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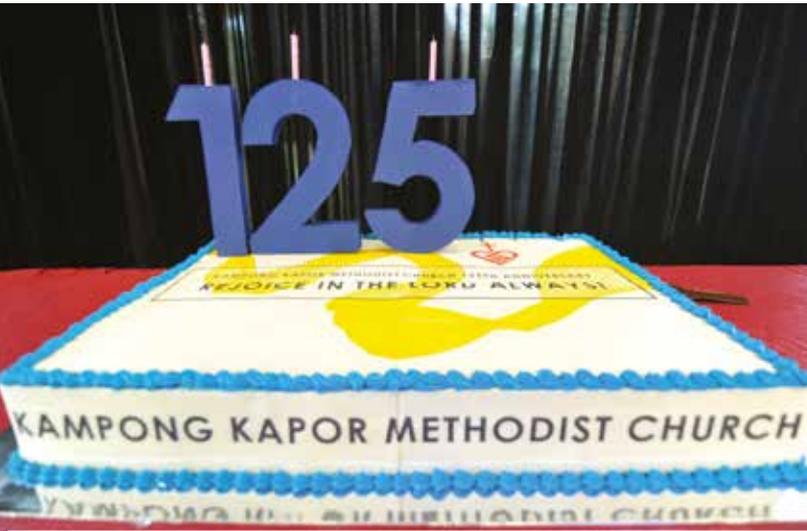


kampong kapor
methodist church

CUS

1894-2019
KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH
(Bishop Bickley Memorial)

December 2018 – February 2019



02
PASTORS' MESSAGE

03
FEATURED SERMON
- *Rejoice In The Lord Always*
- 靠主常常喜乐

06
REV POH ZHI-HUI
- *See You Again Rev Poh Zhi-Hui*

09
CHURCH CLEANING DAY

11
CHURCH PRAYER WATCH

12
KKMC MUSIC ENSEMBLE

14
DISCIPLE
- *Faithful to the present*
- *A lesson from Disciple 3 class*

15
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
- *Christmas Party*
- *WSCS Hi-tea: An Angbao of Good News*
- *by Mrs l'Ching Thomas*

17
SENIORS' MINISTRY
- *Celebrate Christmas*

18
MANDARIN MINISTRY
- *Testimonies*
- *John Ling 林礼鏞*
- *Madam Leung Chai Hong 梁彩虹*
- *Ng Lai Yin Miriam 吴丽贤*
- *Mandarin Service Christmas Musical Skit*

21
TAMIL MINISTRY
- *Special Christmas Day Programme*

21
YOUTH CAMP

25
KK KINDERGARTEN
- *New School Hours*

25
KK COMMUNITY SERVICES
- *I can run the race.*

26
IN THE COMMUNITY
- *Kampong Glam Rowell Court*
- *Christmas Celebration*
- *Seek the Welfare of Singapore*
- *Desker Road Ministry*

28
MISSION TRIPS
- *A Heart of Gratitude...Oaksia*
- *Children's Ministry (CM) and Youth Ministry (YM) Mission Discovery Trip*
- *Mission Trippin' to Pho-Land*
- *December Mission Trip To Lahu*

30
DEVOTION
- *Rejoice in the Lord Always!*

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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 Tay Kay Leong, Rev Kenneth Huang & Rev Gabriel Liew

KKMC IDENTITY

We at KKMC will be
"Faithful Disciples in Authentic Community engaged in Loving Outreach and Bold Witness"
to the **Glory of God!**



What an exciting start to 2019 - our church's 125th year.

We started with the Church Prayer Watch on Saturday, 5 January, to help ourselves be spiritually prepared to properly and fully celebrate the 125th Anniversary of KKMC on 20 January. We took time to examine our lives individually and collectively as a church, to seek God, and to pray for ourselves and our Church, with the firm assurance that God is the One "watching" over us.

Then, on Sun, 20 Jan, we held our 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service with Bishop Dr Chong preaching on *"Rejoice in the Lord Always"* based on Philippians 4:4 - the theme for our year of celebration. As a church gathered from our four language congregations (English, Peranakan, Mandarin and Tamil), we praised God for His faithfulness to us all these years, and committed to live out our KKMC Vision Statement 2019 for His Glory!

This was immediately followed by our Anniversary Lunch held at SAFRA Toa Payoh, which was a time of real joy and meaningful fellowship.

Our prayer for KKMC is that all of us will truly realise that we can only be the church that God wants us to be *"not by might, not by power but by the Spirit of God"* (Zech 4:6). For this to really happen requires all of us at KKMC to be **a prayerful people.**

And so, our challenge to all at KKMC in 2019 is that more and more of us will attend our Church Prayer Time, and rely and call upon God for His grace and wisdom in all that we are and do in ministry as a church! For the reality is that a church that does not come together to pray is a church that does not experience the power of God flowing through it.

For us at KKMC, it means that we will find it a real challenge to be *"Faithful Disciples in Authentic Community engaged in Loving Outreach and Bold Witness"* to the Glory of God, for we will be trying to proceed ahead on this spiritual quest on our own steam, rather than by the power of the Spirit of God living in us!

We are sure that many, if not all, realise that we were only able to carry out our Church Prayer Watch and 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Lunch in a manner that truly glorified God because we had prayed to Him regarding them and depended on Him to help us carry them out.

And so, if we are to carry out the remaining major 125th Anniversary celebratory events in 2019 to the Glory of God of

6 - 9 Jun 2019 (Thu - Sun)	OIKOS Combined Family Camp at Swiss Garden Hotel, Malacca	20 & 21 June (Fri & Sat)	Youth Evangelistic Musical	21 Dec 2019 (Sat)	Christmas Community Blessing at and around KKMC
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We need to pray, and to pray like never before!

But KKMC, will we? Will we see a continued growth in the number of congregation members attending our various Church Prayer Times? More importantly, will we see an increasing dependence upon God by us at KKMC?

We are sure that we will! For we want all Glory to go to God!

And so, as we proceed into 2019, may the LORD bless KKMC as we all remember to memorise, and live by, the promise of God stated in Jude 24 & 25:

“Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

God Bless

Rev Kenneth Huang, Rev Gabriel Liew and Rev Tay Kay Leong

Featured Sermon

Rejoice In The Lord Always

Sermon preached by Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung on 20 January 2019 at the 125th Anniversary Combined Worship Service of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church
 Scripture: *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* (Philippians 4:4)



Bishop Dr Chong preaching at the service with Siang Ling as interpreter

Introduction

Firstly, let me on behalf of the other 45 local churches bring greetings and good wishes to KKMC on your 125th Anniversary Celebration!

The history of the Methodist Church in Singapore is 134 years, KKMC is 125 years, a difference of just 9 years. You are the 4th oldest Methodist church in Singapore. (Would you like to know which are the 3 sister churches which predate KKMC? Wesley Methodist Church – 134 years, Short Street Tamil Church – 132 years, Telok Ayer MC – 129 years. And just behind us is our 5th oldest church, that is Foochow Methodist Church – 122 years, built 1897.) All thanks and praise to our Lord for these centenarian churches, each one a testimony to God’s grace. (Actually, on this side of Sungei Road, KKMC is the oldest Christian church.)

Rev Kenneth Huang told me that the theme of your 125th Anniversary Celebration is “Rejoice in the Lord always”, and the scripture passage is from Philippians 4:4.

This is quite special, and different from other church anniversary themes. Rev Huang said KKMC wants to remember how for 125 years, God has made known His faithfulness and providence (blessings) at KKMC; and thus it was important for all the members to continue to grow in Jesus Christ, blessing one another with joy and love, and also to bless our neighbours and community, and the generations to come.

1. Joy in the midst of trouble (Phil 4:4)

Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, reminded them repeatedly to rejoice, and to rejoice always. Paul himself was not in an easy or comfortable situation when he wrote these words, but was sharing a cell with criminals in a prison in Rome. The reason for his incarceration on death row was preaching the good news and persuading others to believe that Jesus is the one true God. We can say that Paul was letting the Philippians know how he was able to find joy in the Lord despite his very difficult situation, so that they too could have joy in their times of trouble.

Joy is not about being happy over a good thing that has happened. Such happiness dissipates very quickly, simply because we don’t always have happy situations. We have a Chinese saying: Beautiful flowers don’t bloom all the time, beautiful scenery may fade – in English, it means “Happiness is fleeting.” On the other hand, what is with us all the time may cause us to worry and be anxious – whether big issues or small, whether they be our own or others.

So joy does not depend on happy events, but joy is in the Lord. Thus Paul in Phil 4:10 says, “I rejoiced in the Lord greatly.” He said that regardless of his circumstances, he could be content. He knew, even in lowly circumstances, he knew how to abound; whether filled, satiated or hungry, whether in abundance or in need, in whatever circumstances; he had the secret - to depend on Him who strengthens him, and who can do all things!

2. Joy is not having no challenges or struggles (Phil 4:2)

If we read the 2 verses before v4, we can see Paul urging the 2 sister leaders, Euodia and Syntyche to be one in the Lord! In the church at that time, there was dispute and disharmony. In fact, the Philippian church was a not perfect church where each day was a “hehe haha” (gleeful) day, where there were no difficulties, no problems. As long as there are people in any place, there will be always be people problems!

A bible scholar once commented that these 2 ladies were not young believers, but probably founding members of the church in Philippi, members of the pioneering team. Later when differences in views arose, the 2 became divided, and the situation was affecting many, getting out of hand – such that the apostle Paul wrote a letter to publicly persuade them to be united. Regardless of where we are, whether in church, at home, in the office or place of work, what makes us most unhappy is always conflict and acrimony with others. We may be poor, lacking in many things, or ill - all of which may make it difficult for us to be happy; but if we have someone who is concerned for us by our side, who loves us, then we are not afraid of poverty or lack, or illness. As a pastor, we often get

to hear painful laments from our members. Most of the time, these boil down to disagreement and disharmony.

Perhaps apart from some individuals, it is impossible that KKMC did not experience some unhappiness in the past 125 years. Perhaps not as bad as in the church in Philippi where the leaders were constantly in dispute and discord, but perhaps some other sorts of difficulties and challenges; but none of these can ever take away from the church, the joy that is in the Lord.

3. The reason why we must have joy (Phil 4:5)

In verse 5, it says, "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand." (ESV) Paul reminded the church in Philippi again and again, that they must "rejoice", "rejoice always", "rejoice in the Lord always." Paul must have his reasons for repeating himself.

In this passage is described how the church in Philippi expressed their joy, which is an infectious thing, letting others in their community see and feel vicariously how these Christians rejoice in the midst of all their troubles and challenges, demonstrating the reality of their faith as testimonies. Rejoicing in the Lord brings other fruits: patience, modesty, forbearance, consideration and accommodating others.

V5 *epieikeia* - gentleness, reasonableness, is how we have translated this word in English. It has also been translated as patience, softness, forbearance, magnanimity, and also being accommodating.

Since 1930, when God put our church in Little India, we have become like "old neighbours" to the Indian community for more than 90 years. I often say, one can choose one's friends, good friends. But one cannot choose one's neighbours. It's only when you have moved in, then you know who your neighbour is. Can we be a good neighbour to others?

I think the Chinese translation of "gentleness/reasonableness *epieikeia* 谦让 is very good, as there is a rich meaning to the words. 谦让 — 谦 qian : modestly, humbly and 让rang: let, give way, offer, accommodate, others first.

Today, we discover that in Little India, our neighbours for 125 years, they are celebrating Thaipusam. Thus, many of the roads are blocked, there are throngs of people, no place to park the cars. Not only is it difficult for the cars to drive along the roads,

even the pedestrians are being crowded out – a situation that can easily cause one to lose our temper and to protest.

Yet Paul says. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone." – that is the heart to accommodate others. Such inconvenience, which is a yearly occurrence, is unavoidable. Remember it well; this will not be forever, for our Lord's coming is near! Given that, we can rely on the Lord to be victorious over any unhappiness, any inconvenience that may cause our tempers to rise.

Because such incidents, when compared with the impending coming of our Lord, are really not as important; small matters, not worth caring too much about. Thus Paul says to rejoice – in the Lord!

Let us bless this community, "longtime neighbours" of our church, that we may share in this day of celebration.

Conclusion

Thank you for inviting me to join your 125th anniversary thanksgiving. Singapore is celebrating the 200th year of her founding. Our Methodist church has a 134 year history. Each time, when I pass by Middle Road and see that tiny little church building which the Government has conserved as a monument, my heart is always filled with deep gratitude and thanksgiving for those missionaries, pastors and Christians who were able to speak Malay at that time.

Time is the most precious blessing that God has given us. KKMC has gone through 125 years. In that time, the church has gone through various difficulties and challenges that may have brought some to tears. Yet the Lord of our church is Jesus Christ - in Him is strength untold and boundless grace.

See the blessings He has bestowed on our church: large numbers of professionals and talents; financial resources that more than meet our needs; many generous members who give willingly; pastors filled with wisdom and the shepherd's heart, as well as a calling and mission from the Lord, such that whatever the circumstances, we cannot but rejoice in the Lord.

Let us bless our neighbours and community that they too will find that joy in the Lord!

精选讲章 靠主常常喜乐

2019年1月20日, 张振忠牧会督(博士) 在卫理公会甘榜加卜125周年联合主日崇拜中讲道。

经文: 腓立比书4:4

你们要靠主常常喜乐。我再说, 你们要喜乐。

引言

首先让我代表卫理公会其他45间本地教会恭贺KKMC今天庆祝125周年庆典!

我们新加坡卫理公会的历史是134年, KKMC是125年, 只是相差9年, 是第四间最早的卫理公会教会!

【想不想知道前面3间比我们KKMC更久历史的姐妹教

会? 卫斯理堂134年, 肃街淡米尔堂132年, 直落亚逸堂129年。在我们之后第5久的教会是我们对面街福灵堂 Foochow Methodist Church 122年(1897年)】感谢主你们都是我们卫理公会在新加坡社会的百年老教会, 是上帝恩典的见证人! (其实, 过了结霜桥这一边, KKMC是最早的基督教会)。



黄牧师 Rev Kenneth Huang 告诉我，125周年庆典的主题是“靠主常常喜乐”！经文就是取自腓立比书4:4。

这是跟许多教会的周年庆典主题很不一样的主题。他说教会KKMC要记得上帝125年来，向我们彰显祂的实和供应（祝福），因此所有本堂的会友要继续在基督耶稣里成长，把喜乐和爱彼此祝福，也祝福我们的社区、我们未来的下一代。

本论

1. 在患难中的喜乐（腓立比书4:4）

保罗写信给腓立比教会再三提醒他们要“喜乐”“常常喜乐”，保罗不是在很舒适顺利的生命遭遇里，他是在罗马监狱的重刑犯人的牢房里写的。他的被关且被判死刑罪名是因为传福音的缘故，他劝人相信耶稣是唯一的真神。可以说，保罗告诉腓立比教会的信徒自己如何在患难中靠主喜乐。他们一样可以在患难中有喜乐。

喜乐不仅仅是因为有高兴的好事快乐(Happy)，这种快乐很快的乐一下就没有了，因为人生里并不是常常有高兴的好事，我们说：好花不常开，好景不常在！常常在的都是让我们感到担心焦虑，烦恼难过的大事小事，自己的事别人的事！

所以，喜乐不是靠好事喜乐，而是靠主喜乐！所以保罗在腓立比书4:10节说，他靠主大大的喜乐。他说无论在什么景况都可以知足，他知道怎样处卑贱，也知道怎样处丰富，或饱足，或饥饿，或有余，或缺乏，随事随在，他都得了秘诀，他靠着那加给他力量的，凡事都能作！

2. 喜乐不是没有挑战没有困难（腓立比书4:2节）

如果我们读前面的第2节，我们就发现保罗劝两个姐妹领袖尤阿迪娅和循都基要在主里同心！那么就是说教会里有纷争不和睦了。原来腓立比的教会并不是十全十美，天天嘻嘻哈哈没有困难没有问题。只要有人在的地方，就有人事上的问题。

圣经学者说，这两个人不是初信的信徒，他们大概都是腓立比教会的创办者，是先锋的团队之一。后来可能因为观点不同，结果两个人不同心，造成的影响一定不小，因为需要使徒保罗写信公开说劝勉他们。无论在什么地方，教会也好，家庭也好，公司职场也好，最让自己不开心的就是跟别人有纷争不和睦。我们可能有贫穷、缺乏、病痛，这当然会使我们开心不起来，但是如果我们身边有人关心我们，爱我们，我们不怕贫穷不怕缺乏也不怕病痛。我们牧师常常会听见痛苦万分的会友向我们诉苦，这些令会友们痛苦难过不开心的，往往就是跟别人有纷争不和睦造成的。

我相信除了个别会友，KKMC在过去125年不会从来不曾发生不开心的事。或许不是像腓立比教会的情况教会里有领袖一直不停的有纷争不和睦，可能是其他的困难和挑战，但是这不能夺去教会因为靠主而有的喜乐。

3. 我们应当喜乐的原因（腓立比书4:5节）：

第5节说当叫众人知道你们谦让的心。主已经近了。保罗对腓立比的教会一而再的提醒他们要“喜乐”

“常常喜乐”“靠主常常喜乐”。一定有他的原因。

这里说腓立比教会喜乐的表现，能感染别人（非教会的社群）感受这些作基督的门徒他们在患难挑战里，如何展现出他们信仰的经验和见证。靠主喜乐能展现的结果是：忍耐、谦和、忍受、体谅别人、迁就别人。

V5, 谦让的心 *epieikeia*, 是我们的翻译, 英文的翻译有 *patience, softness, forbearance, magnanimity*, 还有一个翻译是迁就别人。

上帝从1930年把我们的教堂放置在小印度这个地区，我们就和印度社区成为了将近90年的老邻居。我常说，你可以选谁成为你的朋友，好朋友。但是你没办法选邻居，等你搬进去的时候你才知道谁是你的邻居。我们能不能成为别人的好邻居？

我觉得中文翻译的真好，因为这个字的意思很丰富，谦让，包含了很多刚才我们所提的意思。谦—谦虚(modest), 谦逊(unassuming), 谦卑(humble), 客气(polite), 让—let, make way or give way 让步, 让路, offer, 放弃(give up), 容许(allow)。

今天我们发现今天在这小印度社区（跟我们一起相处了125年的我们的邻居）庆祝“丰收节”（大宝森节），结果我们有许多路被档，人又多，没有停车位，不要说车不好走，连走路也觉得很拥挤，的确可以生气，可以抗议。

但是，保罗说“要靠主常常喜乐，让众人知道你们谦让的心——就是“迁就别人”的心，这些的不方便，虽然是每一年都可能碰到，但我们无法避免，切切记得，这些都不是长久，因为主来的日子近了！既然如此，我们就可以靠主胜过这些不愉快不方便叫人生气的事！

因为这些比起我们的主来的日子近了实在不必为不是很紧要的小节小事太介意在意！所以保罗说“喜乐—要靠主”！我们也祝福我们的社区，教会的长久邻居，跟他们一起分享节日的欢庆。

结论

谢谢教会邀请我参加我们教会125周年庆典，新加坡今年举行开埠200周年纪念，我们卫理公会的历史已经有134年。每次路过 *middle road* 看到那间已经被政府保留作古迹的小小的教堂，我心里总是为着125年前的会讲马来语的宣教士牧师和信徒们感恩。

时间是上帝给我们最珍贵的祝福，KKMC从开始到现在已经是125年，教会所经过的日子，虽然有艰辛有挑战甚至流泪，但是我们教会的主，耶稣基督，在那里有说不出的力量和恩典。

看见他在我们教会里赐给我们许多的恩福：许多专业的人才，足够有余的经济情况，许多慷慨爱心奉献的会友，充满智慧和爱心的牧者们，以及来自上帝给我们的呼召和行动，可以在任何情况下不但我们教会“靠主常常喜乐”！我们也祝福我们的社区因为主耶稣而喜乐蒙福！

See You Again *Rev Poh Zhi-Hui*

Rev Poh Zhi-Hui came to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church through the Boys' Brigade (BB) Second Singapore Company in 1994. He answered God's call to move from his job as an engineer in 2010 to prepare for ministry by enrolling in Trinity Theological College. Upon graduation, he joined KKMC from 1 June 2014 as a Lay Ministry Staff. He then embarked on the journey to be ordained as a Methodist Pastor and was appointed back to KKMC from August 2016. Rev Poh was ordained as a Deacon on 22 November 2018. He was appointed to Toa Payoh Methodist Church (TPMC) from January 2019 where he continues the next phase of ministry training, which will lead to his ordination as an Elder of the Methodist Church.

KK Focus catches up with Rev. Poh to ask him some lingering questions that we're sure members of the congregation would like to know!

KK Focus: We unearthed a picture of you in 2003 and you actually had a head full of hair? When and why did you decide to have the crew cut as your default hairstyle?



BB Enrolment Service 23 Mar 2003

ZH: I can't remember when I decided to have the crew cut as my default hairstyle – it may have been between 7-10 years (or more) ago. As for the "why", I think that there were 3 primary reasons:

1. I did not want to go through the stages of growing my hair from crew cut to a comb-able length again, which to me was quite bothersome and (I concluded) unnecessary.
2. I was working as an engineer at the

time and my work often involved me going outdoors on-site. A shorter haircut made more sense as it was cooler (except for when the sun beats down on my scalp) and it was easier to wipe off my sweat.

3. The crew cut is a time and money saver. I do not have to spend time waiting for it to dry after a shower, and I do not have to spend time combing or styling it. I also use much less shampoo, and I do not need to use any hair styling products – I do not even need a comb.

When I learnt how to cut my own hair using an electric shaver in the last 5-6 years, I also saved time and money on trips to the barber by cutting my own hair with assistance from my wife, Pearlene.

But in the more recent years, another pastor who sports a shorter haircut than mine shared his reason for keeping such a haircut and since then, I shared that same reason: this haircut is now also a reminder to myself to *live simply*.

KK Focus: You have admitted to have a stern unsmiling face. However, we noticed that in the last 6-12 months, you have broken into smiles with more frequency. Can you explain this change?



ZH: I think it is a confluence of the following factors:

1. My natural face is non-smiling and stern. But I can understand why it will be tough for any member to approach me to talk about any matter if my face were not welcoming or hospitable. So I see smiling as something that I needed to be more intentional in doing in order to do the work God has

called me to as a pastor, and I do consciously try to smile more often.

2. My supervisory pastors like Rev. Kenneth Huang and Rev. Dr. Daniel Koh have also been encouraging me to smile more, and have been helpful in lightening the environments I work in to help me smile a little more.
3. The kindness and encouragement from members of KKMC have also softened my facial tissues – when people are that warm and kind to you, the smile comes.
4. Pearlene! She makes me laugh and smile the most.

All the above made possible by the grace of God.

KK Focus: After 24 years in KKMC, what are your feelings in leaving KKMC for another church?

ZH: I leave with a mixture of feelings that I am not sure I can describe fully.

I feel a tinge of sadness to leave because I have made many good friends here and have many fond memories in this community. A large part of who I am today is due to God's work in building me up as his child through various ministries of KKMC, in particular the Boys' Brigade Second Singapore Company, Youth Ministry, LifeGroups and prayer groups. KKMC has also been the community of faith through which I have encountered God's comfort and help in the most trying period of time in my life to date.

But I am also excited to leave. Not because I am eager to leave KKMC, but because I see KKMC entering into a new and exciting season with the Lord and I believe that God has a good plan for transferring me out of KKMC in this period – perhaps a different personality or different skillset, etc., is better for the church's growth and ministry in this season. The Lord knows and is in control, and He does what is needed for the good of the church for it to fulfill his purpose. And so I am excited to leave because I am excited to see the good that the Lord is going to do through the new



Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui Farewell Pastor Kenneth presenting gift from Staff on 29 Dec 2018



Farewell wifie w youth watchnight service on 31 Dec 2018

Farewell With Renewed Images LifeGroup on 29 Dec 2018



make-up of the pastoral leadership together with the leaders and members of KKMC in this season.

2 Scripture passages that help me grapple with this move out of KKMC to another church and see it in light of God's good purposes and sovereignty are 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 and 1 Corinthians 12 (in particular, 12:18).

KK Focus: What were some of the your most significant moments in your time at KKMC?

ZH:

1. Youth Camp 1994 - When I joined as a BB Boy and there encountered God in a time of worship in a way that I had never encountered God before.
2. A combined youth LifeGroup time of worship on a night in 1999 - That was the first time I ever led (with a few other friends: Philip Chew, Simon Lee and Chan Yoke Hian) and spoke in a time of worship in KKMC outside of my own LifeGroup. It was significant for me because there were people who were visibly touched in some

way by God that night and shared that the night had drawn them closer to God and encouraged them to grow in the Lord. I was humbled that night to see that the Lord could use even me - with all my inexperience, inadequacies and flaws - as his instrument to draw people closer to him.

3. In 1999-2000, KKMC worshipped in the premises of ACS (Primary) at Ah Hood Road due to the Save-Our-Sanctuary project. In that period, worshippers had to come early before service started to lay out the chairs for service; and after the service, worshippers worked together to keep the chairs. That was for me a picture of what being church is - everyone doing their part and working together to enable people to worship God.

KK Focus: What do you think you will miss most about KKMC?

ZH: The annual Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. It is always a great experience for me to see the 4 language congregations coming together to worship and each language-group presenting

a praise item to the Lord. Symbolically, it reminds me of the grand vision in Revelation 7:9-10.

KK Focus: Are there some words you and Pearlene would like to say to KKMC?

ZH & PS: Thank you for being the family of God to us in our time with you. You have accepted us as we are, and encouraged and supported us in life and in ministry. If we have failed or offended any of you in any way, we ask your forgiveness. If we have poured something of God's goodness into your lives, it is because others before us have poured something of God's goodness into ours - we pray that you will do the same to one another and those who God will bring into this family.

The Lord is with you and is at work among you to make you in KKMC, Faithful Disciples in Authentic Community engaged in Loving Outreach and Bold Witness to the glory of God.

May God be with you as you pastor in TPMC.



What we admire/respect most about Rev PZH:

We respect Zhi-Hui for his courage in always doing the right thing no matter how difficult it is; his trustworthiness to see things through, no matter how tedious; and in his honesty and authenticity wrestling with living a Christ-like life in the messiness of human reality.

We're also proud and encouraged to see him grow so much from a young BB Boy into a Reverend, and yet still humble as a dear friend.

We will miss Zhi-Hui's and Pearlene's generosity in giving, their contributions to frank and open discussions during Lifegroup, their sincere prayers, their steadfast spirits, their presence and the fellowship that we have with them during lunch after Church service.

Renewed Images LifeGroup

Rev Poh and Pearlene were part of Renewed Images LifeGroup

Lim Tingjie

Rev Zhi-Hui served as the Chaplain of The Boys' Brigade 2nd Company from 2016 to 2018. I have been impacted by his Christ-likeness in the 4-5 years of having known Pastor Poh, and so have the BB Boys in 2nd Coy. His life constantly reminds me of the fruit of the Spirit. Let me paint a picture of our beloved Rev Zhi-Hui for us all:

Love:

Loves with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength

Joy:

Rejoices in the Lord always

Peace:

Promotes peace between all and always stands firm in faith

Patience:

Patient with all, slow to anger and trusts in the work of the Spirit

Kindness:

Kind and compassionate to the poor and the weak

Goodness:

Abides in the Lord, tests everything and holds fast to what is good

Faithfulness:

He is faithful to God

Gentleness:

Gentle, thoughtful and gracious in speech, conduct and when he gives others feedback

Self-control:

Finally, he exercises discipline and submits himself to God's will

Pastor Zhi-Hui is no stranger to any of us in KKMC. I think the best way to 'honour' his 'farewell' would be to follow his example of being a friend to everyone in KKMC. Thank you Pastor Zhi-Hui.

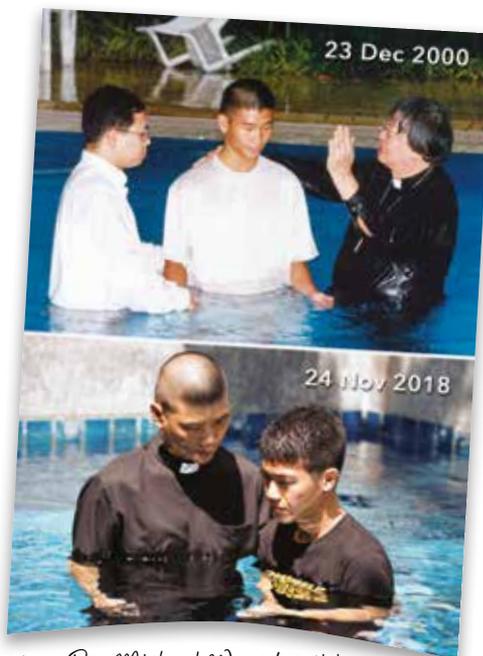
Eugenia Chioang

I respect Ps. Zhihui for his patience, humility, listening ear, and space that he holds. He taught me how to communicate in love, how to ask for help, and how to walk with my brothers and sisters in Christ. He emulated Christ's love to me and I was blessed.

No words can fully describe his service and labor of love to the ministry. I thank God for his service to the Lord.

Everi Yeo

What I admire most about Rev PZH is his heart for the youth. Throughout the planning process for Youth Camp 2018, he worked tirelessly to ensure that the camp will be as best as it can be for all the campers. On the last day of camp, he made sure to commend each member of the camp committee on our efforts before he left, so as to encourage us to continue doing God's good work. In everything he did for the youth, there were only love and good intentions.



top : Rev Michael Wong baptising Zhi-Hui on 23 Dec 2000

bottom: Rev Poh Zhi-Hui baptising Lim Tingjie on 24 Nov 2018

Look out for the interview with Rev Tay Kay Leong in the next issue of KK Focus!

Church Cleaning Day

17 November 2018, Saturday

Tan Wah Kum, on behalf of the Property Management Committee

A coming together two decades in the making, the last Church Cleaning Day was apparently held in 1996. Planning for this event started earnestly in September, with the aim of gathering a sizeable group of people from all congregations to do a thorough spring-cleaning of our beloved Kampong Kapur Methodist Church (KKMC). It was definitely a chance to gather as one big family working with each other harmoniously to clean the church. In addition, the cleaning of the physical facilities was to be a reflection on the personal cleansing of our lives as we prepared to celebrate KKMC's 125th Anniversary in 2019.

Praise God that when the morning of 17 November came, approximately 130 people had gathered, armed with mops, brooms, pails, 2 pressure washers (yes!) and rags. The early morning shower failed to dampen our spirits but served as a presoak for the 60m external church railings and pavement that were about to be scrubbed down.

We opened with singspiration and worship in the sanctuary, followed by a briefing on the areas to clean. For 3 hours starting 9am, the 4 floors of the church, the chapel, the main sanctuary itself, the external perimeter and the 3 floors of the The Unfailing Light had people getting down and dirty on their hands and knees, and giving their all to give their place of worship a good scrub down. Walls were cleaned of fingerprints and footprints, tables and chairs wiped, floors swept then mopped, picture frames dusted and put back into place, window glass and mirrors "windexed", carpets vacuumed, pews wiped, bibles and hymnal covers wiped, external wall and railings jet washed and wiped dry. It seemed like a bustling construction site filled with people all going about with a specific purpose and job to accomplish. Even the kids were involved by providing refreshments on trolleys, and they diligently went about making sure everyone had their share of beverage and biscuits as the adults took a breather in between cleaning duties.

The fans were switched on to full blast after the final mopping, which signified the final chapter to the cleaning works. We gathered again in the sanctuary for a time of reflection and final prayer by Rev Kenneth. A few members went up to share and the general consensus



was that they did not want to wait another 20 years again to do it again because it was so fulfilling to serve. It was indeed a joy to see the combined church and all its different congregations gather for a time of fellowship with the aim of spring-cleaning the church as an act of service and stewardship to our place of worship.

On hindsight, all the human hands could not have made any impact if not for the Holy Spirit that descended on us that morning. As it was written in Zechariah 4:6 -

So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

Praise be to God!



Lessons from Church Cleaning Day 教会大扫除中的学习

Chua Wee Leng 蔡伟立

Saturdays are Family Outing Days for us and 17 November 2018 turned out to be another great time for family. The outing was to KKMC where we participated in Church Cleaning Day.

A. Learning from the English Congregation.

On 16 October, our Disciple 1 Bible Study chat group had a message from Uncle Teng Leng: "Good morning, anyone free to form a mop n bucket team for church cleaning?"

I asked, "How do I join the mop n bucket team?"

That was the Matthew 7:7 moment - "Ask, and it shall be given you..."

On 17 November morning, I met Uncle Teng Leng at the social hall, ready for the Mop & Bucket team. The same gray-haired man from the Disciple 1 from the Bible Study class, who has a granddaughter serving in the Church Choir, was ever ready to serve.

Lesson Learned: We are never too old to serve.

B. Learning from a 9 year old.

At the church cleaning day, a 9-year old saw people setting up tables and bringing out boxes of packed food and drinks. She volunteered herself and was employed on the spot. I was amazed by the amount of initiative and energy she showed. To her, it was a noble cause to be able to help people.

That 9-year old was my elder daughter, Fanny.

On 17 November, we had planned to go to Universal Studios at Sentosa. I spoke with Fanny and I told her about volunteering to join the Mop n Bucket Team. She replied, "I would take up the mopping of the floor." It was a deal - church first and Universal Studios right after.

Lesson Learned: Is it hard to serve? No, just walk in.

C. Learning from the Tamil Congregation

Their actions speak on behalf.

I admired and learned something about our brothers and sisters from the Tamil Congregation in our Mop n Bucket team. They held the Church Sanctuary with utmost respect, and took care of the fine details. Firstly, they were not satisfied with their first attempt of vacuuming the carpet



周六是我们的家庭外出日。2018年11月17日是另一个伟大的阳光灿烂的日子，我们期待着。

A. 向英语堂 的 同工学习。

10月16日上午，我们的圣经学习小组 聊天室对毕业歌曲 有趣 的 对话。

然后，我注意到 Uncle Teng Leng (英语堂的同工) 的这张简讯：

“早上好，任何人参与拖把与桶的教堂清洁工作吗？”

我回了简讯要求澄清一下：
如何加入拖把与桶？

那的确是马太福音7:7的时刻。

那个17 - 11月的早晨，我在大厅遇见了 Uncle Teng Leng，为拖把与桶清洁工作准备好了。他是我从圣经学习课上结识的一位老爷爷现今满头白发，已有位乖巧孙女为教堂合唱团事奉，可他仍旧随时准备事奉。

经验教训：事奉 没有年龄局限，可随时事奉。

B.从9岁的孩子身上 学习。

英语堂 的 同工曾多次组织分发包装食品。

这位9岁的孩子第一次看到英语堂的同工在集合与分配，摆放桌子，搬运盒装食品和饮料。她自告奋勇举手参加。通过这次“工作面试”，她受雇了。我对她展示的魄力感到惊讶。

对她而言，这是一个能够帮助人的崇高服侍。

那个9岁的孩子是我的长女，Fanny。

11月17日，我们原定去圣淘沙环球影城。我跟她提起，我告诉她加入 Mop n Bucket Team 的志愿工作。她回答说：“我会负起拖地的工吧。”最终定下心，教会首先，我们仍然会在之后去环球影城圣淘沙。

经验教训：事奉难吗？不，只须踏前走进去。

C.向淡米尔堂的同工学习。

他们的行动代表发言。

大卫王被描述为“追求上帝自己心灵的人”。怎么样呢？在圣经阅读中，拿但在圣经撒母耳记下12:7中斥责大卫王。我清楚地知道，大卫王的内疚并没有受到群众意见的影响。对于 他的过犯，他无条件的 对上 帝悔过。在撒母耳记下12:13，我们读到“然后大卫对拿但说，”我犯了罪，干犯主。

我钦佩并从我们的 Mop n Bucket 团队那里学到了一些关于淡米尔人聚会的意识。从他们照顾的细节中，他们极其尊重教堂圣殿。首先，他们不满意他们第一次尝试将通道到主礼拜堂的地毯吸尘进度。没有人质疑，但他们主动再次尝试。他们把整个地毯取下

along the corridor at the church entrance. Without anyone asking, they took the initiative to try yet again, this time taking the carpet out to beat off the accumulated dust particles. Then, to mop the corridor, they removed their footwear and with care and patience, mopped and dried the floor, before putting the carpet back in place.

Lesson Learned: Walk the talk. In Mark 12:30, we read "Love the Lord your GOD with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."

One more point.

That evening, I saw a note of thanks in our WhatsApp chat group from our church member Sherwin Lee. He had used the music room for the music ensemble rehearsal. He wrote, "Thanks for cleaning up church. The music room certainly smelled fresher when we had practice today!"

I am proud to be part of the body working as one.

来, 把积累的土壤上的灰尘弄掉。然后, 将地板归回到主礼拜堂。他们脱掉了鞋子。在将地毯放回原位之前, 他们小心翼翼地耐心地拖地并擦干地板。

经验教训: 说到行到。在马可福音12:30, 我们读到了 "全心全意, 全心全意地爱主你的上帝"

还有一点。

那天晚上, 我看到了我们教会成员Sherwin的一份感谢简讯 (在聊天室中), 他各人周六的时间里排练他们的乐器并练习他们的周年纪念活动。

谢谢你清理教堂。当我们今天练习时, 音乐室肯定闻起来更新鲜! - @Lee Sherwin

我很自豪能成为身体一体的一员。

Prayer Watch

125 years of God's Faithfulness and His Promises to Come
Elaine Ang



Rev Kenneth Huang

Of all the events being planned for to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of KKMC in 2019, the Church Prayer Watch held on 5 January is the most important as it was meant to remind all at KKMC of the utter importance of our need to be clean before God, as well to depend on Him in prayer if KKMC is to make the "KKMC Vision Statement 2019" a reality and to live out our "KKMC Identity".

But what also became very clear as the Prayer Watch commenced was the assuring truth that it was really God who was doing the "watching" over us at KKMC - protecting, strengthening, guiding, accepting, forgiving, teaching us - as we committed to praying for our church!

And so, without a doubt, we at KKMC have every confidence to move forward in ministry as we rejoice in the Lord always!

When you think about Kampong Kapor Methodist Church's history of 125 years, it shows how much we have been a part of Singapore's "modern" history, which in 2019 marks 200 years since its founding in 1819. More significantly, this is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness in establishing, building and sustaining KKMC to serve His Great Commission. Today we, the congregation members, are the beneficiaries of an inheritance built over 125 years and the appointed ambassadors to reach and touch lives for Jesus Christ to this generation and the next.

For much of the last 2 years, the pastors and church leaders had prayed for and discussed about the direction for the church when the call to be "In & Involved" about

the church, along the streets and across the seas would conclude in 2018. Thank God for His directing and leading to lay the plans for the coming years that is encapsulated in the 2019 vision statement.

And on 5 January 2019 from 8am to 1pm, we gathered as a church to pray for God's leading and anointing as we move into implementing the

plans. It was a time of thanksgiving for the Lord's goodness towards us, confession and repentance for where we had sinned and not honoured Him, a passionate plea for His leading and empowering, and a commitment on our part to be faithful disciples, in authentic community engaged in loving outreach and bold witness to the glory of God.

The mercies of our Lord are new every morning. The New Year morning is not different from other mornings, but perhaps God's mercies are even more abundant at this special season in our calendar. It presents an opportune time to evaluate my walk with God - reviewing the year past, reflecting on the present and resolving for the future. And it was needful for me to do the same together with other members of the family of God that He has placed me in, for the well-being and work of KKMC in 2019, recognising that all our plans can amount to nothing, if we do not recognise God's critical role in them (James 4:13-15). Therefore, I made it a point to participate in the special New Year Church Prayer Watch. I was very glad to add my voice to the prayers of all.

Yeo On Chye

Praying for the Lord to Build His House

Psalm 127:1

**UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE,
THE BUILDERS LABOUR IN VAIN.
UNLESS THE LORD WATCHES OVER THE CITY,
THE GUARDS STAND WATCH IN VAIN.**

More than 100 congregation members, church leaders and pastors came, some for the entire duration, some a short while. All came with the desire to lay ourselves and our plans before the Lord. Through the worship, the sharing by ministry leaders and members and the prayer times, the conviction from God through the ministry of the Holy Spirit was quite clear. God will open the way for us to do what He has entrusted us to do, but our part is to lean close to Him, be obedient and trust Him in and for all things, with the sincere desire to do all for the glory of His name.

As Pastor Kenneth said during the prayer watch, the church prayer watch is the most important event among our 125th anniversary celebrations. For "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Psalm 127:1"

Our family came for the prayer watch and it struck us how similar it was to our family nightly prayer time. During the year, we all serve in different ministries and the prayer watch is one ministry which unites us as a church family as we came to share and intercede for our church and one another, gathering in groups that transcended across ministries and congregations in the common language of prayer.

Some members stayed throughout. Although our family had to leave midway, we saw other church members coming in to "hold the fort" and continue the intercession. It was touching indeed to see God bringing in different people to cover our church in prayer throughout the entire 5-hour prayer watch.

Sandhya Tan & Family



Before my PSLE results collection date, I asked my whole family to guess what score I would get. Thus, each of my family members wrote down the score they thought I would get but did not show what they had written to each other.

On the results collection day itself, I revealed my score to my whole family. To my surprise, the scores that all 3 of my family members had written was exactly the same as my actual PSLE score!!!

During the church prayer watch, Eugenia shared with me that her involvement in her work allowed her to plan her work more easily. Suddenly, I had a revelation. I realised that God doesn't do things by chance! He actually has a plan for you and He places you in places where you can learn things which can help you later on!!!!

Whether you are in a new school or posted to a new workplace, nothing is a coincidence with God! He has a plan for you!

Glory to God, Amen!!!!

Ethan Chin

The faithful God of 125 years of KKMC is the same God of our yesterday, today and forever. May we all let Him reign in our hearts, our homes and our church forevermore. Glory to God! Amen.

KKMC Music Ensemble

Sherwin Lee

In January 2018, Pastor Kenneth Huang proposed having a homegrown KKMC Music Ensemble formed as one of the ways to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of KKMC in 2019. This would also allow musicians in KKMC to worship God through their gift of playing an instrument. Thus, the 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 20 Jan 2019 would be the event to feature the ensemble. Judith Mosomos, choir director of KKMC, was asked by Pastor Kenneth to spearhead this project.

Over time, God also gradually convicted Sherwin Lee, a member of the church, about helping to start a music ensemble in KKMC. Through an interesting turn of events in July, Sherwin had an unplanned encounter with Judith



at the church kitchen one Sunday morning. They started sharing the idea of starting a music ensemble, which Pastor Kenneth had originally proposed in January. Judith and Sherwin thereafter scheduled a meeting for further discussions.

Their first discussion expanded on Pastor Kenneth's original idea of forming the ensemble, with both Sherwin and Judith seeing the potential of how an ensemble was not just a wonderful avenue for musicians to serve God with their musical gifts, but also a platform for discipling young musicians. Furthermore, it could also provide opportunities for church members to have music exposure beyond the formal music examination syllabus or repertoire played in school and external orchestras. Upon consultation with Pastor Kenneth, the first official announcement for recruitment was made in August 2018.

Initial sign ups were relatively slow. As such, Sherwin decided to share more about this project with the Youth Ministry one Sunday, and many youths expressed interest to join the music ensemble! As word got around, children and young adults also started to come on board.

The first ensemble gathering was held on 1 September, and it ended on an enthusiastic note, with members enquiring more about rehearsals. Over the following months, more members started joining too!

With only four months before the 125th Anniversary service, the ensemble started intense rehearsals. A music ensemble camp was organised to build team spirit, grow the musicality of members, and most importantly, grow in the Word of God.

Over the months of rehearsals, members shared how the ensemble reignited their interest in playing their instrument and the importance of teamwork. Furthermore, it was very encouraging to see the parents of the youths and kids in the ensemble praying and journeying alongside the ensemble. The leaders also saw how God had answered many of these prayers too!

By God's grace and the commitment of the ensemble members, the ensemble was first featured at the Christmas Day Worship Service in 2018, earlier than expected. They were well-received as they added an extra dimension to the worshipful atmosphere on Christmas Day.

The ensemble played again for the 125th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, helping the congregation to truly worship God in spirit and in truth.

Indeed, God is working in the lives of everyone in the ensemble, and He has wonderful plans for the team. 2019 will indeed be an exciting and dynamic year for the ensemble! Soli Deo Gloria! [To the Glory of God Alone]

Joseph Tan, 15 years old, Cellist:
 "The ensemble has given me the opportunity to make new friends and has given me more confidence in playing my instrument."



Keith Goh, 18 years old, Violinist:
 "It amazed me how everyone came together to play their various instruments, and provided me the opportunity to connect with others through music."

KKMC Music Ensemble:

- Mr Sherwin Lee, **conductor**
- Alyssa Goh & Clarise Chin, **violin 1**
- Keith Goh & Jed Gan, **violin 2**
- Joseph Tan, Conrad Chew & Matthieu Lim, **cello**
- Fredrick Suwandi, **double bass**
- Victoria Teng, **flute**
- Cervone Seah, **Bb clarinet**
- Nathania Heng, **French horn**
- Jon Sim, **alto saxophone**
- Amelia Thong & Dylan Chew, **classical guitar**
- Judith Mosomos **advisor**



Faithful to the present Yeo Oon Chye

A lesson from Disciple 3 class

We do not have to live too many years of life to quickly learn that life is full of disappointments. Possibly, Christians can accept that man is born to trouble¹. After all, post-Eden, we have been exiled into a fallen world.

At the same time, the promises in the Bible may lead us to believe that with the Lord as our Shepherd, the occasional hiccup notwithstanding, our time here will mostly be days besides green pastures and still waters². And more, if we trust in Him, He will give us our hearts' desires³.

How can we cope if we find that our reality seem far different from those words?

Then in the area of prayer, many of us would have been confounded by situations where the ways of God are very hard to fathom. There have been times when I earnestly pray for something, not necessarily for selfish purpose. Then things happen, and it appears that God is answering my prayer and granting my desire. So my heart is filled with thanksgiving and joy, and my mouth with praise and testimony to the goodness of God. But not long after, things start to go wrong and unravel. What I believe to be God granting me my desire, turns out to be something else. My heart crashes and is filled not only with deep disappointment, worse than if God had not answered my prayer in the first place, but also with much confusion. I lose my balance and wonder, "God, why have You done this to me? Why did You appear to give me what I asked for, only to take it away? I don't understand. Is this a cruel trick You are playing on me? How do I make sense of this? How do I go on trusting You?"

It seems such experiences are not uncommon. In November 2018, I was facing one or two situations like what was just described. At that time, I was in the Disciple III course* and there was a lesson that highlighted a

very meaningful phrase, "faithful to the present".

In a nutshell, the lesson context was the experience of the post-exilic Jews who were motivated by hopes of a glory-filled future to return to their homeland after 70 years of captivity in Babylon. But when they returned they met disappointment after disappointment. Where was the rosy future that they were led to believe in by the prophets of God? The concluding lesson was that, in the face of bitter disappointments, we all need to be **"fueled by vision and sustained by hope, keep the long view in mind but stay faithful to the present."**

To be faithful to the present means that even when events turn out to be painfully disappointing, we need to continue to trust God. It means that we are to accept we will never be able to make sense of every experience in life because God has not meant for us to do so. It means that we are to keep faith that it is totally out of character for God to play "cruel tricks" on anyone. Sure, He puts us to the test, but that is not the same as tricks meant to trip us. On the other hand, Satan, who disguises himself as an angel of light, is full of wiles and seeks to devour anyone whose faith he succeeds in shaking⁴.

To be faithful to the present means that we must learn from Daniel's three friends when they were about to be thrown to their deaths in a fiery furnace for their refusal to worship a golden image. When challenged to call on their God to deliver them, the answer they gave is most instructive. They said, "our God whom we serve is able to



A Disciple III class in session.

deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."⁵

The three friends did not base their faith in God on the immediate outcome. They chose to remain faithful to God even if He chose not to intervene and save them. They knew and trusted that their God is the LORD - unconditionally.

This lesson is how I ought to deal with the bitter disappointments in life. I must "keep the long view in mind" and not forget that God is Sovereign over all space and time. God is not bounded by time when He promised that "all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose."⁶ It would be foolish of me to base my faith on the short-term outcomes, be they good or bad.

Instead I must pin my hopes on and affix my eyes at the end of all things, in the new heavens and new earth, and not be shaken by all else that happen in between, disappointments included. Then, my eternal future will be secure. Then, I will find my green pastures and still waters, as promised - if I stay **faithful to the present**.

DISCIPLE is a program of disciplined Bible study aimed at developing Christian disciples. The first study in the program is **DISCIPLE: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study. It serves as the basis for all other studies in the DISCIPLE family that follow. Over the course of 34 weeks, the study covers the entire Bible (Old and New Testaments) following the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem.*

***Disciple III Remember Who You Are** is the third study in the four-phase program. It covers the major and minor Old Testament prophets, with the exception of Daniel, and*



Susan Tay, Chua Wee Leng and Sherwin Lee receiving their Disciple I certificates on 30 Dec 2018. Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui and Phang Chee Kheng were the course facilitators.

the thirteen Letters traditionally attributed to Paul. Looking at the historical con-text in which the prophets spoke for God, several themes weave their way through the study – the call to remember; the call to repentance; the need for renewed vision; and the place of community. The prophets and Paul are continually calling hearers and readers back to their God and to a sense of who they are as a people "set apart." Both Disciple I and Disciple III are currently running in KKMC from July 2018 to May 2019.

Footnote:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 Job 5:7 | 3 Ps 37:3-4 | 5 Dan 3:17-18 |
| 2 Ps 23:1-2 | 4 2 Cor 11:14, Eph 6:11, 1 Pet 5:8 | 6 Rom 8:28 |

Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Mary Gan

Christmas Party

In the past three years, our WSCS Christmas celebrations have been to share our Christmas blessings with the various communities. In December 2015, we held a Christmas dinner party for family members of Prison Fellowship Singapore. In 2016, we hosted a Christmas party for the teachers and children of our church kindergarten. Last year, together with our Whampoa Family Service Centre, we sponsored and co-organised a “Kampong Play” event for the residents in Whampoa.

In 2018, our focus was to bring cheer to our supportive members and friends. Therefore, we carefully planned the Christmas celebration program such that all who attended would experience new insights into the Christmas message. In addition, the party also gave our members an opportunity to socialise in an informal gathering, through games and dancing.

On 8 December, more than 30 members and friends gathered in our social hall to celebrate Christmas. Our president, Mrs Rachel Tan, warmly welcomed our guests and also delivered the opening prayer.

Mr Kelvin Tan led a time of singing our favourite Christmas carols. When we sang “We wish you a Merry Christmas”, we got up from our seats and went around shaking hands, as well as wishing one another a blessed Christmas. Before taking his leave, Kelvin surprised us with a beautiful rendition of this song made famous by Faith Hill called, “A Baby Changes Everything”. The song tells the Christmas story from the perspective of a young innocent Mary who gave birth to Jesus more than 2000 years ago.

Mrs Joscelyn Foo then divided our members into groups of six for a Bible quiz. There was much laughter when some groups gave hilarious answers. At the end, Group 1 led by Ms Jerusha Lee won first prize. The other groups did not go home empty-handed either as all participants were given token prizes!



Icebreaker Game by Ms Phyllis Wong (centre)



Bible Quiz led by Mrs Joscelyn Foo and assisted by Ms Othilia Tan



Line Dancing by Mrs Mary Gan

With everyone now more relaxed and feeling comfortable, Ms Phyllis Wong led us in an icebreaker to help us get to know each other better. Slips of paper drawn with twenty boxes with different headings like “has climbed a mountain”, “like to cook”, “can juggle three balls”, etc, were given to each of us. Everyone had to find a person who best fitted the description. Needless to say, we learnt things about one another we had not known.

Pastor Gabriel then used some creative illustrations to share the good news of Christ reconciling us back to God.

The final activity before dinner was line dancing. The beauty about line dancing is not dancing with perfection, but dancing with enjoyment. If you are dancing out of step, don't stop, but at the earliest opportunity, watch others around you and try to follow. Then you will be dancing together again. It is just like our relationship with God. Every time imperfections arise, we need to confess our sins and seek His forgiveness, so we will be dancing in step with God again.

May God bless our church and our WSCS. Glory to His name! Amen!

WSCS Hi-tea Tan Yew Tin

An Angbao of Good News by Mrs l'Ching Thomas



WSCS organised a HighTea cum talk on 26 January. As it was close to Chinese New Year (CNY), Mrs l'Ching Thomas was invited to speak on the topic "An Angbao of Good News"

l'Ching is the International Director of Leadership Development at Operation Mobilisation and author of the book, *Jesus: The Path to Human Flourishing: The Gospel for the Cultural Chinese*.

l'Ching started the talk by asking attendees to discuss with one another what the gospel is.

Most people agreed that the gospel is the Good News that God offered His Son for us, and by believing in Christ, we can be saved. Terms like sacrifice, reconciliation, salvation and eternity were often mentioned with regards to the gospel.

l'Ching mentioned that people may be ethnically similar (e.g. Chinese) but yet differ a lot culturally. Therefore, for us to meaningfully engage people in the understanding of the gospel, we have to try to understand their concerns and their comprehension of terms like salvation. We must also think of ways to address some of the issues faced by the cultural Chinese. Issues like superstitions should not be overlooked.

There are three cultural traits of the Chinese people. These traits can be obstacles or an advantage in the sharing of the gospel. These three traits are:

- 1) Harmonious relationship
- 2) Pragmatic and utilitarian
- 3) Ethnocentric

Harmonious relationship

Pursuit of harmony is very important in Chinese culture. For example, if someone sees his uncle illicitly going out with another woman, he may not tell his aunty about it because he values the harmonious relationship, and chooses not to rock the boat between the family members. This does not mean that they do not value morality, but their main emphasis is on harmonious relationship. They also feel that hidden sins can be exempted from calling them sins, since one knows about it.

Pragmatic and utilitarian

The Chinese culture is pragmatic utilitarian. When told that there are some gods that can give them benefits, they will not hesitate to follow the rituals especially if it doesn't take much time or money to do so. In a similar way to buying insurance, it may seem logical to them as they can extend the coverage so that they will not lose out. If their gods work, then they will benefit; and if they don't, their investment can be easily written off.

Ethnocentric

Most of us are proud of our ethnic heritage and culture. This strong sense of ethnicity and pride are barriers to the sharing of the gospel. The Chinese have the opinion that Christianity is a foreign religion, so they don't feel a need to adopt a foreign religion. It is difficult for the Chinese to accept Christianity because of ethnocentricity. Christians must learn to find way to convince them that our Christian God is not foreign.

After discussing the three traits, l'Ching posted another question for group discussion and the question was, "What does CNY mean to you?" This must be answered in two words.

The pair of words given by the groups included: "renewal and relationship", "food and family", "reunion and rebonding", "reunion and stress", etc. l'Ching's two words were "reconciliation and prosperity".

The significance of CNY stemmed from Confucianism. A lot of beliefs in the Chinese culture are shaped by Confucianism. A great emphasis is placed on maintaining harmonious relationships, and the reunion dinner is the perfect ritual for them to renew as well as restore kinship. In essence, the CNY celebration is about reconciliation and prosperity which is what the gospel (Good News) is also about.

l'Ching highlighted some biblical concepts that could resonate with the Chinese culture. For example, the biblical word "Shalom" (peace) refers to human flourishing by having the correct relationship with God. Confucius believed that human beings flourish when our relationships are in harmony.

Question and Answer from Participants



Group Discussion



The idea of mediator is common in the Chinese culture. In many transactions, a middleman is involved, for example: agents, brokers, etc. In the gospel, we also have a mediator in Jesus Christ.

When sharing the gospel, we should understand the background and culture of the one with whom we are sharing. If we can speak their language and show them that we understand them, then we are closer in bringing them to God. We have to remember two key things:

- Jesus, the path to human flourishing vs Confucius' belief that humans flourish when our relationships are in harmony.
- Jesus, the mediator of relationships vs the presence of a middleman in Chinese's way of life.

Two participants reflected on the talk.

Msy Corinne Tan:

I learnt more about the deep-seated traditions of the Chinese, and how we can share the gospel more effectively by understanding them. I also learnt to look for opportunities to start a conversation by relating the message of God to Chinese beliefs. I'll pray and look for opportunities to have meaningful and purposeful encounters.

Msy Audrey Han:

Bounded by the Chinese cultural traditions, Chinese New Year can be pretty stressful as we busy ourselves with spring cleaning, reunion dinners, new year goodies, angbaos... the list goes on.

The talk and the group discussions certainly highlighted, as well as reminded us on, how we can view Chinese New Year in godly perspectives. Yes, it's a time when we renew and restore our kinship not only with our loved ones and relatives but with God too! 'Spring-clean' our hearts. Have a purpose-driven relationship with God. Reconcile with the Father as well as to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Engage the gospel fruitfully and rightfully. Maintain harmonious relationships. Have a reconciled relationship with God.

We are reminded to live an abundant life in Jesus. God promises prosperity! Prosperity that brings Shalom! Peace! It's indeed a world of prosperity if we live in a rich relationship with God. Jesus brings us life - an abundant life!

Wow! What a happy and prosperous CNY!

Seniors' Ministry Celebrate Christmas Alan Soon & Elaine Ang

The blessing of the Christ Child was experienced by more than 100 seniors and some not-yet-seniors last Christmas! There were 60 participants at the Seniors' Ministry Christmas Celebration on 15 December and over 45 seniors from the neighbourhood at the Seniors' Corner Christmas Celebration on 21 December.

Christmas Peranakan-Style

The Seniors' Ministry Christmas Celebration began with Christmas worship. It was heartening to note that we had participants from the 8am, 9.30am, Mandarin, and Peranakan services. We were blessed with the songs brought by our member, Kelvin Tan and Sheila Ann Smith from Canada. Our speaker, Rev Ho Chee Sin reminded us about the various forms of love. The highest form of love was demonstrated by God sending His only son on Christmas to give us life.

A dash of our Peranakan heritage was infused in the programme after worship - Peranakan-inspired food items on the buffet table, Peranakan carols and songs, and even a game based on the Peranakan version of the 12 days of Christmas. Three participants bravely attempted to recall the 12 Peranakan gifts mentioned in the song and walked away with prizes. Power to the seniors!

Seniors' Corner Christmas Celebration

Seniors from our community came together on 21 December for a

Christmas party. They were regulars to our Friday Seniors' Corner programme. Many gamely turned up in the colour theme that was suggested to them. The usual breakfast was transformed into a Christmas-themed spread with the addition of roast chicken, ham and a log cake. We were blessed, too, by the unexpected gift of fruitcakes by a business owner in our neighbourhood.

The seniors were in top form as they exercised to Christmas music, sang Christmas carols in Mandarin led by Kar Keat and participated in the games. The message of Christ was brought through the testimony shared by one of our Mandarin congregation members, Miao Qin. She shared about her conversion and what Christmas meant to her. Rev Kenneth Huang came to give his Christmas greetings and a few words of encouragement. We were glad that we were able to be the touchpoint with seniors in the community.

We thank God for enabling us to have these events to bless seniors in our church and the community.



We are thankful for the work of our congregation members and church office staff in putting these programmes together. Indeed, this is a demonstration of a church community in action sharing the love of God. We pray that many more seniors will step forward to serve the Lord together in this ministry.

Mandarin Ministry: Baptism Testimonies

John Ling 林礼鏢

My name is John Ling Lee Chung. I was born into a Christian family and was baptised when I was 5. I attended Sunday school and eventually, the Youth Ministry.

When I was 19, I left my hometown for work. I slowly stopped attending church and turned my back on God. Instead I started to pray to Chinese idols for success in my career. I became selfish and egoistic, believing that I could accomplish everything on my own. As a result, I started to change for the worse, becoming more hot-tempered and indulging in vices. I led an extravagant lifestyle. And completely stopped searching for the Lord.

Last year, for the sake of my children's education, I relocated my family to Singapore. I started attending church at the insistence of my wife, Annie. I went thinking that, through the hymns, I would be able to destress. Indeed, before coming to church, my heart was full of worries. However, once I entered the church, a sense of peace and relief washed over me. Unfortunately, the moment I left the church the same worries and troubles started weighing on my mind again. Intrigued by this, I started attending church more regularly.

Through the consistent attendance of church and exposure to sermons and hymns, I began to understand the Lord's message for me. The Lord was telling me to follow Him and to pass all my troubles and worries to him. Preacher Pau and the brothers in church also encouraged me to continue praying and start daily devotion to learn about the Lord. Now, I feel much more at peace after surrendering my problems to the Lord. Whenever any issues arise, I know that I am not alone and need not find my own solution, as the Lord will guide me, providing solutions through the bible and prayer.

I would like to thank the Lord for giving me a second chance to return to Him and to be able to build a closer relationship with Him.

Editor: John was baptised on 23 December 2018 at the Mandarin worship service

我的名字叫林禮鏢，来自基督家庭。在我五岁的时候就受洗了。我从小有参加主日学和少年团契。

在我19岁那年，我就离开家乡踏入社会了。从那时开始，我就离开上帝，没有再去教会了。在我离开上帝后，我也尝试过去拜很多种偶像。那时拜偶像是为了在工作上能



够顺顺利利。那时的我也变成一位很迷信的人。不仅如此，也变得非常自我，只相信自己，从来都不再找上帝。我的脾气也变得非常火爆，生活也过得不检点。

就在今年，我开始来教会做礼拜了。当时我只是抱着一个陪太太去教会的心态而来教堂。在还没有开始来到教会时，我每天心里都很不平安。当我一进入这教堂的时候，心里就感到很平静。那时我只是想到来教会唱歌减压。可是离开教会后，还是烦恼很多问题。慢慢地继续不断的来教会，我通过诗歌和讲道领悟到上帝跟我说话。上帝叫我跟祂，把所有的烦恼都交托给他。包传道及教会里的弟兄也常常叫我要读经祷告和灵修，现在我就觉得很平静，全部交托给上帝。有问题的时候就祷告上帝，上帝会在灵修或圣经里答复我。现在的我在面临困难的时候，不再用自己的方法走冤枉路，只交托给上帝。

感谢上帝让我再一次回到上帝的面前，继续跟随上帝，做一个依靠上帝的人。

Madam Leung Chai Hong 梁彩虹

15 November 2018, Friday, was a joyous day for the Yong family. Brother Titus's mother, Madam Leung Chai Hong, accepted Jesus as her personal saviour and was baptised by Pastor Gabriel Liew.

Owing to Madam Leung's old age, the baptism was carried out at home, witnessed by beloved family members, relatives and lifegroup members. Before the baptism started, we sang two songs to praise and give thanks to God. Sister Chia Kin had been a great help in translating Mandarin to Hainanese for Madam Leung during the baptism.

The ceremony ended with a sumptuous dinner cooked by Titus's

wife, Bee Geok. We thanked God and rejoiced with the Yong family. Indeed, "... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17)

对于杨家来说，2018年11月15日（星期五）是一个喜庆欢腾的日子。当天，全亮弟兄的母亲，梁彩虹女士接受主成为她的救主，并欣然被刘育伦牧师施洗。

由于梁女士年事已高，洗礼仪式得在家里进行。家人，亲戚与生命小组的组员们都出席观礼。一开始我们以两首诗歌来赞美感谢主。家谨姐妹也在场翻译华语成海南话，好让梁女士能更全然明白她洗礼的一切过程。



过后，大家共享由全亮太太美玉姐妹所准备的丰富晚餐。感谢赞美主，我们与杨家一样雀跃万分，正如哥林多后书5章17节：“若有人在基督里，他就是新造的人，旧事已过，都变成新的了。”

Ng Lai Yin Miriam 吴丽贤

Before knowing Christ, I came from a family that believed in fortune-telling, fengshui and the God of Fortune. Every festive season, we would be busy preparing offerings to pray for peace and protection for the family. If we did not perform the rituals, it was believed that misfortune would befall us. My father believed strongly in fengshui and thus placed many restrictions on us so as not to obstruct the flow of wealth. These rules, if flouted, would result in us being severely reprimanded. Daily life in the family was full of conflict and we would frequently argue over extremely trivial matters, exchanging unkind and hurtful words.

Despite following all the rituals, our ancestors and the fengshui did not bring harmony, happiness and peace. Instead, I always felt an unexplained sense of anxiety and fear. I longed for the day that I would be able to break away from this life of fear, anxiety and my father's wrath.

Therefore, I asked myself, what sort of a belief would bring peace and joy?

When I was in Primary 5, I saw a building with a cross on it on my way home from school. My gaze was attracted to the cross and I felt a moment of unexplainable peace and relief in my heart. I later realised that it was Kay Poh Road Baptist Church. When I saw the prayer and worship timings on the notice board, I brought my siblings along to attend Sunday School. Unfortunately, this only lasted for a year as my parents objected and we never stepped into that church again.

When I grew up and started working my heart was filled with uncertainty and I had no direction in life.

In 1989, I went to England on a work and study trip. One Sunday afternoon, near Madame Tussaud's at Baker Street tube station, I saw many Chinese individuals with Bibles in their hands walking towards the station. I felt an indescribable sense of jubilation. I returned to Baker Street tube station two weeks later in

an attempt to find a nearby church. It was a chilly winter day. Wandering around the quiet, narrow and old streets, I grew tired and my feet were sore. However, I told myself that I could not give up and desperately sought the Lord's guidance.

Soon I met a group of Chinese exiting an alley between a row of four-storey houses. I realised there were more buildings behind the row of old houses. At that moment my heart was brimming with joy. I had found the Chinese Church in London. Coming to this warm, Cantonese-speaking church gave me a sense of belonging.

On one of the Sunday services, the pastor, Reverend Tan Kah Thuan announced that the church would be conducting water baptism in December. I was initially filled with doubts. However, I felt that since believing that God could bring such peace and joy into my life, why did I still have so many doubts? Why not take that leap of faith? Therefore, I decided to be baptised. On the Christmas of 1989, I became a child of God.

Upon returning to Singapore, I went to many churches but just could not seem to find one that felt like home to me. It was only in 2008 that my son, Jonathan, joined the Alpha Course. He required me to bring him to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church. There, I met brother Lyndon Gan and attended the Alpha Course myself.

I also saw how my son and his good friend, now my god-son, Lim Ting Jie, served in the Boys' Brigade ministry together. Being led and guided by God's wisdom, they exemplified the motto of The Boys' Brigade: "Sure and Stedfast". Their service touched me deeply.

After the Alpha course, I attended KKMC regularly and gradually, I was greatly impacted by the church's atmosphere and presence. Every time I hear the worship team's melodious voices, the congregation's solemn prayers, the pastor's sermons and see the strong fellowship between

brothers and sisters, I am moved to desire a deeper understanding of God.

On 9 September 2018, Preacher Pau announced that there would be a baptism and membership session on the 23 December 2018. This time I agreed without hesitation. I wanted to join this.

I would like to specially thank Preacher Pau and sisters Sharon, Bee Hwa, Wendy and Rebecca, together with other brothers and sisters in Christ who have shown me great love, care and concern. They have been strengthening my trust and faith in God, showing me that I am not alone in my walk with Christ.

Now that I am in the church, the different aspects of my life such as my family and friends, are much more joyful and I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for managing and sculpting every day of my life.

Thank you, Lord, for helping me to lead a more meaningful life alongside my husband and children.

Psalms 16:11 (NIV)

**YOU WILL MAKE KNOWN TO ME THE
PATH OF LIFE;
YOU WILL FILL ME WITH JOY IN YOUR
PRESENCE;
WITH ETERNAL PLEASURES AT YOUR
RIGHT HAND.**

Editor: Miriam was received as a member by transfer to KKMC on 23 December 2018 at the Mandarin worship service.

我是米利安林 (Miriam Lim), 在认识基督耶稣之前, 是在一个相信算命, 风水, 财神爷的家庭里长大。长久以来, 家中的祖先与风水并没为家里带来和谐幸福与平安, 只有忧虑、恐惧、痛苦、恶梦连连、精神上受到莫名的干扰。心中不断渴望早日脱离整天在“心惊胆战”, “步步惊心”, 深怕激怒父亲的压力生活中。

于是我自问有怎样的信仰是可以带来充满喜乐与平安?

长大后, 出来社会工作, 日子也就一天一天的过, 工作、加班、赚钱、内心迷惘, 不知道未来的

方向。在1989年离开了新加坡，去了英国打工游学，在一个星期天的中午，遇到一群华人从一排四层楼旧房子之间的小巷弄走出来，原来是旧楼房后方另有其他房舍，有间充满圣灵的教会，来到这充满温暖的粤语教堂“伦敦中华基督教会”，让我的心中有种归属感。当时陈嘉团牧师在崇拜时宣布于十二月举行洗礼，我就面临抉择，内心有一番挣扎，问自己对主的大爱，如何回应？我心里仍然充满疑问。怀疑自己对神的忠心，于是籍着虔诚的祷告与神对话时，我总感觉到一股力量和温暖，一股无名的力量在引领我，神并没有要求我做什么，只是虔诚的认定祂，信服祂，愿意按照祂说的去做，去改变自己，这就足够了。在这个主耶稣诞生的日子里，我愿意成为神的儿女，希望亲身去感受神的慈爱。

回新后，去过多家教会，听过许多道，总是找不到家的感觉，一时感到有些失望。就在2008年，我的儿子林师鸣，要上 Alpha Course启发课程，要我带他去“卫理公会甘榜加卜”(Kampong

Kapor Methodist Church)。遇上走前来招待的 Lyndon Gan 弟兄，后来我才明白，原来我的孩子是神派来引领我走进神国度的使者。

接着下来的日子，断断续续去崇拜，渐渐得，我被教会的气氛深深的感染，每当听到唱诗班美妙的歌声，会众在庄严的祷告，牧师的证道，看到团契里的弟兄姐妹之间那么的和睦友爱时，内心总会一次次的受到感动，渴望对神再有更深入的了解。处处都有神的引导，使我不迷失方向，我要感谢神对我的大爱，现在想想我这一路走来，所经历的一切，一定都是神所安排的，神知道我终会信靠祂，爱祂。

在2018年9月9日，包传道在崇拜时宣布洗礼在2018年12月23日，这一回我不犹豫就向包传道点头，我要入会，并积极进行洗礼课程的预备。特别感谢包传道，罗艳凤姐妹，邱美华姐妹，纪宠诗姐妹和刘雅美妹妹，主内弟兄姐妹对我的关怀中，增强对主的信念与信心的成长，领悟到我在追求主的道路上并不孤单，神的恩典够我用必为我开启前面的路。

今后的日子我要自勉加强灵修与读经来回应神的爱并积极加强参加小组，教会活动与常常服侍主工。

现在我在教会，家庭和友等生活方面，更加喜乐，感谢主耶稣管理，陶造我的每一天。

感谢主，让我活出更有意义的人生，携手丈夫和孩子走一条丰盛的人生。

~ 主恩长相伴 ~

诗篇16:11

你必将生命的道路指示我。在你面前有满足的喜乐，在你右手中有永远的福乐。



Back row L-R: John Ling林礼综, Peter Teo赵培德, Ps Gabriel Liew, Preacher Pau
Front row, L-R: Miriam Lim 吴丽贤, Annie Ong 王秀妮, Wong Ngit Song 黄月嫦, Chua Wee Ling's Family. Baby Naomi Chua received infant baptism.

Mandarin Service Christmas Musical Skit: 让爱走动 音乐剧

On Saturday, 22 December 2018, the Mandarin Ministry invited friends from our community for a Christmas celebration. A musical skit 让爱走动音乐剧 was presented followed by a fellowship lunch.

The skit revolved around five passengers (a Husband and Wife, a Young Lady, a Young Man and an Old Lady) on a bus trip. In the skit, the young man was facing problems and his girlfriend of five years had just ditched him. Scarred by hurt, he rejects the gospel of Christ and adopts a cynical worldview.

The skit echoes many of the views held by people who have been hurt, and offers the good news of Jesus as the hope in our lives.

140 people, including 80 guests and friends, attended the event.



Tamil Ministry Special Christmas Day Programme

G. Rajkumar

Kampong Kapor Methodist Church's Tamil Ministry has been organising a special Christmas Programme on Christmas day every year to share the love of God and the joy of Christmas with the guest workers who are not part of our regular worship services.

This initiative started five years ago under the guidance of Rev. D. Vethanbu with an objective to share and celebrate the joy of Christmas with guest workers who might not have an opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. God's guidance and leading for this small, yet meaningful, event can be seen clearly in the miraculous way in which He brought in new people to hear the good news of Jesus Christ every year. In addition to the guest workers invited from different dormitories, we have seen a significant number of people who just walk into the Church to join the Christmas celebrations.

For Christmas 2018, about 130 guests came. The programme started with serving a delicious lunch to our new friends who took their valuable time on their rest-day to come. The rest of the programme focused on the message of our wonderful Saviour becoming flesh, and the eternal purpose of His birth. Pastor Rev. Alegesan Moses delivered a meaningful, yet easy-to-understand, sermon on Jesus Christ being the Way, the Truth and the Life. A team of volunteers was formed to befriend the new guests and make them feel at home throughout the programme. The volunteers will also be involved in praying and keeping in touch with the guests after the

event. In order to make the event memorable for our new friends, a gift bag containing a T-shirt and a Bible verse calendar was also given to each guest.

As we have been arranging this Christmas Day programme for the past 5 years, we realised that it is both a responsibility and an opportunity from God to make His glory and salvation known to people who might not have had an opportunity to hear the good news. The prayers and the faithful help we received from various members of the Tamil Ministry to plan and coordinate this event reminded all of us how encouraging it is to come together with one mind and to work together for the glory of God. The Tamil Ministry Christmas Day Programme continues to be a blessed opportunity to display the love and glory of God, which we have tasted, to the world. In addition to the Christmas programme, let us continue to pray for God to guide us and help us identify new outreach opportunities throughout the year. To God be the glory!



Youth Camp 2018 *Camp Victory*

Renewed Commitment

Prior to the youth camp from 27-30 December 2018, the campers were called to "come as you are" - excited, scared, nervous, uncertain about camp.

At camp, Pastor Jeremy Ong from Barker Road Methodist Church called the youths to examine themselves - looking at what was *inside*, instead of outward appearances, service in ministry, circumstances and conduct. God peeled the hearts of the youths like an onion - each was brought deeper into their heart to see what was inside. The Holy Spirit revealed to each youth 'the thing' that they clung onto dearly, which inhibited their walk with God. This reflection led the youths to repent and surrender themselves again to God, placing God back on the throne of their hearts.

What Was Different At This Camp?

Beyond responding to altar calls, many things happened. There were conversations to forgive and resolve past conflicts and tensions among the youths, building of new relationships, and people going out of their comfort zone and cliques to engage others. Youths were looking out for the campers who may be feeling left out. Some boldly tried different and new things while others took the courage to say things that they had never admitted. There was a new openness in sharing their struggles in their walk with God. We saw an authentic community forming right before our eyes and pledges of renewed commitment between family members and between the family and God. All throughout the camp, people were praying for one

I PRESS ON TOWARD THE GOAL TO WIN THE PRIZE FOR WHICH GOD HAS CALLED ME HEAVENWARD IN (HRIST) JESUS.
Phil 3:14



another before the throne of God. Adult campers were prompted by the Spirit to rally together to pray and intercede for the youths and the camp. The campers prayed for Ps Jeremy and the team who shared God's word, and also prayed for their brothers and sisters in Barker Road Methodist Church. These are marks of true victory in the journey heavenward.

Beyond Youth Camp - Breakthroughs

"The worship has not changed, the building has not changed, the songs have not changed, the worship leaders have not changed, the stage has not changed, the instruments have not changed. But our hearts have been changed." - Jason Tan

Something shifted in each of us, adult and youth. We saw each other with new eyes and with new understanding. We do not gather just that is what we ought to do every Sunday; we gather to worship our amazing God because we have tasted and seen the goodness of God.

A week after the camp, there was a swell in the number of youths worshipping at the Sunday 1130am service. Youths are finding authentic communities to help one another in their spiritual journeys. Lifegroup members are encouraging one another in spending quiet time with God and keeping each other accountable. They are meeting outside of Sundays and sharing openly on social media their struggles and being authentic to those around them and with God. Different youths are stepping up to serve in ministry. The way we pray has also changed. The things we tell God has shifted from asking God to bless the work of our hands, to one of submission, one of humility, and one for a desperate cry for God to come. The desire and hunger to read the Bible has exploded. I saw new friends that joined us for camp join us at youth ministry. And this is just the tip of the iceberg of all that is happening in the youth ministry.

Pray With Us For The Next Generation Brothers and sisters in KKMC, pray that God guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Pray for the adult leaders to stay close to God, to be watchful and ready to move with the leading of the Spirit, and not run ahead. Pray that as a ministry, we will value unity with the larger church, at home with our families, and with one another. Pray with us, that we do not let the good work God has done in the camp to be



stolen by the devil. And journey with God as God journeys with us.

Pray that as we have tasted and experienced the love of God, we will press on to win the prize God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus, knowing that God holds our hand along this journey as we chose to hold His. And God will make each of us as His salt and light to those around us.

#excitingtimes #watchfulinprayer
#revivalisbirthedinprayer
#kkampongkkids

Abounding in Christ's love,
Eugenia Chioang

Participating in Youth Camp 2018 as part of the Camp Committee was a truly refreshing experience for me. Seeing the effort our Camp Committee put in to make it a success was touching. It drew our LifeGroup closer together through adversity. Any difficulties we experienced while planning the camp were worth it when we saw all the happy smiles on the campers' faces and felt the warm welcoming atmosphere of the camp.

Celeste Seah

2018 has been a tough year for me, and I was glad that through this camp, I was able to share my worries and troubles more openly with the church and deepen my faith towards God.

Darryl Tan

Youth Camp 2018 was a very enjoyable and transforming experience that helped me to grow stronger in my walk with God as well as closer to other people in the youth ministry. During the camp, we had theme talks based on Philippians Chapters 1-3. These talks were very meaningful and enriching, and helped me to draw closer to God. During one of the talks, the speaker invited us to submit our 'poles' to God, meaning the things that we rely on that hinder us from trusting fully in God. Through committing ourselves fully to Him, we can become closer to Him and listen to His instructions and plans for us. The talks and a movie we watched, "Case for Christ", also encouraged me to be more confident in sharing the gospel with others. The worship and sharing sessions were also impactful. It was refreshing to be able to worship freely together with the rest of the youth ministry and to really let go of all our inhibitions and praise God as one body in Christ. Through

the course of the camp, I got to know people from other LifeGroups better. The camp truly helped us to become more bonded as a Youth Ministry, growing as an authentic community.

Teresa Leong

I had the opportunity to be a group leader for Youth Camp 2018. I was very grateful to be given this

responsibility and I really hoped that I could lead my group well. Through the camp, I was able to grow spiritually closer to God and He really taught me to be gracious, kind and loving to my group even when it became hard for me to communicate with them. I am so thankful for all the blessings God has given me and the spiritual growth I experienced through the camp.

Rachel Yeo



Family Night

It was a night where I saw parent and child both playing like children - which is a beautiful sight, as we are all children of God! We came together to worship as a family, play games, and connect with each other in conversation and prayer, and recommitting the family into the Lord.



Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

Dr Joseph and Terelyn writing what Daddy's favourite weekend activity is.



Face the cookie

The parent-child tag team playing to move cookie to mouth without their hands! It was a challenge where parent and child cheered for each other and celebrated successes. Who knew a cookie could bring so much fun?!



Thank you, sorry, I love you

Following a message on the importance of "Family" by Pastor Kenneth, there was a protected time where parent and child read their messages to each other, appreciating each other, apologising for their wrongs, and expressing their love for each other. It was a breaking down of walls, renewed trust, and bringing the family back together before our Father in heaven in prayer, who is at the centre of this all.

Youth Camp 2018 was a time of watching God move and start a season of breakthroughs in the Youth Ministry. And it has been very heartening and encouraging to see the youths responding to the word of God that was preached during Youth Camp and take their responses beyond the camp.

In response to what they have heard during Youth Camp, from the speakers, the discussions, and God, many youths have started making the effort to read the Bible and do their quiet time regularly. Some have also started reading books on the Christian faith and watching

Kegan Ang

sermons online to understand their faith at a deeper level. As we enter a new year with a new vision for the church, it has been really exciting to see the youths growing in faithful discipleship right from the start of the year as well.

Besides faithful discipleship, the Youth Camp has also served to build up the authentic community in the Youth Ministry. Youth LIFEGroups have come together to encourage and support one another in their discipleship, reminding each other to do their quiet time each day. There have also been LIFEGroups that came together and talked about the issues

that they have been facing—very real and grungy issues that aren't always readily talked about, especially in a church setting where people might feel like appearances must be upkept.

These are really exciting times in the Youth Ministry and in the church as we see God working in the different ministries to help us to be faithful disciples in authentic community engaged in loving outreach and bold witness to the glory of God. As we continue in these exciting times in the Youth Ministry, we ask for your prayers and support for the youths in their pursuit of God as well.

This youth camp was by far the most memorable experience I've ever had. From being able to learn much more about this God that I come to church to worship each Sunday, to being able to feel His presence in me. During these 4D3N, it felt like a rollercoaster of emotions because of the many lessons that I've learnt. I am sure that it was God working in my life, that He opened my eyes to find out that there is so much more to Him than I could have imagined.

The most impactful thing that I've learnt during the camp was knowing that I have to surrender myself to

Cervone Seah

Jesus. About a month before the camp, the word "surrender" would just pop up in my mind, but whenever it came up, I didn't want to think much about having to surrender, and would just try to brush it aside because I thought that surrendering meant losing your all. This word that I kept avoiding, miraculously was one of the topics for the theme talks we had. However, after the theme talk, during one of the conversations I've had with a few adult leaders, I came to realise that surrendering really does not mean that I had to give anything up, but instead it meant that I had to commit everything I do to God.

It meant that through my thoughts, words and actions, I must be able to glorify and honour God. I am glad to have been able to surrender my poles to God since it was God who had given them to me, and I should be grateful to Him and commit all that He has blessed me with back to God.

Through this camp, I knew for sure that the Holy Spirit was moving through the Youth Ministry and that God has placed me in this camp for a reason. I needed to feel God's presence and I knew that it was the Holy Spirit touching me, allowing me to really experience God's existence.

Youth Camp will always hold a special place in my heart and as part of the camp committee this year, I wanted to do my best and couldn't wait to see God work through the committee to minister to the youths. However, the planning was not easy as we had conflicting schedules on top of other commitments. In fact, Celeste, our publicity IC was in Paris until one day before the camp and designed the booklets and t-shirts at ridiculously late hours in France. Through God's grace we managed to persevere and push through. Through our mentors, Kegan, Siang Ling, Pastor Zhi Hui and Eugenia, we were reminded to trust in God and

just do His will; as Carrie Underwood said simply "Jesus take the wheel". During the camp, we were amazed at how God worked and ministered to the youths. We saw LifeGroups and families bonding together, youths responding to theme talks with tears of joy and repentance in their eyes, new friendships and bonds forged, and people worshipping so joyfully and sincerely that we could be heard from the field of the campsite. These are just some of the wonderful things we experienced during the camp - the whole list would be too long to name. Even after the camp, so many youths went for the first Sunday service of 2019 that they ran

out of communion cups. I dare say this is the beginning of a revival in Youth Ministry!

However, like what Pastor Jeremy Ong, our camp speaker, told us, what happens after youth camp is much more important than what happens during camp. Therefore, I urge you all to continue praying and rejoicing in God. To any youth who is reading this: don't let the fire inside you die out. Whatever happened in youth camp is just the start of something new and amazing. God has a plan for the youth ministry, including you! Keep praying and serving joyfully in Christ!

Dylan Chew

KKMC Kindergarten New School Hours

To keep up with the rapid development in early childhood education and to stay competitive, the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Kindergarten (KKMCK) started offering a **single 6-hour session** running from **9am to 3pm**. The new 6-hour programme that started in January this year has the following advantages:

1. Children’s learning journeys are now better paced.
2. Learning takes place when children are not rushed and sufficient time is given.
3. Children have a longer time for outdoor activities and play.
4. Value-added programmes like **KidsArt, KidsMusic, KidsSport, KidsWealth, KidsFood and KidsScience** can now be incorporated into the Kindergarten’s new curriculum.

This new arrangement appears popular with both students and parents.

Asher Goh, a K2 student, said, “I like the new start time of 9am as I can wake up later.”

Asher’s grandfather, Anthony Goh, added, “The 6-hour programme is two and a half hours longer than before. This enables Asher and the other children to have more enriching activities like art and craft.”

Zayn, also from K2, likes the longer hours to play with his friends.

Even the kindergarten cook, Aniu, is happy with the longer programme. She remarked, “I like to cook and I am very happy to be able to prepare breakfast and lunch for the students. When we had 2 shorter sessions, I only prepared snacks.”

Linda Wah, the principal of KKMCK, was excited about the possibilities afforded by the longer school hours. Apart from incorporating value-added programmes by external specialists into the curriculum, KKMCK can now bring the students on walks around the neighbourhood to gain environmental awareness. These include trips to the supermarket where children can learn the value of currency and how to buy things.

With the new expanded hours, KKMCK continues to look to church volunteers to help complement the work of the full-time teachers. Volunteers can help in reading programmes and telling bible stories or by providing additional adult supervision when children are brought outside of the kindergarten for activities. If you can be a volunteer, please email the principal at kkmckindy@gmail.com or call 6294 2633.

Aniu the kindergarten cook



Gross motor skills activity



Asher and Zayn

KK Community Services *I can run the race...* Nel Lim



“If meritocracy is a marathon that all of us are running in, then whoever is the fastest and strongest will get to the finishing line. However, the reality is that some people move with weights on their legs while others who have never had training would be quickly out of breath and be overtaken by others.”

This stark reality of life led Ms Chen Liyi to found a social enterprise, INDIE MAMA (INDIE for ‘independent’, reflecting how the production occurs; and MAMA, representing the type of people who tend to come on board – women who for many reasons are unable to join the labour force, but have abilities and want to use them to earn some income.)

INDIE MAMA was conceptualised in 2015 as a side project that quickly evolved into a social enterprise that aims to create income opportunities for the economically disadvantaged in our community. INDIE MAMA designs products with a Singaporean flavour, made by low-income families using an uncomplicated sewing process, so that even newbies can pick up work quickly.

Teaming up with family service centres to reach out to those in need of extra income, Liyi worked out a system for these individuals to sew at home in their own time, at their own pace. INDIE MAMA then creates and finds platforms to sell the finished products. Imagine a Good Morning towel transformed into a draw-string bag.



A Good Morning towel transformed into a draw-string bag

Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre (KKFSC) has been collaborating with INDIE MAMA since 2016 by referring our clients for work with Liyi. KKFSC also provides these clients the space to work from, and we work together with Liyi to train and grow these women. Using the marathon analogy, this

programme helps them to reduce their extra weight and tone their muscle so they are better able to run the race.

Sharifah Norma binte Said, a 48-year-old mother of two teens, had not been employed for more than 20 years. For the last 16 months, she has been working with INDIE MAMA. In this time she has “toned her muscles and built her stamina” to equip her to better last the marathon.

Interviewer: How did you get involved with INDIE MAMA?

Sharifah: I was introduced to INDIE MAMA by my counsellor Ms Nel Lim. At that time, I was unable to work full-time as I had to take care of my sickly 80-year old auntie. Nel asked me whether I was interested in working as a freelance sewist under INDIE MAMA to earn extra cash. After hearing from her and also speaking with Liyi, owner of INDIE MAMA, I decided to try it out in order to support my family financially.

Interviewer: What have you learnt from this experience?

Sharifah: During these one and a half years working for INDIE MAMA, I have become more confident in myself and my ability to overcome difficulties. There were many new things that I had to learn in this job, such as new sewing techniques, and communicating with partners. It was very scary for me. I did not know whether I could do it but I told myself to not give up and be humble to learn even when I found it difficult.

Interviewer: Can you share a particular memorable experience of this time?

Sharifah: One of the memorable experiences I had was when I had to work with a very difficult partner and

at the same time learn a new sewing technique to create new products for sale. I was so stressed and worried that I lost sleep and had no appetite to eat. I was not confident that I could do it. However, my daughter was encouraging me and giving me “positive energy” which helped reduce my stress. I shared with Liyi and Nel about my difficulties and they provided me with the encouragement I needed. During that time, I really learned about being responsible and not giving up on things easily. I could do what I set my mind to do. I did not need to be “pai say” (embarrassed) to ask for help.

Interviewer: If you were to share this experience with other women in the community, what three things would you say to them?

- Sharifah: I want to encourage them to
- i) Never give up. It may be difficult, but believe in yourself, and we can slowly learn and do it.
 - ii) Be patient with yourself. We will fail and make mistakes but that is okay. And it is okay for us to be humble and ask people to help us when we don't know how to do something.
 - iii) Be responsible. Do not give up when things get hard or when we do not feel like doing something.

Sharifah is now more than a sewist. She has learnt to look into product design, buying of material, pricing and costing, and she meets potential partners that can be big corporations like DBS Bank. She has grown in confidence, and qualities once hidden, like her strength to persevere, have come through. For a housewife of more than 20 years to challenge herself to learn new skills, to see herself doing things she never thought possible, to be in a position

to lead and teach another woman, has been enriching to her beyond the actual cash benefit. She is passionate about continuing and increasingly knows that with some handholding and support, she can go beyond what she ever imagined. She is now ready to run the marathon to the finish line.

Find out more about INDIE MAMA - www.indiemama.com.sg



Ms Chen Liyi founder of INDIE MAMA



INDIE MAMA social enterprise



Sharifah Norma binte Said

Kampong Glam Rowell Court Christmas Celebration

Rosita Ng

Kampong Glam Rowell Court Residents' Committee in conjunction with the respective grassroots organisations under the Guest of Honour and Member of Parliament (MP) for Jalan Besar Group Representation Constituency (GRC) Ms. Denise Phua celebrated the Advent of the birth of Jesus Christ with a resounding Christmas programme and celebration on Saturday, 15 December 2018 at Rowell Court, new pavilion, located at Blk 635 Veerasamy Road, Singapore 200635.



The celebration was jointly organised by Kampong Kapur Methodist Church with contributions from:

1. The combined bagpipe team made of five members each from the 45th Girls' Brigade at Raffles Girls' School, 2nd Boys' Brigade Company at Victoria Secondary School and 60th Boys' Brigade Company at Raffles Institution.
2. The English congregation were represented by Raymond Hoo, Keith Goh and Rosita Ng.
3. The Mandarin Ministry Christmas carolling choir.
4. The Tamil Ministry children.

Additionally, the most heart-warming effort and participation by the Lavender Meadows Academy was seen in the 600 handmade Christmas bells contributed by families and neighbourhood friends, young and old.

There were expressions of joy and happiness from their faces amongst the joyous crowd in the neighbourhood. The Guest of Honour took individual group photographs after each celebration with enthusiasm from the community.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us, authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6



Seek the Welfare of Singapore

Arthur Fong

The 70th Anniversary of the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) was celebrated at the Fullerton Hotel on 19 December 2018. This charity dinner was sponsored by the Far East Organisation and all the funds raised went to the six beneficiaries of different faiths. The evening was well attended and certainly well supported.

The evening began with an IRO "signature feature" at its events, where a prayer for God to grant the nation peace, good health, and just rewards was led by 10 Religious Leaders from the various faiths.

Kampong Kapur Methodist Church supported the event by sponsoring a table. TRAC President Rev Dr Gordon Wong was the specially invited guest at our table. Mr D Joseph, the associate lay leader of our Tamil Ministry wrote, "I am thankful for the opportunity to join in with the inter-faith charity dinner. It was very useful to learn about the IRO. The dinner was great and it was definitely a very meaningful fellowship."

A short video gave a vivid depiction of violence and armed conflict in various parts of the world where religion had been hijacked for causes by some groups and nations set the tone for the speeches from the 3 speakers.

Mr Ben Benjamin, President of IRO reminded all present to promote peace and religious harmony in Singapore. The video showed threats to religious harmony around the world. He reminded us of our recent past - the Maria Hetogh's riots in 1950, the racial riots in the 1960s, and how Singapore has progressed and to never take the religious harmony we have for granted.

WHEN PROMOTING INTER-FAITH HARMONY, WE NEED TO RESPECT AND LEARN FROM OTHER FAITHS, WHILE UPHOLDING OUR OWN. 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.

Rev Kenneth Huang



Peacemakers from KKMCC (Photo credit: Mr Lim Shung Yar)
Back Row (L-R): Mr Tan Wah Kum, Rev Dr Gordon Wong, Pastor Gabriel Liew, Mr D. Joseph, Mr Tanguy Tan, Mr Arthur Fong, Mr Stephen Fong.
Front Row (L-R): Ms Laura Chong, Ms Sophie Liew, Ms Elaine Ang.

Guest of Honour, Minister Grace Fu, MCCY, warned of the clear and present danger of taking our eyes off threats to our peace and harmony. Pledging, striving and committing to deepening cooperation among religions is as pertinent as guarding against falsehoods especially on social media. Minister Fu cited examples of Sri Lanka and Texas where false hoods, hate speech and fake news ignited violence recently.

Later, Ms Dorothy Chan, the executive director of Far East Organisation and a Methodist extolled us to seek the welfare of our beloved Nation, Singapore. She quoted Jeremiah 29:7, "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you..., and

pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

As the event drew to a close, we felt the strong sense shared by all that as we celebrate religious diversity, we acknowledge each religion shares a commonality of compassion and care for others of different faiths and different nationalities.

For the greatest of God's commandments teaches us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and the second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30, 31)

Desker Road Ministry

Lily Bok

On 11 December 2018, Dr Chan Fong Ngan, Ms Christine Lim, Ms Molly Tan, Pastor Gabriel Liew and I reached out to the ladies working along Desker Road. As the heavy rain trickled to a drizzle, we distributed food, drinks and the Community Blessing Event gifts to them, spoke with them and invited them to our Church. Dr Chan also conducted free blood pressure test for a few of them. It was a good opportunity to demonstrate Christ's love and to share the Gospel via tracts. At the last brothel, we prayed together with two Christian sisters. One of them offered to pass the tracts to her friends and so we gave her more tracts. We also left some tracts in the various languages at the different places we went. We prayed that the workers and their clients would read the tracts and get to know the love of God.

Christmas is a time we remember that "God so love the world that He gave us His only son..." (John 3:16)



"Offer them Christ" (John Wesley)

A Heart of Gratitude...Oaksia

7 - 18 December 2018

On 4 December 2018 a team of six ventured out in faith as part of KKMC's call to be *in and involved* across the seas in 2018. This trip arose from an invitation of the Oaksia church to conduct a marriage retreat for their leaders and church planters. We also took the opportunity to help in the adults, youth and children ministries that our missionaries Hope and Joy had started.

*I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU, LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART;
I WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR WONDERFUL DEEDS.*

Psalm 9:1



I am so thankful for this team as each member played an important role during this trip. We also thank the Lord for the rich experience we gained in engaging with the Oaksian brothers and sisters.

The marriage retreat was held over two days. Topics covered were: God designed marriage, responsibilities of husband and wife, art of communication, five love languages and conflict resolution. Couple-time was deliberately included for the participants to share their thoughts and feelings. We also decorated the function room and each couple had their photos taken.

On the second day, the couples dressed up and marched in with processional music. As each couple took their seats, they found on their tables a framed couple photo of

themselves, a gift bag with heart-shaped cookies baked by the youth of the Mandarin Ministry, a heart-shaped massage ball, a series of daily prayers on marriage translated into the local language and notes on the topics we covered during the retreat. A printed marriage vow with their names was also prepared.

Our last session was about a culture of honour. After the session, the pastor invited each couple to renew their marriage vows. Holy Communion was celebrated to bring the retreat to a close. We ended the retreat with a celebration lunch.

We were deeply encouraged when Joy shared a texted message in English from one of the couples after the marriage retreat:

"...Thanks for giving us a wonderful

course. Our own marriage will never be the same. We will use our marriage to show God's love and kindness to our community. I declare that Our Marriage will impact many families and couples."

"I'm crying. It was the second wedding of us but a real wedding from God. Our wedding wasn't performed and confirmed by God. This time is the real wedding for us. I want to praise God."

Overall, team members were adaptable to the change whenever needed.

We were able to interact well and love the people we met.

It is with a heart of gratitude that we would like to express our thanks to the pastors and leaders of the church for supporting us and praying with us during this trip.

Victor Ng

In 2016, Victor and I went to Oaksia with a few church members for a short holiday. We met with Hope and Joy and visited the local church they attended. At that time, I knew full well in my heart that I would return to Oaksia for a mission trip. This impression was reinforced when we went shopping and saw a t-shirt that said "Good things take time". It seemed like God was confirming what was in my heart. I waited for God to tell me the kairos moment for such a meaningful trip.

Little did we know that after we met the pastor and his wife of the local church, they started praying specifically for God to bring Victor and I back to conduct a marriage seminar.

When 2018 came around, I felt confident that we would go on a mission trip to Oaksia as a part of KKMC's "Across the Seas" goal. However, Victor's schedule that year had practically no window to plan such a trip. When Hope and Joy returned to Singapore in 2018 for an admin break, we spent time praying with them about the possibility of such a trip. Victor's schedule opened up unexpectedly and his free dates turned out to be the dates the pastors wanted us to conduct a marriage retreat for the leaders and church planters.

Sally Ng

This was the first mission trip sent by KKMC to work with Hope and Joy and their fellow co-workers there.

The team is made up of members from the English and Mandarin congregations. It's really the work of God that Joann & I are in the team.

Even before we went for the trip we had hurdles to overcome. The day before our trip, one of our teammates was bitten by a dog. The morning of the trip itself another person came down with hives and yet another had his new shoes giving way. Nevertheless, God is sovereign and we were able to make it for the trip. During the trip, another team member fell ill on the day he was supposed to co-lead the Young Adults programme. God is good, his partner was able to take over with the help of others. The young adults group just enjoyed the games and we had a

fruitful time. God helped us as a team to see one another's strengths.

There were many rich experiences I took away from this trip. I witnessed how the Pastor of the church treated the church members like his own family. After his own church activities, he had to go to another church that he oversees to conduct teaching at night. He went with joy and commitment. I also saw how he communicated with his fellow members with much love and care. That impressed me.

During the marriage retreat, he even went through the sessions with the others and participated in all activities. It was very humbling when both he and his wife repeated the marriage vows with so much conviction. God's presence in the retreat was so real. I believed God had spoken to each couple and even our own team members alike. I am so blessed.

We also attended their church prayer time on Saturday from 8.30am to 3.30pm. It was a fresh experience in worship and a wonderful time of freedom in prayer in spite of the language difference. We were not able to sing and understand their language but we were able to share and enjoy the time of worship. I imagine when we go to heaven we will sing in different languages but still be worshipping God in unity and with one heart. We ended our prayer time with mediating the Word of God from Acts 16:16-40.

The church service on Sunday gave time for members to share their testimonies. They were so open sharing how God helped them to overcome the various struggles. Our Singapore team took the opportunity to give thanks to the church for the time we had with one another. We also presented an Oaksian song. It was heartwarming when they requested us to sing the song again and the second time round, the church joined us in singing together.

I want to thank God for His love and care for the church in Oaksia. I pray that we will continue to be partners with them.

Pauline Hoo

I believed we were chosen by God to go for this mission trip. This trip for me was really significant and special because my mum and I had not planned to go but God really had a plan for everything and by God's grace, He made it possible to go for this mission trip. God taught me many lessons on this trip and the most important one was a reminder on the importance of prayer and praise. Even at times when we felt like we were losing all hope, we need to rejoice in the Lord and pray even more! It seems really simple and easy to do but we must not take it lightly for God has given us the privilege to pray for one another and to praise Him openly and willingly. So we must not forget to take every opportunity to praise Him!

Joann Chia



Intimate moment for the couples



Love Dances - roles of husband and wife.



Pauline and Joann: mother and daughter team.



Preacher Pau sending the team off at Changi Airport. L-R : Joann, Sally, Victor, Shawn, Reuben, Preacher Pau and Pauline

“The Spirit works in ways we do not understand” is a statement that describes my experience in this mission trip.

No human preparation could ever contrive the spiritual exchange between our team and the believers in Oaksia. God’s continuous providence and timely arrangement brought us through a series of encounters with the ministries and individuals in Oaksia. We heard their stories and saw the Spirit at work amidst the unfavourable political climate.

I was encouraged by their passion for Christ, especially through the powerful worship sessions (made with unassuming instruments and God-given voices); they dedicated themselves to God through the simplest of duties. In bigger spiritual assignments, they pushed boundaries despite the risk of dire consequences enforced by the ruling regime or their own communities.

By the same Spirit, we are confident that our efforts to spread God’s love through the programmes were

not carried out in vain. Also, our ‘mission’ was certainly not a one-way transaction; our team was so blessed by their hospitality and love.

I have learnt to rely more on the Spirit and less on my own capacity for His ways are greater than mine. I pray that we likewise – with the guidance of the Holy Spirit – push spiritual boundaries in Singapore and in the midst of doing so, excel in our little God-given assignments.

Shawn Ng

Children’s Ministry (CM) and Youth Ministry (YM) Mission Discovery Trip

27 November - 2 December 2018
Pearlene Sim

One of the highlights of the Children’s Ministry (CM) is the annual Lahu Mission Discovery Trip for the graduating DiscipleKids (DK) 6 class. Youths from the Sec 2 class (Y2) accompany the team as older brothers and sisters, with several of them taking up mentorship and leadership roles in various aspects of the trip. In 2018, we were blessed to have a bumper team of 38 Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) members: 6 DK6s, 10 Y2s, 1 Y4, 1 Y5, 19 adults and 1 baby. The age range of our team members was from 19 months to 75 years! What is the moral of the story? Let your age not be a determining (or deterring) factor to going on a short-term mission trip!

Here are some of the reflections from the children and youths who were part of the trip.

PRAYER IS A PRIVILEGE

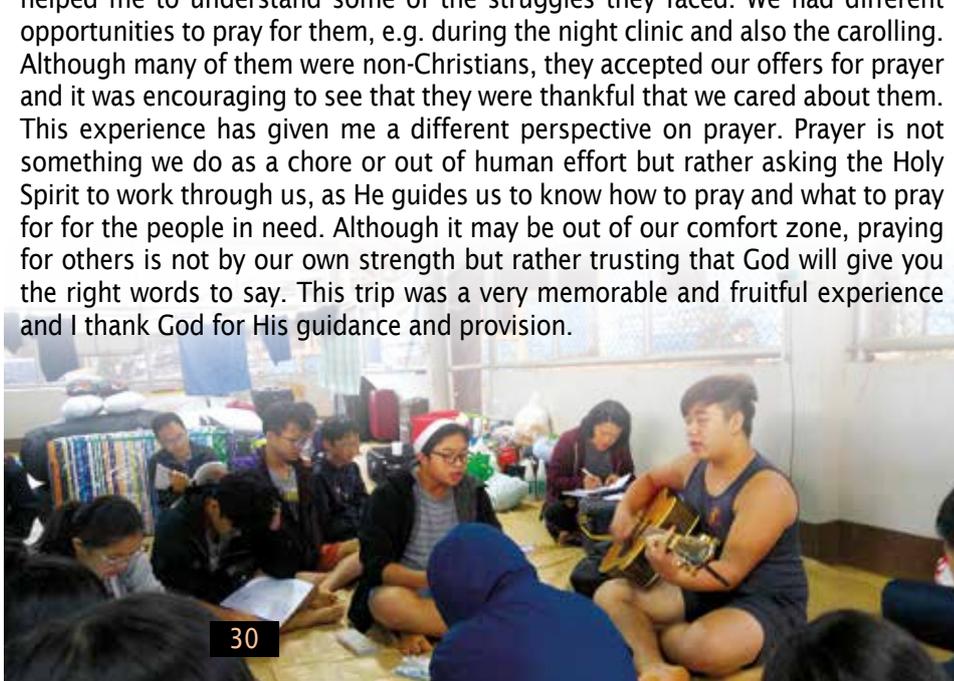
Ethan Chin - DK6 2018

I had the privilege to be part of the team that went to Lahu in November. One of the highlights of the trip for me was the night programme where we prayed for the sick villagers who came to our clinics for medical treatment. After praying for the villagers on two occasions, I felt exuberant. I believe the Holy Spirit was working through me. God touched my heart and allowed me to talk to Him on behalf of the villagers. I am grateful that I had the chance to be a stepping stone for the villagers. I hope that the villagers will also know that they are God’s children and are loved by Him.

Teresa Leong - Y2 2018

This was my 2nd mission trip to Lahu. I am very grateful to God for His goodness and provision while we were on the trip. I think that some of the most enjoyable moments were when we worshipped together with the villagers: during the church service at the Water of Life Methodist Church and during the Vacation Bible School. Using different languages to sing the same worship songs enabled us to worship together in one heart and one spirit to our one true God.

Another precious memory of the trip for me was praying. Praying for the villagers helped me to understand some of the struggles they faced. We had different opportunities to pray for them, e.g. during the night clinic and also the carolling. Although many of them were non-Christians, they accepted our offers for prayer and it was encouraging to see that they were thankful that we cared about them. This experience has given me a different perspective on prayer. Prayer is not something we do as a chore or out of human effort but rather asking the Holy Spirit to work through us, as He guides us to know how to pray and what to pray for for the people in need. Although it may be out of our comfort zone, praying for others is not by our own strength but rather trusting that God will give you the right words to say. This trip was a very memorable and fruitful experience and I thank God for His guidance and provision.



GOD SURPRISES US WHEN WE LEARN TO TRUST HIM AND LET GO

Caitlyn Wong – DK6 2018

Before the trip, I thought that going to Lahu would be a terrible experience. I could not comprehend the point of going there and being away from the luxuries of home. When I was told that the Y1 2018 batch were looking forward to going back to Lahu in 2019, I was confused. Why would they want to do that?

However, during the trip, I made good friends and enjoyed many fun activities with the youths. As the mission trip drew to a close, I realised that I had been overthinking as the whole experience was fifty times better than what I thought it would be. As we boarded the plane back to Singapore, I finally understood why the Y1 2018 cohort wanted to go back.



Praying for the sick



*Joshua (right) sharing his testimony.
Nin (left) is the translator*



Abigail treating patients

Jared Lim – Y2 2018

In 2017, a year before we began preparations for the Lahu trip, my LifeGroup had the privilege of organising a learning carnival with DK5 2017 for the children in the homework centre. After getting to know the DK5s, I was excited and really looked forward to the Lahu mission trip with them.

Throughout the weeks of preparation, I saw how much the Y2s and DK6s had matured and grown. During the trip itself, God opened up many opportunities for us to pray for sick or injured villagers as well as take charge of parts of the programme. When things did not go as planned, the whole team displayed flexibility and adapted very well. There were also many moments where God touched the hearts of the children through worship and prayer. Spiritual and emotional bonds were formed between us, the villagers and God. I thank God for having been blessed with such a wonderful team and look forward to what God holds in the future for all of us.

LEARNING TO BE CONTENT IN CHRIST

Nathaniel Hoo – Y2 2018

This trip allowed us to share God's love with the Lahu people and also made me learn a great deal from the locals. The smiles on the children's faces when we played games together brought me so much joy. They live simple lives (no expensive toys, entertainment or sumptuous food) and yet they are very happy. I realised it is so important to enjoy the little things that God has given us and learn to count our blessings. I remember looking at the stars when we were seated in a circle. It was a beautiful sight and for the first time, I felt happy simply by looking at God's wonderful creation.

I also thank God for the bond we had in our group. Even though we see one another in church, it was during this trip that we all got closer. I truly enjoyed working with everyone on the dance, skit and even doing the chores like washing dishes. My favourite activity was at the river, where we got to splash water at everyone. It was so much fun!

I look forward to another mission trip with the Y2!

GOD OF ALL NATIONS AND ALL LANGUAGES

Terelyn Leong – Y2 2018

I thank God for revealing His greatness to me during this trip. The most memorable part of Lahu for me was when we worshiped together with the villagers during the Vacation Bible School (VBS) held for the village kids.

During the VBS, Pastor Tharwin led the children to sing some action songs in Lahu. We quickly matched the tune of the songs to the English version and started to follow along, singing the English lyrics and doing the actions enthusiastically with the children. I remember singing “Jesus’ love is sweet and wonderful”, a familiar song which we used to sing as kids. At that moment, seeing both the Singapore team and the Lahu kids praising the same God together with so much gusto, albeit in different tongues, it hit me that God is the God of all languages. Although the people in Lahu lead a completely different life from me, we worship the same great and wonderful God. Worshipping with the Lahu kids as one big family in Christ allowed me to feel a special connection with them. Seeing their childlike faith also touched my heart. Some of them sang about Jesus’ love for them even though they may not have heard the gospel fully. I prayed that one day God would be very real in their lives too. I thank God for giving me a glimpse of His glory as God of all nations.

Mission Trippin’ to *Pho*-Land 27 October - 2 November 2018 Jolyn Foo

The call to missions for all disciples is clear in the Bible, but for each person to know the purpose and location is an individual call from God. I’ll be the first to admit that my decision to choose Vietnam was because I loved eating *pho* noodles and I’ve heard that the mountains there were beautiful. For the other mission trippers, they were drawn to Vietnam for other reasons. For one member of our team, it was to visit her home country! But no matter the intentions, God still uses us to accomplish his purposes.

There were 6 of us who went on the trip (Siang Ling, Cecilia Low, Eng Kiat, Joey, Van-Anh, and myself). Ben Quek unfortunately sprained his back and couldn’t make it for the trip but he

GOD OUR HEALER AND PROVIDER

Joseph Tan – Y2 2018

Two years ago, I chose not to go for the Lahu mission trip when I was in DK6. I regretted my decision. When given another opportunity to go in 2018, I jumped at the chance and it proved to be an excellent decision. I made friends and fostered closer relationships with the Y2s and DK6s.

One night, we went out to the village to carol. Towards the end of the carolling, I boldly volunteered to pray for a villager and his family. Later, my team leader told me that as I led in the prayer, the whole team gathered closer and joined me in affirming my prayer. That was a moment that I would never forget.

A trip is never always perfectly smooth sailing. Two days before we were due back in Singapore, two of my group members fell sick and could not join us for the Vacation Bible School. I had to step up and stand in as the leader for my group. I gathered my group members for a short prayer. We prayed for healing for both of them and a DK6 from another group who had also fallen ill. As our plane touched down in Singapore, all 3 of them told me they were much better. Thank God for His providence and healing! I would like to thank all the adult leaders for making this trip possible and I am looking forward to going on more mission trips in the future!

Ong Xin Hui – Y2 2018

I am grateful that I was able return to Lahu. During the weeks of trip preparation, we were reminded that we would probably face many challenges but we would be able to overcome it through prayer and having knowledge of the bible to defend our faith. Thus, I told myself that I would fully rely on God this trip.

Compared to 2 years ago, I felt God’s presence more acutely. Some problems did crop up suddenly, but I thank God for constantly being with me to lead me. This trip has really helped our LifeGroup to grow closer to God and I want to go again!

Joshua Wong – DK6 2018

One of my favourite memories of the trip was the river fun. It was refreshing and fun playing in the cool river water. It made me happy to see all the members of the team helping each other up the river and traversing the slippery rocks. Those who were unfortunate enough to lose their slippers were helped by others down the river whose quick reflexes helped to retrieve the slippers before they got washed away by the currents. Eventually, all the DK6s and Y2s made it up the river successfully and no one was left behind!

Through this trip, I have grown closer to the rest of the team members and most importantly, closer to God.



Jolyn teaching a dance

was our prayer warrior! It really was God’s divine appointment to put this team together. The team was small but effective, each member placed others before self to work together for God. The 4 days of mission service in the mountains were long but fruitful. We conducted 3 days of Bible teaching on the book of Philippians as well as taught English at two local churches. Another day was spent at a local village school for social outreach.

Every one of us felt God’s presence and His direction each step of the way. Changes in schedules, unexpected breakdown of transportation on our way across the mountains did not deter us as we trusted everything was in God’s hands. Everyone was willing to

be used as His vessel to do His work, despite our weaknesses and fears.

It was my first time sharing God’s Word in depth in front of a large group of people and I was afraid that I would share the wrong message or that the people would not find my teaching relevant to them. I grew up in Singapore, living the city life. How would I relate to the local villagers who were farmers,

and oftentimes struggled with the basic necessities of life? Furthermore, we had to modify our teaching of the book of Philippians according to the different needs of the two churches. Being a perfectionist, I was easily anxious about not doing a good job. However, I was reminded by my family members, that God doesn't need me to be perfect, but to do my best as a vessel of His grace and allow His Spirit to do the perfecting work in the hearts of the people. "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" – how precious is this verse from Zechariah 4:6!

At the second church where we had 2 days to minister to them, we alternated between Bible teaching, testimony sharing and English lessons. Although this arrangement was last minute, team members Cecilia, Eng Kiat, Joey

and Van-Anh joyfully adapted to the situation. The hunger of the local church members to know God more was evident when we learnt that for every day they spent at the church listening to us, they were sacrificing one day of income as they could have spent their time earning money. We were greatly encouraged by their desire to know God more and were slightly ashamed to think that back at home, we take for granted the many learning opportunities made available to us to know God and His Word better.

We had a very eventful fourth day as we made our way across the mountains to serve at a local school outpost. We had a full day of activity planned for the children, and brought over fresh chicken and *pho* for their lunch cookout. The original journey time was

two to three hours via a lorry from our hotel to the school. However, our lorry was stuck in the mud and we had to find alternative modes of transport in the middle of the road which was in the heart of the mountain. Well-meaning locals who were passing by on their motorbikes offered to give us a lift to the school, along with all our belongings (the food ingredients as well as the rubber boots and socks that were gifts for the children). A group of us got separated along the way and there was no phone signal in the mountains. The first group which reached the school started praying when they realised that the remaining members were lost and uncontactable. But God answered their prayers immediately when they saw us arriving the moment they prayed "Amen." Praise God for his divine providence and keeping us safe!

Excerpts from two of our mission trippers' reflections:

"I felt God's presence during the entire trip and the strong connection to the people there. And that's not just because of my heritage. I learnt so much from the people there. They're happy without having much, living simply and honouring God with their lives. Slowing my life down and realising that it doesn't matter how much God gives you materially, but how you use it and what you do with it. And more importantly, how strong your personal relationship with God is.

We've been given much, growing up in Singapore or Germany and I'm more than ready to share at least that with others. Looking forward to the next mission trip!" - Van-Anh

"This is my first mission trip. God made this trip possible, clearing all obstacles that I had concerns with. The time of the trip was between my work travels, and the Saturday we left for the trip was a scheduled break for my Disciple 1 class. I did not have to miss any lessons. As I reflected on each day's debrief, I realised that God had taught me so much. I had a fear of riding a motorbike. God taught me to overcome my fear and to trust in Him as we had to be on motorbikes for long distances over rugged paths.

As a compulsive planner, our Lord reminded me of Proverbs 16:9, "In their heart humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps". I have learnt to adapt to situations and change plans along the way as God leads during the trip. I hope God is pleased with what we have done and He is glorified!" - Cecilia

Clockwise from top: Eng Kiat, Joey, Thuy, Jolyn, Van-Anh, Siang Ling, Cecilia



Taking the overnight sleeper train to the hills



Van-Anh demonstrating how to brush teeth



Cecilia teaching English



Joey giving prizes to students



Teaching English

There is so much more to share about our mission trip to Vietnam, but if we were to write them all out, we would take up the entire KK Focus! Being involved in God's work is so much better than reading about His work, so put this KK Focus down now and sign up for a mission trip!

December Mission Trip To Lahu

7 - 18 December 2018
Lyndon Gan

A total of 48 persons including 6 children and 13 primers from 60th Singapore Company Boys' Brigade went on this trip. The trip was divided into two phases; the first phase at MaePunLang Village had 25 team members and the second phase at PaYaKorngDee Methodist Church (PYKDMC) and Santi Methodist Church (SMC) had 36 team members.

One of the highlights of this trip was the first Sunday worship service held at the Preaching point of MaePunLang Village on 9 December. SMC had pioneered the work at MaePunLang and over the last 2 years, had sent teams every month to minister among the Red Lahu people. KKMC had supported this effort by sending regular mission teams. The efforts had resulted in a few people coming to faith and Christ. They now meet regularly in cell groups.



MaePunLang Village first Sunday Service

On the morning of 9 December, SMC brought their congregation members in two trucks to conduct the worship service at a community hall at MaePunLang Village. A local Black Lahu church that did not have

a pastor was also invited to join the combined worship service. It may be some time yet before the new believers in MaePunLang can establish their own church and have regular Sunday services. For now they continue to meet in cell groups.

Another highlight of the trip was the intentional effort to speak with the people in their homes and not just invite them to our programmes. Some of the team members visited a cell group in a home at MaePunLang and by the end of the session, the owner of the house, an elderly man named Asa, had prayed to receive Christ!



Asa praying to receive Christ during a cell group meeting at MaePunLang Village

On another day, several team members went to a cluster of houses and found several people sitting under shelter chatting and exchanging village gossip. When we joined in, the lady who was dominating the conversation remarked, "What is it you want to tell us? We have time." Immediately Lyndon took the cue, stood up and started sharing the gospel story from the beginning of creation as recorded in the book of Genesis. The



MaePunLang Village house visitation

other team members responded by finding comfortable seats knowing that the sharing was not going to be brief. At the invitation for prayer, a man who had spewed some skeptical remarks during the sharing asked to receive Christ. We could not but be awed by the Holy Spirit's work. Indeed our hearts were celebrating with the heavenly hosts.

"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10

The last stop on this mission trip was at Santi Village where we joined in a special time of worship with SMC. Entire families were present singing Christmas carols, sharing testimonies, worshipping God and having fellowship with one another. One KKMC team member remarked that SMC felt so different from MaePunLang and PYKDMC. The people seem truly joyful and the children were well behaved and engaged in the worship. SMC is what a Lahu Church can look like 20 years after they first hear the gospel of Jesus.

Alain Chen, Primer, 60th Singapore Company Boys' Brigade

I embarked on this mission trip not fully knowing what to expect to gain out of it, but I personally wanted to experience for myself what the work of missionaries overseas was like. Throughout the 7 days spent in Paya Korng Dee and Santi villages, I can now safely say that I had a thoroughly meaningful time spent with God. There were a few experiences which particularly stood out to me during this trip.

During the morning outreach program in PayaKorngDee Village, I was part of a group that would

teach basic first aid to the villages. We had opened our station for close to half an hour, and not a single villager had stopped by our station. It was only when we saw a couple of teenage boys (about 16-17 years old) taking some curious glances at our bandages laid across the table that we invited them in. I was honestly not expecting any of them to enter, since First Aid was not the most fun station on offer. However, much to my surprise, they agreed to learn First Aid from us! Although there were only about 5 of them, the small numbers enabled us to

observe them closely and correct their mistakes. On top of that, we also had some interactions with the boys to find out what they were doing in their lives.

Some of them had telling tattoos of being in some sort of gang, while others had left church and were now spending their time working. Interestingly, I immediately thought of the Boys' Brigade, the very CCA I was from. The Brigade was founded to instill discipline into the lives of the church going boys, as well as to teach them useful skills. I thought that the

introduction of the Brigade in such a context would be very relevant, especially since the boys were keen to learn new skills. As I pondered about this encounter, I could not help but reflect on the turning point God had introduced in my life 6 years ago, which has ultimately led me to where I am currently.

During the mission trip, a pre-National Service (NS) talk was organised for those who were going to enlist soon after the trip. The sharing by Clyde, Gerald and Matthew gave me a clearer direction for the next 2 years, and what Clyde shared about giving your best during NS as a child of God was a very encouraging perspective, which I hope would make the overall NS experience more enjoyable. Although I do not know what God's plan for me is, I know that I will give my best for all that is to come, something which I have learnt from my 6 years in the BB.

Spending time with the Lahu people also reminded me of many pleasant things. Attending service together

at PYKD Methodist Church with the Lahu Christians reminded me of how God loves each and every one of us although we may be worlds apart. It was heartwarming to see everyone gathered together with quietened souls for a time of worship. This was definitely one of the most memorable services I've attended. Teaching the students English also brought me back to my childhood, where I was learning the same phonetics as the students I was teaching. Although I was rather nervous in the beginning, I soon began to enjoy the process of teaching the students, and English

teaching became one of the most enjoyable experiences during the mission trip.

Overall, I felt that I managed to connect with God in many ways during this mission trip. Firstly, through nature and admiring His creations. Secondly, through interacting with His people. Lastly, by having personal time with Him during reflections and devotions, which calmed most of my initial apprehensions about the mission trip. I am sure that I will go on this trip given the next opportunity.



Alain (Centre with bandage) teaching first aid with Samuel and Kian Mun

Stefanie Mok – Do Short-Term Mission Trips have any real benefit for the Lahu People?

Something that had been bothering me for the past few years was whether short-term missionaries do more harm or good when they visit mission fields. I always come back from trips on a spiritual high, and I know the team always has a great time spending time and ministering together; but to the Lahu villagers, the people we are trying to minister to, are we anything more than an annual traveling entertainment-cum-English-teaching troupe? Who really benefits from us visiting the Lahu villages every year – the Lahu people, or us?

It was not till this year that I got my answer. During one of our nightly team devotions, Uncle Lyndon shared a passage from John 20 about Jesus' resurrection. His explanation of verse 17 in particular struck me. Jesus chose Mary Magdalene, a woman, to spread the news of His resurrection to everyone. As Uncle

Lyndon explained, Jesus couldn't have chosen a less reliable source as a messenger, since women were seen as untrustworthy witnesses at the time.

As I reflected further upon this passage, I realised that Jesus could easily have appeared to His disciples and anyone else He wanted in person. But just as He chose to involve Mary Magdalene in spreading the joyous news of His

resurrection, He also chooses to involve us in spreading the light of the Gospel.

On this trip, we also had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Ca Dai at Santi Methodist Church. He shared that though he had been baptised in 2011, he had backslidden in his faith. But when our team visited him at his house in 2013 and shared the Gospel with him again, his faith was renewed



Ca Dai and Family

and he returned to church, where he now serves as the chairman of the church committee. Listening to Ca Dai's testimony, I felt like God was answering my question directly: if you do My work, have no doubt that you are doing good in the lives of these people.

This trip helped me to realise that taking part in missions is not a sacrifice we must make, but a duty we must fulfil. It is not us graciously

choosing to do God's work; it is God graciously giving us the chance to be a part of His work. Realising this really changed my perspective of who we are as mission trippers. If we go to the mission field thinking we need to better the lives of these less-privileged people, we will end up having a "saviour complex" which surely does not please God. But if we go as humble servants of God, we will surely do His work and do good, because His plans for His

children there are good.

If you have never visited one of KKMC's mission fields before, I would like to encourage you to consider it prayerfully. Sing praise in another language, and realise how great the God that we worship in so many tongues truly is. Away from the obligations of the home, or the classroom, or the office, ask God to show you how you can serve Him more and more.

Salmon Sim - Perspective of my father-and-son first mission trip

I decided to go on the December 2018 mission trip with my 11-year old son, Reuben. I wanted this mission trip to be a sneak preview experience for him before he went on the DK6 Lahu trip. I also thought it would be a good for us to experience our first mission trip together.

Even though it was just a 7-day mission trip, I saw and experienced many things that gave me lots of reasons to praise God.

The highlight of the trip was seeing how Reuben had started growing into a young man, finding his own space and rhythm, and operating independently from me. He happily joked and worked with the young adults in the team. He taught English, rode shotgun at the back of a 4 by 4 truck, played a guard in the outreach skit, went carolling even though he didn't like singing and just hung out with the young adults during our personal time. He also sportingly played with the Lahu kids, in particular with a pair

of twin brothers who would invite him to play catching every evening after dinner. Being quick and nimble, they always won. But Reuben always obliged them and played on.

It was great seeing how God had been blessing our work at Lahu these past years. It is through learning how frequently our young adults returned year after year that I realised that only God could have imbued such deep-seated convictions in them. Before this trip, I knew very little about the young adults at KKMC. This trip allowed me to know some of them better. I was delighted in seeing their tenacity, leadership, love for serving God and trust in God's strength. Just working with them gave me a jolt of energy.

God is full of surprises, and I experienced this in a personal way. I had often heard stories of miracles happening on mission trips, but I wasn't expecting to experience one myself. During the medical ministry where I assisted Dr Ang Siang Hu, an

A&E doctor from my LifeGroup, we prayed for a lady who had a terrible pain in her leg. The next day, the lady returned to the clinic and informed the translator that the pain had left her leg that very night and it was the first time she could sleep pain-free in months. Praise God!

This mission trip has given me a new angle to understanding KKMC mission work in Lahu. I used to see it as a programme of "the church". Now I see it through the eyes of our KKMC young adults who are inspired to go on mission trips year after year to ensure the continuity of God's work. I also see it through the eyes of church leaders both in Singapore and Lahu tackling issues to help the church grow. And in the occasional mission tripper like Reuben and myself who were just glad to have been part of this journey with God, even if for just a brief moment.



Salmon and Reuben teaching English



Praying for the sick at PayaKorngDee Village

Tay Tze Ern

I went on the Lahu Mission Trip with my father, Mark Tay. We were on the first phase of the trip. We went to Maepulang Village.

In the village, most people lived in wooden huts. I did not see cars, but trucks and motorcycles. Most people speak Lahu but not many can read it because Lahu is a spoken language.

I enjoyed carolling and performing the story of Zacchaeus. My role was a bodyguard. I enjoyed playing with the children in the village. I helped get the food ready and hand out the food to those who were at the service.

People learnt about God's Word during our carolling. I saw that they were happy when we sang for them

because they were smiling. God provided for the people when we gave them food.

I learnt that when we pray, God will help us. When we pray for others in need, God will heal them. If someone needs help, I can pray for them. If God asks us to do something, we do it.



Tze Ern carolling at MaePunLang Village



Playing "Chair Ball" at PayaKornngDee Village

Mark Tay – Connections that binds

This was my first visit to Lahu after also having visited our church missionaries in various places. This trip made me think particularly about the many threads that connect us, to the work God is doing; to our church community; to friends; and to family.

We visited homes and prayed for people. We sang carols and gave gifts. These were simple acts and most times we did not see or know what effect that made. Yet it was similar actions made in love and obedience by many others before us that have multiplied the work amongst the Lahu. Beginning in one village and now, in many. Here was the thread of a heart in missions: God calls us simply to respond to the needs He shows to us.

As I conversed with my fellow mission trippers, I found out I knew their parents or siblings or friends who brought them to KKMC, but had not known these links before. The meal times and spaces in between activities helped deepen our

interactions beyond usual hellos and goodbyes. Here I discovered how we are connected in so many ways that bring us together and strengthen us.

This trip was also a little different because it was a "boys outing" with my 9-year old, Tze Ern. He adapted well and found ways to serve cheerfully in outreach.

Here I found our deliberate and purposeful time together also deepened the bond between father and son.

To bring things full circle, my mother (Aunty Pat to many) was one of those who went to Lahu in the early years. She had also just travelled to Lahu a fortnight prior to my trip with the Children and Youth Ministry team. She left her pillow behind duly labelled with her name. Lyndon noticed and dropped it off on my sleeping bag. I could not resist sending her a picture of her pillow with the caption: guess who's using this now?! So even in this little detail of creature comfort, God left a message of connectedness and love.



Dance presentation at Viangpa Vittaya School



Dr Ang Shiang Hu treating a patient at PayaKorngDee Village



Painting the community hall at PayaKorngDee Village

Samuel Ong, 60th Singapore Company Boys' Brigade

Through the mission trip, I grew as a person. There were three things that I learnt on this trip.

Firstly, I learnt how important it is to put in the effort to spend more meaningful time with the people around you. Before the mission trip, whenever I was with my friends, I would generally end up on my phone as I wouldn't know what to talk about. Generally, this would result in all of us ending up on our phones, each engaged in our little world. I thought that this was perfectly normal.

That changed during the mission trip. I opted to avoid spending money on data so I was forced to "disconnect" from the online world

and interact with real people, even though I was not that familiar with them. I started to learn how much more fun it was to talk to people, as many of my favourite moments in the mission trip were when I put my phone down and just talked.

Secondly, I learnt how rewarding it can be to take the initiative and talk to new people. I was the only one from my BB batch and I did not know the people from KKMC. That changed however, as I got to know my BB seniors and the KKMC people a lot better. After getting to know KKMC youths like Jon, Josiah and Hongxi, I had many fun times with them and it really made my mission trip a lot more enjoyable. Therefore, I learnt

that meeting new people can be fun, but it takes quite some initiative to step up and talk to them.

Lastly, I was encouraged in my walk with God. In this mission trip, I observed how everyone else took deliberate actions to grow closer to God, such as writing down learning points in a notebook, or through coming up with such insightful observations from the devotions passage. I also witnessed several miracles, from how the Chairman of the Santi Methodist Church had his life changed when a KKMC team visited him many years ago, to how team member Zhiyi experienced God's healing hand and recovered from his illness quickly.



Team at Pongner-a School

Rejoice in the Lord Always!

Spectacular fireworks targeted at brilliantly lit buildings against the backdrop of a dark night sky in major cities around the world. Revelers staying up all night to usher in the New Year. A cause for celebration? The increased security measures needed to prevent attacks by religious fanatics, political dissidents and the frustrated have-nots tell a different story.

Will 2019 be better than 2018? Even if religious fanaticism is contained, political upheavals abate and the global economy recovers, the reality is that we have no control over hate, lack of integrity, or cosmic catastrophes due to climate change.

The Bible offers hope. In Psalm 21, David, Israel's greatest king shares his testimony of a sovereign, gracious and faithful God. The Lord had granted him more than what he had asked for. The reason was that his desire was what God desired. He only needed to trust and obey the Lord (vv1-7). Blessings in life depend on our attitude towards God. We should thus "Rejoice in the Lord Always!"

For the spiritually distressed, the prophet Jeremiah declares, "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23). For those seeking a new life, the apostle Paul declares, "Now we know that if this earthly tent is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:1, 17)! Finally, the apostle John in Revelation 21 presents a vision of the "eternal blessings" that David describes in Psalm 21:6. Insights of John's vision are highlighted in the poem on the right.*

The City of God

The first heaven and earth will pass away,
A new heaven and earth will come to stay;
The new Jerusalem, the Holy City;
Will descend from heaven in beauty.

We will be with God as his people
To enjoy a life imperishable.
There will be no death or mourning,
Neither will there be pain or crying.

The city does not need external light,
For never again will there be night.
The Lamb is the lamp and God the glory
Of this majestic celestial city.

There is no visible temple in the city;
Its temple is the Lamb and God Almighty;
Kings in splendour and nations will delight
To walk humbly by its glorious light.

The city gates will never be shut,
But impurity and evil will be kept out;
All in the Lamb's book of life will enter
To dwell with the Lord God forever.

*From "The Quest for God". This book will be available from Kampong Kapor Methodist Church during the period of Lent at a promotion price of \$12 (retail price is \$13). Proceeds will be channelled to KKMC for use in missions projects.



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 **REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!**

KAMPONG KAPUR METHODIST CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY (2019)

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!

KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY (2019)

WE AT KKMC WILL BE
FAITHFUL DISCIPLES IN AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY
 ENGAGED IN
LOVING OUTREACH AND BOLD WITNESS *to the glory of God*



125th Anniversary Service



Tamil Ministry members at the service



Dedication of prayers and vision statement



Collecting the Anniversary T-shirt



Prizes for quiz

Lyndon Gan receiving his 25 years service award from Digby Wilson (PPRSC Chairman) and Pastor Kenneth Huang



Mr Ng Fook Fook Kah arriving for anniversary service with daughter Rebecca Ng



Brief History of KKMC responsive reading



Combined Presentation of 'Jesus Loves Me' from members of our 4 different language services



KKMC Music Ensemble; the responsive reading of a brief history of KKMC; the dedication of our new vision statement (see inset box "KKMC Identity Statement") and nearly 500 prayer cards; and the taking of a 270-degree panoramic photograph of the congregation wearing our special 125th Anniversary T-shirts. We were honoured by the congratulatory presence of leaders and guests from the Trinity Annual Conference, which KKMC is part of; the Emmanuel Tamil Annual Conference; former pastors of KKMC; leaders of community organisations that KKMC partners; our KKMC Kindergarten and Kampong Kapur Community Services; and the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Companies we sponsor. A moment of silence was also observed in memory of the late Rev T. C. Nga, who had passed away the day before.

felt the lively worship of the Anniversary Service had touched his heart, and he was honoured to be building the kingdom of God together in KKMC. Twelve-year-old Cherubim Choir singer, Ms Sue-Ann Ho, was awed that KKMC was "so old", and found it "fun that all the people from different worship services can sing together in different languages". Ms Rosie Oh, 81, who has served faithfully for more than 30 years in KKMC's Peranakan Ministry, regularly hurrying over after service in her home church, also enjoyed singing together with the congregation of various ages and languages. Mr Hesley Stalin, 32, for whom this was his first experience of a combined service, found the congregation very friendly. "I don't feel like I'm in Singapore," he said. "I feel like I'm at home."

Said Mr Ng Fook Kah, 86, who is one of KKMC's Honorary Stewards: "It's a privilege, and I'm humbled to be attending KKMC's 125th Anniversary with the Mandarin Ministry." Ensemble member Ms Cervone Seah, 16, shared: "I am thankful to have the opportunity to play with the ensemble for KKMC's 125th Anniversary, as it was a new experience for me to be able to serve God through the gift that He has blessed me with." Mr Muthu, 41, a committee member in the Tamil Ministry,

The celebrations continued with an Anniversary Lunch, at which Mr Lyndon Gan, one of KKMC's Lay Ministry Staff, was surprised with his 25-year Long Service Award. As was customary for KKMC's anniversary celebrations, KKMC sponsored special meals for the residents of four institutions in India which we support: St Luke's Leprosarium Centre, Tamil Nadu; School and Centre For The Blind, Palayamkottai; Florence Swainson School For The Deaf, Palayamkottai; and Sharon Children's Home, Salem.

KKMC's History: Milestones

1894	On 25 January, the Baba Malay Methodist Church was inaugurated at 155 Middle Road - the result of work by Captain William Shellabear and Ms Sophia Blackmore.
1897	Methodist Welfare Family Centre (renamed Kampong Kapur Family Service Centre in 1991, and now Kampong Kapur Community Services) opened at Blk 640 Rowell Road.
1916	With Sunday services in five languages and the largest Sunday School and Epworth League, the Middle Road building was overtaxed. A Building Campaign was launched.
1930	The church relocated to Kampong Kapur Road and became known as The Straits Chinese Methodist Church.
1937	The pipe organ was installed - the first and only pipe organ in Singapore Methodist churches.
1953	The Straits Chinese Methodist Church Kindergarten commenced enrolment on 15 September.
1957	The church was renamed Kampong Kapur Methodist Church.
1985	The Mandarin Ministry was started. This year also saw the start of KKMC's modern missionary effort with the sending of our first missionary.
1993	The Tamil Ministry was started.
1998	A preaching point planted by KKMC became a full-fledged church, Cairnhill Methodist Church. This year also saw the start of missions work among Lahu villagers, and efforts to provide food for needy migrant workers.
2011	KKMC's ministry expanded into an acquired shophouse named The Unfailing Light, and opened by Mr Earnest Lau.
2015 to 2018	KKMC focused on being "In & Involved" - about the church, along the streets and across the seas", which helped prepare KKMC to celebrate its 125th Anniversary and its next phase of life and ministry.
2019	125th Anniversary celebrated.

KKMC Identity Statement:
 "We at KKMC will be Faithful Disciples in Authentic Community engaged in Loving Outreach and Bold Witness to the Glory of God".

Singapore's first 'Baba Malay' Methodist Church turns 125

Grace Toh

"Ya, Isa kaseh!" rang out in the Sanctuary of Kampong Kapur Methodist Church (KKMC), packed to overflowing with a 970-strong congregation on 20 Jan 2019. Baba Malay was indeed an appropriate language in which to rejoice in the Lord's love, on this occasion of KKMC's 125th Anniversary - the fourth-oldest Methodist church in Singapore, and the first to hold Methodist worship services in Baba Malay back in 1894.

Multilingual ministry has been in the DNA of Methodist ministry in Singapore right from its earliest years, with missionaries setting up ministries "in nearly all the local vernaculars" within three years of landing. After starting The English Church (later Wesley Methodist Church) in 1885, they followed up in quick succession with the Tamil Methodist Church two years later, the Chinese congregation led by Dr Benjamin West (later Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church) in 1889, and the Baba Malay Methodist Church (now KKMC) in 1894. (See inset box "KKMC's History: Milestones".)

KKMC continues this hereditary strand of multilingual ministry today, as our Pastor-in-Charge Rev Kenneth Huang notes we are "blessed to praise God in English, Baba Malay / Bahasa Indonesia, Mandarin, and Tamil" - all under the same roof! A special combined presentation during the 125th Anniversary Service saw our Nyonya sisters, in their delicately-coloured sarong kebayas, leading the singing of "Jesus Loves Me" in Baba Malay; followed by the English, Tamil, and Mandarin ministries; joined by the children's Cherubim Choir and our youths; and rounding off with the entire congregation chiming in. Packed as we were in the Sanctuary, and spilling out into the adjoining Social Hall and KKMC Kindergarten area, some were perched precariously on toddler-size chairs, yet the swelling of united voices praising God in our various heart languages felt like a forestate of heaven, which we were given the privilege to experience that day.

Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung, our Guest Preacher, sprang a delightful surprise by starting his sermon with a short speech in Bahasa - in honour of KKMC's Straits Chinese beginnings, as he shared his history of having been born in Indonesia, and his grandmother being a Nyonya. Reverting to Mandarin with consecutive English translation, the Bishop went on to list and thank God for Singapore's centenarian Methodist churches, as testimonies of God's faithfulness to His people.

Preaching from Philippians 4, Bishop Dr Chong pointed out that Paul, despite being imprisoned in Rome, urged the Philippians to rejoice even in difficult circumstances. "Joy doesn't mean having no problems or struggles," said the Bishop, noting that the Philippian church Paul wrote to was facing serious internal conflicts as well as persecution. "However, all these problems don't take away our joy. We can rejoice because our Lord is near!" God continues to be our strength untold, giving us boundless grace. The Bishop urged that as we remember God's faithfulness to us for the past 125 years, we would continue to grow in faith, and to bless the community around us with joy.

Other highlights of the 125th Anniversary Service included: Music from our newly-formed homegrown



1. Quoted from "Our Church" under "About Us" section of The Methodist Church in Singapore website, <http://www.methodist.org.sg/index.php/about-us/our-church>, accessed 25 Jan 2019.



Bishop TRAC and ETAC Presidents at the lunch



Alpha Course facilitators at the lunch



Bishop Dr Chong preaching at the service with Siang Ling as interpreter



KKMC Music Ensemble



Youth Band



Worshippers at the social hall



Prayer cards



Luke and Megan leading worship





125th Anniversary Service

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!
KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH 125TH ANNIVERSARY (2019)