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# WITNESS



A publication of Christ Methodist Church



## Culture of Compassion

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A word from the  
**Editor**

**Elena May Gudgeon**


Before setting foot into Cambodia for the first time in my life in 2006, I had only ever regarded mission trips as a commitment “very high level” Christians undertook. They were for the pastors, the evangelists, the church leaders and those “called” to missions.

I have always thought myself to be awkward and unsuccessful at interacting with strangers. I never know what to do when faced with little people under 12 years old. And even though I have been taught how to share the story of Jesus with others, I’m rendered timid at the thought of upsetting people by introducing “religion” at the wrong moment in a conversation.

These are not true walls, however. They are excuses I use to justify my comfortable first world Christianity. And they melt away when faced with another human being who clearly has needs that are beyond my ability to help.

A church mate shared the following account with me after a recent mission trip to India: “When it came time to pray for the sick, I was so afraid of failing and disappointing the locals that I secretly asked God to spare me from the ‘difficult cases’, like those who were lame, blind or deaf. But still, one day a deaf woman approached me for prayer.

“My faith and healing ministry experience was so limited that in that moment I felt like Peter in Acts 3:6 – nothing at all to give, except for the fact that I knew how to pray. So I prayed, bending close to her ear. Three words from the local dialect that I had never used before popped into my mind. ‘Yesaya’, ‘Prabu’, ‘Raja’ – and I simply repeated them to her a few times. (I later found out that those words mean ‘Jesus’, ‘Lord’, and ‘King’.) After a few minutes, to everyone’s surprise, she started saying the same words. I was shocked, and asked the interpreter to double check if she was speaking because she could hear me. She said yes.”

Giving attention to and spending time with those in need, either here or abroad, isn’t about whether we have the ability or experience. God has the ability and experience. We just have to love God enough to say ‘Yes, use me to love others.’ He will take care of the rest. 

**“To do something big, you don’t need to be big, you just need to say yes to God. And the passion to say yes to God comes from loving Him with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength.”**

**~ Joseph Chean, GO Nations 2017 conference speaker**





A WORD  
FROM YOUR  
PASTOR

# CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

BY **EDMUND DE SOUZA**

**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (James 1:27 NIV)**

God cares for the less fortunate, for widows and orphans. True religion cares for the less fortunate.

When living in a country of plenty, it is easy to not take notice of those living on the fringe – the homeless, the poor, the lonely, the ex-convict or addict trying to make right.

Sometimes we may notice them and not do anything about them. After all, they deserve their lot in life, we may be thinking. Let the government do something for them. They have a lot of money. Anyway, we pay taxes and they reap the funds from the totalisator board.

This reminds me of a parable Jesus told.

**“There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.”**  
**(Luke 10:30-32)**

Why did the priest and the Levite, who were religious men, avoid the man in need? Perhaps, they were afraid of robbers in hiding or of getting defiled so they couldn't serve in the temple.


True religion does not just concern itself with attending worship services, serving in church and having a good time in the presence of God. True worship cares for those in need.

Unlike the religious men, “A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he

saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, “Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.” (Luke 10:33-35 MSG version)

Technician John Shu was travelling in a SBS bus when he befriended Jaycie Tay, a single mom, twice divorced and twice incarcerated for drug offences. She was then undergoing aftercare at halfway house The Turning Point. Moved with compassion, he later gave her about \$6000 so she could pursue a diploma in marketing management and get her life together again (Straits Times, 14 Dec, 2016).

True religion seeks to do something to help alleviate the suffering of those in need and make a difference in the world.

If the Lord should bring someone in need across your path, what do you think the Lord would have you do that can make a difference in his life? 

**TEEN CHALLENGE IS AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CHRISTIAN FAITH-BASED CORPORATIONS INTENDED TO HELP TEENAGERS, ADULTS, AND FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS SUCH AS SUBSTANCE ABUSE. IN SINGAPORE THEY OFFER A RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES DEALING WITH ADDICTION ISSUES, MANY OF WHOM ARE NEWLY RELEASED OR IN TRANSITION FROM PRISON.**

Since 2014, CMC has been involved in helping residents there discover Christianity through the Alpha Course, and some of our musicians also regularly lead sessions of worship and

ministry at their 'Eagles Wings' services. Being involved in this ministry has blessed me and I wanted to share with you how richly rewarding and eye-opening the experience has been for myself and others from CMC.

"Matthew 25:35-40 reminds me that Christ came to love the unloved and marginalized," shares Mark Chan, one of the early frontrunners in CMC's involvement with Teen Challenge. "Who would reach out to them if not us? It is easy for society to reject people like them because of their criminal records and complicated backgrounds, and this is what often forces them back into their old lifestyles of drugs and gangs. I have witnessed the struggles and comeback stories of many of the residents. Each time I am reminded of just how blessed we are, and am encouraged to again bless others. We are called to be vessels of Christ's honour, mercy and love to all."

# Saved and Set Free

and BY HO KARL HOWE



*CMC's soccer outreach ministry pictured here with friends from Teen Challenge*

“Alpha at Teen Challenge is a very unusual ministry,” shared Peter Pereira, who started serving with us in 2016. “Participants are not just seeking knowledge from us, but we’re all on this gritty, very real journey together. We are privy to the inner battles that residents face when they are first released from prison into Teen Challenge. Some of them grab the second chance given to them and accept Jesus into their lives, but must still face the painful task of slowly trying to rebuild their broken lives and families.”

“As we progress through the course, residents begin to open up and share their challenging past experiences and current hurts from divorces or broken relations with their children, shared Bose Asirvadam, who has been involved in this ministry for the past few years. “We lend a listening ear, even as we try to share with them from God’s word. And it is a heart-warming experience for us when their brave fronts melt away and they begin to accept us more readily.”

The residents in Teen Challenge love to sing, and they worship with such abandon and full hearts. They especially love Chris Tomlin’s version of “Amazing Grace”, and proclaim the words, “My chains are gone, I’ve been set free, my God, my Saviour, has ransomed me” with such deeply profound conviction that we are all reminded of what God’s salvation really means, especially for those who clearly thought they had run out of options. His grace is amazing indeed!

Some of the residents we met in previous years have ended their residency at Teen Challenge, but their spiritual lives have continued to grow and some have even enrolled for courses at Tung Ling Bible School. It was a great joy to recently witness one of these former residents return to Teen Challenge to share with current residents his struggles and God’s continuing work of victory in his life today. There is such power in a restored broken life being used by God to reach another life.

“We are greatly encouraged by the remarkable faith and transformation we see in persons who journey with us”, shared Peter. “There was someone who clearly had a lot of self-confidence previously, but then lost everything through his substance abuse and incarceration. He has since been reconciled to God, and is today on the path to a higher calling of theological studies and serving Christ.”

“It is amazing to hear testimonies of how God has touched their lives and especially powerful when we see some of them accept Christ”, said Bose. “I recall one year, some of the residents had grown so much in their faith they prayed for MY healing during one Alpha weekend!”

We have at times followed up to help people we have met during Alpha. In one such case, a resident seemed to be rehabilitating well and we had continued to extend practical help and counsel after his release. However, things did not pan out and the eventual outcome was unfortunately not a positive one. It was a sobering reminder that we are but vessels of God’s grace, and well-intentioned as we are, we are unable to resolve all their problems and inner-struggles. This is the reality of ministry to this group of people.

The harvest is plenty but the labourers still few in this local mission field. It is a ministry which has more than its fair share of challenges, but which clearly reflects God’s heartbeat for the marginalised. I do encourage you to consider stepping out to love and serve these beloved children of God who have taken a wrong turn in life.

Go in His power to bless, and be blessed too by the enduring power of His love.



**KARL** is from The Lord’s Den CG. He is thankful for his beautiful family, and is happy to be known in church as “Sheryl’s husband” or “Lucinda’s dad”.



# A visit to BETHANY NURSING HOME

BY CHEW CHIEN WAY





## **SIMPLE, RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS LIKE A WARM SMILE TO A STRANGER OR HOLDING THE DOOR ARE NOT DIFFICULT TO DO.**

## **TO BE INTENTIONAL IN OUR KINDNESS HOWEVER – TO EMBODY COMPASSION AND EMPATHY FOR THOSE DIFFERENT FROM US AND TO DENY OURSELVES IN PRACTICING THIS KINDNESS – IS DEFINITELY MORE CHALLENGING.**

Yet this is what it means to follow the call of radical discipleship, a concept my friends and I learned in our DISCIPLE 1 (D1) course. In His time on earth and even in His death, Jesus showed us how to care for those different and lesser than us. And He asks that we follow in His footsteps to be the salt and light for Him.

As part of the call to action in our course, my D1 class split into two groups and visited Bethany Methodist Nursing Home over two weekends. Our task during each visit was to spend time with the nursing home residents by engaging in a game of bingo with them. Each visit commenced with a briefing by a staff from the home, and then we were sent on our way to the respective male and female wards to interact with residents.

Most of the residents in Bethany are elderly folks who require maximum nursing care, with full dependence on the nursing staff for daily living activities such as feeding, showering, toileting and moving around. About two-thirds of them are wheelchair bound. Despite this, many of them took to the game of bingo enthusiastically. Some of the more vocal ones even demanded prizes for winning, or volunteered to sing upon being declared one of the winners in the game.

Even with our limited command of dialects, in the 2.5 hours each group spent there we managed to speak with the residents, guide them in their game of bingo, and hopefully spread some cheer. For many of us in the D1 class, this was an unforgettable experience.

“It is wonderful that D1 encompasses a mission for the class to put into practice what's taught in the Word and The Beatitudes. As a community of faith, it's important for us to reach out and share the love of Jesus. I hope this act of service will continue in each of our lives as we journey in the Christian faith,” Patricia Lin told me.





Some parents in the group brought their children along, and it was heartwarming to witness families serving together during the visit. “My daughter came along and it was wonderful to see her attempt to interact with the older folks, in spite of being weak in Mandarin and having zero knowledge of dialects. It opened both her world and mine. It allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and to learn to trust God because I myself have very limited grasp of dialects, but somehow I was able to communicate with them, so I praise God,” shared another classmate, Patricia Wee.

“I think God is still working on me in regards to radical discipleship,” shared Joey Applehill. “He wants me to listen and obey Him, but He also knows that I need to be led by someone, or taken out of my comfortable position, to serve others. So He has sent others to ask me to participate in activities like these, so that I can take action!”

“The Bethany Home visit was an eye opener – a simple game of Bingo and the residents are happy. They aren’t highly educated and those who have accepted Christ have a very simple faith,” observed my classmate Lisa Tan.

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**“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me’.”**

**~Matthew 16:24**

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For me personally, the visit to Bethany exposed me to persons who exemplify a lifestyle of kindness. While our group engaged with the residents, there was another group hard at work in the home – the nursing staff. Our D1 class was there for just a brief visit, but these staff members work at the nursing home daily, face the residents daily, and care for them daily. I'll admit that it was exhausting for us to spend just one morning there, so I can only imagine what it must be like to professionally care for these residents. And yet, the nursing staff we observed were so patient and meticulous in their care for the residents, transcending ethnicity and language barriers because they were not Singaporeans.

Discipleship is intentional, and it will take time, effort and commitment. But as this class of D1 students found out at the close of their year-long, whirlwind journey in bible study, taking one step closer to being a disciple and drawing closer to God in itself is immensely satisfying. [W](#)

#### About **DISCIPLE** Bible Study

CMC runs this 9-month course every year from February through October for persons wishing to deepen their understanding and commitment to studying and living out God's Word.



**CHIEN WAY** is a lifelong Eastie who loves to eat, travel and bask in the company of her two nutty dogs, Toby and Ariel.



# MONDAY AFTERNOONS AT *Marine Terrace*

BY POH AILIN



**My experiences on one particular Monday afternoon showed me what it means to feel more blessed to give than to receive, and to find the true joy in serving.**

I met with our church staff, Mr Hoi Kok Fu, and a team of passionate CMC volunteers at the GoodLife! Makan centre in Block 52, Marine Terrace. There, we were greeted by a bunch of energetic and chatty seniors (residents from that area) who were all set to get hands-on and messy! Their task was to paint a cute 'cactus plant' created out of pebbles to match the clay flower pot they had decorated the week before. The craft session was animatedly taught by Kok Fu while our volunteers assisted and befriended the participants.

Throughout my 2 hours there, what struck me more than the seniors' interest in the activity itself was their cheerful banter, their spontaneous and easy interaction with our church folks as if they were 'old friends', and the laughter and smiles that lit up the room.

At one point, a gregarious little old lady with whom I had struck up a conversation casually whipped out her iPhone 6 and showed me her wedding photos of yore (scanned images of the original black and white photos) and more recent ones of her children and grandkids. Those few minutes really warmed my heart. How precious to have shared such a personal moment with someone I had just met!

This initiative by CMC to reach out to the residents in Marine Terrace took off in July 2016. Our Christian Outreach & Social Concerns (COSC) committee felt God prompting them to connect with and bless the elderly folks in our neighbourhood, who are often home alone all day. They decided



the best approach would be to partner with community outreach organisation MontfortCare, which runs, among other programs, the GoodLife! Makan centre at Block 52.

Their centre comes equipped with a full service kitchen, TV screens, and round tables with chairs that are conducive for group projects and conversation. Since last July, CMC has been conducting activities there on Monday afternoons from 2 to 4pm. Our church volunteers have taught participants how to make muffins, ang ku kueh, mooncakes, curry puffs, cookies, ondeh ondeh, lempur and vadai, as well as craft projects like glass vase decoration, drawing and papier mache. CMC members also taught the seniors to sing and play simple instruments for three performances over the Christmas season.

"This is our way of giving back to the community and sharing the love of Christ with seniors in our neighbourhood," explained Kok Fu. "If they cannot come to us (the church), then we should go to them!"

He added that the elderly poor are usually lonely and tend to feel that life has no purpose. Financial and physical constraints aside, many are abandoned by their





families and have to stay alone in rental flats, with nowhere to go and nothing much to look forward to.

“Our goal is to bring them cheer, build up their confidence, show them that somebody cares and is concerned about them, the way Christ would,” said Kok Fu. Regular CMC volunteer, Cecilia Wang, looks forward to spending time with the seniors on Mondays. “It is a joy and blessing to be a part of this outreach programme. I hope to invite some of them to our monthly Songs of Yesteryear gatherings at CMC too,” she said. Church member Shirley Chua, who serves with the Marine Parade Resident Committee, concurs that we need to spend time to investing in relationships with these residents. Then over time, through shared interests and activities,

they will begin to open up to us and share their genuine thoughts, feelings and life struggles. That’s when we can truly make a difference in their lives by meeting their deeper emotional and spiritual needs.

### **What makes a senior happy?**

Resident at Block 14, Susan Lee who just turned 77 years old, has been coming faithfully every week to join the activities. “I look forward to this time when I can get out of the house, learn a new skill and make more friends,” she said. “Every day I’m at home, facing the 4 walls, very boring, you know?” she added, candidly. Susan lives with her husband, who is suffering from dementia. As a care giver, activities like these provide her with an outlet to “talk, smile and laugh” as she put it. 78 year old Ruby Goh, who stays alone, echoed





the same sentiments about how this weekly activity has benefitted her. “I really enjoy this. Can talk, can joke and laugh ... very happy,” she said. Ruby finds this a good way to occupy her time, so that she doesn’t focus on and get stressed about her current health condition. “The people from your church are very friendly and they seem to really care,” she added. “They are genuinely concerned about my wellbeing because they ask about my health each time and find ways to help me in this area.

### What can you and I do?

While interacting with the elderly was meaningful to me, it also gave me a deeper understanding of what it means to give unto the Lord when we show compassion to the needy. As I reflect on what brings me joy as a believer, I realise it has to be the

**In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

~Acts 20:35

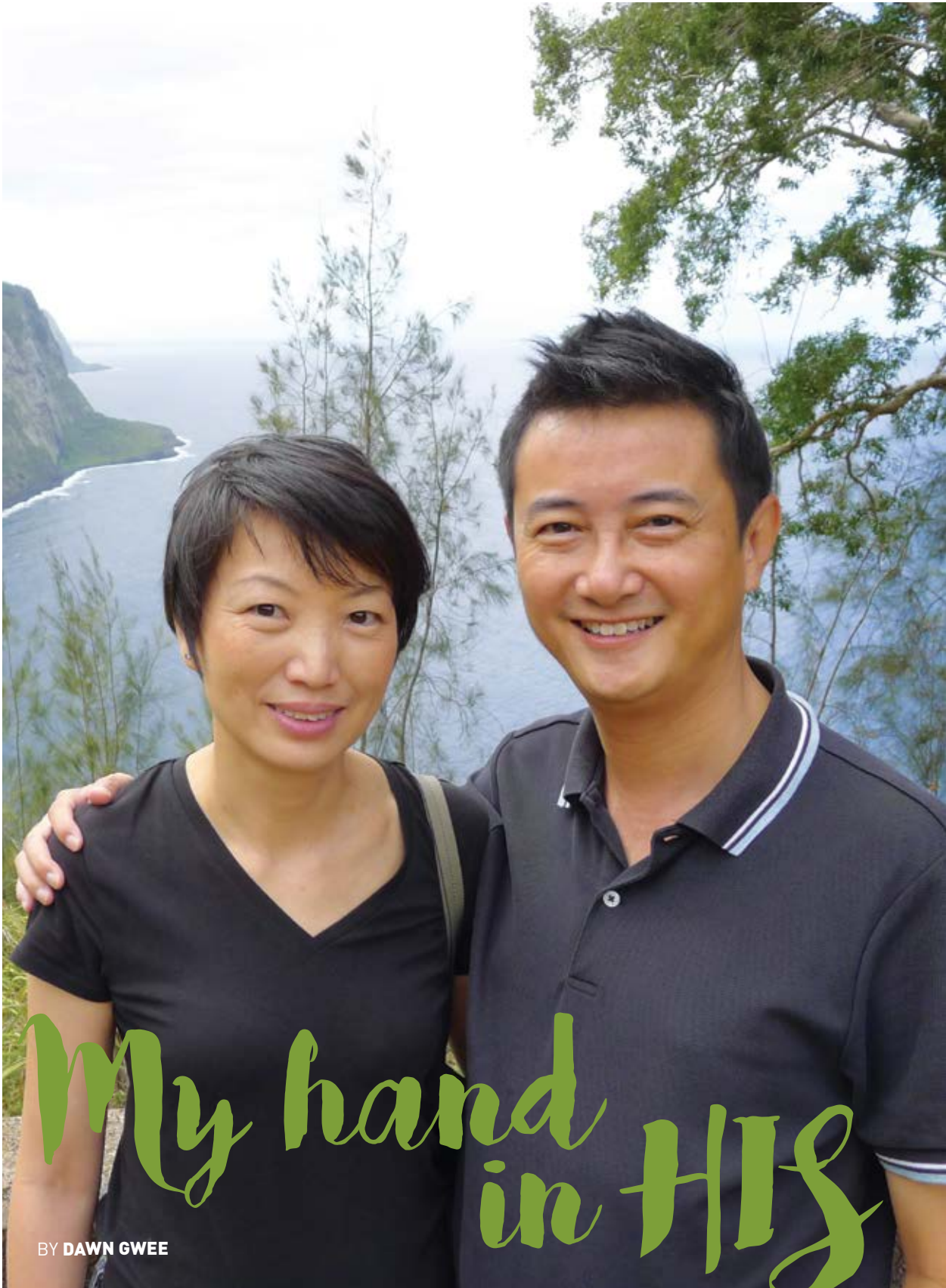
knowledge that God is pleased when we show love to others. “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” (Hebrews 13:16). In showing love to the ‘least, last and lost’, we bring God pleasure, and if the goal of every believer is simply to please Him, then sowing seeds of kindness must surely make Him smile and look upon us fondly with approval.

So let’s extend ourselves beyond our comfortable walls to embrace the community outside CMC, especially to those who most need a kind word, a touch of concern, or a gesture of love. We don’t have to go far to find them – just across the road for that matter. 🌍

This new ministry is looking for volunteers who can commit time and resources to teach the elderly a simple skill on Monday afternoons. If you’d like to be a part it, email Kok Fu at [kokfu.hoi@cmc.org.sg](mailto:kokfu.hoi@cmc.org.sg) or call him at 6345 3934 during office hours to explore possibilities. You can always just visit Goodlife! Makan at Block 52 Marine Terrace on Monday afternoon to see what goes on too.



**AI LIN** is a mum and mentor who is active in outreach and ladies’ ministries at CMC.



BY DAWN GWEE



**PRIOR TO 1996, MY LEFT HAND, WHICH IS ALSO MY MASTER HAND, WAS OPERATED ON FOR A MEDICAL CONDITION CALLED ARTERIOVENOUS MALFORMATION (AVM FOR SHORT). TO MY DISMAY, THE PROBLEM RETURNED IN 2014.**


My hand would hurt if I brushed against anything hard or soft, and as time progressed I felt pain even when doing basic things like washing my hands or brushing my teeth. I had to be careful how I put my hand down or where my hand was placed when I went to bed. Sometimes I would suddenly wake up from the pain should I move my hand while sleeping.

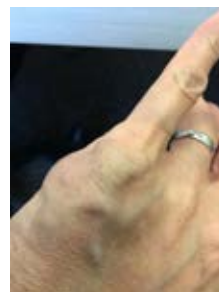
After putting it off for a while, I consulted a hand surgeon. They put me through a few tests such as Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) and an Angiogram, and scheduled me for the surgery in July 2016. About a week before the surgery, I caught the flu and was wheezing. Because of this, I grew anxious as the surgery was to be done under general anesthesia.

The day before the surgery, the hospital called to say that my surgeon was unable to perform the surgery owing to personal matters, I also explained that I was unwell. So the operation was postponed.

In the meantime, I attended the TRAC Healing Service that was being held in Christ Methodist Church. My husband, David, urged me to go forward for prayer. Tanya Koh volunteered to go forward with me. Three people (SuAnne Sng, Steven Lee and John Ho) prayed earnestly for me, but I did not notice any change. The guest speaker, Pastor Christopher Alam, also prayed for me.

To be honest, when I did not see any miracle, I accepted that I would not be healed, but after a few days, when I felt less sensitivity in my hand, I rationalised that if I did not get healed, at least there was less pain. I did not give it much more thought after that but continued to be ultra-careful with my hand. After a few more days, I was just gently feeling the lump and realized that it was reduced by at least 50%. David and I rejoiced. Over the next week, the pain and sensitivity completely disappeared and there remained only a slight residue of a lump.

God, in His mercy, did a miracle. Thanks be to God! 



*before*



*after*



**DAWN** is married to Pastor David Gwee and they have two young adult sons, Daniel and Dominic. Dawn attends Trinity Methodist Church while Pastor David was appointed to Bedok Methodist Church in January 2017.





# I ONCE WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE

BY YIP SIEW LEE

**SITRI'S LEFT EYE HAD AN INFECTION SOME YEARS BACK THAT LEFT HER LENS CLOUDY. IT DETERIORATED OVER THE YEARS TO THE POINT WHERE THE LENS GOT SO CLOUDY THAT SHE COULD NOT SEE THROUGH THAT EYE AT ALL. SHE HAD BEEN RELYING ONLY ON HER RIGHT EYE FOR SIGHT.**

Eye examinations in Singapore could not ascertain if replacing her lens (like a cataract operation) would enable her to see again, and due to the cloudiness of the lens it was also very difficult to determine whether the eye nerves had been damaged. But overall, the prognosis for Sitri was not very positive. The ophthalmologist, who attends CMC, very generously waived his consultation charges.

As replacing the lens provided a sliver of hope, Sitri, who is in her 20s, was keen to pursue that. However, the question was where to get the operation done. The cost in Singapore is prohibitive – being a foreigner, she is not entitled to any subsidy. The alternative was to get the operation done in Indonesia, in large urban towns like Jakarta or Surabaya where the medical facilities are more advanced, but Sitri is from a small town in Indonesia and does not have family in either Jakarta or Surabaya. Troubled, she turned to friends in CMC's Grace Fellowship for prayers.

Our God provided!


Sitri met Fera in Grace Fellowship. Fera is from Jakarta and her sister had gone through a cataract surgery. With much generosity, Fera offered to house and care for Sitri in Jakarta

should she decide to go ahead with her lens replacement surgery.

In June 2016, Fera and Sitri made their way to Jakarta when Fera took her home leave. Fera arranged the medical appointments and her family drove and accompanied Sitri to these appointments, enduring traffic jams and waits at the Jakarta Eye Centre. They were the family to Sitri in Jakarta during this period when she needed support and care.

After several tests, the ophthalmologist in Jakarta came to the same conclusion – the prognosis was not positive – and Sitri was informed her that the surgery would probably only help cosmetically. At best, she would likely only be able to detect light and darkness. Right up to the surgery, the ophthalmologist was asking Sitri if she really wanted to go ahead. Supported by prayers from Grace Fellowship leaders and members, Fera and Sitri trusted in God and decided to go ahead.

The day after surgery, when Sitri went back for a review of her left eye, the ophthalmologist was astounded that Sitri could actually see up to 2 meters! He told Sitri that it was a miracle. At the following review, Sitri could see up to 6 meters, and now her sight is improving gradually.

All glory and praise to God, who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine! 



**SIEW LEE** worships in CMC. She's excited to see CMC grow and looks forward to being part of an outreach oriented church.

# FINDING Home

BY **ASHWIN SAMUEL**

**“...but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”**

**~Isaiah 40:31**

We tend to take a lot in life for granted – like the bus we take in the morning, the shop that does our coffee just the way we like it, sights and sounds that remind us of home and the friends we turn to when we need support. All of this is often unappreciated until you are deprived of them. That’s what expatriation does. Many expats find themselves unprepared for this loss of identity. I was not prepared for this when I relocated to Singapore.

## **Wandering**

Since landing on Singapore’s sparkling shores over 5 years ago, I’ve been fortunate to meet some lovely people, from dozens of countries and walks of life, and form significant friendships with them. But because expats here tend to move on within a year or two, I lost many friends and had to start from scratch a number of times.

The loss of a social support network causes anxiety and can be hard to cope with. Loneliness and solitude worked away at my spirit very quickly, as I constantly struggled to find my place. Deprived of a spiritual home too, I wandered from church to church, trying to find a place that ‘spoke to me’ in the same way. A place where the smiles touched my heart just like it did back home, where the quiet moments brought the same peace, where the choir sounded as pristine and where sermons moved me as much. It was not as easy I thought it would be.

## **Finding our Wings**

I had travelled past CMC many times on my way to work and weekend errands. The church always ‘called’ out to me, but never did I venture in. The subtle curves of the building somehow made me feel calm, the many crosses that lit up at night on the building facade proclaimed God’s presence in the neighborhood, and the Sunday morning crowd that I spotted on occasion always looked cheerful and intriguing. Finally, on Sunday 19 June 2016, after a few weeks of pondering, my then-fiancé Jia Mei and I heeded the call and stepped through the gates.

Smiles greeted us every step of the way in – at the drop off point, the breakfast counter, the coffee area, as we made our way up to the sanctuary, collected our order of service and took our seats. The sanctuary buzzed with the warmth of friendship and carefully crafted announcements on the screens made us wonder what else was in store for us.

We were a little nervous and shy, so we sat at the seats closest to the door, only hummed along to the worship songs, and didn’t raise our hands at all when the pastor asked first-time visitors to give a wave. Minutes later all that nervousness was forgotten as a poignant and touching sermon by Pastor Edmund echoed through the sanctuary and straight into our hearts. Jia Mei and I listened intently, and as the service concluded, we simply smiled at each other. THIS was where we were meant to be!

## **Soaring**

As the weeks have gone by, our decision has been reaffirmed a number of times. We find many aspects of CMC delightful – from the main staircase that gives a sense of ascending to meet with God on a Sunday morning, to the intricate stained glass





cross in the center of the sanctuary that reminds us of what our Saviour has done for us. It's hard to capture in words the sense of peace this place brings to someone who has been searching for a spiritual 'home' for a long time. As the worship service begins, we experience a spiritual tranquility, every single time.

The biggest channel of God's love for us though has to be the congregation of CMC. Complete strangers came over to shake our hands and welcome us to worship. Some introduced themselves to us, shared their history in the church with us, and even showed us around. They demonstrated passion for their church and made us feel so loved from the start.


While growing up, congregating with friends and family after the church service was central to our worship experience. We were so blessed to receive that same experience from CMC as well, from the warm welcome and chat at the 'visitor's corner' on our first day here, to the interesting fundraising sales set up by care groups, and youngsters from Christkidz and Ignite all radiating cheer around us on Sunday mornings.

Since that first morning, we've been warmly welcomed into the most wonderful care group, gone through the marriage preparation course, had our wedding solemnized in the most beautiful way by Pastor Barnabas, and now find ourselves taking our first steps into serving God through a ministry of the church.

The blessings we've received through this church have birthed an incredible love and passion for CMC in us, in just six short months. We've gone from being outsiders to being a part of a loving family, with members who are interested in the lives of others and who share the peace of God no matter how

troubled individual lives may be.

Being alone in a foreign land often leaves you experiencing a loss of identity. For years, Jia Mei and I never felt we truly belonged anywhere, but now, thanks to our CMC family, all those feelings are long gone. We've found our way back home.

Thank you Lord! 



**ASHWIN** and his wife Jiamei, are recently married, and part of the 'Almond Tree' care group. They are now regular worshippers at CMC.

# WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

## EASTER SEASON 2016

19/20 March

### BAPTISED

Master Andrew Kang  
*Son of Mr & Mrs Victor Kang*

Ms. Chew San Lee  
Ms. Goh Siow Yune  
Ms. Lim Ching  
Ms. Odelia Lim\*  
Ms. Olivia Seow  
Ms. Tracy Lee

\*Reaffirmation of Baptism

### RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Aidah Lim  
Ms. Chew San Lee  
Mr. Darius Ho  
Ms. Genesis Lim  
Ms. Odelia Lim

### TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Jennifer Yim  
*transferred from Wesley Methodist Church*

Ms. Lean Keng Im *Bedok Lutheran Church*

Mr. Tan Kay Kheng  
*transferred from Faith Community Baptist Church*

Ms. Tonia Goh  
*transferred from Faith Community Baptist Church*

## CHRISTMAS 2016

17/18 December

### BAPTISED

Miss Ashley Kooch  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Joshua Kooch*

Miss Elisabeth Koh  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Aaron Koh*

Master Ethan Chun  
*Son of Mr & Mrs Chun Ling Yong*

Miss Faith & Sarah Chen  
*Daughters of Mr & Mrs Andy Chen*

Miss Faith Lena Lim  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Haydrian Lim*

Master Gan Jae-Ean & Gan Jae-Han  
*Sons of Mr & Mrs Joseph Gan*

Miss Gwen Wong  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs George Wong*

Master Michael Maxx Rhodes  
*Son of Mr & Mrs Mark Rhodes*

Miss Michelle Poh  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Adrian Poh*

Miss Natalia Ashley Chong  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Ian Chong*

Master Nathan Teo  
*Son of Mr & Mrs Adrian Teo*

Miss Olivia Poh  
*Daughter of Mr & Mrs Gavin Poh*

Master Reuel Tay  
*Son of Mr & Mrs Remus Tay*

Master Theodore & Miss Elyza Phua  
*Son and Daughter of Mr & Mrs Jasper Phua*



Ms. Astrid Teo  
Mr. Chew Beng Hui  
Ms. Esther Tan  
Ms. Ferlyn Koh  
Ms. Gerri Wong  
Mr. George Wong  
Mr. Jerald Tan\*  
Ms. Jennifer Chan  
Ms. Jess Tang  
Ms. Joelle Loy  
Ms. Liau Kuek Mui  
Ms. Marissa Chang  
Ms. Pearly Jansen  
Mr. Richard Choo  
Mr. Roger Chow\*  
Mr. Teh Chong Mien  
Mr. Timothy Martel  
Ms. Valerie Tan  
Ms. Vanessa Ong  
Ms. Wu Yutong\*

\*Reaffirmation of Baptism

### **RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP**

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Ms. Candice Lee  
Dr. Cheryl Glenn  
Ms. Esther Tan  
Mr. George Wong  
Ms. Gilyn Teo

Mr. Glenn Sathiyamoorthy  
Mr. Jerald Tan  
Ms. Jennifer Chan  
Mr. Jonathan Wong  
Ms. Liau Kuek Mui  
Mr. Richard Choo  
Mr. Roger Chow  
Mr. Teh Chong Mien  
Ms. Toh Kam Mui

### **TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP**

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Mr. Andy Chen  
*transferred from Faith Community Baptist Church*

Ms. Christine Seet  
*transferred from St Hilda's Church*

Mr. Joel Fong  
*transferred from Nazareth Bible Presbyterian Church*

Mr. Lim Chor Hwee  
*transferred from St Hilda's Church*

Ms. Rita Woo  
*transferred from Wesley Methodist Church*

Ms. Tan Pei Ee  
*transferred from Faith Community Baptist Church*

If you are keen to be baptised in CMC or make a deeper commitment to CMC by becoming a member, note that our baptism and membership classes for 2017 are beginning soon! They will take on a different format from previous years, and will be conducted in a series of short sessions on Sunday mornings, between 9.30am and 10.30am, from 5 Feb to 1 April. For more enquiries or to sign up, please call our church office at 6345 3934 during office hours, or email [info@cmc.org.sg](mailto:info@cmc.org.sg)

Do note that joining the membership of the church requires that you have been worshipping in CMC for at least 6 months, and have attended at least 6 sessions of a Care Group.



You may know Chris Seow as the person who has been deeply involved in leading CMC's children's ministry, ChristKidz, for the past few years. But did you also know that he recently joined our church staff as Audio Visual and Info Tech Senior Executive? (That's quite a mouthful, so we're going with 'The IT Guy' for short.)

## PROFILE

### Known as:

Chris Seow (Not Christopher, just Chris)

### Wisdom accrued:

46 years

### Childhood Kampongs:

Little India and Geylang Bahru

### Family ties:

Grew up in a non-Christian household. Dad was a bus driver who was out at work most of the time, so mum took care of Chris and his brother.

### Alma Maters:

Bendemeer Primary, Victoria School, Victoria JC and Purdue University in Indiana, USA

### Hobbies:

Tinkering with computers  
Photography and videography  
Gardening (mainly growing orchids)  
Sports like squash, soccer and table tennis

A portrait of Chris Seow, a man with short dark hair and glasses, wearing a white polo shirt with blue stripes. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery.

# The "IT Guy"

## Childhood Misadventures

"I was quite a mischievous child. Once I placed my hand on the lift door and as it opened, somehow my hand went along with the door into the door slot, and half my arm got stuck in there! I remember crying until I had no more tears, while a lot of people came to try and help (and also watch the spectacle!). Eventually they managed to get my arm out, which had to be bandaged at the doctor's, but thankfully I don't think any bones were broken."

### Romance:

Met Choon on a company recreation club hiking trip in 1995 at Berkelah Falls, Pahang. Married her in January 1997.

### Fruit from romance:

Zachary Seow, 16 and Arielle Seow, 13

### InfoTech Adventures:

He has worked with 7 IT companies, including HP, Sun Microsystems and Microsoft, starting as an IT systems administrator, then IT consultant and subsequently project manager. His most recent role before this one was deputy director with the InfoComm Development Authority of Singapore, taking care of new government-wide infrastructure initiatives.

### Faith Journey:

Attended a church while studying in the US, and uttered the sinner's prayer in 1993. 'Backslided' after returning to Singapore, but came back to Christ after meeting wife, Choon.

## The Call

"God has been preparing me for full-time ministry me over the past few years. The work schedule of my last job offered me more time to spend with God and serve in CMC as a CG leader, which in turn helped me grow in my spiritual life. As I did, I felt that I wanted to serve God with all of my time. I was introduced to the book "Half Time", by Bob Buford, and that set things in motion. I spoke to several people in CMC and after several months of prayer and seeking God, I was led to this role at CMC."

### Church roots:

Joined CMC in 1995. Moved to Christalite Methodist Church and helped start a children's programme called 'Kidz In Praise'. Returned to CMC in 2006, and started serving in our children's ministry around 2008.

### Partners in Ministry:

Works mainly with the worship ministry to support their audio visual needs and the church office to maintain internal IT systems that keep us up and running on a daily basis.

## Geek Tendencies

"I've been playing computer games since secondary school. You could say I was somewhat addicted to them as a teenager, but not to the extreme of 24-7 gaming. Then as a young adult, I started tinkering with computers and building my own. I derive the greatest joy from solving IT problems, whether it is a system issue, or an end user who needs help."

### Goals:

Hopes to start off by establishing a good baseline for the operations of our church IT and AV systems. Thereafter he hopes to implement new initiatives to streamline some of our processes and operations, with the goal of improving productivity across various ministries in the church.

## Only human

"IT and AV are ministries that operate very much in the background. When everything goes smoothly, we hardly notice their presence. But when something suddenly goes wrong, it is so visible that our natural tendency is to grumble or criticise those who have made mistakes. Next time you notice volunteers behind the AV console or the cameras at church, say thank you to them, give them a word of encouragement, and pray for them before service starts. It's a stressful ministry."



# CMC MOBI

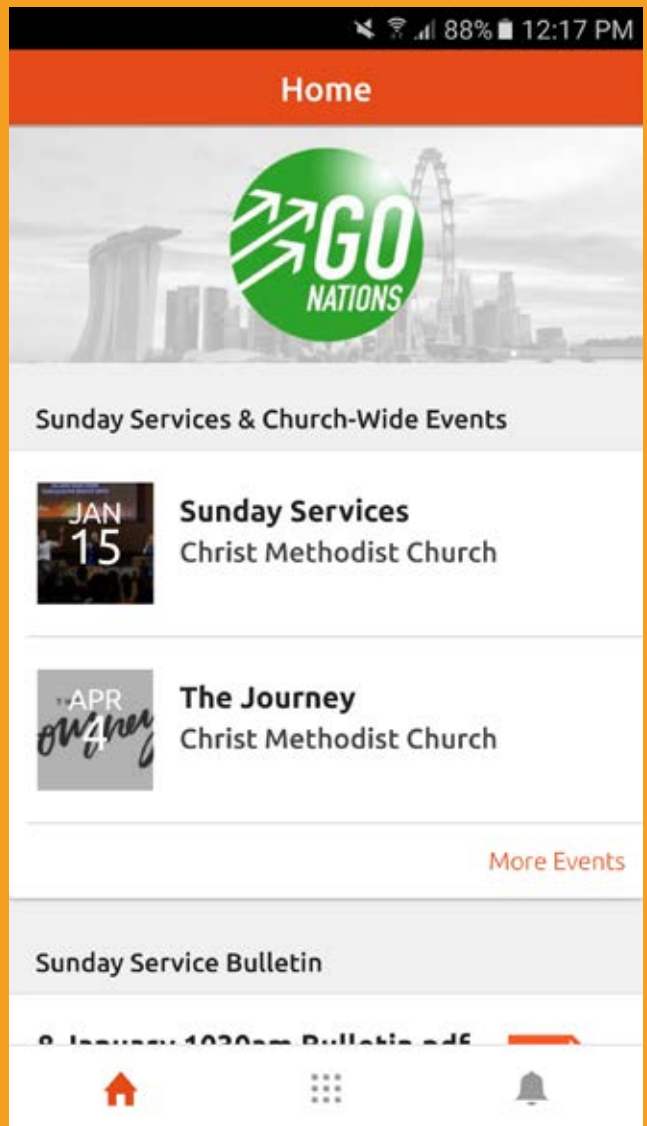
## HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR CHURCH MOBILE APP YET?

It can be hard to remember the details of announcements made during our Sunday services or locate a particular sermon that you missed several weeks ago.

Technology can make it easier for you to stay up to date with what's happening at CMC and find that piece of information you need.

### This app is great for

- Keeping up with the latest CMC news, events and activities
- Previewing our weekly Sunday bulletin
- Finding out which ministries need volunteers
- Requesting prayer and praying for others
- Watching recent sermons and jotting down notes
- Joining polls
- Journaling your thoughts
- Easily sharing Witness magazine testimonies with friends



Our app was developed by Oikos.com, a Christian professional IT company.



# LE

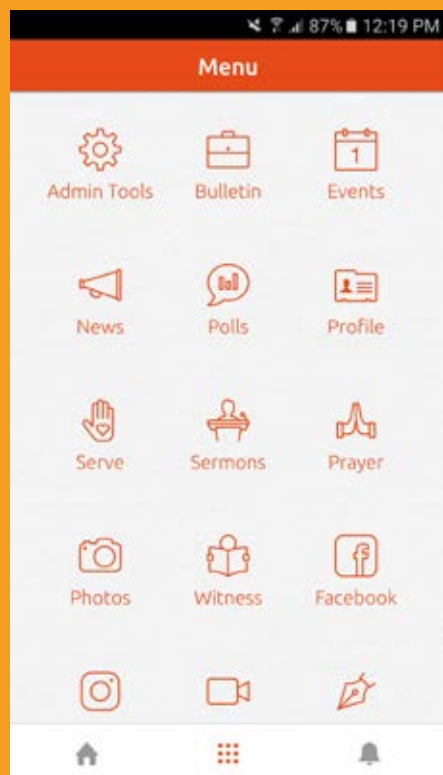
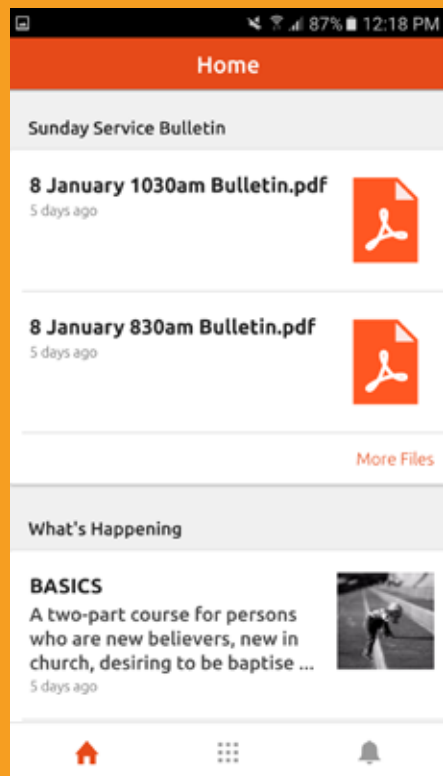
Why not download CMC Mobile and give it a try? It's easy enough for all ages to use. (Yes, many of our seniors are using it!)

## HOW TO GET STARTED

- Search for 'Christ Methodist Church' on the App Store (for iOS devices) or Google Play (for android devices).
- Download and install the app with our church logo.
- Create an account using a preferred e-mail address and password, or by using your Facebook account. (Note that signing in as a 'guest' limits your use of the app.)
- Once logged in you will see the "Home" screen – a scrolling front page which showcases a few key features in the app.
- To access the main menu that shows ALL features of the app, select the dotted icon at the bottom.
- To access the "Home" screen again, select the house icon at the bottom.

### Need help?

If you are having difficulty using the app or have a question, you can email [info@cmc.org.sg](mailto:info@cmc.org.sg)



# Changed by India

BY JOSHUA TANG

HAVING ONLY BEEN TO CAMBODIA PREVIOUSLY, I HAD ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO GO ON A MISSION TRIP TO INDIA AND FINALLY GOT THE CHANCE TO GO LATE LAST YEAR. BEFORE THIS, I HAD ONLY HEARD STORIES AND TESTIMONIES FROM OTHERS AND I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT. ALL I KNEW WAS TO BE PREPARED TO PRAY FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE DURING THE TRIP.



Before the trip, I was praying and I asked God to open my eyes and blow my mind by letting me witness a major miracle, and boy did He show up! A cyclone had hit the region just as we began our mission in Nellore, causing the first night of the 'Jesus Festival' to be downsized and shifted indoors. I must admit I was a little demoralized but God obviously had other plans!

He displayed His sovereignty by clearing up the weather for the rest of our trip! There was rain forecasted for the entire trip but not once did rain disrupt our work there. We were able to go out into the villages to visit homes, preach the gospel, pray for the sick and distribute rice to the poor. We even laid hands on buffalos and prayed blessings upon them!

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**"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."**

**~Luke 4:18**

A group of us were praying for an elderly lady who had been blind for several months after a motorcycle accident. We had already prayed for her about 3 or 4 times individually, but instead of leaving her home, I felt God prompt me to have all four team members lay hands and pray for her one last time. As we began praying, Luke 4:18 came to mind.

I declared this Word from God over the lady and when we were done praying we noticed that her facial expression had changed and she was smiling! We asked the interpreter why she was smiling and he said that it was because she could see our faces! While her sight was not restored completely in that instant because there was only partial colour, we believed that God had already healed her and that her vision would return in time to come. This was just one of the many miracles during our time in India.




In many instances in the Bible, Jesus healed the sick of their sickness, gave the hungry food to eat and taught them many things because He had compassion on them. Seeing first-hand how poor and desperate some of the people in India are overwhelmed me with emotion during this trip. At the 'Jesus festival' night rallies, hundreds of people who were sick came forward to be prayed for because they had no-one and nothing else to turn to but Jesus. They can't afford medical treatment and some of them live with debilitating conditions such as HIV and blindness that are at stages beyond medical help.

I believe their desperation and simple faith in God's ability to heal is what enables them to receive healing – just like the woman with the bleeding problem who touched Jesus' clothes. (Luke 8:43–48)

There are billions of people around the world who are needy and desperately need financial and medical aid, but more importantly they also need the love of Jesus. Are we too blessed and comfortable that we ignore the needs of those around us and those around the world?

When will we start having compassion on others and bring them the good news and use our God-given skills and resources to meet them in their need?

Each of us has a role to play in God's mission in this world before our time here is up. Will we say yes? 

**Surely nations were not made for war,  
or the broken meant to be ignored.  
Surely this just can't be what You saw,  
let Your Kingdom come  
here in my heart.**

**I will live, to carry your compassion,  
to love a world that's broken;  
to be Your hands and feet.  
And I will give with the life that I've  
been given,  
go beyond religion,  
to see the world be changed,  
by the power of Your Name.**

**~ Lincoln Brewster, 'The Power of Your Name'**



**JOSHUA** Praise God! I have (barely) survived my first semester at Trinity Theological College, so please continue to pray for Jeremy, Sam, Kay Kheng and I, as rumor has it the semesters get progressively harder!





**WE THANK GOD FOR THE COMPLETION OF OUR REBUILDING PROJECT AND FOR GIVING US A NEW HOME THAT ALLOWS OUR CONGREGATION AND MINISTRIES THE SPACE TO GROW.**

**NOW THAT IT IS DONE, A NEW SEASON FOR CMC IS DAWNING.**

God's extraordinary love and mercy for us, demonstrated through Christ, compels us to go the extra mile to show acceptance, love and kindness to others. Not just to those familiar and close to us but to all the world – crossing national and cultural borders where necessary to share what we have been given with those in need.

We have been blessed so that we can bless.



**EAST ASIA**



**INDIA**



**NEPAL**



THAILAND



CAMBODIA



SINGAPORE



INDONESIA

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For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

~John 3:16-17



THE  
*Journey*

Experience a missionary's journey in a 5-hour simulation programme that takes you through 15 fun and interactive stations

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**4 MARCH 2017**

**CHRIST METHODIST CHURCH**

**AVAILABLE TIMESLOTS\***

<b>0900 - 1330</b>	<b>0930 - 1400</b>	<b>1000 - 1430</b>	<b>1030 - 1500</b>
<b>1100 - 1530</b>	<b>1130 - 1600</b>	<b>1200 - 1630</b>	<b>1230 - 1700</b>

*\*limited to 30 participants per session*

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Kindly note that you'll have to be at least 9 years old to participate, and you'll be walking a lot!

Register at the **Info Counter** by **20 Feb 2017**  
or at <https://bitly.com/gonationsthejourney>

For more information, kindly contact **Mr. Hoi Kok Fu** or **Tianfu**  
at **6345 3934** during office hours.

