



## Royal Rangers — Reaching Lives Through Missions

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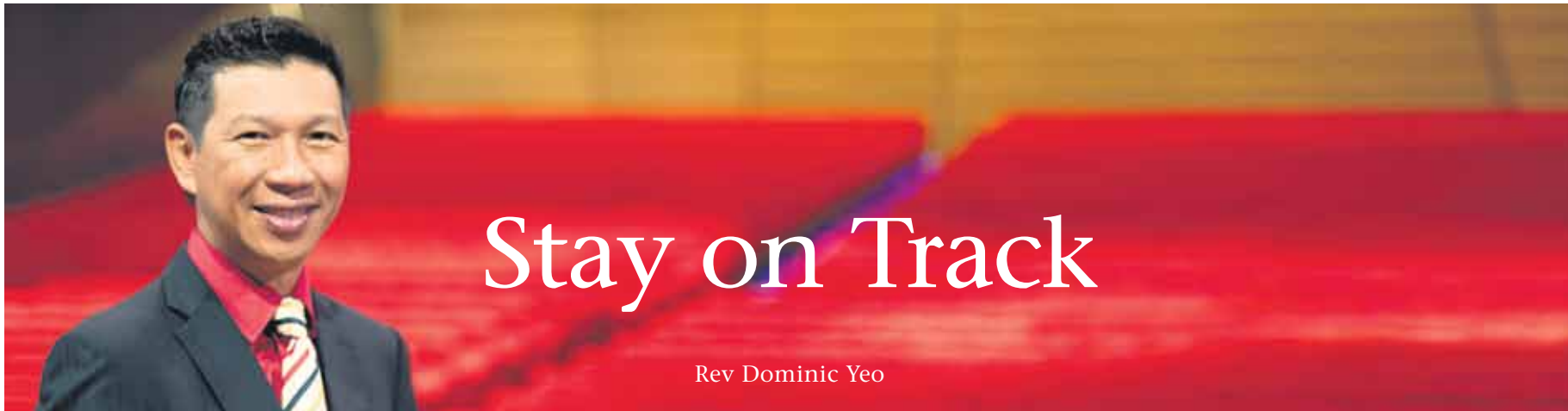
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# Stay on Track

Rev Dominic Yeo

Usually when I travel for ministry, my staff would ensure that I'm checked into a hotel with a gym so that I can keep myself physically fit amidst my schedule. Inspired by my wife who has embarked on a regular walking regime, I decided to hit the treadmill while on one of my trips. After all, if my wife is walking, I'd better be running.

That evening at the gym, there was a lady running on the treadmill next to me. She was pounding fiercely away on the treadmill. Not willing to "lose", I kept increasing the speed and incline of my treadmill to match my "competitor". She was focused on her run, absolutely not distracted by my "insane chase". I, on the other hand, was sprinting, thinking 30 minutes must have gone by, only to realize it was a mere three minutes. Abiding by the wisdom God gave me, I decided to stop my insane competition. And thankfully I did, otherwise I would have been so exhausted and possibly even injured myself before my scheduled ministry, missing out on God's appointed time for me.

In the race of life, how does one stay on track without burning out or dropping out?

## Run the race *marked out* for you

In Hebrews 12:1-2, the Bible tells us to run the race "*marked out for us*". What does this mean for us? It means apart from the universal call of God where we ought to become more like Christ, God has a unique call for each of us to live out!

Not all of us have a pastoral call, but we are all called to do the works of the ministry. Not all of us will stand behind a pulpit to preach, but all of us will preach Christ in and through our vocation. The race that He has *marked out* for us is determined, appointed, made, and prepared by Him alone. What He destines for your fellow co-worker, brother or sister-in-Christ is not the same as yours! God wants you to be the best you!

I think of how King Saul allowed David's first victory in killing Goliath to be a point of comparison that led to deep anger in 1 Samuel 18:5-9. That deep-seated anger led to greater bitterness and Saul derailing from his own race.

We burn out and drop out when we attempt to run someone else's race. It's important that we do not be a "Saul", desiring someone else's race, popularity or success.

Learn to love and embrace the race that God has set, prepared, and destined for you. When you run the race of life looking at others, you will be embittered by their successes. But when

you run the race of life keeping your eyes on Jesus, you will be empowered by Him.

## Fix your eyes on Jesus

As we run our race, it's tempting to look to our right and to our left—to see how others are running theirs. It's also tempting to look at the circumstances and challenges in our race and allow our rational mind to consider an easier alternative route.

But Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep on "*fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith*". It's hard to run in a straight line when you are looking in a different direction. When we divert our eyes away from what's in front of us, we become distracted, run in derailment and disqualify ourselves from our race.

Distractions come in all forms—people as well as circumstances. In 1 Samuel 18:6-7, the women came out with singing and dancing to meet King Saul and celebrate the nation's victory. But Saul's jealous eye on David's victory and perceived greater popularity caused him to forget he was king (which was his rightful race). As king, David's victory for Israel meant that it was also Saul's victory as king over Israel! But that's what taking our eyes off Jesus results in! It causes us to have skewed perspectives.

A perspective devoid of faith and God will cause us to be derailed and drop out of our race. When we take our eyes off Jesus, who is the author and perfecter of our faith, our minds will easily be filled with fleshly comparisons, frustration and rage: "*Why am I working so hard only to have someone else promoted? Why am I sacrificing so much only to gain so little?*"

That's why Hebrews 12:2 exhorts us to *fix our eyes on Jesus*—to look away from all else and focus on Him. Another way to describe it is to look longingly at Him. Though things may be happening to our left and to our right, keeping our eyes on Jesus give us the strength and attraction that we need to keep moving forward toward Him.

As we reach the halfway point of the year, let's continue to run the race that God has marked out for us. Focus our eyes on Jesus, and forge forward with all tenacity to reach the finish line. Be the best version of you that God has always intended for you to be. Stay on the track that God has assigned for you and you will see the blessings of His grace, protection and provision.

On *His mark*, fix your eyes on Jesus, and *run!*

## 专注奔跑

通常当我为着事工而出国时，我的同工会确保我入住的酒店有健身房，好让我能在百忙中挤出时间保持身体健康。师母开始了定时的步行锻炼，这也激发了我。在一次出国服侍的期间，我决定踏上跑步机。如果我的妻子能锻炼行走，那我必须不甘示弱地跑步才行。

那晚在健身房中有一位女士在使用我旁边的跑步机。她跑得很卖力。我不愿意“输”给她，就一直增加跑步机的速度和倾斜度和“对手”较量。然而她很专注地跑，完全不因为我“疯狂追逐”而分心。我则是慢跑。当我认为已经跑了30分钟时，发现原来只跑了3分钟。我决定听从上帝所赐的智慧，停止我的疯狂比赛。感谢主，我做了这个选择，否则我会太劳累，甚至受伤，无法完成行程表上的事工安排，错过神在我生命中所预定的时间。

在人命的赛程中，我们能如何专注奔跑，不倦怠或放弃？

## 跑那摆在我们前面的赛程

在希伯来书12:1-2，圣经告诉我们要跑那“摆在我们前面”的赛程。这意味着什么？这意味着我们除了要活出神给我们的普遍性呼召——就是更像基督，神也要我们每个人活出祂给我们的独特呼召！

不是每个人都有教牧的呼召，但是我们每个人都被呼召做教牧的事工。不是每个人都会站在讲台上讲道，但是我们每个人都要透过我们的职业传讲耶稣。神摆在我们面前的赛程是祂为你我指定、确立和打造的。祂为你的同工或主内的弟兄姐妹预定的道路和你的并不相同！神要你成为最佳的你！

我想起扫罗王如何拿大卫对战歌利亚的胜利来作比较，导致他对大卫心怀愤怒（撒母耳记上18:5-9）。这深根的愤怒带来更大的苦毒，最终使扫罗在自己的赛程中脱轨了。

当我们企图奔跑别人的赛程时，我们会倦怠和放弃。我们要牢记，不要像扫罗一样，渴慕别人的赛程、想得到别人的人气或成功。

我们要学习欣然接受并喜爱神为自己准备和预定的赛程。当你边奔跑生命的道路，边注视他人时，你就会怨恨他们的成功。当你边奔跑生命的道路，边注视耶稣时，你就会从耶稣那里得着能力。

*Continued on pg 3...*

# Leading the Spiritual Family

*As a minister for over 50 years, Rev Alfred Ang shares some principles that will help guide us in leading our spiritual families.*

Many times, as a spiritual leader or parent, we face certain expectations pinned on us, realistic and unrealistic, by the spiritual families we lead. Sometimes, we ask ourselves:

- Have I done enough?
- Did I meet their expectations?
- How can I be a better spiritual parent?

It is healthy to conduct regular self-evaluations. However, I find that it is also important to rely on certain fundamental principles as we evaluate our spiritual journeys to ensure that we are on the right track.

The best model for spiritual parenting is Jesus Himself.

There are some fundamental principles we see in our Lord, which must be put in place before we become spiritual parents. The Apostle Paul in Philippians 2:5-11 directs us to have our minds set like Christ Jesus. From this short passage, there are four things that are essential to being a good example of a spiritual parent:

## A) Love

Jesus loved His Heavenly Father. He told His disciples, “... so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me.” (John 14:31) With the love of God, Jesus came to the world to give and not to exploit others.

## B) Humility

Though He is equal with God, Jesus acknowledged that His father is greater than Him. With humility, He came to serve and not to be served. Thus, it was not a problem for Him to put on an apron and carry the basin of water to wash the disciples’ feet.

## C) Respect

Jesus honors His Heavenly Father. His respect for His Father is seen in how He welcomes and accepts others regardless of their status or background.

## D) Obedience

Jesus’ prayer in the Garden Gethsemane, “*Father... not my will, but yours be done,*” (Luke 22:42) is His act of submission to His Father’s authority. He came into the world in obedience to His Father’s purpose to die a humiliating and painful death on the cross for the sins of the world.

Therefore, every leader who serves should abide by these fundamental principles in service. Fame and fortune, power and position can be stumbling blocks to leaders. The above discussed principles keep us in check and make sure we guard our hearts to love God first, be humble at all times, respect all people, and “*submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*” (Ephesians 5:21)

In closing, let us heed Apostle Paul’s admonition, “*Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*” (Ephesians 5:1-2)



**Rev Alfred Ang** served as Assistant General Superintendent for many years and other positions in the Assemblies of God (AG), Singapore. In 1967, he pioneered Herald AG and served as Senior Pastor of Emmanuel AG from 1976 to 2009 before becoming its Pastor Emeritus. He now also oversees the Mandarin and English congregations of Tesalonika AG in Batam and is married to Jenny for 51 years. Together, they have a son, Pastor Jireh, and a daughter Heidi.

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## 注目看耶稣

在赛跑时，我们容易受诱惑往左右看去，看别人跑得怎么样。我们也容易受诱惑去看赛程中的情势和挑战，允许我们理性的脑考虑选择一条更容易的道路。

然而，希伯来书12:2提醒我们要“定睛仰望为我们的信心创始成终的耶稣”。当你不注视前方时，你很难跑直线。当我们的注意力离开眼前所看见的一切，我们的注意力就会分散、就会脱轨，把自己从赛事中淘汰出局。

分散注意力的形式很多，有人有事。撒母耳记上18:6-7记载，妇女们击鼓弹琴、载歌载舞地迎接扫罗王欢庆他凯旋归来。然而，扫罗忌妒的眼睛只看到大卫的胜利和他自以为的强势人气。这使他忘了自己是王（这是他名正言顺的赛程）。其实，大卫为以色列带来的胜利意味着这个胜利也是以色列王扫罗的！可是，当我们不定睛看耶稣，结果就是如此！我们的观点就会有误差。

没有信心和神的观点会使我们脱轨而退出比赛。当我们没有定睛仰望为我们的信心创始成终的耶稣时，我们的脑里会容易被攀比、气馁和愤怒填满。“为什么我工作这么卖力而升职的不是我？为什么我牺牲那么多却只得到这么少的回报？”

这就是为什么希伯来书12:2劝勉我们要定睛仰望耶稣，不看其它的事物，而是单单注视祂。另一种形容方式是以渴慕的心仰望祂。也许我们的左右两旁正有事情发生，但是定睛仰望耶稣，祂就给我们力量和吸引力继续向前，朝祂前进。

这一年已经过去一半，让我们继续奔跑神为我们预定的赛程。让我们注目看耶稣，以坚韧的心勇往直前直达终点。让我们成为神要我们成为的最佳样式。让我们在神预定我们奔跑的道路上不偏左右，使我们看到神的恩典、保守和供应。

各就各位，定睛仰望耶稣，跑！

# Understanding the Needs of Aging Parents

*As we see our parents age, what are some needs we can try to meet?  
Lay Ling shows us how we can better their lives in these practical ways.*

In Exodus 20:12, it says to “Honor your father and your mother”. God has placed great importance on honoring our earthly parents. How do we then love our parents and honor them, in good health and in bad?

Before discussing what children should know in order to meet the common needs of aging parents, I think it’s important that all children first recognize the common barrier we face while honoring our parents—unresolved and unforgiven past hurts. We must all make the conscious effort to mend past hurts, forgiving our parents for their weaknesses and failures toward us. “Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers all wrongs.” (Proverbs 10:12)

The quality of the relationship we’ve built with our parents over the years will become an important asset to our role as a caregiver one day. Due to medical conditions like dementia and other age-related conditions, there can be many “offences” that our parents may commit as they age. These will be borne with love and overlooked, if the relationship is not trapped in unresolved hurts.

Understanding our parents’ needs can help us love and honor them in a tangible way. Here’s a tabulation of the Common Needs of Aging Parents and How to Honor these Needs.

NEEDS	SUGGESTIONS TO HONOR THEIR NEEDS
1. Safety-Security Needs	
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give parents allowance</li><li>• Do not stop the allowance just because they “do not require” it</li></ul>
Health and Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage them to continue with whatever they can still do E.g. cooking, gardening, marketing, laundry, etc.</li><li>• Do not stop them from their roles just because they are getting old and we are worried</li><li>• We can make the task safer by advocating proper footwear (avoid heels), avoiding climbing high or lifting heavy items</li><li>• Promote health and wellness through healthy eating and lifestyle</li><li>• Spend time together in an outing/shopping/exercising. Make it Fun!</li><li>• Be encouraging! Do not nag, threaten or scold. Respect is key</li></ul>
Safety against accidents and injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modify the home such as installing grab bars, safe and sturdy furniture, keep environment uncluttered, have good lighting especially by the bed-side at night as frequent toileting may pre-dispose them to falls due to poor lighting</li></ul>
2. Understanding and Growth	
Need to understand and be understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Give our aging parents time to express themselves, do not cut short their conversations. Understand what they’re experiencing. They may not be asking you for solutions E.g. repeatedly telling you that their body aches, leg is weak etc.</li><li>• If you notice that they repeat themselves often, be patient. Just hear them out again and again, this is honoring them too</li><li>• Avoid sentences such as “you have said this many times” or “I know”, before they have finished their sentences</li><li>• For elders diagnosed with dementia, we can direct them to another topic when they repeat the same question too many times. This should be done in a gentle, loving way</li></ul>

Self-actualization: to reach their full potential physically, psychologically, socially and spiritually.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It’s in all of us to want to reach our maximum potential. We should not think of our parents in a lesser way just because they are slow, frail and unable to do many things</li><li>• Don’t belittle the elders capability. Give them the opportunity to do what they still can do E.g. helping in carrying stuff, asking them for advice, holding a role in church etc.</li><li>• Don’t take over what they can do, just because you think they are too slow</li></ul>
3. Connection and Leisure	Avoid loneliness, depression and anxiety
Need to love and be loved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand our parents’ love language is important. Gifts (no matter how big or small), affirmation (“You are the best cook!”), praises (“You look beautiful in this blouse!”) are some ways to show them love</li><li>• Give them a call to check on how they are will be appreciated because they know you love them</li><li>• Eat together is a basic connecting activity!</li><li>• Have grandchildren, pets or plants for them to fuss over can solve the needs to love</li><li>• Bring them to church to experience the great love of God is one of the gateways to unconditional love</li><li>• Bring them to visit friends/church/relatives even when they can no longer do it themselves. Make it a point to help them feel like they belong to a community</li><li>• The need to feel connected can be met through touch/physical contact. If our parents are bed-bound and disabled, constant hand-holding or massaging can fulfill the need to feel connected and loved</li></ul>
4. Contribution and Creation	Avoid boredom
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allow our parents responsibilities E.g. ensuring letters are picked up from the letterbox, purchasing the newspapers, helping with household chores etc.</li><li>• Allow variety of experiences such as anticipating events that is coming up E.g. wedding, taking a trip, visiting friends etc.</li></ul>
5. Significance and purpose	In the words of King David, that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made”, that you are one-of-a-kind, and that you have a purpose
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not take away their roles as father, husband, mother, wife. Acknowledge and discover their remaining abilities, rather than disabilities, and help them find that purpose in living</li><li>• Consult them because they are wiser than us, with more life experience than us</li><li>• Be interested in the life they have lived</li><li>• Ask them about their life story. Create a legacy account for them</li><li>• Help them recall their achievement, praise them for their contribution</li><li>• Help them be involved in the community and church activities</li></ul>



Ng Lay Ling worships in Moriah Assembly of God and is by profession a physiotherapist, having a Master of Health Administration. She has worked in the eldercare industry for the past 19 years, and had experienced God’s tremendous favor and faithfulness in this journey serving the elders. She is blessed with a wonderful husband and three sons.

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# The New Workplace Romance

Ever heard of someone having a “work spouse”? This is normally a co-worker of the opposite sex with whom one shares a special relationship, and there is typically no physical involvement. Most of the time, either one or both parties are seriously dating someone else or married. As long as both parties remain platonic friends and agree the relationship ends once the work day is over, there is nothing wrong with having a work spouse, is there?

Supporters of this idea claim that there are plenty of benefits to be reaped. If you are feeling low and unmotivated, having a specific someone you feel comfortable with can cheer you up and tide you through a dreary workday. If you are upset about the way your boss is treating you, turning to this special person who understands you more than anyone else gives you an avenue to vent your frustrations and hopefully feel better. The list of supposed advantages goes on.

However, isn't being so attached to someone other than your spouse, unfair to the one you vowed to remain faithful to both physically *and* emotionally? No matter how one tries to justify the situation, there is definite emotional attachment involved.

The Internet is replete with advice on how to set appropriate boundaries with your work spouse so the relationship remains “healthy”. But the line between being exceptionally close friends and having an emotional affair is extremely thin. In her book *‘Not “Just Friends”’*, Dr Shirley Glass says, “Today’s workplace has become the new danger zone of romantic attraction and opportunity.” What started off as a seemingly innocent work spouse relationship can quickly slide into something that threatens the marital relationship and draws real spouses away from each other.

If you are unusually close to a colleague of the opposite gender and wonder if you are bordering on having an emotional affair, here are some questions you can ask yourself:

1. Do your conversations with your co-worker include things that should be kept between you and your spouse?
2. Do you find yourself daydreaming about your co-worker?
3. Have you found yourself withdrawing from your spouse emotionally or physically?
4. Do you look for excuses to see or talk to your co-worker?
5. Do you share thoughts, feelings and problems with your colleague instead of your spouse?
6. Are you convinced that your co-worker understands you better than your spouse?

7. Is there flirting or sexual tension between you and your co-worker?
8. Do you look for “legal” ways to touch your co-worker (brush lint off his jacket, help her with her blazer)?
9. Do you find yourself paying attention to how you look before you see your co-worker?
10. Is there any secrecy about your relationship (how much time you spend together, what you do together, what you talk about)?

If alarm bells are going off in your head about a particular relationship, purpose to do something about it now; it is never too late.

## Positive Friendships, Proper Boundaries

Good intentions are not enough to protect a marriage from the temptations in today’s workplace, to which both men and women fall prey. It is natural to feel an attraction toward someone of the opposite sex, even in happy marriages. But when a man (or woman) neglects his primary responsibility and allows himself to act on an instinctive attraction—even in his thoughts—he has already violated his marriage vows. Healthy marriages must have proper boundaries.

Boundaries should always exist outside the marriage relationship and never inside. One way to make sure that your boundaries are in the right place is to always be accountable to your spouse. Use a shared e-mail address and contact each other throughout the day. Be open with your spouse about work friendships, and even invite work friends to your home for dinner. By maintaining openness inside the marriage and boundaries outside, you will help keep your marriage happy and healthy.

Friends can provide great encouragement and accountability in your marriage. All of your friends should be friends of your marriage, too. No matter what kind of friendships you have, they should always help strengthen your marriage.

Marriage works best when it enters every corner of life. Secrecy and infidelity are impossible when we are completely transparent within our marriage. This transparency not only protects our marriage from harm on the outside, it keeps our marriage happiest on the inside. When couples observe proper boundaries, their marriages are secure, open and comforting. Then, friendships pose no danger, and the temptation to have a work spouse isn’t so alluring anymore.

Get more tips on how to guard your marriage and grow your relationship with your spouse at [www.family.org.sg/subscribe](http://www.family.org.sg/subscribe)



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These categories of needs are interrelated and universal. Whether our parents require more of safety or significance needs will depend on the stage of life they are in. Hence, we do need to interact with them to better understand and estimate their specific needs. Although all of the needs mentioned above are important, I think the most fundamental of all is the need for connection—to love and be loved. Without human connection, love, and belonging, many elderly persons become susceptible to loneliness, social anxiety, stress, and

clinical depression. In severe cases, this will even lead to death.

As we journey into meeting the needs of our aging parents, let’s remember to work at healing past hurts and nurture a loving relationship with our parents. I pray that as we obey God, and honor our parents, we’ll impact our community with God’s truth and love once again.

# Sibling Rivalry: Exert My Rights or Keep the Peace?

*When we have conflicts with our siblings, do we establish our individual rights or do we try to keep the peace in the family by resolving our conflicts amicably? Three groups of siblings from different churches share their thoughts.*

## HOW IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SIBLING/S?

**Corina** I'm the oldest and I'd say my relationship with my siblings has improved over the years. We don't hang out as much, but now set aside time to pray together with our mother once a week. We know we can count on one another when we need support.

**Calvin** I'd describe my relationship with both my siblings as pretty good. We don't argue as much, and there's a lot more of God in our lives compared to 10 years ago. Everyone's pretty busy, so I'm really thankful to be able to have a weekly family prayer with my siblings.

**Samuel** I'm the youngest, followed by my brother and then my sister, I'm fairly close to both of them.

**Eugene** My brother is my best friend, confidante and fellow trouble-maker. He's there for me when I'm broken, and I endeavor to do the same for him. As we have different personalities, there are occasional disputes but he helps illuminate my blind spots in many situations. Family life is often where we can shine best as believers. I find myself tremendously blessed to have a fellow brother-in-Christ (and in blood) who loves and corrects me at home.

**Elvin** My brother is someone who has gone before me and watches over me. He can provide complementary perspectives to guide me when I don't know better and he's someone I can celebrate many joys with.

**Jesslynn** I've a great relationship with my siblings where we have fun together but also give each other space to pursue our dreams and fun with friends.

**Jerilene** Being the second of three children, I have the privilege of enjoying the company of both an older sister and younger brother. We love to have fun with each other whenever we can, even if it's just chilling around at home.

**Jonathan** As the youngest, I enjoy hanging around my sisters. They've always guided and protected me since I was young, offering me help whenever I needed it.

## HOW DO YOU AND YOUR SIBLINGS RESOLVE CONFLICT SITUATIONS WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

**Corina** When we were little, Calvin and I fought all the time over everything. We wouldn't stop till one of us admitted that we were wrong. Though our parents stopped us many times, we really only stopped when we grew older and started attending the same church. As we matured and began understanding each other's point of views, we learned to compromise and solve conflicts by talking things over nicely.

**Calvin** In the past, we'd resolve conflict with fists and harsh words. Sometimes the words exchanged between Corina and me would affect our younger brother. I remember when my brother had accidentally burned himself with hot tea and kept it from us. Later in the night, Corina and I were reprimanded by our mother, apparently my brother had become more afraid of our scoldings than the complications that would arise from his burn. It broke

me and I've been cautious with my words as much as possible when dealing with my siblings since then.

**Samuel** When we were younger, conflicts were "resolved" through shouting or trying to get the other party to back down. I personally don't get into conflicts with my siblings very often. The most recent conflict was when I was cleaning the house and my siblings' stuff were quite messy so I got angry at that. I told them about it and they apologized, so it was okay in the end.

**Eugene** I think the way my brother and I resolve conflicts has matured over the years. When we were younger, I had hit him with a stapler on the ankle to stop him from taking my toys. I'm glad we're way past that point.

**Elvin** When I was younger, in the event of conflict I'd scheme and concoct little plans to get even with my brother. One of the things that kept me accountable would be serving on the worship team together. It's almost impossible to worship together on the same team if there were still unresolved issues between us. Due to that, it helped me to reach out to the Lord to help us reconcile for any conflicts we had.

**Jesslynn** We generally have little disagreements growing up. But when we do, we'll leave it to our parents to settle them. They'll usually explain the situation to us and reveal our faults, making us apologize and forgive each other at the end of it.

**Jerilene** When we were younger, Jess and I would often have "cold wars" after disagreements. It took a while before our relationship would return to "normal". Now that we're older, we've learned to make peace by apologizing for our actions. I remember once after a disagreement with Jess the night before, I woke up to a bottle of tea on my desk, and a post-it note underneath it that said: "Sorry, Jer, for last night!" I was very touched and immediately apologized to Jess too over text message.

**Jonathan** We usually do not have any conflicts, but if we do, we'd wait till things cool down first. Once we've cleared our minds, we'd apologize to one another, and sometimes my sisters would paste post-its on my table, too, to apologize.

## NOW THAT YOU ARE OLDER. EXPLAIN WHAT YOU UNDERSTAND BY 'KEEPING THE PEACE' AND 'EXERTING YOUR RIGHTS' WHEN YOU ARE FACED WITH A CONFLICT SITUATION WITH YOUR SIBLINGS.

**Corina** To me, keeping peace means to know when to back down even if you think your opinion is the better one. Previously, we'd say hurtful things just to prove a point. But now, we care more about each other's feelings than being 'right'. Also, setting aside time to just talk about our week, worshiping and praying for each other has really helped us bond a lot more. We grew closer praying for each other through our struggles.

**Calvin** As the middle child, I've to be cautious in the way I confront my sister because she's older, and not come down too hard on my younger brother. It's beautiful that our relationships have grown to a point where beyond age, we put God's authority first. There's a mutual understanding that when we confront one another, it's not out of spite but out of love and a genuine desire for God-

centered living. The foundation of keeping peace at home is prayer, and my siblings know that when I speak to them, it comes from me spending time on my knees.

**Samuel** Keeping the peace sometimes means to willingly forgo one's desire to be correct or strong, to voluntarily back down from a heated argument in order to maintain peace.

**Eugene Elvin** We discussed and decided to converge on a single account of a recent incident. We had just finished a ministry meeting. I went for dinner after while Elvin stayed home because he had a long day of ministry. I was ordering dinner for Elvin and somehow the order got messed up. We ended up flaring up at each other over the phone. We didn't talk after because we busied ourselves with work, but unbeknownst to each other we'd prayed privately over the issue. I texted an apology to Elvin after being prompted by the Spirit, while also mentioning that we both were really tired after a long weekend of ministry. Though that did not justify the hurt we'd caused each other, it helped us to identify the factor that sparked frustration in both of us. At the end of the day, peace was restored and we came away with stronger compassion for each other. We also promised to keep each other accountable and remain supportive of each other in periods of intense tiredness and ministry fatigue.

I've known my brother literally for his whole life, so our conflicts and resolution processes have had over 20 years to evolve. As young adults, one way we resolve conflict is found in 3 main steps: (1) stop feeding the emotional fire, (2) recognize that the relationship matters more than the issue at hand, then (3) seek ways to reconnect and heal with the comfort and peace of the Holy Spirit's moving. And the most practical method that helps do all three at the same time is: pray.

**Jesslynn Jerilene Jonathan** Fortunately for us, there wasn't a situation in our relationship where we struggled with sacrificing our rights and ended up disrupting the peace at home. Peace was always put above our own needs to be right.

## WHAT BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES DO YOU ABIDE BY WHEN HANDLING CONFLICTS WITH YOUR SIBLINGS?

**Corina** *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?... You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."* (Matthew 7:3-5)

*"Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32)

I think comparison and self-righteousness are two things that kill unity the

fastest. Sometimes, we hurt each other unintentionally, but we know we must not judge each other. Instead, we now try to see beyond what was done and address the root of the issue. Knowing that we're not better than anyone else helps us to not hold on to grudges or let bitterness brew.

**Calvin** *"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments... Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."* (2 Timothy 2:23-26)

When people are angry, they tend to become tunnel-visioned and enforce that their position is absolute. When I confront my siblings, or vice versa, from a position of Godly discipline, I have to trust that God will help them see their own errors and submit it to God to reveal the correction to them.

**Samuel** *"Guard your tongue"* (Proverbs 21:23) and don't say words you don't mean since the tongue can speak life and death. Honor your elders and always forgive, as Jesus said. Even if my siblings sin against me, I must keep forgiving them.

**Eugene** Praying together after a conflict or dispute is the surest way to lay down our own pride before the Lord, put things into perspective, and allow the Spirit to guide us in reconciliation. This all was found out after years of experience and now that we're older, we try our best to reach that prayer step together because after that step resolution is usually on the horizon.

**Elvin** Reaching out to the Lord has helped me to see that the relationship is more precious because so much effort is put into it. The relationship has transcended the emotional or physical, but also very much involves the spiritual aspect of our lives. It's always easier to have any relationship centered on God because you draw your love and forgiveness for others from God and not out of our own limited hearts.

**Jesslynn** In a conflict, it's natural for us to be eager to have the last word, but over the years the Holy Spirit has reminded me how we should always *"be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"* (James 1:19). Instead of proving a point, I have learned how to discern the root issue in the conflict through prayer first, before settling it with the other party.

**Jerilene** The first verse that comes to my mind is 1 John 4:11: *"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."* I try to remind myself that my actions should not cause hurt, but should glorify God. I should try my best to love because God first loved them and me.

**Jonathan** Luke 6:31 came to mind, *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* Whenever I do certain actions, I would always think about respecting and honoring my sisters, and putting down my pride to apologize to them first.



Corina (age 25), Calvin (age 23) and Samuel Oh (age 17) attend Emmanuel Assembly of God (AG). Corina serves in the Worship Ministry as a singer as well as in the Live Feed Ministry as a switcher and camerawoman. Calvin serves in Campus Ministry as a leader, guitarist and worship leader on the music team. Samuel is part of the Campus Ministry.



Eugene (age 25) and Elvin Lim (age 23) attend and serve in Grace AG. Eugene serves in the Creative Arts Ministry (Worship Leader) and as a Cell Leader (Young Adults). Elvin serves in the Creative Arts Ministry (Worship Leader) and as a Service Leader in EMERGE (Pre-Teens).



Jesslynn (age 25), Jerilene (age 24) and Jonathan Goh (age 21) currently worship and serve in Bethel AG. They are leaders in Velocity, the church's youth ministry, where Jerilene and Jonathan lead the secondary school youths while Jesslynn leads the tertiary youths. Jerilene also serves in Bethel Children Ministry while Jesslynn and Jonathan are in the church's Worship Ministry.

# Praise Report from ElimParis

*We are delighted to bring our praise report to encourage you, who have been praying for us.*

*By Rev John Lim, ElimParis*

## On our church front, we are thankful for how God has been leading us:

With the desire to equip both new and young Christians with God's Word for the changing perceptions in society, we decided to build 'Discipleship Values' again though a new discipleship class at Elim.



We thank God that through our Family Association Ministry, we were able to meet the needs of the elderly in Paris 13eme, who essentially resided in the same district as ElimParis. We were invited to share about end-of-life issues and hospital admission procedures with them.



Also, we had the opportunity to do a four-session seminar with nurses and nursing assistants to understand the needs of bereaved families, who're facing the issue of death, through the lens of our faith.



With God's leading, together with our volunteers, we started the first Protestant service in the George Clemenceau Hospital. The purpose of this ministry is to bring comfort and strength to the patients amidst their sufferings. The gospel is a light that shines in the darkness.



## On the individual level, we hear of how God has touched two of our members' lives:

Sis Liu thanks the Lord for His love and preservation upon her as she underwent an emergency operation three weeks ago. The prayers of church members and God's healing touch have allowed her to recover in time. She thanks God for giving her a new lease of life.



Sis Joan gives glory to the Lord for His continued guidance and job openings. She's thankful that at every step of the way, God granted favor upon her business needs.



## On a personal note:

I thank God for a special invitation to minister in Cardiz city, Negros Occidental, Philippines, where I was a part of the missions team from 1993 to 1995. I got to meet up with friends, who I've not met since those years. During this trip, it was a tremendous experience to speak to third-and fourth-year business students of North Negros College on how to develop their leadership capacity through

God's values. What a privilege to help shape the future entrepreneurs of this nation.

We thank God for His continued strength and guidance thus far, and also thank God for our prayer and ministry partners standing together with us regarding God's work in Paris.

To read more of what is happening in our ministry, please log on to [johnlimkc.wordpress.com](http://johnlimkc.wordpress.com)



- 1 Our new discipleship class which started this year
- 2 Ministering to the elderly at Paris 13eme
- 3 Teaching the nurses in the four-session seminar
- 4 Our first service at the George Clemenceau Hospital
- 5 Sis Liu and Rev John
- 6 Sis Joan and Rev John
- 7 Ministering at the North Negros College

# Reflections from the Pastors Conference 2019

*Our Assemblies of God (AG) ministers gathered at Trinity Christian Centre for four days of learning and worship. Ps Jason Ting and Ps Derek Foo share their personal reflections on the sessions that impacted them the most.*

**Ps Jason Ting, Centre of New Life**

## PROPHETIC REVELATION TO NAVIGATE THE FUTURE

We need pastors who are led by prophetic revelation more than ever. In a world that is flooded with information and data, it's only the voice of God that can bring forth a certain wisdom for timing and tactics. In a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambitious world, only the voice of God can bring forth a faith to enable us to push through the challenges.

The prophet Samuel also lived in such a world. He lived in a time where Israel was transitioning from a time of prophets to kings. But as God's appointed leader, he relied on the voice of God to help him navigate the future. And as a result, he grew. Through the teachings of Rev Ong Sek Leang, I felt God's call to grow in these two areas:

### Area 1: Accepting the Providential Position God has placed on us

I am constantly looking for my circumstances to change for the better or for challenges to go away. And the call is to accept the providential position that God has placed me in. In humble acceptance, I should learn to take my place as His pastor and minister in challenging situations. God is at work and is more than able to use everything, even evil, to display His glory. And as I settle in my heart and take my place, He will work to bring the growth and change in me first before others.

### Area 2: Paving the way to hear Him more accurately

As I learn to take my place, I must also learn to hear God's voice wherever He has placed me. I need to learn to be still and see Him in action before I follow suit. This is perhaps the irony of the pastoral ministry. As pastors, we spend so much time meeting with others, when in fact, we need to spend even more time with God to hear Him. Only out of a still heart can we hear His prophetic voice so that we can move and act prophetically with God.

## THE FUTURE-PROOF PASTOR

Future proofing the church requires, first and foremost, a future-proof pastor. Just as all changes within an organization must start with the key leader, it is the same when it comes to future-proofing our churches. Three characteristics stood out for me as I sat under the teachings of Rev Dominic Yeo, Rev Ong Sek Leang and Rev Naomi Dowdy.

**Firstly, as pastors, we have been called into a unique race and we must press on to the finish line.** All believers have entered this race of a universal faith when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. But, as pastors, we have another race! We must run it with intention and purpose and beware of detours that can lead us away. If we persevere to run this race, focusing our eyes on Jesus, we will finish the race.

**Secondly, as pastors, we need to accept the providential position that God has placed us in.** Sheep do bite and we live in an evil world. But God is at work to use everything for His purposes and glory. Samuel too had to contend with a backsliding priesthood and king in his time. But he prevailed. And as we settle in our hearts His lot for us, we too will grow to become the kind of pastor that God needs in our time.

**Thirdly, as pastors, we must learn to minister and equip the church in the five-fold ministry.** Our pastoral office doesn't restrict the Spirit's work to minister and equip the church for the five-fold ministry. And we cannot allow our churches to only function with the pastor's and teacher's giftings, because God's blueprint for our future is the five-fold ministry.

We are living in a volatile, complex and uncertain world. And the church is called to be the salt and light. As pastors, we must first become that kind of pastor that God wants to raise in this time.

**Ps Derek Foo, Elim Church**

## SUPER TRENDS OF THE FUTURE

The session on '*Super Trends of the Future*' to me was a very enlightening one. Sometimes, we as church leaders can get very comfortable with how the church has been doing things. And we end up forgetting that society, culture and human interaction is evolving at an ever-increasing rate of change.

The session has helped me to see that we in the church need to be aware of societal and cultural trends. This way, not only can we make God relevant to unbelievers, we can also help believers make their faith relevant in service to the church body, the marketplace and society as a whole.

One of the trends that was significant to me was that of the "Silver Force". There's going to be more elderly people than young ones in the future. As such, I believe that the church can do much more to partner with the older generation by harnessing their experience, leadership and resources for God's Kingdom purposes.

This has challenged me to think about how I can involve and empower the older generation to do more in the church and specifically in my ministry. This is so that every believer in church can, in spite of generational differences, relate to one another and help the other grow in faith and excellence while serving in God's Kingdom.



1 Rev Ong ministering to the leaders at his session

2 Ministers and pastors joining hands to pray during the conference

# Reaching Lives Through Missions

*Ministry outreaches are a core experience for Royal Rangers (RR). Bethel AG (Outpost 01) has been supporting annual missions trips to Malaysia and the Philippines to allow their RR youths to exercise their leadership skills and faith muscles.*

*By Royal Rangers Singapore*

## Johor Bahru (JB) and Klang, Malaysia

From November 30 to December 3, 2018, 23 Adventure Rangers (AR) aged 11 to 14 years old and nine commanders went on a missions trip to JB and Klang. When they were there, they ministered to needy families. They also shared their testimonies and presented songs at the three churches that they had visited.

The day camp in Klang was a special highlight for the almost 200 children from seven children's homes in the area. The program included games, crafts, praise and worship and an indoor campfire service! Boys and girls as young as 11 years old won souls for the Kingdom. There were 29 salvations and many more rededicated their lives to God!

All glory to God as many of the ARs returned with a new level of faith, perspective and joy in serving others.



- 1 Distributing food to needy families and sharing the Good News with them
- 2 AR Lim Han, 13 (in blue), leading games among the children
- 3 AR Tan Tian Sheng, 13, sharing his testimony at the pulpit
- 4 AR Jeanise Yew, 11, distributing food to the community

"This is my second missions trip because I felt it would be meaningful to re-visit the children and see how God has been impacting their lives. I'm glad to know that they have been spending time with God and learning to trust in Him more each day. I hope that miracles will happen to them and their prayers will be answered." — **Lim Han**

"I was able to learn more about God on this missions trip. During the home visitations, God enabled me to pray for the families and their needs." — **Tan Tian Sheng**

"This trip helped me to understand how fortunate I am in Singapore. I feel that there are many people around the world that want to hear God's Word but don't have the chance. We have to go and reach out to them and share God's love." — **Jeanise Yew**

## Victorias and Iloilo, Philippines

A team of 10 Expedition Rangers (ER) aged 15 to 18 years old and 10 Commanders went to the Philippines from December 12 to 19, last year.

Despite the unfamiliar and challenging locations, the ERs prayed, prepared and conducted children's camps at both Victorias and Iloilo. They went out in pairs, preaching at different churches, conducted Youth Leadership workshops and collaborated with local RR outposts. They also visited a relocation village where the ERs went around the homes distributing daily necessities and food supplies to the families. This allowed the ERs to engage them in conversations about the gospel and the opportunity to pray for the residents.

The children's camps featured unique RR experiences like high energy games, team bonding through making patrol flags and Bolo ties, and evening campfire services.

The evening campfire services were a learning experience for the team. 15 minutes before the start of one of the campfire programs, it started to rain. Instead of clamoring for shelter or searching for Plan B, the ERs and commanders started praying. The rain became lighter and eventually stopped in time for the campfire to begin. God was at work in our midst!

At the relocation village in Victorias, the ERs prayed for the sick and witnessed many healings in a short period of time.

Each ER was tasked to preach a sermon at a church and they spent months preparing and praying for this occasion. All the ERs testified of how God placed timely words in their hearts for the congregations they ministered to.

As the ERs gave their all, never lacking in fervor or enthusiasm, many of them experienced and witnessed God's faithfulness and fruitfulness in serving and ministering to the children and youth leaders of the Philippines. "Through this camp, our youth leaders' passion for Christ has been revived.

"We are more eager and inspired to lead the children through Royal Rangers," said Ram, Philippines Youth Leader.

Read the full ER report here:



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- 5 In one of our missions camps
- 6 One of the campfire services
- 7 ER Edmund Ong, 18
- 8 ER Matthew Chia, 17
- 9 Praying for the sick
- 10 ER Marcus Teo, 17
- 11 ER Christie Lim, 17

# Labor and Fruits —Risen Christian Assembly

AG Times interviewed Ps Sabrina Chow on Risen Christian Assembly's (RCA) new journey and how God has been leading them so far.

**Please share the great things that have been happening since you started the church about seven months ago.**

Like a church member said, there is never a dull moment in RCA. We've been busy since we started the church. Since the church is new, we have been establishing the different ministries in the church. One of our ministries is the Love Feast. We have a fantastic team who takes turns to cook lunch for the church. Many enjoy the warm fellowship after service and it's in those times when people bond. Right at that dining table, many have been saved and also connected to carecell members during lunch!

We've also organized a special evangelistic program called Testimonies and Tea, where Risenites shared their testimonies and afterward, a pastor preached and gave an altar call for salvation. Through that event, we saw six people come to Christ. We've had a Life Application Seminar that attracted pre-believers to come and be empowered, Carecell Christmas parties and a Christmas evangelistic service called *'The Gift of Christmas'* that saw even more people come to Christ. We've also had our first Spiritual Parenting (SP) class that saw 10 students graduate from it and become spiritual parents, conducted several GROW classes to empower Risenites with the Word of God, and recently concluded a Lover's Retreat where many testified that they experienced a renewal of love in their marriages.



*Testimonies and Tea*

RCA is a cell-based church. We connect new people through the carecells and we thank God that our carecells are growing and making disciples. The bonding and fellowship is strong and this gives them a sense of belonging.

**Personally for you, how would you describe these initial seven months?**

It's been very busy. Hard work is non-negotiable. It's full of joy but at the same time, there are pains—a bag of different emotions. As I'm the only staff and everyone else serves at a lay capacity, I have to handle many things on my own. As we are a new ministry doing new work, the spiritual warfare is also great and constant. We are constantly on our toes, spiritually alert and watchful. But it's also the most enriching months of my life! Personally, I feel that the church and I have grown in so many ways these past seven months. Even though I'm doing new things, I feel the Lord's leading and guidance. He is watching over me and RCA.

**What's next for RCA?**

We hope to continue to grow as a church, to reach out to the lost and make disciples. That is what this church plant is about. We're also looking at having our own property in the near future as we have to move out of our present location in about two years' time. We are forming a committee now to look into this need. I also hope to grow the pastoral team, so that we can provide pastoral care for every age and language group.

**How has God been leading RCA thus far?**

God has been leading us every step of the way. The Lord impressed upon my heart to have daily revival prayer meetings. Without prayer, the church cannot progress as it's progressing now. For every cutting-edge ministry like a church plant, prayer is the essential key to success. In RCA, everything we do has to be birthed in prayer and bathed in prayer. It's spiritual work we are doing and prayer is the key to breakthroughs. We've been having one-hour prayer meetings daily for over 170 days now and God is visiting us in a powerful way. We're seeing prayers answered and lives of Risenites transformed. We've also called the church to fast and pray for greater breakthroughs.



*Cell Christmas party*



*God's presence is evident in our services and meetings*



*Our first water baptism service*

**Pray along with us at RCA! Pray that we keep true to the vision and values of our church.**

**For Our Vision: GEMS**

- We continue to live out a **God atmosphere**, where we invite the presence of God into all our meetings. God will continue to touch many people and that His presence draws the people to come.
- We stay true to having an **Evangelistic heart**, with soul winning at the core of what we do. We will continue to see people receive salvation regularly in our services and in our carecell outreaches.
- We remain **Missions minded**. Our feeding program will continue to touch the lives of the community in our area.
- We develop **Strong leaders**. We will constantly dedicate resources into training and developing leaders.

**For Our Values: AGC**

We will continue to be **Authentic followers of Christ**, who are **Generous** and **Caring**. People will come to RCA and want to stay because they feel we are authentic people, who are generous and care for them in very practical ways.

# Pastors Conference 2019: The Future-Proof Church

Faced with the problems of today, ministers often do not have the luxury of time to prepare for the challenges of tomorrow. Yet, they must continually adapt to a rapidly changing world.

By Trinity Christian Centre

What are the changes they need to prepare for?

What do they need to do to keep their message and ministries relevant?

What does it take to build the church of tomorrow?

For four days, March 6 to 9, 264 delegates from 17 nations embarked on a journey to future-proof their church at Trinity Christian Centre's Pastors Conference 2019. In plenary sessions anchored by four apostolic speakers, Trinity's Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Rev Naomi Dowdy, Rev Ong Sek Leang, Dr Bryan Jarrett, delegates gained insight on the changes needed to make ministries resilient, robust, and ready for the future.

Pastors Conference was also a time for delegates to future-proof themselves. There was much to learn regarding super trends, harnessing technology for ministry, and effective engagement with millennials, Generation Z, and the silver generation. While the journey ahead appears daunting, delegates were reminded of the need to run their own race, be mandate-driven (not issue-driven), demonstrate authentic Christianity, and operate on the power of the Holy Spirit.

The world needs the Church. But if the Church does not keep up with the changing world, it will not be able to come up with the right solutions. Through this conference, God has shown me a clearer direction for what we have to do, especially in the area of incorporating more technology into the ministry.

As a Senior Pastor, I know I cannot work alone. That's why I bought an entire team with me to Pastors Conference 2019. That way, we can all learn from the different sessions and discuss the ways we move the church forward.

Pastors Conference was also an enriching spiritual experience. God has refreshed me during this time and gave me new revelation. I recommend this conference to all pastors and church leaders. Not only can we learn from the various sessions, but we can see for ourselves how God is working in and through this church.

**Rev Arif Multi Ardania**, Senior Pastor  
GSJA Betlehem, Bogor, Indonesia

It's easy to gain knowledge, but Pastors Conference is also a time where we can build and receive an impartation of faith. Through the session on the Silver Force, I have started thinking about ways to shepherd, mobilize, and empower this generation. As we start to engage their experience and giftings, both within and outside the church, I believe that God will bring renewed purpose into their lives and in the life of the church.

**Eric Lau**, Senior Pastor  
Bethany Church, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Last year's Pastors Conference gave me insight into how pastoral teams could grow together and work together. This year, the focus was on the impact of technology in our ministries. I saw the different ways technology could attract people to the Gospel, connect people to the church, and bring them into the presence of God.

**Rev Rachel Bala**, Senior Pastor and Overseer  
Great Commission Apostolic International



*Responding to the message with open hearts*

I encourage people to attend Pastors Conference because Trinity has an apostolic understanding of what's going on throughout the world. When you come here, you hear and see what God is doing in the nations. Not only do you begin to understand your place in God's global agenda, you'll also learn how to be practically effective for the end-time harvest.

**Bruce Atkinson**, Associate Pastor  
Emmanuel Evangelical Church, London, England

I've been attending Trinity's conferences for the past four years and what we have learned has changed our ministry. This year, we brought a few more people with us, and they have gained so much during their time here.

**Hannah Chinnam**  
Faith Worship Church, Tanuku, India

I came for Pastors Conference 2019 because I wanted to see what the Lord was doing in and through Trinity. One of the most important things I gained from my time here was a reminder to be continually refreshed in the Lord so that I could persevere in my God-given calling.

**Phanthakan Phanon**, Lead Pastor  
Abundant Life Community Center, Chiangrai, Thailand



*Our speakers—Rev Dominic Yeo, Rev Naomi Dowdy, Rev Ong Sek Leang and Dr Bryan Jarrett*

Bring your ministry to the next level at Pastors Conference 2020!

**Pastors Conference 2020**  
*Next Level Leaders, Next Level Churches*  
March 11-14, 2020  
Trinity@Paya Lebar

More information will be available through our website ([www.trinity.sg](http://www.trinity.sg)) in the days to come.

# Calvary's New Season

A new season was marked when Calvary officially welcomed our new Senior Pastor.

By Jason Lim, Calvary Assembly of God

January 20, 2019 marked the dawn of a new day for Calvary Assembly of God (AG) as the church saw the installation of our new Senior Pastor. Following a leadership transition from Rev Gerald Tan who led the church for about seven years, Ps Timothy Eu was installed by our AG General Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo.

The ceremony took place as part of the church's Sunday worship service where Calvarites gathered to celebrate God's presence and also be a part of the proceedings.

Commencing the ceremony, Rev Dominic briefed Calvarites on the significance of the occasion and admonished Ps Timothy on the responsibilities that accompanied the appointment thereof. He also invited Ps Timothy's wife, Amanda, on stage and the couple knelt in response to a prayer segment, where the board members of the church as well as fellow Calvarites prayed together for the couple.

The installation concluded with congratulatory and heartfelt videos sent from different pastors including Ps Timothy's parents, both of whom are pastors based in Australia, Rev Gerald and his family, as well as Ps Jeannie Siau. Ps Timothy then preached a message on *'Sowing into your tomorrow'* and reminded the congregation to love practically, love sacrificially, and love knowingly as God first loved us.

As the service came to a closing time of prayer, we were reminded as a church to hold fast to our vision: "God-seekers. Building Lives. Everyday. Everywhere. Everyone." May men and women step up to the plate of God's call on their lives and ensure the continuity of His work till He returns. To God be the glory!



*Rev Dominic and the board members praying for Ps Timothy, our new Senior Pastor*



*Sharing of the Word to the congregation*

# Building a Christ-Centered Home

The renewal of vows in this significant event was not only for couples to renew their love for one another, but for all to learn that Christ is the center of our marriage and home.

By Abigail Cheong, The People's Church

On February 10, 2019, The People's Church held her renewal of wedding vows event in conjunction with Valentine's Day. A total of nine couples renewed their wedding vows of love in the presence of the Almighty God and witnesses, reminding them of their love and commitment to their spouse.

The renewal of wedding vows served as a great occasion for couples to reflect on the ups and downs of their marriage, cherish the love they share and look forward to many more years of life together. We, as a body of Christ, celebrated the love between couples and supported them in prayer.

Through the years spent together as a couple, many had realized that a lasting marriage not only acknowledges individual differences, but also overcomes difficult times together. As couples reaffirmed their love for each other, it had set an example for their children and grandchildren to witness and learn from. Parents and grandparents are children's role models. The greatest life and love lessons that one can impart to their children are not written in books or movies, but are lived out and demonstrated for them to see. When children witness this heartening moment, they begin to yearn for a strong marriage—one with God as its foundation.

The significance behind this event tied in strongly with Rev Ronald Yow's message for the congregation. In his prayer for the couples, he reminded us that God must always be the centrality of a couple's marriage, where couples yearn not only to grow more in love with each other every day, but also to cultivate a personal growing relationship with God on a daily basis.

Rev Ronald shared four concise points that pulled at our heartstrings: Internalization, Instruction, Intentionality and Integration.

Rev Ronald reminded the parents in our congregation that they hold the primary responsibility to instruct their children on the matter of faith, as they are the source of their children's personal and spiritual growth.

Although I have yet to start a family of my own, this point resonated with me as I reflected on my upbringing as a second-generation Christian. My parents have played a huge support in my walk with Christ and have been my role models all these years. My parents would spend time praying together with me for my walk with God, for the examinations that I sit for and for my well-being. With this spiritual support from my parents, I am deeply comforted. I know that this God that I believe in is one, who will see me through my trials because He has appeared to be so true in my parents' lives and spiritual journeys.

When parents inculcate a habit of spiritual conversations and involve their children in a sense of spiritual direction, it has a great impact on their children's lives. Home should be the primary place that faith is to be nurtured and it is a continuous committed relationship with God.

## Deuteronomy 6:5-9

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

Remember, faith begins at home.



Rev Ronald, our guest speaker



The husbands waiting for the moment to present their flowers to their wives



Renewal of vows



Affirming each other as husband and wife

# The Lord Protected Us

*When a car accident might have affected us and it did not, we were thankful that God protected us.*

*By Serene Long, Faith Assembly of God*

On February 6, 2019, my parents, daughter and husband witnessed a car crash. It was the second day of the Lunar New Year and we were traveling on the expressway toward Punggol. We saw a car zoom past us and crash into the concrete barricades to our left. The car was a wreck to say the least. Everything happened in an instant.

Naturally, we were in shock. God had protected us, and also every person that was on the road at that time. We thank God that there was no vehicle on our left, because if there were, any reaction by the vehicle could have impacted us. We also thank God that we were not picking up speed at that time, otherwise we may have gotten into the path of the car. Ultimately, we thank God that there were no casualties.

When the impact happened, we stopped our car and called the police. When checking on the passengers in the wreck, to our amazement, we found that all three passengers were able to get out of the car unassisted, although two of them were bleeding. Besides the wrecked car and its passengers, no one else was injured.

We are grateful for the Lord's protection over us and over all those who were on the road at that time.

This incident served as a reminder for us that life can be



*Serene (last row, left) and her family*

unpredictable. The actions of others do have consequences and sometimes we end up bearing the brunt of these actions, whether we were the cause or not. We may have our plans but we certainly do not know the plans of others or what tomorrow may bring.

I am reminded of these verses:

*"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord direct his steps."*  
(Proverbs 16:9, NKJV)

*"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."* (Proverbs 19:21)

To those who have yet to receive His unconditional love and acknowledge Him as their God, I would say, there is no better time than today because we do not know what tomorrow holds. May the Lord open your heart and mind to His love and Word that you may experience Him on a personal front. Amen!

# Expanding From the Inside, Out

*I was strengthened by His Word,  
His people and His promises when  
my walk with God was weak.*

*By Ken and Aileen Lim, Trinity Christian Centre  
Adapted by Imelda Lie*

## Declaring faith, experiencing breakthrough

Ken: My wife and I are the regional owners and international master franchisers of a global real estate agency. We were also founders and owners of an approved real estate course provider.

In January 2017, just as we stepped into the 'Decade of Expansion', I encountered many challenges in life. Out of desperation, I sent a text message to our Lead Pastor, Rev Dominic Yeo, to pray for me. He responded with Leviticus 26:9. I took the verse and declared that into my situation every day.

However things didn't get better. We encountered more challenges. The cooling measures announced by the government and increased competition affected us badly. Our cash flow was affected tremendously. With challenges coming from all sides, I felt like giving up. I was at a loss on what to do.

I remembered the Watchnight Message and the verse that Rev Dominic shared. Every morning, my wife and I would declare Leviticus 26:9 in our lives. We prayed regularly for His divine intervention and divine wisdom. As we began to pray in the Spirit, we felt the Spirit's leading, and divine guidance.

In September, a Christian brother proposed a partnership to set up a training center in Johor Bahru. This time, we knew it was a divine connection. Besides being someone well-



*Ken and Aileen (left, first and third), together with their partners at the opening of their training centre at Johor Bahru*

respected in the industry, he was also aligned to our vision. Three months later our business expanded with the opening of a three-story office in Permas Jaya.

Just as things were starting to look up, another crisis came our way.

## A wake-up call

Aileen: In October, one day after my 66<sup>th</sup> birthday, I suffered a heart attack. As a healthy and fairly active person, nothing could have prepared me for this. After the doctor confirmed I had a heart blockage, he advised me to go for an operation and gave me one day to decide.

That night, my family and carecell prayed for me. With their encouragement, I agreed to go. Before the procedure, I sensed God's presence and felt His peace. I thank God for a smooth and successful operation.

The heart attack was a wake-up call. For many years, I knew that my husband and I were called into marketplace ministry. In the course of running our businesses, we allowed work to become our focus. When Rev Dominic announced the *Decade of Expansion*, we were excited about business expansion.

But, we had forgotten our call.

God showed me that I needed to serve and live for Him first. Today, I see the two stents in my left heart as a reminder of having a changed heart for His Kingdom purposes.

## Going back to basics

Ken: I am reminded of my passion for God when I first accepted Christ in 1974. A branch manager then, I dedicated every new branch to God. Today, I am returning to my first passion. When we opened our Johor Bahru branch, I called my Section Leader and carecell members to have a thanksgiving and dedication service.

My wife and I want to revitalize our first love for God. We want to live out our call as His salt and light. We look forward to using our newest branch for marketplace ministry, including times of fellowship with like-minded business owners.

Although many of our challenges are not yet resolved, our faith has been strengthened through these struggles. Despite all the uncertainties around us, we hold on to God's promises for our lives, believing for breakthroughs and miracles to take place.

# Turning Point

*I had been in and out of prison five times for drug consumption. Here's how God turned my life around.*

By Bruce Stevens Mathieu

In March 2016, I was released from prison after serving a five-year-nine-month sentence for drug consumption. I'd been in prison five times. Each time I'd tell myself that this would be the last, but found myself going back again and again.

I first tried drugs when I was 13 and became quickly enslaved by it. I lied, stole and cheated countless times to support this wretched habit. The drugs also turned me into a violent man. In my chemically-altered state of mind, I'd been in many fights including assaulting a law enforcement officer and stabbing someone. There was even once when I'd jumped from a third floor window in order to escape legal custody.

During my last incarceration, I spent time thinking about my life, the things I'd done and why I kept on repeating my mistakes. I realized that after I was released, I'd quickly succumbed to the glittery distractions of the world. I forgot about the pain and suffering I'd went through in prison, the misery my family had to endure because of me and the promises I'd made to myself, family and God.

In April of 2013, my wife and daughter came to visit me. It was my daughter's birthday and she had turned 4. My wife and I sang her a birthday song. As singing ended, my daughter looked at me and said, "Dada, carry!"

My heart dropped. She said again, "Dada carry!" I was helpless. All I could do was to look at her and shake my head. That was the worse day of my entire life! The image of my daughter crying for attention would serve as a grim reminder of what would happen again if I don't change. This incident became a major turning point in my life.

I got my life back on track by doing the only thing I knew that would work, that was to rededicate my life back to God. I spent the remaining time of my sentence seeking God and His will, attending Bible study classes and spending my free time reading the Word.

It's not easy trying to live a life that's pleasing to God in prison. My faith was put to the test many times. Once, I was punched by an inmate but I calmly walked away. Throughout all these trials, I felt that God was always with me.

During the last three months of my sentence, I was placed on a Community Based Programme (CBP) at Teen Challenge (TC). That itself was a miracle in view of my extensive criminal record and history of violence. The emplacement period was short but it benefited me greatly. Being at TC helped me bond with my family after an extensive period of separation. The CBP allowed me to reintegrate back into society at a slow but steady pace.



*Bruce with his colleagues at his new work place*



*Bruce all ready to embrace God's plans for his life*

After completing the CBP, I found employment in TC as a Care Worker. The period of 13 months working in TC gave me the opportunity to develop discipline and live an orderly life. I derived a sense of fulfillment helping others in recovery.

Employment outside the environment of TC presented new challenges for me. The good thing was that work occupied much of my time. Being busy with meaningful activities rendered fewer opportunities to think unproductive thoughts. There were temptations along the way. I'd bump into old "friends" from time to time. Whenever I felt down, these "friends" often looked like attractive alternatives. Family support has been crucial for me to stay sober and clean.

I then volunteered with the Central Narcotic Bureau, Prisons, Schools and various organizations to share how God transformed my life. The main audience at these talks is the "At-Risk" youth, who may not fully comprehend the inherent danger of drug abuse. Today, I share my personal journey to inspire others to lead better lives.

It has been over three years since being transformed, but I'm always on my guard against overconfidence and complacency. I know how easy it is to falter and I constantly remind myself to rejoice, pray continually and give thanks to God in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

I don't know what tomorrow holds for me, but I'm living one day at a time knowing that my future is as bright as the promises of God.

# 19th Teen Challenge Charity Golf Event

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019  
TANAH MERAH COUNTRY CLUB  
TAMPINES COURSE**

**Guest-Of-Honor: Rev Dominic Yeo  
General Superintendent  
Assemblies of God Singapore**

For more information, kindly contact  
67937933

Luke Tan (luketan@teenchallenge.org.sg)

Philip Tong (philip@teenchallenge.org.sg)

<https://www.teenchallenge.org.sg>

Registration & Lunch : 11.30 AM

Shotgun : 1.30 PM



TEEN CHALLENGE (SINGAPORE)

For the past four decades, Teen Challenge has been reaching out to those struggling with substance abuse and alcohol addiction.

We offer residential and recovery programs to those in need, in order to assist with their reintegration back into society. We also run the Residential Aftercare Service Programme which offers temporary accomodation to newly released inmates who do not have a home to return to.

REGISTRATION IS  
NOW OPEN

# SOUNDS OF HEAVEN

The Assemblies of God of Singapore  
Ministers' Institute & Retreat

NOVEMBER 18 - 21, 2019

Location | Double Tree by Hilton Hotel | Melaka



English Speaker  
REV ALAN HEWITT



Chinese Speaker  
郑福财牧师  
REV CHERN HOCK CHYE

*"And suddenly there came  
from heaven a sound as of  
the rushing of a mighty wind,  
and it filled all the house  
where they were sitting."*

*Acts 2:2*

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