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WITNESS



A **STRETCH** OF
FAITH

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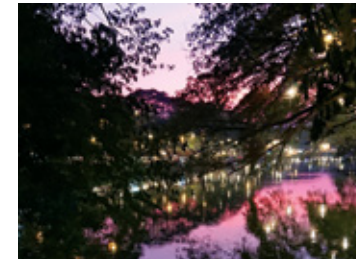
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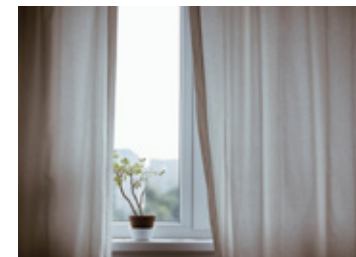
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A word



The word “Stretch” brings to mind the stretching of an elastic band that is used for toning muscles. When the band is stretched, the muscles will feel the resistant force from the band. The strain on the muscular tissues is uncomfortable but it strengthens and toughens the muscles.

BY REV. VINCENT GOH



from your Pastor

Conversely, couch potatoes enjoy a comfortable sedated life of sitting inactive before the television. The only obvious growth is the inflated flabby abdomen in the body.

God’s kingdom calls for a stretched faith and not a flabby faith.

Isaiah 54: 2–3 says,
“Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back;
lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.
For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations and
settle in their desolate cities.”

In the two verses, four metaphors are used to describe a stretched faith: enlarge, stretch, lengthen and strengthen. It is a picture of workers involved in setting up a large tent. In the olden days, large tent structures were assembled by having the marquee fabric stretched tightly by strong thick ropes and held on the ground by iron tent pegs. The tent must be sturdily secured to withstand strong winds and heavy downpours.

It is likewise with our Christian faith. The parable of the house built on sand and rock also depicts the same truth. In this season, our church direction is to “GO DEEPER”. We are challenged to stretch our faith in order to grow in the faith. It is easy and comfortable to keep the status quo, but spiritual renewal requires a new mindset which often challenges us to do things differently and explore new frontiers. Any change is uncomfortable and will face resistance.

For example, this season we have only two pastors appointed to the church. As a result, the pastoral team has been stretched as they are challenged to take up new roles and responsibilities, even if it is outside of their job scope. In hindsight, the stretch has been positive as the pastoral team has learned to trust God even more by spending

more time praying as a team. It has been a blessing in disguise as the team has grown stronger and closer.

The stretch has also made us wisely allocate our resources to do what is important. As such, we have been totally surprised by the outcome from the past few months. Focusing on what’s important and “digging deep” has resulted in a ripple effect of getting more things done. We have come to learn the philosophy of “Less is More” in our ministry.

The pastoral team sensed that this is a season of ‘new wine’. It means that the old wine skin can no longer hold the new wine and we need new skin. We are more willing to try new things and do things in new or different ways. Changing old habits is not easy - we are so comfortable with the old. New ideas challenge us. That means we must adapt and be ready to change which isn’t easy because we need to adjust to new mindsets and be open to new ideas and fresh approaches.

I must humbly admit that it is not comfortable to be stretched, but I have seen the result and we have only grown stronger in the faith.

Last words: We are still in God’s gym. More stretching is to come. Cheers!

Reflecting

The



Heavens

BY ASHWIN SAMUEL

“...We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith...”

Isaiah 26:1 - 2

“I had my kidney transplant 17 years ago. In August of 2018, I was told that the lifespan of the kidney was at the tail end as it had been deteriorating, I would need to start dialysis within 6 months.”



In late August 2018, Jimmy and his wife Erica heard about the Thailand mission trip in December. Due to the medical advice received, Jimmy was not keen to travel overseas – especially to a remote suburban area. However, two instances showed Jimmy what the power of the Lord’s message can do.

First, at a CG meeting, Jimmy experienced a moving account from a sibling who was praying for the salvation of her brother whose health was declining – he had found comfort in the Lord and became a believer! The second instance was a few weeks later when Jimmy visited his older brother in Hong Kong who had suffered a stroke. His brother was not a believer, but one day as Jimmy was reading Psalm 23 to him, Jimmy’s brother began to weep, and great comfort overcame him. He soon after became a believer too. These experiences energised Jimmy, and he felt very encouraged.

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

Romans 10:17

A week later, Erica suggested they go on the mission trip after all. Jimmy still had many fears and worries – what if he needed dialysis? What if something went wrong? Would he really be able to help the team or would he burden the team? Despite these concerns, he chose to obey the Lord and go in faith.

The trip was focused on spreading the Word at two evening events. In between, the team had many fun-filled hours of chopping mountains of onions and chicken, putting up a Christmas tree, setting up the event venue and making decorations.

Jimmy was unable to participate in the activities that required strength and on one occasion had to be driven back to the motel to rest due to the extreme heat. However, he helped in other ways – from taking photographs to watching over the team’s belongings.

It was at this point he realised that at times we may feel like we are not contributing

much, but we can still serve however we can. Jimmy said to me:

“Assuming the body of Christ is 5 fingers... not everyone can be the thumb. Someone must be the little finger. The work is done by God anyway; all we can do is support and do what He asks of us, no matter how big or small.”

On the final day, Jimmy and Erica went on to Ayutthaya to experience more of Thailand. That evening, Jimmy realised his personal mission. While at a serene lake, his devotional message from earlier that month rushed back: “Strength is not in bluster and noise. Strength is in quietness. The lake must be calm if the heavens are to be reflected on the surface.”

His faith was stretched only to find new limits of what he could do through Christ. Fear and faith are two sides of the same coin; too much of either stops you from having the other. Only if you control the fear and take the first step can you listen to your



purpose. Jimmy tells me there is too much noise in our life; we must be still, for only then can we listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and have a more Christ-led life.

Many challenges still lay ahead for him and several serious bruises on his arm from a bad dialysis session were a testament to that. In this trial, Jimmy learned to obey His command to forgive and found joy despite this small and transient suffering. Jimmy said:

“I realise all of this doesn’t mean that life will be smooth sailing, and we will continue to face trials and tests. Maybe the Lord wants you to go through this so that you come out the other side stronger. Listen to what God wants you to do, and don’t worry.”

Jimmy knows that as long as God wants to use him, he will keep going, fully dependent on the Lord, rejoicing in His Grace with nothing to boast!

In Isaiah 26:2, the city of Judah was strong because of its walls and ramparts. Jimmy is strong because God is with him, and the Lord’s strength is his wall. Only those that keep faith and whose minds are steadfast can enter, and they will be in perfect peace.

“No matter what happens to me, I know my salvation is there.”



ASHWIN & his wife Jiamei are parents to twin girls Riley & Avery. You may see them running around the fellowship deck after the 10.30 service.

The Psalm 1:3 House

BY ALICE TAN



After my retirement in June 2017, I never dreamt that my ministry work for God would be in Niseko, Hokkaido! I was given the opportunity to do Alpha in Niseko Fellowship and God thus granted my desire to ski the whole winter season from January to April 2018, and again this year from January to March. *Psalm 37:4 – Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.*

My ski buddy, Shelley, first planted the idea to buy a small 2-bedroom condominium unit at the Maples @ Niseko since I skied in Niseko almost every year. However, I was not interested to pay a high price, so we went ahead to view other units with lower prices. At the same time, I was convicted to pray for God’s counsel with my friend Bee-Ling, and Psalm 1:3 was revealed to her –

“He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”

What did Psalm 1:3 have to do with buying a place in Niseko? We prayed again and this time, Bee-Ling had a clearer vision: “A red house with many trees and a stream”.

This vision was so clear and specific – I was intrigued. But where was this red house? At first, we went to see a small house, but it had no trees, no stream and it was not red. We were then miraculously led by a friend Bryan to a hotel lodge owned by his uncle – Nest at the Trees. One of the lodges there is red, surrounded by trees with a stream in front! The whole place is aptly named “The Trees”.

There was intense pressure. Two very keen buyers were bidding, and we obviously needed to outbid them to secure the place. Instead of bidding, I trusted God. I prayed, “God, if you really want me to buy this red house, then You will surely keep it for me!”

I returned to Singapore in May 2018 without committing. I truly had no intention to buy it as I could stay for the whole winter season at the Niseko Fellowship in a comfortable 2-bedroom chalet for only USD100 per month. However, God did not forget His plan for me!

A week later, another friend, Bee-Leng invited me to dinner and her sister Aline connected me to the owner of The Trees. After sharing my story, he offered a discounted price that was exactly the same as what was originally intended!

In July, I gave Bee-Leng the book “Planted by the Water” by Pastor Leslie Quahe for her birthday. Divinely, Psalm 1:3 is also printed on the book cover. God was indeed reminding me!

On 6 September 2018, a powerful 6.6 magnitude earthquake hit Hokkaido, with the epicenter at Tomakomai – which is only 100 km from Niseko. My confidence was shaken. Bee-Leng worriedly asked me to reconsider my purchase and my spiritual mentor, Lian, counselled me to pray and ask God for a Gideon confirmation. One week later, I attended a Wycliffe Bible-story telling course and my group leader selected the scripture text – Psalm 1!

It was becoming crystal clear – God had answered by giving me two Gideon confirmations. But where were the funds going to come from? I prayed, “God, this is the house that You really want to buy,

so please help me to find the funds.” As a retiree, it is daunting to see money flow out from my bank account with nothing coming in! Reviewing my expenses, I realised that I could cash out my three insurance policies and the funds were sufficient to pay for the house. The payment was fully settled within two weeks in December 2018. God provided and almost instantly!

God is truly amazing – He is in full control. He already had a perfect plan for me three decades ago when I helped my friend by buying these three insurance policies, and I was not a Christian then.

I have already witnessed God’s divine blessings and favour upon those who have stayed at this Psalm 1:3 house, and my prayer is for God to continually bless the needs of all who stay there.



ALICE is a retiree and member of CMC. She helps to facilitate Disciple classes; Grace Fellowship Bible studies and also serves in the Befriender Ministry and LCEC Governance Committee. She loves skiing, especially in Niseko, Hokkaido with its pristine powder snow. She has been skiing there almost every year since 2005.



Because God is Bigger than Cancer

BY MONICA LIM

“You have cancer” — three little words that can strike fear in the stoutest of hearts. It was the start of the 2018 Advent season and nothing had looked out of the ordinary for LCEC Chairman Donald Tay up to that point. During a routine medical checkup earlier in August, raised colon cancer markers in his blood had led to a follow-up blood test, and then a colonoscopy done on 5 December. Donald wasn’t too worried as false positives in cancer markers were not uncommon.



“While we continue to do what we do every day, we must not be so consumed by earthly successes that we forget our purpose in life. We are in this world only on mission for Him.”

But this would be no run-of-the-mill procedure. The doctor found a 5-cm tumour in Donald’s colon that was likely indicative of early stage colon cancer and needed to be removed immediately. The doctor’s sober words sent a chill down Donald’s spine. The very next day, he was sent for a PET scan. Still in a daze, Donald was lying on the bed waiting to do the scan when the reality of the last 24 hours finally sunk in.

Donald recalled being gripped with fear and all manner of thoughts flashed across his mind. “I want to walk my daughter down the aisle! I want to live to see my grandchildren!” he thought. “In desperation, I cried out to God to heal me and reject the cancer in my body.”

As he lay on the bed helplessly, he suddenly had a vision of Jesus approaching him with an outstretched arm. In an instant, his anxieties melted away. Incredibly, that very evening when he returned home, his wife and daughter shared that each of them had encountered a similar vision of a hand going into Donald’s body to remove something.

“Isaiah 41:10 spoke to me,” said Donald. “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

God’s personal and comforting response gave Donald all the reassurance he needed, that he would be healed.

An Unconventional Christmas Gift

On 10 December, Donald underwent a five-hour operation to remove the tumour. Amazingly, the tumour was on the brink of turning malignant and was removed just in time! It was a huge relief for the whole family.

The ordeal did not end there, though. Shortly after he was discharged, Donald ran a fever and was sent to the A&E. A CT scan shed no light. He was then plagued by persistent bloating, which led to readmission into hospital and a battery of tests.

Finally, on the morning of Christmas eve, another CT scan revealed that Donald had

a 1-cm leak in his wound that had caused an infection and pus buildup. An emergency operation was needed to mend the leak and clear the infection. “My doctor was away on holiday and another doctor was standing in for him,” Donald recounted. “It was Christmas eve and everyone was on leave—the doctor attending to me was practically the only doctor around! God had planned everything—I was able to have my surgery on the afternoon of Christmas eve and it went smoothly. I was really blessed.” On 31 December, he was discharged, in time to greet the New Year at home with his family.

Donald had to have a stoma bag attached for two months to allow the wound in his colon to heal. The recovery was frustratingly slow and difficult. “I’m really grateful to my wife and two children,” he said. “They took extremely good care of me, kept me company and lifted my spirits.” By the time he underwent his third operation on 25 February 2019 to remove the stoma bag, he had lost a total of 15 kg.

A Story to Share

Three months on, Donald is up and about once again, having been given the all clear. The episode has opened his eyes to what patients go through. “Now when I pray for someone in hospital with a nose tube or a stoma bag, I know what that feels like,” Donald shared. “I’m able to empathise better.”

When asked how the incident had changed his outlook, he said it was a timely reminder that life is short and fragile. “Sometimes, we get so caught up in things that we forget they’re not what’s important,” he mused. “While we continue to do what we do every day, we must not be so consumed by earthly successes that we forget our purpose in life. We are in this world only on mission for Him.”

And if he had one question for God? “To whom do You want me to tell this story?” he replied with a smile. “God gives us stories to share so that we might encourage others. You’ll never know when someone needs to hear what you have to say.”



MONICA is an author, blogger, and runs her own copywriting agency. Yeah, she writes a lot. She has been attending CMC with her husband, Kenneth, since 1993, and she’s mum to two kids—Lesley-Anne and Andre.

Double Confirm.



Chop. Stamp. Guarantee

BY ALBERT WEE

Answering God's Call

What happens when God calls you into vocational ministry mid-career? It can be both unsettling and exciting, especially for someone with a young family and a relatively successful role in the marketplace.

That was exactly what happened to Jeremy (one of our students from 2019 Graduating class at Trinity Theological College) when he chose to heed God's call for him to "build His house". Sometimes you think that you are doing perfectly well – cruising along life, family and work as well as serving Him in your different ministries at church – but when God calls you, and there's a confirmation of His call, you will find such a burden laid upon your heart for His people and His ministry that it becomes impossible NOT to get out of

your comfort zone and do SOMETHING about it. Jeremy always knew that his spiritual gift was in teaching the Word. He had always enjoyed helping people understand Scripture. Whenever he had an opportunity to lead cell group discussions or give a message at ChristKidz or IGNITE services, he gained immense satisfaction from helping people increase their knowledge of our Lord in a deeper way. However, he knew somehow that the Lord wanted to use him even more mightily in the body of Christ.



Double Confirm Chop, Stamp, Guarantee!

It was June 2014. Jeremy, then a corporate lawyer, was asking for a personal encounter with God as he found work mundane and not exactly what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. During an altar call at church camp that year, Pastor Shaun who was praying with him, gave him a vision: “Jeremy, I see you in an airplane. The door of the airplane is opening, and you are supposed to jump out of it.” With eyes closed, Jeremy waited for Pastor Shaun to tell him what it meant but he had moved on to pray for someone else. Jeremy was both anxious and curious about the vision and continued to pray. Not long after, as he was driving home from work one night, he suddenly felt the Lord speaking to Him:

“Have you finished building your house? Can you come and build My house now?”

Further confirmation came when Pastor Shaun told Jeremy later about the vision he had shared; he had actually felt that it was about Jeremy going into full-time ministry. However, Pastor Shaun had withheld it from him at that time as he was waiting for Jeremy to first respond to God’s calling in his life. But now, Jeremy could tell Pastor Shaun that this was indeed a Gideon confirmation or in true Singapore slang, a double confirmation!

The More Things Are Uncertain, The More I Lean on Him

Being a TTC student was not easy as Jeremy testifies the readings were endless. In fact, he thinks that it will probably take a few years after graduation for him to finish all of them. What Jeremy did enjoy was his assignments. “Writing really helps me crystallise my thoughts and I always find that I learn something about God that I never knew before.” The greatest struggles Jeremy faces are financial – not so much in the short term but more in the long term challenges and anxieties. “On one hand, God has already

blessed me with more than I can imagine. On the other hand, I have a young family to provide for and finances that I did not have to worry about in the past. For example, the children’s education does weigh on my mind.” But Jeremy sees and knows the Word is becoming alive not just in his head but in his heart every day – and that God can and will provide for his every need and that of his family.

Jeremy graduated from TTC on 11 May 2019. Although there is a lot of uncertainty about the future, he says

“That’s when you learn to lean on Him and trust Him even more.”


First, there’s uncertainty about whether he would be accepted by TRAC. And then if he was called to pastoral ministry, there’s uncertainty about where he would be posted to (although he has indicated that he would like to serve in CMC). But he believes God has a purpose wherever he is being called to serve. And he is keenly looking forward to the adventures ahead.

How he wants to spend his time after graduation:

- Spend more time with wife and children
- Cook up a storm (Jeremy is an aspiring cook, but has little time to perfect his craft)
- Catch up with long lost basketball friends



ALBERT thinks the church’s chee cheong fan is Singapore’s best. When he is not busy chomping them down, he loves to write about the reality of God’s goodness in people’s everyday.



A Faith Journey: Outside...In

A well-anticipated holiday became a faith journey where God miraculously healed me and delivered me from my fears and insecurities.

BY MELISON SEE

I was in China in January 2019 when I contracted the flu, which persisted despite taking medication. This developed into vomiting, extreme exhaustion and poor appetite towards the end of my trip. On the flight home, I was on a wheelchair as I could not walk on my own.

Upon my return, my family brought me to Changi General Hospital where the preliminary diagnosis revealed food poisoning. I was to be admitted but due to a shortage of beds, I waited in the recovery room.

A flurry of bad news came. I was told I might have to undergo dialysis as it seemed my kidneys were not functioning properly. Additionally, the procedures administered were uncomfortable and made me realise the severity of my condition.

My family and I were unprepared for this, so we simply prayed and trusted in God to provide a healing hand. However, later that day, it was confirmed that I needed dialysis as my creatinine level was dangerously high. The doctor urged that I underwent dialysis immediately as my kidneys had shut down and I had no urine output.

This was my worst fear. However, I knew that the Holy Spirit was with me and my faith prevailed. I continued to pray for God's healing hand to be on me and over my situation. While praying for forgiveness, the Holy Spirit led me to realise some inner issues that I needed to surrender. Peace enveloped after I surrendered those issues to God. I sensed a renewed confidence that God was with me in this situation and He would help me overcome this trial.

However, on the night of 16 January, my spiritual high was tested when the doctors told me that my condition had worsened. I had a critically low platelet and red blood count and had to transfer to Singapore General Hospital to receive medical treatment immediately. Despite this, I was strengthened through prayer and remained confident by leaning onto the Holy Spirit.



I underwent blood plasma, blood transfusion, and dialysis the following day. I started to gain weight due to water retention and my feet were swollen. However, I remained steadfast and continued to prevail in prayer. My friends and church also prayed for healing. God soon answered through a vision based on 1 Kings 18:41. Just as rain came to Israel when the prophet Elijah prayed and waited patiently seven times, I must believe that my kidneys will be healed, and the sign will be from the urine output produced. I held onto this vision and promise.

For my blood condition, God also answered and led me to meditate on the promises in Isaiah 30:15 – “In repentance and rest is your salvation. In quietness and trust is your strength.” I realised I was not resting in God. Although I was serving in ministry, I was not resting in God or developing my spiritual life based on restedness and trust in Him. I repented and resolved to apply Isaiah 30:15 daily henceforth.

Following this, I received news that my blood condition had improved drastically, and my blood platelet and full blood count had increased. But my kidney condition persisted, and the doctor suggested a kidney biopsy. I was fearful due to similar negative childhood hospitalisation experiences. I became distraught and my faith wavered.

After much prayer, my family and I decided to ask for a second opinion. Breakthrough came when I met the new renal doctor who was also a Christian. He was a godsend as he patiently listened to my concerns. He responded that the biopsy will enable them to know the condition of my kidneys and administer the right treatment. He then prayed with me for God's healing and a sense of peace enveloped me, removing the fears I had. I decided to proceed with the biopsy.

While having breakfast on the scheduled day, I saw some workers on the scaffolding on the opposite building. The word ‘fear’ came to my mind and I realised that God

was telling me not to be crippled by the fears anymore. He revealed to me that He is my healer. I simply needed to let go and trust that He would take control by healing my kidneys and delivering me from my inner fears. I experienced a breakthrough after praying for forgiveness and release from the crippling fear about my kidneys.

Soon after, my doctor came and shared that he decided to postpone the biopsy as there was evidence of my kidneys recovering. I was overjoyed and thanked God for His swift answer. This was confirmation of God's promise to me and I believed that God would heal my kidneys. That evening, I experienced the fulfilment of God's promise when urine output came; a sign that my kidneys were recovering. I knew in my spirit that it was God's healing and grace in my life. I knelt to give thanks and praise to God for His precious hand of deliverance and healing. Subsequently, my kidneys recovered steadily as the urine output increased and I was discharged.

The Lessons

As I reflect on this journey, I know that God was with me through the presence and prayers of my family and community, as well as His Spirit and Word. He also brought a Christian doctor into my situation during my point of need. I was blessed by his prayers and the assuring comfort of being cared for by a fellow brother in Christ, which made a huge difference and breakthrough in my healing process.

I know that God is also working on healing the unresolved fears and emotional issues that affect my spiritual health. Although I may engage in spiritual activities outwardly, my spirit is not fully rested. Through this encounter, God began dealing with what is within to help nurture and transform me as I embark on the deep spiritual journey of restedness.



MELISON is passionate about God's word and facilitates in Disciple and Precept Bible studies. She is keen on spiritual formation and tries to cultivate her inner life through walks, contemplation, and retreats.

Believing in the Waiting

BY RACHAEL KOH



After completing my 'A' Levels in 2017, I thought that I would be enrolling in one of the local universities the following year as all Junior College students do. In an unexpected turn of events, I had to take a gap year instead. However, the past year has been a journey of faith where God revealed His faithfulness to me.

When I was in JC, my grades were never great. I was always in the bottom percentile of the cohort and had to visit the

Vice-Principal's office after every internal examination. Although I was struggling academically, I continued to attend weekly services at IGNITE, went for CG and even agreed to join the publicity sub-committee for youth camp. I believed that if I remained faithful to God in ministry, He would not shortchange me.

After completing my 'A' Levels, I attended TRACKERS, a TRAC discipleship programme for youths which was held in the first

quarter of 2018. Over the course of three months, we participated in an overseas mission, a local outreach as well as biblical training. The day my team flew off to Nepal for our overseas mission was the same day that the 'A' Level results were released. In order to stay focused on the mission trip, I decided to only collect my results when I returned.

As the trip drew to a close, I had a dream about my 'A' Level results. In the dream, my results were dreadful, but I quickly dismissed it as I thought that God would surely bless me with good grades. Lo and behold, when I collected my results, my grades were exactly the same as those in my dream. My heart dropped and I was filled with disappointment. With the grades I had, I was unsure if I would qualify to enrol in the courses I wanted.

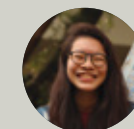
As I sent in my applications to various universities, I prayed that God would open the doors for me, so that I could share an "amazing testimony" about His goodness and providence. Despair crept into my heart as I received one rejection letter after another. I had nowhere to go, and based on the Singaporean definition of success, I was an utter failure. All this while, I kept asking God what His plan was for me. As months passed, I saw my friends attending orientation camps and beginning their varsity life and I felt left behind. I could not see God working in my life and slowly started to believe the lies that the devil planted in my head that God was not good to me and that He was not loving. I thought He had short-changed me because He did not open the doors to university for me even though I prioritised Him and served a lot in church. I was angry, upset and disappointed with God.

Through it all, I never stopped going to church and serving God as I found purpose and joy being in my Father's house. However, I still questioned why He did not grant me my desire to go to university. It was only in March 2019 when I went on a mission trip to Cebu, Philippines that I finally understood why. When we arrived,

the YWAM staff assigned us to rooms for our stay and the room I was in was named "Faithfulness". I had been struggling all this while to believe that God is faithful, and He spoke right into my heart. I realised that wherever I was, it was exactly where God wanted me to be. As I was reflecting, God reminded me of a promise that I made at the start of 2018. I had written publicly on Instagram that "2018 will be a year for His ministry and His work - Father into the deep I will go with You. I'm giving you my first quarter of 2018 and You do what you will with the remaining three quarters." Although I had forgotten about this, God did not forget. Looking back, I could see that God had used me to love and to serve His people. If I had gone to university, I would not have had the time and opportunities to serve God as Camp Commandant in 2018 and as a TRACKERS mentor earlier this year.

I applied to the various local universities again in March 2019 and by God's grace, I received three different offers. I knew that God could have opened the door for me last year like how I had wanted, but I am thankful that He allowed me to experience His faithfulness and His promises this way instead.

God is a faithful God, and in His time, He reveals His good and perfect will for us. His ways are always higher and better than ours will ever be. In Ephesians 3:20, it says: "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." From zero offers to three offers, our Good Good Father truly does exceedingly and abundantly above all that we can ever ask or think!



RACHAEL loves Jesus, dogs and people. Some might say that she is (one of the) noisiest in IGNITE. She enjoys great conversations over good food.

BAPTISED

SON OF MR AND MRS GAN YUE SERN
MASTER CHESTER GAN

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS JOEL FONG
MISS CLAIRE FONG

SON OF MR AND MRS CLARENCE LIN
MASTER ELIJAH JASPER LIN

SON OF MR AND MRS GLENN WONG
MASTER JAMES ISAAC WONG

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS JEREMY YAP
MISS KIRSTEN YAP

SON OF MR AND MRS KELVIN SIM
MASTER RYAN SIM

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS CHOO KUM CHEE
MISS SARA CLAIRE CHOO

MR GAN YUE SERN
MS JEAN HENG
MS JOY HENG
MR KEVIN LLEWELLYN ONG
MS MONA WEE
MS RACHAEL KOH*
MS RACHEL ONG
MS SANDRA NG

*Reaffirmation

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MS ALISON WONG
MR ANDREW LIM
MS CATHERINE NEO
MR GAN YUE SERN
MS JEAN HENG
MS MONA WEE
MS RACHEL KOH
MS RACHEL ONG

If you are keen to be baptised in CMC or make a deeper commitment to CMC by becoming a member, our Christmas 2019 baptism and membership season runs from October through to December 2019, and candidates are required to complete a course. For more enquiries please call our church office at 6345 3934 during office hours, or email info@cmc.org.sg

Do note that joining the membership of the church requires that you have been worshipping in CMC for at least six months and have attended at least six sessions of a Care Group.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

EASTER 2019

13-14 APRIL



TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
MR KUAH TECK BENG

TRANSFERRED FROM
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
MS LINDA TAN

TRANSFERRED FROM
MARANATHA BP CHURCH
MS LYNETTE OH

TRANSFERRED FROM
MARANATHA BP CHURCH
MR TAN SIANG MENG

TRANSFERRED FROM
TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE
MS VERA ANNA LAU

TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERRED FROM
CHARIS METHODIST CHURCH
MR CHIA T-JIAN

TRANSFERRED FROM
BEDOK METHODIST CHURCH
MS LUISA TENG

TRANSFERRED FROM
WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
MS MICHELLE HO

TRANSFERRED FROM
CAIRNHILL METHODIST CHURCH
MS ONG TEK JAN

TRANSFERRED FROM
CAIRNHILL METHODIST CHURCH
MS ONG TEK LIAM

TRANSFERRED FROM
BARKER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH
MS TAN SAY MENG

Cast
(according to appearance)

FATHER
Tyrone Lopez

JASON
Samuel Wan

RACHEL
Joy Lim

ANGEL
Isaac Chew

MARY
Chin Chainn Miin

JOSEPH
Stanley Cheok

JESUS
Andrew Lim

PETER
Matthew Howden

ANDREW/JUDAS
Jonathan Naidu

JOHN
Calvin Fong

JAMES
Albert Wee

MATTHEW
Jonathan Wong

TEMPLE LEADERS
Chin Junhan
Ho Choon Lim

WOMAN
Rosemarie Acilar

CROWD
Lorena Cuenca
Regina Calisin
Vangie Baris

CROWD/ROMAN SOLDIERS
Chen Ying Lei
Ma Ming Xu

Crew

PRODUCER
Rupert Lim

DIRECTOR
Netania Pereira

SCRIPTWRITER
Stephanie Lauw

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Lim Yew Chong

TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER
Sun Tianfu

AV TECHNICAL SUPPORT
Chris Seow

SOUND ENGINEER
George Wong

VISUALS
Gilyn Wong

LIGHTING OPERATOR
Isaac Chew

CAMERA OPERATORS
Eugene Voo &
Gerri Wong

STAGE MANAGER
Zhaoting Low

STAGE CREW
James Jayson
Joel Ang
Kanak Priya Selvarani
Sidney Suen
Phyline Yeo

COSTUMES & MAKEUP
Patricia Yong &
Ruth Chan

SET DESIGN
Leslie Sim

MULTIMEDIA (PHOTOS & VIDEOS)
Kevin Llewellyn Ong

GOT HOPE

CMC's Easter Production



Special thanks to:
Illuminate Productions
Pte Ltd

Taking the Step of Faith

BY GLEN FOONG

Meet Seet Choon Chien.

She has been serving in ChristKidz passionately for many years now and came on board as our Senior Ministry Executive in February 2019. We sat down for our very own 'Meet-the-Teacher' session to get to know a little more about her.



Known as:

Choon (or as the children call her - 'Auntie Choon')

Family:

Married to Chris Seow (AKA our 'IT' guy). They have two children, Zachary and Arielle, who are in our youth ministry, IGNITE.

To the Rescue

Believe it or not, she was once a 'Tom-Boy'! As a child, she could always be found playing marbles with the boys back in her neighbourhood in Whampoa Drive. In Primary One, she stopped a boy from bullying her friends by catching a lizard to scare him off. A true hero!

The Wonder of Motherhood:

"Motherhood is a tough job. It has its ups and downs, especially as the children grow older. I think the best part of being a mother is that it helps me to become a better and more humble person; to accept my children as who they are and to love unconditionally. It helps me better understand and appreciate the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father."

The Journey to Faith:

Choon grew up in a family of non-believers. Her mother was quite against Christianity and that influenced Choon to feel the same way towards God. But God is good. "He reached out to me when I was 24 when

I was going through a rough patch. A colleague invited me to a musical at his church where God opened my heart to Him and I accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour." Being the first Christian in the family was not easy. To avoid being found out, she had to resort to reading the Bible and praying in her toilet for two years!

"Choon, take the step of faith and let God do the rest." With encouragement from her pastor, Choon got baptised in CMC though she was unsure of how her mother would respond. Indeed, God is good. Through His divine intervention, her mother somehow came to know about her new faith. Her mother was disappointed but did not stop Choon from going to church nor did she chase Choon out of the house as she had threatened to in the past. Praise be to God!



Answering the Father's Call

In November 2017, after leaving her last job in NUS, Choon told God, "Lord, I'm available, lead me where You want me to go." God reminded her that life is short, and so she wanted to live her life more intentionally for Him. Through God's leading, she went on to study in Tung Ling Bible School for three months and God also opened the door to the full-time role in CMC. During one of the morning devotion sharings in Tung Ling, she felt God challenge her: "Will you fight or will you lose this generation?" and "Would you raise a generation that walks in the fear of the Lord?"

Choon struggled with this calling for a few months as she felt inadequate. God confirmed the calling through a pastor from another church who approached her and encouraged her with two words, "Be bold". Choon was assured through Joshua 1:9 that God would be with her and would equip her in whatever He calls her to do.

A Love for the Children

"Even before I had my own children, God had put in my heart a love for children and a gift of connecting easily with them." Choon's journey began back in 1996 when God led her to move from CMC over to Christalite Methodist Chapel as they needed Sunday School teachers. Despite having no prior experience, she remained faithful.

In 1997, she was involved in the start-up of the Children's church there. The harvest was plentiful, but the workers were few. Though she had to work hard with the team to prepare

materials and lessons for the children, interacting and reaching out to them gave her great joy, especially when they came to know the Lord. Since then, the Lord has put in her heart a burden for children, especially those from broken families.

God has helped Choon realise, through her own children, the importance of building a strong foundation of faith in children and to help them to be rooted in their identity in Christ so that they are better able to face the temptations and challenges as teenagers.

Choon and her family currently serve in ChristKidz together. As the full-time senior ministry executive of ChristKidz, she works alongside the Christkidz Ministry Chairperson to oversee the Children's ministry.

Hope for the Children

"That they will come to know Jesus and have a personal relationship with Him."



GLEN enjoys singing all the time, whether he's walking home, studying or performing at events. He also has a passion for children and loves interacting with them. He serves in the Worship Ministry and ChristKidz.

Meet the youngest member on the team, **Netania Pereira!** As our Communications Executive, she is always working hard to keep you updated on the church's latest news, announcements and events.

She also helps to manage many of the church's campaigns together with fellow ministry team members. This one's about her.



Sharing God's Love

BY GLEN FOONG

Hey Netania! So, how young are you? I am 24 this year, just one year away from my quarter life crisis! Just kidding.

What were you studying previously? I have always had a soft spot for the arts, and so I pursued a Diploma in Arts Management in Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) before getting my Bachelor of Communication in SIM-RMIT.

How do you like to spend your off days? I love finding new shows to watch on Netflix (who doesn't haha) and going to the movies. I also enjoy watching plays and musicals once in a while. Just watched Phantom of the Opera, it was so amazing!

Does your family attend CMC as well? Yes, they do. My parents, Peter and Linda Pereira, have been attending for many years now. My late grandparents, Victor and Alice Ayathuray, were the first in the family to attend CMC. My mum has been in CMC since she was four years old!

Fun Fact: A fellow CMC member recently told me that my grandmother used to pray that I would enter full-time ministry one day. I had no idea...

Take us through your journey to full-time ministry please! While studying communications in university, I sometimes felt that it was a bit meaningless. It was a passing thought, but God knows every thought we have! At the back of my mind, I knew I wanted to do something meaningful once I graduated; something that can help or impact people for good.

Elena Ackley – our former Communications Executive and my CG leader at the time – asked me to support the communications team for a month in October 2017. I agreed, as I had just graduated and was working part-time while searching for a full-time job opportunity. After the month ended, the opportunity to join the full-time ministry team arose as God was calling Elena elsewhere. The timing was perfect; I prayed about it and went in faith.

Although I didn't get a "big sign" from God, I'm certain that this is where God has called me, at least for this season. I have much to do and I'm excited!

How's working in full-time ministry so far? Any challenges? It's been fulfilling! Having studied communications, I managed to adjust quickly to the tasks as I had done similar

work before. Also, the transition from school to work was fine as I never really enjoyed studying and so I actually prefer to work – I think many would protest!

There were (and still are) challenges for sure. One such 'challenge' was when I first joined, I was the only girl in the ministry team and often found myself caught in between conversations about cars and football – I'm sure ladies can empathise!

Jokes aside, everyone is so great to work with. I'm blessed to be in a nurturing environment where I have many opportunities to learn directly from spiritual giants.

How has God worked in your everyday tasks? God always grants the comms team (Kevin Wang & myself) the creativity to think of fresh ideas, so that we can improve and in turn excite the congregation to be on board with programmes and themes as we progress together. To me, it's a privilege to be able to communicate the things of God and to see it go forth and impact lives.

God has stretched me so much this past year and a half. As an introvert, I'd rather hide my face in a paper bag, but I'm learning not to let that limit me because God has much more in store.

One example was this year's Easter drama production. I have always loved the arts and specifically theatre, but I didn't think I'd be in theatre again after I graduated from NAFA. But God knows my heart and He provided the opportunity for me to be part of the production. It was hard work, but I loved it. It was truly a blessing to do something I'm passionate about, while also conveying the message of God's love. I'm thankful to all who were involved – God truly took our five loaves and two fish and multiplied it. All glory to God!



GLEN is currently working in church as a communications intern. He enjoys working here and looks forward to lunch everyday as the food around church is amazing. #EastSideBestSide



Witnessing through Socialising

BY PAULINE LEONG



Mention the word “witness” and it conjures up exciting scenes of courtroom drama that we can discuss happily for hours. Mention the same word in the Christian context, however, and watch how quickly we exercise our so-called “right to remain silent”! Yet, the Bible requires that believers be active witnesses for Christ. Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, declares that “... you will be my witnesses...”(Acts 1:8). How then can we be witnesses for Christ?

The Bible illustrates over and over again that God works wonders beyond what we can imagine when we stretch our faith by using what He has already given us. One way of stretching our faith to become active witnesses is by changing our perspective on the many social activities we have as part of church life. We can purposefully share the love and compassion of our Lord, taking time from our busy work schedules and family commitments to help others, simply by inviting them to join our church’s social activities. These activities thus become our “five loaves and two fish” for Christ.

Being renewed in our minds (Rom. 12:2), we can participate in the same social activities with a change in focus and an awareness that anything and anyone can be a witness for our Lord. Intentionality to be a witness is the key. Perhaps the following simple testimony will best illustrate how simple actions by faithful individuals can become powerful acts.

The Glowing Years Ministry (GYM) is a fellowship grouping for CMC’s senior



members. Headed by a bubbly group of seniors whose energy levels put many younger members to shame, GYM provides both regular outreach-based and ad hoc activities for members and friends. GYM is well-known for activities such as pre-Chinese New Year shopping tours to Johor Bahru, durian tours, cruises, health talks, and ladies’ bible study.

Less well-known is the fact that regular GYM activities also serve as outreach platforms for sharing Christ’s love through gospel songs, inviting pre-believers to attend CMC’s church services, and programmes such as the Alpha Course. Invitations are discreetly made using Powerpoint slides during GYM activities such as weekly line dancing classes for beginners and advanced dancers, fortnightly ukulele jam sessions, as well as GYM’s flagship monthly event, Songs of Yesteryear (SOY).

SOY has a steady attendance of 150 to 200 persons every month, including both CMC members and friends living in the East Coast area, with some coming from as far away as Bukit Timah! A large number of these regular attendees are in fact non-members of CMC. Attracted by the warm fellowship and welcoming atmosphere of SOY, many attendees build close friendships with CMC members and some have even come to sink their roots in CMC.

One such attendee of SOY had been invited repeatedly over several years by two different CMC members, one a colleague, another an old friend. She had

always declined due to work and family commitments. Finally, upon retirement, she attended her first SOY session a few years ago and enjoyed herself so much that she began attending SOY regularly. Later, she invited three other retired family members to SOY. Besides attending SOY regularly, the four of them began attending CMC’s Saturday services when they started in January 2018. They went on to attend the Alpha Course, followed by a New Believers’ Course. They intend to be baptised soon and have been regularly attending a care group at CMC.

May we, the church of Christ, realise and embrace our call to be witnesses, passionate for God and loving the community. God has given us a seed of faith that can bear fruit thirty, sixty or even hundredfold, as we stretch our faith and offer our lives to Him through everyday acts of faithfulness and obedience. “... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).



PAULINE occasionally explores online shopping and mobile transactions. She highly recommends NLB’s Mobile App for book lovers who hate to queue up at crowded borrowing machines in public libraries.

Step Out and Stretch!

Did the testimonies in this issue inspire you? Are you looking for areas for God to stretch you as well? Consider the following local and overseas outreach programmes!



LOCAL OUTREACH

1

ASSISI HOSPICE "KOPITIAM"

Volunteers help to set up, take orders, make beverages and serve patients.

2

CHRISTALITE METHODIST HOME

KFC Outings provide support for the residents. Have a shared meal with the residents at KFC, lend a listening ear and provide social and psycho-emotional support.

Befriending Services provide social and psycho-emotional support for a specific resident in the home.

3

COMMUNITY MENTORING PROGRAMME

Mentor a child (K2–Sec 1) in Marine Parade area

4

FILOS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bread Distribution to residents in one-room rental HDB flats in Chai Chee area.

Community Befriending Programme for the elderly living alone in the Kembangan Chai Chee area

Tuition for Primary and Secondary Students from lower-income families in Chai Chee area

5

GOODLIFE! PROGRAMME

Conduct art & craft demonstration at Goodlife in Marine Terrace

6

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMME

Befriend a family

For more information on these outreach opportunities, please contact Mabel at **6345 3934 / mabel@cmc.org.sg**

OVERSEAS OUTREACH

1

KRANG SVAY, CAMBODIA (CKS)

CKS3 / 5-10 DEC

Our team will work with a local partnering church to provide training for their leaders and to share the Good News to the villagers through home visits and children's ministry.

2

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA (CPP)

CPP1 / 24-28 NOV

Our team will conduct a 3-day children's camp in a Methodist kindergarten.

3

BINTAN, INDONESIA (IB)

IB7 / 13-14 JUL
IB8 / 10-11 AUG
IB9 / 14-15 SEP
IB10 / 12-13 OCT
IB11 / 9-10 NOV
IB12 / 14-15 DEC

Our team will reach out to the locals through children's programmes and home visitations.

4

YANGON, MYANMAR (MM)

MM2 / 4-8 DEC

Our team partners with a missions organisation to reach out to two different groups of people – those living in city slums and people who are HIV+.

5

PHITSANULOK, THAILAND (TP)

TP3 / 11-15 SEP
TP4 / 11-16 DEC

Our team will minister at a children's home in a suburban area and reach out to the caretakers and local families through home visits.

6

THANYABURI, THAILAND (TT)

TT2 / 18-23 DEC

Our team will partner with a local urban Methodist church to provide ministry and skills training to their church leaders and to run Community Christmas outreach events.

For more information on our upcoming mission trips, please visit cmc.org.sg/missions2019.htm or contact Kok Fu at **6345 3934 / kokfu@cmc.org.sg**

WE ARE HIRING!

Christ Methodist Church has immediate vacancy for the position of

DIRECTOR, OUTREACH BASE

DIRECTOR, OUTREACH BASE

Christ Methodist Church, as part of its strategy to strengthen its 5 core ministry bases, seeks to hire a full-time Director for Outreach Base (D/OB) to assist and support our base directors (or pastors) to manage, coordinate & implement the pastoral ministry work and activities of assigned ministries. This position will be to assist and support the Pastor-In-Charge (PIC) and Executive Director in the area of outreach.

The candidate must be a Christ-centered team player who is capable of leading and directing local outreach opportunities for the church. This person must possess strong interpersonal, organisational, and motivational skills. He / she should be a self-starter, emotionally intelligent, and humble. The person must be equipped with a working knowledge of events planning, programme management, and communication.

Roles & Responsibilities

The D/OB will report to the Executive Director for day-to-day administrative issues and will work with the PIC to overseeing the work of the Outreach base

Job Description & Duties

- Assist and support our base directors (or pastors) to manage, coordinate & implement the pastoral ministry work and activities of assigned ministries
- Strategize, plan and manage both long term and short term evangelistic outreach and missions efforts for the congregation
- Assist in budget planning, reviews and reporting for all outreach-related budgets
- Identify, equip and develop logistical and spiritual outreach leaders for the future while encouraging current leaders and assisting in their continued development
- Plan and oversee all new believers care and follow up with the relevant teams
- Actively participate as a member of Christian Outreach Social Concerns, Missions and Witness & Evangelism Committee

Preferred Qualifications

Bachelor's or Master's Degree in Theological Studies.
Experience working in Missions or Social Services Organisations.

Experience

At least 15 years of relevant working experience in a church or relevant organisation with more than 1,000 members or volunteers.

We would love to have you with us!

Saturday Services

English Contemporary Service	4:30pm
ChristKidz (Children's Church)	4:30pm
Hokkien Service	4:30pm

Sunday Services

English Traditional Service	8:30am
Cantonese Service	8:30am
English Contemporary Service	10:30am
ChristKidz (Children's Church)	10:30am
IGNITE Youth Service	10:30am
Mandarin Service	2:30pm



**HAPPY 54TH BIRTHDAY
SINGAPORE!**



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