



witness



An Unexpected Breakthrough

Healing and reconciliation that changed everything



This Time With Me

Encountering God in the quiet in-between



An Accountant in the Margins

Chan Kum Kit's journey to Timor-Leste



Seek Him First

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A word

*"Search me, O God,
and know my heart;
try me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way
in me, and lead me
in the way everlasting."*

PSALM 139:23-24



from your Pastor

BY REV DR EDWIN WONG

As we arrive at the midpoint of 2026, it is fitting for us to pause and take stock of the spiritual journey that God has been leading Christ Methodist Church through.

This year, the Lord has given us a clear spiritual direction: **Recalibrate**. More than an annual theme or emphasis, it is a divine invitation to align ourselves afresh with His heart and purposes as we journey towards Vision 2030, *"Loving Communities, Strengthening Families."*

God is not merely suggesting minor adjustments; He is serious about repositioning and preparing His church for what He desires to do among us.

God calls us to walk intentionally according to His purposes. That is why the years leading to 2030 are marked by five significant spiritual milestones:

- Recalibrate (2026),
- Rekindle (2027),
- Rejuvenate (2028),
- Reform (2029) and
- Rejoice (2030).

These milestones will shape our identity, direct our priorities, and guide our steps as we seek to become the church that God desires us to be.

As we reflect on 2026, we must ask ourselves honestly: **Have we responded to God's call to recalibration?**

At the beginning of this year, we were confronted with important questions:

- Are we still aligned with Christ?
- Are our practices sustaining our calling?
- Are we running on our own strength or abiding in Christ?

These are not one-time questions. They are questions that must continually shape our hearts and direct our steps.

If we are honest with ourselves, many of us have experienced moments of weariness, distraction, disappointment, and spiritual complacency – busy serving, but neglecting to abide.

Yet recalibration is not condemnation, but God's gracious invitation. Through the Holy Spirit, He brings conviction – revealing where we have drifted, where our priorities are misaligned, and where we have depended more on ourselves than on Him.

Without conviction, recalibration cannot take place – and without recalibration, our hearts may

gradually drift, and assignments begin to feel like burdens rather than joyful privileges.

But God never intended His calling to be carried apart from Him.

Therefore, whenever we discover misalignment in our lives, the proper response is repentance. Repentance is more than feeling sorry for our sins. It is turning back to God and allowing Him to redirect our hearts, renew our minds, and restore our first love.

Recalibration requires courage to look within and also humility to change. It invites us to celebrate what God is blessing and honestly confront what needs to change. What is fruitful, we refine, strengthen, and amplify. What no longer serves God's purposes, we release, realign, and change.

Ultimately, recalibration is not the destination. It is only the beginning of what God desires to do among us. He recalibrates us so that He may rekindle our passion, rejuvenate our strength, reform our lives and ultimately lead us into rejoicing. Every adjustment He makes is an expression of His grace and mercy, not merely to make us better versions of ourselves, but to shape us into the church that Christ desires us to be for the advancement of His Kingdom.

Imagine what God could do through a church fully surrendered to Him – marked not by activity alone, but by His presence and power. Imagine a church that loves communities, strengthens families, raises disciples, and reaches the nations.

This is the church we are praying for.

And when future generations look back on this season, may they say that Christ Methodist Church responded faithfully to the call of God, stepped boldly into all that He had prepared for her, and stewarded His vision well.

The road towards Vision 2030 will require faith, sacrifice, obedience, unity and perseverance. But we do not walk alone – the same God who brought His people through the wilderness and into the Promised Land journeys with us today, and He will bring His purposes to completion.

May we continue to walk humbly, repent quickly, align faithfully, and embrace joyfully every assignment that God entrusts to us.

For the best is yet to come.
To God be the glory.



SPIRITUAL DIRECTION 2026–2030

Vision 2030 Loving Communities, Strengthening Families



2026: RECALIBRATE Reset priorities toward God's kingdom "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33	2027: REKINDLE Fan into flame the gifts of God "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:6-7	2028: REJUVENATE Renew strength in God "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	2029: REFORM Transformation through renewed minds "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2	2030: REJOICE Celebrate God's marvellous works "the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad." Psalm 118:23-24

Step by Step, I Will Follow Him



Pastor Edwin Seah has officially been appointed Assistant Pastor at Trinity Methodist Church, effective 1 August 2026! As we celebrate with him, we look back at his journey from when he first joined the CMC staff team.

Share about your call to become a pastor.

My time at Trinity Theological College (TTC) clarified and sharpened my sensing of God's call to full-time vocational ministry as a pastor. Before that, I had already been working in church for a few years and received encouragement from several church members to apply to serve as a pastor. However, I resisted their suggestions primarily out of fear of not being suited for the responsibilities and the heavy burden that would be placed on my family.

An encounter with God at a silent retreat broke down the walls of resistance, and He gave me such a powerful assurance that His provision will always be sufficient for all my lacks or needs (and those of my family). The Lord brought to my attention Matthew 4:19 ("Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people.") and with that, I was convicted to go through the application process and allow the Lord to lead me step by step.

How did God shape you during TTC?

I truly experienced the love and care of the community at TTC. Going through the rigours of theological studies while navigating my parenting duties of a young child was challenging but made manageable because of the supportive nature of TTC. The faculty held us to high academic standards, but their approach was overwhelmingly pastoral. Students would process difficult concepts and grapple with heavy assignment loads together, instead of competing with one another. This has shaped my desire to be a shepherd who nurtures spiritual growth and values community, instead of one who focuses on performance and results.

Share a moment during TTC that was defining for you.

I experienced a period of burnout at the start of my final semester. I was so fatigued

An encounter with God at a silent retreat broke down the walls of resistance, and He gave me such a powerful assurance that His provision will always be sufficient for all my lacks or needs (and those of my family).

that I couldn't bring myself to attend the first two weeks of classes.

That period brought to my mind echoes of a deeper darkness in my early twenties when a depressive bout led me to drop out of university. I was skipping some classes and refusing to attend examinations because I knew I would obtain poor grades. Eventually, I walked away from pursuing my degree altogether. Several years of shame and reclusiveness followed. I did not know God at that time either.

This time it was different, with God firmly in the picture. He orchestrated several moving parts to come together to lift me out of my burgeoning spiral. The many encounters with God and the people He sent helped me realise I am still held securely in His hands, and His grace is sufficient for me.

Resuming classes was made smoother by the loving nature of the TTC community. Lecturers and fellow students welcomed me back with empathy and sensitivity, never judgement. The Holy Spirit fully

As disciples of Christ, we are called to demonstrate Christ's love for us by loving one another. As I am committed to following Jesus, I am committed to loving those God leads me to as He Himself loves us.

empowered me to catch up with the hectic pace of the studies and graduate with my cohort.

My biggest takeaway from TTC did not come from any course, but God's personal encounters with me throughout to remind and assure me of His goodness and faithfulness.

How has your understanding of your calling deepened?

Since graduating from TTC and returning to CMC to resume work, my experience in missions, youth ministry, and conducting wake services has given me a renewed appreciation of the people whom God places us amongst. Interacting with these brothers and sisters in Christ reminds me of the heart of my calling – God's own heart for His people. As disciples of Christ, we are called to demonstrate Christ's love for us by loving one another. As I am committed to following Jesus, I am committed to

loving those God leads me to as He Himself loves us.

What has God been teaching you in this season?

God has been teaching me to look beyond my own limited capabilities, and to instead rely on prayer and on the power of His Holy Spirit to answer His calling. Each new day presents opportunities for me to exercise full surrender to the Lord, to remain humble to learn and grow, and to entrust the outcomes of my endeavours to His sovereign will (Proverbs 19:20-21). That gives me a lot of encouragement and hope, that even in weakness I can still serve Him in a way that is pleasing to Him.

What kind of pastor do you hope to become?

I hope that my service would be a fragrant offering to God, that what I do will be for



His glory alone and never for my own vain ambitions. I hope to remain steadfast and faithful in proclaiming the gospel of Christ winsomely, and to love and shepherd God's people as Christ our Good Shepherd Himself does.

How can the church community best support and pray for you?

My wife, Gladys, and daughter, Bethany, will remain worshipping and serving in CMC during my appointment as Assistant Pastor at Trinity Methodist Church. Coupled with the additional duties of a pastor that I have to grow into, I anticipate new challenges in spending time together as a family. As such, I would greatly appreciate prayers for my family to lean in all the more to God's faithfulness and for us to adjust well to the new rhythms of life.

FUN FACTS:

Your favourite theologian

The late Jürgen Moltmann was a theologian whose theology on evil and suffering I resonate greatly with. He presents a way to approach pain and grief, not by rationalising why God allows it, but by pointing to how Jesus understands suffering intimately, and that God already offers hope in the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. From this, I have learnt to exercise presence and empathy in ministry.



A hobby you have (or wish you had time for)

Playing board games, mainly with my family. I believe that board games are highly effective in building bonds between people and encouraging a good mental workout.



Something that brings you joy

I love interacting with animals. My favourite animal is a gecko. I relish gecko 'catch-and-release' duty with my bare hands whenever one appears around the home, to keep my wife and daughter safe and sane.



Favourite passage to preach on

Ephesians 5:21-6:9, because V21 is my wedding verse and a constant reminder of how I can love my family, and who I'm ultimately doing it for. Beyond just sound marital advice, the passage is a call for the Body of Christ to submit to one another and be united under the headship of our Lord.

From Questions to Calling

BY ABIGAIL WANG



I grew up in an atheist family. The education I received from a young age reinforced a worldview that denied the existence of God and focused on evolution and the Big Bang theory. Yet even as a child, I carried deep questions in my heart. If humans evolved from monkeys, why didn't all monkeys evolve, and why don't they continue to evolve today? And how could a random cosmic explosion produce such an orderly, intricate, and beautiful world? These questions stayed with me for eighteen years, unresolved yet persistent.

In 2003, I came to Singapore to pursue further studies. During that time, a friend invited me to attend church. Initially, I was resistant and declined his invitation repeatedly. However, my friend did not give up, and I eventually agreed, telling myself that I would attend just once, simply to be polite.

When I attended the church service, I did not understand much of what was happening. Yet, I was deeply moved by the songs. The melodies were beautiful, and

the lyrics carried a depth and meaning I had never encountered in popular music.

One line in particular struck my heart: "I have a Father in heaven who loves me unconditionally and accepts me completely."

At that moment, my tears began to flow uncontrollably. In the world I had known, unconditional love and acceptance did not really exist, even in my closest relationships. What I had seen were self-interest, calculation, and hypocrisy. Those lyrics shattered my preconceived ideas about Christianity and awakened a desire to know more.

I began attending church regularly. Over a period of about six months, I learned more about the Christian faith and experienced genuine care and love from pastors and fellow believers. The most transformative moment came when I read the creation account in the book of Genesis. The questions that had lingered in my heart for years finally found their answer.

In response to this newfound faith, I was baptised on Easter in 2006, marking my decision to follow Christ.

The Call to Full-Time Ministry

In my late twenties, God had planted a desire to serve Him fully. At that time, however, I felt inadequate and unqualified. Yet over the next ten years, God continued to work patiently in my heart, repeatedly placing within me a growing burden to care for His people.

In early 2020, a sister shared with me that while praying for me, God prompted her to send me John 21:15-17, which was Jesus' repeated command to Peter: "Feed my lambs... Take care of my sheep... Feed my sheep."

A few weeks later, God led me to the same passage during my own quiet time. I sensed that this might be God's call to pastoral ministry, though I continued to pray for further confirmation.

Soon after, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted everything. Church services moved online, and the ministry I was serving in underwent significant transitions. These unexpected changes shook my faith, filling my heart with doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. In my weakness, I could only pray.

During one such prayer, the Lord impressed upon me a single phrase: "three years." Though I did not understand its meaning, I responded in faith.

The following three years were among the most challenging seasons of my spiritual life. Yet, God sustained me through His faithfulness and love. He brought into the ministry I was serving a group of brothers and sisters who were living testimonies of the gospel. Through their sacrificial obedience, my faith was rekindled, and my understanding of people and ministry was reshaped.

In 2023, a significant turning point came through my husband. During church camp, he was deeply moved by the speaker's message and began to reflect seriously on God's calling upon his life. After camp, he arranged to meet with our Pastor-in-Charge, Rev Dr Edwin Wong, to share what he sensed might be God's leading toward full-time ministry. Following that conversation, Rev Dr Edwin requested to meet with me as well, to understand how I viewed the possibility of my husband stepping into full-time ministry. It was the first time I had spoken to him face-to-face.

During that conversation, Rev Dr Edwin asked me to pray about "whether my calling is to be a pastor or a pastor's wife." His question both surprised and unsettled me, and forced me to confront something I had long avoided.

I committed the following two weeks to prayer, expecting God to give me a clear and decisive answer. Instead, I was met with silence. Even on the night before my second meeting with Rev Dr Edwin, I sensed no direction at all.

During the meeting, he asked if I had received any response from God, but I could only answer honestly that God had been silent. Then he said something that pierced my heart: “God kept silent because He already knows that you have the answer.”

In that moment, I realised that I could no longer run away from God’s call. My tears flowed uncontrollably, and I was overwhelmed with repentance before the Lord who had patiently and faithfully loved me all along.

Looking back, I realise that God used those three years to strengthen the foundation of my faith and clarify His call upon my life. I praise God for His faithfulness. I am deeply thankful for the spiritual guidance I have received, which has helped confirm my conviction that God is indeed calling me into Christian ministry.

A New Season in Ministry

Stepping into full-time church ministry over the past two years has been both humbling and enriching. Coming from a background of 12 years in the corporate world, I have experienced firsthand the joys and challenges of serving God’s people, walking alongside them in their spiritual journeys, and witnessing His faithfulness in countless ways. This season has deepened my dependence on God, strengthened my conviction of His call, and affirmed my desire to serve Him wholeheartedly.

As I prepare to begin theological studies, I feel a mixture of gratitude, excitement, and anticipation. I see this next step as a privilege and an opportunity to be further equipped for pastoral ministry, to grow in my understanding of Scripture and theology, and to better serve the Church for God’s glory. I am thankful for God’s leading thus far and look forward to what He will continue to teach and shape in me through this journey.

从疑问到呼召

我成长于一个无神论家庭。从小所接受的教育不断强化一种否定上帝存在的世界观，强调进化论和大爆炸理论。然而，即使在童年时期，我心中却始终带着一些深刻的疑问。如果人类是由猴子进化而来的，为什么不是所有猴子都进化成人？为什么今天的猴子没有继续进化？又为何一次随机的宇宙大爆炸，竟能产生如此井然有序、精密复杂且美丽的世界？这些问题在我心中停留了十八年，始终没有答案，却从未消失。

2003年，我来到新加坡继续深造。期间，一位朋友邀请我参加教会聚会。起初，我十分抗拒，多次婉拒他的邀请。然而，他始终没有放弃。最后，为了礼貌起见，我答应自己只去一次。

第一次参加教会崇拜时，我其实听不太懂讲道内容，但诗歌却深深触动了。那些旋律优美动人，歌词所表达的深度和意义，是我从未在流行歌曲中听过的。

其中一句歌词特别触动我的心：“我有一位天上的父亲，祂无条件地爱我，完全地接纳我。”

那一刻，我的眼泪不由自主地流了下来。在我所认识的世界里，无条件的爱与接纳似乎并不存在，即使是最亲近的人际关系中也是如此。我所见到的更多是自我中心、利益计算与虚伪掩饰。然而，这句歌词彻底打破了我对基督教原有的偏见，也唤醒了我进一步认识信仰的渴望。

从那时起，我开始稳定地参加教会聚会。在大约半年的时间里，我逐渐认识基督信仰，也真实经历到牧者和弟兄姐妹的关怀与爱。最关键的转折点，是当我读到《创世记》中的创造记载时。那些多年萦绕在我心中的问题，终于找到了答案。

2006年复活节，我接受洗礼，公开表明自己愿意跟随耶稣基督。

全时间事奉的呼召

二十多岁时，上帝已经在我心中放下一颗愿意全职服事祂的种子。然而，当时的我觉得自己能力不足，也不够资格承担这样的使命。接下来的十年里，上帝却持续不断地在我生命中动工，一次又一次地把牧养祂子民的负担放在我的心里。

2020年初，一位姐妹告诉我，她在为我祷告时，神感动她把《约翰福音》21章15至17节发给我。那段经文记载了主耶稣三次对彼得说：“你喂养我的小子羊……你牧养我的羊……你喂养我的羊。”

几个星期后，在我个人灵修时，神也带领我读到同一段经文。我开始意识到，这或许是神对我发出的牧职呼召，但我仍继续祷告，寻求更清楚的印证。

不久之后，新冠疫情爆发，整个世界都陷入动荡。教会聚会转为线上进行，而我所参与服事的事工也经历了許多重大调整和变动。这些突如其来的改变动摇了我的信心，让我心中充满怀疑、失望与不确定。

在自己的软弱中，我唯一能做的就是祷告。就在一次祷告中，主向我心里放下了一句话：“三年。”虽然当时我完全不明白这句话的意思，但我选择凭信心回应。

接下来的三年，成为我属灵生命中最艰难的时期之一。然而，上帝以祂的信实与慈爱一路托住我。祂带领一群弟兄姐妹进入我所参与服事的事工。他们的生命成为福音真实的见证。透过他们甘心顺服、无私摆上的生命，我的信心得以重新被点燃，而我对于人和事奉的理解，也被神重新塑造。

2023年，神透过我的丈夫带来一个重要的转折点。那一年教会营会期间，他被讲员的信 息深深触动，开始认真思考神在他生命中的呼召。营会结束后，他主动约见教会主理牧师王恩伟博士，分享自己对于全时间事奉的感动。在那次谈话之后，主理牧师也邀请我与他见面，希望了解我对于丈夫进入全时间事奉的看法。那也是我第一次与他面对面深入交 谈。

谈话中，牧师请我祷告思考一个问题：“神呼召你的身份，是成为牧师，还是成为师母？”这个问题让我既惊讶又不安，也迫使我不得不正视一个长久以来一直逃避的问题。

接下来的两个星期，我专心祷告，期待神给我一个明确而清晰的答案。然而，我所经历的却是一片沉默。甚至在第二次与牧师见面的前一晚，我依然感受不到任何方向。

见面时，牧师问我是否从神那里得到回应。我只能诚实地说，神一直保持沉默。这时，他说了一句话，深深刺痛了我的心：“神保持沉默，是因为祂早已知道你心里有答案。”

就在那一刻，我终于意识到，自己已经无法再逃避神的呼召。我的眼泪不受控制地流下来。我在那位一直以忍耐和信实爱着我的主面前深深悔改。回顾这一路走来的历程，我明白神使用那三年的时间，坚固我信心的根基，也更清楚地确认祂在我生命中的呼召。我赞美神的信实，也非常感恩一路走来所领受的属灵引导与陪伴。这些经历帮助我更加确信：神确实正在呼召我进入全职事奉。

事奉的新阶段

过去两年多进入全时间教会事奉的经历，对我而言既谦卑又充满恩典。从在职场奋斗十二年的背景，到进入全时间服事，我亲身经历了牧养神百姓的喜悦与挑战，陪伴他们走过属灵生命的旅程，也在无数时刻见证神的信实与作为。这段经历使我更加学习倚靠神，也更加坚定祂对我的呼召，并再次确认自己愿意全心全意地服事祂。

如今，预备进入神学院接受装备，我心中充满感恩、期待与兴奋。我视这一步为神所赐的恩典与机会，使我能够在圣经知识与神学上得到更扎实的装备，为未来的牧职事奉做好准备，更好地服事教会、荣耀上帝。我感谢神一路以来的带领，也期待在未来的学习和事奉旅程中，继续经历祂的塑造与引导。



ABIGAIL cherishes quiet moments alone. She's still amazed by God's call into a ministry where people are everywhere. 喜欢享受独处与安静，至今仍惊叹于上帝竟呼召她投入一个总是与人同行的服事。

An Unexpected Breakthrough

BY JENNY GAN



Healing and reconciliation
that changed everything

God is so awesome! Last year, I decided to pay my brother, Patrick, a visit in Melbourne for his 80th birthday. This was after he had suffered two heart attacks, and we had nearly lost him. The visit was not only emotional but also unexpected – God had something up His sleeve.

My relationship with my brother had not been good. I remember him becoming violent whenever he was angry. Forty years ago, after my mother's death, he slammed down the phone during one of our conversations, saying, "I have no sister," after disagreements over her will. I cried bitterly and asked God why this had to happen to me.

I still tried calling him after that incident, but each time he heard my voice, he would hang up. Eventually, I stopped trying to call and would only speak to him casually over the phone during Chinese New Year.

Over the years, he would ask about me, but I still felt so much fear each time I thought of calling him. The pain of rejection was still embedded in me. I surrendered this bitterness and hurt to God during CMC's Homecoming campaign in 2024.

Last year, when we spoke casually, my brother surprisingly said he wanted to hear about the mission trips I had been on. As I planned to visit him for his birthday, I was excited and fully prepared to share the miracles that had happened during some of my trips. I prayed for God to soften his heart so that he would see His goodness in my life through my sharing. I told God that my brother needed a breakthrough and could only find peace in Him.

When I arrived at his house, I was shocked by his condition. It grieved me to see how much his health had deteriorated. We ended up not talking about the mission trips – but God had other plans to answer my prayer.

While I was there, one of his friends called to wish him a happy birthday, and he said, "My little baby sister is here to surprise me."



Those four words only sank in when I returned to the hotel.

Before I left, he started sobbing. I wasn't sure why, but I just hugged him and told him, "Jesus loves you. Call on Him anytime."

God never forgets the heartbreaking moments of my life. He is *El Roi*, the God who sees. As I sat in the hotel room, the Holy Spirit prompted me to recall the past with my brother. I believe that God wanted me to hear my brother say those four words, "my little baby sister," which jolted me out of a deep abyss.

In His plans, God wanted me to know that I needed to be healed after years of estrangement. My prayer was answered through this reconciliation. To God be the glory!

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11



JENNY GAN's favourite colour is yellow and her go to verse is Nehemiah 8:10.

From Works to Word

BY JONALYN TULIVA



Growing up in the Philippines, my life was steeped in tradition. I was raised as a Catholic, but I never truly understood the depth of God's grace.

That all changed when I came to Singapore. In October 2025, a sudden hunger for the truth led me to pick up the Bible for myself. As I read and listened to the preaching at Grace Fellowship, I realised there was a disconnect between the traditions I knew and the truth of the Word. My curiosity turned into a spiritual fire. By December,

that hunger led me to the waters of baptism – a public declaration that my life no longer belonged to me, but to Christ.

A New Song, a New Peace

The transformation was deeply personal. My daily rhythms shifted entirely. I used to spend my time listening to love ballads; now, my day isn't complete without worship songs and the Word.

The most visible change has been in my character. I used to be a person driven by fear and overthinking. When problems arose, I would cry to my friends for comfort, but it never lasted. Now, I take everything to God, and there is a calm that surpasses understanding. Even my family has noticed the difference in how I handle conflict.

My brother struggles with anger and would sometimes throw things. In the past, I would retaliate by scolding him, shouting at everyone, or urging my mother to fight back. Now, I respond with a peace that can only come from the Holy Spirit. My conversations with my family, which used to revolve solely around money and problems, are now centred on the goodness of God.



Pruning for Growth

Throughout this journey, I have experienced a season of "pruning," where I have lost certain friendships and a relationship that were not meant for my future. But I've learned that the Lord uses these situations to refine us.

I saw this clearly in my relationship with my mother. When I first told her about my baptism, she was disappointed because she felt she had raised me "correctly" in her faith. I didn't argue, but every time I called her, I asked God for the right words. Slowly, her heart softened. A few weeks before my baptism, she began asking questions about it. Now, she is the one encouraging me to dig deeper into the Word as she seeks to understand more herself.

Miracles Across Borders

God's hand hasn't just been on me here in Singapore, but also on my family back home. For years, my mother struggled with her health, requiring monthly hospital visits. She has been a smoker since she was nine years old. This is one of the reasons why I came to Singapore to work, so I can earn more money to pay for her hospital bills. Since I started praying for her, she hasn't been hospitalized in over a year!

Even more amazing is how God provided a spiritual home for them. We live on a farm in a remote area, and the nearest church

required three bus rides – a journey too difficult for them to make regularly. Out of nowhere, a high school teacher I had not spoken to in ten years messaged me and told me that a church had started just five or six houses away from our home two years ago! Now, my mother and brother attend every Sunday.

A Life Redefined

Today, I would rather spend my time at Grace Fellowship than out with other friends. I'm so grateful for my sisters in Grace Fellowship. Sister Rose guided me and helped me grow closer to God. She has journeyed with me in my faith by explaining who God is and answering the questions I had. I'm also thankful for Sister Lyn, my childhood friend and neighbour in the Philippines, who now serves together with me in Grace Fellowship. She helped me so I could start working in Singapore in 2019.

As I reflect on my journey, I see how God orchestrated every step. I no longer see only "lack" when I look at my life, but I see the overflowing blessings and goodness of God. Truly, now that I have Him, everything is different.



JONALYN is family-oriented and has worked hard to provide for her family. Since coming to know Jesus, she now desires to do so and also be contented with a simple, happy life in God.

The Father to the Fatherless

BY JENNIFER LACORUM

In 2010, I arrived in Singapore with a heavy heart. I was a 35-year-old single parent, leaving behind four children. My eldest was 14 and my youngest was only three. My mind was filled with anxiety. How would my mother, then in her 60s, manage to look after four growing children, each four years apart?

During those early years, the distance felt unbearable. I was blessed with a kind employer who let me use her phone to call home, but every conversation ended in tears. I couldn't sleep, consumed by worry for my children's well-being and my mother's strength.

A Full Surrender

Everything changed in 2014 when I was baptised in a Pentecostal church. That was the moment I truly surrendered everything to Him. I realised that while I couldn't be there physically, God is the "Father to the fatherless." The moment I handed my burdens to Him, the suffocating worries simply vanished.

My perspective as a mother shifted completely. Before, my only advice to them was, "Study hard so you can have a good future." After my baptism, my message changed to: "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Instead of asking if they had finished their homework, I began asking, "Did you go to church? Are you listening to the Word?"

The Miracle of Transformation

2017 was a significant year for my family. I was hungry for God's Word and eager to serve Him. I started attending Grace Fellowship in CMC. It became the anchor for my faith, where I was encouraged to grow in my faith and to be salt and light to others.

At the same time, I never forced my faith on my children. I believed that baptism was a personal journey between them and God. Imagine my overwhelming joy when all four of them decided to get baptised on the very same day in 2017!

As my mother grew older, my children eventually had to live on their own. In the eyes of the world, this was a recipe for trouble, but God was their guardian. He raised them to be sensible and responsible. They grew up without vices, shielded by His grace.

Today, I see the fruit of that faith:

- My second daughter serves in church ministry, while my youngest son serves the Lord by playing the guitar.
- My two eldest children are working, my third is preparing for graduation, and my fourth is in university.

True Riches

The world measures success by wealth and titles, but I tell my children that even if they don't have worldly accomplishments, they have something far greater: heavenly citizenship. Even now, when life gets difficult



or prices go up, they don't complain. When they told me that bus fares were getting expensive, they simply said, "Don't worry, Mom, we will just take our bicycles." They have inherited a peace that doesn't depend on their circumstances.

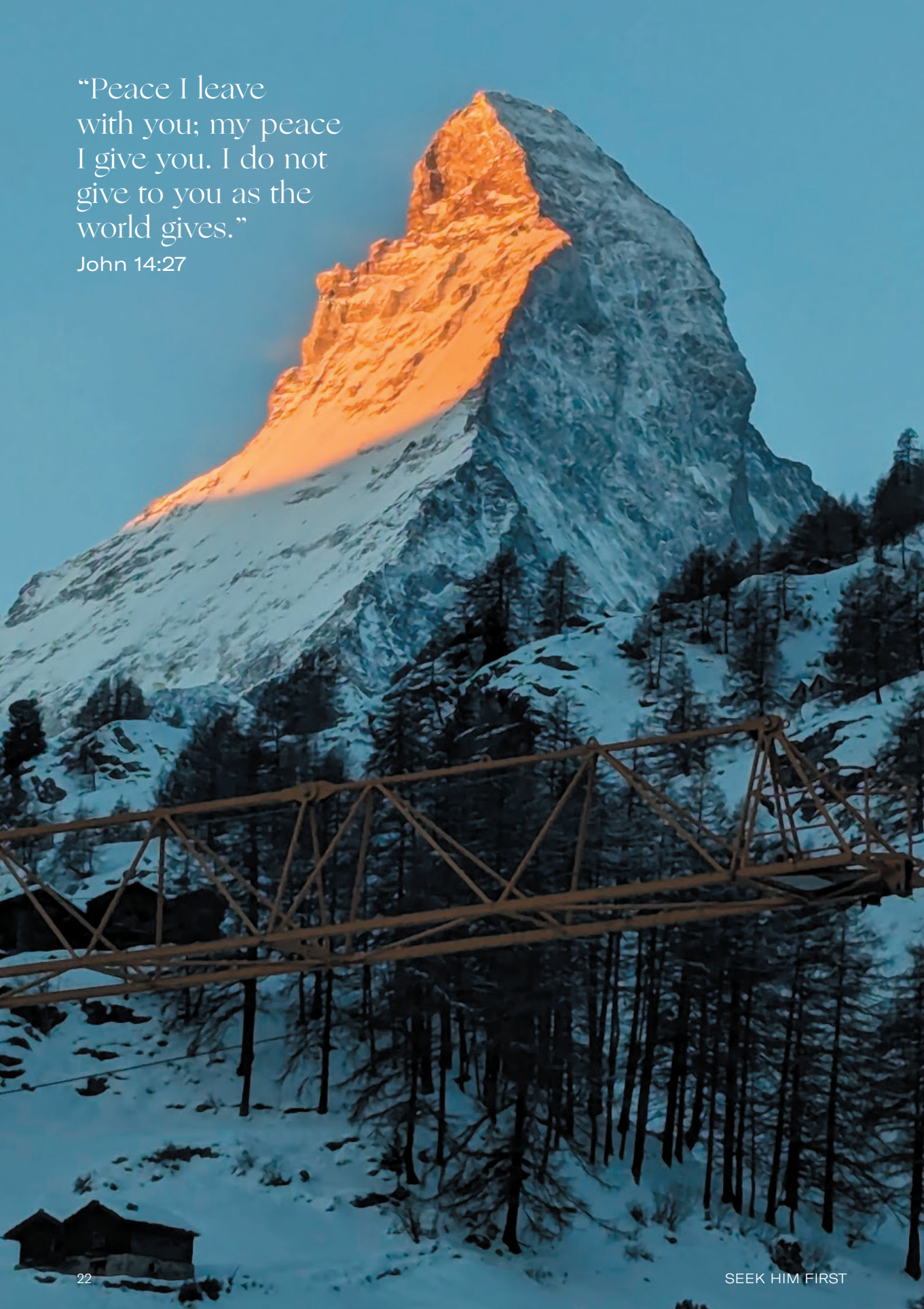
I may not possess the world's riches, but my children are my greatest wealth, given to me by God. He protected them when I couldn't, and He provided for them when I was far away. To anyone struggling with worry today, I say this: trust the Father. He is more than capable of looking after the ones you love.



JENNIFER has experienced God's miracles and wonders in her life and in her children's lives, which led them to serve Him faithfully.

“Peace I leave
with you; my peace
I give you. I do not
give to you as the
world gives.”

John 14:27



This Time With Me

BY ED CHEONG



We are what we identify most as. And to be frank, even after accepting Jesus as my saviour back in 2020, a huge part of my identity still revolved around my career as an Executive Creative Director working for global advertising agencies.

But in late 2023, something changed.

As always, my wife Becky and I would go on our annual year end vacation to recharge our batteries. This time, it was Switzerland, and we found ourselves at Zermatt – home of the iconic “Toblerone Chocolate” Matterhorn Mountain.

Upon checking in to the hotel, something completely random happened. We were blessed with a complimentary room upgrade that we never asked for. And it wasn’t just a tiny upgrade. The room that we were so casually reassigned to was breathtaking, to say the least. It had all the bells and whistles one could imagine, including a mounted telescope so that we could check out the famed mountain (which was actually just behind our hotel) in its full glory. I would discover later that this room was called

the Tower Suite, and, shockingly, priced at upwards of 3,000 SGD per night.

But little did I know then that this amazing blessing was the beginning of my breaking.

When we returned to Singapore, for the first time in my life, I did not feel reinvigorated. That was truly odd, as I have always been somewhat of a workaholic and never had any issues getting back into the grind. I felt broken and could not fathom why. It almost felt like God had intentionally granted me the best suite at the top of the world, just to show me that true peace can never be found in things.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.”
John 14:27

Over the next two years, I remained confused and wrestled against that feeling of being broken. I struggled with anxiety attacks but continued to put on a brave front. When it got too much, I even “fled” to the suburbs of Melbourne to work remotely for a while. I figured that a change

of environment might do me good. It did initially. But as the days got closer to returning to Singapore, my anxiety levels shot up again. I asked God to repair me. I felt that I wasn't fixed and had no idea why I felt discontented with the life I had led for decades. Then, as the internal struggles continued into 2025, the worst happened.

In September, during a period of time when the creative industry was reeling from massive layoffs, my global agency chose to pull out from Singapore. For the first time in my long career, I found myself out of a job, in the desert with no inkling of what's to come. In addition, as much as one could self-rationalise about what happened, being made redundant leaves you feeling somewhat embarrassed.

But ironically, this pivotal blow that broke the rice bowl turned into the blessing that made me whole again. Inexplicably, for the first time in years, I felt peace. The kind of peace that had eluded me, no matter how hard I tried to find it.

I sensed the Lord telling me that all this time, I was waiting on a God that is for me as opposed to the one that has always been with me. He is Immanuel, but until I understood that, this relationship was never going to be intimate.

As a testament to His enduring peace, even as two months passed by with no resolution in sight, I was still more joyful and thankful than before. I had a vision of the proverbial duck on the water. It appears calm on the surface, but underneath, it is frantically paddling away. That represented how I used to be. A false front. But now the duck is somewhat in reverse. The waters are choppy on the surface, but underneath, the foundation is calm.

In early December, as my wife Becky sat on the bus on her way to work, she prayed over my situation in her quiet time. Suddenly, she felt the strong presence of God reminding her of His promise in



Matthew 6:25-34. It was so real that her eyes began to well up and tears just flowed while she sat there on the bus.

Barely days after, I received confirmation of a new job.

I am deeply grateful to God for this journey, one that spanned years of anxiety. As I look back, I realise now that the feeling of brokenness is the tearing of an old wineskin. Perhaps I couldn't feel the same joy as before because I just wasn't the same person anymore.

As I embark on this new chapter, I whisper four simple words daily. Four words that I felt God placed into my heart: this time with me.



ED is blessed with his wife Becky and CG Family Wow 4 on this walk with God.

God Matters Most

A POEM BY SYLVIA LIEW

We live in a fallen world where
Uncertainty, conflicts and chaos reign
Family & personal struggles we often bear
Fleeting & deceptive pleasures bring no gain

Revelation exalts God & His divinity
His triumphant victory over evil
A new heaven & earth, hope for eternity
Giving us strength to begin anew

We are not perfect but God loves us
He is merciful and sees our faults & needs
Turns not away from our unsavoury deeds
But gives us hope and lovingkindness

Take time to listen, hear His voice
Prayerfully give your attention & rejoice
Delve deep into His word, be rooted in Him
Our faith & character will be moulded within

God Matters Most
He brings meaning & purpose to our lives
With His presence & personal connection
Our growth & development will continue to thrive

To God be the Glory
AMEN



SYLVIA believes that "you should use whatever gift you have to serve others" (1 Peter 4:10). When inspired, she writes poems to encourage others. She has worshipped at CMC for many years and enjoys the warm fellowship and spiritually inspiring services.

An Accountant in the Margins: Chan Kum Kit's journey to Timor-Leste

BY MATTHEW CHIN

One of the first questions that Chan Kum Kit gets asked after telling of his decision to go on a long-term overseas mission isn't about his health, or even where he's headed.

"They ask me: 'So you're renting out your house *ah*?...What are you doing with your house? Your car?'," the retired accountant said.

"At least ask me where I'm going, what I'm going to do," he joked.

In May, Kum Kit made the now-familiar journey back to a schoolhouse on the fringes of Timor-Leste's capital city – returning, as he has done several times now, as part of his ongoing involvement in overseas mission work.

While the Vice-Principal's office at the St Paul Methodist School in Timor-Leste seems an unlikely post for someone now well into retirement, it is, for Kum Kit, an expression of a long-held faith.

The Journey

Kum Kit's journey to Timor-Leste began in 2023 with an altar call at that year's Church Camp, led by the late Joseph Chead.

"[Chead] made a call like, 'Those who think you want to do missions, if you think you



should, but you don't know what missions are... just come out'," Kum Kit recounted.

That invitation set Kum Kit on a quest. He attended conferences, seminars, and various equipping programmes, and consulted CMC's pastors and Missions Committee leaders to better understand the demands of mission work.

These forays eventually led to a three-week stint in Chiang Mai with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship's Asian Cross-Cultural Training Institute, a residential preparatory programme for prospective missionaries.

"Frankly, I was thinking 'what do you want to talk about... for three weeks?' I thought two days was already too long," he chuckled.

"But it was very exciting... They covered a lot of things, and it actually made me more excited. When you're with all these guys from various churches – and some from other countries – it's like you're in a cohort of people all with the same mindset."

Toward the end of the programme, attendees were tasked with drafting a "mission plan", detailing the next steps in their journey. It was then that Kum Kit realised he was hardly closer to discerning which areas of service suited him best.

So, as any "good" Methodist would, he contacted the Methodist Missions Society (MMS), who pointed him to Harvest Force, their missions-focused publication – where he was drawn to the position of "VP, admin and accounts" at a fast-growing mission school in Timor-Leste.

"I couldn't say no because I was a professional accountant. So I called [MMS] back and said, 'Hey, you got this role, I'd like to do this'," said Kum Kit, who applied for the post shortly after a week-long visit to Timor-Leste to affirm his commitment.

The Experienced Accountant

St Paul Methodist School (SPMS) is an English-medium mission school located some 25 kilometres east of Timor-Leste's capital, Dili.

Since its inception in 2016, the school has grown from an inaugural cohort of 21 Grade 7

(Secondary 1) pupils to a 1,100-strong student population across Grades 1-12, with roughly 90 staff members.

"School itself is not just about teaching, it's also about the admin, the finance, the HR," shared David Chan, SPMS founder, director, and former Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) Vice-Principal.



As Kum Kit's application with the MMS stretched on, restlessness set in. He turned again to church leadership and a close circle, seeking their counsel and prayer to commit his ways to God.

In February 2025, he boarded a flight to Dili for a two-month stint at SPMS – a tentative arrangement ahead of a longer commitment. Some months later, MMS made a formal offer with the blessing of CMC's leadership, marking the start of Kum Kit's mission in Timor-Leste.

Kum Kit now shuttles between Singapore and Dili for up to three months at a time, aligning his trips home with the school's vacations.

According to David, Kum Kit (or "KK", as he is affectionately known), along with his seniority and experience, has come at a timely moment for the growing institution.

"In this season, what Timor needs are people who have experience in life... Mentors who are able to guide, who have gone through similar seasons in their own lives," David said.

"So I think Mr KK Chan coming in is very apt."



An Even Keel

A former chairperson of Methodist Welfare Services' Board of Governance, Kum Kit is well acquainted with the bureaucracy of Christian service. But going to a developing setup like SPMS after decades in corporate life has required some adjustment.

David recounted moments when Kum Kit quipped about having to perform basic accounting tasks that he once had the luxury of delegating to others.

Beneath his jovial, good-humoured temperament, Kum Kit harbours no illusions about the challenges of a long-term overseas stint.

"My wife passed away a few years ago; my family at home don't need me... It's actually your friends. You don't always meet, but in Singapore, at least you can," the former ACS boy said.

Yet, he remains focused on what he believes he is called to do.

Beyond the numbers and administration, walking around the campus corridors has given him the chance to "speak life" to the students and staff.

"That's part of the objective... spreading the gospel and teaching have to be continuous. There's no pretence," he said.

Catholicism holds a "dominant position" in Timor-Leste, according to the country's 2022 census report, with around 97.5% of its 1.5 million people being Catholic. Protestants comprise 2% of the population, or around 25,500 individuals, per census estimates.

While many may be familiar with elements of Christian doctrine, dominant cultural elements have shaped how the faith is practised, Kum Kit said, making it "quite different" from what most in Singapore might be familiar with.

Timor-Leste also remains one of the region's poorest. At around USD 1,500, the country's per capita GDP figure is tied with Myanmar for



ASEAN's joint lowest, according to estimates from the International Monetary Fund.

It is within these sociocultural circumstances that SPMS looks to improve the employment prospects of its graduates, while imparting lessons of an eternal value.

"I guess it's about us coming in to give them the assurance that there is a future, if we believe in it and work for it," David said.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed. Since 2023, the school has introduced a balloting system to meet a growing demand from the local community.

When we spoke in May, Kum Kit was noncommittal about a timeline for his return, and was focused instead on steadying the school to an "even keel" ahead of an upcoming phase of development of the campus' infrastructure.

Not the type to receive "dramatic" callings through visions or dreams, his motivations for mission work were not embellished with grand spiritual epiphanies, but framed instead as an act of service.

"If David needs support – if I can support him – I'll go and support him. That's a Christian thing to do, right?" he said.

So, until he next returns, his house in Singapore – and his car – await.



MATTHEW has been around since the church had a kindergarten, he quite literally grew up in CMC. While his editor might assume someone who repeatedly exceeds the assigned word count would breeze through a bio, this one, somehow, took longer than most.

No Fear When God is Near

BY MERGIE GUILLEN

It was 2019, and I was in the Philippines after going back home for good. While I was there, I discovered a lump on my breast. I was worried and kept praying to God, asking Him what this lump was. Every time I prayed, I would hear God assure me and give me the same answer, "Don't worry, it's nothing."

I trusted God and just ignored it, remembering God's promise in Deuteronomy 31:6, which says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

In 2020, my previous employer called me to ask if I could return to Singapore to work, as she needed my help. I accepted the offer and proceeded to complete all the required documents. Thanks to God, I managed to come back to Singapore. It was not easy during the COVID-19 pandemic, as there were a lot more requirements.

I arrived in November 2020 and started work. In early 2021, I decided to tell my employer about the lump I had found. She was concerned and asked why I didn't tell her about it before I came to Singapore, as treatment would have been cheaper in the Philippines. I shared with her the assurance I received from God and how I decided to ignore it because of that. But she was worried that it was cancerous and asked

me to go for a check-up at Changi General Hospital.

I went through all the procedures, including a mammogram, ultrasound, X-ray, and finally a core biopsy of the lump. **The results showed no evidence of malignancy. Praise God that it was nothing, just as He promised me!** The doctors advised me to go for a check-up every six months, but I believed God had already promised that I had nothing to worry about.

I have no fear when God is near. I am thankful for God's Word and how He speaks to me through it. **I trust His Word, for when I am armed with it, I have no fear.**

My aim in life is to testify of the good news of God's grace. I truly feel that my life is worth nothing unless it is to serve God. My life hasn't always been easy, but in all things, I thank God.



MERGIE is from the Philippines and is actively serving in the Hospitality Ministry. She has been blessed with wonderful people who have journeyed with her since she returned to Singapore.

Held by Grace in Every Season

BY CHOW SOW YING

I have always accepted whatever God has planned for me. Even when I didn't understand why things happened, I believed deep in my heart that He had a purpose for everything, especially when it occurred in the most unexpected ways.

Early Days

I was adopted as a child and grew up with a loving mother who raised me as her own. Then, in a surprising turn of events, I met my biological sister while I was in the hospital after a car accident. I was 27 years old at the time, and the meeting was completely unforeseen for both of us. Someone who knew both my sister and me saw me at the hospital and informed her. Before I knew it, she was standing right in front of me. I was overjoyed to be reunited. I felt truly blessed and grateful to the Lord for granting me this opportunity to reconnect with her.

God's Provision in Every Season

As my mother grew older, my adoptive siblings and I faced the challenge of caring for her while managing our own lives. As



we considered what to do, God provided the perfect solution. We decided to sell her house, and our youngest brother volunteered to care for her on weekdays. I took charge of coordinating her needs on weekends and taking her to church on Sundays. My nephew Ross also helped by driving us between my home, my brother's home, and the church she attended.

When COVID-19 struck and we could not go out freely, Ross had just moved into his first HDB flat. He generously invited my mother and me to stay at his place on weekends so that we could stay safe and continue



worshipping together, while giving my brother time to rest and attend to his own matters. This arrangement worked so well that it lasted for several years, even after restrictions lifted, until our beloved mother passed away in October 2024.

When Life Took an Unexpected Turn

Not long after, in November 2024, I was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. It was a shock. I began chemotherapy that month, but by January 2025, my body could no longer tolerate it. My appetite declined drastically, I lost weight quickly, and my potassium levels and blood count dropped to dangerously low levels, requiring two blood transfusions. My oncologist paused the treatment, and my surgeon scheduled an operation, which was successfully performed on 1 April 2025.

Looking back, I can see how God provided the support I needed for this journey. Before my diagnosis, I lived alone. Then God sent my dear friend Doris into my life. She had sold her home and was

waiting for her new flat to be ready, so she asked if she could stay with me temporarily. What was meant to be three months turned into three years as her application faced delays. She has been an incredible blessing, caring for me and standing by me through every trial in this difficult season. I see God's hand in every detail.

I am also deeply thankful for Ross and his wife Jen, who accompany me to doctor's appointments and ensure I have food to eat. I am equally grateful for the many friends who have stepped in by sending meals or lending a helping hand. My heart overflows with gratitude for their love.

The Goodness of God

I have experienced God's goodness and love in countless ways throughout my life, and I am constantly reminded that He works all things together for good (Romans 8:28). He has been with me every step of the way, providing for my needs and surrounding me with people who love me.

Although I have had challenges throughout my life, I have found that prayer is the most powerful way to face them. I choose to always look back on the good things in life, and that helps me see that everything happens for a reason, even when it is unexpected.

To everyone who has prayed for me, especially during my most anxious moments – thank you. Your prayers have sustained me. I am at peace, knowing He is in control.

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!



SOW YING finds great joy in spending time with friends, especially when dining out or shopping together.

As we work towards Vision 2030 and strengthen our focus on building loving communities and strengthening families, we turn our attention to marriage – particularly the Marriage Preparation Course (MPC), where mentors walk with engaged couples through key conversations on commitment, communication, conflict, and shared values.

In this article, marriage mentors Roger Chow and Jennifer Chan share their experiences mentoring engaged couples and the impact of mentorship in nurturing resilient, Christ-centred marriages. Whether you're dating or have been married for years, we hope you find insights in their sharing.

Walking with Couples Before “I Do”

BY ROGER CHOW AND JENNIFER CHAN

What is marriage preparation all about?

Engaged couples may not yet have developed the skills and attitudes needed to build and maintain a marriage – most are simply in love, and practical tools for marriage are often not on their minds. Many think they will eventually find solutions whenever they face issues, which is perfectly normal.

This is where marriage preparation comes in – to help shift this mindset and guide couples to see the value of learning and growing together, and to get the most out of the experience before they make that commitment.

As marriage mentors, what are some common challenges you see engaged couples facing?

It often depends on how long they've been in a relationship and the stage they're at. For example, those who already have a wedding planned soon have more practical concerns, such as working with in-laws,



family dynamics, financial matters, housing, and the wedding planning itself.

What conversations seem to be the most impactful for the couples?

We find that conversations about the myths of marriage are usually very eye-opening, followed by the practical skills that are taught.

These myths are really about the practical and emotional misconceptions of marriage.

Most people get married because they are in love, and they believe that everything will become even better and more complete when they get married. Consciously or subconsciously, they may expect that gaps in their lives will be “naturally” filled by their partner or through the marriage.

Each couple brings different expectations into the marriage, and some can be overly idealistic. Sometimes one or both partners assume that their expectations are the same.

For example, one partner may have grown up in a family that waits for everyone to be present before starting a meal. For this partner, eating together is a love language, while the other may be used to eating at different times out of convenience, with the mindset that a meal is just functional – something to fill up the stomach.

These differences don't mean that love disappears after marriage, but they do show the need to be aware of these myths and how differently each person understands love in marriage.

Having a positive mindset basically means developing the right attitude despite the circumstances, especially during the seasons when marriage feels difficult.

What are some habits that are essential for a healthy marriage?

Some key habits would be to have a positive mindset, to learn to forgive, to listen actively and empathetically, and to be genuine in your communication.

Having a positive mindset basically means developing the right attitude despite the circumstances, especially during the seasons when marriage feels difficult.

Forgiveness is often talked about, but its importance becomes clearest when we examine an unhealthy marriage – a big part of it is usually made up of resentments from past conflicts, whether resolved or unresolved, spoken or unspoken. Having the ability and capacity to forgive is hence an indispensable principle for building a healthy marriage, because we will be dealing with another imperfect human being at close range for a big part of our time.

The only way we know and understand each other intimately, or get hurt and offended, is through both verbal and non-verbal communication. Through good communication skills and being equipped with the basic habit of listening actively and empathetically, we can get to know our partner better, become more intimate, and be less likely to hurt and offend one another. The Bible reinforces this too – James 1:19 tells us, “Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.”

What does it mean, in your view, to build a Christ-centred marriage?

Most of what is taught in the course involves practical skills, but in life, things are not always straightforward. A Christ-centred marriage refers to the higher purpose of God's design for the institution of marriage, and His command to love one another unconditionally.

At the heart of it, we must first know and experience Christ in our lives. Without this, we won't have the capacity on our own to love others unconditionally, and we won't understand what it means to give up our rights, sacrifice, and forgive.

How have couples impacted you as mentors?

We are constantly reminded of our own negative practices in marriage when we teach the good practices. We are also reminded that this role has a higher purpose from God – to uphold the very fabric of the family, and the larger community He has

Learn to accept the differences and be intentional about continuing to love each other. We must see marriage as a way to grow both spiritually and emotionally as we learn to live closely with another person.

designed, against all assault from the world. We do this by imparting godly values and loving attitudes to new couples who are forming new families. This higher purpose is what keeps us aligned with God and seeking His presence for everything.

What is one piece of advice you find yourself repeating most often?

Marriage involves unconditional and sacrificial love. Forgiveness is the foundational principle in every marriage. Learn to accept the differences and be intentional about continuing to love each other. We must see marriage as a way to grow both spiritually and emotionally as we learn to live closely with another person. Isn't that akin to Christ's relationship with His Church?

With the knowledge you have now, what advice would you give your newly engaged selves?

Always remember that Jesus is the enabler of all unions, marriage or otherwise. So, in all that we do, we need to pray and be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit is leading and saying.

Marriage is something that is meant for couples to enjoy – companionship, helping each other grow, and enriching each other's lives. As we continue learning what love is all about and putting it into practice, we will become better disciples, and our relationship will be enriched as a couple. The experience from an enriched marriage will provide that impetus and strength to want to go out and serve Christ's kingdom. As 1 John 4:19 tells us, "We love because He first loved us."



Now retired, **ROGER** and **JENNIFER** enjoy exploring new places through long-distance walks and cycling. They believe that slowing down to appreciate God's creation creates space to listen, reflect, and grow – values they bring into their journey with engaged couples.

Serving in the Sun

BY WITNESS



On any given Sunday morning, before most of the congregation has even settled into their seats, our car park wardens are already hard at work under the sun – guiding cars, managing queues, and welcoming worshippers as they arrive. Among them is David Low, who has been faithfully serving in the car park ministry for more than a decade.

A Stirring of the Heart

David traces his journey back to a moment that quietly stirred his heart. "One day,

I was queuing to park my car at St Patrick's School and I saw the wardens trying to direct traffic," he recalls. "When one of the wardens approached me, I saw him sweating away and apologising for the long queue. It was then that I felt a bit ashamed – here I was in a nice air-conditioned car and my fellow brother was serving in the sun."

That incident changed everything. "My heart was stirred and I looked for someone I knew who was a warden and signed up straight away."

What began as a simple response has since grown into a meaningful ministry marked by service, humility, and perseverance. David's first impression was that it was a role he could manage, one that wasn't too difficult. "It wasn't too bad in reality too," he says. "We only serve three months in a year, and we get a lot of Vitamin D!"

Of Coffee Beans and Patience

Yet the role comes with its own set of challenges. "It's like being a well-roasted coffee bean," he jokes. "Roasted because we are in the sun and coffee because it makes you feel energised and alert. But sometimes, it can be sour tasting." Difficult encounters do require patience and grace.

"There are some members who insist on parking at the church," David shares honestly. On one occasion, he recalls, "there was one driver who threatened to run me over. I really could not understand it."

There are also on-the-ground challenges, especially when St Patrick's School is shared with other groups. "There would be times when the parents of the soccer and cricket kids were not aware that they could not park at St Pat's, or they were aware but would still insist on parking there," he explains. "We are called to be salt and light to the world, but at times it feels difficult as we are not able to show grace."

Even so, David and his fellow wardens continue to respond with patience and kindness. "We would explain the situation to the parents and try to be gracious where possible," he says.

Through these experiences, serving has shaped his faith in many ways. "I learned to be patient and to be more forgiving," David reflects. "It is hot, sweaty, and sometimes unappreciated, but I feel that being a warden taught me humility and perseverance. It also taught me to lay down my pride and submit to the Lord."

Our God Who Sees

Discouragement has also come in the form of low recruitment rates for new volunteers, but despite this, God has continued to



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encourage him in unexpected ways. David remembers sharing his frustrations during a care group session one Friday. "I was disappointed that despite being a fairly large church, we were not able to attract any new people to the car park ministry."

But just two days later, a church member approached him as he was serving and expressed interest in serving. "He even ended up joining my care group," David says. "I felt truly encouraged that God heard my frustrations."

Moments like these remind David that God sees and provides, even in the unseen corners of ministry.

There are also small acts of kindness that brighten the day. "It's always nice to receive

appreciation from our members," he shares. "We also had some members bringing cold drinks to us when we serve." These simple gestures go a long way in encouraging those who serve quietly behind the scenes.

Servant Leadership in Action

For David, the greatest reward is simple yet meaningful: "Being able to serve the church and members. I was also very encouraged when my friends decided to serve alongside me."

To those who are considering serving, David shares simple encouragement: "Come join us. It's not that difficult. Jesus showed us what servant leadership looked like, and there is no better place to practise this than as a car park warden."

He also reminds his fellow wardens, "Let's remember that we are serving the Lord, not men."

Top 3 Tips for Drivers

For the wider congregation, he shares three practical tips that can make a real difference:

1. Come early to church if you want to get a parking lot.
2. Follow the warden's directions, as we are trying to maximise the space to accommodate more cars.
3. Slow down in the St Patrick's School car park area, as some wardens could be standing on the road directing traffic.

Perhaps David's sharing invites all of us to reflect on our own attitudes – especially in something as ordinary as parking. A little patience, a willingness to follow directions, and a heart that considers others can go a long way.



Camp Reverence: Jesus at the Centre

A look back at IGNITE Camp 2025.



When preparations began in February 2025, the camp still felt distant. Yet even in those early meetings, there was a growing sense that this journey required more than just planning. It required patience, trust, and hearts willing to be shaped.

We were joined by a team of fourteen committee members, each bringing different strengths, ideas, and personalities. From the outset, preparation was both exciting and overwhelming. There was enthusiasm and creativity, but also a weight of responsibility.

The months that followed were filled with meetings, discussions, and countless messages. The preparation demanded time and sacrifice: weekends set aside, and moments when energy was running low. Yet through it all, we learned that preparation was not just about efficiency, but about learning how to walk together as a team, while walking with God.

In prayer and reflection, we were reminded again and again that God was the one leading this journey. There were times when answers were not immediate, and times when clarity only came after waiting. We learned to trust God not just with the final outcome of the camp, but with the process itself. It reminded us that ministry begins long before any programmes start. It begins in the unseen work of the heart.

One of the most meaningful aspects was how the team intentionally kept one another accountable, not just in our responsibilities, but also in our walks with God. We didn't begin meetings with agendas, but with prayer and worship. Beyond formal meetings, there were spontaneous moments, like a worship night where we paused everything simply to soak in God's presence, as well as monthly campfire meetings that helped ground us amidst the busyness. We also met weekly with the group leaders to align our hearts and prepare to serve God's people.

As commandants, one of the most humbling parts of our preparation was witnessing the dedication and growth of the committee. Each member played a part, often in ways unseen by others. The preparation itself was shaping us into a community – one that learned to support one another, communicate, and lean on God together. What started as a group of individuals slowly became a team united by a shared purpose, as well as a love for God and His people.

This camp invited campers to place God at the centre of their lives. This journey looks different for every individual and often unfolds over a long time. If some campers left searching, still questioning, or unsure of what they experienced, we want to affirm that this is okay. **Faith is rarely formed in a single moment, and God is not confined to camp or a programme.**

To the church and to parents, we thank you for your trust, prayers, and continued support. More importantly, we invite you to continue walking patiently with our young people, creating space for honest questions, gentle guidance, and grace-filled conversations. Our prayer is that the seeds planted during camp will be nurtured through the everyday love, care, and faithfulness of the community, trusting that God continues His work in each life, in His time.

In His Love,
Rae Ann & Olivier, Camp Commandants

Personally, planning for camp taught me that hearing God doesn't necessarily mean an audible voice, and my service to Him should be from a heart of offering and not duty.

Charis, Co-Worship IC



During camp, God taught me that serving is not about everything being perfect, and that it's okay to make mistakes. God looks at your heart to serve and loves you regardless of the outcome.

Ethan, Games IC



Camp Reverence taught me to know and submit to His will and His plans for HIS camp – not getting caught up in the striving, but just being a child of His as He leads me!

Grace, Co-Worship IC



The upcoming Youth Camp is happening on 20–23 December 2026! Stay tuned for more information.

A Mid-Autumn Filled with Love 月来越有爱

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Songs & Sharing:

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5.30 pm – 7.30 pm
7.30 pm

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Guest Band:

Ms Lina Ng
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晚上7.30

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