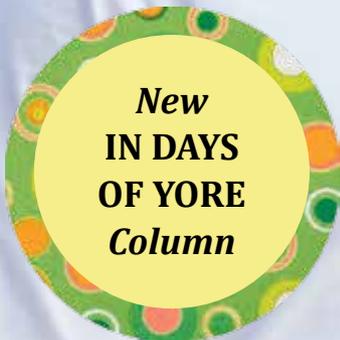


# LOAVES + FISHES

The Covenant Community Methodist Church Magazine

Obedience  
& Provision

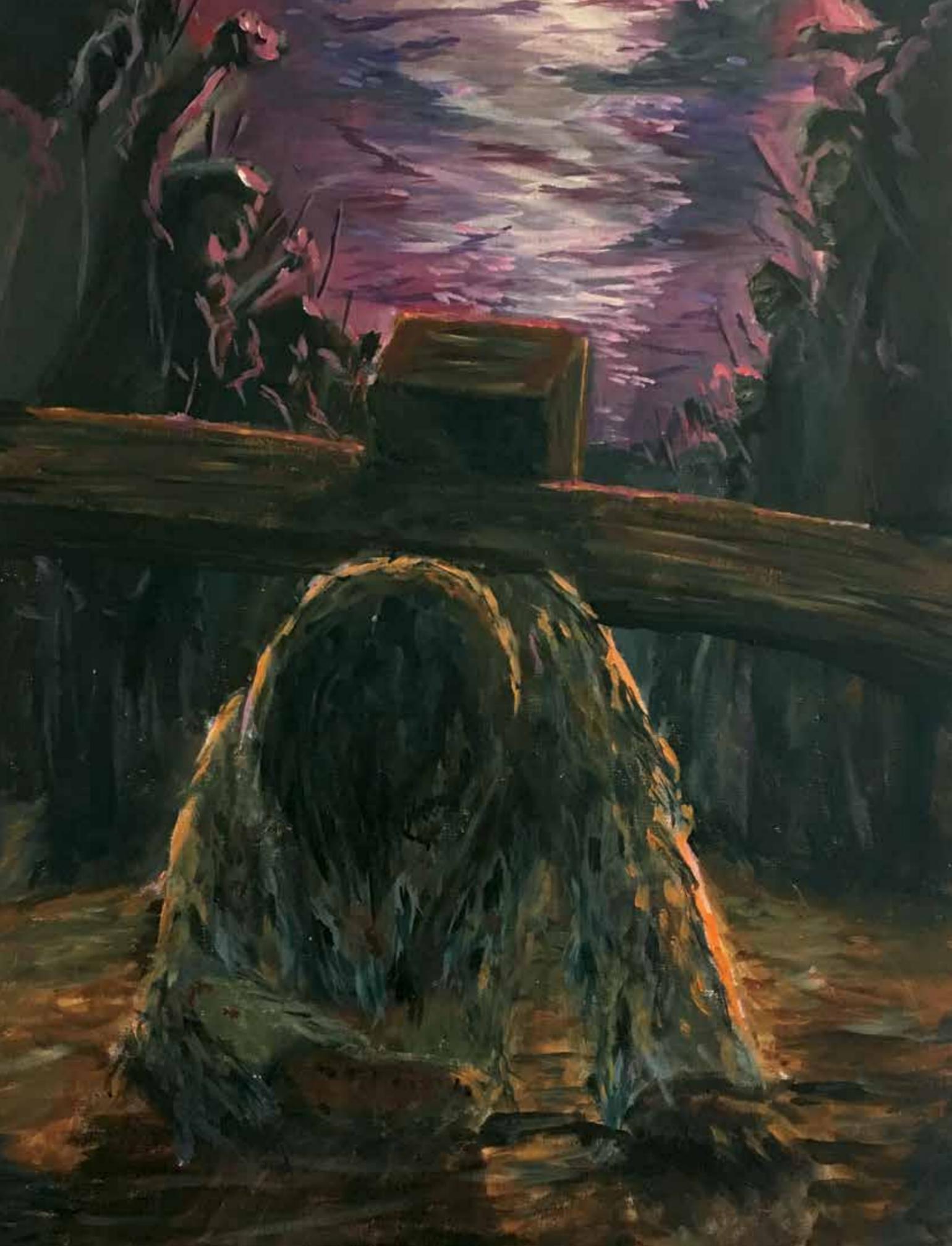


CHRIST THE  
SERVANT  
CHRIST THE  
LORD

THE  
WORK ETHIC  
OF JESUS

Making a  
Commitment

Rich Pulut Hitam and Pulut Hitam Cake recipes



## OC RISE 2017 GALLERY

Artists from OC illustrated the seven crucial stages of Christ's suffering and victory – from his arrest at Gethsamane to his resurrection.

The painting on the left shows Jesus being led to the slaughter. On the road to Golgoltha, he was forced to carry his own cross. Along the way, he was beaten and mocked by Roman soldiers and furious onlookers.

"he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified."  
~ Matt 27:26b

"Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha)."  
~ Jn 19:17

The painting below shows Jesus being nailed to the cross. On top of the agony Jesus suffered after being whipped, he endured excruciating pain as Roman soldiers nailed him to the cross.

"He cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."  
~ Col 2:14

*Go to the gallery  
outside Wesley  
Hall (Youth Hall)  
to see the other  
five scenes.*



# IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN YOUR FAMILY

theparentingchildrencourse

Building a strong foundation  
Meeting our children's needs  
Setting boundaries  
Teaching healthy relationships  
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Limited to  
**TEN**  
participants

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Edy Lee and Yuli Lee  
Co-facilitators:  
Yeap Soon Leong  
and Wendy Yeap

5, 12, 19, 26 August  
& 2 September  
7.30 - 10 pm

Cost \$30 per person

For enquiries and  
registration, contact:  
Edy Lee  
(whizkid638@yahoo.com)



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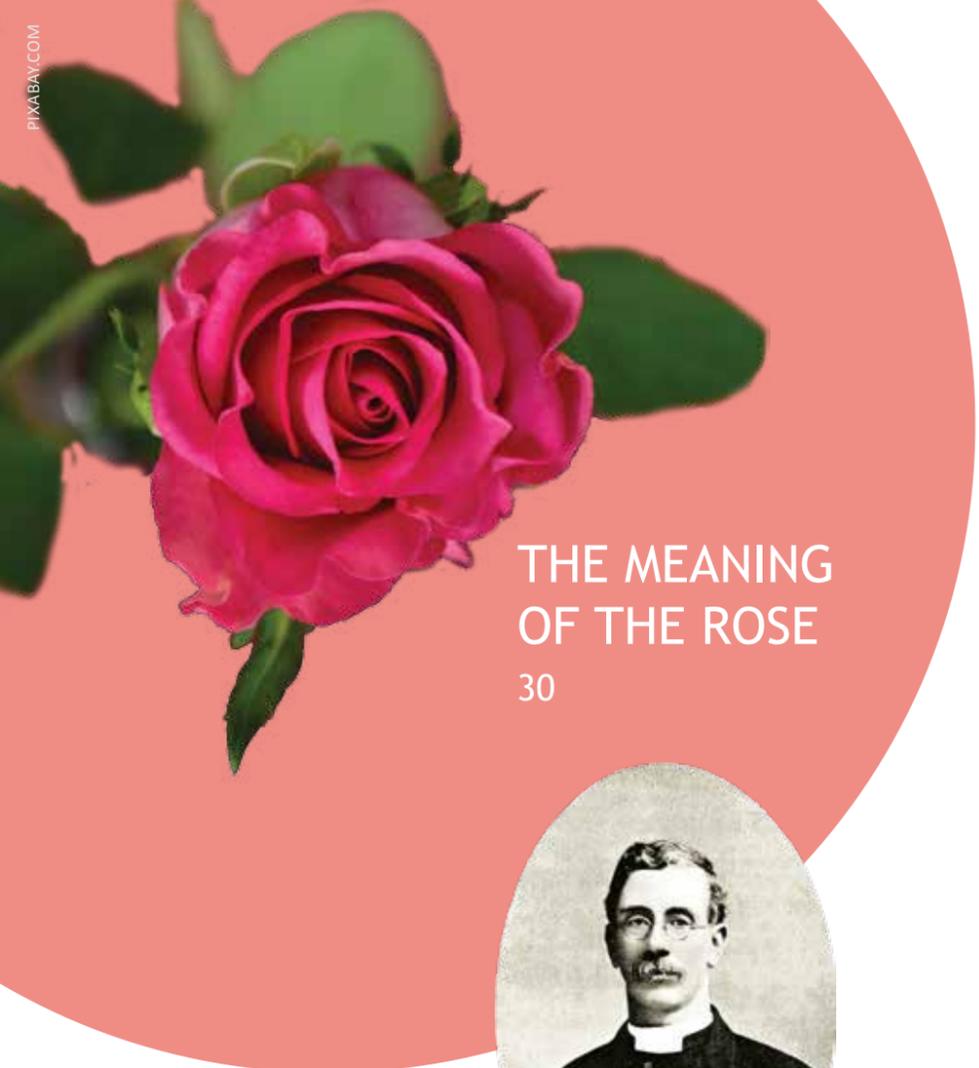
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#### LOAVES+FISHES CLARIFICATION

In the last issue of *Loaves+Fishes*, we published a group picture which included Pastor Joheun Park. *Loaves+Fishes* wishes to clarify that the people shown with Pastor Joheun are his parents, sisters and nephew. Pastor Joheun is single.



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##### ON THE COVER

Tze Phern and Diana Ang

# SERVING WITH JOY & GLADNESS

Dear Members and Friends of CCMC,

Greetings in the Name of Jesus.

The CCMC family is said to be a warm fellowship welcoming to each other and strangers; and seeking ways to always faithfully serve God. Someone told me that it is all about 'knowing God deeply and making Him known widely.' What does it take for us to learn to serve God with joy and gladness?

Well, service without love will always be without joy. Imagine working hard at a job which we do not like or love, what a boring drudgery. Day in and day out we go through the motions, doing things only because we have to, again and again. Imagine the opposite, doing things that we like to do and love to do, often. What joy it gives us! Get the picture?

Imagine also, doing things that we like to do, with people we like to be with! That's why, we must love God. We must also love the things of God and the people of God! Then serving God in Church will always be an experience of great joy.

In this edition of *Loaves+Fishes*, we learn about the adventure of serving God, taking risks in life to obey God, ethics at work, finding opportunities to serve God in Church, as well as discovering the joy of going through D1 together as a young couple! So many interesting articles written by CCMC members and friends. May your soul be nourished through the practice of reading about the Kingdom of God.

Happy Reading!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev Malcolm T.H. Tan OSL  
Pastor-in- Charge

# CHRIST THE SERVANT CHRIST THE LORD

BY REV MALCOLM TH TAN

Everyone aspires to promotion and greatness in life. We all want to be the top dog, don't we? Nobody wants to be the underdog. Surely holding a humble position in society or in our place of work without promotion would be seen as a sign of professional failure. Right? Well, by those very standards that we want to hold so dearly to, we might have to come to the awful conclusion, that Jesus of Nazareth was also a failure, at least, from that point of view. A failure because He received no acknowledgement or promotion from the important people of His Day in spite of what He had done among them, such as healing the many sick. In fact, we are told He experienced social demotion rather than promotion in His earthly life and career, culminating in a thankless, shameful death.

Consider the song about Christ in Philippians 2:5-11. A song that the early church sang from the earliest times. To please the Father and to accomplish His Mission, He did not hold on to His place next to the Father. He 'emptied Himself,' He took the form of a slave, coming in Human form, He humbled Himself to the point of death. In the end, we will have to conclude that the Lord Jesus aspired in life to live as a Servant, only because this was the will of God, His Father for Him.

Although demotion and the lack of social appreciation seem to be part of the life-story of Jesus in this world, yet it was not the only thing that can be said about Him. In the same Servant Song that Paul reminded the Church of Philippi about, the Grand conclusion in life which Jesus received from His Father was also not to be forgotten. God the Father rewarded the filial Servanthood of His Son, even if nobody in this world cared about it. The Song in Philippians seems to say that the Father's promotion

of Jesus was the Best of all! It must be that God understands vocational success from a different standpoint from us.

Consider the shocking action of the Lord Jesus on that first Maundy Thursday night 2000 years ago. He, the Lord and Master, took the towel and washed the feet of His disciples. In the context of 1st century A.D. Holy Land, this was the task for the lowly servants of the house. The Lord Jesus showed Himself to be capable of doing lowly tasks in life, to the Glory of His Father. (John 13:1-17) Nothing was beneath Him when it came to pleasing His Father in Heaven. Indeed, no task in life is too menial if God so requires it of us.

Moreover, if we believe that on the Cross, Jesus died for the sins of the whole world as the Lamb of God (John 1:29) then, we cannot but conclude that Jesus' greatest Work was done through His greatest Act of self-humbling, to the point of His shameful and painful death. Indeed, often, God's way up is down! His ways are surely not our ways. We need God to re-educate us to have the Mind of Christ in these things.

When I think about the Servanthood of Jesus, I can't help but recall Nicholas Herman who was born in eastern France in 1611. A social nobody, Nicholas was born into poverty, lived a humble life as a low-ranking soldier and then as a footman and waiter, having to wait upon the wealthy who did not think much of him. But God can make a nobody into a somebody! Nicholas Herman experienced God powerfully in his life, twice. Once when he was eighteen and later when he was forty. His early experience taught him to know God personally, an intimacy with his Creator and Redeemer that he never lost. His encounter with God later when he was forty, challenged him

((( NOTHING WAS BENEATH HIM WHEN IT CAME TO PLEASING HIS FATHER IN HEAVEN. INDEED, NO TASK IN LIFE IS TOO MENIAL IF GOD SO REQUIRES IT OF US. )))



EMMANUEL CUSNAIDER

God throughout the day. He said, "We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed... it is the same in the kitchen. I have accustomed myself to doing everything there for the love of God."

He testified of experiencing the Presence of God even there in the kitchen:

"The time of business does not differ with me from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great a tranquillity as if I were upon my knees."

Brother Lawrence learned the art of prayer without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17); whatever he did, he was in communion with his Creator and Redeemer, even in lowly tasks, as a true servant of Christ: 'I am doing now what I will do for all eternity. I am blessing God, praising Him, adoring Him and loving Him with all my heart.'

Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection served faithfully in the Monastic Kitchen for 15 years in Christ-like servanthood. His prayerful intimacy with God never left him. His unassuming spirituality caught the eye of Abbot Joseph who quietly jotted down gems of spiritual insight from their conversations. Later on, these thoughts were combined with some letters which Brother Lawrence wrote, to become the well-known classic: 'The Practice of the Presence of God' which was published in 1692, a year after Brother Lawrence's passing in 1691. Today we can receive spiritual direction from a lowly monastic cook who did not even qualify to be a Monk! Indeed, God uses the lowly servants to confound the Mighty (1 Cor 1:27). To God be the Glory!

to consecrate himself, give up the pleasures of the secular life and enter into the Monastery of the Barefoot Carmelites in Paris as a Lay Brother. He took the monastic name: 'Lawrence of the Resurrection' or 'Brother Lawrence' for short.

There, in the Monastery, Brother Lawrence did not appear to amount to very much either! He was simply a humble cook for the monastic community. He spent most of his time in the kitchen preparing food for the other monks. Even here, he was not promoted to be the chief cook, nor was he known for the greatness of the food that he prepared!!

Yet, Brother Lawrence today teaches us the secret of practising the Presence of God in life. He was a humble cook who experienced God all the time, even when doing his 'ordinary work.' He exhibited the art of living in the presence of

(( GOD... REGARDS NOT THE GREATNESS OF THE WORK, BUT THE LOVE WITH WHICH IT IS PERFORMED. ))

## WHAT IS A SERVANT?

Shirin Wun

*Philippians 2:5-8*

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Jesus is the Son of God yet came down on earth  
Emptied Himself to be a Servant for divine re-birth  
What did He do? How did He act? How much did His heart ache?  
What suffering did He endure for my unworthy sake?

What did I do to gain this pure and precious love?  
Why am I set on earthly thoughts and things I can't let go of?  
What do I do? How do I act as a servant of the Lord  
For this grace I have received that I cannot afford?

Bound to Him who paid for me, His mortal life the fee  
Submit to Him my mortal life, His servant I should be  
His calls and His commands come from a love I don't deserve  
No matter what, obey His word, and always humbly serve.



# WHAT WE REALISE ABOUT SERVICE

*Loaves+Fishes* asked some CCMC members what they have realised about serving the Body of Christ in the course of their service in church.



KIRSTI



CALVIN



JIMMY



JULEEN



APRIL



YUEH-TI

KIRSTI WIENTGE  
*(CK Pre-school teacher)*

Teaching the N1 may seem to involve small things, like playing with toys, making crafts, colouring and singing simple songs, but the impact of God's truths in the children's lives is nothing small – it's huge!

It's so encouraging when children I've taught in the past recite a memory verse or remind me of a lesson we did. As a Sunday school teacher, we get to see how seeds sprout and grow.

CALVIN CHONG  
*(Music & Worship Committee Chairman, ukulele class teacher)*

Service in the Worship and Music team is about helping those who enter CCMC encounter God through worshipful experiences. That, however, doesn't happen automatically. Behind the scenes are many faithful and skillful hands, feet, and voices that make it happen. My role is to recruit, support, and encourage them to be their best and to be aligned with God's purposes for them in their service.

JIMMY SIM  
*(AV crew)*

I have realized that my contribution in serving the body of Christ is so little compared to the blessings that the Lord has blessed me with.

WONG YUEH-TI  
*(Altar prayer steward, 11 am choir conductor)*

I've learnt a number of lessons along the way about service.

Calling into a ministry: God has not called me to fulfill every need, so I don't have to answer every call for help. However, I need to always

remain open to discern if He is indeed calling me.

**Service:** This is God's work, not mine alone. So God, who is faithful, will always provide whatever I need for the task He has called me to.

I always keep a check on my motive for serving: am I doing this for God or for the approval of others or for myself?

I constantly remind myself that it is only by God's grace that I have been given this opportunity to serve Him and His people.

God can use whatever little I have to multiply it for His purposes.

Always aim to serve joyfully and to strive for unity with co-labourers in the Lord. Nip discord in the bud, and settle disagreements as swiftly as possible.

In the face of the inevitable challenges and difficulties in my service to the Lord, I am learning to not be quick to throw in the towel. When I persevere instead of giving up, I often find that God uses these trials to teach me precious lessons to help me grow in spiritual wisdom and strength.

In God's way, we often receive so much more than we give in the service of our gracious and generous God and His people.

APRIL LEE  
*(CK Teacher, Vice-Chair Sembawang Family Service Centre Management Committee)*

When I first started serving, I looked at it more as 'giving back' to church. Later, by the grace of God, I became more mature in faith and started serving fervently. However this was not very sustainable as fatigue began to overtake me.

Of late, I have come to realise that serving should not be looked as putting our skills and gifts to God's work. Instead we should focus more on being in His will. For "my thoughts are not your thoughts, nei-

(( AS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, WE GET TO SEE HOW SEEDS SPROUT AND GROW. ))



YIN SIAU

ther are your ways my ways," (so) declares the Lord. (Isaiah 55:8)

JULEEN SHAW  
(Co-leader, Compass Bible Study Group)

I have realised the importance of youths in the Body of Christ.

We often separate youth programmes from adult programmes within the church. But this may not necessarily be Biblical. It was a boy whose five loaves and two fish allowed Jesus to feed 5,000 (John 6:9). This is the only miracle that was recorded in all four Gospels, showing its importance in Jesus' ministry. I can hardly believe that no one else among the 5,000 men (more if you count the women) had a little food with them. Why then did Jesus choose to perform the miracle through the offering of a young boy?

Likewise, David was still a youth when he faced off with Goliath, and so was Esther when she saved her people. God uses the young as mightily as the adults. He even uses the young to save the adults.

During the Nepal mission trip last December, half the team consisted of youths. They spontaneously brought laughter and cheer to the Nepali through games, music and mime, reminding the entire team that while our secondary mission was to conduct a medical/dental camp, our primary mission was to extend the love of Christ.

At this year's church camp in June, the committee was blown away by the enthusiasm and helpfulness of the youths.

Go up to the 4th floor and you will see, outside the Youth Hall, seven beautiful paintings depicting the stages of Christ's Crucifixion thoughtfully and prayerfully conceived by our youths.

At CCMC we are blessed with youths who have a heart for God and His people. In making plans for

outreach, worship and evangelism, I believe that partnering youths as one in Christ will add a deeper dimension and broader perspective to our body life and mission work.

LEE YIN SIAU  
(Small Group leader, worship leader, Disciple class facilitator, communion steward, member of Discipleship & Nurture Committee, Women Ministry Committee, Pastor-Parish Relations & Staff Committee, 11 am CK Junior Worship leader)

You are never alone. When you feel down or exhausted, God sends help, directly through His revelation or Word, or through brothers- and sisters-in-Christ who encourage and journey with you.

I would like to share one experience of leading worship.

When I received the worship leading roster and found out that I had to lead on Pledge Sunday, I had in mind that the corporate prayer would be on individuals making their lives a pleasing sacrifice through their time, talents and treasures. Yet as I prepared, the Spirit led me to shift the focus from individuals to all of us as one body – pastors, staff, leaders, members and all. Unity in Christ.

The sight of Tan Ming Ying and Elliot plus David Shaw and Shaan, two sets of parent and child serving together in the band was a confirmation and brought so much joy to me.

God loves our church and we are doing good work training our next generation by role modeling faithful servanthood and godly parenting!

At the end of the service, as I greeted the congregation, many thanked me for the prayers. It was truly God's hand and not my doing. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. When the Spirit moves, there'll always be confirmation where He is leading. We think we know but God knows best!

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN CCMC

*From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

- Ephesians 4:16

**As a church committed to knowing God deeply and making Him known widely, we seek to be the Body of Christ in which each member is an active participant involved in ministry and where Christ-like servanthood is a way of life.**

**Do consider serving and participating in church life in the following ministries.**



### COVENANT KIDS

Serve in alternate months as teachers, teaching assistants, worship leaders and helpers ministering to children below 12 years on Sundays at 9 am and 11 am.  
Contact: Yeo Hwee Lan (hweelan.yeo@ccmc.org.sg)

### ARCHIVES

We preserve and catalogue church documents, photos and artifacts. Volunteer to label and catalogue photos, audio tapes. Database entry.  
Contact: Goh Eck Kheng (goheckkheng@gmail.com)

### BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Two classes are held in February and November for those who wish to be part of our church family formally.  
Contact: Sally Lee (sally.lee@ccmc.org.sg)

### CHURCH CAMP

Be involved in organising the church camp which aims to bring the church into a deeper time of fellowship and spiritual encounter as a community. Held in June annually.  
Contact: Sally Lee (sally.lee@ccmc.org.sg)

### COMMUNICATIONS

*Loaves+Fishes*  
Help produce the church magazine. Be a writer, editor, photographer, and illustrator.  
Contact: Goh Eck Kheng (goheckkheng@gmail.com)

### Church website

Help design and maintain the website (ccmc.org.sg)

### DISCIPLESHIP & NURTURE

Adult Christian Education  
Talks and studies on biblical topics and contemporary Christian concerns.

### Disciple Class

34/32-week programme in Bible Study.  
Contact: Anton L.S. Chan (anton.l.s.chan@ccmc.org.sg)

### SMALL GROUPS MINISTRY

Join one of 37 groups meeting regularly for spiritual nurturing and evangelistic outreach.  
Contact: Joseph Lim (joseph.lim@ccmc.org.sg)



### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men meet monthly to build a strong support group to be godly fathers and husbands.  
Contact: Tan Chee Seng (tancs@cslvcas.com)

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Regular meetings for women who want to grow in their Christian life through Bible studies, talks and fellowship.  
Contact: Maureen Wang (maureen.wang@ccmc.org.sg)

### MINISTRY TO MGS

Provides spiritual guidance to students by being a follow-up leader during Religious Emphasis Week. Host and befriend foreign students.  
Contact: Maureen Wang (maureen.wang@ccmc.org.sg)

### GLOWING YEARS MINISTRY

Monthly meetings among seniors for social get-togethers, pastoral care and Bible studies.  
Contact: Maureen Wang (maureen.wang@ccmc.org.sg)

### HOME HELPERS MINISTRY

Meeting on second, third and fifth Sundays for worship and Bible study.  
Contact: Mary Jean (minavesmaryjean@yahoo.com)

(( IN GOD'S WAY, WE OFTEN RECEIVE SO MUCH MORE THAN WE GIVE IN THE SERVICE OF OUR GRACIOUS AND GENEROUS GOD AND HIS PEOPLE. ))

#### WITNESS AND EVANGELISM

Alpha  
A 12-week course to share Jesus with seekers and pre-believers.  
Contact: Elizabeth Chua  
(elizabeth.chua@gmail.com)



#### FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Conducts courses on marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and talks on family life. Be a couple mentor or an event organiser.  
Contact: Marlene Koh  
(kohmarlene@yahoo.com.sg)

#### MISSIONS

Support missionaries in their ministries overseas. Be a prayer partner. Participate in short mission trips  
Contact: Raymond Chow  
(raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)



#### ONE COMMUNITY (OC)

For youths from Secondary 1 to tertiary level. Meets every Sunday at 9 am at Wesley Hall, level 4. Be a facilitator for Youth Small Groups.  
Contact: Jonathan Choy  
(jonathan.choy@ccmc.org.sg)

#### YOUNG ADULTS

Meets regularly for fellowship and Bible studies  
Contact: Jonathan Choy  
(jonathan.choy@ccmc.org.sg)

#### PRAYER

**Corporate Prayer Meeting**  
Every third Tuesday at 8 pm, Conference Room, level 4. Be a prayer partner.  
Contact: Raymond Chow  
(raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)

#### Prayer Watch

For discerned watching and praying with the Lord. Be a prayer watchman.  
Contact: Raymond Chow  
(raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)



#### OUTREACH & SOCIAL CONCERNS

**Sembawang Family Service Centre**  
Serving children, families and students in the Sembawang area. Be a tutor or facilitate a reading programme.  
Contact: Raymond Chow  
(raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)

#### Bethany Methodist Nursing Home & Singapore Christian Home

Be a befriender and visitor  
Contact: Raymond Chow  
(raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)

#### PASTORAL CARE

Visit homebound, lonely, hospitalised and bereaved families as a befriender and care giver.

Contact: Maureen Wang  
(maureen.wang@ccmc.org.sg)

#### WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY

Coordinates and serves in the 9 am (Contemporary) & 11 am (Traditional) worship services each Sunday. Serve as worship leader, backup singer, guitarist, drummer, keyboardist, organist or pianist. Sing in the 9 am or 11 am choirs. Be a sound and recording technician or projectionist at either service.  
Contact: Maureen Wang  
(maureen.wang@ccmc.org.sg)

#### Holy Communion Assistants

Help prepare elements for holy communion services.  
Contact: Betty Wee  
(betty.wee@ccmc.org.sg)

#### Bulletin Folders

Sort and fold weekly bulletins on Fridays.  
Contact: Betty Wee  
(betty.wee@ccmc.org.sg)

#### Floral Ministry

Floral decoration for weekly services  
Contact: Teriya Tan  
(teriyatan@gmail.com)

#### Information Counter

Manage the information desk each Sunday.  
Contact: Adrian Wong  
(adrianwg@singnet.com.sg)

#### Ushers

Welcome worshippers and identify visitors at worship services  
Contact: (9am) Joyce Yap  
(joyceyap9@gmail.com)  
(11am) Kee Chin Ho  
(keechinho@yahoo.com)

#### Hospitality

Prepare and serve refreshment after church services.  
Contact: (9am) Patricia Tan  
(chinchinfong20140508@gmail.com)  
(11am) Viven Ho  
(hokwanmay@yahoo.com.sg)

This is my body, **broken for you**, bringing you wholeness, making you free, take it and eat it, and when you do, do it in love for me.

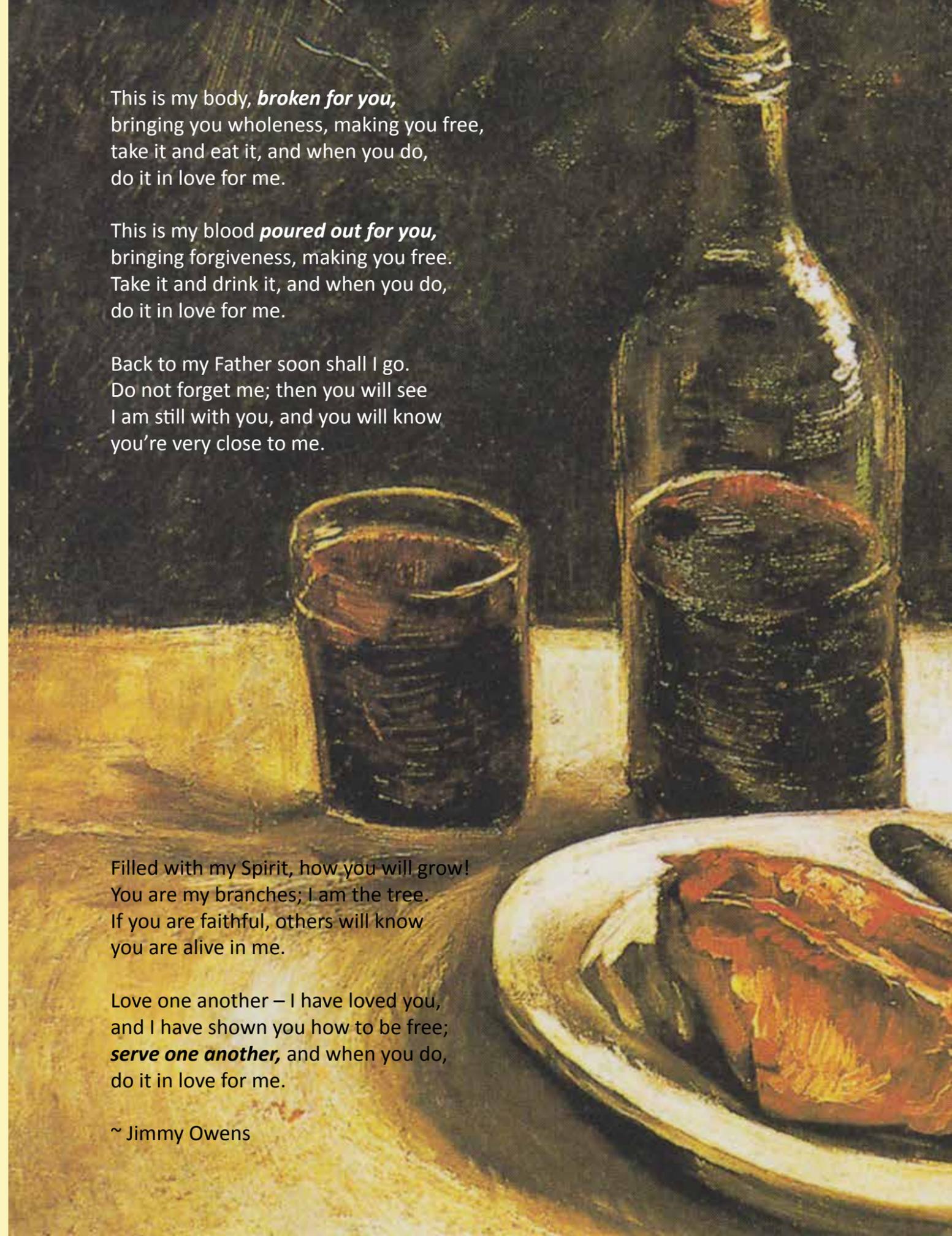
This is my blood **poured out for you**, bringing forgiveness, making you free. Take it and drink it, and when you do, do it in love for me.

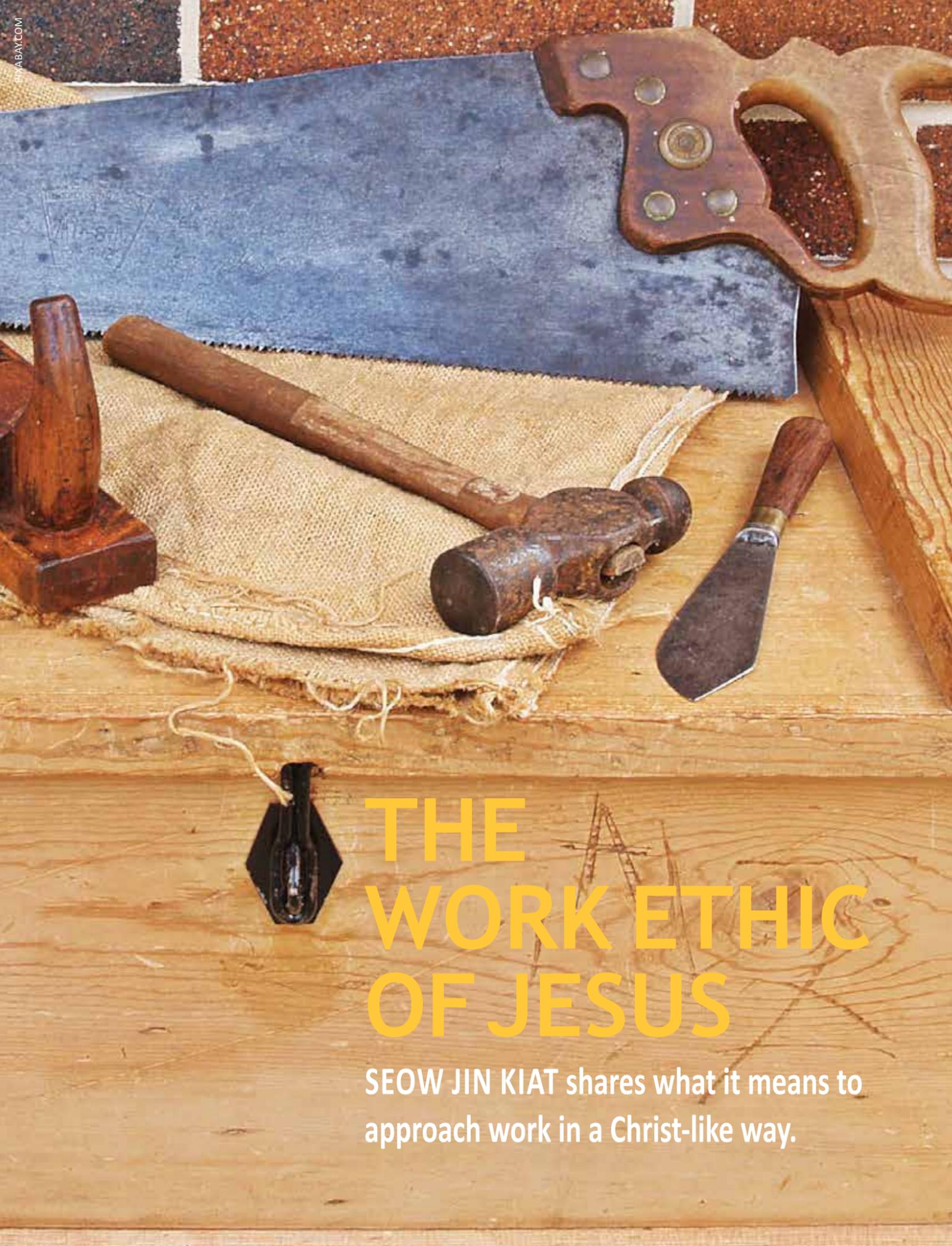
Back to my Father soon shall I go. Do not forget me; then you will see I am still with you, and you will know you're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!  
You are my branches; I am the tree. If you are faithful, others will know you are alive in me.

Love one another – I have loved you, and I have shown you how to be free; **serve one another**, and when you do, do it in love for me.

~ Jimmy Owens





# THE WORK ETHIC OF JESUS

SEOW JIN KIAT shares what it means to approach work in a Christ-like way.

In my line of work, I often have to look for and hire suitable people to join my team. Over the years, this has culminated in my desire to hunt down the perfect someone, ideally one who not only has the aptitude for the job, but also possesses strong work ethics. Certain character traits then come to mind; I would be looking for a person who works hard, who perseveres through the hard times and who has integrity. He or she would also be kind and get along well with others. Very often, finding that perfect hire with every single one of these traits is near impossible, but yet, the bible shows us that Jesus modelled all these characteristics and more.

## PERSEVERANCE

In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42) This verse resonates with me as it shows Jesus praying to finish the plan and bring it to completion despite the pain and suffering that was to come. He did not shy away from it, and completely submitted to God's will and persevered on.

I recently attended the wake of an uncle who passed away after a long bout of cancer. I was particularly fond of him even though we had not interacted much over the years. He was always jovial at family gatherings and could throw out all these pearls of wisdom which I respected. He seemed to have had a positive take on life, despite life beating him down on several occasions.

At his wake, there were testimonies from friends and relatives. His ex-colleagues remembered him as a man who never complained about the long hours at work, or the lost weekends with his young family as a result of having to struggle towards building Singa-

(( THEY REGARDED HIM HIGHLY AS A MANAGER WHO LED BY EXAMPLE, AND CONSIDERED HIM A LOYAL FRIEND WHO PERSEVERED TOGETHER WITH THEM THROUGH THE HARD TIMES. ))

pore's shipping economy in the 1960s. They regarded him highly as a manager who led by example, and considered him a loyal friend who persevered together with them through the hard times. His son shared that, despite his father's busy schedule and tiredness, he always carved out time to spend with the family.

Cancer is a particularly ravaging disease. My uncle had lost all his hair from chemotherapy, and suffered significant weight loss from the effects of nausea and lack of appetite. In spite of his pain, he still remained in good spirits and was stoic about the disease, determined as ever to just soldier on. In his last days in the Assisi Hospice, he told his pastor that he was ready to go whenever his time was up. His complete faith in God and assurance that this trial was just a stepping stone to everlasting life provided him the strength to persevere and bear with the suffering, and was a great inspiration for me to accept the trials that come my way with more humility and bearing, knowing that God has always got a greater plan for me.

## INTEGRITY

Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. It is something that we, as parents, are constantly trying to instil in our children. As I drove my elder son, who is 6, to his school one morning, we conversed on what he thought the word "integrity" meant. His response, "Doing what is right, all the time". I asked him further on his motivation for having integrity. He went on to answer that it was because his school, as well as mummy and daddy, told him to.

His response triggered two thoughts; One, that the character of uprightness, and often any other character trait, is learnt and nurtured; we can teach integrity

by telling our children to do what is right, over and over again, until it becomes a part of their lives, so that that they would have an unwavering determination of the heart to do the right thing automatically, even when they are afraid, or tempted to do otherwise. Two, we ourselves must live by our word. Our actions will reflect our integrity, or lack thereof. When we ourselves do not feel like doing something right, or think no one is watching, or do not have the support of our peers, or will lose out in a situation as a result, we must and still do what is right.

Jesus was the perfect model of integrity. Even his enemies acknowledged this when they attempted to entrap him. In Mark 12:14, "They came to him and said, Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth." Insincere though these men were, what they said about Jesus was unquestionably true. He never let other people sway him, never pandered to others' tastes, social standing, prejudices or education, always teaching God's way as the truth.

**KINDNESS**

Jesus practiced kindness that was radical in his time and culture. In Mark 2, Jesus had just called on Mathew, a tax collector, to follow him and was spending time with his friends and acquaintances. The culture of the time required people to follow the Law and those who did, like the Pharisees, were of the highest order in society and were not to mix with sinners. Tax collectors, on the other hand, were infamous for cheating and therefore fell into this category of "sinners". Jesus broke the cultural taboos of His day by spending time with people regardless of their

labels in society.

Bill, a friend, is a senior executive who had risen up the ranks to become highly successful in his workplace. In spite of his busy schedule, he always made time for everyone. I once attended a department drinks event held to honour his long service. There were 30 people of varying seniorities split across 4 tables. Bill had the top honchos on his table. Yet despite being the guest of honour, and surrounded by very important people, he took the effort to move between the different tables to strike up conversation, even with the newest and most junior of staff, always looking out for their comfort and wellbeing, and putting out a kind word of encouragement. He remembered everyone's names and could place events and family members not in attendance. Back in the office, he always greeted the cleaners and security personnel, thanking them for their help in maintaining the company image and property. There were stories of how he had helped people in need, never asking for recognition or glory. He always shrugged it off when asked.

In work and home situations, being kind may not always be easy to achieve. There are colleagues whose company I do not enjoy being in, and may respond with unkind thought or word. There are times at home when I am tired, and get frustrated with loved ones. It is ironic that we all want to be treated kindly, but have a harder time being kind ourselves.

**SUMMARY**

When I was first asked to write an article on the work ethics of Jesus, I thought, how hard can this be? There must be countless examples from the bible that exemplify his greatness and perfection. Yet as I delved further into filling up content, and the deadline loomed closer and closer, it dawned upon

me that by working on this article, I must also work on myself. It has then become a journey of self-reflection upon my own work ethic and inadequacies when compared to that of Jesus. It has become a reminder to always fix my eyes on Jesus, strive to follow in his ways. He suffered terribly but persevered to the end. He never conformed to societal norms, but stood by his Godly principles of integrity. In spite of his greatness and holiness, he had grace and kindness to always look out for those below him, and to help those who needed him.

*Jin Kiat leads the Blest West Tree small group, serves in the church small group committee and helps to organise the Warmth Lunches.*



# Servant

**JESUS AS A SERVANT**

Mark 10:45; ; For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

John 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

**THE MISSION OF YAHWEH'S SERVANT**

Isa 42:1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

Isa 49:3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor".

Suffering and Glory  
Isa 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

**AFFLICTIONS OF GOD'S SERVANT**

Psalm 90:13 Relent, LORD! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

2 Cor 6:4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses.

**BELIEVERS AS SERVANTS**

Matthew 23:11 ESV The greatest among you shall be your servant.

Mark 9:35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all".

**SERVANT OF GOD ALONE**

Luke 16:13 ESV No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

John 12:26 ESV You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 12:42, NLT If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them.

BY ANTON CHAN SR

**CHRIST'S SERVANT, GOD'S STEWARD**

Col 1:25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness

1 Cor 4:1 This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed.

**ATTITUDE OF SERVANTS**

Psalm 123:2 ESV Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid-servant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us.

Psalm 119:125 I am your servant; give me discernment that I may understand your statutes.

2 Tim 2:24 And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.

Psalm 113:1 Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD.

Luke 17:10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"

# A COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP

Ang Tze Phern shares about the life-transforming experience of attending Disciple 1 classes.

**M**y wife, Diana and I have been attending CCMC for about two years now. Earlier this year, we became registered members of CCMC where I was baptised. We were also married in the CCMC chapel.

I share this last little nugget because it is integral to the reasons why we attended D1 Class.

Diana and I signed up for D1 as part of our marriage preparations. We got engaged last year in December and prior to the end of the year, we discussed the things we would like to commit to do this year.

We both knew that because of our work we have to be mindful about committing quality time to each other. At the same time, as relatively new Christians, we knew we also wanted to commit more time to studying the Word of God. D1 appeared to have been the perfect place to start. These were our intentions for joining the class.

Each of us will have different motivations for the things we do, and this applies equally in our approach towards D1. My hope is that whatever your reasons, what I am about to share, will be a gentle nudge for you to being that one step closer to committing to doing D1 (if you have not already done so).

I use the word “commit” here because Discipleship is a demanding programme that requires your commitment from the outset. But I can assure you that the fruits of that commitment are indeed sweet and plentiful. And when you truly commit to completing the programme, God somehow has a way of making it possible for you to see it through all the way.

Diana and I know that to be true. We both fretted about not having enough time and we feared that there was no way we would make it on time for our Monday evening classes. And so we sat on signing up for a while.

Finally, we took the plunge and

we are most grateful that we did not put it off and we thank God for all his provisions along the way and in the continuing journey ahead.

Now, what are the fruits of that commitment?

Allow me to briefly share three.

First, studying the Word of God with close fidelity is truly a most wondrous and remarkable discipline. The process is simultaneously edifying and comforting. You learn and understand so much about God – His love and grace, His judgment and wrath, the context in which His Word – Old Testament and New Testament – was written. At the same time you gain a better understanding of your own human condition. At the end of it all, it awakens a desire in you to seek Him and His Word further. For me, it became a clarion call to finding ways to give a deeper commitment to Him.

Second, there is much joy and affection to be gained from fellowship with other member of your discipleship class and its facilitators. For Diana and myself, this was truly an unexpected blessing. Our class had people from a wide spectrum of ages, with different professions and at different stages of their lives. Yet, all were bound in a common purpose and were each able to contribute from our own unique perspectives.

We got a wonderful sense of this towards the end of the series when we shared each others’ God-given gifts and affirmed one another in the process. D1 also gave us the opportunity to meet more CCMC members and also some from other churches. It pushed us to start volunteering in the Home-Helpers Ministry and, through it all, helped to make us feel much more a part of the CCMC community.

We are glad to note that many members of our class are continuing to serve in the home-helpers ministry and have signed up for D2 classes.

Fellowship through discipleship brought many unexpected gifts for us

– it may do the same for you.

Third and last, discipleship drew me closer to Diana and gave me further insight to her. We shared many a conversations during our journeys to and back from class, and many a nights were spent discussing our thoughts and reflections on the lessons. We also did our D1 readings together.

As much as I learnt from my classmates and facilitators, I learnt from Diana – and that made me appreciate her even more.

During those 36 weeks of D1, we were drawn closer together and, more importantly, we were together drawn closer to God at the same time.

In our class, there was a father and daughter pair. In the D2 class that we are attending, there is also a number of husband and wife pairs. Do consider signing up with a friend or a loved one. Discipleship may very well have the same galvanising effect on you and your partner.

I hope my testimony encourages you to embark on this Discipleship journey and to discover through it the fruits of your own commitment.





# BLESSING OUR CHILDREN

Alicia Tan of L+F finds out more about the new schedules and different venues for Covenant Kids from Church School Superintendent Mrs Clarissa Soo.

## A Family United in Love for God

BY JOYCE TAN

*In the gospel of Luke, Jesus said, "Blessed... are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (Luke 11:28)*

*God wants us to follow Jesus and "serve one another humbly in love." (Galatians 5:13)*

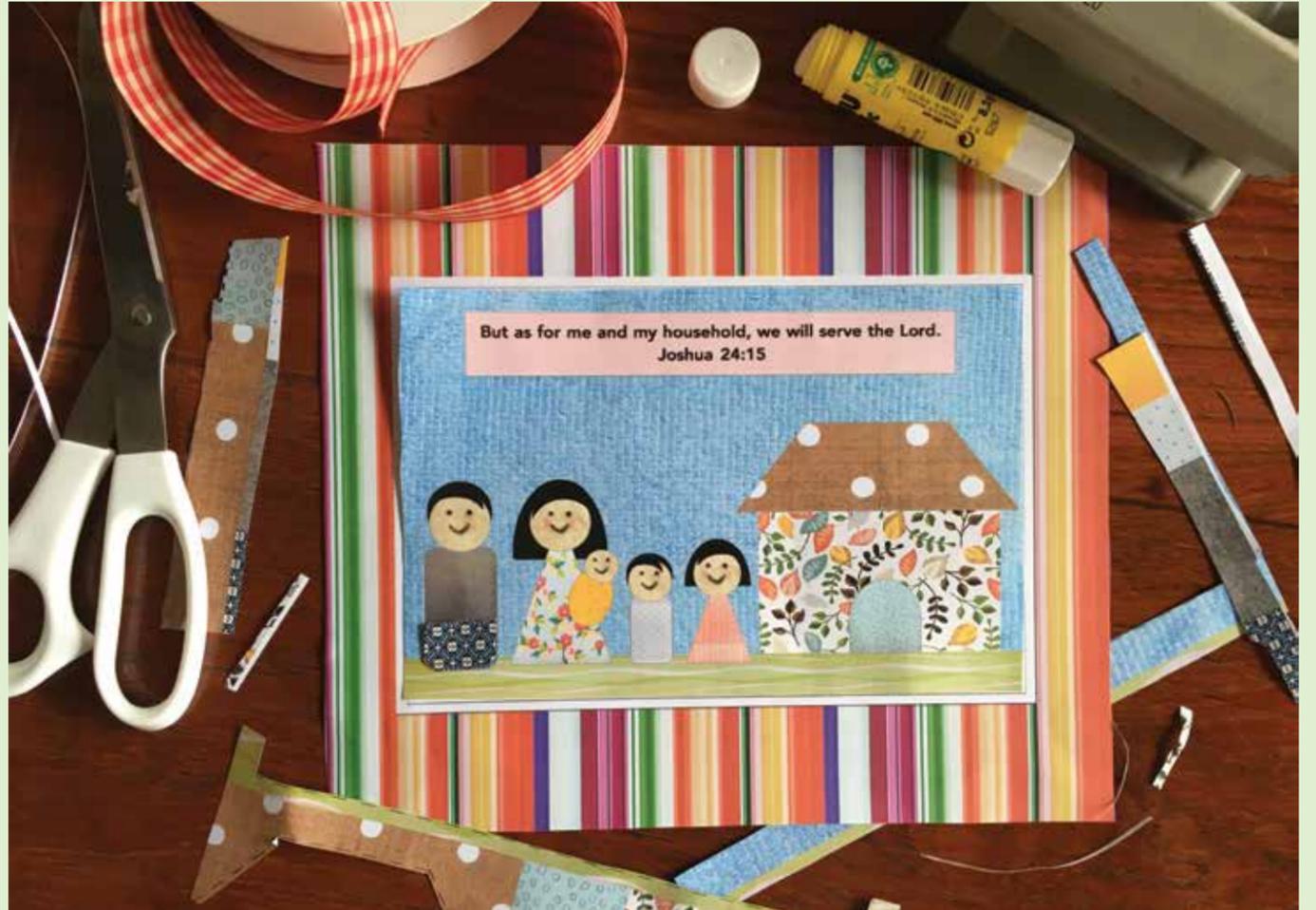
*But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15b)*

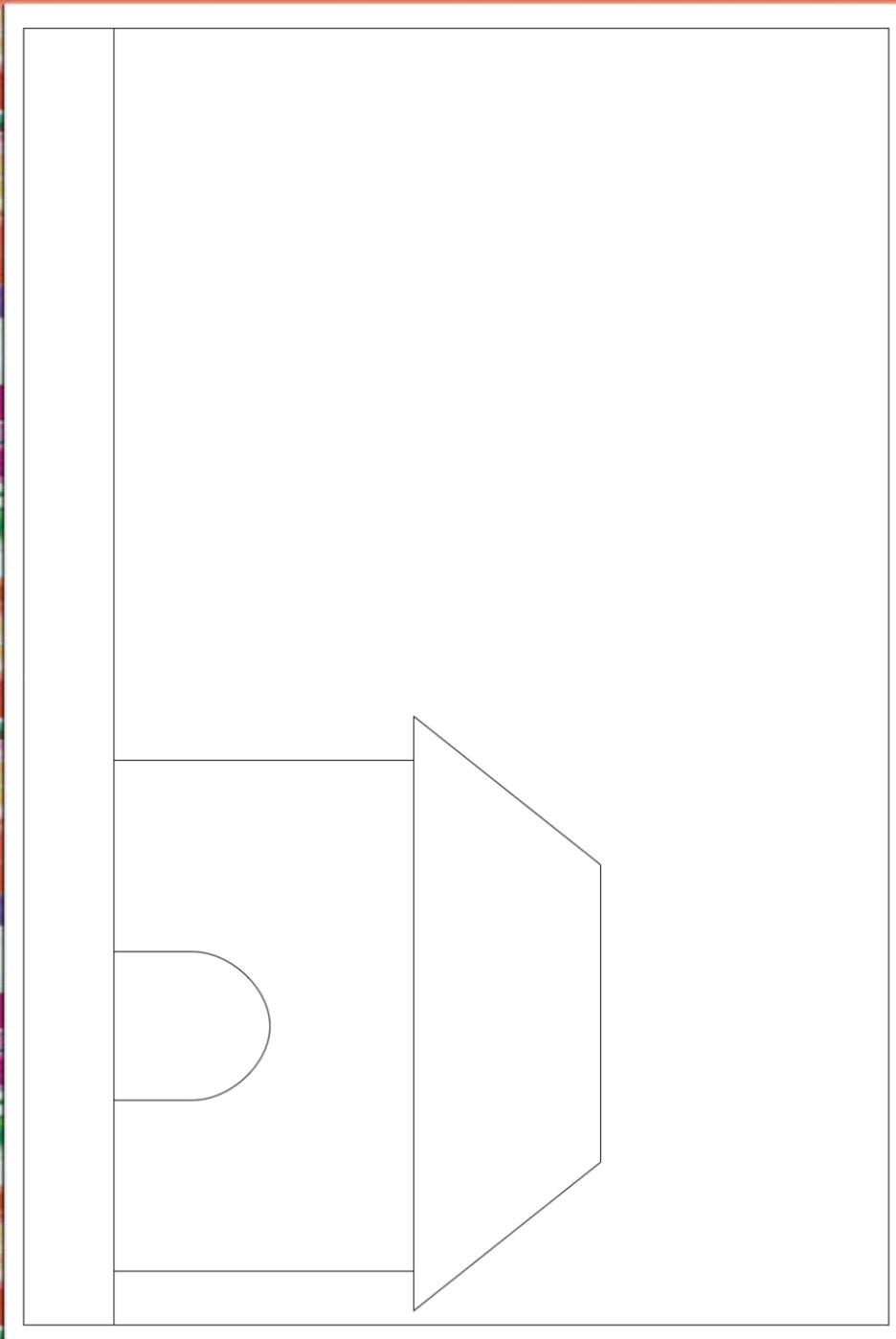
Make a personalised picture to display in your home.

Cut out the figures to represent your family members and the scenery on the following pages.

Write the name of each family member on the figures. (Don't forget to include yourself!)

Stick the figures onto the picture on the next page. When you are done, paste your picture on a cardboard and hang it up with a ribbon.





But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.  
Joshua 24:15b





**L+F: Tell us more about the new junior worship schedule.**

Clarissa Soo (CS): From the beginning of 2017, we start the morning with lessons in class, followed by junior worship. We encourage parents to send their children to church by 8:45am so that the children can learn to serve God by helping their teachers set up the classroom for lessons. We would also like children to learn from this young age to be on time for church.

**L+F: What prompted the change? How has this benefited the students, parents and teachers?**

CS: We want to build a vibrant worship culture in CK and nurture the right posture for worship in our children. It was the desire to have our children experience God's presence through worshipping and praising Him together as a full Church School that prompted the change.

For some time, we didn't have all our children come to CK on time and join the Junior Worship at 9am. Many children headed directly to class. The CK leadership team wanted our children to know God through worship – which is also an important spiritual discipline.

We are now encouraged and happy to have every child present on Sundays gather for worship at 10 am. Their teachers lead them to the worship venue. The children are now in a conducive space for a very joyous experience praising God on Sundays. They also have role models in their teachers who are there with their class children now. The teachers have made a significant difference in instilling in our children the right posture for worship.

We also have a strong team of worship leaders who work together to continually engage our children in worshipping God every Sunday.

We have taught our CK Children

about "COPS" – that we can worship God in the following manner:

- I will Clap
- I will Obey
- I will Pray
- I will Sing

We hope parents will also partner us in our children's spiritual education by reinforcing what we teach.

**L+F: What about the change of venue?**

CS: We want to engage the children in worship. We feel that the Conference Room is a more conducive space for this. It is a less formal setting than the Chapel and helps children be at ease. The absence of pews allows children to worship more comfortably for songs with actions. The worship leader is also on the same level (rather than "up on stage") as the children and this helps in engaging the children better.

**L+F: What else is new with CK?**

CS: Holy Communion (Lord's supper) is the central celebration of the Christian faith – the sacramental meal (the partaking of wafer and juice) which commemorates our redemption by Jesus.

Being part of the Church family, children should partake Holy Communion together with the larger church body.

We have now scheduled Holy Communion into Primary CK, to allow our children to have a sense of belonging and togetherness. This act also signifies the unity of the body of Christ.

In CCMC, we practise open communion – that all who believe in Jesus Christ may partake in Holy Communion, including the children. We hope that as parents, you will continue to teach and remind your children on how to prepare and receive Holy Communion. Our

(( WE HOPE THAT PARENTS WILL ALSO PARTNER US IN OUR CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL EDUCATION BY REINFORCING WHAT WE TEACH. ))

((( WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE PART OF A LARGER CHURCH BODY. )))

teachers will also partner you in that education and preparation, especially of the hearts.

**L+F: What prompted the change? How has this benefited the students/parents/teachers?**

CS: Holy Communion is a Central celebration of the Christian faith and many parents would like their children to participate in this sacrament. We want our children to know that they are part of a larger church body. As they grow up and move out of CK, attending church service with the adults would not be so unfamiliar an experience for them.

**L+F: How has it been for you since taking over as the Church School Superintendent? Moving forward, what do you hope to see and achieve for the church school and for your students?**

CS: It has been an adventure – a thrill ride. What is most exciting is to see the children respond to the teachers in class and worshipping every Sunday. The CK team has seen God’s hand at work, and experienced His faithfulness and love both in the ministry as well as in our personal lives. I am thankful for the entire team of dedicated CK Ministry Workers (teachers, worship leaders, audio visual personnel and ushers) who have supported each other and their CK leaders in the changes and implementation of several children’s programmes.



The collaboration is encouraging. The strong support of our Pastors, Church leaders and many angels God sends our way to encourage us keep us going.

**L+F: What do you hope to see for CK?**

CS: I pray that all of us at CK will be focused on nurturing children who know God deeply (CK Vision). That we will all work together to help children know Jesus, love Jesus and share Jesus (CK Mission). We hope to see children who look forward to coming to CK every week, who would not want to miss Sunday school, who want to be on time because it honours God, who continually invite friends to CK because it is fun and engaging. I hope to see a growing children’s ministry with many many church members believing in nurturing and catching our children at a most teachable age – and joining CK to teach. The time is running out. Our world is different. Our children are growing up faster and exposed to societal influences at a much earlier age. The time is now. Join CK.

**L+F: What do you hope to see in our children?**

CS: May our children build such deep roots in the Word that their faith will not waver in the trials of life. I hope to see them loving and serving God for the rest of their lives because of their experience at CK.



BOTH BY SANDY CHIAN



**Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.**

**Proverbs 22:6**

# The Meaning of the Rose

**Rev Leslie Quahe**

shares a journey of obedience and God's provision excerpted from his book *Planted by the Waters*.

I was walking in the woods around my friend's farm in Switzerland during the summer of 1980 when an audible voice said, "Go to Czechoslovakia". I looked around to see if I could spot anyone around who might be making such a strange remark, but it was soon apparent I was quite alone in the woods.

That night after dinner, I told my Christian friend what I had heard. He said he was almost sure there would be no one else up in the woods as the next farm was 10 km away and no one in his area spoke any English anyway. While he was quite easily convinced this was from God, he was not so sure about the destination. In those days, the 'iron curtain' was still drawn, little was known about what went on behind it and it was certainly unknown territory.

All that only made me more excited about venturing behind the curtain. Coupled with this 'command' to go was my own curiosity stemming from the fact that I had been told that my great, great grandmother had come from Czechoslovakia.

I quickly formulated a route where I would cross from Switzerland to Austria and then make the entry into Czechoslovakia from Salzburg into Bratislava and then head up to Prague.

I got my two-day visa on Saturday afternoon and jumped on the train which would take me to Bratislava. I remember being filled with excitement as the train rolled off but was quite shocked when the landscape changed as we crossed 'no man's' land and were now behind the curtain. Suddenly, everything seemed decrepit and run down. As we pulled into the first Czech station, I started to feel quite apprehensive and alone. As I looked out at the rusty tracks and abandoned trains it seemed that Satan himself was mocking me. He was saying,

"Now you have entered my territory. No one knows where you are and you will never leave and no one will know what has happened to you."

The possible folly of my decision to enter Czechoslovakia was sinking in. Those were years before GPS and mobile phones. Only a few friends knew I was making this trip behind the curtain and none of them had any contact with my parents! Just as fear was starting to overwhelm me, I gazed upon a most incongruous sight. Among all the rusty tracks was a little rose bush with just one rose on it. It seemed so fragile amidst its harsh and rugged surroundings. Just then, the Lord spoke to my heart: "There is beauty amidst all this desolation and you must find it." I responded by saying, "Lord, I don't know what that is supposed to mean but I want to claim the rose as a sign that I have fulfilled your purposes here for me." Feeling a little encouraged, I was glad as the train pulled out of that desolate station. I changed trains in Bratislava and slept most of the night till we arrived in Prague early on Sunday morning. I jumped off the train fully expecting to see someone with a bunch of roses waiting to greet me with a, "Hi! God told me to get these roses and come here to meet you." After a few minutes of scouring the platform and spotting no sign of roses, I was ready to pounce on the next person who had any form of flower on or with him! Then I decided I should have a little quiet time and then see what would happen.

Through the day, I attended two church services and walked the streets of Prague. I was the only black-haired Asian for miles, yet no one would look me in the eye or acknowledge my presence. Even in the churches, I was such a sore thumb but no one would look directly at me. By the end of that day, I was beginning to wonder if I existed! It was the closest thing to being

(( LORD, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS SUPPOSED TO MEAN BUT I WANT TO CLAIM THE ROSE AS A SIGN THAT I HAVE FULFILLED YOUR PURPOSES HERE FOR ME. ))

the invisible man.

Severely discouraged, I decided I was going to leave even though I had one more day on my visa. So I hopped on the train to Bratislava and, as I waited, I made this entry in my journal dated 10 August 1980: "God has given me the sign of the rose and I know there is hope in this place of desolation where every man is alone and fear lingers round every corner." I closed my journal with a heavy heart as it seemed I had not fulfilled His purposes.

Just then, an elderly couple entered the carriage and sat next to me as the three facing seats were already occupied. As we pulled out of the station, the man pulled out a book and I noticed the title in English: *The Gulag Archipelago*. So I leaned across and made polite conversation as I had not spoken to anyone in English for close to a week. I told him I was studying in Bible college, back packing around Europe

and hoping to meet Christians in Czechoslovakia. Right then, he put his hand on my thigh and gestured for me to wait. In the next tunnel when for some reason the lights would go out, I heard him whisper. "My wife and I are Christians and we would like you to come stay with us tonight. In the next tunnel I will hand you the instructions of how to get to our home. Do not follow us when we get off at the next station. Go on to the next station then take this bus to our apartment. Here is a map. Do not knock on the door; just push it as it will not be locked. Please be quiet or our neighbors will check on us."

Following instructions, I made my way quietly up their stairs. My heart pounded when I found the apartment door at the top slightly ajar.

As I entered, the old man motioned that I should sit and remove my trekking boots. As I unlaced the many holes, I quietly told him how discouraged I had been until I had met them. I handed him my journal and told him to read that day's entry. As he was perusing some of my other entries, he remarked, "I can see how discouraged you were but what is this part about the sign of the rose which I don't understand?" I turned to answer him when right there beside him on the dining table was the biggest, most beautiful rose I had ever seen! I told him about what had happened at the station and how I claimed the rose as a sign that I had followed God's direction. His wife came into the room and he told her my story in Czech as she didn't speak any English. She seemed to respond rather excitedly too and then he told me she had been given a bouquet of roses on the previous Monday as they left their home for her sister's village on Thursday evening. She thought the roses would be dead by the time they returned on Sunday so she threw them away. However,

one rose seemed so fresh she picked it up and placed it in a vase in the table. We embraced one another as we felt God's presence surround us. It was so good to be in the perfect will of God.

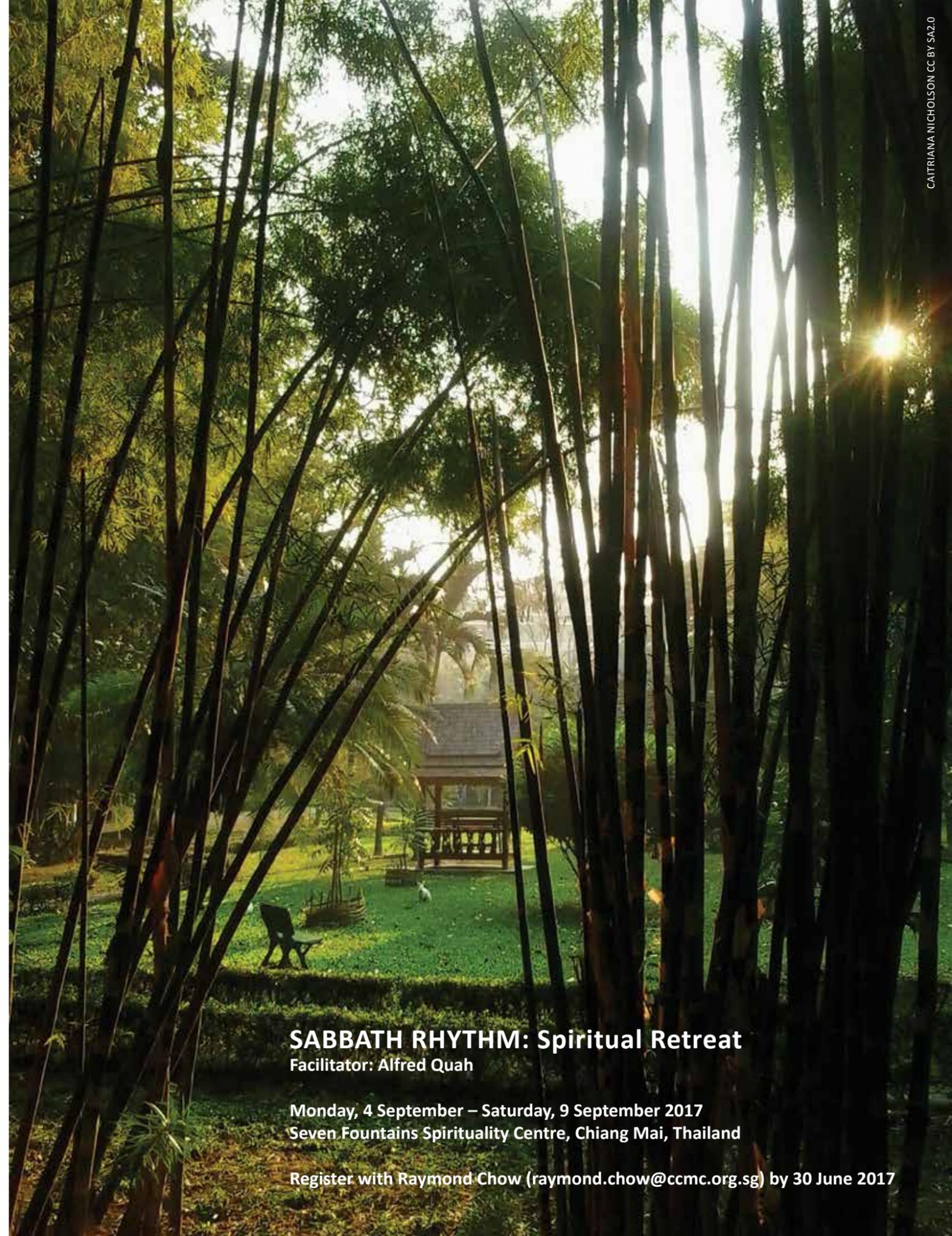
Bob, or Bohuslav, had been a professor of archaeology in the University of Prague until the revolution of 1968. He refused to sign the acknowledgement of the communist party and was sent to labor camp. He and his wife were Christians but their son and daughter were questioning the practicality of it as they were denied medical care and education because of their parent's beliefs. Bob said, "In the last few months, we have been so discouraged we finally told God that if He didn't find a special way to tell us He loves us and that He is real, we might give up our faith. Today, the way you have come to us and this very special sign of the rose tells us that God is real and that He does love us."

I'm sure you will agree this is quite a special story and I had been relating it by way of testimony for almost a decade when one day it hit me that I had missed the real spiritual truth about the rose. Has it occurred to you?

If you look back in this story, you will see that I was at the desolate train station on Saturday evening when I claimed the rose as a sign. By Bob's wife's account, she had replaced the rose on Thursday evening. Now, do you get it? The rose was in the vase BEFORE I asked for it as a sign!

Jesus says so many times and ways in Scripture that God knows what we need before we even ask for it.

Since then, whenever I've been tempted to worry about something, I've reminded myself of the rose and of how God is ahead of us – how he is putting things in place as we walk in His will.



## SABBATH RHYTHM: Spiritual Retreat

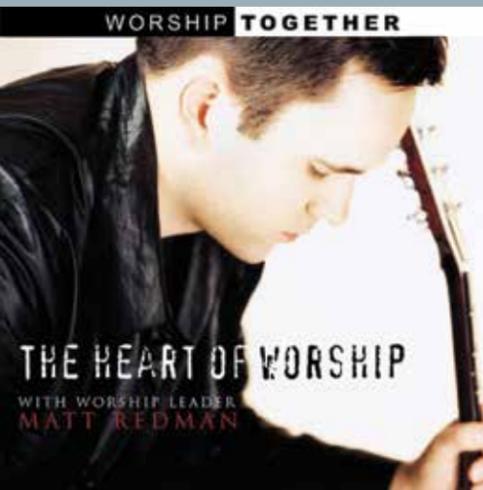
Facilitator: Alfred Quah

Monday, 4 September – Saturday, 9 September 2017  
Seven Fountains Spirituality Centre, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Register with Raymond Chow ([raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg](mailto:raymond.chow@ccmc.org.sg)) by 30 June 2017

# WHEN ALL IS STRIPPED AWAY

Matt Redman **BY GOH ECK KHENG**



*When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless your heart...  
I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus*

These are the words of the title track of Matt Redman's 1999 album *The Heart of Worship* which we all know well.

The song was literally the result of the stripping down of worship in Redman's home church which had the unusual name of Soul Survivor ([www.soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk](http://www.soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk)) in Watford, England.

In the late 1990s, the congregation was experiencing a period of apathy even though the church had contributed to the worship revival of the time. Then, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, did a very brave thing. As Redman recalled: "He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we'd lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away." This was Pilavachi's way of reminding his church to be worshippers and not just consumers of the worship experience. He asked: "When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?" After some awkwardness, the congregation sang without musical accompaniment and offered heartfelt prayers, worshipping God in a real way.

Redman explained that although musicians and sound system were re-introduced, the congregation had gained a fresh perspective "that worship is all about Jesus, and He commands a response in the depths of our souls no matter what the circumstance and setting."

The song *The Heart of Worship* simply described what had happened. Redman had quickly written it at home, the lyric his personal response to what he was learning about worship. In fact, Redman shared, "It nearly didn't go any further than my bedroom."

However, the song has become a became a new standard of the modern worship music movement, sung by Christian recording artists, choirs, and churches around the world.

When the song was recorded for the album, the production team made a conscious decision not to complicate it but allow the song to speak. Redman is therefore encouraged when pastors contact him to say how God had used the song to take their congregations through a situation similar to the one experienced by Soul Survivor Church.

From a personal perspective, Redman says the story behind *The Heart of Worship* is a reminder that, "I'm just a little songwriter – and a pretty foolish one at that!"

Watch Matt Redman share about the writing of *The Heart of Worship* at <https://youtu.be/m83TSHg-jU> and hear him sing it at [https://youtu.be/a1X\\_ev2OILA](https://youtu.be/a1X_ev2OILA).

ABIGAIL GOH



## ASK ABIGAIL

Dear Abigail,  
I am thinking of a good analogy to help my small group members realise that they need to let God be active in their lives.

I thought of this one: God should be the co-pilot of your life.  
What do you think?

It's time to fly

Dear It's time to fly,  
I think you should swap seats with God.

Great way to fly,  
Abigail

Dear Abigail,  
I am preparing a Bible trivia quiz for a special Covenant Kids programme. What do you think of these questions?

- (1) What is the name of Noah's wife?
- (2) Where did Moses get the 10 Commandments?
- (3) What weapon did Samson use to slay the Philistines?
- (4) What great miracle did Joshua perform?
- (5) What do you call the people who proclaim Jesus?
- (6) Did Adam and Eve eat an apple in the Garden of Eden?

Quiz Master

Dear Quiz Master,  
How fun! You have a good mix of easy and trick questions. Let me have a go.

- (1) Noah's wife was Joan of the Ark.
- (2) Moses went to the top of Mount Cyanide to get the 10 Commandments.
- (3) Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
- (4) The greatest miracle Joshua did was when he told his son to stand still and he actually obeyed him.
- (5) The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- (6) Yes, it only took one byte for everything to crash.

Jesus is the answer,  
Abigail

Dear Abigail  
My teenage son has been praying for his best friend for many years now. Earlier this week, he had the opportunity to share the gospel with him. The boy is very open and has asked to go to OC to find out more.

The thing is that my son's friend is Jewish. Sensibly, the boy has asked his father if he could go to church. Although the father is not against the idea of his boy going to a Christian youth meeting, he has asked to meet me to talk things over.

As expected, he is concerned that his only begotton son may go beyond the Jewish faith and become a Christian.

I am not sure what to say.

Gentile

Dear Gentile,  
Tell him that you have turned to God about this and God said, "Funny you should come to me about this."

Loving the new covenant,  
Abigail

Dear Abigail,  
I don't worship in CCMC but another Methodist congregation in Singapore. Our pastor's birthday is coming soon and a few of my church friends and I want to get him a nice present.

I am turning to you for advice because we want to make sure the gift is a surprise for our dear pastor.

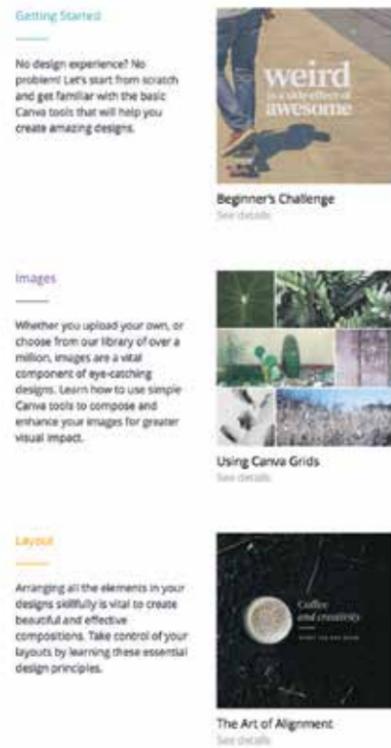
We have noticed that he wears the same suit Sunday after Sunday, so we are thinking of getting a suit for him.

Do you think a suit is a suitable gift? Is it too personal?

Suit of many colours

Dear Suit of many colours,  
How thoughtful of you and your friends! I think your pastor will be delighted, just don't tell him that you are all looking forward to seeing him in his birthday suit.

Fashion forward Abigail



**CANVA**

Adding spice and professional flare to ministry posters, blogs and publications is easy as pie even for the most desktop-publishing-deficient individual. The only pre-requisite is having access to the Internet and being able to point and click with a mouse! Making materials for events, designing banners for social media or even slides for presentations, you can design virtually anything using the templates, texts and images available online. You can even customize the available templates by including personal photos you can upload to the site. The best part is that it's all free!  
<https://www.canva.com/>

|| Leanne Pattiselanno

**KEYS FOR KIDS**

Hiding God's word in our hearts takes time and intention. With full family lives, finding the time often becomes something akin to the

search for the Holy Grail.

Keys for Kids devotions may be the answer to your quest. Learning more about God's love everyday can happen even while you're on the go. If your children are more audiophiles, there's Keys for Kids Radio and a podcast you can subscribe to for free!

Download the Keys for Kids app on your mobile device so you can read or listen to God's word while you go about your day.

<http://www.keysforkids.org/For-Kids/Keys-for-Kids/Read-Listen>

|| Leanne Pattiselanno

**ITCHY FINGERS**

Creating something beautiful with your own hands is a balm to soothe the soul. For those craving time out from the drudgery of routine and long to get your creative juices flowing, Itchy Fingers may be just what you need.

Situated along Jalan Besar, the studio-workshop features lessons by Singaporean artisans specializing in different media.



Whether its modern calligraphy, spoon carving, soap making or even making teeny-tiny clay kueh-kueh, it's really the process and pleasure of carving time out to create.

God was on to something when he spent 6 days doing just that!

<https://www.facebook.com/itchyfingers.sg/>

|| Leanne Pattiselanno



**ARTIST FOR HIRE**

Eric Israel (aka Eric Teow) loves to share the artistic gift God has given him. And he has shared it with passion and infectious enthusiasm for some twenty years now, touching many lives.

He said: "I believe that art can deepen the relationship between parent and child, husband and wife, and creation and Creator."

He once ran Growing Paints, an art enrichment centre, but has exchanged it for a more adventurous path, taking art education to young and old through parties, courses, bonding experiences, team building and other avenues that his creativity brings him.

Take his art party for kids, for instance. Beyond an art and



craft session, Eric can customise a memorable celebration by adding storytelling, singing, face painting, speed painting, caricatures and even a portrait of the birthday girl or boy done on the spot!

The fun he imagines and brings to life is firmly based on sound art theory. His approach to art for children is an exploratory process that brings together many different sensory, socio-emotional and cognitive experiences to create something new, personal and unique. From this, children will find a renewed sense of control and empowerment.

If you cannot wait for a



birthday to come around, Eric conducts art workshops for kids and adults on demand. His classes can be based on the work of famous painters like Monet or Mondrian, otherwise they're about well-loved stories like *The Hungry Caterpillar*.

For those who want to learn art more seriously, he also teaches a technique he invented, using watercolour pencils on foam to create soft and luminous paintings like the lion and cub on the left.

And yes, he also paints pet portraits!

Contact Eric by emailing him at [ericisraelteow@gmail.com](mailto:ericisraelteow@gmail.com).

|| Goh Eck Kheng

**SURF AND TURF**

Dining at New Ubin Seafood in a past was an adventure requiring you to navigate through the maze of Sin Min auto workshops.

Happily, they are now in the canteen on level 6 of 63, Hillview Avenue with ample carparking on the same floor. Former patrons will also be glad to know that it has not

lost its quirky charm, the familiar elements now enhanced by the jungly hillside viewed through an open picture window.



But of course, you go there not primarily for the view or atmosphere. So, I am glad to report that the food is still great, from the selection of crab dishes, Angus ribeye, the signature 'heart attack rice', outstanding vadai and (gasp!) foie gras satay!

Always go hungry.

|| Goh Eck Kheng

**DO YOU HAVE GOOD THINGS TO SHARE?**

Send your recommendations to [ccmclavesfishes@gmail.com](mailto:ccmclavesfishes@gmail.com)

ALL PHOTOS BY SANDY CHIAN



was to each individual special in its own way.

Our camp speaker, Pastor Benjamin Fong from Wesley Methodist Church, spoke mainly on the camp theme: Ground Zero.

The sermons were concise and had impact. He spoke about a touchy topic: repentance – not your usual 'feel-good' session. It is never easy to face your sin, guilt and shame head on, but labelling it was the first step.

Campers learnt that repentance isn't just an apology but a complete turnaround in lifestyle, because only then would we be able to draw closer to God. The messages of repentance and returning to the faith were very apt in this season of our community.

Hour-long discussions in groups, comprising the P6s, the J2s and the young (and not so young) adults, which followed the sermons were eye-opening and very honest. Thus, the camp committee had to squeeze every bit out of our schedule to accommodate the rich discussions.

Hearing the testimonies of the youngest, being the first to break the ice on matters deeply personal, were indeed humbling and encouraging. Seeing them open up to their



**OC CAMP**

27th December, 10.00 am. One hundred and six of our youth embarked on a 32-km journey from CCMC to Cherryloft Resorts Loyang, the site of OC CAMP '16: GROUND ZERO.

For many years now, the OC (One Community) Camp has been a highlight of the year for the youth in our church. It serves as a time where they come together for a time of encountering the Word,

fellowship and fun. It also was a platform to introduce the P6s to the community that they will be a part of for the next phase of their life in church.

The after effects of the Amazing Race Games on Day 1 was not just the ache we felt everywhere, but also the joy of new friendships formed over complaining about the watermelon challenge and having to eat pig ears. This was an ice-breaker like no other.

Aside from this, camp this year

friends was extremely heartwarming and exciting. But many of us still have thick walls built up over years of guarding our secrets. The prayer is that we may all find our three special confidantes to break down those walls.

The fellowship and impact the sessions made were felt even after the day's scheduled programme, with the younger ones seeking out the older youths to talk about the things that weighed on their hearts. The older youths and

young adults responded by sharing the ups and downs of their own spiritual lives to encourage the younger ones.

On the last two nights of camp, a call for repentance and a rededication to Christ was made and the response was very encouraging. Many campers shared testimonies of how the camp, messages and discussions have indeed made an impact on their lives.

We believe that everyone received something, though we can-

not say for certain in what ways God was working in each life.

However, we know that all things, including all the setbacks and challenges faced during the planning of the camp, were used for His glory. That everything is a part of His perfect plan and that each and every person that attended the camp, willingly or otherwise, was blessed.

|| *David Chian (Camp Commandant) & Stephanie Shih*





**WORSHIP & MUSIC MISSION TRIP**

In 2016, The Worship and Music Ministry was looking at organizing a mission trip to Malaysia. In consultation with the Malaysian TRAC president, Rev Dr T. Jeyakumar, the ministry was directed to Ipoh and in particular a new preaching point called the Living Faith.

With that in mind, a call for volunteers was made and soon, we had 7 people responding and a trip was planned. Calvin, Joseph, Henry, Cheryl, Ming Ying and I were on our way. We were also blessed to be joined by a friend of Joseph's from Faith Methodist Church, Samat. He joined us as a drummer.

Before the trip, we practised the songs that we were going to sing at the service and Calvin prepared for the sermon.

The people from Living Faith met us at the airport. And wherever we went, we were met with kindness and thoughtfulness. They brought us around and took care of us. On our first night in Ipoh they took us out for dinner and almost the whole church sat down for dinner with us - almost 25 people.

We helped to serve in Sunday afternoon service at Living Faith preaching point. The church is situated at a shophouse that used to be a bakery. After the service we had a pot luck dinner and also jammed

with some of the church members.

We got to know the people of Living Faith, from the thirteen year-old boy who manned the sound and projection system, to the young Pastor Gauri who works very hard to keep the church going with the rest of the church members. We are grateful to all who have treated us with such warmth, especially to Boey Sit. She is our worship ministry counterpart there and she helped to coordinate and make this visit possible.

I will remember the people the most from this visit as they have such big hearts for serving and building the church. I pray that when we go back in September 2017, we not only see the familiar kind faces again, but also lot more new ones too.

Starting a new church has its challenges, but with God by its side, I am sure that Living Faith will grow from strength to strength.

'Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled.' - Luke 14:23

|| Miriam Wun



**PROJECT PICASSO**

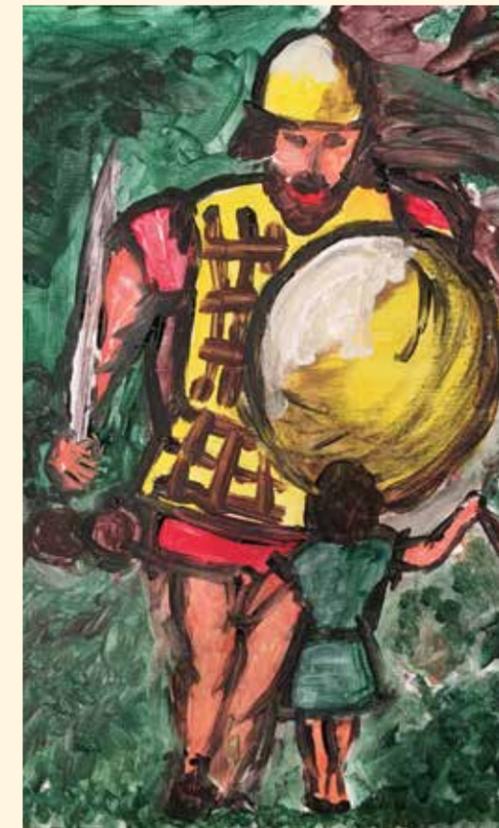
The CCMC members who attended the church camp from 2-5 June 2017 displayed their artistic talent in a group activity called Picasso Project.

Teams of campers were assigned Bible stories including The Prodigal Son, Noah's Ark, David and Goliath, and the Seige of Jericho to illustrate. Most campers were tentative and not so confident when the canvases and paints were distributed, but as they started work, the creative juices certainly flowed.

Not only were the paintings well composed, but many showed good technique and excellent colour sense.

The Covenant Kids who attended vacation Bible school at the camp also proved to be very creative in their paintings showing the universe as God's creation (*below*), part of the children's exploration of the theme: Searching the visible, discovering the invisible.

|| Goh Eck Kheng



# ALL THAT JESUS CONTINUES TO DO

BY WIL POUNDS

CEREZO BARREDO



In Acts 1:1 the words “all that Jesus began to do and teach” are in the linear action. It is action still going on. The verb “began” is present infinitive, linear action. It is as if to say that Jesus is still carrying on from heaven the work and teachings which He started while on earth before His ascension.

Luke does not say “all that Jesus did and taught,” but “all that Jesus began to do and to teach.” The Gospel of Luke tells us what Jesus began to do and teach, while Acts of the Apostles tells what He continues to do and teach by His Spirit through His special Body....

In the opening words of his second volume, Acts of the Apostles, Luke tell us what Jesus is still carrying on from heaven. He is still working and teaching, doing the same thing He started while on earth before His ascension. In volume two Luke tells us all that Jesus continues to do and teach after His ascension through His present spiritual Body on earth....

Every born again believer is a member of the special Body with specific spiritual gifts that are needed by His Body. God places every member in a local church to accomplish His redemptive purposes through that church. He saved you by grace and put you in a local Bible believing church to accomplish His will on this earth (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:12ff, 27; Rom. 12:5, 6).

You were given at least one spiritual gift for a purpose when God saved you. If you are not exercising your gift not only do you fail to fulfill your mission, but also the Body of Christ does not function to its fullest

potential.

The Body of Christ has authority to continue to do and see to completion all that Jesus began to do and teach (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). The risen Lord is the head of the church. He is continuing to do in and through you and me all that He began to do and teach. He has given us all the authority and power we need to accomplish His will. We are a specially equipped Body with power and authority to continue to do what Jesus began to do and teach. Will you say to Him, “Lord, whatever You direct me to do in relation to your Body, I will do. I am your servant for your purposes.”

When God gives you a divine assignment to accomplish His will, and purpose, you must depend upon Him alone to accomplish it. Why? Because it is His work, not yours. Since it is a God-sized task you must depend on God alone. Who is continuing to work? Christ does no ask you to do His work in your abilities, gifts, likes and dislikes. We must be totally available to Him and depend upon Him to do His work. What chapter are you writing in Volume 2017 of the Life and Acts of Jesus Christ? Where is God at work in your life? What is He doing and teaching through you to accomplish His eternal purposes?

*Wil has pastored in Panama, Ecuador and the US, and served for over 20 years as missionary in Ecuador and Honduras. He had a daily expository Bible teaching ministry in over 100 countries.*

The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow.  
~ JI Packer

I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.  
~ Mother Teresa

Don't let your trials blow you down; let them lift you up.  
~ Woodrow Kroll

Worry implies that we don't quite trust God is big enough.  
~ Francis Chan

Bear with the fault of others as you would have them bear with yours.  
~ Philip Brooks

We need God as much in the calm as in the storm.  
~ Jack Hyles



KAM SOOK WEI

**What is your favourite food and drink?**

My husband's barbecued tomahawk steak! A glass of wine or cincau with soya bean.

**What do you appreciate the most in friends?**

Being able to share without fear of being judged. Being truthful even when it's hard.

**What don't you tolerate in others?**

A judgmental attitude, unkindness.

**What is your idea of happiness?**

God being with me every step of the way, guiding me.

**What is your idea of misery?**

Feeling empty, lost and bitter.

**What talent do you wish to have?**

That I could speak many languages.

**Which Biblical character do you most identify with?**

Ruth, for her fiercely loyal and love to her family.

**What do you like most about CCMC?**

Sincerity and the warm greetings.

**What is your motto?**

Live life like it's the last day! Have faith in God and be gracious always!



WILFRED HO

**What's your fave food and drink?**

A good char kway teow always hits the spot. I don't really have a favourite drink, but I enjoy a nice bottle of cider on the weekends.

**What do you appreciate the most in friends?**

Honesty in its most brutal form.

**What don't you tolerate in others?**

Love for rival football clubs aside, I'd say people who are too self-righteous.

**What is your idea of happiness?**

Good health for my loved ones (including friends) and myself.

**What is your idea of misery?**

Being away from my family for extended periods of time.

**What talent do you wish to have?**

Play the drums.

**Which Biblical character do you most identify with?**

I aspire to have the courage to always do the right thing like John, Paul, Elijah, David.

**What do you like about CCMC?**

The warmth coming from the people and the food!

**What is your motto?**

Have a spirit of excellence for Jesus!



ELIZABETH CHUA

**What is your favourite food and drink?**

Nonya food! Laksa, mee siam...

**What do you appreciate the most in friends?**

Thoughtfulness

**What don't you tolerate in others?**

Inconsideration

**What is your idea of happiness?**

My family having a laughing good time together.

**What is your idea of misery?**

Having to do something that has no meaning to me.

**What talent do you wish to have?**

I wish I was artistic.

**Which Biblical character do you most identify with?**

Miriam. I can relate to her love and desire to protect her family even when she can't be with them all the time.

**What do you like most about CCMC?**

I like how food and fellowship go together.

**What is your motto?**

To do everything to the best of my ability.

## May Ngui's PULUT HITAM

*This is how I make my Pulut Hitam. I normally do a big batch, about fifty dessert bowls or more.*

800 g black glutinous rice  
300 g dried longans (feel free to add more if desired)  
300 g brown rock sugar  
500 g solid gula melaka  
Pandan leaves, knotted  
Coconut milk (either freshly squeezed or pasteurized)

Soak the black glutinous rice and dried longans separately for 4 hours.

Divide the black glutinous rice, rock sugar, dried longans and pandan leaves into two equal portions. Put each portion into a medium-sized pot (about 4 litres), with enough water to fill it to the top. Bring to boil over a big fire then lower the heat, stirring constantly for about 3 hours (adding water if necessary) until the rice grains have broken up.

Put the gula melaka in a saucepan, cover with just enough water to cover the gula block. Heat over fire until it has completely dissolved. Decant the syrup into a container.

Stir the gula melaka syrup into the Pulut Hitam and taste. Add enough until the desired sweetness is achieved.

Add about one dessert spoon of coconut milk per bowl while serving. I prefer to add coconut ice cream instead of coconut milk.

## Elaine Low's PULUT HITAM CHIFFON CAKE

### Ingredients A

140 g black glutinous rice flour  
(Ghim Hin Lee Bake King brand)  
25 g premium flour  
(Hong Kong flour)  
½ tsp baking powder  
7 egg yolks  
35 g shaved gula melaka  
25 g caster sugar  
½ tsp salt  
60 g canola oil  
140 ml coconut cream  
(Kara brand)

### Meringue

7 egg whites  
50 g sugar  
½ tsp cream of tartar

Preheat the oven to 160°C. Sift the two flours and baking powder together.

Beat Ingredients A well with a hand whisk in a mixing bowl, ensuring that batter is free from lumps.

To make the meringue, whisk at high speed the egg whites till frothy in a grease free bowl. Add the cream of tartar and whisk again.

Put in half of the sugar and whisk till soft peaks form, then add the rest of the sugar and whisk till stiff peaks. Do not over whisk.

Pour batter into the meringue and fold in gently with a bowl scraper. Do not overfold but ensure that it is well mixed.

Pour this into a 23-cm ungreased chiffon tin. Use a skewer to stir the mixture evenly in a circular

motion, especially near the centre of the tin.

Bake in the preheated oven on the lower shelf for 90 minutes or till cooked. Test with a skewer.

Remove the tin from oven and leave it upside down on a cake rack to cool completely before unmolding. Use a palette knife if needed.

### OPTIONAL

You may ice the cake with Swiss Meringue Buttercream and sprinkle on ground peanuts. Chill.

A recipe for Swiss Meringue Buttercream can be found at: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/ron-ben-israel/swiss-meringue-buttercream-recipe.html>

.....  
*May plays the organ for the 11 am service.*

*Elaine is a member of the MGS ParentLink Committee.*





## CCMC: Founded as a Spirit-led Church

*Loaves+Fishes* delves into the founding days of Covenant Community Methodist Church to understand the spiritual commitment and attitude of the church leaders as they sought God's leading in starting our church.

The following is based on an essay by JULEEN SHAW from CCMC's 10th anniversary booklet.

In 1993, a few believers including Dr Patrick Kee from Barker Road Methodist Church and Dr Wu Da Ching from Wesley Methodist Church were prodded from the comfort of their pews by Gen 12:1.

*The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

So leave they did. Noting that there was no Methodist church between Barker Road and Bukit Panjang, the decision was to plant a preaching point in the Methodist Girls' School at Balckmore Drive. It could easily have become "Blackmore Methodist Church", but for the fact that the pioneers did not want to tie

the name of the church to a physical building or location.

It was their desire to be a Spirit-led church, and they sought God's leading for the name and mission of the church. The word "covenant" was chosen to focus on the Holy Spirit, the people of the church, and the promise of Eph 2:19-22.

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

The vision was to fill people with the presence of God rather than pews with people.

On 10 October 1993, the preaching point held its first service in the MGS chapel. About 70 people attended, mostly well-wishers from Barker Road and Wesley.

In less than a year, on 11 September 1994, Covenant Community Methodist Church was inaugurated as a local conference church of Trinity Annual Conference. The Spirit had led the formation of the church in record speed!

But there was a hiccup before that. When it came to getting a minimum number of members to constitute the church, not enough people were willing to transfer their membership. They were all happy to worship at the preaching point and even build its foundation, but they continued to have close ties with their home churches and were unwilling to uproot.

That was when Dr Wu urged, "If you are serious about starting this church, sign up!"

Consequently, the number of founding members was 77, of whom 28 were admitted by baptism.

Both Rev Noel Goh and Rev Lawrence Chua were assigned to look after CCMC as a preaching point in MGS at Blackmore Drive. When CCMC finally became a Local Conference on 11 Sept 1994, the Rev Noel Goh was the Pastor. It was he who delivered the sermon on that inaugural Sunday morning. Later, the Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian was appointed Pastor-in-Charge of Covenant Community Methodist Church on 1 Jan 1995. Earlier, it was Rev Ngoei, then Pastor of Barker Road Methodist Church, who had prayed alongside the pioneers through the birth of the preaching point.

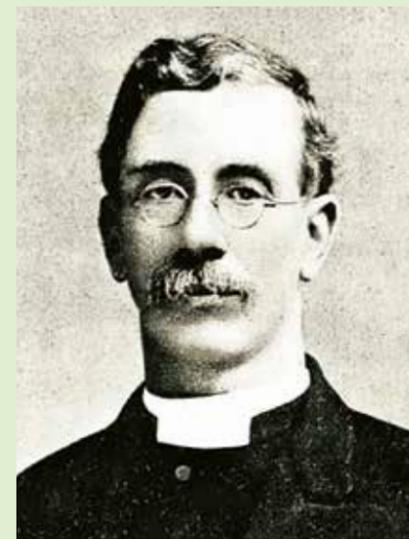
Rev Ngoei remembers: "The leaders came together from different backgrounds, some charismatic, some evangelical, all wanting to do their own stuff. Sometimes we had passionate discussions, criss-crossing each other. But one thing was evident: Each person felt called to be here, called by God to be part of this group of pioneers."

Dr Wu agrees: "CCMC was unique because we allowed God to speak to us through each other. We never forced a consensus. None of the leaders had any experience in church planting. But there was a willingness to unite, to demonstrate love and consideration for each other."

"One of the most important truths that we sought to live was to be a Spirit-led church... 'not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, Zech 4:6,'" added Dr Kee.

So strong was the leaders' desire to be united, that when an issue came up, they would postpone decision-making to pause and pray.

"What strikes me is that, by God's grace, each of us was called to be part of this body," said Dr Kee. "we were called together for His purpose, to be a witness for Him."



WILLIAM G SHELLABEAR

William Girdlestone Shellabear was a Methodist missionary, scholar in Malay literature, writer, editor, translator and founder of the Amelia Bishop Press which became known as the American Mission Press and later the Methodist Publishing House, and finally MPH.

He left a legacy of many books: Vocabularies, dictionaries, textbooks as well as religious and translated works in Malay and English.

### Early life

Shellabear, born in Norfolk, England, in 1862 was raised in a nominally Christian family. He had a conversion experience in 1885.

In the following year, he was deployed to Singapore as an officer with the Royal Engineers, arriving in 1887. During his time as a soldier in Singapore, Shellabear developed a lifelong appreciation of the Malay culture and began learning the language. He left the military service in 1890 to join the Methodist Mission to reach out to the native population of Singapore and Malaya.

While on furlough in England waiting for his missionary appointment, Shellabear studied the art of printing in preparation for setting up a printing press in Singapore.

### Printing press

When Shellabear returned to Singapore in 1890, he established a mission press known as Amelia Bishop Press.

The press published many religious and literary materials during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These included tracts, hymnals, almanacs, school textbooks, bibles, dictionaries and vocabularies.

Shellabear also helped develop the printing trade in Singapore by importing type-casting equipment, which enabled his press to produce its own Jawi type. He also supplied equipment to other local printers.

### Writer, editor, translator

Shellabear devoted himself to the study of the Malay language, classical Malay literature and Islam.

To support vernacular education, he translated the notable *Sejarah Melayu* also known as *Malay Annals* (1896). He also produced *Practical Malay Grammar* (1899), and *Malay-English Vocabulary* (1902) which also benefitted the missionaries wanting to learn the language, thereby equipping Christian workers with language skills.

He published *Chrita Orang Yang Chari Slamet*, a Baba Malay edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress* (see below) with Tan Cheng Poh (1905), and



the *Hikayat Hang Tuah* or *The Life of Hang Tuah* with Sulaiman bin Muhammed Nur.

In 1891, Shellabear became the editor of *The Malaysia Message* (now *The Methodist Message*).

In 1900, he began a revision of H. C. Klinkert's translation of the Bible in Malay under the auspices of the Bible Society. From this, the New and Old Testaments were printed in 1910 and 1912 respectively – the first modern translation of the Bible into Malay based on the most accurate Greek texts available then. The translation attempted to break away from the courtly language and *hikayat* literary style used in earlier translations, adopting a more vernacular style.

In recognition of his translation work, Shellabear was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity by the Ohio Wesleyan University in 1913.

### Other contributions

In addition to his literary and printing work, Shellabear held several positions, including presiding elder, in the Methodist Mission in Singapore.

He was also a long-time member of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, being its president for two years. As he was also proficient in Chinese, Shellabear's outreach work extended to the Chinese women and orphans.

### Retirement from Malaya

Shellabear officially retired in 1920 because of bad health.

He moved to the United States and taught at the Drew University in New Jersey, and later at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

During this period, he was editor of the *Moslem World* journal and continued his translation work.

He wrote and published his memoir, *The Life of the Reverend W. G. Shellabear, D. D.*, in 1938.

Shellabear died in Hartford on 16 January 1947 at the age of 84.



## TRUE VINE

Goh Eck Kheng

A painting of a grape vine, a farewell gift to Ps Ling Kin Yew, was delivered to Ps Ling's office at Fairfield Methodist Church by its artists in March 2017.

May Ngui (*right*) painted the background first, then Leong Yiat Teng (*second right*) did the branches and leaves, and Juleen Shaw (*left*) finally added the grapes.

The artwork was a joyful collaboration from the start, with Yiat Teng proposing that they base the painting on a photograph she found on the Internet.

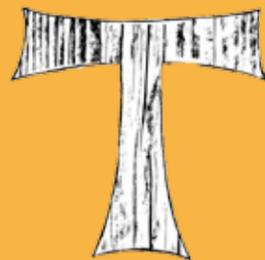
Although the painting is an expression of John 15:5, a verse chosen by Ps Ling, the ladies did it on their own initiative. Said May, "We did it out of joy and appreciation. No one asked us to do it. In general, Christians need to practise kindness, more so within our community."

The painting now hangs in Ps Ling's office in Fairfield Methodist Church.

May had done paintings as gifts to Ps John Foo and Ps David Wee. She was first prompted to paint for Ps John by some members of the D1 class she attended. However, for this gift, May felt that it was better and more meaningful to paint as a group.

"We worked around each other's schedules," said May. "We were very happy doing it. It was as though God was blessing the project."

"There are many good artists in CCMC," May added. "Just look at the paintings hanging outside Wesley Hall (Youth Hall)."



### THE TAU CROSS

The tau (pronounced to rhyme with "gnaw" or with "now") cross is an early form of the Christian cross symbol, named after the Greek letter it resembles. In Greek, the letter T represented Theos or God. From antiquity, the shape of the letter was also interpreted as representing a crucifix as it reminded the early Christians of the form of the cross on which Christ was likely to have been crucified.

The tau was also considered a symbol of salvation due to its identification with the sign which in Ezekiel 9:4 was marked on the forehead of the saved ones, or due to the tau-shaped outstretched hands of Moses

in Exodus 17:11. Thus, the tau cross is sometimes called the "Old Testament cross."

John 3:14 compares the crucifixion of Christ with the bronze serpent that Moses lifts up in the wilderness (Numbers 21). Tradition tells us that the pole on which Moses lifted the serpent was a tau cross. As this event from the life of Moses seems to anticipate the crucifixion of Christ, this cross is sometimes called the "anticipatory cross."

As the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the letter tau speaks of the Last Day and had the same function as the Greek letter Omega as it appears in the Rev 21:6 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end".

Today, the Tau Cross is most commonly known as the symbol of the Franciscan Order in the Catholic Church as Saint Francis of Assisi had adopted it as his personal coat of arms.

Generally, the Tau cross would lend itself easily to use during lent, with its focus on anticipating the crucifixion.



"Clapping or nonclapping?"

# Let



# PRAY TOGETHER

THIRD TUESDAYS OF  
EVERY MONTH  
8 PM  
WESLEY HALL

**SERVE**

**ONE ANOTHER**

**HUMBLY**

**IN LOVE.**

**GAL 5:13B**

