



kampong kapor  
methodist church

1894-2017  
KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH  
(Bishop Bickley Memorial)

cus

September – November 2017



“  
The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.  
Luke 4: 18 - 19 (NIV)  
”



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**IN & INVOLVED**  
about the church, along the streets, and across the seas



02  
PASTORS' MESSAGE

03  
FEATURED SERMON  
- *Me? In & Involved in Missions?*

06  
HYMN FESTIVAL 2017

07  
CHOIR TRIP TO PENANG  
- *Praising and Praying in Penang*

08  
CHERUBIM CHOIR  
- *The Tale of the Three Trees*

11  
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE  
- WSCS High Tea: Talk on  
"Transformational Relationship"  
- KKMC WSCS AGM and 80th Anniversary

13  
MANDARIN MINISTRY  
- 32nd Anniversary  
- LifeGroup Testimonies

17  
TAMIL MINISTRY  
- 24th Anniversary  
- Day Prayer :  
Prayer for Southeast Asian countries  
- KKMC Tamil Women's Fellowship  
- Children's Sunday  
- Tamil Ministry Outing  
- Dormitory Ministry  
The Ray of Hope in Darkness  
- Bagyaraj : Christmas Day Programme  
and My Testimony

21  
KKMC KINDERGARTEN

22  
FEEDING THE COMMUNITY  
- *Bring Your Gifts to the Table*

23  
YOUTH MINISTRY  
- *Love Your Neighbour*  
- *"I'm not an old people person."*

24  
BOYS' BRIGADE  
- *President's Award*

25  
MISSION TRIPS  
- *Mission Trip to Fuzhou*  
- *Visit to Hope and Joy in Hanoi*

28  
IN THE COMMUNITY  
- *Reach Out the Hand of Fellowship*  
- *Inter-faith Durian Fellowship*  
- *The World Is My Parish*

31  
TESTIMONIES  
- *Rachel Seah*  
- *Philip Chew*

33  
UPCOMING EVENTS  
- *Upcoming Events and Worship Services  
in December 2017*  
- *Mission Opportunities in 2018*

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**Our Sunday Worship Services**  
**English** : 8.00am, 9.30am &  
11.30am  
**Peranakan** : 11.00am  
**Mandarin** : 2.00pm  
**Tamil** : 5.30pm

# Pastors' Message



Rev Gabriel, Rev Kenneth & Pastor Zhi-Hui

Christians are called to *"always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."* 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

To be able to do so successfully, we need to know how to explain who Jesus is, what He did for us on the cross, and how His resurrection from the dead has made all the difference. For those who attended the *"Becoming a Contagious Christian"* course when it was held in church earlier in March and then in August, we would have gone through some ways to learn how to do so, and we pray that we have been putting into practice what we learnt during the course to naturally and personally share our trust in Jesus with the person on our "Impact List" or anyone God may bring along our way. To help us keep on learning how to share the Gospel effectively, I had recommended during the course that we also read Paul E Little's books *"Know What You Believe"* and *"Know Why You Believe"* to better equip us in this area.

The current Sermon Series for the English congregations of *"Hard Sayings of Jesus"*, based on several chapters of F.F. Bruce's book of the same title, is also meant to help us be able to explain clearly to others what Jesus meant when He said things that initially appear "hard" to listen to and to accept, for example, "pluck out the right eye", "turn the other cheek", "the first shall be last, and the last shall be first", "many are called, but few are chosen", etc. Our prayer is that as we live out these teachings and are more able to clearly explain them, our listeners would then be able to better understand who Jesus is, what values He embodies and teaches, and as a result, want to know more about Him and even to trust in Him.

We are also so very glad that God led our church to be further in and involved along the streets by starting in July the Seniors' Corner for the elderly in our neighbourhood to gather weekly on Friday mornings for meaningful and enjoyable fellowship and activities, led by our church staff and members. It has been much-welcomed by those who are attending.

Lastly, during this year's *"Missions Fortnight"* in September, we were informed of the faith plans of our church for 2018 as we seek to be more in and involved in the ministry of missions, both as individuals and as a church family. Read the Featured Sermon, and refer to the Missions Pamphlet, if you were not around in church to hear about the plans yourself, or just to refresh your memory about them. And then help learn, pray, give and go!

To the Glory of God!

*Rev Kenneth Huang, Rev Gabriel Liew and Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui*

# Featured Sermon Me? In & Involved in Missions?

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "ALL AUTHORITY IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME. <sup>19</sup> GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, <sup>20</sup> AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND REMEMBER, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, TO THE END OF THE AGE."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NRSV)

This is the very last command of Jesus: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (all peoples)!* The final words of a person are to be given much more weight and consideration by those who hear them, for the words represent the genuine wishes of the person who spoke them.

In this case, these are the very words of our Lord Jesus, commonly known as **The Great Commission**, and if we call ourselves His followers, His disciples, we then need to take these words as seriously as any other command that He has given to us for us to obey.

From Jesus Himself, it is very clear is that this command springs from **God's love** for the World. Just read **John 3:16** and this fact will become clear to all: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

With every command of Jesus comes a promise by Him to help us to obey that command, and with the Great Commission, the promise is stated in verse 20, *"I am with you always, to the end of the age"* - Jesus promises His presence to help us carry out what He has commanded of us. This is followed by Him promising the coming of the Holy Spirit upon His disciples, us, that we will definitely be His witnesses as stated in **Acts 1:8**.

And at the very heart of the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus is His **Resurrection** from the dead!

For because Jesus is risen, Jesus' power and presence are available to all every day. His Resurrection is the key to eternal life for His disciples, and helps them become part of God's family.

Putting these truths together, the Risen Jesus, the Chief Disciple, is therefore now asking His disciples themselves to do the work of discipling, even as He empowers them to baptise others in the name of the

## WHAT IS MISSIONS?

**Missio** (Latin verb): to send

The Mission of God refers to God the Father sending the Son, and God the Father and the Son sending the Holy Spirit into the world.

God has a mission because "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Mission is not primarily an activity of the church, but an attribute of God. Our living God is a missionary God.

God's mission is to bring people trapped in the kingdom of sin and Satan back onto the liberating Kingdom of God.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

**Luke 4**

<sup>16</sup> When He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was His custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to Him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>20</sup> And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup> Then He began to say to them,

"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

John 20:21

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you."

The church involvement in God's mission comes from John 20:21 when Jesus spoke to His disciples saying,

Therefore, mission is an activity of God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that includes the church.

Mission is a movement from God to the world; the church is an instrument for that mission. There is church because there is mission. To participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love toward people.

The church as the people of God thus have a mission to carry out the work of Jesus Christ in proclaiming the good news of God's Kingdom to the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## OUR MISSIONS HISTORY

**1890s**  
Rev William Shelabear and Ms Sophia Blackmore started work among the Malay and Peranakan speakers in Singapore, a group that previously had little missionary activities. This mission root of KKMCC saw the church involved in missions from its very beginnings.

**1895**  
Lynn Wee was sent to Finland.

**1896**  
Patrick and Yin Heng Tan were sent to Taiwan.

**1898**  
Ajit and Kim Hong Hazra were sent to Zambia.

**1899**  
Victor Ng join the Mass Media team of what was then Campus Crusade for Christ (now Cru).

**1990**  
The church adopted Vision 2000. This document spelt out the vision of the church. The church was challenged to grow in missions by planting a church among the unreached people group as well as to send out missionaries.

**1992**  
KKMCC started regular short-term mission trips.

**1995**  
Waiyah returned to Indonesia and enrolled in a Bible school to prepare for missionary work.

**1995**  
Kelvin started Christian Drug Rehabilitation work in China.

**1998**  
Work to plant a church among the Lahu people of Thailand was started.

**2001**  
Our first missionary with India Mission Society (Raja Thomas).

**Early 1990s**  
Full financial support was given to missionaries.

**VISION 2000**  
Go, Grow, Glow

**Bringing the worship of God to the Nations: Across the Streets and Across the Seas**

This was the start of our current era of missions.

● Indicates our current missionaries

Trinitarian God, and to teach them the words and ways of Jesus so that those who respond, will find the forgiveness of sins and have a right relationship with God.

To this, the church must never "degenerate into a comfortable club for the like-minded. It is always called to...discipling, teaching

evangelism". (Bible Speaks Today)

Having heard all I have preached so far, the key question is "How does one really become involved in missions?" *And the answer basically is by being obedient to Jesus, of course.*



But what does this really involve – being obedient to Jesus in the area of Missions? To help us here, let me share with all of us 5 “As”:

1) **Attitude** – we must want to obey Jesus’ command to reach out to all peoples with the Gospel, and put aside, with God’s help, our fears, our hesitations, our feelings of inadequacies, our “comfort zones”, etc. **John Piper** reminds us that *“To belong to Jesus is to embrace the nations with Him.”*

2) **Attentiveness** – we must eagerly seek out opportunities for missions – whether to pray, learn, give and/or go; ideally, all four aspects! **Hudson Taylor** challenges us that *“God isn’t looking for people of great faith, but for individuals ready to follow Him.”*

3) **Assets** – we must make choices about the allocation of our annual leave, our income, our time, etc – we learn to set aside a suitable portion of each for the work of missions. We must also ensure the proper and full use of assets, especially while in the field, knowing as **Hudson Taylor** rightly observed that *“God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies.”*

4) **Action** – we must then sign up, attend talks, undergo training, participate in prayer meetings, and **actually, go!**

It is not as difficult as it appears. After careful planning as best as we can, when the time for the mission trip arrives, we go trusting God to help us faithfully carry out what was planned, and to also be wise enough to respond appropriately to unforeseen changes to the programme, while helping keep us safe and healthy.

Let me share with all that if I, with a well-rounded body – I know that you may not be able to see it so clearly as you only see me on Sundays wearing black which is very slimming – now, if with my body, I can endure long hours of travel on hard and dusty roads, as in India, or with much personal effort, walk down and then, up narrow and sometimes, rather steep, paths to get to where we are supposed to, as in Vietnam, or stay at very simple accommodations, as in Thailand, and sometimes, a little, okay, quite dirty, accommodations, as in India – *all these*

*done by God’s enabling and protection of course – so can all of you; so can all of us!*

Sure, one may – actually, will – come home aching a little especially if one is older, but it will all be worth it because the people we meet will be encouraged by our fellowship, be enlightened by the sharing of God’s word, and be strengthened by God’s love.

5) **Anticipation** – finally, we expect in faith that God will work out His will in all that we are doing for missions, and that will inspire us to even be more faithful in carrying out more ministry in the future.

# IN AND INVOLVED

**2004**  
S Manickam & P Christ Raj start Bible school training in India. They were the first two candidates nurtured by our Tamil Congregation to be sent back to India as missionaries.

**2004**  
KKMC celebrated her 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by bringing all missionaries to KKMC for a week long missions celebration.

**2003**  
Faith was sent to Hindi as our first tentmaker missionary.

**2012**  
KKMC adopted a missions strategy that would prioritise missions work in Asia in part because of KKMC’s location within Asia and because the vast majority of the unreached people reside in Asia.

**2018**  
In 2016, KKMC adopted a 3-year church theme that would bring us to the 125th anniversary of the church in 2019. In this theme, 2018 is KKMC’s year of mission.

**2018**  
God has indeed given us Asia as today, our missionary activities cover all the major religious blocs represented in Asia, urban, rural and tribal missions, and education and resourcing of workers across Asia.

**OUR VISION FOR MISSION**  
In accordance with the biblical mandate, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) shall maintain a missions direction that will enable it to contribute towards fulfilling the Great Commission. In the power of the Holy Spirit, we shall be Christ’s witnesses to the uttermost parts of the Earth. (From KKMC’s Mission Policy)

**ABOUT THE CHURCH** (2016)

**ALONG THE STREETS** (2017)

**ACROSS THE SEAS** (2018)

For those already involved or had been involved, 2018 is a year to **RENEW DEEPEN WIDEN**

For those not yet been involved, 2018 is a great opportunity to **BEGIN DISCOVER PROCLAIM**

This could take the form of a mission trip overseas or a local mission project. It could be taking a missions study programme, a short-term stint as a missionary or preparing to be a career missionary.

KKMC already supports career missionaries, short-term missionaries, theological students and mission trip participants. We encourage more members to consider being involved in similar ways.

In 2018, the church will be organising a series of mission trips and projects you can join. You can also speak to the pastors, staff and mission committee members to discuss more on how you can be involved.

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**PRAY**  
for our missionaries and missions work  
Use the Missions prayer bulletin in your personal and small group prayers and come for the Missions Church Prayer Time.

**LEARN**  
more about missions  
Come for Mission Education Programmes

**Missions in KKMC**  
Saturdays, 13 Jan, 2 - 6pm  
or 20 Jan, 9am - 1pm

**Mission Trip Preparation**  
Saturdays, 3 Feb, 2 - 6pm  
or 10 Feb, 9am - 1pm

**GIVE**  
generously your time, finances and skills  
for our missionaries and missions work

**NOTES**

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED?**  
**GO**  
on a mission trip or mission project  
Sign up to go individually or gather your friends or LifeGroup to do a missions project together.

**Dedication of Lahu Churches**  
7 - 10 Jun, 2018  
Celebrate 20 years of our Lahu work by going on a short mission trip and witness the dedication of Payakomdee Methodist Church and Water of Life Methodist Church by our Bishop, Dr Chong Chin Chung.

**Thailand Short-Term Mission Trips**  
Two Trips in Late Nov (Children’s Trips) and Dec (Christmas Trip).

**India Short-Term Mission Trip**  
Two trips in Late Jan & Mid Jun\*

**Olds, Canada Short-Term Mission Trip**  
Please contact Lyndon for more details\*

**Fuzhou Short-Term Mission Trip**  
One Trip in Mid Jun\*

**Vietnam Short-Term Mission Trip**  
Please contact Lyndon for more details\*

**GoForth Conference**  
20 - 22 Jun, 2018  
Attend the conference or volunteer to serve. \* Dates subject to confirmation

Contact various mission organisations to join in other different kinds of trips, e.g. Bible distribution, medical, or environmental work. The missions committee will list some organisations you can contact. More information will be released in due time.

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A copy of the Missions pamphlet can be downloaded from <https://www.kkmc.org.sg/downloads> or viewed by scanning the following QR code :



William Carey rightly taught, *“Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”*

Now, how do these 5 “As” – Attitude, Attentiveness, Assets, Action and



**Anticipation – relate to all of us at KKMC?**

**It definitely relates to all of us because at KKMC, for 2018, our theme will be “In & Involved – Across the Seas” with the challenge to all of us to *NOT just GIVE toward missions, BUT to GO and DO MISSIONS!***

This is the third arm of our emphasis on being “In & Involved”! To quickly recap – in 2016, the first arm was about all at KKMC being “In & Involved – about the church” playing our part. This year, it is about all of us being “In & Involved – along the streets” caring for others and sharing Jesus with them.

Next year, it will be about all of us being “In & Involved – across the seas”!! And we will not just want to give financially toward missions, which is so very important. BUT we will want to utilise what is probably our most important asset – ourselves with all the teaching, experiences, talents and gifts that God has enabled us to have, and actually go and do missions!

And now, let me share with all of us the **dream for our church for next year**, which I believe that God gave to me, and which I had started to share with the leaders of our church much earlier this year! The dream is this: for **at least 500 of us at KKMC** (roughly 50% of our official church membership) **to be in and involved in missions**, both overseas and locally, in the course of 2018, depending on our ability to travel, physically, financially, family circumstances, etc! Those of us who can go overseas on mission trips – we go! Those who cannot, we stay on in Singapore and learn about missions, while actively supporting the work of missions in one way or another.

Those of us who can go overseas on mission trips – we go! Those who cannot, we stay on in Singapore and learn about missions, while actively supporting the work of missions in one way or another.

To enable this dream to happen, our Missions Committee has already been hard at work planning for next year from the start of this year. So, please now take out and look at the Missions Pamphlet that has been inserted in our bulletin for this Sunday. It contains a short write-up on the basis for Missions and a history of the Missions work by KKMC to help us remember and give praise to God for the work of missions already done and being done in and through KKMC.

But not only that – it also contains information on the coming plans for 2018 on how we all can be “In & Involved – across the seas”!

Firstly – **PRAY!** By yourself and in your LIFEGroups, yes! But do also join our quarterly Church Prayer Time for Missions, where, together with other KKMC congregation members, we hear from our missionaries on their ministry, and pray with, and for, them. Come join us this Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 7.30pm.

Secondly – **LEARN!** We will be conducting our own in-house Mission Education Programmes next year in January (Missions in KKMC) and February (Mission Trip Preparation) that will help prepare us to better play our part in Missions. Make sure we sign up for them!

Thirdly – **GIVE!** To the work of missions! We know about this already and so, I will not talk anymore on this during this sermon.

Fourthly – **GO!** We are planning Missions Trips to the different mission fields of Thailand, India, Vietnam and China that our church is actively in and involved in.

In particular, I want to highlight the trip up to Thailand from 7 to 10 June 2018 with reference to the Lahu Missions work for which our church has been sending teams yearly in December. Next year will be in fact the 20th year our church has been involved in ministry to the Lahu peoples near Chiangmai, and we will celebrate this with the dedication of both Payakongdee Methodist Church and Water of Life Methodist Church by our Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung. Some of you were instrumental to this work in the early days, and some of you more recently! So, why not head up to Thailand next year and witness the dedications of these churches, and give praise to God. Our presence and participation will be a great encouragement to the Pastors and the congregations of these churches.

For the fields in the other countries, more details will be shared in due course as we plan for them in greater detail. There are planned trips to China after the Lahu trip, especially for our Mandarin-speaking congregation members, to India in January and June, and to Vietnam, likely in March and September, or when it is suitable for our missionaries to that country.

As in every December, next year, there will of course be our usual annual trips to Thailand by our Primary 6 children and Secondary 2 youth, followed by the trip closer to Christmas by our older youth and adults.

On our trips, where appropriate, besides encouraging and praying for fellow Christians, sharing or discussing the Scriptures with them, worshipping with them, and carolling closer to Christmas to reach out to those in the villages who still do not know Jesus, we may also have the opportunity to teach English or even Math or Science, conduct fun games sessions for the children, paint the church and other buildings, conduct some repairs, etc – that is, the conduct of wholistic ministry.

BUT what about those who really want to go but are not able to due to age, health, and other life circumstances? Are there plans for your participation next year also? Definitely!

For those who are not able to travel, you come for our in-house Missions Training programme in Jan and Feb next year that I talked about already, so that you learn how to better pray for, and give support to, those going. But that is not all!

There will also be the National **GoForth Missions Conference** from 20 to 22 June that the Methodist Church in Singapore has been asked to help organise. This will be another wonderful opportunity for us to learn even more about Missions, and at the same time, give the necessary administrative support to the running of this Conference. Our Methodist Missions Society will be undertaking the organisation of this Conference on behalf of MCS and they will definitely need volunteers. So, do sign up to help out when the call is made. All are encouraged to attend also!

Just one more point – the trips planned by our church that I have just shared with you will probably not be able to cater for all 500 of us and so, we are recommending that you also look out for other opportunities to go on mission trips organised by, for example, The Bible Society, other Missions Organisations, even other TRAC Methodist Churches, etc and join them if the timing is suitable for you. And the trips could involve Bible Distribution, Prayer Walks, and not just strictly the preaching of the Gospel if it is not so appropriate at this time for the country or people groups the trip will be visiting.



DEAR KKMC, next year, 2018, will be an exciting, enriching and fruitful year for us as we get **"In & Involved - across the seas"**!

We will definitely make it so long as we have the right Attitude of obedience, are Attentive to opportunities for missions, utilise our Assets properly for missions, actually go into Action on an overseas mission trip or help out in a missions effort locally, and faithfully Anticipate God acting to fulfil His will in reaching out to those who still do not know Him.

I close now by reading of the lyrics of **"Who will go for Me?"** (Words: Jan McGuire, Lyrics: Lloyd Larson) which the Choir sang last Sunday towards the end of the Hymn Festival:

Who will go and tell the world that

Jesus is the way?  
Who will brave the dark of night to bring the light of day?  
All around are captive hearts that yearn to be free,  
God is calling His children, "Who will go for me?"

I will go and tell the world that Jesus is the way.  
I will brave the dark of night to bring the light of day.  
There are those who do not know God's Holy Word is true.  
"I can hear You calling, Lord, and I will go for You."

Who will share God's love at home or in a foreign land?  
Who will share His hope with those who need a helping hand?  
Who will share the joyful news with those who need to know?

Jesus died for the world! "My children, who will go?"

I will share God's love at home or in a foreign land.  
I will share His hope with those who need a helping hand.  
Jesus lives! Proclaim the news so all the world may know.  
"I can hear You calling, Lord, and I will gladly go."

If by a still small voice God calls to paths that I do not know,  
I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Yours,  
"I'll go where You want me to go.  
Lord, I can hear You calling, and I will go for You."

May this indeed be our answer, the Lord being our Helper!

## Hymn Festival 2017

Teh Yi Ying

The Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Hymn Festival is held annually during the worship services of the last Sunday of August which was 27 August this year.

The Hymn Festival is one of the occasions that KKMC welcomes the religious leaders and members of the various faith communities. This year, our friends once again came with anticipation to observe and to enjoy the songs and the music.

"We have been looking forward to the Hymn Festival even before the invite was sent! The Hymn Festival helps me to understand better the function of hymns and to appreciate the religious tradition of the Christians in finding beautiful ways to connect themselves to their belief. As a Muslim, those moments also help me to reflect upon my own religious tradition where we also have several devotional poetry to express reverence and gratitude to God," said Ms Liyana Rosli Asmara, a Manager at the Harmony Centre.

As the bells rang to signal the call to worship, we hushed our spirits and quieted our souls. The liturgy ushered us into a different landscape. The theme of this year's Hymn Festival was based on Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) which says, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Through the Scripture reading of Luke 4:14-21, an echo of Isaiah 61:1-2, we were reminded that the Spirit of the Lord descended upon Jesus to preach deliverance to the captives, and were moved to continue His work of bringing the kingdom of righteousness onto this very earth.

Mohamed Imran Mohamed Taib, an interfaith advocate/activist said of the hymn by Bernadette Farrell, a British Catholic hymn writer, "This prayer sung in hymn struck a deep chord in me:

"Blessed those who work for justice, blessed those who answer the call. **Blessed (are) those who dare to dream of lasting peace for all!"**

Hospitality was not just extended formally. It was also in the generosity of the breakfast corner (Joy Stall) which offered tea and coffee on the house, a warm welcoming smile and in the passing of peace to our neighbour. Sitting down together over a meal after the service, we too experienced hospitality.



Front Row L-R: Mr Mohamed Imran (Senior Executive, Harmony Centre, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore), Mr Kuek Yi Hsing (IRO Council Member, Baha'i Community of Singapore), Mr Harbans Singh (IRO member, Sikhism), Mr Quek Ah Kwang (Treasurer, Taoist Federation), Mr Rustom Ghadiali (Vice-President of IRO and IRO Council Member, Zoroastrian), Ms Denise Phua (Mayor, Central Singapore District and MP Jalan Besar GRC), Mr Kesavapany (President of IRO), Rev Kenneth Huang, Mr Shriniwas Rai (IRO Council Member, Hinduism), Mrs Shriniwas Rai, Mr Lim Shung Yar (Director, Community Relations and Engagement Division, MCCY), Mrs Guru Thiliban  
Middle Row L-R: Mrs Hairon Nisah Bte Abdul Hai (Malabar Muslim Jama'ath), Mr Abdul Aziz Syed Osman (Member, Kampong Glam IRCC and Manager, Malabar Muslim Jama'ath), Mrs Ameerali Abdeali, Mr Ameerali Abdeali JP, PBM (President, Muslim Kidney Action Association and IRO Council Member, Muslim), Mr Chia Keng Hian, BBM, PB, PBS, C.St.J. (Chairman, Kampong Glam IRCC), Mr Woo Sui Kee, JP, BBM (Co-Chairman, Kampong Glam IRCC), Mr Necmettin Eskici (Director, Turkish Cultural Centre), Ms Liyana Rosli Asmara (Manager, Harmony Centre, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore), Mr Guru Thiliban, Master Hari Ohm Annamalai (Veeramakalimman Hindu Temple)  
Back Row L-R: Rev Gabriel Liew, Mr Lawson Lau, Ms Ellen Tan, Mr Ashraf Anwar (Executive, Harmony Centre, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore), Mr and Mrs Ismail Altas (Turkish Cultural Centre), Captain Sant Kumar Rai (President, Hindi Society), Miss Nadiyah Mahli (Intern, Harmony Centre, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore), Mr Gurmit Singh (IRO Council member, Sikhism), Mdm Preetinder Kaur w/o Gurmit Singh (Sikh Community), Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui, Mr Tanguy Lim



Rev Dr Hobart Amstutz, Bishop of the Methodist Church of Malaya and Singapore from 1956 to 1964, appreciated the value of trust across different communities. In a tumultuous time when independence movements were fracturing along ethnic and religious lines, he became the first president of the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) and said that we are "no longer strangers and enemies but pilgrims on a common road seeking common goals".

Our Pastor-in-Charge Rev Kenneth Huang noted: "When promoting inter-faith harmony, we need to respect and learn from other faiths, while upholding our own. We pray that Kampong Kapor Methodist Church will always be a blessing to them. The bottom line is mutual understanding and the formation of real friendships since we are ultimately Singaporeans and residents of Singapore, regardless of race or religion."

The Hymn Festival embraces this legacy.



Bonding and connecting over a meal after the Hymn Festival

## Choir Trip to Penang Praising and Praying in Penang

Mavis Kuek

Over the long Hari Raya Haji weekend from 2-3 September 2017, the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Combined Choir (Celestial and Chancel Choirs) visited Penang as part of the choirs' outreach efforts. There were 36 persons, comprising 26 choir members, 1 choir conductor, 1 pianist and 8 family members.

The choir went mainly to celebrate Penang Trinity Methodist Church's (TMC) 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As part of the celebrations, TMC held a special Hymn Festival service on Saturday, 2 September from 5pm-6:30pm and invited other sister churches to attend. The KKMC choir would reprise the songs from our own hymn service - The Spirit of the Lord is On Me - for this special service.

It was such a joy to see the pews filling up. And what a privilege to bring God's word to them in song. We also joined TMC in their Sunday service and we learnt how, because their forefathers in Penang answered God's call to plant more churches, we in Singapore are now blessed with the fruits of their labour. Praise the Lord!

Going on this Penang trip allowed me to connect again with the choir. I have been overseas for a while and I am grateful for this time to bond and to serve.

Of course, no trip to Penang would be complete without filling ourselves with the local food... *char kuay teow, chendol, chee cheong fun* ... Where do we start? What don't we eat (again)?

This entire trip would not have been possible without the dedication and constant prayers of Louise, Judith, Valerie, Kok Peng, Nicole (Ooi) and Roland. They arranged everything and took care of everyone. God's provision

was everywhere. What a blessed time together!

Now word has it that we have been invited to go again next year... and our response? "Here I am Lord. Send me!"

This was the first time I joined the choir for an overseas trip. I did wonder why go so far to sing. One day, it dawned on me that this trip was like what the Apostle Paul and his partners did when they visited believers in other churches - to show support, to encourage, to teach and to testify. We did all those through songs.

Penang holds a special place in my heart. The early years of my working life required me to visit Malaysian branch offices, one of them was in Penang. As our taxi left Penang airport towards the city, I was eagerly looking for the familiar and the new. "Hi! Penang, I'm back again!" The taxi ride was a captured moment of the intervening 35 years of God's faithfulness to me. Yes! That was how long I had not been back to Penang. "Unfailing Love who never leaves nor forsakes" is still by the side of the grown-up me.

At Trinity Methodist Church Penang we sang "The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me." The Spirit of the Lord was upon us. The faces in the congregation reflected that they were moved, as was my heart.

The highlight of the trip for me was the kindness of my room-mate. Her help and presence smoothed out the rough patches during the trip. At a time when I was not feeling my best, I heard her gentle voice saying, "Don't worry, Phyllis, I am here with you, I will not leave you." Through her, I heard the voice of my Father.

As I am writing this, I am reminded of the words of our Offertory: "With what shall I come before the Lord ... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." My room-mate and a couple of hotel staff showed me loving kindness. I was reminded to walk humbly before our God, to notice and to care.

The words of the last verse of "Send Us Your Spirit", our Hymn of Invocation sung at both Hymn Festivals in Singapore and Penang, became my prayer:

"Send us the wings of new birth,  
Fill all the earth with love You have taught us.  
Let all creation now be shaken with love, come to us, Spirit of God.  
Amen."

Phyllis Wong



I joined the choir trip to Penang as I felt it was a good chance to get to know the other choir members better. To be honest, I had not given much thought about our choir's role in ministering to the congregation of the Trinity Methodist Church there. I just felt surprised and thankful that they would allow this visiting choir to sing at such an important event as their 60th anniversary.

The short trip indeed saw amazing fellowship amongst choir members. However, the highlight was really our time at TMC. The service was conducted in the same order and fashion as ours. But their expression of worship was very different. Perhaps it was a cultural difference. I could sense their joy in the Lord and that touched me.

One of the songs in particular spoke to

me - "Offertory" by John Ness Beck. It uses text from Micah 6:6-8. The message is even more relevant than ever for our time and the verses rip apart misguided notions of what it means to be a good Christian; reducing all of it to what is most important, and exactly what our Lord did when he walked this earth - "To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Wendy Siew



The choir bonding over Penang delicacies



The KKMC Combined Choir singing at the special Hymn Festival held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Trinity Methodist Church, Penang

## *The Tale of the Three Trees* A Cantata by the Cherubim Choir

On Children's Sunday, 24 September 2017, the children's Cherubim Choir presented a cantata at the 9:30am service based on the tale of the three trees. This cantata was written by Allen Pote (music) and Tom S Long (words).

The Tale of the Three Trees follows the journey of three little trees and what they hope to become. Eventually, woodcutters chopped down the trees and they were used in ways far removed from what they had aspired to. However, later the three trees ended up playing major roles in the life of Jesus Christ and their dreams for meaningful lives were more than fulfilled.

The earnest singing and acting of the children communicated the story clearly and many people were

inspired by the message summarised by the words of the song "A Prayer for Tomorrow":

**DREAMS, WE ALL HAVE DREAMS, WHAT WE CAN BE,  
WHAT WE CAN DO.**

**LORD, WITH ALL WE ARE, WE PRAY THAT OUR  
DREAMS WILL LEAD US, WILL LEAD US TO YOU.**

KK Focus went behind the scenes and asked Rebecca Chew, Conductor of the Cherubim Choir how the idea of the cantata came about.

*Rebecca Chew*

**God is sovereign in all things.**

In May, I was asked to lead a conference delegation to Israel to see how children grow closer together because of the power of music. Just like Jonah in the whale, I wrestled with the seeding of an idea that it was time to build our KKMC children through a production of a cantata.



I hesitated with the thought that it would take too much out of me to balance the turmoil of family and work. During this same period, the parents and I re-committed ourselves to ask God to use the children's voices to touch the congregation. As we would have it in God's season and timing, the journey started in June when the Cherubim were asked to be a demonstration choir at the joint Methodist School of Music-Trinity Theological College Worship Symposium. Worship within the children's choir is spiritually uplifting when God speaks to us in song. The children ministered then to other children from different churches who joined us that day.

In July, God prompted again when I attended the 2017 proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Federation for Choral Music summit in Barcelona. "Who will be a witness?" I had barely returned home when five days after terrorists struck



*The Tale of the Three Trees*



Barcelona, bombing the same street where we would usually get our dinners.

By then, preparations had begun for the KKMC Hymn Festival. The theme of the Hymn Festival reminded us that it is possible to lean on Him for everything in life. The children shone through in their choral pieces, deepening their understanding that singing each Sunday was a ministry to reach out to their grandparents, parents, helpers and peers. The song "Make a Joyful Noise" accompanied by trumpets was a victory cry to go into His courts with praise. A Cherubim dad had come up to me and said he would trust God in putting the cantata together. My heart brightened. God's grace prevailed because we took two ensuing months of Saturday and Sunday rehearsals to get the cantata sewn together. That dad came every Saturday and Sunday. More dads came.

### God gives us inspiration in all things.

The whole brigade of parents and ex-Cherubim members rose to the occasion, demonstrating how God uses each of our strengths to complement one another. We saw not only a journey of faith by the children, but each family bringing their hearts to God, led with the conviction that God will use the metaphorical story of the folk tale to remind us to focus on Jesus in our lives. The T-shirts arrived after a wrong delivery from Taobao; the three trees had sturdy boxes after two dads ran across to the hardware store to ask the store auntie to re-engineer the design; Keane Tan drew inspirational pictures on the canvas astounding all of us; Wendy Siew, Andre and Anders Quah amazed us with their nifty stage background work; Uncle Hon and Darren Oon delighted us with the sound balance; Stephen Fong, Roland Tan and Raymond Ang gifted us with their precious gift of capturing moments of God's children shining in their worship; and all the families that provided tea, lunch, and breaks. We thank all who put forward their best for God. It was a journey like the wooden bench in the tale within the Galilean fishing boat. How great God is when He fashions the wood not only for personal aspirations for a jewelled box-life, but that He uses us in His larger purpose in order that He might be glorified.

*Sara-Ann Ho*

singer



I was very excited when Aunty Rebecca told us that the Cherubim Choir was going to present a cantata on Children's Sunday. However, when I found out that the cantata would be presented on the Sunday before PSLE, I was worried that the rehearsals would take up the time I needed to revise for my exams. After a discussion with my parents, I decided that I would participate in the cantata. I looked forward to every rehearsal. I not only got to spend time with my friends, I also learnt how God has a sovereign plan for all our lives. I was very privileged that I could be a part of this cantata. I hope that the congregation was blessed by the cantata as much as we were. Most of all, despite examinations, God reminded me that as long as I commit to doing God's work and honouring Him, He would do the rest.

*Keane Tan*

illustrator



Jesus in the Boat

I did nine pieces of artwork to illustrate different parts of The Tale of the Three Trees. These illustrations were used as the backdrops for the cantata.

My favourite was the 8th piece - Jesus in the Boat. I felt as though it was the peak of the painting exercise, being able to let loose with the brush.

As a painter I had to also concentrate on the compositional structure, colours and other technical aspects. But drawing Jesus in the Boat felt different. I felt inspired. When viewing it after it was finished, I was surprised to see what I had made and was grateful for this gift God has blessed me with. It also reminded me of the many struggles I had when I did the paintings. Without the discipline to set aside time and to sit still at the easel, I would not have been able to complete this painting and the rest.

*Sue-Ann Ho*

soloist playing the part of the third tree



It was a wonderful opportunity for the Cherubim Choir to be involved in The Tale of the Three Trees. I was especially happy I got to be in this cantata together with my sister. We had fun rehearsing with the choir members and got to know each other better.

I would like to thank Aunty Rebecca for directing us through this amazing journey. It has been an enriching and memorable experience for me.

I was very nervous when I first found out that I was going to play the part of the third tree. I have never participated in a cantata before and was worried I could not play the part convincingly.

Thanks to Aunty Rosita for her dedication and commitment, she patiently trained the soloists week after week. We improved under her guidance.

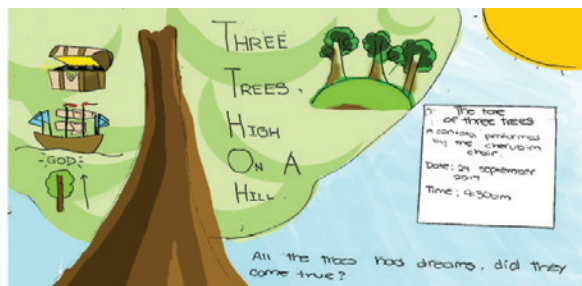
Just like the third tree, God reminded me that the Master who shaped the trees is the same God who shapes us and has the perfect plan for us. We just have to trust and obey Him.

I was very privileged to be one of the trees to tell God's story. I hope the congregation has been blessed by the cantata.





Stacie's drawing of children



## Stacie Goh

singer and illustrator

I enjoyed being in the cantata and I am glad that I could use the gift that God gave me to praise Him. I liked the part when we waved the colourful fans at the end of the final song "The Dream of the Tree Came True" because it looked really nice and I thought that the fans of different sizes and colours represented dreams very well.

For one of the pictures, I drew a big tree to represent the dreams of the trees and in the leaves of the tree I drew the three trees' dreams. I included part of the song into my drawing and Ko Ko Keane added the colours. I also drew the picture of children singing which Aunty Rebecca coloured. The pictures were used during the cantata and in the bulletin.

## Jed Gan

violinist

I was not in the Cherubim Choir but I found out that they were practicing for a cantata because my younger sister was in the choir.



One day, my mother asked me to play one of the cantata songs on the violin to see how it would sound like. At the end of the practice she suggested that I offer to play the violin for the cantata.

I was reluctant as I did not want to be playing in front of a lot of people. However, my father assured me that the violinist would not take centre stage, but would be standing next to the piano. Also, the singers would be the ones everyone would be looking at.

After thinking about it for a day, I decided I would give it a try. I also thought that instead of doing just one song I would try to play more songs. In the end, I played three of the five songs.

My favourite part of the cantata was "The Dream of the Tree Came True" because it had a lot of interesting scenes for each part of the song.

I was glad that I played in the cantata because I had a chance to use my music to praise God. I felt that this was a very meaningful experience.

## Tay-Png Hong Lan

DK4 teacher and "choir mom"

There are 15 Sunday School students in the Disciple Kids 4 (DK4) class. 11 of them were in the cantata. The Sunday after the cantata, during Sunday School class time, they broke into song, singing songs from The Tale of the Three Trees and they were so joyful! The cantata had brought them closer to each other! To God be the glory as He is almighty!

## Sherwin Lee

pianist



The cantata encouraged me during a very difficult season of my life. During that time, it seemed as though all my dreams and goals in life were destroyed by God.

However, the cantata gave me a renewed understanding of who God is, and it inspired and encouraged me.

The cantata reminded me that God is loving and sovereign over our lives, in both good and bad times. Secondly, God knows the dreams He has in our hearts, and He has bigger dreams for us, beyond anything we can imagine, and He will fulfil them in His timing and way.

Finally, in whatever situation we are in, never lose faith and keep trusting God, because He is always with us.





## Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Yeo Yew Tin

### WSCS High Tea: Talk on "Transformational Relationship"

Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) held their Annual High Tea on 15 July 2017 with Mr Chiang Ming Cherng sharing on "Transformational Relationship" with 42 ladies in the Social Hall.

Ming Cherng started the session by reminding us of three things that are noteworthy:

- 1) We are created by God in His image (Genesis 1:26).
- 2) We are created by God for a purpose (Matthew 22:36-40), i.e. LOVE.
- 3) We will all stand before God for how we have been the image of God - Matthew 7:1-5; James 4:11-12; Romans 2:1-4 and Romans 14:10-12.

In our relationship with others, we have to be cautious to reflect that we are ambassadors of Christ. Ming Cherng gave us 3 metaphors in relationships:

- a) Bowl
- b) Weighing scale
- c) Comfort zone

He elaborated on the first metaphor, the bowl, and briefly touched on the weighing scale and comfort zone.

A bowl is a container that is used to store things. In a relationship, the bowl is between you and the other person, and the things that we put into the bowl will affect both parties. For example, if love is put into the bowl, the other person will get love. Likewise, the other person will receive anger, hatred or malice when we put those into the bowl, and they will come between us and the other person.



He went on to talk about the properties of bowls:

- Size and weight - The size and weight of a bowl determines how big and deep the bowl is which affects the amount and type of content in it.
- Strength - The strength of the bowl is determined by the material it is made of which determines the suitability of the contents in it.
- Contents - The contents of the bowl are the ingredients that may come from nature or nurture. They have certain flavours that have various representation.

As for our relationship with others, we should bear in mind Colossians 3:23-25, i.e. whatever we do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not to man. We should learn to treat others how God would treat them.

God has also commanded us to love as written in Matthew 22:36-40. As mentioned above, God's purpose for creating us is love. We should then

remember to relate to one another with love.

For the metaphor of the weighing scale, Ming Cherng briefly mentioned that we should learn to set our priorities right (Romans 8:5-15). As one side of the weighing scale is usually weighed down by our sins, we can be more balanced by correctly prioritising God and always putting Him first.

As for the metaphor of the comfort zone, we should learn to be the one to change rather than expecting others to change.

In summary, we should take note of the following points:

- 1) What we put into the bowl with others is a reflection of what we put into our bowl with God.
- 2) We will be called to give an account of how we have been a reflection of God.
- 3) It is all about our relationship with God.

## KKMC WSCS AGM and 80th Anniversary

Maureen Fong, Eunice Yeo and Joscelyn Foo

18 August 2017 would be recorded as a milestone in Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Women's Society of Christian Service's (WSCS) history as the KKMC WSCS ladies and EXCO celebrated the 80th anniversary of KKMC WSCS.

The afternoon began with the KKMC WSCS Annual General Meeting (AGM)

at 3pm with important guests like the President of TRAC WSCS, Mrs Choo Lai Eng, and Dr Low Guat Tin in attendance. Dr Low Guat Tin, an educator, gave a short but very engaging message before the start of the AGM on "Building Truth into Your Lives" (Ephesians 4:17-25). Her informal and candid sharing on building a purposeful, prayerful and



Dr Low Guat Tin speaking at the worship during the AGM.



productive life was very enlightening and engaging.

Dr Low Guat Tin pointed out that a generous spirit towards everyone, including domestic workers, would make a difference to their lives, and noted that KKMC is in a very strategic location to help the foreign workers. The harvest is plentiful but labourers are few. The ladies were captivated by her photos, anecdotes, personal experiences and videos.

She ended the session with a prayer that God blesses us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within His heart; that God blesses us with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace; that God blesses us with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy; and that God blesses us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in the world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done - to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

The KKMC WSCS AGM that followed went smoothly, after which the participants went down to the social hall for a sumptuous dinner to celebrate KKMC WSCS's 80th Anniversary. Several guests from other churches were invited, including Mrs Dorothy Lim, the immediate Past President of GC WSCS, and Mrs Happy Chen, one of the Nind Home girls.

Mrs Dorothy Lim gave a short message by sharing the life of Moses. Moses had led, through Pharaoh's daughter, a privileged life in his first 40 years which included a good education and training to govern the land, but his life was totally different in the next 40 years. No more limelight, no more the prince of Egypt - just tending the flock of sheep alone in the desert region of his father-in-law. He was 80 years old when God called him from his comfort zone to lead the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt to the Promised Land. God moulded him through the ups and downs of life, from royalty to normalcy,

from busyness to loneliness.

Likewise, KKMC WSCS would have similar experiences to Moses. Mrs Dorothy Lim said that WSCS is a place where women are called to grow in knowledge and experience God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We are challenged to respond to God's redemptive fellowship and make Christ known to all people while being a blessing to our local church. Therefore, we are encouraged to develop a personal responsibility for our church. These are the purposes of WSCS.

She prayed that God's favour will be upon us all the time and make us a blessing to our families, church, workplace, community and beyond. May our lives impact the needy and the marginalised whose cries have reached God, for He wants us to be "Moses" and bring them to the Promised Land.

The EXCO, together with some friends of KKMC WSCS Ukulele Group, then sang "Amazing Grace" as a testimony of His grace, faithfulness and mercy in our daily lives.

To commemorate this very special occasion, Mdm Lau Kan How, VP of KKMC WSCS, compiled a collection of thoughts and testimonies of the KKMC WSCS ladies into a booklet

which was given out to all the ladies who attended the Anniversary Dinner. Titled "The Goodness of God Through the Years in KKMC WSCS", the booklet also includes a brief history of KKMC WSCS. The KKMC WSCS started in 1890 as a society called The Ladies Aid Society which was later renamed the "Women's Society of Christian Service", in short, WSCS. This was a small group of girls who met regularly in various homes and mission schools to study the bible, pray and enjoy fellowship. Many of these girls were from the Nind Home. The KKMC church organ is a testimony of the perseverance, love and commitment of the ladies who raised \$5500 for the purchase and installation of the pipe organ.

KKMC WSCS also announced that they will be giving \$5000 to the KKMC Kindergarten and \$5000 to Residence @ St. George's to help provide the children and teenage girls respectively with a better environment in which to learn and experience God's love and care.

This was definitely an occasion to remember in the history of KKMC WSCS!

*NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER,  
BUT BY MY SPIRIT.*

Zechariah 4:6-7



The AGM in progress



The pastoral team, Mrs Dorothy Lim and Mrs Happy Chen with granddaughter Ms Joy Marie Toh at the 80th anniversary dinner.



The past and current presidents cutting the 80th birthday cake. Mrs Lilian Ting, Mrs Mary Gan, Mrs Maureen Fong, Mrs Choo Lai Eng (TRAC WSCS President), Mrs Dorothy Lim (Immediate Past President of GC WSCS), Mdm Lau Kan How and Mrs Joscelyn Foo.



# Mandarin Ministry 32nd Anniversary 华语堂32周年

Pau Chiong Wei

感谢神的恩典，我在教会的服事，今年进入第十年。数字‘十’，代表属人的完全。在这十年当中，经历了许许多多精彩的故事，使我与神和与人的关系中更加‘完全’。这十年所经历的‘试炼’虽不少，但所经历的‘祝福’更加的多。虽然不能一一阐明，所经历点点滴滴的恩情，都是十分珍贵的‘恩赐’，并能永铭在心中，成为我‘心灵鸡汤’的精髓。

今年华语堂（Mandarin Ministry）32周年感恩崇拜的一开头，我以《赛65：1》来作为整个崇拜开始的选召：「素来没有访问我（上帝）的，现在求问我（上帝）；没有寻找我（上帝）的，我（上帝）叫他们遇见；没有称为我（上帝）名下的，我（上帝）对他们说：‘我在这里！我在这里！’」是的，感谢上帝这32年的恩典，使我们华语堂（Mandarin Ministry）得以成为让人经历上帝的同在、热切遇见上帝、喜乐的江河涌流、伟大上帝作奇妙事、见证荣耀上帝神迹、以及合一敬拜的‘圣地’。

此外，谢谢大家陪伴我走过这十年，但愿这十年成为我们整体教会以及华语堂（Mandarin Ministry）32年的一个‘纪念碑’：纪念神的恩典、纪念大家的恩情、纪念当中所献上的服事。

祝愿 KKMC 华语堂（Mandarin Ministry）32周年蒙恩蒙福、爱主更深。

包传道

With thanks to God for His grace, I have entered my 10th year of service in the church. The number ‘10’ represents completeness to man. In these 10 years, I have experienced many wonderful things that caused me to find ‘completeness’ in my relationship with God and with man. In these 10 years, while I faced not a few trials, I also experienced many more blessings. Although I cannot recount every one of them, each and every act of kindness I received was a precious gesture of thoughtfulness. I will treasure them in my heart as these would be the essence of my version of ‘Chicken Soup for the Soul’.

At the Mandarin Ministry’s 32nd anniversary thanksgiving service this year, I turned to Isaiah 65:1 (NIV) for the theme of the service: *“I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’”* Indeed, thank God for His grace these past 32 years, for enabling the Mandarin Ministry to become a place where people can experience God’s presence, where we eagerly go to meet Him, where joy flows like a rushing river, where God performs His mighty works and we witness His glorious miracles, and where we can worship together on ‘holy ground’.

Also, I wish to thank all who have journeyed with me these past 10 years. May these 10 years be a ‘monument’ for the whole church and for the Mandarin Ministry: to commemorate God’s grace, the church family’s kindness and the many acts of service that have been offered up.

In its 32nd year, may God’s blessings be upon the KKMC Mandarin Ministry and may our love for Him deepen.





# Mandarin Ministry LifeGroup Testimonies

## 《相亲相爱》小组

当包传道再次提醒我是否可以完成“小组感恩感言”的那一刻，让我再次回到上帝的面前，思考和领受上帝对我的爱……无数次小组的经历和成长再次一幕幕映入我的眼帘……

翻开我们这个教会的大家庭的崇拜秩序单：“进入与参与；教会同心，走进社群，奋得万民；成为光和盐来祝福与服侍华人群体，并进入社群中；一个认识上帝的群体，并进入社群中，让人认识上帝”。这一切对我的意义是什么呢？“每个教会内的会众都是世界福音事工的策略中心，对世界的使命，与其他肢体成为那个社区内的基督的身体，上帝将我教会信徒联系在一起，都是神国度的子民，回应神的邀请，在与上帝的美好的关系上负起使命，上帝使失丧的世界重新与神和好的使命上让我们必然有份，我们不能一方面与基督保持美好的关系，另一方面又不负起使命”。谢谢天父，您让我学习到这，我已经领受到您对我的心意：

今年的小组的三大方向：

- (1) 您用小组“重塑我的生命”。
- (2) 您用小组“对我降下医治”。
- (3) 您用小组“让我明白上帝都有预备”。

### 一、“重塑我的生命”。

今年我们的小组，不同于往年，组员从去年的很多人到今年的很少人，我们的心里虽有种种不同的波动，但是上帝仍在我们每个组员心中，我们小组名字“相亲相爱”是三位组长合一祷告天父给的名字，是上帝让我们相亲相爱，在组员少的时候，上帝依然对我们说话：“不在于人多人少，而在于是否在特别的时候愿意被上帝陶造”。

我们感恩，感恩一路走来，上帝推动我们的小组走完上帝给我们的命定，更经历了上帝“重塑我的生命”。

### 二、“对我降下医治”。

当我面临皮肤癌在“死亡线”上挣扎时，我感受到小组组长和组员对我的倍加照顾，彼此服侍的心，深深感动了我，小组成员一起寻求神，更一起见证了上帝对我的医治。

我问自己：如果没有参加小组，我会主动读使徒行传吗？如果没有上帝的话语，我会走出自我吗——一个47岁的我，得了皮肤癌，负面的情绪困扰着我“十个癌九个埋，一个不死不是癌”，不想告诉任何人，或者静静的死去……但是上帝会提醒你：祷告就有意外的平安……一切都有美意……圣经会对你说话：不是为了得到活而去信，而是相信一切都有美意地活在恩典中（使徒行传21章）。我归荣耀给神了吗（使21:20）？上帝拣选我就是让我明白上帝的心意（使22:14）。主啊赐我美好见证（使22:15）！主啊洗净我没有全然交托给主的罪（使22:16）！每个人都有主特别的拣选与预备人生的路（使22:29）！主赐我良心，在神面前行事为人（使23:1）！上帝会赐福我智慧（使23:6-10）！在上帝的话语中（使23:11「当夜，主站在保罗旁边，说：『放心吧！你怎样在耶路撒冷为我作见证，也必怎样在罗马为我作见证。』」），我的心安慰，得到了答案：主会医治我，不论什么病，主会站在我身旁说：“放心吧

## Love One Another LifeGroup

When Preacher Pau asked if we had given thanks for and reflected on our Lifegroups, I went before God once again and thought about His love for me. Visions of what our Lifegroup had experienced and how we have grown, passed before my eyes.

Our church's theme for this year calls us to be: "In and involved: about the church, along the streets, and across the seas. To be the light and salt of the earth, to bless and serve the Chinese congregation, to go out into the community to be a group that knows God and goes out to tell the world about Him." What does all this mean to me? I believe that it is our responsibility to spread the gospel. We cannot enjoy this beautiful relationship with Jesus and yet not respond to the call to share the word.

During Lifegroup this year,

1. God worked through the Lifegroup to 'Change my life'.
2. God worked through the Lifegroup to 'Heal me'.
3. God worked through the Lifegroup to 'Help me understand that God has a plan'.

### 1. Change My Life

The number of Lifegroup members shrank this year, compared to previous years. Even though we encountered turmoil in our lives in various ways, God remained at the centre of the lives of the Lifegroup members. Our Lifegroup name translates to "Love one another" and was coined after the three Lifegroup leaders prayed for a name. God wants us to love one another. When there were few members in the Lifegroup, God told us that it didn't matter how many people there were; what mattered was our willingness to let God mould us during our time of need.

We are thankful that God has constantly pushed our Lifegroup to respond to His plans for us, enabling us to 'Change our lives.'

### 2. Heal Me

When I fought for my life while battling skin cancer, I experienced the care and concern from my Lifegroup leader and members. Their patience and care moved me deeply. The Lifegroup members prayed and bore witness to God healing me.

I asked myself, "If I had not joined this Lifegroup, would I have read the book of Acts of my own accord? Without God's word, would I have been able to look past my circumstances? A 47-year old suffering from skin cancer; troubled by thoughts that "Out of 10 cancer sufferers, 9 succumb; and the surviving patient doesn't actually have cancer."; not wanting to tell anyone about my situation nor wanting to die unnoticed ... Then God reminded me: prayer brings peace in times of trouble... God has good plans for us... God said to me, "You believe not to stay alive, but you choose to believe so that you can live according to God's plan and by His grace (e.g. Paul's story in Acts 21). Have I given glory to God (Acts



张昆！你怎样在手术上为主做见证，主也必怎样使张昆在生命健康上为主做见证”。

带着主的应许我进入了第二次手术，是上帝有能力的话语（使26:20）再次坚固了我的信心——悔改——行事与悔改的心相称，在手术台上的那一刻，只能放下自己，因为自己没有办法了，我不再按自己想法了，因为没有时间去想今天的手术，到底一天内要割掉几次癌细胞的肉才算手术结束，只能按主你的心意，割几次肉交给主，直到干净为止。是主在手术台上教导我有积极相信主的心态！结果，出人意料的平安！感谢主（治愈率97%—99%）！

三、“让我明白上帝都有预备”。

带着15针的伤口，而且是我所在意的脸部，若是过去的我，简直不能见人，现在却在小组中，用被主重塑的生命、被主完全医治的生命去和红丹用舞蹈代表相亲相爱小组，参加教会感恩晚会。

是上帝的爱：用小组重塑我的生命、医治我的生命和领受上帝都有预备的恩典，才经历到：愿意踏出“约旦河”，必看见上帝的丰盛，小组是大家一起转向主，必见见证。

张昆



21:20)? When God chose me, He revealed His plan for me (Acts 22:14). Lord, please let me be a witness of Your work in my life (Acts 22:15)! Lord, please cleanse me of the sins that I have not completely surrendered to You (Acts 22:16)! Each of us has been chosen by God for a particular purpose (Acts 22:29)! Lord, please grant me a good conscience that I have done my duty to you (Act 23:1)! God will grant me wisdom (Acts 23:6-10)! From God's words, "The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, 'Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.'" (Acts 23:11), I was assured with the promise that God would heal me. Whatever the illness, God would stand by my side and say, "Do not worry, Zhang Kun! As you bear witness to God's intervention in your operation, so God will restore your health that you may bear further witness to Him."

I held on to God's promise and went for my second operation. The knowledge of God's omnipotence (Acts 26:20) strengthened my confidence. My actions corresponded with my degree of repentance. While lying on the operating table, I could only surrender as there was nothing I could do. Eventually, I experienced a peace beyond all understanding! Praise God that I had a recovery rate of 97% - 99%!

3. Help me understand that God has a plan

Bearing a facial wound held together by 15 stitches, the person I was in the past would have been unable to meet people. However, as a person healed and transformed by God, I even performed a dance with Hong Dan to represent our Lifegroup at the church thanksgiving dinner.

It was with God's love that: my life was transformed with the support of the Lifegroup; that my life was healed and I experienced the blessing of the knowledge that God has a plan for me. Because of this experience of God's love, I was able to step into the River Jordan and experience God's abundant blessings. The Lifegroup is where we can encourage one another to turn to God and bear witness of His love.

Zhang Kun

## 《活出主爱》小组

在还没有参加生命小组查经班前，个人的软弱与小信就诸多干扰，并试图以似是而非的理由来推搪。

但当我愿意踏出信心的一大步，全然交托主时，这为期三个月的查经班竟让我因主赐力量而轻省的完成了！

最让我难忘的，除了经文解读与分享之外，莫过于组员们的关爱与扶持，虽不至于说总是吃喝玩乐，但我们时时的生日庆祝会，美玉姐妹开放她家门让我们聚集，还有大家互相代祷与打气等等。这些都让我觉得无比温馨。

主的爱真的大大充满我们的组员们。  
感谢赞美主！

陈振盛

## Living Out God's Love LifeGroup

Before I joined the Bible study group, I was weak and lacked faith in my ability to manage the demands of the class.

However, once I took a big step of faith and surrendered myself to God, He enabled me to complete the 3-month long Bible study course.

Besides the Bible study and sharing, one of the most memorable aspects of the class was the care and support I received from the other group members. Each time we celebrated the birthdays of one of the group members, Sister Meiyu would open her home for the gathering. This, together with the prayer and encouragement from one another, warmed my heart.

God's love was very present among our group members. We give all thanks and praise to God!

Alex Tan



## 《John 3:16》小组

从使徒行传的研读中，我了解到宣教运动并不总是从十二位门徒开始。像腓利，保罗和巴拿巴这些例子，他们不是十二门徒，但我认为他们是伟大的宣教士。使徒行传里的腓利是第一个去到从未有人到过的撒马利雅人当中。上帝拣选卑微的来展示他的智慧。我们可能不是牧师或传道，但是在神，我们能够做的是毫无限制的。

### John 3:16 LifeGroup

From studying the Book of Acts, I learned that mission work did not necessarily start with the 12 disciples. Philip, Paul and Barnabas were not among the 12, yet I consider them to be great missionaries. In Acts, Philip was the first to reach out to the unreached Samaritans. God chooses to use the lowly to demonstrate His wisdom. We may not be pastors or preachers but with God, there is no limit to what we can do.

*John and Pat*



## 《蒙福》小组

感谢赞美主的恩惠把Eric, Alice, Peter, Karen, Kar Keat, Avorie 和我们放在同一个小组。在短短的五个月里我们学习彼此鼓励，祷告，学习和包容。相信神话语的种子已撒在组员的心中。感恩，我们在成长的过程中。我们期待同心合一与圣灵一起同工为神的国做更多更大事，荣神益人！阿们！

*Victor & Sally*

### Blessed LifeGroup

Thank God for placing Eric, Alice, Peter, Karen, Kar Keat, Avorie and us in the same small group. In the short span of 5 months, we learnt to encourage, pray, learn, and accommodate each other. We believe that the seeds of God's word have been sown in the hearts of the group members. Praise God that we continue to grow in our walk with Him. We look forward to serving God in His kingdom together, with the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

*Victor and Sally*

## 《葡萄》小组

当我们夫妻一起参加小组时，那时也没多作什么感想，因为是组长安排的。后来，参加了几次小组聚会后，方知其中的好处和智慧。

好处的其一是夫妻共同勉励；当其中一个懒散怠惰时，另一个会提醒、鼓励和叫他加油。我们觉得这是很好的安排。我想这也是为什么在创世记里有提到上帝创造女人赐给男人，让双方互相帮助造就对方。

其二是小组里所讨论的经文，各有不同的领悟和看法。这时候，若有不明白的地方，都可拿出来讨论或解释。这间接地帮助到弱的一方能更全面的明白有迷惑的地方和当中要学习的功课，也更进一步促进夫妻之间的感情。

其三是小组散了后，在生活中遇到一些经历/难题，在家里与老伴分享这些经历和问题时，也带出小组里学到的功课及分享，让我们重新想起与这些经历有关联的经文或感想，这无形中也进一步提升了灵命的成长和成熟。

总而言之，这样的安排夫妻在一个共同的小组里，有前瞻和后续的优势和好处。这也该感谢上帝赐给教会领袖如许的智慧和先见之明，使得众弟兄姐妹们获益良多，得益不浅！

*Lawrence 谢茂盛夫妇*

### Grape LifeGroup

When we were assigned as husband and wife to the same LifeGroup, we did not give it much thought. After attending several LifeGroup meetings, we realised the benefits and wisdom to the arrangement.

For one, we were able to encourage each other as husband and wife. When either of us encountered difficulties, the other would offer encouragement. We felt that this was a good arrangement. I believe this is also why God created woman to be a helper to man, as described in Genesis.

We would each have our own interpretation of the Scripture passage studied by the small group. We could turn to each other to discuss and clarify what we were unsure of. This allowed the weaker student to have a better understanding of the lesson, and also strengthened the relationship between husband and wife.

Finally, we could continue to share and encourage each other with what we had learnt from the small group, even after the group had disbanded.

In short, as husband and wife, we were glad to be in the same small group as we reaped the benefits of learning and growing together. Thank God for granting the leaders to make such arrangements, so that we could benefit from it.

*Mr and Mrs Lawrence*

