the SMI entrance exam, that all he could think—in his words—was *sei fo*). He wanted to become a doctor but didn't have the funds to do so. Instead he got a scholarship to train as a teacher in the Kirkby Malayan Teachers' Training College in Merseyside, UK. He had plenty of stories to tell about how they would ditch the cafeteria whenever it served steak and kidney pie because it unbearably *stank*. He also had the most adorable impersonation of a Liverpool accent. But the most significant thing to happen during his time at Kirkby was meeting Judy Koh, my ma ma (嬷嬷).



After getting his teaching diploma, he studied for a year in Shoreditch College of Education London (which is now Brunel University London), specialising in woodwork. He would take weekends off to go to Staines and Egham for day trips. He also had funky stories by which he and his listeners were endlessly amused, no matter how many times he told them. He went to Wales once, hitchhiking with his friends. He ended up in the car of a Cadbury factory manager, and got plenty of free chocolate as well as a free stay in his house. Seeing the twinkle in his eye as he told these stories, I imagined that, in his mind, his memories were animated like comic strips, intricate, hilarious, precious pieces of a fun story.

When they returned to Malaysia, yea yea and ma ma married in Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh. They were both teachers. Yea yea was a founding teacher of Sekolah Tunku Abdul Rahman (STAR), which still stands today. He is still commemorated there. In fact, a teacher in my own school, decades later, was pleasantly surprised to find that two of his students were the granddaughters of the great Ho Lim Cheng.

Yea yea and ma ma started a family and lived in KL for most of their life. Ma ma was teacher and eventually headmistress of Methodist Girls' Primary School in Brickfields, and yea yea was a lecturer in the Teachers' Training College. He also visited schools in remote places to evaluate teachers.

Yea yea and ma ma were living in KL during 13 May 1969 when the racial riots broke out. Yea yea was always persuaded that God saved him and ma ma from certain death that day, when they found themselves in a traffic jam, crawling toward a site of extreme violence. Somehow their car crossed the divider to the other side of the road in escape. He said it was miraculous, and he never thought otherwise.



Several years later, yea yea had to suffer the death of his son Patrick, who drowned in a lake in Wisconsin while he was a student at University of Wisconsin Madison. I do not know how he and ma ma survived that devastation. I am sure yea yea still lived with splinters of that loss until the very end.

Then in 2007, he suffered the death of his wife, my ma ma, from pancreatic cancer. He has lived with that grief ever since then. He told me, a few months ago, that he would often dream of her. He would wake up with tears already in his eyes and then would look across the bed and find it empty. He is now, at last, with Uncle Patrick and ma ma, and I am sure it is nothing short of a blissful reunion.

There were many more stories in between these landmarks. Yea yea never forgot them, not even the most seemingly trivial details. This habit of recording and recalling continued to the invention of the mainstream digital camcorder! So when he went on holidays in the latter part of his life, he would film everything—yes, everything—because it was all precious to him.

I wonder how these memories played in his mind. Did he go through them continuously, so that the reels and reels of film would not fade? Did he select some to play at a time, whenever something in his day reminded him of something thirty years ago? I do not know. I only saw the outworking of it in his honest and grateful storytelling. That's something I'll certainly remember him for.



Third, yea yea was a man of unwavering faith, especially in the face of death.

This started from very young, growing up as a member of Wesley Methodist Church Ipoh in the 1940s. Later in life he hand-carried the whole series of hardback Matthew Henry Bible commentaries back from the UK. They still sit in his bookshelf now, next to a giant magnifying glass he used to read them when his eyesight had deteriorated. He also went on to be the longest-serving Methodist lay preacher in the state of Perak: he renewed his preacher's license so many times they had to start recording his renewals on the back cover of his booklet beyond the printed lines.



All his life, yea yea heard the echoes of the perfect heaven he was made for. He enjoyed creation all around him, and was quietly fascinated—even captivated—by things that bored others. He kept arowana fish for a very long time. One of them lived for sixteen years. Every day he would feed them and watch them keenly, a faithful keeper. In his last house, he had a pond of koi fish, and up until he was too weak to do so, every day he would go out to buy fresh small fish for them to eat. He would drop them into the water and stand precariously over the pond to admire them. The slow, poised dignity of these beautiful fish were really what captured him. They captured him more—much more—than the yapping of a Labrador we once gave to him. I realise now how much this reflected his own quiet, contemplative nature, a man of few words. He didn't say much—he certainly rarely yapped on like a dog. But when he did speak, he offered pearls of wisdom, humour, recollections, and a heartfelt care.

He also loved plants. Once, he built from scratch a huge orchid stand that was the length of his garden. Pots of beautiful orchids hung from it, and he would take us to each one and explain how much he loved each colour. We would also pause briefly at the bougainvillea corner of his garden, when he would explain how he bred each one so that each flower would bloom with different-coloured petals.

These were some sweet echoes of God's character as a Creator, that he heeded throughout his life. They were never short-lived obsessions. Yea yea was not one to pounce between different interests. Instead, he had a few steady passions and his devotion to them was lifelong.

But all of these were echoes of a truer, sweeter sound of heaven that he looked forward to. On the hospital bed as he recovered from the first surgery on his stomach, he told me he often dreamt of what heaven might be like.

"I saw a beautiful river, the water sparkling, the clearest I've ever seen. There were fish in the water of species that I never imagined could exist: much more beautiful than koi. And across the river I saw trees and flowers that I had never seen before, they were so interesting, very beautiful. It was really paradise."

There in the hospital room, within those bland walls, I saw the most beautiful scenery I'd seen in my life, painted by his hoarse old voice. I smile when I think how much yea yea is enjoying this now. At last, he has followed "an echo that did not die away but swelled into the sound itself", the culmination of all the beauty he had steadily admired in his aquarium, in his flowerpots, and most of all in the face of Jesus, complete in the unhindered presence of his creator.



In my mind, yea yea has already been somewhat of a legend all along. If he wasn't already, he is now. He was a legendary man who was gentle, humble, and very much alive even in his final weeks. Eventually, tumours the size of tennis balls were lodged all over his torso, front and back. He couldn't even sit up without keeling over. So he just stayed in bed, peaceful and ready for whatever would come the next day. He would slurp his *wat tan hor* and *tau fu fah* every day, and my dad would take videos for us to see. In every video, my dad would say, "Is Jesus your Lord & Saviour?" The reply was a resolute, "yes", as confident in his faith as I have always known him to be.

Thank you, yea yea, for being a loving grandfather, a keen storyteller, and a brilliant shining light. We love you very much!

"But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds."

Psalm 73:28



Blessings from TOKYO

Foo Mei Ling

Kok Cheng, Yi Wern, Yi Sheng and I had a wonderful holiday in Tokyo in early Jan 2020. The weather was cold and chilly, 6 degrees or much lower. We enjoyed the Japanese food especially Wagyu beef, Unagi eel, ramen and udon.

On 9th Jan 2020, we were invited to this Japanese friend Isaiah's home by his parents for dinner at 7pm. We met his soft spoken German father Professor Karl, Japanese mother Kimiko and younger brother Joseph. And also Rtd Pastor Hanson who was staying there for twelve days after his Ipoh stay with us but before his flying over to New Zealand. With crackling wood logs burning in the fireplace, the warmth emanated throughout the dining place. Prof Karl said grace and as we tucked into Japanese food and drank hot green tea, we had a great time of sharing and fellowship. Kok Cheng asked Kimiko how she met her German husband Karl. Her testimony to God's love and sovereignty unfolded.



Kimiko: I believe in Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" As a student studying history in France, during semester break, I went for a holiday in Munich, I lost my knapsack, in which was the guide book for accommodation. I met two other foreign students who kindly tore off one page from their accommodation guide book saying this page will help me look for accommodation. There was a church service in the place I stayed. I attended my first church service in Munich, and sitting behind my pew was this German gentleman, Karl. After church service and refreshments, I helped to wash the cups and plates in the kitchen and Karl had also helped out. I distinctly heard the whispering of the Holy Spirit over my shoulder '*This is him I have chosen to be your spouse*'. As a young Christian, I had to list out 10 points for my future husband. You know, he must be a committed Christian, must be kind and loving, must be a good man and filial to parents. After those 10 points, I added in a PS, that he must also be strong in Mathematics, since I was weak in Mathematics. And lo and behold, Karl was a university mathematics Professor.

Kok Cheng: God always provides the best when you leave the choice to Him.

Indeed we all laughed in agreement until our belly ached.



Prof Karl: It is past 11 pm, I'll read Psalm 25 followed by a prayer and everyone of you do feel free to pray aloud. Pastor Hanson then would close in prayer.

After everyone had his or her turn to pray, Pastor Hanson closed in prayer. Prof Karl drove us to the *Mustashi Sakai* train station in his car, together with Kimiko and Isaiah. We waved them goodbye, got into the metro train, and we reached our hotel in Akasaka by midnight. There were still many people on the train and in town. The city of Tokyo never sleeps. My eyes misted over as I was reminded of Romans 8:28 and also Phil 4:8.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right whatever is pure whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Indeed, the Lord had blessed our sweet fellowship and conversation. I remembered the words of inscription on the monument of President Abraham Lincoln in Washington DC "*With malice towards none, With charity towards all.*" Let there be love and kindness in our hearts, do not bear grudges or bitterness or hatred because Jesus is loving, kind and compassionate.



Character of Moses

~ my take on the exodus sermon series ~

CH'ng Ai Yoon (CG4)

From Pastor Andrew's sermon series and reading of online commentaries on Exodus 32-34, I caught a glimpse into the character of Moses, undeniably one of the most prominent characters in the Bible, who led the Israelites out of Egypt.

Moses spent time in **communion with God**. Moses glowed from having been in God's Presence, and whenever he met with God, the radiance would be 'recharged'. He spent a generous amount of time with God, so much so that "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend" (Exodus 33:11). The Israelites were probably least expecting Moses to be radiant with the glory of God after descending Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands – he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. But Moses' face shone with God's glory.

Moses **interceded for the people of Israel** after the incident of the Golden Calf. He acknowledged the sin the people had committed and pleaded with God for His forgiveness.

Exodus 32:11 "But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God."

Exodus 32:32 "But now, please forgive their sin."

Exodus 34:9 "forgive our wickedness and our sin."

Moses even went over and beyond his role as mediator between God and His people. Instead of taking up God's offer to make him into a great nation, Moses replied: "But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written" (Exodus 32:32). Moses cared little for his own lineage, but was genuinely pleading in an all-out manner for God's people, his people.

Moses **persevered in seeking God** for His leading. When Moses was on Mount Sinai the first time to receive the Ten Commandments, God told Moses to go down the mountain because the Israelites had made and worshipped a cast idol. God intended to destroy His people and make a great nation from Moses' descendants. But with boldness and persuasion in his arguments with God, Moses convinced God not to destroy the Israelites (Exodus 32:11-14).

Before Moses' ascent up Mount Sinai to get a replacement for the Ten Commandments that he broke, Moses appealed to the Lord once again (Exodus 33:12-14). Moses pleaded with God to send someone with him. He pleaded for God's favor and to be taught in His ways. He reminded God that the Israelites are "Your people". Moses knew that God's presence was the distinguishing factor that separated them from the rest of the nations. In the end, the Lord agreed to go with His people to the Promised Land.

One who had an earnest desire to know and do the will of God, one who stood in the gap, and one who had patient perseverance, among other qualities – the character of Moses is something to ponder about, learn from and apply in our lives.

What Christmas means to me

~ Ko Siow Jin (CG4)

Christmas is the birth of Christ Jesus. The birth of a newborn always holds special, magical moments that call for a celebration. For example, the birth of my three children were the most beautiful and wonderful moments for me. After that only came the realisation that the responsibility of bringing them up was mine.



The birth of Jesus means a lot to me because it means that I can have a new life if I choose to put my faith in Jesus. Jesus grew up and became a man that had so much compassion for people, He was also obedient to the point of shedding His blood on the cross in order to bring us back to God. This is a story that has been shared repeatedly so many times. However here I want to share how special He is to me personally.

I was not such an easygoing kid when I was growing up. No one taught me how to be naughty but I just knew how to do things that were dishonest. I stole my classmate's dictionary when I was just 7 years old and was so proud about it, that I had to show off to my other friends. I loved ghost movies and novels to the point that I was willing to be haunted by all those scary characters, just to get the adrenaline rush. I bullied my siblings at very young age. The point I want to bring out is that man is born sinful. There is an inborn sinful nature in each one of us, and that is the very thing that makes us reject God and separates us from God. I have always wondered where the first human came from, and I never got my answer till I was introduced the bible, the story of creation. I finally encountered Jesus when I was 18 years old. I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

Weeks later I went to Ukraine to pursue my medical degree, I faced a lot of challenges over there and got myself into so many complicated situations. However, GOD HAD A PERFECT PLAN for me, and it was over there when I was having a major nervous breakdown and being at my lowest point of life, that God met me. I was so vulnerable, weak and didn't even have a desire to go on with my life. My life was in a total mess, I didn't know what to do anymore. And God sent angels, a pair of Christian American missionaries that shepherds the university students at our campus, to help me. They took me into their home.

They showed me who God is, what is love and I knew the hope in the Lord is real. Ever since, Christmas has not been just about gift exchange, and Christmas tree decorations; it's a celebration of love. The birthday of Jesus, who is God but was willing to be born as a man, experiencing everything that a normal human being like you and me go through. More than that He showed his divine nature by healing so many sick people and restored the brokenness in people. I was broken and Jesus pieced me back. I recognised that I belong to Jesus, I am worthy, my worth doesn't come from anyone else or anything that I do, I am a precious child of God. My grades improved remarkably since then, and I was happier, more cheerful and positive. I successfully graduated from medical school and became a doctor. Besides that, I believe its God has blessed me with a very wonderful husband who loves me unconditionally and has given us three very beautiful children.

Our kids are growing up with much love, security and in the knowledge of Jesus. God has been so faithful in supporting us financially, mentally, emotionally and physically. God says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I also want to take this opportunity to apologise to my family who loves me so unconditionally, always being there for me and my family when we need help. But I have not done a good job being a daughter, daughter in law, sister to you all. Yes, I'm so imperfect, but that is the reason we need a Saviour, and only Jesus can be that Person. I really pray that all of you will taste the goodness of God personally.



Harvest event ~ “Christmas at HOME”

Ko Siow Jin (CG4)

On 20th December CG 4 had our Harvest event using the "Christmas at home" video. All our regular CG members attended and we had 26 guests. We prayed fervently prior to this event. And CG members shared responsibilities to make the event a successful one via zoom. We started off by introducing our guests who joined us from KL, Singapore and Ipoh. Then we had two welcome games (icebreakers) by a pair of father and son from our CG. Though it was via zoom, everyone had fun.



Then we watched the "Christmas at home" video. Three testimonies were shared by our CG members and after that we sang some carols led by our CG member.

These are some feedback from our guests and CG members:

"We are glad to have attended your Christmas online event. It was meaningful as we could feel the love and joy in the families of Christ. Shalom and God Bless us all. Take care and be safe always."

~ Mr George (Guest)

"Praise God! Everything went well and even though it was online, was meaningful for us and our guests."

~ Micheal and family

"Thank you for organizing it. Positive feedbacks from my friends too and they can feel the warmth and love from CG4 and would like to know more about Christ. Praise the Lord!"

~ Jane

"Yes, Praise God indeed!!! Everything went very well. Thank you for the effort."

~ Auntie Lai Yin

"Yes, must thank God for letting us have a good time celebrating together. Despite being online, the warmth is felt. Being online, it's really tough to organise everything. I had a great time. Thanks all of you."

~ Edmund and family

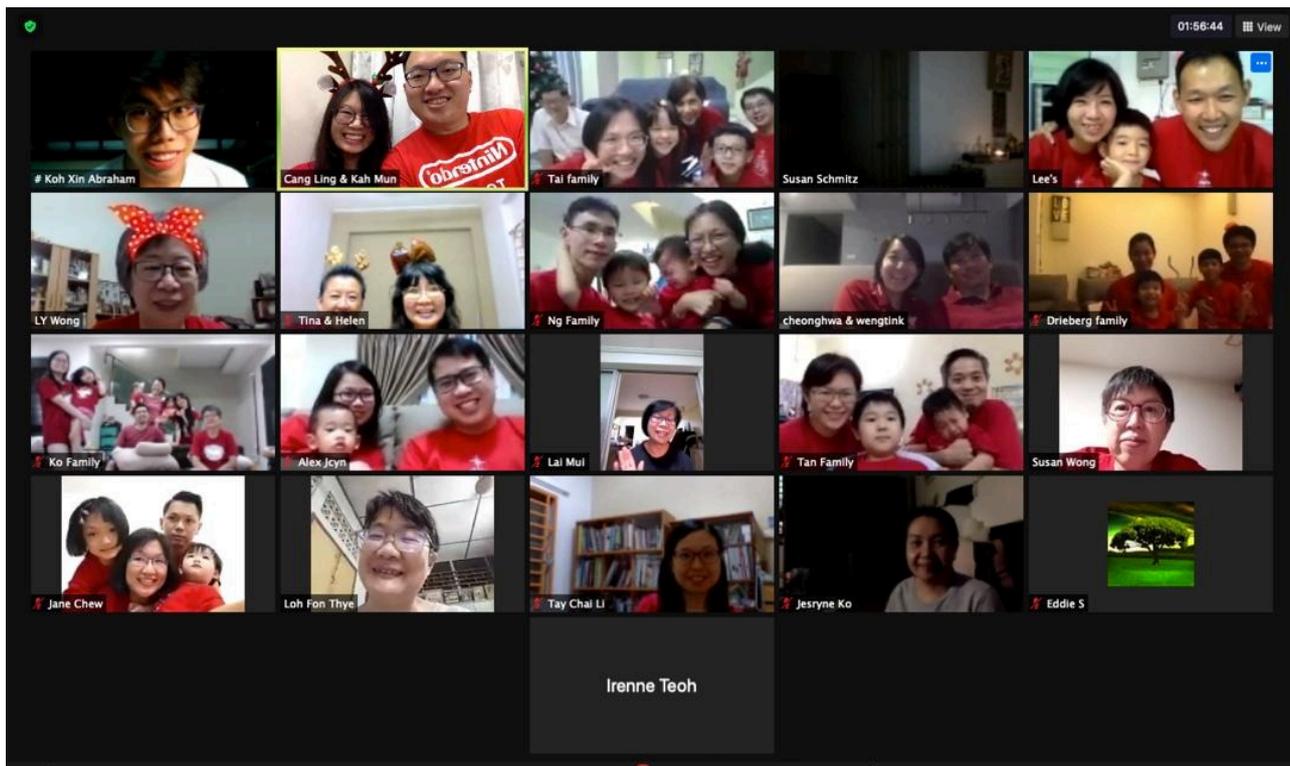
"Praise the Lord for tonight. Good internet, good weather, guests & family. Thank you CG4 for putting your best effort. (TERBAIK)."

~ Fook Leong and family

As for myself, I'm so thankful that the guests we invited came. My whole family who is in KL was able to join us. My dad who was a free thinker and usually wouldn't join any church event, turned up as well. In fact all my sisters and brother and their spouses joined us to celebrate Christmas via zoom. My parents in law came to our house and joined us too. We spent an amazing time together! All glory to God!

We also had little gifts sent to our guests and also CG members prior to the event. All of our CG members put in their best effort to make this event run smoothly. We even had our CG family T shirts made which we wore on that day. Our CG kids were wearing their T shirts too.

In conclusion, we enjoyed ourselves very much even though it was via zoom. Praise God for that!



我的见证 ~ little feet, sowing seeds

- Samantha Chieng (CG4)

今天，我很感恩我能和你们分享上帝在我生命中的一些奇妙的作为。

小的时候，每逢主日都会跟着妈妈去教会，风雨不改！有一天崇拜的时候，突然身边来了乞丐叔叔，我害怕所以就闪开他，妈妈这时问我耶稣最爱谁？我忘了我的答案，我只记得妈妈告诉我说就是你身边的乞丐叔叔，因为他有一颗敬拜上帝的心。我感激我妈妈在我生命做了撒种的工作。。我生长在不怎么好的环境，所有我的童年回忆就只有上帝是我的避难所，多么盼望我能在祂怀中。回想那些难熬的日子，我是怎么活过来的，就只因为我信祂是我唯一的盼望才造就了今天的我，我期盼我也能为祂做撒种的工作，让更多的人被这份无私的爱感动。

虽然在教会成长，但我却一直没参加任何的侍奉。是因为胆怯，怕做不到，也没信心去参与，更加不敢去问！直到有一天，我似乎被呼唤了。那一天，也不知道哪来的勇气让我走向台前去表达我的意愿 - 求主用我，领我，让我为你做事。

很多时候我在想什么是梦想，我的梦想又是什么？基督徒不就是要行神的旨意吗？但有时还是会发白日梦。如果有一天我怎样。。怎样。。我就会这样。。这样。。这些所谓的白日梦没把我对上帝的承诺给遗忘掉，反而让我很积极的去追求——事事完美。

祂是无所不在，无所不能的上帝，只要我们拥有一颗愿意“开”与“听”的心来寻求祂，就必蒙福！

当我怀了二宝不久，就萌生了一个念头，不如我就在家照顾孩子吧！但是若真的走这一步我就没收入了，我想要在经济上能独立而且得到自由，不需要伸手向丈夫要。虽然我知道他会愿意给。此时，我就祷告上帝，我还会做什么呢？我不是什么优质生也没有大学毕业证，我还能做些什么呢？

生了二宝后，我真的就辞去工作留在家照顾孩子同时也做了保姆代顾另外3个宝宝。上帝向我显示祂的大能与恩典 - 耶立米书29:13 你们要寻找我，只要一心寻求，就必寻见。

怀着三宝的期间也就暂时没有代顾宝宝直到三宝出来安顿好了。我又再做了同样的祷告。。这次上帝就好像让我感受到梦想成真的那种滋味。 - 耶利米书 29:11 因我自己知道我为你们所定的计划，是使你们得平安，而不是遭受灾祸的计划；要赐给你们美好的前程和盼望。’这是耶和华的宣告。



这一次祂很实在的让我经历到上帝在这事工上真的是赐予我满满的恩典，祂为我挑选的每一位助理，每个都尽心尽责的去做好每一个细节。祂给我们带来的每一个宝宝，以及每个宝宝的父母，都是让我能藉着祂的力量来做见证的对象，若不是因为上帝赐予，我想茫茫人海中我真的不知如何开始。。我深信祂在一一的看顾与保守着。。



无论在任何的季度我们都会遇到不一样试探。这一次的试探好痛好痛，情绪是复杂到不知如何处理的，我纠结在为什么没人明白我！但我相信上帝都在为我们预备好每一季度的挑战。—哥林多前书 10:13 你们所受的试探，无非是人受得起的；神是信实的，他必不容许你们受试探过于你们承受得起的，而且在受试探的时候，必定给你们开一条出路，使你们能忍受得住。



真的，此时此刻，祂让我知道什么是神的旨意，明白到必须照神的旨意去行，才是我们信仰的核心。只要是行在上帝的旨意中，祂必造就你。

我很感恩和感激与我的小组家人里的每一个弟兄姐妹，当知道我们遇到困难，无论是为我们祷告的或是二话不说就现身来帮忙的，实在是让我们很感动。我们的小组也在活跃当中，这真的要感谢上帝，一切都在祂保管之下。所以这一季度的我想多专注于在自己的家庭了，大宝今年7岁了，我也想藉此机会从新学习做好自己孩子的妈妈。平时的工作多多少少忽略了自己的孩子。但这不代表我要放弃服事上帝，我还是要继续做撒种的工作，只是或许在某方面需要稍微做调整。



只要你愿意让祂来主宰你的人生，哪一切蒙福的人都彰显了祂是无所不能，无所不在的上帝。荣耀归与我们在天上的父。

让我们靠主常常喜乐，不住地祷告，凡事谢恩活在神的旨意和祝福中，是我们属灵生活丰富，灵性生命丰盛，享受主耶稣所赐的美好生活。

求主保守祂的事工，也希望我能继续为祂做撒种的工作。



JKC ~ We are ZOOMING

~ Priscilla Ebernesan

I want to praise God for the KIDS ministry and the privilege of serving Him. This year has been an extraordinary year and we have done extraordinary things. Sunday school had to be closed because of the pandemic. And we seemed to be lost at first, as to how to reach the children. It was in August that the idea of Junior Kids Church @ Zoom was birthed. Right from the start, our Lord's presence was felt. We could see His hand in everything. For example, different people would prepare different aspects of the program and when we came together, everything was in sync. It just blew my mind. Often, I would have an idea and someone else would voice it out. Sometimes, when I didn't agree about something, the person concerned would change their view or suggestion before I voice it out. I dare say, I have tasted what unity in Christ is like. (*Psalm 133*)

Here is where I am in this ministry; on fire, in peace and joy for what is going to happen. We, teachers are all seeking the Lord together due to unfamiliarity. I have complete trust in my fellow servants in Christ to do what they think is best. And complete trust and anticipation in God to move, lead and guide. And week after week, He does!

Victory is never measured by the number of children who attend Zoom. Victory is measured in the giving of ourselves, the joy and excitement in the process and when you come to the Lord at the end of the day, you smile in prayer. Smile in your thoughts of families you have connected with, as you lift them up in prayer.

After all, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7 NIV says;

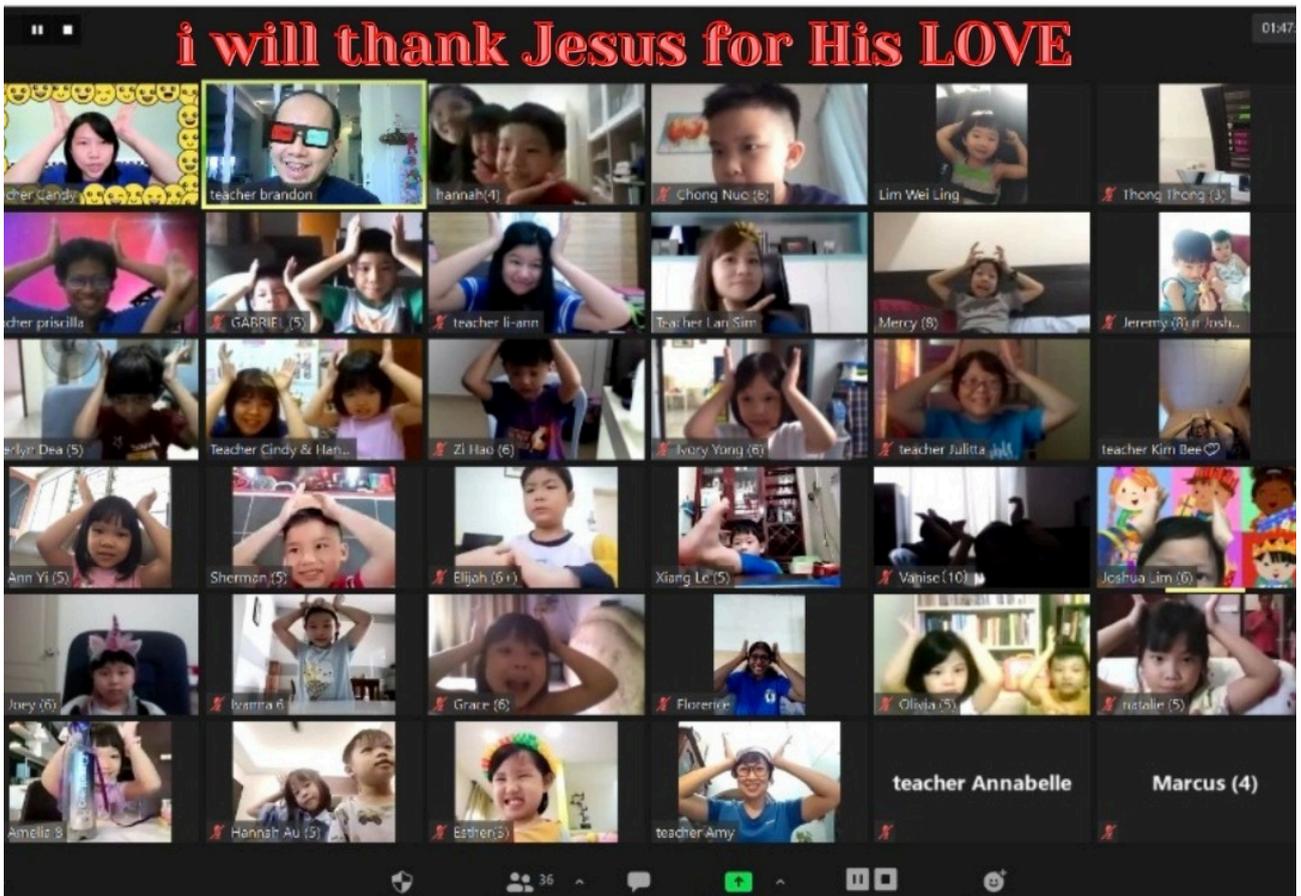
What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe---as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow..

For the teachers, neither the time, energy nor effort is anything, but only God who does His work in the hearts of the children and their families. We are dedicated to giving our best and letting the Lord do the rest.



The children bring us so much joy. It fuels my heart to love, serve, teach and reach out to them. As the Word states in *Nehemiah 8:10*, *For the Joy of the Lord is our strength*.

We do not know what the New Year will have in store for us. Really looking forward to seeing those little faces in person. Whatever may come, I know He will carry us through. All praise and glory to our Lord.



Alpha course ~ we are online !!!

Dr Wong LY & Chong Seong Foe



I've actually lost count of the number of years I've been involved in Alpha but I assure you it's a very rewarding Ministry as I get to work with a whole lot of church members year in and year out and more importantly, I get to know people who are searching and wanting to know more of Christianity. And the real satisfying thing about the Ministry is when these friends come to know and accept the Lord.

We started our Round 1 of Alpha this year on the 1st March but after our third session we had to call off Alpha when it was deemed unsafe to carry on meeting and on that same evening the MCO was announced.

In late April I received an email from Pas. Andrew Tan about a training by Alpha Malaysia on how to run Alpha via Zoom. Most of the members on the Alpha Team were not that keen to come on at first, so only three of us signed up for the Training in May. Mr. CK Leong went on to do a trial run of Alpha Online with other members from other churches and they did some adjustments on how best to run Alpha for the 11 sessions with one Alpha Weekend. Most of us were still very hesitant about running it at CGMC but I thank God for Mr. CK Leong's enthusiasm and the encouragement from Pas. Andrew Tan, ten of us formed the Alpha Online Team to do a CGMC trial run. We had about 10 guests initially but only 6 stayed with us and 3 of them are from outstation.

We just had our Alpha Weekend Online on the 24-25th October and I'm glad to report that thus far, two has accepted the Lord, one is about to.... And there were two rededications, one has gone back to church and two are looking forward to joining a church.

Nicky Gumbel, the developer of the Alpha Course calls this Covid situation "a very extraordinary season" as it has caused so many people to be interested and are enquiring about the Christian faith. Many churches across the world are running Alpha Online and have reported a very good response and many have turned to the Lord.

Looking at how the Covid situation is currently, our Alpha will most likely be online next year. So, if you have done Alpha before and have gone through Alpha Training please be ready to join us on the Team and please do invite your friends especially those who are seeking to join us on Alpha Online. Thank you and God bless you!!!

Dr Wong Lai Yin



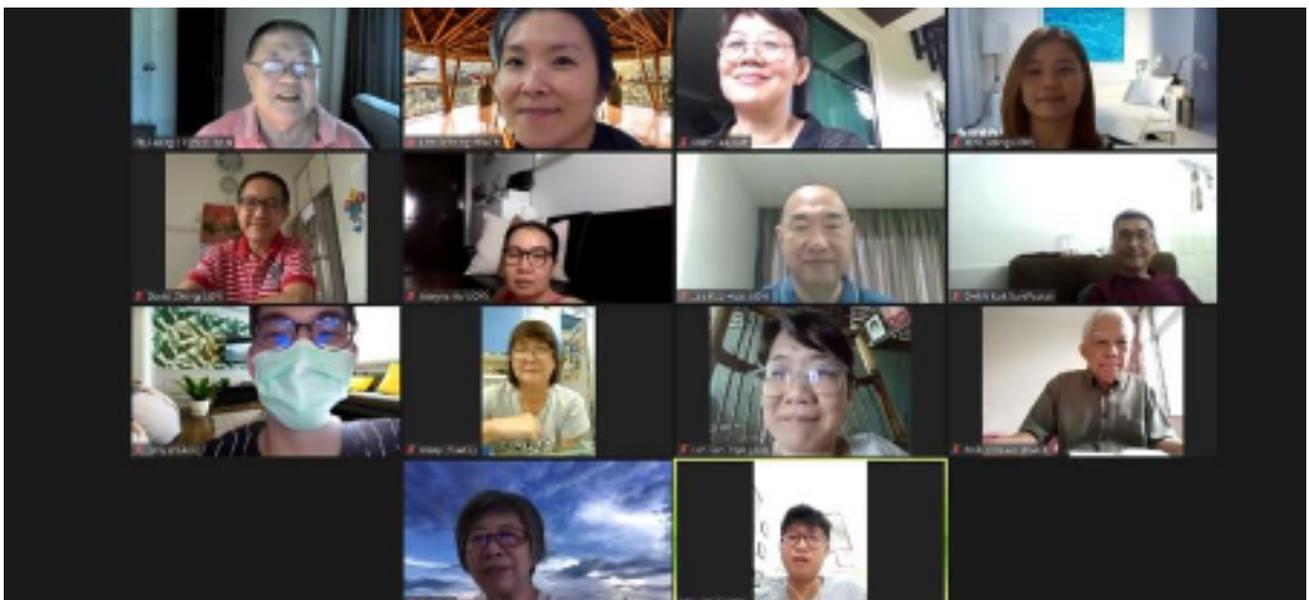


The concept of running Alpha Online was so foreign to us. It had never crossed our minds to even think about it. I presume that it was mainly because CGMC had been conducting Alpha Classic in person for more than a decade. We had been so accustomed to the norm. In fact, we were going through the normal Alpha in early March this year until the 3rd session where we decided to discontinue the remaining sessions due to growing cases of Covid-19. Even when Alpha Malaysia invited us to attend Alpha Online, we responded coldly and only one of us participated in the training.

Yet, in all our unwillingness, God prompted brother CK Leong to initiate and push for the digital Alpha platform. The eagerness and enthusiasm of this brother spurred other Alpha team members to finally launch the very first Alpha Online @CGMC. Hence, we had our Alpha Online conducted from 6th September to 29th November 2020. From the recent concluded Alpha Online, here are a few lessons learnt:

- It looks like the Covid-19 pandemic may not be over so soon. We are to live a new normal way of life. That means we have to adopt a new approach in reaching out to the lost. In 2 Timothy 2:9b, it says, “God’s word is not chained”. We may be restricted in our movements due to the pandemic, but the Word of God must continue to be preached to all nations before the return of Christ. God is greater than the pandemic. Do not allow the situation to overwhelm our hearts. Our Lord has already warned us in John 16:33, saying, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Let our hearts be at peace in the Lord. Our focus should be on fulfilling the great commission and not on the happenings around us. We have been blessed with many gadgets to use. Why not use them to advance the Kingdom of God? Share with someone you know even when they may be miles away, telling them of the Good News via the internet. You will never know how good of the responses can be until you try.



- Alpha Online is an excellent tool to reach out to people wherever they may be. There are no territory restrictions and you can invite friends across the globe to join. Once they have accepted your invitation, a link will be furnished for them to login to the platform. The platform is non-threatening, safe to use, as well as user-friendly for one to explore the basic Christian faith. In fact, we have two participants from Singapore and one from KL in our recent Alpha Online.
- We have discovered that participants are now more open and are more willing to share their thoughts and struggles during the breakout rooms for discussions. They feel more relaxed as they connect to the platform in the comfort of their own homes. Participants can even have their own selection of tea or coffee and snacks during the sessions. All these argue well for an open and friendly conversation. Their hearts are more receptive to the gospel.
- Some other aspects of Alpha Online are the costs and time. As the participants do not need to travel to the hosting venue, time and travelling costs have been saved and eluded. As lunch meals are not provided, the cost of running Alpha Online has also been significantly reduced. The only cost is the Zoom Pro charges which is minimal. For the Alpha Classic, some invited guests are quite reluctant and reserved in going to the church to attend the course. With Alpha Online, the fear and obstacles have been vastly removed.
- Paul mentioned in Romans 12:4-5, “Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others”. In Alpha Online, we exhibit teamwork and unity of the Spirit. Each Alpha team member knows their roles well, whether it is in leading prayer sessions, hosting, conducting ice breakers or serving as facilitators or helpers. Everyone is united in one heart serving the Lord willingly.

For the record, we have three pre-believers who said the sinner’s prayer and accepted Jesus into their lives and one participant who rededicated her life to the Lord. In short, Alpha Online works and it is here to stay until further notice or until the pandemic is over. The question is, will you invite your friends to the next Alpha Online and be part of the front liners of The Gospel?

Chong Seong Foe



Introduction to CG 1 family

CG 1

I am Tang Foo Keng, 78 years of age. My hometown is in Bidor. I grew up in a non Christian family. My parents passed away many years back. I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters, and I studied in MGS Ipoh. Through my friends I come to know of the good news of Jesus Christ. I joined CGMC many years ago & accepted Him into my life as my Lord & Saviour . Since then things have never been the same for me. Every day I spend time praying to Him and enjoying His presence. I experience God's peace & endless blessings & favour in all areas of my life. Even at this stage of my life, I am still working part time in accounting & management for my longtime employer who has found favour with me. All glory to God.



Foo Keng

Greetings from Vincent and Susan to our family in CGMC.



Vincent and I were both born and bred in Ipoh . Currently we are both retired . He taught Form 6 Physics in Anderson school whilst I worked in the corporate sector and retired as a manager in the financial sector.

When I decided to retire in 2014 to lead a quieter life, God led me to the community in CGMC. We thank God for providing us with a family in CGMC who has not only welcomed us, cared for us, supported us but has also encouraged us in our walk with God.

We have been blessed with a small family. My elder, a daughter, Angela and her husband Matthias reside in Konstanz, Germany. They have been blessed with a little daughter, Vivian. My son David, however has chosen to grow his roots in Adelaide, Australia.

It was in June 2017 when David was facing deportation from Australia. His visa was expiring in just two weeks' time and he had already exhausted all available avenues to extend his visa. I requested our prayer group to intercede and pray for him. He was miraculously granted his PR within a week! Two years later, David was granted his Australian citizenship. All glory to God who hears and answers our prayers. He is indeed Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provides. A big thank you too, to our brothers and sisters in CGMC.

May we as a family continue to know Him, worship Him , serve Him and love Him.

Susan Ang -Lee

My name is Foo Lee Chiu. I am 69 years old. I have two brothers and two sisters . I live with my second brother. I come from a non Christian family who believe in Taoism.

One day I met a Christian who introduced me to Christianity & Jesus Christ. Then I attended Bible Study at the Antioch House Church , Ipoh Garden in 2008. I also attended the Lutheran Church Sunday worship service. I was baptised on 27 Dec 2009. I visited a few churches in Ipoh attending their Sunday worship services. I was happy to meet so many Christian friends from other churches.

I found CGMC in September 2014 where I was introduced to the Bible Study teacher Ms Lam Wye Min . I started my Bible Study on 23 December 2015. On the first day of the class I was surprised to meet my good friend Chung Swee Lan. I joined CGI and transferred my membership on 19 April 2018. Chung Swee Lan was my sponsor. Indeed I am so blessed to have Susan Liew as my cell leader . She is a very caring, loving and understanding sister in Christ .

God is Spirit. God is love. God is righteous, powerful, true and just. I pray to God every day for His guidance and wisdom. For me ' To know God ' is to know His Word & to serve Him. Thank you Lord.

Foo Lee Chiu



Shalom. I am Nyok Tai from CGI. My husband is Peter Lim & I have a son, Jonathan.

We were formerly members of CGMC. I was baptised here by Ps Andrew. He was our marriage counsellor and our shepherd together with his gentle wife Anna. We left in 1992 to work in Kota Kinabalu & in Kuala Lumpur. During that time we worshiped & served in SIBKK, then SIBKL & then in Skyline SIB.

Upon retirement we returned to Ipoh & CGMC at the end of 2018. Now my husband & son are based in KL. I like living in Ipoh, my home town with my siblings & their families nearby. I am praying for their salvation & I know that God will answer my prayers in His perfect time. He is never late. It is good to be back in CGMC & be strengthened weekly with God's Words & to apply it to daily living under Ps Andrew's tutelage. My CGL Susan Liew is very caring & a great role model to us in growing & serving especially in this pandemic time so that none will drift away.

Up, up CGI !!!

Nyok Tai



My name is Chung Swee Lan. I am 81 years old. I am a pensioner. I was widowed at the age of 40 . I hv 3 children & 3 grandchildren. I live with my youngest daughter & her family . I was born into a Buddhist family of 8 siblings. During my young days I was taught Religious Knowledge in school. Through these teachings I learned about Jesus but did not know Him personally. My son & wife accepted Christ in 1998. The following year they presented me with a Student Bible. Since then whenever he phoned from Singapore he would ask me whether I had started reading the Bible. On many occasions when he came home for holidays he would talk to me about Christ but I always avoided the subject. My son was then transferred from Singapore to Denver, USA in 2001. The following year I went on a holiday to the States & later visited him. One Sunday he invited me to join him for church service , which I did. During the service I was touched by the Holy Spirit & started crying loudly, so much so that my daughter in law had to calm me down. My son knew that it was the Holy Spirit, although I did not, that made me cry so profusely.

When I returned home I started searching for a church. I phoned Mrs Esther Toh regarding her church & she invited me to join her for Sunday service in CGMC . I was invited to the line dancing tea party held in church. During the party I approached Miss Kwok Pui Ling for information on Alpha Course, which my son recommended. She told me there was no Alpha course yet but she could introduce me to someone who could guide me to know more about Christ. So I was introduced to a church member , Mrs Chee, who invited me to attend her Cell Group meetings . She asked me whether I had accepted Jesus as my Lord & Saviour. I said not yet & she then led me in the sinner's prayer. I confessed my sins and asked Jesus to forgive me & be my Lord & Saviour. After receiving Christ I renounced all my past idol worshipping. I was led to know Christ better through the Sponsor-Sponsee program by this sister. Since Christ came into my life, I have more peace and patience. I used to be impatient but now I pray to God daily for guidance & protection . Coming to know Christ is the best thing that has happened in my life. He gives me peace, joy, mercy and grace. Thank you Lord.

Chung Swee Lan

My name is Katherine Suppiah. I stay with my mother who is 85 years old. We live near CGMC. I have retired from my childcare vocation .

I joined CGMC 3 years ago . In May 2019 I joined CGI . On 15.12.2019 I decided to transfer my membership from SSMC , in PJ to my present church .

During the MCO, my mother's depression came back. Seeing her going through the pain and suffering daily, I decided to ask for prayers from our church friends and her CG leader Mrs Lim . I also pray daily , claiming God's promises and faithfulness in Psalm 121 for her. Thank you God for hearing our prayers. On 21.5.2020 she was miraculously set free from her sickness . Praise the Lord . But now she is afraid to go out for fear that she may fall down. We will continue to seek God and trust in Him.

All glory to God.

Katherine Suppiah



Purpose in the midst of adversities

Chan Kok Sun

Around CNY 2020, I had a total gastrectomy operation in Ipoh GH, followed by an 8-cycle chemotherapy treatment.

Initially, I thought I would be able to tolerate the side effects from these chemo sessions. However, soon after completing my 5th cycle, I hopped over a monsoon drain, fell and fractured my humerus joint. Thankfully, I was still able to go on with my daily life, even completing the 6th cycle, despite the inconvenience of a plastered arm.

Around the end of July 2020, I had another unfortunate fall, tripping over a cement ring. This resulted in multiple fractures in my right knee, elbow, cracks in the 3 rib bones at my right lower abdomen and the humerus joint again!

Despite all these challenges in that short time period, I still felt God is gracious since I had evaded injury to my head during both falls. I had to rely on my wife, Peggy, to aid me in my daily needs and mobility, such as going to the toilet. It gave me a new appreciation of life and independence.



A week later, Peggy and I realized that caring for me was a tall order for her, given her lower back pain issues. She managed to locate a nursing home with able-bodied male workers to take care of my handicapped needs. Thank God for enabling me a proper place to recuperate and this allowed Peggy some much needed rest.

From time to time, I felt depressed as I did not understand why God allowed 2 falls in the short 2 months span. I doubted God. Why must I suffer so much physical affliction, in addition to battling stomach cancer? I was unable to worship Him with the song 'God Is So Good' wholeheartedly, not to mention praising His greatness with total submission and deep devotion.

I managed to read Psalms as my devotional reading and prayed for His guidance for my future. Acts 16:25-26 also encouraged me to just keep singing and praising God with hymns and gospel songs. I could visualise that God would set me free from all the restrictions and bondages like Paul and Silas who just kept singing hymns, and had prison doors opened, CGMC and every prisoner's chains came loose finally.



In the nursing home, I noticed a majority of the residents were suffering from dementia, old age illnesses, degeneration of mental health and just pure loneliness. Their faces did not show any hope for the days ahead and their lives were confined to the routine meals and boredom, day after day.



One day, in speaking with the nursing home's manager, I was asked to introduce our church's Sit Down Exercise format and also lead singalong sessions with the residents there.

This made me realise that God indeed had a purpose for me to be in this home, as a result of my incapacitating injuries. I started to organise the exercise session with the advice of brothers, Yeoh Kit Koon and Wan Sai Pun. As my elbow was recovering fast and well by His healing grace, I was able to add new exercise programmes to cheer up the residents and at the same time, benefitted my own physiotherapy treatment too. The singalong sessions with a good mix of folk songs and gospel songs brought some delightful moments and joy to the various races in the home. God once again reaffirmed to me that He makes all things beautiful in His time as clearly proclaimed in Ecclesiastes 3:11.

On 3rd September, the oncologist from KLGH decided to suspend my 7th cycle of chemo treatment. Her evaluation showed that my falls could most likely be side effects of the chemo drugs I had been taking, which may have disrupted my body coordination capabilities. I want to praise God because my CT scan on 13th November and blood test did not reveal any serious medical problems or manifestation of any recurrent cancerous symptoms so far. I still need to seek God for His healing grace to give me total wellness and a clean bill of health. In the meantime, I will continue to do His will and fulfil His commission as long as I continue this journey with Him, on this planet earth.

To God Be The Glory !

Challenges faced during the COVID pandemic

~ Susan Liew (CG 1)

Some of the major problems CG1 faced were dealing with learning new skills and the availability of resources for moving the CG meeting online.

Most of the CG1 members are retirees, although some are still working. Praise God, we have a few of the younger seniors, who joined us lately. God has been very faithful in caring and helping us to deal with our body aches and pain and other physical and emotional problems related to ageing.



So when the call for CG meetings to go online when Covid -19 pandemic was announced, there were initial mixed feelings. First, we didn't know what to expect and thought it may be for a short while.

But then it lasted longer and the church services went online, I felt the need to keep the cell group activities and sermon discussions to be in line with the church services. So we started the online CG meetings by using *WhatsApp*.

There was some sort of excitement, curiosity and interest in the new technology among some of the members in the early stage. However I found using *WhatsApp* to prepare and conduct cell meetings to be very time consuming.

And as a few of us embarked on the journey of learning "IT skills" in using smart phones and computer, we tried some new "meeting platforms" and Apps. But we were not savvy enough to go into it confidently. The thought of learning the complicated technologies seemed daunting. I really needed God's help to carry on. God's word came to my mind - "*I will be with you, I will not leave you or forsake you*" (*Joshua 1 :5*). That gave me the push to pursue trying, knowing if God is with us, I don't have to fear.

Soon the right people came along to help. With the help and support from the church MMT team members, I decided we will try to use Zoom. In order to get the group interested, I knew I had to focus on learning the basic skills first to get the meeting going.

As for my personal experience, I really believe God's hand has been leading and supporting me through. He sent many helpers to help me learn the complex skills of using Zoom. I remember Joy Leong who introduced the first session on Zoom to me with great patience. I was exhausted by the end of it, but happy and satisfied.



Later on, when we decided to use Zoom for full CG meetings, God sent Candy Lo to help me learn how to use the share screen function etc. Candy is also a very wonderful Zoom “sifu” with patience and thoughtfulness. She also shared useful tips with CG1 members in use of Zoom. The church staff have also helped to provide assistance in getting the Zoom sessions going.

However, for the elderly to embark on a journey learning new skills, we also faced various problems related to each individual’s physical health status, emotional and even spiritual state of mind. There were times of frustration and disappointment at my own forgetfulness and episodes of age – related eyes problems during the trial and error stage of learning. God has been gracious and faithful; somehow we managed to get through the problems and learned how to deal with it.

I am thankful for those “regular” members in the meeting group who continued to meet and those who learned together, even when the phones or computer were often smarter than us. Besides the need for willingness and perseverance to learn, it is necessary to have the suitable device to use for the purpose. In this case, I believe God really knows my needs.

I have not been using the computer much since retirement, years ago. I often encountered technical problems, especially when trying to prepare for Sermon Discussions sessions for CG Meetings online. I was rather surprised when my son who came back from New Zealand just before the start of MCO this year, gave me a new laptop! (What a gift for an old lady?) It could be he was tired of my frequent calls for him to help fix my aged laptop problems. But I believe God knows what I needed for a time such as this, and prompted him to give me one. Praise the Lord!

We thank God some of the members persevered and attended the CG meetings regularly right through this period. Although the regular attendance has reduced from that prior to MCO time. I’ve learned to accept that everyone is different and various situations affect each one differently. But with Christ as the Head of the body of the church, we will try to move along as closely as we can.



I also thank God for our dear supervisor, Ms Kwok Pui Ling who has always given me the support needed in difficult complex situations. And also those members who are willing to learn the necessary skill to help keep the CG meeting to go on.

Truly, when we need assurance of guidance, our God will answer whenever we ,
“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight” (Proverbs 3 : 5 - 6).

God has made it possible for us in CG1 to overcome the difficulties of(learning to use modern technologies) so that we can meet and be connected to the church online. I hope the MCO restrictions will end in good time, because nothing compared to the good warm fellowship of real life in person.

Thank you Father God and the brothers and sisters in CGMC.



All Glory to God.



Rainbow after the rain

~ Ch'ng Ai Yoon (CG4)

I was pregnant with Daryl, my elder son, when I lost my job. I remember packing my belongings and crying while driving all the way home alone. I remember trying to stop crying so that I could focus on driving home safely. I knew in my heart that it would be almost impossible for someone to offer me a job while pregnant. Such is the harsh reality that I would encounter later. A sense of despair overwhelmed me because it had made me question my ability and made me feel anxious about what the future held.

It was a few days later when I came across a verse from the Bible while I was reading. Romans 8:28 says *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* Having come across this particular verse before, it was at that moment when I felt that this verse was somehow directed to me. It wasn't a coincidence. “But what *good* could come out of it?” I was convinced that my ‘career’ was done! My husband would in later years tease me repeatedly for that...

Although I knew my chances of securing a job were low, nevertheless, I applied for several jobs and attended interviews. No job offers came. Fast forward to a few months later, while waiting for my final appointment with my obstetrician, a call came asking for me to attend an interview for a position that I hadn't applied for. At that point, I expressed my interest in the position although it wasn't specific to my area of training. I informed the caller that I'd be due for a scheduled delivery in a week's time. To my surprise, the caller asked if I'd attend the interview anyway.

During one of the regular check-ups at the hospital, my obstetrician noticed that I had premature contractions. She seemed quite worried but her concerns were allayed when she found out that I wasn't working at that time.

Indeed, God works in mysterious ways! He opened the door for me to be gainfully employed. Not only was my superior willing to wait till the two months ‘maternity’ was over, it was extended for another month because we were still looking for suitable day care for Daryl during the hours when I'd be at work.

For me, it was double blessing in return!

All glory to God!



My God is faithful

~ Ko Siow Jin

My friend aka editor has been asking me to write for months, and I have been delaying and procrastinating, giving many excuses that due to the pandemic and MCO, I needed to take care of my three kids almost all the time as we are being bound by MCO and not able to go anywhere much.

Now after almost 9 months of MCO, I am finally getting use to the routine of having my three kids with me almost all the time, I really want to pen down a few things that I have learnt or should I say, what God has taught me in these few months during the COVID pandemic MCO.

First of all God has allowed my true self to be revealed even clearer to me. I am a beloved child of God. He showed me that there's nothing I can do to make Him love me more or less. I used to think that if I didn't do my devotion or lost my temper with my children, then He might not be happy with me and bless me less or love me lesser. But all these are indeed a lie from Satan. Despite being busy and preoccupied by my children in this lockdown period at home, I feel God is more real than ever before. He has showed me how merciful and gracious He has been to me and my family. I do not need to earn His approval nor His blessing by my achievements, my own definition of "achievements". He loves me so much that He sent His beloved and only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to take away my sins while I was yet still a sinner. I always knew this Bible verse but it only got into my head but not my heart.

How He demonstrated His love for me was through my children. There were moments I felt like I was losing control and almost lost my temper with my children when they misbehaved, and when I finally did lose it, what I got it was NOT a condemnation from God asking why I never measured up to His standard. Instead He responded through my children's unconditional forgiveness of my out-of-control temper.

My eldest son Caleb, even used a Bible verse in Proverbs 17:22 to calm me down. *"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."* The way he showed it to me was so adorable, well at least in my eyes. He brought me a cup of water when I was so frustrated with myself after losing my temper with him. This was because he took the second part of the Bible verse literally, he wanted me to drink water so that I wouldn't be *dry*. I burst into laughters and we all had a good laugh together. This was just one of the incidents how God showed me that He loves me despite my performance. Most of the time He shows me how much I am being loved by Him through the lives of my precious children.

Secondly, God has taught me that He is the only constant. This world is full of uncertainty and people who are always changing but God is enthroned in Heaven forever. Whenever things are out of control, or at times when I'm feeling overwhelmed, whenever I feel the need to control the situation around me so that I won't be "kelam kabut", God always asks me to be still before Him. Even though the circumstances around seem uncertain, and out of control, He is always in control and His faithfulness never fails. He is unchangeable in who He is. Whenever I feel overwhelmed, I would pray and meditate on His Word and I would picture in my mind Him dying on the cross, that that's the extent He loves me and wants to be with me. Then my heart always, if not most of the times will be at peace and I will feel less anxious.



Thirdly, I have learned to appreciate my calling as a stay at home mom. They have taught me valuable lessons such as patience and kindness and forgiveness. They also show me what childlike faith is and their love for Jesus is so simple. We have made so many wonderful memories at home, doing silly things together.



My eldest son Caleb, has even learned to cook, and my girl has showed me her innate ability to babysit her little brother. The burden I thought of having to take care of all my 3 children all by myself is being relieved by God through my two older kids who are just 7 and 4 years old. I praise God for His faithfulness and mercy!

There are just so many more good and wonderful things which have happened in these few months. I just want to pen down these few first!

God indeed is good..... all the time!



Great is thy faithfulness

~ Moy Ooi Thye

Greetings from Moy and family from CGMC. My name is Moy Ooi Thye. I am from Ipoh. My alma mater is Ave Maria Convent Ipoh. I came to know about CGMC through Dr (Mrs) Chee (Dr Ching Siew Gim)

During my early years, I was working in Hospital Bainun Ipoh (formerly known as General Hospital Ipoh then) in the administrative Department as a financial clerk and Dr Mrs Chee was the Hospital Deputy Director.

Mrs Chee used to invite me to different Christian talk / seminars which were held at different venues. One such seminar was held in CGMC. I invited my colleague, a lady Dr Yu to accompany me to attend this seminar at CGMC by a well-known speaker.



During the altar call, Dr Yu and I walked forward, we knelt down and accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour. I remembered that scene very vividly. Mrs Chee was overjoyed. I could see that expression of joy on Mrs Chee's face. After that, I attended Bible Study and Baptism class, preparing myself for the great and most important day in my life for my Baptism. Reverend Andrew Tan baptised me. I became a child in God on 25/12/1993 (the date I was baptised in CGMC).

From being a Financial Clerk in Hospital, I decided to change my career to sales. I became a Sales Representative / Insurance Advisor of Great Eastern Life. While I was doing sales, I attended all the Insurance Seminars and Insurance courses that were available to equip myself adequately. After 8 years of continuous study / attending classes in Ipoh, Penang and Kuala Lumpur, I passed all 8 papers (one year one paper). I also wrote a thesis as per the requirement. With God's grace, I got my Bachelor of Science in Financial Planning in year 2002. I put in much effort and perseverance to get this degree. All glory to God!

This day, it is indeed very sad to note that many big and small organisations, corporation and individuals are badly affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. But thanks be to God Almighty that the pandemic has not affected me much. I am in a career that is not so much affected by the pandemic. It is said that the insurance career is a "3 R" career. 1) Retirement proof. 2) Retrenchment proof. 3) Recession proof.

The pandemic made people realise that life is very fragile. Many people worry whether they have enough insurance to cover the needs of the family members in case of any unexpected misfortune that may strike the family. We also know that there are some due to pay cut or being retrenched, could not continue to pay the monthly or yearly premium.

Although I was not adversely affected, the MCO has rescheduled all my activities. It has compelled me to learn new skills, new digital technology, such as Zoom, WebEx, Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp etc.

Since the MCO started in March 2020, the insurance industry has also changed its ball game. We are allowed to conduct our sales presentation through WhatsApp and Zoom meetings, etc. As such many insurance advisers were not really affected. In fact, some found it better because it saved time not driving to prospects' houses or to cafes to meet people, which requires much more time as compared to doing through WhatsApp which facilitates going straight to the point and making presentations at a convenient time.

My 102-year-old beloved mother was staying with me. The MCO gave me more time to stay at home to take care of my mum and more time to think of my own life.

In the months of August and September, my mother was admitted to Hospital Fatimah. Since then, she has been in and out of hospital three times for fluid accumulation in the lungs, due to lung cancer 3rd/4th stage. Doctors drained out fluid from the lungs twice, each time amounting to nearly 2 litres of fluid. She had a tube to her lung, and catheter to her bladder. She was in pain and was suffering.

Thanks to all relatives and friends for the visitation and advice given. Thanks to my church cell group members and all my christian friends for their fervent prayers for my mom. Let God's will be done. (My mother is from CGMC Cantonese session. She was baptised at the age of 80 by Pastor Andrew Tan too.)

I wish to thank God for miraculously healing my mother. Mom was discharged from hospital on 1st October. She is well now, able to sleep and has been eating well. Mom looks happy and optimistic. Most importantly God has answered our prayers. No pain, no suffering from 1st October till today. No fluids in the lungs. The following scriptures have been so true in my mother's case.

This is what the Lord says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you.

2 Kings 20:5

Fear not for I am with you, not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you.

Isaiah 41:10

Although there were some unpleasant and unexpected catastrophes in my life, I strongly believe God allowed them for a reason and purpose. God knows what is best for us. What we consider as unfortunate, God can turn it into a blessing!!

Please pray for my mom that she will not suffer or be in pain until it is time for her to go back to God.

God is good. All the time. All glory to God.

Our beloved CG 28

~ Cheah Kok Wah & May Cheah (CG28)

CG28 had 20 members as at December 2020. Apart from two young ladies who are aged below 60, all the rest range from 66 to 89. Added together, we have 1,434 years of experience & wisdom between us. I thank God every day for my Care Group. I really can't ask for anything more, except to pray for our continued good health. Each and every member is so very faithful, caring, close to one another & responsive to all the things we do... .. what more can I, as their Cell Leader ask for? In spite of our age, everyone is involved in church ministry until this pandemic struck.

O Lord Jesus, Heavenly Father, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful group of people you have put under our care. Through the years, May & I have grown to truly love each one of them as our very own. Thank you Abba Father for this very lovable Family of God. Please keep us together for as long as You will, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Since the start of this pandemic & lockdown, our CG have extended help directly to some of those in need on a number of occasions. Our CG have a special Ministry Fund where every member contributes \$10 per month or more towards it. We use this money to help needy, deserving cases after investigation. We use this money to provide snacks to the people on some of our visits before the pandemic. We gave \$500 to a student to pay his college fees in July; we donated \$500 to Lighthouse Hope Society in June; we organized a 'Welcome' & 'Wellgo' luncheon for our Zone Leaders & appreciated our Pastor Andrew & Anna in September; We gave 1Malaysia Children's Home \$500 in November & we have decided to contribute \$2000 to support the MGK Renovation cost this December 2020.

All this time, the members have given happily & willingly in addition to our other givings. I pray Heavenly Father you will continue to bless all our members to continue with this generous, caring & loving attitude of giving of our time & wealth to help the less fortunate in our midst.... all for the Glory of Your Name. O God, please let our light shine before men so that they may see our good deeds and praise The Father in Heaven. Amen. To God be the Glory.

PS. This is written to encourage other CGs





OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To **DISCIPLE** every member into Christian maturity and to be effective in the service of God.

To **EVANGELIZE** the city of Ipoh and to set up congregations in strategic areas.

To **TOUCH** a needy community with God's transforming love and justice.

To **SEND** Christian workers into the harvest fields and to be involved in missions.