



kampong kapor
methodist church

kkfcus

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

December 2016 – February 2017



“
This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)
”



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

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

Pastors' Message



Rev Gabriel, Rev Kenneth & Pastor Zhi-Hui

What Are We Focusing On?

Recently, many of us once again enjoyed remembering and celebrating God's great love to all peoples and to us.



We did so at the 24 Dec Christmas Eve Carols by (real ☺) Candlelight Service at 10pm, and during our 25 Dec Christmas Day Worship Service at 10am the next morning. We witnessed the baptisms of a number of infants by sprinkling, and as was preached, we agreed that *"What the World Needs Now is JESUS!"*.

Then, bidding farewell to 2016 and welcoming 2017, our church also held two important events. The first was our annual Watchnight (Covenant Renewal & Holy Communion) Service on 31 Dec at 10.30pm, where many came and renewed their covenant with God once again to be His faithful disciples in 2017.

The second was a Church Prayer Watch on 1 Jan from 12.30am, which was a practical expression of the renewed covenant that we had just made. A good number of about 80 members from our different congregations stayed on or came to pray for an hour for our church, our ministries and the people we minister to.

BUT what was the point of holding both the Watchnight Service and the Church Prayer Watch? Habit for the first, and over-zealousness, for the second?

A definite "NO" to both!

They were held to help us remember to **KEEP OUR FOCUS ON JESUS**, the "author and perfecter" of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2), to "throw off" any and everything that will hinder our being faithful disciples of Jesus, and to "run with perseverance" the Christian life God has called us to (Hebrews 12:1).

For if we do not do so, we will inadvertently wander away from Him, leading to our Christian witness not having the impact God intended it to. This is important as we aim to get more **"IN & INVOLVED"** especially **"along the streets"** in 2017, taking the time to *"look at, and look out, for others"* - any and every person God will bring along our way in our daily lives.

Do read the "Featured Sermon" that will help us further explore the importance for **KEEPING OUR FOCUS ON JESUS** from the perspective of responding to **"THE CALL TO...COMMITMENT TO JESUS"**.

Lastly, by the time you read this message, **Kampung Kapor Methodist Church** would have celebrated our **123rd Anniversary** on 24 Jan 2017. Anniversaries are happy occasions and always great to observe. But if they only help us to remember and be grateful for the past, they are really of limited use. They should also help motivate us to be relevant in the present and in the future as we seek to faithfully carry out God's will for our church and our lives! May we then continue to have many, many, more anniversaries to celebrate and bring glory to God always!

May the LORD bless and keep us as we move into 2017!

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

Featured Sermon *A Call to* **Commitment to Christ**

This sermon was preached by Rev Kenneth Huang on 1 Jan 2017. It is the first of a three part of the sermon series :

A Call to Commitment to Christ
A Call to Compassion to Care
A Call to Confidence to Confess

These three sermons are meant to set the tone for our church theme, **In and Involved** – About the Church, Along the Streets, and Across the Seas. In 2017, the focus will be on “Along the Streets”.

Scripture Text - Philippians 3:1 - 4:1

3¹ Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a safeguard.

² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the

goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The first Sermon Series of 2017 is “A Call to...” ACTION!!

Just as the film director calls out “ACTION!” for the actors to start playing their parts or saying their

lines, we Christians are being CALLED by GOD to ACTION! But there is a really big difference between us and those just acting – and exactly, we are not “acting” or in Singlish, just “act, act, one”. What we are doing is for REAL Life, and not just “REEL” life as in a film!

REAL in that how we understand what we are called to be and to do has REAL LIFE implications for ourselves, others and Jesus. Unlike during filming where the director has the opportunity to say, “CUT!” and stop recording if he is dissatisfied with the way the actors are portraying their characters, and give them instructions as to how he wants things done better, before having the scene acted out again for recording, in our OWN DAILY REAL lives, we often do not have the opportunity to say “Cut” or “Balik, Balik” (literally, “go back” or “start again”) because what we say, think and do could have permanent consequences (1) on the well-being of our lives and others, (2) on the progress of our discipleship and the effectiveness of our witness, and (3) on the perception and receptiveness of others to Christ, as a result.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, God has given us a CALL to ACTION in our own daily real lives which is for us to make a COMMITMENT TO CHRIST and to keep it – that is, in the words of Philippians 3:14, to “press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”

This means that we answer or respond to God’s call to us to turn to Jesus with everything we are and have, not just at the point of conversion, but throughout all of

our lives as Christians, believers, and disciples of Jesus! In other words, we PUT in all the effort needed personally to “*make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own...and straining forward to what lies ahead*” (verses 12 -13).

The Greek for “*press on*” is in present tense and denotes a “*constant pursuit*.” And so, as we enter 2017, we let nothing stop us from ensuring that we “**secure the fullness of salvation in Jesus**,” which is “*the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*”. And not just for ourselves, but for all persons whom God has placed “*along the streets*” of our lives, work places, schools, estates, neighbourhoods, home, families, etc, by being *IN & INVOLVED* in their lives. Now this is a good New Year resolution to keep!

But to rightly respond to the **Call to Commitment to Christ** and experience the fullness of salvation in Him as Paul the Apostle did according to Philippians 3:1 to 4:1, we need to on the one hand:

(1) **ALWAYS LET GO** of

- (a) our pride in our “*heritage and accomplishments*”, spiritual or otherwise, and stop using them to prove our ‘worth’ before God (verses 1 - 7). For they really count for nothing (*ie: are ‘rubbish’/‘dung’*) when it comes to using them to save ourselves from our sins and to stand righteously before God.
- (b) our “*past*” – “*forgetting what lies behind*” (verse 13) – let us stop looking back either to congratulate ourselves or to live in regret. Whatever was done in 2016 and before is in the past. Our sins as confessed are forgiven. Let us instead learn from the mistakes made and live for God each day, one day at a time, starting with today!

At the same time, we need to, on the other hand:

(2) **NEVER EVER LET GO** of “*THE SURPASSING VALUE (GREATNESS - NIV) OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD*” (verse 8a), for this **COUNTS FOR EVERYTHING!**

And we do this by:

- (a) **HAVING** only the righteousness of Jesus, as the basis for our own righteousness, for **TRULY** only His righteousness **COUNTS** before God – “*having a righteousness... that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith*” (verses 8b&9). Doing this takes humility on our part because we would be admitting that we are not as righteous and good as we would like to think ourselves to be.
- (b) **KNOWING** Jesus, not just in “*the power of His resurrection*” but also in “*the sharing of His suffering by becoming like Him in His death*” (verse 10). We are normally so willing to seek God’s life-giving resurrection power in our lives to overcome sin and evil, and all the joy that comes with it. And this is right – we should. But let us at the same time never forget that we are to also always be willing and ready to suffer for Jesus, even if it means being ridiculed because we would not participate in a sinful activity, being bypassed for promotion because we would not compromise God’s values in securing a business deal, etc. In Philippians 1:29, Paul affirms that a Christian is granted the privilege to believe in Jesus and also to suffer for Him.

Doing both of the above also takes humility on our part because we will be admitting that only by God’s power can we really experience fullness of joy in our lives. It is also because we will be admitting that living for God will involve us having the pain of being misunderstood when we stand for godly values rather than self-serving ones; for example, when we

put the needs of others at least on par with or ahead of our own, and in so doing, look weak and dumb in not pushing aside others in our way so that we can get ahead in life.

In verse 11 – Paul also says, “*if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*” Was Paul uncertain that he would experience of the resurrection believers in Jesus were promised with the words “*if somehow I may*”? Clearly not, as it was more an expression of humility and gratitude that God would grant salvation to a sinner. He remembered that he had been a persecutor of the church, and yet God showed him forgiveness, not condemnation. Do we have the same humility and gratitude toward God or have we become typically Singaporean even in our dealings with God such that we no more think of our relationship with Him in this way but only in terms of rights and privileges? And we say to God, “*Since I am your follower, God, you owe me to do things for me.*” OR “*Since You promised things for me; You better deliver!*”

And so, a **CALL to ACTION** in our own daily real lives to make a **COMMITMENT TO CHRIST** and to **keep it so that we will experience the fullness of salvation in Jesus** requires us, on the one hand, to **ALWAYS LET GO** of our pride in our “*heritage and accomplishments*” and our “*past*”, and on the other hand, to **NEVER EVER LET GO** of “*THE SURPASSING VALUE (GREATNESS - NIV) OF KNOWING CHRIST JESUS MY LORD*” by **HAVING** only the righteousness of Jesus as our own, and **KNOWING** Jesus, not just in “*the power of His resurrection*” but also in “*the sharing of His suffering by becoming like Him in His death*”.

Now, who can ever say that the Christian life is boring, uninspiring and untrue! It is one that in fact requires faith, obedience, effort, dedication and focus on our part.

However, failure to recognise this will lead to us thinking that we have already “*done it all*” as Christians

when we really have not, and we will stop putting in the necessary faith, obedience, effort, dedication and focus needed to keep on “growing” in our faith in Jesus, in our COMMITMENT to CHRIST!

In fact, the danger was so real that Paul the Apostle had to speak of it from a personal perspective and remind his readers, past and present, that even he, one who already “KNEW JESUS” so well, and whose COMMITMENT TO CHRIST could never ever be doubted, was far from being “perfect” in living the Christian life as he should – “*Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal*”. (verse 12)

The lesson for us then, especially those of us Christians who have been Church goers many years, those of us who claim to be “matured” in our faith already and know the truths about God and Christian theology so well as to become the final arbiters of whether others are living correctly or not, of whether the preacher is saying the correct thing or not, of whether others have the correct insight to matters in the church, etc, is that we may fall into the trap of being complacent, arrogant, prideful and thinking that we have already “MADE IT” in Jesus successfully. But in fact, all it does reveal is that we are people who have not kept growing as Christians and are remaining as people who are self-righteous and lacking humility.

That is why we need to really remember Philippians 3:15 & 16 – “*Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.*” That is, we must “*keep pressing on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.*” (verse 14) with God’s help always, so that we will always be growing in our faith, becoming more Christ-like, manifesting more of the Fruit of the Spirit, showing love more genuinely to God and compassionately to others, sharing the Gospel more

readily, etc.

Then we will not be **earthly-minded** as those that Paul the Apostle described in verses 18&19, “*For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ... Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.*” That is, as the hymn states, rich in things but poor in soul!

Questions for us: Are you and I earthly-minded? Rich in things only? By the way, have we been honest in our pledging and generous in our offering? Or are we just hoarding things selfishly?

If we claim to be mature in the faith, we should instead be **heavenly-minded** as stated in verses 20&21, and remember that our **real** “citizenship” is in heaven where our LORD and SAVIOUR Jesus Christ now is. We await the ultimate transformation of ourselves fully into His likeness upon His return, **but** till Christ returns, we “**stand firm in the Lord in this way**” (Philippians 4:1), always being the person who is known to “**worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh**” (Philippians 3:3).

What a wonderful description of a Christian this is! *But does it fit us?*

If so, then we can safely say that we are responding to the **CALL to ACTION** in our own daily real lives **to make a COMMITMENT TO CHRIST and to keep it** - which is the constant pursuing of “*the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus*”: the securing of the **fullness of salvation in Jesus!** And we will **not be guilty of just “play acting”** our Christian life like an actor in a film, but will be **REALLY living it DAILY in the REAL WORLD where God has placed us!**

To help us remember this sermon, I have included some questions on pg 6 of the Bulletin for our consideration and discussion in the course of this week:

- (1) How does a Christian show he/she is committed to Christ?
- (2) Why can a commitment to Christ be so challenging?
- (3) For those who have been a Christian for some time, what might we be tempted to become and do?
- (4) Why is being committed to Christ so crucial?

Let me close with this poem as we think about what God has spoken to us about through the sermon and as we prepare to participate in the first Sacrament of Holy Communion or Celebration of The Lord’s Supper in 2017!

"Serve and Reward"

[Hymn by Fanny Crosby: "Go and Work"]

Christians, wake, no longer sleep;
Shall we rest while others weep?
Shall we sit with folded hands
When the Lord Himself commands?

Refrain

Go and work! This hour begin;
Go and seek the lost to win;
From the dark abodes of sin,
To the feast, oh, bring them in!

Do we love the Saviour's name?
Can our faith His promise claim?
Have we pledged to Him our all?
Shall we not obey His call?

Do we trust Him as we ought?
Do we live as He has taught?
Are we His, and His alone?
Let our faith by works be shown.

There's a cross that we must bear
If the crown we hope to wear:
Onward, then, with vigour new;
Time is short, the days are few

Upcoming Events

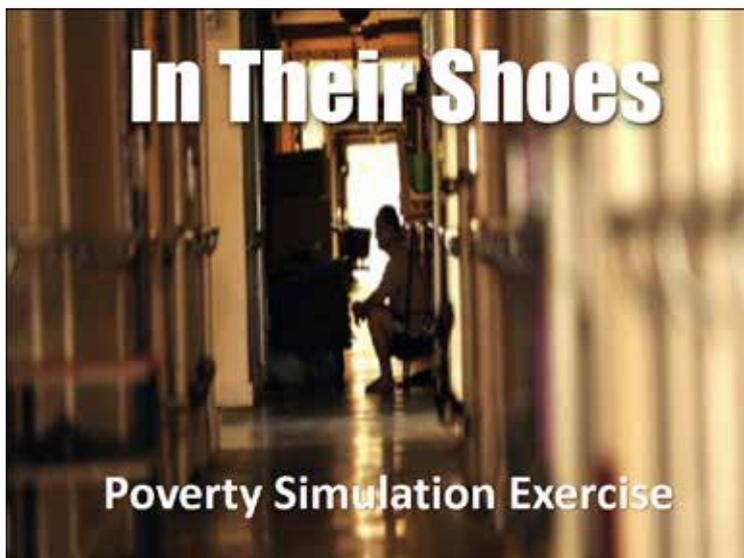
In line with KKMC focus on "Along the Streets" in 2017, there are some opportunities to participate, learn and grow through some of the upcoming events.

A Call to Compassion to Care

Poverty Simulation Exercise to help us walk "In Their Shoes" on Saturday 8 April, 10.30am - 1.00pm

Watch out for more details in the weekly bulletin or contact Ivan - ivan@kkmc.org.sg

Photo courtesy of Methodist Welfare Services



A Call to Confidence to Confess



This course will help us to

1. Discover our unique style in sharing about Christ
2. Use our personal life story to easily share the gospel
3. Clarify misconceptions and fears about evangelism.

The Alpha Course

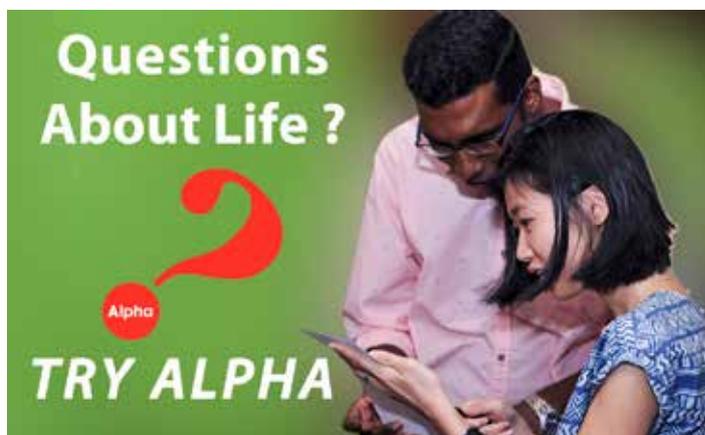
Fridays, 7.00 - 9.30pm, 3 Mar - 26 May 2017

*Everyone has Questions...*and should have the chance to explore faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

What is the Alpha Course? Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the meaning of life in a relaxed, friendly setting.

Each session includes food, a short talk and discussion where everyone can share their thoughts in a relaxed and informal environment. No question about life and God is seen as too simple or too hostile.

The Alpha course is ideal for those who want to find out more about the Christian faith.



For more information on *Becoming a Contagious Christian* or *The Alpha Course*, please contact Lyndon - lyndon@kkmc.org.sg

Church Prayer Watch 2017

As KKMC closed 2016 on 31 December with the Watchnight Covenant Renewal service, we entered into 2017 with a Church Prayer Watch. That served as a practical expression of the covenant we had just made with God.

Unlike 2016 when we held an overnight prayer meeting, the Prayer Watch was held only for an hour (12.30-1.30am) as we had to be back in church for worship service later that morning.

The prayer watch was divided into 15 minute slots starting with a time of worship followed by prayers based our church theme, In and Involved – about the church, along the streets, and across the seas.

It was a joy to see members from all our language services coming together to pray in unity for the church.

Eugenia Chioang Church Prayer Watch 2017 was my first time attending a prayer watch in KKMC. I realised that I did not know many things about the missionary field and the amount of support needed to send missionaries abroad. Now I know more on how to pray for and support them!

It was hard at first to pray because I didn't know where to begin. However, the format and write-ups were very helpful as they provided base points to pray about. By the time I got to the second and third prayer stations, the words just came.

▶ Elaine and Eugenia leading a time of worship



Corinne Tan It felt good to pray together as one church, giving glory to God together. Singing and praying together at the start of the year helped put things in the right perspective.

▶ Corinne and Ronnie praying together



KK Kindergarten



K1 afternoon session class



Pre Nursery class item and classes



K1 morning session class



K2 graduating class

KKMC Kindergarten Year-End Concert Cum Graduation 2016

The KKMC Kindergarten held its year-end concert cum graduation on Saturday 12 November 2016. One of the guests invited to speak was Dr Chia Boon Tat, an alumni of the Kindergarten. He shared with pictures what the Kindergarten was like during 1967-1968 and how the Kindergarten prepared him for life ahead.

Except from Address by Dr Chia Boon Tat

A very good morning to the Committee of the Kindergarten, the dedicated teachers, parents, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a privilege for me to be here today after so many years. I would like to thank Vivian for asking me and giving me the opportunity to come and talk to you.

So, when I accepted the invitation, I was so excited to come that I actually went back to the attic to dig up my old photographs and I found some that I will share afterwards. I also found my old report books and flipping through them, I found that I did not do too badly. I also found my original certificates and they are all in pristine condition.

I was here from 1967 to 1968. It was only two weeks ago when I came

back to visit the Kindergarten and before that, the last time I set foot in here was 1968, a gap of 48 years. It was really quite emotional for me.

This photo was taken in front of the Church. I remember two teachers, Mrs Quek and Mrs Koh. Mrs Quek was a really nice gentle teacher, who did not scold us at all and we really liked her. The other teacher, Mrs Koh was very fierce but she was so musical. I really remembered her playing the piano and whenever she played, we would all burst into song. I really remembered it despite the fact we were all so scared of her.

The other thing I really remembered about the Church was the Big Doors. Do not forget that we were all little and when we walked through the doors, it felt really intimidating, but once we are in, we felt really good!

This concert today really brings back very nice memories. The environment then was very different. The Kindergarten today is connected to the Church. Back then there was no air-conditioning. The only ventilation was through the slits in the walls, which was how old-fashioned buildings were ventilated. But it was very nice and memorable.

If you ask me what the one thing I remembered was during my two years at the Kindergarten, I would tell you that it was the feeling of Happiness and something very positive. When we are young and we are in a very protected and good environment, we feel very happy! The outside world is not as frightening as it is. That is the one positive memory, the first thing I always remember about KKMC Kindergarten.

Another is that the Kindergarten prepared me really well for the next stage of my life, which was entry into Primary 1. So, when I went to Primary 1, an all boys' school, there were boys then who did not know their alphabets and arithmetic. They were constantly picked by the teachers, who made them go up to the board and when they could not do the sum, the teachers would scold them. Fortunately, I was spared all these embarrassments because I knew my ABCs and I could do single digit addition and subtraction. During my two years at the Kindergarten, I learnt to spell

and add, which served me well in Primary School.

After all these years, the Kindergarten still has a very special place in my heart. Whenever I drive by, which is not very often, I would point out to my wife and children, "Look! That is my Kindergarten!" The children would roll their eyes up and comment that this was the 100th time I was telling them and ask why I was so sentimental.

There is a very good reason why I am so sentimental. That is because Singapore has transformed so fast and so much over the past four to five decades that it is almost unrecognizable! Many of my childhood references (I used to live in this neighbourhood) are gone. My mum would walk me to school and sometimes, my granny would come in a trishaw to pick me up, and that was a BIG treat. My favourite noodle seller on Rowell Road is gone, so is the *kacang puteh* man, even the KK Market is not where it used to be. My Primary and Secondary Schools are no longer in their original buildings. But despite all that, the Kindergarten and the Church are still around. This is something very reassuring and even refreshing in a fast paced place like Singapore because this is grounding. It brings me back to my origins, my roots. I am very thankful to the Church and to God for preserving the Kindergarten and the Church, which I hope will be here for many, many years, even forever.

All I can say is that I am very very proud to have been a student here and to the parents, I am sure you did the right thing in sending your children here to be taken care of by the dedicated teachers. Your children will be in for really big things later on in life. So it is a very important start.

Thank you and God bless everyone.



Dr Chia Boon Tat



KK Kindergarten May 1967 in front of the big door



Dr Chia (right) at his kindergarten concert



KK kindergarten Christmas Pageant 1967

Youth Camp 2016 *Hearts Like Heaven*

Youth Camp 2016 was held from 28-31 December at the Girls' Brigade HQ. The theme, Hearts Like Heaven, was based on John 13:34-35.

Here is what took place during the camp, through the eyes of the participants.

Amelia Thong (Youth 4, Organising Committee)

Youth Camp this year was very special to me as I was part of the planning team for the games. Although the process was tiring, with numerous meetings with the committee to go through details, I felt a sense of achievement when I saw the smiles and joy on the campers' faces during the games. We also received good feedback from the leaders. It was heartening to see campers learn from Youth Camp and apply what they had learnt. We saw how the campers showed love to fellow campers, expressed through helping others when they were hurt or feeling unwell, showing encouragement to other campers throughout and helping the camp committee clear up after the games. I think the biggest takeaway for me is to trust God in everything we do and to put Him first, committing everything into His hands. Even if things don't go as we have planned, it is all part of God's big plans!

Everi Yeo (Youth 3, Organising team for the visit to Bethany Methodist Nursing Home)

Youth Camp 2016 for me was a good end to the year. Through this camp, I learned to look at the world around me through a different lens. Planning the Bethany Methodist Nursing Home visit was not easy, but it was a rewarding experience. This project helped me to realise how easy it is to overlook the various issues that exist within our community and the importance of always keeping an eye out for people around us who need help.

Alyssa Goh (Youth 2)

I had not been very close to God this year and through this 4 day camp, I was able to spend more time with Him. It thus allowed me to reaffirm my faith in Him. I enjoyed quiet time each morning and the games that were planned for us. I had many takeaways from this camp which I will apply to my daily life. I would like to thank the camp committee for organising such an enriching camp!

Seth Lim (Youth 1)

I decided to go for the Youth Camp this year because I wanted to learn more about God and grow closer towards him and my church mates. I really enjoyed the Bethany Home visit as it taught me to love those around us no matter how different we, just like how God loves us!

Juliet Yong (Youth 3, organising team for Bethany Methodist Nursing Home)

I joined Youth Camp mainly for the fun and friendship and honestly not much about God. As expected, the camp and games were very fun, enjoyable and made unforgettable memories, but I think the most meaningful part for me was the sermons on advancing in my faith and acting like a Christian. The sermons made me realise how terribly far I actually was from God, which made me reflect a lot on my relationship with God as well as how I portray myself in front of people who know me as a Christian. Planning the Bethany Nursing Home event was another meaningful event. It was fun being able to work on something together as a Life Group. The event went smoothly and better than we had imagined, and seeing all the residents so happy made me sure that everything was for a good cause.



Teresa & Terelyn Leong (DK6)

This youth camp was an eye-opening experience for us as it shows us the differences between Disciple Kids' lessons and Youth Ministry. It was a great way to end the year (2016) and start the new year (2017) with a spiritual perspective. Reverend Dr Chiang Ming Shun's message about the God who loves and the Christian who loves was especially helpful. Through the camp, we also got to know and make new friends among the people in Youth Ministry where we will be moving to in the coming year. It was a dedicated time to connect with more with God and our friends through the daily devotions, worship and group discussions. This camp was certainly an enjoyable and spiritually fortifying experience as we learnt more about God's love.



Dylan Kwok (Youth 4, Camp Assistant Group Leader, currently living in Canada)

This is the stuff that camps are made of.

People say it takes years to get to know someone well; I say that spending 70 hours together is a good start. One of the goals of KKMC's Youth Camp is to build relationships, and it sure looks like it worked.

Experiencing trials together is one of the best ways to build friendships. And some of the camp's games could certainly be described as "trials". Playing captain's ball is fun. Playing captain's ball with a rubber chicken as the ball is funny. Playing captain's ball with a rubber chicken that squawked every time you squeezed it is downright hilarious.

And if that game didn't have enough excitement, the wet games the next day certainly did. A combination of water, soap, rain, mud and flour made the games a slimy experience. And while having one's clothes drenched in the resulting mixture is rather uncomfortable, having everyone share the experience turned it from an uncomfortable situation into a humorous one, and a lasting memory.

It would not be accurate to describe the games as tame and gentlemanly. They were more like the world finals for mud wrestling. Despite the frenetic effort, no team managed to win. Which is to say, that every team ended up with the same number of points. So whether that is called a shared victory or a shared loss, everyone got a prize.

What a coincidence then, that the camp theme for this year was love. And certainly, there was, and is, a lot to

Jethro Yong (Youth 5, Organising Committee)

Ever since I attended my first Youth Camp back in 2013, I have been looking forward to my batch's turn to plan for this annual camp in 2016. The theme for 2016 was love, and one thing that I have learnt is that love is not just an emotion; love is an action that you purposefully act upon because you genuinely care.

Jared Lim (DK6)

I came to camp because my older brothers had told me stories of the joy, wonder and the changes that Youth Camp had brought into their lives, and so I decided to go experience it for myself. What I found the most meaningful was the trip to the Bethany Nursing Home. There I faced some challenges with my elderly friend as she did not have teeth and I could not understand what she was saying. Still I enjoyed myself, made a new friend, and thank the Lord for that opportunity. God blessed me with safety and gave me a wonderful group. I thank Him for his blessings and for encouraging me to love others.

Aaron Ong Kah Yong (Youth 4, Camp Group Leader)

This year, I was appointed group leader. Being a rather introverted person, I was rather worried about my role. I really have to thank God for helping me throughout this camp to lead my group and bond us together. Through the camp's talks, I learnt more about God's unconditional love for us as His people and how that love should be expressed through our actions towards others. I will try to reflect that unconditional love of God through my interactions with others.

learn about that particular feeling—beginning with the fact that it isn't a feeling.

This year's camp speaker was Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun, and his teaching neither confused nor disappointed. Rather, they were thought-provoking and thoughtful, and his sessions were certainly instructive on the topic of love.

God's love in Greek is agape. It is an unconditional love that does not depend on the object of love. This kind of love does not simply feel. It acts. And God's most outstanding example of agape love is when He came down as a man to take the punishment for our sins. When we are commanded to love our enemies, this is the kind of love the Bible is referring to. It's not asking for a nice, warm feeling. It's asking for action, which in Luke 6:27, means "doing good to those who hate you". It was good food for thought and it left me thinking about how I, as a follower of Christ, could also demonstrate God's agape love.

Overall, the camp's activities and teaching certainly created some lasting memories. Like watching one of the boys get his new shirt ripped apart in a game. Or watching a kid set up a Wi-Fi hotspot and have a crowd descend on him, asking for the password. Or enjoying soya bean milk delivered by our life group leader in the middle of the night. These are the events that define a great camp. And even though I only get to spend approximately four days a year with the KKMC youth, living in close quarters with them for 70 straight hours certainly helps in rekindling friendships and forging new ones.

I will always treasure these times.

Rachael Chuah (Youth 4, Camp Group Leader)

Attending Youth Camp in 2016 was a meaningful experience, as I was able to reconnect with some of the members. At the same time I was also able to get a deeper understanding of God's love for us and how we are able to love those around us.



Text from Facebook page of Methodist Welfare Services:

A group of 60 volunteers from Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) between 12 and 18 years of age visited the Bethany Methodist Nursing Home (BMNH) on the 30th of Dec 2016 to spread some cheer to our elderly beneficiaries as part of their youth camp activities.

The youths played interesting games with the residents such as Bingo, and "Pass the Parcel" where a multi-layered parcel would be passed along the participants until the music stops, whereby the individual holding on to the parcel will get to unwrap a layer. The game goes on until the parcel is completely unwrapped.

Alongside games, the young volunteers also prepared snacks such as biscuits and cake to share with the beneficiaries. It was half a day of joy and laughter and was a perfect way to end the year for our residents.

On behalf of our elderly beneficiaries, we would like to extend a BIG thank you to the young volunteers from KKMC!



Children's Ministry - Little Blessings and Little Praisers

As more families with young children attend our 11.30am Worship Service, from January 2017, our Children's Ministry (CM) started:

1. a "Little Blessings" class for children aged 1 to 3 years old at the Joy Room, and
2. a "Little Praisers" class for children aged 4 to 6 years old at Level 3 Room 4.

Children join their parents and family at the 11.30am Worship Service for 20 to 25 minutes during the time of Praise and Worship, after which, they go to the respective venues for classes till 1pm.

How did the 11.30am service worshippers receive this new Children's ministry initiative?



The Children's Ministry is still looking for volunteers to teach. If you are able to help out, please contact Mrs Cecilia Low (Children Ministries Chairperson) at 91866432 or ccliachia@gmail.com or Mr Timothy Tan (Lay Ministry Staff) at 97738637 or timothy@kkmc.org.sg.

Justyn and Sylvia Tan

We feel happy that there is an opportunity for our child to have fun and learn about God with her peers. We are thankful for the dedication of the CM and Michelle for making this possible.

Alwyn and LiHui Ng

We feel this new arrangement is better than trying to look after our daughter Annabeth inside the sanctuary while the worship service is going on. With the Little Blessings ministry, Annabeth gets to learn and play with children in fun and engaging ways. These are small but important steps for her to enjoy fellowship with other children and know about God. Without babysitting duties, parents also get to pay attention during the worship service.

Raveen and Laurencia

When Ps Kenneth mentioned about the possibility of having a CM for the 11.30am service, we were hoping and praying that it would happen sooner. For young parents like us with toddler kids, 11.30am service gives us enough time to prepare the kids (shower, change and feed) before coming to church. Also, as we have been attending the 11.30am service for many years, we have established our roots in the service (good friends/ Lifegroup). If we were to attend an earlier service, not only would it disrupt the kids' routine but also the need for us to reconnect and re-establish with the earlier service members who tend to have a different Sunday routine from us.

Now with the 11.30am service Children's Ministry, many young parents are able to continue attending their preferred 11.30am service with the ease of mind that their children can attend CM at the same time.

Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Christmas Outreach Programme

Mary Gan

One of the core purposes of the WSCS is "To know Christ and to make him known". With this objective in mind, we decided, as our year-end outreach project, to invite the KKMC kindergarten kids and their families, together with the kindergarten staff, to a Christmas party.

With the collaboration of the kindergarten, KKMC WSCS invited all K1 and K2 kids and their families to the party which was held on Saturday, 26 November 2016, in our church social hall. Fourteen children together with their siblings and parents responded to our invitation.

On the day of the party the social hall was gaily decorated with a variety of coloured balloons, and gospel music played softly in the background. Some of our WSCS ladies and kindergarten teachers were at the door to welcome our guests. Though it was raining heavily that afternoon, it was by God's grace that all our guests arrived safely, though some were soaking wet!

After a slight delay, the President of our WSCS, Mrs Joscelyn Foo, warmly welcomed the guests. Pastor Gabriel Liew gave the opening prayer which was followed by an ukulele item put up by some of our WSCS ladies comprising Mrs Joscelyn Foo, Mrs Jennifer Yeow, Mrs Yeo Siew Chin, Ms Bessie Chan and Ms Wendy Siew. This small group has been practising for the last 3 months and was happy to make their debut that day! The guests sang along with these two songs, "This Little Light of Mine" and "Give Me Oil In My Lamp".

Ms Pauline Hoo got the children to sing Christmas songs. The highlight of the afternoon was when Pauline gave the Christmas message, "The Candy Cane Story". Prior to Pauline's sharing, I must admit I didn't know that story. Of

course, I know what the Christmas message is but I didn't know one could use the candy cane to illustrate the purity of Christ and the blood of Jesus.

For the benefit of our readers, the story of the candy cane can be put simply in this poem:

Look at the Candy Cane
What do you see?
Stripes that are red
Like the blood shed for me
White is for my Saviour
Who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus,
My Lord that's for sure!
Turn it around
And a staff you will see
Jesus my Shepherd
Was born for me!

For the guests who might not know what a candy cane is, Pauline gave everyone a candy cane each.

I was heartened to note that the children listened intently to the story and responded spontaneously to the questions Pauline posed to them. It is our hope that the parents present had also grasped the Christmas message.

Of course a children's party would not be complete without them playing games. Thus when the announcement was made for games to begin, they eagerly queued up to play the three games which we organized, namely Musical Chairs, Balancing Bean Bags on the Head and "Simon Says". The kids enjoyed themselves tremendously.

A surprise item that afternoon was when Mr Kelvin Tan, accompanied by his guitar, got the children to sing two Christmas songs, "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells". All sang with gusto. All were in a happy Christmassy mood especially when they were given presents!



After the children gave thanks by singing grace, our WSCS ladies helped to serve dinner. Guests were entertained at dinnertime by the karaoke singing of Christmas songs by the enthusiastic principal and teachers of the Kindergarten!

Everyone enjoyed the evening. To God be the Glory!

Mandarin Ministry Testimonies

Alice Ho 何玉冰

If you ask me what life I was leading before I met Jesus, I can only say it was no different from any other non-believer. I led a typical and busy life - starting work right after graduation, getting married and having kids. I didn't go to church and hence, never knew what Christianity was about. Worship and prayers were Greek to me.

However, things changed about three years ago when my health deteriorated and I got hospitalised. When my daughter visited me at the hospital, I recalled her testimony and found myself asking her to pray for me! I was reminded of this "God" who healed her.

My daughter had a medical condition - she suffered from early menopause and was unable to conceive. Medically, her chances of conceiving were very low and almost impossible. But she did not give up and continued to pray unceasingly. One day, God gave her a vision that she was going to have a child. And six months later, she actually got pregnant! Her pregnancy was very smooth and she gave birth to a healthy and adorable baby boy.

I was very stirred by my daughter's miracle healing and testimony, and started to feel a sense of respect, fear and reverence for this God she speaks about. I started to believe that this God could be real and hoped He would bear my burdens and heal me too.

Therefore, after I was discharged from the hospital, I tried all ways to know more about God. I attended church (KKMC Chinese service), joined a cell group and participated in the KKMC Alpha Course. I recently also completed my baptism class conducted by Preacher Pau from KKMC's Chinese ministry. By God's grace, I now have a better understanding of Jesus Christ! Thank God!

I will continue to look to God and worship Him. I now know Yahweh is the one true God. He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. I also know by following Him, I will have eternal life. All glory and honour unto the Almighty God! Amen!



如果问我遇见耶稣基督之前，我的人生是怎么过的，我只能说和一般非基督徒没有两样吧！中学毕业后就出来社会工作，然后结婚生子、之后还是继续工作和督促孩子的课业、照顾家中大小。就这样忙忙碌碌的过了几十年的光阴。

那时候的我，没有去过教会，不知道什么是基督教，更别说是崇拜和祷告。

曾几何时，我竟然忽略了自己的健康，在三年多前的某一天，我突然生病进了医院。在女儿前来医院探访时，我这个非基督徒竟然开口请她为我祷告。可能是因为她的亲身见证感动了我；当时她的身体出现问题，没有月事；看了西医又看中医，该做的该吃的都做足了，结果还是一样，徒劳无功。最终她放弃了治疗。

之后只是继续不停的祷告，求上帝赐给他们小孩。每天除了祷告还是祷告；六个月后，上帝终于赐给了他们一个小男孩！从不可能怀孕到现在拥有一个健康、天真又可爱的开心果。这是神的恩典，让我对上帝充满信心与仰赖，感觉神能为我担当一切。

于是在我出院后，就积极地，尽可能地参与崇拜，参加小组、也上了启发课程。从中我逐渐地认识了我们的主耶稣。

如今上了包传道所传授的洗礼班课程后，让我们对上帝有更深一层的了解。这是神的恩典！感谢主！

我会继续地敬拜上帝，仰望神。我知道耶和华是我们的真神，我也知道跟随着祂能得永生。直到永远。荣耀归于主！阿们！

Liu Hong Dan 刘红丹

Before I believed in the Lord, I used to think that there were spirits in the world that science could not explain. I knew about a Jesus from books and movies, but I thought that the West had their gods and the East had our gods. I thought that the Goddess of Mercy, Tathagata (Buddha) and the Monkey King were Eastern gods and God, Jesus and the Virgin Mary were Western gods.

However, when I had a need like sitting for an exam, I would clasp my hands and pray to all the gods I knew. Yet I still did not do well in my exams.

When I came to Singapore to study, I did not mingle socially. For two years, I spent my time only at two places, home and school. As graduation approached, our teachers advised us to look for jobs. Seeing my classmates apply for jobs, I did so too.

By June 2016 all my classmates had found a job, but I had not. I was feeling pressured and confused and so asked to meet a friend for dinner to chat. As we sat for the meal, my friend lamented about her work pressures. I, on the other hand, complained that I felt the pressure of not having a job.

We were talking quite loudly and Rui Hong, who was seated at the next table, overheard our conversation. She took the initiative to come to us and encouraged us, telling us that we are God's children and He would provide

我在信主之前，是相信世界上有神魔鬼怪以及一些科学都无法理解的不可思议的事物存在的。耶稣和上帝我在课本上以及网络上都有看到过，就如电影演的那些里面的欧洲国家嘴里经常听到上帝这两个字。所以我之前的理解是东方有东方的神魔，西方有西方的神。

在没有信上帝之前，我觉得观音、如来、孙悟空等是我们东方的神；而西方的神就是上帝、耶稣、圣母玛利亚。在信上帝之前我也有祷告过，不是像现在这样祷告。我呢，从小到大非常害怕考试，所以有时后会在考试之前双手合十，祈求如来佛祖、观音菩萨、玉皇大帝以及上帝、耶稣、圣母玛利亚所有我所知道的神，都念出来来保佑我考试过关，但最终结果都不及格。

来到新加坡上学两年，我都每天两点一线的，学校回家、回家学校，我是一个不善于与人交往的人，特别是让我主动，所以除了同学老师以外我谁也不认识。一个人也不敢到外面玩，所以来到新加坡两

for us. We also exchanged phone numbers.

I went home and I continued my job hunt, but my heart did not feel as burdened as before.

After two days, sister Rui Hong called to invite my friend and I to visit her church.

When I came to the church, I found that it was not the same as what I had seen on the television. Everything made me curious. Everyone in the church was very happy and very warm. When they sat to eat, drink and talk, they were like a family.

When sister Rui Hong asked me if I wanted to believe in God, I said yes. Everyone in the church prayed for me, saying there would be miracles in prayer. However, I did not know how to pray.

On the second last day of my term, I went out to dinner with my classmate. She told me that she had returned the Bible sister Rui Hong gave her. She was living with her sister and her brother-in-law would not want to see a Bible in his house. But she told me that although she did not have a Bible, she had prayer. At that time I thought to myself - why was it that my friend who was not a Christian could pray, and I, a Christian, could not pray? I went home that day



and prayed before bedtime. The next morning I prayed again after I woke up.

It was the last day of term. As I continued to pray, I believed miracles would happen. After I prayed, I received a phone call from sister Rui Hong, saying that sister Zhang Kun was looking for me. There was a vacancy in her school as a teacher had just resigned. I was asked to go for an interview and on the same day was offered a job. God answers prayers and does His miracles!

The miracle of prayer made me believe more in God. I pray before I sleep and in the morning after I wake up. Although there are many struggles in life, I see God providing as I pray. Every day I am learning that I am dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus. I have entrusted my life to God. Amen.

年了，我去过的地方就一只手就可以数完了。就这样糊里糊涂地毕业了，毕业之后老师让我们赶快找工作，看到同学们都在找工作，我也开始找。

2016年的6月是一个很幸运的月份，我的同学朋友们都找到工作，我还没有，但我与另一个已找到工作的同学都感觉到的压力都很大。我的同学是由于工作上同事们以及其他的压力，而我是为我迷茫的前途，找不到工作而感觉到有很大的压力，所以我们俩人就相约一起见个面，吃晚餐。当我们选好位置后，坐下来边谈边吃时，引导我认识上帝的天使(瑞鸿姐)出现了。瑞鸿姐和我们拼桌，我们两个就在旁相互的抱怨吐槽，她吐槽工作压力大，我抱怨我没工作压力更大。当时的瑞鸿姐正在餐前祷告，她非常的无语，就主动开口与我们搭话，告诉我们不可以这样，说上帝对待每一个人都是平等的，每一个人都是祂的孩子.....等等。一个多小时的交谈让我知道了许多我不知道的。在这之后我们就各回各家。

就这样回家后，我继续找工作，但心里面好受多了，不再那么多压抑，就这样过了两天，我接到朋友的电话，她问我要去教会吗？瑞鸿姐邀请我们去教会，教会对我来说是电视里面西方国家的婚礼礼堂，我以为去参观，玩玩什么的，然后就答应了去。

来到教会后，我发现好像和电视里面演的不一样，所有的一切都让我好奇。教会里面的人大家都很开心，很热情，每个人脸上都是很幸福的，像家人一样坐下吃吃喝喝交谈。当瑞鸿姐问我要不要信上帝，我说我信。教会里的大家都为我祷告，说祷告就会有奇迹，可是我不会祷告，不知道怎么祷告，带着疑问回家，之后就丢到脑后，继续找工作。

直到我期限最后的两天里，我又和同学们聚餐了，在回家的路上我同学突然告诉我她把圣经还给了瑞鸿姐，我们第二次见面时，瑞鸿姐送了我们两一人一本圣经。我问她为什么，同学告诉我她姐姐与姐夫不让，不敢带回家，那里不是她的家，她不能

做主，是可以理解的。但是她告诉我她虽然没有圣经，但她有祷告。当时我想为什么她不是基督徒可以祷告，为什么我是基督徒不去祷告呢？回家之后我就一直祷告，睡前也祷告，第二天是最后一天，我起床后继续祷告，我相信奇迹会发生。在我祷告完后上帝又安排了一位天使来帮助我。我接到瑞鸿姐的电话，说让我打一个电话，有人找我。我打过去是张昆姐说她们学校有一位老师辞职，让我去面试看看。就这样我最后的祷告，上帝的安排，天使的引路，奇迹出现了：面试成功，当天就签约，第二点早上的飞机。

祷告的奇迹让我更相信上帝，我两年的一线多加了一条线，家、学校、教会。在信上帝之后我早上起床都会祷告，祷告平安的每一天，虽然有时还是发生了很多很多的事情，但身边的天使们都鼓励我为我祷告，我自己也在学习无论我是死是活都全交给上帝。阿们。

Wong Chia Kin 王家瑾

Before I became a believer, I led a carefree and easy-going lifestyle. It seemed enjoyable. However, from time to time there was a feeling of emptiness in my heart. Often I look at my life with trepidation. Life seemed to be filled with uncertainties without a safety net beneath. This was the way I led my life for many years.

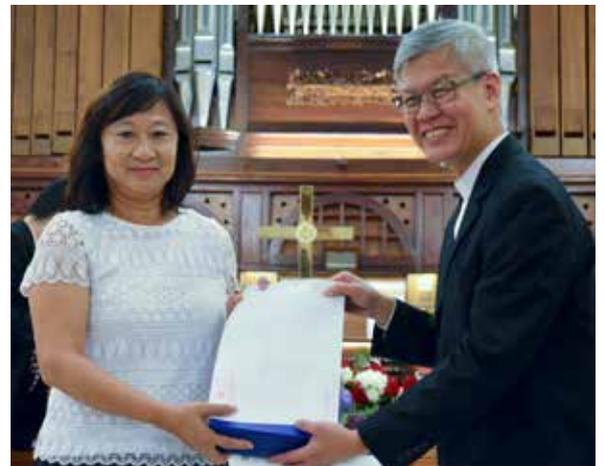
One fateful day, I poured out my thoughts to a longtime friend. I shared with her that life felt empty and full of uncertainties. I had always prided myself as a positive, independent person with enough intellect to be confident in handling life. Yet if I could feel such meaninglessness, I imagined that everyone's lives must be just as bleak and hopeless like mine.

Her response sent a shockwave through me. "I don't have this feeling like yours at all, I don't feel the emptiness and hopelessness, I carry the peace in my heart all the time because I am a

believer in the Lord."

Her words shocked me into the realisation that I need to know this Jesus in my heart. It was this moment of curiosity that led me on a Sunday afternoon to walk to a church nearest my home - KKMC. From that beginning, I began my miraculous journey. I made sure that I attended each Sunday's worship service unless I was not in Singapore. At each service, I was astonished that God had a personal word for me from the preacher. Many of my life's doubts and challenges were answered here. I began to look forward to each and every service. I also felt that I was drawing closer to God in my relationship with Him.

I began to befriend my "extended" family in church (I can truly call them brothers and sisters). I also joined a cell



group, read the Bible and joined the Alpha Course. The need for God grew even deeper. My inner struggles within me began to diminish as I had Jesus in me. Inner peace and joy took over my heart and mind. I began to realise how to embrace hope, have a meaningful life, depend on God and to be thankful for God's grace.

I am a baptised believer today. I don't feel the loneliness and turmoil in my heart anymore because Jesus walks with me.

在我认识耶稣基督之前，我的生活是很随性有自由的。看起来还蛮享受的，可是还是时不时会无故情绪低落，对生命也不时感到灰暗与不安。我却以这样的心态战战兢兢、毫无意义地过了好些年。

直到... ... 有一天偶然不经意地向好友诉说，自己对生命感到非常无助与不安的感触。我一向很自傲自己是个非常积极、独立有思想又自信的人，我认为别人的生命必定也是灰暗的。

好友的回答却让我感到非常震惊。她说：“我没有你这样的感觉，我不会感到无助与不安，我却常常会感到很平安，因为我是信主的。”

就是她的这番话让我很深思，开始有了想要认识耶稣的决心。就在这样的好奇心促使之下，在一个星期天的下午，我步入了最靠近我住家的教会KKMC甘榜加卜卫理公会华语堂。就这样开始了我一段认知主的奇妙之旅。除非我不在国内，不然我风雨无阻地都参加每个星期天的崇拜。在每一次的崇拜

中，我很惊讶的见证了主一次又一次地借着传道的口向我说话，解答了我生活上的许多疑惑与难题。就这样我开始很期待每一次的崇拜，也感觉到我越来越想要亲近主了。

从中我也认识许多如家人一般的朋友（现在我称之为内弟兄姐妹）。此外，我也参加了教会的小组、开始读经、更参加了启发课程（Alpha

Course)。我发现我越来越需要主了，因为有了主我内心不再有挣扎，并开始有了平静与喜悦。我开始理解要如何过一个有希望、有恩典、有爱且又懂得感恩的人生。

今天的我已经是一位受洗的基督徒，我不再感到孤独与不安，因为我有上帝与我同在。

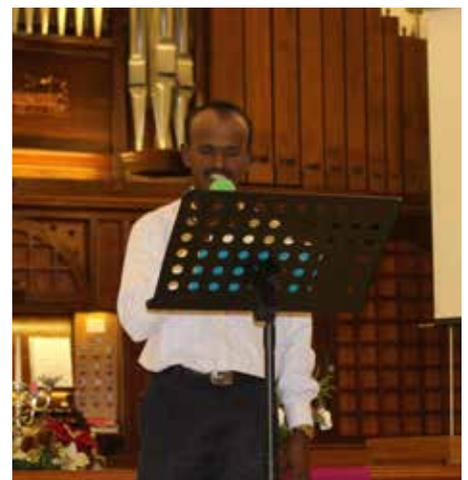
Tamil Ministry Leo Samuel

Christmas Celebration

The birth of a child brings joy. The birth of the Prince of Peace brings even more joy, as He was born to restore broken relationships, free us from the bondage of sin and give us an everlasting life.

Our Tamil congregation celebrated this advent season with joy. A carol service was held on 11 December 2016. The choir and the little children from the Tamil congregation presented Christmas hymns to glorify our God. Carol rounds were organised on 10 and 17 December 2016, and Christmas joy was shared with one another. The contributions collected will be used for ministries in India to symbolically share the Christmas joy. A special Christmas Tree Service was also held on 18 December 2016 in which church members used their talents to adore God. Another special service was held on Christmas Eve. The sermons in all the services were thought provoking and helped the congregation to grow spiritually.

There is a Tamil proverb, which says *"let the whole world receive the joy which I have received"*. Christmas provides a great opportunity to spread the good news to our friends from other faiths. A Christmas outreach program was held on 25 December 2016. The themes of universal sinfulness and the good news that Christ can provide us redemption were presented to 120 Indian brothers. A testimony was shared with the message that Jesus encounters us with a miracle of changing our lives. Through a skit that complemented the sermon, a message was communicated that Jesus alone can provide us peace. The participants received copies of the New Testament. Pray that the people who attended the program will be nurtured to grow in Christ. To God be the Glory!



More Blessed to Give than to Receive

Mark Tan

Experiencing God's Grace on a Bible Mission Trip to Myanmar

From 27 October to 1 November, five KKMC members (Sam Tan, Tan Ban Choo, Helen Ong, Leong Kwok Thye, and Helen Leong) joined a larger group of 11 participants on a Bible Mission Trip organised by The Bible Society of Singapore. The team travelled to Mandalay, Myanmar, where they distributed Bibles and other useful items. They also interacted with and encouraged the locals there. As a Bible Society staff member, I was assigned to lead the trip before I knew who the participants were, and so it was a pleasant surprise to find five fellow KKMC members in the group. This was surely not a coincidence, but an act of God's divine planning! His constant provision continued to be a theme throughout the mission trip, which left every participant blessed – even as God used us as instruments of blessing to others.

Our first full day in Myanmar saw us travel from Mandalay to a smaller hillside town, Pyin Oo Lwin, where we conducted our first distribution at St Matthew's Kachin Baptist Church. Church leaders from about 20 churches in the area had gathered to receive not just Bibles but also family kits that contained essential items such as blankets and mosquito nets. After the items were distributed, many of them stepped forward to express their gratitude, spoke about their challenges, and explained how the gifts were answered prayers and great blessings to their church members. Their sincere sharing was a real encouragement to the team, and helped us see how God was using us to provide for others.

The group then visited the orphanage run by the church to distribute Bibles and school kits, which included a backpack and various stationery items. We also had the opportunity to sing and play games with the children, who were excited to meet us and grateful for the gifts they had received. Though they were orphans, they were so joyful, which put smiles on our own faces as we were reminded again of God's purposes in bringing us there.

Over the next few days, we visited four more orphanages and leaders from over 30 churches, distributing the various items as well as sharing God's Word with them and praying with them whenever we could. In total, we gave out about a thousand Bibles, family kits and school kits, which would make a difference in many lives.

One particularly memorable visit was to the last orphanage on our itinerary, Paradise Orphanage. It could only be reached through a small dirt road, and its facilities were humble – the communal room we met in barely fit the 40 children that live there, and their sleeping quarters were no more than an elevated wooden platform over the muddy ground. However, the children and teachers there radiated genuine sincerity, which struck a chord with the team. This experience left a lasting impression on us, and we are now working with the Bible Societies in Singapore and Myanmar to explore supporting the orphanage to bring about longer term and deeper impact to the children there. Again, such an initiative could only be a result of

God's sovereign plan and His Spirit stirring in our hearts.

Indeed, we saw God's plan and provision throughout the trip – from dealing with smaller problems like having no hot water in the hotel, to larger ones like Mandalay's streets being flooded when we returned (in His grace, we all remained perfectly dry!). But His true gift was opening our eyes to the great needs in the world today, and using us to address them in Myanmar by bringing His Word, support and encouragement to those we encountered. We returned with full hearts and give all thanks, praise, and glory to Him for such a wonderful experience.



▲ Paradise Orphanage
 ▲ KKMC Members distributing Bibles and other items
 ▼ The whole Bible Society mission team together with Church leaders at St Matthew's Church



Children's Ministry Missions Exposure Trip

Timothy Tan
29 November - 4 December 2016

The annual missions exposure trip for the Primary 6 cohort (DiscipleKids 6 Class) took place from 29 November - 4 December 2016. This trip to our Lahu churches marks the culmination of the Sunday School DiscipleKids programme.

The 2016 Children's Ministry team comprised 29 persons: nine Primary 6 students led by twelve adults and assisted by eight Secondary 2 students from the Youth Ministry.

The team started preparations at the beginning of October, covering topics such as the biblical basis for missions, preparing testimonies, and learning about the Thai and Lahu cultures. They also rehearsed singing Christmas carols in the Thai and Lahu languages, practiced for a dance item, and prepared for the learning carnival and vacation bible school programmes that would be conducted.

On this trip, the team visited two villages - Patuingoi Village where Water of Life Methodist Church is located, and Maepulang Village, a preaching point of Water of Life and Santi Methodist Churches. A team of Lahu believers accompanied us.

The team conducted a Learning Carnival at each of the schools in Patuingoi and Maepulang. The simple science experiments served as a platform for the sharing of the Gospel with the Lahu students.

Together with the Lahu Team, we put up two night programmes - one in each of the village - where the boys

and girls sang, danced and shared their testimonies. It was also during the night programmes that clothes donated by church members were distributed to the Lahu people.

As it was late November and the beginning of the Christmas season, Ps Pisut led the team in carolling in Maepulang. It was quite an experience for the children to walk in the dark holding torchlights as they went from house to house.

The final programme that the team conducted at Maepulang Village was the Vacation Bible School. At the start of the programme, there were not many Lahu children in sight. Just as we were wondering what to do, children started to pour in the little open hall like a flash flood without warning. The Lahu children took in all the sights and sounds as the team conducted various activities. They sportingly took part in all the activities that were planned for them. Some of the children even whipped out their smart phones and began to take pictures and videos of the team members!

On our last day of the trip, Sunday 4 December 2016, we had the privilege of witnessing the baptism of 7 people. They were also received into the membership of Water of Life Methodist Church.

It was truly the grace of God that enabled the team to participate in the Lahu ministry. Indeed even as the team returned home safe and sound, we all unanimously agreed that we had been blessed more than we were able to bless the Lahu people!



▲ Chengdoi School at Patuingnoi
▼ DiscipleKids 6 students with their teachers
▼ Parents of the Youth 2 and DK 6 sending them off at the airport



Reflections of Team Members

Ong Xin Hui “When we were singing praises, I felt really peaceful and calm. I’ve never felt that feeling before. Praise the Lord!”

Jared Lim “There were so many meaningful activities that I find it very hard to choose the one most memorable one. I guess that the most memorable activities would either be carolling or sitting in the trucks and van with my level-mates.”

Marie Lim “Thank you God for letting me experience different surroundings in Chiang Mai and letting me appreciate how much you have blessed me back in Singapore. Thank you for enabling our team to go up to perform and interact with the Lahu people while spreading the Word at the same time, especially when we were at the schools.”

Lim Hongxi “When we were learning the dances and skits for Vacation Bible School (VBS), most of us did not take it seriously and were reluctant to put in effort. However, during the activity we were enthusiastic. The children during the VBS were very responsive and happy. This brought me a lot of satisfaction.”

Jon Sim “The most memorable part of the trip would be the carolling and the activity that brought me the most satisfaction was the Vacation Bible School.”

Alyssa Ting “Thank you God for giving me the opportunity to spread your word to others who might have never heard of you. Thank you for keeping us all safe throughout the whole trip and watching over us. Thank you for giving me teachers and friends to guide me through my Christian life and teach me new things about you along the way. Thank you Lord that in Singapore, we are able to freely worship and praise you Lord. Thank you for giving us this fruitful and wonderful time in Lahu.”



▲ Team with teachers of Chengdoi School
▼ The Learning Carnival at Doiviangpha Pittaya School, MaePuLang Village



▽ Carolling at Maepulang
▲ Riding in a truck was one of the highlights for our students
◀ Vacation Bible School activity at Maepulang
▼ Rev Pisut (L) addressing the candidates for baptism



December Mission Trip to Lahu Villages

From 9-20 December 2016, a team of 26 persons went to support our ministry in the Lahu villages. The team visited 3 villages.

Payakrongdee Village. This Red Lahu village has close to 100 households, with the majority still being non-believers. Pastor Panya moved to this village and built a church in 2004. Today, the church has over 50 members but much work remains to be done. The team visited every household, carolling and praying for the people. Both formal and informal programmes were held to allow more contact time with the people so that we can share the gospel. The team also held a special time of prayer and worship with the believers to pray for them and the work of the church.

Two of the days were spent teaching English at Viangpa

Vittaya School – a large boarding school about 1 km from the village. This school has students from around the area and even from Myanmar. A Christmas programme was also held for 250 students.



Phase 1 Group at Payakrongdee Methodist Church

MaePulang Village (also spelt Mae Pun Luang). This large village has people from at least 3 different tribal groups. The Red Lahu in this village do not have a church and most are not yet Christian. Water of Life Methodist Church and Santi Methodist Church have adopted this village their preaching point and send teams to visit this village once a month.

The team stayed at a government compound that houses the Thai Hilltribe Community Learning Centre and the Pre-school Child Development Centre. The team painted the exterior of the compound and helped to tear down a wall to extend the community hall. The team also visited every household over 2 nights of caroling. With 2 bagpipers from the 60th Boys' Brigade Company at Raffles Institution in the team, bagpipe music was heard for the first time in this village and was very well received.

An activity day for the village included workshops on basic first aid, guitar lessons, dance lessons and mural painting for the children. Another day was spend teaching English at the Doiviangpha Pittaya School.

Santi Village. This village was where our Lahu work started in 1998. More than three quarters of the village are now believers. The team spent 2 days at the village encouraging the believers as well as visiting and praying for the non believers. A day was spent teaching English at PongNamRong School.



Breaking down a wall to extend the community hall at MaePuLang Village



▲ Painting the wall of the government compound at MaePuLang Village
▶ Mural painting @ Maepulang



◀ Praying for the sick @ Payakorngdee Methodist Church
▼ Joshua and Ivan playing the bagpipes during carolling at MaePuLang Village
▲ Conducting Children's Ministry at Payakorngdee Methodist Church





First Aid Course at MaePuLang

The members of the team were

Advance party (8 Dec): Amelia Thong, Alvin Teo, Charmaine Tay, Joycelyn Tan, Kaye Cheong, Ken Lee, Luke Sim, Megan Tay and Samantha Goh.

Main party (9 Dec): Caitlin Kuek, Cheryl Lee, Dylan Chew, Jon Sim, Kegan Ang, Lyndon Gan, Valencia Tay, Vethanbu Twinklín and Wen Dezhi.

Second Phase (14 Dec): Andrew Liang, Chia Zhi Yi, Ivan Tang, Joshua Leong and Immanuel Leong (RIBB Primers), John Samuel and Bonny Law.



▲ Samantha (right) conducting a dance workshop at MaePuLang Village
▼ Amelia conducting a Guitar workshop



Reflections of Team Members

Amelia Thong

This year's mission trip forced me to step out of my comfort zone when I had to take up new roles. In so doing, I learnt more about myself and gained confidence in trying out new stuff. One of the many lessons I learned was being patient. I had to teach guitar to the teenagers and older children in Mae Pu Lang who had no prior musical knowledge and a very short attention span. From having to repeat fingerings and strumming patterns numerous times to singing the chorus repeatedly for them to play to, all the hard work finally paid off when they could play the chorus of '10,000 Reasons' by Matt Redman smoothly. The smile on their faces at their own accomplishment was heartening.

Immanuel Leong

I embarked on the mission trip to Thailand with a fair amount of trepidation and anxiety. After a year full of emotional ups and downs capped by the year-end A-Level examinations, I was physically, emotionally, and mentally exhausted. However in retrospect, joining the mission trip was precisely the right remedy for me. Being forced away from the hustle and bustle of city life in busy Singapore, and the constant distractions posed by social media and the internet, reminded me

to be thankful for the simple things in life that God has blessed us with – be it the warmth of a fire (believe it or not, I learnt to appreciate Singaporean weather), the fellowship of my friends (instead of my mobile phone), the boisterous laughter and warm smiles (accompanied by an occasional forceful punch) of the Lahu children, or even the indescribable beauty of a starry night sky. While this mission trip did not produce any climactic spiritual encounters with God, it certainly taught me that our Creator's faithfulness and glory are most vividly displayed in things that we have come to take for granted. When our restless and wearied souls learn to be still, then, and then only, will we see with our eyes, and know with our hearts, that He is God.

Ivan Tang

"We can do no great things, only small things with great Love." –Mother Theresa

This quote nicely sums up the short 7 days that I spent with the Lahu people. Though we spent a very limited time with the villagers of Maepulang and Santi, we did our best to bring Christmas cheer to all of them, be it by teaching English lessons at local schools, conducting face painting sessions, or caroling door-to-door. Small as these actions were, the smiles and laughter of the

villagers (especially those of the children), really made me feel like I had been able to make that little difference in their lives. I like to think this is so because we did everything there with all our hearts, with love.

The thing that struck me most was the fact that after we caroled at each house, the house owner would present us with a token of appreciation, ranging from soft drinks to farm produce and even sums of money. This was despite the fact that many of them earned a very small income. This was significant because it illustrates the sincerity of the villagers in their appreciation of whatever we were doing with them, and hints towards a much bigger eventual outcome in KKMC's annual Mission Trips.

More than appreciation, I am sure that the villagers were able to feel the love that our team was bringing to them, and I really hope that this love can continue to be passed down: from us to them, then from them to their family and friends, and then to future generations.

Andrew Liang

What I took away the most from this trip was the reinforcement of the idea that small things, often insignificant to us, may be very important to others and that we have to be very careful with our actions as we would not know how it may turn out to impact others.

It was during the night programme when we gave out old clothes and vitamins C tablets that I realised this. Even though these were really small actions, I could see that the villagers were very happy to receive the gifts.

Another example was teaching English lessons in the schools. We taught each class for only a day. Yet the students' willingness to take the lessons seriously had a huge impact on me. It made me a lot more confident to conduct the lesson.

Finally at Santi Methodist Church, the worship service was attended many villagers, and I witness a church filled with Lahu worshippers. KKMC has been sending teams to Santi Village year after year and although each team may have done just a little, the small things each team do add up.

Dylan Chew

I joined the Lahu Mission trip because I really enjoyed the Children's Ministry trip I went on last year. I was expecting more of the same. Instead, this trip opened my eyes to what God was doing in ways I had not seen.

In Payakongdee Village, a lady came to church and stepped up when the invitation to pray for the sick was given. She was a follower of the traditional Lahu beliefs. After Pastors Panya, Pisut and the few members of the KKMC mission team prayed for her, she said she felt better and accepted Christ right there and then. She allowed the symbols of her Lahu religion – strings worn on the wrist – to be cut and prayed to receive Christ. This showed me how faith can both heal and save.

I also found out how the children in the villages could be happy and helpful with so little. When we got off the bus at Payakongdee, we were immediately swarmed with the village children asking to play or to ride on our backs. When we wanted to explore the villages, be it in Payakongdee, Santi or Mae Pu Lang, the village hill or river, they would always follow along and act as our guides. Instead of desiring toys and gifts, they seem to genuinely enjoy our presence and company. I can learn how to love sincerely and unconditionally from them.

Samantha Goh

It has been 4 years since I last came up for a mission trip. It was most heartwarming to see how while so many things had changed, many things still stayed the same. While it was encouraging to see how the church in Lahu had grown and developed, it was also extremely humbling to be touched by the hearts of the people there. I am continually amazed at the kinds of love shown by the villagers and children even when they have so little to offer. Being in the mountains also always reminds me of God's infinite love and power over our lives and just how majestic He truly is – I am thankful for each trip I make and am proud to do God's work in the little ways that I know how to.

Twinklin Vethanbu

This was my first mission trip to a Lahu village. I totally enjoyed the carolling, English teaching and sharing God's love with the people over there. During the Sunday service at Payarkongdee, I was moved when I saw the people eager to hear and receive the word of God. Their active participation in church activities amazed me. After witnessing the movement of the Holy Spirit during the healing prayer, I was left with the burden to pray for them in a daily basis. I am grateful to God and the team for making the trip a memorable one.

Jon Sim

I started to feel an attachment to the Lahu team and to the culture and the village children. During my 2 trips (the Children's Ministry trip followed by the December mission trip), I witnessed God's power and felt the Holy Spirit working through me to help the Lahu people through prayers and conversations. I also learnt to trust God to do His work even though I felt shy asking people about their problems and offering to pray for them.

Cheryl Lee

No mission trip is the same. Going back to the villages opened my eyes once again to a different perspective of God's grace and love. More and more I realised that his love is like the ocean, so deep and vast – but most times we only see what is lying on the surface and we limit God to what our human eyes can see. As I watched the village grow physically and spiritually, I also see myself grow, wanting to dig deeper, further, harder, just to get closer to Him. I am so thankful for all the opportunities that I have been given on this trip that allowed my short-sightedness to fade. Now I begin to appreciate His great love and mercy more and more

each day. As the Bible says, “...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

Caitlin Kuek

God's love is endless, it has no limits. This year I have been fortunate enough to witness not only how His love touched the lives of the Lahu people, but also how they express their love for God in return. I have come to realise how much I take God's love for granted daily, and how much I have yet to discover about Him. I still have a long way to go in my own love for God and how much I long to learn more about Him. I am grateful for the experience to understand these areas where I am lacking.

Ca-Tu's Testimony

Ca-Tu, 31 years old, is a member Santi Methodist Church. He is married to Alathit and they have a baby girl who is just under 2 years old. He shares how the establishment of Santi Methodist Church in his village in 1998 changed his life.

My parents divorced while I was still in my mother's womb. After I was born, my grandmother raised me and I hardly had any contact with my parents.

When my grandmother moved to Santi Village, I was the oldest boy among all the children. I became the leader of the children. At that time, I had little interest in studies and I led the other children to hide in secluded spots along the river where we would drink alcohol and smell glue.

One day, when I returned to the village from school, I heard that a team from another country had come to teach about Jesus. Out of curiosity, I stood outside my house to observe. The foreign team was teaching about Jesus but I did not know who Jesus was and what Jesus was all about.

Not long after, Pastor Ca-Suh came to the village chief Pa-Hkeh's house to teach songs. I went along to learn but did not believe that Jesus was a real God. My family followed the Lahu religion and I just followed what they believed and practiced.

Pastor Ca-Suh soon came to stay and built a church in the village. Although I did not believe in Jesus, I still went to church to play the guitar and sing songs. I also attended the church services. Slowly I understood that Jesus was different from the Lahu religion. Slowly I came to believe in Jesus. I received water baptism when I was studying in M2 (Secondary 2).

About a year after Pastor Ca-Suh came to the village, he announced that Kampong Kapor Methodist Church

Alvin Teo

This was my very first mission trip overseas. During the trip, I made many new friends, learnt many precious lessons and witnessed many healings. One such healing happened to me. In the midst of my trip, I came down with gout and my right foot and ankle area swelled up and I experienced excruciating pain. After many prayers from everybody, I was able to walk again on the third day, when it usually takes at least 5 days to subside. I have to thank the Lord, my church mates and Lahu pastors. I was also so impressed by the passion of all the young mission volunteers, as well as the cheerfulness and resilience of all the Lahu children. They really left a lasting impression on me.



Ca Tu, Alathit and their daughter

Ca-Tu in the year 2000



in Singapore was offering scholarships for students in the village to attend school. This was a great opportunity for me as my family was poor. I completed my secondary education (M3) at Pong Nam Rong School near the village. I went on to study engineering in Lamphun. After earning a diploma, I found work in Taiwan.

After 6 years, I returned to Santi Village to work in my farm. One day, a Christian woman came to the village and asked if I had any prayer requests. I told her I was praying for a wife. Within 3 months, I met a girl from Chiangrai whom I had never known before. On our second meeting, I asked her if she would marry me and she agreed! Her parents were also very nice to me and treated me well. This all came as a surprise from God. He provided me with a wife and daughter, and is providing for my family.

I am so grateful to God for all He has done. Thank you also to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church for helping to start Santi Methodist Church in this village.

The Bridge Lifegroup Cambodia Missions and Retreat Trip Joel Lee

The Bridge Lifegroup's Cambodia Missions and Retreat Trip from 29 November to 8 December 2016 was the group's response to Jesus' call in Mark 16:15 to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" and to do so in a way that Jesus taught his disciples in John 15:4: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

Hence, the trip was organised in a two-pronged fashion - missions and learning God's word. The care group had intended to draw closer to God through discussion and learning of sermons at night and service at Methodist School of Cambodia (MSC) in the day. At the MSC, Bridge members taught science lessons about magnetism over three days. We first used an inquiry-based approach which sparked the curiosity of the MSC students, and then conducting hands-on experiential learning activities for the students. The learning came full circle at MSC's Open House as the students showcased their science projects to prospective parents and students.

The life group also served MSC in raising funds needed for the operation of the school. This was done through a bazaar sale which also took place on the day of the school's Open House. The Bridge Lifegroup members donated their clothes, bags and electronics from Singapore that were in good working condition and sold them at knock-down prices. Thankfully, it is in the Cambodian culture to get a good bargain and the bazaar sale was a success as parents enjoyed themselves at the sales and many of the goods from Singapore were sold!

Our last highlight was not so much the retreat that followed, but the God-given opportunity to witness to three of our pre-believing friends who had joined us for the trip to serve at MSC. Moreover, we thank God that two of them listened to and studied the Scriptures and a series of sermons during the trip, and that they were open to thought-provoking and heart-felt discussions about life in the light of scripture.

The resemblance that the trip had, for us, to the early



▲ Selling clothes & electronic goods at the bazaar in MSC



◀ With students of MSC
▼ Students and their Teachers (from the Bridge and friends) at their Openhouse Booth showing science experiments on magnets



church in Acts such as in Acts 2:46 - "every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts" - gives us great encouragement and a deep sense of privilege to serve our God. After the trip we understood a bit more of what Paul said to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:35: " In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" To God be the Glory! Hallelujah!



▲ Bridge Lifegroup members and friends Cambodia

Vacation with a Purpose *Visit to Hope and Joy*

Donald and Sharon Ting

After many holiday trips with family, we wanted to have a vacation with a purpose. We decided to visit our church missionaries Hope and Joy together with our long time friends and church members Victor and Sally.

Our vacation would combine relaxation and shopping with fellowship with our missionaries. We would also observe and experience some of the ministry they were doing. So we contacted Hope and Joy to arrange a visit from 10-15 December 2016. We were pleasantly surprised to find out that Pauline Chia and her daughter Joann would also be visiting at the same time. This was a bonus for us.

On the Sunday that we were there, we worshipped at a local church led by pastor John. We enjoyed presenting a song and experienced the joy of encouraging the believers with our presence. Our greatest joy in this vacation was able to have good time of bonding with Hope and Joy, and with each other. Throughout this trip, we experienced the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the love of our Heavenly Father.

Victor Ng

This trip was unique in that we did not plan the itinerary. Instead we allowed the Lord to open doors and we started the trip not knowing what the Lord had for us.

It was a refreshing break for Sally and I after a stressful journey bringing my brother back from China after he suffered a stroke. I had also been inundated with preparations for the upcoming CCIS (Celebrate Christmas in Singapore).

We had a wonderful time as the Lord allowed us to experience each other's gifting and ministry. It was a joy seeing young Joann's growth in the Lord, and her tender heart for the things of God.

We saw the needs of the ministry there and felt excited that our church was preparing to send teams to visit in 2018, when our church focused on the theme "across the seas". With thoughts of the ministry ahead of us, we symbolically formed a unity cross with our hands to remind us to trust the Lord to direct the way.

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, ..." John 14:12.

Sally Ng

I am especially thankful for the following:

- We were able to spend time with Donald and Sharon, our long time friends and wonderful ministry partners.
- A good time of bonding with Pauline and Joann. I am so

proud of the work of God in both of their lives.

- The warm hospitality of Hope and Joy in taking time to be with us. I was so encouraged by their work among the youths and children. Praise God for them.
- I felt so uplifted after visiting Ps John's church. Listening to all his wonderful and miraculous testimonies helped me recall the faith of the apostle Paul.
- Finally, the good food and shopping!

To sum up, we all had a wonderful time together with the Holy Spirit in our vacation with a purpose. There was so much love, joy and freedom in Christ. May God lead and guide us for greater things to come, both as individuals and as a church. I am anticipating the Holy Spirit doing new things in our midst as we position ourselves and align our hearts to stay tender to His leading.



▲ Donald, Sharon, Pauline, Joann, Sally and Victor visiting Hope and Joy
▼ Forming the unity cross with our hands



Breakfast with Love *Community Bonding Through Breakfast* Lim Hui Yi

On 19 November 2016, KKMC members participated in a community bonding event conducted over breakfast.

Organised by the Rowell Court Residents' Committee and KKMC, the Breakfast with Love event brings together residents of all ages and races. KKMC members volunteer to serve food and befriend the residents. We also participated in the singing and exercising.

One of the residents said she looks forward to attend such activities. This is not only because of the nice breakfast they get but also the opportunity to meet new neighbours and bond with existing ones.

I was glad to be invited by Rev. Gabriel Liew to participate in this event. Even though I am a member of Barker Road Methodist Church, I am also part of the Methodist community that places an emphasis on social service.

Through such activities, the church can show that we are present to serve the community simply by offering an extra pair of hands when needed. It is also an opportunity to invite the residents to utilise the social services that are offered by the church, such as the Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre, Kindergarten and Homework Centre.

The need to forge strong community bonds is a vision

the government has been urging all Singaporeans and residents to strive to achieve. KKMC is glad to contribute to achieving this vision and hopes more members of the church will come forward to volunteer and give of their time to such meaningful community activities. I am glad that I could be part of KKMC's work in the community.



Breakfast With Love 19 Nov 2016



Exercise suitable for all ages

Celebrating birthdays of residents

If you are exploring areas in which you wish to be of service to the church and community, you may wish to consider the Breakfast with Love event.

Mayor Denise Phua has invited KKMC to participate in Breakfast With Love 6 times in 2017. The dates of our participation are 18 February, 15 April, 20 May, 15 July, 16 September, and 18 November. Would you consider befriending the community through the Breakfast with Love programme? As our church theme for 2017 is 'Along the Streets', wouldn't it be wonderful if we can get connected with the residents face to face by serving, helping, listening to them and learning from them? Please contact Ps Gabriel @ 62937997 or email gabriel@kkmc.org.sg for more information.

Feeding the Community

Rev Gabriel Liew

What a joy to celebrate the first day of 2017 by feeding the community 'along the streets'. The heavy rain did not dampen the purposeful and serving spirit of the Bridge LifeGroup. They invited the many guest workers, who took shelter from the rain in our church, into our social hall for dinner. A few of the workers stayed on to attend the Tamil service at the invitation of Rev D Vethanbu.

"As we are blessed by God's grace and providence, it is only right that we extend this to the community along our church," Mr Kelvin Goh from the Bridge LifeGroup shared. "More important than the food is the connection we make with them and how we reach out to them, whether through talking to them or asking about what they do. It is indeed more blessed to give than to receive."



Community Blessing Exercise

On 19 November 2016, nearly 170 members from KKMC fanned out across Veersamy Road and Rowell Road to bless the residents staying in the blocks there. This was our fifth visit to the same neighbourhood in the past two and half years.

Stephen Fong, one of our regular volunteers, was in part of a group which comprised of members from the English and Tamil congregations. There were other groups with members from the English and Mandarin services. Stephen saw the composition of his group as one that “demonstrated our belief in diversity, social harmony and good health with our teams of multi-lingual worshipers.” This is likened to the same social harmony which is reflected in the larger community of Little India which we are trying to reach out to.

Every group came with gifts of medicated plaster to bless the residents for their good health and hopefully ease their pains. However, the medicated plasters may not be of help to ease some of the pains the residents bear in their souls – pain of loneliness in old age or the pain of being away from family, eking out a living in a foreign country as a migrant worker. Whatever the pain, we pray that by our continual visits, we will be able to build a bridge of friendship with them whereby we can share with



▲ Justyn and Sylvia making it a family event with little Hannah and lifegroup member Nicole
 ◀ Shane, Pradeep and Jed visiting an elderly resident

them the love of God who bore all our pains on the cross.

In order to do so, Stephen again reminded us to pray, “Lord, help us to engage in the right way with the culture around me. Help us to have a mouth like a sharpened sword to speak the truth in love. Help us to display your splendour and to be a light to those around us, that we ‘may bring your salvation to the ends of the earth’.”

Light Up The World With Kindness

Rev Gabriel Liew

We thank God for His blessings on our church's inter-faith ministry all these years. I am inspired by the late Mr Earnest Lau's concern for God's ministry of reconciliation among the various faith communities even when he was not well.

At the invitation of Rabbi Mordechai, the leaders of other faiths and I celebrated Chanukah with our local Jewish Community in front of the Mandarin Orchard hotel on 27 December 2016.

The following words inscribed on a metal plaque in front of the Menorah explains to us the meaning of this Jewish Festival of Lights:

“Chanukah is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against Greek oppression (2nd Century BCE)... As The Jews prepared to light the Menorah in the newly dedicated temple, they found only a small jug of ritually pure olive oil, enough to light the menorah for one day, but the supply lasted miraculously for eight days until a new supply of oil could be obtained.”

**Chanukah celebrates
 The triumph of light over darkness
 Of spirituality over materialism
 Of freedom over oppression**

Later at the dinner, we were each given a wrist band with these words in Hebrew and in English, “Light Up The World With Kindness”.

This experience moved me to pray for our world and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray for peace in the world. May we live together as sisters and brothers on this earth we all call home.

If you are interested to serve in KKMC's Inter-Faith ministry, please contact Ps Gabriel at 62937997 or email gabriel@kkmc.org.sg



Rabbi Mordechai (centre with hat and tie), with the leaders of other faiths in front of the Menorah outside the Mandarin Orchard Hotel on 27 December 2016.

Rowell Court Christmas Celebration

Andrew Cheong

Rowell Court Christmas Celebration was held on the 17 December 2016. Our church was heavily involved in the programme, with our members from all our services putting up several performances. The Girls' Brigade from Raffles Girls' School welcomed Mayor Denise Phua with a rousing opening item.

It was an event well appreciated by the community and a great opportunity for KKMC to be "In and Involved" with the community.



Bagpipes of Girls' Brigade 45th Coy from Raffles Girls School, gave a rousing start at the Christmas Celebration.



A musical rendition by the Goh family.



Dance and Sign language by Rowell Court Children



Phyllis sang in Mandarin with Rosita at the accompaniment.



Solo performance given by Rosita, reminding us that "We are the reason" for Christmas.



A rousing performance of our Tamil congregation children, which got everyone dancing on their feet.

A Safe Place to Study

ELAINE ANG shared her experiences as a volunteer at the Homework Centre at the 9.30am service on 4 December 2016.

Please volunteer at the Homework Centre.

It's easy as ABC.

A – not ability but attitude and availability

I know next to nothing about looking after primary school children. I have little idea how to do maths by the model method and my Mandarin is only barely passable. But after I agreed to commit just one afternoon a week to being at the Homework Centre, it was amazing how the Lord opened up opportunities for me help the children with their homework. We are blessed to have a wide range of volunteers – from retired persons and students to working people who are able to arrange their schedules to open up a 2.5 hour time slot to be at the Homework Centre.

TEO WEI LING shared her experiences as a volunteer at the Homework Centre at the 11.30am service on 4 December 2016.

I have been serving in the Homework Centre for two and a half years. Initially, I was hesitant to volunteer because I was not too fond of children. But I decided to step out of my comfort zone to volunteer anyway because I was free in the afternoons and help was needed. At first, I did not know how to interact with them. However, as I helped them with their homework and played with them, I began to know them better. They also came to trust me and share more about themselves with me. For me, it is a privilege to be a part of their growing years and to be someone they trust and look up to. It is also a blessing to experience their simple joy and innocence. Interacting with children is of course draining and tiring, but what motivates me to continue serving is the knowledge that God loves them, and that I can play a part to spread this love to them. I would encourage not just those who like children, but also people like me who are awkward with kids to step out in faith, knowing and trusting that God can make use of the two and a half hours that you set aside to fulfil His purpose. It will be a fulfilling and meaningful experience! Thank you.

B – be a friend

The space at The Unfailing Light was opened for the kids to do their homework. The reality is that the kids don't always have homework - so there is time available to interact with them. Think of them as your neighbour's children, grandchildren or for the student volunteers, your younger siblings. I have found that when you show interest in who they are as individuals and encourage them, they respond and are happy to connect with you. Which leads to C...

C – caring for the community in Christ

Many of us have been participating in the community events to bless the community. The Homework Centre is another avenue by which we can bring God's love to the people living in this area. For some of us, we think we may have difficulty connecting because the children's backgrounds are sometimes quite different from what many of us may have experienced.

At a wedding I attended recently, the theme verse was "We love because He first loved us" from 1John 4:19. This is a reminder for us that this is an opportunity to shine the light that Christ has shone into our lives. Though we do not preach the gospel in an outright manner, yet we pray that the seeds will be planted and Christ's light will be ignited in these young lives. But it's a 2-way process. You find that God changes you when you go out in faith to serve Him.

So, won't you consider volunteering at the Homework Centre?



Elaine Ang (top) & Teo Wei Ling (bottom) @ the Homework Centre



The Homework Center opens from Mondays to Thursdays (except school holidays) @ 3:30pm-6pm at The Unfailing Light.

If you can make yourself available on any of the days (Mon-Thu) during the week to serve in this meaningful ministry to be a blessing to the children and their parents in our community, please call Mr Ivan Ho - ivan@kkmc.org.sg / 93628499 who will be more than glad to attend to any query you may have.

Daryl Chew

In late September 2016, I had difficulty eating and so went to see the doctor. The doctor diagnosed it as acid reflux and gave me some medicine. Initially it seem to get better but once I got off the medication, the difficulty in eating and swallowing recurred. Further checks and tests were done. By early October, I was diagnosed with stomach cancer.

I vividly recall sitting in the doctor's room when he broke the news. I was devastated and felt my head spinning while he talked about the treatment that I would have to go through. There were so many questions, worries fears and tears- why me? Who will take care of Carolyn and the kids? I have so much to do... so much to accomplish.. all the plans I had were shattered. I was lost. In my anguish, I turned to God and prayed.

As news of my diagnosis was shared with friends and family, I experienced an outpouring of love and encouragement especially from the Dad's group. Fathers took time out to be with me and to pray with and for me. A few fathers made the effort to take me out for a weekday lunch followed by a "Kopi session" till the evening. A close family friend shared his work schedule with me so that I could call on him any time I needed help or someone to talk to. Kelvin started daily synchronised prayer for me. These acts have been a great source of encouragement to both Carolyn and I.

I am still undergoing treatment and fully trusting in God to take me through this journey.



The Dad's Group has been a source of support and encouragement



Psalm 41[a] (NIV)

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC. A PSALM OF DAVID.

- 1 BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE REGARD FOR THE WEAK; THE LORD DELIVERS THEM IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.
- 2 THE LORD PROTECTS AND PRESERVES THEM – THEY ARE COUNTED AMONG THE BLESSED IN THE LAND – HE DOES NOT GIVE THEM OVER TO THE DESIRE OF THEIR FOES.
- 3 THE LORD SUSTAINS THEM ON THEIR SICKBED AND RESTORES THEM FROM THEIR BED OF ILLNESS.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

- 11 FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE.

What A Wonderful Word!

Read John 1:1-14 in conjunction with Isaiah 55:6-9
Leong Kwok Thye

THE QUEST FOR GOD

From the dawn of civilization, man has been seeking to know God; what He is like and how to please Him. The need to know God is often driven by fear of the unknown, in particular of death and how eternity will be spent - in heaven or in hell. Philosophers and religious teachers have offered theories of what God is like, but these concepts at best are attempts to assuage anxiety and fear. The Bible addresses this dilemma by declaring without ambiguity that God has revealed Himself to us in Jesus Christ.

JESUS THE WONDERFUL WORD

The apostle John at the beginning of his gospel identifies Jesus as the Word. It is a unique but wonderful description highlighting three key attributes of God in Jesus.

- Firstly, Jesus is the eternal God who created the universe out of nothing (v1-2). He is sovereign and almighty. With Him nothing is impossible.
- Secondly, Jesus created everything, including man (v3). It is impossible for man who is created by God to know the attributes of his Creator.
- Thirdly, Jesus is the source of life and light (v4). The order of sequence of life and light in this verse is meaningful. Life in Jesus precedes light. We come to God by faith, not by reason or sight. It is the life that we have in Jesus that gives us light for a closer walk with God.

In summary, as word reveals thought, so Jesus the Word reveals God to us.

GOD'S WAYS AND OUR WAYS

We cannot overcome the sin and darkness that shroud the world (v5). Mankind is spiritually blind because of sin. A blind person cannot see light shining in the darkness. Thus John the Baptist had to point those seeking God to Jesus as the one who can revive them and restore their sight (vv5-6).

It is futile to attempt to know God on our own. The Lord has declared this clearly through the Prophet Isaiah. The essence of the Lord's message in Isaiah 55:6-8 is,

- We need to seek God as our thoughts and ways are inferior to His;
- God is not inaccessible but sin has blinded us to Him;
- He will pardon and restore us when we forsake our wicked ways.

Jesus explained this vividly in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32).

GRACE AND TRUTH

Jesus came and dwelt among us to show us God's grace and truth; grace because we do not deserve His love, truth because He is righteous and faithful and will deliver all that He has promised. What a wonderful Word we have in Jesus!

THINK

You can reject God's gift of Jesus Christ but this is to your detriment.
Think before doing so.

