



wITNESS



Way Maker and Miracle Worker

A story of reconciliation



Marked by Love

A look at CMC's debut worship album



A New Mission

Relooking how we do overseas outreach



Restricted,
but Not Defeated!

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Witness is a magazine of Christ Methodist Church.
The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect
the official views of CMC or The Methodist Church
in Singapore.

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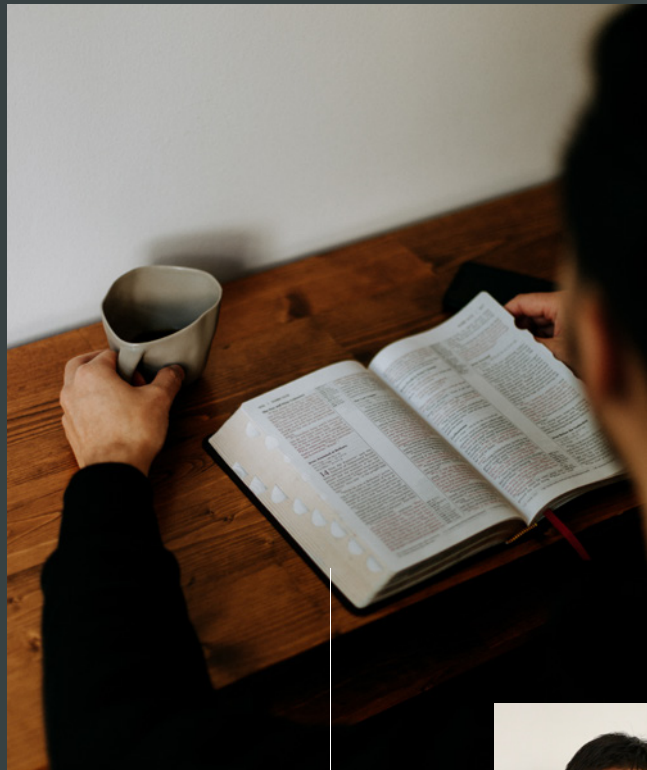
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A word

“Restricted, but Not Defeated!”



BY REV BENJAMIN LAU

from your Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

2020 is definitely a year that many of us will remember. I still remember the day when the Ministry of Health (MOH) raised the Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) level of our nation to ORANGE on 7 February 2020. New regulations had to be implemented everywhere as community cases of COVID-19 began spreading in Singapore. A week later, the pastors and key leadership held an urgent meeting to deliberate and made a tough but inevitable decision to suspend all activities in church that were deemed non-essential.

From that day onwards, almost every week, we were reacting and adapting to new advisories from MOH on what we can or cannot do as a church. Then on 20 March, the Methodist Church in Singapore made an announcement that all worship services across Singapore had to be suspended. This was an unprecedented experience for all pastors in Singapore, where we had to close our doors to the physical church for an extended period of time.

We had to constantly, adapt, rethink and re-communicate new information to the church almost every week. It was a whole new ball game for the entire pastoral team. How do we continue ministry if we cannot meet our people? This was not an easy question to be answered, but we had to adapt to this “new normal”.

Although this has been a difficult and challenging time for the church and the world, it is a ‘Karios’ moment for us. It is a divine opportunity that is presented to the people of God. Do we depend on ourselves? Or do we get on our knees, and recommit ourselves to pressing on in the faith and trust in God’s leading?

Yes, we have new restrictions to adjust to. However, that doesn’t mean we are defeated! The work of advancing God’s Kingdom still continues. Some of us may be discouraged or struggling with family, financial or work issues, but let us not lose heart and sense where the Holy Spirit is leading us from here.

It seems to me that God has given us new opportunities as a church through this crisis. Our online prayer meetings have increased in attendance, we have had new opportunities of outreach, and we have had more members attending Care Groups online. We hear testimonies of people who have never attended a worship service before actually stumbling upon our online services. In fact, this crisis has presented us with new missional opportunities to be more creative and more intentional in reaching out to others who are affected by this pandemic. I believe more people also have the opportunity to hear the Word of God being preached through social media across the world today.

Let me encourage you with this verse from **Hebrew 12:1-2**, “...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...”

We don’t know what 2021 will bring, but let us keep our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. So be strong and courageous, do not be dismayed for God’s loving and abiding presence is always with us!



Baptism by Fire

BY MONICA LIM

Most freshly minted pastors expect to enter their first postings gradually learning the ropes of how to shepherd their flock. When he accepted his first appointment at CMC, little did Benjamin Lau know that the luxury of time was something he wouldn't have!



Right away, Benjamin found himself having to hit the ground running. Shortly after he joined, the number of pastors at CMC dwindled to just two (him included)...to lead a congregation of 1,600 to 1,700 worshippers. Following Pastor Vincent's lead, it was a whirlwind period as he learned how to juggle his various responsibilities, such as preaching, leading ministries, pastoral visits, conducting of wakes and funerals, among many others. Understandably, he had some fears. "I was young and inexperienced," he confessed. "I didn't know whether I could handle the responsibility. It was a test of faith."

It was also a timely opportunity to learn to depend on God.

"I had to trust God even more as my Chief Shepherd, as I couldn't rely on my own human effort,"

Benjamin explained. "I began to see it as a period of growth and a good stretch for me."

Knowing that the first appointment was usually only about two years, Benjamin wanted to make his time at CMC count. He felt led by God to be intentional about discipleship, so in 2019, he focused on mentoring a few IGNITE youth leaders over a period of nine months. "Discipleship is something we cannot outsource," he said. "In sharing my life and journeying with them, the process of discipleship really reaffirmed my call as a pastor." In 2020, he embarked on another discipleship journey, this time with a group of CG Cluster Leaders.

Man Proposes, God Disposes

Towards the end of 2019, the pastoral team at CMC expanded substantially, and it would be natural to believe that the pace would slow to a more manageable one for Benjamin.

But nobody could have foreseen the onslaught of COVID-19.

2020 saw the pandemic sweep across the globe with devastating consequences, and all around the world, churches scrambled to adjust to a new reality. As congregations were unable to worship in church, and even small groups unable to meet physically, believers had to rethink the concept of "church". "We're so used to the church being the people of God coming together that a 'virtual church' is uncharted waters," said Benjamin. "We had to find creative ways to provide the best pastoral care, encourage our congregation to keep watching over each other, and spur one another on in the faith, despite not being able to meet physically in the church building."

And yet, the virtual realm opened up new avenues to more people. Live-streamed services enable people who are not regular attendees of CMC to watch sermons. Thanks to modern technology, people can still keep connections with one another. "I guess God's plans are greater than ours!" he chuckled.

The Ministry of Interruptions

An important thing Benjamin learned was that being interrupted is sometimes part of the ministry. He recalled one afternoon



at CMC, a brother from St Patrick's School urgently came looking for a pastor to minister to a bereaved mother. She was a foreigner who had come to Singapore to seek medical treatment for her 24-year-old son, who unfortunately passed away suddenly.

Being the only pastor around that day, Benjamin dropped everything and rushed down to the home where the mother was staying. There, he realised that a group of strangers from different churches and denominations had gathered to provide care to the mother. One couple hosted the lady at their home, while others helped to pool funds to arrange for the body to be flown back home. Benjamin conducted a simple wake service on the spot to provide closure to the grieving mother.

"I was encouraged to see the body of Christ come together to help someone in need," he said.

"At times like these, I believe God interrupts our plans for His greater purposes."

It also hammered home the message that the church is about community.

Prayer for CMC

Benjamin is grateful for the time he had at CMC, short as it may have been. "My prayer is for CMC is to live out as that salt and light to the community by showing practical

acts of Christian love to one another," he encouraged. "And also for CMC to be a church that is kingdom-minded, who welcomes anyone who walks through our doors."

If there's one message he hopes CMC members will remember, it's the importance of intentional discipleship. "I believe it takes a kampung to raise the next generation, and CMC embodies this. We are all here because someone discipled us, so I would like to challenge all of us to pass on what we have learned from Christ to others. If every single one of us in CMC embraces that role as a disciple maker, imagine the impact we can make in God's Kingdom today!"

We celebrate with
Rev Benjamin Lau on his ordination as a Deacon on 26 November 2020. He will be appointed to Wesley Methodist Church w.e.f 1 January 2021 as Assistant Pastor.



MONICA is a published author, blogger, and runs her own copywriting agency. Strangely enough, COVID-19 has driven her to art, and she now sells her artworks and draws pet portraits for charity.

Called To Love, Because God First Loved Us

BY DISCIPLE 1 CLASS (TUESDAY MORNINGS, 2020)



Called to Discipleship

The morning of 11 February was the first time we gathered in church for our DISCIPLE 1 (D1) class orientation programme. We were the first ever morning class at CMC and everyone was excited. It would only be a month later, on 10 March, that we would meet again for our first lesson. The delay was due to uncertainties and safety measures surrounding COVID-19. We would have just one more physical lesson together, before our class went online via Zoom.

Despite the lack of face-to-face interaction and the initial technical challenges that Zoom presented, we started bonding as a group with the help of our persistent facilitators Keng Im and Jennifer and our WhatsApp chat group. After a few short

weeks, WhatsApp messages became a daily affair, with messages of prayer, encouragement, sharing of additional Bible study resources and general news.

By this time, we were well into the Circuit Breaker period. It was over WhatsApp that two ladies from our group, Audrey and Chew Yin, shared articles highlighting the plight of Migrant Workers in Singapore. That got the group thinking collectively about social concerns.

Outreach is a special assignment that is timed for Week 20 of the course. With that in mind, the group discussed exploring this component earlier as there were immediate needs in the community.



We came to a consensus to support three organisations: (1) Methodist Welfare Services, (2) FILOS Community Services at Chai Chee and (3) Hope Alliance Initiative's Care Meals for Migrant Workers. We started by praying for these three platforms at the close of our weekly Bible study lessons. We also decided that individuals could choose to support the platforms through donations as well.

Called to Love

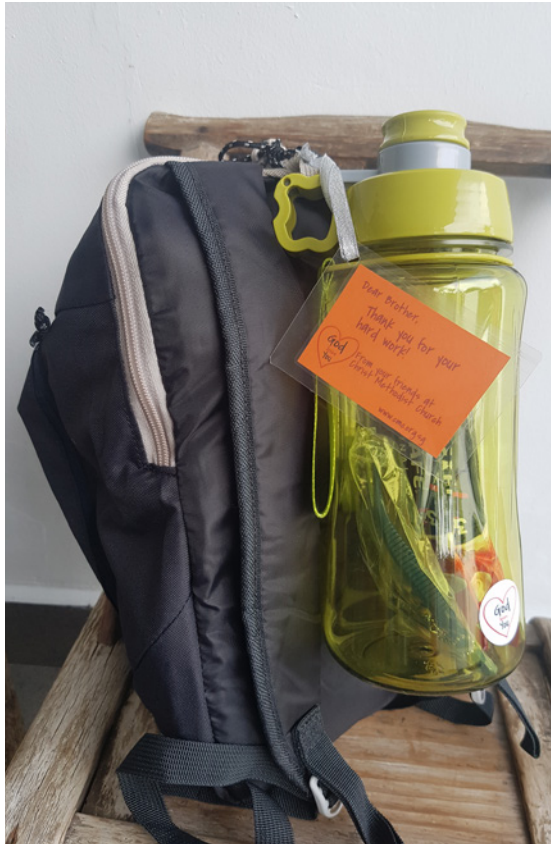
Once Phase 2 kicked in, we started to do more hands-on projects. It was clear that we were moved to support our migrant workers, so we reached out to It's Raining Raincoats (IRR), which is an initiative that aims to improve the lives of migrant workers and builds bridges to strengthen

their integration into the broader Singapore community.

We began our outreach efforts in two waves:

Wave 1 – June / July:

- Two rounds of groceries and essential items were purchased and delivered to migrant workers in Jurong.
- We collected and delivered tennis balls in support of an IRR initiative for migrant workers.
- We collected preloved clothing, appliances and essential items from friends and relatives. In partnership with IRR, a total of 17 boxes were delivered to 350 migrant workers at Commonwealth Avenue.
- Friends of classmates made cash



donations to Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO) which is an initiative under Hope Alliance Initiative. Another donated 11 new rice cookers for Migrant Worker dorms in Kranji, Sengkang and Jurong.

Wave 2 – August / September:

- The Pledge Fund was started to provide care packs for migrant workers, with the items sourced and procured online by D1 classmates. Family and friends sponsored some items. In partnership with IRR, a total of 200 sets of care packs were distributed, in two batches, to migrant workers in Kallang, Punggol and Bukit Panjang.
- We supported FILOS Community Services' hamper and grocery delivery in Chai Chee.
- In partnership with friends and Care Group members, donations in kind were made to Tamar Village, including sewing machines, pottery equipment/supplies, farming supplies and preloved furniture.

We got involved with Tamar Village as two classmates started volunteering there after The Neighbour Initiative (TNI) Conference in June. During our weekly discussions on social concerns, they shared their experiences and the items needed to help the ministry which supports the restoration of those who were formerly involved in the trades of the red light district, and their families.

We have been blessed instead

The love principle could not become any clearer to our D1 group as the Holy Spirit stirred our hearts. Through this, we have been blessed even more by the experience of "love in action". Truly, it is as the Bible says, it is more blessed to give than to receive.



Thoughts from the Class:

"We all came with different spiritual and personal expectations, from a diverse age group and different personalities and temperaments. Amazingly, we witnessed the unity of love in the body of Christ" – LuLu

"As we prayed, the Holy Spirit guided us, and the ideas grew. The Lord opened doors and sponsors came on board. Jesus' command to love our neighbours, especially the least, the lost and the last, became circumcised on our hearts." – Keng Im

"We were stirred to do something for those in need. God gave us the will and the heart to reach out to the migrant workers. We saw God's love and compassion in action" – Jaslyn

"All of us were in unity and oneness of Spirit. The joy we received working as a team was even more fulfilling than working alone and it bonded the group closer together" – Jennifer

"I saw for myself the body of Christ at work. Each of us had his or her own

talents - we encouraged and spurred one another on to love and good works. This was exactly as the Bible describes in Hebrews 10:24" – Chew Yin

"Our experience reminds me of 1 Corinthians 12:12 which talks about the body of Christ. Each member of our class is different for a purpose, and yet, with our differences, we worked together beautifully to achieve oneness in Christ" – Sin Yee

"The D1 programme and CMC's TNI Conference brought me back to what it means to be a disciple. We are called to love God, and to love our neighbours. I have been so blessed by this opportunity to put discipleship into practice with our hands and feet" – Irvin

"I have learnt and witnessed much about the love, grace and mercy of God and the amazing power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, as Romans 11:36 says, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen." – Denise

Willing Hearts, Willing Hands

BY ALBERT WEE

On 31 July 2020, a small group from the DISCIPLE 1 class decided to visit Willing Hearts in support of CMC's "The Neighbour Initiative" and to bless the community.

The day started at 8am and although it was very early in the morning, everyone was smiling and bursting with anticipation. For some, this was their first time at Willing Hearts, while others

had been making regular visits to lend a helping hand at least once every few months. Regardless, everyone was eager to participate in the different kitchen tasks that were assigned by the centre supervisor.

As the day unfolded, you could feel the excitement in the air even though the activities alternated between typically mundane

tasks like washing rice or scaling fish. Nothing beats the strong feeling of family and camaraderie when we all work together toward a purposeful goal. And although totally exhausted by mid-day, everyone left with their hearts full—full of joy in the knowledge that they were blessed to be at the service of the Lord that beautiful morning!



Snippets by the DISCIPLE 1 class

"The trip to Willing Hearts with my D1 class was a meaningful and fruitful time of bonding and outreach. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our DISCIPLE class has been meeting online and the morning at Willing Hearts gave us an opportunity to have physical fellowship and to serve together. Besides studying the Word together and receiving insights from the Lord, serving actively in the community allows us to live out the Word in our daily lives as we love our neighbours as ourselves."

Rachael Koh



"Wonderful to be able to serve, to have the opportunity to live out the Word together. Counting my blessings for all that the Lord has blessed me with. It's truly a privilege to bless others."

Patricia Yong



"Chin How and I felt blessed and humbled by the Holy Spirit. We know in our hearts that even the simplest of tasks such as washing kitchen utensils, unloading food supplies, and de-scaling/cleaning of fish is an act of love by His Kingdom standard. As the group of us made our way home reeking of fishy stench from the kitchen, we discovered a new meaning to "fishers of men" as said in the gospel."

Chin How and Pauline Tan



"It was a fulfilling three-and-a-half hours with our D1 class, so much so that my wife Aurelia and I organised another session for our family members and friends. All 16 of us, including my 80-year-old mother-in-law assisted in the soup kitchen. We will do it again for sure."

Steven and Aurelia Koh



More About Willing Hearts

Willing Hearts is a non-denominational, non-affiliated charity, wholly run by volunteers, apart from a handful of staff. It operates a soup kitchen that prepares, cooks and distributes about 6,500 daily meals to over 40 locations island wide, 365 days a year. Its beneficiaries include the elderly, the disabled, low income families, children from single parent families or poverty-stricken families, and migrant workers in Singapore.

In addition, Willing Hearts extends the following services to its beneficiaries

- Dental care
- Traditional Chinese Medicine treatments
- Optical care
- Bereavement services



ALBERT misses the fellowship and breakfast on Sundays and looks forward to worshipping together when the Covid situation improves. Regardless, he knows our Lord is always faithful and he hopes to authentically reflect Gods goodness in people's everyday.

Way Maker and Miracle Worker

BY KENNETH CHOO

This is a story of forgiveness and release.

In order to fully appreciate it, I need to tell you a little bit about my life. When I was five years old, my parents went through an acrimonious divorce. Their relationship was frosty, to say the least. As my mother had custody, I hardly saw my father growing up. I would only see him during the birthdays of my paternal grandparents each year. I was well-adjusted, thankfully. While I lacked the love of an earthly father, I was always filled with love from our Heavenly Father as well as a mother who loved me dearly.

My relationship with my father improved tremendously when I turned 18. Fast forward two decades to 2015, our lives changed when my father was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer. Despite going through a major operation and treatments of chemotherapy and radiology, the cancer continued to spread throughout his body in the years that followed. I was the sole caregiver then although I had help



from my two aunts (my father's sisters). In July 2017, my father agreed to go to church with us. During the Christmas service that year, he prayed to receive Christ. Hallelujah! However, over the course of the next year, my father's condition deteriorated and he had to be under palliative care in the hospital. On 17 November 2018, he was baptised in the hospital ward by Pastor Vincent Goh.

One of my father's sisters passed away on 22 December 2018 and the funeral was held on Boxing Day, 26 December 2018. When it rains, it pours. I received a phone call from my father's doctor on the morning of 27 December 2018. The doctor said that I should be mentally prepared as my father's condition had worsened and he probably only had a matter of days or even hours left.

We rushed down to the hospital on 27 December 2018. My father was lethargic. He had his eyes closed but he could hear us. I persuaded my mother to pay her last

respects that afternoon. When my mother entered the ward, all she could say to my father was: "Don't worry about Kenneth. He has his own family to take care of now." My mother left quite shortly thereafter. My wife and I stayed on till late but it was apparent my father was still holding on.

When we arrived at the ward the next morning on 28 December 2018, a senior nurse was waiting for me. She informed that when my father was conscious the week before, he told her that he was sorry for being a bad father and husband, and that he wanted to apologise to my mother. I immediately called my mom to come down after lunch and suggested that she told my father that she forgave him so that he need not hold on. My mother agreed.

Upon seeing my mother arrive at the ward, the senior nurse guided my mother to my father's bedside. She then pulled my father's hand over my mother's hand and she clasped onto both their hands. The senior nurse then prayed a powerful prayer of reconciliation and forgiveness. She also prayed for a generational blessing for my family. My wife was crying. We all felt God's presence and knew that something truly miraculous was happening. I took a few photos to capture this precious moment. My mother cried and said to my father: "Your apology is accepted. Kenneth is okay and has his own family. I am sorry if I hurt you too." It was like a scene from a Korean drama serial.

My mother left at around 2.30pm. My wife and I remained at my father's bedside. There was a marked difference – we could see a peaceful aura around my father. As each second passed, his breath became slower and slower. Barely an hour later, he shed a tear and passed on.

After my father passed on, I discovered a few facts. First, I found out that the senior nurse was formerly a pastor of a church in the Philippines and that she hailed from a family of pastors. Second, my mother told me that her trip to the hospital was smooth. She got a cab as soon as she walked out



to the road and the driver knew exactly where to drop her off. She also said that my father gripped her hand tightly as the senior nurse was praying. Third, my mother has managed to let go of all the bitterness and anger inside her that was caused by the divorce. For the first time in 35 years, there was finally peace within her and it showed. Amazing, no?

Our God is truly a way maker and a miracle worker.



KENNETH is in the Legal Service. He is chained to ... sorry, happily married to Mae Shaan and they have two kids – Micah and Kayleigh. They are part of the WOW 1 care group. Kenneth believes that life is short and he tries to live life to the fullest. Kenneth is also a procrastinator. This article has been overdue for almost 2 years. But as the saying goes, better late than never.



Marked by Love



In 2019, our very own Worship & Music Ministry embarked on a journey to create CMC's first worship album. The process began with a call for songwriters to send in songs. Once the songs were in, members of the Worship & Music team came together to arrange, rehearse and record the album.

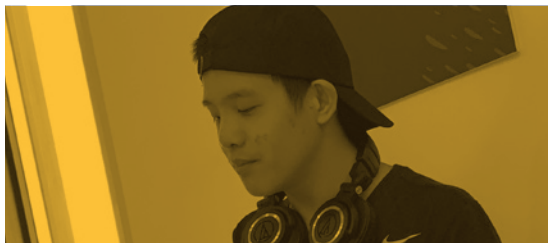
As we gear up for the launch, here are some reflections from those who were involved in the whole process.



Diana Hioe
(Worship & Music Ministry Coordinator)

The team has dreamed about writing and arranging songs of our own. Who knew, at a time such as this, we would be able to launch an album with songs that God has placed in our hearts? It is truly by God’s grace that we have come this far! I am excited for the church family to worship God with these songs, wherever we may be. Each song has its own unique draw, and I think that everyone can relate to them. They resonate the feelings and thoughts we may not be able express ourselves, especially during this season.

Regardless of all that is happening in the world, there is always hope, because of God.



Dylan Chan
(Songwriter & Arrangement Team)

The very creation of this album is testament to God’s faithfulness, in bringing a decade-old dream of CMC’s to life.

At the same time, this album to me was an exploration of different sonic textures, about finding a unique sonic identity for CMC (hence the varying “feels” for different songs). Since this was CMC’s pilot album, we felt comfortable and excited to take listeners on a journey that boldly dove into varying soundscapes. Yet, we were very intentional about ensuring the songs were written to consistently reflect the promises of faith, hope and love – attributes that were

kept at the core of the album’s message. God releases messages to his people in every season, and I’m humbled to have been used by Him to usher in a timely reminder of his promises.

I hope listeners will see the intentionality that has gone into making this project come to life, as well as take away something personal, as they use these songs to usher in God’s presence.



Jillian Ee
(Songwriter)

Personally, I don’t think the challenge was in the writing or recording process, but more in the actual sharing of the songs. I remember when our Worship Director, Rupert, first called for songs – he briefly mentioned at a Worship Ministry retreat in 2019 that CMC was thinking of producing an album and for anyone keen to contribute to contact him.

At that point in time, I had written “So I Sing Out”. I was reminded of it and felt such a stirring in my heart in that moment, but it wasn’t until much later that I mustered up the courage to share it. I was held back by feelings of insecurity as I wondered if what I had written even qualified as a song and was good enough to be listened to.

The few days in between Rupert’s announcement and me contacting him were very much a humbling period of “reframing” for me. When I prayed and brought my self-doubt before God, I recognised what a precious thing it is to be used by Him. Imposter syndrome has no place in the Kingdom: when I question and doubt, it is because I am relying on my own abilities and not God’s. I only have to surrender, steward the gifts given to me, and let myself be used for His glory.

I realise now that God created us “fearfully and wonderfully” to occupy a specific niche in the world for an individual purpose.

We are to express our love for Him in a distinct way and to compose personal “melodies” to Him that fill that space in whichever way He has gifted us (e.g. writing, singing, drawing, painting, crocheting, etc.).

It was never about me—whether I was “talented” enough to write songs, or whether what I had created was good enough to be shared. I am severely unqualified and absolutely lacking, but God is far from that. He makes beautiful things, abundant things, amazing things out of our little and lack if only we take our eyes off ourselves and our shortcomings and fix them on Him.



Samuel Choo
(Arrangement Team)

I feel incredibly honoured to be a small part of making CMC’s first worship album a reality. The process of putting the songs together felt like learning how to speak. The team had words and inspired ideas, and a desire to communicate what God had put in our hearts. But at each step, we were finding our own voice and learning to listen to His.

First of all, we needed to try. And the words and melodies came from young people—Dylan and Jillian. When I listened to the raw recordings before we began, I wished we could release them immediately. I could already imagine our congregation worshipping God with the songs. But we had to wrestle with the songs some more, until they were refined and ourselves too.

These few songs are birthed out of faith and I hope they’ll be sung out in faith also. In my spirit, I can hear the words being sung by both the congregation in the sanctuary and the one person in her car. It makes me want to declare hallelujah to the Lord for His faithfulness. It makes me want to pursue His sweet presence in the middle of my day. It makes me envision the church singing out a new song, even in a time like this. It’s really because of our God, this great God of hope enduring and everlasting. Oh, how deserving of praise He is!



Marked by Love will be launched on 3 January 2021. Visit www.cmc.org.sg for more details.



Celebrating 90 Years

We celebrated our 90th anniversary on 30 August 2020. Despite the circumstances, we came together as one church that Sunday at 10.30 am – both online and in person – to celebrate God’s faithfulness throughout the years and this year especially.



This was our first in-person service since the pandemic hit which made it all the more special. We were honoured to have Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung, TRAC President Rev Dr Gordon Wong and TRAC Vice President Mr Henry Tan, who was also our guest speaker, to celebrate with us in-person that morning.¹ We also invited a few of our church leaders to commemorate this milestone.

We had a special virtual choir item that was done by our very own Chancel Choir. It was wonderful to hear and see them all together again!

Though we were not able to carry out many of the initial plans we had for this year, we reflected on how God opened other doors that allowed us to be a Church in Christian Action. We praise God for only through Him could we have done all that we did in 2020.



¹ Rev Dr Gordon Wong took office as Bishop of The Methodist Church in Singapore (MCS) at the Episcopal Consecration Service held on 4 December 2020. Bishop Dr Chong has retired after serving as Bishop for a term of four-years and has been accorded the title of Bishop Emeritus by the General Conference. Rev Stanley Chua was elected as the new TRAC President of The Methodist Church in Singapore on 24 November 2020.



A New Mission

BY HOI KOK FU



Despite the restrictions that came with COVID-19 this year, outreach work did not stop at CMC. Even though we were unable to send teams to the fields, God actively used our partnership with the local churches to reach out to the locals in Bintan, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. We sent COVID-19 relief funds for the local churches to distribute care packs to the poor and needy. This became a bridge for the local churches to connect directly with the people.

In Myanmar, the people who received the care packs were those who stayed in the slums. They are factory workers who receive a daily income and were directly affected once the lockdown began. With help from Youth With A Mission (YWAM) to distribute the packs, CMC provided the funds to bless over 300 families who live in the slum areas, providing them with basic necessities.

We did this because Jesus reminded us:
*“when I was hungry, you fed me,
 when I was thirsty you gave me
 something to drink.”*

We received many encouraging stories from the fields. In Cambodia, the local church learned from one villager that they received no help or support from anyone, except the church which gave the care pack. In another instance, five villagers attended a church service after a local church member and pastor befriended them while distributing the care packs.

While on one hand, we see how COVID-19 has changed the way we do missions tremendously, but on the other hand, we also see how God works in His own way by raising up the locals to be missionaries to their own people.

A Greater Plan

BY WEE MEI LING



Following His Calling

Next year, Pastor Dianna Khoo will celebrate 40 years of ministry with the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC). It turns out that she originally wanted to be a vet! Known for being peaceable, curious, determined, loyal and opinionated, Dianna discovered her calling over a period of time, but she soon began to feel God pushing her again towards something greater. Her first ministry position was TRAC's first full-time youth worker in 1981 and since then she has never looked back. She was also instrumental in setting up the then Career Guidance and Counselling Department at Anglo-Chinese Junior College (ACJC) in the 1980s.

Fast-forward to 2020, Pastor Dianna shares her journey and calling to pastoral ministry and her goals/vision she has for our church:

What's the driving focus of your ministry approach?

Getting people to live out their faith, to seize the God-given opportunities to make

a difference in the lives of others on a daily basis. Matthew 10:42: "And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded" reminds us that ordinary acts of kindness can be the first step to our sharing the good news of salvation to others.

What's the hardest part about pastoral ministry?

The hardest part of ministry is to remember we are not here to manage the church or to just minister to the congregation who are already in church. As John Wesley said so succinctly, "the World is my parish". We are called to reach out to, to pastor the world not just people within the four walls of the church building.

What has God been speaking to you about lately? What's your favourite passage in scripture?

Micah 6:8 says it well: "What does the Lord require of you? Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God." I guess of late I have been hearing a lot more from God

about encouraging people to live out their faith. We seem to attend so many courses and conferences but if that does not impact one's life then I think it defeats the purpose or intent of the opportunities to learn.

Can you share with us some stories or events that shaped you into the person you are today?

My late father influenced me deeply. I grew up having to be very independent in life because of what my father taught me. A good example is, before I could drive the car, he would make sure I knew how the car worked and what were some of the essential things I needed to check to ensure the car was in good working order. But I can no longer service the car myself, the newer cars have too many electronic parts!

My father also emphasised the importance of work and education. He was instrumental in ensuring his sisters received formal education while they were growing up. Moreover, being an only child, I was taught very young to learn to manage my own finances and investments—something I still do today.

The other thing that shaped me was really when I was a student at CHIJ Victoria Street (now Toa Payoh). I recalled going to school one morning and witnessing the discovery of an abandoned baby girl at the gate (within the school was an orphanage). The nun said something that always stayed with me: "Must be another girl". Those days, only girls were abandoned. The Gospel of Christ states very clearly that both genders are valued. Certainly we have different roles and gifts, but we have to be very careful not to stereotype gender roles. If God sees fit, He will empower and enable us in spite of our gender. The image of God is in all of us and that for me is a liberating point, which drew me to the Christian faith initially. It is really encouraging to see that CMC's Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) Chairperson and Lay Leader are both women!

What would your goal/vision be for our church?

I believe that the Christian message of salvation is not about going to heaven. It is not for us to congregate in a church building all the time, but instead we should be announcing to people both inside and outside the church the good news – the good news that through Jesus Christ, heaven came to earth. We often get the wrong end of the stick regarding this. We have forgotten that the reason for the existence of the church is to proclaim this good news! It is simply the best news ever for humanity.

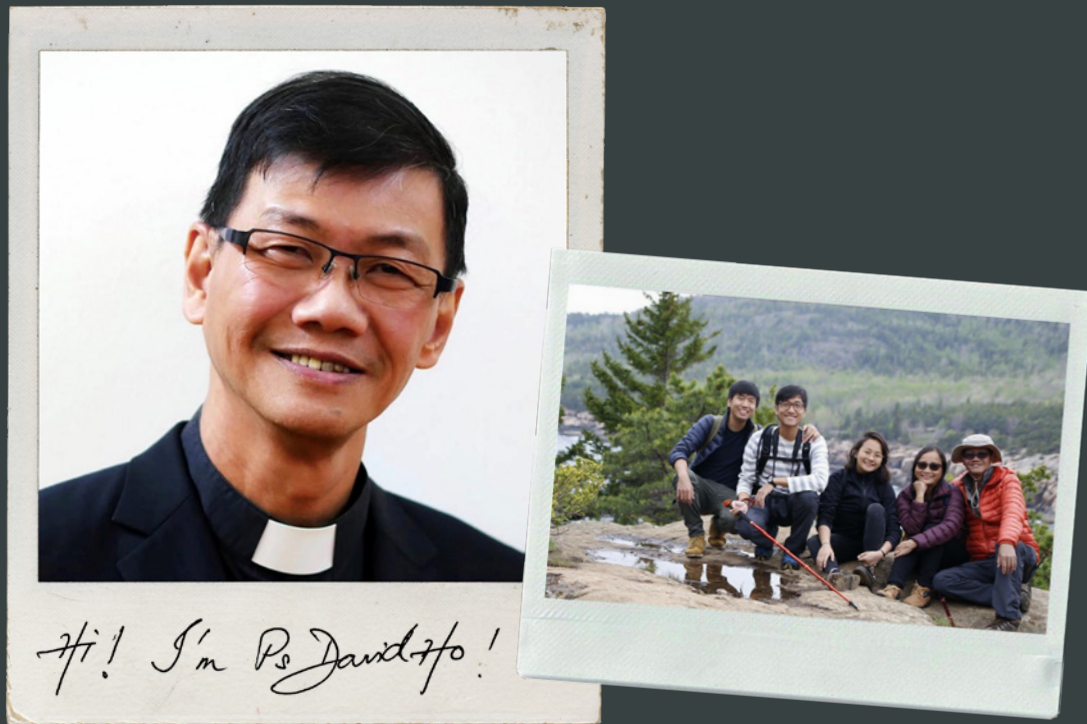
As I walked into CMC at the beginning of the year, I saw "Passionate for God, Loving the Community" at the entrance to our church building. This resonated with me in so many ways. It is because we have the mandate to announce the good news not just in words, but also through our deeds. My prayer is for each worshipper to internalise the wonder of the good news of Jesus Christ and to be empowered and excited to want to share that with others.

FACT BOX:

Pastor Dianna clearly has her hands full pastoring CMC and spending time with the loves of her life. She has been married for 39 years to a fellow Methodist pastor, Rev Dr Daniel Koh, who is currently appointed to Barker Road Methodist Church. They have a daughter, Joanna, who is a teacher and married to Kenneth, with a nine-year-old daughter, Sarah. The family also has a work from home supervisor, a West Highland Terrier (or Terror!) named Genevieve Woof!

In her free time, Pastor Dianna can be usually found either cultivating her green thumb or combing plant nurseries to spruce up her garden. Otherwise, she would be reading the stack of plot-driven "Who Done it" murder mysteries that she owns!

Pastor David is no stranger to us as this is the second time he has been appointed to CMC. I sat down with him to find out a little more about his life and ministry.



A Pastor's Homecoming

BY ASHWIN SAMUEL

Describe yourself in 3 words
Epicurus (*John 10:10*), stoic (*John 16:33*) and Christ (*Rom 12:11-12*)

When did you know that you would turn to full-time pastorship?
Ps David had known since his early youth that he wanted to serve our Lord full-time, but not fully knowing what this meant in his day-to-day life. By 1995, he was blessed with a good career and salary, with a young family. It was then that an independent church invited him to join as one of their pastors. He realised that he could not say “no” to God and went full time in 1997. Through his journey as a pastor,

he experienced that God is good and we would never suffer lack by committing to full-time ministry.

Tell us an anecdote about your walk with God that might encourage others
In one of the more trying times recently, Ps David recalls the day his doctor announced to him that he had cancer, and he quickly made peace with the news. To Ps David, his thought was not about how long he would live but what he would do with his life that mattered most. As he walked closely with God, cancer will not have the final say in his life. ONLY God does!

Which area of ministry are you particularly passionate about and why?
Family life; pastoral care; training and teaching are top of a long list of ministries Ps David feels passionately for. He is a fervent believer in building strong families, based on strong marriages and godly parenting. He feels that these are the foundations of a strong church that can in turn reach out to people outside the church and contribute to a healthy society. Through pastoral care and the teaching of the Word of God, he strives to bring transformation to as many broken or lost people he can reach out to. After all, “we are called to equip the saints for ministry that the body of Christ can grow into maturity” (*Ephesians 4:11-13*). These are central to the church and our spiritual lives.

Tell us about your family
He is happily married to Chew Kheang and twin sons Benjamin and Jeremy and daughter Joy Abigail. They are a close-knit family that enjoys travelling, cooking, eating and taking nature walks together.

What do you like to do on your off days?
To Ps David, his “Off Day” is his Sabbath Rest Day with the Lord. Rest almost always includes a hike through the forest reserve to indulge in his favourite hobby of nature photography. His curiosity extends to caterpillars, plants and flowers, dragonflies and birds, with a particular interest in

learning how to identify butterflies. This time is often spent with Chew Kheang, and sometimes with church leaders and members. In addition to exercising his curious mind, he also uses the time to meet people he mentors and intentionally makes new friends outside the church.

How have you all been managing through Covid times?
God has been good to Ps David. As with many of us, the Circuit Breaker enabled him to have more bonding time with his family. The pastoral team has found ways of doing as much as possible while observing all the safe-distancing rules and other protocols. Having to conduct weddings, hospital visits and funerals during this period has been really challenging logistically and emotionally though, not just for him but for the people involved as well. It has provided him with more time for reflection on what is essential versus what is not.

Do you have a message for everyone through the times of the pandemic?
1 Timothy 6:6-10 talks about living life simply and within your means. That way, we can cushion the impact whenever unexpected events like the pandemic hit us. Ps David asks each of us to look within and ask ourselves if we took heed or lived a life of preparedness. In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus tells us not to be worried about tomorrow, and that life is about more than material possessions and storing up treasures on earth. Think of the birds around us, they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet our Heavenly Father feeds them. He tells us how to live today, by first seeking His kingdom and His righteousness and not worrying about material needs of the moment. Our Heavenly Father knows what we need and will provide for what we need. So do not worry about tomorrow but seek to live simply today and seek His Kingdom!



ASHWIN SAMUEL and his wife Jiamei are members of CMC and have been in Singapore for 11 years. They are eagerly looking forward to have their twins Riley and Avery start ChristKidz in 2021.

OUR SERVANT LEADERS

- PASTORS
- PASTORAL TEAM
- ADMIN TEAM

Rev Dr Edwin Wong
PASTOR-IN-CHARGE



Rev Dianna Khoo
PASTOR



Rev Barnabas Chong
PASTOR



Mr Joshua Tang
COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Mr Edwin Seah
DISCIPLESHIP & CARE GROUPS



Mr Chris Seow
AUDIO VISUAL & INFO TECH



Mr Kevin Wang
MEDIA



Ps Daniel C Tan
PASTOR



Rev David Ho
PASTOR



Ps Tay Li Ping
ASSISTANT PASTOR



Ms Netania Pereira
COMMUNICATIONS



Ms Mabel Wat
ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER



Mr Steven Sim
FINANCE & IT MANAGER



Mr Jeffrey Chan
FACILITY & OPERATIONS
MANAGER



Mr Earl Tan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Mr Rupert Lim
WORSHIP DIRECTOR



Rev James Seow
LANGUAGE MINISTRIES



Mr Hoi Kok Fu
MISSIONS OUTREACH



Mrs Alice John
SECRETARY



Ms Lily Sia
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Ms Christina Poh
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Ms Rae Tan
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



Mr Amos Yap
FAMILY LIFE & COUNSELLING



Ms Tay Mei Ling
DISCIPLESHIP & CARE GROUPS



Ms Seet Choon Chien
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
(ChristKidz)



Mr Samuel Choo
YOUTH (IGNITE)



Mr Shi Kai
OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE



Mr Cheong Siew Meng
CONTRACT CARETAKER



Ms Alice Lim
CONTRACT CLEANER



**LOCAL
CHURCH
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
2020 – 2021**

Ms Serene Chee
LCEC CHAIRPERSON



Mrs Mary Tan
LAY LEADER



Mr Chan Kum Kit
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mr Tan Wee Hiong
DISCIPLE AND NURTURE
CHAIRPERSON



Dr Gloria Kong
FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY
COORDINATOR



Mrs Tan Heem Juay
FINANCE COMMITTEE
CHAIRPERSON



Mr Keith Huang
HOSPITALITY MINISTRY
CHAIRPERSON



Ms Loh Mei Wai
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mr Jonathan Ong
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mrs Junie Tan
ASSOCIATE LAY LEADER



Mrs Molly Martel
RECORDING SECRETARY



Dr Samuel Ng
MISSIONS CHAIRPERSON



Mr Loy Hein Moh
OUTREACH & SOCIAL
CONCERNS CHAIRPERSON



Ms Carol Chan
PRAYER COORDINATOR



Mr Christopher Seow
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



Ms Maggie Ng
CHURCH TREASURER



Mr Wan Wee Pin
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
CHAIRPERSON/CHURCH
ARCHIVIST



Mr Yip Hin Meng
CARE GROUP MINISTRY
COORDINATOR



Mrs Winnie Cheng
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
(CHRISTKIDZ) COORDINATOR



Mr Anthony Chong
SENIORS MINISTRY (GLOWING
YEARS MINISTRY) COORDINATOR



Dr Bobby Cheng
WITNESS & EVANGELISM
CHAIRPERSON



Ms Iris Lew
WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF
CHRISTIAN SERVICE (WCS)
PRESIDENT



Ms Diana Hioe
WORSHIP & MUSIC
CHAIRPERSON



Mrs Junie Tan
CHINESE MINISTRY
COORDINATOR



Mr. Stanley Lee
CHRISTALITE METHODIST
HOME CENTRE GOVERNANCE
CHAIRPERSON



Mrs Seow Yang San
CHURCH GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON



Ms Michele Soh
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



Ms Chloe Chan
YOUTH MINISTRY (IGNITE)
COORDINATOR



Mr Donald Tay
1ST LAY DELEGATE TO ANNUAL
CONFERENCE/PASTOR-PARISH
RELATIONS & STAFF CHAIRPERSON



Mr Winston Wee
LAY DELEGATE TO ANNUAL
CONFERENCE



Mrs Tay Poh Luan
HONORARY STEWARD



Mr Peter Soh
HONORARY STEWARD



Ms Woo Ti Soo
HONORARY STEWARD



Mr Barry Hung
ELECTIVE STEWARD



Dr Irene Ng
ELECTIVE STEWARD



We are always so glad to hear how CMCers have found their own Seed projects or are actively getting involved in existing projects!

If you've started a project or have been actively taking part in one, share your story with us! We would love to hear about your journey – drop us an email at tni@cmc.org.sg

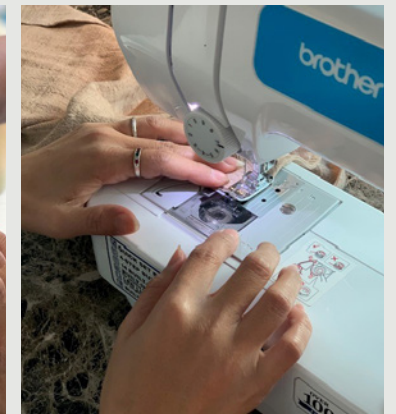
Monica Lim

started drawing pet portraits and selling her artworks for charity. Find out more at artpandemic.blogspot.com



Joanna Yeo, Douglas Ong & Tan Sin Yee

have been volunteering at Tamar Village – a charity which is committed to bringing hope, help, and healing to individuals and family units who have been affected by the trades of the red light district.



Tan Siang Meng & his son, Lucas,

volunteered over a period of time under “Wok the Talk”, to deliver hawker food to households belonging to vulnerable groups. Wok the Talk is a YMCA initiative that supports both service providers and vulnerable groups who have been affected by COVID-19.



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