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KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH
(Bishop Bickley Memorial)

March – May 2019



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

Pastors' Message



KKMC IDENTITY

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



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



In the Pastors' Message of the KKFocus (Dec 2018 to Feb 2019) Issue, we urged all of us at KKMC to memorise, and live by, the promise of God stated in Jude 24&25:

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

How have we been doing so far? The reason we had urged all of us to do so is because these two verses teach us that we can have

CONFIDENT FAITH

in our GREAT GOD – as He *is able to keep us from falling*

in His PLAN of SALVATION – of *making us stand without blemish in the presence of His glory with rejoicing*

in His SON – who is *our Saviour...Jesus Christ our Lord*

in His PERFECT CHARACTER – which is full of *glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever*

And as we do so, we will find it easier to be ***“Faithful Disciples in Authentic Community engaged in Loving Outreach and Bold Witness”*** to the Glory of God.

Lastly, let us continue to **pray** for, and **participate** in, the rest of the 125th Anniversary celebratory events:

6 – 9 Jun 2019 (Thu – Sun) OIKOS Combined Family Camp at Swiss Garden Hotel, Malacca

20 & 21 June 2019 (Fri & Sat) Youth Evangelistic Musical at PLMGS (Agape Hall)

21 Dec 2019 (Sat) Christmas Community Blessing at and around KKMC

Indeed, to God be the Glory! Alleluia! Amen!
Rev Kenneth Huang, Rev Gabriel Liew and Rev Tay Kay Leong

Featured Sermon *Worship God in Spirit and Truth*

Preached by Rev Kenneth Huang on Sunday 3 March 2019

We continue with our Sermon Series on "The Gospel according to John" which is meant to help us, as Faithful Disciples, learn more of what it really means to worship God in spirit and truth. In this Series, we will not always progress Chapter by Chapter, but may move ahead to later Chapters as we did last Sunday, and will also next Sunday, to suit each Sunday's focus. Now, for today's sermon

on John 2, I will be looking at the two accounts (the Wedding in Cana of Galilee, and Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem) to help draw out lessons we can learn regarding the Nature of Mankind, and the Nature of God, and then the implications these lessons have for us as Faithful Disciples of Jesus. So, let us start with the wedding in Cana.

John 2: 1 - 12

¹ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ² Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

⁹ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

¹¹ Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. ¹² After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

This account of Jesus turning water into wine has always been something of a challenge for me as a Methodist Pastor. And not because I have any problems believing that Jesus did do this miracle, as stated in v11, "Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory", but because it raises the issue that Jesus probably drank wine at the wedding. And so, many in the church will say, "If Jesus could do so, why not us!"

As you know in Methodism, the drinking of alcohol is a sensitive matter. In John Wesley's time in England, many people were drunkards from consuming alcohol and this destroyed their lives and that of their family, and in the end, affected society adversely as well. And so, Wesley came to have a very hard stance against the production and consumption of alcohol, which led to Methodist pastors in particular, being asked to vow to

abstain from the drinking of alcohol, so that they would not be a stumbling block to others.

Yet, for today, this issue of whether Methodist Pastors should or should not drink alcohol is not the focus. The focus, as mentioned earlier, is on what the passage teaches us about the Natures of Mankind, and of God, and what the implications are from these lessons for us as Faithful Disciples of Jesus.

And so, **the account at the Wedding at Cana of Galilee reveals firstly:**

(a) the Nature of Mankind as Needy (maybe even irresponsible). I say this because, after recording that Jesus and the disciples had been invited to the wedding, John the Apostle immediately highlighted that Jesus was informed by his mother that "They have no wine", for "the wine gave out" (v3).

As at any wedding, it is the responsibility of the wedding couple (in particular, the groom) to ensure there would be enough refreshments for all guests to enjoy. And so, in a small town with a tight-knit community like Cana, to have a situation that showed up the couple as having not planned properly (for they would have known how many guests would be coming) was embarrassing.

The couple were sadly shown up to be needy, probably due to their being irresponsible, in not ensuring enough drink was catered for. And that is when Jesus' mum stepped in and sought her son's help – in other words, *to make up for the slack caused by the couple!* For she knew that Jesus could and would help, and that is why she confidently said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." (v5)

But before we carry on, we need to quickly deal with the apparent "rudeness of Jesus" shown by him towards his mom when he said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." (v4) One would have thought he would have used "Mum" or "Mother" instead, but apparently, the use of the word "Woman" in Jesus' time was a common term of address and endearment. And that is why Jesus used it again when speaking to his mom while hanging on the cross, as recorded in John 19:26. It was culturally suitable in

Jesus' time. I am not so sure about our time, and so, I would **not** advise us addressing our moms as "Woman" – better stick to Mum or Mother.

Now, coming back to the fact that the wedding couple was shown up to be, and in fact were, needy (again, very probably due to their own irresponsibility), it seems to me they illustrate the nature of mankind as a whole – needy, and often due to personal irresponsibility. One may say that this is not such a nice thing to hear in church but this is something that no one can deny – *that there surely has been at least once in our lives when we have been in need due to our personal irresponsibility.*

And that is why there is then a need for an intervention to help address that need! This was the case for the wedding couple – this is the same for us, for all mankind! This need for an intervention leads us to **the second point the account at the Wedding at Cana of Galilee reveals:**

(b) the Nature of God as Gracious. Jesus' mum approached him to help the couple, not just because she knew that He had the power to do so. She approached him to help because she knew Jesus to be gracious and would do so. Hence again, "Do whatever he tells you." And it was not because Jesus had nothing else to do!

In fact, Jesus was focused on fulfilling God's will for him – *to reveal who God is, what the Kingdom of God is really like, and eventually, to die for the sins of mankind and rise again.* And this was why he said, when approached to help, "what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." Jesus was definitely not being indifferent or hardened to the needs of the couple, but Jesus had already prioritised what He was living for as directed by God, and to accomplish it. That is something we all need to learn from Jesus – *live for what we are directed to by God, and accomplish it,* for this is what Faithful Disciples, who truly understand what it means to worship God in Spirit and Truth, do daily.

But yet, Jesus seemed to always have time and energy to help those in need! That is something we need to learn from Jesus also. Not easy – but so essential if we are to indeed be Faithful Disciples who truly understand what it means to worship God in Spirit and Truth.

The ability to do so comes from one being like Jesus – gracious! Why gracious we may ask? Because firstly, often-times, people will not seem to *deserve* our help or intervention, as was the case for this wedding couple who found themselves in need due to their own fault, and secondly, because it will definitely require from us time and effort to help out.

But what I do want to also highlight is the manner by which Jesus helped the couple in need, in case we miss it! As was recorded by John, Jesus helped by instructing the servants what to do, And when they obeyed, and the water in the jars turned into wine, Jesus did not go up to the couple and announce that he had helped them! In

fact, after the miracle took place, the credit for the best wine being kept till later was ironically attributed to the wisdom or generosity of the groom by the emcee for the wedding (v10). Of course, the servants involved knew that it was Jesus who actually deserved the credit (v9).

From this, Jesus teaches us that when helping others, we just do our part and there is no need for public recognition. Why? Because we know that the only recognition that really matters is from God, who sees all that we do that blesses others and helps reveal His glory. This was the case as Jesus turned water into wine, and helped a needy couple, even though they may not have deserved the help given!

We now turn our attention to the second account of the Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem as recorded in **John 2: 13 – 25.**

¹³ *The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.* ¹⁴ *In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables.*

¹⁵ *Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.* ¹⁶ *He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"* ¹⁷ *His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."*

¹⁸ *The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"* ¹⁹ *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* ²⁰ *The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?"* ²¹ *But he was speaking of the temple of his body.* ²² *After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.*

²³ *When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.* ²⁴ *But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people* ²⁵ *and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.*

This account of **the Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem reveals firstly:**

(a) the Nature of Mankind as Greedy. This was clearly seen in how the merchants had, in the words of Jesus, made his "Father's house a marketplace!" (v16). Something sacred had been misused, unappreciated.

A commentator put it this way, *"The sale of cattle, sheep and doves and the privilege of exchanging money were permitted in the temple court as a convenience for pilgrims who would need animals for sacrifice and the temple shekels for their dues. Under the chief priests, however,*

the concessions had become merely a means of making money and had debased the temple into a commercial venture.” It was also clearly recognised that there was abuse as “exorbitant exchange rates were charged”.

The Temple of God was meant for people to worship God, and all activities taking place there should have been carried out solely with the aim of aiding the worshipper to truly and reverently do so. Sadly, however, the very opposite occurred as the atmosphere in the Temple was hardly one of true worship, but was instead overtaken by the wanton greed of man. Instead of facilitating and enabling the proper worship of God, the merchants used it to enrich themselves, which was surely only possible with the approval of the Temple leaders. So, no wonder Jesus was recorded as *making a whip of cords, and driving all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle, and pouring out the coins of the money changers and overturning their tables* as recorded in v15.

Here a quick comment - some have accused Jesus of using violence here to achieve his goal. They are wrong. He was just bringing order to an already unruly situation; he was setting aright a wrongful use of a worship venue. The need for this form of intervention by Jesus leads us to **the second point the account of the Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem reveals:**

(b) the Nature of God as Holy. Jesus intervened as He did here because He knew the nature of God as Holy! God should not be trifled with, and so, the attribution of Psalm 69:9 of *“Zeal for your house will consume me”*, as quoted in John 2:17, as the very reason for Jesus’ action in the Temple was fully appropriate. Jesus was zealous for God – and his action of clearing the Temple of what was unworthy was totally consistent with God being Holy – that is, totally *without* sin, unrighteousness, impure motive.

Again, Jesus rightly acted against the merchants for in their greed, they had taken advantage of the ordinary worshipper of God and had made worshipping God burdensome! In other words, the merchants were giving God a bad name! They were in fact saying that God approved of their taking advantage of the ordinary worshipper! So, no wonder, Jesus zealously took appropriate action to defend His Father’s Holy name.

But here, let us please remember that **only** Jesus had the authority to do as was demanded! And the reason for his authority was in fact stated in his reply to the question posed to him by the Jews in v18, *“What sign can you show us for doing this?”* The NIV translates this verse as *“What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”*, which highlights even more clearly the issue of Jesus’ authority to act as he had. Actually, in asking this question, the Jews ironically acknowledged that their act needed “cleaning up”!

Jesus simply answered that He himself had the authority to do so, for from verse 19, where it was recorded that

“Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” Jesus was beginning to reveal himself as the Messiah who would conquer sin and death. His disciples would later understand this truth about Him, as stated in vv 21&22, *“But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.”*

In other words, Jesus was God’s provision to make sure that the way of temple sacrifices – *which only really reminded the worshippers of their sinfulness but could not actually cleanse them from unrighteousness* – was now going to be replaced by the permanent and perfect sacrifice of Jesus. And this latter sacrifice would then open the way for all to truly worship God in Spirit and Truth, as long as they, like the disciples, believed in Jesus and His words (v22). The Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem by Him prior to the Passover then, served as a foreshadowing of this – that at a later Passover, Jesus would take away the sins of the world once for all.

There were a good number who understand what Jesus had done and who He was! John recorded in v23, *“When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing.”* And yet sadly, there were still those who, even when they saw the signs Jesus had done did not want to believe in Him, for they were too hardened, too prideful to admit they are sinners! And so, *“Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.”* (vv24 & 25)

The account of the Cleansing of the Temple shows the need for us to recognise the authority of Jesus to *“drive out, or upset, things in our lives”* which are not right in our worship of God, if we truly want to be Faithful Disciples who truly worship God in Spirit and Truth. And we must have this recognition because the God we worship is Holy, and we cannot truly worship Him without Jesus as our perfect and permanent sacrifice one for all, for that is the only way to be Faithful Disciples who then worship God in Spirit and Truth.

When is the last time we allowed Jesus to “spring clean” our lives? To rid our lives of unclean things. Maybe today should be one of those days! The warning is if we do not on our own accord, do not be surprised if Jesus just comes in and intervenes in our lives (*which are supposed to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit*) and starts to cleanse our lives to help us get right with our Holy God! And he will do so, for remember, *“Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

Now, we have drawn out **lessons on the Nature of Mankind, and the Nature of God, from the account of the Wedding in Cana of Galilee:**

- (a) the Nature of Mankind as Needy (maybe even Irresponsible)
- (b) the Nature of God as Gracious
and from the account of the Cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem:
- (c) the Nature of Mankind as Greedy
- (b) the Nature of God as Holy

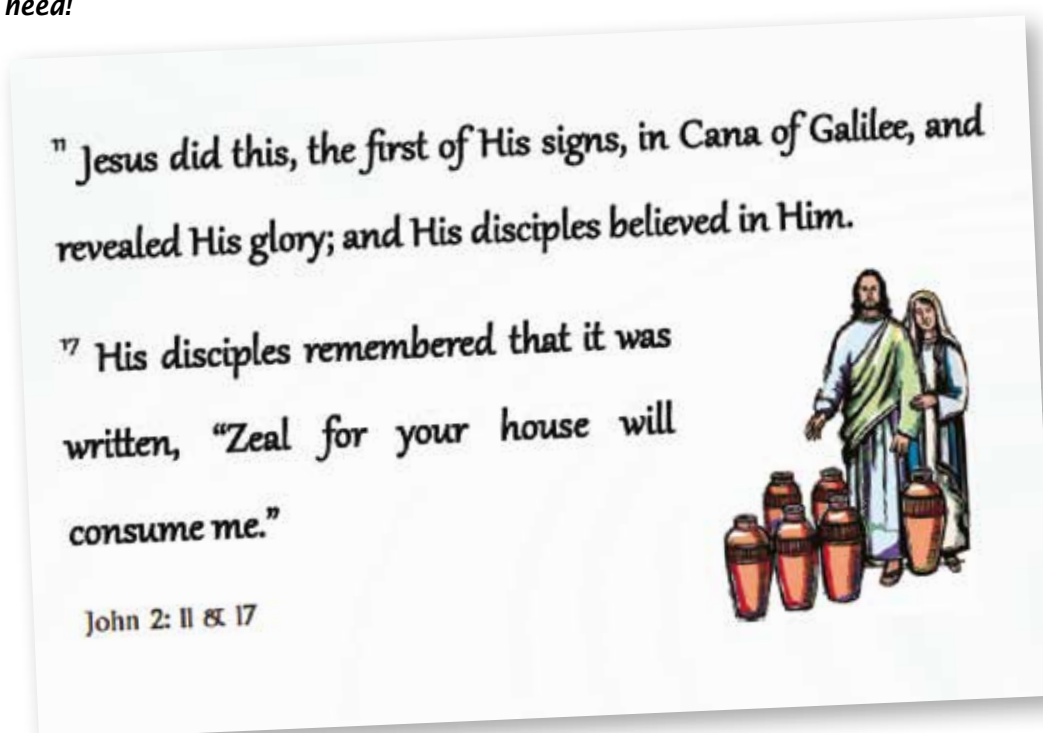
We can now summarise here **the Implications for us as Faithful Disciples who want to worship God in Spirit and Truth from these lessons:**

- (a) *As Jesus did, live for what we are directed by God to, and accomplish it!*
- (b) *As Jesus did, have the time and energy to help those in need!*

- (c) *Recognise Jesus' authority to cleanse our lives of all unrighteousness!*
- (d) *Recognise the God we worship is Holy, and we can only truly worship Him by trusting Jesus as our perfect and permanent sacrifice one for all!*

In closing, coming back to Jesus' turning of water into wine at the wedding and his cleansing of the Temple. Let us **REMEMBER** that what is ultimately important is that we do come to really believe more deeply and fully in Jesus as stated in verses 11 and 22, for that is surely the very basis for being and growing as his Faithful Disciple.

Alleluia! Amen!



In Conversation with *Pastor Tay Kay Leong*

Rev Tay Kay Leong joined KKMC as pastor from 1 January 2019.

He is not a total stranger to some of us, having preached at KKMC and joined the team that went to Thailand in June 2018 for the dedication of Payakorngee Methodist Church and Water of Life Methodist Church.

Those brief encounters gave a first impression of a man with a quiet and steadfast trust in God. Now KK Focus meets him to find out more about how God has worked in his life.



Kay Leong's family
(L - R): Melliza (daughter-in-law), Eddie, Isabella, Kay Leong, Nicky, and Yvonne.

Pastor Tay, we hear that you are already a grandfather. Can you tell us a bit about your family?

I begin with my granddaughter, Isabella. When she was born, my wife Yvonne and I really enjoyed spending time with her. We had just returned from the mission field and made every effort to help bring her up in the Lord. This was something we unfortunately did not do with our own sons, Eddie and Nicky.

When Yvonne and I were young parents, we were very busy building our careers. I was working in a construction company and the hours were very long. Yvonne was working in administration. We did our best to provide for our sons and ensured they received a good education. However, we did not spend as much time with them as we would have wanted.

How did you and Yvonne meet?

We literally met on the street. I was working as a land surveyor at Maxwell Road when the MRT station was being constructed. My job was to monitor the movement on the road. Yvonne was holding a part-time job at that time before starting her course at the polytechnic. She would walk pass me every morning. One day, she bravely came up to me and gave me a Christmas card. I then followed up and started communicating with her. I was 25 years old at that time and she was 17 years old. We courted throughout her time in the polytechnic and got married almost immediately after her graduation five years after we met. Today we have been married for 31 years.

In your first sermon in KKMC you shared how you grew up in a non-Christian family and how you came to faith in Christ. Could you repeat that testimony for those who may have missed that sermon?

I was brought up in a family that believed religions were segregated according to race. So I was taught that

- Buddhism and Taoism were for the Chinese community;
- Islam was for the Malay community;
- Hinduism was for the Indian community;

- Christianity was for the Westerners.

Therefore, since young, I couldn't accept that Chinese could be Christians. Once when I saw a group of young Chinese adults on the field teaching children Christian songs and telling Christian stories, I kicked the football towards them instead of the goalpost. I wanted to disrupt their meeting so they would leave. I was very hostile against Chinese Christians for many years.

However, one day after my Primary 6 PSLE exams, my form teacher told the class the story of Moses parting the Red Sea. I was fascinated by the story, not knowing that it was from the Bible. When the teacher invited us to church for more exciting stories, I felt cheated and refused to have anything to do with the church. But I was so attracted to the stories. So I said to myself, "If I go to the church just for the stories, no one can force me to believe."

I put up my hand and signed up for the transport to the church on Sunday morning.

But that Sunday I was very late because I had to wait for my father to leave the house. By the time I rushed to the school, the bus had left for the church. Two of my classmates were also late, and we had no idea which church our classmates were headed to. So we went to a near-by Catholic church but couldn't find them. Eventually a church staff told us that the Sunday school had ended and all our classmates had left. I was very disappointed.

While my friends were still talking, I walked into the sanctuary. It was a simple church layout, and no one was inside. But the moment I stepped into the place, I felt someone hug me so tightly that my tears ran down uncontrollably. I felt the love of God. That encounter compelled me to find out more about this Christian God.

The following Sunday, while I was playing football, the group of young adults came and gathered children for Bible stories at the field. Instead of kicking the ball to chase them away, I picked up the ball and joined them.

They were so suspicious of me

thinking, "What is he trying to do?"

That afternoon, I followed them from one field to another.

In all, I attended four meetings with them, sang the same songs and listened to the same story four times.

The story was about John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

At the end of the meeting, the youth leader made an altar call. But I struggled to respond. In my heart I was thinking:

- How could God love me when I was so hostile to Him?
- How could God so love me, when I was so unlovable?

Despite my sinfulness, God came to me. He hugged me. He loved me, He gave His son to die for me, and He promised me eternal life.

That day, I repented of using my leg to kick Him, as I put up my hand to believe Jesus and received Him into my life as my Lord and Saviour. After believing in Jesus, my outlook changed. I was more confident, more joyful, and friendlier. I enjoyed going to Sunday school as I felt so at home.

However, when my family found out I was attending church, I faced very fierce opposition from my father.

I stopped going to church and eventually I backslided. The concerns of trying to build a successful career became my focus in life.

In 1992, I encountered a life and death situation that resulted in me coming back to the Lord. Initially, Yvonne refused to follow me to church. However, she agreed to attend my baptism in 1993. At the baptism service, she was warmly welcomed by the church community. She found the people in church genuine and positively different from other people she knew. She had also seen the changes in my life. These made her open to coming to church. A year later in 1994, Yvonne and our sons were baptised.

Tell us how you came into the pastoral ministry. What was your family's reaction when you shared your intentions with them?

After returning to the Lord, I became very active serving in Paya Lebar Methodist Church. One area I was serving in was the Witness and Evangelism (W&E) Committee. In 1997, during a W&E committee retreat, I sensed that the Lord might be calling me into full-time ministry.

When I shared my thoughts with Yvonne, she did not talk to me for two weeks. As she was relatively young in her faith at that time, she was naturally concerned about how we could support the family. I was a bit hesitant too.

Around that time, I attended a conference organised by City Harvest Church and at the end of one of the services, a challenge was issued, "What is stopping you from serving the Lord?"

I tried to negotiate with God. I offered my 2 sons for full-time ministry but not me. I would support them. As I was praying, I was suddenly given two visions.

The first vision was of a pastor in black clerical clothes serving Holy Communion at the altar. The second was a 10-year old Chinese girl with thick eyebrows.

I found myself tearing yet smiling at the same time.

A few weeks later, I was waiting for Yvonne to meet me after her Sunday worship service. At that time, I was serving in the Hokkien service that met at a different worship hall. Yvonne did not appear for a while after the service ended and when she did, she was supported by another lady. She had obviously been crying.

That afternoon, after we sent our two boys for swimming lessons, Yvonne shared what had happened. She said the Lord spoke to her to release me for full-time ministry. We spent two hours praying and crying together, and it felt like a huge stone had been lifted from our hearts.

Later, when we checked our finances,

we realised we had enough savings for us to go without income while I studied. Initially we thought we would wait two years before I started theological studies but one year later, I went into full-time studies.

In the four years of theological studies, Yvonne became the family's sole bread winner and she never complained nor regretted her decision. She was a pillar of support and true love. I graduated in 2003 and joined the pastoral ministry that year as an assistant pastor at Paya Lebar Methodist Church.

What were some of the more joyful and more challenging moments in your pastoral ministry?

The most joyful moments are when we see lives changed – people coming to know the Lord and people giving their lives to serve the Lord.

Challenging moments are when people do not respond to the Lord.

You eventually went overseas to serve as a missionary together with your wife. Were both of you called to that field or did she just follow you because you had the call to serve there?

The moment I got into the pastoral ministry I became very involved in W&E and missions. I felt that because I had strayed from Jesus for so many years, I had a calling to reach out to people, who like me, had strayed from the faith. I was also involved in all aspects of missions except going myself.

However, I had a mentor who was serving in East Asia as a missionary and he had brought me to see his work. Eventually in 2001, I felt the Lord calling us to move to East Asia as missionaries.

This time when I shared with Yvonne, her response was "when?". She was ready. Over the years of my pastoral ministry, she had played a very important supportive role. And we complemented each other very well. Our visits to the mission field led us to believe that it was important for people to see a Christian model of relationship, to see how two people can work as one.

We decided to wait until our 2 sons had completed their education and were serving National Service before we left in 2003. We also needed time to process our application with Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) and Methodist Missions Society (MMS).

What were some of the challenges you faced in the early days in that mission field?

We suffered a real culture shock when we arrived. Our friends who had been working in that field had to leave for sabbatical, so we arrived to an empty apartment and did not know a single person in that place. The first six months were very challenging as we tried to settle into a new environment and start ministry work.

That period taught us to rely on God for everything as there was no one else to turn to.

We tried to attend a local church but after a few months, we realised that their belief system reflected the traditional culture of the people. The pastor was treated like a king and his authority was final, even when his opinion did not follow the biblical principles. We eventually stopped attending that church and by God's grace, we managed to start a fellowship in our house.

However in the midst of the challenges, God was gracious and provided help in many unexpected ways. For example, we missed our two sons who were back in Singapore. But God gave us many more children. When we were just walking along the streets, children who were strangers would come up and cling on to Yvonne like she was their mother. This surprising grace from God was one of things that touched me most in the time we were in the mission field.

What were the biggest surprises in the field?

One negative surprise was, as mentioned above how some of the local churches in that mission field would take the word of their pastor as more important than the bible.

One of the positive surprises was how receptive the people were. Like sponges, they would just absorb the teachings about Jesus, of whom they had zero knowledge. Those who came to faith were so committed and zealous for the Lord. They would give up everything to serve Jesus. In Singapore, people seemed more measured and cautious.

We eventually got involved in a youth club that was started by another missionary. Youth clubs are secular meeting places that attracted university students who would join various youth clubs for activities like cultural exchange programmes, foreign language classes, leadership training, music appreciation and performances. Each youth club could decide on their agenda.

We ran our youth club based on Christian values and love so that the students who came would feel like they were at a home away from home. We also ran talks on topics like boy-girl relationships.

We started a fellowship of about 12 people with the staff of the centre that met at our house. There, we were able to share the gospel, disciple the believers and empower and equip them for ministry.

What is the most misunderstood aspect of Missions/missionaries?

Before I became a missionary, I viewed missions as running a series of activities. As a missionary, I soon discovered that missions is about people, about the church and about discipleship. The time in the field allowed me to see what the church is all about. We did not inherit an established church but started with zero believers. We were able to see a person move from an unbeliever to a new convert to a growing disciple, and finally to a missionary bringing the good news to Jesus to new areas.

How have you changed in the time you've been away?

The four years in the mission field changed me a lot. We learned to depend on God in much deeper ways

especially when we had no one to turn to during the early months in the field. Welcoming our first convert was a very humbling experience as we saw that it was God who brought that person to us.

We also learned a lot about relationships. We went from being teachers to the new converts to friends of fellow disciples. We were also like parents to some of our younger friends.

Recently, we returned to that country to conduct the wedding of a girl we had disciplined. The bride started tearing as soon as she saw Yvonne and I. When she came to embrace us, I felt she was like our own daughter.

Why did you decide to return home? And what has it been like, coming home?

We could not renew our visa in 2017 and tried initially to be missionaries based in Singapore travelling to the field for short periods of time. We quickly found that arrangement was impractical.

We also felt it was God's timing for us to return home and for me to return to the pastoral ministry in Singapore. The timing was perfect too as our granddaughter Isabella was born after we came back and we were able to take care of her.

How have you and your wife settled in KKMC? What are your first impressions of KKMC?

We have eased in well. The members here are warm and welcoming. I noticed that KKMC has many gifted people who are open to opportunities for ministry. The church is actively engaged in the community and I believe that if we continue, we will see the fruits of the harvest.

We noticed that often at the end of a worship service, you will give people an opportunity to respond to the gospel. Can you tell us why you do this?

I first came to the Lord when I heard about John 3:16 even though I had been hostile to Christianity. Later, after 20 years away, the Lord drew me back to Himself and even called me to serve as a pastor. These experiences demonstrate how persistent God is in calling and saving people.

I am very sensitive to people who are in need of God's grace and want to give every opportunity for people to respond to God's loving call.

One final question before we end. What are some of your favourite food?

When we were in the mission field, the seasonal fruits grown locally were the best we had ever tasted. For example, the peaches were so enjoyable we realised why in the legend, the Monkey king would want to steal the peaches of immortality.

One interesting change in my taste buds came after we returned from the mission field. I did not particularly like the "mala" hotpot and "mala" dishes before and when I was in the mission field. However when we returned to Singapore, I found that I had become fond of "mala" food.

As for local food, I have always liked the *Nyonya kuehs* with coconut.

Thank you Pastor Kay Leong. We look forward to getting to know you and Yvonne better and pray we will have many years of faithful ministry together.



With Melliza's family (L - R): Kay Leong, Isabella, Eddie, Yvonne, Melliza, Annaliza, Kayle, and Romeo.

The Passion and Challenge as a KKMC Mandarin Preacher

传道12年的“热诚”与“挑战”

Pau Chiong Wei 包章伟传道 笔

Preacher Pau Chiong Wei joined Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) on 1 August 2007 as the preacher for our Mandarin Ministry (MM). He left us at the end of April 2019, feeling God's call to seek new areas of ministry. Pau reflects on his 12 years as the KKMCMM preacher.

By God's grace I have served as KKMC's Mandarin Preacher for 12 years. Time flies like an arrow. Looking back, it felt like it was just yesterday when I joined KKMC on 1 August 2007.

As I reflected on what I had accomplished in these 12 years, God seemed to hear my inquiry and arranged for a pastor friend to invite me for a chat.

Over coffee my friend asked, "Pau, in these 12 years as a preacher, what was the passion that drove you and what were the challenges you encountered?"

On the surface the question was simple but it was hard to answer. In the past I might have responded, "Give me three days and I will submit a 3000-word reply to that the question." However, this was not an academic exercise but a question asked by a friend who cared for me. So I spent almost 2 hours sharing and reflecting aloud my thoughts. I really thanked God that through the help of my pastor friend, I was able to ruminate the questions I had about my time serving in KKMC.

I continued to mull over the questions long after the 2-hour chat over coffee. After a period of contemplation and prayer, I came to conclude that my passion and challenges could be summarised by 3 letters - "PPT":

The First "P" is "Preaching".

The main duty of a preacher is to preach. Having a passion for preaching is the key point in serving God and God's people. It was also a challenge to keep every sermon well thought out and to be able to communicate it clearly, making it comprehensible and applicable. The challenge is compounded as the KKMC Mandarin Preacher needed to preach at least twice a month if not more often.

In these 12 years, I learned that every sermon should be:

- 1) Preached for transformation, not just information
- 2) Preached to motivate, not to manipulate
- 3) Preached to serve, not to sell
- 4) Preached to inspire, not to impress

Preachers must practise what they preach from the pulpit. This was another challenge I faced whenever I preached. Sometimes I feel scared that I would not measure up to the mark of what I preach. So the preparation for a sermon always started with me letting the word of God speak to me first. I come before God to



感谢上帝的恩典，让我得以在卫理公会甘榜加卜堂作为华文事工的传道12年。光阴似箭，日月如梭。回头想想，2017年的我来到这里作为教会的传道，就好像是昨天的事一般。

这也使我反思我这12年所行所做的。上帝似乎听见我的心声，并安排一位牧者约我出去“喝咖啡”。在这当中，牧师抛了一个问题给我，问我说“作了12年的传道，你的热诚和挑战是什么？”哇！这是则再简单不过的问题，但却把问得鸦雀无声。照着我以往的脾性，我会跟他说，给我三天的时间，然后我会呈上3000字的答复给您。但是我怎么可以这样对待一个关心我的牧者。因此，我就花了2个小时的时间与这位牧者坦诚分享，而在这当中我感谢上帝透过这位牧者的帮助，我不单得着牧养，甚至得以总结我这12年服侍的热诚与挑战。

这问题的答复并不就这样终结于这2小时的“咖啡会谈”，但至今为止，这道问题依然持续在我脑海里不断回旋。经过一段时间在上帝里的沉淀与沉思，我以三个字（英文字词）作为总结，那就是“PPT”：

第一个字是“Preaching传道”的“P”。作为一名传道人的工作当然是以“传道”为主。因此，“传道”的热诚就成了事奉神与神的子民的要点。然而，这也成为当中的挑战，尤其是作为一名一个月至少要传道2次的KKMC华文传道来说讲道更是则挑战，甚至是则不可达成的使命，要让每一次的讲道都能持之以恒明确地传递、使人得以明白，并得以实际地应用出来。

在这12年里，我学习到每一次的证道就是：

- 1) 传递生命的更新，而不是单单地传递资讯而已
- 2) 传道是为了激励生命，而不是为了操纵生命
- 3) 传道是为了服侍人，而不是为了推销
- 4) 传道是生命影响生命，而不是得人的赏识

check my motives so that I can preach with a pure heart. It is only by prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit that I can preach with passion and conviction.

The Second “P” is “People”.

A passionless preacher will not move people with his preaching. A passionless preacher is unable to inspire people to reach their community, nation, and world for Jesus Christ.

Those who know me will find that I’m not a people person. I always describe myself as a porcupine who would hurt people around me because of my quills.

Thankfully by God’s help over these 12 years, I have learned to have more empathy and to be a preacher who is more passionate in “People”. Whenever I found difficulties and challenges with people, God gave me the ability. It was like Elisha asking Elijah, “Please let there be a double portion of your Spirit on me.” (2 Kings 2:9)

Even though I am still a porcupine, many of my quills have now been cushioned by “sponges” so that people can get close and even hug without getting hurt.

This is my prayer, that God would transform me from an “I” person to become an “us” person. I want to be a “People’s Preacher”, able to inspire others with my life and not just my words.

The third letter is “T” for “Teaching”.

Over the years in ministry, it became very apparent that my gift is in *teaching*. This was affirmed over and

传道人必须认真对待并实际地活出在讲台上所传的道。这就是我每次“证道”的时候，所面对的挑战。因此，每一次我“证道”的时候，我都向上帝祷告借着圣灵的帮助，就算我不能感受，但我依然不失“传道”的热诚。

总结我这12年服侍的热诚与挑战的第二个“P”就是“People人”。一个没有热诚的传道人而他的“传道”也不能感动人心。一个没有热诚的传道人也不能激励人去赢得社群、国家与世界归向主耶稣基督。

认识我的人都晓得，我不是一个善于“与人交流”的人。我经常形容自己就如一个刺猬，而我四周的人经常被我的“尖刺”所刺伤或刺痛。

借着上帝的帮助，在服侍上帝的这12年中，我学习到要成为一个传道人就要“与人同心”。每一次当我碰壁时，上帝教导我要有“同理心”；换句话说，这就如以利沙对以利亚所说，“愿感动你的灵加倍地感动我。”

现今我依然是一只满身刺的刺猬，但我的刺渐渐被上帝以海绵来塞住，所以我能被“拥抱”甚至得以去拥抱人，以致拉近与人的距离。

这是我对上帝的祷告，祈求神塑造我从“我”到“我们”。因此，我可以成为一个得以“与人亲近”的传道人，不单得以传讲上帝的话，甚至得以对我身边的人成为一本敞开的生命，能以生命影响生命。

总结我这12年服侍的热诚与挑战的第三个字



over again by different people from different churches. I too felt that teaching is part of my DNA and I really enjoyed teaching. But my challenge was how to become a “pastor-teacher”.

The apostle Paul says that pastor-teachers are to “prepare God’s people for works of service” (Eph. 4:12a). Or, as the King James Version expresses it: to “equip the saints”. The word “prepare” means “to mend, to complete, to fit out, to make one what he ought to be”. This term is used in Matthew 4:21 to refer to mending nets. Robert Carter wrote “the pastor-teacher sees the goal of his ministry to be, not teaching a great lesson to people, but teaching people to be great”. (Robert Carter, “The Pastor as Teacher”, D. Min. Seminar in Educational Psychology, April 5, 1992.)

From Paul’s teachings, we observe that the roles of a pastor-teacher are:

- to help people become like Christ in their character;
- to enable believers to be ministers by winning them, protecting them and instructing them; and
- to cultivate spiritual maturity in disciples and to grow the church.

“PPT” remains my goal as I continue to serve God as a “Preacher”. Even though the aim is high and seems hard to achieve, the verse on KKMC’s stained glass window tells us we are enabled “Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).

是“T”，而这“T”是指“Teaching教导”。在这十来年的服事中，并透过不同友人的确认，教导很明显是上帝所给予我的恩赐。我真实的感受到教导是融于我生命的一部分，而我教导的时候就如鱼得水一般地雀跃。而当中我所面对的挑战是要如何成一个“教导恩赐的传道人”？保罗阐明一个“教导恩赐的传道人”是要“预备神的子民去做服事之工”。又或者在合和本中译为“为要成全圣徒”。“预备”一词意为“补缺、完成、装备、使人得以尽上应尽的职责”。这字词在太四21中意为补网之意。Robert Carter 这样写到“一名教导恩赐的传道人视其事奉目标并不是教导伟大的课程给予人，而是教导人成为伟大。”

从保罗的教导中，可以观察到“教导恩赐的传道人”的品格、工作与所结出的果实：活像主基督的品格；所做之工就是让信徒成为跟随主的人借着赢得他们的心、保护他们、引导他们；所结之果就是培育出属灵成熟的学徒并让教会逐渐壮大。

这就是我作为传道一职服事上帝的目标。就算这目标似乎难若登天，但就如我们教会彩色玻璃窗上的经文所说，“不是依靠势力，不是依靠才能，乃是依靠我（上帝）的灵方能成事。”这节经文也是12年前上帝所给予的确定，是回应我的呼召进来教会作为传道一职。于2010年，我们也使用我们教会彩



This was the bible verse that confirmed my calling to serve as the KKMCM Preacher 12 years ago. In 2010, this verse was used in the MM 35th anniversary poster. The poster has all our MM members' & friends' heads superimposed onto a cross. This image really inspired me as that was the vision I wanted to achieve.

For many people "PPT" refers to a Powerpoint file. I use Powerpoint frequently when preaching, but only now "PPT" has another meaning for me. These 3 letters are an apt acronym to summarise the passion and challenges of my 12 years serving as the Mandarin Preacher in KKMCM Mandarin Ministry. I hope what I have shared can fire the passion of all who are serving God and help us all to overcome whatever challenges that we face.

To the Glory of God!

色玻璃窗作为我们华文事工25周年的海报，而在当中我们将教会的会友与慕道友的头像形成当中的十字架。这就启发我这正是我要实现的异像。

其实PPT是我们通常用于“投影”的简称，而我也经常使用“投影”来证道，但现今PPT却成了总结我这12年作为教会华文“传道”服事的热诚与挑战。期盼以上所分享的点点滴滴，得以点燃大家服事上帝的热诚并成为一股助力帮助大家飞跃你我现今所面对的挑战。

荣耀归神！



Fare Thee Well, Mandarin Preacher Pau Chiong Wei

Papa Ng Fook Kar, Octogenarian 87 on June 14, 2019 and round the corner as a nonagenarian, God willing

Pau Chiong Wei came to us 12 years ago in 2007. Our Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Mandarin Ministry (KKMCM) welcomed him with open arms of love.

There had been an eight-month gap between Pau's arrival and the departure of the previous KKMCM worker, Rev Choi Yong Bok. Chiong Wei was instantaneously plunged into ministry work as the staff at the helm of KKMCM.

Chiong Wei comes to us from Sabah, East Malaysia. At age 18, while serving as a volunteer on board the Christian Ship "Dulos", he heard a calling to full-time ministry. He also heard a calling to complete his studies in Hospitality Management and to gain some work experience first. Consequently, he graduated from Glasgow Caledonian University, Scotland, UK in full mortar board and a tartan skirt at convocation. He had a prim and proper full suit attired



Pau praying for Mr and Mrs Ng at their 50th wedding anniversary thanksgiving service

job in food and beverage management in various hotels in the United Kingdom and on cruise ships in Asia.

In 2004, at age 28, Chiong Wei enrolled at the Singapore Bible College (SBC) graduating with a Master of Divinity

degree before being accepted into the service of KKMCM.

While serving at KKMCM, Chiong Wei wedded his childhood sweetheart Irene and also completed a Master in Theology (Old Testament) degree from the Trinity Theological College.

Chiong Wei always pays respect and tribute to his late mother, sharing in many poignant sermons how he missed her after she passed on while he was studying in SBC. I teared alongside with him quietly, because I also mourned the loss of my beloved mother (1912-1948) who died of malnutrition after the birth of my fourth brother.

Chiong Wei, in one of his poignant sermons, made

me sit up when he said he has spent one third of his pastoral life at KKMCM.

With grateful hearts and love, we are indebted to him as God's co-worker of KKMCM. He has seen the growth and maturing of the next generation of youth who are today serving as leaders of KKMCM.

Personally, I thank him for his prayer when Mama and I celebrated our 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving Service at KKM Sanctuary in 2011. I am also thankful for him conducting the Wake Service when Mama passed on to glory at 83 in 2018.

Fare thee well Chiong Wei and Irene, all of us will miss both of you at KKMCM when we celebrate our 34th Anniversary of KKMCM on 25th August 2019.

祝福你的告别，华语堂包章伟传道

吴福鉴爸爸，八旬老人（80岁及）
87岁 2019年6月14日，
若上帝应许成为九旬老人（90岁及）

在12年前，2007年包章伟进入了我们当中。卫理公会甘榜加卜华语堂热情地欢迎他。从前任崔牧师离职后我们耐心祷告等待了8个月，上帝差派了章伟到我们当中。章伟立即投身于带领华语堂事工。

章伟从东马的沙巴来到我们这里。18岁时，在参与福音船“Dulos忠仆号”的短期宣教时，他就听到了上帝呼召他进入全职的服事。

在这当中，上帝还指示他首先需先完成在酒店管理方面的学习并要累积一些工作经验。

因此，他工读并毕业于英国苏格兰格拉斯哥卡利多尼亚大学（Glasgow Caledonian University）。之后他从事在英国一些酒店、餐馆和亚洲游轮的餐饮管理方面的工作。

2004年，当时他28岁，就开始就读于新加坡神学院（SBC）并获得了道学硕士学位，之后被卫理公会甘榜加卜堂聘请作为华语事工传道一职。

在卫理公会甘榜加卜华语堂任职期间，章伟与他素未谋面的同乡的Irene旭晖结婚，并在三一神学院完成了神学硕士（旧约圣经神学）学位。

章伟在其证道分享时，常表达他对已故母亲的思念和敬意。

母亲是当他在SBC学习期间过世，他是如何想念她的。我悄悄地与他并肩流泪，因为我也哀悼已故心爱的母亲（1912-1948），她在我的第四个兄弟出生后因营养不良而去世。



Pau and his wife Irene at MM retreat in Kukup on 14 June 2013

章伟，在他一次的讲道中分享在卫理公会甘榜加卜华语堂的牧养已度过了自己三分之一的人生，使我立刻坐立起来。

怀着感恩的心和爱，我们感谢他作为卫理公会甘榜加卜华语堂事工传道，并也一起协助建立第二代的领袖。

就个人而言，我感谢他在2011年妈妈和我在卫理公会华语堂庆祝我们结婚黄金50周年感恩会时的祷告。

我也很感谢他在2018年为妈妈83岁回天家主持追思礼拜。

祝福你们的告别。今年2019年8月25日庆祝华语堂34周年之际，大家都会想念你和Irene旭晖师母。

Sally Ng

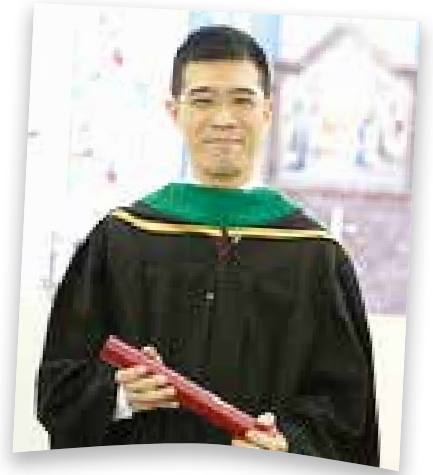
Preacher Pau Chiong Wei is one who has a thirst for learning, a deep passion to serve God and is ever willing to shepherd and help people. He is earnest, loyal, and is not afraid of hard work. He is indeed a model of a good child and servant of God.

Preacher Pau, may God guide you in the path He has set for you and lead you to the blessed destiny He has prepared for you. May God bless you and Irene your wife.

包章伟传道是一位好学，热心事奉神和乐意帮助人的牧者。他做事认真，忠心，不怕辛。他的确是上帝爸爸的好孩子，是神重用的好仆人。

愿神指引包传道前面的道路，带领您走进祂所为您预备的命定。祝福您和包师母。

Pau receiving his MTh degree on 16 May 2015



Sharon Ting

Preacher Pau, thank you for your efforts in guiding us for 12 years. I am impressed by your analytical skills.

May the Lord bless you and your wife in this new season of your lives.

传道，谢谢你这十二年带领我们，看到你用心良苦，我欣赏你的分析能力！

耶和華賜福与你和师母在新的季节。

Peter Chan

Preacher Pau, thank you for journeying with the Mandarin Ministry for the last 12 years. May the Lord continue to bless you as you serve Him.

包传道，谢谢你带领华语堂走过了这12年的岁月。愿天父继续祝福你在祂国度里的侍奉。

Victor Ng

"Sometimes the simplest things mean the most." You have been helpful in many simple ways that gives encouragement to us.

"有时最简单的事情意味着最多。"你通过许多简单的方式帮助我们，鼓励我们。

Lois Lam

Preacher Pau has been with the KKMCM for the past 12 years. KKMCM is the first mandarin congregation he served upon his graduation from theological training. We hope the experience he gained here will be relevant to his future as he seeks the Lord for his next place of service. Our prayer for him is that he will be filled with joy wherever he works as he obeys the Lord in full-time ministry service.

Preacher Pau's time with us will not be forgotten as I remember he often said: 关关难过、关关过! (ability to overcome obstacles!) So, I too pray that he be able to overcome all difficulties in the days ahead and rejoice that he is serving a living God! Amen.

包传道在过去的12年里一直在KKMCM华文堂工作。KKMCM是他从神学训练毕业后服务的第一个华文会众。我们希望他在这里获得的经验会帮助他未来的工作。我们为他祈祷，他在全职工作服从主时，将充满喜乐。

包传道与我们在一起的时间不会被遗忘，因为我记得他经常说：关关难过，关关过！我也祈祷他能够在未来的日子里克服一切困难并为活着的上帝而欢欣鼓舞！阿门。

Tamil Ministry Women's Retreat

23 Feb 2019
Indrani

Around 30 women from the Tamil Ministry gathered for the Women's retreat on 23 February 2019.

All of us were seated facing one another to facilitate interaction. The day began with worship and prayer as we remembered our families, children and their daily struggles and needs.

I had been seeking God on the call and purpose of my life before coming for this retreat. I had no idea that the word shared would address my very questions. Sister Christina shared not only about God's call and purpose but also about God's commitment into the life of each person and how He works through the inner heart of man. As I heard about Jacob's encounter with God at Peniel, David's anointing that prepared him to endure the hardships of his calling, Paul's encounter with the resurrected and glorious Jesus; and Peter's change after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's in Acts chapter 2, I was filled with more and more hope. God would give up on me. Instead He would use all the circumstances in my life to make me more like Him. The bible stories showed God's goodness and His nature, how faithful and relentless He is as He walked with each of the persons mentioned.

Sister Christina, using the the scripture where God is reflected as the potter and we as the clay, explained how the potter treats the clay quite harshly to remove all the small stones and impurities. The process was going to be painful and that choked me a bit, but I asked myself - Is there anyone good except God? Is He not the only one who knew us even before He formed us in our mother's womb? Those thoughts comforted me. Yes, the process may be painful but I was in the hands of the Creator who always is perfect and good. The encounters, anointing, baptism of the Holy Spirit really changed the person : Jacob became Israel; David trusted God and never raised his hand against Saul though he knew He was anointed to be the king, Peter became bold and spoke in the power of the Holy Spirit so that 3000 souls were saved. God told Ananias that Paul was His chosen vessel to preach the gospel to the Gentiles, Kings and Jews; and Saul became Paul the Apostle. Through each of these encounters God revealed His nature and goodness. As I reflected on my life, I knew God was very personal and any tangible touch of His makes an impact in us and also in the people around us.

We had a small talk about trips to Israel by Sister Julie. I gained some insight into their food, culture and dressing of the people in Israel. A story of a saint who was called to pray to demonstrate that faith like a mustard seed can move the mountains was powerful to hear. It challenged me to always live a life of faith. The story also made me think of how God honours faith.

Sister Christina concluded by sharing how Christians were blessed and unique so that even before they said anything, their lives drew many people to them. That powerful insight touched me and I realised how simple yet profound it was. The Gospel is powerful and is the only truth that can set people free. If we could demonstrate that in our lives, it would really touch people for God.

As I left the retreat, I thought about how Jesus turned water to wine. During the teaching of the word, Sister Sathaya was sharing that making wine is a process and compared that to how Jesus can transform us to be the perfect testimony proving that Jesus Christ is alive in us.

Jesus is alive and He speaks. For me this day was special as God spoke to me personally.



This year over 30 women attended our annual KKMC Tamil Ministry Women's Retreat. We spent the weekend connecting with God and one another, sharing the stories of what God has been doing in our lives through worship, testimonies and reflection.

Our souls were fed by the wonderful speaker - Sister Christina. Every one of us encountered God's presence. God spoke straight to our hearts and took away all the fears and reservations that we had about truly being silent and alone with Him.

This retreat showed many examples of how we can become closer to God. We were made aware that we can make changes in our life mostly by doing everyday things with a slightly different focus. We were challenged to share God's good news with others.

Our bodies were also nourished with delicious food. We had a very good afternoon session learning about Israel - The Holy Land from Sister Julie Alagesan. We had a chance to see a stone from Mount Sinai, the mountain at which the Ten Commandments were given to Moses by God. The session was really informative. We had great fun during the games session organised by Sister Anitha William.

The retreat definitely has been a very enlightening and enriching experience for us. We are so thankful to Pastor Moses, Sister Julie & Sister Sathiya Julius for giving us the opportunity to have this retreat.

Steffy Christopher



Encouraging Faithful Discipleship

Dr Clarence Tan

Discipleship Explored is an eight-week journey through the book of Philipians. It is a journey that seeks to re-ignite our love for Jesus and re-align our lives in response to His love - to be His faithful disciples - which is in line with our new KKMC identity.

Discipleship Explored is designed to benefit believers at any stage of the Christian life. It features new

documentary-style films, inspiring testimonies from around the world, and a beautifully designed Handbook with a Bible study guide & weekly reading plans.

The first run of Discipleship Explored at KKMC began on Thursday, 7 January 2019, with 38 eager participants. It was wonderful to see the group comprising youth to senior citizens from all three English services coming

together in authentic community to study and share God's Word. The facilitators for the course were Dr Clarence Tan, Mrs Mona Tan and Mr Mark Tan.

The weekly program began with a time of worship following which a teaching video was shown. After reading the assigned passage from Philippians for the week together, participants were assigned to three groups to discuss the questions provided in the Handbook. The evening would end with a summary of the lessons learnt, a closing hymn and prayer.

Discipleship Explored Group Discussion



Participants would then spend the week considering the follow-up questions provided in the Handbook to deepen their learning. Each week, participants were also given a key verse from Philippians to memorize.

A second run of Discipleship Explored is being planned for the second half of 2019. Do look out for the announcement and sign up to explore the greatest love that you can ever know – the love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Dr Clarence Tan leading Discipleship Explored



Responses from the Discipleship Explored participants:

How has Discipleship Explored helped you to grow in faithful discipleship?

June Phang

The questions in the Handbook are refreshing reminders of what a Christian is and prompt me to reflect on how I am one when my failings surface, such as in areas of obedience and transformation.

Ying Yoke Kong

The detailed study of Philippians has made me think deeply and gain insights into Paul's thoughts and works. By these, I learn to be contented whatever the circumstances by trusting in Christ's strength and supply. Rejoicing in the Lord, I hope to know His peace and grow in faithful discipleship.

Grace Huang

Although I have read Philippians multiple times before, the regular readings on top of the teachings from the videos really made me stop to think and reflect on how Christ was with me throughout the week.

What did you enjoy most about Discipleship Explored?

Anne Huang

I enjoyed learning from other participants' points of view as everyone brought different approaches and different life experiences to the group discussions that helped me understand Scripture in various ways.

Phang Chee Kheng

The weekly video which provides the context and key message of each session. The people featured in the videos were candid in sharing their experiences and opinions some of which were similar to how I felt. This allowed me to reflect and to have greater clarity on the doubts, beliefs and questions that I have in my personal faith journey.

Kelvin Seah

The teaching session in the videos as well as the interviews of Christians from different continents. They show that our struggles are universal and that Christ unifies us as One Church, equipping us to follow Him and minister to those around us.

Celestial and Chancel choirs in a Master Class with *Howard Williams*

Judith Mosomos, with contributions from Elaine Ang, Titus Chang, Pearlyn Gan and Shane Seah

On 14 April 2019, the Celestial and Chancel Choirs took part in a master class with Howard Williams, an internationally renowned British conductor known for his formidable range of work both in the opera house and concert hall.

His musicality, knowledge and familiarity with the music and composers were impressive. Moreover his humour and the fast pace of the class kept the choir engaged and challenged throughout the session.

While we each had different takeaways from the master class, the key focus was on diction. As singing is a medium in which text is used to relay a message, the role of consonants and vowels, and being deliberate in singing them help articulate the message. In this way, the congregation can understand it better.

Howard gave not only technical insights but inspired us to give our best in every aspect of singing, from expression, phrasing, breathing technique, looking at the conductor and so on. We were reminded that all these required discipline and practice. Every aspect of music-making had to come together for each piece of music we sang, but above all, our joy and worship had

to be central in our music-making. Through this shared ministry of music-making, it is our prayer that our singing may bring the choirs and congregation closer to God in reverence and humble worship. With Christ at the centre, may our hearts be transformed, that we

may attain a new understanding of worshipping God.

The master class was followed by an appreciation lunch for choristers and their families who support them every week.



My Involvement with the *Seniors' Corner*

Sharing by Patrick Tan on Social Concerns Sunday on 10 March 2019

When the Seniors Corner (SC) began in July 2017, honestly, I wasn't sure if I wanted to invest my time into it simply because I could not see how the SC would develop in the long run or how the Lord was going to take this community project forward. But I felt I should give it a try in response to the call for volunteers. More importantly, I felt, as a child of God, I ought to try to contribute to the work of God in the world. Since the Lord has placed me

as a member in KKMC I felt, it was important for me to support the vision, mission and strategies of the church. I believe that these vision, mission and strategies are what the Lord has given to our leaders, to impact the community around with the Grace and Love of Christ.

During the initial phases, when my wife Yin and I started helping at the SC, Yin was the more regular of us two.

It took a while for us to feel comfortable relating to the people who came.

The weekly Friday program was designed with the physical, social and mental wellness of the participants in mind, through activities such as breakfast, chit-chat time, exercises and the much-loved bingo time. The cost of the programme was relatively low. Apart from breakfast, simple inexpensive snack were used as prizes and those were sometimes contributed by the participants themselves! Every few months, the weekly programme was replaced by outings and educational talks for senior folks.

The SC has not only attracted the physically healthier seniors but also the frail ones, with walking aids or in wheelchairs from our vicinity. It has also attracted people from the Farrer Park, Lavender, Kelantan Lane areas, as well as one from the Bedok area.

Twenty months have passed since its inception. We observed that the weekly attendance has jumped, to around 50 persons from the beginning number of 10 persons at the first meeting on 7 July 2017.

With the increased attendees, we do need more befrienders! Volunteers do not have to be a senior to be involved. And if you are willing to stay long enough at volunteering you will find involvements in the SC quite enjoyable and rewarding, like we do.

In these 20 months, we have observed God's hand in:

1. Connecting neighbour to neighbour. One lady said of a neighbour, 'I have seen this person often but most of us in our block do not know how to relate with this neighbour but through the SC we can now chat quite freely and easily with each other.' God broke down the barriers. Perceptions changed when there is opportunity to meet and interact in a relaxed and safe environment that the SC provides; thus bringing an increased sense of neighborliness among people. It is also a joy to see the lonely, introverted and more timid ones find acceptance, friendship and people to talk to.

2. Connecting the neighbourhood to the KKMC community. Although the SC meets in TUL, the people were introduced into our church during the SC anniversary. They were also invited to Christmas gatherings last year and heard the Gospel beautifully shared through a skit put up by the mandarin congregation. Some also came to our 125th anniversary celebration. KKMC is now being seen as a friendly and caring church that reaches out to the community. One of them mentioned, 'the church gives me the feeling of being a part of the family.'

3. Connecting people gradually to Himself. Last September, five seniors or about 10% of our SC attendance accepted the invitation to join our Alpha Course. Usually after the Alpha Run, the group disbands, but these folks in the Mandarin-speaking group decided to continue meeting to study the bible on a fortnightly basis. During the recent Chinese New Year, we, together with our Mandarin congregation co-facilitators visited our Alpha friends and at the two homes, sang songs and then prayed a blessing over the family. Through the Alpha Course, friendships within the group are being strengthened.

The result from the Alpha connection has been encouraging so far. Although only one has professed faith in Christ, all the others are positive and very open about the Christian faith, including one who is seriously searching, reading the bible and attending the Mandarin service regularly.

Some may think that the SC is yet another random Social Concerns initiative, perhaps, just to justify its name as Social Concerns. But it is not. On the contrary, my perception is that the SC is in a continuum from the 'Breakfast with Love (BWL)' to 'Community Blessing Effort (CBE)' to SC to Alpha to KKMC and we pray, to Christ, our Lord and Savior.

For those who have been involved in our other Social Concerns initiatives, these seniors may not be exactly strangers to you. At the BWL – you may have met them superficially; at CBE you may have gotten a chance to see them at their doors; and if you do come to the SC,



At a post Alpha Course LifeGroup meeting



Patrick with friends at a Seniors' Corner meeting

you will see the same people yet again, only this time, you get the chance to engaged them at a deeper level. So the SC is truly in a vital position along this social concern journey and at the same time a spiritual journey to knowing Christ. I therefore encourage you to come alongside us, be a volunteer, a helper, a befriender and a blessing to the seniors in our community. You may never know how the Lord is going to use your loving, caring friendship to point someone closer to Jesus, our Lord, who had said: '...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did it for me.' (Matt 25:40)

So come and join us. See you at the SC!!

For more information on how you can get involved with the Seniors Corner, please contact Mr Ivan Ho at 9362 8499.

THE SENIORS CORNER (SC) IS IN A CONTINUUM FROM THE 'BREAKFAST WITH LOVE (BWL)' TO 'COMMUNITY BLESSING EFFORT (BE)' TO SC TO ALPHA TO KKMC AND HOPEFULLY, WE PRAY, TO CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.

Loving Outreach



We thank God for the gift of the Kampong Kapor Community Service (KKCS) which covers the Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre (KKFSC) and the Whampoa Family Service Centre (WFSC)

Our Church's Committee on Outreach and Social Concerns (COSC) and the KKCS are always seeking a closer working relationship with each other

Both Family Service Centres offer us the opportunity to share God's love with the needy in our Communities

You and/or your ministry or LifeGroup are encouraged to volunteer at the KKCS on "a single event" or "regular" basis

For KKFSC

Please contact Jack Lee:
jacklee@kkcs.org.sg
or call Tel: 6299 7662

Address:
Blk 2 Kitchener Road
#03-89
Singapore 200002

For WFSC

Please contact Namira:
namirarahmat@kkcs.org.sg
or call Tel: 6326 0300

Address:
Block 78A Lorong Limau
#01-01, Whampoa Dew
(Level 1 of Multi-Storey Car Park)
Singapore 321078

KKMC Kindergarten Blessing our Migrant Workers Agnes Wai

"Start Small Dream Big" was initiated by the Early Childhood Development Agency (ECDA) to encourage pre-schools to create authentic platforms for children to innovate, problem-solve and tap on their unique strengths to help others.

This initiative hopes to encourage young children to use their own resources and creativity to give back to society, and in the process, instil the spirit of giving and good values such as care for others, humility, kindness and compassion.

This is the third year that the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Kindergarten (KKMCK) is doing a community project. We started by discussing with the children various projects and decided to show our appreciation to the migrant workers who have been contributing to our nation for so many years. We participated in KKMC's monthly

NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING BUT
EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING



Blessing the Community on Sunday 7 April, where food packets were distributed to migrant workers.

With the kind donation of ingredients from parents, the KKMCK teachers and children baked 3000 cookies and packed them into attractive gift packs! On

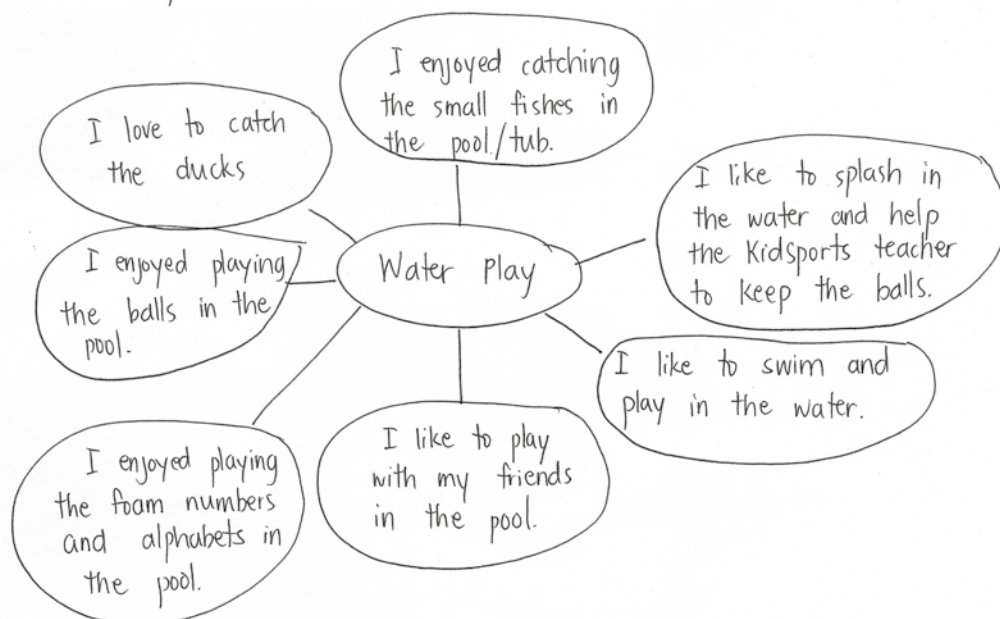
the 7 April, we gathered together to help distribute cookies and food to the migrant workers. The children also presented song items to the migrant workers who sat down in the church social hall for their meal. It was indeed a wonderful experience for the parents, children and the teachers.



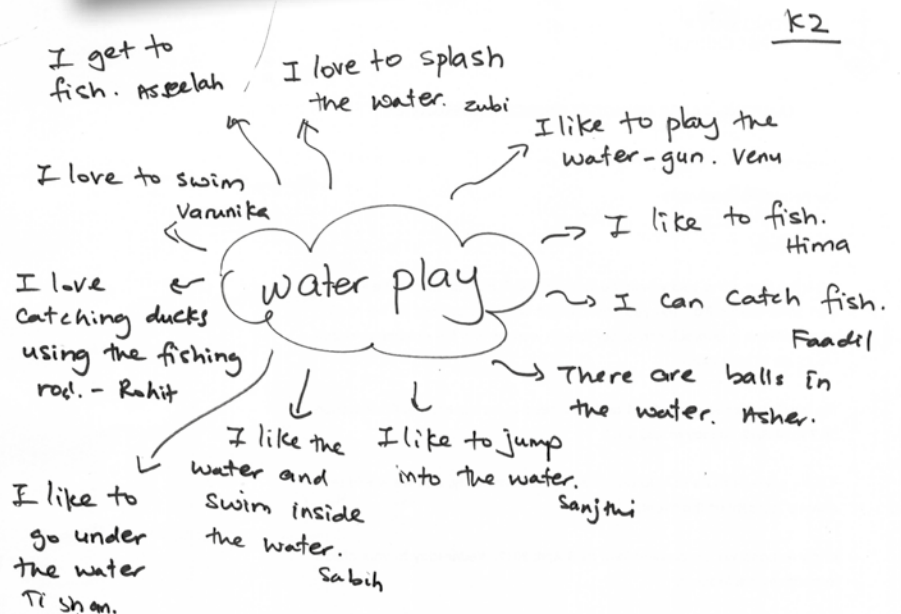
KKMC Kindergarten *Water Play*

The KK Kindergarten introduced a monthly water play activity for the K1 and K2 classes as part of our value added programme in our curriculum.

K1 - Honesty



Every last Friday of the month, the outdoor play area is transformed into a water playground much to the delight of the students. This activity is not only fun for the students but assist them in their social interaction and motor co-ordination skills.

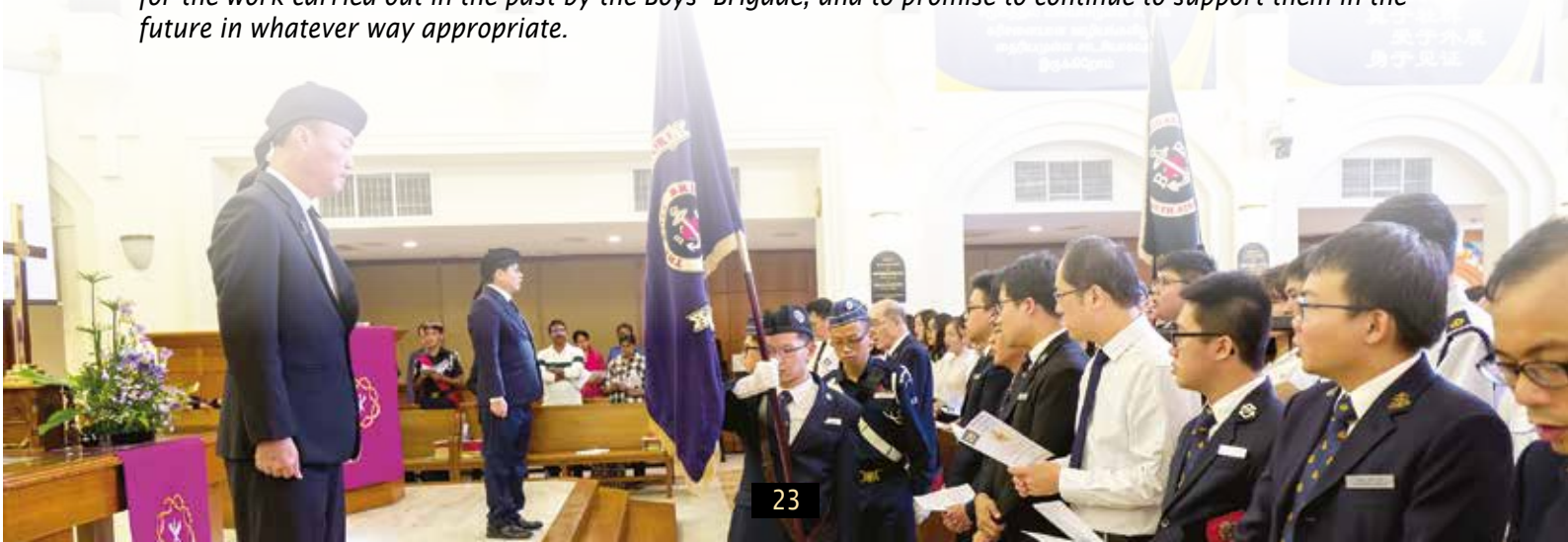


Boys' Brigade Enrolment

17 March 2019, Sunday

Kampong Kapur Methodist Church sponsors the 2nd Company Boys' Brigade Company at Victoria School and the 60th Company Boys' Brigade at the Raffles Institution.

Every year, an enrolment service is held at the church. At this service, new Boys are formally enrolled into the membership of the BB Company by promising to be a good member and to accept the teaching and guidance of the Company and of the Church. For older Boys renewing their membership, it is a time remember to set an example of good conduct for other members. For leaders, it is a time to evaluate past work and renew their commitment to bringing boys to Christ and helping them to grow into spiritual maturity. For the congregation - parents, friends, church members, adherents - it is time to give thanks for the work carried out in the past by the Boys' Brigade, and to promise to continue to support them in the future in whatever way appropriate.



A summary of the sharing by the student leaders of both BB companies are reproduced here.



Staff Sergeant Timothy Yong

Chairman of the 2nd Singapore Company

In 2nd Company, we have a long history built around many stories, and I would like to share one of those stories.

In my cohort's first March Camp 4 years ago, we were having a drill rehearsal for the Awards Day ceremony. Except that it wasn't so much drill as it was sloppy robotic walking. Suddenly, we heard someone screaming, "Wake up your idea, stop wasting my time!" That reprimand made us shake with fear and had the effect of making us try desperately to march together. That shout was from our beloved Officer Jonathan, who has seen us through this past 4 years as our Cohort Officer.

Why am I sharing this story? That is because the story of our council would not be complete without it. That rebuke was the point that sparked our growth to maturity, and transformed us from a cohort into a council.

In fact, as the Chairman of the 2018/19 council, I am profoundly proud of this council, because I think our greatest achievement is mastering the ability to be fun and loving, and then strict and disciplined and then warm and empathetic as the situation required. When Officer Jonathan used this technique, it allowed my cohort to maximise our potential and achieve greater heights.

In fact, I am honoured to share with you some of our company's achievements. In 2018, we were awarded the Sim Kee Boon Challenge Trophy as the Best Senior's Programme Company for the second consecutive year. Also, we attained the 5th placement for the annual adventure race, BB Blaze. More recently, we received the Overseas Community Development Excellence Award for our volunteer work in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This June, we will be heading to Chiang Mai again and we look forward to serving the local community once more.

This would never have been possible without the support of a very special group of people. Having started off as a group of mischievous strangers, it brings a smile to my face when I think of how we have matured. Now, while still mischievous, we are bonded as one, willing to stand together and call ourselves brothers. To my council of 2018/19, thank you for being there in the ups and the downs and for also knowing when to do right and when to do left. Importantly, thank you for the abundant love and friendship throughout these four years.

To the Teachers, Officers and the Primers, thank you for your unwavering support for my council and your sacrificial dedication towards 2nd company that has directly borne fruit in each and every Boy here.

To the Boys, thank you so much for contributing to the success of this council in your own ways and for continuing to remain committed to BB.

To KKMC, thank you for your support and partnership all these years. We hope our close partnership can continue to impact the boys' lives and nurture them holistically.

On a more personal note, the bittersweet BB experience is one I'll never forget. And being blessed to take on the Chairmanship has truly allowed me to grow in ways I could never foresee, from an introverted pliant boy to a more confident and decisive person. Furthermore, I have been able to refine my leadership style and properly discover my identity. All of this could not have been possible without my family, who have shaped and influenced who I am today.

Finally, to the new batch of Sec 1s, this BB experience will be one brimming with lots of unexpected situations and challenges but it will also be one that will leave you feeling inexplicably fulfilled if you put your heart, soul, mind and muscle to it. I pray you will not cower at the challenges you face but confront them courageously, actively seeking to better the conditions you are in.

Thank you everyone.



Staff Sergeant Ethan Wu

Company Sergeant Major,
60th Singapore Company



I remember my first enrolment service as a Recruit four years ago in this very church. Funnily enough, that might not have ever happened. In Year 1, during the Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) selection, I went for the BB Trials and was accepted. I then indicated BB as my first choice CCA. When the CCA allocations were announced, I had been placed into the Scouts. By the grace of God, my appeal to BB was accepted, and I thus embarked on the start of my BB Journey.

Looking back, I did not know what made BB so attractive to me. Was it the wide variety of activities that BB had to offer? Or that BB was founded on a Christian values? I still do not know the answer but I thank God that I felt that way. Joining BB has been one of the best decisions I have made, and I haven't looked back ever since.

My years in BB have produced so many good memories, it is difficult to single out one particular moment. When I joined BB in Year 1, I threw myself into it, joining all the different competitions and participating enthusiastically in the different activities, much to the dismay of my parents. Drill Competition, Character Quest, Blaze, Band, Singspiration; the list goes on. Every competition I have joined and every activity I have participated in has been an enriching and memorable experience. Each activity helps Boys to develop holistically. BB has developed me in many areas of my life, whether it is physically and musically or in character and service. However, what has impacted me the most is not the activities in BB, but the people in BB.

The instant I joined BB, I knew I had found a new family. Everyone, from the teachers and officers, to the seniors in the Company, welcomed my batch into our new home. We were accepted into the Company unconditionally, with a lot of love and warmth. I'm sure all my batch mates here today will indeed agree with me, that BB is special, not so much because of its activities, but more so for its community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who have made BB special to me. Firstly, my teachers and officers for guiding us and looking out for us, making sure that each CCA session enjoyable. Next, my company mates, be they seniors or juniors, for caring for one

another, loving one another and accepting one another. And last but not least my batch. It has been a joy to work with all of you, bond with all of you, and laugh with all of you these past four years. We have grown so much together as a batch, from the small, immature, childish group of Year Ones we were, to the bonded and quite frankly still immature group of Year Fours. Over the past few years, you have been my pillar of support and the group of friends that I can really count on. To see all of us grow closer together and grow individually, as Boys of true Christian manliness, has indeed been the highlight of my journey in the Boys' Brigade.

To my fellow company mates here today, I have one message for you. To make the most out of your time in BB and cherish the friendships you make here.

God has blessed our 60th Company in the past year with great results. For Blaze our teams managed to finish in 11th, 13th and 33rd positions. For Drill Competition, our team achieved second runners-up. For Character Quest, three of our teams clinched a top 12 position, getting 3rd, 4th and 10th. For the Singapore Southeast Asian Pipe Band Championship our band finished 3rd and for the Pipes and Drums Festival our band finished first after a five year long wait.

This year, we are honoured to have 13 new Primers joining the Company! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Year 6 Primers for their dedication to the Company and for all the hard work they have put in to mentor the Boys. I am also thankful to announce that we have 13 new Recruits joining the Company!

We thank God for blessing the Company with 4 dedicated and passionate teachers. I would like to welcome Mr Tan Xiang Yeow and Mr Goh Wee Kiat, our new teachers, who will be working alongside Mr Timothy Song and Ms Isabella Ow.

Finally, on behalf of all members of 60th Company and the Boys' Brigade, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the members of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church. Without your kind support, we would not be able to continue to flourish and grow as a company. Thank you for helping to nurture and develop the Officers, Teachers, Primers, and Boys in the Company. We are extremely grateful for your contributions and we look forward to another promising year under your care.

Thank you, and have a blessed day.



Girls' Brigade Sunday

31 March 2019

Apart from sponsoring two Boys' Bridge Companies, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) also sponsors the 45th Company Girls' Brigade (GB) at Raffles Girls' Secondary School (RGSS). GB Sunday was observed on 31 March. At that service, Staff Sergeant Charisse Chin shared about her GB experience.

I was born into a Christian family. My late grandfather, Andrew Chin, was a dedicated member of this church. But growing up, I've attended multiple churches and my faith especially drifted in my PSLE year, when I did not attend church.

When I went to RGSS in Secondary One, the Girls' Brigade was my last choice of Co-Curricular Activity (CCA). However I can be very thankful to God now, who had opened this door to show me this route to growing closer to Him once again.

My journey in GB can be summarised by Proverbs 31:25, the theme verse the year I joined Girls' Brigade - "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future."

The Girls' Brigade offers a four-fold programme for badgework, aiming to develop girls socially, physically, educationally and spiritually. Looking back, I can really see how I've grown in these four areas.

Firstly, I've been pushed out of my comfort zone socially. For instance, I've been given opportunities to attend national events such as Walk On Water Camp in 2017, where we were able to get to know girls from other local companies as well as girls from Malaysia.



Secondly, I've developed more physically. Our weekly drill sessions conducted during CCA sessions have indeed allowed me to understand the meaning of perseverance. Though we still might not be able to get A for our 2.4km NAPFA run, we definitely are able to stand still for half an hour during our school's National Day Parade, and we've learnt to find joy in these physical activities, something that we would probably not voluntarily choose to engage in otherwise.

Thirdly, I've had ample opportunities to grow spiritually. Through my squad, Levites, the worship squad, I've realised the strength in praising God, and every gathering is always an opening for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. Our mentor Ms Sandra also recently reintroduced the practice of weekly Quiet Time sessions for the Levites, helping us grow in God's Word and becoming more spiritually engaged.

Fourthly, I've learned so much about how to serve and lead others. I'm honoured to have been able to serve as Vice-Chairperson of this Company, to give back to this "ohana" family I've grown to love. For instance, during the March Camp this month, I've witnessed many embodiments of "ohana love"

by the teacher-officers - Ms Ling, Ms Cheong, Mrs Lee and Ms Sandra, and my seniors and batchmates, through constant encouragement and support every step of the way. For example, the teachers gave us positive feedback on our proposals, and when I was stressed, my batchmates would always cheer me up and be my listening ear. This experience definitely served as a timely reminder that Ohana means family, and family means no one gets left behind or forgotten.

Indeed, these four years have been a fulfilling journey. From being the juniors who were afraid to utter a word, we have grown to become the seniors who are recreating our pictures from four years ago. I'm glad that I've been able to feel my growth. But above all, I've understood Proverbs 31:25 - with all the strength God has provided us and helping us grow at every step of the way, I've learnt to take Him as my strength in weakness.

One day down the road, when I'm telling the story of this phase of my life to my own grandchildren, I'm sure this is a period I never will regret, a choice that I'm glad God has chosen for me, and a journey filled with precious, beautiful memories. Thank you.



Visit to Catholic Aids Response Effort

Annie Lee

On 9 April 2019, a group of four church members, together with Pastor Gabriel, set out to visit the Catholic Aids Response Effort (C.A.R.E), a voluntary welfare organisation dedicated to helping People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). One of its main programmes is providing shelter to male PLWHAs who are homeless.

Rosita started the day's visit with a rousing sing-along session. The staff and residents were very impressed with her melodious singing and accomplished piano playing. She also took song requests from the residents who spontaneously requested their favourite songs. This was followed by the presentation of NTUC vouchers to the residents and a hearty meal of nasi lemak. I was touched when I observed that the more able residents took it upon themselves to help those who were more frail-looking.

It was also a delight to walk through the garden and see what keeps the residents constructively occupied. The jambu tree was in full bloom. We brought home some delicious-looking jambu. The residents also reared fishes and grow hydroponic vegetables. They also make crosses and candles.

This is my first visit to C.A.R.E. I am particularly moved that the Committee of Outreach and Social Concerns identified PLWHAs as a group worthy of attention and concern. This tells me that KKMC is not an insular and parochial church. Instead, it demonstrates God's love and the Gospel in action by paying attention to those marginalized and forgotten by society.

I went with the intention to bless the residents. But I was blessed by the staff and residents instead. The staff carry out their work in a gentle and quiet manner, treating the residents with dignity and respect. And I saw courage and perseverance in the residents despite their medical condition, and their humble posture of surrender to God.

I thank God for the opportunity to sing and share two poems by Helen Steiner Rice at C.A.R.E. My eyes have been opened to the love of the Catholic Community and indeed by their example and sincerity they have provided a home of comfort for the people with AIDS. It is very admirable of our Catholic friends. I thank God for shaping my life with this ministry.

Rosita



Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy



Rosita sparks joy with her music and singing



L-R: Mr Chia Teck Sian, Rosita Ng, Annie Lee, Ying Yoke Kong, Rev Gabriel Liew



Visit to CARE



Picking fruits from the jambu tree

Mission Trip to Vietnam

25 February - 2 March 2019

Chua Ping Ping

I thank God for the opportunity to return to Vietnam again for a second trip, especially with this team of fun-loving doctor couple Joyce and Darius, Kelvin and Siang Ling. I'm very blessed to be reminded again of God's faithfulness through how they live their lives in the mountain.

One special encounter that touched me was with a young family we met in one of the churches in the village. Mr P, the breadwinner of the family, had sustained injuries to his left hand while working the day before. Two

of his fingers were partially severed by a metal saw. He did not have proper equipment and antiseptic to perform first aid for his wound. While Joyce, a medical doctor, was cleaning his wound, I felt so much pain for him and tears started flowing uncontrollably. His wife, Ms S, who had delivered at home last December, had persistent bleeding after giving birth.

I could feel their faith when the church congregation sang hymns to praise God. I'm also blessed to have the opportunity to understand the book of James shared by my team. I

would like to encourage all KKM members to allow God to use us for His good works and become His authentic disciples.

The world will know we are children of God by how we live not what we know. When we live right, they will see Jesus in our lives. And in return, we bring glory to Him.

James 2:26

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Darius and Joyce Pan

We thank God for the opportunity to take part in this mission trip and serve alongside fellow KKM members, Kelvin, Ping Ping and Siang Ling. Even though we were there to share God's word with the churches on the book of James, we were more blessed and encouraged by the church members' faith in action and

fervour for God's word. The church members would come hours before we arrived, and listened to the sermons from morning till evening. Their attendance showed their genuine interest to learn God's word as it took place on a weekday where they could have worked in the fields or gained an income.

During the sharing on trials from James 1, the church members shared their life stories of how they still stayed true to the faith despite the persecution they faced. One of the church members shared how she had been locked up for 2 days without food because of her faith in Jesus. Another member shared that



Darius treating a boy



Joyce examining a lady



Team in front of a church
L-R Darius, Joyce, Siang Ling, Ping Ping, Kelvin

her fishpond had been poisoned. When they sang hymns of praise, their passionate and exuberant worship made us experience the presence of God even though we did not understand the lyrics.

During a home visit in one of the villages, we met a young boy who had been paralysed from birth and walked using his hands. As doctors, we felt so helpless as we were unable to help him without the resources we would have had in Singapore. At that moment, all we could do was pray

for his recovery and ability to walk. Although no miracle took place that day, we could sense that our presence brought him joy and love that day.

We also had a chance to speak to a number of church members who had suffered from pain for many years but never sought medical care because they could not afford the medical costs. Our hands were also tied with the limited resources and lack of access to further investigation and treatment. All we could do was provide some

temporary relief with basic medication, and put our faith in God to heal their diseases and relieve them of their suffering.

Apart from the work, we had light-hearted moments and unforgettable fellowship, such as the cooling and scenic long walks to the villages and the nightly minimart shopping. We could not have asked for better travel companions who made this trip complete.

Kelvin Seah

I found the mission trip to be an eye opening experience, as I observed people in and out of the churches we visited. It left me with many thoughts about being a true and authentic disciple of Christ. I learned that we need to be sensitive to God's leading, and to those who often mask the difficulties that they face. Still

others suffer silently and do not have the courage to speak up or come to terms with their troubles.

We have so often forgotten to love others with our thoughts, words or deeds. A superficial "Hi" and "Bye" when we see each other is insufficient, and we need to go beyond that. How do we reach

out and help to encourage one another in practical ways as the Bible tells us in James 4? How do we seek justice, love mercy and to walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8) on a daily basis? These thoughts led me to pray more fervently about the gospel in action and in my life.



Andrew Tan

I was born into a Christian family and attended church and Sunday school from young. I also attended Christian schools all the way until university. So I considered myself a Christian all my life.

There was, however, an incident that took place when I was 10 years old that helped me to affirm the reality of God in my life. My family home was undergoing renovations so we moved into a temporary house. At this house I started to see apparitions like black shadows and black waves darting around or floating slowly from one end of the room to another. Some of these things would breathe ice-cold air down my neck. There were also a number of other paranormal incidents which took place, too many to be listed down here. It got to a point that my parents and I could not take it anymore and we gathered together one Sunday afternoon to pray. There was nothing spectacular about the prayer session and it could not have lasted more than 15 minutes.

Not long after the prayer, I was home alone one Tuesday afternoon when out of the corner of my eye, I saw what looked like the back of a 3-metre tall white figure walk by, dressed in clerical robes, carrying a staff and wearing what appeared to be a bishop's ceremonial headdress. I saw it for a full second or two before it walked down the stairs and disappeared out of my line of sight. I did not think that much about it at that time because I had grown used to seeing strange things. I told my parents about it and for the remaining 4 to 6 months we were at that house, all paranormal activities stopped.

Later as I reflected on those phenomena and discussed it with various people, I came to the conclusion that God existed. I have seen spirits and God cleansed the house of spirits and took charge of the house. I felt blessed to have witnessed this miracle of God first-hand. It made me sure that there was a basis for my faith.

As a Christian, I know that God has always been with me through the good times and the bad. Doors have been opened when I needed them, favour has been shown, I was blessed with opportunities that my parents never had, and I have been kept alive and well out of trouble. That said, I have begun to appreciate that a Christian life is not just one of following but one of active service.



Andrew Tan being baptised



*At the baptism service -
LR : Rev Gabriel Liew, Sharon Chan, Andrew Tan and his parents, Louise and Roland*

Over the years, I have come to realise that I influence people around me. I find myself in leadership positions and find it easy to get people to listen to me. However, during my early adulthood, I was regrettably a passenger in church and in the faith. While I maintained my relationship with God throughout, I was not of any service to Him. It was only recently that I felt that I had a life to contribute but nothing has yet been achieved.

Most of my friends here in Singapore are either non-believers or ungrounded in the faith. I have since made it a point to be a conduit to help bring them to Jesus. I realised that my gifts should not remain unused for God. I also realised that many people are interested in "ghost stories" and I hope sharing my experience can be a testimony of God's existence and wondrous work.

Before joining the baptism and membership class, I did not realise the importance and significance of water baptism. I thought it was a ritual to signify conversion and since I was already a believer, I did not find a need to get baptised. It was only when I went through the baptism and member class that I understood baptism meant so much more, and more importantly, it was a command of Jesus. And just as Jesus public ministry began after his baptism, I hope my baptism will mark a new chapter of service for Christ.

Your Love Endures For Ever!

Leong Kwok Thye

You are a mighty Creator,
And our eternal Sustainer.
You made a great universe,
And gave life we didn't deserve.

You chose us and set us free,
From Pharaoh's ruthless cruelty.
You destroyed his mighty army,
By drowning them in the Red Sea.

You led us on a long journey
Through harsh and hostile territory.
In the hot barren wilderness,
You showed your great faithfulness.

In your sovereign authority;
You destroyed every enemy,
Refreshed us when we were thirsty,
And fed us when we were hungry.

Despite our insignificance,
You gave us an inheritance
To build a new generation,
On whom to lavish devotion.

Read Psalm 136 in conjunction with Ps 107 & 1 Pe 2:9-10.

Explore and Discover

Psalm 136 is a beautiful psalm. Every verse pulsates with the refrain, "Your love endures for ever." The psalmist was clearly overwhelmed by a great and gracious Creator. He is absolute God and Lord (1-9), the sovereign God who chose and delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt under a cruel pharaoh who defied him (10-15). He then led them on a long hazardous journey through a hot and hostile wilderness to teach them to depend completely on him and to demonstrate his love and faithfulness (16-20). Despite their low estate, he gave them land occupied by their enemies as an inheritance to establish a new generation on whom he could lavish his love and devotion for ever. (21-26).

The psalm is essentially a panoramic overview of God's redemption plan of mankind (1 Pe 2:9-10).

Reflection

The psalmist's exuberant refrain, "His love endures for ever" is the clue to understanding the psalm. The key words, love, endures and for ever describe the character of God. God is love, he endures the behaviour of his ungrateful children and he is for ever faithful. The psalm is a poetic rendering of Psalm 107, possibly also written by the author and adapted for temple worship as a reminder that Israel is God's channel for the redemption of mankind.

The author of the psalm chose to remain incognito. His role like John the Baptist was to draw those flocking to hear him to God. "He must become greater, I must become less" (Jn 3:30). The Message is more important than the messenger.



“
 Now to him who is able to keep
 you from falling, and to make
 you stand without blemish in
 the presence of his glory with
 rejoicing, to the only God our
 Saviour, through Jesus Christ our
 Lord, be glory, majesty, power,
 and authority, before all time and
 now and for ever. Amen.
 Jude 24-25 (NRSV)
 ”



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