

WITNESS



As Numerous as the Stars

Learning to trust God through struggles



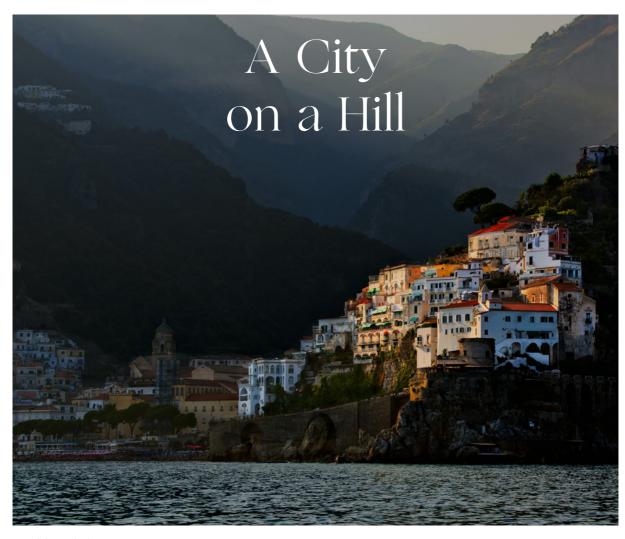
Painting with a Purpose

Turning a hobby into a blessing



Welcome to the Family

Celebrating with all who were baptised and received into membership



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A word

PS TAY LI PING from your Pastor

A City on a Hill

Ps Tay Li Ping



You were Night Light

Birthed order out of chaos Birthed in the disorder of rebellion Breathed life into men

Shining as the true light since time immemorial

Breathed death due all men Hiding from the light for fear of being exposed

I came Light of the world Birthed like men Breathed as a man

Pinpoint of whitest radiance Set against blackest night

Declared words of truth Demonstrated in deeds loving and powerful Darkness could not overcome

A Saviour on a Cross

You are

Light of the world Birthed as new men

Breathed as sons of God Pinpoints of reflected radiance Set in a crooked generation

Declaring words of testimony

Demonstrating in deeds giving and good Darkness will never overcome

A City on a Hill

I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. John 8:12

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14

A CITY ON A HILL A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR

As Numerous as the Stars

BY RAYMOND SIOW

I struggled with sleep for many years before I finally went to a sleep clinic for an assessment in 2017. I was diagnosed with Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) due to an overly long soft palate at the back of the throat. This could only be corrected by surgery or use of a CPAP machine. I chose machine intervention.

Initially, it helped, but sleep became a torture. I would wake up after fewer than five hours and wouldn't be able to fall back to sleep thereafter. I would feel tired

throughout the day and become anxious every evening. It eventually developed into chronic insomnia. As I lay on my bed, I would wish for morning to come.

Whenever I was prayed for, the condition would become aggravated. I would think of verses like Psalm 127:2 which says that He grants sleep to those He loves and wonder whether God had rejected me. Why did He make my soft palate so abnormally long? For what purpose does this serve Him or me?

In early November 2020, I felt prompted to do an extended water fast. I wanted to truly find God as well as to plead for healing. It was life-changing. During the fast, the insomnia got so bad that sleep was practically non-existent. I was assailed with doubts, fears, and all reasons to stop the fast. During one difficult night, as I prayed and wondered about God's love and acceptance, a vision of a bloodied palm zoomed in right in front of me. It shocked me as I'm not one who usually encounters visions. It was too clear for me to have imagined it and I was too wide awake to be hallucinating. As I looked closer, I saw a gaping wound and through it were the stars in the sky. I knew immediately that it was Jesus and that His crucifixion was the perfect testimony of His insurmountable love. I realised later that the stars were His promise to make us sons and daughters of God.

"Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven..."

Hebrews 11:12

Healing did not take place that night though. I struggled until I finally decided to break the fast after 28 days. I woke up on day 30 and realised that I had slept right through the night without using my machine. I'd never been able to sleep even when I used it as I would wake up after a few minutes struggling to breathe. Had Jesus healed me? I decided to try again that night. I was able to sleep!

Nonetheless, doubts crept in again by the end of the first week, and I either had trouble falling asleep or woke up too early and was unable to fall back to sleep. By the end of the fourth week, I was exhausted, almost falling asleep at the wheel one day.

Complete healing came only six weeks after

my fast, when the Holy Spirit reminded me of John 11:40, that if I believed, I would see His glory. That night, all my usual sleep anxieties vanished and I slept one of the best sleeps I'd had in a long time. I have been healed since then – yes, the CPAP machine is now stored away.

Indeed, as Psalm 139:14 says, all of us have been fearfully and wonderfully made by God. God made a physical 'flaw' in me to achieve greater perfection than if I had never had it. Through it, I was not only able to experience His glory first-hand, but it was the start of my journey of uncovering more of the treasures and power that are hidden in His Word.

He allowed the long struggle to teach me how to be an overcomer and to be highly persistent in trusting Him. The devil attacks us every day in our minds in the form of doubts and fears. When we choose to believe His Word instead, we will begin to appreciate and experience the goodness and richness of God, not only for life eternal, but also during this journey on earth.

Trials are blessings from God. While unpleasant and difficult to comprehend, the blessings that result cannot be taken away from us. For anyone going through similar or worse experiences, don't despair.

Remember that you are His sons and daughters, and we will be victorious!

"The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you." Romans 16:20



RAYMOND accepted Christ at 15 and visited CMC once soon after. However, he went to join his granddad at Wesley Methodist Church where he got baptised. He came back to CMC four years later and settled with his then girlfriend, whom he married and have two sons. The whole family now attends the 10.30 am Sunday service.

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In His Time

BY JASMINE TAN



"For all the promises of God In Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."

2 Corinthians 1:20

For many years, I have been the sole caregiver of my mother, Ng Siam Keng. She is 97 years old and has mild dementia. For the past 10 years, I've been bringing her for church services. Although she had yet to come to know the Lord, she didn't see the need to accept Jesus as her Saviour. It was rather discouraging as I saw no hope that she would ever accept Christ. However, I have since learnt that in God's perfect timing, He works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

On the morning of 16 January 2021, while she was rushing to the toilet, my mother fell and injured her hip and back bone. We immediately called the ambulance as she was in great pain and not able to turn to her right. She was admitted to Singapore General Hospital and had to undergo a series of scans and tests.

During this time, I reached out to my Care Group for prayer. They prayed alongside me, and each

night, I would kneel next to my mother and plead with God to heal her. I would pray with her as well and surprisingly, she was open to it! Her response was always "Yes" and "Amen" which reminded me of 2 Corinthians 1:20: "For all the promises of God In Him are yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."

A few days later, the X-ray and CT scan results were out. Although she was still in pain, the results showed no fractures in any of her bones! The doctors were amazed. She was discharged on 20 January 2021, just four days after the fall.

My mother was so pleased. She believed that the Lord had put a hedge of protection around her. It was such an impactful incident that my mother decided to give her life to the Lord.

On 26 January 2021, my CG Leader, Erica Fong, helped arrange for CMC's Chinese Ministries Pastoral Team Member, Rev James Seow, to lead my mother through the Sinner's Prayer in Teochew and to baptise her. I could not believe it! Joshua 24:15 says

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord"

- it was a prayer of mine and God answered it that day. I simply gave thanks and glory to God.





It was also amazing how her recovery sped up after she was baptised. Following her discharge from SGH, though in good spirits, she was still in a great deal of pain and needed my helper and I to help her out of bed. She was also having bad diarrhoea and had to go to the toilet almost eight times a day. But on the day after her baptism, she was able to get out of bed herself as she was in much less pain. In addition, she was able to walk to the toilet without needing a wheelchair, slowly got her appetite back and she stopped have diarrhoea. Thank you, Jesus!

It is my hope that others will be encouraged by my little testimony. If you have a loved one whom you hope will come to know the Lord, don't give up! Keep the faith. God in His own timing can perform a miracle in your life like what He did with my mother.

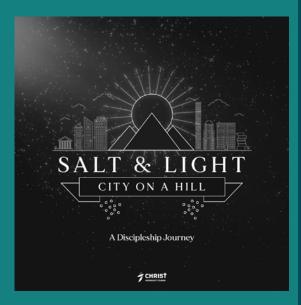
As echoed in Isaiah 55:11,

"So shall My word be that goes forth from Mv mouth: It shall not return to Me void. But it shall accomplish what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."



JASMINE is the Associate Group Director of Orangetee & Tie and has been in the property line for the last 11 years. She gives God all the glory for everything He has provided for her over the years, especially in her darkest hours.

IN HIS TIME A CITY ON A HILL



INDI Conference 2021

This year's Intentional Discipleship (INDI) Conference was held from 17 to 19 March 2021 over Zoom and the focus was on discipleship and mentoring. Our Guest Speaker, Pastor Benny Ho, who is the Senior Pastor of Faith Community Church in Perth, Australia, brought us new ways to look at discipleship and gave us practical handles on how we can become disciple-makers who make disciple-makers. The process of discipleship must continue – and it's up to each one of us to make that happen!

We had over 600 participants join us on Zoom over the three sessions. Here are some takeaways from the participants:

Takeaways

INDI Conference again and I was all ready to listen to Pastor Benny Ho. In fact, I was determined to be the first to log in to Zoom. Then came the first hard truth: The message of the Gospel is offensive. But the messenger need not be offensive.

The second is about us. Discipleship is about an inward journey that results in outward influence because it is based on upward values.

What a way to put it!

We all know it is a journey, that's why our CG is named Pilgrims. But to be told one more time by Pastor Benny is refreshing! We study God's word following the Pulpit series and coax one another in the applications. But the part that stands out now is to focus on being fervent in prayer. It's time to intentionally pray together and for one another.

Tyrone Lopez (Pilgrims CG)

♦

My key takeaway from Pastor Benny Ho was his emphasis on Care Groups and how small personal groups can contribute toward intentional discipleship.

As society begins to slowly open up, new opportunities arise as we enter into a new normal. Social Concerns, Missions, Witness and Evangelism, ChristKidz, Discipleship and Nurture, and many other ministries will be impacted by social distancing for a while more. This new normal is one that will influence how we go about doing church.

Like what Pastor Benny Ho mentioned, mass evangelism has now transformed into something more intimate and personal. Smaller groups, being nimbler and more apt, have become the new go-to model for personal witness and evangelism, mission trips, etc.

As we adapt to this new way of doing church, Discipleship and Nurture will be there to equip the working hands and willing hearts.

Tan Wee Hiong (Discipleship & Nurture Chairperson)

Takeaways



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The recent INDI Conference was many things to many people. Was it inspirational? For sure! Was it a treasure trove of biblical insights? Most definitely! But the question that really determines the success of this and any church-run or Christian conference is "Did God speak to you at the conference?". For us, His still small voice came through in high definition!

There were so many goodies from Pastor Benny Ho, but here are the three lightning bolts that really shook our world.

Firstly, Intentional Discipleship is a day-to-day activity. We thought we were okay as we were spending some time with God in daily devotions and trying to do His work a few times a week. We realised that we must seek His Kingdom first and that has been become a firm resolve for us.

Next, Ps Benny asked, "Is everyone involved with God's business?" and this really tugged at our hearts. We were humbled by the revelation that God's business had only been a hobby for us. At the very most, we were part-timers in His work. We know this needs to change too and we are seeking and waiting on Him to reveal His plans for our family.

Finally, the dreaded "A" word: Accountability.
Ps Benny's simple but practical breakdown
says it all, three areas in life that we need to be
accountable to one another:

Our Devotional Life
 Our Domestic (Family) Life
 Our Developmental (Work & Play) Life

It looks easy enough but getting into it can be tough as it means being vulnerable.

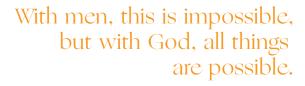
Let us persevere with His grace, remembering that His Last Command must be our first concern!

Tan Siang Meng & Lynette Oh (Cornerstone CG)

A CITY ON A HILL INDI CONFERENCE 2021

From Pain to Prayer -**How a Family Overcame A Medical Impossibility**

BY ALBERT WEE



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Matthew 19:26



The afternoon four years ago began just like any other ordinary school day. Ian had just hopped off the train at Kembangan MRT where his mum was waiting across the road to pick him up. As Ian crossed the road in front of a stationary bus, he didn't see an oncoming black Audi and was knocked down.

An emergency admission to the hospital ensued where doctors confirmed that lan had broken his leg - both his tibia and fibula - and required immediate surgery. The surgery took six hours.

When lan returned to the hospital two weeks later with his dad to remove the stiches, they were appalled to hear that one of the screws placed into lan's leg had missed a bone. Since it was not possible for just one screw to be rectified as the rest of the plates were put together like "a jigsaw", the whole procedure had to be redone!

As if that was not enough bad news, they were also informed that there was potentially a misalignment issue. Upon further examination, it was found that lan's foot was now aligned at a 77-degree angle to his sole. This meant that Ian might not be able to walk properly again.

"Our hearts sank when we heard what the doctors had to say," recalled Mr and Mrs Ng. Needless to say, the next few days were filled with anxiety, fear and tears. As they pondered over next steps, they continued to pray, seeking the Lord's wisdom and guidance. Their care group also stood by their side, praying and encouraging them.

This Is What The Lord Says: "I Have Heard Your Prayer And Seen Your Tears. I Will Heal You" 2 Kings 20:5

One day, while Mrs Ng was driving, she suddenly felt a prompting from the Lord to call one of her friends. After confiding in her friend, her friend revealed that her son had a similar orthopedic issue! She recommended a particular surgeon at another public hospital. Curiously, this doctor had not come up in any of the searches that both Mr Ng and Mrs Ng had done before in their own efforts to find the best medical expertise for their son.

That evening, when the doctor spoke to Mrs Ng over the phone, she felt a strong sense of peace in her heart. The surgeon (who turned out to be one of the country's foremost experts in corrective orthopedic surgery for children) had agreed to put aside his busy schedule and focus on ensuring the surgery would be a success. The family understood that there were significant risks involved as the first surgery had already drilled through so much of lan's bone and removed substantial bone mass.

After the second surgery, the months that followed were very trying for the whole family. Ian had to be transported around in a wheelchair and special arrangements

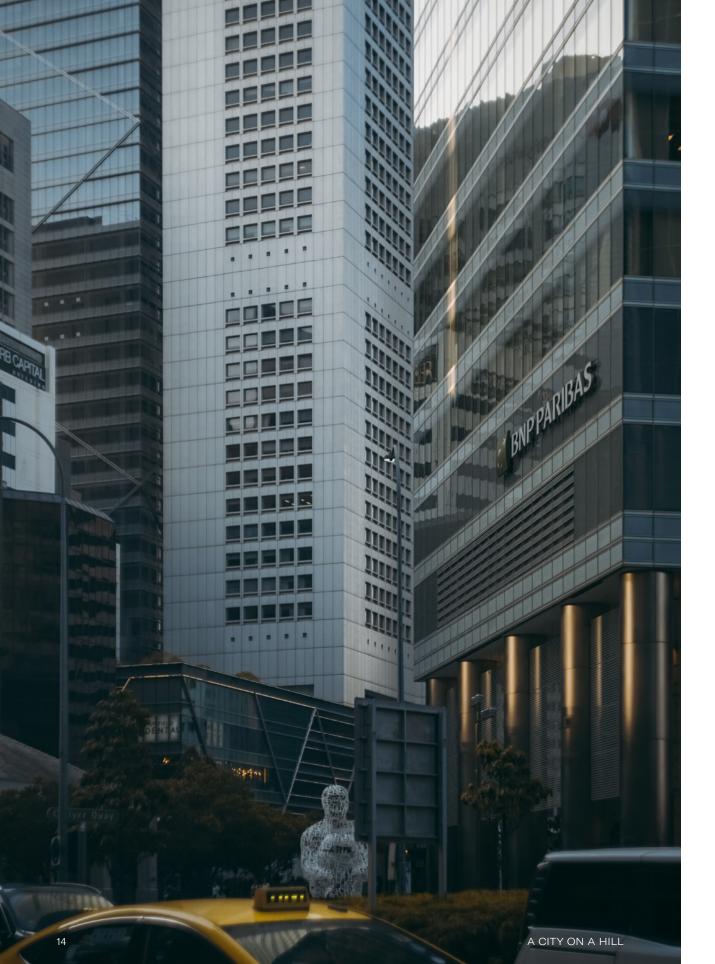
had to be made for him at school. There was still a lot of uncertainty about lan's future because of the significant bone mass loss in one leg, which could result in lan permanently having one leg shorter than the other. Nevertheless, Mr and Mrs Ng persisted in prayer throughout the entire process.

Six months ago, the doctors finally gave Ian the all-clear. The family could not believe their ears - lan's two limbs were AMAZINGLY of the same length. This could only mean one of two things: either the leg that had the plates inserted continued to grow (although it was completely broken through) or the good leg did not grow. The doctors pronounced it "truly nothing short of a miracle!"

Mr and Mrs Ng are thankful for how this episode has touched their family. lan's uncle has started going to church and a seed has also been planted in lan's grandmother's heart, after believing that these miracles are truly because of God. Truly, in all things, God works for the good of those who love Him.



ALBERT knows our Lord is always faithful and he hopes to reflect God's goodness in people's every day.



God Restored My Marriage

BY JAZZ (PSEUDONYM)



Many would describe 2020 as "chaotic", "disruptive" and even "depressing" with the pandemic that swept across the world in a flash. For me, 2020 was exactly all of these, as I witnessed my marriage breaking down and my family tearing apart.

I have been married for six years and blessed with two beautiful girls. As a very practical person, I never reflected on the health of my marriage. The daily demands of juggling work and family were already taxing enough physically and mentally. I never thought that I would be tempted by marital sin, since it was clear to me that this was not acceptable to God.

Who knew that what started off as a harmless offer of a car ride would spiral so

quickly out of control? As my husband and I are both working parents, I would send my children to pre-school in the day before taking the train to work and picking them up in the evening. After dropping my children off one day, I bumped into their classmate's father, 'E'. We chatted for a while before he offered me a ride to work since it was on the way. It was just a car ride, what could go wrong? Since I was going to be late for work, I readily agreed.

We hit it off instantly. I felt like we could understand and relate fully to each other. The rides became frequent and soon turned into dates. I grew more and more emotionally attached to 'E'. As much as I knew it was wrong, I could not control my emotions. I constantly felt guilty and

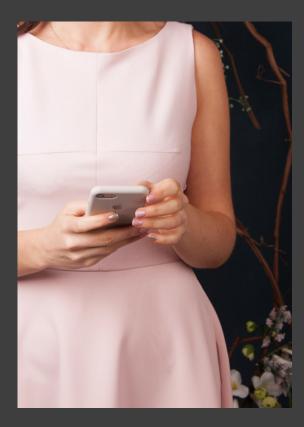
uneasy within, but was not willing to end the relationship. I would come up with excuses to convince myself that my actions were justifiable as long as I continued to carry out my duties as a wife and a mother, and did not neglect my family.

However, I found myself becoming increasingly hot-tempered and impatient towards my family. I blew up at my husband and children at the slightest things. I pitied myself as I was heavily burdened by family commitments. I wished I could just leave the family and live the carefree life that I wanted.

My sins distanced me from God. I dreaded the Bible readings as they felt dry and nothing would register. The Holy Spirit was also constantly convicting me with questions, "Do you want your children to call someone else 'Daddy'?" "Do you think he can love your children like your husband?" "How are you going to continue your walk with God if you do not confess and surrender this sin?" "How are you going to bring up your children in godly ways if you continue to turn away from God?" However, the moments spent with 'E' allowed me to dwell in short-term pleasure, which took these questions off my mind for a while.

The relationship went on for about six months. As much as I enjoyed the momentary happiness, I could feel the turmoil within that was growing in intensity each day. I started praying for forgiveness and strength to turn away from the sin but I was not ready to surrender completely to God. I had devoted too much emotion to the relationship. I was in so much pain that I asked God to give me a helping hand.

God is faithful to the faithless, forgotten and fallen, and He answered my prayer for help through my sister. While doing her quiet time, she received a vision of a car seat and felt prompted to pray for me as she sensed that I was in bondage and was not my usual self. All this while, she was clueless about everything; we had grown distant in the past months as I could not



bring myself to talk to her. She shared her thoughts with my husband who had already grown suspicious of me during that time and everything unravelled from there.

One evening, my husband saw my text exchanges with 'E' and confronted me. My first reaction was to deny everything even though I knew the texts provided clear evidence against me. Eventually I gave in and confessed. Instead of being apologetic, I was adamant that what had happened was due to my husband's neglect of me. I was hoping that he would embrace me, but things went downhill.

My husband moved out of our home and we were prepared to file for divorce. He told my sister that the marriage was irreconcilable, and divorce was the only option. My sister persisted in prayer and fasting for me and my family. She told my husband that she sensed God would deliver a breakthrough on the following Friday, which would mark the seventh day since the issue blew up.

After my husband moved out, my heart was in excruciating pain and tears flowed

uncontrollably every day. I surrendered myself to God and called out to Him for healing and guidance. On the seventh day, while I was doing my quiet time, a thought came to me: "if you want to rebuild this family and love your husband, get your husband to move back home immediately." I instantly felt a weight lift off me and I immediately texted my husband to come home. He was overjoyed.

It was difficult at first, but I praise God that my husband was willing to give me and our marriage a second chance. I severed all ties with 'E', and I make a conscious effort every day to take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

the Lord and in his mighty armor of God, so that against flesh and blood, against the authorities, dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the able to stand your ground,

Ephesians 6:10-13

Indeed, the enemy seeks to entangle us by enticing and seducing us through our 'feelings'. I was craving love and attention which was not communicated to my husband, and this gave an open door for a third party to step in. The spiritual forces of evil are real, and that is why we need to put on the full armour of God, walk humbly with God, and guard our hearts and minds.



As much as 2020 was chaotic, disruptive, and depressing for my family, it was also a year of breakthrough and freedom from bondage. My marriage has been restored by God's grace, mercy, and faithfulness, and I am still seeing breakthroughs in my marriage and parenting journey today. My husband and I are receiving marriage counselling at CMC, which has helped us to strengthen our marriage.

If you are experiencing marital issues, I would like to encourage you to boldly call out to God and seek professional help. I know in faith that He WILL deliver you!

16 A CITY ON A HILL GOD RESTORED MY MARRIAGE 1

Painting With A Purpose

BY NETANIA PEREIRA



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

In what ways has God equipped you to share His love? What talents or skills do you have that can be used for His glory?

89-year-old Mildred Appaduray found a simple way to be a blessing by using her hobby of painting.

It all started last year when she had a desire to bless Marine Parade Polyclinic. "I've been going to the polyclinic for over 20 years, and they are very nice people. They always make me better and so I thought I should do something for them."

As she mulled over what would be a fitting

gift, two factors stood out to her – it needed to be personal, and it needed to be useful. That's when the idea of customised tote bags came to her. With a plan in mind, she set out to purchase 130 tote bags and had them delivered to her home. She then added on the personal touch by hand painting each one! The whole process took about four months.

Once completed, the tote bags were given to the staff and used as gifts for special guests and visitors. She didn't think much of her gesture and was actually surprised that people took to them. "To be honest, my motive is selfish because painting fills up my afternoon. As I live alone, my home can get very quiet and thoughts from the past come creeping back. This brings me down, but painting provides an escape. So as much as I do it for others, I'm doing it for myself as well."

The Creative Process
Mildred began her painting journey
30 years ago when she retired as an

Executive Producer at Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (known today as Mediacorp). With no formal training, she picked up her painting skills along the way and refined her art with frequent practice. Today, her home is filled with beautiful pieces that she had painted over the years. She even painted a mural on one of her walls!

Before she begins any piece, she always asks the Holy Spirit to guide her. For inspiration, she refers to her large collection of pictures that includes a variety of nature. "I like the sea and the waves. They can be very angry or timid, there are so many different types of waves!" says Mildred. "I'm not very good at faces though. Somehow, they all look very... severe." Jokes aside, her biggest challenge is having the mood to paint, "It's a struggle sometimes because I have the time, but if the mood isn't there it doesn't come out well," she says.

Continuing the Good Work

This year, she took on smaller projects where she could continue to put her hobby to good use. She met two CMCers last year, Shirley Yong and Esther Tan, and they helped her to carry out these projects.

The first project was to paint a stack of 40 cards that had two copies per design. Similar to a game of Snap, the goal is to flip through the cards and match the identical designs together in pairs to encourage mental alertness and memory. Through Esther, these were given to the residents of Christalite Methodist Home. Mildred also painted another stack for Outram Community Hospital earlier this year as recommended by her friend in the Ministry of Health.

Another ongoing project is done together with Shirley. They have been meeting a







few times a month to listen to worship songs and to pray. During this time, they also create bookmarks that can be used to bless and encourage others. The process is simple - with the Holy Spirit's leading, Mildred would paint, and Shirley would add a Bible verse of encouragement that matches. "I'm so amazed as to how God in His divine ways brought us together," shares Shirley. "We have a good time of being still and creating the bookmarks together. I have a lot to learn from her on painting!"

These cards are then given out to whoever needs them.
They recently visited Mildred's neighbour who underwent an operation. They felt led to encourage her by praying with her and giving her the bookmark.

A Practical Approach

Mildred's conviction to do this is very simple – if it's for someone who will enjoy it, why not! But she stresses that you need to have the commitment to do so, and some sort of ability so that things will move. She encourages

anyone who is keen to do something similar with four words: be guided by God.

"I wasn't like this before," she admitted, "I don't know what changed". Needless to say, her change of heart has been a blessing to many!



Seed projects are small scale, wholistic outreach initiatives where the church demonstrates God's love in practical ways to those in their community. Rather than adhoc

church-wide outreach programmes, Seed projects are carried out by church members themselves on an ongoing basis and within a certain time frame. If you would like to embark on your own Seed project, do reach out to us so we can journey with you – contact **Joshua Tang** at **josh@cmc.org.sg** or **6345 3934**.

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To Chai Chee, With Love

Sharing some love to the community over Christmas and Chinese New Year!













We're Back in Person

It's so wonderful to be able to worship the Lord together again as one family!

Come and join us for our in-person services! For the full schedule of our services and to book your tickets, visit **cmc.org.sg/in-person**

PHOTOS BY JASON CHO AND LIM FUNG JEN











BAPTISED

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS IVAN GUOH MISS ANN GUOH

SON OF MR AND MRS KELVIN KOH

MASTER KOH REI

SON OF MR AND MRS STANLEY SOH MASTER MATTHIAS SOH

SON OF MR AND MRS BRYAN TAN

MASTER LUKE TAN

SON OF MR AND MRS MARCUS TAN

MASTER SETH TAN

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS TIMOTHY TIO

MISS KYRA TIO

DAUGHTER OF DR AND MRS JONATHAN YAP

MISS ARIELLE YAP

SON OF DR AND MRS JONATHAN YAP

MASTER ISAAC YAP

MS ANG CHING PIN

MS MELISSA CHAY

MR ED CHEONG

MS REBECCA CHEONG

MR CHEW JOO KIM

MS CHEW LIE LENG

MR MICHAEL CHNG

MR HO JUNXIONG

MS HO LIYING

MS THERESA HUANG

MS LUCY KHOH

MR JONATHAN LAM

MS VANIA LAM

MR VINCENT LEOW

MR JOHNNY LIM

MR LEROI LIM MS JESSICA LIN

MS ESTHER LOH

MS LILY LOH

DR LOW YING XIN

MS KAREN NG

MR NG SOON HOCK

MS CLARINDA ONG

MR STANLEY SOH

MR BRYAN TAN

MS TAN LAI HAR

DR TAN YIN SHUEN

MS AUDREY TENG

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

CHRISTMAS 2020









MR TENG BOON KWEE MS TANIA TENG MR WONG KIN HOONG MDM CHONG KING HAR MR ISAAC CHEW* MR IRVIN ONG*

*Reaffirmation of Baptism

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MS ANG CHING PIN

MS BAH CHEW YIN

MS LYDIA BIN

MS CHAN YOKE LIN

MR CHANG JUN RONG

MR ED CHEONG

MS REBECCA CHEONG

MR CHER BO CHYE

MR ISAAC CHEW

MS CHEW LIE LENG

MR CHEW JOO KIM

MR MICHAEL CHNG

MR AUGUSTINE CHONG

MS CHUA PEI LING

MS CHEW PENG HEALEY

MS DELIA HO

MR HO JUNXIONG

MS HO LIYING

MS THERESA HUANG

MS LUCY KHOH

MS WENDY LAU

MS LIM YEW KEE

MR VINCENT LEOW

MR JOHNNY LIM

MS JESSICA LIN

MS ESTHER LOH

MS LILY LOH

DR LOW YING XIN

MR MATTHEW NEO

MR NG SOON HOCK

MS CLARINDA ONG

MS QUAH SOON HONG

DR ERVIN SETHI

DR SHEVAUN SETHI

MR STANLEY SOH

MR BRYAN TAN

MS TAN LAI HAR

MS TAN SOCK HOON

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PHOTOS BY CHUA WEE KIAT AND LIM FUNG JEN

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

DR TAN YIN SHUEN
MS AUDREY TENG
MR TENG BOON KWEE
MS TANIA TENG
MS ADELE TEO
MR KENNETH WONG

TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM AMAZING GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MR KEL CHOU

TRANSFERRED FROM TRINITY CHRISTIAN CENTRE MR SIMON LAM

TRANSFERRED FROM CHERITH BAPTIST CHURCH MS JENNY TAN

TRANSFERRED FROM ST HILDA'S CHURCH
MS IRENE TAY

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

CHRISTMAS 2020













TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERRED FROM SAMARAH METHODIST CENTRE, KUCHING MS EMMA CHEN

TRANSFERRED FROM ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH MR HANSEL HO

TRANSFERRED FROM ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH MS GAN SOON BEE

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH MS KWAH LI-LIEN

TRANSFERRED FROM ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH MR ANDREW LEE

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
MS JOANNE LEE

TRANSFERRED FROM GEREJA METHODIST SUBANG JAYA
MR LIM YEE WENG

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH MS CARINE LOW

TRANSFERRED FROM PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH MR IRVIN ONG

TRANSFERRED FROM ALDERSGATE METHODIST CHURCH MR JOSHUA SNG

TRANSFERRED FROM BARKER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH MS AUDREY TAN

TRANSFERRED FROM BARKER ROAD METHODIST CHURCH MR RONNIE TEO

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH MR WONG SIEW LOONG

PHOTOS BY CHUA WEE KIAT AND LIM FUNG JEN

A CITY ON A HILL WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

BAPTISED

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS ERROL CHAMPION
MISS KEIRA KITT CHAMPION

SON OF MR AND MRS EDDEE NG

MASTER IAN NG

SON OF MR AND MRS EDDEE NG
MASTER RHYS NG

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS CHRISTOPHER THIA

MISS EUNICE THIA

DAUGHTER OF MR AND MRS GLENN WONG
MISS KAYLEIGH AVERY WONG

MS MICHELLE CHEN MR EDDEE NG MR JULIEN SOON MS JENNIFER TEOH

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MR JOEL ANG
MS MICHELLE CHEN
MR EDDEE NG
MS SARAH NGUYEN
MS PAULINE ONG
MS CHARLENE QUEK
MR DOMINIC SIM SOBAK
MR JULIEN SOON
MS JASMINE TAN
MS JENNIFER TEOH

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY





EASTER 2021







TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM GLORY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MR LIM KIAN CHIAT

TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

TRANSFERRED FROM PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH MS DULCIE CHAN

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH
MS CHERYL CHEONG

TRANSFERRED FROM PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH MR JEFFREY MOK

TRANSFERRED FROM WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH MR JEREMY NG

TRANSFERRED FROM PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCI MS YEO CHEW KHEANG

PHOTOS BY CHUA WEE KIAT, LIM FUNG JEN AND JASON CHO

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Pastor Barnabas Chong is no stranger to CMC, having been appointed as a pastor here in 2015 before he left for his study leave in 2018. We catch up with him as he has begun his new season back here at CMC since 1 August 2020.



Catching up with Pastor B!

BY VANESSA ONG

For the benefit of those who are new to CMC, could you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am married to May, my wife of 27 years, and we have three sons: Aaron, Elisha and Josiah. We are the proud owners of two dogs, Pepper and Peanut, a father-and-son pair of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

Describe your journey towards full-time ministry.

I first felt God's calling to serve Him "anytime, anywhere" at a missions conference in 1987, but it was only eight years later, when I was working as an auditor at Ernst & Young, that I was drafted into active duty. I started serving as an associate pastor with my home church Shalom Gospel Hall in 1995, before becoming a Methodist pastor in 2002. Since then, I have served at Barker Road, Faith, Paya Lebar, Cairnhill and Aldersgate Methodist Churches, and of course, CMC.

It seems like you enjoy old school rock music! Could you share with us your favourite band and what rock music means to you?

I love rock music for how it provokes you and makes you think about what the artiste is trying to convey. My favourite band at that time was Deep Purple; I loved their style of heavy rock with a touch of blues. Currently, amongst others, I am listening to a Christian rock band known as Superchick. Their music speaks to the younger generation about making a difference and coming into their own identity. Musically, they are an amazing band—each of their songs sounds unique and fresh. Check them out!

What were you up to before you were appointed back to CMC?

I was on study leave pursuing my Master of Theology (MTh) at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia. It was a wonderfully refreshing time in the Lord.

What came to mind when you learnt about your appointment back to CMC?

I was excited for the opportunity to work with Pastor Edwin, who is a dear friend of mine. They used to call us the 'Twin Towers in TRAC'; I was bigger than him! The first question I asked him was "why do you want me here? You have such a big team already!"

He responded that he wanted me to work on Intentional Discipleship. I was quite speechless – my MTh thesis was on the topic of church growth with a strong emphasis on discipleship, and I had been praying to be appointed to a church where I could focus on discipleship for the remainder of my years before retirement. I'm very thankful that God decided to bring me back to CMC.

How has CMC changed since your last appointment here?

CMC members have always been warm and welcoming! If anything, they have gotten even warmer and more caring. A few months before my appointment back to CMC became official, I was stricken by tuberculosis and a collapsed lung, and spent more than two months in hospital. During this time, I received an outpouring of support from members praying for me, and I felt very loved and cared for.

Were there moments where you struggled in your walk with God? What would you say to encourage those going through a similar struggle?

One area where I struggled with was being busy as a pastor. There were times my busyness doing God's work squeezed out my personal devotion time with God. And it was assumed that because I was doing church work, I was doing OK. But if you are not careful, you can be in a position where you run on half-tank and start to feel spiritually dry, even though you may be connected to people in the church.

I started this habit some years ago of taking half a day or a full day to go to different parts of Singapore and just spend time alone with the Lord – reading the Bible, praying and thinking through things. That has helped me keep centred on God.

Generally, people would say "I don't have time" or "I'm too busy". Indeed, we can be very busy, but we always make time for what is important to us. Thus, if we love God, we should make time to rediscover God and re-centre ourselves so that we keep anchored on what's truly important in life.

Is there a specific area of ministry that is close to your heart?

I have become very convinced about the importance of discipleship. I was studying Matthew 28:19-20 thoroughly and found that I missed the main point. I realised that Jesus had defined disciple-making in the passage. He said

"...make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you".

How do we help every member obey everything that Jesus taught?

Jesus made disciples by spending 24/7 with them for three years. They saw his habits, his devotional routine, his passion, and how he ministered to the people, all at close range. Through his modelling in community, he discipled them. There is much we can learn from there and apply in our disciplemaking process today.

What are your hopes for the church moving forward?

I hope that the church can begin to disciple the way Jesus discipled the apostles. I think it starts with remembering the call to teach all members to obey everything that Jesus commanded, and to make disciples in a small group.

So, I think we need to rethink church and ministry. Perhaps it is a signal from God to deepen our connections with one another in a more intimate setting, even as we look forward to the day we can all gather together again.

A CITY ON A HILL CATCHING UP WITH PASTOR B! 2:



From Cradle to Grave -A Heart for the **Generations**

By the end of most days, Pastor Daniel has probably had no fewer than five cups of coffee. Like many CMC-ers, coffee is more than just a simple drink to have in the morning – it's a passion.

Thankfully, the East Coast of Singapore is home to many excellent cafes...but that's not what Pastor Daniel is most thankful for in the East.

BY JOEL ANG "I've been paying ERP for the last 18 years!" says Pastor Daniel, whose previous churches, Wesley Methodist Church and Fairfield Methodist Church, were within ERP zones, though Kampong Kapor Methodist Church is just on the fringe of the CBD.

> Jokes aside, Pastor Daniel is thankful for much more than these perks of being in CMC.

"My colleagues here in this office have been very, very wonderful," he says. "It is really a dream team."

Establish the Work of our Hands

He is doubly encouraged by the "can-do" spirit of the members of CMC, despite not having the opportunity to meet everyone yet. He has seen this through the multiple times members have stepped up to serve the church, and the community around the church, through The Neighbour Initiative.

"I can sense the friendliness and the way they support the church; it's really wonderful," he says. "Some would feel it is easier to give money, and are less eager when it comes to time AND money. But in this church, I can see members are very eager to come together and do things."

Cradle to Grave

Despite being what he calls, an "extreme introvert", Pastor Daniel enjoys getting to know members by spending time with small groups of individuals and has so far hosted various ministry leaders and members. "I prefer this one-on-one with you over coffee and chitchat, or a few at a time." In fact, he extends the welcome to all who want to get to know him better to ask him out for coffee!

It's not just about spending time and enjoying company. Pastor Daniel enjoys intimate meetings because he has a heart for the generations in church. He believes that church life should not be viewed in separate and segmented ministries, but in a synergistic manner - from cradle to grave.

"I always say this: we need to take care of people in church from cradle to grave such that nobody falls through the cracks," says Pastor Daniel. "All ministries should operate in a way that supports and is connected to each other. We need to handle the children's ministry (ChristKidz) such that when the child grows up, he or she can easily fit into the youth ministry (IGNITE), and then transition into the adult ministry and so on."

Not Just a Job

It is this heart for the generations that has motivated Pastor Daniel to persevere in the journey of ministry. The journey has by no means been smooth-sailing, and has been lonely at times. However, Pastor Daniel cites the close walk with God as the main source of overcoming loneliness and obstacles faced in ministry. "You know that the Holy Spirit is with you, holding your hand along the way, so any unhappiness that comes along is really very bearable," says Pastor Daniel.

But, besides the struggles, Pastor Daniel shares the joys he has experienced in ministry as well. He thinks back to a conversation he had with his wife when he had just started out as a pastor. He had shared with her that it was the happiest he had felt in his whole working life. "It is a real joy to know that you're answering a call where you are able to impact lives and bring people to Christ - I think that's priceless," he says.

He believes that answering a call is not limited to full-time ministry, but whatever God has called you to do in life. This includes secular work where you can impact the marketplace. "Sometimes, work in the secular context can have greater impact on the marketplace, beyond what pastors or those in full-time Christian ministry can do."

FACT BOX:

Pastor Daniel has been in ministry for 18 years. He is married to his wife, Denisa S Chin, who is also in full-time ministry. Many people call them DINKS a Dual Income No Kids couple! They share a love for coffee and Japan.

food (especially Japanese), but steers clear of Thai and Korean cuisines.

He shared his journey to answering God's call into full-time Christian ministry in his sermon on 4 October 2020 - check it out on our Mobile App!



JOEL serves actively in IGNITE Youth Ministry as well as in the outreach arm of the church. He recently started his first job at CNBC International as a News Assistant. In his free time, he enjoys playing golf, nature walks, eating potato chips and drinking bandung.

Getting To Know Rev James Seow 认识萧春盛牧师



Last year, we welcomed Rev James Seow on board to be the Chinese Ministries Pastoral Team Member in CMC. Let's get to know him a little better!



Childhood Days

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My parents got married before the Japanese Occupation in Singapore because my maternal grandparents were worried about the safety of my mother who was 16 years old at the time. They rushed to betroth her to my father who was 30 years older than her. My father had a wife in China, and the first child that my parents had was arranged to be given to her. I was born only ten years after they got married.

My parents ran a provision shop on Pulau Ubin Island and were unable to take care of me, so they arranged for me to live in my grandmother's house in the main island of Singapore. I returned to Pulau Ubin years later to live with my parents and study in Pulau Ubin Primary School.

童年时代

我的父母亲是在新加坡受日本统治 之前结婚,那是因为我的外公外婆担心 当时只有16岁女儿的安全,就匆忙地把 她许配给在中国已经有了婚配的父亲。 他们两人年龄相差30岁,父母生下的头 胎就安排送给中国的原配。我是他们结 婚十多年后才出生的。由于我父母亲是 在乌敏岛开杂货店而无暇照顾我,他们 就安排我住在新加坡本岛的外婆家。直 到我适龄进入小学读书的时候,我才回 到乌敏与父母同住,也在乌敏岛小学读 书。

Throughout my childhood, my impression of my father was that of a grey-haired old man, while my mother was busy running the provision shop every day. Due to their age gap and different ways of thinking, my parents often quarrelled over trivial matters and complained about their marriage. On top of that, my mother had a very strong and violent personality. Whenever she was in a bad mood, she would scold me with nasty words, and cane me for no reason. It was only after my neighbour's persuasion did my mother stop this rough behaviour - this was when I was in Secondary Two. My life was unpleasant as a young boy and my heart was full of fear due to my living environment.

Encountering God

I attended Secondary School in the main island of Singapore, and that was where I met a respected Christian teacher and several Christian classmates. Their words, deeds, and behaviour left a very good impression on me, and I was very envious of their lives. Encouraged by my Christian classmates, I signed up for a Bible correspondence course from Singapore Every Home Crusade. At the same time, under the introduction of this organisation,

I began to participate in the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) and the Sunday Services at Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church.

While attending church and Youth Fellowship, I could feel the love and grace of God so deeply that I devoted myself to Christian faith. I was baptised as a Christian in 1970. I started serving as a committee member in Youth Fellowship and as a Sunday School teacher. At that time, the Youth Fellowship held services every Saturday night and I

would take a boat ride from Ubin Island to Changi Pier followed by a bus to Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church. After the Youth Fellowship, I would travel back the same way. 我的儿时记忆中,父亲给我的印象 是一位白发苍苍的老人,母亲则每天为 杂货店生意忙忙碌碌。由于年龄与思想 的差距,父母亲经常为生活上一些琐事 吵架,也一直互相埋怨当初的婚配。母亲 的性格十分刚烈及暴躁,她心情不好的 时候会用难听的话语来责骂我,也会无 原无故用藤条鞭打我,这种情况一直延 续到我读中学二年级,在邻居的劝导下, 我母亲才停止这些粗暴行为。所以,我年 少时期的日子真是过得很不愉快,心中 充满了恐惧,对生活环境感到非常没有 安全感。

遇到神

在我回到新加坡本岛上中学的期间,我认识了一位受人尊敬的基督徒老师,也认识了几位基督徒同学;他们的言行举止及行为都给我留下非常好的印象,也十分羡慕他们的人生。在基督徒同学的鼓励之下,我报名参加新加坡遂家文字佈道会的圣经函授课程并且收到我的第一本圣经,也在机构的介绍之下开

始参加卫理公会巴耶里 峇堂的青年团契聚会和 主日崇拜。

我在教会的崇拜和团契中,深深体会到神的爱和恩典,使我全心投入基督信仰。我是在1970年受洗。我在青年团契担任职员,也在主日学和担任职员,也在主日学者与时候的青年时,那个时候的青年晚里,我每次需要人会够岛乘船到樟瓜





A CITY ON A HILL GETTING TO KNOW REV JAMES SEOW

The next morning, I would wake up early to go on the same journey to participate in the Sunday Worship service. Although it was a long distance and travelling was inconvenient, I was never absent. In fact, I won the Fellowship Best Attendance Award for several years!

A Passion for Witnessing

After believing in the Lord, I joined some brothers and sisters from Church of Singapore to set up a place to evangelise on Ubin Island. We gathered many children to attend Sunday School and I often brought some biscuits and candies from the provision shop for them. We screened movies twice in an open space and attracted many residents to come and watch. We continued this Gospel ministry for several years until I went for National Service.

During my time in the army, I still enthusiastically witnessed for Christ. Some colleagues in the same service unit knew that I went to church every Sunday and they nicknamed me "Holy Man" to mock me, but they could not shake my faith in Christ. I also joined the Armed Forces Christian Fellowship and served as a fellowship liaison for the Singapore Eastern Infantry Regiment and the Air Force. During this period of evangelism, I led two colleagues to believe in Christ.

Heading into Full-Time Ministry

The pastor, as well as many brothers and sisters of Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church, was very supportive of me serving

God full-time, so I went to Trinity Theological College to study theology. After graduating in 1981, I ioined the Chinese **Annual Conference** (CAC) and accepted appointments to serve God in various churches.

During my 32-year tenure, 家,隔天清晨时分就再次以同样的通行 方式来到教会参加主日崇拜。虽然路途 遥远交通不便,但我从不缺席,有好几年 都获得团契最佳出席奖。

传福音的热诚

信主以后,我会和几位来自新加坡 教会的弟兄姐妹在乌敏岛上将一间空置 着的屋子用做向儿童传福音的地点,我 们召集岛上许多的儿童来参加主日学, 我也从杂货店带来一些饼干和糖果招待 小朋友们。我们曾经有两次在岛上酬神 戏台前的广场上播放电影,吸引许多居 民前来观看。向乌敏岛传福音的事工有 好几年的时间,我后来因为必须入伍当 兵才停止了这事工。

我在武装步队服兵役期间仍然热心为主 作见证,和我同单位的同事们知道我每 个星期天都去教会,就给我取外号HOLY MAN来作弄我,但这没有动摇我的基督 信仰。我也参加军队基督徒团契活动,担 任新加坡东区步兵基督徒团契与空军团 契的联系员。在这期间的传福事工,我帶 领了两位同事信主。

全职事奉

我的母堂卫理公会巴耶理峇堂的牧 师和许多弟兄姐妹都十分支持我全职 事奉上帝,于是在教会执事会成立神学

> 学课程。1981年我 加入卫理公会华人 年议会,接受委派 到各个堂会事奉上 帝。

我在32年的任 期内,曾经受委任

I was appointed to six churches as the Pastor In-Charge, and also served as the District Superintendent for seven years under the appointment of two Presidents. From 1984 to 2007, I was appointed by the Ministry of Defence to be on the Board of Visitors to SAF Detention Barracks, I participated in public service for 23 years and was awarded the National Day Public Service Medal in 2007 - the first Methodist pastor to receive this honour according to Methodist Message.

Doing God's Will

At the beginning of November 2019, I received a call from Rev Vincent Goh who mentioned that our Pastor In-Charge Rev Dr Edwin Wong would like to invite me to join the Chinese Ministry in CMC. When I met with Pastor Edwin, he mentioned that I was the person recommended by his father, Bishop Emeritus KT Wong, who was once my District Superintendent and President in CAC. This was so wonderful, because in early 2019, my family and I had prayed for my next step in ministry. We asked God to lead me to a place where I could serve the Chinese Ministry in an English-speaking Church. I obeyed and trusted God's arrangement and gladly accepted this special invitation. I formally joined CMC on 15 January 2020.

In these 40 years of full-time ministry, the Bible verse that has always been deep in my heart is Acts 13:36 "David did God's will when he was alive, and fell asleep" as David accepted God's will and served people of his time before he fell asleep. This is my goal in ministry as well.

Living a Simple Life

My wife, Sharon, and I were married in 1986 and we have a goddaughter, Louise, and a godson, Ivan. During my free time, I enjoy exercising by going for rides on my bicycle and I also love to listen to music at home. My life is simple, but I have joy in my heart as I thank God for His grace and abundant love.

到6间教会担任主理牧师,也在两位会长 委任下担任7年的教区长。我从1984年 至2007年被新加坡国防部委任为武装 部队拘留所巡查团的其中一名成员,参 与了23年的公共服务并在2007年获得 国庆公共服务奖章。卫理报称我是第一 位卫理公会的牧师获得这项荣誉奖章, 荣耀归主名。

遵行神的旨意

在2019年11月初,我接到基督堂吴 坤泉牧师的来电提到他的主理王恩伟牧 师(博士)要邀请我加入基督堂华文部的 事工。我在与大家见面的时候王牧师才 特别提起我是他的父亲王聪光荣誉会督 推荐的人选。王会督曾经是我的教区长 及会长。这样的安排真的很奇妙,因为在 2019年初年期间,我和我的家人们就曾 经在一起为着我的事奉之路祷告, 求神 带领我到一个需要我服事的地方,特别 是到英语教会的华文事工来事奉神。在 神奇妙的带领和安排下,我欣然接受这 特别的邀请并在2020年1月15日正式加 入基督堂。

这40年全职的事奉中,深刻在我心 里的圣经节是使徒行传13:36 "大卫在 世的時候遵行了上帝的旨意,就睡了" (大卫接受神的旨意服事了他那一时代 的人,就睡了)。这也是我事奉神的目标。

过着简单的生活

我和太太 SHARON 是在1986年结 婚,我们有一个干女儿 LOUISE 及一个 干儿子IVAN。我平时会骑脚踏车做些运 动,也喜欢留在家里听音乐,生活虽然简 单但充满喜乐,感谢神丰盛的恩典。

A CITY ON A HILL GETTING TO KNOW REV JAMES SEOW



Term 1, 2021

Visit www.cmc.org.sg/bts for more info and to register!



THE TRINITY

Instructor:

Ps Tay Li Ping

Dates:

8 and 15 May 2021

Time:

9.00 am to 11.00 am



UNDERSTANDING MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUPPORTING THEIR RECOVERY

Instructor:

Amos Yap

Date:

22 May 2021

Time:

1.00 pm to 4.00 pm



WALKING THROUGH THE PENTATEUCH Instructor:

Rev David Ho

Dates:

8, 15, 22, 29 May 12 and 19 June 2021

Time:

1.00 pm to 3.30 pm



KNOWING JESUS
THROUGH THE OLD
TESTAMENT LENS

Instructor:

Tan Kay Kheng

Dates:

12 and 19 June 2021

Time:

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

