

kampong kapor methodist church



March – May 2018

“
...Nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 8:39b (NLT)

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



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



Pastors’ Message

Remembering what is at The Heart of Easter!

Based on Luke 24:36–49, we are reminded that at the heart of Easter, is the truth that Jesus arose from the dead (v 46).

And those who believe in the risen Jesus receive from Him the assurance of:

- (a) His presence (v36a) – “*We never walk alone!*”;
- (b) His peace (v36b) – “*Shalom*”: *wellbeing and strength in the midst of the storm*;
- (c) His fulfilment of God’s Word (v44) – *Jesus proved God to be faithful and true in His plan of salvation for all peoples*; and finally,
- (d) His enlightening of our minds (v45) to the true meaning of “*Messiahship*” – *suffering, death, and only then, resurrection (victory over death)* (v46), and to the true benefits available to all who believe – *repentance and forgiveness* (v47a).

Those who believe in the risen Jesus also have from Him the privilege of proclaiming the truth about Him (v47a), as witnesses (v48a) sharing our personal experiences as we are empowered by God (v49) to do so.

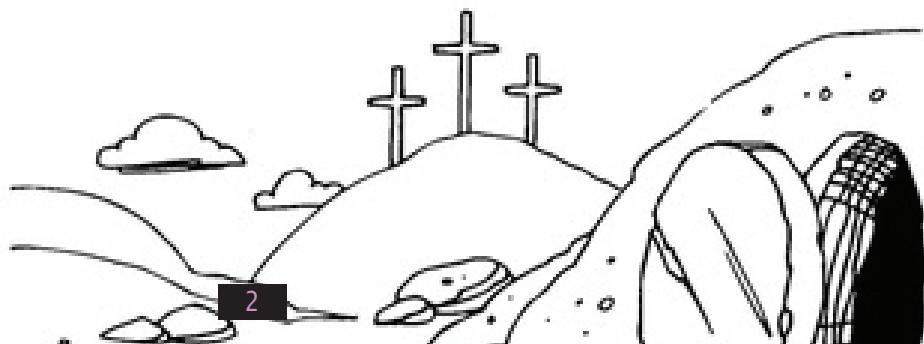
The challenge for Christians is whether we will believe what the Scriptures teach about the heart of Easter, what the risen Jesus has done and is doing for us His believers, and also, who we are in Him – empowered witnesses!

Let us remember that there is *no* reason for us to be like the disciples – “*While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering*” (v41a) – for we know the reality of God’s love and the risen Jesus living in our lives!

And so, in response to the truth at the heart of Easter that Jesus arose from the dead, let us all *continue* to love God, love others and make disciples! As we do so, it will definitely help all of us at KKMC to get “**IN & INVOLVED**” **even more**, especially, “*across the seas*” this year!

May the LORD bless and keep us as we move further into 2018!

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



Featured Sermon A World In Need Of Salvation

The Powerful Gospel According To Romans (1)

Good Morning!

Today, to further help us as individuals and as KKMC better live out the emphasis of “*In & Involved - Across the Seas*”, we begin a new, exciting and surely faith-building Sermon Series entitled “A WORLD IN NEED OF SALVATION” based on Paul the Apostle’s Letter to the Christians and church in Rome. There will be a common Title for each Sermon in this Series of “The Powerful Gospel According To Romans” and today’s Sermon, in particular, will help make it clear the reason for this.

The Letter to the Romans greatly influenced the lives of many, for eg: St Augustine, Martin Luther and John Wesley, just to name a few. Why? Because as Warren Weirsbe states, “*Romans is a great exposition of the faith...If a Bible student wishes to master any one book of the Bible, let it be Romans!*” Hence, this Sermon Series based on this Letter, with the express desire that it will help all of us, if not master, then definitely, dive deeper into the truth it holds regarding God’s words, will and ways, especially, for all who regard ourselves as believers of Jesus.

So, let us have a quick introduction to this Letter to help set the stage. The Community of Christians, ie: the church, in Rome was not planted, or evangelised to, by Paul. Their faith in Jesus had its roots in the event of PENTECOST as recorded in Acts 2 when Jews from all over the then known world, including Rome, came back to Jerusalem for the Festival of Pentecost. And having been convicted by the Holy Spirit of their sins, and having believed in the Resurrected Jesus as their Lord and Saviour upon hearing Peter preach, they must have returned home to Rome, come together, shared the news of Jesus and grown the number of believers.

This church had gradually grown in importance as it was situated in the capital of the then Roman Empire - ROME - and this fact would help

explain Paul’s firm desire (vv11 & 13) to visit this church, and encourage the Christians there, since he was not yet personally known to them.

This latter fact would also explain Paul’s longer and much more detailed introduction of himself (vv1-6), which included not just his usual introduction of himself of “Paul, an apostle/ bond slave/servant of Jesus” at the start of his letters, but also the details behind him being so!

Paul then, in addition to introducing himself as being “a servant of Jesus Christ”, firstly stated that God had CALLED him to the office of an apostle and had SET him APART (or consecrated him) with the specific responsibility of preaching the Good News (the GOSPEL) primarily to the Gentiles (non-Jews) [vv 1&5]! In doing so, he was not only making reference to his encounter with the Living Jesus on the Road to Damascus as recorded in Acts 9, which the Roman Christians had most probably heard about, but he was making it clear to them that he was as much an apostle of Jesus as were the original disciples of Jesus, in the event any one of them had doubts about his credentials.

Next, Paul focused on the “GOSPEL of GOD” - that is, the very substance he as an apostle was called to preach to the Gentiles! Recalling what the early church probably taught believers about Jesus, Paul describes the Gospel of God in vv 2 to 6 most profoundly as that: “*which he (God) promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ*

In essence, the Gospel stated by Paul was and is, firstly, not something that God had haphazardly come up with, but planned for and put together ahead of time and hence “promised beforehand” since Old Testament times (v2)!

Secondly, the Gospel is about Jesus Christ, as God’s Son, who also was descended from King David. That is, referring to Jesus not only as being both fully human and divine, but also as the earthly Messiah who died, but with the power of the Holy God was resurrected as the Heavenly Lord (vv3&4). And, as the Resurrected Lord, Jesus is the only One able to offer Grace (*that is: God’s unmerited favour and His enabling*) to all, helping them obediently have faith in Him, or have the desire and ability to trust Him, which they did not have before. ONLY Jesus can call and help someone who has turned away from God, to turn back and return to Him (v5).

And this returning back to God, the Roman Christians knew personally full well to be true, as they were themselves recipients of Grace from Jesus and were only then able to have faith in God (v6).

We now better understand why Paul wrote a lengthy introduction this time round, for he wanted to open up to the Roman Christians the basis of his letter to them - *his appointment as Apostle to the Gentiles of which they were* - and the fundamental subject matter of his letter - *the Gospel, the Good News, of Jesus the Resurrected Lord who offers Grace to all that they might return to God*.

Actually, you know what! Although we may not be Paul the Apostle, as Christians in our day in 2018 in Singapore, like Paul, we too can open up to, and approach, others, on the basis that we are also servants of Jesus and are called to share the Good News about Him to all. Remember the Great Commission - Matt 28:18 - 20 - the last Command of Jesus?

Text: Romans 1:1-17

Sermon preached by Rev Kenneth Huang on 4 February 2018 at the English worship services.

Now, what is it that enables believers in Jesus to want to and actually do these things – opening up ourselves to others and sharing with them who Jesus is? What is it that helped the 5 lay persons in the recent India Missions Trip Team – *3 for whom this was their first Missions trip and for all 5, their first trip to India* – to share their personal stories of how Jesus met them at their point of need, how He saved them and granted them eternal life, and with such wisdom, love and boldness, before people? What is it that helped them to pray willingly, fervently and faithfully in the Name of Jesus during ministry time for people that came forward – people they “did not know from Adam” as the saying goes?

Was it their education, their maturity in years or as a Christian, their personal devotion, the preparation that they underwent before the trip, the encouragement given by team members, etc? I am sure that all these did contribute in some measure. BUT looking to Paul the Apostle, he will tell us all unequivocally (*clearly, definitely, undeniably*) that it is the **Gospel – the Good News of Jesus – itself** that did so, as it worked in their lives and the lives of the rest of the Missions team members, for as stated by him in vv16 and 17, *“the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, “The one who is righteous will live by faith.”*

Dear friends, listen to vv 16 & 17 again as I read it for all of us, a little slower, as to what the Gospel of Jesus is – *the gospel...is the power of God...for salvation to everyone...who has faith...For in it...the righteousness of God is revealed...through faith for faith.”*

Praise God for the Gospel of Jesus! As a commentator astutely observed, this Gospel “*offers something not to be found anywhere else – a righteousness from God!*” The righteousness of God is that:
 (1) which God actively gives of Himself to all, as they have faith in, and trust, Him,

- (2) so that they can be saved/rescued by Him from the penalty of sin – ie: experience salvation, and
- (3) be put into a right and living relationship with the Resurrected Lord Jesus, and remain in that relationship.

Now, regarding the effect of God’s righteousness working in the lives of those who have faith, **Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke**, in his “Full Flame” evangelism training series, explains it in a most helpful manner! He reminds us that effect is like that of a “1” being placed at the front of a “0” or a series of “0’s”. Without the “1” added and present, the “0” will always remain a “0”. But once the “1” is added and present, it changes the value of the “0” forever; be it “10”, “100”, “1000”, etc!

It is the same for our lives in that it is only when Jesus, who is Righteousness of God, the “1”, is added to our lives, that our lives are now and forever changed for the better, much much better! And we will want others to experience the same – of **God saving and adding value to their lives!**

And that is why the Gospel – the Good News of Jesus – is **POWERFUL!** For only in and through it is God’s righteousness revealed – *that is, contained and then, shown* – when faith is expressed, and only it can cause life to take place, even in a situation of death, sin, corruption. And we will learn more about man’s desperate state of affairs when we consider Rom 1:18 – 32 next Sunday and understand better why ours is “A World in Need of Salvation”! So, do make sure you are present!

The **POWERFUL GOSPEL** we have just heard about is God’s Righteousness actively saving and giving a right life to those who have faith in Jesus, leading to a **definite transformation** in them **for good**.

And this **transformation** I am talking about was clearly evidenced in the lives of Paul the Apostle and that of the Christians in Rome:

- (1) Saul, highly educated and devout Jew, and persecutor of Christians, *transformed into Paul the Apostle,*

“a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God” (v1)

- (2) Ordinary Christians, touched by God, *transformed into* faithful effective witnesses bringing the Good News of Jesus to their home towns, like the Roman Christians did in Rome, and that is why there were Christians there without Paul’s efforts and that is why he was able to write in his letter, *“To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints”* (v7)

- (3) A pagan society, with loose morals and many excesses, *transformed into* one where God’s words, will and ways are respected, obeyed and lived out surely through small groups of Christians, albeit slowly, just as salt preserves and enhances, just as light directs and warms. Paul acknowledged the ministry of the Roman Christians in Rome with *“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.”* (v8)

- (4) The Christian Community itself *transformed into* one where mutual love and edification were practised to build up the faith of other believers – where Paul the Apostle set the example of wanting to humbly learn from the believers in Rome, even though he was a giant of the Christian Faith at that time and could so easily have expected the learning to be only one-way: from Paul to them, and not two-ways: between Paul and them. See his servant attitude expressed as follows: *“For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—¹² or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”* (v11)

These 4 examples of definite transformation give so much hope to **“A World in Need of Salvation”** and Christians hold the KEY to that transformation of life for good taking place in people because we have **“The Powerful Gospel According to Romans”** in our hands. But we know that for this Powerful Gospel to really help the peoples of the world, it must

also be in our heads, hearts, lips, feet, and will: in our whole being.

For only then will we all actively be ***In and Involved*** and share it with others: ***about the church, along the streets, and across the seas.***

YET, Christians face two REAL PROBLEMS for which we are the cause: The first is that we Christians do not really take our commitment to Jesus as seriously as we should, and come to Jesus only on our terms!

A story is told of a man who was headed out of church one Sunday, as the Pastor was standing at the door of the church as he always is to shake hands.

The Pastor grabbed the hand of the man and told him plainly, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!" The man replied, "I am already in the Lord's Army, Pastor."

The Pastor said, "Then, why do I only see you at Christmas and Easter?" The man leaned forward and whispered in the Pastor's ear, "I'm in the Secret Service!"

Is this true of us at KKMC in that we are physically present at church, but spiritually we come to Jesus only on our terms? If so, it must stop. If not, it must never!

The second PROBLEM is that we Christians have mindlessly forgotten, or worse, deliberately disregarded, our TRUE IDENTITY as a Church - we are The Body of Christ / a Community of Believers on God's mission! Let me illustrate this by reading a Modern Parable by Frank G. Voight:

On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often happened was a makeshift lifesaving station. Its devoted workers went out day or night, searching for the lost and saving many lives. Soon the little station developed quite a reputation for its unselfish work.

Many people joined the station, giving of their time, money, and effort for the support of its work. They bought new boats

and trained new crews. The little lifesaving station grew.

Then, some of the new members of the station grew unhappy because the building was crude and poorly equipped. So they enlarged the building, replaced the emergency cots with comfortable beds and put in nice furniture.

Soon the station became a popular gathering place for its members. Most of them lost interest in going to sea on lifesaving missions, so they hired a professional crew to do this work.

One day a large ship was wrecked off the coast. The hired lifesaving crew brought in boatloads of people. They were wounded, dirty, and sick. The beautiful new building was soiled and damaged. So the Facilities committee had a shower house built outside the club where shipwreck victims could be cleaned up before coming inside.

At the next meeting, club members got into a big dispute. Most wanted to stop the lifesaving work because it interfered with their regular activities. But some members insisted that lifesaving was still their primary purpose. However, they were voted down. The majority told them if they wanted to save lives, they could start their own station down the coast. They did.

As the years passed, this new station also developed into a club, and a third lifesaving station was founded. If you visit that area today, you will find a number of exclusive clubs down the coast. Shipwrecks still happen, but most of the people drown in the stormy water just off the shore.

Is this happening to KKMC? If so, it must stop. If not, it must never!

May we never forget that THE CHURCH, OUR CHURCH, KKMC, is a LIFE-SAVING STATION - A

RESCUE MISSION - never a private club where members have forgotten their identity as The Body of Christ / a Community of Believers on God's mission, and who only want their own comfort.

IN CLOSING, in this opening Sermon based on The Letter to the Romans, we have considered (1) How and why Paul's introduction of himself to the church in Rome so different from his letters to the churches in other cities, (2) Why the Gospel is stated by Paul as "the power of God" and what "the righteousness of God" has to do with it all, and (3) the evidences of the Gospel as the power of God in transforming lives for good.

Now, have you personally experienced *The Powerful Gospel According to Romans* yet? If not yet, will you do so today by faith in Jesus? If you need more time to consider, please take the time. I suggest that you, in fact, to all, that coming for our Ash Wednesday Service on 14 Feb, which starts the Season of Lent, will help you in your journey to faith in Jesus. Now, if the answer to the question "Have you personally experienced *The Powerful Gospel According to Romans* yet?" is yes, then who could you share this Powerful Gospel with this week?

Let us remember that like Paul the Apostle, we have no reason to be ashamed of the Powerful Gospel according to Romans as it is the answer our World in need of salvation is searching for!

In fact, like Paul, we have every confidence in the Powerful Gospel according to Romans for it is the Power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, for in it the Righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith!

Remember, the Letter to the Romans will help us to KNOW and LOVE the GOD we worship more, but ONLY as WE are WILLING to LEARN what it has to teach us about the POWERFUL GOSPEL of JESUS in dealing with the TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS in our lives, and that we must have FAITH in Jesus, and OBEY Him!

ALLELUIA! AMEN!

Chern Siang Ling

Pearl Lee

Numbering Our Days

She holds a Masters in Southeast Asian Studies from the National University of Singapore, and had a promising career at the Economic Development Board (EDB). But she decided to pursue a higher calling by serving as a KKMC missionary in ‘Oaksia’. Friends say beneath the cheeky, relaxed disposition is a highly intelligent, disarming personality – “We watched her at work in the field – she speaks with authority, passion and conviction.”

By her own admission it was a move she never thought she would make, but Chern Siang Ling ended up serving 14 and a half years in the field, and returned home in 2018 to join KKMC as a Lay Executive Staff, overseeing the Missions, Youth & Young Adults, and Discipleship & Nurture ministries. KK Focus interviews her about her life as a missionary and the impact it has on her.

Could you describe how it all started for you? Why ‘Oaksia’, and why you? People often talk about being ‘called’ – was that the same for you?

‘Oaksia’ started when I did my Academic Exercise paper during my Honours year reading Economics - I was researching transition economies.

There were a few critical junctures afterwards, internal stirrings where I felt God was leading me there. I suppose there was some kind of a ‘call’.

In 1999, I went on a short-term mission trip to ‘Oaksia’. I led a mission team comprising supervisors that served on the MEET (Missions Education and Evangelistic Training) Committee, a missions training programme under the Fellowship of Evangelistic Students (FES). During the trip, God challenged my life assumptions – yes I was doing well and happy at EDB, getting my salary, pay raises and recognition. But I felt God asking me, would you say in the next 30 years that you wouldn’t have done it all differently? By that time, all your tokens will have been played, and you can’t walk back.

Then in 2001, a close friend and co-worker from the MEET Committee was called home to the Lord. He was only 31. Before that, he had felt called to go to the missions field, had gotten married, and was planning to move ahead when he came down with leukemia. So you never know how much time you have. Sometimes when it comes to serving God, you cannot wait.

In December that same year, I made a second trip to ‘Oaksia’. I felt drawn to embark on longer-term missions work in this country. I also started to feel a distancing from my job; it no longer mattered to me if I didn’t work at EDB. I felt I had been exchanging my prime years for a regular pay cheque and prospects,



Praying for a sick child

and asked myself if I could live without all that. And I thought I could. I asked God for confirmation. I had 70% assurance and decided to act on it, because otherwise it would have been disobedience. I prayed to God about it – if it was my human idealistic ambition, then I asked God to please close the door. God opened door after door. And I was convicted.

I never thought I would go into the field, but a friend once told me it would be a waste if I didn’t, because I’m “low maintenance” – I don’t need good food (but you are welcome to buy me good food and I won’t reject!) and I’m not hung up about the finer things in life. And it’s true, I’ve really never felt I was missing out.

How hostile a territory was your mission field?

‘Oaksia’, by God’s grace and through many prayers, opened up over the past ten to 15 years. When I first moved there, evangelism was frowned upon, and passing out tracts to the wrong people could mean having your visa revoked and being sent home. It was difficult to do discipleship and most meetings had to be low-key.

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

Certain things weren’t very efficient. It took me more than a month to clear a cheque. I had only brought a couple of hundred dollars and the rest of my allowance was in that cheque. So, for the first month there, I had to try to stretch that couple of hundred dollars, and pray that the Lord would do another five loaves and two fishes miracle with my money.

What were the biggest surprises in the field?

The hospitality of the people. They are community-based, and I felt very welcome and taken care of, even with those I got to know very briefly. In fact, I found myself a family while in the field! Whenever I travelled

from Singapore to ‘Oksia’, I would call home to let my folks know I’d arrived. And then when I travelled from ‘Oksia’ to Singapore, I would call my family in ‘Oksia’ to tell them I’d arrived. Isn’t God good?

What moved you most about your time there?

When I joined the church there and saw people worshipping and studying God’s Word, it was to me a vision of heaven brought down close on earth, where different languages, different tribes and nations, worshipped God.

What's the most misunderstood aspect of Missions/missionaries?

That missionaries have to be spiritual giants; that they cannot be at fault. I’ve known four families that have struggled with this. They were looked up to at church and felt they couldn’t go to anyone about their troubles.

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

I’ve learnt to let God take more control over His work. In Singapore we would go for activities in church – services, ministry committee meetings, bible study. In ‘Oksia’ it was different, there was none of that and I struggled for a while, because there were no committee meetings on my plate! Then God seemed to say, Look at Jesus. Three-and-a-half years of ministry and he had no committee meetings on Monday, no bible study on Tuesday etc., he just used His life to influence other lives, in whatever situation he happened to be in. So I think it’s important to be an influencer to whoever God brings into your life, and I focus less on events now, and more on relationships.

What attributes of God have you come to see more clearly since you've been away?

God is very faithful, and very big. In ‘Oksia’, He showed his heart for the people; He came through for the least in His kingdom. It was a persecuted church, but they were willing with the little they had, to say, I will lose all and it’s okay. There would be stories of how those who might be doing well at work, after professing themselves Christian, would find their land or house confiscated, they would lose their jobs or buffaloes, whatever they owned, and faced the mockery of their village... One such man built a house, and the other villagers collected faeces, mixed with oil so it would stick, and flung it at the house. In all these situations, the police would not interfere. But the people kept the faith, and often they would only have been Christians for a year or two.

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

I came back primarily for my folks, who are getting older. I felt I should spend time with them while they are still healthy, or I might regret it. I prayed about it and it’s a season, it’s good and right to be back.

And it’s been a blissful three months. I’m even happy taking the MRT or bus because I like to read, and jams don’t bother me – it was much worse in ‘Oksia’.

What do you think is our biggest spiritual need in Singapore?

I don’t know about the biggest need, but I think focus is one big thing – focus on God and our relationship with Him, and His word. We’ve got too many things and choices going on here – food, programmes, material goods – so there’s very little focus and time, and it can be overwhelming.

What would you say to those who don't think they are cut out for missions work overseas?

There is a saying – God does not call the equipped, God equips the called. All of us are called to missions and have a part to play in the discipleship of the nations. Some are called to go, and some are called to stay, and to send. None are called to do nothing. So they should do what they can, even if it’s back home. If you are not a “goer” or a “sender”, then you’re just disobedient. The question is, How are you living out missions? Praying or being equipped or supporting a work or going out in the field – God calls us all to be involved. It’s not about the work, but to serve Him comes with a blessing, and we’re actually denying ourselves the blessings of God otherwise.

What were your favourite bible verses while you were away?

I don’t have any favourites, but one of the verses that led to my decision, was Psalms 90:12 – “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” We have a limited number of days on earth. It’s easy to think as if these days are infinite but once we count our days, it puts everything in another light – we might choose to do things that we are not doing now, or not do the things that we are now doing.

Siang Ling (carrying bag) following up on an income generating project with a family



Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS)

Serve the Lord joyfully through Missions

Organised by WSCS, this talk was held in KKMC on 27 Jan 2018 for the church ladies.

About 34 ladies attended.

The aim of this talk was to encourage us to be involved in missions. The three speakers were Eugenia Chioang, Chern Siang Ling and Kim Hong Hazra.

1) Eugenia shared experience of her mission trip to India and Nepal.

At the "Disciple 1" course, Eugenia felt a little uncertain about what God wanted her to do. She was prompted by the Holy Spirit to leave her corporate job and join the Discipleship Training School (DTS) conducted by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). Her mission trip was part of this 5-month long course.

Eugenia shared that the mission trip was birthed out of prayer. While the team planned for the trip, there were at least 3 unplanned encounters once the trip started.

The first was the Pioneering work at Lucknow where her team helped to finance the villagers in building of water pump. Initially this fund was to be used for one village but God opened the way to the second village as the latter needed help more. She and her team felt God's presence and leading hands throughout.

The second unplanned task was the event which occurred in Kali Temple. The visit fell on a day where the Kali Temple celebrated some festivities. This may be considered as 'coincidence' for some but certainly not so for the team who felt God's leading. If there were no festive celebration at the temple, the temple keepers might have harassed her team. God simply had His way of weaving everything together. Eugenia's team was tasked to march around the temple 7 times, very much like what Joshua's experience at Jericho (Joshua 6:2-17). The night before, Eugenia sprained her ankle and was contemplating giving this event a miss. However, she went by faith and joined in the march. After 5 rounds of marching, her ankle did not hurt anymore. Another team prayed for rain and God brought them rain.

All these were unplanned by man but God's plan is always perfect.

The third unplanned event was the encounter at Tawal village where Eugenia and her team met a woman who was from a lower caste and had been starving for 3 days. Eugenia and her team bought food for this woman. Again this was an unplanned ministry opportunity.

To sum up, Eugenia shared with us that what she had learnt from this trip was to follow what God is telling you to do and go in faith. We should also always stay connected with God, trust and obey Him and to respond to His calling.

2) Chern Siang Ling started her training in missions in 1993 and went on a short-term trip to Macau. For one of her university assignments around that time, she chose a South East Asian country for her project.

At the watch night service in 1995, Siang Ling was prompted by a small voice asking her if she had achieved anything for God. In 1996, she was approached by a friend to attend a Masters course in South East Asian studies, which she did, remembering the prompting on watch night service.

In 1999, Siang Ling was approached to lead a mission team to that same South East Asian country. Her response "I will pray about it" was a polite way of rejecting the request. After seriously praying about it, she heard the Holy Spirit telling her that God wanted to do something in that South East Asian country and needed a leader. Siang then obeyed and led the team. Of the ten persons whom she led, 7 of them ended up in full-time ministry.

While in the midst of a very busy negotiation deal at her corporate work, she was again asked to return to that South East Asian country in 2001. It was almost impossible for her to take leave at that time because the negotiation deal did not seem to have any hope of ending within months. Siang Ling prayed and asked God to open doors and He did. Very shortly, the negotiation went through and she was allowed to take leave from her work and she went Luke 1:37).

In 2002, Siang Ling felt a stirring in her heart. She felt she did not need to be doing corporate work. She told God that she would follow God's way if God gave her clear direction. God



Eugenia presenting



Siang Ling



Kim Hong

opened the doors for her and she finally ended up as missionary to that South East Asian country. She was at first concerned about her finances because the recommended living allowance would come up to only 5% of the salary she was getting at that time. After much consideration, God asked her to trust Him with everything - not only with finances but safety also, and concerns with the communist ruling government, among other things. God changed her perspective and she managed to serve God for 14.5 years in the South East Asian country.

From Siang Ling's experience, it is clear that God has everything planned. She was exposed to the country many years before she even thought of going into missionary work. It is clear that we should always trust God and His providence. (Psalms 91:1-2 and Jeremiah 29:11)

3) Kim Hong talked about her experience in South Africa

Kim Hong started the talk with distinguishing between missions and mission. The former is about

the programmes that one may be engaged in, like going on a short term mission trip; and the latter is about knowing who God is and His claim over her life because God gives her purpose in life.

When she was sent to South Africa with her husband, they told themselves that they would only come back when they had saved enough for two tickets home. But

this took a long time.

To her, having a purpose in life and having the passion for the purpose is God's mission for her. When God gives us the purpose, He will provide. To have purpose and passion also mean the need to look out for justice. The mission for her in South Africa is to represent a people loved by God and to cultivate love for those who are different from her.

The testimonies of the three speaker made a deep impact in the participants:

Karen Tan

I learnt that what God's purposes, He accomplishes. By God's grace, I have decided to join the KKMC mission trips this year, starting with the trip to Vietnam.

Julie Alegesan

I am reminded to constantly seek God's direction and to carry out His mission locally and across the sea. The missionaries were challenged to adapt to a new environment which has a different culture and people group. They were also challenged to stay close to God so they know how to respond in each situation while they were in the mission field. I will avail myself to go for mission trips.

Jessie Tan

I learnt that being a missionary is not easy, but through the three missionaries who shared their experiences, I learnt that I must love, trust and have faith in the Lord 100 percent. I will respond just like them because prayer is the greatest power that God has given to us.

Joscelyn Foo

I learnt that passion is the fuel to keep us going to serve the Lord. Newbies are wowed by God's goodness and faithfulness; mature ones continue to trust the Lord and simply plod on because they are still passionate about loving and serving God. God has not promised us a smooth path in our lives but His grace is sufficient for us, His faithfulness is new every morning, His love that will never separate us from Him, His plans and thoughts are always higher than ours because He's the Creator, the Alpha and Omega. He is God.



Joscelyn with Eugenia

WSCS Chinese New Year Visits

24 February 2018
Mary Gan

During Chinese New Year, the WSCS makes it a point to visit ladies whom we have not seen for a long time. This year we visited two long-time WSCS members, Mrs Alice Tan and Mrs Eileen Sim.

Our visiting team comprised six WSCS Ex-co members, Joscelyn Foo, Mrs Irene Tan, Mrs Maureen Fong, Mrs Angela Lee, Mrs Jennifer Chia and I.

Early in the morning of 24 February, Alice Tan ushered us to her living room in her cosy condominium. After

exchanging traditional Chinese New Year greetings, we settled down to chat. Alice shared that God had time and again intervened miraculously in her life. Though she may be suffering great physical set-backs, God had done wonders, enabling her to go for kidney dialysis thrice a week.

Despite being beset with mobility issues and physical aches and pains, and even a mild heart attack in December 2017, she is extremely grateful that God has always made His presence real to her. She is thankful

that God is faithful and has at the right time made available doctors and medical personnel and hospital facilities to bring comfort and relief to her frail and weak body. She knows that her strength is God-given.

Her testimony impressed on us her deep and steadfast faith in the Lord. Oftentimes we may face obstacles, trials and tribulations but we must never give up. For if we put our trust firmly in Christ, He will surely help us overcome our obstacles in His way, not ours.

Before we bade Alice farewell, we sang two of her favourite hymns, "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." She delighted us by serving a delicious snack that she had prepared herself and even sent us off with a blessing envelope for WSCS. Her parting words were, "See you next year." Well said!

We adjourned next to Mrs Eileen Sim's house. For many of us who have been worshipping in KKMC for a long time, we remember her as the resident organist, never failing to play the organ at every worship service. Newer worshippers in our Church may not know her because she has been attending a church closer to her home due to difficulties in attending KKMC.

Eileen welcomed us warmly to her home. Our delight in seeing each other was obvious. Many of us were unaware of the major role Eileen played in KKMC as well as at TRAC

WSCS level. It was only from her sharing that those of us present in her living room that day, learnt of the numerous things she undertook when she helmed KKMC WSCS and TRAC WSCS. From what she told us, TRAC WSCS was involved in the prison ministry in the past. One thing left an impression was her sharing on the time when she was in the leadership role. There were some other WSCS ladies who could not see eye-to-eye on various issues. She prayed about the situation and God showed her that for the ladies to do God's work effectively, they must meet often to pray and to study the Word together. For this reason, she specially made available a room in her house for that purpose.

Eileen was such a wonderful host that instead of us praying for her, she took the initiative to pray for us and even sent us home with a lovely gift each! She continues to be a wonderful prayer warrior today.

We hope to invite Eileen one day to share her inspiring testimony with the KKMC family. KKMC WSCS is indeed deeply enriched through the presence, testimonies and service of such dedicated, gifted and godly women.

AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE.
1 Peter 4:10



WSCS Ex-co members with Eileen Sim
L-R: Maureen Fong, Angela Lee, Jennifer Chia, Eileen Sim, Irene Tan, Joscelyn Foo, Mary Gan

Mandarin Ministry Chinese New Year Visitation

Heng Heng

华文部 农历新年访问

A few days before Chinese New Year, my wife said to me: "There will be New Year visitations during this Chinese New Year." Inexplicably, I responded without much thought "Yes, I want to participate." Perhaps my response was the work of the Holy Spirit as the idea of making Chinese New Year visitations was as far from my mind as some ancient historical event.

On the morning of the 4th day of Chinese New Year, we made the first-stop to visit Sister Cui Guo Ling. I had not met her in awhile. She welcomed us warmly, exuding much joy and appreciation for our visit. As I glanced around her sitting room, I suddenly came across this Chinese New Year couplet in the form of the Chinese character "home". In her later years, Sister Cui has developed a passion for Chinese painting and calligraphy. She even went to the extent to learn from a calligraphy expert. This is an admirable spirit that the younger ones can emulate.

The Chinese character "home" does not involve too much calligraphy technique, but it brings with it deep meaning. The ancients have taught that *"To govern the country, one should first be able to govern one's family"*. The priority and emphasis is on the family. This is such a wonderful concept, and it reveals Sister Cui's heartfelt desire for a healthy, complete and blessed home. She did not write the more popular words of "blessing" or "prosperity", which goes to show the importance of family to her. My first thought is

The Mandarin Ministry visited Wang Fei Zhou. He has been unable to come to KKMC for health reasons but we keep in touch with him.



早在新年来临之前几日，内人跟我说：“今年的新年教会有新年探访活动。”一股莫名其妙的感觉，我毫无思索的回应：“我要参与。”（或许是圣灵的感动，我不其然顺口回应）再说“新年探访”好似离我好远，好像以成为历史了。

这次的新年探访活动由各小组负责，分成东西南北，依地区的方便而进行。我们这一组由昭绵夫妇，我夫妻和玛格烈姐妹组成。

大年初四一早，我们第一站探访崔国玲姐妹，好久没有看见崔姐妹了，一进门看见她精神奕奕，大伙儿那股喜乐只能意会。霍然瞥见大厅中的挥春联，感受极深，尤其那“家”字。崔姐妹晚年热衷国画字书法，还曾去拜师学艺，她那样的精神令人敬佩。“家”字虽字得没什么章法，但却备受感动，炎黄子孙的文化“先齐家而后治天下”的思维，以家为先，以家为重，是何等的优美呀，看得出在崔姐妹心中是多么期望有个健康的家，完美的家，幸福的家，她让我忖摸她的思维，她不挥写“福”或“旺”字，可想而知，真的令我另眼相看。对她来说，家的凝聚力是何等的重要啊！以家为首位；其

that the home occupies a significant place in our lives, and as God's children, we are all one in the family of Christ. Hallelujah!

Afterwards, we continued our visitations to several other households. There was Sister Sun whom we had not seen in a while; the newly wed couple Mr & Mrs Guo who had just shifted into their new house; Xin Ying's Grandmother Lee and Mr & Mrs He. We were warmly received by each family and we shared our well wishes, joys and heartfelt prayers with them. It was already evening by the time we visited the last household, that of Mr & Mrs Quan. As it had been with the earlier households, we once again received the warm fellowship from this lovely couple over a gracious dinner reception.

The church's Chinese New Year visitation is indeed meaningful. It not only blessed the families we visited, it also inspired me to serve the church community. This simple act of visitation accomplished a two-pronged result which makes me wonder: why we don't do more of such activities?

I am also entering my senior years and each year of our life on earth is a grace from God. He crowns the year with His goodness. My prayer and hope is that we will all experience God's blessing with each new year, and to live out more fulfilled and meaningful lives for Him. May many beautiful impressions be etched along our life journeys to the glory of His Name. Amen!

二，身为上帝的儿女，我们都是一家人，哈利路亚！

接着，我们顺序再访几家，其中有久违了的孙姐妹，刚搬入新家的郭成榜夫妇，欣颖的外婆李亚娇，以及贺玉龙夫妇，每访一家，都受到热情的招待，而我们也同样以诚挚的关怀慰问，同心祷告祝福每一家。最后一站到访全亮夫妇家时，已是暮色灰暗，当然，不能避免的又是另一股热呼呼的晚餐款待。

教会在农历新年期间有“新年探访”活动，意义深重，带来了双重意义，启发了我，它揭示着一箭双雕的效果，一举两得何乐而不为呢。

如今，我也正步入古稀之年，上帝每给一年都是恩典，也是增添我年岁的冠冕与花红，祈望未来的每个新年里，都有上帝的祝福，能够活得更加的充实，更有意义，让俺的人生旅程上，烙下美好的印痕。阿们！



Visiting Xin Yin's grandmother

Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre 30th Anniversary

It Takes a Kampong to Raise a Kid

Dorothy Ching

Solitary religion is not to be found there. “Holy Solitaries” is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than Holy Adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness. Faith working by love, is the length and breadth and depth and height of Christian perfection.

- John Wesley

When Wesley said that holiness is social he meant that the depth of our love for God is revealed by the way we love whom God loves. How do we love our neighbour? How do we love the people that God has placed in our neighbourhood and our community - the sheep of the Lord's flock?

On 17 March 2018, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre (KKFSC), with the event graced by Mayor Denise Phua. KKFSC was really birthed in the late 70s. Spurred by a deep social concern for the community surrounding our church, and wanting to spread the love and light of Christ, a group of people from KKMC started a tuition centre that operated in the classrooms of the church. From that humble beginning, God has bloomed

the KKFSC to its current 7,000 sq ft site at Kitchener Road; its second site, Whampoa Family Service Centre, opened in 2016.

Over the course of three decades, KKFSC has touched thousands of lives, continually strengthening families, and building the community. Through its various programmes, and the long arms of its social workers, KKFSC has embraced many a struggling parent, as well as a hurting child. Standing together with the staff are the Management Committee and volunteers, some of whom have astoundingly served for more than 20 years! Indeed, it takes a kampong to raise a kid. As faces and experiences captured over the Centre's history flew past in the video “KKFSC Journey”, it was

amazing to witness the significant work that God had done, and continues to do in the community through the work of the Centre. In places of darkness in Kampong Glam and Whampoa, there is also Light.

KKFSC's mission is to reach out in Christian love to the surrounding community, by providing programmes and services to help families in need, irrespective of language, race or religion. To reach that goal there needs to be strong bonds between KKFSC and KKMC, working together symbiotically to reach out to all within the vicinity.

KKMC members' involvement as volunteers is all the more needful today as KKFSC services have become more extensive. The work

of the professional full-time staff needs to be complemented by the compassion of volunteers who really have a heart for the disadvantaged in the community. As Mayor Denise Phua noted in her speech, "But programmes are programmes. What matters most is the love and motives that undergird the programmes."



In Luke 10:29, an earnest lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Even as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of KKFSC in the sanctuary of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, may we be reminded that we need to be In and Involved with our neighbours along the streets.

LEE YEAN WUN

Executive Director, KKFSC

Today is not just about celebrating or showcasing how far we have come. Our 30th Anniversary is also a time to give thanks and be thankful. To be able to serve the community for 30 years is not something that has happened by chance. I am thankful for the people and blessings that have enabled this. It is also a time for reflection, to understand how we started and hopefully provide us with clarity about where we should head. Three words come to mind when I think of the future: Keep Things Simple.

- **Stay focused:** Focus on the spirit that led to our birth – "love thy neighbours" and serving the poor, for the poor will always be amongst us. It is easy to get distracted.
- **Stay grounded:** No need for bells and whistles, fuss and frills; nor do we want to build kingdoms or create a legacy. One life, one encounter at a time.
- **Stay sincere:** The heart in our logo, all that we do, is driven from the heart, guided by the mind and the Spirit.
- **Stay joyful:** It is a blessing to touch lives. To bring joy to others we need to start by being a joy to ourselves.

A NEW NAME MOVING FORWARD

Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre will undergo an official name change to **Kampong Kapor Community Services** in May 2018. This will better reflect its growth in the community – no longer one, but two family service centres in Jalan Besar and Whampoa, as well as another programme, the Strong & Safe Families-Preservation (SSF-P) Programme. "Kampong Kapor" will be retained in this new name to reflect its roots and continued link with Kampong Kapor Methodist Church.



Cutting of the anniversary cake
L-R: Wong Quek Hin, Richard Fong, Yeo Oon Chye, Andrew Cheong, Mayor Denise Phua, Michael Chia, Rev Kenneth Huang, Lee Yean Wun, Tanguy Lim

MILESTONES

- 1980** • Homework Centre at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) Started by the late Rev. Dr George Wan to provide assistance and a conducive place for Primary and Secondary School students who could not afford private tuition in Jalan Besar GRC.
- 1987** • Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) established the Methodist Family Welfare Centre at the void deck of Blk 640 Rowell Road. Services included casework, holiday programmes and a homework centre.
- 1991** • On April 1, the Centre was renamed Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre, after Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) signed an MOU with Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) for the church to manage the Centre. Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre was to be financially independent and not receive funding from KKMC.
- 1994** • Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre was granted full-fledged Family Service Centre status and received a financial grant from the Ministry of Community Development.
- 1995** • In October, Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre moved to a 7,000 sq ft premise at its current location of Blk 2 Kitchener Road.
- 2009** • On 2 November, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church's Local Church Executive Committee approved Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre's constitution to establish the Centre as a separate entity – a society – from 1 April 2010.
- 2010** • Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre was registered with the Registry of Societies on 5th February, and held its 1st Annual General Meeting and Management Meeting.
Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre was awarded Institution of Public Character (IPC) status by the Commissioner of Charities on 1 April.
- 2016** • Establishment of Whampoa Family Service Centre.
- 2017** • Started the Safe and Strong Families-Preservation (SSF-P) Programme.
- 2018** • KKFSC renamed Kampong Kapor Community Services.

In and Involved : Across the Seas *Missions 101 and 102 seminars*

In order to widen and deepen our members' understanding and involvement in missions, seminars were held in January and February. Some 200 members attended the Missions 101 seminar held on 13 and 20 January. There they learned about the Biblical basis of missions, prayer in missions and God's call to missions work.

On 3 and 10 February the Missions 102 seminar helped to prepare about 90 participants to go on short-term mission trips. At the Missions 102 seminar on 10 February, Lynette Lim shared how she and her husband, Tanguy's first mission trip in 1997 help shaped their spiritual journey.

The year 1997 is significant to me for three reasons. It was the year my husband, Tanguy and I started worshipping together in KKMC after more than 4 years of courtship. Secondly, it was the year we both went on our first missions trip. Thirdly, it was the year we were both baptised and the year we first committed to serving in church.

It all started out innocently enough soon after we started coming to church, with Lyndon approaching us with a question – how would you both like to come with me to Thailand on a missions trip?

We didn't know what we were getting into, because this was before we had an established programme between our church and the Lahu people. The programme aside, we would also recce to see if the villages would be open to KKMC working more closely with in future.

Lyndon took pains to induct us through several weeks of training. Despite all our training, nothing could truly prepare us for what we experienced while in the field.

The first night was spent at Rangsit Methodist Church in Bangkok. As the only girl, I slept by myself on a different floor of the building. I couldn't sleep that night as I experienced a feeling of oppression, so I was awake when the phone rang at 5am. I answered it and heard a woman wailing on the other end of the line. It was some time through garbled communication before I was able to make out what she was saying – her father had been run over by a truck that morning outside his house, and had died, and she wanted the pastor to help her. Thankfully, God gave me the ability to help say a quick prayer with her, and she was much calmer with the prayer and the promise of help when I put the phone down and rushed to wake the rest of the group. We met the lady later that morning in her father's house, where she was adamant that we empty his house of all amulets and other religious possessions. Lyndon and Pastor Yala led the spiritual cleansing of the home, and we witnessed the destruction of the idols and amulets. The entire experience was an eye-opening one for me, of the battle of 'powers and principalities' playing out in the real world. What a way to start our trip!

After Rangsit, we went to Chiang Mai and were brought to several villages. We were warmly welcomed into each



Tanguy and Lynette on their first mission trip in December 1997

village we visited – often greeted by scores of children clamouring for the balloons we brought. We bathed in rivers (girls downstream from the boys), fully clothed because often the villagers would turn up to watch; we slept in draughty huts on stilts, with animals housed below the slats we slept on. One village even slaughtered a pig in our honour, and if you have never heard a pig being killed, I can confirm it was the worst sound these ears have heard.

At an Akha village, we had settled down to eat by the light of a small oil lamp, and could barely see what we were eating. I could tell the vegetables were organic because a worm was actively crawling in it. Then Tanguy turned to me, pointed to a dish and said to me – "Don't eat that – I think it is dog!" If you ask him today, he will tell you it was absolutely delicious, and "strangely warming", but that would also have been the first and only time he would eat dog meat.

We each found ourselves stretched in so many ways on that trip. I found that the team sharing and de-briefing at the end of every day were useful to help consolidate our thoughts and enabled us to encourage each other and to learn from each other's experiences. The sessions also helped to keep our focus on God's work on that trip and our roles in it. I also realised that when you go on a missions trip, it is not merely what you can do for the people you seek to reach out to. In the process, God can use that experience to change you, mould you, and grow you.

Tanguy and I, along with some members of the team, went straight for our baptism as soon as the plane landed. It just so happened that the dates were aligned that way, and had been planned earlier. But I still laugh when I remember rushing from the airport to the baptismal pool – it was as though God in His good humour had decided everything – quick, before they change their minds!!

Looking back, I realise that God was really taking care of our spiritual development – from our early days in KKMC, the missions trip, and now serving in church in various capacities. Tanguy shared last week with the earlier Missions 102 group about his own journey from missions trip to Missions Committee chairperson and LCEC chairman etc., and putting into his work the principles of missions because he sees what he does as a ministry.

My own journey has been somewhat different and now I serve in the Celestial Choir. One of the songs that the choir sings is a beautiful anthem by Keith and Kristyn Getty. One of the verses declares:

By faith we see the hand of God
In the light of creation's grand design
In the lives of those who prove his faithfulness
Who walk by faith and not by sight.

And the chorus goes:

We will stand as children of the promise
We will fix our eyes on him, our soul's reward
Til the race is finished and the work is done
We'll walk by faith and not by sight.

This is a declaration of faith! The anthem is based on Hebrews 11:1, which says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see". The text then goes on to command and list the people of faith - Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses...the list goes on. None of these people were perfect, nor were they always "ready for the missions", but yet they allowed themselves to be used by God, for his purpose.

Tanguy and I recognised very early on that we were, and continue to be, works in progress. When we went on our first missions trip, we were caught unprepared. When we were tasked to lead a LifeGroup, we didn't feel ready. When he was asked to be Missions Committee chairman,

it seemed like a huge responsibility. But looking back, we can see God working through our circumstances, and preparing our hearts to be more willing to do his work.

Through our experiences, we would testify to one thing - and this is the thought I want to leave you with - God doesn't call us because we are Able, but He wants us to be Available. I believe that if you tell God, "use me" - God will equip you. He would put people in your path to teach you, he will let you go through situations in your life to train you.

Would you be willing to avail yourself to Him, in exercise of your faith?



The KKMC team with the Lahu team in 1997. A younger Rev Pisut is on the extreme left.



Tanguy and Lynette rushed from mission trip to the baptism service in December 1997

Mission Trip to Bramhapuri, India

The mission trip to Bramhapuri, India from 24-28 January 2018 was the first of the series of trips for 2018 in line with the church's focus of "In & Involved - Across the Seas".



Bramhapuri is in the district of Chandrapur in the state of Maharashtra. Manickam and RoseMary were posted to this field in February 2014. Today, there are worshipping groups in more than 5 sub centres.

Elaine: The field in Bramhapuri has acquired a plot of land at Mavey Goan Village to build a church and a missions compound for education and social work. IMS is currently waiting for the necessary government permits to commence building. When we visited on 25 January, a large tent was erected in the middle of the land where we had a worship service. It was our joy and privilege to spend some 5 hours with the local congregation in a temporary tent at the site, where the new church and facilities are to be built, to worship, pray & intercede.

There was also a dedication ceremony for 5 local evangelists and 7 prayer warriors. The local evangelists are Christians from the community who have answered God's call to be church planters to their own people. The prayer warriors are lay persons holding full-time jobs but who are



The KKMC Team with the Indian Missionaries Society Missionaries
Back Row (L-R): Rev Chandrasekar (Regional Field Coordinator), Eddie Siow, Rev Gabriel Liew, Dean Liew, Rev Kenneth Huang, Lyndon Gan, Rev Alegesam Moses, Rev. Kalanjam (National Field Cordinator), Manickam and RoseMary
Front Row (L-R): Karen Bau, Mavis Yeo, Elaine Ang



Elaine at Mavey Goan Village

dedicated to starting praying groups in new villages. These new prayer groups will help people come to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

On 26 January, we visited Sankarpur Saviour's Church and opened a Day Care Centre for students. Later we visited a Sewing Centre in Bramhapuri that trains women with skills to earn an income. Manickam and RoseMary are doing a fantastic church planting and gospel work, using holistic means which include social activities such as providing sewing classes and operating a Day Care Centre for children in the village.

Rev Moses: We visited a few prayer groups. These met in the homes of believers. Some have small houses so the gathering over-flowed to the outer yard and in one case even at Ajuni Village, on the roof-top of a house. I am still puzzled how a wizened old grandmother with torso bent forward at the waist, could climb the stairs to the roof top just to hear the Word of God and join in the worship.



Dean and Karen: At Mal Tongari Goan Village, the prayer group met at the house of an evangelist who is a shepherd by trade. The evangelist shared that ever since he came to believe in Christ, he had experienced many hardships and misfortune. A part of his roof collapsed during the typhoon season, making living in the house a difficult affair. The family raised goats for their livelihood but one day, many goats died from sickness. It was a big financial loss. Despite all these, he firmly declared he would still want to follow Jesus and we could feel the joy in the family when we sang and praised God together! This evangelist is like a modern day Job. Ps Kenneth said before the trip, we were going to India to share each other's burden and to encourage one another in our walk of faith. In this instance, God used this family's unshakeable faith to challenge us to continue to trust in Him despite the suffering and persecution in our lives.

Elaine: What was remarkable was that, at every place, the constraints of the physical space never diminished the devotion in worship. All the worshippers sang and prayed loudly. Most were singing from memory. Song books and Bibles were the privilege of the few, most likely those who had received an education.

Dean and Karen: Before this trip, Manickam and Rosemary were just names to us, in the missions newsletter where they gave updates of their work in Bramhapuri. It is so different reading the same updates again and praying with them, now that we have been guests at their house, sharing delicious South Indian home-cooked food and seeing their ministry first hand.

Elaine: We thank God for His good work in the lives of Manickam, Rosemary and all other missionaries who have sacrificed much to sow the seeds of the gospel. Pray for God's favour on them and a continued strength and passion as they carry out their ministry. Pray for the Bramhapuri field – for the challenges to be overcome and for the new church facilities to be built.



Mavey Goan Village Dedication



Sankarpur Church Dedication Educare Centre



Sewing Centre Bramhapuri



Ps Gabriel presenting the gospel through a magic show at Mal Tongari Goan



Worship at Navey Goan



RoseMary and Manickam

Mavis Yeo

When I first heard about the India trip, I was half-hearted about going. Then when Ps Kenneth spoke about it again at the Christmas Day service last year, my interest went up to 75%. In the car on the way home I told my

husband and daughter that I would like to go on the India Missions trip. They both were very supportive and told me that I must go. That gave me 100% conviction to go. I emailed Ps Kenneth and Lyndon to inform them. As

I had never wanted to visit India before, I know it must be God's prompting and plan for me. Surprisingly, I was even looking forward to the trip!

I had no expectation as to what we would specifically do in India. We were told to prepare a testimony to deliver at the various places of visit. We also had one practice a Christian Hindi song we were to sing in India. Ps Moses has a good singing voice and we felt confident to "hitch" on to him. The company was great. I made a few new friends, and we still keep in touch.

It was good to meet our missionaries, Manickam and Rosemary, who were so welcoming and hospitable at all times. It was even better to see for ourselves the good work they were doing, looking after 5 churches and travelling on a motorcycle along country roads at least once a week, for at least one hour in some cases, to visit them. Now I can better understand how to pray for them. The people in the rural churches were very happy and welcoming to us, though there was the expected language barrier. Having been brought up in a Methodist church with its subdued form of worship, what really struck me was the passionate and fervent worship with songs and prayers in every church we visited. At all the

places we went, we took turns to give our testimonies and in turn they also gave their testimonies. Again what struck me was that the majority of them came to know God through healing after having gone through unsuccessfully, the different types of local healing and medical treatments. This is quite different from our own experience here, where we can read the Bible for ourselves and attend talks to find out more about God. The most illiterate people see God's actions that speak louder than words. God always knows best.

What I considered a minor "miracle" was when we had to sing the Hindi song "Sunna lo Mere Bhaiyyon" (Listen, my brothers) at one gathering and the Indian Missionary Society leader insisted that only the non-Indians sang. We had to sing the song without Ps Moses! I thought we would not be able to pull it off as we had never sung it without him. Guess what, we sang beautifully (I think)!

It was an uplifting trip and so heartwarming to see the good work of Manickam and Rosemary. I would encourage our church members both young and "old" to go on a mission trip and see for themselves the work done by our missionaries, so as to support them better in our prayers, and show them and the locals that we care.

Thailand: Ordination of Rev Panya Khajornsantichaikul and Pastor Tarwin Kongsukthara

At the closing service on 13 March 2018, six deacons and two elders were ordained. For the first time, there were several women ordained as deacons. Rev Kenneth Huang and Mr Lyndon Gan represented KKMC at the ordination service.

Among the ordinands were two of our Lahu pastors: Rev Panya Khajornsantichaikul of Payakorngdee Methodist Church who was ordained Elder and Ps Tarwin Kongsukthara of Santi Methodist Church, who was ordained Deacon.

Rev Panya pioneered the work at Maeyamin and has been the pastor of Payakorngdee Methodist Church since 2004.

When KKMC started the Lahu ministry in 1998 at Santi Village, Tarwin was a 15-year-old boy. He received sponsorship from KKMC for his secondary school education. He later studied at the Payao Bible College. In 2012, Tarwin was posted to Santi Methodist Church to do a 10-month internship. The internship became a full-time position when he was asked to fill the role of pastor at Santi Methodist Church. In June 2017, Tarwin went back to complete his final year of study and was conferred the Bachelor of Theology on 21 March 2018.

This year marks the 20th year since KKMC started the Lahu ministry. It is appropriate that from 7-10 June 2018, we will celebrate the dedication of Payakorngdee Methodist Church and Water of Life Methodist Church by Bishop Chong Chin Chung.

KKMC's goal is to help the local Lahu churches become mature indigenous churches with local leadership and local funding. To this end, our Lahu pastors play a critical role. Our mission trips also contribute to the growth. Please continue pray for the Lahu ministry. Please contact lyndon@kkmc.org.sg if you want to find out more on how you can join in a mission trip to the Lahu ministry this year.



LR: Lyndon, Rev Tarwin, Rev Panya, Rev Pisut and Rev Kenneth



Rev Panya being ordained as Elder by Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung

Mission Trip to Vietnam

Lynette Lim

In mid-February, a group of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) members gathered for a briefing to find out more about a proposed mission trip to Vietnam, scheduled to take place from 10th to 15th March.

Those present at the meeting included members who had not been on a mission trip overseas before. Most had not been to our intended destination. Some were uncertain about going on the trip because of various family, work, school or church commitments. Thankfully, God enabled most of us to confirm our participation and we proceeded to meet weekly at 8 am on Sunday mornings to prepare for the trip a month before leaving.

The team comprised 13 people from Singapore. We had to prepare teaching sessions for the two churches we were visiting over three days, the school programme, and lunch on the day that we would be spending at a pre-primary and primary school. We had to mentally prepare ourselves for the inevitable multi-tasking that would be required on our visits, the need for flexibility in our roles depending on the requests of our hosts, as well as the possibility of having to change plans due to the sensitivity of the authorities to the propagation of the gospel amongst their hill tribes.

Some of us had to step outside of our comfort zones as we prepared tasks required of us. There was also the language and cultural divide we needed to bridge. Others fell ill before the trip. Despite these challenges, the group grew closer as we encouraged and prayed for one another in our weekly meetings. As the day of departure grew closer, provisions for our trip had to be bought, teaching materials for the children sourced, donated clothes sorted, distributed and packed, and bible study lessons finalised.

On the afternoon of 10th March, we finally set out with some anticipation, prepared to let the Lord lead us in this journey. God certainly had some excitement in store for us, which included:

(i) My left eye developing an inexplicable discomfort and swelling on the first morning, which left tears streaming from that eye throughout the day and during my teaching session during our visit to Church 1. This cleared up by the evening, a testimony indeed to all who prayed for healing!



Team hiking in mountains



Team at school

- (ii) A blackout in Church 1 when we arrived on Day 2. We were touched by the dedication and spiritual hunger of the people who were worshipping, praying, reading the bible and taking notes in the darkness of the room.
- (iii) The Pastor in Church 1 being called away to another village to minister to a man whose wife had passed away earlier that morning. Upon his return, we were privileged to listen to the Pastor's rousing exhortation to his congregation to help the man and his family, and to witness the church being mobilised in support that very evening.
- (iv) Valarie being called on to provide impromptu keyboard masterclasses to the music ministries in the churches we visited, and Dylan and Marie being roped in to help teach the youths to play the guitar. It was a wonderful surprise to see how God had blessed the churches with gifted musicians to lead them in their worship, even though none had any formal music training.
- (v) Having to push our van up the mountain as the van's tyres had little traction on the muddy slope. We thank God for sending two Hmong strangers who, after having a chuckle at the sight, gamely got off their motorcycles and helped to get us on our way. Despite their small statures, they appeared to each have the strength of 10 Singaporeans!
- (vi) Enjoying the hospitality of our hosts in the two churches we visited. They shared the best of their provisions in the meals they treated us to, as chickens and pigs are precious commodities to the villagers, who are extremely poor. We could even hear the chickens being slaughtered as lunch was prepared.
- (vii) Becoming aware that we needed to be careful with our activities so as not to compromise the work of the churches we visited. One of the churches had an unexpected visitor from the authorities while we were there.
- (viii) Experiencing a surprise motorcycle ride up the road from Church 2 as dusk was setting and the fog was rolling in. Although this mode of transport saved us a two-hour trek uphill through steep terrain, it was not

without trepidation that we accepted the hospitality of our hosts, as it would be an experience of ‘firsts’ for many of us – first time on a motorbike, first time on a motorbike without a helmet, first time off-road, etc. We thank God for His provision and for watching over us!

(ix) The thrill of spending the day with the children in the primary school and kindergarten we visited. We were amazed at how receptive they were to our teaching sessions on English and hygiene, and how much they enjoyed the mass dance that Marie and Rachel taught them. We watched as they hungrily devoured adult-sized portions of the chicken Pho (shredded chicken noodles in soup) we provided and prepared for them, finding out that many of these children are used to a lunch comprising only plain rice topped with seasoning powder. Even so, we were astounded when some of them came back for a large second helping.



Teaching in school



Hiking to village school



Motobike Taxi up mountains

Lunch in school

Staff worker

David* was a porter we knew and had worked with before to carry gifts for children to a village. Back when he saw people unrelated to his community share love and blessings with the village children, he felt the Christian love and later became a Christian.

David's wife, Sarah* had been affected with an autoimmune disease a few years ago. She was very sick, and we only found out what the disease was when we helped send her to the city hospital in May last year for diagnosis and treatment. Even with medication that we had been able to send her, her condition wavered from good days, to days where she wasn't able to sit up, and had to stay in bed all day.

David and Sarah were the only Christians in their area, and they faced lots of pressure because of their faith, as their families and people of their village believed them to be accursed by the disease because they had forsaken their ancestral spirits.

While we were on this mission trip, the Lord called Sarah home. David called us early on a Monday morning crying. He was also concerned that nobody would show up at her funeral since they had been shunned for their faith.

Our team had been sharing with the youths in Church 1 on prayer, worship and unity in the Lord on Sunday and Monday. At the conclusion of the two days of teaching,

At the end of every long day, our group would meet to share our thoughts and experiences of the day, and to discuss our plans for the following day. These meetings were a wonderful time of bonding as it was clear that we were all deeply impacted by our interactions with the people we met. It was also a time of learning from one another, and everyone, from the oldest to the youngest in our group, was able to contribute invaluable insights.

We are thankful that God brought us together for this trip. It was certainly no coincidence that each of us, from different walks and different stages of our lives, and with our different skill sets, were able to embark and serve together on this trip. This visit will no doubt be a significant part of the spiritual journey we are on, and hopefully this is also the case for the people we were privileged to meet.

the pastor, whom we had earlier asked to help out with David's family, challenged the youths to put the teaching into action. He challenged everyone present to support David's family during this time of mourning, to be present at the funeral to identify together as a body of Christ and to share God's love to the people who might perhaps drop by briefly for Sarah's funeral. None of the youths knew David and Sarah personally.

That evening, 19 youths together with a co-worker and I, rode motorcycles to Sarah's funeral. David's own church also showed up to support him. Over the next two days, believers as far as 50km away, showed up to share in the grief, and to fellowship with David's family.

I had always thought God would heal Sarah and then the whole village would be saved through her testimony. Instead, Sarah's funeral saw the largest Christian assembly in that area. It was a testimony that believers who are not related or who do not know the family showed up at the funeral not only to comfort David's family, but to honour God's Name and to share His gospel.

This is one of the lessons God taught me during this trip. We saw the love of God in action, the unity of the church, and the willingness of brothers and sisters in Christ to stand alongside one another in difficulties, hardships and grief.

*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the individuals

Karen Tan

I thank God for His grace in letting me join this mission trip, and giving us a wonderful and exciting trip. This trip has been a learning journey for me. The testimonies of the Hmong pastors reminded me again of God's unfailing goodness and faithfulness in bringing His people through the persecutions and hardships of their faith journeys. To God be the glory for God's unfailing love and faithfulness!

Angeline Cheong

This trip has been a wonderful experience and I thank God for clearing the way for me and my children, Rachel and Benjamin, to be a part of it.

Up in His beautiful mountains, God has shown me that what is truly important is the same no matter where in the world we live - to love, trust and obey God, taking Him at His word in our daily living.

Our brothers and sisters-in-Christ there may speak a different language but the Jesus we all love and believe in is the same.

They welcomed us to join them in worship as their praise of God overflowed while they sang from their hearts. Two pastors shared separately with us, quietly and matter-of-factly, the high price they had each willingly paid to follow Jesus - and how He has proved Himself faithful and trustworthy in their painful and challenging circumstances.

These fellow believers set aside their daily activities to learn with us from God's word. Mothers, eager to learn, brought along their infants and toddlers. Many men and women alike, waited patiently for the teaching to be translated, sentence by sentence, first from English to Vietnamese, then from Vietnamese to the local language, and carefully took notes.

Rachel Cheong

I am really thankful to have had the opportunity to go on this mission trip – God's timing was just right! – as I learnt a lot from the people there. What really struck me was their enthusiasm to learn more about God and His word – they would go to church on days that were not Sunday, and take many notes. It made me realise that there are many opportunities in Singapore that I have taken for granted, such as different speakers coming to church to teach us more about the Word, and events. However, I must confess that if some of these events were held on days other than Sundays, I would not have been willing to go. This trip helped me to realise that I should be more enthusiastic to learn more about God's word so I am now trying to turn up for more non-Sunday church events. 10/10 I would go for a mission trip again! :-)

Marie Lim

I am glad I went on this mission trip. The thing that has really stuck with me is the Hmong people's eagerness to learn. I realised this when observing them during the services, and while Dylan and I were teaching them how to play the guitar. Although the guitar strings were extremely fine and hurt their fingers, they persisted at it for hours, continuously playing without any breaks, and learning solely by observing what we were doing. During the services, they were always attentive, and I was impressed that so many of them were there to worship even though it was not a Sunday. After this trip, I realised that many of us in Singapore take a lot of things for granted – for example, the freedom of religion and the many resources that we enjoy.

At mealtimes, they generously shared their meals with us, setting aside the best bowls and chopsticks for our use, seating us most comfortably and piling before us more chicken than we could eat.

When fog started rolling in late in the afternoon, 14 of the men promptly lined up on their motorbikes in the Church compound and gamely ferried a pillion rider each so we could rendezvous with our bus driver on time, even though this act of kindness delayed their own homeward journey.

These brothers and sisters truly looked not to their own interests but to ours, and they so blessed us.

Being with them up in the mountains, there was also a sense of unhurriedness – that there would be time enough to do what needed to be done. There was no over concern over a planned agenda – instead, there was a preparedness and a sense of anticipation and expectancy, to see what God had in store for the day.

It has been a privilege to visit this part of God's family and to learn from their lives how not to be caught up with trappings, and how to treasure what really matters.

Rachel and Marie teaching at a school



Angeline Chua

Although I had been to Cambodia on two service trips with another organisation, I had never been on a mission trip since being baptised and becoming a member of KKMC in 2012.

However, I felt moved to find out more about the mission trip one Sunday and it turned out to be the last day to register for the trip, and I was the last person to sign up!

Even though I did not know who else had signed up for the trip, I wanted to go as I wanted to allow God to use me and to be useful to His work. It was a nice surprise to find that my friends Angeline Cheong and Jane Long, were also going to be on this trip.

I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in God's work, to fellowship with team members and with the people we met. God showed me, through the testimonies of the Hmong pastors, and the activities of our group, the importance of prayer and reliance on God.

This trip gave me fresh awareness of how wonderful and gracious our Creator is. I experienced a new closeness to God when God enabled me to bless others. I would certainly encourage everyone to go on a mission trip.

Jane Long

Going on the trip reminded me of the importance of visits to the mission field, as much as our prayers are needed. Many believers in the places we visited and in other hard-to-reach places may be lonely, isolated and need the encouragement of other believers. For us with the privilege of being able to go on a mission trip, we will experience God's greatness, love and mercy in the field and also in our lives.

Dylan Chew

The biggest lesson I learnt on this trip was that persecution builds faith. Despite various pressures, the church continued practicing their faith, even meeting at odd hours such as 2am just to fellowship and worship God.

Benjamin Cheong

When I was first asked about going on this mission trip, I was not overly enthusiastic. I would probably not know anyone going and with my six-month internship ending just the day before we were due to fly, I just wanted to spend some time relaxing. But I am glad that I went!

I was reminded of what is truly important – not all the extra things that we are blessed to have but really God and our relationship with Him. The amazing testimonies of the two pastors and their journey with God despite persecution, helped me realise how privileged we are

Dyfrig Wilson

I'm humbled and embarrassed by the thirst for learning about the Lord that the Hmong churches demonstrated. Even though there was no electricity for the lights, even though the teacher was an unqualified stranger from a strange land, even though it meant not looking after their livelihood for a day, even though possible punishment at the hands of the authorities was a potential consequence, the Hmong church members sat in darkness and listened and took notes because they wanted to know more about the Lord. I was embarrassed because if the roles were reversed, I would not have attended the class. They understood the immense value of the Word, even when delivered poorly.

After a day of our teaching, the Hmong pastor reminded the class about the parable of the talents and asked the class if they went home to the Lord tomorrow what would they tell the Lord they had done with the precious gifts and talents they had been given. The Lord doesn't need you or me, he told the class, He could send hundreds of others in our place – "it is our blessing to lose". What blessings do I have, does KKMC have, that has been buried in the ground, I wondered. What unused blessings do we have that we could lose?



Dyfrig sharing testimony



Dylan (right) teaching guitar



Ping Ping selfie with Hmong Lady

in Singapore and how much more I can and should be doing to grow my relationship with God. Overall, the trip was a rich and fun experience. It was a privilege to go and given the chance, I would definitely go again!

Valarie Wilson

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; break forth in joyous song and sing praises!" Psalm 98:4

I had the privilege of spending three wonderful afternoons making music with youths in the two Churches we visited, where we explored how to play different songs of praise on the keyboard. While we did not share the same language in our speaking, we were able to communicate through the shared language of music. The youths I met have no regular music lessons, and learnt purely through listening and working it out themselves. Their innate musicality and their eagerness to learn was a joy to witness. They were persistent, determined and focused – and above all, purposeful in their learning. A couple of them asked to be taught how to play scales and arpeggios – I daresay an extremely rare request amongst music students that I have met!

It was a great blessing to be present to witness the desire and fervour of our Hmong brothers- and sisters-in-Christ to learn about God and His word. It was clearly their need and their want. It was a timely reminder to think about what my needs and wants are – how are they God-centred and God-driven?

Jae Tan Lyn Lee

When I decided to go for this trip, it was more because I wanted to have a break from my usual routine of work and tending to the children. I was feeling that my life and choices were revolving around them and I needed to step away from that. There wasn't anything in particular that I thought God was 'calling' me to do but I just wanted to give time to God.

During the preparation meetings, I didn't particularly think that I had any skills that would be useful and hoped that just being present would be encouragement enough for the team and the people there.

God truly blessed my time there. The opportunity to worship with another people truly gave both us and them a sense of awe that we worship the same God. Hearing their stories of how God has helped them overcome persecution, seeing their desire and hunger to learn



Valarie teaching keyboard



Jae dancing with sch kids

more of God's word as well as experiencing their warmth and hospitality really touched my heart.

I hope that each of you will also have the opportunity to see God at work in different parts of the world through other trips!

Breakfast with Love

17 March 2018

The Breakfast with Love (BWL) programme organised by the Rowell Court Residents' Committee and Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) saw two new groups of participants on 17 March 2018. One group was made up of Ms Dancia Tan and Ms Sarah Ann Wee from Bukit Panjang Methodist Church as part of "The Giving Methodist" initiative. The other consisted of teachers from the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Kindergarten (KKMCK).



Volunteers from KKMC and Bukit Panjang Methodist Church



Residents exercising

Ms Dancia Tan and Ms Sarah Ann Wee from Bukit Panjang Methodist Church reflect :

Volunteering at Breakfast with Love was a first for us and a very heart-warming experience. This monthly event encourages the elderly living in the area to get out of their house more often and interact with those around them. The exercises planned are a great way to get them moving because some of them spend their days cooped up at home. It's definitely a refreshing experience for them!

One lady in her 70s who we spoke to had trouble walking and had to rely

on a walking stick and her helper to move about. To hear that she makes it every month for Breakfast with Love shows how much she appreciates and enjoys her time there! This undoubtedly strengthens the bonds within the community and we would love to see more of these all over Singapore!

The Giving Methodist is a great opportunity for different churches to work together for the common good of those in need. It is a fabulous idea that brothers and sisters in Christ come together to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Now we know that there are so many platforms we can tap on to serve the community!



(LR) Ms Dancia Tan and Ms Sarah Ann Wee from Bukit Panjang Methodist Church

Staff of KKMCK :

Linda Wah, Principal KKMCK

I heard about BWL from my teacher, Thng Sin Ying. She volunteers regularly and shared her experiences with the staff.

I thought BWL would be a good platform for the kindergarten's "Start Small Dream Big" initiative which 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. It was launched in 2015 as part of

SG50 and the 15th anniversary of the President's Challenge.

We had collaborated in the past with the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore (AVA) on Save Our Street Dogs (SOSD) and we were looking for a new programme that would be accessible to our students. As many of our students live in this community, BWL seemed to suit what we were looking for.

So on 17 March several teachers joined in the morning exercises with the residents. Most were elderly and

it warmed our hearts just seeing them look so happy.

We will participate again at the next BWL and invite our students and their families from this community to join in.

Thng Sin Ying, KKMCK teacher

I find BWL a very good opportunity for me to get close to the neighborhood residents and to get to know them. I have set a personal goal this year to attend every BWL to get to know more people and to show them love and care.

An Exodus in our Time Chiang MingCherng

God's command to the Israelites leaving Egypt was "to commemorate [the Passover]; for the generations to come [they] shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD - a lasting ordinance" (Exodus 12:14). Nearly three thousand five hundred years later, the Jews continue to celebrate the Passover and ensure that all the requirements of the Passover set by God in the Law of Moses are adhered to properly.

I have been conducting "The Upper Room Experience" seminars at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church for seven years now. These seminars highlight the significance of the Passover and Jesus' Last Supper when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. But

only this year did I finally have the honour of participating in an actual Jewish Passover celebration. Rev Gabriel had connected me with Rabbi Nathan Alfred of the United Hebrew Congregation (UHC) in Singapore, and the Rabbi graciously allowed my wife, Pauline, and I to participate in the congregation's Passover celebrations on Saturday, 31st March 2018.

It is not easy to be able to participate in a Jewish Passover celebration unless you have a Jewish friend to invite you to a family celebration. I was told during the event that the orthodox celebration of the Passover, or Pesach in Hebrew, would usually be conducted completely in Hebrew. A non-Hebrew-speaking person like my wife and I would have



Making Jewish friends



Celebrating the Pesach

Start of dinner



been completely lost throughout the service. The UHC is an “inclusive, progressive, reform Jewish community” and I am thankful that apart from the singing of songs in Hebrew, the rest of the service was conducted in English.

I was also told that some celebrations could be so long that dinner would be served around midnight. While closely following the Seder (the “Order” of the Pesach), Rabbi Nathan took us quickly through the service, but dedicated more time to discussing how the world today is similar to the time the Israelites celebrated their first Passover the night they fled Egypt.

We remembered the injustices of people

killed in the USA, from the shootings of innocent children at Columbine High School (1999); Virginia Tech (2007); Sandy Hook Elementary School (2012); and Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School (2018), to the mass killings at Orlando, Florida (2016); Las Vegas, Nevada (2017) and Sutherland Springs, Texas (2017). We also reflected on the plight of the Rohingya people fleeing persecution. As “survivors of persecution, annihilation and exodus” themselves, the participants of the event were called to act with “an open hand and an outstretched arm” to help bring freedom to others.

Through Rabbi Nathan’s deft presiding of the service, dinner was served

half an hour past eight. Although the service was thankfully not as long nor elaborate as I had expected, I went away from the event with a powerful imprint on my mind – that what happened thousands of years ago is still happening today. By commemorating the Passover we not only remember what God did for the Israelites fleeing Egypt, and we not only remember what God did for us at Jesus’ Last Supper and on the cross, but we also wake up to the reality that there is still injustice in the world today and remember that God has called us to be the salt and the light of the world. May we be blessed by the Passover that we may bless others.

Inter-Faith Dialogue: Common Senses for Common Spaces

Gabriel Liew

Our KKMC member, Ms Teh Yi Ying, was one of the speakers for the launch of the new Common Senses for Common Spaces interfaith programme on 3 February 2018 at Singapore Management University.

This initiative to boost Singapore’s resilience and improve social cohesion was launched on Saturday (Feb 3), and was driven by all five Mayors of the Community Development Council (CDC), with strong support from the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles (IRCCs).

The nationwide programme kicked off with a Foundation of Faiths series featuring four of the major faiths in Singapore – Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. The series consists of dialogues that allow the community to engage in and have the opportunity to ask anything about the faith, while doing so in a safe space.

The Guest-of-honour was the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth Ms Grace Fu.

Yi Ying articulated the Christian Faith to young people in a way that many could appreciate and understand.

During the Question and Answer session, an audience member posed the question, “What is the Gospel?” Yi Ying replied:

The Gospel is the good news that God



Yi Ying sharing on “What is the Gospel?”



Ms Teh Yi Ying receiving a token of appreciation from Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Mayor South East CDC

who is so infinite, came down on earth and died for our sins. Sin is not just doing bad things; rather, it's that our relationship with God is fundamentally off: we don't believe God to be the centre of our life, our value systems are broken, and there is injustice in the very systems we live in.

The Gospel is that Jesus came down for our sins to make our relationship with God right again. He died on the cross for us and in that act He put our sins upon that cross. Because of that kind of love, I in turn love other people, and live my life for the service of others.

The Gospel is also that Jesus resurrected. He conquered death, he is even above death. Death is not the final end point for human beings. One day He will come and everything will be restored – that is so hopeful.

There is poverty, climate change, and many broken issues in the world.

These issues will finally be resolved when He comes. The Gospel does not just relate to a personal salvation, it's also structural – one day there will be peace, there will no more wars, it's a reality we can't even imagine. That's why the Gospel is good news to us – one day it will finally be good.

This doesn't mean that we wait for that one day to come and just sit here. We are part of that plan to continue to love people and to live a life of service so that people can glimpse what that one day will be, now.

Dr Maliki said studies have found that Singapore is the most religiously diverse society in the world. And in a small place like this, where the common space is small, there will possibly be difference. This initiative aims to present opportunities for Singaporeans from all walks of life to openly ask questions about religion and have them answered.

No Longer Strangers

Gabriel Liew

(SINGAPORE IS) THE MOST MULTI-RELIGIOUS SOCIETY IN THE WORLD, AND WE HAVE THE WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW, "WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT", (CHRIST'S LOVE TO ALL OUR NEIGHBOURS, "REGARDLESS OF LANGUAGE, RACE OR RELIGION".

- Rev Dr Gordon Wong, Presidential Address at TRAC 42nd Annual Conference, 2017

The Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO) was founded on 18 March 1949 to inculcate the spirit of friendship and co-operation among the leaders and the followers of different religions and faith communities for the achievement of peace and goodwill amongst humankind.

Inter-Faith Ministry is a holy, precious and integral part of our rich Methodist heritage. The co-founder and first President of the IRO was our very own Methodist Bishop, Dr Hobart B. Amstutz, who was also the first principal of the Trinity Theological College. Bishop Amstutz preached prophetically in 1949, "We, through this organisation (IRO), are no longer strangers and enemies, but pilgrims on a common road seeking common goals".

About 14 KKMC members joined 500 people in celebration of IRO Day on 18 March 2018 in the PGP Hall of the Perumal Temple. Ms Grace Fu was the guest of honour.

The following are their reflections:

Lily Bok

Living in Singapore, we sometimes take our stability and peace for granted. Attending the 69th anniversary of the IRO reminds us of the important role played by the different faiths in helping to maintain harmony and unity in a multi-religious and multi-racial society. The call is that we have to do our part. IRO provides opportunities to learn much of other faiths and not to be led astray by extremisms. We can participate in inter-faith dialogues or help out in charity projects.



Blessed are the Peacemakers... KKMC members at IRO Day on 18 March 2018

Dean Liew

Although Singapore is a multi-racial and multi-religious nation and we are used to seeing a temple next to a church or mosque, it was still quite a unique sight to see people from ten different religions and faiths come under one roof to celebrate one cause - to promote peace and understanding among the different religions and faiths. In addition, IRO has been doing this for 69 years since 1949, well before Singapore's independence! I salute the founders of IRO who had such foresight to provide a platform in our society to enable religious peace and harmony for the people of Singapore.

Testimonies

Teo Kok Chye

Before I came to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, I considered myself a Buddhist as I grew up in a Taoist/Buddhist family.

I was introduced to Christianity at a young age when I followed my music teacher to the Church of our Saviour as it was situated in the neighbourhood where I lived. There I listened to the parables of Jesus and sang songs. Coming from an English educated background, I connected easily with what I learned in church.

During my pre-University days in Saint Joseph's Institution, we were made to say the Lord's Prayer daily and on Saturdays, I followed my classmates to the Novena services at Church of Alphonsus, Thomson Road. However my early exposure to Christianity was superficial and I eventually stopped attending church.

In the early 2000s, I began to explore various religions like Islam (Sufism), followed the talks of Ajahn Brahmavamso (Theravada) and attended the meditation classes of a Dr K.K. Tan, who also talked about spiritualism. I also got



Teo Kok Chye with his LifeGroup members after baptism

interested in Tibetan Buddhism (Vinayana), where they talked about the transformation of the mind. Somehow, Buddhism felt scientific and logical.

At around 2014, I started discussing about religion with my Christian friend Mr Christopher Heng, whom I had met some 14 years earlier, through our walks and exercises in the Botanic Gardens. I was impressed by Mr Heng's steadfastness in his Christian faith. Once he shared that he was travelling to Myanmar to see the charities which he supported. He wanted to ensure they were properly run. He was about 80 years old then and still undertook the journey as part of his humble Christian service.

Observing Mr Heng made me think that there could be more to be known about this Christian God that inspired such devotion and charity. Mr Heng felt that my queries about Christianity were best answered by pastors of the church.

One day he gave me a leaflet about the Alpha course at KKMC. I called Lyndon, the contact on the leaflet, to register myself for the course. I completed the course and felt that I understood a little more about Christianity and about Christ Jesus and his teachings. I learned that God was gracious and would forgive our sins. During the course, I started attending the 9:30am worship service at KKMC with Mr & Mrs Heng. I felt most comfortable with the warm and inclusiveness of the members of KKMC.

I was most grateful that Lyndon invited me to join the LG LifeGroup after the Alpha course, as it allowed me to begin my walk with Jesus among fellow Christians. Then I attended "By This Name" course, which give me a "big picture" understanding of the Christian world.

One of the reasons I came to faith in Christ Jesus, was the transformation I saw in my brother. For many years, I felt that he led a life of extravagance and neglected his duties as a responsible adult. I wanted to have as little as possible to do with him. Then, one day he started to talk about Christianity and spouting bible verses. Initially I thought it was all talk. However, I discovered that had he stopped gambling and left his wayward ways to live a life

closer to God. I found out that he started to help out in his church in Perth, doing counselling work and distributing food and help to the needy. His transformation made me realise that the God of the Bible is great and gracious. What was impossible for man was truly possible with Him. For this change in my brother, I am forever grateful.

Recently, I asked my brother about his journey with Christ Jesus. He told me that he realised that he was like the prodigal son mentioned in the bible when he found his way back to Jesus. I remember that it was preached somewhere that, that parable was really about two sons. We only remember the son who returned to the loving arms of his father. There was the other son who thought he did everything right and so felt he deserved more from the father. Somehow, I felt that I could relate to the other son and realised that works alone cannot earn one's salvation. I needed humility to accept that it is only through the truth and grace of God can one be saved.

I decided to get baptised as an act of my obedience to God so that I may have a personal relationship with my Lord. With His grace and love, I pray that I will be able to walk closer to Him, and be more like Jesus. I pray that the Holy Spirit will reside in me and guide me through this worldly existence; that I may be able to let my old self die so I may be re-born to fear (respect) God and worship Him daily. I hope that I will keep the faith and run this race, keeping my eyes on Jesus always. Only in His presence can I find peace and comfort in this life.



Pamela Ng

I grew up in a non-Christian family in Kuching, Sarawak. My paternal grandfather, who was a Buddhist, was staying with us before he passed away twenty-five years ago. There was an altar table at home for him to worship. My family and I had assisted with some of the rituals and this included ancestor worship. My father was a free thinker and believed that every religion is good. My mother grew up in a Taoist family, and although she was not a staunch Taoist, she sometimes went to temples with her sisters. I remember following her to temples to pray for the family and taking sips of drinks with ashes of burnt talisman papers in them.

One of my paternal aunts became the first Christian in the family when my grandfather was still alive. There were often conflicts between her and my grandfather whenever she brought up the topic of Christianity. My aunt is single and lives on her own. She came to our house for lunch almost every Sunday after her church service. After lunch, she would talk about Christianity and the lunch talks became a little intense at times.

Over the years, more family members from my father's side became Christians - my aunts, cousins and my grandmother. My grandmother attended church every Sunday with my aunt and learnt how to say grace before meals. I also started praying to God occasionally, while



Pamela Ng Baptism

still going to temples and receiving talisman papers from my mother. I knew this was not right and I had to make a decision one day.

I came to work in Singapore after graduation. In March 2016, I had an episode of giddiness which lasted for a few weeks. I saw two family physicians who could not tell what was wrong with me. One of them prescribed me a medicine called betahistine, which helped with the giddiness. The ear, nose & throat (ENT) specialist finally diagnosed me with vestibular neuritis, which is the inflammation of the vestibular nerve in the inner ear. This condition may be due to viral infection or stress. The ENT specialist increased the dosage of betahistine.

One week later, I developed palpitations and had to be hospitalised at Singapore General Hospital for monitoring. The cardiologist had cleared me and told me that I was probably stressed. He had discontinued the betahistine, although he was unsure if it had caused the palpitations. I also did not have giddiness during my hospitalisation. I later read online that palpitations could be a rare side effect of betahistine and there were patients who reported the same experience. I was then discharged from hospital and was on medical leave. During my leave, I became more aware of my own heartbeat and checked my pulse very often. I had interrupted sleep and woke up with palpitations. I could feel my chest fluttering the whole day and this lasted for a few days. As a psychiatrist, I recognised this was anxiety. One day, I started praying to God, begging Him to remove the discomfort that I was going through. The next day, the chest flutter disappeared miraculously. I was very thankful and shared this experience with my parents who were in Malaysia.

In September 2016, my colleague, Dr. Joseph Leong,

who is a member of the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, invited me and another colleague to the Alpha Course. I thought this was a great opportunity for me to know God better and decided to attend. After the course, I started attending Kampong Kapor Methodist Church regularly and felt comfortable with the church and the people here. I also tried to pray and read God's Word more regularly. I felt that God had spoken to me numerous times for the past one year. One day, I was told by my hairstylist that I had lost an area of hair on my scalp, as large as the size of a fifty cent coin, and was worried. A few days later, as I was reading Every Day with Jesus, I came across Luke 12:7 – *"Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."*

Just before Christmas last year, my father accepted Christ. He had been thinking about this for some time and had been regular with his prayers. I returned to Kuching for Christmas, and my parents and I attended a church service. My aunt was overjoyed and I believe this was her best Christmas gift.

Clyde Tan

I was born into a Christian family, and I was brought up to know that Christ was my Lord and Saviour. From young, I read many bible stories and grew to love them a lot. Despite this, I never really experienced the 'personal relationship' with God. But I was not bothered because as far as I was concerned, I was a Christian because I believed in the salvation story.

However, my behavior wasn't very Christ-like. I swore a lot in school, and was more concerned about maintaining my image in front of my friends instead of maintaining an image of a Christian. I led a double life, pretending to know God on Sundays but behaving otherwise on other days.

By God's grace, I excelled in both my studies and sports, doing well in school and being appointed captain of track and field CCA (co-curricular activity) in school. However, I believed that these were due to my own abilities rather than God's favour on me. Because of this, I was rather proud and arrogant.

The turning point came at the end of Secondary Four. Although I was offered a DSA (direct school admission) to the JC (Junior College) of my choice, I arrogantly turned down the offer because I was so sure I could meet the academic requirements. But when my O level results were released, my results were poorer than expected. I wasn't too fazed by this as I was sure the JC would accept my appeal as I had been the track and field captain of my school. However, my appeal fell through and I was left feeling frustrated at God, questioning why He allowed such a thing to happen to me.



Clyde teaching English to Village children during the December 2017 mission trip

As I was praying and struggling with God, I heard Him talk to me clearly for the first time, telling me the need to humble myself and how I had been taking Him for granted in my life. It was then I called out to God and told Him I desired to really know Him and have a personal relationship with Him.

It was difficult initially, but as I read and meditated on the Bible, I slowly grew to understand God and His character better. It became clear to me that God wasn't just looking to exert His power as God over me, but rather desired a personal relationship with me. I went from just knowing God in a textbook fashion to genuinely knowing and seeking Him daily as one would a close friend. It is this personal relationship with God that fuels now my faith in both times of ease and times of difficulties.

Time, Eternity & God

Reflections on Ecclesiastes Chapters 1-3
Leong Kwok Thye

Ecclesiastes is a fascinating book that resonates Solomon's frustration with life. To appreciate the message, two aspects need to be considered – first, an overview of Solomon's life and second, an appreciation that some passages are allegorical as the book is written in poetic language.

Solomon should be the last person in Biblical history to find life meaningless. He inherited a rich legacy from his father David, Israel's greatest and most loved king, and started life well. At his coronation, he prayed to God for "*a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.*" The Lord was pleased and promised him, in addition to what he asked for, both riches and honor and, if he walked in His ways and obeyed His commands, long life (1 Kings 3:12-14).

Chapter 1 addresses the issue of man's transient existence. Solomon captures the readers' attention with a dramatic introduction to the book, "*Meaningless! Meaningless says the Teacher, Utterly meaningless: Everything is utterly meaningless!*" (v1:2). He then goes on to explain that life occurs in cycles, events repeat themselves, "*what is twisted cannot be straightened and what is lacking cannot be counted*" and that "*with much wisdom comes much sorrow, the more sorrow, the more knowledge, the more grief.*" Consequently his task as God's anointed leader to turn mankind to the path of righteousness had become a heavy burden, meaningless; "*a chasing after the wind.*" (vv1:14).

Chapter 2 documents the riches and fame Solomon attained as a result of wisdom (v2:3) that enabled him to enjoy a life of pleasure and self-indulgence without constraints. He was thus able to boast, "*I denied myself nothing that my eyes desired; and I refused my heart no pleasure. My heart took delight in all my work, and this was the reward in*

all my labour. (vv2:1-11). But life did not turn out as he expected. To justify his misguided aspiration and irresponsible lifestyle he postulated, "*I saw that wisdom is better than folly..... What then do I gain by being wise?"..... Like the fool, the wise man must also die!* (vv2:13-16). Despite the fact that he was aware that it is God who "*gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness*", he decided to "*do nothing better than to eat, drink and find satisfaction in his work*" (vv2:22-26). Throughout the entire chapter 2, the words *I, myself and my*, appears 32 times. By contrast, *God* is mentioned only once. Solomon not only reneged on his vow to God at his coronation, but despised the wisdom that God had given him.

Chapter 3 is essentially an allegorical prophecy of God's plan for the redemption of mankind in Jesus Christ. The activities in vv3:1-8 should thus be interpreted in the light of appropriate Bible passages.

Verse 1 - Time refers to man's transience existence (vv1:4-7).

Verse 2 - Mankind is destined to die but God has provided an alternative in Jesus Christ, "*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive*" (1 Corinthians 15:22).

Verse 3 - Mankind needs healing. He needs to forsake unrighteousness and tear down vestiges of a fallen world to build a new life in Christ (1 John 2:15-16, Romans 12:1 2).

Verse 4 - God lifts up from the grave, all who call to him for help, gives life, comforts, and turns sorrow to joy (Psalms 30:2-5, Matthew 5:4).

Verse 5 - Disciples of Jesus are building stones in His temple. He gathers and scatters them to build and expand His church. (1 Peter 2:4-5, Acts 8:1,4, Matthew 28:18-20).

Verse 6 - Scripture points to Jesus as

God's promised Messiah. To know God we need to throw away our sinful thoughts and ways and focus on Jesus. (Isaiah 55:6-8, John 5:39-40).

Verse 7 - Jesus' death and resurrection is the basis for God's redemption plan for mankind. Thus Jesus remained silent at his trial before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:63), but at the empty tomb on the first Easter morn, His disciples were reminded that He had spoken of His death and resurrection (Luke 24:6-8). When Jesus died, God tore asunder the veil in the temple as confirmation that His estranged relationship with mankind had been mended (Matthew 27:50-51).

Verse 8 - Jesus told his followers that, "*No-one can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, ... You cannot serve both God and Money* (Matthew 6:24). The battle for the soul is love for money and all it represents. We need to end the war within the soul to enjoy peace with God.

Verse 11 - Solomon found life meaningless because he subsequently disobeyed God. The Bible's verdict of Solomon's downfall is succinct, "*The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel* (1 Kings 11:9-11). Time, in the context of chapter 3 is not chronological, but the time the individual responds to God. Verse 11 emphasizes the difference between God's time and the individual's time by declaring, "*He has made everything beautiful in its time*" i.e. not in God's time. When or whether life becomes beautiful does not depend on God but on the individual.

The message of Ecclesiastes is relevant and practical. Life is transient but God has provided man eternal life in Jesus Christ. Wisdom without humility and obedience to God is meaningless. Do not chase after the wind.