

AG TIMES

A Bi-monthly Publication of Assemblies of God, Singapore

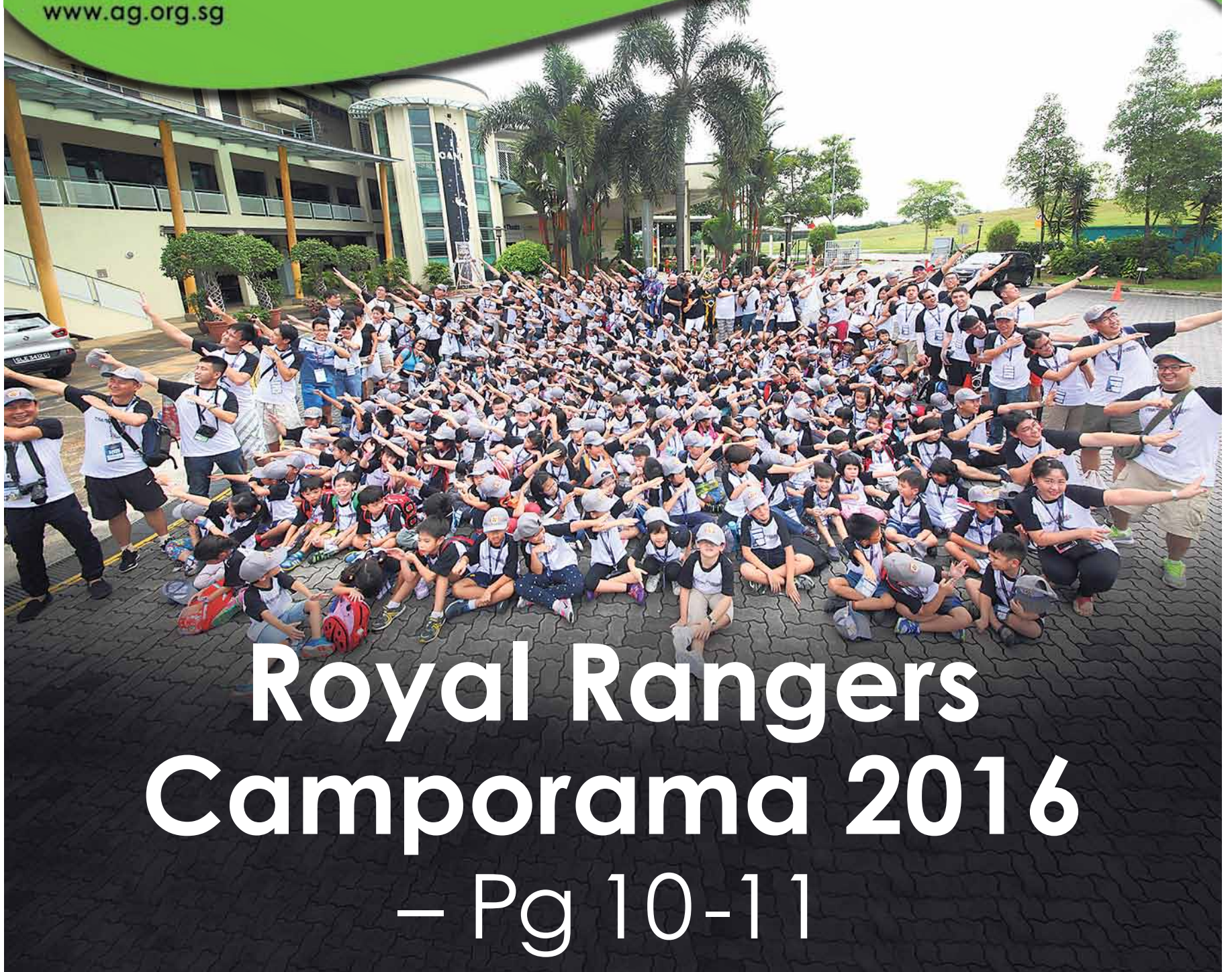
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ISSUE 030

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Royal Rangers Camporama 2016 – Pg 10-11



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Caroling - An Adventure of Faith – Pg 16



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"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."

Psalms 145:4

#GENERATIONS

A PROPHETIC LEGACY

A SPIRIT-FILLED CONFERENCE

3 power-packed days.
More than 30 prophetic speakers
from around the world.
3 nights of Power Rally. On revival,
evangelism, signs and wonders, and
healing and deliverance.

DATE

March 29 to 31, 2017

VENUE

- **Trinity Christian Centre**
(Day conference and Power Rally)
- **Grace Assembly of God**
(Power Rally)

Heart to Heart Conversation

The two Heart to Heart Conversation sessions focus on the
WAGC 2017 theme of #Generations.

In the first session, hear from two generations of pastors
who will share firsthand on successful models of succession
planning.

The second session will touch on building a prophetic
legacy by committing and releasing the next generation
into God's destiny.

Enticing workshops

Besides the plenary sessions and Heart to Heart Conversation,
there is an impressive line-up of 17 workshops helmed by
notable speakers from around the world, including several
from Singapore.

There's something for everyone – whether you are a
church goer or a seasoned minister. The topics include
The Prophetic Church, Leadership through #Generations,
Making Disciples, The Middle Eastern Kingdom of God,
Reaching the iGeneration, and Handling Wolves.

The Kingdom and Us



By Rev Dominic Yeo

We have all heard the phrase *putting your money where your mouth is*. That's probably why Francis of Assisi exhorted us to, "Preach the gospel and if necessary, use words."

James 2:18 is not shy in instructing us to let our actions speak louder than our words. "*Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.*" We cannot escape that there is a correlation between what we believe (our faith) and how we live our lives (our deeds).

We can discuss the theology behind *Jehova Rapha* (The Lord that Heals) but if you and I never step out to pray for someone or to receive healing, we will never witness the manifestation of God's power in and through our lives. Moreover, the Church can preach about the hope of Christ but if the Gospel fails to go beyond the walls of our buildings, we will do little to advance the kingdom of God.

Church, recognize that the Kingdom of God is more than talk; it is the demonstration and manifestation of God's power in and through our lives.

That's why I'm excited that we will be hosting the World Assemblies of God Congress ("WAGC 2017") from March 29-31. To date, delegates from over 60 countries have signed up to attend the Day Conference and thousands are expected to attend the nightly Power Rallies. Each of them has set aside their time and treasures to come because they are expecting a new outpouring of the Spirit. There is a desire to be positioned for a fresh move of God and equipped to reach the generations.

If you desire a powerful and purposeful legacy, make the WAGC 2017 Day

Conference a priority. Don't miss this opportunity to be disciplined on a variety of issues in sessions led by globally-recognized leaders of the Assemblies of God community. Prepare yourself for a new level of empowerment that will alter the course of Christendom for generations to come.

Ready our hearts and minds. Come ready to embrace what God's plans are for the church. Let His Spirit launch us out into the deep water to a place of signs, wonders, and miracles.

Ready our invitations. Bring all of your love ones for the Power Rallies. Witness the sick healed, the oppressed freed, and the masses receive salvation.

It is time to put our talk and thoughts into action. Together as one church, let's put faith into our action by advancing the Kingdom of God here in Singapore.

我们和神的国度

我们都听过这句话：*以行动证明自己的话*。也许这就是为什么方济各亚西西劝勉我们：“去传福音，而且如果可以，就使用言语。”

雅各书 2:18 指示我们让我们的行为大过话语。“你将你没有行为的信心指给我看，我便藉着我的行为，将我的信心指给你看。”我们所相信的（我们的信心）和我们如何生活（我们的行为）之间有一个相互关系，这是我们不能逃避的事实。

我们可以讨论耶和拉法（医治的主）背后的神学，但是如果你我从来不踏去为别人祷告或领受医治，我们永远不会见到神的大能彰显在生命中。此外，教会可以传讲基督带给世人的盼望，但如果福音不能越过我们教堂的四壁，我们在扩展神国度的工作上只做了微小的努力。

弟兄姐妹，要知道，神的国不是空谈；神的国是神大能的彰显，在我们的生命中显现，也透过我们显现。

这就是为什么我对于我们将在 3 月 29 - 31 日成为世界神召会大会的东道主一事倍感兴奋。至今，超过 60 个国家的代表已报名参加日间大会，而预计数千人将参加夜间的全能特会。每位与会者都抽出宝贵的时间和搁置其他事宜前来，因为他们期待圣灵全新的浇灌。他们渴慕站好位置看见神的动工并被装备，能够影响后代。

如果你渴慕传承大能和有意义的基业，请务必参加世界神召会大会。大会上各个课题都由全球认可的神召会领袖主讲，别错失门训的良机。让我们预备自己在主里得授权更上一层楼，改变基督教世界的未来。

预备自己的心思意念。预备好，来欣然接受神为我们——他的教会预定的计划。让神的灵将我们置入深水中，一个有神迹奇事和印证的地方。

准备好我们的邀约。把所有你挚爱的人带来参加全能特会。见证病者得医治、被压制的得释放，及无数人接受救恩。

是时候把我们的言语和思想化为行动了。同心合一，让神的教会将信心化为行动，在新加坡扩展神的国度。

This is the last instalment of our AG History series.

Early History of the Assemblies of God of Singapore

Compiled by Rev Andrew Ong, ACTS College

Getting to know our beginnings.

The Formation of the Assemblies of God of Singapore

The history of the Assemblies of God (AG) of Singapore as a separate entity from the AG of Malaysia began in 1966. After the separation of Malaysia and Singapore on August 9, 1965, legal problems arose that caused the formation of the AG of Singapore.

On May 2, 1966, a meeting was held at Faith AG to form the AG of Singapore. 24 delegates, including ordained and licensed ministers of eight churches, namely Bethel AG, Faith AG, Grace AG, English Calvary AG, Chinese Calvary AG (New Life Church), Elim Church, Elim Chapel (Emmanuel AG) and Evangel AG attended this meeting.

During the meeting, the constitution of the AG of Malaysia was adapted for the newly formed AG of Singapore. A committee was proposed and appointed to study and present further constitutional amendments for adoption in another meeting on May 9, 1966 and the following were elected to form the first Executive Committee of AG Singapore:

- General Superintendent – Rev Stevens L Nolin
- Assistant Superintendent – Rev Oh Beng Khee
- Secretary/Treasurer – Rev Andrew Yeo
- Committee members – Vincent Cheo and Lee Seang Lip

Key Milestones Along the Way

Through the years, we thank God for key events that have forged our foundations.

In March 21, 1977, the Bible Institute of Singapore was founded. Prior to this, students who could not obtain a student visa to go to the Bible Institute of Malaysia went to the Laymen Bible Institute with Rev Oh Beng Khee as the principal. For three years, this arrangement helped many students until the Bible Institute of Singapore began.

Along the way, there were also many notable organisations set up that led the AG of Singapore to where it is today. The General Council office, Teen Challenge, as well as national departments like the Printing & Literature Department, Missions Department, Youth Department and Christian Education Department.

Immense Church Growth

The number of churches grew from eight in 1966 to 44 in 2015. In the early days, most AG churches did not have their own properties and rented shops or houses instead. As of the Statistical Report released in 2016, over 22,701 people attend AG worship services and 558 workers in foreign missionary work.

It was the faith of our pioneers that led to the planting of churches here. It was also the faith of this previous generation that forged the way for breakthrough in AG church growth. Who were these faith-filled pioneers?

Who's Who in AG of Singapore

The history of the AG in Singapore is God's story of people, events and dates. Here, we focus on the people – the early missionaries and those who played a significant role in AG Singapore's history.

Rev & Mrs Cecil M Jackson were the first recorded AG missionaries to Singapore. They were missionaries in China, learning Cantonese and pioneering God's work in Canton. By God's redirection, they came to Singapore as they were planning to go to Hong Kong for a temporary shelter from the Boxer Rebellion that lasted from 1899 to 1901. Many foreigners were targeted during the uprising, so they planned to go to Hong Kong till the situation improved. The Jacksons did not know the ship was heading to Singapore and arrived on April 1, 1928, on Easter. Rev Cecil Jackson was requested to conduct the Easter Service in the ship. After the service, the principal of the Methodist (ACS) asked him to teach a religious class. He was offered a temporary lodging before finding his own at 10 Newton Road.



The chapel in 1928

He started an "attap-roofed church" (AG Mission) at the Balestier plain to reach out to Cantonese-speaking people. He also started Berean AG Anglo-English School in South Bridge Road. When he was going for furlough with his family in the early part of 1931, Rev Carrie P Anderson and Esther Johnson came to take care of the school and mission. The Jacksons returned at the end of 1931. They started an English work in early 1932 in the home of AP Abisheganaden at 32 Buffalo Road. 18 months later, a new place was found at 486 Serangoon Road because of growth.



The chapel at 486 Serangoon Rd

Rev Cecil Jackson constructed a new church at 120 Balestier Road to house the Chinese and the English congregations. On January 1, 1939, the building was dedicated to the Lord.

Rev Carrie P Anderson and Esther Johnson were missionaries in South China. As Cecil Jackson had requested them to help him, they came in 1931 till the return of the Jacksons from furlough. She later went to Kuala Lumpur to pioneer a church.

Ms Esther Johnson was working closely with Carrie Anderson since they were in China. She also went to Kuala Lumpur with her after laboring in Singapore. She later was married to Rev Arthur Sandhal. It was said that they met in USA but married in Singapore at Elim Church before going to Malaya.



Arthur, Esther and Eva Sandahl

Katherine Klaus came to help Carrie Anderson and Esther Johnson when they were in charge of the mission and the school. Katherine Klaus gave a written report in Pentecostal Evangel of the work.

Blanche Appleby was hardly mentioned in the history of AG Singapore. There was a record of her writing an article in Pentecostal Evangel of her trip to Malaya and Singapore in 1930 with Carrie Anderson.

Lawrence O McKinney was a pastor of a sizable church in Hong Kong. As the Jacksons were going for furlough in 1937, he was invited to assist the church. But the furlough was delayed, so Lawrence McKinney was in charge of the English congregation while Jackson was in charge of the Chinese congregation. As the church building incurred much debt, the AG HQ told Lawrence McKinney to leave the church. Instead of the whole church, only the English congregation followed him to 531 Serangoon Road. Later another place was found at 1079 Serangoon Road and it was named Elim Church.



The church at 531 Serangoon Rd



Lawrence McKinney and family



The old Elim Church at 1079 Serangoon Rd

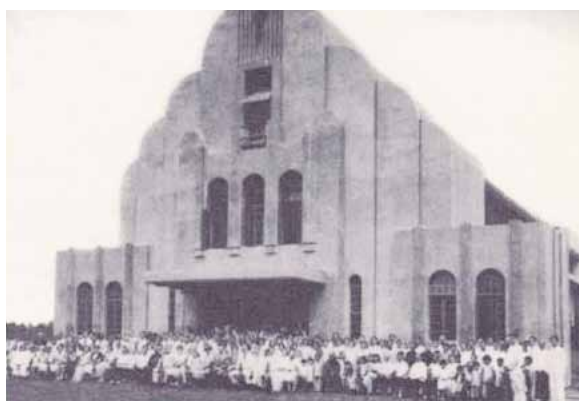
Rev Lula Ashmore was the first missionary to return to Singapore after the War. She returned in 1947 to pastor Elim Church from the local leaders who took care of the church during the Japanese occupation. She was the one who initiated a loan to buy the property of the church. As her heart was with the Chinese-speaking congregation, she requested the HQ to send a missionary couple and Rev Alfred McGrew came to take over Elim Church. She was married to Vallance Baird on November 13, 1948 at the Balestier building before she started Faith AG.



Elim Church in 1947



Rev Vallance and Lula Baird



The church at Balestier

Together with her husband, they applied for a shop house at E24 Rayman Avenue from the Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT), the predecessor of Housing Development Board (HDB), to start Rayman Avenue Mission (the present Faith AG). The next year, she started Alexander Mission (now Grace AG) at 50 Odin Square. Then she was asked to take over the work at Kuala Lumpur. Later she pioneered an AG church in Ipoh. When she returned to America, she started five Chinese churches in San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton, San Jose and Modesto. She retired later and went to be with the Lord at 100 years of age.

Rev Alfred McGrew came to take over Elim Church in 1948 to release Rev Lula Baird for pioneering Chinese works.

Rev Kenneth McComb was an AG missionary who became the pastor of Elim Church.

Rev D R Guynes went to Penang as a missionary. He wrote to the Petaling Jaya authority for a grant of a land to use for Christian education, religious and philanthropic purposes since February 1955 which was eventually granted. The plan to build the Bible Institute of Malaya (BIM) proceeded. It was only completed in mid-1960. Rev Guynes was the Secretary-Treasurer of the AG Missionary Field Fellowship and the first General Superintendent of the AG of Malaya and Singapore. It was the Far East Director, **Rev Maynard L Ketchum**, who convened a constitutional meeting for the formation of the AG of Malaya and Singapore. At that time there were four churches in Singapore, Elim Church, Faith AG, Grace AG and Bethel AG, as well as two churches in Malaya, Kuala Lumpur and Penang Churches.

When the Bairds had to leave for KL, **Mdm Lau To Chan** was highly recommended by the Hong Kong Ecclesia Bible Institute principal to take over Grace AG. She came after the Bairds left in 1951. She served as a pastor in Grace AG. She was also involved in a rotation of pastors between Grace AG and Faith AG at that time. However, after serving a while, she came out and started her own church Kim Tian Church after the death of Rev Jean Wagner.

In Faith AG, **Rev Cyril G Francis**, a British missionary came to take over. Later he also served as a missionary to Malaya.



Rev Cyril Francis

Mrs Jarmilla Wagner (Jean) came from Czechoslovakia. She was a widow with a child. But she labored hard to build the church. She rented Prince Philip Avenue as the Alexander work was insufficient. Soon a place at 355 Tanglin Road was available for sale. She sacrificed much for the church and became ill. She died on Labor Day of 1961. The two works merged together in Tanglin Road and named Grace AG.

Continued on pg 7...

TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

The Team Behind WAGC 2017

By WAGC 2017 Committee

The making of the World AG Congress 2017 (WAGC 2017) began way back on October 1, 2015 with the first committee meeting. Comprising pastors from various AG churches in Singapore, the team has spent months planning to bring the event to fruition. AG Times speaks to the committee members to hear their thoughts on WAGC 2017.



PGT
Pastor Gerald Tan
Calvary Assembly of God
Chairman



PTC
Pastor Wu Tze Chong
Bethel Assembly of God
Vice-Chairman



PAS
Pastor Alan See
Trinity Christian Centre



PDF
Pastor Derek Foo
Elim Church



PEC
Pastor Edina Choo
Bethel Assembly of God



PEL
Pastor Edward Lim
Trinity Christian Centre



PJT
Pastor Jason Ting
Centre of New Life



PKK
Pastor Kenny Koh
Grace Assembly of God



PLL
Pastor Lindsey Lui
Faith Assembly of God



PMP
Pastor Mark Poh
Emmanuel Assembly
of God



PTT
Pastor Titus Theva
Trinity Christian Centre

How did you feel when you were asked to be part of this WAGC Committee?

PAS: Petrified because I've never done an event at such a scale. I'm still overwhelmed today. But I trust in the God of Proverbs 3:5-6.

PDF: I was honored yet at the same time had a feeling of being overwhelmed. I was excited to be part of something global and celebrating our Pentecostal heritage, but there was also the fear of being unable to contribute effectively to the entire operation.

PEC: I wasn't really asked but was told to attend the meeting – and the rest is history.

PEL: Me? Sounds massive! I'm honored.

PGT: Siao liao! (Oh my!) It's better to find others more experienced and qualified.

PJT: When I first heard about the WAGC back in 2015, I felt the Spirit's tugging to be a part of it. This was confirmed by my Senior Pastor who was also there and first heard the announcement. Thus, there was this sense of excitement and anticipation to what the Lord has in store.

PKK: I had a mixture of pride and trepidation, given that there's no precedent set locally. It was uncharted territories from Day One.

PLL: Really excited! I was delighted that I could work with and learn from different pastors.

PMP: Initial feeling – “Oh no.” Settled feeling – “Okay, it's a significant event that can have a huge impact. Okay, I will try to do my best to chip in.”

PTT: I was excited to be included in such a landmark event in Singapore.

PTC: Apprehensive as it would be a major undertaking over and above current responsibilities.

What are your challenges of being in this Committee?

PAS: The challenges are the scale and amount of details. Thank God for the team and the leadership of the Chairman.

PDF: As treasurer, the main challenge I have is managing numbers! I have no training in accountancy or finance, so it was a struggle that I had to overcome. I'm glad to say that the committee provided great support, and I'm much less fearful of the numbers now. That being said, we still need many more to register and to give toward the conference!

PEC: I had a bout of medical challenges toward the end of 2016 and was not able to serve 100%. However, the team very willingly stepped up to cover for me during that period.

PEL: Time is a major challenge with the need to juggle various commitments – most of which are deadline-driven.

PGT: This is one of the longest running committees. It will be literally 18 months of preparation work to pull this together. Managing the project while leading a church really puts a time crunch, especially in the few months leading up to the event.

PJT: One challenge for me personally would be trying to balance the responsibilities of being a part of this committee with the responsibilities back at church. I have to learn to have both in my heart and set time aside for the work required.

PKK: The scope, layers and complexity of the congress are something else. We have heavy responsibilities already in our local churches, thus it was a stretch and a half, getting ahead of the curve from the perspective of time and energy required.

PLL: Being assigned to tasks was foreign to me. Once I had to facilitate the production of the video promotional clip and it was a flop! Thankfully the team “rescued” me and the end result was what we had hoped for!

PMP: My challenges are time and trying to balance different responsibilities in the ministry.

PTT: This committee was put together almost two years ago. It has been a journey trying to juggle the new portfolios expected of me with transitions in my own ministry and in my home having welcomed my third child. Thank God for His wisdom and sustenance in this season!

PTC: No more off (read: golf) days! Adding this commitment to full-time responsibilities is a major challenge. The time has to come from somewhere but it's time well spent.

What is one thing you appreciate about working together?

PAS: I appreciate the incredible unity among team members who help one another along.

PDF: I appreciate the camaraderie and friendships established when working together. It is a little intimidating being the second youngest in the committee and working with other senior pastors and leaders, but I am truly grateful for the ease and fluidity in which we are able to work together and see things through.

PEC: I appreciate that the relationships forged go beyond just work. There's genuine friendship and heartfelt ministry that takes place. I've been very blessed.

PEL: I enjoyed the humor among the team as we discussed and planned the event. I also appreciate the willingness of team members to step up and chip in where necessary. Great teamwork!

TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

PGT: We have a wonderful team! I appreciate everyone fully giving their best to make this happen. I also enjoyed the fun and laughter yet the full dedication of everyone in the team. It's amazing to see our strengths and giftings coming together to complement each other.

PJT: What I appreciate most working together is spending time together with the committee. Through this process, I have gotten to know each person in the committee slightly better. And it is the relationships with each other that I cherish the most.

PKK: The close rapport of the main committee members and the fact that we are all in this together till the end, either facing the "firing squad" or receiving plaudits.

PLL: Humor. The meetings were intense but there were laughter and jokes.

PMP: I love the team and getting to know each one better.

PTT: I really enjoy learning from the amazing wealth of experience from my co-labourers in this committee. I have been greatly blessed learning from each of them.

PTC: Great team with a great heart for God! Can see the beauty of the body working in unison. Different people with different giftings; functioning in unity and strength. AG Singapore has many "Crouching Tigers and Hidden Dragons" (卧虎藏龙)!

What is one thing you hope participants can receive from WAGC?

PAS: I hope for a fresh word and touch from the Lord that will propel them into a larger adventure of faith, and to be fruitful in their ministry because of a focused purpose.

PDF: I pray that every participant will be challenged to continue to publicly live out our Pentecostal heritage, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and to impart it to the next generation and to the generations to come.

PEC: An impartation that is not a momentary inspiration, but one that sustains and paves the way for them to thrive in their journey with Christ.

PEL: I hope that they can sense the unity in and love of the body of Christ, and that they will leave with a deeper hunger for God and greater fervor to serve Him.

PGT: My prayer is that this event will not just be another conference. Every participant will receive an impartation of a prophetic legacy that will translate to how they will live their lives at home, at work and in the ministry!

PJT: My prayer is for the younger participants especially to see themselves as part of the larger church. It is a church that is both worldwide and across time. Our legacy in the Assemblies of God started more than 100 years ago, but our legacy can be traced back to the reformation 500 years ago and to the Western church in 1054. But all of us began when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago.

PKK: A sense of God's destiny for the AG family world-wide in the days, months, years, and decades ahead.

PLL: I hope that participants can experience the power of God and see the greatness of His Kingdom so that they will go all out to reach the different generations!

PMP: I am hoping for a touch from God specific to each individual in his/her own area of need.

PTT: I believe that we have a divine setup to hear from God and be deeply impacted by the ministry from the different ministers and I pray that every participant will leave with a sense of the urgency to raise the next generation of spiritual sons and daughters.

PTC: I hope that we will see the power and glory of God take hold and transform the generations till He returns.

...Continued from pg 5

When Jamilla Wagner was dying, she wanted her godson, Rev David Nyien, to come over to take over the church. Soon Rev David Nyien came as an AG missionary and became the pastor of Grace AG.

Rev Stevens L Nolin came as missionaries to serve in Faith and Grace AG but later settled as the pastor of Faith AG. The Nolins came in 1954 and left in 1968 after 14 years in Faith AG. Stevens Nolin was the first General Superintendent of the General Council of the AG of Singapore after she came out of the General Council of AG of Malaysia. He was elected on May 9, 1966 after the Constitutional of AG of Singapore on May 2, 1966.

Rev Edna Devin was a missionary to Indonesia with her son. But she was invited to be the interim pastor of Faith AG in 1963 when the Nolins were on furlough. It was the same year when a Hong Kong actress, Mui Yee, came and held revival meetings in Faith AG, Bethel AG and Grace AG. Many were saved and healed. There was a combined baptism of 175 in Katong Park. This was reported in the newspaper. She continued to pastor in Elim Church.

Rev Fred & Margaret Seaward came to Singapore in 1955 at the invitation of Rev RB Rothgeb of Revival Centre Church. In fact, Rev Rothgeb was pastoring in the Community Church at 120 Balaestier Road when the Jacksons were on furlough. He heard the news that the church building was sold to the Seventh Day Adventist in America. So he resigned from the church and went back to USA. He returned to Singapore and started Revival Centre Church.

When the Rothgeb returned, he invited the Seawards to join his church. But the Seawards, though they were not sent out as AG missionaries, they decided to start Bethel Revival Centre at 1110A Jansen Road. Though they started with their family, the church grew and they found a bigger location at 4 Palm Grove Avenue, nearby to rent. Soon they bought the property and named it Bethel AG.

Step Forward in Groundbreaking Faith

The AG of Singapore was built on foundations of breakthrough faith of our pioneers generation. Let us step forward with the same groundbreaking faith to believe for even more expansion for the AG of Singapore.

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TOGETHERNESS - AG COMMUNITY

AG Ministers' Training and Prayer - A SEASON OF EXPANSION

By Rebecca Yong, Emmanuel Assembly of God

The ministers gathered to receive a powerful word from our General Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo, in the first AG Ministers' Meeting of the New Year.

2017 started with a strong word from Rev Dominic Yeo at our first AG Minister's Meeting that God wants us to step into a season of expansion through 2 Kings 6:1-7! How apt it is for us to start the year by returning to His Word and getting back to the power of the Holy Spirit, as affirmed by Pastor Robert Lum when we started the meeting.

God wants to take us from where we are to another level but we must deal with our limitations. The company of prophets in 2 Kings represents for us the leadership today. The prophets were so accustomed by their limitations, operating in that place for a long time without realizing that it was too small until they met with Elisha. Elisha represents for us God Himself, the presence of God. When we as leaders come into an encounter with God, it breaks forth an awakening, an awareness in us about the things in our lives that God wants to bring about change and growth. Sometimes we are limited by our theology, our perspectives, our past hurts, failures and even successes. God has never intended for us to live limited lives, have a limited ministry and have limited power. He wants to break us out of our limitations and give us an expansion! We must have a strong association with our living God and also with those who are spiritually stronger than us as they will continually challenge us in our Christian journey, our leadership, our spirituality and our devotion, so that we will not remain limited.

God requires us to take responsibility for the expansion. We can hear great messages and talk about faith all day but until we step out in faith, nothing will happen. We will never see the miracles of God. The same applies for the company of prophets. When the prophets realized that they needed a breakthrough and expansion, notice that they said "each of us" and then collectively "let us",



Sharing of the Word

individually and collectively taking responsibility for the move of God in their lives. We must take responsibility for our own spiritual expansion in the Lord and for the church that God has entrusted to us, so that the church can grow collectively. As the AG, we will move forward as one.

In order to step into the expansive movement that God has for us, we must maintain our entrusted anointing. When the iron ax-head fell into the water, the prophet shouted "Oh no, my lord! It was borrowed!" The word "borrowed" means entrusted in Hebrew. Just like the ax-head, the gifts, the ministry and the church that God has entrusted to us does not belong to us. We must maintain the anointing God has entrusted to us. When we as leaders and pastors learn this, we will walk with a greater understanding in how we approach ministry, the people of God and the authority we carry with us.

As we move forward in 2017, let us allow God to bring healing to our past pains, refresh our perspectives and theology, and empower us to become the



Lifting of hands and hearts

minister He has destined us to be. "See, I am doing a new thing! Do not dwell on the past" (Isaiah 43:18-19) Let us not bring the pain of 2016 to 2017 and let what has happened in 2016 recur in 2017 because it's a brand new year, a brand new season and a prophetic season of God for our lives. Let us allow God to redefine our pain and past so that He calibrates it for the future, knowing that our destiny is not behind us but in front of us. Our destiny is not found in history but it's in our future!



Supporting in prayer



Seeking the Lord together



Praying in unison

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The People's Church's first-ever Christmas theatrical production – **The Gift**



Our cast deep into their roles

By Ng You Qian, The People's Church

The Gift portrayed a real-life story of God's redemptive power to save and transform.

On Christmas Eve, 2016, we gathered in unison, holding hands and praying just once more, for the Word of God to be seeded into the hearts of those who would be attending the church's first theatrical production. Titled '*The Gift*', the story revolves around two neighbouring families of different faiths depicting issues faced by the youths of today as well as the day-to-day struggles of the family unit. *The Gift* is inspired by the true story of our Senior Pastor, Rev Patrick Cheong, whom God graciously redeemed after a failed suicide attempt.

During the 40-minute performance, cast members spoke colloquially in Singlish in order to engage the diverse age groups present in the audience. While the audience displayed their emotions through the different scenes, they were unaware of the difficulties cast members faced in acting out the final two tear-jerking scenes. For months, during rehearsals, the portrayal of melancholy and grief was trying and the actors could hardly evoke emotions out of anyone. The actual performance was different. Audience members could be seen shedding tears and dabbing away at their eyes. Truly, it is not by our might, but the work of the Holy Spirit tugging at heart-strings.

Melody, recounted her experience as one of the main actors, "*That night, I knew God's Presence*

was so strong. It felt so different because I was able to get into character. He was the One who gave me the strength and courage to act out my role." Nigel, another important cast member, noted that God was working to fill in the gaps. He said, "*It wasn't a tale of the best performance, script or actors. The imperfection of the preparation reflected the truth – nobody's perfect except God.*"

The *Gift* isn't your typical Christmas story showcasing the nativity scene. But its message holds true that Christ is God's greatest gift bestowed

upon us, and His gift of life has given all an eternal hope and salvation – if we choose to believe.

Is Christmas a season of feasting, shopping and revelry? Or a money-spinning machine? Let us not lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas. Let Christmas be a poignant reminder of the purpose of the birth of Christ – the Son of God took on human flesh, paid a price no one could afford and conquered death, so that all may have the gift of eternal life.

Photo credits: Ng Kylie and Nigel Lian



Coming together to celebrate Jesus

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Who Needs Christmas?

By Nyon Yit An, Trinity Christian Centre

Shopping. Feasting. Celebrating. We all want Christmas but Who Needs Christmas?

Trinity's annual Christmas production was filled with holiday songs, festive pop hits, and exciting dance numbers. Buzz for the event started early as Trinitarians partnered with God for open heavens.

Weeks before the production, Trinitarians were challenged to live out *Contagious Faith* and *Audacious Fervor* by engaging in a 4-Week Prayer and Fast (November 21-December 18) believing God for the miracle of salvation during the Christmas season.

In a greater demonstration of faith, carecells throughout the island stepped out to hand out *Who Needs Christmas?* tracts in their neighborhoods. On the week of December 5, over 100,000 tracts were given out and Trinitarians testified of breakthroughs they had in the area of evangelism.

"For my daughter Ezann, this was her first tracting event and she did really well – approaching strangers and handing out tracts with a cheery 'Merry Christmas' greeting. We saw many surprised faces when they received the invitation. Some were thankful for the invites and a few came back asking for more tracts! We also struck a few conversations about Jesus and were very encouraged by their responses." – **Joanna Tan**

"This was my son Jeriel's first tracting experience and he was full of zeal and energy. He would walk up to each person and explain to them that the tract was for a Christmas presentation. There was one army boy who said he could not come for *Who Needs Christmas?* Instead of giving up, Jeriel went the extra mile to invite him for church service! – **Joanne Ong**



Worshipping with songs and dance

As a result of tracting, Trinitarians sowed thousands of seeds and helped 41 people to make decisions for the Lord, even before the first presentation was staged!

Staged at the opening of a new shopping mall, three radio DJs went on air to ask one very important



A dazzling performance by the dancers

question: *Who Needs Christmas?* For three days (December 22-24, 2016) 10,709 people watched as five people shared how each of them struggled to find joy in the Christmas season. In a turn of events, one of the DJs (Betty Kool), played by Pastor Sabrina Chow or Pastor Beatrice Kang, shared that Christmas was a season of hope found through the birth of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the 130 people who made decisions for God during the productions.



A wifie during the performance

"Christmas 2016 has become special for me and my family because I was able to lead my dad to say the sinner's prayer after one of the presentations! After countless prayers and invitations to Christmas presentations, he finally took the leap of faith after witnessing how God healed his knees after we prayed for him." – **Adeline Tan**

Trinitarians young and old gave their time and talents to be involved in *Who Needs Christmas?* Many who served for the first time testified to the supernatural favor, renewal, and refreshment they found through serving.

"My previous job has irregular working hours, meaning that I couldn't commit to serving in past productions. Before rehearsals for *Who Needs Christmas?* started, God opened the door to a new job with regular working hours. However, there were problems with the issuing of the work permit and I was told to return to Malaysia until it was issued. This troubled me because it meant that I wouldn't be able to attend rehearsals.

I thank God for a boss who helped me appeal to MOM the next day. The work permit was granted shortly after, allowing me to stay on in Singapore

for the rehearsals. Praise God! I feel very blessed to be a part of this production and thankful for this opportunity to serve. – **Cindy Hor**

"It is truly a joy serving in the house of the Lord. I thought that serving for these big events require a lot of skill but I learned that it is the heart that matters. The amount of effort that went into rehearsals was worth it when I saw many oikos coming to accept Christ through the production. Serving also helped me look at Christmas and other events in a whole new light and helped me grow in faith. – **Lim Zhi Qi**

"One thing that struck me was that we always prayed and worshiped God before each rehearsal and presentation. It showed me how important it was to put God first. It is heartening to see the Holy Spirit working through us to draw people to Jesus." – **Cherylene Tan**

Personally, as a member of the *Who Needs Christmas?* choir, it has been such a joy and privilege to serve God in this capacity. Though much time was sacrificed, I have gotten back so much more in return: favor with colleagues and even taxi drivers who gave me discounted fares!

Being naturally shy and timid, I've also grown in my faith and boldness to invite strangers for the presentation. After the storyline of *Who Needs Christmas?* was shared to the cast and crew, I was convicted that God would use this presentation to draw people to Him, fueling a desire to invite more people to come and hear the message.

Most of all, I've learned so much about the heart of serving. Choir members displayed *Incredible Unity* as we helped each other learn the parts and speaking words of encouragement to keep one another going. The choir leaders brought us through each musical number without complaint, always patient and exercising *Relentless Belief* in us. Some even found time to bake cakes and cook extra dishes for us in the midst of a hectic production schedule. I'm also inspired by the Trinitarians who offered their time and talents to help with makeup and hair-styling. Their behind-the-scenes work was essential and their heart to bless the community evident. Indeed, it is a joy and a privilege to partner with God to see His purposes come to pass through us.

A Carnival for Christmas

By Amanda Seah, Calvary Assembly of God

In the words of the late Dale Evans, who popularized the song 'The Bible Tells Me So', "Christmas is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

For Christmas this year, Calvary Assembly exemplified love in action in the heartlands through a Christmas carnival in Bedok North.



Calvary's Christmas Carnival with Bedok North residents

It was a church-wide effort as Life groups contributed ideas for the carnival ranging from food to games and activities. As a church, we continued to cover the event in prayer as preparations were underway. Every one gave in some way to aid the preparations, including the Life groups that distributed event flyers to the residents of the community. This event was in partnership with Fengshan Diamond Residents' Committee to bring the love and joy of Christmas to the residents of Bedok North.

On the day of the carnival, church members from various Life groups gathered to set up. While it began to rain just hours prior to the event, God stopped it slightly before it commenced and blessed the Calvarites with cool weather throughout.

Then, the residents began streaming in and the pavilion came alive with clusters of people going round to the different carnival stalls. The lively atmosphere was a draw to many passers-by. The children were delighted by the cotton candy and popcorn stands that were specially brought in for the event.



Calvary's Christmas Carnival with Bedok North residents

The games continued to reel in the crowds as people tried out each game in a bid to win the array of attractive prizes on display. The older folks were certainly a force to be reckoned with, making clean sweeps of the prizes at many game stalls. A lady in her 70s became our balloon-shaving champion with a record of four clean-shaven balloons in 22 seconds! It was heartwarming to see how people from all walks of life came together and had fun. There was also a prophetic art stall, where art pieces with the attached interpretations on the back were handed out. One resident at the stall commented that the art piece he chose uplifted his mood as he had been feeling down before the event. As people got encouraged, the atmosphere lifted and the joy of Christmas permeated the place. We invited a prophetic artist to paint on site as well, and were greatly blessed by the exhortation that breathed new life into the community.

The residents were also treated to a slew of performances. The dynamic emcees engaged them with humorous running commentaries on the performances. The program comprised a caroling trio singing trendy covers of Christmas carols, a youth team pulling crisp dance moves to contemporary Christian songs, and Chinese ministry members belting out familiar festive tunes with a lyrical twist.

The event culminated in a blessings draw, and residents waited with bated breath as each name was announced for the prizes.

As we gave, we were tremendously blessed in return simply by watching the residents enjoy themselves. Praise God for the ability to give to the community in such a significant and fun way, because He first gave us the gift of Christmas.

Photo credit: Calvary AG



A dance item by our Youth Ministry



Fun, food and games!



Their smiles brightened our day

TOGETHERNESS - AG CHURCHES

Caroling – An Adventure of Faith

By Rev Samuel Heng, New Horizon Church

A meaningful way to minister to hearts through caroling.

After a few months of planning and preparation, the day of the event finally arrived with great anticipation. There was fine weather the whole morning till early afternoon. The advance party was at Blk 19, Upper Boon Keng early to decorate and set up the place.

However, at around 5.30pm the heavy downpour started. We were praying that it would stop in time for the program to start. It posed serious obstacles to our evening event. Some of our members were stranded at MRT Stations and bus stops on the way. Some residents, especially the elderly, might have preferred to stay home because of the heavy rain. The carolers going to Geylang would have been singing in the rain.

Eventually, we managed to ferry all the carolers to Upper Boon Keng in spite of the heavy rain. The residents were also streaming in gradually. Some were there from as early as 6pm.

It was our first time doing a HDB block outreach. Overall, everyone was happy with the experience and opportunity to serve the community. It's a wonderful sight to see our members being so cooperative and responsive in serving the residents.

Our purpose was to bring Christmas joy and the Good News especially to those from the lower income households. Practical "gifts" in the form of packed dinner, goody bags, Christmas carols, short messages, blessing draws and LoveSingapore NTUC vouchers were given to residents of Upper Boon Keng. For those who resided in Lorong 8 Geylang, we gave the gift of carols and handmade cookies in decorated containers.

We also thank God for our members' friends Chan, Kel, Jason and Mei Hui who so enthusiastically chipped in to play the guitar, take photos and videos for our event. By the grace of God, we managed to reach out to 238 residents, and 125 households received special goody bags. We also catered 370 dinner packs and distributed 80 sets of LoveSingapore \$50 NTUC vouchers to the residents of Blk 19. Another 31 boxes of handmade cookies were given to the residents at Lorong 8 Geylang.

We're grateful to God that in spite of our lack of experience, everything turned out well. We had to multi-task in coping with the demands from the residents. As a number were elderly and some were sickly and frail, we also had to attend to them. Truly, God's grace abounds to us in those areas that we overlooked, such that in spite of messy situations, both events proceeded fairly smoothly. It had been a very meaningful and enriching experience for all the participants. We learnt to appreciate the need for people of different talents working cooperatively together. We also realized that it was not just plainly our efforts that had made this project successful, but God had been working alongside us every step of the way. All praise and glory be unto God, our gracious and merciful Father!

Photo credit: New Horizon Church



Singing carols along Lorong 8 Geylang



Ministering at Upper Boon Keng

God Works Miracles

By Teo Yin Yin, Bethel Assembly of God

When the situation seems bleak, only Our God can intervene.



Teo Yin Yin and Sih-Fa

Sih-Fa was born on September 13, 2014. Just the day before he was born, my mother-in-law received Christ.

Within minutes after birth, Sih-Fa went into respiratory distress. In the NICU, the doctors could not maintain his oxygen saturation and had to intubate him. Three days after his birth, the doctors determined there was nothing they could do, and the only thing that could save him would be a highly invasive heart-lung life support machine, ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation).

While on ECMO, his heart suddenly stopped and he needed resuscitation. We were informed that his heart was protected because he was put on ECMO just in time.

Only a week after he was born, they discovered a severe heart lesion – (TAPVD) which required immediate operation.

After his first open heart surgery, Sih-Fa continued to struggle with breathing and had to be put on ECMO a second time. During this process, Sih-Fa developed severe complications of both a brain bleed, and a clot. Yet, God was gracious and merciful, for he miraculously survived this.

During this time, Sih-Fa's lungs started secreting as much as 800ml of lymph fluid from his lungs daily. This was more fluid than he was taking in. The wounds from his surgical site started breaking down and he was moved into an isolation room. We were then told to allow his loved ones to see him if they have not done so.

My husband was informed by the cardiologist that the fluid secreted was due to an incurable lung disease – pulmonary lymphangiectasia. The longest recorded survivor was 10 months old. There was nothing else they could do and we were advised to let go of him.

It was then when our homeschooler friend encouraged us and said, "When man gives up, God will take over. God will not share His glory."

We persisted with our prayers and despite all odds, Sih-Fa survived. We're so thankful for the men and women of God who came by, not to see him for the last time, but to pray and lay claim on God's healing. This battle was won on the knees of so many prayer warriors. We are reminded in James 5:16 that *the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much*.

After 4 months in CICU, Sih-Fa returned home hooked onto a ventilator, and with a feeding tube. A year later, he stopped using the ventilator. We believe this journey had brought many to see the power of God's healing. In fact, a surgeon told us, "When you look at this boy, you know there must be a God. Your prayers really work!" There is very little man can do, but never doubt what God can do.



Back from four months in ICU

Photo credit: Teo Yin Yin



Developmental milestone – learning to prone

Miraculously, Sih-Fa reached all his milestones despite going through all these procedures and complications. In the first week of February, Sih-Fa went for decannulation of the tracheostomy tube and is totally off all the tubes he had. God has healed him completely!

Because of all these miracles, my father-in-law, formerly from another faith, has received Christ. He was baptized last Christmas. We praise God for this, because we know that all things have worked together for good to those who love Him.



Father-in-law giving testimony during his water baptism

For those who are in the season of tears, remember that God will honor the days sown in tears. And one day, we will all reap in rejoicing.

TRANSFORMATION

Touched By God's Grace

By Rev Lawrence Ong, Centre of New Life (Singapore)

Rev Ong, International Missions Overseer of CNL Singapore, shares a powerful testimony of one of his members, Benjamin.

Benjamin pulled me aside "Pastor, I need to talk to you."

I looked at him. There were tears flowing down his cheeks. We were standing in the middle of a crowd having our after-service refreshments in a predominantly white church. I had brought some 20 church members, who hail from a place where the gospel has yet to reach, to experience a typical service in an Australian church.

Sounding concern, I asked, "Benjamin, what's wrong?"

"I have to tell you something!" he blurted out between sobs.

He then proceeded to express to me how overawed he was to be in a beautiful church meeting that morning. He never dreamt that there will be a day like this for him. He was utterly grateful to God for saving him and making it possible for him to be

in the church this morning. But I could not fully comprehend the point he was driving at, as it was only an ordinary service in a small Australian church.

Then, he continued,

"Four years ago, I embarked on a journey from my country to Australia as a refugee. I made the decision over three days. On Thursday, I mulled over the idea. By Sunday, I was on my way. Even my father was not aware of my decision. From a neighboring country off Australia, we took a rickety boat, some 150 refugees headed toward Christmas Island. After seven days at sea, the boat broke up in a storm and began to sink. Fortunately, an Australian navy craft came to our rescue. They inflated a large rubber dinghy and instructed us to clamber on board. We had no food except water for many days and many, by then, were weak and frail. The rough sea was of no help. It was not an easy task to cross over to safety. Many died that day.

As I prepared to cross over to the rubber dinghy, a huge wave struck us. The next moment I was submerged in the water. Upon re-surfacing, I found myself some distance away from the boats. The waves were pounding and heaving and the strong current was carrying me further away from the boats. At that instant, I knew instinctively I had

not a shred of strength left to swim my way back to safety. I knew it would be the end of me. I gave up struggling and allowed myself to sink. In my mind, I simply cried out to God, "If there is a God, save me. Because if I die, even my father would not know of my whereabouts." But all seemed hopeless. And I sank further into the watery depths. Just before I lost consciousness, I felt something brushing against my thigh. I reached down and found a rope. It was the rope that was attached to the rescue boat. With it, I hauled myself back to safety."

Benjamin concluded in amazement, "Pastor, I was not even a Christian then. I don't even know if God exists. But God heard my desperate cry and saved me. And today, I really know the Lord Jesus as my Savior and Lord and have this wonderful opportunity to worship Him in this beautiful church service."

Then I really understood why he was so emotional that day as he stood worshipping in the beautiful Australian church.

What a testimony! This, from a convert of another faith who once lived in a place where being a Christian is almost an impossibility. Today, Benjamin is actively serving in a local church and is fast becoming an excellent chef serving up sumptuous cuisine in our annual church camps.

Photo credit: Rev Lawrence Ong



Gathering after service

When God Honors

By Lye Huixian, Trinity Christian Centre

Adeline Wong from North District shares with our writer, Lye Huixian, how God honored her extravagantly when she chose to honor God with her finances.

“Should I fulfill the remainder of my Vision Faith Promise?”

“What about my university course fees next year?”

These were the questions I asked myself during Vision Weekend. I felt challenged by the guest speaker, Pastor Dishan Wickramaratne, who exhorted Trinitarians to put God first – to trust that all other things will be added unto us. Living out his message on “extravagant giving,” he shared a time when his family gave up their car and home to build God’s house.

Even then, I still had a dilemma within my heart. I was inspired to respond, to honor God by fulfilling last year’s Vision Faith Promise. However, the sum was not a small amount. I had committed my 10-year service award as well as an additional sum. These were all the fruits of my labor, my hard-earned money from working full-time while studying part-time.

“What about replacing my faulty 5-year-old laptop that I needed for my studies?”

I really struggled to take this step of faith but Pastor Dishan’s message had spoken to me. Using 1 Kings 17:9-16, he shared how the widow at Zarephath sacrificed the bit last flour and olive oil for Elijah, a portion she had set aside as a last meal for herself and her son.

God wanted our bread, Pastor Dishan pointed out, and that it was up to us to exercise faith – to first bring what little we had to God before tending to our needs or concerns. We had to believe that He would supply our needs by releasing His blessings over our lives. Taking out my checkbook, I was convicted to fulfil my Vision Faith Promise. As I wrote the check, a sense of peace filled me. I knew that my obedience to build God’s house please Him.

A few days later, I recalled that my university had a sponsorship available for part-time students. I had heard about it the semester before but missed the submission deadline then. As I read the requirements online, my heart sank. Impressive record of academic (from O-Level onwards) and co-curricular activities. Strong language skills. Extensive leadership experience.

My results were certainly not “impressive.” As a working adult, I had no co-curricular activities.



Back row, fourth from left, Adeline with her cell

Daunted by what was required, I felt that I couldn’t even qualify for an interview, let alone the sponsorship. Hesitant about submitting the application, I decided to seek the Lord in prayer. I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to proceed and I did so, despite my feelings of inadequacy.

The application required several essays: what I have learned from co-curricular activities (CCAs), personal challenges and how I overcame them, why I was applying for the sponsorship. I was already stumped at the first essay. If I had no CCAs, what could I possibly write about?

When I asked the Lord for wisdom, I felt the Holy Spirit guiding my hands. I had no CCAs, I wrote, but spent my time serving God in church and carecell. I shared about the joy I got from serving and loving people. I recalled how God and my carecell had seen me through challenge after challenge, my testimony flowing into the second essay. By the grace of God, I submitted my application on the last day of the submission deadline.

Feelings of inadequacy lingered because I knew competition would be tough. To my amazement, I found out I had been shortlisted for an interview! With a panel consisting of the University Provost and deans from various faculties, the thought of

facing such distinguished men and women stressed me immensely. When my Zone Pastor Patricia Boo found out about the interview, she prayed for me, declaring that God’s favor was upon me.

I went into the interview expecting a stressful situation. Instead, I enjoyed a friendly conversation with the panel. The Provost shared that they were impressed with my desire to build relationships with the other students by tapping into everyone’s strengths and experiences. After hearing this, I was so encouraged and finally at peace about the application. Everything I had shared were values I had learned by being part of a carecell!

One week later, the good news came: the university had awarded me the sponsorship! It would cover the remaining five semesters, as well an honors program should I wish to pursue further studies. What’s more, the sponsorship was bond-free!

God’s timing was perfect. Missing deadline last semester allowed God to use this experience to teach me a precious lesson about His extravagant giving. Indeed, I can never out-give God who is able to provide exceedingly abundantly above all I can ask or imagine. I praise God for His divine favor and His goodness as I choose to honor Him first.

TRANSFORMATION

God Was With Me Through It All

By Rev Patrick Lau, Faith Fellowship International

We seldom read about pastors facing crises in their lives. I hope my testimony will encourage those facing crises in life.

25 years ago, someone said to me during an event, "Rev Lau, one day you might need one of these dialysis machines." This remark sent a chill down my spine as I was a Diabetic. He had no ill-intent but it still wasn't a pleasant remark. Fear registered in my heart and started to haunt me.

During a procedure to remove my kidney stones, the x-ray showed my kidneys had shrunk. From that time, I was put under the care of renal doctors who tried their best to prevent my kidneys from deteriorating.

My family and I prayed for healing. I wrote to international prayer groups for prayer and bargained with God that my kidneys should last. To keep myself fit I swam regularly.

In 2013, my doctor persuaded me to create a fistula in my right hand to prepare for dialysis. My kidneys had deteriorated to less than 30% of its normal function.

I prayed and cried, still hoping for a miracle of some sort. God saw my struggle. While I didn't share my fears with my family, not wanting them to worry, God brought friends who listened and shared their experiences with dialysis, allaying some of my fears.

Still, three concerns weighed in my heart.

1. Financial commitment: Dialysis is expensive. I was already semi-retired. Where would the money come from? My Medisave would be wiped clean. Among this deluge of questions, suicide did cross my mind.
2. Overseas ministry: In 1997, I received a vision of a globe being dropped into my hands. God was going to send me to preach the gospel worldwide. But dialysis meant that I couldn't travel. I couldn't accept that. I hated the thought of being hooked up to tubes thrice a week for four hours. I thought God was unfair. I asked, "God, are you even there?"
3. People's opinion: What would others say? People often jumped to conclusions when something bad happened to a pastor. I was angry and ashamed. The scripture "healer save thyself" often taunted me. It hit me so hard that again I thought of ending my life.

For months I battled these concerns. Sometimes I stared at the ceiling with negative thoughts raging through my mind.

My hospital appointment in September 2015 was the most distressing. I rejected all instructions to prepare for dialysis and was in denial. I walked out of the doctor's room telling myself that there's no way I'll go through dialysis.

Then, on October 24, 2015, I started sweating profusely and couldn't breathe. Right then, I suspected I was having a heart attack.

I called my daughter. Sensing the urgency, she rushed up to get me and made it to the hospital in time. The doctors said, "You had a mild heart attack. Your lungs are full of water. Your kidneys have failed. You'll have to go through dialysis immediately!" My hope shattered. My faith was shaken. The dreaded statement had come to pass. Though I was angry and fearful, my heart was reaching out to my Savior to help me bear this burden.

Then, things started to turn around. Instead of being controlled by bitterness, I embraced the peace that God had placed in my heart. Several fellow ministers came to visit. Seeing them assured me that my self-created questions were unfounded. The assurance from insurance agents and social workers erased the fear of long-term financing.

In the ward, my bed was like a counselling station! I met a hawker in the same ward. He shared his problems with me and I'd the privilege to lead him to the Lord. I also had an opportunity to pray with a young man of another faith. God led me to pray with some of the nurses. For those few days I functioned as a Pastoral Counsellor. I forgot I was a patient! A pastor suffering affliction needn't feel ashamed.



Among my family during hospitalization

My children played a very important role in my recovery. They'd been priceless in their support, never uttered a negative word and rushed between commitments to spend time with me.

I've been on dialysis for a while now. Thank God for good nurses in the Kolam Ayer NKF Centre. I prepare my sermons, meditate, counsel, evangelize and plan preaching engagements there.

I must thank fellow minister Job Loei who's been on dialysis for twenty years. He'd always urge me to remain positive and enjoy this new lease of life God has given me. I praise God for Vijay Sabapathy, and Dr Rina Nga who take me for dialysis regularly, Ms Lee San San, who was at the center almost every session and overseas friends who visited, like Rev Ashley Thomas, and Rev Ian Peters.

Dialysis is for life unless God intervenes. Thus far, He has helped me. I plan to live and work for Him as long as He permits.

Photo credit: Rev Patrick Lau



Preaching in Malacca one month after recovery

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Chief Editor:	Rev Simon Ang
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