



December 2017 – February 2018



“
For I am not ashamed
of this Good News about
Christ. It is the power
of God at work, saving
everyone who believes...
Romans 1:16a
”

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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

Bidding A Fond Farewell To 2017



Rev Gabriel, Rev Kenneth & Pastor Zhi-Hui

We did so, as we thanked God for all we experienced in life in 2017, knowing always that He was present and caring for us.

We are especially reminded of this as we joyously sang carols and listened to meaningful Scripture texts read and testimonies given at the 24 December Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight Service at 10pm. And then, the very next morning, at our 25 Dec Christmas Day Worship Service at 10am where we celebrated as two babies were baptised, and we were reminded why Jesus as Saviour, King and Judge, is really “Joy to the World!”, and why also, we have “beautiful feet” as we share the Good News of Jesus with others!

We also remembered God’s presence and care on the very last day of 2017 at our annual Watchnight (Covenant Renewal & Holy Communion) Service on 31 Dec as many came and once again covenanted with God to be His faithful disciples in 2018, and at the Church Prayer Watch held afterwards as we moved into 1 January with a good number of members staying back or coming to give thanks to God for and pray for our church, our ministries and the people we minister to.

We did so remembering that as we entered 2018, KKMC as a church is a place of worship, prayer, fellowship, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, and missions.

Contributing to the life of KKMC requires being in and involved



So, What Is Your Resolution Or Goal For 2018?

We ask this relevant question, for without knowing the answer, we will soon find that this year will speed by past us and we will have not accomplished very much for God, our church, our family, our friends, ourselves and all the people that God will bring into our lives.

At the first Sunday on 2018, Pastor Kenneth shared that his resolution or goal for 2018 is **“KNOWING and PROCLAIMING OUR GOD, even more than I have ever done before, in 2017, 2016, 2015, etc!”** Do read the “Featured Sermon” by Pastor Kenneth, as a reminder or to know what was preached about this matter, and how we ought likewise to have a similar resolution or goal.

Look forward also to the coming Sermon Series of **“The World in need of Salvation”** based on the Letter to the Romans, which will have, for each sermon preached in this Series, the sermon title of “The Powerful Gospel according to Romans”.

They will help us to be truly **“IN & INVOLVED”**, especially, **“across the seas”** in 2018, as a church and as disciples of Jesus.

Lastly, by the time you read this message, our Church will have celebrated its **124th Anniversary of KKMC** on 21 Jan 2018. Keep praying that the favour of the Lord will be upon us and bless the work of our hands (Psalm 90:17) in 2018, to the honour and glory of His Glorious Name!

To God Be The Glory!

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



Featured Sermon Knowing & Proclaiming God as

"Our Creator God"

Genesis 1:1 & Psalm 8 7 Jan 18

What is your resolution or goal for 2018?

After much consideration, someone said honestly, "My goal for 2018...is to accomplish the goals of 2017...which I should have done in 2016...because I promised them in 2015...and planned for them in 2014!"

I wonder if this shows the futility of making resolutions or just the reality faced by a good number of ordinary everyday people, like us. Whichever is the answer, allow me to share with you all my resolution, my goal, for 2018, which is:

"KNOWING AND PROCLAIMING OUR GOD, EVEN MORE THAN I EVER DID BEFORE IN 2017, 2016, 2015, ETC!"

And my motivation comes from Genesis 1:1 and Psalm 8 which teach the Biblical Truth of "Our Creator God"!

Now, there are other views held by people regarding God that differ from what the Bible teaches, for example:

- (1) Atheism (where God does not exist). Modern presentation: humanism (there are only us human beings),
- (2) Agnosticism (where God may or may not exist)
- (3) Pantheism (where God is all)
- (4) Panentheism (where God is in all)
- (5) Deism (where God is a Creator, but distant, not personal)
- (6) Finite God-ism (where God exists but He is limited)
- (7) Polytheism (where God is many)

And that is why my resolution, my goal, of knowing and proclaiming our God, the God the Bible teaches of, to others - *always doing so with greatest sensitivity and relevance* - so that they can also consider coming to know who He is - "Our Creator God" - and prayerfully, in due course, when they have done so, to also in turn themselves keep knowing God and proclaiming Him to others.

And in this year of Missions emphasis

of being "*In & Involved – Across the Seas*" at KKMC, this goal of "**KNOWING and PROCLAIMING OUR GOD**", I submit, is most appropriate for all of us to consider owning as our own, in addition to all the other many goals we may personally have, and for which we will do our utmost to achieve, and not fail to carry out!

So, who is "Our Creator God"?

Here is where we learn from the opening statement of the Bible, Genesis 1:1 (*OT, pg 1 in the pew bibles*), which clearly states, declares, "*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth*". [This is the Word of God!]

That is, the God the Bible teaches of:

- (1) is the One who is ever-present as He was there "In the beginning",
- (2) is the One who is the "Cause", the Creator, of all things as He created "the heavens and the earth", and
- (3) as the One who was there "In the beginning" and as the One who "created the heavens and the earth" - *that is, everything – all that is in existence, everything that is seen and unseen, living or otherwise, every person, you and me* - He is the One we owe our existence to, belong to, and is our Master, that is, Our Creator God!

To help us remember what I just shared, will you repeat loudly after me:

1. Where was God? *He was there at the beginning!*
2. What did He do? *He created!*
3. What did He create? *He created everything!*
4. What does this mean? *He is Our Creator God! We all belong to Him!*

Praise God! What a wonderful truth the Bible has taught us!

But some may rightly ask, "What does it really mean that we belong to Our Creator God?"

This is where is Psalm 8 (*A Psalm of David*) is very informative! So, let us read it together at *OT, pg 497*.

Psalm 8 - A Psalm of David
'O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

² *Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark (ordained praise) because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.*

³⁻⁴ *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

⁵ *Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.*

⁶⁻⁸ *You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

⁹ *O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

[This is the Word of God!]

Psalm 8 reveals to us what our belonging to Our Creator God really means!

The first answer is that we enjoy the privilege of KNOWING the GREATNESS of God as the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of All Things.

In Psalm 8, King David shows that he realized this truth about God when, so long ago, he personally looked at the heavens, probably when he was a shepherd boy guarding his sheep at night, and saw, as he said, the work of God's fingers, the moon and the stars that God had established (v3).

David marveled at the BEAUTY and VASTNESS of what God had created personally and carefully - this idea comes for the word "fingers", which convey the idea of a sculptor using

STCd-PRC99-19 Hubble Space Telescope

his fingers to intricately shape and mould the clay before him. Now, what is important is that David did not worship the created bodies – the moon and the stars – as many others in his time and even our time did and do. But he instead rightly worshipped the ONE who was and is the Creator God and acknowledged His Glory!

In David's own words in v1 (& 9): ***"O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens."***

I know some of us will be thinking and wanting to say to me, *"Pastor, in Singapore, where can we see the beauty of the night sky as David did? The lights from all the many tall buildings around us make it very hard to see clearly the stars in the night sky!"* I understand and that is why I put on the cover of today's Order of Service a photo of a galaxy with numerous stars taken by the Hubble Space Telescope Key Team and NASA! Let's have a look at it now! Is it not so beautiful?

When I read Psalm 8, I know in some ways what David was talking about. During my days in the Navy, on my overseas training trip from Singapore to Taiwan, as we were sailing through the South China Sea, when the sky was not cloudy, we could see thousands and thousands of stars, especially during the dead of night, between midnight and 4am.

One night, I was on duty between midnight and 4am, when the ship was sailing the waters on the east of the island of Taiwan towards a port in the north, when I had the special privilege of seeing the North Star burning so brightly and beautifully, lighting the way forward and pointing towards North.

I marvelled then, as I still do now,



whenever I recall in my mind seeing this star, just how great Our Creator God is! And not only that – I was also greatly assured in my heart, and in fact still now every night, that if God knows how to create the beautiful North Star that shines so clearly and consistently always, then how much more have I been personally and carefully created, sculptured, by God for we are also told the truth that we, human beings, are the only one to have been created in the image of God, male and female, and as a result, are greatly treasured by God (*Genesis 1:27*).

And this moves us to the second answer to what our belonging to Our Creator God means – the first being *we enjoy the privilege of KNOWING the GREATNESS of God as the CREATOR, RULER and SUSTAINER of ALL THINGS.*

Following from the point I just made that we have been personally and carefully created, sculptured, by God, for we, human beings, are the only one to have been created in the image of God, male and female, and as a result, are greatly treasured by God, the **second answer** to what belonging to Our Creator God means is this:

Not only are we treasured, we are regarded as SPECIAL in God's eyes

and TRUSTED with the STEWARDSHIP over creation. This reflects the truth stated in Genesis 1:28, ***God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."*** This in itself is already a wonderful answer to what belonging to Our Creator God means! We are special and trusted with stewardship.

But we must also not miss this additional point! We have this special regard, and trust, by God ***despite the utter smallness of man when compared with the rest of CREATION.*** David realised this when he wrote vv 3 to 8, ***"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."***

Let's slow down a little here and let this truth sink in! God in His love, treats us a "little lower" than Himself and crowned us "with glory and honour" (v5). Can you beat that? We are so small, so "xiao", so "kecil", and yet, we have God's: (1) LOVE - we are made by His fingers (v4), (2) REGARD - we are recognized as being of great value (v5), and (3) TRUST (v6-8) - we are seen as responsible!

I do not know about you, but it seems clear to me that we should be so humbled by this reality that Our Creator God has given us His love, His Regard and His Trust! It seems then clear to me that we must also work to fulfil His desire for us!

The second answer of what belonging to Our Creator God means is this then: *not only are we treasured, we are regarded as SPECIAL in God's eyes and TRUSTED with the STEWARDSHIP over creation, despite the utter smallness of man when compared with the rest of CREATION.*

The first answer is we enjoy the privilege of KNOWING the GREATNESS of God as the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of All Things.

The **third and final answer** to what belonging to Our Creator God means is that while we are small, xiao, kecil, we can be of great use and show the GLORY of GOD as God's strength works in and through our lives, even though this may seem totally impossible. Remember what is stated in v2: "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger." The NIV states "Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have ordained praise..."

Can we imagine that! Children declaring the praise of God! Actually here at KKMC we do not have to imagine! We see it every time the Cherubim Choir (our children's choir) sings in praise of God! While we are happy to see our children sing, we never forget that their singing of praise to God has a much deeper purpose - a silencing of God's foes and enemies. This actually happens as even the strongest atheist or agnostic

cannot help but be touched by the children's heartfelt and authentic singing of praise of God.

Children are treasured and regarded as special, are they not! They are the ones who speak frankly and wear their hearts on their sleeves! They generally speak the truth in love, without hidden motives. Maybe that is why their praise is so precious, so powerful!

Talking about how precious and special children are! Let me share with you that once again our Homework Centre (where we provide a safe place for the children living in our community to study from Mon to Thurs from 3.30pm to 6pm at The Unfailing Light) has a registration for 2018 of 21 children, of which 13 are from last year batch. We will reach 23 if two more children from last year register. Of the current 21, 15 are from the Lower Primary and 6, the Upper Primary. Another interesting fact is that majority of these children come from pre-Christian families, with 8 of the 21 children being Bangladeshis and another 2 Indian Muslim girls.

The point of my sharing these facts with you - God has clearly given us a wonderful opportunity to play a part in the lives of these children and also in the lives of their parents. We do not preach the Gospel directly, but show it through real love and care for these children, remembering what Jesus said in Matthew 5:14 - 16, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

We have opportunities to impart Christian values to the children as we share with them our stories or just listen to them tell us their stories. And as we do so, we see the children and their families begin to trust our church more, as they realise that they can rely on the church, for the church, and the God of the church, cares for them without any strings attached.

To carry on and expand this good work

we are doing at the Homework Centre, we need more of you congregation members and friends helping out here. I am thankful to God for the good group of members and friends from our church already serving, including my daughters who help once a week, together with youth helpers from the 60th BB Coy and from the 45th GB Coy. But we can surely do with more helpers each day. Also, we can ONLY take in more children if we have more helpers.

You need not worry about helping the kids with their Math, Science or Language homework for we are not running a Tuition Centre. But the children at times will ask for help with regards to their worksheets, do not worry as the Lower Primary homework is pretty easy and we also have the youth present help! What we really need from you as an adult is supervision of the children. Of course, if you understand the Math and Science taught in schools today, even better.

So, can we have more of you to help out!! Please speak to, or email, Ivan Ho as soon as possible!

Now to recap the **third and final answer** to what belonging to Our Creator God means is that even though we are small, xiao, kecil, we can show the GLORY of GOD as it is seen and heard in and through our lives, even though this may seem totally impossible.

Let's now pull the Sermon together! We asked the question, "Who is "Our Creator God"? And based on Gen 1:1, we learnt as follows:

1. Where was God? He was there at the beginning!
2. What did He do? He created!
3. What did He create? He created everything!
4. What does this mean? He is Our Creator God! We all belong to Him!

We then asked what "**What does it really mean that we belong to Our Creator God?**" and found, based on Psalm 8, the following:

The first answer is that we enjoy the privilege of KNOWING the GREATNESS of God as the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of All Things.

The second answer is that not only are we treasured, we are regarded as SPECIAL in God's eyes and TRUSTED with the STEWARDSHIP over creation, despite the utter smallness of man when compared to the rest of CREATION.

The third and final answer is that even though we are small, xiao, kecil, we can show the GLORY of GOD as it is seen and heard in and through our lives, even though this may seem totally impossible

With these wonderful truths in mind,

the GREAT COMMANDMENT (Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “**Love your neighbour as yourself.**”⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’) and

the GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:18-20, Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’)

It make so much sense! Because God is OUR CREATOR GOD:

1. we are to love GOD with all our being, for we belong to Him,
2. we are to love others as God loves us, for they belong to Him too.
3. we are to help others come to know and love God for themselves, for they belong to Him also.

Now, let me ask all of us the following questions and all of us raise our hands to show our answers:

1. How many of us know we are to love God with all our being? ALL! How many of us want to do so? ALL!
2. How many of us know we are to love others as God loves us? ALL! How many of us want to do so? ALL!

3. How many of us know we are to help others come to know and love God for themselves? ALL! How many of us want to do so? ALL!

Isn't this GREAT?! Praise GOD always then for being **OUR CREATOR GOD**, for knowing who He is and knowing what it means that we belong to Him has provided the answers to the three fundamental questions of life:

1. How did I come to be? God created me, and so, I belong to Him!
2. How am I to live? Loving God and loving others!
3. How am I to show I love God and love others? Knowing and Proclaiming God to others, so that they too can come to love Him and love others!

Being reminded then of these truths, “**KNOWING and PROCLAIMING OUR GOD, even more that I did in 2017, 2016, 2015, etc**”, is definitely then a resolution that is possible and I will to want keep it. It will definitely help me as I meet a person who for years is not a believer, who is from a different culture and background, who is even convinced that God is not real, for I will be reminded to always do so with greatest sensitivity and relevance so that they could consider coming to know who “Our Creator God” for themselves, and prayerfully, in due course, when they have done so, to also in turn themselves keep knowing God and proclaiming Him to others.

I emphasise again the need to do so with greatest sensitivity, for it will help us show genuine respect for the person we are sharing with and for what he/she believes in, even if we totally disagree with that belief, and with greatest relevance, for it will help us show genuine concern about what the person and what he/she person regards as important. Sensitivity and relevance are especially needed when we go out this year in missions to countries different from Singapore and meet with people of those countries with deep-rooted belief systems so different from that of the Bible, and whose idea of God differs from that of Our Creator God!

Knowing that we retain maybe only 30% of what we hear from a sermon, to help keep the sermon alive in

us, I have included some questions in the bulletin for our consideration and discussion individually or as a LIFEGroup in the course of this week:

- (1) What are some of the common ideas people have of who God is?
- (2) Why do some people not believe in the existence of God?
- (3) How does the Bible speak about God?
- (4) How may I share about the God of the Bible with others sensitively and relevantly?

NOW, in closing, let us always remember that “**KNOWING and PROCLAIMING OUR GOD more than I ever done before**” is a most appropriate resolution or goal for us to have in our life.

For God is OUR CREATOR GOD!
Amen!

At the end of each Worship Service, the congregation was invited to read the poem entitled “*Guidance Through the Year*” by Lois Snelling:

In faith, O Lord, You guided me
through every day of the year;
come blinding storm, come doubt
or pain/
Your hand was always near.

The year was long, each day
unknown,
till I had trod it through;
but ever did I walk secure because
You walked there, too.

That year is past and all its days,
now finished, lie behind;
but reaching out ahead of me
a strange new year I find.

So strange, untried, these newer
days –
but, Lord, I have no fear –
for I know well that every hour
Your presence will be near.

This Sermon was preached by Rev Kenneth Huang on Sunday 7 January 2018 at the English worship services as the first of four sermons in a Sermon Series entitled “Knowing and Proclaiming God” to start 2018. The other three Sermon Topics are “Our Holy God”, “Our Praiseworthy God”, and “Our World-Loving God”, and was preached in the month of January 2018. The sermons can be heard on <https://www.kkmc.org.sg/sermons-gwltm>

Christians and the Lunar New Year

Pastor Gabriel Liew

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Singapore is a multiracial, multilingual and multireligious society. We live with respect for the different ethnic groups, religions, cultures and traditions in the true spirit of togetherness and harmony.

We also celebrate many social and family gatherings marked by warm interactions between members of the various faith communities. We appreciate Chinese, Malay and Indian performing arts. Often the atmosphere in which our time-honoured traditions are celebrated, is relaxed and friendly. Our presence bears witness to our Lord Jesus Christ, who loves and eats with everyone.

The Lunar New Year is a joyous celebration and an affirmation of life. We rest from our labours to draw close to our loved ones through shared meals, visits, hospitality, chats, and the exchange of blessings and hong baos. This familiar bonding ritual has become ingrained in Singaporean-Chinese culture.

Respecting My Chinese Culture as a Christian

How do believers show that they respect their elders while being faithful followers of Christ?

Two of our church members share how they reconcile their faith with the cultural practices of their families.

Kimberly Chia

I am a first-generation Christian in my family. I came to Christ when I was in secondary school, and as a young believer, the issue of navigating the various cultural customs of my family while still retaining my identity as a Christian weighed heavily on my heart. My dad's side of the family is rather traditional, and my whole family would usually accompany my grandmother to perform rites for my grandfather who had passed on. During Chinese New Year, I would be confused about wishing good luck and following superstitious customs.

It was clear to my family that I had decided to follow Jesus. The tension existed not so much because my family would compel me to accept ancestral worship, but because I had to decide if I would simply perform the rituals during certain festivals as a mark of respect. I was worried that I would either compromise my being a Christian, or upset my family. Would participating in any of the rituals mean that I was practising ancestral worship?

While I do not volunteer to participate in my family's customs, there are times when I would be compelled to do so. In such situations, I have found guidance from the Word. In the Old Testament, the Aram general Naaman was healed of leprosy by the God of Elisha. Naaman decides from that point to worship only YHWH – the God of Israel. But he is in a fix because of his official duties. So he says to Elisha in 2 Kings 5:17b-19:

Our cultural context can shape our identity, and offer security, roots and wings to soar. Certain aspects of our culture, such as respect for our elders, honesty, diligence, compassion and fairness are treasured universal human values. They are God's gift to us.

However, not all values and practices honour Christ, and need to be rejected. For example gambling, racism, sexism, classism, favouritism, discrimination and superstitious beliefs. In some families, you may be asked to play mahjong together. I think that it is all right as long as there is no money involved. Mahjong as a game is good for the brain and should not be corrupted by greed.

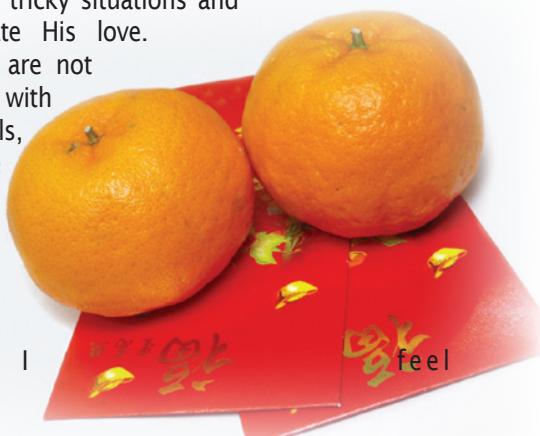
In summary, this Lunar New Year offers us the joy of gathering as a human family, celebrating a time-honoured tradition, appreciating Chinese culture and bearing witness for Christ.

"From now on I will never again offer burnt offerings or sacrifices to any other god except the Lord. However, may the Lord pardon me in this one thing: When my master the king goes into the temple of the god Rimmon to worship there and leans on my arm, may the Lord pardon me when I bow, too." "Go in peace," Elisha said. So Naaman started home again."

I also gained peace from having clarity in my heart that Christ is Lord and Christ is Love. After all, we are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8); I did not do anything to merit God's favour. Would I now fall out of favour with God because I followed a family custom out of respect? Christ loves me way too much for that! What matters is the attitude with which I approach these customs – to still love Christ as Lord while also respecting and loving my family.

Resting in an understanding of my identity in Christ, I practise discernment in such tricky situations and seek to demonstrate His love.

This is because we are not only engaging with customs and rituals, but people – people made in God's image, people who feel, people whom Christ calls us to love and serve. In certain situations, I



compelled to simply say no; in others, I choose to follow the customs out of love for the person practising them, instead of the custom itself. For example, at Chinese New Year, I still try to avoid wearing black because my grandma does not like it.

God has also made it easier for me in recent times, as my family has also not kept up with many of these traditional practices. In fact, I have found that Chinese New Year functions are an amazing opportunity to demonstrate to my immediate family how being a Christian has made a mark on my life. God made a way for me to share with one of my aunts about Christianity during reunion dinner one year, which I completely did not expect! I continue to treasure the opportunity to love and serve relatives that I might not see often.

As such, in navigating customs and traditions that my family holds, I make sure to root my core identity in Christ. I trust that He understands the tension I feel and that it is



Loving God and loving our parents

Teh Yi Ying

When I last visited my relatives in Malaysia, my uncle encouraged me to visit my family's ancestral hall to better understand my heritage. Knowing that I am a Christian, he added, "It is not religious in nature, you know", as if pre-empting a possible concern. This tension is not new. In the 17th and 18th centuries, there were debates among Roman Catholics over whether rituals rooted in Confucianism and rituals which honoured family ancestors were compatible with the faith, and whether Jesuit missionaries in China (including the prominent Matteo Ricci) could participate in them. When do we participate in rituals and when do we abstain? Where are the boundaries across ethnicity, culture, and religion - can they even be parsed out? As an individual from families that left Southern China to root themselves in diverse Malaya and subsequently Singapore, I am constantly negotiating how to honour God and honour our parents and families.

In a recent sermon in the sermon series, The Hard Sayings of Jesus, Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui reconciled the seeming incongruity of hating one's parents (Luke 14:26) and honouring our father and mother (Exodus 20:12). He shared that 'hate' was used as a comparative term in the former context, weighed against our love for Christ. In fact, to love God is to obey his commandments,

not an easy situation to be caught in. As Jesus prayed for his disciples in John 17:14-16 — we are both in the world and not of it:

"I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do."

God in Jesus was present among people and cultures that were far from the values of the kingdom of God. Yet it was by being present that Jesus could show a better way. We too must be present and demonstrate love while practising discernment. I have found that adopting such a loving and respectful attitude has also helped me witness to my loved ones what Christianity is all about in today's divided world, and has also deepened my faith and trust in the Lord.



and God has clearly commanded His people in the Ten Commandments to honour their parents, which Jesus also reiterated in the Gospels.

Tackling the grey areas, Pastor Poh said that there could be tensions arising from honouring God and honouring our parents. For example, families have objected to conversions to Christianity, and decisions have been made to delay baptism to respect the wishes of one's parents.

Even within families that profess Christ, conflicts have arisen from a staunch declaration of God's calling to be a full-time missionary, rather than traversing the parents' preferred path of law school. In other instances, there are decisions to be made by Christian and non-Christian siblings over their parents' preferred funeral rites. And with Chinese New Year just around the corner, honouring God and honouring our parents and families might become another dilemma for some of our congregation members. Indeed, how can we begin to grapple with these issues?

1) Discern

Jesus spent many hours praying and discerning the will of God. I believe that in taking on flesh, Christ also took on the task of negotiating moral ambivalence.

Part of discernment is asking the right questions, and even letting God speak into the questions we have not yet formulated. We could ask, “Is ritual X contrary to the Christian faith?”, which is a religious question. We could ask, “Is Confucianism a religion?”, which is a philosophical question. We could also ask “How best can I honour God and honour others?” and let God speak to us in our Jacob-like wrestling. Who knows? He might reveal new paths to traverse.

2) Be sensitive

In his sermon, Pastor Poh said that while tensions might arise, the tension should arise from decisions to follow Christ, not from insolence to our family. While the decisions we make could be acts of obedience to Christ, the ways we communicate them can be very un-Christ like, diminishing the dignity of our loved ones.

We can also be sensitive to our fellow congregation members who are ascertaining how best to honour God and honour their family members. Rather than being quick to speak or advise, perhaps we can walk alongside them as they reflect and mull over their competing concerns.

3) Listen to other voices

Many of us are guilty of disrespecting or dismissing the traditions of our family members during Chinese New Year or the Hungry Ghost Festival, yet we take offence

quickly when Christian symbols are appropriated or scorned. Rather than dismissing other traditions as pagan or demonic, we could begin learning about the history of these practices and unpacking their symbols. With a better understanding of the traditions of others, we can discern which practices or values run contrary to ours, and which are consistent. It helps us to become better family members and better neighbours within our societal family too.

Even when we are born into a new identity as a child of God, we cannot forget that we are still someone's daughter, someone's brother, someone's niece. Let us be mindful this Chinese New Year, even as we embrace loving God and loving our parents and families.



Christmas 2017

Testimony: Sherwin Lee

My name is Sherwin, and I teach and perform on the piano, and frequently collaborate with Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) Cherubim choir.



My dream has always been to use music as an outreach tool to touch people's lives and share the gospel. In order to achieve this goal, I frequently hone my skills by attending music workshops and classes. Recently, I went to the United States to attend music masterclasses and learn healthy piano-playing techniques to prevent performance-related injuries, as instrumental musicians are a special risk group for repetitive motion injuries. Early in 2017, I decided to work towards auditioning for a music school; as such, preparation and

practice was of utmost priority.

Unfortunately, I suffered from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome shortly in April 2017, and this reduced my practice time significantly. I was discouraged and confused as I was sure that whatever I was doing should not have led to an injury. Nonetheless, I continued to persevere and was committed to take steps to aid recovery while continuing with my piano practice.

In June 2017, however, I suffered from a new unrelated injury, one which I had never experienced before. This setback aggravated my anxiety, confusion and discouragement. More symptoms started to appear in the following months, and I started to have aches and pains in my hands. Worse was to come when I was diagnosed with CSR (Central Serous Retinopathy) in my eye, thereby affecting my vision.

I didn't know why all these had to happen and why God was allowing them. My finances were dwindling, as I had to constantly pay for medical fees. Yet doctors were also not able to get to the root of these symptoms.

I was losing hope in my situation, in my dreams and even in God. Nonetheless, even in the midst of my hopelessness, God shone His light in small ways,

1) In a miraculous way, God added more students and music assignments to provide for me financially. I gradually enjoyed teaching more, especially impacting children's lives through music. I was greatly encouraged by teachers who approached me personally to say how the children were inspired by my lessons, especially children with special needs.

2) Close friends and LifeGroup members encouraged and prayed for

me constantly during this season. I learnt how important it was to stay connected to a church community.

3) Supportive family members stayed by my side and encouraged me. I treasure my family even more.

4) The CSR (Central Serous Retinopathy) condition in my eye was gradually healed in late September 2017, and I was very thankful.

5) The stories of Joseph and David encouraged me, as it showed me how God sustained them in the midst of their decade long suffering, and even amidst their lowest points in life.

As such, I learnt to take one day at a time trusting God, even though my hand situation didn't improve.

A breakthrough came in August 2017, when I was involved in the Cherubim choir musical production. The musical was titled "The Tale of the 3 Trees". It was a story about 3 trees, which had dreams of doing great things for God. Unfortunately, they were chopped and made into timber. With that their dreams died. However many years later, one tree was made into a manger, another tree a small boat, and the last tree shaped into a wooden cross. The manger held the baby Jesus, the boat was where Jesus slept in during a storm, and the wooden cross was where Jesus hung.

This turning point for each tree was a strong reminder for me that Jesus is with me in my storm, and that He has a purpose for everything, even if I did not understand now.

I certainly wish to say God had cured me of all my illness, but that is certainly not the case today. I still feel pain and aches, which affects my daily activities and hampers my practice. There are days where I feel hopeful, but there are more days where I feel despair, sad, broken, even useless, eagerly waiting for this to end.

For some of us here, this Christmas and New Year is a dark and discouraging one. It could be an illness, tragedy, or hardship you are going through in life. My encouragement to you is this: you

are not alone. God is with you, and there are other brothers and sisters in Christ (like me) who're also going through extremely trying situations. Don't give up hope and keep fighting.

Rocky Balboa, the famous title character of the Rocky series, once said this, "But it ain't about how hard you hit. It's about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward. How much you can take and keep moving forward." Do what you can daily. Keep praying, keep reading God's word, keep on doing good, keep on fellowshipping and going to church, keep persevering in God.

Simply because God is with you, and He will sustain you in all the days of your lives.

With that I leave you with two bible verses to ignite the flame:

Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. (Isaiah 50:10b)

Keep on following God's light, because His Word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path. (Psalms 119:105)

Wishing all a blessed and wonderful 2018!



Christmas

A prayer composed by **Ms Seow Boon Quey** on 25 December 2017 after she was inspired by the Christmas Carols sung at our Church Christmas Service.

STARS MILLIONS OF STARS
SINGING WITH ANGELS
ANNOUNCING THE WONDER OF YOUR COMING
AND THE POWER OF YOUR NAME

LIGHT AND LIFE
BEAUTY AND LOVE
TO ALL YOU BRING
EVEN IN THE FACE OF TROUBLE

OUR LIVES HAVE MEANING
NOT BECAUSE OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS
NOR OUR QUALITY OF LIFE
NOR OUR USEFULNESS TO SOCIETY
BUT BECAUSE WE WERE MADE BY YOU
IN YOUR IMAGE

EMMANUEL
IN THE SILENCE OF THE NIGHT
OUR HEAVENLY LORD FILLS US WITH
LOVE JOY PEACE AND HOPE

SO THAT WE CAN HONOUR YOU
LORD JESUS
TO REFLECT YOUR IMAGE AND GLORY
AS CHILDREN OF YOUR LOVE.

KKMC Youth Camp *Incandescent*

Marie Lim (Youth 2 at time of Youth Camp)

Bless the Lord for yet another successful Youth Camp!

This year's camp was special because it included The Boys' Brigade (BB) from Victoria School. At the start of the camp, I was concerned if there would be a barrier of awkwardness between the BB and our youth ministry because this would be the first time that we would be meeting each other. I really didn't know what to expect from this year's camp. I had thought that it would just be another few days with church friends playing frisbee, being stuck in a room listening to long seminars, and singing worship songs.

It turned out to be so much more.

I felt that I have bonded very much with the people in my Life Group, and those in the youth ministry. Speakers like Rev Dr Norman Wong gave extremely meaningful and interesting talks, encouraging us on our journey towards finding Christ, and teaching us to find power within the Holy Spirit. He taught us how to block out the earth's chaos, and instead find peace in God's presence through meditation with the simple prayer, "come Holy Spirit". Like many other people, I felt that this Youth Camp had been a very special one.

We have heard testimonies of some people who experienced a warm sense of peace in their hearts when they received Christ, and at the same time, they also felt joy. I experienced that warm heart on the last night of camp, when all of us were gathered in a room singing praises and worship songs. I have not worshipped like this before - with all my heart. We felt the strong presence of God with and within us. After an hour or so of worshipping and prayer, as we were walking out, I was surprised to

hear that many of my friends had actually received that warm feeling in their hearts too. It felt like a fire warming our heart and filling us with indescribable joy. This was truly receiving the Holy Spirit. I wish that our entire church were there to experience this. This experience was new to many of us.

I became convicted of how wrongly I had been living my life and how I should be living. It was as if my eyes had been opened to how much sin there is, both in the world around me and in my life. It inspired us to live out and find the true meaning of being incandescent - emitting light as a result of being heated; being the light in the darkness, being different and standing out from others as a witness of Christ. As the camp theme verse states "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" Acts 1:8

Christ has spoken to many of us at this camp, calling us to be His witnesses. It feels like a fire has been lit in our hearts, filling our bodies with determination and zest to carry out our lives as Christians. Will that fire die out in a week, or maybe after a few months? Or will we keep it going for the rest of our lives as the disciples did?

Special thanks to the leaders, committee, pastors, parents and friends.

Praise and thanks be to God.



Nguyễn Hải Đặng 1 Jan 2018

Dear KKMC,

I give thanks to God that by His grace and love I was able to be in Singapore, and to visit your church for the second time. Through this trip, God showed me one thing that I would like to share with all of you.



Your church is big. You have grown, are growing, and will continue to grow even stronger. What is the reason? Why is it that your church will be strong and steadfast? It is written in the Bible, "... blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing." I Peter 3:9 NKJV

God showed me that your church has not only received blessing, but you also bless and share the blessing of God with the people around you, as well as with the



▲ Praying for the Church in Vietnam

community. Because of this, the church will continue to receive even more blessings, and in a way which will be more than enough.

Hải Đặng is the son of a Vietnamese pastor that our missionaries "Hope" and "Joy" works with. He came to Singapore specially to join the KK Youth Camp.

Jared Lim (Youth 1 at time of Youth Camp)

This was only my 2nd Youth Camp and I didn't have an idea of what to expect. I thought I would just be there to have fun before the school year began.

On the first day, I felt rather awkward when I met my group as I only knew my friend Josiah. However after the ice breaker, I got to know the people in my group better. They were Allison, Jonathan, Eugenia, Ben, Keying and Rachel. As we bonded over the games, I felt more comfortable around them.

When we gathered for worship on the last night of camp, I couldn't help feeling sad that this wonderful experience was coming to an end. We sang songs of praise and had a theme talk by Rev Dr Norman Wong. His moving sermon opened my eyes to how wrong I had been looking at my faith in Christ. I became overwhelmed with emotion. As the worship leader led us again in songs, Pastor Poh prayed for those who had trouble in their lives. I felt like I needed the prayer, but I didn't think I deserved to be forgiven, so I hesitated to go. Then Pastor Poh led us to say the sinner's prayer together. It was my first time saying that prayer, and when we ended, I was filled with an indescribable joy mingled with regret. Joy that I had been forgiven, and regret for taking God's love for granted. At this point, tears slowly started to run down my face and I went as fast as I could to the basketball court to make sure no one saw me. I had no idea what was happening to me. I looked up to the sky and saw an amazingly beautiful array of stars shining brighter than I had ever seen. I said a short prayer and asked for God to give me direction in my life. After a long time, my Life Group leader Paul, came to me and my friend Joshua. Paul sat us down and told us that the Holy Spirit had come down on us. I was amazed that the Lord had answered my prayer, and it was at that point I knew my life was going to change permanently.

Through this Youth Camp, my faith was renewed and my passion to be a dedicated follower of Christ was reignited. I thank the Lord for His grace and mercy towards me, and I look forward to a great year in the youth ministry.

**Dylan Chew** (Youth 4 at time of Youth Camp)

This year's camp was special, as the 2nd Company BB Boys from Victoria School and Hải Đang, the son of our Vietnamese pastor, joined us.

On a personal level, this camp was special for me as I was appointed as group leader. I was very unsure of how to lead the group, especially since I did not know most of the members. I was also worried about not being able to be an ambassador for Christ for the BB boys. Additionally, I was one of the younger and more inexperienced group, as most of the Youth 4s could not come to camp. However, the Holy Spirit gave me three words at the start of camp that I followed to the end: "lead by example".

God taught me that to be a leader, one has to be willing to do what others have to do. *Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be a servant*, Matthew 20:26. Even though Jesus was a leader on earth, he washed the feet of his disciples, a job fit for a servant. Likewise, I learnt that to be a leader, one needed a servant heart and be willing to get one's hands dirty. I knew the Holy Spirit was working through me when I saw the group transform from shy strangers on day one, to firm friends on the last day of camp. Additionally, the Holy Spirit came down and worked in the hearts of youths, as at least 3 youths gave their hearts to Christ on the last day of camp. Praise God for his works and miracles!



Jon Sim (Youth 3 at time of Youth Camp)

Youth Camp is a really amazing time for us to bond with our friends, and experience a personal touch from God, during the talks as well as interactions with fellow campers. This year's camp was really special because I found out how to wait and experience the Holy Spirit. Experiencing the Holy Spirit during camp brought me joy and peace that no one can ever imagine. In camp, I also helped out a lot in my team which really helped me to bond with my teammates, and learn more about each other. A lot of new friendships were forged in this camp because we had the BB Boys from Victoria School join us; they taught me what it was like to be a member of a BB Company. This Youth Camp has made me realise how close God is to my life, and how much He wants to be with us, as well as how to experience Him wherever and whenever.



Alyssa Ting (Youth 4 at time of Youth Camp)

This camp allowed me to grow in my faith in God. I learnt that the Holy Spirit works in each and every one of us!

Camp Committee

Back row (L-R): Jared Chan, Samantha Tai, Terry Yeo,

Rachael Chuah, Aaron Ong, Joshua Tan

Front row (L-R): Pastor Poh Zhi-Hui, Luke Sim, Dora Tay

LifeGroup Feature : Punggol LifeGroup

The Punggol LifeGroup (PLG) was formed on 26 January 2013. In the very beginning, it was meant to gather Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC) members and Alpha Course graduates who stayed around Punggol. However, KKMC members living further from Punggol soon joined the PLG.

The group meets on alternate Saturdays, 3:30pm - 6pm, at Raveen and Laurencia's residence in Punggol. Members range from 30-year-olds to 60-year-olds. There are currently 16 members with another couple who are recent graduates from the Alpha Course planning to join.

One of the aims of the group is to serve the community by participating in outreach programmes such as "Breakfast With Love" and "Blessing the Community" events, etc.

PLG holds a LifeGroup Retreat during years when there are no church camps.

Francis and Priscilla are the newest members of PLG and they joined the retreat for the first time last year. Priscilla reflects on her experience of the retreat:

Over the weekend of 10 - 12 November 2017, the Punggol LifeGroup (PLG) embarked on a retreat to Batam.

Initially, I was filled with much trepidation and reluctance as my spouse, Francis had a day surgery on his chin just a week before. Moreover, we had only joined this PLG for about a year and we were apprehensive about what to expect at the retreat. However, with much encouragement from the group, we proceeded and checked into Nagoya Hill Hotel, Batam together. There was a total of 10 members at the retreat. We spent about 4 hours on the first day gathered in a seminar room where we shared our faith. Our LifeGroup leader, Raveen led us through the "Sharing Journeys of Faith". We took turns to share our conversion to Christianity and were truly amazed at the openness of our sharing. We got a glimpse of the struggles each of us underwent when we came to faith despite the obstacles. Through this, our fellowship deepened and we were more relaxed with one another.

On the second day, we talked about "Living as a Covenant Community". We discussed about community living and to quote Mary Lou Redding: "We were not created to live in isolation. While no one questions the need for periods of solitude and refreshment in our lives, faith tends to thrive most readily when shared and experienced with others." At the end of the 2 days of discussion, we agreed on 7 principles in a LifeGroup setting namely, Confidentiality, Non-Judgmental, Agree to Disagree, Acceptance to One Another, Commitment, Accountability and Service to Community.

My thoughts about the retreat was that not only were we fed spiritually, we also had a good time feasting on Chicken Penyet, seafood and A&W. We also treated ourselves to a good massage and shopping at a local wet market. The retreat brought us closer, helped us to understand each other better and gave us new biblical knowledge.

LifeGroup is a place whereby members of the body of Christ encourage one another, pray for one another and bond together. If you are not in a LifeGroup yet, I would urge you to consider joining one to experience community living. We are glad we had a great fellowship at the retreat.

Priscilla Ling

Punggol LifeGroup at Blessing The Community

Corrine, Laurencia, Karen and Ronnie reflect on their efforts participating in the "Blessing the Community" event held early this January.

Participating in the Blessing the Community event gave us a chance to serve God together as a team. I also enjoyed greeting and chatting with the people who came to receive the food. It was like God turned the food and water into something special.

Corrine Tan

As we gave out the Tamil gospel tracts, chicken briyani rice and curry packets and bottled water, we wished them Yesu ungalai nasikirar (Jesus loves you). Some went on their way while others went into the church social hall or sat on the floor outside the church to eat. One or two received the food and said, "Thank You, Jesus".

Karen Bau

It was a refreshing experience for me. I managed to strike a conversation with a foreign worker who shared on how Christian missionaries are setting up schools in his home country. His family has opened up to the teachings in schools. He also tries to read the Bible whenever he feels down even though he grew up following another faith.

I was encouraged by his sharing and truly believe God will put His people at the right place at the right time to spread His word.

Laurencia Chinnavan

Many of the guests took up our invitation to eat in the social hall and it was a good opportunity to mingle and chat with them.

Ronnie Tan

Looking to join a LifeGroup? Please contact Ivan Ho - (ivan@kkmc.org.sg / 93628499) to find out more.



PLG members at Blessing the Community on 7 January 18.



10 members of PLG at a retreat in Batam

KKMC Women's Society of Christian Service

Christmas Celebration with Whampoa Residents

Maureen Fong

On the morning of 2 December 2017, Whampoa neighbourhood was abuzz with energy and activity, as the Kampong Play event organised by Whampoa Family Service Centre (FSC) got underway. The FSC Team was joined by KKMC Women's Society of Christian Service (WCS), as well as volunteers from two institutions.

We were at the pavilion bright and early to set-up the respective stations for the event that started at 10.00am. Mrs Mary Gan, Coordinator of KKMC WCS Outreach and Social Concerns, took charge of setting up the WCS Christmas Craft station, while the KKMC WCS ladies helped out in making the Christmas trees from lollipop sticks.

The cheery music beckoned the residents of Blocks 76 and 77 to join in the fun! Residents decorated the Christmas trees with colorful stickers, thus giving them a unique opportunity to be creative, as well as bring Christmas to the craft table. Senior residents were not the only ones attracted to the Christmas craft station.

Sai, a six-year-old boy from Block 77, enjoyed the creative moment, and was very proud of the Christmas tree that he decorated. His sister told us that "he had enjoyed himself decorating the tree".

There was a lively sing-a-long session of Christmas songs



WCS ladies @the Kampong Play Christmas Celebration



WCS Lollipop Christmas Tree station



WCS Christmas Craft station

led by KKMC member, Kelvin Tan. It added to a fun-filled morning, and brought Christmas cheer to both the young and old residents. Tan Jia Wei from the Whampoa FSC Team commented, "I am very happy with the way the event turned out, as this time, there were personalised interaction, especially with the elderly."

Residents who participated in the craft and games also received goody bags distributed by the KKMC WSCS team. The event ended at about 12 noon, after which the volunteers and KKMC WSCS ladies gathered at the Whampoa Community Centre, where the Centre Director, Ms Trina Tan shared the work and challenges of Whampoa FSC.

For the KKMC WSCS ladies and volunteers, it was a very worthwhile way to spend the morning. It was also a time of reflection of God's abundant blessings, and an awareness that more help is needed to reach out with love to this community at Whampoa.

Kampong Play *Anabella Seah*

Kampong Play is a community programme organised by Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre (KKFSC) to promote the importance of play between parent and child. The programme also provides a platform to build connectedness within members of the community.

The games and logistics are already in place. Volunteers are needed to run the game stations at the event.

On 14 October 17, I joined several volunteers from KKMC to help run the game stations.

Personally, the highlight of the event was definitely seeing the smiles and laughter of children, as well as their families enjoying themselves, as they worked together to achieve the common goal of collecting stamps to redeem a goody bag. It was a busy morning, as I was manning the Giant Jenga station, which was one of the game stations participants had to complete in order to redeem the goody bag.

We were kept busy preparing the game continuously for player after player. I especially recall an elderly father and his young son. The father really knew the mechanics



Sai with his "Christmas tree"



A Senior Whampoa resident at Kampong Play



Anabella at the Giant Jenga Station on 14 Oct 17

of the game, and he ensured to build a secure base for the tower (he was not satisfied with the base that we had built!). Although he was much older in age than his young son, despite the generations between them, he explained game strategies patiently to his son in a way that he could understand, guided him when he was about to make a mistake, yet also allowed him to make mistakes that he could subsequently learn from.

Indeed, regardless of age, children look to their parents for love and guidance, and parents are an impressionable influence in their children's lives. At the end of the event, I was reminded that no matter what challenges we face, our family is always a safe haven that we can turn to for love, support, and guidance.

If you are aged above 18 years old and are able to help out at future Kampong Play events, please contact Pastor Zhihui at zhihui@kkmc.org.sg or 96634205.

Homework Centre – A Safe Place to Study

Roshni Primary 4 Student

I come to the HWC almost every day as it is a nice place to study. Also, as my parents may not understand some of the questions in my schoolwork, I can get help here from the volunteers.

Father of Tashnia Islam Roshni

I send my daughter Tasnia Islam Roshni to the HWC as it provides academic support and builds her confidence in the lessons she learns in school. It also provides a safe environment where she is supervised in her homework. Finally, by interacting with other students in the



HWC, her social skills have improved. I believe Roshni has benefitted from the HWC as it helps her to establish a routine for her homework.

Charmaine See A Volunteer Helper

I chanced upon being a volunteer in the Homework Centre (HWC) one year ago when I found out from the bulletin that they were looking for volunteers and decided to give it a try since I had spare time on certain days.

Helping out at the HWC made me realise that it is one of the ways that I can spread God's love by giving my time to supervise the children, making friends with them, listening to their stories and sharing my stories with them. I also realised that God wanted me to appreciate and trust my own child's ability, so that I would not stress her or myself unnecessarily. This was because some of the children in the HWC have difficulties in their studies, even in their English and Chinese spelling, whereas my

daughter handles her studies well.

The children warmed my heart whenever they called me 'teacher' and asked me to teach them or give them spelling. They also acknowledged me when they saw me around the neighbourhood. Their mummies would also give me a big smile when they picked up their children. These smiles tell me that we are being appreciated and that they trust us with their children in this safe haven

provided by our church at no cost.

It is really rewarding to serve in this meaningful ministry by being a blessing to the children and their parents in our community. I am glad to be part of our church mission 'In and Involved - Across the Street'. Although I am currently unable to give more time in volunteering work, I certainly know where and how I can spend my retirement in the future.



Jed (standing left) helping Roshni with maths. Jed started to help in the HWC in 2017 when he was in Primary 4. He found time to complete his own homework while helping younger students with theirs. Being in primary school himself was an advantage as he was familiar with the syllabus.



Yuequan and volunteer helper Tristan

Yuequan Primary 2 Student

I live near KKMC. There is no one at home when my parents have to fetch my younger brother or when my father is working, so I come to the HWC. I like it at the HWC because I can complete my homework. Then at 5:30pm, we get to play with the other students. My favourite game is "Who am I?".

I like *gor gor* Tristan. He studies in Raffles Institution and helps me with my homework. I told two of my friends about the HWC last year and I am happy that from the beginning of this year, they have joined me at the HWC.

KKMC Homework Centre – “A Safe Place to Study”, opens from Monday to Thursday (except school holidays) from 3:30pm-6pm @ The Unfailing Light. Please call or email Mr Roland Tan (rtansa@gmail.com / 90661918) or Mr Ivan Ho (ivan@kkmc.org.sg / 93628499) if you can help as a volunteer.

Seniors Corner : My involvement

TAN YIN HENG

When the church started Seniors Corner (SC) in July 2017, I was quite happy for the opportunity to be involved. I had previously participated in Breakfast With Love and Community Blessing Events, and while these provide contact points with the neighborhood folks, trying to get a conversation going was a challenge.

With the SC it is different altogether. At least the first half hour is set aside for a simple breakfast and chit-chat. I find this an enjoyable part of the programme because it gives us time to befriend the people from the neighbourhood. Even though my ability to speak in Chinese dialects is limited, we still manage to chat and share jokes together. Listening to their stories, which are sometimes personal, helps me to know them better. A few of the ladies have actually visited other churches



Seniors relishing a time of breakfast fellowship

with their children, but felt they were not ready to accept the Christian faith yet. For now, they are happy and feel very comfortable to be at our SC every Friday, and as one of them puts it "my son encouraged me to come here."

I am encouraged that the ladies whom I interacted with, are happy with the way things are done at the SC, so much so that some have invited their friends and neighbours to join us. One of the ladies found out about our bilingual

Alpha Course that ran last September. She mentioned it to some of her SC friends, and eventually 10 of them appeared at our Alpha Course! What a pleasant surprise! Although not all of them completed the course, and none of them have made a commitment to the Lord yet, we pray that the seed that has been sown, and will continue to grow in their hearts. I think the SC is on the right track by being ‘involved along the streets’ as it opens the door for people to enter the church. May our Lord speak to them in ways they can understand and draw them to Himself.

MARY YEONG

Some time last year, during the course of a conversation with my friend, Elaine Ang, at the Tenang Life Group meeting, I heard that KKMC would be starting a Seniors Corner to cater to the residents living in the church vicinity. I accepted her invitation to help out at the SC. I am happy to be involved in the SC, meeting the participants in our weekly sessions. They seem a happy and appreciative lot. On our part, it gives us an opportunity to glorify God’s name by showing grace and Christian love to them. May God continue to bless the Seniors Corner!

Why do people come to the Seniors Corner? Listen to the feedback from three regular attendees.

WONG YIN PHENG

I like the atmosphere of the SC where the team of helpers are both warm and friendly. The present size of the group is just nice, and nametags helps us to get to know one another. Newcomers are introduced and this is very helpful in making all of us feel comfortable.

TAN SEOK KHENG

I enjoy the SC as I like being with my friends as well as making new ones. The programme is friendly and we have time to chat, exercise and play games. I have brought several of my friends to this SC.

WU HONG HENG

The SC is run by a very friendly team and the programme is neither threatening nor pushy, compared to some of the other places I have been to. I like making many new friends. The exercise time is useful, and the game time is enjoyable.

Enjoying a game to bingo



Eugenia leading in a short exercise programme during the SC Christmas Party on 22 Dec 17

The KKMC Seniors Corner meets every Friday (except public holidays) from 9am-11am @ The Unfailing Light.

If you can help as a volunteer, please call or email Elaine Ang (ang_elaine@yahoo.com / 96900510) or Ivan Ho - (ivan@kkmc.org.sg / 93628499) to find out more.

Mandarin Ministry

On Sunday 24 December 2017, eight persons were received as church members at the Mandarin worship service. Five persons were baptised that day while the other three received baptism earlier. KK Focus has reproduced five persons’ testimonies of God’s amazing work in their lives.



Back Row (L-R): Peter Chan, Preacher Pau, Rev Gabriel Liew, Donald Ting
 Middle Row (L-R): Tan Hwee Leng, Avorie Koh, Yvonne Tan, Sandy Lai
 Front Row (L-R): Teo Chiew Siong, Lim Kim Lian, Madeline Tan, Lee Siew Choo

李秀珠个人见证

在我还没信主之前，我是拜神的。后来，我女儿要带我来教会，我就跟她说，“不要去。”女儿却跟我说，“只是去看看而已。”我就跟着女儿来教会“看看而已”。来了教会之后，我就认识了很多朋友，后来又上了启发课程，并从中接受主为我个人救主。

陈惠龄个人见证

以前，我对宗教信仰尤其是基督教与佛教，有着基本的认识。然而，我所知的有限，这就促使我觉得要认识更深一点。当我逐渐成长的时候，我很殷勤地工作并在面对生活难题的处境中，都蒙神眷顾，得一一克服过来。岁月渐渐过去，我也渐渐地察觉到，人生应有更深层的意义，而我则陷入“老我”的生命中，而不能从中跳出来。

这也成为我得救的契机，我在教会的

赖淑惠个人见证

亲爱的弟兄姐妹，平安。今天我要与你们分享我信主的见证。

我生长在一个快乐的家庭。我是一个独生女。从小我的父母都很疼爱我。不过我的父母不是基督徒。青少年的时候，我有尝试去教会，但父母激烈地反对。之后，我就没有去教会，反而结交了些损友，开始过夜生活。在这当儿，我结识了我的丈夫，和他组织了美满的家庭，生了两个宝贝的孩子，一男一女。

不过好景不常，很多不如意的事情发生在我的身上。首先，我的妈妈过世，而我的丈夫则一而再，再而三的背叛与欺骗我。我的事业更处于低谷。种种不如意的事，使我的情绪陷入于忧郁中，导致我曾自杀过。

后来，一位邻居介绍我参与教会的启发课程。虽然，上课之前，我会犹豫不决，但在启发课程中，我感受到神的爱。神透过很多主内的弟兄姐妹的关怀与鼓励，让我感动不已。我把心门打开，接受了主耶稣为我个人救主。我觉得神做了很奇妙的工作在我身上。

我原谅了我的前夫，不再恨他。我的忧郁也没了，不再胡思乱想。我要感谢神赦免了我以前的罪，让我不再活在黑暗里，而活在因主所得的信、望、爱里。以后我希望，把我的经历帮助那些跟我有共同遭遇的人，把一切荣耀归于神。赞美主！

Lee Siew Choo

Before I became a Christian, I was an idol worshipper. It was my daughter, Teagan, who invited me to church, but I rejected the invitation.

She was persistent and said, "Just go and have a look." With this "look-see" attitude, I came to church.

崇拜中，听到教会华语堂的包传道在台上的证道中，提到倘若接收主基督于我们的生命中，我们就能从“老我”中得释放，并能从中得着平安。我就这样接收主基督进入我的生命中，我感到非常平安，而这平安是我从来都不曾经享有的。

Tan Hwee Ling

In the past, my understanding of religions, particularly Christianity and Buddhism, was rudimentary. However, I felt that it was necessary

In church, I made a lot of friends and attended the Alpha course in 2016. It was during the Alpha weekend retreat where I personally encountered the Holy Spirit and accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour.

to know more. Growing up, I had always overcame life issues through hard work. However, as time passed, I gradually realised that there should be more to life. I was stuck in my "old" self and was unable to get out.

I was in the church and I heard Preacher Pau preach that if we accept Christ into our life, we will be released from our old self and we will have peace. I accepted Christ into my life and truly, I feel much more peace in myself than I have ever felt before.

Sandy Lai

I grew up in a happy family. Being an only child, I received a lot of love and pampering from my parents and relatives. As my parents were not Christian, they did not allow me to go to church when I was a teenager. I made friends with people who liked clubbing and night life and soon I was mixing with bad company.

Eventually I settled into a happy marriage with two healthy and cute children. Out of the blue, a series of bad things happened. Firstly my mother passed away. Then my husband repeatedly cheated on me. I felt so betrayed and hurt that I wanted to kill him. My career suffered and I slipped into depression. As my depression worsened, I felt my friends, relatives and even my dad looking down on me for being a single mother. I started taking sleeping pills and having lost all direction in life, I attempted suicide a few times.

Somehow, God knew I was in deep trouble and needed help. He would always send people to invite me to church. I kept rejecting them and would walk off very fast from anyone who invited me. One day, my neighbor Jia Yan who was not a Christian invited me to attend an introduction to the Alpha course at KKMC. Jia Yan and I decided to simply observe. However as time

went by, I slowly opened my heart to know more about God. It was a miracle and I could not describe why I even wanted to know more about God. I felt the love of God. I was touched by God's care and encouragement through the many brothers and sisters in the Lord. I opened my heart to accept Jesus as my personal Saviour. I think God did a wonderful work in me. My relationship with my friends, father and relatives improved. My friends asked me why I suddenly changed into a different person. I told them that through the Alpha course my life has been changed.

I forgave my ex-husband and no longer hate him. My temper has become milder. God has taken away my sins and I no longer live in darkness. Now I live in the faith, hope and love of God. I am so blessed and the Holy Spirit is always with me. God really loves me.

I really want to thank the many sisters and brothers in Christ who never gave up on me and always encouraged me. I feel like a lost child who has found the way back home.

These days I keep praying to God to give me strength and I'm surprised that I'm here to share my testimony. All glory be to God. Thank God! Praise the Lord.

许连珠个人见证

感谢神！今天有机会与大家分享我的见证，圣诞节愿大家平安，蒙恩！

我成为一名基督徒之前的生活是怎么样的呢？

上学时期的我较为内向，缺乏自信，当踏出社会工作时，也在好友的帮助下，逐渐学习与人沟通。

我如何成为一名基督徒呢？

在2006年，一位前同事带我到一间天主教堂 - 诺维娜教堂，她也与我分享一些关于信仰的简讯。我开始相信上帝的存在，喜欢诺维娜教堂，并亲自参观过几次。

在2008年，我参加一个旅游竞赛，很高兴被抽中了，让我跟朋友可以到悉尼和南极洲4天3夜游玩，有个美好的记忆，我们感谢上帝的爱&恩典。

从2009年开始，我认识一些城市丰收教会的朋友。

他们与我传福音，让我决定接受主耶稣进入我的生活。虽然我当时并没有定期参加教会，但是我在2012年加入了他们的小组，学习主的话语，觉得很有幸认识他们。

我曾遗憾自己没有早点加入小组，要不然我可以请求小组帮我已故的阿姨祷告（她2011年因脑干中风死去）。那是我一生中最悲伤的时期，也意识到生命是脆弱的，我的生命中更需要主耶稣。

我成为基督徒后

也感谢主，2014年我在圣经公会工作的时候认识了现任男朋友，嘉傑，也是他带我来参加这间教会的启发课程，认识了你们，11月25号我受洗了，正式融入这个大家庭。

我在基督里有了新的身份，现在觉得我的生活有了新的目标。上帝的话语渐渐地改变我的心思意念，虽然我仍然有些弱点和缺点，但是我可以比过去更爱自己；也爱他人，多认同他们的优点。

Avorie receiving water baptism on 25 Nov 2017



Avorie Koh

What my life was like before I became a Christian

I was an introvert and suffered from low self-esteem during my younger school days. I gradually opened up during my working life with the help of some friends who encouraged me. My life revolved around work and home, and that became my routine.

How I took the step of becoming a Christian

In 2006, I first stepped into a Catholic Church – Novena Church – on the invitation of an ex-colleague from Shangri-La Hotel. She regularly shared inspiring messages about faith through sms. I believe the presence of God changed my life. I like Novena Church and visited it a couple of times by myself.

In December 2008, I was pleasantly surprised and happy when I won a dream holiday through a contest organised by the National Geographic Channels. My friend and I had a memorable 4D 3N trip to Sydney and the Antarctica. Deep down, I thanked God for His blessings and favour.

In 2009, I came to know of City Harvest Church (CHC) through some friends who shared the Christian faith with me. I decided to accept Jesus into my life. Although I did not attend church service regularly back then, I joined a cell group in 2012. I felt blessed to know my brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as to deepen my relationship with God. I regretted that I had not joined a cell group earlier, for if I had, the cell could have prayed for healing for my late aunt who passed away from a brain stem stroke in 2011. That was the saddest period in my life and realising that life was fragile, I needed Christ even more in my life.

I met Kar Keat when I was working in Bible Society of Singapore from November 2013 to February 2014. He kept in touch with me after I left the organisation and he invited me for his church's Alpha course in 2015. That was how I came to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church. I received water baptism on 25 November 2017.

After I became a Christian

I have a new sense of identity and purpose in Christ now. God's Word has changed my mindset; I still have my weaknesses and flaws as before. However I can love myself better compared to the past. I am learning how to love others and to see the good in them.

Discovering God's love and how much He loves us has been my most profound life-changing experience. God is so real even in our daily life. He is an ever-present source of help and refuge and His love endures forever! I started to read the bible more in 2017, as I realised that it is important to know and understand God's Word and to come to know Him personally in my daily walk with HIM.

One surprising development was that as my friendship with Kar Keat blossomed, I realised God has brought us together as a couple. He is our best matchmaker!

A situation where someone comes to me and asks why I am a Christian I will tell them I love Jesus, I believe He is the son of God and He came to give us eternal life. In Christ, we are redeemed and forgiven; and we can have fullness of joy and abundance in life.

God has transformed my life and shown His love for me by His words, promises, grace and provision. I am blessed to know Him.

林今连个人见证

在我还没信主之前，我是拜神的。后来，我女儿要带我来教会，我就跟她说，“不要去。早在十多年前我已经开始认识耶稣。那个时候我认识一位基督徒的好朋友。那时候我一个人需要照顾九个孩子，她常常帮我并请我帮她打扫家里。就这样每当她家里举办小组团契的时候，我就会帮忙并在那时候听到福音。那时候好朋友常常叫我接受耶稣，但因为要照顾孩子，我拒绝了。”

不久因为要照顾孙子，也就没有帮忙朋友打扫，不久朋友也去世了，再也没有接触福音。可是那时候我知道耶稣是谁和祂的爱能洗清我的罪并让我得永生。

当女儿要成为基督徒时，我也没有反对。但每当她向我传福音，我会拒绝并警告她不要再说了。因为我担心祖先没人拜。

在一次验血报告中，医生告诉我我的红血水平太低必须住院。那时候我非常担心和非常不愿意住院。就在医院里度过了非常难过的两天，那时候我就向上帝祈祷，希望我的红血能恢复正常水平。女儿也告诉她教会的朋友和牧师一起为我祷告。

感恩，隔天我终于可以出院。在我还在犹豫的时候，医院对面床的安娣和她的牧师也开始向我传道。感觉上帝安排好一切让我感到祂的主权，一切都在祂的安排之中。祂的大能呼召我去信靠祂。就在那时候我感受上帝是真的存在并呼召我归向祂。

感恩原来上帝一直在我身边带我一路走到今天。阿门。

Lim Kim Lian

Before I believed in Jesus, I followed traditional Chinese beliefs. Later, my daughter, Yoke Mei, wanted to bring me to church but I told her, "I do not want to go. I already heard about Jesus more than ten years ago. I had a good friend who was a Christian. As I had to raise nine children, she often helped me by engaging my services to clean her house. Whenever a Christian Fellowship was held at her house, I would help, and it was during those times that I heard the gospel. My good friend often invited me to accept Jesus but because I was busy looking after my children, I refused."

Not long after, I got busy taking care of my grandson, so I no longer helped my friend to clean her house. Soon my friend died, and after that, I had no contact with the gospel anymore. However, even at that time, I knew who Jesus was, I also knew that His love was able to cleanse my sin, as well as give me eternal life.

When my daughter became a Christian, I had no objections. But whenever she shared the gospel with me, I refused to listen and warned her not to repeat it because I was concerned that nobody would carry out the ancestral worship rituals.

In a blood test report, the doctor told me that my red blood cell count was very low and I needed to be hospitalised. At that time, I was very worried and very reluctant to be hospitalised. I spent two very anxious days in the hospital. I prayed to God—hoping that my red blood cell count would return to normal levels. My daughter also prayed for me, and asked her friends and pastors of the church to pray as well.

Thankfully, I was discharged a day later. I was still hesitant about believing in Jesus, when an auntie that was in the hospital bed opposite mine, and her pastor began to share the gospel with me.

I began to sense that God had arranged everything to make me acknowledge His sovereignty, His control and His power. I felt God was calling me to trust Him. At that time I felt God was real.

Thanks be to God. He has been taking care of me and is by my side all the way today. Amen.

Tamil Ministry Christmas Programmes

Christmas is the most beautiful time of the year. The mere utterance of the word Christmas evokes a sense of being loved and brings plenty of joy and peace. The Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Tamil Ministry Christmas programmes thus had the goal of sharing the love, joy and peace of God.

Christmas Carolling 9 and 16 December 2017

Sudhakar

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law..." Galatians 4:4

As the strains of Christmas carols like Jingle Bells, Merry Christmas and The First Noel rang across the shopping malls, the Tamil Ministry had the delightful privilege of sharing the love of God by visiting our members' houses during our Tamil Ministry Christmas Carolling event. Our main focus was to show that our Tamil Ministry was a big family by being part of each family's Christmas celebration. We also wanted to carry the Word of the Lord to each home we visited.

The carolling team visited 18 households on 9 December

and another 18 homes on 16 December. We gathered in KKMC at 9pm before starting the journey. Even though we arrived at some homes late at night, and even past midnight, we were very encouraged by the warm welcome, snacks, dinner, and special offerings. In return, we sang Christmas carols and choruses, read passages from the Bible about the birth of Jesus and the pastor said prayers of blessings at each house. The celebration would be incomplete without gifts; hence, one of us dressed up as Santa Clause, and gave each member a gift.



Kampong Glam Rowell Court Christmas Celebration 16 December 2017

Anita Williams

At the Kampong Glam Rowell Court Christmas Celebration, the Tamil Ministry children performed a vibrant dance. It was set to a song celebrating the announcement of Christ's birth. The children's performance was well-received, with the audience swaying along to the music.



The KKMC Tamil Ministry Women's Fellowship members also presented a traditional Indian dance known as Kollatam. This is an ancient village dance from India, and the women's performance was accompanied by a song praising Jesus' birth – even though He is the Prince of Heaven and the gift for humanity, He was born in a humble manger.

Special Christmas Service 17 December 2017

Anita Williams

During this special Christmas service, we had a wonderful time of worship as we sang the carefully handpicked traditional Christmas carols. We had individual singing sessions, families' singing sessions, men's group song and women's fellowship song. The teens performed a skit entitled "The Unexpected Christmas", which was followed by a dance and short speech on the theme of a "Meaningful Christmas" from our Sunday School Children.



Christmas Eve Service 24 December 2017

Anita Williams

The Christmas Eve service commemorates the day before the birth of Jesus. During the service, we held candles and sang "Oppilla Tiru Ira" (Silent Night). As we sang the songs, we welcomed God into our lives again. We were again reminded of the beauty of God's love in Christ's birth. Sweets and drinks were distributed at the end of the service, thus ending a phenomenal Christmas season 2017.

Tamil Dormitory Ministry

Leo

The Tamil Ministry has been reaching out to migrant workers for a number of years. In 2017, the economic slowdown resulted in many workers returning to their home country, thus affecting our dormitory ministry. About two-thirds of the migrant workers who were regularly attending the cell group at Jalan Papan dormitory at the start of 2017, were no longer with us by the end of the year. Some of the workers were also jobless for short periods of time.

Yet amidst all these issues, God led us wonderfully. The difficult periods have also been a blessing to some, as it helped them to trust and taste the love of God.

Jalan Papan Dormitory: This dormitory LifeGroup has been going on regularly for the past two years amidst many changes. Justin, who was the backbone of the LifeGroup, left for India. Anish, who was next in line for leadership, was sentenced to 4 months of imprisonment when he was falsely accused of violence. In spite of this, Anish said that the case was a blessing for him. For as the Bible says in Genesis 50:20, they meant it for evil, but God intended it for good to be accomplished.

God's work never ceased and He raised new people

THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US. 1 Samuel 7:12

continually to take on the LifeGroup responsibilities. In October 2017, believers in the Jalan Papan group who had regularly attended our prayer cell initiated a three hour prayer meeting every Saturday. That later developed into a daily one hour prayer meeting. We can witness the transformation in the lives of attendees as they participate in the Bible study and prayer cells.

Other Dormitories: Another prayer cell and Bible study was started in late 2017 at View Dormitory in Tuas. This cell group is dynamic and growing, with an average of 12 persons attending regularly. Our efforts to start additional new cell groups in Tuas, Woodlands and Penjuru have not yet yielded any result. However, thanks be to God that we are able to start one group in Eunos. This new LifeGroup is in its infant state now.

Outings: During our church outing to the Singapore Zoo in 2017, we invited many friends from dormitories as a pre-evangelistic opportunity. While many accepted our invitation and came for the outing, we were unable to do a further follow-up. Please do pray for these brothers.

Another outing to East Coast Park was organised exclusively

for those attending the dormitory LifeGroups. Many of the participants spoke in joy as they shared how the dormitory ministry has been a great blessing to them.

Christmas Programme: An evangelistic Christmas programme was organised in our church for these migrant workers. Around 168 persons attended. After some singspiration and a skit, one of our church members who came to Christ through a similar Christmas programme in 2016, shared his testimony.

Rev. Alegesan Moses then shared the word of God and explained how God became human to save us.

We praise God that many who came were unbelievers known to us. This will hopefully enable us to do follow-up with them. Three non-Tamil friends also attended the Christmas programme. We are planning to start a Hindi or Bengali cell group for them.

An announcement that New Testament Bibles were available was enthusiastically received with many guests voluntarily



taking a copy. The day ended with a delicious lunch of Indian food provided by our church.

Looking Forward: There were many ups and downs in the dormitory ministry and many unprecedented changes have taken place, but one thing remains constant: **the Helping Hand of our God**. When we recall all things that happened in the past year, we can only stand in awe to admire His wonderful ways. God is at work.

The Alpha Course and my Family

Wong Yoke Mei



Throughout my life, I have always sensed a higher power that was protecting and blessing me but didn't know who He was. Finally God revealed himself to me by leading me to Kampong Kapor Methodist Church (KKMC). I had zero knowledge about Christianity, except that Christians attended church regularly, and centred on salvation through Christ.

My knowledge about Christianity increased tremendously when I joined the Alpha course. The Alpha course helped me to truly understand who Jesus is, and how to live a Spirit-led life-constantly seeking and trusting God fully.

The friendly course environment allowed me to share my doubts openly. I was particularly amazed at how God's power works when the facilitators and befrienders shared their testimonies. I came to believe in Jesus.

My husband Roger noticed changes in me when I became a Christian. Roger noted:

My wife, Yoke Mei, accepted Christ in 2010 after attending an Alpha course in KKMC. I could see the change in her life, and in many instances was amazed by how she managed to cope

with the stress from family and health issues. She shared about how she felt God's presence in our lives, especially how blessed it was to be healed from a worsening thyroid condition.

I started to follow my wife to Church in order to search and explore the faith she had come to embrace. However, I would regularly skip the worship services and find a nearby location where I could work on my company emails.

My kids started to join the Sunday school. In 2011, I was invited to join my son's Primary 5 class mission trip to Batam. I was initially hesitant but that trip proved to be the turning point for me when I saw God's work on His people in Batam! The joy, the passion and faith of the teachers and children were simply overwhelming! After that trip, I suddenly had the urge to learn more about the Lord. I had the time to go to Church services, attend the seminar on "Stranger to the road of Emmaus" and eventually joined the Alpha Course. It was through the Alpha course video that I understood who Jesus is, that Jesus is real, and what he has done for all of us in order to save us. It was not difficult to make the decision to accept Christ.

After attending the Alpha Course,

I felt more equipped to share the gospel with others, particularly my family members.

When one of my brothers, Alan, shared the feeling of emptiness in his life, I invited him to the Alpha course. My brother, like me before, had no knowledge about Jesus although he heard about Jesus being the way, the truth and the life. By God's grace, during the Alpha course he was touched by the Holy Spirit and was grateful for the redemption by Jesus. He felt God's presence and found comfort that Jesus knows his troubles and sorrow. My brother's belief in Jesus changed the way he lived. It made such an impact on his son Nicholas, that the young man too became willing to seek to understand God. Nicholas joined the Alpha course in September 2017 and came to believe in Jesus.

My mother had accepted Christ as her saviour while she was hospitalised earlier last year. However due to her illiteracy, she was reluctant to attend worship services. God led me to invite my mother to join the Alpha course in September 2017 when it

was conducted in Mandarin. God moved my mother's heart to attend the Alpha course in her quest to learn more about Jesus. During every Alpha session, my mother was engaged and enjoyed sharing her life experiences. At the same time, she gained more understanding about Christianity. By God's grace she was baptised on Christmas Eve 2017.

I believe God touches people differently in His own way and in

His timing. The Alpha Course is an excellent programme for me to invite pre-believers seeking to know more about Christianity. This is certainly true for my family. Even as a Christian, each time I attended the course with my family members, God speaks to me in new ways to constantly remind me of His sovereignty and His love for me. Each Alpha Course run inspires me of His work, and increases my faith and trust in Him. To God be the glory!

Editor's Note: Read Yoke Mei's mother, Mdm Lim Kim Lian's Testimony on page 20 of KK Focus



Yoke Mei, (back row 2nd from right, with nephew Nicholas, brother Alan (front row right) and mother Lim Kim Lian (front row 2nd from right) at the Alpha weekend on 28 October 2017.

March 2018 Alpha Course @ KKMC

Fridays, 7.00 — 9.30pm, 2 Mar - 25 May 2018

Everyone has Questions...

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

What is the Alpha Course?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the meaning of life in a relaxed and friendly setting.

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

For more information or to register, contact Lyndon @ 62937997, lyndon@kkmc.org.sg, or visit <http://kkmcalpha.blogspot.com/>

Alpha Course Schedule

Date	Topic
02 Mar	Introduction Dinner
09 Mar	Who Is Jesus?
16 Mar	Why Did Jesus Die?
23 Mar	How Can We Have Faith?
30 Mar	Good Friday (No Alpha)
06 Apr	Why and How Do I Pray?
13 Apr	Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
20 Apr	How Does God Guide Us?
28-29 Apr	Alpha Weekend
04 May	How Can I Resist Evil?
11 May	Why and How Should I Tell Others?
18 May	Does God Heal Today?
25 May	What about the Church?

Breakfast With Love

Jina Foo

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, SO THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

Matthew 5:16

On 18 November 2017, residents of the Rowell estate and volunteers gathered at the newly constructed shelter at Rowell Court for Breakfast with Love. It was my first time taking part in Breakfast with Love. While I had gone with the aim of bringing some cheer to the lives of the senior citizens, it was their exuberance that gave me even greater joy. Most of the residents were regular participants who had come to enjoy the morning with their friends and family.

It was a blessed time of fellowship through food, singing, dance and exercise. The residents' spontaneity that made it such a lively and communal event. Residents also interacted with Mayor Denise Phua who joined in the activities and presented the prizes for Lucky Draw winners. We want to thank God for the good weather, and for the warm fellowship between the residents and volunteers. We pray that the session brought cheer to all participants, and

allowed them to experience the love of God, as well as the joy of his fellowship.

For those who have not participated before, volunteering at Breakfast With Love provides an opportunity for us to befriend and to serve the community. If you would like to volunteer, call Pastor Gabriel at 62937997 for more details.



Volunteer (Sin Ying, right) interacting with residents



Doing stretching exercises with the residents



Volunteers from the Bridge LifeGroup leading the residents in a karaoke session with Pastor Gabriel and Mayor Denise Phua



Breakfast with Love helpers: Jina and Irene

Kampong Glam Rowell Court Christmas Celebration: Announcing the Good News

Andrew Cheong

Many people celebrate Christmas by recreating the nativity scene of an angel announcing the birth of a baby boy, the long awaited saviour to the shepherds in the fields. The shepherds were surprised and afraid. "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2: 10 – 11 NIV)

This Christmas, like the angel, we too had the opportunity to do the same, by bringing the Christmas message of hope and joy to the residents of Kampong Glam.

On Saturday, 16 December 2017 at 3.30pm, the Kampong Glam Rowell Court Christmas Celebration was

held at the New Pavilion at Blk 635 Veerasamy Road. The event was jointly organised by the Kampong Glam Rowell Court Residents' Committee and KKMC.

The rousing music of the combined bagpipe band from the 2nd and 60th Boys Brigade Companies and the 45th Girls Brigade Company heralded the start of the programme with arrival of Mayor Denise Phua.

The good news of Jesus' birth was shared through song and dance performances from members of Rowell Court and KKMC. It was a multi-cultural experience with carol singing and dancing conducted in Chinese, English and Tamil. The good news of hope, peace, joy and love of Chrsimas is indeed for all people.



Dance and Sign language performance by Rowell Court Children



Jimmy The Juggler wowing the audience

Sharing the Christmas Joy



The rousing music of the combined bagpipe band heralding the start of the celebration



God Helps the Outcasts

Gabriel Liew

The Advent and Christmas season reminds us that Christ chose to be born a son of refugees, Mary and Joseph, and what it was like to live under the oppression of foreign occupation by the Romans.

This underscores God's preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. The incarnation of Jesus Christ and His concern for the marginalised inspired us to share God's love with our neighbours at the nearby red-light area. On 1 December 2017, a group from KKMC brought gifts of food and tracts to the working ladies and foreign workers at the back alleys of Desker Road and Rowell Road. By the grace of God the ladies were receptive to receiving the gospel tracts. We also invited them to celebrate Christmas in our Church. Dr Chan Fong Ngan and Ms Mary Law, a nurse, were on hand to conduct blood pressure checkups.



Bearers of Good News



Conducting blood pressure checkup

The following are reflections from two of our group members:

I was initially hesitant to shake hands with the ladies but the Holy Spirit impressed upon me that I was faithless and small-minded. I repented and subsequently was at peace to shake their hands. I was reminded of the quote "There but for the grace of God go I" - which I had read in a book by Dale Carnegie.

My salvation is absolutely of the Lord. God in His sovereign mercy and grace has blessed us with having Him as our God. Without Jesus, I can do nothing that will ever please God.

Ms Karen Tan

This was my first time walking around Desker Road. What an eye opening experience it was for me. Pastor Gabriel says love is the mission of hope. We had a good interaction with the ladies. On my way back home, I was led by God to pray for them.

Ms Christine Lim

KKMC Kindergarteners get their wishes fulfilled at CCIS 2017

Thirteen children from Kampong Kapor Methodist Church Kindergarten had their Christmas wishes fulfilled at the annual Celebrate Christmas In Singapore (CCIS) event on Orchard Road. CCIS began in 2004 by a group of Christians who wanted to bring the true message of Christmas back into an otherwise commercial festive occasion.

Each year as part of the event, CCIS' goal of blessing and giving back to the community is expressed through the My Christmas Wish initiative. This initiative grants Christmas wishes to children from financially challenged backgrounds. The Christmas wishes for 13 children were made possible by members of a KKMC Lifegroup who bought and wrapped each gift. In addition to the Christmas wishes, a ladies group from another church contributed food hampers to the families of each recipient.



Four of the recipients of My Christmas Wish with CCIS founder Rev Oh Beng Khee.

It was a joyous occasion for the children and their families as they enjoyed the games booths and experienced the Christmas performances.

Missions Exposure and Training Eugenia Chioang

Eugenia took 5 months off work in 2017 to attend the Discipleship Training School (DTS), a foundational course run by Youth With A Mission (YWAM). DTS is a full-time programme that consists of a 3-month intensive lecture phase and is followed by a 2-month outreach phase. Eugenia went to India and Nepal for the outreach phase.

Eugenia shares how she was led to DTS and what she learnt in the 5-month long programme.

A Ride I Will Never Forget

In 2016, I went through the darkest time in my life and at my lowest point, I relinquished my life to God and renewed my covenant with Him.

A few months later, I felt unrest within me; I was looking for something more than the job I held. I was attending the Disciple 1 course in KKMC at that time and my Disciple classmates prayed with me for the Lord to open the way and show me His plans. In April 2017, I came across Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and their upcoming Discipleship Training School (DTS) – a full-time, 5-month long course that focuses on discipleship, missions and youth work.

I felt God saying, "Take my hand and let's go for a ride that you won't regret."

In the two months I took to deliberate the decision, I wrestled with the seemingly insane and unconventional path God placed on my heart. I had to consider the notion of quitting my job, laying down the financial security of earning an income, communicating this decision to my parents in a loving manner, and still being prepared to go back to work should my parents need financial support. The journey was tough.

God moved the hearts of those in YWAM to reach out to me. He tested my heart's responses in dreams, placed many people to give me wise counsel, and even allowed an ideal job opening to reveal to me that I was to go to YWAM for the season ahead. In spite of all that, when faced with opposition, I was plagued with doubts - *"Is that really you, God?"* and I wanted to give up. Somehow, timely conversations with the most unlikely of people would put me right back on track. For someone who prefers working with well-laid plans, this step-by-step journey to DTS was scary, yet exciting; I saw God's hand at work as He taught me how to seek, trust and walk with Him as He revealed



Eugenia (top left) and a teammate, Jeanette (top right) with youth from Tawal. The team had conducted a youth workshop. A few days later, they met and chatted with a girl who had attended the workshop. They felt led to give this English Bible to the teen.

His plan bit by bit.

On 12 July 2017, 19 students and 9 staff members from 6 nations met as a class in YWAM. Throughout the 13 weeks of lectures and 7.5 weeks of outreach, we lived together, did crazy things, bared our hearts to one another, laughed, cried, caused hurt, fought (and learnt how to fight lovingly), walked each other through our struggles till the end... and shared life. It was challenging living in a community; I learnt what it meant to choose to be physically, emotionally and mentally present, to lay down being right and to embrace and love others, even if it meant getting hurt in the process.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this

everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:34-35

Missions

While I was in India and Nepal, I deeply experienced God's faithfulness to me and the team.

In India, I had a minor ankle twist the night before the prayer walk to circle the temple 7 times. After some consideration, I decided to press on instead of dropping out, trusting in the Lord to provide. Amazingly, my ankle was in a better state at the end of the day than it was in the morning. Praise The Lord!

In Nepal, the team went to Tawal, a village which survived the April 2015 earthquake. Getting there took a 4-hour van ride, an overnight stay at a village, another 4-hour jeep ride over rough terrain with non-stop head banging, and finally a 5.5-hour hike with our backpacks.

In the midst of the head banging and entertaining the possibility of a landslide which would cause the team to tumble hundreds of metres downhill, I was faced with the question of where my heart was. What emotion did I carry to "go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is Lord"? It was humbling; I saw the fragility of human life in the vastness of nature, and I had to constantly turn back to the Lord for assurance – not for my safety, but for His presence that He is there with me, each step of the way.

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings.” Isaiah 52:7

Praise the Lord, in our 2 weeks up in the hills, 14 children came to Christ, and a hundred-year-old grandpa came to the Lord and was baptised. Through

us, God touched the lives of different people. I am thankful that I said yes to partnering the Lord in the work that He is doing in the nations; it is an amazing experience and a huge privilege. I strongly encourage you to sign up for a mission trip and be part of what God is doing in the nations in 2018!

Final Concluding Thoughts

A huge struggle I faced was assuring my parents about this decision. At one point of desperation, I said, "You know, the Disciple 1 class has been praying together with me for the last 8 months, and now that God has shown me that this is what He has in store for me... how can I back out of this and tell God that 'I'm sorry I asked, I'm not going to do it'?"

I am thankful that my parents finally allowed me to go, and am grateful for their love for me. I understand that deep down in their hearts they just wanted the best for me.

So if you are facing a similar struggle and really want to give up, even though deep inside you know what Christ wants you to do, I want to encourage you with this verse:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Wishing you an incredible time with our Lord in 2018!



Hike to a remote mountain village



A millet field we passed through in Ladap, Nepal during a 2-hour hike to visit and encourage two Christian families who lived in a village where everyone else was Orthodox Buddhists.

Children Ministry and Youth Ministry Mission Exposure Trip

29 November to
4 December 2017

Every year, the Children's Ministry (CM) brings the graduating DiscipleKids (DK) 6 class for a mission exposure trip. Youths from the Youth 2 class (Sec 2) accompany the team as older brothers and sisters.

Preparation for the trip starts when

the children are in DK5 as the Sunday School teacher stays with the class for two years (DK5 and DK6).

Kok Yoke Kheng took up the challenge to teach the DK5 class of 2016, knowing that she would have to lead the mission trip in DK6. It was a huge

journey of faith for her, as she had not been on a CM mission trip. In addition, she had to lead a team comprising 11 DK6 children, 9 youths and 10 adults.

Yoke Kheng shares her experiences:
God's faithfulness, sovereignty and love.

God's faithfulness

As this was my first time going on a mission trip, I was worried. Initially, there were 9 adults who were going, but due to work and examinations, 3 had to withdraw, leaving 6 adults to manage a team of 20 children and youths.

Our class prayed for more adult helpers and I experienced the peace of God and assurance from His word: "Have faith in God" as Jesus answered in Mark 11:22. Amazingly, 4 adult helpers responded to God's calling and joined us, bringing the number of adults to 10. In one of the morning devotions, God reaffirmed us that He has made every member in this team special and has given each of us something to contribute to the joy and success of the team. I thank the Lord for though He can do all things without me, He has chosen to accomplish His mission with me as an important part of His plan. I feel honoured to be able to serve Him and be loved by Him.

God's Love

For the entire trip, God gave us great weather. This was amazing because we heard from one of the Lahu pastoral team members that it had been raining, but the moment we arrived, it stopped raining and the sun came out. We felt so loved by God. He looked after us like babies with tender loving care. Moreover, God protected our health – none of us fell ill and only a few suffered minor cuts.

DK6 growth: Serve humbly in love

The journey with DK6 was very fulfilling.



Children and Youth Ministry team

We started preparing them from DK5 for the Lahu trip by staying over in church, cleaning classrooms and sleeping on the floor with sleeping bags. This was followed by intensive preparation in DK6. I am very impressed by their positive attitude to serve humbly in love when they were in Lahu. They were very cooperative, obedient and pro-active, and I was so proud to see our DK6 grow in character and spiritual maturity.

Prayer Is Very Important for Missionaries

Through this trip, I realised that prayer for missionaries is so important and I now have a better understanding of their prayer needs. Returning to Singapore, my prayer life has been renewed. The following are some pointers that I want to follow up with after the trip:

Mission field: praying for the people – for receptive hearts, healing, new believers, protection against evil forces and resilience.

Pastor Pisut and the Lahu team: for energy, health, wisdom, perseverance, patience, open doors, courage, ability to preach the Gospel clearly and relevantly to the people, for signs and wonders, creativity, direction, protection and for more missionaries.

Home front: For our P6 DiscipleKids to be bonded and accountable to one another as they move into youth ministry and become leaders for their next mission trip.

Gabriel Ting - DK6 at time of trip

The trip was an enjoyable one and I made new friends on the trip.

I think that the trip was very meaningful as I could help share God's word to the Lahu people. Along the way, we met some difficulties, but God helped us to overcome them. Not only did God help us, He also granted us a resort to sleep in on the last night. I think that all the work that we have done there this year was all done by God through us and not by our own efforts. I would like to thank all the teachers who followed us and took care of us.

Seth Lim – Youth 2 at time of trip

The mission to Lahu in 2017 allowed us to experience the power and love from God. Many things happened on the trip for me.

I was asked by Jon Sim to play the guitar for the carolling as there was a lack of guitarists. At first, I was not confident as I had been learning the guitar only for a short period of time. Jon encouraged me and said that the trip would give me the joy of playing for others. During the carolling sessions, I felt really disappointed in myself because I made many mistakes, but my friends encouraged me continuously. Seeing the smiles on the faces of the villagers made me truly joyful.

Another time that I felt the love and power from God was when Jon came up to me one night to tell me that he had a sore throat and that he wanted



me to pray for him. He told me that he had faith in God and trusted that the Holy Spirit had given me power to pray for healing. I could not believe it. I had never been asked to do something like that before, but I felt that if Jon trusted God, then I should at least try. I prayed that he would be healed so that he could serve God through his singing and leadership for the night programme. The next day, Jon no longer had a sore throat and was able to sing the worship songs for us during the morning brief. Never in my life had I seen or experienced the power of God and the Holy Spirit. This trip, I had seen and experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, and I feel more confident serving God through playing the guitar. I want to thank Mr Timothy Tan and all the adult leaders for making this Lahu trip a very important and memorable trip in my life.

Timothy Ang - DK 6 at time of trip.

I have grown closer to God in terms of character development. I felt the joy of the Holy Spirit when I served and distributed gifts for the people. I am more willing to help people now, even strangers. The peace of God truly transcends all understanding.

Sara-Ann - DK 6 at time of trip.

I learnt that God is very real and present in my life. One day I had a bad fall – I fell right flat on my face. Although I had a nasty shock, I suffered only a minor cut. I thank God for his protection. This incident allowed me to trust God even

more and put my faith in Him. The most precious lesson I took back from this mission trip is from Philippians 4:13 - *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* Indeed, it is a blessing to be a blessing.

Isabel Lim - DK 6 at time of trip.

I had to teach a song to the Lahu kids during the learning carnival. The kids did not seem enthusiastic about it and the language barrier made teaching

a real challenge. But God gave me patience and I did not get frustrated at all. I realised that I enjoyed doing God's work and spreading the gospel. Now, I aspire to be a missionary – to lead the lost sheep back to the Shepherd. In order to do so, I have to keep walking close to God.



Team at school

December Mission Trip to Lahu

8 – 19 December 2017

In December, the missions team visited Payakorngdee Methodist Church, Santi Methodist Church and Mae Pu Lang Preaching Point.

The team comprised 41 members, including 20 primers from the 60th Boys Brigade Company at Raffles Institution, and 2 families with 5 children ranging from ages 4-10 years old.

We were given unexpected opportunities to serve when Pastor Panya's mother passed away while the team was at Payakorngdee village. Pastor Panya requested the team to conduct the wake service. God had arranged that we had 5 bagpipers in the team during that part of the trip. At the wake service, the

bagpipes played Amazing Grace and other hymns – hymns that broadcast the sound of hope across the mountains.

One highlight was the fellowship night held at Santi Methodist Church (SMC). The programme was organised wholly by SMC members, and the KKMC team and the Lahu believers celebrated Christmas together with joy. This was significant as it perhaps demonstrated that 19 years after we first stepped into Santi Village, there is now a vibrant church that is maturing and growing in Christ.

Luke Sim - Jesus calms the storm.

The Lord was truly real to us in many ways both before and while we were in the villages this year. This being my 9th

mission trip up to the Lahu villages, I have seen God's work in so many ways, both in our teams and in the lives of the Lahu people.

The miracle for me this trip was when the team presented a skit based on Jesus calming the storm at Payakorngdee Village. As the skit started, the rain began to fall, causing all the kids and adults in the audience to move under the shelter. Surprisingly none of them left!

Ivan (right) playing Jesus



While the rain was steadily getting heavier, I remembered specifically telling Clyde, Daryn, Matthew and Ryan that God was trying to be funny and show that He was present right there at the programme. I knew that God would stop the rain when the person playing Jesus said the lines “Be still!” God would do that just because He can!

And true enough, when Ivan said “Be still!”, God immediately stopped the rain! It was truly a miracle. Surprisingly, as this was happening, Lyndon also knew that would happen and was saying that God will stop the rain the exact same time. God truly showed his power, and love for the Lahu people, telling us that He was present and working in the village.

Overall, I would say that this is one of the best mission trips I have ever been on. To God be the glory!

Matthew Ow Yong - God is at work even in the small mundane tasks.

During Mission Trip 2017, I began to appreciate God's presence even in the smallest of situations.

I was in charge of the team logistics and the job description included keeping track of numerous details and small tasks scattered throughout the 2 weeks. “Set this up. Prepare that for tomorrow’s event.” These jobs were mundane and arguably it would have been easy to overlook God’s presence in such tasks. And yet, I found myself extremely grateful that everything went smoothly. We do not require some big life-changing and enlightening event to affirm our belief in God’s existence. God is at work even in the small mundane tasks we are assigned.

Apart from my duties, I found myself appreciating God through His natural works. The astounding and breathtaking scenery of Thailand proved a sufficient reminder of His presence and truly how great God was.

To summarise, my takeaway from Mission Trip 2017 would be that God is everywhere. We just need to start looking for Him.

Daryn Ho

The one thing that stood out to me in this Lahu Mission Trip 2017 was the Lahu

pastoral team who worked tirelessly, day and night, to ensure our team was well taken care of and our programmes ran smoothly. In particular, Rathana (Pisut’s wife) and Momo (Nin’s mother-in-law) were fervent in their pursuit to keep us well-fed with scrumptious meals. They worked continuously for at least 12 hours a day – waking up before any of us to start cooking breakfast and sleeping after us to ensure the dishes were done – for the entire duration of the trip. For the pastors, Pisut and Tanwin, their dedication and passion for the ministerial work happening in Lahu manifested in their everyday approach to the tasks at hand. The rigour and vigour that they displayed – from overseeing the overall programmes to the mundane tasks of cleaning up the church or setting up the tentage for the outreach – amazed me. All these without complaint or mention of tiredness. The Lord sustains.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain." Psalm 127:1

The Lahu team is doing great work in Thailand and the Holy Spirit is evidently with them. One can easily see that God is building his house in Lahu. God Bless.

Clyde Tan

What struck me most about this mission trip was God’s faithfulness, as well as the people that earnestly seek and serve Him to help the church in Thailand to grow. Throughout the trip, I constantly observed the pastoral team in Thailand led by Rev Pisut, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we could run our programme smoothly. From teaching English to the night outreach, the team in Thailand were often seen placing the needs of the people over their own, only stopping to rest when the programme was complete.

This attitude of servanthood led me to reflect about my own reasons for coming on the trip and what God wanted me to do there. My reflection led me to Matthew 9:37, where Jesus said that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Many times I felt like we could do so much more if we had more people because there were just so many opportunities for outreach and more that could have been done, but we didn’t have sufficient people at times.

I was also encouraged by the faith



of the Thai people, who constantly trust God in their daily lives, from seemingly mundane things like having a good day, general things we take for granted. It really spurs me to have the same faith that they do, trusting God in everything I do.

On a whole, this mission trip has been a fruitful one. It was great seeing how the church in Thailand has grown from the last time I came 3 years ago. It is my greatest hope that everyone in church can participate in the mission trip and see the harvest that God has promised for His labourers.

Brenda Tay – RIBB Year 5 Primer

What really saddens my heart is that our one week of interaction with the children of the Lahu village means so much to them. One week of love and attention, one week of holding their hands and smiling right into their eyes. One week of walking them to school, one week of braiding one another’s hair. One week’s all they need to be happy. I wonder what happens for the rest of the fifty odd weeks a year when our mission team is not there.

We barely saw adults around the village spend time with their children. Through our interaction with the children, we

Brenda (Centre in white) spending time with a Lahu girl



could tell that they were yearning for our attention. Everyone longs to be loved, accepted and cherished. That's what makes us feel secure and aids us in establishing our identities. Woefully, not everyone has this privilege. This was apparent in many of the Lahu children we spend time with.

We're all in desperate need of a Saviour, not only to save us from the consequences of sin, but also to love us and make us feel whole. No one else can touch our hearts the way God does. If there's only one takeaway from this mission trip, it'd be that villager or not, we all have intrinsic needs that can only be satisfied by God. My prayer is that whenever we go for mission trips, we don't visit the villages with a sense of superiority - a feeling that I am here to help you (after all, who are we to tell others they need help and that we are capable of doing that?) - or an attitude of "what can I get out of this?" (common "wishes" include longing for a sense of satisfaction from serving others, learning how to be happy). I pray that we go on mission trips as humble servants of the Most High God, asking Him how we can be messengers of His light and love for everyone.

Ivan Tang – RIBB Year 6 Primer

This was my second mission trip and I was still immensely struck by how much our presence meant to the villagers, despite the simplicity in the things that we had done. The smiles and laughter of the children at Payakorngdee village as they ran around with us, and as they pulled at our hands and shirts when we went on walks around the village, really made me feel that I had been able to make that little difference in their lives. Again, I like to think this is so because we did everything there with all our hearts, with love.

The show of love that touched me the most was that of Pastor Panya, whose mother was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit while we were up there. Despite having to rush down to the hospital upon receiving the news, and knowing that his mother could possibly be called home any time, Ps Panya made it a point to return to the village church to conduct the Sunday service, and to be at the Sunday school, where we had our outreach programme, to facilitate things. He rushed to and from

the hospital multiple times. This, to me, illustrated the great love that he had for the villagers, and I am sure that every person who had attended that Sunday service was able to feel his love and sincerity.

While KKMC goes up to the village once a year to run activities for the villagers, these activities in themselves are perhaps not as important as the reason we run them: because we love the villagers, and want to touch their lives. I sincerely hope that more of the villagers will be able to feel loved, and thereafter pass it down to their family and friends, to their neighbours, and then to future generations.

Dylan Chew

This year the team did a skit called 'Jesus calms the storm', based on Matthew



Dylan leading the 1st aid station

8:23-27. During the scene with the storm, it started raining in the village and when Ivan, playing the part of Jesus, commanded the waves to be still, the rain also stopped. The coincidence was not lost on our mission team and we knew God was at work that night, driving home the fact that He could calm the storms in our lives. This was a special message for me as 2017 had been a stormy year when my father was called home to be with the Lord.

Besides reminding me of God's grace, this trip helped me to learn to rely more on God. I was asked to play the guitar for the carolling, as well as conduct a basic first aid course as part of our outreach programme. Since I was neither particularly skilled in either guitar or first aid, I was nervous and fearful that I would mess up and be unable to minister to the villagers. However, God's grace helped me to overcome those challenges. Even though I made mistakes, I knew that without the Holy Spirit guiding me, I would have made many more.

In Mae Pu Lang village, a preaching point, the Holy Spirit was at work in the hearts of the people, when at least 4

adults gave their hearts to Christ. This were the first fruits after a few years of work. Please pray for Pastor Thawin as he does follow-up work in the village.

In 2018, our church theme is "In and involved: across the seas". I hope that many of our members will sign up for a mission trip. It really is an awesome way to experience God's love and see the Holy Spirit at work.

Jed Gan – 10 years old

I was very happy that I could go for the full 2 weeks of this trip. In 2014, I only



Jed (Left) playing the violin during carolling at Santi Village

stayed a few days at Payakorngdee Village. This time, my younger sister and three of my cousins also joined in the first phase of the trip. I like teaching the Lahu kids. I also enjoyed playing the violin during carolling and night outreach programmes. My favourite songs are "Christmas Pen Wei La – Christmas is a time for love" and the Lahu Christmas medley.

Linda Goh

"Then you will shine, shine, shine like the stars in the sky.." and "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, there's no wondering whose you are."

James, Linda & family



With those words from the team's theme song in mind, our family of five – parents and three daughters aged 4-9 years – visited the Lahu village of Payakorngdee. Guided by our love for Jesus. We tried to be useful. We prayed, conducted English lessons, illustrated the story of Jesus calming the storm, sang carols, handed out blankets, clothes and food, interacted with the people and even took part in a dance. Did we shine?

On the last night of our time on Payakorngdee village, we were finally treated to an awesome display of stars that included the milky way. We also came away with no doubt whose we are.

Jamie Gan – 9 years old

I felt very excited when I heard I was going for a mission trip. I did not know how the Lahu kids would be like so I was a little bit unprepared. All I knew was that I would share God's love by playing with the kids and caring for them. I helped the kids make a lily flower, hearts and a ball. I saw a value like patience as they waited for me to complete the craft.



Jamie (right) helping to prepare the ground for cement work at Payakorndgee

Clara Keng – RIBB Year 6 Primer

I really do believe that going on the mission trip was the best possible way to round up my year after the 'A'



Clara and her mountain guide

levels, and I truly have no regrets after the 6 days in the village. Even though the time was short, it drew me closer to God and reminded me of His love and power.

Before the trip, as I was praying for God to show me what He wanted me to take away from this trip, He put the verse from 1 John 3:18 in my mind - *Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.* When we had our first group sharing about what we hoped to achieve out of the trip, I shared

that I wanted to learn to show love to those around me, and to look out for those around me. While I tried to make the conscious effort to do so, I suppose what I received most was actually the kids' and villagers' love towards us. I distinctly remember the kids supporting us as we climbed the steep slopes up the mountain, holding on to us to make sure we did not fall. Their warmth and hospitality towards us was something I did not expect, but something I came to cherish greatly. A testament to God's love everywhere

I've also been inspired by the love shown by the members of our team - how everyone interacts wholeheartedly with the kids, and gives their best no matter what activity. Their dedication not just in the planning before the trip but also in the behind-the-scenes work up in the village, is truly very admirable - they have shown me what it means to work with all our heart for God. Seeing the relationships between the kids and the KKMC members who have been up to the village multiple times is also very inspiring, and makes me want to go back to see the children each year.

Through the various activities, I've seen how God is in control of everything we do when we commit it to Him. The incident that stands out to me most is when God stopped the rain during the night outreach, during the scene in the skit when Jesus calmed the waves. Although I did not notice it then, when this was shared during team devotions at night, I found it very extraordinary. It just reminded me of how God is

present all the time, and how He hears and answers our prayers.

The time in the village also showed me God's power that transcends all barriers. Attending the church service in a different language was an interesting experience, seeing how God can touch the lives of people in starkly different communities. Spending time reflecting while walking, surrounded by nature and seeing God's amazing creation all around (star-gazing on the last night was great!) was definitely a welcome change from our usual city life.

*Leave me astounded, leave me amazed
/ Show off Your glory, let heaven invade*

On the way back down from the village to Chiang Mai, our batch was singing this song and these two lines have stuck with me since. Indeed the 6 days up in the village have left me astounded and amazed by God's glory and presence - it truly has been a blessed time.



KKMC and Santi Men bonding over a friendly football game



Phase 1 Team @ PYKD 12 Dec 17

Eternal Life

Leong Kwok Thye

Based on a shifting foundation.
Not a quest for an elusive goal,
To assuage the thirsty soul.

It is a foretaste of heaven,
As God beloved children;
Knowing beyond fear and sorrow,
That there is a bright tomorrow.

³*Now this is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*
John 17:3

⁸*Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*
Psalm 34:8

There is none righteous, not one;
Only God's beloved perfect Son.
We need his righteousness,
In our pursuit of holiness.

Eternal life is to know God,
By receiving Jesus Christ as Lord;
To be freed from death and sin,
To enjoy peace and power within.

Eternal life begins on earth,
From outset of spiritual birth;
To walk with the Lord Almighty,
From thenceforth into eternity.

To know heaven not as an illusion,