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SPECIAL  
EDITION  
ISSUE

50

Honoring Leadership and Legacy

Pg 2

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# It Doesn't End with You

Rev Dominic Yeo

From Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, and Paul to Timothy. These are names that represent two important words for us – 'leadership' and 'legacy'.

Death is not the final chapter of life. Joshua wouldn't be the leader he was if there was no Moses. Elisha was able to have a double portion because Elijah had a portion that was lived out in full view. You can see Paul in the life of Timothy as the young disciple showed strength teaching the Word and correcting wrong doctrines in the churches of Corinth, Philippi, and Ephesus.

Spiritual legacy is a privilege for every one of us to live out and to pass on so that those who come behind us can be inspired and enriched as they witness our lives!

*Spiritual legacy  
is a privilege for every one of us  
to live out and to pass on.*

Many of us get so caught up in the busyness of "now" that we rarely think about the legacy we will leave behind. Some of us only think about legacy later in life when we retire – hopefully, our lives don't expire before that. And some of us don't even think about leaving a legacy – leaving others to pick up the pieces after they leave the ministry.

In this leadership issue of AG Times, we feature some leaders who have gone ahead of us. Their achievements are stepping stones of faith that have contributed to the strengthening of Assemblies of God (AG), Singapore. But every generation has its own legacy to leave for the next.

This generation has the global COVID-19 pandemic – how we do church and live for Christ in this time can either make tomorrow's church stronger or fragmented. COVID-19 has "forced" the leaders of this generation to take a quantum leap in the use of digital platforms to engage

and care for their flock. You can do nothing and hope for the season to return to the same as before – which will be foolishness. Or you can take that leap of faith and dive into new ways of doing church and ministry.

What and who you live for is more important than the accomplishments you achieve in life. Your legacy is not about celebrating your achievements, but knowing that your living has impacted lives in such a manner that your work for God is not in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58).

We are all going to leave a legacy. It's a matter of what kind of legacy you choose to leave behind. You can't leave it to chance. With intent, you will achieve results. With intent, you will navigate challenges. With intent, you will make time. With intent, you will impact lives.

It's about being intentional in leaving a lasting spiritual legacy in our households, churches, ministries, communities, and world.

What a story we will have for the next generation as the church emerges out of COVID-19 stronger than before! Stronger in our beliefs of why we do what we do. Stronger in our community having weathered the storms together. Stronger in getting the Word out because now we have expanded our services beyond the walls of the church.

Legacy – it doesn't end with you. In fact it begins with you! Be a Moses, an Elijah and a Paul to someone today so that there will be the Joshua, Elisha and Timothy of tomorrow.

*What and who you live for  
is more important  
than the accomplishments  
you achieve in life.*



**COVID-19:00**  
CALLING OVERCOMERS! VICTORIOUS IN DECLARATION!  
Synchronized Prayer at 19:00 (7pm) daily

Scan for weekly prayer pointers. Available in English and Mandarin.



# 一切并不终止于你

摩西到约书亚。以利亚到以利沙。保罗到提摩太。这些名字对我们来说，代表两个重要的词语：领导和属灵遗产。

死亡不是生命的最后一章。如果没有摩西，约书亚就不会成为我们所认识的那个领袖。以利亚先完全地活出一份被圣灵感动的生命，以利沙才能要求并得着圣灵加倍的感动。我们在提摩太的生命可以看到保罗的影子，因为提摩太这个年轻的门徒坚定地教导神的话语，纠正哥林多、腓利比和以弗所教会错误的教导。

属灵遗产是我们每个人活出的和传承的特权，叫后人见证我们的生命而受启发，被充实！

## 属灵遗产是我们每个人 活出的和传承的特权， 叫后人见证我们的生命 而受启发，被充实！

我们许多人忙于“现在”，以至于去想我们将会留下什么属灵遗产。有些人只打算在后半生，在退休后才思考属灵遗产的事，希望生命的有效期不会在那之前结束。还有一些人甚至不去想留下什么属灵遗产，离开服事岗位后，留给别人去收拾摊子。

在本期特别领袖版中，我们以一些领袖先人为特写。他们的成就是信心的踏脚石，他们的贡献强化了新加坡神召会。然而，每一代人都要留下自己的属灵遗产给下一代。

这一代人面对国际性大流行2019冠状病毒。身为教会，我们在这个时候怎么做，怎

么为基督而活将使明天的教会更坚固或者支离破碎。冠病-19“逼迫”了这个时代的领袖在使用电子平台连接和牧养上有所跃进。你可以坐视不理，期待时节恢复过往的模样，然而这是很傻的。你也可以跃出信心的一步，使用新的方式运作教会和事工。

你为什么活着和你为谁而活着比你生命中取得什么成就更加重要。你的属灵遗产不是庆祝你的成就，而是知道你的生命影响了生命，由此你为神所做的工并不徒然（哥林多前书15:58）。

我们都会留下点什么，重点是你选择留下什么。你不能碰运气，而应该刻意地选择，这样才会有效果。有了刻意性，你就能在挑战中导航。有了刻意性，你就会抽出时间。有了刻意性，你就会影响生命。

因此，我们应该刻意地留下属灵遗产给我们的家庭、教会、事工、社群和世界。

当教会经历冠病-19，比以前更加坚固时，我们留给下一代人的，会是个多好的故事！一个在信念上更加坚定的教会，明确知道我们为什么做我们所做的。一个因为风雨同舟而更凝聚的社群。一个更能把神的话语传扬出去的教会，因为我们现在将聚会扩大到教堂的墙外去了。

属灵遗产不终止于你。事实上，它由你开始！让我们今天就做某人摩西、以利亚和保罗，那未来才会有约书亚、以利沙和提摩太。

## 你为什么活着和你为谁 而活着比你生命中取得什么 成就更加重要。



Leadership and legacy are vital facets in the life of a Christian leader. We serve and give of ourselves to the people under our care, so that they will grow in the Lord. But, it does not stop there. The legacy we leave for those after us is also equally important.

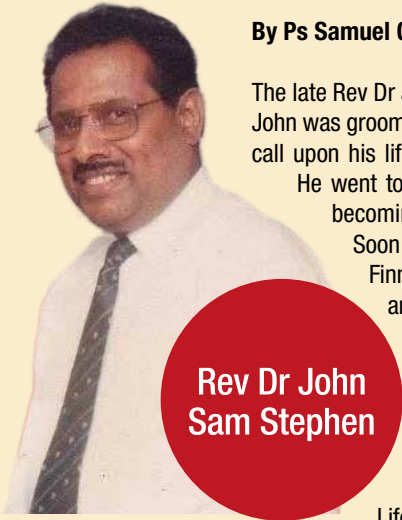
In this special leadership issue, we examine leadership that is visionary and forward looking. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the leadership of our churches and organizations has taken the lead to think out-of-the-box to trailblaze new initiatives and innovative ways to hold church to ensure that people in their communities are cared for. This spoke of their commitment and anointing as leaders. We also look back to honor our past leaders whose legacies have left a lasting impact in God's Kingdom.

Our Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo, starts us off with an inspiring message to live a life that leaves a strong legacy.

# Honoring Our Veteran Ministers

*We take a glimpse into the lives of our Assemblies of God (AG) veteran ministers and their ministry.*

By Ps Samuel Gift Stephen



Rev Dr John  
Sam Stephen

The late Rev Dr John Sam Stephen was born in India in 1940. Rev Dr John was groomed to take over his father's business. However, God's call upon his life prompted him to pursue a life of service to Him.

He went to Bible school and planted churches in India before becoming an Assistant Pastor in an AG church in Sri Lanka.

Soon after, he started working on a gospel ship with a Finnish missionary. Unfortunately it was shipwrecked and he was paddled in a life raft to Singapore where he met Sis Rasi from Pentecostal Evangelical Church who helped him find shelter. He later became the first pastor of the church for 10 years.

In 1980, Rev Dr John took a leap of faith to start a new church, Smyrna Assembly, known today as Life Centre, to reach out to Indians in Singapore. The

work was a test of fire, bringing him face to face with individuals consumed by alcoholism, drug addiction, gangsterism and other vices. As he sought to reach out to these souls, he was constantly exposed to threats. However, he never flinched, trusting God would enable him to touch these lives.

Miraculously, many gave their lives to Jesus and became church leaders themselves. Sembawang was also where many Indian Migrant workers resided. Being a migrant himself, Rev Dr John fully empathized with their challenges and made it a personal mission to care for them. Almost daily, he met these brothers, either over a simple meal or prayer, encouraging them to upgrade themselves and always stay connected to God. Today, many of them are now Singapore citizens, holding supervisory positions in their companies.

As Senior Pastor of Smyrna Assembly, he shepherded his flock with great compassion. From a small home fellowship of five, over 25 years, this church grew to 350 strong with a beautiful sanctuary at Yishun.

Rev Dr John was also a pioneering leader in the drug rehabilitation ministry in Singapore, serving faithfully for over 30 years, 20 of which were spent heading up the Christian Counselling Services arm of the Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association. He also played a significant role in uniting the Indian churches under AG, often hosting the pastors for gatherings while encouraging them in ministry.

At home, Rev Dr John was a loving husband to his wife of 32 years, Ruth, and a wonderful father to his two boys Samuel and Joel. In spite of heavy ministry commitments, he always ensured that they were closely bonded by Christ's love.

It's been 12 years since he returned to be with the Lord in 2008. The impact of his ministry is still strongly felt.

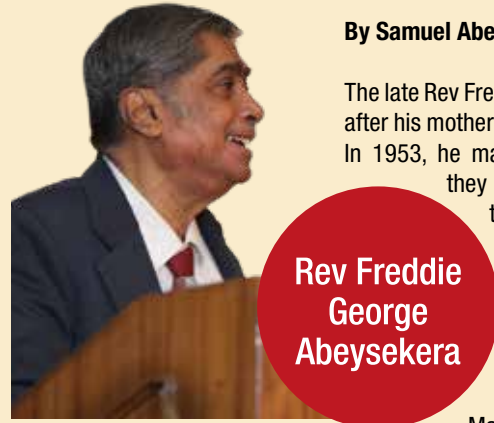


Pastor of Praise Evangelical Church  
from the 70s to the 80s



Rev Dr Stephen's family

By Samuel Abeysekera



Rev Freddie  
George  
Abeysekera

The late Rev Freddie George Abeysekera's family was saved after his mother was healed from a terminal illness in 1935.

In 1953, he married his wife, Rev Rita Abeysekera, and they served as lay-workers in church. Both of them had the calling for full-time ministry.

After graduating from the Bible Institute of Malaya (BIM) in 1962, they began faithfully serving Christ as ministers.

In 1963 and 1966, together with his wife, Rev Fred pioneered two churches in Malaysia. Finance was tight in the early years.

In his latter years, he told his son that those first three years pioneering the Penang church taught him the value of prayer. When you have no salary to feed your family and bills to pay, Christ is the answer. God answered those prayers and grew the congregations to 250 before they left. Till the day he died, Rev Fred prayed for long hours daily, and the Lord provided for every need abundantly.

Between 1969 and 1975, Rev Fred and his wife returned to Singapore and pastored Elim and Harvester Church. Their ministry also involved prison and drug rehabilitation work, assisting Rev D H Baker in the Christian Conference Centre and conducting small group Bible studies.

From 1979 to 2009, he and his wife conducted revival meetings in the kampongs of Malaysia, then in the jungles of Borneo and in the foothills of the Himalayas. Finally, at the age of 80, his body could no longer take the physical stress. Their ministry then resided locally.

It was never explicitly mentioned, but his family knew that it was always God first, church second and family third. As a family, their birthdays were modest and family holidays were church camps. But God always provided.

Rev James Singh remembers him fondly, "Rev Fred was faithful to his calling as an evangelist. He showed me fatherly concern and always asked about my family when we met up."

Rev Dr Patrick Lau recalls, "Rev Fred was very committed when serving as the General Secretary of AG, Singapore and coordinator for the Pentecostal World Conference held in 1989. He was very passionate in serving the Lord."

Four days before he passed away, his family received an email from an Indonesian pastor who joined him on a mission trip to Samarinda City in 1980. 40 years had passed, and the AG Church that was planted had multiplied to 100 churches. That report brought much happiness to Rev Fred's eyes. Rev Rita Abeysekera, at 87, continues to minister and serve the Lord faithfully.



The Penang church they pioneered in 1960s



Ministering in a rally in the earlier years





**Rev Evelyn Elizabeth David (Sis Lau)**

**By Rev Daphne Lau**

The late Rev Evelyn Elizabeth David was saved in the late 1950s through the ministry of Rev Dr Fred and Rev Margaret Seaward in Bethel AG. Fondly known as Sis Lau, Rev Evelyn, the late wife of the former General Superintendent, Rev Dr Patrick Lau, came from a staunch Methodist family. She felt the call of God and studied at the Bible Institute of Malaya (BIM) in the early 1960s. Upon graduation, she pioneered an AG church in Melaka, helping a former Missionary, Sis Farmer, from The British Assembly.

In her Bible school days, Rev Evelyn excelled as a student and was the school pianist. She was a prolific writer and wrote short articles for the school's publication and later on became one of the writers for Every Home Crusade magazines.

Rev Evelyn was also an accomplished musician. She played the organ in most AG functions in the early years from 1980 to 2000. She taught music at the Bible Institute of Singapore, now known as ACTS College, and played the organ for all of the annual commencement exercises in the 80s and 90s. She led mission teams from the Bible School to India and other parts of the world. She also served as President of AG Women's Fellowship for about three years.

Beyond ministry, Rev Evelyn was a faithful wife who stood by her husband and helped bear his burdens of ministry. Being a woman of prayer, she prayed fervently over his ministry and God's call on his life.

As a dedicated mother of two, she taught her kids to memorize Scripture verses, to pray, to love and serve God. Their strong Christian foundation today is largely due to her nurturing.

As an ordained AG minister, Rev Evelyn was always looking out for people and finding ways to help them either through prayer, counseling, visitation or giving financially. She also assumed position as one of the assistant pastors under Rev Dr Patrick Lau's leadership at Calvary, serving as a Sunday School teacher, Filipino Fellowship pastor, church organist and also pioneered the Children's church. She served in these positions not as a salaried staff but out of her love for Jesus. She was well-loved and respected as a pastor.



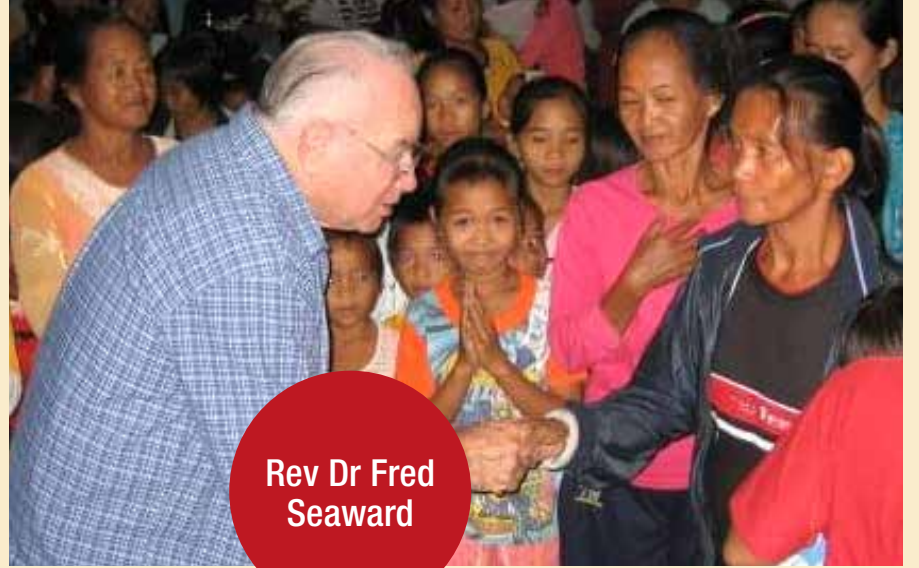
*Rev Evelyn and Rev Dr Patrick receiving the honorary lifelong AG membership*



*Rev Evelyn playing the accordion*



*A family picture together during a Chinese New Year visitation*



**Rev Dr Fred Seaward**

**By Rev Margaret Seaward**

The late Rev Dr Frederick Oliver Seaward Jr found Jesus at 9 years old. He walked more than an hour every Sunday to get to church. Coming to know Christ changed his life, which inspired him to want to go into full-time ministry.

Rev Dr Fred was one of those who helped form AG, Malaya. His knowledge of constitutional governance helped immensely in setting up a solid governing body in the beginning days. In the late 50s and 60s, he was involved in vigorous church planting efforts. Aside from the churches he personally planted, he was always ready to help others, who wanted to plant a church.

In addition, Rev Dr Fred trained and mentored many leaders. He would take teams of leaders-in-training to help plant churches, and was always there to be a sounding board to the pastors to offer words of wisdom.

At home, Rev Dr Fred was a loving husband who considered his wife's needs above his own. He was never too busy to show his family how much he loved and cared for them. On one occasion, he filled his whole living room full of balloons to teach his grandson about God's blessings.

Rev Dr Fred was a loving and sacrificial minister. His whole life was winning souls for God. He loved missions and seeing souls saved. No person was too insignificant to him.



*Worshiping with the church before the sermon preaching*



*Rev Dr Fred ministering at Rev Dr Patrick Lau's baby dedication*



*Rev Dr Fred and Rev Margaret Seaward were camp speakers for the Bible Camp at Anglican High School in 1975*



*Ready to minister to the camps*



## By Phebe Yeo

Born into a pre-believing family, the late Rev Alfred Yeo did not have early exposure to the gospel. It was while serving national service in 1971 that he heard about Christ and gave his heart to the Lord in the old SAFTI camp. He was introduced to join the fellowship of believers organized by Military Christian Fellowship (formerly known as Armed Forces Council), where he felt the call of God to enter full-time ministry as the first General Secretary and subsequently, Chaplain.

Rev Alfred pursued his calling and was ordained as an AG minister in 1980 and was subsequently appointed as the Senior Pastor of Moriah Assembly of God (formerly known as Macpherson Assembly) in 1986.

Throughout his life, Rev Alfred served in various capacities within the AG council; as a Committee Member, General Secretary, Assistant Superintendent, Chairman of AG Community Services Society (AGCSS) and as an Executive Director. He was also an adjunct lecturer for both ACTS College and East Asia School of Theology (EAST).

Rev Alfred's passion was always in social work and served faithfully as Chairman of AGCSS for 16 years. He would often have meetings about events or talks for the elderly and always revealed a heart of compassion through his work and actions. Rev Alfred also exemplified his call to love at home as a loving husband and endearing father. Whenever the family traveled together, his children would often claim to be the third wheel, as he would hold hands with his wife all the time. *"In everything – do your best and God will do the rest!"* That was the mantle that he passed on to his children. His aim was not perfection, but for them to give their best, for the glory of God.

As Senior Pastor of Zion Full Gospel Church (ZFGC), Rev Alfred believed in the leaders of the next generation and kick-started the Royal Rangers (RR) Programme for the children's ministry. Through RR, many children came to know Christ. The ministry grew in strength and numbers. Rev Alfred also carried a burden for youths; being present at youth meetings on Saturdays and personally got to know every youth in the church. The age gap may have been wide, but he treated them like his own. He also initiated the Golden Age Ministry, allowing many to serve in more than one area in their golden years! Under his leading, the church's Missions Committee was also formed. The church now owns mission endeavors to destinations including Indonesia, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and China. As Zion Full Gospel Church's Elder Tan Boon Heng aptly described in a tribute: *"Rev Alfred was a conscientious overseer of the church. He was perceptive; always having our church interests at heart and would work round the clock. Rev Alfred inculcated financial prudence while always encouraging the church to bless ministries in and out of Singapore generously."*



Rev Alfred with his family

Rev Alfred  
Yeo



Rev Dr Abel  
and Sis Glory  
Thomas

## By Ashley Thomas

The late Rev Dr Abel and Glory Thomas were raised in Christian homes. Rev Dr Abel came from two generations of ministers and so did Glory. Somehow the call into full-time ministry was a natural progression of a desire to proclaim the gospel in their generation.

Rev Dr Abel Thomas served as an ordained minister of AG, Singapore. He had been a pastor at Emmanuel AG, a lecturer at the AG Bible College, President of Teen Challenge Singapore, and a member of the Executive Committee of AG, Singapore.

His ministry and passion as one of the leading pioneers in ministry was to use his gifts of preaching and teaching to strengthen the churches in the areas of evangelism, discipleship, and spiritual growth. Together with his wife, Glory, they ministered side by side not just behind the pulpit but in sharing their lives as living testimonies of God. Rev Dr Abel Thomas spent much of his time investing in the lives of upcoming ministers to help them through ministry challenges.

Rev Dr Abel and Glory were "joined at the hip". They were always together, even when Rev Dr Abel had to travel overseas in the early years, Glory would be actively in prayer for him that the work of the ministry will prosper and result in lives transformed for God's glory.

They were "real" ministers, forsaking all to pursue their calling. Never for a single moment did they consider doing anything else. In the pioneer days, there were a lot less "glamorous" ministries often void of resources, but they readily served in those areas and their faith in the gospel demonstrated that it was never in vain.



Preaching at a service



Sharing the Word at Elim Church

# Lessons in Leadership and Ministry

*Rev Calvin Lee reflects upon valuable lessons that have guided him as a leader and in ministry.*

Till this point in my ministry, I sum up my journey with these words, “Grace alone!” Indeed, it has been the grace of God that has led me thus far and I’m always grateful to God for His abundant grace upon my life.

As I reflect on my ministry, here are 10 key lessons that I’ve learned that have helped me in my faith and leadership journey.

## 1. Die to self

The need to die to the self is an ongoing challenge till the last day of our lives.

We all know we need to die to our carnal desires, pride, and personal agendas. But we also know it’s tough and if we are honest with ourselves, we do find ourselves struggling to nail the flesh to the cross.

If there’s one area that we must constantly ask the Lord for help and strength, it’s this vital area of dying to self. It’s so important because if we fail to rein in this area, we will find ourselves serving out of the flesh and living in the flesh. When this happens, it will have a detrimental effect on our lives and ministry.

## 2. Look to the Lord, not on the load

The load could be problems, people, the church or any organization. We know we are not to look at the load but it’s another thing to live it out especially in some challenging situations.

I still remember when I was given the task to head Reach Community Services, we needed to raise half a million dollars. Out of desperation, I wrote to a couple thinking they could help but I did not receive any reply from them. Then I heard the small voice in me rebuking me for my lack of faith. I’ve put my confidence in man and not in the Lord.

Since then, I learned my lesson.

However, it’s not only money but also every other area of need that we must look to the Lord as our ultimate provider.

## 3. Give our best

Wherever we are and whatever task we are given, give our best.

We are called by the Lord to where we are. In every task or assignment, we are to honor Him. One important way to honor Him is to give of our best. Whether the task is big or small, it’s to be done with the right attitude. Whether it’s seen by people or not, we are to do it with excellence. Whether the supervisor is watching or not, we serve wholeheartedly.

It’s for the approval of God and not the approval of man.

## 4. Hold things lightly, not tightly

In the ministry, I’ve learned to hold on to things lightly. Things like our positions, our titles, our achievements, our success, our privileges and so on. Thank God for His blessings, but don’t hold on to them with greed.

We are stewards by the grace of God.

## 5. Grow in every situation

In every challenging situation, don’t just go through it but grow through it. There’s always a lesson for us to learn. Some situations can make us either better or bitter. Others can make us sadder or gladder.

Instead of asking “why” in challenging situations, won’t it be better to ask “what” instead? What is God saying to us? What can we learn from this situation?

With such an attitude, we will surely grow stronger.

## 6. Find our sense of security in God

Ministry can be difficult. In ministry, we will experience disappointments, discouragement, disillusionment, despair and even depression. It has a way of knocking us down and this can negatively affect our self-esteem.

Therefore, it’s important that we find our confidence and security in the Lord. Our worth is not based upon our positions, titles and achievements, but built upon the love of God. He loves us no matter what.

It’s needful that we learn to take the ministry seriously, but don’t take things personally. When we are being criticized, take it as part of the growth process. It’s meant to help us not hurt us. If we were to take it personally, then it can offend or demoralize us.

## 7. Stay true to who we are

At the end of the day, be who you are.

Sometimes, we tend to compare and this results in us feeling inferior or wishing we are like such a person.

The point is that each of us is wonderfully and fearfully made by the Lord. We’re all uniquely different.

Once, I told the church that I’m an ordinary pastor, definitely not extraordinary. I decided long ago that I’ll be me and not try to be anybody else. I’m also determined not to allow the opinions of people to shape me into the person that I’m not. It’s normal for people to have certain expectations of their pastor but I cannot be who I’m not.

Not only do I have to accept who I am but others, too, have to accept me for who I am. By allowing the Lord to shape me into the leader He wants me to be gives me tremendous freedom to serve.

Therefore it’s important that we don’t be unduly troubled by what people say about us. Listen to it, but objectively shake it off when we know it’s not us.

Thank God that we are who we are.

## 8. Attribute success to the grace of God.

Whatever success or achievements you have, remember it’s the grace of God.

Our ego is an area we must watch because it’s easy to be carried away especially when blessings and success come upon us.

“EGO” could stand for “Edging God Out” or “Exalting God Only”.

Sometimes, it’s a thin line that we begin to attribute the success to ourselves. We need to be reminded that we’re undeserving and it’s all by the grace of God. In so doing, we remain humble and keep our feet firmly on the ground.



**Rev Calvin Lee** is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God (AG), Singapore. He is presently an Honorary Pastor of Grace AG. He served as a pastor in Grace AG since 1988 and was the Senior Pastor from 2012 to 2019. He has also served as a pastor in Malaysia and the Executive Pastor of International Christian Assembly in Hong Kong for two years. He is married to Charis Leo.

*Continued on pg 16...*



# Praise Report from ElimParis

*For the month of May, we find greater growth in many areas even though it was a difficult time.*

*By Rev John Lim, ElimParis*

Amidst the COVID-19 situation in France, God has brought us through new beginnings for ourselves, families, the city and beyond.

## New growth:

This year started on a somber note, as the whole of France, and in fact the whole world came under the attack of COVID-19. We are thankful for God's protection over France in spite of the death toll, as it could have been worse. The busy streets were empty, most commercial activities came to a stop and all religious events were halted since March. This has led ElimParis, like all the churches around the world, to become more creative in our meetings, worship, prayer and encouragement methods.

## New worship:

Thanks to a group of leaders and volunteers God has added to the church, we are able to live-stream our church sessions online. I now have the opportunity to preach on YouTube, as well as share daily devotionals with church members and friends online. We thank God for multiplying the number of people following our church content online to three times our usual church membership!

## New talents:

As our church members began to band together to serve as a church family, we discovered new gifts and talents among us. Barbara takes care of our online updates. Before Sunday each week, she prepares our church's announcement slides, church preparation guide and updates important healthcare information online. Pascal gives tutorials to help our elderly members connect via Zoom for church prayer and study groups. Xiangyu, our church's worship leader, has been leading us in worship online together with his daughter. Rebecca and myself have also been leading the online worship with pre-recorded music.

## New ministries:

God opened the door for me to join the team of counselors for the national French Protestant hotline, which extends care to families facing difficulties during this COVID-19 period. With special authorization from the French hospitals in partnership with the Protestant Federation, I can continue to visit patients. We are grateful that despite the lockdown, His love and compassion is not limited. At this

point, our volunteers can provide prayer cards for families and patients by placing them in the chapel of various hospitals.

Moreover, I was invited by the Chinese Pastoral Fellowship in France to look into growing the avenues for spiritual help via telephone for the Chinese community residing in our city.

I've also been assigned to assist and run online meetings for the Paris Regional Chaplaincy, as well as various chaplaincy teams in the Paris region. Thank God for His grace to learn new skills to meet the new needs in the ministry.

## New outreach:

Rebecca and I are taking this time of staying at home to spur our members toward greater growth, through discipleship courses and online counseling. Most people, who used to be too distant due to work, are now able to "meet" more to learn the Bible with us. On top of that, we've also been doing one-to-one discipling sessions with various ones online.

## Our members shared their experiences:

"I was following the Sunday service online on April 19 when I felt pain in my lower back. The pain was so acute that I had to lie down on the couch. After praying 'Lord, I want to continue standing and not lie down during the service,' the pain disappeared!"— **Adele**

"Please ask the pastor to continue sending the daily meditations. This is precisely what we need in this particular time. Thank you Lord for the daily devotions of ElimParis."— **Françoise**

"I received a call from my friend, Myriam, who has been cut off from church for years in the French Alps. She thanked me for sending her the devotions of ElimParis that have encouraged her in her faith."— **Katherine**

Please pray for us:

- Continued wisdom and strength to be upon Rebecca and me as we lead the church with our team
- God providing opportunities for us to continue visiting hospitals
- For God to raise up members as Jesus' disciples to shine for Him in a time of "bleakness" in Europe
- For God to touch hearts and lives in the difficult time in France.



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- 1 Youtube live streaming of our services
- 2 Facebook live streaming of our communion services
- 3-5 Grateful that different members, Barbara, Pascal and Xiangyu, rise to the occasion to serve in online work
- 6 New ministries such as being a counselor on a distress hotline was opened to Ps John
- 7 Prayer cards we put up in the chapels of the hospitals we minister in
- 8 ZOOM meeting with the Chinese Pastoral Fellowship
- 9 Our online discipleship classes in progress

We thank you for your prayers and looking forward to connecting with you through:

- ❖ Whatsapp: +33 6 25464258
- ❖ Facebook and YouTube: eglise elim paris
- ❖ Blog: johnlimkc.wordpress.com



# Cookies of Love, to Guardians and Angels

*For honoring frontliners and unsung heroes with lovingly baked cookies.*

*By Teen Challenge Singapore*



1



2



3

Many Singaporeans have expressed their thanks to our frontline professionals in healthcare institutions and those at our checkpoints for their sacrifice and dedication soldiering on to keep our country and people safe. Others have penned notes of appreciation praising their extraordinary efforts in this unprecedented time.

Another loving and creative initiative to appreciate our unsung heroes started from inside the prison walls. Inmates at Changi Prison Complex were mobilized to bake cookies to express gratitude to our Guardians and Angels in the fight against COVID-19. This project was supported by Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and Singapore Prison Service (SPS).

A total of 6,000 packets of delicious cookies coated with nuts and raisins were baked and packed. To deliver these 6,000 packets of cookies, another group of individuals outside the bars of prison confines came on board. The residents from the various Halfway

Houses were mobilized to deliver the cookies to 20 locations. The cookies were then distributed to frontline staff.

On March 24, 2020, Teen Challenge Singapore was part of the delivery team. Residents of the Centre delivered a total of 1,400 packets, which were lovingly prepared by our brothers, to healthcare professionals in five hospitals. They were Alexandra Hospital, Gleneagles Hospital, Kandang Kerbau Hospital, Khoo Teck Puat General Hospital and Singapore General Hospital.

We received feedback that our frontliners were very touched by this gesture of love. They were happy that their contributions were recognized and appreciated. Cheers to our silent heroes!

As the saying goes: "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."



4

- 1 Raju, Louis (TC residents) and Ps Luke with Mr Alwyn Lim at Khoo Teck Puat Hospital
- 2 Raju and Louis with Ms Audrey, Senior Care Manager of Alexandra Hospital
- 3 Mr Sam Koh giving out the cookies at Kandang Kerbau Hospital
- 4 An appreciation letter from Gleneagles Hospital





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# Imparting God's Love in the Philippines

*It is a privilege to be able to teach values, coach skills and impart the vision of Royal Rangers on this trip to the Philippines.*

*By Commander Michael Koh, Royal Rangers Singapore*

From December 12 to 18, 2019, 15 Royal Rangers (RR) from Outpost #01, Bethel Assemblies of God (AG) traveled to the Philippines (Victorias, Bacolod and Iloilo) on our Annual Mission Trip. Typically, we would run school ministries, visit the outstation churches to share God's Word, and interact with the congregation and their youths. In recent years, we have been running children's camp there as well.

Last year, we were invited to share with some pastors and leaders in Christian Education in Bacolod. We helped them understand the strengths of having a RR Outpost in their churches as RR is a strong mentoring programme, building lives of children, youths and potential leaders, imparting knowledge, values, skills and builds leadership. Following the ministry, many of the pastors and leaders shared that they were very inspired to apply the RR programme to their churches.

This year, the team spent two days at Bacolod, running a children's carnival for more than 150 children in a public school. We also ran a model outpost meeting for their local outpost. Our Rangers conducted a two-hour Skillarama session to impart RR skills such as Toolcraft, Firecraft, Cooking and First Aid to those present. We thank God for the many salvations during the carnival.

The next five days were spent at Iloilo city, where we had a children's camp and carnival

for more than 18 churches, 350 pastors, leaders and children. After which, together with the National Commander Emerose of Philippines, the team facilitated the installation and dedication of 18 newly enrolled outposts that wanted RR Ministry in their churches. They were all presented with an RR T-shirt each.

During the dedication ceremony, a RR flag was presented to Senior Pastor Nelson Nacionales. We also conducted programmes in two schools teaching crafts, leading songs and playing games. We always ended off each session with the sharing of God's love and saw many children committing their lives to God.

Our team endeavored with prayer to sow and leave behind skills, contacts and inspiration so that the work we had begun on this trip will continue even after we returned home. We were delighted to know that subsequently, after connecting the churches with the National Commander, 117 pastors and commanders were trained and equipped in January 2020. Praise God!

This trip has taught us that we are God's vessels. When we come to Him with a willing and ready heart, He will fill us up. We learned to pray and pick up what God intends to do through us, then work diligently and let Him multiply the work of our hands. 355 new Rangers would not have been enrolled by our efforts alone. It is a privilege to serve in His Kingdom. To God be the glory!



1 The young people committing their lives to Christ during the camp

2 117 pastors and leaders trained

3 Getting the children to participate in some activities before the enrollment program

4 Presenting the newly enrolled Rangers



# Anchored in Faithfulness, We will Overcome

Our church's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary became an even greater demonstration of God's grace as COVID-19 hit close to our home church.

By Selina Esther Lim, Grace Assembly of God

After the installation of a new senior pastor on December 31, 2019, Grace Assembly of God (AG) was looking forward to the new year with great anticipation because 2020 marked our church's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The church premises was decked out with banners bearing our new mission statement, 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo and tagline, 'Anchored in Faithfulness'. Everyone was looking forward to the line-up of celebratory events planned for the year.

When COVID-19 hit Singapore in January, Grace AG started implementing preventive measures against the virus for our church services. No one would have imagined that an outbreak of the virus would occur among our staff just days after our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launch Celebrations services on February 8 and 9, 2020.

Our church leadership immediately swung into crisis management mode upon receiving news that its staff had been infected with COVID-19. The outbreak was so severe that Grace AG became the largest COVID-19 cluster at that point in time in February. Excluding those who were not church staff or Gracians, there were 17 who were infected, including our newly installed senior pastor, Rev Wilson Teo.

Day after day, we received news of newly confirmed cases and endless streams of queries came flooding in. As very little was known about the virus then, many people were filled with fear and worry, and they wanted to distance themselves from anyone related to Grace AG. Our church staff, members and their families faced stigmatization in one way or another, from finger-pointing and name-calling to being asked to stay away.

That period was really a difficult time for Grace AG. Unknown to many, half the leadership team members were then warded



*Anniversary celebrations*

in National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), because they were either confirmed or suspected cases. The leadership team met daily online to manage the church crisis from their homes or hospital wards.

Within days of the first confirmed case linked to Grace AG, all staff were issued home quarantine orders and both our church premises at Grace@Tanglin and Grace@BukitBatok were shut to ringfence the spread of the virus.

Upon knowing the plight of our church staff, Gracians sprang into action and became the church's hands and feet. They took to the streets to buy and deliver food and groceries for those who were affected. Some even stationed themselves outside the church's locked gates over the weekends to inform those who turned up unsuspectingly for church services. Gracians' generous and fearless spirit demonstrated the true biblical meaning of community living by meeting the needs of those who were immobilized in their houses.

God also began moving as we saw online prayer meetings borne out of Gracians' initiatives, from the young to the old across different ministries. We felt very blessed by the prayers, encouraging messages, gifts and practical help offered by Gracians, our neighbors, other churches, and even strangers!

God is indeed merciful and good. By March 13, all 17 staff and Gracians who were infected were discharged with no fatalities. Many of them also shared their personal testimonies with the media and those around them on how they, with the help of God and His grace, overcame their fears and the virus. We pray that these testimonies will bring hope to those in Singapore and beyond, especially now when there is much fear and uncertainty. As a church, we have shared our experiences with other churches that had infected cases among their congregations. We have also launched various initiatives to reach out those who need help such as blessing migrant workers and seniors in the community with masks and sanitizers.



*Anniversary launch*



*Blessings sent to Gracians*

Looking back, we thank God for the many "roadblocks" that He placed in our way when we were planning for our anniversary celebrations. We realized these obstacles have shielded the church from possibly far worse disruptions, financial losses and consequences.

Rev Wilson said, "I believe that God is doing something very deep and significant in the life of Grace AG. Through this crisis, God is deconstructing our understanding of church and reconstructing what He desires for us as we move beyond our 70th year."

From this episode, we have seen an uprising of faith and fervor for prayer, across all ages and congregations. Gracians have also realized that church is not just a building or a large gathering of people in one place only on weekends. Church is a group of audacious and Spirit-filled believers who love God deeply so as to love others radically. God is showing us that Christian living is dynamic and it takes place every day and anywhere.

COVID-19 was like a reset button. Everyone is now adapting to a new normal, at the workplace and at home. Now is the time to reflect and take stock of the key priorities in our lives. As believers, with God on our side and as we anchor ourselves in His faithfulness, we can certainly overcome this pandemic!



# Love Our Healthcare Workers Project

Coming together as a church to bless our healthcare workers.

By Ps Chadrick Yeo, Eternal Life Assembly

Reports of COVID-19 began making headlines in the news early this year. The number of infected cases were on the rise, hospitals in Singapore were on high alert and healthcare workers started gearing up for the long battle ahead.

From that moment on, our church began praying for Singapore. We prayed for the healing of those infected patients and the protection of healthcare workers. We asked God for His mercy and grace during this time.

During our staff meeting, our team acknowledged that healthcare workers were on the frontline combating this virus. Doctors and nurses treating the COVID-19 cases and other hospital staff like administrators, pharmacists, cleaners, cooks, security officers, ambulance drivers were all in danger of being potentially infected. Their family members were at risk of infection too. Healthcare workers were under tremendous stress; physically, mentally and emotionally. Despite the pressure, the call of duty and commitment motivated them to sacrificially brave the danger and ensure our hospitals functioned effectively.

Because of their selfless dedication to serve Singapore, our church wanted to encourage them. Besides praying, we wanted to express our love and concern to support them. We wanted to cheer them on and let them know that we are praying for them and standing with them throughout this difficult time. After much discussion, our staff team decided to bless Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH) since it is the nearest hospital to our church.

In late February, we contacted NTFGH to inform them of our interest to bless their healthcare workers. They were deeply appreciative and welcomed our support to them. Thus, we began discussing our partnership.

Our church put together a project committee comprising pastors, administrative staff and a few church members to plan the project. The team was excited and discussed meaningful ways to bless the healthcare workers. Many creative ideas sprung up and after piecing them together, we were set to initiate the 'Love Our Healthcare Workers' project.



*Our team delivering the goodies to NTFGH*



*A love offering was collected during our services to buy snacks and beverages for the frontliners*

We launched the project on the first weekend in March with a message. I preached that in times of crisis, the world will see Christ when the Church cares for the world because we are God's hands and feet and we are God's witnesses.

I challenged our church to show appreciation and love to the healthcare workers at NTFGH for serving our nation. Members from different congregations, English, Chinese and Filipino, wrote "Thank You" notes. We also collected a special offering to purchase snacks and beverages (as advised by the hospital) to encourage the workers.

When we wanted to purchase biscuits, Khong Guan Biscuit factory offered to sponsor 850 packets of biscuits as their contribution to the initiative. We were very touched by their generosity. Praise God for the sponsorship!

One of our project team members, Ying Ting, an art teacher, creatively painted seven beautiful canvases that portrayed different healthcare workers in the hospital. She then conscientiously placed hundreds of "Thank You" notes onto the canvases. We thank God for her creative ideas, effort and hard work.

On April 2, the day came when we had to deliver the goodies to NTFGH. To represent our church and the different congregations that participated in this initiative, we had our Senior Pastor, Ps Bob and our congregation pastors deliver the goodies.



*Thank You notes on the specially painted canvases to encourage our healthcare workers*

With the generous offering collection, we had also purchased and collected an abundance of snacks and beverages to bless the healthcare workers. Two church members from the Chinese congregation drove their trucks to assist in delivering the goods to the hospital. The beverage supplier had to send the drinks directly to the hospital because there was insufficient space in our vehicles.

Upon arrival, the manager, Alywn and his team from NTFGH were touched and appreciative of the support and love showered upon them. They were overwhelmed by the generous amount of snacks and beverages. We felt humbled by what God has done through our church. Through this initiative, we trust that the healthcare workers at NTFGH will see Christ through our faith and works of blessings.



*The committee and volunteers all ready to set off to deliver the goodies*

# Finding God's Opportunity in Your Obstacle

## Finding opportunities to be a blessing.

By Calvary Assembly of God

*"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Ephesians 5:15-17*

As COVID-19 began to deepen its reach into the heart of Singapore in the beginning of March 2020, a recurring question stirred in the hearts and minds of our church leadership: "How should we as a church of Jesus Christ look like in such a time as this? How can we make the most of every opportunity in this season?" Here we were, not just as a church but a nation, facing an unprecedented obstacle – COVID-19. Yes, we had shifted our services, life groups, and prayer meetings online but surely there had to be more to this than waiting for things to return to 'normal.' It was in this season of waiting, where God began to lay these passages on our hearts.

*"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"* (Matthew 25:34-40)

*"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."* (James 2:14-17)



*Our church premises converted to house the homeless*

Thus, began our journey to finding opportunities where we could be an extension of God's love and grace to those in need despite the obstacles before us. It started with a simple call for the church to prepare and give care packages to a small migrant working community we had been connecting with over the past year. But there was still a sense that God had something else in store for us. So, when the call to shelter the homeless came out in the second week of March, we knew that God had prepared our premises and our hearts for this.

As we went through the necessary preparations for Calvary to be a shelter for the homeless, we knew God was inevitably preparing our hearts to receive and cherish those who would soon enter into our 'home'. This was most evident with the overwhelming sense of joy and love we would feel in our hearts every time we received or interacted with a resident. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

The biggest takeaway, however, is not found in doing good unto others. Rather, it is found in always being open to finding the God-opportunities in the obstacles of life—for God is one who works in every situation.

As you have read this article, take some time to reflect on these questions: What is one God-opportunity that you can find in your current situation? What is one practical thing that you can do to be an extension of God's love and grace and to whom?



*Care packages prepared for the homeless who are putting up in our church premises*



*Arrangements made to receive anyone who needs a shelter*



*Our church member all ready to provide the administrative support needed*



# We Are in This Together

Loving the community through our acts of love.

By Rev Jason Tan, Zion Full Gospel Church

Even though they are not citizens of our country, we must not forget that the migrant workers and FDWs in Singapore play essential roles in contributing to our nation. Yet, by virtue that they are foreigners, they have often become the unsung heroes of our society.

## Love Others

1 John 4:8 reminds us that “God is love”. The church is called to be an expression of God’s love in the community. Within the church, believers are called to love one another. In the wider society, believers are called to love our neighbors, colleagues, friends and people whom God has connected us with to share His word, support and encouragement. This includes migrant workers and FDWs in Singapore.

## Do Not Lose Heart

When self-preservation seems natural in times of fear and uncertainty, believers are called to love those around us, knowing we have God’s love and grace to exercise such kindness to others. This is easier said than done in reality. So how do we find the strength to exercise such faith when we ourselves are fearful?

Paul writes to the church in Corinth, urging them not to lose heart and reveals the purpose of the temporary troubles: *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly, we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

It is through moments of crisis that we find our sweetest moment of knowing that we can only depend on Christ and He is relentlessly faithful to those who love and call upon Him. It is only when we go through the crises of our lives that we discover that Christ isn’t just waiting at the destination, He has always been beside us, supporting us through our tribulations. Do not lose heart, our trust is in the Lord, not on our circumstances.



*Coming together to bless our migrant workers*

## Appreciating Migrant Workers

As our nation battles with COVID-19, we must remember that we have been supplied with the grace to love others and we do so for the glory of God. So, as believers, let us continue to extend the expression of God’s love onto others, especially to the forgotten and vulnerable ones in our society. Showing our sincere appreciation for the migrant workers and FDWs sends an important message that there is someone who cares for them.

On March 11, 2020, volunteers from Zion Full Gospel Church (ZFGC), had the privilege to extend our appreciation to 250 migrant workers at the Great World City SMRT Station construction site.

Ms Joan Pereira, Member of Parliament and Grassroots Advisor for Tanjong Pagar GRC, attended the event and distributed care packs together with ZFGC volunteers. Each care pack contained antibacterial wipes, soap, Vitamin-C, fresh oranges, oat drinks and an assortment of snacks.

In her brief appreciation address, Ms Pereira expressed her appreciation to the management of the construction site and the neighboring community. She highlighted how the current crisis has brought out the best in many Singaporeans and commended many ground-up community initiatives to appreciate the frontlines and other vulnerable members of the community.

ZFGC volunteers also connected personally with many migrant workers and thanked them for their continuous contribution to building our nation even under such challenging times.

We can only overcome this crisis when all in Singapore – residents, including short-term residents and visitors – take on the ownership to practice good social responsibility. Let us remember that we are in this together, and only when we stand united, can we overcome.



*Rev Jason thanking the workers for their hard work in building our nation*



*It is a joy to be a blessing*



*Our volunteers bringing smiles to all present*

# Online Preaching Experiences During COVID-19

The grace of God helped us through adopting new methods in preaching and reaching out.

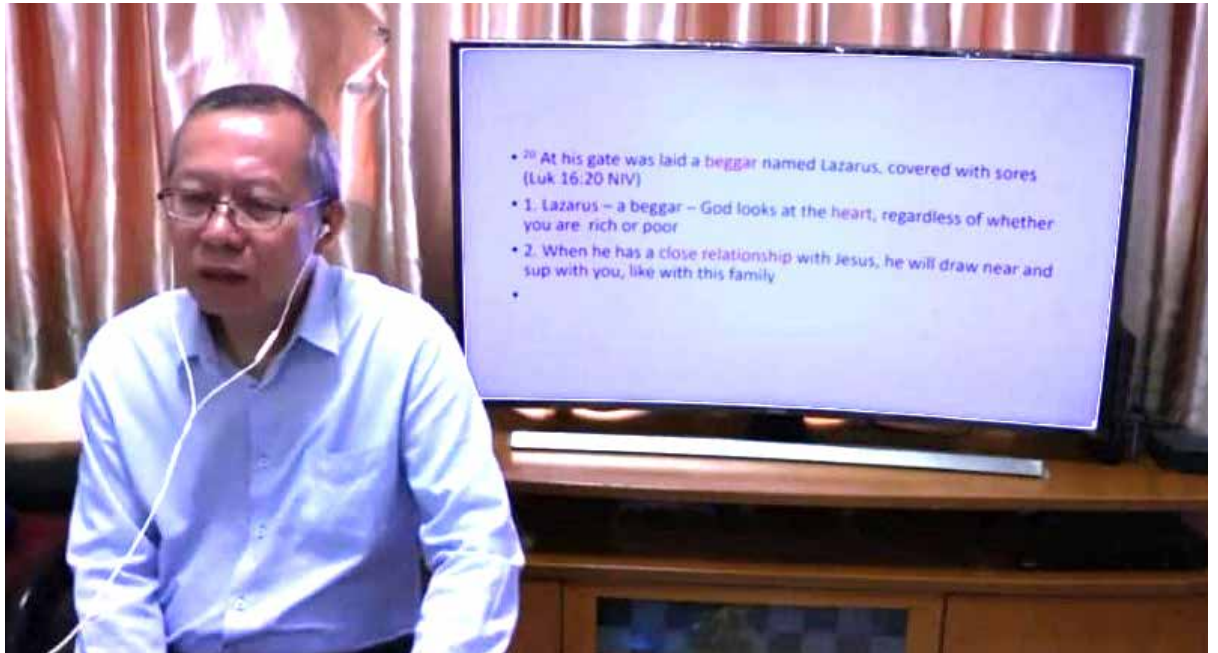
By Rev Tay Hey Tong, Grace Christian Church

Two days before the introduction of Circuit Breaker (CB) measures on April 7, 2020, I started preaching online.

Thank God for technology and also for my daughter, Esther, who knew how to execute free, live-streaming messages online. Ever since I did live-streaming preaching through YouTube, more people could access my messages. This meant that more people could be blessed by my sermons. We are a church with about 60 members, including families. Within the first two weeks after my online sermon was posted on April 5, 107 people had accessed it, including some repeat visits. I thank God for this increase in viewership.

However, it wasn't easy at the beginning.

As I embarked on this endeavor, I soon discovered that it was harder for me to preach online than in a church setting. This was because, in the latter, I could interact with my hearers. Furthermore, I could get their immediate responses as to whether or not they understood my message. If they could not, I would adjust my preaching in such a way that they could understand me. But, for online preaching, I could not do so on the spot.



*Rev Tay preaching an online sermon*

In order to prepare good online sermons to attract and retain viewers, especially my church members, I spent more time preparing better sermons, even taking three to four days to prepare. Through this exercise, I had learnt to be very precise in what I was going to say in coordination with my sermon slides.

When I preached a good sermon, I received good feedback. For instance, one member from overseas, after watching my sermon online, remarked that I should preach more online. Another sister, who was not a member of our church, said that my message had lifted her up, especially in this difficult time. I thank God for this platform to share God's Word with my church members, fellow believers and pre-believers at large.

Seeing the benefits of this platform, I've decided that when we resume preaching in church in the near future, the Lord willing, I will try to make it a point to have YouTube live-streaming or have my messages recorded in videos while I preach in church. This is to ensure that the members of my church, who might have missed church that week, could view them at any time. Furthermore, these live-streamed or recorded sermons can also become a blessing to others beyond our church.

During this period of Circuit Breaker, there is unfortunately no opportunity for fellowship in person except via online platforms.

Let us continue to pray that we can gather soon to encourage one another towards love and good deeds.

*...Continued from pg 7*

## 9. Always look at the big picture

There are so many issues that we wrestle with in ministry. We have to make decisions amidst differing opinions and disagreements.

One thing that has helped me is to look at the big picture.

I've to remind myself that I'm not the agenda; the mission of God is the agenda. It's always about God and not about me. It's about doing what is right before God and not before men. It's about God's Kingdom and not about my church.

The more we're guided by the big picture, we'll not be blinded by smaller things.

## 10. Check yourself constantly

Constantly ask yourself these four questions: Who am I serving? What am I doing? Why am

I doing it? How am I doing it?

I used the word "constantly" because we all have a tendency to go off tangent. Honest answers to these questions keep our motives and attitudes in check. Ultimately, it isn't about how well we do or serve. Rather we need to check if our hearts are in the right posture.

In short, it's about alignment and not just assignment.

God looks at our hearts. We must guard our hearts. Therefore, constant self-evaluation and soul searching are needed.

For all of us who are called into the ministry, whatever season we are in, the journey of faith continues. May the Lord guard our hearts and lead our every step for His glory.



# Essence of Easter

## The year Easter came to every household.

By Kristine Lee, Trinity Christian Centre

Huddled in one's household, unable to go out because of a deadly plague outside. Sounds familiar? It's not Singapore's Circuit Breaker or the lockdown situations in many countries because of COVID-19. More than 3,000 years ago, God orchestrated the original #stayhome #staysafe campaign for the Israelites.

A plague of death was going to sweep across Egypt, killing the first-born sons of each household. It was the only way Pharaoh would concede to freeing the Israelite slaves. To be protected from the plague, each Israelite household was to smear the blood of an unblemished lamb on to their doorposts and remain indoors. They were to eat the lamb and prepare unleavened bread for the road (Exodus 12). This was the original Passover.

Fast forward to 2020, Trinitarians stayed at home on Passover (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday, remembering the great rescue plan that Jesus had carried out for us.

### Easter in its Essence

Since we were not able to leave our homes to go to church nor interact physically with those living outside our households, we were “forced” to share the Good News we weren’t used to. In God’s special ways, His presence reached people and places we did not expect.

“On Good Friday, God prompted me strongly to set up a Facebook Watch Party. I did so in obedience and to my surprise, my brother-in-law joined my Watch Party! He was one who would not even step into church but this time, he even waved! I am still in awe! Though we are unable to congregate physically to worship Him whether in our Connect Groups or in church, God is still working! His message of hope and love never stops!” — **Mic Law**

Mdm Leong has been sharing about the love of Christ with her family members for more than 30 years, and praying for them for more than 40. But only recently, the door was opened for her to pray with her sister-in-law, who is facing a health crisis.

When Trinity launched Easter services online, she seized the opportunity to send the service invites to her entire family. At the same time, she rallied her current and previous Connect Group members to pray for open hearts. The family had always been resistant, so Mdm Leong didn’t raise her hopes too high. But she still had faith in God’s faithfulness and love for her family.

She was surprised that her sister-in-law overseas replied immediately to her invite and even asked about the song played during service. Even more amazingly, other siblings in Australia, the UK and a niece in the US who had been away from church for over 20 years attended the service!

Despite being a Tech novice, Ms Loy stepped out in faith to set up a Facebook Watch Party so her pre-believing loved ones could attend Easter Sunday Service with her Connect Group. This friend is now connected to his new spiritual community!

“The presence of God was so awesome. Even though we were not gathered in a physical location, God showed He is indeed sovereign. His presence was so real even in our own homes. He has proven to us again and again that He alone transcends time. Even though we knew that the services are pre-recorded and not live, His presence transcended that. Praise God!”

— **Christopher Thia and Dawn Kuah**



*Couple Christopher Thia and Dawn Kuah all ready for the Easter service*

God fulfilled His salvation plan for the Israelites more than 3,000 years ago on Passover. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, it is new every morning.

Let us be the vessels to bring His church and Good News into every household.



*Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter weekend services online*



*Mdm Leong inviting her family to service*



*Church at home*



*Taking communion as a family*

# God Prepared Me for the Trials Ahead

*God taught me how to trust in Him amidst my uncertainties.*

*By Alice Soh, Bethel Assembly of God*

*40-Day God Encounter* began on January 1. Every morning, Bethelites met at the prayer room. God's words of edification and encouragement were released, and everyone soaked in the Holy Spirit's presence.

During the session, the words "trials and tribulations" came to me. It gave an impression that something bad might happen. On the last day of our *40-Day God Encounter*, we received the news that COVID-19 had started to spread in Singapore.

On February 11, I was led to study Isaiah 53 and 54. God spoke about His love and compassion for His people. He spoke to me about Noah's faithfulness. Noah believed in God's plan, was faithful to Him and his family was protected.

On February 11, at about 9pm, I started to feel chills and had a fever of about 40 degrees Celsius. The fever went on for three days. This was at the beginning of the COVID-19 period, when everyone was anxious about seeing a doctor for a fever. On February 13, I went to see a doctor. During the visit, I took a blood test to check for dengue fever, but the result was negative. I continued to feel weak and my fever persisted. During this period, I stayed home, but no one knew how serious the COVID-19 situation would become.

On February 16, I decided to check myself into the hospital because my fever had not subsided and I was also feeling breathless. My husband drove me to Changi General Hospital (CGH) and couldn't accompany me further than the drop-off. I was immediately escorted to an extension of the Accidental and Emergency (A&E) Department, and was told to wait. As I waited, I suffered chest pains and breathlessness. I signaled to the nurse about my discomfort. She took me into a room for ECG and examined my blood pressure. Then, I was escorted into a container that looked like another extension of the A&E. Five persons, including me, were seated two meters apart.

While I waited, the prospect of death daunted me. I began to wonder, "Are they sending me to the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID)?" What if I had contracted the virus?

What would be my last words? I realized I had no chance to say my farewells.

Then I told God, "I cannot die through a virus!" I started to worry if a cluster would happen in Bethel and bargained with God, "God, I can go and meet you in any case, but please don't inflict this on the body of Christ."

As I waited, the pain afflicted me all over. I requested the nurse to let me rest on a bed. She took my temperature again, but this time it started to drop. She looked a little relieved and sought permission to escort me to a sofa bed. Later, the doctor informed me that my chest x-ray was clear and my blood test had come back dengue positive.

Overjoyed! I informed my Bethel family. We laughed! We'd never felt so happy for someone to have dengue fever. I was admitted into an isolation ward for six days where a COVID-19 test was done. Thankfully, it came back negative. Throughout my stay, the medical staff took comprehensive precautionary measures while caring for me.

After this experience, I asked myself if I'm living each day fully to glorify Him.

During this trial, the Holy Spirit reminded me of God's protection and His faithfulness through the story of Noah. Noah's family was preserved for God's purposes. While I was hospitalized and my husband had to work, God sent helpers to care for my children. I thank God for Bethelites and close friends too who prayed for us.

In this COVID-19 situation, do you see God's wrath? Or His faithfulness? Just like Noah, will we live to tell of His love?

Isaiah 54:10 says, *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.*"

Friends, when we align our spirit with God, He will empower us to walk through unfamiliar experiences.





# A Love that Binds

*A broken marriage. Indelible addictions. How did God transform Kevin Foo and Lynn Ong's pain into a purpose-driven life?*

*Adapted by Kristine Lee, Trinity Christian Centre*

## The Brokenness

**Kevin:** For nearly 30 years, I had been drinking, smoking and clubbing. I would be out until about 5 am and usually come home drunk. This continued after I was married and led to many quarrels and even physical fights with my wife. I was also addicted to gambling and incurred a huge pile of debts.

**Lynn:** Kevin and I would fight every day and at times, we would get violent. Unable to take it anymore, I initiated divorce proceedings. I was crushed. I felt I had failed my son as I could not give him a complete home.

## The Turning Point

**Lynn:** When my friends, Ben and Jaslyn invited me to Trinity, I realized I had to come back to God. I had received Jesus when I was a teenager but had not been back to church for a long while.

At the services, peace and comfort filled my heart. Different people, including my Connect Group leader prayed for me. My friends taught me to entrust my entire situation to God, including my marriage. I decided to stop the divorce proceedings but life was still a constant struggle. Whenever Kevin came home drunk, I would go into the room to pray instead of arguing with him.

**Kevin:** Being in debt was no fun. I felt useless as a husband and a father. Unable to help myself out of my addictions, I fell into depression. During my darkest moments, I observed Lynn and saw that she looked peaceful, even joyful. One Sunday morning, I suddenly felt the urge to visit Trinity and asked my wife to bring me along.

During the service, I felt the love of God embracing me. Through the Connect Group's relentless belief in me, I felt a sense of belonging. I knew I had to put a stop to my addictions so I stopped drinking, smoking and gambling. By God's grace, I did not have any withdrawal symptoms! I am now a much happier person knowing the destiny God has in store for me.

## Finding God's purpose

**Lynn:** I began to see my husband change. Within a year, he was baptized! We went for marriage counseling at Trinity and started attending Trinity Academy classes together.

God has not only restored our marriage, He used our experience to reach out to our friends in similar situations. Tapping on the skills learned in the Spiritual Parenting classes

and the teamwork of our Connect Group, we have seen seven of our friends saved. Four of them, together with two others from our Connect Group, were baptized last year!

After the onset of COVID-19, our Connect Group started to meet online during the Circuit Breaker period. I continued to reach out to a pre-believing loved one and she accepted my invitation to attend the service online. She is looking forward to the on-site services when we can meet in church again.

## Peace in the Storms

**Kevin:** At the start of the Circuit Breaker, I felt helpless and frustrated. Being self-employed, I still had to pay the rent for my shop even though it was closed. But God provided divine strength and peace even as other streams of income flowed in.

**Lynn:** Two years ago, I took up an outdoor sales job that meant a 50% pay cut but allowed me to attend church on weekends. This job now provides a steady income despite me not being able to actually do the sales. Had I remained in the last commission-based job, things would be very different.

These are challenging times but our trust is in God. He is the one who truly holds our family together. I'm so happy His love binds us together.



*Kevin and Lynn with their sons*



*Kevin and Lynn's Connect Group meet online*





# 20TH GOLF CHARITY

LIFTING UP WITH HANDS OF HELP

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SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB  
ISLAND COURSE

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2020**  
**FRIDAY**

Registration & Lunch: 11.30 AM

Shotgun: 1.00pm

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