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Being a Relevant Church Leader

IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Rev Dominic Yeo

Management and marketing methodologies have evolved tremendously over the last decade. What worked like a charm before, no longer impresses buyers today. Telecommunication has changed. In fact, every three months, a new phone is launched. Companies that fail to keep up with these changes eventually lose their market share. Change can be daunting. But if we are to be a relevant church leader in the 21st Century, we need to have both courage and wisdom to change.

Courage to Change

I am reminded of how God repeatedly told Joshua to “*be strong and courageous*” when he took over the mantle from Moses, and had to lead the Israelites forward in a new way of conquering more lands.

Change is vital in today's world. Change is needed to stay connected and relevant. Parents too, have been learning to connect with their children in ways that are relevant to them—such as getting on social media and various text messaging platforms.

As leaders we cannot dismiss the advancements and modernity of our world. We have available to us technology to advance the Gospel beyond the speed and reach of the early church. Social media platforms are the new sources of daily news. Videos are the new forms of text messaging and billboards have been reduced to the mobile screen that you carry around in your pocket. Before we are quick to dismiss technology, why not be courageous instead and allow it to become a useful tool that can be commissioned for Kingdom purposes?

If the church chooses not to engage in these online platforms where communities are gathering and forming, the voice of the world will take over and the voice of the Church will be drowned out.

Beyond communication methods, the sight and sound of worship has also evolved over the centuries. Before we are quick to judge other ministries for radical worship services, have we considered its relevance to the generation that it reaches out to?

The Church ought to be the head and not the tail. If the Church is to influence our world, we should not merely be consumers of culture but creators of culture.

Wisdom to Change

As much as change is an integral part of life, not everything should be changed. Change is needed for being effective and efficient. Change is vital for transformation in our lives. But we should not change for change's sake.

Paul exhorts the Thessalonian church in 2 Thessalonians 2:15 to “*stand firm and hold fast*” to the teachings that were taught. It means that in a rapidly changing world, we need God's wisdom to know what must change and what must never change.

Before we hop onto the bandwagon of change and abandon our old ways and old wineskins, here are some areas that we need to guard in our attempts to be relevant leaders.

Be relevant but don't compromise your soul

I have no issue with churches being relevant to our world. But oftentimes leaders become so relevant that they lose their souls and godly value propositions! In the attempt to be seeker-friendly, have you abandoned the preaching of sin and hell? Have you compromised on what the Bible teaches about the institution of marriage and family? Have you attempted to create the presence of God instead of hosting the presence of God?

Some churches have substituted the power of the Holy Spirit for theatrics in their services. Instead of letting the congregation experience the power of God that is inside us, they rely on an external “power”—the “power” of music, lights and sound. While we may have the equipment to do all these things, we must not become a church of theatrics, void of hungering after the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Many churches are substituting the gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, for greater acceptance, compromising itself to become more accepted by the world. The Church is not called to be accepted by everybody, rather

we are here to show Christ and to live victorious lives so that the world will know that God is real and has real power.

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, the victorious occasion was marked with stones as a remembrance for future generations. “*That this may be a sign among you when your children ask in time to come saying, ‘What do these stones mean to you?’*” (Joshua 4:6, ESV) When we compromise our faith in God, we shift the goalposts in our lives. The sheep we lead, and coming generations will also lose their bearings and footing. They won't know what to stand upon anymore.

Don't ever compromise the foundation of your faith for a favorable position or opportunity!

Be relevant but don't forget your God-given mandate

We must never lose sight of our purpose. It's all about souls! It's not about how polished your church programs are, or how stellar your preaching of the Word is. Without God's sense of urgency and compassion for the lost, we are out of alignment to God's overall purpose in this world, and are only consumeristic and self-serving in our purpose and ministry!

This may sound harsh, but we need to constantly check our heart and motives. Are we caught up with following fads, trends or another ministries' models because they are popular?

Being relevant isn't about doing what others are doing. A common phrase I hear among leaders making decisions is, “Other people, ministries and churches are doing this.” While there is value in learning from others, it's important to remember our God-given mission and vision.

There are many excellent plans and strategies that you can employ and implement. But if a strategy doesn't contribute to your God-given mandate, don't let it distract you from it.

Be relevant but never forget who you are!

It is important to know your identity because identity gives you influence. It is pertinent to know who you are and why

you are created the way you are. If you don't, you either create zero impact, or worse, effect wrong consequences!

When we look at the lives of those in royalty, their influence is in proportionate to how much they utilize their positions to better the lives of their countrymen.

In the book of Esther, Mordecai pleaded with Esther to save the Jews from annihilation. But it seemed that Esther encountered an identity crisis! She was dressed as a Persian queen, abided by Persian law and rejected Mordecai's plea for help. In her reply, she wrote: *“All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king.”* (Esther 4:11)

In the pursuit of being relevant and trying to blend in to local laws and customs, Esther had lost her true identity. The danger of losing one's identity is real. It is all too easy to forget that you are first and foremost *“a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.”* (1 Peter 2:9)

Esther was eventually reminded by Mordecai of her true identity: *“...And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”* (Esther 4:14) She wasn't just a queen to enjoy the privileges of the palace. She was first and foremost a Jew, part of a people belonging to God, to serve His purpose!

We are the established character and reflection of our mind. What we think about will be put into our motivations, words and actions. Our influence is proportional to our adoption and ownership of our God-given identity.

Being relevant is not about blending in. Being relevant is akin to how Christ came as a man and walked among us to identify with us in our humanness. Christ was in the world yet not of the world. He stood His ground and showed us how we could, even in our human frailty, be overcomers. The Church cannot afford to blend in if we are called to be the salt and beacon of light that points the way to God.

We need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in navigating this journey of being a relevant Church. It would be extremely dangerous to think that we can do so without the Holy Spirit and lean upon the results of popular practices. Let's never forget who we are—a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God. Let's never deviate from our God-given mandate—to plunder hell and populate heaven.

21世纪的教会领袖

做个与时并进的21世纪教会领袖

管理和行销方式在过去十年不断推陈出新。曾经万无一失的策略，如今不再吸引买家。电信已经改变，甚至每三个月就有一台新的手机上市。任何公司如果跟不上变化的步伐，就会最终无法在市场上分一杯羹。

变化可以令人气馁。但是，如果我们要做一个与时并进的21世纪教会领袖，我们就必需有改变的勇气和智慧。

改变的勇气

我想起当约书亚接过摩西的棒子带领以色列人以新的方式夺取土地时，耶和华不断提醒他的话：*“刚强壮胆”*。

在现今的世界，改变是必不可少的。如果你不要与时代脱节，那就必须改变。家长就是这样，都在学习与孩子联系的新方法，和他们挂钩。他们学习了使用社交媒体和短信发送平台。

世界的进步和现代化是作为领袖的我们不能置之不理的。我们现在拥有科技来传福音，福音传播的速度和范围是早期教会望尘莫及的。社交媒体平台成为每日新闻的新渠道，视频成为短信的新形式，而大型广告牌已缩小至人们随处携带在口袋里屏幕。在我们不假思索地排除科技之前，我们可否鼓起勇气，让它成为神的国度能够善加使用的工具？

在网络上有群体的设立和聚集，如果教会选择不参与这些网上平台，世界的声音就会淹没，甚至取代教会的声音。

不仅沟通的方式改变了，几个世纪以来，敬拜的视觉和声效也有了变化。在我们论断别人的敬拜和聚会激进之前，我们是否思想过他们与所接触的一代人的关联性？

教会应该局首不局尾。如果教会要影响世界，我们就不能单单做文化的消费者，而是必须做文化的创造者。

改变的智慧

尽管变化是生活中的一部分，然而不是所有的东西都应该改变。改变是为了更有效和效率。虽然生活的改变需要引进变化，但是我们不能为了改变而改变。

保罗在帖撒罗尼迦后书2:15激励帖撒罗尼迦教会在所领受的教训上要*“站立得稳和坚守”*。这意味着在这个不断改变的世界里，我们需要神的智慧以认识到该改变什么，不该改变什么。

在我们跟随改变的浪潮，摒弃旧的皮袋和方法前，我们必须保守一些领域。以下是作为与时并进的领袖应该保守的领域。

与时并进，但是灵魂不能有所妥协

我对于教会与时代挂钩没有意见。可是很多时候，领袖与时代挂钩到他们丧失了灵魂和属神的价值观！在尝试与慕道友友好的同时，你是否摒弃了罪和地狱的信息？对于圣经教导的婚姻和家庭的制度，你是否有所让步？与其经营神的同在，你是否尝试制造神的同在？

有些教会用剧院的特效取代了圣灵的大能。他们使用外在的“能力” – 音乐、灯光和音响的“能力”，而不是让会众体验在我们里面的神的大能。我们也许拥有可以制作特效的器材，但是我们不能成为剧院特效的教会，不渴慕圣灵的同在和在大能。

许多教会用更大的包容取代圣灵的恩赐，例如说方言。他们为了更加被世界接受而妥协。然而，神不是呼召教会来被所有人接受的。教会的存在是为了将耶稣显示给世人，并活出得胜的生命，叫世人知道神是真实的，拥有实在的能力。

当以色列人越过约旦河时，约书亚让他们从河中取十二块石头让世世代代纪念这胜利的日子。*“这些石头在你们中间可以作为证据。日后，你们的子孙问你们说：‘这些石头是什么意思？’”*（约书亚4:6）当我们对神的信心有所妥协时，就移动了生命中的球门，改变了规则。我们所带领的羊群和后代就会迷路和失足。他们不会知道该站立在哪里。

千万别为了一个有利的职位或机会而妥协了你的信心！

与时并进，但是不要忘记神对你的委托

我们千万不要忘记神对我们的旨意。一切都是为了灵魂！不是你教会的节目有多完美，或你的道讲得多好。如果没有神的迫切感和对丧失灵魂的怜悯之心，我们就与神对世界的旨意脱轨。我们的事工和目的就只是消费主义和追逐私利！

这样说也许有些逆耳，但是我们需要不断检查我们的心意和目的。我们追随时尚、潮流或成功事工的模式，是否因为它们受欢迎？

与时并进不是做别人在做的。我常听到领袖做决定时说：“别人、别的事工和教会在这这样做。”向人学习固然重要，但更重要的是记得神给我们的使命和异象。

我们可以施行无数精良的计划和策略，但是，如果某个策略没有帮助你完成神给你的使命，那么，不要让它转移你对使命的注意力。

与时并进，但是不要忘记你自己是谁！

认识自己的身份很重要，因为身份给你影响力。你必须知道自己是谁和你为什么受造为这个样子，不然，你要不没有任何影响力，要不更糟，造成不良的后果！

让我们看一看皇族。他们影响力的大小与他们承认自己的权威并且按着自己身份改善百姓的生活是成比例的。

Continued on pg 5...



We're living in a time where the social fabric of the world is facing plenty of changes. There is an outcry for voices to be heard regarding human rights, gender equality and racial harmony, and for "social justice" to be served. In the midst of varying opinions and movements, how do we as Christians and leaders in the church remain relevant? With his message, our General Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo, has kicked-started our leadership series, '**Church Leadership in the 21st Century**'. Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy and Rev Jason Tan will now further expound on this topic.

*Church
Leadership
in the 21st
Century*

The Challenges and Blessings of Being a Woman in Church Leadership

Being a woman in church leadership has its ups and downs. Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy gives her perspectives on these.

From the time of the Dark Ages until today, opinions are still divided about the role of women in the Church. On one side there are those who see women as "equal yet distinct". Though equally redeemed by Christ and equally transformed by the Holy Spirit, there are clear limitations to their roles in the church, especially regarding vocal or authoritative positions—such as pastor, preacher, elder or teacher. According to them, such leadership positions can only be filled by men.

The Challenges

I am thankful that most of our local churches are breaking out of those old erroneous biblical interpretations and practices. Even though many have broken out of such practices, there still exists a "ceiling" in many congregations. The old bias together with the wrongly interpreted scriptures that were taught as divine truth still remain the biggest challenge to women being given the opportunity to serve at higher levels of leadership in the Church.

The second major challenge arises from the first. Not accepting and teaching the truth of God's Word about women has resulted in a lack of focused training and open doors of opportunity for women to exercise their spiritual gifts in leadership roles.

The sad truth is that most female ministers can only become senior pastors if they pioneer their own church. In some households, wives are relegated to serving as Sunday school teachers or worship leaders. They are discouraged or even prohibited from taking on roles of greater spiritual authority because their husbands are unable to see or accept the leader God has made them to be.

Women continue to face unnecessary obstacles when it comes to serving as spiritual leaders in their own right. We see a vicious cycle playing out in our congregations where women lack the training and opportunities to exercise and develop their God-given gifts. With women making up the majority of congregations, the lack of proportionate female leadership in senior positions increases the risk that their spiritual growth, needs, and development remaining neglected or overlooked. Coupled with society's preference toward male leadership, such restrictive practices consciously (or unconsciously) reinforce the belief that only men are suitable for senior leadership roles in the church.

Before I go further, I want to stress my conviction that Christians, both women and men, should serve according to their spiritual gifts, skills, and competence. Their placement in different ministries and different levels of leadership should be based on these three factors and these three factors alone. This is consistent with the apostle Paul's teaching where he exhorted the entire church to exercise their Spirit-given gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7), which are distributed without regard to gender since the Holy Spirit fell on both women and men during Pentecost (Acts 1:14; 2:1-4).

Barring women from positions of authority weakens the church by denying half (or more) of its members from fully using their God-given spiritual gifts.

The Blessings

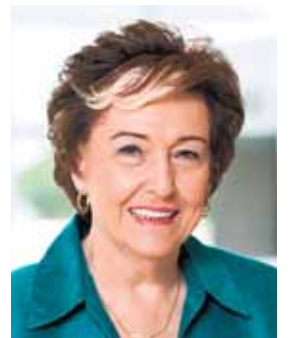
If you consider the early history of missions, many women turned to Christianity because of the work of female missionaries. As teachers, health workers, reading tutors, or visiting neighbors, these missionaries reached out to them and met their needs, connecting in ways that men simply cannot. I don't say this as criticism—it's simply a fact of life.

Natural multi-taskers, women are adept at handling the multi-functional responsibilities required of senior church leaders. What's more, their inclination to adopt a participatory style of leadership—consensus-oriented, collective, and generally more inclusive—is a style that is better accepted in today's society, especially among the youth.

The real bottom line is to implement God's plan from the time of creation, that both men and women should be working and serving equally together. There should be no position in church leadership where women are not allowed to serve, if they have the calling, gifts, skills and competence for the job—the same qualifications as for a man. The blending of different gifts given by God to both men and women is God's desire and plan.

As all of us come together to exercise every Spirit-given gift, we fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples (both male and female) wherever we are placed.

When they serve with equal honor the Church will be blessed.



Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy is widely recognized as a global leader for apostolic strategies to implement God's purposes in the 21st Century. Her passion to develop leaders causes her to travel extensively to the nations, equipping churches to fulfill their calling and destiny in God.

As an author, five of her books are considered "must-haves" in the personal library of Pastors and Leaders. She is also the Founder-Chancellor of TCA College and Resident Apostle of Trinity Christian Centre.

As part of this article, we seek out three women carrying leadership roles in our local churches to share their hearts on this topic.

WHAT IS ONE MAIN CHALLENGE YOU ENCOUNTER BEING A WOMAN SERVING AS A CHURCH LEADER IN YOUR MINISTRY?

LL One main challenge I face as Senior Pastor of Faith Assembly of God, is drawing healthy boundaries for myself. To me, it means guarding the space to be myself so that I can maintain personal integrity and joyfully serve God and others. I am unique. People will benefit more from my leadership when I am who God has made me to be.

JL As a woman, one challenge in the ministry is not being able to be a male role model for the young boys or husbands-to-be. Also, I have a tendency to be obsessed with smaller details. This runs the risk of me not being able to see the bigger picture. For example, planning for leadership development three to five years ahead is not a norm for me. I may sometimes also get quite emotional when dealing with certain issues.

AL I am blessed to be a spiritual grandmother to the Youth Ministry. As a pastor's wife and leader, my biggest challenge is to function such that our members are able to distinguish between the voice of an independent leader and that of a partner-in-ministry. Both are equally important. Working this out well is a testament to how couples can remain strong in their marriages and serve in ministry together. This will be our legacy to the generations after us.

HOW DO YOU OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE?

LL I do my best to guard my time to rest, refill, re-spiritualize, reflect and play. Sometimes with family and friends, sometimes by myself. Heart-to-heart conversations with my mentor and personal prayer retreats have greatly helped me to build healthy personal boundaries.

JL I've been intentionally training myself to see the big picture as well as read books that help me to expand my vision and think deeper. I've also been exchanging ideas with friends in leadership roles and looking for mentors to learn tips on strategic planning. I'm in the midst of discipling young adult male leaders to each be in charge of a small number of youths, and also involving the male pastors in ministering to the husbands-to-be.

AL Living out my life in humility and obedience to God's Word! If I live an authentic life aligning myself with His Spirit, Word, love and purpose, I will not only lead well in my family but also as a woman in the church and marketplace.

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO FELLOW WOMEN SERVING AS LEADERS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES?

LL Joyfully serve God and others by being yourself!

JL Stand firm on your call, commit your emotions to God. Believe in yourself. When God calls you, His anointing will surely follow you. Press on, don't give up. Charge forward and shine for God!

AL Love God, love His people and trust that God enables us all the time!



Rev Lindsey Lui is Senior Pastor of Faith Assembly of God.



Sis Josephine Lim serves as Advisor to the Youth Ministry and a facilitator of Prepare and Enrich (the marriage preparation course) in Harborlight Church.



Sis Poh Aye Lan serves as Advisor to Emmanuel Assembly of God's Youth Ministry.

...Continued from pg 3

在伊斯帖记里，末底改求以斯帖拯救犹太人不被灭绝。然而，以斯帖似乎面对着身份认同危机！她的装扮是波斯皇后，守的是波斯的法律，也拒绝了末底改的请求。在她的答复中，她写道：“王所有的臣仆和各省的百姓都知道有一个定例，若未奉召见，擅入内院见王的，无论男女必被处死；除非王向他伸出金杖，不得存活。但我没有被召进去见王已经有三十天了。”（以斯帖记4:11）

以斯帖在追求与时局挂钩、设法融入当地的习俗和律法的同时，失去了自己真正的身份。失去个人身份的危险是真实的。我们容易忘记自己首先是“被拣选的族类，是有君尊的祭司，是圣洁的国度，是属神的子民，要叫你们宣扬那召你们出黑暗入奇妙光明者的美德。”彼得前书2:9

以斯帖最终被末底改提醒了自己真实的身份：“……你得了王后的位分不是为现今的机会吗？”（以斯帖记4:14）她成为王后不是为了享受王

宫里的良好待遇。她首先是犹太人，是属神的子民。

我们是自己脑中设立的人物和映像。我们思想什么，就会通过自己的动力、话语和行为显露出来。我们的影响力与我们对神赐的身份的接受和拥有度成正比。

与时并进不代表融入时局。它就像耶稣如何道成肉身在世人间生活，和人类有所共鸣。然而，耶稣在世界却不属世界。他站稳立场，让我们明白即使我们在软弱中，也能够站立得稳，成为得胜者。教会既然是将人指向神的盐和光，就不能与大众文化融合。

教会在与时并进的这条路上，需要从圣灵而来的智慧。如果我们依靠的是受欢迎做法而不是圣灵，这将是极度危险的。让我们永不要忘记我们的身份——有君尊的祭司、圣洁的国度、属神的子民。让我们永不贬低神的旨意——扫空地狱，使天堂繁荣。

The Challenges of Christian Leadership in the 21st Century

There are issues that a 21st century church leader would face that is unique to this generation. Rev Jason Tan explores these pertinent issues and challenges us to think how to handle them effectively.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) has improved our lifestyle in many ways. We have seen great advancement in the speed and ease of interaction we have with one another. At the same time, these advancements also present fresh challenges that Christian leaders have never dealt with before. Based on my personal observations, these 21st Century challenges can be divided into four broad categories, Physical, Emotional, Social and Spiritual.

Physical

"I believe that the greatest gift you can give your family and the world is a healthy you," says renowned Christian author and preacher, Joyce Meyer. Our physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. God calls every believer to be a good steward of this temple by ensuring the physical well-being of our body. A strong and healthy body, in turn, becomes the best gift we can give to our loved ones. With greater awareness on healthier living, better healthcare and affluence in our societies today, we see an emergence of healthier and abler seniors with longer lifespans. This presents a couple of reflection points for our church leadership today. "What approaches are in place today to connect with pre-believing seniors in our local communities?" "How can we purposefully integrate seniors into multi-generational church-life programs?" "How can we more effectively tap into their wisdom and invaluable life experiences to nurture the younger generations, who can then, in turn, grow spiritually and be placed in a better position to connect with both the hearts and minds of pre-believers?" The challenge for a 21st Century Christian leader is to build a physically strong and cohesive multi-generational church. Rather than a challenge, this can also be viewed as an untapped opportunity for us to spread the Gospel.

Emotional

"Young and depressed: Just 10 and she wanted to die." This was the headline of a heart-wrenching article that appeared recently in the newspaper about a young girl who had suicidal tendencies because she was a victim of bullying. The sad thing is that bullying is just one of the issues that are prevalent in our society. Things concerning peer pressure, academic failures, job loss, marital breakdowns, health predicaments and workplace conflicts are also common.

There is a saying, "prevention is better than cure". For decades, the church has been very effective in preparing believers for significant life events they are entering into, such as baptism class, premarital-counseling, and National Service pre-enlistment workshop. All these have the objective of preparing us for what is to come. The 21st Century Christian leader must progress beyond the skills of prevention to treatment. We must start considering, "How can I shift from helping others prepare for a known life event to helping them undergo an unexpected life event?" We must not only sharpen our prevention skills, but also how to bring healing and restoration.

Social

On February 6, 2018, Channel News Asia reported, "54% of Singaporean children exposed to at least one cyber risk a year". This study conducted by the DQ Institute reveals that children between 8 to 12 years old are now commonly involved in unsafe cyber-related activities due to the easy access to mobile devices and active social media usage. These activities include cyberbullying, video game addiction, offline meetings and online sexual behavior. The advancement of ICT, specifically with the extensive influence of social media in the 21st Century reflects upon our progress in society.

Our children being exposed to cyber risk highlights the emerging trends in social media related issues. Online scams, identity theft, voyeurism, and fake news are other examples of such issues. Advancement of technology is not the root cause of these issues. The real problem is how ICT tools and social media platforms have been misused for personal interest and selfish gain. Our children, youth as well as the elderly remain the most vulnerable targets of this phenomenon. The 21st Century Christian leader must possess the knowledge to support victims of cybercriminals and educate the vulnerable ones with God's truth, so that they can recognize and not be taken in by the scams.

Spiritual

In the last national census, "No Religion", a new category has emerged in the religion section. This category has experienced the highest growth with the majority of respondents representing individuals aged between 15 and 24. This is an alarming statistic. What does this trend show? There is an increasing trend that Singaporean youths today prefer not to be associated with a certain religious group or worldview. The 21st Century Christian leader may tackle these new challenges from two angles—relationally and theologically. Relationally, show care, compassion and empathy. People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Therefore, only genuine love, care and compassion displayed by a Christian leader can captivate the attention and interest of young Singaporeans. Theologically, embrace the hard topics of apologetics and always be ready to defend the faith. (1 Peter 3:15)

The 21st Century presents a myriad of fresh challenges for Christians and church leaders. Though the issues are real and problematic, the Bible continues to offer solutions that transcend generations and time. Ultimately, to be effective, the 21st Century leader must reflect from a multigenerational perspective, sharpen the skills of prevention and treatment, educate and provide support with God's truth, relationally demonstrate Christ and always be ready to defend the Christian faith.



Rev Jason Tan
is currently a pastor at Zion Full Gospel Church. He has a vision to see a generation of radical, passionate believers of Jesus Christ fulfilling the Great Commission by loving God wholeheartedly, loving people genuinely, fervent prayer and strong discipleship. Married to Sally for 14 years, they have a daughter, named Melody. Prior to his appointment in Singapore, he was the Youth Pastor of New Life City Church, Perth in Western Australia.

Celebrating a Decade of God's Faithfulness

Zion Full Gospel Church's Royal Rangers celebrated 10 years of God's faithfulness.

By Commander Ivin Yeo, Royal Rangers Outpost 21 (Zion Full Gospel Church)

For many individuals, we commonly speak of 'a decade' in our everyday conversations as a really long period of time. Yet, paradoxically, when we reflect on the numerous milestones and events that had occurred within a span of 10 years, we would often come to realize how quickly time has slipped by. It was this very same sentiment that resonated with me during the 10th anniversary celebration of Royal Rangers (RR) Outpost 21.

On July 8, 2018, the commanders and rangers of Outpost 21 came together with the ever-supportive parents and members of Zion Full Gospel Church (ZFGC) to celebrate the momentous event through a thanksgiving service. This particular service, as compared to other regular services, was mostly managed by the rangers—from serving as ushers, to being involved in worship, and even to taking up the role of emcee. Through their active involvement, one can clearly see the growth of every ranger who has been with the program in ZFGC.

A heartwarming video featuring the reflections of commanders and rangers, both past and present, was also displayed. Skillfully put together by the church's newly established media ministry, the video showcased a selection of fond memories and unforgettable moments of the outpost, commanders,



Coming together for a group picture

rangers and their parents. God's faithfulness was evident through the testimonies of people who had experienced God's goodness through the ministry, including children as young as five years old!

The video was followed by two exciting performances from Ranger Kids (5 to 7 years old) and Discovery Rangers (8 to 10 years old). While the Ranger Kids exhibited their dancing skills, the Discovery Rangers staged a skit on Daniel and the Lions. Seeing those, who were previously shy with low self-esteem, stepping up to perform in front of the larger church body is a testament to the transformative work of God through the ministry.

Rev Eu Yat Wan, one of the pioneering members of RR in Singapore, shared a short but important message for the service. The message was predicated on the Ranger's Motto, "READY", and worked through the four Gold Points and the Golden Rule underpinning the Rangers program. Many amongst

the congregation felt ministered by Rev Eu's message.

The thanksgiving service ended with an award ceremony to acknowledge rangers of their involvement over the past few months. We also took the time to honor all past and present rangers, their parents, commanders, and helpers who were part of the RR ministry in the last ten years.

"It was a heartwarming scene for me as I take a look around and see how the outpost has grown; seeing former rangers now serving as commanders, and parents serving as commanders with their kids attending," recounts Jaime Teo, the Senior Commander of Outpost 21.

Today, RR in ZFGC is part of a wider network to reach, teach, and keep boys and girls for Christ. It is our prayer that Outpost 21 will continue to stay relevant, and that we will gain strength and insight into where the Lord is leading us next. May our next 10 years be better than the last!



Rangers coming together for the pledge



Discovery Rangers presenting a skit on Daniel and the Lions



Putting great effort in their performance

Impressions from an Israel Tour

An unforgettable Israel tour with great insights into geography, archeology and Scripture.

By Elder Titus Tan, Hougang Assembly of God

This year, Israel celebrates her 70th Independence Day. Eight of us from Hougang Assembly of God (AG) embarked on our long-awaited maiden tour of the Holy Land.

Our first stop on our land tour was Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast. It was a seaport built by Herod the Great to rival Sidon and Tyre to the north. This was the very place that Paul stood trial before Felix, and then Festus and Agrippa, before being sent to Rome.

From the coast, we traveled on to Tel Megiddo, where we viewed the Jezreel Valley. It is now a peaceful fertile plain in hues of green and brown, belying the many battles fought here. Cited on the ancient Via Maris trade route, it was the location of many famous battles. According to the Scriptures, this place will once again witness the apocalyptic battle of Armageddon. How many places on earth can one stand looking back through history and looking forward in Biblical prophecy at the same time?



Tower of David Museum

Our next stop was Nazareth Village—a re-creation of village life in the first century that Jesus probably knew. The synagogue was made out of stone. This brought to mind what the Lord said concerning Himself in Matthew 21:42, *“The stone the builders rejected has become a cornerstone.”*

The next day, we traveled up to Tel Dan. The ruins of the city that the tribe had conquered and built still remain, but the tribe itself had vanished. Not far from Tel Dan is Caesarea Philippi, where we saw the ruins of the cavernous temple dedicated to the half-goat, half-man Greek god Pan. Against this spiritual backdrop, Jesus asked His disciples, in this vicinity, *“Who do you say I am?”* (Matthew 16:15) Eight days later, the transfiguration took place on one of the mountains here.

While the deep waters in the Pan temple had run dry, thankfully, the Baniyas stream had not. Here, standing in the crystal clear headwaters of the Jordan River, our guide read Psalm 42 and Revelation 22:1-6.

From the mountains, we went down to the Sea of Galilee, where we boarded a cruise. Unlike the disciples, we did not experience any storm that day. We then traveled south along the Jordan toward the Dead Sea, visiting two baptismal sites along the way. We even lunched in Jericho, which is in the Palestinian West Bank. We experienced the heat of the Judean desert at Ein Gedi, where David had hid from Saul.



Temple Mount



Capernaum Synagogue

Then finally, we traveled west toward Jerusalem. We found ourselves standing on the Mount of Olives, before us, a panoramic view of the city with the Temple Mount, and below us, the Kidron Valley. It was surreal. In Zechariah 14:4, Zechariah prophesied that the Lord will return and His feet will stand on the very place we were standing on.

For us, the experience stepping into Jerusalem definitely transcended culture. We were in the heart of the nation, the people and the land that we pray for at every Saturday Prayer Meeting. At the Western Wall, we recited the same Scriptures we do every Saturday—Psalm 122:6, Psalm 25:22, Psalm 130:8, Ezra 3:11b, Zechariah 3:9c, Romans 11:26, Isaiah 62:1, Isaiah 62:6-7, Isaiah 27:6, Malachi 1:5.

Our tour ended with a visit to two museums. At Yad Vashem (Holocaust Museum), we were reminded of the persecution of the Jews by Christians from the time of Augustine. In contrast, we were welcomed at the Friends of Zion museum with a video of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declaring, *“I don’t believe that the Jewish State and Modern Zionism would have been possible without Christian Zionism.”*

Overall, the trip had brought the Scriptures to life, and had left a deep impression in each of us. Moreover, it allowed us the opportunity to bless and honor the first custodians of the Scriptures, the writers of the New Testament (except one) and the first evangelists. What a privilege!



Mediterranean coast at Netanya



Reading the Scriptures at the Jordan River headwaters

Not Your Typical Tea Party!

An afternoon tea party that made a difference.

By Bryan Tan, Bethel Assembly of God

Wikipedia says that a “tea party” is a “formal, ritualized gathering that uses prestigious utensils such as porcelain, bone china or silver.” Looking at the paper plates that were used to serve the food and the amount of fun we had, I would hardly use those boring words to describe the Community Tea Party co-hosted by Bethel Assembly of God (AG) and Bethel Community Services (BCS)!

The Community Tea Party was organized to reach out to the residents of Circuit Road and was held in a very humble pavilion. It served as an extension to Bethel AG’s Prayer Walk where members of the church would go to the community nearby monthly and connect with the people there. Our church members invited the residents they had been connecting with to the party.

A delicious spread of food ranging from cakes, Popiahs, fried rice, noodles, curry and even traditional desserts such as Muah Chee were served to the residents. After eating, the residents were engaged in two very exciting games. The first game was a scavenger hunt, where residents were tasked to gather five items in the shortest time possible. The second game was one where residents had to guess the titles of the songs played. All these songs were old favorites, so it was no surprise that this game was well-received by the elderly residents. Kudos to BCS who organized the games and the two emcees, Ps Moses Pi and Jazlyn Chew Hui for actively engaging the audience.

At the end, each resident was given a goodie bag and a prayer of blessing from Rev Chia Beng Hock. All who came left with big smiles on their faces. Personally, it was a beautiful sight seeing members from the Youth Region, Chinese Region and English Region coming together to help contribute to the success of this tea party.

Every one had a part to play, from packing the goodie bags to serving the food and entertaining the guests. All of us served with a sincere heart.



Ps Moses Pi welcoming the guests

This sincerity was certainly felt by the guests and many were grateful to be invited. A resident named Manjeet was very impressed by the party and said that he was so blessed by Bethel’s friendship and its services. He even suggested that we should do something similar for Christmas.

Indeed, we should continue to bless our community because we are Christ’s body. We are His hands and feet and His vessels of love to the people around us. We thank God for the great success of this event and pray that God will continue to do His work in the community around our church. Let us continue to serve our community and pray for God to touch His people!



Our emcees leading in games



Prize presentation



Our guests enjoying the mouth-watering food

Risen Christian Assembly

The birthing
of a new church
to reach the many
who have yet to
know Christ.

By Lam Poh Ling, Risen Christian Assembly



Ps Sabrina preaching at RCA's Inaugural Service

In 2016, the Senior Pastor of Trinity Christian Centre, Rev Dominic Yeo shared with the pastoral team his God-given vision to plant five local churches in what is known in Trinity today as the “Decade of Expansion”.

Ps Sabrina Chow, who had entered full-time ministry in 1999 and had been with Trinity for almost 20 years, was convicted to step out in faith to lead the first church planting mission. As

Ps Sabrina sought the Lord, God revealed to her that despite Singapore having some 750 churches, there is a need to plant more churches to reach the many who do not know our Lord Jesus Christ. With the blessings of Trinity's Senior Pastor and its leadership team, Risen Christian Assembly (RCA) was officially registered on July 9, 2018. The church started with a pastoral team of five and 80 in the congregation.

How the vision and values came about for Risen Christian Assembly

Through her earnest prayers in seeking God for a corporate vision for RCA, the Lord impressed upon her heart a “God atmosphere church” where people hunger for the presence of God, passionately reach out to the lost, work to establish missions endeavors all over the world and equip God's people to be strong leaders. These strong leaders are called to do the work of the ministry and disciple the next generation of leaders.

Through this, the GEMS vision for RCA was formed. GEMS stands for:

- God Atmosphere
- Evangelistic Heart
- Missions Minded
- Strong Leaders

RCA would be a church filled with people whose lives are transformed by the love of God. They would be authentic believers who love and follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly, unlocking the abundant life that He promised by sowing generously into Kingdom ministry, as well as caring unreservedly for people. This gave rise to the core values—Authentic, Generous and Caring.

The first service

The first Sunday service was held on August 5, 2018. That morning, the Sanctuary Hall was packed with 250 people. The inaugural service was graced by Trinity's Senior Pastor, Rev Dominic Yeo and Apostle Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy among many other familiar church leaders and first-time visitors. The presence of God was felt strongly as the worship team and choir led the congregation in praise and worship. Even before the inaugural service, written testimonies already filled the RCA notice board professing God's goodness and miraculous powers.

At the pulpit, Ps Sabrina preached a sermon aptly titled, ‘A New Season for a New Day’. She stressed that both the good and the bad experiences could hold one back from doing new things. There is a need to change one's mindset, a principle that is akin to new wine needing new, stretchable wineskins. She added that it is critical to envision new things in order for them to happen and step out in faith to believe that the new thing will come to pass. The service concluded with an altar call for different groups of people in need.

But that was not all. After the service, the congregation adjourned to a feast of home-cooked dishes prepared by Risenites and many mingled at the “Food & Fellowship” session, which will become a weekly affair after Sunday church service. To mark the occasion, everyone was also presented with a special RCA Inaugural Service souvenir mug.

RCA holds its Sunday services at 103 Lavender Street from 10am to 11.30am. Food & Fellowship takes place from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Learn more about RCA through their website at www.risen.sg.



Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy and Rev Dominic Yeo were invited to pray and encourage the congregation at the Inaugural Service



Ps Peter Leong, Zone Pastor at RCA and his committee that planned and organized the Inaugural Service

Zenith—The Time is Now!

Elim Church,
the first and oldest
Assembly of God
church in Singapore,
turns 90 this year.

By Douglas Cho, Elim Church



The entire church came together to celebrate our 90th Anniversary

We give thanks to God our Heavenly Father for His faithfulness since 1928. Our pioneer members' steps of faith, sacrifices and dedication had enabled Elim to reach this milestone.

The early years saw the emergence of foreign missionaries like Cecil Jackson, Lawrence McKinney, and Lula Baird arriving here in Singapore. This laid the foundations of Elim's presence on our island.

The church was named, "Elim" by Ps Lawrence McKinney when it was re-located to its current premises at 1079 Serangoon Road. There was an abundance of coconut and fruit trees in the vicinity. This reminded him of Exodus 15:27 where Moses found rest at Elim, an oasis with 12 springs and 70 palm trees.

Indeed, Elim had been a place of refreshing and rest for many pilgrims that have sojourned through its sanctuary.

Elim could not be where it is without the many saints who dedicated their lives serving God in our church. They weathered the storms of life and held steadfastly to the calling of Christ even through World War II. These founding missionaries braved the early years of hardship and ignited the Assemblies of God's (AG) presence in Singapore.

Our current pastor, Rev Glen Lim is also a living testimony of God's faithfulness. Saved during the Billy Graham's crusade in Singapore in 1978, he then came to Elim Church. He served under the mentorship of the Seawards before he took over the Senior Pastor position in 2006.

With such a rich heritage behind us, we celebrated our 90th anniversary with great joy on September 1, 2018 at Fairmont Hotel with 700 church members and guests. Our Guests-of-Honor were Rev Simon Ang, Assistant General Superintendent (AG), Rev Irvin Rutherford, Guest Speaker, and former Senior Pastors, Rev Rita Abeysekera, Rev and Mrs Cresmerio Fernandez, Rev Dr Fred and Margaret Seaward.



90th anniversary logo

The theme of the anniversary celebration, 'Zenith—The Time is Now' challenged us to reach for our next phase—our centennial celebration. We believed and declared that with the Holy Spirit's empowerment and Christ at the center, Elim would grow from grace to grace, and from greatness to grandeur.

Over the 90 years, two prominent mottos had stayed with us: "Holiness unto the Lord" and "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit". Indeed the Pentecostal heritage of depending on the Holy Spirit had been the empowering force that bore fruit and kept Elim alive to impact Singapore and the regions beyond.

Many had traveled through the corridors of Elim, some a short duration, while others had steadfastly stood the test of time as faithful Elimites.

Our past had determined our present! Our present will surely determine our future. As we had benefited from the past, we shall endeavor, by God's grace, to continue to build and enlarge God's Kingdom through Elim Church. May we build a legacy for the future generations to carry out God's plans until the Lord's return! We should heed Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV) to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord", so that we are not easily distracted by the wiles of the evil one.

May the Holy Spirit be the empowerment and the Word of God be the guiding force of Elim Church as she moves to the next significant milestone of her 100th Anniversary.



Our Senior Pastor, current staff and pastors



Our youths, who represent the next generation, gathered after the celebration lunch

A New Generation Rising

The People's Church celebrated our 10th anniversary with a call to raise up the next generation.

By Nigel Lian, The People's Church



Rev Patrick Cheong addressing the congregation

The People's Church first started out in 1998 as a tiny bomb shelter outreach that was planted at Hougang Avenue 10. The outreach soon matured and in 2008, the church went on to be autonomous and independent under the Assemblies of God of Singapore. Now in 2018, the church celebrates its 10th anniversary on August 4. The reason that the church has come so far is definitely God's goodness and faithfulness toward us.

Over the past 10 years, the church went through innumerable storms, yet it is through these very storms that members of the church body actually forged resilient bonds with one another. Corporate prayer, joyous fellowship and love have all contributed to this bond. Generations of youths have emerged in those years—young boys and girls have grown into fine young men and women. Now, it is time for these youths to arise and carry the church forward.

2 Kings 2:9 (KJV) says, "And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, 'Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee.' And Elisha said, 'I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.'"

In the Bible, it is written that Elisha requested for a double portion of Elijah's spirit on him. Elisha was considered to be Elijah's successor. In the modern context of the Church, this can be referred to the "next generation" or the youth of the church. Rev Patrick Cheong, our Senior Pastor, had sought out this guiding vision when he first started the church's leadership revitalization process in 2016.

Rev Patrick's preaching reminded our adult congregation that they must be righteous Christians in order to be shining examples for the next generation. They were asked to impart their lessons (from past mistakes) to the next generation. According to Rev Patrick, this meant that every generation would become twice as wise and much tougher than the previous one.

Today, our church places a strong emphasis on leadership revitalization and had appointed two youth mentors in 2017 and six youth leaders in 2018. The church council board had also been renewed with younger board members, with the youngest one being only 23 years old.

This emphasis on the youth was also seen during the church's 10th anniversary celebratory service. The church invited Rev Yang Tuck Yoong, Senior Pastor and Founder of Cornerstone Community Church to be the Guest Speaker for the sermon. During the service, the congregation was treated to a special dance performance based on the song, 'The Hurt & The Healer' by MercyMe. The dance was based on a powerful testimony. It portrayed a struggling Christian youth going through a dreadful storm. However, she knew that she had a solid body of Christ that she could always turn to for help, and that this body would support her spiritually in all situations. A nostalgic video showing our church's humble beginnings was also played during the service.

During Rev Yang's sermon, the Holy Spirit prompted powerfully that the older people in the church were important and not to be forgotten. Rev Yang's preaching encouraged these older people not to "slow down" in their respective ministries, but to believe that the best years had yet to come. He also exhorted the young and old to come together to renew one another—the youth with vigor and the old with wisdom.

The celebrations concluded with our Executive Pastor, Ps Clement Cheong, praying over our youths for God's greater anointing to be upon them and that the fruits of their ministry would far supersede what the previous generations had accomplished. As the evening drew to a close, the congregation then gathered for a sumptuous buffet dinner.

May the youths of The People's Church arise in Jesus's mighty name!



Guest Speaker, Rev Yang Tuck Yoong gracing the pulpit



The congregation and guests going up for an altar call



Some of our youths getting ready to cut the anniversary cake

Scan these QR Codes to



Watch dance performance video



Watch the video of the testimony behind the dance

NDFI's Filipino Congregation Celebrates 8th Anniversary

Our Filipino congregation celebrated eight years of God's goodness in ministry.

By Andrea Bianca S Francisco,
New Destiny Fellowship International

On July 22, 2018, New Destiny Fellowship International-Filipino Congregation (NDFI-FC) celebrated eight years of God's goodness with the theme from Joshua 1:9, *'Be Strong & Courageous—Responding to God's Call'*.

Our Guest Speaker Ps Dian Botha from Cornerstone Community Church delivered an impactful message about how we, as followers of Christ, can be strong and courageous. He also spoke about the importance of being available and faithful in our journey with Christ, stressing that we are all given great strength, which comes from Christ alone. This strength must be appropriated in our lives so that we may live a wonderful testimony for Christ and fulfill the Great Commission. Ps Dian's sermon ended with an altar call to pray for congregation members.

The celebration continued with performances brought by our Infinity Youth: a song rendition of *'How He Loves Us'* by Shane and Shane, and a skit about being courageous when facing the daily challenges in life.

The celebration ended with a time of rejoicing over God's faithfulness in our eight years of ministry with Christ.

We were honored to have our key leaders of NDFI, including Founder and Teaching Pastor, Rev David Chee, Senior Pastor, Ps Jireh and Associate Pastor, Ps Gloria grace the occasion.

We continually give all the praise, glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ and we thank Him for a wonderful and blessed eight years for NDFI-FC. Indeed, we will continue to be strong and courageous in carrying out God's call and destiny in our lives!

Visit NDFI-FC

NDFI-FC has Worship Services at Concorde 3, Concorde Hotel, Orchard Road, at 2pm every Sunday. For more information on NDFI, visit www.ndfi-church.org.



Our Filipino congregation gathering for a group photo



Our leadership and Guest Speaker, Ps Dian Botha (center), posing for a picture together



Leading our people into worship



Performance by our Infinity Youth

**OUR
LANGUAGE
MINISTRIES**
—Part 1

Our Assemblies of God (AG) churches here in Singapore is home to many strong language ministries, which continue to grow and touch lives where God has planted them. In this three-part series, we take a peek into these ministries, and examine the value they have been bringing to their respective communities locally.

Ministering to the Nations Here on Our Shores

Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Ministry

Headed now by Rev Raymond Seet and his wife, Ps Erna, Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Language Ministry has about 45 regular members.

It started out being a Peranakan Ministry by Sis Neighbour but transited into an Indonesian Ministry at the beginning of 1992. Many Indonesians, both professional and domestic helpers who were working in Singapore came to attend. There is also a group of Malaysians attending and serving in this ministry.

They gather every Sunday for worship service. Congregation members also participate in Bible study and prayer groups. They have also started, in partnership with Malang Bible School, a diploma program to equip members with Bible knowledge for ministry work.

During special occasions like Christmas and Easter, evangelistic events like movie outreaches are organized for members to reach out to pre-believers and their unchurched friends. They also cook quite often and invite their friends either to church or somebody's home, where they can meet other friends and fellowship over a meal.

Over the years, Rev Raymond and his team have become key bridges between domestic helpers and their employers. They help in language interpretation as well as counseling when issues arise within the employer-employee relationship. Through such work, the lives of employers and their helpers were touched. Some of them were even connected to the church through such ministry.

Rev Raymond, Sis Erna and their team believe that the people God has transformed through this ministry will become future ministers for the Lord wherever they go. As they leave for other parts of the world, may they use the training and discipleship that they received in this ministry for God's Kingdom purposes. May they also carry the missional heart of God with them to reach out to others in the future.

Testimony by Sumarmi

Having to face my family and financial problems alone, it was too much for me to bear and I decided to escape to Singapore to become a domestic helper. That was 10 years ago. Little did I realize that more problems were coming my way, I was facing transitional and integration problems into Singapore then. These left me depressed.

My employer brought me to Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Service. I enjoyed the worship and the fellowship. After a few weeks, I decided to seek God to see if Christianity was for me. God sent me a vision of Him holding my hands. Without a shadow of doubt, I gave my life to Jesus.

My problems did not disappear, but now I have the courage and wisdom of God to handle them. The prayers, encouragement and the fellowship from this ministry and the leadership have strengthened me to be an overcomer in Christ.

Visit Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Ministry

Address: 165 Upper East Coast Road, Singapore 455266

Worship Service: Sun, 2.30pm

Bible Study and Prayer Group: Sun, 1pm

Contact: Rev Raymond Seet at 6445 5566



Sumarmi (fourth from left) with her churchmates



Spreading some love to our friends with our gifts



Reaching others with delicious delights



Serving together as a ministry



Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Ministry

The Living Word Fellowship

The Living Word Fellowship (TLWF) is the first Filipino congregation to be registered as a sovereign church here in Singapore. Currently, we have 500 youths and adults, as well as 50 children in our congregation.

In 1989, TLWF started with 10 Filipino ladies attending Church of Praise. One of the pastors noticed these ladies and decided to hold a Bible study with them. After a few months, the group grew to 50 attendees. At that point, Church of Praise decided to hire a Filipino pastor to take care of what is to become their Filipino Ministry. After eight years, the church grew to be quite sizable, so Church of Praise encouraged the leadership of the Filipino Ministry to register as a sovereign church. In 1997, with the blessing of Church of Praise, TLWF registered with the Registry of Societies as a sovereign church and got affiliated with the AG of Singapore.

To reach our target audience here, TLWF focuses on evangelism and discipleship. Every Sunday, a team goes to the various places where Filipinos hangout to reach out to Filipinos residing here. Each soul won to Christ is then invited to join our church services and is nurtured

through the process of attending an Encounter Retreat, joining a cell group and attending the School of Leaders. We also hold several activities during the year like church camps, fun runs, and Christmas events, where we invite pre-believers to join us for fun, fellowship as well as to learn more about Jesus.

May our Father continue to empower us to reach out and care for even more people through our church!



Testimony by Emily Martinez

When I came to Singapore in August 2008, my life was full of sin, guilt, and anguish. I didn't know Jesus then as my Lord and Savior. One month after that, God led me to TLWF. After two months of attending worship services here, I received Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. What followed

was an amazing journey of spiritual growth and personal transformation. Through this church family, who loved me unconditionally and nurtured me patiently, God changed me from being a sinful, guilty and anguished person to becoming a forgiven, healed and beloved child of God.

Visit The Living Word Fellowship

Address: 37 Jalan Pemimpin #05-08, MAPEX
Singapore 577177

Worship Services:

Sat, 7.30pm (Tagalog-English)
Sun, 9.30am (Tagalog-English), 12nn (English)

Other Weekly Ministries:

Young Adults Fellowship: Every 1st and 3rd Wed, 7.30pm
Youth Ablaze Fellowship: Every 1st and 3rd Sat, 2pm
Prayer and Praise Night: Fri, 7.30pm
CARE Groups: Fri and Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 11.30am and 2pm

Contact: Ps Reuel T. Ramos at 6338 5538



Worshipping together as a church



Our youths get ready for a time of empowering



Our vibrant children's ministry



A group picture after the 2018 Family Day event

OUR
LANGUAGE
MINISTRIES
—Part 1

Hosanna AG's Tamil Ministry

Having begun with a small group of locals and foreign workers, Rev Vanimogan and his wife, Rev Kalarani pioneered Hosanna Assembly of God (AG). Currently, the church has about 100 committed believers. Over the years, several hundred foreign workers have been touched and transformed through the course of this ministry. Many of them have since returned to their hometowns to be the Salt and Light, believing that God has placed them there for a reason.

This ministry began from a God-given burden for troubled hearts in Rev Vanimogan. Once, when he was out, he noticed two Indian foreign workers who seemed anxious. He felt led by the Spirit to reach out to them with words of encouragement and a simple prayer. He then invited them to church and they accepted the invitation. At that very service, they were moved by God's love and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Subsequently, they reached out to those who were facing similar situations. The Spirit of the Lord met them at their point of need, and many got baptized.

Ever since then, the cycle of transformation has continued. Through the lives of these men, their wives, children and relatives also gave their lives to Jesus having witnessed their transformation in Christ. Their wives bore witness to how their once drunkard husbands started sending money back home and speaking lovingly during phone conversations. Their parents were astonished to hear their previously wayward sons apologizing for their misconduct.

Irresponsible fathers began expressing concern over the welfare of their children, causing them to want to offer their lives to Jesus as well. Some family members could not believe the amazing change that their husband, son or brother was displaying and personally paid a visit to Hosanna AG to validate their disbelief. Instead of confirming their suspicions, they ended up leaving with a hunger for Christ after experiencing the vibrant worship and the power of God's Word. As a result, many family members returned to India wanting to join a church. Rev Vanimogan personally

connected each family with the local AG churches in India, and many became church members there.

Over the years, many foreign workers who worship at Hosanna AG have shared with us their struggles of being abused physically or psychologically at work, and also being cheated of their promised wage. Though bound by these daunting conditions, these worshippers have only grown stronger in Christ. Every week, they leave the service renewed and refreshed. Many stay on after service and gather for fellowship. They seize every opportunity to meet on their own to pray and sustain one another in the Lord. These gatherings have equipped them with the Word and empowered them to live as victorious overcomers.

We thank God for the hundreds of lives that He has touched through this ministry, and look forward to where God will lead us next!



Testimony by Joseph

For 13 years, I was plagued with a condition called Anosmia—loss of the sense of smell. It was a torture for me. I could not taste my food or smell anything at all. Given my work scope, it could get dangerous because I would not know if there was a gas leak or any toxic odor in the vicinity.

Once, my car's battery was burning and I could not smell it. My family members had to stop me from driving completely, as they did not want me to take any risks. Despite medical advancements, the doctors could not help me. I was so disappointed. I came to Singapore to work and was introduced to Hosanna AG. I'm glad that I decided to visit the church service. When Rev Vanimogan asked if anyone was in need of healing, I felt a sense of peace so strong that I thought it was worth a shot asking God to heal me of Anosmia. The immense presence of God filled the place. It was a new sensation for me. I did not know what it was then, but now I know that it was the anointing of God. I was healed that very day! Now, my sense of smell is rather acute. Praise be to God!

Visit Hosanna AG's Tamil Ministry

Address: 76 Playfair Road, #02-01, LHK 2 Building, Singapore 367996

Worship Services: Sun, 7pm

Other Weekly Ministries:

Fellowship: Mon (Different locations)

Intercessory Prayer Groups: Tue, 7.30pm

Cell Groups: Wed (Nine locations)

Prayer Meeting: Thu, 7.30pm

Evangelism Day: Fri (Different locations)

Men's Service: Sat, 8.30pm (Teen Challenge Chapel 735 Old Choa Chu Kang Road, Singapore 699798)

Contact: Rev Vanimogan at 9741-3195



Cell groups meet regularly on Wednesdays to discuss God's Word



A cell group gathers to worship God and bring the light of the Gospel wherever they go



Coming together for Sunday worship service



Service in Teen Challenge

Trinity Christian Centre’s Language Ministries Water Baptisms—A Celebration

In some cultures, the decision to go through water baptism is not taken lightly. A declaration of commitment to Christ, it can mean severing ties with families and communities. Yet, members of our four language ministries developed the strength and conviction to go through the waters in the second quarter of this year. Be inspired by these stories of life transformation.

282 people (including 15 first-time visitors) heard 15 incredible testimonies at the **Chinese Ministry’s** water baptism ceremony on June 3. One first-time visitor shared how she was touched by the authenticity and transforming power of a relationship with God.



“When I was eight, I followed my grandmother to church and got to know the Lord. As I grew up, I relied on my own wisdom and left God.

Last year, I was invited by my neighbor to Trinity and it was here that I re-dedicated my life to the Lord. Even though my problems have not gone away, I now have peace and joy in my heart to face the challenges in my life. I have just completed both Spiritual Parenting classes because I want to be used by God to be a blessing to others, just as my neighbor was a blessing to me.”
– **Kelly Chan**

On the afternoon of May 27, 250 people (including 10 first-time visitors) attended the water baptism of 11 members of the **Filipino Ministry**. During the service, Ps Michelle Dolendo and Sis Christine Villaroman shared about the forgiving and transforming love of God. We praise God that five people gave their lives to Jesus at this event!



“Before Jesus, my life was a mess. I was in and out of relationships and made many bad decisions. That started to change when I came to Trinity. I started with the Life Skills Courses in 2014. Over time, I started attending carecell and was nurtured by my Spiritual Parents. Through the Filipino Ministry, I started to feel God’s unconditional love for me. He has changed my life. I now move forward toward His destiny for me. I want to continue following and serving Jesus!”
– **Jeneffer Ganancial**

11 members of the **Indonesian Ministry** testified of the Lord’s work in their lives before being baptized on April 1 and May 6. There were 14 first-time visitors, including employers and other pre-believers invited by the baptism candidates. We are grateful for the opportunity to lead nine people to make decisions for Jesus through this two-part celebration.



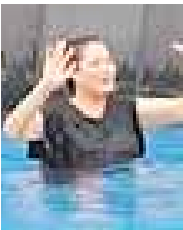
“Before I became a Christian, my life was full of bitterness. Because of my sins, I felt worthless. Then, a friend, Cristin, invited me to attend the Indonesian Ministry. That’s when God began to change my life.

In a sermon, Ps Steven Tay took out a \$50 note, threw it on the ground, and stepped on it. Through that, God revealed that the unchanged value of the note was the same as my life. I remain precious in the eyes of God no matter what has happened in my past. After I received Jesus into my heart, I was set free from my bitterness and condemnation. I was able to release forgiveness to those who hurt me.

Today, I know that I am loved by God and am precious to Him. I have a passion for knowing God and for building a deeper relationship with Him. I am ready to be used as a tool for His glory!”
– **Veronika Linda Malo**

On Pentecost Sunday (May 20), Ps Kim Chong Pae led four members of the **Thai Ministry** to follow Christ by going into the waters of baptism. God held the rain back so that all 49 attendees (including three first-time visitors) could hear the testimonies of the baptism candidates.

Though the rain came during the lunch fellowship, the event ended with a bright and clear sky, a perfect reminder of the new life and hope we all have in Jesus.



“When I first came to Trinity, I was warmly welcomed by the people and felt their love. I accepted Jesus and started growing through the New Beginnings book. Because of Jesus, I have new life and joy in my heart. I regularly pray and spend time with Him. I have also stopped working on Sunday so that I can come to church and worship him.”
– **Khampew Thontang**

Visit Trinity Christian Centre’s Language Ministries		
	Trinity@Paya Lebar	Trinity@Bukit Batok
Chinese	Sat 5pm, Sun 8.30am and 11am Level 1M, Theatre 2	Sun 9am West Mall, Level 5, Cathay Cinema Hall 3
Filipino	Sun 11am, Level 3, Lecture Theatre 2	
Indonesia	Sun 11am, Level 3, Lecture Theatre 1	
Thai	Sun 11am, Level 4, Classroom 5	
Japanese	Sun 11am, Level 1, Hostel Block, Classroom H1 (2 nd and 3 rd Sunday of the month)	
Spanish	Sun 11am, Level 4, Classroom 7	
Contact: 6468 4444, connect@trinity.sg, www.trinity.sg		

Ranger Kids Day of Play

The Ranger Kids had a fantastic fun day learning and playing together.

By Royal Rangers Singapore

On August 11, 2018, about 100 Ranger Kids (RK) gathered for a terrific time of carnival games, crafts and making new friends! The RKs is the youngest age group (5 to 7 years old) of the Royal Rangers (RR) program.

At the opening ceremony, the RKs were treated to an entertaining skit with a devotional message on the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12) shared by the National RK Coordinator, Cmdr Thomas Sng.

The RKs had a blast playing at the 13 game and craft stations that the commanders and helpers set up. Stations included tea cup race, Nerf wars, ping pong bowling, book balancing relays, face painting, memories photo booth and many more!

“RK day was quite an experience! Firstly, it was very encouraging to see the outposts gathering to serve together for the glory of God. Secondly, it was heartwarming to see the children come together to have so much fun. This made all the time and effort spent preparing for it totally worth it.” Cmdr Tabitha Tsang, Lighthouse Evangelism (Outpost #30)

“Thank you to all the commanders and helpers! My daughter had great fun and is always happy to be at RR activities.” Fion, a parent.



Children and youths aged 5 to 17 are welcome to join in the weekly Royal Rangers meetings at the local church for fun, fellowship and faith-building. Find out more at www.royalrangers.org.sg or email us at info@royalrangers.org.sg.



- 1 Coming together as a ministry to play
- 2-3 Games and activity stations filled the day with fun and excitement
- 4 Songs and dance moves energized the RKs
- 5 The commanders in costume helped to set an atmosphere of fun.

AG Training and Togetherness in Prayer

Holy, holy, holy. I want to see You.

By Peter Lim, Grace Assembly of God

It was electrifying. On September 6, just a normal Thursday, at 10am, Assemblies of God (AG) pastors and ministers from all over Singapore gathered to seek God. It was an ordinary workday, but it was about to be an extraordinary prayer meeting. From there, a cry arose from the leadership of the AG movement to know God and be set apart for Him. This theme resounded throughout the session. I wasn't involved in the preparation of the meeting, but there was an uncanny resonance between the various segments, which I know could not have been the result of mere human planning.

"You are to be holy to me because I, the Lord, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be my own." (Leviticus 20:26) Our Lord is other-worldly and transcendent—holy—and He expects His people to be holy as well. He expects us to be set apart for Him.

The prayer session began with an exhortation from Ephesians 1:18—*"that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened"*. The natural response of the enlightened heart is radical consecration to the Lord who is captivating in beauty. At that moment, the house of God was a house of prayer, each one pouring their hearts out to God, impassioned. Such a consecration was not to remain at the individual level. As we remembered AG Singapore's 90th anniversary, Rev Dominic Yeo rallied everyone in a prayer of consecration for the AG, crying out for "apostolic courage and prophetic vision". With hands joined together and voices lifted toward heaven, there was a palpable sense of spiritual unity and strength. Like a stamp of approval on this anointed body of believers, a word was then released in no uncertain terms: "Live holy lives. Come out from worldliness. Draw near to Me. I'm in the midst of you. Prepare for the day of My coming."

Indeed, He is coming soon and there is no time to waste. Yet, many ministers and leaders get distracted because of a lack of purpose, Rev Naomi Dowdy exhorted. The key is to ask the question from time to time: "What is my purpose at work, in church, and as a pastor?"

Purpose is what we were created for. Without purpose, tons of unrealized potential

lay dormant within us. "Purpose draws potential; potential brings destiny." The power of purpose is the clarity it brings. If Nehemiah did not have purpose, he would have remained in the comforts of the king's palace as a cupbearer. "But Nehemiah had a purpose beyond bringing the king a little food," stressed Rev Naomi. That struck me like a ton of bricks. You see, I was going through a season of discouragement and doubt in my ministry. At that moment, I realized that what I needed was a renewed vision and purpose from God, because these have been clouded by the daily demands of ministry. I sensed that I was not the only one who felt that way.

To bring home the message of consecration and dedication, Rev Naomi reminded us that AG missionaries came to Singapore 90 years ago when Singapore was still struggling as a nation. Why did they come? Why did they give their lives and pay the heavy price to start this work? They walked, rode bicycles, and rode motorbikes to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They endured Malaria and other diseases. There were no luxurious hotels and air-conditioning. It was "no easy Christianity". Yet it was the seed of purpose planted in their hearts that drove them in the natural to achieve the supernatural.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, to see You high and lifted up.

Eyes were indeed opened. Hearts were undone. No further cajoling was necessary. When the altars were opened, the sacrifices poured out before the Lord—living sacrifices. Young and old, seasoned and raw, men and women, all surrendered to Him. Rev Naomi's final words during the session still ring in my mind: "It's time to be dissatisfied with status quo, with (mindless) routines, with (aimless) schedules. What are we consecrating ourselves to?"

Perhaps you are reading this on a normal day, at an ordinary time in the morning. Perhaps you had to settle some chores or run an errand. Yet, extraordinary transactions can take place in the most ordinary moments. Now can be that moment. What are you consecrating yourself to?



- 1 Leading us deeper into worship
- 2 Rev Naomi ministering to our leaders at the altar
- 3 Praying together in unity
- 4 Hearing from our Guest Speaker, Rev Naomi

JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY A GROUP OF AG CHURCHES

ONE

For GOD
& OUR
Generation



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MAVIS WONG**
YOUTH PASTOR OF
BETHEL ASSEMBLY
OF GOD



**REV.
DOMINIC YEO**
SENIOR PASTOR OF
TRINITY CHRISTIAN
CENTRE



**REV ONG
SEK LEANG**
SENIOR PASTOR OF
METRO TABERNACLE
KL, MALAYSIA



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