



kampong kapor  
methodist church

**kkfcus**

1894-2016  
KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH  
(Bishop Bickley Memorial)

September - November 2016



“  
Take delight in the  
Lord, and he will  
give you the desires  
of your heart.  
Psalm 37:4 ”



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

1 Kampong Kapor Road  
Singapore 208673  
Tel: 6293 7997

Website: [www.kkmc.org.sg](http://www.kkmc.org.sg)  
Email: [mailbox@kkmc.org.sg](mailto:mailbox@kkmc.org.sg)

MCI (P) 133/11/2015

02  
PASTORS’ MESSAGE  
- *What’s on our Hearts?*

03  
FEATURED SERMONS  
- *Knowing God Through His Names*

06  
HYMN FESTIVAL  
- *In And Involved – A Matter Of The Heart*

07  
KKMC CHOIR  
- *KKMC Choir Retreat - A Singing Faith*

07  
BY THIS NAME COURSE

08  
MANDARIN MINISTRY  
- *31st Anniversary Celebration*  
- *Mandarin LifeGroups Outreach Event: School Life, Happy Lesson*  
- *生命小组外展活动 “校园人生,开心学堂”*  
- *One-Day Outing to Johor*

09  
TAMIL MINISTRY  
- *23rd Anniversary*  
- *Children’s Sunday*  
- *Church Outing 2016*  
- *Gospel Sunday*

12  
KK KINDERGARTEN

13  
WHAMPOA FAMILY SERVICE CENTRE

14  
IN THE COMMUNITY  
- *Living in Perfect Harmony*  
- *A Visit to Harmony Centre @ An-Nahdhah*  
- *A talk on “Revisiting Inter-faith Relations in a Post-secular Age”*

16  
BOYS’ BRIGADE  
- *The 2nd Singapore Company Boys’ Brigade celebrates 85 years of service*  
- *The 60th Singapore Company Boys’ Brigade Celebrates 25th Anniversary - 25th Anniversary Reflections*  
- *How the 60th Company Boys’ Brigade was Founded*

19  
MISSIONS  
- *New Missionaries in Punjab*  
- *Visit to see our Missionary “Faith”*  
- *Cambodia Reflection*

23  
WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE  
- *What a mighty God we serve*

25  
WOMEN’S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

25  
TESTIMONY  
- *In His Perfect Time - Agnes Ting*

27  
DEVOTION  
- *Changing Water Into Wine A Superfluous Miracle?*

Publisher: Rev Kenneth Huang  
Editor: Lyndon Gan

Editorial Team:  
Andrew Tan, Christine Tan, Janice Khoo,  
Jessinta Tan, Kimberly Chia, Lianne Ong  
Pearlyn Gan

**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’s on our Hearts?

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

“What unshakeable desire has God placed deep in your heart for His Kingdom?”  
 Or to ask this question another way – “When you wake up each morning, what really excites you about living for Jesus daily as His faithful disciple so much so that you are willing to serve Him wholeheartedly without hesitating or grumbling?”

Does it have to do with you wanting to urgently tell others about who Jesus is? Or does it have to do with you wanting to play whatever part you can to alleviate the plight of the less fortunate? Or how about you just wanting to be present to help, support and pray for a friend who is in need? Or could it be you wanting to help fellow believers to really read, study and appreciate the Bible? Or does it involve you wanting to commit to going on an overseas trip to better understand how the Christian Faith can be better shared with the people of the land you are visiting?

Whatever it may be that God is clearly asking you to accomplish in and through your life, will you, by His grace, dare to walk forward in faith with a humble and prayerful heart, even if you cannot clearly see where the path leads to, and fulfill the desire He has placed in your heart?

Just remember to not let fear or doubt stop you from being the effective servant who does the right things that God intended for you to, for His Glory.

At Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, the desire that God has placed deeply in the heart of our church is for all of us to continue to be:



### IN & INVOLVED

*about the church – fulfilling our part  
 along the streets – looking at, and out, for others  
 across the seas – going and doing missions*



And may the LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who was, and is, and is to come, bless and help us by His Grace to do so, now and always. Amen!

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

# Featured Sermon

## *Knowing God Through His Names* **Jehovah Jireh - The LORD Provider**

This is the first in a series of sermons on 'Knowing God Through His Names'. Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui kicked off the series at the Sunday worship services on 18 September 2016 with his sermon titled **Jehovah Jireh - The LORD Provider**.

### Scripture: Genesis 22:1-19

The Church is the people of God. As we know more about God, we will know more about how to live faithfully and confidently as His people in our fallen and complex world, and how to live as persons created in God's image.

In that light, we begin a new sermon series 'Knowing God Through His Names'. Names in the ancient Near East revealed something about that person – whether it's his history, character, life's purpose or destiny. The names such as Adam, Noah, Abraham and Isaac mean something. In the Gospel according to Matthew, we're told that the Messiah was specifically given the name 'Jesus' because He would save people from their sins. 'Jesus' means 'The LORD saves'.

The name also represents a person in a profound and symbolic way. When we say "I come in the name of (someone)", we're saying that we come as a representative of that person, bestowed with his authority. Or when we say "we pray in Jesus' name", we aren't naming some magical formula to manipulate God to do whatever we ask, but we're saying that we pray according to Jesus' character and will.

Furthermore, if you wanted to know someone, and be able to identify him and address him personally, the first thing we do is to ask for that person's name. So did Moses in Exodus 3 when he heard a voice from a burning bush calling him to lead his fellow Israelites out of Egypt. In Exodus 3:6, the voice had already identified itself as belonging to "the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob". But Moses asked for an even more specific identification, and in His response,

"I AM GOD SAID TO MOSES, 'I AM

WHO I AM.' HE SAID FURTHER, 'THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO THE ISRAELITES, "I AM HAS SENT ME TO YOU.'" 15 GOD ALSO SAID TO MOSES, 'THUS YOU SHALL SAY TO THE ISRAELITES, "THE LORD, THE GOD OF YOUR ANCESTORS, THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB, HAS SENT ME TO YOU": THIS IS MY NAME FOR EVER, AND THIS MY TITLE FOR ALL GENERATIONS.' (EXODUS 3:13-15)

The three things to note are:

- God is referred to as 'God' and 'the LORD' throughout the Old Testament.
- Whenever you see the word 'God' in English translations, it's a translation of a generic name or title for 'god/gods' in Hebrew – El or Elohim.
- Whenever you see the word 'LORD' in capital letters, it means a different thing from when you see the word as just 'Lord'. It's a substitution for the divine name, the proper name of God. Transliterated from Hebrew, the divine name is YHWH.

And so, God has made His name known to His people and this has been preserved for us in the Scripture.

In Hebrew, the root of the divine name means 'I am' or 'I will be'. Much can be reflected on the significance of the divine name. But for the purpose of this sermon series, it would suffice to keep in mind the following:

- It's the distinct name of the distinct God. (Exodus 3:14-15; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 42:8 & 45:5)
- God is transcendent: 'I am' conveys a sense of the eternal, of self-existence and self-determinacy – God's existence is not dependent on anything else, and His identity

cannot be defined by anything else, and His being is too great to be fathomed. (Psalm 145:3)

- God is immanent: As profound and mysterious as the name sounds, God's giving of His name shows His intent to be known by humankind – not as some abstract generic being or force, but as one whom we can know personally. (Exodus 6:7)

Let's discuss the pronunciation of the divine name. Jehovah is not the actual pronunciation. This pronunciation was a result of an attempt to recognise the divine name as sacred and holy. Nevertheless, in this and subsequent sermons in the series, we'll be using the pronunciation 'Jehovah'. We're reminded that God's name is not to be used frivolously or represented lightly.

In the Scriptures, we see the LORD's self-revelation as the LORD who will provide – Jehovah-jireh (or in Hebrew, Jehovah yir-eh). Abraham's declaration of "the LORD will provide" stems from a profound experience that he had of the LORD. Our story begins with the words, "after these things". Thus, we know that there's a prequel to the story.

In the prequel, God had made a covenant with Abraham. (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:1-21 & 17:1-16) Among the covenant promises was that He would make Abraham's name great – that Abraham would be well-known and respected. God also promised that Abraham's descendants would be numerous like the stars in the sky. This promise of descendants was made to Abraham and reaffirmed at various times when both Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were already old. Sarah was way past child-bearing years.

It was truly a miracle that Sarah could conceive and bear Isaac. We can only imagine how precious this son was to

Abraham. This was the son that God had promised to him. And this was the son that God had said he was going to have many descendants by. (Genesis 17:16 & 21:12) Abraham was revered by kings because they saw God's favour on him. His name was already great. And Abraham has a son by which his descendants will increase. Everything seemed to have fallen into place for Abraham. And then, we're told, "After these things God tested Abraham".

In Genesis 22, Abraham encountered a challenge, no less from the hand of God. God said to him,

"TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON ISAAC, WHOM YOU LOVE, AND GO TO THE LAND OF MORIAH, AND OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT-OFFERING..." (GENESIS 22:2)

The Scripture is silent about Abraham's emotions as he heard those words. And it doesn't tell us whether Abraham knew that he was being tested. It only states his response,

"SO ABRAHAM ROSE EARLY IN THE MORNING, SADDLED HIS DONKEY, AND TOOK TWO OF HIS YOUNG MEN WITH HIM, AND HIS SON ISAAC; HE CUT THE WOOD FOR THE BURNT-OFFERING, AND SET OUT AND WENT TO THE PLACE IN THE DISTANCE THAT GOD HAD SHOWN HIM." (GENESIS 22:3)

When Isaac, a boy then old and strong enough to be able to carry wood, asked him, "Father, where is the lamb for a burnt offering?", I wonder what went through Abraham's mind. Again we aren't told, except that he answered Isaac, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son". (Genesis 22:6-8) Whatever Abraham was hoping for when he said that, he appeared never in doubt that he was going to have to carry out what the LORD had said. Immediately in the next two verses, we read about him putting his son on the altar and reaching out with the knife to deliver death. This was his beloved son Isaac, in whom had



rested all his hopes of descendants, about to die by his own hand.

At that crucial moment, the angel of the LORD stopped him. The angel said,

"DO NOT LAY YOUR HAND ON THE BOY OR DO ANYTHING TO HIM; FOR NOW I KNOW THAT YOU FEAR GOD, SINCE YOU HAVE NOT WITHHELD YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, FROM ME." (GENESIS 22:12)

Abraham hadn't known that he was being tested, but he passed the test with flying colours. He had shown that his trust in God was absolute and that his love for God was greater than his love for God's gifts to him. Abraham's faith in God was verified by his obedience to God.

God has given us His promises. He has promised to forgive our sins. (Isaiah 43:25; Matthew 26:28 & 1 John 1:9) He has promised us an abundant life (John 10:10) - a life of real meaning and purpose. He has promised us peace (John 14:27) and complete joy (John 15:11). All these are not just in the life to come, but in this present life. Those of you who know the LORD have experienced this in varying measures in your life. You can see God fulfilling His promises

in your life. But like Abraham, some of us are going through a period of disruption and testing - a sudden breakup, an untimely death of a loved one, retrenchment, losses in business, unreasonable clients or colleagues, a crippling accident, cancer, threats of terrorism and unexplainable spiritual dryness. We may question why a loving and good God would allow us to go through such a situation. And perhaps like Abraham, we know that whatever is happening to us doesn't square with God's character or the joy and peace that He has promised us. Like Abraham, we don't know how God is going to fulfill His promise yet demand that we go through this test of faith at the same time.

If you're going through such a time, I pray that like Abraham who believed that God is good and just, you may be encouraged by the words, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering". God himself will provide a way to fulfill His promise of an abundant life even if you're facing a challenge. Will you trust the LORD to provide despite circumstances that show the contrary? Will you continue to obey God and not turn to evil as a means of escape? By God's grace, you will. That's because the LORD promises this,

"GOD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL NOT LET YOU BE TESTED BEYOND YOUR STRENGTH, BUT WITH THE TESTING HE WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE WAY OUT SO THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT." (1 CORINTHIANS 10:13)

As we trust the LORD to provide for us, we can be sure that God is not blind to what we're going through. In some English translations of the Bible, there's a footnote for Genesis 22:14 indicating that an alternate translation for 'The LORD will provide' is 'The LORD will see'. The Hebrew word for 'provide' is also the word for 'see'. In Genesis 16:13, Hagar says of the LORD, "You are God who sees", using the same word for 'see' translated as 'provide' in Genesis 22:14.

In Genesis 16, it's not Abraham but Hagar who mouthed those words when she had been in a state of despair. She was a slave. Her mistress had treated her harshly and she was running away. She was pregnant with her master's son. Hagar was no saint and had contributed somewhat to her own predicament. But by and large, she was what we can term a "victim of circumstances". We can try to imagine her fear, frustration, anger and anxiety. The Scripture doesn't say if she was weeping in anxiety or complaining in anger. We don't even know if she was praying. What the Scripture does tell us is that the LORD came to her and she had an encounter with God. And she said of this God, "You are El-Roi, the God who sees me." She didn't know this God personally as Jehovah, but she knew that this God is the God who sees and looks after her. And while not stated explicitly, the story of Hagar shows that the God who sees is the LORD who provides. What does He provide? Matthew 7:9-11 speaks of Jehovah-jireh as a father,

"IS THERE ANYONE AMONG YOU WHO, IF YOUR CHILD ASKS FOR BREAD, WILL GIVE A STONE? OR IF THE CHILD ASKS FOR A FISH, WILL GIVE A SNAKE? IF YOU THEN, WHO ARE EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE

WILL YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD THINGS TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM!"

Whatever Jehovah provides, you can be sure that it's for your own good. Even if you don't know the LORD so well, or at all, don't worry. The LORD sees you, He sees your deepest need and He will provide. And when you begin to see that, I pray that you'll know Him personally as Jehovah.

We note an important development in Genesis 22:15-19. God again reaffirms His covenantal promise to Abraham after the ordeal. The LORD will provide. What does He provide? God provides whatever is necessary for His covenant to be fulfilled. On that mountain in Moriah, Abraham didn't only realise that God had provided the ram for the burnt-offering. Abraham also realised once again that Isaac was a gift that God had provided to fulfill His promise to him. As far as we know, Abraham did nothing to deserve that gift. He couldn't even attribute Isaac to mere biological processes because he and Sarah were already past child-bearing years. Isaac was God's gift to Abraham. That God would not take Isaac's life was also a gift. Isaac was akin to Abraham's very life.

Life is a gift. Your life is a gift from God. You may have fed it, nurtured it, trained it and so on, but all that doesn't change the fact that your life is a gift. That God does not take my life this instant is not my right, but a gift from God. Many people in the world think that the epitome of human self-actualisation is that we become our own masters, free from the chains of some religious idea of God. Such thinking would see God as a tyrant who asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac and who cares

for nothing but our unquestioning servitude. Through humility, we accept that there's a righteous God who created and owns us and we'll see life as a gift from God. Through humility, we receive the gift of abundant life through Jesus that God has promised in the new covenant. Through humility, we understand that when God asks something of our lives, He asks it not to make puppets of us, but that we may know His goodness and redemption through Jesus and know it truly and experientially. He asks it, that we might not go down the way of a comfy self-centred religiosity, but that we may be perfected in love for others and be His provision to the world, to be participants in the divine work of fulfilling the new covenant in Jesus Christ that gives salvation to the world.

There are three responses that we can make because of Jehovah-jireh:

- We can trust Him in all of life's disruptions. He sees our needs and agonies, and He will provide the very thing we need.
  - We can turn or keep away from wicked deeds in order to survive in a fallen world. We can obey the LORD courageously knowing that He will provide for our every need.
  - We can give our all to be 'in & involved about the church, along the streets and across the seas', knowing that He who asks of our lives asks so that we may truly experience His promised blessings and be His blessings to the world.
- We're called to sacrifice with the certainty that the LORD himself has sacrificed Jesus for our lives, and that the LORD will provide. And like Abraham, let us respond with gratefulness as we recognise the good that Jehovah has done for us.

**An Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8:31-32 and Philippians 4:19**

"What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else?"

"[Our] God will fully satisfy every need of [ours] according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

# HYMN FESTIVAL *In And Involved - A Matter Of The Heart*

Ellen Tan

DEAR GOD ALMIGHTY..... WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE PEACE WE ENJOY IN OUR NATION. WE THANK YOU ALSO FOR OUR FRIENDS OF OTHER FAITHS, CULTURES, CUSTOMS, RACES AND LANGUAGES, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT WITH US TODAY AT THIS HYMN FESTIVAL. LORD, WE ASK THAT WE HERE AT KKMC WILL ALWAYS BE A BLESSING TO THEM AND TO ALL.

From the Pulpit Prayer by Rev Kenneth Huang

On Sunday 28 August 2016, our annual Hymn Festival was held at the 8:00am and 10:00am services. The theme this year is "In and Involved - A matter of the Heart". The Festival Choir comprising adults, the Cherubim Choir, our children's choir, the Heralds Brass Quintet, musicians and worship leaders led us in a worshipful time of Scripture reading and choral singing.

Our special guest, Ms Denise Phua, our mayor for the Central Singapore District and MP for the Jalan Besar GRC, graced this event. In our presence were other special guests from the various faiths and religions and the Kampong Glam Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circle (IRCC). Our guests expressed their appreciation at being invited to our Hymn Festival. They enjoyed listening to the children singing joyfully, the adult choristers and musicians leading us in worship through a variety of traditional hymns and contemporary Christian songs. Our first time visitors were in awe of our lovely pipe organ and the organists who played it so beautifully.

We gathered as God's people listening to God's word as a call to be people who live in the abundance of God's love and grace, to respond to God's call by the exhortation to



go out to love and serve the Lord.

The hymn of promise "How lovely is your church, O Lord" at the end was a good reminder to all of us that as we were blessed by the Holy Spirit in our worship service, we are called to go out into the world "to challenge hatred, greed and fear with gifts of love and grace".

After the 10:00am service, our guests and a few church members proceeded to the nearby "Kebabs and Curries" restaurant for fellowship over lunch. It was a wonderful time of catching up with old friends and making new ones.

We were honoured by the presence of our friends from the various Faith Communities. They came to our Annual Hymn Festival in our Church and/or lunch on 28 August 2016.

Their presence is a great blessing to us.



▲ KKMC was blessed by the presence of our friends from the other Faith Communities.

Front Row L-R: Rev Ho Chee Sin, Mr Mohamed Imran bin Mohamed Taib (Senior Executive, Harmony Centre, Muis), Ms Irene Lim, Ms Christine Lim Che Howah (Secretary, Kampong Glam IRCC), Sister Florence Wong (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood, Mount Alvernia Hospital and Assisi Hospice), Mr and Mrs Guru Thiliban and Master Hari Ohm Annamalai (Veeramakalimman Hindu Temple), Mr Ameer Ali Abdeali JP, PBM (President, Muslim Kidney Action Association and Asst. Secretary, Inter-Religious Organisation, IRO), Ms Denise Phua (Mayor, Central Singapore District and MP Jalan Besar GRC), Rev Kenneth Huang, Ms Susie Wong (Member, National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Singapore), Ms Juliza (Harmony Centre, Muis), Rev Gabriel Liew  
 Back Row L-R: Ms Ellen Tan, Mr Roland Tan, Mrs Woo Poh Kuen (Bethel Presbyterian Church), Mr Woo Sui Kee, JP, BBM, (Co-Chairman, Kampong Glam IRCC), Mr Chia Keng Hian, BBM, PB, PBS, CSTJ (Chairman, Kampong Glam IRCC), Dr Colin Hui (Kum Yan Methodist Church, Kampong Glam IRCC), Mr Gurmit Singh (IRO Council member, Sikhism), Mr Kuek Yi Hsing (IRO Council Member, Baha'i Community of Singapore), Baha'i Community of Singapore, Mr Quek Kwang Thang (Asst. Treasurer, Taoist Federation), Ms Lee Mei Chuen (Spiritual Seeker, IRO member), Mr Wong Quek Hin, Ms Liyana Rosli Asmara (Manager, Harmony Centre, Muis), Mr Gerald Kong (Executive Secretary, Archdiocesan Catholic Council for Interreligious Dialogue, ACCIRD), Ms Edna Lee (Member, Baha'i Community of Singapore), Ms Nazeera Mohamed (Docent, Harmony Centre, Muis), Ps Poh Zhi-Hui

# KKMC Choir Retreat

## *A Singing Faith*

Leong Kwok Thyè

The Chancel and Celestial Choirs had a day retreat at the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club on Sunday 16 October 2016. It was a great time of fellowship, spiritual refreshment and learning the finer points of choral singing.

The theme “A Singing Faith” was provocative. Singing focuses on what we do and our faith in our relationship with God. The writer of the letter to the Hebrews declares,

**AND WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD, BECAUSE ANYONE WHO COMES TO HIM MUST BELIEVE THAT HE EXISTS AND THAT HE REWARDS THOSE WHO EARNESTLY SEEK HIM**

Hebrews 11:6.

We sing because we love God. We sing in times of joy, we sing in times of sorrow and we sing in times of need. We draw close to God through our singing. God is pleased and rewards the whole congregation with a deeper awareness of His presence.

The programme had set aside one hour for worship. But just before the programme commenced, it dawned on us that without the pastor’s sermon, one hour would be excessive. Judith suggested that we could use the time for members to share experiences with each

other. It was a brainwave. The sharing was so spontaneous that we overran the time by fifteen minutes! More importantly the feedback helped us to have a clearer focus on why we sing, the blessings we receive and how we can be more effective in our ministry. Some feedback from the participants are given below:

- I was challenged to join the choir because the hymns and music ministered to me personally.
- Singing in the choir has given me joy and drawn me closer to God. The messages of the hymns often continue to speak to me throughout the week.
- Singing in the choir requires discipline. It encourages me to set aside time to lead the congregation in worship.
- The choir is special because members are always helpful. It also functions as a care group in times of need.
- I get drawn closer to the congregation from the expressions that I see on their faces. It prompts me to pray for specific persons.
- Choral singing is proclamation of God’s Word through music and song.
- Some hymns help me to understand God better. Others lift my spirit to love Him more.
- Hymns can minister to the congregation in a non-threatening manner.

The rest of the day was devoted to learning new hymns and the finer aspects of choral singing. We were privileged to have Dr Joel Navarro to lead us in various workshops. Dr Navarro, a gifted teacher,



not only taught us important techniques, but also reminded us that the role of the choir is to minister God’s love to the congregation. He identified areas for improvement in a tactful manner peppered with his inimitable sense of humour.

One simple but extremely useful exercise Dr Navarro did was to hear us sing, section by section and singer by singer. He then positioned us for optimal sound. Just rearranging positions did wonders for the overall sound of the choir. This showed how each singer plays an important role in the whole choir.

Tea breaks and lunch provided opportunities for fellowship and bonding. To further enhance the lessons learned, Judith included John Wesley’s instructions on how to sing and insights from experienced songwriters for us to take away as reminders. Thanks to Judith and the planning team, it was an intensive but enjoyable retreat.

The Chancel and Celestial Choirs welcome all who love singing to join us. Musical skills while important can be learnt. Equally crucial is one’s willingness and availability.

## By This Name Course

I found the "By This Name" seminar informative and educational. The breakdown into more readable language and sections (with clear biblical references) was very well done with the effective use of illustrations, charts and infographics. It is an easy read and handy reference tool to use when spreading the Word to others.

**Stephen Fong**

Most people attend this course before they become Christians or when they are Christians new to the faith. I did the opposite: I have been a Christian for many years, yet I still attended this course, and I am glad I did.

Even though I have read the bible from cover to cover, my understanding of it is rudimentary at best. I did not see how the Old Testament (OT) is linked to the New Testament (NT), nor the relevance of the OT to the NT. I used to find the OT dry and boring, but after this course, I now appreciate the OT more as I see how the various prophecies about Jesus Christ in the OT are fulfilled by His birth and death in the NT. Various incidents in the OT also serve as strong parallels to the NT. The ram that was provided by God as a substitute sacrifice in place of Isaac, and the Passover lamb that was killed and died in place of the firstborn, serve to illustrate how Jesus (in the NT) is identified with the lamb, in that He died in our place, as our substitute.

I enjoyed this course very much because, in addition to the course book, videos and props were also employed and these helped me to visualise and remember better the concepts being taught. I still remember the toy rat that was used to represent sin, and how the teacher threw the rat as far away as he could, to illustrate how much God cannot tolerate sin just as we cannot tolerate the stench of a real rotting rat.

I wish to thank Mr Timothy Tan and Mrs Bernice Lai for teaching us, and answering any questions we had during lessons. Through this course, I see how the bible is actually a coherent narrative, instead of a disjointed one. Also, learning how God has a history of keeping His promises to His people in both the OT and NT has strengthened my faith in His love and goodness.

**Christine Tan**

On the whole, I feel that this course provides a very comprehensive yet easy-to-understand overview of what Christianity is about. It was held at a very relaxed pace and participants were free to ask questions during the course when they had any doubts. This created a very stress-free environment to learn more about Christianity. Hence, this course is a great way to introduce a friend or family member to the religion and relationship with God.

Thus course is also beneficial for those who are already believers of Christ. I participated in this course during a very

busy period of my JC life and was pretty exhausted every time I had to come for this course. But just as Jesus supplied John with a net-breaking, boat-sinking load of fish when John gave his boat to Jesus, I believed that I would be abundantly blessed if I put aside time and effort to come for the course. This, of course, came true in the end as I experienced many revelations while going through the chapters of the "By This Name" book, and had my faith in Christ strengthened.

All in all, I do recommend this course.

Jinhre

## Mandarin Ministry 31st Anniversary Celebration

Peter Chan



▲ Worship with flags



▲ Cutting Mandarin Ministry 31st Anniversary cake

On 28 August 2016, the Mandarin Ministry celebrated her 31st anniversary with a thanksgiving service. We praise God for His faithfulness in leading us through the past 31 years as we served the Mandarin speaking community. The joyous occasion was attended by the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church pastoral team, Local Church Executive Committee members, friends and well-wishers. Pastor-in-charge Rev Kenneth Huang delivered the sermon "In & Involved - about the church" to encourage the congregation. As we celebrate our 31st anniversary, please join us in prayer to prepare our church for the years to come.

## Mandarin LifeGroups Outreach Event: *School Life, Happy Lesson* 生命小组外展活动 "校园人生, 开心学堂"

Alex Tan

This year the Mandarin LifeGroup committee decided to organise an outreach event called "School Life, Happy Lesson".

The event allowed us to remember and reflect on our own school journey in a friendly, fun-filled atmosphere. We invited our friends and relatives to join with neighbours from around KKMC to relive the joys of school days.

The event was held on 25 June 2016 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Members and neighbourhood friends who arrived early were treated to a game of "tikam"

where they tried their hand at winning little gifts. At 3:00pm sharp, brother Kenneth, the "discipline head", started the game "Blow Wind Blow" to break the ice. This was followed by two games, "Table Tennis Goal" and "Heart-shaped Bubble", led by sister Wendy. Although times have changed, everyone enjoyed the games thoroughly as they relived their childhood.

Preacher Pau Chiong Wei, playing the role of "Principal", then gave prizes to the best two teams. The highlight of the programme was the magic show performed by brother Ki Chi. As brother Ki Chi performed the magic show, he helped

us to understand the value and meaning of life. He also shared about his learning journey, using stories of success and failure to help us realise that real success is knowing our Creator and living out His purpose for us. In fact, the true secret to happiness is to have a heart of gratitude.

We proceeded for recess time - eating childhood tidbits and reminiscing about the good old days through a mini discussion. The event ended on a high note when we sang an evergreen song followed by a prayer of blessing by Preacher Pau.

这次生命小组外展活动的主题是“校园人生, 开心学堂”。我们邀请了组员的亲友和教会邻舍一起回顾儿时的学习之旅。6月25日, 下午2点半, 组员和新朋友陆续来到教会。早到的玩了一种叫“tikam”的抽签游戏, 赢取小礼物。3点正, 文杰弟兄以“纪律主任”的身份开始了当天的节目。他以破冰游戏“大风吹”和搞笑的“最酷留班生”让我们彼此拉近距离。紧接着, 宠诗姐妹带领众人玩“吹乒乓球”和“心形泡泡”两项游戏, 每人顿时融入欢乐的气氛中。虽然年代不一样, 但是在一片欢笑中, 儿时的游戏依然一样好玩。之后我们邀请包传道“校长”颁发奖品于游戏最佳两组。最难忘的压轴节目莫过于“开心老师”的分享。“开心老师”透过精彩有趣和启发性的魔术, 帮助我们领悟人生的价值和生命的意义。他分享了自己的学习旅程, 用了成功和失败的例子, 帮助我们意识到真正的成功是认识我们的主, 活出主的旨意。掌握快乐的秘诀, 就是学会感恩。之后我们分成小组, 一边吃小时候的零食, 一边重温儿时的校园生活。很快的开心难忘的一堂课就接近了尾声, 我们唱完一首怀旧的歌“温情满人间”后, 传道以祷告中结束了当天的活动。



# Mandarin Ministry One-Day Outing to Johor Lois Lam

Eight months have flown by and we are now coming to the later part of 2016. With three quarters of the year over, many people in the Mandarin congregation were yearning to have a day of fellowship and travel. As most of the elderly members did not attend the KKMC Oikos camp in June, they were looking forward to a one-day outing.

The Mandarin Ministry committee heard them and organised a one-day "makan" and educational (DIY) tour to Johor Bahru on 3 September 2016 with Rest & Relax Holidays Pte Ltd. The trip included a sumptuous lunch and dinner, and some do-it-yourself workshops in the form of Teddy

Bear Making, Soap Making and Batik Making. Of course there was a time for shopping too!

The busload of 37 members in this outing all came back fully fed and satisfied with the DIY experience of making their own soft toys, fragrant soap and exploring their ability to colour a nice piece of batik to take home. Alleluia! God is the giver of good gifts! Yeh!

In all, we thank God for a blessed and wonderful time of bonding with the elderly and pre-believers, which made the trip a worthwhile day to remember. God bless!



## KKMC Tamil Ministry

### *23rd Anniversary* G.Rajkumar

The Tamil Ministry at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church observed its 23rd Anniversary at the worship service on 7 August 2016.

The worship service was intended to be a grateful occasion to acknowledge and glorify God's grace and guidance in the growth of KKMC's Tamil Congregation for past 23 years.

To mark this special milestone, members of the Tamil congregation invited all those who once were part of the congregation to gather together to make the 23rd Anniversary worship service an even more joyous occasion.

Tamil Ministry Pastor Rev D. Vethanbu led the congregation into a time of worship by giving thanks to God and acknowledging pastors, leaders and people who had played significant roles in the Tamil Ministry in the past and present. He then led in a time of Praise and Prayer. The Tamil Ministry Chairman Mr Joseph gave a welcome speech and recounted briefly the history of Tamil Ministry at KKMC. The congregation thanked, remembered and praised the Lord for all the people who took part in the beginning of the Tamil congregation and those who had eternally benefitted through Tamil Ministry.

The children from Sunday School and Tamil Congregation women graced the occasion with special songs.

Rev Kingsly also elaborated on the Indian Missionary Society's functions, milestones and testimonies. This has allowed the congregation to understand more about missionary works being carried out in India. Rev Kenneth Huang,



Front Row: Thanaraj Nancy Lydia, Manuel Rajan Andrew Jayaprakash, Selliyan Mahendran, Ebenezer Jeyaraj, Kulandaisamy Ronikal Infendra, Ben Edward Ebenezer  
Middle Row: Packiamoni Sathya Daniel, Rayer Arokia Ramesh Raja, Subramanian Bakkiaraj  
Back Row: D Joseph, Rev Vethanbu, Rev Kenneth Huang, Jacqueline Huang, Latha Kingsly, Rev Kingsly, Rev Lawrence Visuvasam, J Julius, Ps Poh Zhi-Hui



## KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH - TAMIL MINISTRY

the Pastor-in-Charge of KKMC, was present with his family alongside members of the Pastoral Team and members of the English and Mandarin congregations.

One child and two adults were baptized and 10 new members were received into the congregation by Rev Kenneth Huang. The final prayer was offered by Rev Lawrence Visuvasam. To God be the Glory!



## Tamil Ministry Children's Sunday

Anita William

*Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Proverbs 22:6

Training a child is one of our priorities as Sunday school teachers and as parents. We celebrated this year's Tamil Ministry Children's Sunday on 25 September 2016. Children were involved in every aspect of the worship service. They served as ushers and musicians, distributed the bulletins, led worship and read Scripture.

From the toddlers to the Intermediate children, each child participated in the celebration with much zeal. The toddlers and beginners performed a dance item, disguising themselves as a sparrow, flower and a donkey to enact how God supplies our needs faithfully and how thankful we are to Him in return. They also reminded us through their dance that Sunday is a holy day. Our Junior and Intermediate boys and girls performed a skit titled, "How to Pray". The Children's Sunday special sermon was delivered by Mrs Judith Vethanbu. She shared an apt message on the duties of a God-fearing child and parent.

Through the years, we have seen our children growing not only in numbers, but also in their involvement in the church activities. This is worth millions of praises to God. The Children's Sunday celebrations was proof of a promising and God-fearing generation of children



growing in the Tamil congregation at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church. We cannot thank God enough for His loving kindness, protection, and guidance as He provides to both our elder members and our children. We pray that we are kindling the fire in these little hearts to know God more intimately.

## Tamil Ministry Church Outing 2016

A.Vethanayagam

Excitement, exhilaration and happiness filled the hearts of our Tamil Ministry members on 9 August 2016. What was the reason behind that? Yeah! It was our annual Tamil Ministry church outing.

At the assembly point in Marina South Pier, everyone greeted each other with charming faces. As we waited, more and more people gathered, like bees to a honeycomb.

Four weeks prior to this event, announcements had been made during the Sunday church services. All our children and even adults were delighted upon hearing that this wonderful trip was being organised. We were especially

*SEE HOW GOOD AND HOW PLEASING IT IS FOR BROTHERS TO BE LIVING TOGETHER IN HARMONY!*

Psalms 133:1



happy that the destination was St John’s Island because travelling by ferry to an island always brings fun and joy to everyone despite their age.

At exactly 9am, the organisers counted the number of participants and purchased 157 ferry tickets. 57 of the participants were our church members while the remaining 100 were our beloved friends. Soon, we were boarding the ferry and were on our way! The merriment started along with the journey into the precious island.

We reached St John’s Island safely after 50 minutes. We gathered together in one place and Pastor Rev Vethanbu started the programme with a prayer followed by an inspiring time of worship led by Mr Joseph. Our special guests were the visiting General Secretary of the Indian Missionary Society, Rev Kingsley John and his wife Rev Mrs Latha Kingsley. Rev Latha shared a sermon on the topic of freedom. Her message touched everyone’s heart and made us reflect deeply.

After the sermon, we had breakfast. Then we divided ourselves into six different groups and conducted some interesting games. The rope pulling game was especially fun because it exposed our physical fitness (or rather the lack of it) and brought out the characters in us.

At 1pm, we had lunch, which energised us for the afternoon. Recharged after lunch, we went around St John’s Island, learning about its flora and fauna, and admiring the beaches, swimming lagoons, picnic grounds and football fields. This small island is astonishingly beautiful. It is a fantastic place to unwind and relax, an idyllic getaway from city life.

At 2.30pm a Quiz Competition was conducted. As expected everyone answered eagerly, and gave each other a tough fight. Prizes were given not only to the winners but also to all the participants. The awesome day concluded with a prayer by our Pastor. We then took a group photo to keep the golden memories of this day alive for the future. It took another ferry journey to bring us back home. Till today, people cherish good memories of the outing and are eagerly waiting for the next one!

All praises and honour goes to our Lord for making that day safe for us.



## Tamil Ministry Gospel Sunday

B. Sudhakar

And He (Jesus) said to them, **Go INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE CREATION.**  
Mark 16:15

God has given us a vision to increase in faith and enlarge the tent. As per our vision, the Tamil Ministry organises Gospel Sundays twice a year. In addition, we have begun sharing the gospel among Indian foreign workers living in the Jurong, Tuas and Woodlands dormitories.

Our Tamil Ministry’s second Gospel Sunday this year was on 18 September 2016. We prepared for it by firstly seeking God’s presence and his abundant grace through a 24-hour chain prayer. God answered by filling our church service with many newcomers.

We are thankful that our guests answered the call of invitation to accept Jesus Christ as their personal saviour. We will follow up with those who responded to the altar call and give them prayer support in order to build them up in Christ.

The testimony shared by our church member, Mr



Christopher was encouraging. The skit played by the church members was fun filled and thought provoking. Gospel Sunday closed with our Lord Almighty’s abundant blessing and presence and of course, a united happy dinner. May the name of Christ be glorified in our Church!

## KK Kindergarten Linda Wah

The Kindergarten had numerous activities in Terms 3 and 4 for the children and their parents.

### Racial Harmony Day on 21 July 2016

The programme for Racial Harmony Day was planned with the involvement of parents. Various parents highlighted unique aspects of their race by giving demonstrations and carrying out hands-on activities with the children. Our staff, the teachers and cook also contributed their skills and talents to the programme.

### National Day Celebrations on 8 August 2016

A day filled with fun and fitness was planned with ActiveSG for our children to celebrate Singapore's 51st birthday. It was organised by Sport Singapore.

The children had an hour of Zumba where our teachers also joined in. It was indeed a workout for the Kindergarten's children and staff alike.

However, having the workout did not distract us from celebrating the nation's birthday. The children had a day of fun as they were brought back to the times when Singapore was just a fishing village. They were then taken on a journey through the history of Singapore. The children were kept engaged by the singing of songs and other activities.

### BearyFun Gym on 19 August 2016

To tie in with Singapore's birthday and fitness-for-life theme, a field trip to BearyFun Gym was planned on 19 August 2016 from 9:30am to 12:00pm. It was a day filled with fun through exercises. The children enjoyed the trampoline as well. The teachers also took the opportunity to have fun with the children at the gym.

### Visit to Sheng Siong supermarket 26 August 2016

As part of the curriculum and to encourage experiential learning, children from the K2 class went to Sheng Siong supermarket. There, they had hands-on experiences with the use of money and learnt how to make decisions in their purchases.

### Teachers' Day celebration on 1 September 2016

We did not forget our teachers as we celebrated Teachers' Day on 1 September 2016. The children sang for their teachers and expressed their thoughts to demonstrate their affection and love for each teacher.

### Health Promotion Board Carnival on 13 September 2016

On this day, the Health Promotion Board (HPB) was invited to do a programme specially developed to raise children's awareness on the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle. The kindergarten was transformed into an interactive playground with different stations on health topics like nutrition, physical activity, myopia prevention, hygiene, mental wellness and oral health. Each station had some simple and engaging activities facilitated by HPB personnel. There were also tactile and interactive exhibits. Though the programme took 2 hours, the children barely noticed the passage of time as they were engrossed in the various hands-on activities.



### Mid-Autumn festival on 15 September 2016

We celebrated the Mid-Autumn festival on 15 September 2016, where teachers demonstrated how to make snow skin mooncakes.

All the children had the opportunity to make their own mooncake and brought some home to share with their families. It was a day of interaction, discovery and communication with peers and adults.



## Whampoa Family Service Centre

Poh Zhi-Hui



The Ministry of Social Service and Family (MSF) invited the Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre (KKFSC) to bid for the establishment for a new FSC in the Whampoa area. After evaluating several bids, MSF selected the KKFSC to form the new Whampoa Family Service Centre (WFSC). WFSC became operational on 1 March 2016 and is currently using a temporary space at the Whampoa Community Club (WCC).

On 17 September 2016, WFSC organised “*Kampong Play*” - an event to help bring the residents of Whampoa to have fun together through playing of games. The event was also an opportunity for the Whampoa residents to be introduced to the services of WFSC and how they can benefit the residents. Six KKMC members from two LifeGroups volunteered to help at the event, setting up their assigned games and activities stations, engaging with the participants in the games and activities, livening up the atmosphere, and clearing up after the event.

The foyer of the WCC was transformed into a play area with various games and activities stations suitable for young and old. There were life-sized “table games” like “Match the Picture”, “Jenga” and “Tic Tac Toe”. For sports-inclined, there was a water-gun “shooting gallery” and variations of soccer and handball penalty shoot-outs. There was also a station where participants could try their hands at playing the xylophone and making their own kazoos and macarenas using common crafts materials.

The participation by the Whampoa residents was encouraging and there were times when the stations were overwhelmed by the numbers. It was a great opportunity for LifeGroup members to work together to serve our neighbours.

We thank God for a fruitful morning at Whampoa FSC’s “*Kampong Play*” and pray that Whampoa residents who need help may find it in WFSC and experience God’s love for them.



# Living in Perfect Harmony A Visit to Harmony Centre @ An-Nahdhah

Micah Tan

Abraham, Moses, David and Jesus. Persons we closely associate with Christianity. However, do you know that they are also recognised by Islam? In fact, there are some similarities between the Christian faith and Islam. This, together with other facts, was revealed through a visit to the Harmony Centre @ An-Nahdhah in Bishan.

The visit on 20 July 2016 was organised by the TRAC Board of Outreach and Social Concerns and graced by TRAC President the Rev Dr Gordon Wong. We had a total of 35 members and pastors from our TRAC Churches.

Officially opened by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 7 Oct 2006, the Centre represents one of the key initiatives of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) to bring about a greater understanding of Islam and Muslims amongst the multi-racial and multi-religious society of Singapore. As a testimony to this, 72% of its 54,000 visitors were from other faiths like me.

We were warmly welcomed on the cool and wet morning by the leaders of the Harmony Centre. Our visit started with a welcome address by the Head of the Harmony Centre, Ustaz Mohamed Ali Atan. This was followed by a guided tour of the premises by the Centre's experienced docents.

The Centre houses exhibits, artefacts and information on

Islamic civilisation and lifestyle. For example, informational posters lined the 2-storey premises displaying the Six Articles of Faith, Five Pillars of Islam, key milestones in the evolution of Islam and information on prominent Muslims among others. More information is available at <http://harmonycentre.sg>.

Following the tour, we gathered together for a discussion where we entered a "safe space" and asked questions about Islam. This allowed us the opportunity to ask sensitive questions about Islam. Members raised questions relating to the donning of the *tudung*, how students manage their daily prayers during school days, and the response of the local Muslim community towards militant groups like ISIS.

The visit ended with a gift exchange between TRAC President and Ustaz Mohamed Ali Atan. In his address, the Rev Dr Wong thanked our hosts for the opportunity to visit them. Rev Dr Wong noted that the Muslim community and Christians share the same sort of challenges in today's world. He noted that the Centre's tagline - "Building Bonds of Humanity" and "The (Islamic) message to act justly and with compassion" had very close resemblance to Micah 6:8. ("He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." NIV).

Rev Dr Wong shared about Peace

based on 2 Thessalonians 3:16 and said grace before the meal. No gathering in Singapore would be complete without food and our hosts provided a generous serving of *nasi lemak* for us which we heartily partook of.

I believe that after this visit, we all departed with a better understanding of Islam and what it stands for. Equipped with this knowledge, we can go forth and live in perfect harmony among all humanity, especially with our Muslim friends and fellow countrymen. Amen!



▲ Rev Dr Gordon Wong presenting a gift to Ustaz Mohamed Ali Atan

I like the tagline of the Harmony Centre 'Building Bonds of Humanity' because it shows that we need to work towards unity and not be separated by race, language or religion. The Centre is doing a great job in building bonds of friendship across religions and faiths in multi-ethnic Singapore and must be commended.

Ellen Tan

Singapore Muslims have good leaders who are soundly grounded. Generally, Islam in Singapore is moderate and forward-looking. Inter-faith dialogue is real in Singapore. It is genuine (not forced) and led by religious leaders who show warm friendship, respect and share a common love for humanity.

Michael Chia



▲ Sisters and Brothers in Humanity

My visit to the Harmony Centre helped me to appreciate the efforts of our Muslim friends to engage with friends from other faiths. The guided tour to the various exhibits has deepened my understanding about the faith of Muslims. Their single devotion to the practices of the Muslim faith is something admirable. As I listened to the guide and read the various explanations on the panels, I saw the similarities and differences of the Muslim and Christian faiths.

The openness and frank responses during the Q & A session by our Muslim leaders demonstrated their sincerity and desire of their faith community in bridging the gap with others. Indeed, there is so much to learn from our Muslim friends in their way of engagement with other faiths."

Yong Chee Yee

Through the conversations, it was clear that Islam and Christianity have much in common in our values, histories and challenges. And it was also clear that there were distinctions in truth-claims, not least about Jesus and about salvation. It was refreshing to be able to talk about these differences, without fear of offence as both parties were dedicated to be listeners before being speakers or judges.

Called to be Christ's witnesses, Christians are also called to be listeners. The encounters of Jesus with the Jewish leaders of His day (e.g. Mark 12:28-34; John 3:1-21, 39) show us that for the incarnate Jesus, listening to people - discerning their circumstances and worldviews, and recognising their genuine desire to know God - is part of the work of proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God. The Christ will not stand for a religion that despises or shuns those who are genuinely seeking God. While the call to listen is never a call to agree with or subscribe to everything we listen to, it is a call to treat the other as someone who is accorded the same love and prevenient grace by God that we have received.

The visit to the Harmony Centre is a peace-building effort; it is also an effort to be listening witnesses of Jesus. We are thankful to the leaders and staff of the Harmony Centre for permitting us to be such, with gracious hospitality and friendship, and for their efforts in peace-building in this day."

Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui

## A talk on *"Revisiting Inter-faith Relations in a Post-secular Age"*

**LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE.**

St. Francis of Assisi

At the invitation of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), through the National Council of Churches of Singapore, Pastor Gabriel Liew, Andrew Cheong, Stephen Fong and Zan Lim Peng Khoon attended the Abdul Aleem Siddique Memorial Lecture on 16 September 2016 at the Singapore Islamic Hub. The speaker was Ustaz Dr Nazirudin Mohd Nasir, Director, Religious and Policy Development, MUIS.



*A delightful gathering of friends*

I thoroughly enjoyed the lecture and I learned a lot. Here are some points that impressed me.  
Be an outstanding Inter-faith Host.  
1) Go Beyond Tolerance.  
2) Compassion, Empathy & Selflessness.  
3) Discover the Peace-mines (like Goldmines) in our faith traditions.  
Lastly, the story of hope for us to live peacefully with one another in this world.

Zan Lim Peng Khoon

This intellectually refreshing evening with our inter-faith brothers and sisters, hosted by the Harmony Centre, started with an excellent poetry performance by Ow Yeong Wai Kit and Muzakkir Samat. The recitation demonstrated the deep racial and cultural bond of the two poets.

My key takeaways from the lecture were: Singaporean Christians and Muslims are blessed that we have been able to move "Beyond Tolerance" towards "Compassion, Empathy & Selflessness".

Therefore it is essential (to quote), "...to do good to parents, kinfolks, orphans, those in need, **neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers**, the companion by your side, the wayfarer ...". For me, this was epitomised in a chance meeting with a young Singaporean Muslim gentleman who was an undergrad at an Islamic University in Egypt. He poignantly related to me how he was championing a cause there to help the city's poor and needy, including stopping the callous poisoning of stray animals on the streets.

It is certainly heartening to see that Singaporeans have matured to become global inter-faith ambassadors of peace and harmony. This is truly being "In & Involved", a calling that all of us at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church can also reflect upon.

Stephen Fong

# The 2nd Singapore Company Boys' Brigade celebrates 85 years of service

Poh Zhi-Hui

The 2nd Singapore Company of The Boys' Brigade (BB), the first BB Company to be sponsored by a Methodist church in Singapore, celebrated its 85th Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Service and dinner at the Singapore Island Country Club on 17 Sep 2016.

The Thanksgiving Service was led by Mr Chan Choon Seng (LCEC Chairman, PLMC) and Rev Philip Heng (Senior Pastor, Galilee Bible-Presbyterian Church) who were Old Boys of the Company, Rev Michael Wong (retired TRAC elder and ex-Chaplain), and Rev Kenneth Huang (Pastor-in-charge of its sponsoring church, KKMC). Rev Heng preached, examining the various

aspects of the BB programme and exhorting the current officers of the Company to remember that the most important thing of all in the BB ministry is "the advancement of Christ's kingdom" - in all that they do with the Boys, they must remember that.

About 260 Boys, Old Boys and guests attended the Dinner graced by the Guest-of-Honour, Rev Ho Chee Sin, a retired bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore and a distinguished Old Boy of the Company. The Company was also honoured by the presence of 2 seniors, Dr Robert Loh, aged 92 and Mr Arthur Tan, aged 88, who were members of the Company before the Japanese Occupation of

Singapore (1942-1945). The dinner saw performances by the Company's revived Pipes & Drums Band of 8 years, and a contemporary band composed of Old Boys which put a new spin to traditional BB songs. The Company also thanked God for the strong partnership between KKMC, the Company, and its current sponsoring school of 35 years, Victoria School. The highlight of the dinner was the photo-taking session in which Boys of various eras took group pictures - Boys from the 1950s to the present day. The sight testified to the many who have been blessed by the greatness and faithfulness of God in the Company. To God be the glory!

## 85th Anniversary Commemorative Magazine

The company published an 85th Anniversary commemorative magazine which traces the history of the company, remembers the faithfulness and provisions of God in sustaining and growing it, and celebrates God's work of advancing Christ's kingdom among Boys through the years. If you would like a copy of this magazine, please contact the Church Office.



◀ Representing Second Coy's generations of Boys at the dinner to cut the 85th Anniversary Cake: LTA Poh Zhi-Hui (Chaplain), SSG Bryan Ho (2016 Founder's Award and Best Boy Award Recipient), Rev Kenneth Huang (Pastor-in-charge, KKMC), Rev Ho Chee Sin (Guest-of-Honour), Mr Clifton Tan (Chairman, 85th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service and Dinner Committee), LTA Raveendran Chinnavan (Captain), Mr Sam Tan (Hon. Captain), Mr Seow Chia Meng (Hon. Captain), Mr Yong Chee Yee (ex-Captain), SCL Joseph Tong (2016 President's Award Recipient).

## The 60th Singapore Company Boys' Brigade Celebrates 25th Anniversary

### 25th Anniversary Reflections Arel Chua

When the 60th Company was twenty years old in 2011, I was a Secondary Two boy whose primary preoccupation was to have fun, make a bunch of good friends and get by with a happy-go-lucky attitude. It always felt very comfortable being the youngest, perhaps knowing that the Company would run smoothly in the capable hands of our seniors.

As a boy, it was a thorough blessing for me to have had so many primers come back to serve even after they had graduated. Seeing familiar faces spending their time and energy to run the programs and passionately giving back to the Company moved my heart to return as a primer myself.

their time and expertise to help out with the Company. Perhaps, more inspiring still, was the early alumni batches and pioneers of the company who returned to encourage us with their sharing at the thanksgiving event, and also during the anniversary dinner.

However, as our chevrons became heavier with each promotion up the ranks, it gradually dawned upon me that it would be my batch that would soon be leading the company. I knew that we had large shoes to fill.

Fast forward to the twenty-fifth birthday of the 60th Company, and I am now serving as a BB officer. It was truly a heart-warming occasion to see so many seniors at the 25th anniversary celebrations. They still remain in touch as a batch and also have been giving of

The tapestry of the 60th Company has been and will be made by those boys that pass through the ranks, as well as all who have laboured under the banner of Christ in advancement of the BB Object. We are grateful for those who have gone ahead and on whose shoulders we stand. All glory to God for His faithfulness in providing over these many years, and the years to come.

## How the 60th Company Boys' Brigade was Founded

Lyndon Gan

The 60th Company Boys' Brigade was officially formed at Raffles Institution on 13 March 1991. On 20 August this year, the company celebrated its 25th anniversary. To mark this milestone, alumni and parents joined the current batch of boys for a Thanksgiving Service, a parade and a dinner.

A video on the founding of 60th company was produced to recall how the Boys' Brigade came to Raffles Institution. In the course of looking through archival material, it soon became apparent that this important aspect of the company's history was sparingly recorded.

Efforts were made to trace the key people involved to find out how exactly 60th Company was formed

Mr Sam Tan, the Brigade President of the Boys' Brigade from 1986-1992 was invaluable in naming the key persons involved, as it was during his term as Brigade President that a concerted effort was made to start the BB in RI. Mr Sam Tan noted:

"Discussions to start a BB company in RI commenced in the mid-1980s. The school leadership was open to the idea but said that it was not the right time to start a new Uniformed Group in the school."

Mr Edward Ng, currently Deputy Principal of RI, was the Head of Department for Physical Education and Co-Curricular Activities in 1991. He was involved when BB first approached the school.

"The seed for the establishment of a BB company in RI was sown in 1987 when Mr Lim Khay Tham (then the BB Executive Director) and Rev Dr Clarence Lim (from Kampong Kapor Methodist Church) approached the school on this matter. I was the HOD PECCA then. However, the school was planning to reduce the number of ECAs (Editor's Note: Co-Curricular Activities, or CCA, were formerly known as Extra Curricular Activities, or ECA) the following year as there was a change in MOE's ECA policy.

Prior to the new policy, it was

compulsory for all students in schools to do 2 ECAs, unlike now. With the change to just one ECA (for each student), it meant that we did not have enough students to distribute (among) all the ECAs. So the only way (was) to reduce the number of ECA options. We had to disappoint Khay Tham and Rev Dr Lim at that point."

In 1990, Mr Nicholas Tang was posted to RI in 1990 as the Deputy Headmaster. Mr Tang had been the principal at Victoria School and had seen the work and activities of the Boys Brigade. He felt that the addition of a BB unit would be good for RI.

By that time, the changes arising from the new CCA policy had more or less stabilised. The school was in a position to add a uniformed group because that was in line with their thrust develop leaders among Rafflesians. Mr Tang found strong support for this idea from Mr Edward Ng and Ms Miko Tan, then the Head of Department for Pupil Development.

Mr Tang contacted Mr Hah Kuang Hui, then Captain of the 2nd Company at Victoria School.

A meeting was arranged by Mr Hah for Nicholas Tang to meet up with Mr Sam Tan, the then Brigade President to discuss the possibility of the formation of the BB in RI.

Mr Sam Tan recalled, "As we were discussing the Company numeral for the RI company, we picked (the number 60) to coincide with our Brigade's 60th Anniversary in 1990.

I was a church leader at Kampong Methodist Church then, so it was an obvious choice for me to invite my church to be the sponsoring church.

Mr Nicholas Tang, the Deputy Headmaster of RI from 1990-1993 recalls his role in bringing BB to RI.

"I strongly believe in the role of non-formal education in shaping the character and values of youth.

I knew that the BB has very dedicated leaders. The quality of non-formal education is determined not by its curriculum/programme but by the quality of its leaders and the quality of the relationship between its leaders and the boys.

The only challenge was to convince some old boys that allowing the BB to establish a unit in RI will not dilute or change its character as a secular school. In fact, it will strengthen the school's motto of *auspiciis melioris aevi* because we cannot have a better age without God as its centre."

With the school now open to the formation of a BB company in RI, the right leaders had to be mobilised.

**Sam Tan:** As the Brigade President at that time, I asked Mr Hah Kuang Hui, the captain of 2nd Company to start (the) BB company at RI because there was no available experienced senior officer (who was) prepared to do the pioneering start-up work at RI. Mr Hah had in fact volunteered, and so he took (on) the task willingly.

The BB in RI commenced in January



## KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH – BOYS' BRIGADE

1991 with Hah Kuang Hui as the pioneering captain. He was ably assisted by two NCOs from 2nd Company- Sgt Chai Ming Hui and Sgt Wong Ho Chai.

This was an interim measure for 6 months and Mr Hah did an excellent job in starting up the 60th Company from scratch.

Fortunately, Mr Jimmy Koh was available in July 1991 as he had just stepped down as Captain of the 20th Company. Mr Koh accepted the assignment to help at RIBB and became captain from July 1991.

Jimmy Koh was assisted by 2 Officers, Mr Tye Yew Meng and Mr Christopher Lock, who were seconded by BBHQ."

In addition, volunteers from KKMC like the late Mrs Sonja Cheong, Mr Ng Fook Kah and Dr Tan Soo Yong gave support by conducting Christian Education lessons or medical cover during hikes.

More than 20 recruits signed up to join the BB in February 1991. From February to August, more Boys joined due to the constant encouragement of the first teacher-in-charge, Ms Lee, and the ECA Department which channelled boys to the BB. By August, the company had a membership strength of 44 Boys.

Ms Lee Siew Lee, the first Teacher-in-Charge of RIBB in 1991 shared her feelings of being involved in the BB.

"I was, therefore, utterly excited and delighted when my then colleague Mrs Esther Sim (an ex-RI GEP Mathematics Teacher and a member of Kampong Kapor Methodist

Church), told me one day, that RI would be starting a new CCA – The Boys' Brigade, and that she was asked to be the first Teacher-in-charge. She expressed her fears in response to the high calling, and asked me if I would like to replace her instead. I immediately agreed.

One of first BB recruits was Mr Benjamin Gaw who would later serve as the 1st Company Sergeant Major of RIBB and later on as Officer Commanding from 1998-2002. He shared, "I honestly can't quite remember when BB was first announced but I believe I heard about BB from Ms Lee Siew Lee who was my Art teacher at that time. She was very passionate about it.

When I first found out about the Boys' Brigade, I was very curious about it as a CCA.

I was hesitant in joining BB initially as it is a new CCA and had no track record in RI. I have also never joined a uniformed group before, but ultimately what attracted me most about BB is its strong emphasis on Christian Education. I felt that it was great to be able to have a Christian CCA in school, and I felt a prompting and assurance to join BB."

Ben Gaw recalled what the culture of RIBB was in those pioneering years.

"Two key principles stood out – tender loving care, and servant leadership. We wanted a winning attitude but also a caring culture as well. There was a strong emphasis on tender loving care, and on servant leadership. Amongst the NCOs of my batch, a lot of our leadership style came from our late Captain, Mr Jimmy Koh.

I remember Mr Jimmy Koh as a very generous man, who gave freely of his time. We were organised into squads, and the NCOs had regular meetings with Mr Jimmy Koh to plan the activities.

One of the fundamental tenets of leadership that I learnt from Jimmy Koh was his emphasis on tender loving care. He truly cared for all of us, and I know everyone from our batch truly respected him.

We also learnt tremendously from all our officers and teachers, who always led by example."

What Mr Ben Gaw experienced as student was in fact a very deliberate theme that the officers and teacher had adopted.

Mr Tye Yew Meng, the Officer Commanding in 1991 recalls, "I will always remember that during the first 3 years of the leadership training camp, our to have Tender, Loving, Care in whatever we do."

Ms Lee Siew Lee perhaps exemplified this in the little things that she did for the boys.

"I placed my carrom board in the BB Room for the members to play. The BB room became a place where boys gathered after school to study and to play carom.

Before the examinations, I bought ballpens for the boys to use and to encourage them.

At BB camps, the boys were served food first by the officers. We even had a doctor (Dr Tan Soo Yong) to go with the boys for BB camps and hikes. That assured their parents that their kids would be safe were in good hands always.

By God's grace and the hard work of the 1st batch of officers and teachers, the company grew rapidly and within a few years, it had clinched the Best Senior Company award. Later a bagpipe section and the Primers section were added. Today, a good number of Year 5-6 girls are involved as Primers.



Towards the end of 1991, Ms Lee, the first teacher-in-charge knew she would be posted out of RI. She was reluctant and recalled, "When I had to leave RI in December 1991, I asked the Lord, in tears, what would happen to RIBB. I heard in my spirit, the voice of the Lord who said to me in a still small voice, "Leave RIBB to Me".

And God has indeed taken care of RIBB, bringing in many dedicated teachers, Officers, volunteers and students who have brought RIBB further than what the pioneers could ever imagine.



## New Missionaries in Punjab

Robin and Glory are the new missionaries of KKMC serving with the Indian Missionary Society (IMS).

When the church's previous missionaries V Jacob & Latha left Punjab at the end of 2012, a search was launched for a suitable replacement. Finally, Robin and Glory became the church's new missionaries early this year.

The young couple has been serving in IMS as local evangelists in Nawanshahr Mission Field in Punjab. The IMS leadership saw their potential and appointed them as missionaries in Pathankot District from February this year.

At the same time, the IMS has presented them to KKMC as replacements for Jacob and Latha. Following that, KKMC adopted them as its new missionaries. In Pathankot Field, where they are posted, there are 20 villages comprising people groups of Jat, Vallmik, Cheer, Adharmi, Aroda and Bharaman.

### ROBIN

I am Robin, S/o Mr. Sitar Masih, and I live at Chuharwali Jalander in Punjab. I was born into a Christian family. When I was young, I regularly attended church services. However, I didn't know much about Jesus or what He has done for me. After completing Higher Secondary School, I joined a Bible college in 2007. While there, I came to know more about Jesus and since then, He has changed my life completely. My bad habits gradually disappeared after I enrolled in Bible college. I dedicated my life to Jesus and decided to do His mission after my studies.



I returned to my native place and talked to my people about Jesus and the Gospel. Soon, God called me to go into full-time ministry. Though I wanted to do that, I felt I had some domestic responsibilities as a married man. There were also some financial problems, thus I was reluctant to commit to full-time ministry. But Jesus opened many doors for me and I was able to overcome those obstacles eventually.

For a start, I was with India Every Home Crusade before joining the IMS. Now, together with my wife Glory, we've been serving with the society. We were assigned as local evangelists to Nawanshahr Mission Field. In February, we were appointed as missionaries to serve in Pathankot District. We're truly thankful to God for this opportunity!

Prayer meeting in Robin's house



Robin and Glory



## GLORY

I am Gajalakshmi alias Glory and I grew up in a non-Christian family. My father was a Hindu and my mother, a Muslim. My paternal grandfather was an alcoholic. He had 13 children and because he chose lead a carefree life, the whole family was left in ruin. My father, who's the eldest son, had to shoulder the family's heavy burden.

Then one day, a pastor was praying in my neighbour's house. My father met him and asked him to pray for my grandfather. God touched my grandfather and other members of the family. My mother accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour even though she's the daughter of an orthodox Muslim priest. But our Lord proved that He is Mighty and that nothing is impossible for Him. Everyday, God guides us and performs miracles in my family!

Even when I was still young, I've already been constantly amazed by God's love. Whenever I heard His Word and witnessed His miracles in my family, I would think of doing the Lord's work. One day, I earnestly prayed that if it was His Will, I would commit myself to His ministry. Hallelujah! The Lord is now using my family and me to do His work.

Praise the Lord for letting me witness about Him to the world!



## Visit to see our Missionary "Faith"

Lyndon Gan

Our missionary Faith has been working in an East Asian country for 13 years. This country is sensitive to open sharing of the good news of Jesus. Religious activities are regulated. However in recent years, Christians in this country have been experiencing a bit more religious freedom. Yet, at the same time pressure and harassment have also been put on churches that hold house meetings.

Working under such an environment, our missionary, Faith is necessarily cautious not to get into the wrong side of the local laws. Yet from her prayer updates shared to KKMC every 3 months, we read that she has a thriving ministry and is having a positive impact on the people in this country.

In order to encourage Faith, and to learn more and to better understand what she is doing and how she does it, Ps Kenneth Huang and Lyndon Gan visited her from 10 to 14 October 2016.

### Day 1

We arrived in the main city of this country in the mid afternoon and Faith met us at the airport. After checking into a hotel, there was time for dinner with Faith. Two of KKMC's other missionaries serving in the same city, Hope and Joy, joined us before heading off for a ministry meeting at night. It was a short and joyful time of catching up and mutual encouragement.

### Day 2 – Visit to a local church

Faith works among a few ethnic minority people groups in this country. The morning was spent on a six hour bus journey to bring us to a mountain close to her area of ministry. It was a wet and foggy afternoon. After settling into a local hotel, Faith and her ministry partner brought us via narrow trails to a village where there are about 100 believers. The local ethnic people are farmers and do not have much wealth or resources. Nevertheless, they raised what they could to purchase building materials. The land belonged to a believer who offered the plot next to his house. The other believers all contributed labour to erect the chapel and to transport the materials (wood, cement, sand etc.) from the main road, sometimes walking a long distance up and down narrow and steep trails with wood and heavy bags of sand on their backs.

Erecting the church was an exercise of faith for the believers. They started with only enough resources to

build the frame of the chapel. Then God provided them with doors. Faith received some donations and helped them to complete the project so that they can start to use the facility for worship and teachings.

God has led Faith to run a business that enables her to legitimately move around the ethnic minority people groups in this area. As she meets people and learn of their needs, the Lord may direct her to get involve. This may take the form of helping in their church building, distributing clothes and blankets to the poor and needy or engaging the local people to produce ethnic craft for sale, thus helping them earn a living.

### Day 3 – Visit to School

The ethnic minorities live spread out across remote mountain villages. Many of the villages are far from schools, so the government has set up teaching points – essentially small schools in remote areas staffed by a few teachers. Often the teaching point was no more than a simple building with a few classrooms.

We were going to visit a school Faith had made contact with earlier. In 2014, she had brought a student project team from Singapore to erect a fence to prevent animals from straying into the school compound and soiling it with animal waste. This enabled Faith to reach out in practical love and build relationships with the teachers,

students and villagers. From time to time, she and the different project teams may give items like erasers, boots and socks, sweaters etc to the children or feed the school children to supplement their diet. In 2015, Faith helped to support the construction of a narrow concrete trail up a slope to the school teaching point. The villagers laid the concrete themselves.

On this day, it was again a rainy foggy day with visibility reduced to 50m as we ascended that concrete trail. Faith pointed out the gravel slope that local villagers and students used before the trail was constructed and asked if we would prefer to take that. She was half serious but we were in no mood to make the climb any more difficult than it already was. Huffing and puffing, we took one step at a time. Ever so often, we had to stop to catch our breath after negotiating a stretch of steep slope. We were ever so thankful for the concrete trail.

After what seems to be the equivalent of an extreme step workout, the teaching point suddenly emerged through the fog. What a relief!

Classes were going on. However a few teachers were preparing lunch for the children in a separate building. As soon as they saw Faith and her ministry partner, they came out and greeted them with delight. It was obvious Faith had established a very good rapport with the teachers.

We went to have a look at the classrooms and were met by curious stares from the students. Faith pointed out some drawings hanging on the walls of the classrooms, which were done last Christmas when she and her ministry partner had an idea to teach the students about Christmas as part of a cultural awareness programme. The teachers were more than happy to have a Christmas party. Faith had a branch of a local conifer tree cut and used that as a Christmas tree. The students had to decorate the Christmas tree and write their hopes and aspirations to place on the tree. Faith took the opportunity to share about the true meaning of Christmas with the ethnic children. An art and craft activity was done as part of the programme and to this day, the children's art pieces hanged on the walls of the classroom.

On the day of our visit to the school, Faith had planned that it would coincide with a special meal for the children. The space constraint meant that the children ate their lunch before we joined the teachers for our meals.

As afternoon approached, the fog lifted and we had a clear view of the mountain trail as we descended. Ps Kenneth looked back and remarked just how steep and how long the trail we had climbed actually was. He remarked that he was glad God provided a fog so he could not see just how long and steep the trail was, for if that had happened, he might have been discouraged during the morning climb to the school. But instead, God



▲ Pastor Kenneth at the Hmong Church, visited on Day 2



▲ Faith (right) praying for boy with developmental issues  
 ▼ Option to use the concrete trail or the gravel path  
 ▲ Carefully sliding down a slope  
 ▼ Feeding the children at the teaching point



▲ Speaking with leaders of local Hmong Church  
 ▼ Goats from the goat project



made it such that we could see just enough of the trail to keep going until the next bend, and this helped us to make it up the narrow, and at times slippery, trail, till we reached the school.

### Day 4 – Goat Bank Project

Some years ago, Faith initiated a goat bank project to help the poorest of the ethnic families move out of the poverty trap. The recipient family would receive a pregnant mother goat. The goat will be able to deliver up to 3 kids every 5-6 months. After 2 years, the family may have several goats and can then return the mother goat which would be loaned to another needy family.

Faith works with a local church to manage the goat bank project in the village she was bringing us to see. We were going to visit some families who had been recipients of the goats to check on the progress of the project. We were also going to visit some needy families that may potentially be added to the goat bank project.

As it had been raining for the last few days, the muddy tracks were very slick and slippery. We had to be ever so careful not to end up sliding down on our bottoms while climbing down on of these trails. Perhaps the local goat project manager saw our difficulties in negotiating the muddy tracks that he decided to stick to the metalled road and visit the families whose houses were more accessible. We had beautiful views of the terraced hills as we walked. One family we visited was a widow with a 9-year son who could not walk due to developmental issues. It was heart wrenching to see the boy in such condition. We prayed for the boy and tried to offer what

practical help we could. Another family we visited was so poor that the “walls” of their hut were poorly constructed and barely provided any protection from the wind.

By mid-afternoon, we had to catch a bus back to the main city to catch a flight back to Singapore the next morning.

The visit indeed provided a clearer picture of the work our missionary Faith is doing. Ps Kenneth reflects:

*“Faith carries out ministry in a manner that is appropriate, sensitive and effective in the country where she is. It is carried out by showing practical Christian love in ways that help the people she and her ministry partner seek to minister to. And as the people they minister to see just how genuine their love for them is, they trust both Faith and her ministry partner, and open their doors and lives to them, providing opportunities for prayer and sharing from the Gospel.*

*I am very glad to have visited Faith and gone along with her as she did ministry. What was very clear was that Faith as able to connect with the people she was ministering to because she had mastered the local language, respected them and their culture, and understood their needs and desires.*

*God is slowly and assuredly blessing the work of the hands of Faith and her ministry partner.*

*To God be the Glory!”*

Please continue to pray for Faith and our other missionaries as they bring the hope of Jesus to the people they are working with.

## Cambodia Reflection

*Gaius Ting attends the Mandarin Ministry in KKMC. He's studying in Ngee Ann Polytechnic and he's involved with the Christian Fellowship in the polytechnic.*

*From March 15 to April 1 this year, Gaius joined a nine-member team on a mission trip to Cambodia. The trip was organised by the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES)*

I joined this mission trip as I sensed a calling from God to go for it this year, after I missed the Lahu trip in December due to my school schedule. So when the opportunity arose to go on a mission trip to Cambodia, I seized it. When the team was being formed, most of us were actually relying on our own strength more than using God's strength. However, Gabriel, a FES staff worker, reminded us that "love for activities" is different from "activities of love".

One of my roles was to encourage the team to have more faith in God. I felt that the most important thing for the trip – prayer – was missing. I sensed that God was telling me to organise a prayer meeting with my group but I forgot about it till before we set off. During a prayer session, some of us broke down and stripped our facade and our masks, showing our true selves. From that night





in the conference hall and meeting rooms.

The WMC has its origins in a conference held in 1881 at Wesley's Chapel, London, England where some 400 delegates gathered in an Ecumenical Methodist Conference. In 1931 a decision was made to organise a Council - a new agency to express common ideas and objectives of worldwide Methodism. At the 1951 Conference, 2 decisions were taken to ensure the stability of the Conference a) that the name be changed to the World Methodist Council, and, b) that it meets at 5-year intervals.

From 2001, the Council has averaged 400 members. Representation is determined by Church membership on six continents and financial contribution towards the work of the Council. The Council President and the General Secretary are the principal officers of the Council. In between meetings, the WMC is governed by a steering committee.

The Methodist Church of Singapore (MCS) was well-represented by Bishop Wee Boon Hup and the 3 Annual Conferences. It was a proud moment to see the MCS flag paraded in the opening ceremony. Attending the Conference as a non-Council representative allowed me not to be distracted with the administrative side of the conference and appreciate the excellent speakers from different backgrounds lined up for the 3-day programme supported by an inspiring music team singing Wesleyan hymns. The messages covered a range of themes ranging from looking at God's creation in the light of new discoveries in space; to drawing closer to God; to being a good neighbor by showing what our Christian love looks like. A call to unity amidst diversity prompted a passionate request for prayer by a Texas church facing a split over the LGBT issue. Compliments are due to the Conference organising committee



Singapore Reps at the WMC

for their tireless effort to get things set up and running for about 1000 delegates. Logistically, it was also more convenient for the delegates to be staying in a hotel, which could also host the conference sessions, meetings and workshops.

I benefitted most from the one-day seminar on "John Wesley and the Future of Spirituality" by Dr William J Abraham from the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Dr Abraham expounded on Wesley's package of how to become, be and remain a Christian (a holy person). It was implemented by God's grace and through means of grace.

When John Wesley started the Methodist movement by declaring to the Anglican Church that the world was his parish, I am sure he did not envision how God would use him to extend "the People called Methodists" to the present number of 82 million persons in 134 countries. This year's conference theme of "One God, One faith, One People, One Mission" reflects the challenge of the Methodist Church worldwide to present the Grace Message for the next generation in a shrinking world.

The other interesting event for me was the World Methodist Historical Society, which I was introduced to through their bus tour of the Methodist heritage of the Churches around Houston. We learned that the Methodist Church was the most active church in Texas in those early days and used its location as a base to extend the faith into Mexico. This society is affiliated with the WMC with the purpose of coordinating the activities of the archivist committees of all Methodist movements in the world. With my background in our church archivist committee, it could be useful to consider a Singapore input in future.

The Council elected Dr J C Park from Korea as the incoming President for the new quinquennial term and we were humbled to be able to join him and the other Asian church representatives in a group photo at the end of the conference. The Conference will next meet in Sweden in 2021 and offers those who can attend a chance to be part of something BIG.

"Houston, we have lift off" for the worldwide Methodist Church.

# Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) Rev Gabriel Liew

"Our dear Heavenly Father, help our neighbours who maybe strangers to us. May the current WSCS members continue to seek your face and be committed to serve the needy and lonely in our community." This was the pulpit prayer by Mrs Joscelyn Foo, president of KKMC WSCS on WSCS Sunday 15 May 2016, which reflected their aspirations.

The WSCS have been making an invaluable contribution to the life and ministries of our faith community. They have been feeding us, supporting us, teaching us in discipleship and leading us in the way of the Lord through their many nurturing and outreach activities.

Beyond our local church, they also participated and contributed to the programs organised by the TRAC WSCS and the General Conference WSCS. The new General Conference WSCS quadrennium has been set out and the sub-themes are as follow:

2017  
Living in Righteousness  
James 1:22-27

2018  
Building Truth into Our Lives  
Eph.4:17-27

2019  
Protected by Truth and Righteousness  
Eph. 6:14

2020  
God's Standards and Promises for Our Living  
Isaiah 33:15-16

We encourage the ladies of our church to join the WSCS in this exciting journey. As Mrs Foo says, "We don't have to be afraid that we have no time, no ability, no ideas, no gifts to serve the Lord. As long as you are willing to give God time to do something that pleases Him, He will empower, protect, guide and strengthen you because you are His precious child doing His work for His creation."



KKMC WSCS EXCO 2016

## *In His Perfect Time* **Agnes Ting**

My father was a self-made man. He had a successful business that he attributed to his intelligence and hard work. He exuded a confidence that would be seen as arrogance by some people. He was not a religious person and saw no need for God.

When I started my journey with Christianity in 1992, he took me aside to express how unhappy he was with my decision to accept Christ and get baptised. He did not stop me however, as I was over 21 years old by then. My cousin had also tried to share the gospel with Dad several time but he would get agitated and scold my cousin.

In 2010, I was very ill and doctors discovered a cancerous tumour in my bronchial tube. In that very difficult time, the days were filled with distress and yet a sense of peace and calm. I spent more time digging into God's Word. Friends

supported us with prayer and fasting.

Days before the operation God sent friends to encourage us with words they heard from God:

**"BLESSED IS HE WHO HAS REGARD FOR THE WEAK; THE LORD DELIVERS HIM IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. THE LORD WILL PROTECT HIM AND PRESERVE HIS LIFE; HE WILL BLESS HIM IN THE LAND AND NOT SURRENDER HIM TO THE DESIRE OF HIS FOES. THE LORD WILL SUSTAIN HIM ON HIS SICKBED AND RESTORE HIM FROM HIS BED OF ILLNESS."**

Psalm 41:1-3

**"... THIS SICKNESS WILL NOT END IN DEATH. NO, IT IS FOR GOD'S GLORY SO THAT GOD'S SON MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH IT."**

John 11:4

I trusted God at His words. The operation went much better than expected and both my lungs were saved. I recovered well enough to be discharged from hospital a week later.

The miracle of this episode led many of my family and friends who had been fasting and praying, to tell my father how wonderful God was. However, he was sceptical and even angry. He argued, saying it was as much the work of the doctors, because if God could have healed, why was there a need for doctors to carry out medical procedures? And, why would God allow the suffering

in the first place?

Later on in his life, Dad experienced some setbacks. After his retirement, the business he had started did not do so well. He went to live in Malaysia and I kept in touch by calling him once every 3-4 days.

Last year, I woke up one Friday morning in September with a very unsettled feeling. I had a nagging sense to call my father. However, I had just called him and I thought it was strange that I should break the routine and call him again. But the feeling would not go away and I decided to call my father.

As soon as I called my father, I could hear that he sounded very ill and incoherent. I immediately called my brother, who lived in Penang, to see my father, thinking that my father was living in Ipoh. I did not know that Dad had recently moved to Johor Bahru (JB). My brother gave me his address and I called my husband Godfrey, saying we had to rush over.

We decided to take a bus across to JB, and then a taxi to my father's house because Malaysia had announced the introduction of a Vehicle Entry Permit (VEP) system in August 2015 and we had not yet registered our car. Along the way, God protected us by sending good and kind taxi drivers to assist us.

On the way to my dad's house, I called him as I did not have the keys to his house. There was no reply.

When we arrived at his house wondering how we could get in, we spotted a bunch of keys hanging at the keyhole of the gate. With the keys, we were able to get into the house and discovered Dad lying on the bed. He looked very frail and had not eaten for 4 days. We rushed him to a local hospital but there was a long queue of people. As the hours went by, the nurse asked us to return the next day.

Upset as I was, I called a Malaysian friend to help arrange for a private taxi to bring us to Singapore.

Godfrey and I brought my father back from the hospital to his apartment to get his passport. By this time, Dad was not able to do much. Thank God we found his passport in the midst of all the mess and unpacked boxes as my dad had just shifted.

The private taxi brought us straight to the Accident and Emergency ward at the National University Hospital. The hospital admitted him immediately. Dad was diagnosed with dengue and it was estimated that this was the seventh day since he contracted the virus. The critical period for dengue was between 2-7 day and he was in the worst phase of the dengue cycle. A platelet level below 20,000 meant higher chances of developing bleeding complications like dengue haemorrhagic fever. My father's platelet count was below 10,000.

We prayed.

Over the years, I had been praying that Jesus would reach out to my father personally as I felt no human person would be able to convince him about Jesus. While praying for his healing we also prayed for his salvation.

He recovered.

One month later, he called me and announced that he wanted to accept Christ. I was happily surprised, but confused at the same time. I asked him what had made him change his mind. He did not answer but instead asked me for a detailed account of what happened to him a month earlier.

I was doubtful that Dad had really accepted Christ. So this year, when I hosted a Chinese New Year reunion dinner, I invited my friend, Ai Ling (Kate), along to speak with him. Ai Ling helped to lead my father to say the sinners' prayer.

He tried to look for a church in JB but found it difficult to have to sit and stand many times in the course of the worship service. Soon after,

he shifted to Penang to live with my brother. In Penang, he found a church he could fit in with and liked it there.

He called me in July this year and said he wanted to receive water baptism.

I could see that God had indeed been changing him. Where he had been a very loud and highly-opinionated person before, he was now willing to listen and submit to authority. The pastor told him he needed to tithe and be baptised, and he agreed. In the past, he probably would have argued vigorously.

Godfrey and I went to witness his baptism on 19 August 2016. At the baptism, he shared his testimony. He said Jesus had come to him while he was lying in hospital. Jesus came to his bedside and told him, "I have saved you. Do not worry." Hearing those words, he felt a sense of peace that he had never felt before. He had not shared this before with me when I asked him why he had wanted to be a Christian.

As I listened to his testimony, my heart was filled with gratefulness and joy that God had in His time answered my prayer for my father – the prayer that Jesus would touch my father personally.

The Bible tells us, **"ONE DAY JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES A STORY TO SHOW THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NEVER GIVE UP."**  
Luke 18:1

God is true to His word. I prayed and never gave up even when I could not see any progress. But God's promises never fail!

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," SAYS THE LORD. "THEY ARE PLANS FOR GOOD AND NOT FOR DISASTER, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE."**  
Jeremiah 29:11(NLT)

# Changing Water Into Wine A Superfluous Miracle?

Leong Kwok Thye

Read John 2:1-11 & Matthew 22:2-14.

Jesus performed many miracles when He was on earth. Without doubt, the miracles showed His love for all who came to Him in need. They also demonstrated His supernatural power as the Son of God. The Oxford Dictionary defines a miracle as a “marvellous event due to some supposed supernatural agency”. It is a useful definition, but the miracles that Jesus performed are special. The Apostle John recorded eight miracles of Jesus in his gospel – John 2:1, 4:46, 5:1, 6:1, 6:19, 9:1, 11:43, and 21:1. He called them miraculous signs. The use of the word ‘sign’ is meaningful. A sign points a person seeking information to a specific direction. Jesus’ miracles point the seeker to truths about God.

In the beginning of his gospel, John refers to Jesus as the Word,

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14).*

The description is unusual but meaningful. As word reveals thought, so Jesus reveals God. Jesus’ miracles are more than demonstrations of love and supernatural power. They reveal the being and character of God.

The first miracle of Jesus illustrates this clearly. Jesus, his mother and his disciples had been invited to a wedding feast. The wine ran out before the banquet was over leaving the guests still thirsty and the host embarrassed. Responding to His mother’s appeal for assistance, Jesus instructed the pots used for ceremonial cleansing to be filled with water. When the master of the banquet tasted the contents, he was surprised that it was in fact the best wine. He did not bother to find out what had happened but the disciples who were with Jesus knew.

Jesus explained the significance of the wedding feast in a parable in Matthew 22:2-1. His first miraculous sign is thus an invitation to everyone to be citizens of God’s kingdom. Although the invitation is extended to all, only those who are clean will be accepted. Water symbolises cleansing and wine symbolises the work of the Holy Spirit - conditions for access into God’s kingdom as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5.

The master of the banquet who was only concerned with satisfying the thirst of the guests did not receive the true blessing of Jesus’ miracle. Jesus’ disciples did. Jesus can change us as he changed water into wine. He can cleanse us and fill us with the best wine, a wine that satisfies, a wine that does not run dry. But we need to hunger and thirst for God’s kingdom and righteousness in order to be filled (Matthew 5:6).