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WITNESS



A publication of Christ Methodist Church

Feels like Home



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A WORD
FROM YOUR
PASTOR

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

BY **PASTOR VINCENT GOH**

One of my favourite Christmas hymns is “Christmas isn’t Christmas (till it happens in your heart).” It reminds me that Christmas is not just a festival of lights and presents, but it’s about the extraordinary love of God who reveals Himself in Christ Jesus.

The gospel of John shares about God making his dwelling amongst man in John 1: 14. Here lies the Christmas message -

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; and we have beheld his glory, as the only Son of the Father.”

~ John 1: 14

God enters into our human travails, our broken and messy world so that He can offer us forgiveness and hope of a transformed life in Christ Jesus. Christ came as Light of the world to reveal the glory of God; He came as the Lamb of God to die for our sins and grant us forgiveness; He came as our Mediator to reconcile us to God; He came so that those who believe in Him shall become children of God.

Christmas is about Christ who came to make a home in our world and in our hearts. There are differences between a house and a home. A house is a building made of brick and mortar. It may be a landed property or an apartment with an address. But a home has a personality. It is made up of the people who stay within it and relate to one another. A home has a story of who we are. It is a place where we can truly be ourselves. We may have a house, but not a home.

A home is where we can find rest. Saint Augustine of Hippo made the observation about rest - “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” King Solomon (a wealthy, powerful monarch no less!), also sought in frustration for purpose and meaning of life. He repeatedly lamented, “Vanity of vanity, all is vanity.” It was only in the final chapter of Ecclesiastes that he had this eureka moment – the whole duty of man is to fear God and keep his commandments. Therefore, man can only find his true rest in God.

This December, “Home for Christmas” at Christ Methodist Church is about celebrating Christmas with a difference.

Let us open our hearts to share Christ’s warmth and love with one another. Let us declare that He is Emmanuel, God with us.

May the blessings of peace, the spirit of hope, and the flame of faith be experienced in you and your loved ones during this Christmas season. 🍷



Roof on Fire, TWICE!

BY GEOFFREY CHEW



FIRE NO. 1

Before 6:00 am on 14 October 2016, lightning struck the roof of our home during a thunderstorm. The loud thunderclap woke our daughter, Isabel, and she came to wake us. The whole house had blacked out.

I tried to reset the electrical board but the power would trip almost immediately. We smelled smoke and went around to investigate, suspecting a fire. From the backyard, we saw smoke and an orange glow in the gap between the roof eaves and the wall. There was a fire on the roof!

Isabel and our son Isaac ran to wake up their grandparents in the house adjoining ours. I dashed in to get my wife, Irene. The smell of smoke was stronger upstairs. I could hear crackling sounds and see firelight through light fittings in the ceiling. Irene and I both cried out aloud to God, "Heavenly Father, put out the fire!" As my wife continued praying, I dialled 995 and spoke as calmly as possible with the officer on the phone.

Irene drove the car out of the porch while I alerted our neighbours in the adjoining terrace houses. A police car and fire engine arrived and the firemen advised us to stay out of the house as they went in, ready to fight the fire. We nervously waited together with our neighbours on the street outside.

The firemen soon emerged and informed us that the fire had already died out before they entered the roof! The police and fire officers then took our statements for their reports and stayed to ensure there was no more fire risk before leaving. In the aftermath of this incident, we pondered over how the fire could have died out on its own.

Could the rain have put out the fire? Upon inspection, I found that no roof tiles were broken, so no rainwater had come into the roof.

Could the cool weather after the rain have caused the fire to die down? I recalled that when I first saw the roof space, not only did it look and smell terrible, it also radiated heat like a hotplate.

Could the spray from a water pipe with a hole melted in it by the lightning have put out the fire? The 'spray radius' only went as far as the bathroom ceiling. Our repair contractor found charred roofing timbers well beyond the spray radius. The surface pattern indicated that the timber had caught fire. Burning wood does not easily self-extinguish.

We concluded that God had protected our family and neighbour's homes by extinguishing the fire supernaturally before it had the chance to spread. The insurance company's loss adjuster, the electricians and plumbers all exclaimed that we were "so lucky" when they saw the extent of the fire damage in the roof. Had the fire spread, it would have been a disaster! We were also spared water damage from firefighting. We did not have to vacate the house while repairs were carried out and were able to 'camp out' in the first storey of our house.

We are so grateful to God, and for the SCDF and police officers who responded promptly. We are also grateful to our parents and neighbours (some of whom attend Christ Methodist Church) for their prayers during this harrowing incident.

FIRE NO. 2

I believe that God prepares us in advance for events. Those who attended this year's Church Camp would know of the chalet fire in the early morning of 7 June 2018. Irene and I awoke before the thunderstorm began and immediately prayed when we saw the proximity of the lightning strike. We felt the thunderclap, smelled smoke and saw the flames. It never occurred to us that Isabel and her friends were in the chalet right opposite the one that caught fire.

Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

~Matthew 8:24-26

Here is the testimony from Isabel and her friends Sarah, Elizabeth and Tricia:

Four of us were staying together in an over-water resort bungalow in Malaysia when a heavy tropical storm blew in and lightning struck the roof of the bungalow opposite ours. The electricity went out in our bungalow but we didn't think much of it until the air started to turn hazy and we smelled smoke. Coughing and panicking, we opened the door and were met with a sight of blazing fire, with intermittent lightning and loud thunder that made our ears ring.

The blaze went on for about 20 minutes. When the hotel staff finally arrived, it was quite chaotic as they were panicking too. All we remember is someone telling us to go to the main bungalow. We grabbed hotel umbrellas and sprinted to the bungalow. As we were running, lightning was flashing and the thunder was extremely loud. At one point the



lightning flashed very near us and we screamed in fear. One of us started praying for safety out loud as we continued to run together. Thankfully we managed to reach the main bungalow safely.

In all of this we experienced God's protection and mercy – so many things could have gone wrong! Our hut could have been the one struck, or it could have started burning due to the flying embers from the roof adjacent to us.

As we sat in the waiting area, we prayed for the safety of the staff and firemen who arrived, and for the fire to be put out quickly. Within minutes, the storm started to cease! We were amazed to see the heavy rain and darkness start to lift, as if God had swept them away with His hand. The sky became clear and the sunrise revealed itself. It was a stark contrast – we were a little thrown off because of the remnants of panic and disorientation we were still feeling in comparison to the calm surroundings.

We are grateful that no one was injured, and are indebted to the hotel staff who responded quickly. Most of all, we were blown away by God's protection and his favour throughout the whole incident, and stunned to recognise for ourselves that "even the wind and waves obey Him".

I found out later that Isabel had rushed over to pound on the door of the chalet on fire to alert its occupants. Thankfully, the chalet was vacant. Irene and I are very encouraged as parents by Isabel's concern for the welfare of others and courage in the fire emergency. 🙏

To God be the Glory!

GEOFFREY and his wife Irene have two young adult children, Isabel and Isaac. Isabel is in Abba's House CG.

PARENTS

NEED LESSONS TOO!

BY WENDY LOH



“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

I'm a stay-at-home mum as I want to be there for my kids during this needy phase of their lives. At Primary 2, our son was having a lot of temper tantrums and he was slower academically compared to his classmates. Our Primary 3 daughter is introverted and a bookworm, making her a target for bullies.

As our kids are both born in December, I tend to be more protective over them. My hubby is very busy as a doctor and can't understand why I have to spend so much time with the kids, while I wish that he would spend more time with us. We have different parenting styles due to our different upbringing – my hubby is authoritative while I am lenient. Over time, all these differences caused a rift between us.

I was desperate for parenting solutions when I joined Growing Kids God's Way (GKGW), a parenting course organised by our Family Life Ministry in January 2018. I was prepared to go alone as I knew that my hubby wouldn't be able to commit to the whole 18 weeks, but by God's grace, my hubby only missed two lessons! James 4:15 NIV "Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

The course taught us how to reach the hearts of our kids, and for ourselves to be more Christ-like by submitting to the Lord as head of our family. We are all God's beloved children! The insightful sharing and discussions each week reinforced the biblical principles taught by the authors, Gary and Anne Marie Ezzo. The practical experiences shared by Wee Kiat and Shirley (our wonderful facilitators) on their parenting journey also helped to reassure us that we constantly need to grow with our kids and model the right examples for them to learn.

We also learnt a very important lesson from GKGW – right beginnings! As what Gary Ezzo wrote, "One of the greatest gifts parents can give their children is the confidence that dad and mum love each other." We were so caught up in our roles as dad and mum that we forgot about being husband and wife to each other. The course allowed us to reconnect as we had weekly date nights. We started spending more time as a family, having family bedtime prayers and outings on weekends. Nowadays, we focus more on building up our kids moral warehouses and love tanks. We have stopped caning our kids out of frustration and they are more willing to accept the consequences of their actions.



Our son's temper tantrums have lessened, as he is learning that it's not right to vent his anger. Our daughter also surprised us with her daring prayer in front of over 600 people during our church camp in June. Her prayer was sincere and heartfelt as she reflected on what they were taught during the sessions.

Now, both our kids are leading worship once a month at our Children's Ministry, Christkidz. When I see them worshipping God and singing from their hearts (even though it's out of tune sometimes), I see two confident little angels, blessed and protected by our Heavenly Father.

Does this mean all my parenting issues have been solved after going through GKGW? Far from it! Our two angels can still turn into monsters in a blink of an eye! However, the difference is that my hubby and I are on the same team now and we train our kids with the virtues and values that flow out of the character of Christ. ^W

WENDY LOH is a friendly and contented homemaker who looks after her four kids – her diligent big baby husband, kind-hearted daughter, exuberant son and a furry loving son (cats can be affectionate too).

GOD OF Miracles

BY SHEVAUN SETHI

GOD CONTINUES TO AMAZE AND BLOW MY MIND EVERY SINGLE TIME I GO ON A MISSION TRIP.

In June 2018, I participated in a mission trip to Myanmar that ministered to children and people living in slums. Since I had graduated and started practising as a doctor, that was my first non-medical mission trip I had signed up for. I had gone with the intention of learning more about God's work in these ministries as I had little experience.

During the trip, the team was split into two groups with half running the children's programme and the other half doing home visitations. Jenny, our team member who was at the home visitations, ran over and told me that a baby had a fever and the villagers had requested for a review. The baby had a viral fever. After a quick prayer and a few tickles the baby was all smiles again.

As I turned to leave the house, there was this thin

lady hiding in the shadows and she reached out to me desperately. In the light, I saw that she had a huge lump on her neck, the size of two to three oranges. As I approached her, her friend said that she has had it for the past four to five years, with it growing exceedingly painful over the past five days. Now she was barely

able to speak and unable to swallow.

With my training as a doctor, I had a high suspicion that this was thyroid cancer, with possible bleeding into the tumor over the past few days. My first instinct was to make arrangements for her to go to the hospital as this was a life threatening





emergency – her airway was compromised!

As my team leaders were making the arrangements, a small voice in my head said ‘why don’t you start praying’. I started praying with a local YWAM staff and was soon joined by two teammates

Emma and Jenny. After praying for about 15 mins, she said that the pain at the back of her neck had disappeared. Encouraged, we continued to pray, and every time I pushed on the lump it got smaller. As we prayed, the lump decreased from the size of two to three oranges to the size of a plum seed!

Just like what was written in the Bible, our God is a God of miracles. This lady, immediately went down the street and started proclaiming the goodness of God and sharing about the miracle! But more importantly, this lady accepted Jesus as her Lord and savior, which is the most precious gift we could give anyone. Through this encounter, God revealed so clearly that He is a God who heals, He is a God of miracles. It was a great reminder to not rely on our human abilities but to turn to him.

As I continue with my medical career, this has

given me a lot to pray and reflect on. How do I merge and reconcile both prayer and medicine? So what is the role of medicine if we know that God heals? Who should be our first line of help when we are ill? Should I pray for my patients? I’m looking forward with anticipation to see what God has in store for me next. But what I know and can proudly declare as a medical doctor is that our God is WAY more powerful than any medicine or technology! ^W



SHEVAUN loves sailing, reading, eating and sleeping.



Jesus

KNOCKED ON MY DOOR BY **DEPAR HLWAN OK**



I was born in Myanmar and moved to Singapore at the age of seven. My family and I were not believers, but my very first faint encounter with God was when I was 11 years old, during my PSLE period. I was struggling to cope with my studies and I was lagging behind in class. I would cry from time to time due to the stress but I was unable to speak to my parents about this as they were very strict when it came to my studies.


During one of my tuition sessions, I broke down and shared my struggles with my tuition teacher who was a Christian. He shared with me about Jesus Christ and encouraged me to pray and lean on Him for support. So I decided to try it. The first time I prayed I felt a sudden rush of peace. So I continued praying every day and somehow I was able to give full attention during my classes which was unusual for me.

After my PSLE results were out, I realised that I wouldn't have been able to get through the exams without Jesus. A few weeks after my PSLE and after careful consideration, I told my parents about my encounter with Jesus and asked for their permission to allow me to become a Christian. However my parents strongly opposed and thought that I was too young to make such a big decision on my own. It was understandable and I decided not to speak about Jesus to my parents after that incident.

29 July 2018 will be a day that I will always remember. It was just a casual Sunday afternoon and my family was relaxing on the couch in

my living room when I heard a knock on my door. There was a Christian couple standing in front of my house wishing to speak to me about Jesus Christ and about life in heaven after death. Although I was interested in what they had to say about the Lord, I had to kindly reject them as I felt that my parents might not like it. However, a miracle happened that day. My mother who once was opposed to me becoming Christian said "Son, why don't you try going to church and learn about God. For some reason, I feel that if you become a Christian, it may help you become a better man."

At that moment, I knew that it was from God. The same God who brought me through my PSLE was calling me back. I wasted no time, I switched on my computer to google for a church. Christ Methodist Church was the first to appear on my search results! I called the next day and was directed to speak to Pastor Benjamin. I met up with him on 2 August 2018 and he led me to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I have been seeking God ever since that day, trying to learn from the weekly sermons, Christian movies and most importantly, by reading the Bible. My parents have told me that they see a change in me, especially in my temperament and behavior. My focus now is to continue to work hard to deepen my relationship with God. 

DEPAR is a Myanmar born Singaporean. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration in the University of New Brunswick, Canada. He enjoys travelling and reading historical books.



**A HEART
MADE FOR**

God

BY **SHERYL PANG**

Twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with an irregular heart rhythm disorder after experiencing some light-headedness and near fainting spells. Since then, I have been on medication for the disorder.

In 2004, my husband and I were keen to have kids, and my cardiologist encouraged me to go for an operation as my condition made it dangerous for me to be pregnant. I was told that the success rate was about 98%, and so entered the operation theater quite optimistic about the outcome. To my dismay, the operation was unsuccessful. Needless to say, I was shattered.

Three years later, my heart condition worsened. My cardiologist encouraged me to go for another operation, citing medical advancements made in this area. Again, armed with prayer from friends, CG members and bible verses, I went for the procedure in high spirits. But once again, I was given the disappointing news that the procedure was unsuccessful. To make matters worse, my cardiologist told me that I needed to be on stronger medication for life, and to drop any notion of conceiving kids of our own as the drug would have an adverse effect on the fetus.

It was a dark period for my husband and me as we wrestled with God on this issue. I had been praying for God's healing and there were times when we felt like God had forsaken us. But through it all, we never stopped praying. Finally, we came to the point where we felt that outcomes didn't matter anymore, and just surrendered everything to Him, trusting in His goodness. I clung on to His promise in Psalm 25:3: "No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame".

I felt assured of God's love and control over my situation. At that point, I suddenly felt led to consult another cardiologist. He suggested the riskier approach of switching to a weaker medication that did not fully regulate my heart rhythm, instead just managed it. More importantly, the drug was safe for pregnancy, which meant that I could consider conceiving. Praise God for leading us to this cardiologist! Eventually, I did get pregnant and amazingly, I didn't encounter any complications with my heart at all during the pregnancy. My daughter, born in 2010, is a testament to His goodness.

During my check-up last year however, my cardiologist was concerned to discover that my heart condition had deteriorated, with an undesirable number of episodes of irregular heartbeats. He floated the idea of a third operation, but I was reluctant to proceed and just pressed on in prayer.

Once again, my faith was being tested. Yet, during my most recent check-up, my heart condition was found to have improved tremendously with less than 1% irregularities! I am still on medication, but I see this improvement as a miracle in itself.

It is always God's will to heal since Jesus has already paid the price for our infirmities. I believe that God's healing always comes, although it may not be in the time or manner in which we want or expect it to. What helped me tremendously was the prayerful words of godly friends and CG mates, as well as any prophetic words released upon me. We just need to hold steadfast our commitment to follow Him, regardless of the outcome. 🍷

SHERYL is in The Lord's Den CG. She is thankful for her family and enjoys bonding with her daughter over arts and crafts.

WHAT DO YOU

Have?

BY VERONICA GROOM



THIS A TESTIMONY OF THE LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS OF GOD TO MEET US RIGHT WHERE WE ARE. RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR DARKNESS, HE TURNS ON THE LIGHT.

In April this year, I lost my dog Libby to an illness. She was my faithful companion for 15½ years and part of the family, so I struggled with grief. I was feeling emotionally low because this incident was just the latest in a string of losses that I had suffered over a four-year period since 2014.

In 2014, my best friend from my childhood passed away after a three-year battle with sarcoma. I was heartbroken because we had grown up together and she was like a sister to me. In 2015, my father passed away and in 2016, I lost another close and dear friend. And at the end of 2017, I was retrenched from my banking job of more than 15 years. While the company treated me well and gave me a good package, I still felt the loss.

So when I lost Libby in April, I felt discouraged by yet another life challenge and struggled to keep myself in a happy place. I questioned whether I had made the right choices for her in her last days, whether

I should have taken her to a different veterinarian, whether I had done everything I could for her.

“In my trouble I cried to the LORD, And He answered me.”

Psalm 120:1

I decided to take a quiet walk in East Coast Park early one morning. This is where I like to reflect and speak to God. That particular morning, I was in a negative, downcast, mood. I complained to God about all the things I had lost, telling Him about my struggles. After I had finished rambling, I became quiet. I had let it all out to God like an unhappy child, crying out to her Father, wanting her Father to take away the pain. I had nothing else to say.


After I had stopped complaining, I heard God say to me, slowly and powerfully, “What do you have?” When I heard this, it cut right through my soul and spirit like a sword. Instantly, I understood what God was saying to me. Instead of focusing on my “list of losses”, my eyes were opened by God to see all the blessings He had given me in my life. It was as if He had turned on the light in the midst of my grief and negative emotions.

When God speaks to you, everything changes in an instant. I felt so ashamed about complaining that I repented and asked for forgiveness. I truly felt remorseful. I was reminded of Psalm 43:2-3: “Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? O send out your light and your truth.”

With those four simple words “What do you have?”, God pulled me out of the lies of the deceiver and into His truth. In my spirit, I felt that God was not only telling me to count my blessings, but also to trust Him, to use whatever He has given me, and He would multiply His blessings for me. Like in the story of Elisha and the widow’s olive oil, Elisha asked the woman, “Tell me, what do you have in your house?” (2 Kings 4:2). The woman thought she only had a little oil but through the power of God, the oil began to overflow to fill every empty jar available and meet all her needs!

In this world, we will suffer all kinds of afflictions and tribulations, and there will be tough days, weeks and seasons ahead. However, if we keep our eyes on the Lord, He will carry us through and continue to bless us along the way. Our mind is like a magnifying glass, in that whatever we focus on gets bigger and bigger. Instead of focusing on our setbacks, we should magnify God and the things of God. The Word tells us that the things of this world are temporary, and we should keep our thoughts on things that are eternal. Our light afflictions are just for a moment.

Let us “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.” - Psalm 100:4-5

So, what do you have? 

VERONICA serves in the CMC Healing and Altar Ministry teams since 2012. She loves the word of God and is currently enrolled in Charis Bible College (USA) online, while taking a break from Investment Banking

CHRISTMAS

AS KIDS SEE IT

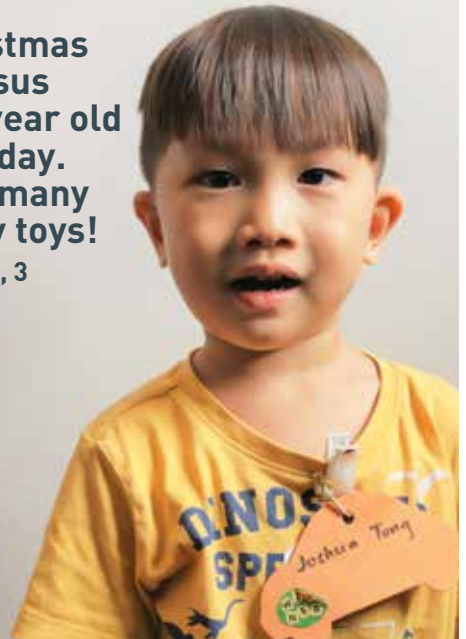
Christmas is a Christian celebration, it is Jesus' birthday.

Ruth, 6



Christmas is Jesus one year old birthday. I get many many toys!

Joshua, 3



During Christmas we get presents, that's all I know. Also Santa Claus is not real, he can't be our father!

Reuben, 5





**The three wisemen followed
the star because of Jesus.
He is the Son of God.**

Asher, 7



**I'm excited for Christmas
because my Daddy
and Mummy
are going
to buy
Lego
for me!**

Ethan, 4



**Christmas is special
because I can decorate
the Christmas Tree and play
board games with my family!**

Gemma, 7



**I like the Christmas Tree
and I'm excited about
the holiday!**

Jevon, 5



A Soldier for Christ

BY **MONICA LIM**

LITTLE KNOWN FACT:

29-YEAR-OLD PASTOR BENJAMIN LAU ALMOST SIGNED ON WITH THE SINGAPORE ARMED FORCES.

WHO KNEW THAT CMC'S NEWEST PASTOR COULD HAVE BEEN A FULL-TIME SOLDIER INSTEAD?

When he was serving his National Service, he was awarded the Sword of Merit and later offered a Military Training Award as a Signal Officer. This was a very tempting offer to young Benjamin because it meant his military studies and training would be covered, and his career for the near future set. There was just one little problem: he knew that God had called him into full-time Christian ministry work.

Seeking the advice of his pastor, Benjamin voiced his concern over whether he would be financially stable if he went into full-time

vocational ministry straight after his National Service.

His pastor shared that having entered full-time ministry early as well, God had never failed to provide for him and his family. Encouraged and convicted, Benjamin answered God's call at the age of 22 where he started serving as a youth worker. Two years later, he enrolled at Trinity Theological College and upon graduation, served as a pastoral team member before applying to be a pastor in the Methodist Church.

FROM SUNDAY TO SURRENDERED CHRISTIAN

Growing up, Benjamin attended Wesley Methodist Church (WMC) with his family. "For 16 years, I was a Sunday Christian," he says. "Going to church every Sunday was only part of a routine, without the true conviction of living for Christ." A night rally at a youth camp changed all that. "I encountered God in a personal way and for the first time, my perspective of the Christian life changed."

From that point, three other events guided his path to becoming a pastor.

On 7 October 2008, he attended a prayer meeting and was seeking God's calling for his life when God revealed Psalm 37:4 to him: "Delight yourself in the



IN HIS OWN WORDS

Describe yourself in three words:

“Optimistic, practical, extroverted.”

Favourite food:

“I’m a meat lover, so a good steak or cheeseburger makes me happy!”

Hobbies:

“Reading, running, watching shows on Netflix.”

Weakness:

“My Mandarin is very poor—I took Chinese Language ‘B’ Syllabus in secondary school.”

Favourite character in the Bible:

“I identify with Timothy because just like him, I’m a third generation Christian and had pastors and leaders who mentored me in my journey as a young pastor, just as Paul mentored Timothy and encouraged him in his ministry.”

LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.” God impressed this vision in his heart that his call was to reach out to the world, starting with equipping the people in the church. This was one of the clearest times Benjamin heard God speaking to him.

However, he was still filled with doubt and wondered how this calling would unfold. The following year, Benjamin attended a retreat where graduating students came together to seek God’s calling for their lives. Confirmation came that morning. He read Hebrews 3:7: “...Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts”...”. God prompted him to be obedient to His call, and Benjamin knew then there was no more running away.

The final confirmation came in 2012 when Benjamin had already started serving as a youth worker in WMC. He attended a Young Methodist Leaders Conference (YMLC),

when he felt a burning desire in his heart during an altar call for young leaders to carry on the “Wesleyan flame”. He knew God was leading him to respond to the call to be a shepherd to God’s people in the Methodist church.


A UNION MADE IN HEAVEN

In 2014 when Benjamin was serving as a mentor at the YMLC, an altar call was given for leaders to commit their decisions with regards to marriage to God. One of the pastors prayed for Benjamin and after the prayer, he jokingly said, “Open your eyes—your future life partner is here!” A few metres away from Benjamin was Claire, whom he had known from being in the same YMLC group in 2013. Unbeknownst to Benjamin at the time, Claire would eventually be his wife! It was nothing as cliché as their eyes meeting across the room, but Benjamin and Claire did strike up

a friendship from serving together, and friendship blossomed into love.

The couple celebrated their second wedding anniversary in October 2018.

ANSWERING GOD’S CALL

Benjamin is passionate about discipleship and evangelism, and believes God is calling him to invest in the next generation, namely the youths and young adults in church. “I hope that everyone can discover God’s Kingdom plans for their lives and answer the call to be a witness for Christ, whether in church or in the marketplace,” he says. 



MONICA is an author, blogger, and runs her own copywriting agency. Yeah, she writes a lot. She has been attending

CMC with her husband, Kenneth, since 1993, and she’s mum to two kids—Lesley-Anne and Andre.



WHILST MEI LING CONSIDERS HER LIFE “BORING”, I BEG TO DIFFER. IN MY OPINION, EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD POINTS TO CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE TO LIVE A LIFE OF FREEDOM.

Mind you, I am not suggesting she has a secret hard-partying life or a logbook of bungee jumps. Rather, her's has been a life surrendered to God, moving with the sheer flow of His lead and an assurance that He has got her back. Today, she has joined as staff of Christ Methodist Church and is part of the team for Discipleship & Nurture and Care Groups (CG) ministries.

“I say to Him: I have only five loaves and two fish, in fact maybe just one loaf and half a fish. But if You have placed me here, I trust that You will work through me. Give me wisdom and multiply it,” she shares. It is this posture of submission that has seen her through. In return, God has prospered her richly in ministry and life.

Her first encounter with Christianity was during her secondary school days, but she backslided for a short period of time as she was deeply involved with school activities and events during her junior college days. It was only after her ‘A’ Levels exams that Mei Ling re-dedicated her life to the Lord.

A LIFE LIVED FOR

Him!


BY **MICHELLE AW YONG**



At that time, she was attending Bedok Christian Centre (BCC), better known today as Cornerstone Community Church. She felt a calling to serve in full-time ministry but there was no church role available then, so Mei Ling enrolled into Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to pursue a Business degree. However, the desire to serve never ceased. Promptly after she had finished six months at NTU and faithfully completed her examinations, she decided to pursue a new job opening at BCC. She landed the role as a secretary to the senior pastor and eventually moved on to a pastoral role after a few years. She continued serving for just over 20 years until God called her out of Cornerstone for other plans, without revealing details.

So in obedience, Mei Ling left. She began worshipping at CMC in July 2015 and also found herself in the secular marketplace for the first time. "It was a big change of culture for me. But I still had the chance to meet up with friends from church and we continued to encourage each other in our Christian walk. One colleague I had grown quite close to even decided to return to Wesley Methodist Church (WMC) and got baptised. Those conversations energised me. I was convinced that no experience is wasted, nothing happens by chance," said Mei Ling describing how the three years in the marketplace had given her fresh perspective and prepared her for this new season at CMC.

Without giving away too much of what is on the planning table, Mei Ling's current goal at CMC is to bring focus and structure to the plethora of discipleship programmes, and to harness the CG community to help believers 'dig deeper'. "It is about building precept upon precept, line upon line; to help believers go beyond the salvation experience into maturity as a disciple of Christ, to stay rooted and be actively serving in the house of God," shares Mei Ling.

Lest it sound like she has got it all worked out, Mei Ling confides that she still struggles with questions and looks to God whenever things hit a brick wall. "Sometimes we do not get answers right away. But 20 over years of working in the church has taught me to be very careful not to step out of line with Him. Basically, I am constantly reminding myself to live in surrender and to flow with the leading of the Holy Spirit in all that I do." 

FACT BOX

- Tay Mei Ling
- Married to Rupert Lim, CMC Worship Director
- Two lovely children: Ashley, 19 and Ethan, 16
- Alumnus of Anglican High and Victoria Junior College
- Spent more time in sports (basketball, cross-country and track & field) than in tutorials at college, and got 'invited for tea' with the principal



MICHELLE is a pretend tai-tai this season of her life, enjoying an easier pace with fewer emails and deadlines. Thank you God for being gracious!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

EASTER 2018
17 & 18 March

BAPTISED

Master Caleb Ray Lim
Son of Mr & Mrs Clement Lim

Miss Gemma Amelie Lim
Miss Hannah Juliette Lim
Daughters of Mr & Mrs Stanley Lim

Miss Isabel Poh
Daughter of Mr & Mrs Gavin Poh

Miss Nicole Poh
Daughter of Mr & Mrs Adrian Poh

Master Ryan Tio
Son of Mr & Mrs Timothy Tio

Mr Allan Foo
Ms Catty Teo
Ms Charlotte Lim
Mr Dillon Lau
Ms Eileen Ong
Ms Heng Jia Hui
Mr James Jayson
Ms Janna Seah
Ms Lee Jie Lin
Dr Lee Tong Chsia
Ms Lucy Tan
Dr Margaret Ling
Ms Michelle Low
Ms Stephanie Thong
Mr Wesley Goh

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Ms Angela Ang
Mr David Cirulli
Ms Denise Nicole Yap
Ms Doris Khoo
Ms Eileen Ong
Ms Eileen Sim
Ms Lau Siew San
Mr Marcus Yap
Ms Michelle Low
Ms Serene Goh
Ms Sharon Sim
Ms Sophia Tan
Mr Sun Tianfu

TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

Mr Aaron Koh
transferred from Paya Lebar Methodist Church

Mr Jay Lee
transferred from Aldersgate Methodist Church

Ms Koh Bee Kim
transferred from Living Waters Methodist Church

Mr Roger Tan
transferred from Faith Methodist Church

Ms Rue Heng
transferred from Living Hope Methodist Church

Mr Steven Choo
transferred from Living Hope Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS 2018

15 & 16 December

BAPTISED

Miss Alice Lau

Daughter of Mr & Mrs Alvin Lau

Miss Avery Hannah Samuel

Miss Riley Joelle Samuel

Daughters of Mr & Mrs Ashwin Andrew Samuel

Miss Esther Song

Daughter of Mr & Mrs Song Yinyu

Master Jazryck Yee

Son of Mr & Mrs Johnsen Yee

Master Joshua Yong

Son of Mr & Mrs Shawn Yong

Master Lucas Yew

Son of Mr & Mrs Desmond Yew

Miss Sarah Soh

Daughter of Mr & Mrs Stanley Soh

Miss Stacey Chan

Daughter of Mr & Mrs Samuel Chan

Mr Bryan Cheong

Ms Catherine Neo

Mr Chan Fann Shaun

Ms Della Lee

Mr Depar Hlwan Ok

Mr Dominic Sim Sobak

Ms Jazrael Yee

Ms Jenna Lim

Mr Jerome Chng

Ms Joey Chew

Mr Johnsen Yee

Ms Lee Jun Yi

Ms Lilian Lin

Mr Nathaniel Soo

Mr Ong Hoo Eng

Ms Pauline Ong

Ms Rebecca Chua

Ms Sandra Wu

Ms Sitri Yarni Bana*

Ms Teresita B. Sumayo*

Ms Wendy Lau

*Reaffirmation of baptism

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Mr Amos Yap

Mr Andie Tong

Mr Chan Fann Shaun

Ms Genevieve Wong

Mr Jerome Chng

Ms Joey Chew

Mr Johnsen Yee

Ms Juliet Tay

Ms Lee Jun Yi

Ms Megan Soh

Ms Teresa Goh

TRANSFERRED MEMBERSHIP

Mr Chia Hock Jin

transferred from St John's – St Margaret's Church

If you are keen to be baptised in CMC or make a deeper commitment to CMC by becoming a member, our Easter 2019 baptism and membership season will start early in the year, and candidates are required to complete a course. For more enquiries please call our church office at 6345 3934 during office hours, or email info@cmc.org.sg

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

MINISTRY & SUPPORT STAFF

1. **Mr Earl Tan**
Executive Director
2. **Mr Rupert Lim**
Worship Director
3. **Mr Alvin Teh**
Senior Ministry Executive
(Dialect Ministries)
4. **Mr Hoi Kok Fu**
Senior Ministry Executive
(Outreach and Missions)
5. **Mr Chris Seow**
Senior Executive
(Audio Visual and Info Tech)
6. **Mr Amos Yap**
Senior Ministry Executive
(Family Life & Counselling)
7. **Ms Tay Mei Ling**
Senior Ministry Executive
(Discipleship & Care Groups)
8. **Mr Edwin Seah**
Ministry Executive
(Youth Ministry)
9. **Ms Netania Pereira**
Ministry Executive
(Communications)
10. **Mr Kevin Wang**
Media Executive



CHURCH OPERATIONS STAFF

Ms Mabel Wat
Administrative Manager

Mr Steven Sim
Finance & IT Manager

Mrs Alice John
Secretary

Ms Suzanne Seah
Finance and Administrative Assistant

Ms Lily Sia
Administrative Assistant

Mr Sun Tian Fu
Administrative Assistant

Mr Shi Kai
Operations Executive

Mr Chong Siew Meng
Contract Caretaker

Ms Alice Lim
Contract Cleaner

LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019



OUR PASTORS

1. **Rev Vincent Goh**
Pastor-In-Charge
2. **Rev Shaun Chong**
Pastor
3. **Pastor Benjamin Lau**
Assistant Pastor



OUR LEADERS

1. **Mr Donald Tay**
LCEC Chairperson
2. **Mr Barry Hung**
Lay Leader
Pastor-Parish Relations and
Committee Chairperson
3. **Mr Chan Kum Kit**
Associate Lay Leader
4. **Mrs Mary Lee**
Associate Lay Leader
5. **Ms Serene Chee**
Associate Lay Leader
6. **Ms Loh Mei Wai**
Associate Lay Leader
7. **Mr Jonathan Ong**
Associate Lay Leader
8. **Miss Phylina Yeo**
TRAC Lay Delegate

LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018-2019

OUR STEWARDS

1. **Mr Peter Soh**
Honourary Steward
2. **Mrs Tay Poh Luan**
Honourary Steward
3. **Mr Keith Huang**
Elective Steward
4. **Ms Doris Lee**
Elective Steward
5. **Mr Kelvin Lim**
Elective Steward
6. **Miss Woo Ti Soo**
Elective Steward



OUR LCEC ADMIN TEAM

1. **Mr Wan Wee Pin**
Archivist
2. **Mrs Tan Heem Juay**
Finance Chairperson
3. **Ms Alice Tan**
Governance Chairperson
4. **Miss Maggie Ng**
Treasurer
5. **Ms Sharon Tan**
LCEC Secretary





MINISTRY CHAIRPERSONS

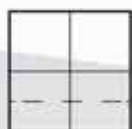
1. **Mrs Fanny Chiang**
Cantonese Ministry
2. **Mr Yip Hin Meng**
Care Groups Ministry
3. **Mr Ling Ting Soo**
Christalite Methodist Home
4. **Mr Loy Hein Moh**
Christian Outreach & Social Concerns
5. **Miss Michele Soh**
Communications
6. **Mr Tan Wee Hiong**
Discipleship & Nurture
7. **Ms Elaine Shu**
Family Life Ministry
8. **Ms Winnie Cheng**
Church School (ChristKidz)
9. **Ms Irene Tay**
Hokkien Ministry
10. **Mr Daniel Wang**
Mandarin Ministry
11. **Dr Samuel Ng**
Missions
12. **Ms Carol Chan**
Prayer
13. **Mr Winston Wee**
Property Management
14. **Mr Anthony Chong**
Senior's Ministry (GYM)
15. **Mr Steven Lee**
Witness & Evangelism
16. **Ms Diana Hioe**
Worship & Music
17. **Ms Chloe Chan**
Youth Ministry
18. **Mrs Junie Tan**
Womens' Society of Christian Services

Origami
heart

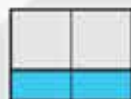
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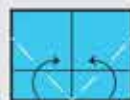
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TRANSFORMED

How God Changes Us

**BE TRANSFORMED IN THE NEW YEAR!
SEE HOW GOD CHANGES US.**

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SERIES 5 JAN - 24 FEB 2019

WEEKLY SERVICES - SAT, 4.30 PM / SUN, 8.30 AM & 10.30 AM