



witness



Our Victory in Gratitude
The posture of giving thanks



Swept Away...Into God's Loving Arms
A journey of loss and grief



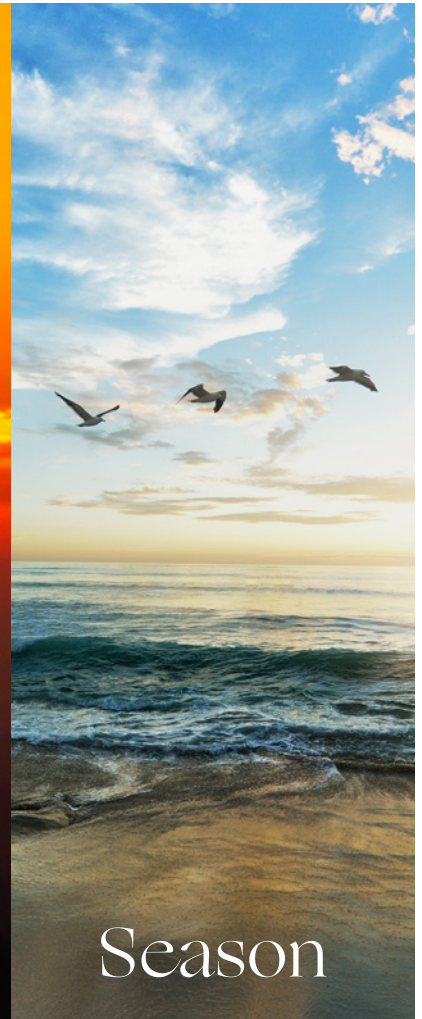
Our Hotline
God is always faithful



In



Every



Season

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A word



Thanksgiving & Gratitude

from your Pastor

REV DANIEL C. TAN

It seems to me that it is quite common to hear Christians say that they want to do the will of God. For those who believe in Jesus Christ, it is important to find out and obey the will of God for them.

In their First Letter to the Church in Thessalonica, Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy made a highly profound statement. Towards the end of their letter, in Chapter 5 verses 16 to 18, they said –

¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray without ceasing,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

In this statement, they mentioned something about the will of God for us. What is this? Besides ‘pray without ceasing’ in verse 17, we find that the will of God for us in Christ Jesus is to ‘rejoice always’ (v.16) and ‘give thanks in all circumstances’ (v.18).

Rejoice always, give thanks in all circumstances. To rejoice always and give thanks would seem rather easy. It would not be wrong to say that all of us want to be joyful and filled with gratitude in our hearts. However, the last 3 words in that statement are profound – “in all circumstances.” Can we give thanks in all circumstances?

That means we are told to give thanks even when life’s situations are not ideal – when faced with a terminal illness; under persecution; being retrenched; a cheating spouse, etc. Can we still rejoice and give thanks? Really?

Of course, the answer must be affirmative. Otherwise, why would Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy say so? If this is the case, then how can we rejoice in bad circumstances?

The answer comes from the examples set for us by our Lord Jesus Christ – especially at the Upper Room as He celebrated the Passover with His disciples before He was betrayed, tortured and crucified. Jesus knew what was to come. But with His mind set on fulfilling the will of the Father, Jesus gave thanks even though He knew what was to come.

At the Upper Room, Luke 22:19 recorded for us this –

¹⁹ And He [Jesus] took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Jesus gave thanks – not just for the meal they were to partake. He gave thanks for He knew that His body will be sacrificed for the redemption of the world. He gave thanks even though he knew the horror that awaited Him in the hours following the event at the Upper Room.

We must know that the Greek word for thanksgiving is εὐχαριστία (eucharistia). It comes from the root word χάρις (charis) meaning grace. And χάρις (chara) comes from the root word χαρά meaning joy.

This helps us to understand that thanksgiving comes to us from the grace of God who fills us with joy knowing that we are in His will. And that is how you can give thanks in all circumstances. That is to follow Jesus’s way. Look to the joy of knowing that you are doing the will of God! Joy in bad circumstances is trusting that what God has promised to us is real and we believe in God to fulfil His promises to us – that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8). Since this is the promise God gave to us, then no circumstance can steal our thanksgiving.

A Close Encounter of God's Leading and Healing

BY ANGELA CHUNG

Room 637

This was my ward number when I was hospitalised for a recent surgery. However, the arduous journey leading up to this operation was fraught with many concerns and tears. But God proves to be faithful and real. This is a testimony of how God led and comforted me throughout this journey.

Arduous Hunt for Suitable Doctor

The first gynaecologist with whom I consulted said I needed a hysterectomy with an open incision. This operation would plunge me into early menopause with post-operation discomfort. This doctor also rated the operation to be complex, which further multiplied my fears. When I left the clinic, God planted this



song in me "Nothing is too difficult for Thee, nothing is too difficult for Thee. Great and mighty God, great in counsel and mighty indeed..." God seemed to be telling me to go ahead with my surgery despite my apprehension.

Soon I decided to seek a second opinion from another gynaecologist who recommended the same treatment. Therefore, I accepted the situation and set a date for my operation on 28 February 2022.

Two weeks before my surgery date, I decided to seek a third opinion and came across Dr Anthony Siow who specialises in laparoscopic keyhole surgeries with just one cut. But knowing that my fibroids were already very large, I felt unsure if keyhole surgery would be feasible for me.

Nonetheless, I prayed before I consulted this keyhole specialist doctor. The Lord graciously answered my prayers. Dr Siow was able to perform a keyhole surgery to remove my fibroids and cyst, sparing my uterus! This meant that I would have a quicker recovery compared to an open incision, and avoid premature menopause. Praise the Lord for His wonderful ways that He has worked and is still working!

Protection from COVID-19 Infection Prior to Surgery

The waiting period before the surgery was fraught with anxieties of getting infected with COVID-19, which would derail my surgery plans. I had a few close shaves with COVID-19, but God kept me safe so that the surgery could go as planned.

I thank God too, that my husband's company allowed him to work fully from home during this period as the COVID-19 cases were rampant. I am also grateful that my husband was able to take time off from work to care for me after my surgery.

Fellowship with God's People

Another of God's blessings was attending CMC's first healing service of the year, held on 9 February. At the healing service, I am thankful for sister Suanne who prayed and encouraged me to trust in the Lord for healing. Knowing that I was not attending any Care Group (CG) then, she encouraged me to join one. Soon, the leader of Standfirm CG, sister Judy, contacted me and voila, I was a new member of a CG. The sisters from Standfirm CG supported me with their prayers and did regular check-ins which made me feel so welcomed.

God gives me songs in the night

On the night before and the morning of my operation, God planted a song in my heart called "Be strong and take courage" by Don Moen. Indeed, this verse from Psalm 32:7 rings so true:

"You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance." This song made me realise just how real God was in giving me assurance and divine comfort. Therefore, I should not

be fearful of the surgery that lay ahead.

Surgery Concerns and Outcomes

One of the main concerns regarding surgery was whether I would develop rapid heart palpitation during surgery, as this was a pre-existing condition I had. My surgeon had pre-empted me that keyhole surgery might not be an option if my heart rate does not remain stable during the procedure. Indeed, God is great and worthy to be praised! My heart rate was stable throughout the surgery, and the keyhole surgery went ahead as planned.

Post-operation, I only experienced a mild fever with no serious complications. I did not even have any nausea although the anaesthetist informed me earlier that one in three women might experience this after surgery. My recovery was rather smooth-sailing and I can only thank and praise God for His goodness.

"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked Him..."

Luke 17:15

Indeed, I want to be like that one leper who turned back to give glory to God in a loud voice for what great things He has done! (Luke 17:11-19) Amen and glory be to God!

ANGELA has been attending Christ Methodist Church for about 5 years now since moving to the east. She works in the social service industry with a special interest in disability and dementia care.

In Jesus' Name!

BY ARLENE BAUTISTA



I come from Luzon in the Philippines and have been working as a domestic helper in Singapore for 16 years. Over the years, the Lord has shown again and again how good He is to me and I have no doubt of His love for me.

I want to share one occasion of how the Lord showed me that He is a faithful God who cares for each and every one of His sheep, wherever they are.

My husband and three children are back in Philippines. I have two sons aged 24 and 22, and my daughter is 20. Since my husband and I became Christians, we imparted the faith to our children and would bring them to church. They learnt a lot through God's Word and now, they actively serve the Lord in the worship team.

In March, my husband decided to go on a full fast and only had a little bit of food and water each day. On the third day of his fast, he fainted. By God's grace my daughter was there and asked him how he was when he woke up. On the same day, he fainted a second time. By the time my second son saw him, he was having a serious seizure. His eyes had rolled back and my son could only see the whites of his eyes. When my son held him in his arms, his whole body was limp. He was not moving at all and his legs were cold. When my son called "papa papa", he did not respond.

In desperation, my son called out to God and held on to His power. He just shouted, "In Jesus name!"

In that moment, God really revealed Himself.



Immediately, my husband opened up his eyes and went "What happened?" He was completely revived and had no idea what happened!

When my son told me, I rejoiced. I could have been a widow, but God's protection was upon my family. I am so thankful that my son knows the love and power of God and in such a supposedly hopeless situation, he did not despair but immediately turned to our good God. **In all situations, no matter how**

bad they may be, we can place our trust in our faithful God. We are God's children and He cares for us!

I believe in the power of prayer, and I keep my family in my prayers every morning. I commit every single one of them to the Lord by name. I am thankful for the privilege to commit them to the Lord.

Recently, my mother, who is 86 years old, had pneumonia. As she is in the Philippines, there was nothing I could do to help but to put my trust in God. **I surrendered her to the Lord, knowing that whatever God's plan is for her, I know He has a purpose.**

God is so good and He healed her speedily. I can only have thanksgiving for how the Lord has protected me and my family. To God be the glory!



ARLENE BAUTISTA has been part of the Christ Methodist Church family for the past 14 years. She is an active member of Grace Fellowship and serves in the worship team.



Swept Away...Into God's Loving Arms

BY MONICA LIM

It was Goh Hengyi's term break from his master's degree at the University of Western Australia. Typically, he would fly back to Singapore to be with his family but this was in June 2020 – when the world was reeling from the rapidly spreading COVID-19 pandemic. Travelling back would have meant a two-week quarantine in Singapore, and he might not be allowed back into Perth as countries were shutting borders to try and stem the virus.

Instead, he decided to take a road trip with friends. On 29 June 2020, the last day of the trip, they visited Injidgup Beach, Yallingup, about 250km from Perth. Standing on a rock formation taking photos, two large

waves suddenly swept the 23-year-old away. That was the last time anyone saw him alive.

Kenneth Goh received a call that night that confirmed the worst fears of any parent. "My wife and I were devastated," he said. Adding to the anxiety and stress was the fact that they were unable to fly to Perth immediately due to COVID-19. Approvals had to be sought and they tried to appeal for a waiver of quarantine requirements due to compassionate reasons, but were turned down. In the end, they had to wait out 14 long and agonising days of quarantine in Perth before they could attend to the necessary matters for Hengyi. "It was a gruesome one month in Perth," said Kenneth.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”



Many reached out to support Kenneth, his wife Ee Choo and their elder son Jeremy while they served their quarantine at a hotel. These included friends, people from Hengyi's university, pastors and Christians from local churches who prayed for them via Zoom. Kenneth and Ee Choo were not Christians then, and in trying to grapple with their loss, had many questions. “The pastors assured us that Hengyi is with God and in good hands, and we'll see him again in heaven,” said Kenneth.

“I was initially very sceptical and full of anger. If there is a God, why didn't He save Hengyi? What did he do wrong? If we did something wrong, why was he punished?”

“The pastors got scolded by me a lot,” Kenneth recalled, wryly.

As friends came forward to share their memories of Hengyi, a few surprises were uncovered. For one, the family never knew that Hengyi attended church in Perth. “As far as we knew, he was a free thinker,” said Kenneth. “Ee Choo and I followed Buddhist traditions, though not staunchly.” Because of Christian practices and the revelation

that Hengyi might have been saved by God, the family decided to go with Christian rituals for Hengyi's funeral. After much deliberation the family also decided to place his niche in a church columbarium.

A memorial service was held in Perth organised by Hengyi's university, with live stream so relatives and friends of Hengyi back home could join in. The university also planted a memorial tree at its campus to remember Hengyi.

The love for Hengyi and support of Christians in Perth touched the family deeply. “They didn't know us, yet they showed us so much compassion,” said Kenneth. When the family returned to Singapore, the Christian community too, rallied around them. A cousin who attended CMC introduced Pastor Barnabas, who met with the family and ministered to them regularly for more than a year. Another cousin, who was a member of Barker Road Methodist Church also journeyed with the family. She went to their home, and personally conducted the Alpha course and Bible studies with them. This was the beginning of their faith journey.

It was the Christian belief that the family will be reunited in heaven one day and the support of Christians that won the family over to the faith.

“Initially, I felt like God was a stranger,” admitted Kenneth. “But as I learned and listened more, and read the Bible, I gradually came to understand more about Christ and finally accepted Him. When I am down, I pray and God often responds to my prayers.” Kenneth and Ee Choo chose to be part of CMC and were baptised last Christmas. They are currently members of Aglow CG and Kenneth also joined the Starfish outreach programme.

Two years on, the family still feels the loss of Hengyi keenly. “Even though the grief becomes less intense, it never goes away,” said Kenneth.

“Life has not been the same without Hengyi but our love for him will never change. There are days that we miss him a lot. Not a day goes by that we are not thinking about him”

Difficult as it is, Kenneth takes comfort in trusting that Hengyi is in a better place, in the arms of God. From the dreams and visions that he, Ee Choo and Jeremy have had, they are assured that they will one day be reunited again. “In our heartbreak and pain, we have found comfort

and peace in God,” he said simply. “I wouldn't have been able to weather the darkness of the first year without God's presence.” His favourite chapter in the Bible is Psalm 23. Engraved on Hengyi's niche is verse 6: “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

When asked if he had any advice to others who might be going through something similar, Kenneth listed two groups of people as important sources of support. The first is professional help such as counsellors, and the second is the faith community such as pastoral care and the Christian community.

“You cannot go through something like this on your own,” he said. “As a faith community, we need to walk with one another through difficult times.”



MONICA is a published author, blogger and runs her own copywriting agency. Through divine leading, COVID-19 has introduced her to art, for which she has miraculously won awards. She sells her artwork for charity, and sees art as a channel for conversations about God.



We are Back!



As of June 2022, all our services have resumed in person! We rejoice and are thankful to be able to worship the Lord together again as one CMC family.

Come and join us in person! For more information on our different services, visit www.cmc.org.sg/about-us



IGNITE



Grace Fellowship



Mandarin Service



Cantonese Service



Hokkien Service



Romans 1:21

“For although they knew God, they did not honour him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”



Our Victory in Gratitude

BY CARYN FONG

It has gradually dawned upon me that the act of giving thanks is very much more for our benefit, indeed for our victory, than I had otherwise known. I confess that more often than not, gratitude meant more of a nicety than a necessity. But as we allow Scripture to speak truth into our hearts, we soon realise that expressing our gratitude to God is not at all superfluous but in fact vital for anyone who professes to be in Christ.

Scripture reveals that all of us still contend with the flesh on this side of eternity. And at the root of that which ensnares us, we often find a presumptuous heart filled with ingratitude. Simply put, underlying much of our grudging discontentment and disappointment, we often find assumptions that we somehow deserve more than what we have received. These assumptions breed an autonomy apart from His divine

providence and ultimately rob God of the glory due His Name. Ingratitude robs God of the glory due His Name.

Gratitude is so much more than a mere demonstration of good manners; it is at its core a declaration of our faith in God.

As we offer our thanksgiving to God, we are professing our confidence in Him whose “divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3), beholding Him who is able to “make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8) This declaration of faith does not imply that we need not ask of Him anything, but that in our asking, regardless of the outcome of our circumstances, we can rest fully upon the unchanging goodness of His perfect will toward us who are in Christ. Because God’s love for us endures forever, we need not worry about what tomorrow holds. This is neither suggesting that we live in oblivion nor denial in the face of genuine difficulty, but rather offering a reframing as it were, of the predicaments we find ourselves in. Or perhaps in more familiar terms, we are choosing to walk by faith and not by sight. We are placing our confidence in God’s faithfulness over the flood, trusting in His sovereignty over the storm.

As Tim Keller puts it, “I am going to judge my circumstances by Jesus’ love, not Jesus’ love by my circumstances.”

So what role does gratitude have in the greater scheme of victorious living? It is this posture of giving thanks to Him who is able to keep us from falling, that we stand



victorious over doubt and unbelief, rendering them defeated foes in Christ. Indeed, gratitude is a powerful weapon that fortifies our heart and renews our mind in the steadfast love of our Lord, “Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.” (Psalms 107:8,9) Our God is a good, good Father. It is upon His very goodness that we declare victory over our anxious hearts.

And God’s goodness is not fickle, here today and gone tomorrow. For as surely as God is faithful and unchanging, His goodness is faithful and unchanging. Therefore, His goodness to me is faithful and unchanging. Better yet, His goodness for me is faithful and unchanging.

“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

(Hebrews 4:16)

Come, let us approach Him whose love for us is steadfast, giving thanks in all circumstances, for therein lies our victory!



CARYN’S home and heart is in East Asia, where she has lived for the past 20 years. Her own messy journey back to the Father’s heart has impassioned her to invite others to taste and see, that the LORD is indeed good.

You Have Always Wanted to Serve, Don't Hold Back

BY ALBERT WEE



“In the past, I had this mindset that rental block residents would get financial help from social service organisations,” shares Steven. “Little did I know that not all needs are financial in nature as many seek emotional support, especially single elderly folks who have a few or no family members.” Together with his wife, Aurelia, the couple

has been volunteering with one of CMC’s Community Outreach bridges, Starfish, since 2021. Starfish is a group of CMC volunteers whose duties include helping to distribute groceries to the rental block residents in Marine Terrace and to befriend them.

God's Timeline

Steven and Aurelia's journey to volunteering began back in 2019, one year after they returned to Singapore as they were away for almost two decades.

"I didn't have much time to do volunteer work when we got back as I was still working. But when I was retrenched in 2019, I knew that I had no more excuses to give God for failing to volunteer my time" says Aurelia.

For Steven, volunteering was part of his faith journey – in January 2019 he had to undergo a six-hour surgery to remove a brain tumour and on one of the nights alone on the hospital bed, he came to accept Christ.

Soon after, he started to attend church services regularly with Aurelia, and joined Alpha and Disciple classes to learn more about God and His Word. With God's healing grace, Steven was prompted to give back to society. He recalls, "The 'To Chai Chee, With Love' project in 2019 helped open my eyes to the life and living conditions of the less privileged".

In 2020, their Disciple 1 class volunteered together at Willing Hearts. From that experience, Steven and Aurelia were motivated to search for volunteer opportunities for themselves. As they continued into Disciple 2, they felt that they needed to commit to a regular programme. They decided to join Starfish on a fortnightly basis after being inspired by their Disciple classmate, Linda Sethi, who is one of the original members of Starfish.

I Need the Lord in This

As they began their Starfish journey, they faced some challenges along the way, with communication being a major one. Many elderly residents were only able to converse in certain dialects that were unfamiliar to both Steven and Aurelia. But through a combination of Mandarin and sign language, they were able to get through to the residents. As the couple dedicated themselves to visiting and showing care



every fortnight, the residents also grew in their acceptance of the couple over time. "We learnt when we show our genuine concern and bring them some of their favourite food, they are happy to receive us and will update us on their lives," shares Aurelia

These life updates can include issues on their childhood, financial situation, or their children. These are all very personal stories which show that the residents trust Steven and Aurelia enough to share.

The Lord Provides

Steven and Aurelia recalled how they have witnessed miracles of God's providence. In

February 2022, one Starfish family asked them for help to get a fridge because theirs stopped working. They knew it was going to be difficult to find someone to donate a fridge during the Chinese New Year holidays. However, they recalled that there was one fridge stored in the Marine Terrace Residents' Committee storage room.

This fridge was donated by Steven and Aurelia's friend who is a property agent and it was kept in the storage room in case there was a need. Earlier this year, the couple had been stirred to ask their property agent friends to spread the word should there be suitable kitchen appliances that could be donated to the residents. Truly Jehovah

Jireh (The Lord, our Provider) was at work here!

The First Steps are Always the Most Difficult

The couple recognises that it is always tough to take that first step when it comes to volunteering. But once the first step is taken, the momentum will build up naturally.

There may be initial resistance from the residents but persevere as you are trying to bring God's love to them.

As Steven rightly remarked "Once you believe that you are doing all these to glorify His name, your expectations or concerns will be secondary".

"It made a difference to that one!"

The Starfish story is one where a little girl sifts through the debris on the beach to find starfish and throw them back into the sea. Even though her efforts were ridiculed by passers-by as the beach was endless and she could only save a few, the important thing was that she made a difference to the few she saved.

All of us are given opportunities to create positive changes, but more often than not, we give excuses by rationalising "How much of a difference can I really make?" You may not be able to change the whole world, but each life you touch matters.

Will you follow the example of that little girl today?

JOIN US:

Come and be a vessel of Christ's love to those in our community! Find out more about Starfish and our other community outreach programmes at www.cmc.org.sg/community-outreach



ALBERT knows that our Lord is always faithful and he hopes to reflect God's goodness in people's everyday

Our Hotline

BY SALLY NAM



In November 2021, I had my bi-yearly body check-up. The doctor's report indicated that my cholesterol was in the high-risk range. The recommendation was that I start medication for life immediately. Otherwise I would be at risk for stroke, hypertension and multiple complications.

As I was hit by the news, I prayed at the clinic for wisdom. The Holy Spirit impressed upon me not to take the medication but to change my lifestyle.

On top of that, I was retrenched in October 2021. I was left with no work and had to worry about two things in my life at the same time. It was a total joke, I thought. **But this is what I am going to acknowledge: God is always faithful.**

The first testimony is of how God made it possible for me to find work again.

I reflected on what the Holy Spirit impressed upon me when I received the doctor's report.

"Do not take the medication, change your lifestyle." Throughout 2020 and 2021, I was teaching via Zoom where I was glued to my seat for almost 12 hours or more. God loves me and He took away the job. But at the time of retrenchment, I was devastated. I did not know what to do without a job. **The Holy Spirit reminded me, "I have plans for you."** At that moment, I remembered my first encounter with God when I received salvation and Jeremiah 29:11 came to mind:

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

After I recalled the verse, I felt at peace. I thanked Abba Father for His blessings.

I started to look for other jobs, sending multiple resumes over three weeks. None came back, except for some scammers. On one of the days, I received an email for a job in the education industry. When my children were younger, I would send them to this particular centre and I thought to myself that it would be great if I could work there. As I read their email, I realised that I did not meet any of the company's requirements. Despite this, the Holy Spirit moved me to "send it." However, I assumed it was my intuition and not the Holy Spirit, since it seemed too coincidental that the email came into my inbox at that time. So I ignored it.

Days passed. The email popped up again a second time and as I checked my inbox, I thought that it was probably a mass email sent by email generators. I wanted to ignore it again, but the Holy Spirit prompted me to "Just send it." This time, I listened. I sent in my application on the last Monday of November. The very next day, I received a reply for an interview on Wednesday. I went for the interview and was accompanied by Audrey, my prayer buddy. She prayed for me

and waited for me during my interview. That very Friday, I was hired! Hallelujah! As the school term had already begun, I started work the following Monday. Until today, I am still thankful for God's grace and His faithfulness!

The second testimony is of how God miraculously lowered my cholesterol.

Upon hearing the doctor's report in November, I was devastated. I did not know what to do but just prayed fervently. During this time, God led me to read the Psalms from chapters 30 through to 37. The Holy Spirit also prompted me to have a monthly fast, so I listened, and I obeyed. Three months later, during my second consultation, my blood test results came back amazing!

Today, I am completely healed with lower readings.

With God, all things are possible. He is the Mighty One. Jesus has given His servants a "hotline" to God, but it is not just for emergency use - it is to be used all the time.

I'm thankful for this hotline. I pray that God will help me to be like Jesus, to seek solitude, pray and hear God's words. I'm also thankful for my dearest husband Randy, and my two beautiful daughters Trina and Tricia who pray fervently for me and encourage me with their faith.

God has shown me that as I walk with Him, He is truly faithful and mighty to save. Thank you, God!



SALLY is married with two beautiful teenage daughters, soon becoming young adults.

His Mighty Hands

BY RANDY POH

I remember it was 6 January 2021 at 8am when I fetched my mum for her routine medical check-up. Upon entering her house, I saw her sitting on the kitchen floor with an abnormal expression, muttering and slurring in her speech. Immediately, I called for an ambulance and she was brought to Changi General Hospital. After observation at the A&E, the doctor diagnosed mum as having suffered a stroke and arranged for her transfer to Singapore General Hospital (SGH) instead. Cases of patients being transferred to another hospital upon hospital request was very rare, but we followed their instructions. After mum was admitted to SGH, the doctor tried to perform a medical procedure by inserting a tube through a vessel in her hand to disperse the blood clots in her brain, but it was unsuccessful. She went into a coma, eventually losing consciousness.

One of the difficult decisions we had to make was whether we wanted to put her

through open head surgery, as the clots had led to her brain swelling and resulted in high pressure in her brain. The doctor advised us that this was a major surgery. Taking into consideration her age and the severity of the stroke, the surgery would only prolong her life but leave her with disabilities because of the damage done to her brain. We were in a dilemma, not knowing whether or not to proceed with the brain surgery, since our mum had previously indicated that if she were ever to be left with no quality of life, she would rather die. My mum was not yet a believer then, although she had attended church services before.

After further discussion with my siblings, we made the difficult decision not to go ahead with the surgery as we did not want our mum to endure all the pain and suffering (she had already been in a coma in the ICU for seven days) I cannot describe the feelings I had. It was devastating. Imagine preparing to let a loved one go and not



saving her. It was during those moments that I fully understood the fragility of life. There is nothing we can do if God is not there for us. I prayed for God to take over and have His way in my mum's life, trusting that He knows what is best for her. God willing, please deliver her from further suffering.

After the eighth day, the doctor told us that a miracle had happened! The swelling had started to reduce, resulting in an easing on the pressure in her brain. He also commended us for making the right decision in not proceeding with the surgery, as there would have been other risks such as infections and serious complications.

After mum was discharged, my sister who was staying with her was infected with COVID-19. Thankfully, we had already brought my parents for their first vaccine shot. Later, my helper was also infected with COVID-19. Again, I thank God that

this was after my parents' second vaccine shot and mum was not infected by either of them. After my parents' booster shot earlier this year, my second helper was infected with COVID-19 too. I thank God that while mum eventually caught the virus, this was only after she was fully vaccinated. By God's grace, mum only experienced mild symptoms and recovered fully after a week despite her current health condition. Even though we faced a lot of challenges due to COVID-19, in each situation, God was always there for us even before mum became a believer in Christ.

Today, mum is bedridden but she has come to salvation in Christ and praises the Lord every day. Thank you, God, for Your grace and mercy.



RANDY has been in the financial industry for 27 years. He is married with two beautiful teenage daughters.

BAPTISED

CHILDREN

MASTER JACOB LEE
MASTER MATTHEW LEE
MASTER CALEB LIAO
MASTER JAYDEN LIAO
MISS MICAH LIN
MASTER XADRIC NEO
MASTER XARIUS NEO
MASTER JULIAN ONG
MASTER JAYDEN TAN
MASTER LEVI TAN
MISS LI YI YI
MASTER DECLAN THAM
MISS KIERA THAM
MISS MAEVE THAM

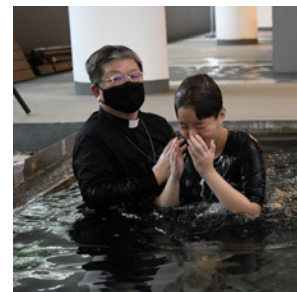
ADULTS

MS BAK JING TING DAWN
MS KERI-ANN CHAMPION
MR MATTHEW CHIN
MS CHIOK EE CHOO
MR KENNETH GOH
MS BELINDA HONG
MR HOWE WEE CHONG
MR KENNY LEE
MR LIM YOKE YONG RONNIE
MS DOREEN NG
MR DOUGLAS ONG
MR TAN CHEE KIANG
MS TEH RU EN
MS YONG KWEE CHIN HELEN
MS EDITH WANG
*MS ASHLEY LOW
*MR DANIEL SUEN

**Reaffirmation of baptism*

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

CHRISTMAS 2021



RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MS BAK JING TING DAWN
MR KENNY LEE
MS MELISSA CHAY
MR LEROI LIM
MR MATTHEW CHIN
MS CHIOK EE CHOO
MR KENNETH GOH
MS SARAH DE SOUZA
MR CALVIN FONG
MR FELIX FOO
MR SHAWN HONG
MR KENDRICK LAUW
MR LI WEICHENG
MS ASHLEY LOW
MS SHARON NEO
MS DOREEN NG
MR DOUGLAS ONG
MR DANIEL SUEN
MR TAN CHEE KIANG
MR WONG TAUR JUIN
MS WU YUTONG
MR JOHN YAP

TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM BEDOK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MS CHIN CHAINN HUEY

PHOTOS BY CHUA WEE KIAT
AND LIM FUNG JEN

BAPTISED

CHILDREN

MASTER ETHAN CIRULLI
MASTER RYAN CIRULLI
MASTER ETHAN HO
MASTER IAN HO
MISS KYLA HO
MISS ARIEL LEE
MASTER ALFRED LIAN
MISS ANDREA LIAN
MASTER ARI LIAN
MASTER ETHAN LOE
MISS ASTRID VICTORIA MALCOLMSON
MISS HANNAH TAN
MASTER ISAAC TAN
MASTER CALEB WAN

ADULTS

MS EVELYN CHEANG
MS LISA CHIN
MR DANIEL HUNG
MS LIM SUNGHEE
MS CLAUDIA KOOI
MR LIM SIOW KIAT
MS LIM SUNGHEE
MS PENNY ONG
*MR JOEL CHO
*MR ETHAN NG
*MR DECLAN TAY

**Reaffirmation of faith*

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



EASTER 2022

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

MS EVELYN CHEANG
MS LISA CHIN
MS PATRICIA CHNG
MR JOEL CHO
MR DANIEL HUNG
MS SHONA KHOO
MS CLAUDIA KOOI
MR LIM SIOW KIAT
MS LIM SUNGHEE
MR ETHAN CHRISTIAN NG
MS PENNY ONG
MR WILLIE ONG
MR DECLAN TAY
MR MATTHEW WAN
MS EDITH WANG

TRANSFERRED FROM CHURCH OF OTHER DENOMINATION

TRANSFERRED FROM FAITH COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
MR LEONG CHIN LIN

TRANSFERRED FROM FAITH COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH
MS IRIS LIM



PHOTOS BY JASON CHO
AND PATRICK TAN

NO TESTIMONY IS TOO SMALL

Let us testify of God's lovingkindness through our offerings of gratitude. Share your testimony with the rest of the CMC family today!

Drop an email to comms@cmc.org.sg to contribute.