

Honor Pastors' Month in October
Thank You Pastors

Hebrews 13:7

"Remember your leaders,
who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way
of life and imitate their faith."

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PUBLISHER:

AG ASSEMBLIES
OF GOD
SINGAPORE

The Assemblies of God of Singapore
247 Paya Lebar Road #01-01
Singapore 409045

PRINTER:
Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

MCI (P) 008/08/2020



Honoring Pastors in a Pandemic

Rev Dominic Yeo

What a year it's been so far! Physical doors of churches were closed. Pastors could not see their congregants face-to-face for months, and are now experts in various social media platforms and streaming technologies. Various equipment began sprouting up in our homes—tripods, lights and microphones—all so that ministry can continue during COVID-19. Perhaps our Bible seminaries should conduct courses on how to lead a church during a pandemic or pastoring from afar, and throw in lessons on podcasting and vlogging. These unprecedented times are stretching your pastors in so many ways as they try their best to shepherd their flock.

I know of many pastors who put their call to serve and minister above the pandemic fears to continually minister to their congregation in the hospitals and at funerals. There are countless difficult decisions that your pastors have to make during this season, especially with how fluid things are. Should they reopen church doors or not? Should they settle for church services without being allowed to sing? Should they continue renting their church facilities? How will the rentals and overheads be met? How should they minister to the elderly and members who are not so tech-savvy as the church moves online? With the shift to online services, how can we address the mindset of “convenient Christianity”? How do we help our flock grow their spiritual disciplines and not fall away? How can we engage the children and youths tangibly?

Not everyone will understand the pressures faced by your pastors. Not everyone will approve of their decisions. Even fewer will applaud their leaders or give them affirmation. Some may even leave church. But I pray that you trust your pastors and stand with them as they make difficult decisions. God honors the unity of His people and this is the time for everyone in the church to stand with their pastors and forge ahead together as the Body of Christ.

The month of October is Honor Pastors' Month. This isn't the time for dinner gatherings. Rather the best form of honor and encouragement you can give to your pastors is to stand with them in prayer. God is the Alpha and Omega. He knows how this pandemic will end and He knows the way through it. The question for us is: How will the church emerge from the pandemic? Unified or fragmented?

Pray for them to be led by the Spirit. These are unprecedented times. Just as how the Lord led Joshua and the Israelites in Joshua 3:4 to “*know which way to go since [they] have never been this way before*”. I urge you to pray for your pastors. Pray that they walk closely with God and they will spend intimate times of dwelling in His presence so that God will reveal strategies and directions to navigate the obstacles.

Pray for them to be wise and discerning. May they be like the Sons of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32 who “*understood the times*” and know what to do. Pray for them to have certainty and boldness in their spirits to follow the leading of the Lord and not give in to the pressures of popularity.

Pray for their spirit to be strengthened. Your pastors are NOT superheroes – they are very human. Cut them and they will bleed. The battle with COVID-19 is a long drawn one and it is easy for them to grow tired. Pray for the hope we have in Christ to be theirs and that the Spirit of the Lord will sustain them when they feel overwhelmed by the weight of their circumstances.

Pray for their households. Working from home with their spouse and children can really be challenging. Many of your pastors have been doing their best to record their worship and preaching parts while keeping their young children at bay. Stresses are inevitable. But with your prayers, I believe there will be divine interventions.

Finally, pray for unity in the church. Christ prayed in John 17:21-23: “*That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you... then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me*”. If the world is to see Christ, and the hope that we have in Him, they need to see a Church that is unified. And that begins with you.

Prayer is the best gift you can give to your pastors this Honor Pastors' Month.

在大流行中尊容牧师

今年过得真是不可置信！教会的门已实体地关闭。牧师已经有好几个月没有与会众实体见面了。牧师突然成为各种社交媒体平台和在线技术的专家。我们家中出现了各种各样的设备—三脚架，照明设备，麦克风，好让我们的工能在2019冠状病毒期间继续运作。也许神学院应该开课教导如何在流行中带领教会、远程牧养，及如何操作播客和视频博客。但就目前而言，你的牧师为了继续牧养在他们照料下的羊群，已经在各个方面都被伸展。

我知道有许多牧师在大流行中克服惧怕，将呼召摆在第一位，继续着医院的探访和丧礼的服事。在这个情况多变的时期，你的牧师必须做出无数困难的决定。他们应该重新打开教会的大门吗？他们应该在不被允许以唱歌敬拜的情况下恢复主日聚会吗？他们应该继续为教会租用场地或设施吗？如何支付租金和费用？教会上线聚会，他们应该如何照顾年长者以及那些对科技一窍不通

的人？随着聚会转移到线上，我们如何防止基督徒发展便捷信仰的心态？我们如何帮助会众在属灵塑造中成长而不至于堕落？我们如何才能吸引需要切实社交参与感的儿童和青少年？

并非每个人都能理解牧师面临的压力。并非每个人都会同意他们的决定。更少的人会肯定他们的领袖或为他们鼓掌。有些人甚至可能离开教会。但我为你祷告，愿你信任你的牧师，在他们做出困难决定时支持他们。神尊荣祂子民的团结，而这个时刻便是教会中每个人与他们的牧师同心站立的时刻，作为基督的肢体，共同前进。

十月是尊荣牧师的月份。现在不适合聚餐，然而，你能尊重和鼓励牧师的最好方式，就是为他们祷告，支持他们。神是阿拉法和俄梅戛——祂知道这场大流行会如何结束，也知道这场大流行如何处理。问题是——教会经历这场大流行后，情况将如何？是合一还是支离破碎？

祈求牧师被圣灵带领。这是前所未有的时期。就像耶和華在约书亚记3：4中如何带领约书亚和以色列人认识路，因为他们“从来没有走过这条路”。请为牧师祷告，但愿他们与神同行，与神有更加亲密的关系，住在祂的同在中，好让神向他们揭示应对这段日子的策略和方向。

祈求牧师有智慧和辨别能力。他们就能像历代志上12:32中以萨迦的后裔一样，“洞悉时事”并知道该怎么做。求主赐他们灵里有勇气和确定性，能跟随主的带领而不屈服于大众的压力。

祈求牧师的灵被刚强。你的牧师不是超级英雄，而是真切的人，被割伤了会流血。与2019冠状病毒的战斗是场持久战，且容易心生疲惫。请为他们祷告，能拥有在基督里的盼望，并求主圣灵支撑他们，不会因为周遭情况的压力而不胜负荷。

为牧师的家庭祷告。居家办公，特别是配偶和子女也在家中时，确实是一个挑战。很多牧师一直在尽最大努力，在家中录制主日聚会证道或者敬拜部分的同时，让家中的小孩不干扰这个过程。压力是不可避免的。但是，有了你的祷告，我相信必有神圣的介入。

最后，祈求教会的团结。就像耶稣在约翰福音17：21-23中祷告：“使他们都合而为一，正如父你在我里面，我在你里面一样……好让世人相信是你差我来的，并且爱过他们，即使你爱过我”。如果世人要看到基督，以及我们在祂里面的盼望，他们就需要看到一个合一的教会。这就要由每个信徒开始，也就是由你开始。



Pastors play different roles in our congregation. They marry and bury you; they pastor you from cradle to grave. In this series, 'The Pastor', we focus on four major roles they play in a believer's life—shepherd, teacher, parent and servant. As we read on, let's also strive to know them beyond their roles. Build genuine friendships with your pastors, if you haven't already, and appreciate them as they care for you.

The Pastor—A Shepherd's Heart

What does it mean to be a shepherd and not a butcher of Christ's flock? Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock invites us to learn from the Apostle Peter.

"So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." 1 Peter 5:1-4

Shepherd the flock of God

Peter urged pastors to shepherd the flock of God. The word "shepherd" (Greek poimaino) means to feed, to nourish, to tend, to keep and to cherish the flock. Thus, Peter could easily recall what Jesus commanded him to do in John 21:15-17: *to love Jesus is to feed and tend His sheep.*

Love and care for the sheep in the Bible are exemplified as follows:

1. The first step to a relationship with your flock is to know them by name (John 10:3). A relationship develops trust and trust gives us the liberty to lead them (John 10:14).
2. A good shepherd nourishes his flock well (Psalm 23:2). To do that, pastors need to set aside time to study the Word and pray.
3. A good shepherd knows the conditions of his flock (Proverbs 27:23-24). In a large congregation, we need co-shepherds to help us feel the pulses of the sheep.
4. A good shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his sheep (John 10:11-13). David exemplified that in risking his life to save the lambs from a lion and a bear (1Samuel 17:34-37). Safety and the well-being of the members should always be on the pastor's heart.
5. Every sheep counts (Luke 15:3-7). What matters is not numbers, but lives that are saved and are well with the Lord.
6. Keep in mind, our flock does not belong to us, they are "the flock of God" entrusted to our care. We will give an account to God for every one of them. So pastor them well!

Exercise oversight

To exercise oversight is to watch over the flock. Paul instructed the leadership of the Church in Ephesus (Acts 20:28-29).

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

Shepherds are appointed as overseers by the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit appoints, He also anoints. As pastors, we must pay careful attention to our own spiritual life and our flock's because Jesus has paid a great price for His flock with His blood! It is therefore an honor to serve as shepherds of the flock of God willingly, heartily, and ever ready, without the feeling of being forced into the task, without any motive for selfish gain and without lording over the flock.

To protect ourselves and our flock against any false and distorted teachings that may creep subtly into the church, we diligently study the Word and pray, and cultivate a sensitive ear to the voice of the Holy Spirit (1Samuel 3:4-14).

Be an example

Shepherds are called to be examples before the flocks. An exemplary shepherd is portrayed in Psalm 23, written by David, a shepherd who looked to the Lord Jehovah as his model Shepherd. David himself was exemplary as Asaph wrote in Psalm 78:72, "So he (David) shepherded them (Israel) according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands."

A visitor touring in the East saw a man chasing after a flock of sheep. Surprised by what he saw, he asked the man, "I thought that eastern shepherd leads the flock, never drives them?" The man replied, "I am not a shepherd. I am a butcher."

Pastors, we are called to be shepherds, therefore we need to exemplify our Chief Shepherd who is gentle and humble (Matthew 11:29). We are not called to be butchers. I pray that we lead our flock with a slogan from Paul, *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."* (1Corinthians 11:1, NIV)



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The Pastor—A Teacher's Heart

During these challenging times, pastors must not only anchor their flocks in the unchanging truths of God's Word, but also navigate their churches through the treacherous waters of this new world. Rev Philip Chan shares his concerns.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5)

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19, NIV)

We are living in challenging times—for all people on earth and for the Church. Almost all nations are facing the unprecedented challenges of a coronavirus pandemic and the attendant fallout of economies in tailspin. To make matters worse, food security is being compromised by massive locust attacks from Africa to Latin America. Even as I write, the worst floods in living memory threaten great destruction in China. All over the world, people are fearful and confused at this confluence of catastrophes. Why is all this happening?

Christians, as God's people, need to be keenly aware that we have come into this world for such a time as this. Pastors, as shepherds of God's flock, need to see that we are called to navigate their churches through the treacherous waters we find ourselves in. Above all, we need to discern God's hand and purpose in guiding human history to a final resolution—the establishment of the Kingdom of God. There are two issues I would like to highlight as matters of urgency for pastors to address at this crucial time:

1. A Flood of Filth

The Church has, from the early days until recently, always held to a biblical view of human sexuality, marriage, and family. Not anymore. Vocal proponents of non-traditional families have been making headway in pushing for legal and social recognition of alternative relationships and families. We have witnessed, in the past few decades, a redefinition of these foundational building blocks of society mostly in America and Europe. This has emboldened activists in traditional conservative societies in other parts of the world.

Denominations have been split over this. Churches have exited their denominations citing unconditional love and inclusiveness as paramount. Pastors and influential Christian writers have “evolved” their views when they, or their children, “came out”. The Church in the West is now on the back foot in the face of this onslaught. As the floodwaters of liberalism rise, will the conservative

dam break? Will the Ten Commandments be reduced to the Ten Suggestions? I pray not!

“When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalm 11:3). Well, the righteous can continue to be righteous, no matter how unrighteous the world becomes! Pastors must continue to hold forth the Word of Life in the midst of a perverse generation!

2. A Fusillade of Falsehood

We have just witnessed the passing of two great stalwarts of the faith, Ravi Zacharias and J. I. Packer. Could their passing signal that the floodgates that held erroneous teachings at bay have been breached? The modern Church has been inundated by a flood of feel-good motivational teaching, making it acceptable and palatable to the world. But the Gospel by its very nature confronts and convicts the world of sin. If salt loses its saltiness, it is worthless.

Over the past thirty years as a pastor and teacher, I struggled to overcome and correct the deceptive influences of the proliferation of unbiblical teaching online accessed by some of my church members. Error rides on the back of truth. Deadly poison is concealed within the red candied apple. Christian sheep are so gullible. Perhaps I should write a book with the title “Gullible's Travels”! Make no mistake. This is a front-line in the spiritual battle. Pastors, we need to fight tooth and nail for the souls and spiritual well-being of our flock.

Besides these challenges, pastors now must lead and feed their flock in the “new normal” of the post-coronavirus world. This is actually abnormal! Not being able to gather to worship the Lord and have face-to-face fellowship is an additional challenge. Pastors must find new ways to maintain the fellowship through modern technology. This is where I believe the strong teaching ministry of pastors comes to the fore. Being unable, by force of circumstances, to have the entire church gather in one place, pastors now must double down to teach small groups and individuals. You are blessed if you have mature leaders who can contribute in this regard.

In the midst of all this negativity, however, hope shines brightly! God, the Alpha and Omega, is inexorably drawing human history to a close and instituting His glorious eternal kingdom. Let us have eyes of faith to see beyond the senseless tumult of this present time.

In this season of “enforced rest”, let us find our little brook Cherith like Elijah. Let us find renewed strength and direction from the Lord to lead our congregations through the maddening maze of spiritual and moral confusion that is in the world now. May the Lord grant all His faithful servants a second spiritual wind to carry us through!



Rev Philip Chan is a pastor-teacher. He and his wife Sophia had pastored Living Spring Fellowship for 18 years. Philip had also held teaching and administrative posts in TCA and AGBC. More recently, he had returned to his native Malaysia to fulfil a bucket-list wish of being a public school teacher. He also pastored Living Water Assembly of God, Tampin for two years. He returned to Singapore in 2019 to fulfil a higher calling of being a grandfather!

The Pastor—A Parent's Heart

Our pastors are likened to our spiritual parents, whom we receive teachings from as we grow in our spiritual journey. Rev Terence Ong shares his heart.

We've heard it said, "a mother's work is never done". In this way, at least, the pastor work is like the work of parents! The ministry that bears the people of God "from cradle to grave" might sound romantic, but it's exhausting. It's probably why the work of missionaries, apostles, teachers, prophets or evangelists sometimes looks more attractive. At least the work in those vocations are clearer.

But can we speak more clearly about the pastor's work? Reframing the question—can we speak about a center to all the labor of the parent? This essay proposes a simple idea—the responsibility of the parent spelled out in Deuteronomy, foreshadows the work of the pastor for His People today.

Pastor as Parent: Teaching the Word of God

"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6–9 ESV)

The parents of Israel were given the all-important responsibility of teaching the children "these words that I command you". It was not the priests or the kings, but the humble parents of each household who were given the work of instruction of "the testimonies, statutes and rules of God" (Deuteronomy 4:1-10, 6:1, 20 ESV) to the children. In short, the God-given responsibility of parents, just like pastors, **was to faithfully transmit the Word of God to the next generation.**

The manner by which this transmission happens is further detailed by a series of verbs ('teaching', 'speaking', 'sit', 'walk', 'lie down', 'rise', 'bind', 'write') that moves through a flurry of highly visualize scenes of everyday life. What begins in the heart must be taught. And what is taught must be integrated with the speaking of God and His Word (theologizing) in every aspect of life—at home, on the way, and even at rest. And our theologizing must be matched by a covenant of faithfulness to God in both the private and public arenas of our life.

The goal of parents and pastors is to instruct children (biological and spiritual) in the Word of God. But can we deepen this further? What is the goal of God's Word? Or put within our context, what precisely is the point of "the testimonies, statutes and rules of God"?

Pastor as Parent: The Goal of Teaching

To answer this question, we need to consider what "these words" that Moses commanded the people were meant to do? What is the burden of the book of Deuteronomy for Israel?

Daniel I. Block answers in this way—

"The function of the book of Deuteronomy is to call every generation of Israelites

to **faithful covenant love for Yahweh** in response to his gracious salvation and his revelation of himself (cf. 6:20–25) and **in acceptance of the missional role to which he has called them** (26:19)."—Daniel I. Block, Deuteronomy, NIVAC; Accordance electronic ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004), 38.

It is vital to note that Deuteronomy begins, not with statutes and rules, but with testimonies - stories of God's saving action towards Israel. In chapters 1-4 and throughout the work, the words of Moses were concerned with the covenantal identity of Israel. They were the people inheriting the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They were brought out of slavery from Egypt, in order that we may be His priestly people, bearing His Shekinah Presence in the world. Obedience to the statutes and rules of God like the Sabbath, and the annual Festivals and socio-economic life were all there for one thing - to ensure they would be God's wisdom and light in the world (Deuteronomy 4:1-8). As Block rightly notes, the stipulations of Deuteronomy were given to produce covenantal love; and faithfulness for the mission to which they have been chosen.

Setting Block's insight within the Exodus event, we might say that God, having rescued Israel from Egypt, was now concerned in the giving of "the testimonies, statutes and rules" to form them as His firstborn son for faithful service before Him (Exodus 4:22-23). Israel was YHWH's firstborn son, called out of Egypt for a purpose - to be formed into the image and likeness of YHWH in His Love; to establish His Kingdom in Canaan, bearing His wisdom and glory there - salt of the earth and light for the nations (cf. Jesus' expectations of Israel in Matthew 5:13-20; Paul's assumptions of Israel's vocation in Romans 2:17-24, 9:1-5, Ephesians 2:11-12; and Peter's analogical identity for the church in Christ in 1 Peter 2:9-10)

In the light of this, we might say the goal of parenting was to form their children within a God-determined identity that enabled them to take their place in the world. The goal was to produce covenantal faithful sons and daughters of God, whose hearts were to serve Him in their generation.

The parents in ancient Israel were entrusted with a high calling. It gave them the privilege of participating with God to transmit His Word to their children. A transmission that involved teaching them a way of life marked by weekly Sabbath Day observations, annual festivals, and socio-economic communal practices. A teaching whose goal was to form a new generation who would take their place in the world, as the children of God called to serve Him in their generation.

Today, through the finished work of Jesus and by His Spirit, all humanity is now called to know God as their loving Father, and to participate with Him in His ongoing work to make all things new in Christ. Like the parents of Israel, pastors are given this high calling to teach the Word of God. To speak His Word faithfully in every sphere of life in this world, and to set an example of covenantal faithfulness in both their private and public lives.

May He keep us faithful to our calling. Amen.



Rev Terence Ong
is husband to Brenda-Mae and a father to four boys. He is presently holding the office of Senior Pastor at Centre of New Life. Outside of pastoral ministry, he enjoys playing with the boys and learning together with them—how to live Gospel-shaped lives fully engaged in present-day culture. He is passionate about the local church—as witnesses of God's New Creation through their life in communion with Jesus of Nazareth, as crucified Messiah, risen Lord and coming King.

The Pastor—A Servant's Heart

This reflection is written to give honor to all Christian workers and ministers who freely serve God and people with a servant's heart, and to encourage even more to walk in ways that reveal the transforming work of Christ, for we are God's workmanship. Ps Bernadette Fan shares.

There are descriptive words used in the New Testament to express what it means to be a spiritual elder and leader in Jesus Christ's Church. They include "soldier", "athlete", "shepherd", "farmer", "workman", and "steward". Yet the foremost pattern which unifies those biblical roles and obligations is that of a "servant". Jesus, the Servant, gives a perfect example of living and ministry. He took upon himself the position of ultimate lowliness, a servant. The Lord of the universe affirmed that anyone who would be great in his kingdom must be a servant; for he came to serve and not to be served, giving his life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28).

When I came to faith in my undergraduate days, the Christian leaders who had reached out to me inspired me. The pastor's unassuming humility, to me, was a quality that surpassed an assertive personality or expressive communication. Even though the effectiveness in pastoral ministry arises from a mix of qualities and abilities, it was ultimately the humble manner in which the pastor served and led that qualified the difference. It stood out to make the gospel message congruent. On the same token, many others who chose to dedicate their time and talents in Christian service gave practical meaning to what "servants of God" looked like. Through acts of service that ranged from setting up chairs for a prayer session to reading God's word with those who were home-bound, they did everything with readiness and diligence. Consequently, as I underwent discipleship and trained for ministry, memories of these godly examples added practicality to my appreciation of Scripture's instruction of being a servant of Christ.

As clear as Jesus had made it, how his disciples were to function, lead, and shepherd the citizens of God's kingdom was in the form of a willing servant and a humble slave. How shall we keep the posture and attitude of a servant?

Know the Master

Jesus said, *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."* (John 12:26)

Firstly, Jesus is the master. We are His servants. As we have chosen to follow him, we do so to the point of loving beyond ourselves. In following Jesus, we can anticipate a road similar to his experience, including hardship and death. It would be folly to expect to be treated better than the Master was. Yet, as we follow and serve the Master, we are comforted by the sure promise that Jesus is with us and will not abandon us.

Knowing our Master sets the ground for service. It prepares the heart against falling prey to the world's way of evaluating importance. It keeps one humble when flattery and success threaten to induce pride. It prohibits the attitude of entitlement and self-interest from building up, which demands extra honor and elevated status. It also preserves the heart from wounds inflicted by overbearing expectations heaped from many sides.

Jesus is the master.

Know the Task

The role of the pastor can be a staggering task list based on today's context. From preaching, teaching, praying, and overseeing the flock to networking, visitations, leading worship, chairing multiple committees, and keeping up with technological advances. However, many tasks can easily diminish focus. What, then, should the task be? The answer is found in Jesus.

The Gospels reveal that Jesus did five things: (1) He kept a close relationship with His Father, (2) He preached the gospel of the kingdom of God, (3) He made disciples through the Holy Spirit's power, (4) He met needs of people, and (5) He gave His life as a sacrifice.

Jesus calls us to do the same.

Through prayer, commit to a close relationship with the Father. With careful study of the Word, preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. Disciple leaders to take care of the needs of the people. Serve others as a servant of Christ.

Know the Outcome

Jesus tells us we have an entrustment.

In the parable of the talents, the servants were given a sum of money, and at the return of their master (Jesus Christ), the accounting is required. The master says to one of them, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23)

We live for the day to return to the Master all that He had entrusted us with. On His return, Jesus will look for those whom He can invite into His joy. We can look eagerly toward the return of Christ, the Master, and to his invitation to share in his happiness.

Knowing the outcome brings clarity to our vision that gets obscured by many things. Knowing the outcome renews hope to surmount discouragement that comes from failure and rejection. It encourages one to keep serving the Master with every possible gift given by God.

We are called to train and discipline our lives for godliness, to become more like Jesus Christ, the perfect Servant. Greatness, as seen in the life of our Master and those who have walked the faith journey before us, is measured in terms of service and not status. May our Christian witness and work in the world bring glory to God as we surrender ourselves to serve others!



Ps Bernadette Fan is married to Lionel Loh. Together they worship in The Harvest Force, where Bernadette serves as the Senior Pastor and Lionel as the Senior Commander of the Royal Rangers Outpost 23.

FORMER MALAWI AG SUPERINTENDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT



Lazarus Chakwera was sworn in as president of Malawi on June 28.

Having served as the Malawi Assemblies of God general superintendent for 24 years and as a member and/or secretary of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship for more than a decade, Chakwera, 65, also has leadership experience on multiple boards and organizations in the corporate world. He gained political experience after resigning as general superintendent in 2013 to focus on a 2014 bid for the presidency.

In a video posted by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Chakwera admits that he initially argued with God about going into politics. "And one day, God spoke to my heart, and God was not saying I'm pulling you out of ministry — God was saying I'm extending your ministry."

AG General Superintendent (USA) Doug Clay sends his congratulations to Chakwera, and states: "I've long admired the leadership and courage that Lazarus Chakwera has shown in both the Malawi Assemblies of God and our global Assemblies of God family. I am confident God will use him to now lead the great nation of Malawi."

"I really came to admire him [Chakwera] so greatly when I heard his plan for church planting in his country of Malawi," says George O. Wood, former AG USA general superintendent and current chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship. "His goal was to plant a church within walking distance of every citizen of Malawi."

"He has always impressed me as a very dignified and forceful, but kind and gracious leader," Wood continues. "I believe he is the first former AG general superintendent to be elected as president of his country. This fact testifies to the immense respect he has gained, not only within the Malawian AG and our Fellowship, but also within the citizenry of his country."

Chakwera came from humble beginnings, his father and mother being subsistence farmers in the Lilongwe District, his father also a minister and evangelist. Chakwera's parents chose to name him Lazarus after the biblical Lazarus who was raised from the dead, following the deaths of their first two infant sons, believing he would survive. Lazarus and his wife, Monica, have four adult children and several grandchildren.

Reprinted with permission from <https://news.ag.org/en/News/Former-Malawi-AG-Superintendent-Elected-President>

How Unity in the Spirit Conquers Crises in the Church

Our ministers shared their principles in leading their churches through the crises.

By Ps Navin Ong, Centre of New Life

On July 2, our very first online ministers' training session launched with over 160 Assemblies of God (AG) ministers in attendance. Bro Loy Ngee, our Executive Director, convened us and Rev Simon Ang, our Assistant General Superintendent, opened the meeting with Titus 2:13, exhorting us to look for the blessed hope—our future secured in Christ.

The discussion moderator, Rev Terence Ong, then invited us into a learning conversation about leading the church through crises, where us ministers could glean principles, discern issues and explore the leadership landscape while interviewing two seasoned and current practitioners, Rev Dr Wilson Teo, senior pastor, Grace AG and Rev Jason Tan, senior pastor, Zion Full Gospel Church (ZFGC).

Four 'C's—Christ, Care, Clarity and Cooperation

Kicking-off the conversation, Rev Jason shared his leadership context. Thrust into senior leadership at ZFGC, the church was in a season of great uncertainty. The vision and direction were shrouded by the unfortunate passing of its beloved senior pastor and it was critical for Rev Jason to bring hope and clarity when he took the helm. Navigating the crisis through the four 'C's—Christ, Care, Clarity and Cooperation—he quickly stepped into the "father of the house" role without compromising the clarity of his identity and convictions. Infusing hope brought light and clarity in the midst of a dark season and encouraging active participation in a renewed vision brought unity, ownership, purpose and cooperation among church members.

Pastoral Care and Overcoming Infrastructure Gaps

Rev Wilson's leadership context, on the other hand, was quite different. Grace had always had good leadership and was growing healthily.

However, one month into his new senior pastor role, COVID-19 struck and he faced crises on three levels: personal, family, as well as church and public. While running a high fever and in strict isolation at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), Rev Wilson found himself under a lot of stress. Besides facing international media scrutiny, his wife and second daughter were hospitalized in KK Women's and Children's Hospital, and his eldest daughter and son were constrained at home. It was under such gruelling circumstances that he had to simultaneously handle the public crisis at Grace Assembly, calm people's fears and manage the stigmatization concurrently. Recounting the frustration and pressure, he sighed, "I would consider it the toughest time in my ministry life, the toughest time..."

However, his tears turned to joy when Grace Assembly's laity amazingly 'came alive'. Undoubtedly, as the Holy Spirit stirred hearts, members rose to the challenge in prayer and action. While a ground-up intercessory prayer movement sprouted, some members took over the pastoral care and logistics of the church, sending food to a few hundred people whose family members had been quarantined.

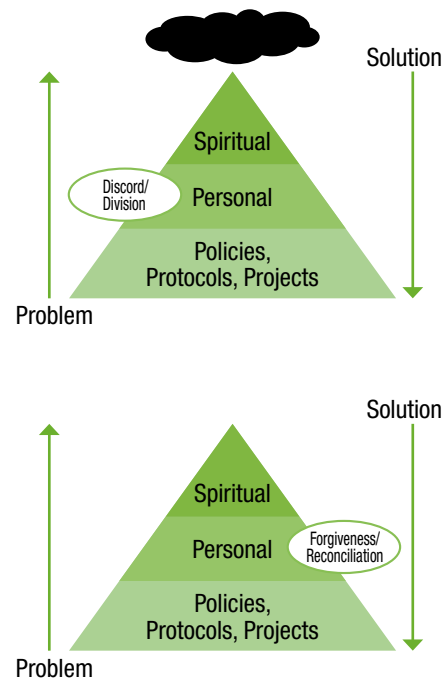
He emphasized that Grace had done two critical things right. Firstly, pastoral care was prioritized and provided. Secondly, overcoming infrastructure gaps, he and the church's corporate communications department consistently communicated hope and purpose, rallying everyone together. They even leveraged international media to this end.

It was clear that the Spirit was galvanizing the church. "The crisis exposed the strength of the commitment of the people are... it exposed everything," he said, further adding, "But I was very amazed at the spiritual fervency that

came through the unity."

Fostering Unity

Noting that unity in Grace Assembly through the crisis emerged from ground up, Rev Terence then asked Rev Jason how church unity was fostered in ZFGC. Rev Jason shared a helpful framework:



He explained that problems often surface at the bottom with policies, protocols and projects. They escalate into personal issues. And the Enemy will sow discord turning it into a spiritual issue with a dark cloud hanging overhead.

The solution works from top to bottom. At the spiritual level, the church needs to pray together for God to remove the dark cloud. Next, forgiveness and reconciliation at a

personal level needs to be addressed. Finally, problems with policies, protocols and projects can be dealt with.

Question and Answer Segment

The 'Question and Answer' segment which followed, raised a challenging question. While crisis can bring unity, it can also make existing cracks worse. How then should leaders mitigate cracks?

Rev Jason responded by encouraging the prioritization of dealing with the core spiritual issue, to which Rev Wilson added the importance of acknowledging the cracks with wisdom because some cracks if made public, could exacerbate the issue.

Before the session wrapped up, Rev Dominic Yeo, our General Superintendent, strongly affirmed the AG's commitment to support local AG churches and which ministers can be approached in crises. Next, he shared various types of cracks that threaten church unity, such as structural, vision, philosophical and procedural cracks, as well as how leaders can address them.

Finally, through 1 Peter 4:7-11, Rev Dominic concluded by challenging us not to react to our environment but instead, respond to God. He cautioned that in these last days the Church is going to be pressured to conform but we are to stand firm and be united as a denomination—in togetherness for support, with training to upskill, being ready for challenges, and to remain strongly transformational in our acts of service, as a 'spiritual entity in social engagement', with a clear mandate to carry out God's mission in the world.

1 Our panel ready to share

2-3 Our ministers listening in via Zoom



Getting to Know Bro Silas Tan

AG Times interviewed our new Executive Director (ED) of Teen Challenge.

TELL US MORE ABOUT YOU.

I'm Silas Tan, 53, married to a teacher, Siew Leng for the past 25 years. We have a daughter, Priscilla, who has just completed her final year in NTU and my son Jonah is doing his final year of nursing in Nanyang Poly. I am outgoing, love to read and have been attending Shekinah AG for 40 years, since accepting Christ, and serving on the church board for almost 30 years. A foodie is what I would call myself. Enjoying meaningful fellowship is another thing I delight in!

My five years of service in the Singapore Police Force has helped me to understand the mindset and the challenges substance abusers face even though the drugs consumed may have changed.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE AND HOW DOES THIS NEW POSITION DIFFER FROM THE PREVIOUS?

I had been working in several American MNCs mostly in the fast moving consumer goods business, working my way up from rank and file to head of department. I managed a company of about 100, based in Cambodia in my last role before I joined Teen Challenge.

Serving in the church as a board member, and with general management experiences in my career, the skills I picked up over the years complement and help in my current role. It is a steep learning curve for me to understand the nature of the addiction landscape in Singapore and the challenges in this ministry.

HOW DID GOD LEAD YOU TO THIS NEW ED POSITION?

It started with a prompting to go to Bible school in 2013, which I struggled to commit after completing my company sponsored MBA. I remembered God imparted in my heart these words one morning in my prayer walk, 'Now you have completed your Master (degree), it is time for you to seek your

Master.' I obeyed, not knowing that this is part of God's plan of preparation for ministry in the next seven years.

Fast forward to 2019, while doing my overseas deployment in Cambodia, I felt led to come back to Singapore for a different calling. Then the opportunity came, and here I am in 2020.

DESCRIBE TO US YOUR TYPICAL DAY IN TEEN CHALLENGE.

Talking with people—staff, residents, stakeholders, to understand as much as possible the challenges we are facing as an organization and ministry, formally and casually, over tea and every other opportunity. I get feedback from volunteers, long-serving staff, former Teen Challenge EDs about our legacy and our 43-year journey in serving substance abusers so far. I tackle hard questions about changes, relevance and expansion of our ministry.

The management committee comprises all Heads of Department, will gather to pray every Monday morning before our weekly meetings to remember to draw strength and inspiration from God. We have conversations and meetings with our core team as and when.

And because of the Circuit Breaker measures and social distancing in place, we do a lot of Zoom meetings.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR TEEN CHALLENGE?

In every ministry we must discern the season God is calling us to. I see that there are three stages we need to pray for: effective change, keep our ministry relevant and connect with others. And above all, expand our capacity to impact more people. I want to see more recovering individuals restored to wholeness, so they can contribute to their families and communities.



1 Silas with his family having some fun at Sydney Blue Mountain

2 Silas (last in the row at the right) and TC colleagues seated apart and having lunch together in keeping with safe-distancing

Discipling Children Amidst the Pandemic

Reaching, teaching and keeping children for Christ even when the churches are closed.

By Royal Rangers Singapore

On March 26, 2020, the Singapore government announced that all religious organizations were to suspend worship services to curb the spread of COVID-19. This unprecedented move presented quite the challenge to churches all over Singapore, but the Royal Ranger commanders were undeterred and stepped up to the plate.

Taking full advantage of video conferencing technology, the creativity and adaptability of many commanders led to fun and engaging weekly programs conducted via Zoom. The usual Rangers activities were quickly adapted for online platforms. In addition to learning the Bible, Rangers from different outposts enjoyed 'Show and Tell' sessions, chess lessons, sandwich making competitions and more! Commanders also found many new group games and activities for the children to play together online.

Not being able to physically meet in a centralized location also meant that many parents became more involved in their child's spiritual growth as they helped to teach the weekly lessons from home.

Outpost#1

In Bethel Assembly of God (Outpost#1), the commanders included a new Show and Tell segment to the weekly program!

8-year-old Reuven Lua used his time for Show and Tell to share his ice-hockey gear and his testimony on being selected for the national ice hockey team. The physical distance did not stop the Rangers from growing their friendships with each other. His friends were fascinated by the amount of gear he had to put on to play ice hockey and listened very attentively to his sharing.

Reuven's mother commented, "Reuven feels



1

accepted and welcomed in this group. This is his first sharing about ice hockey. His school teachers and classmates do not know at all as he feels too distant from them to share something so close to his heart, so I thank you all really very much for being part of his life."

Outpost#11

The commanders of Faith Assembly of God (Outpost#11) organized a sandwich making competition for the 8 to 10-year-old Discovery Rangers (DR). They were each given 10 minutes to assemble a sandwich with at least three ingredients, and pair it with a beverage. The dishes were judged based on three criteria: the plating, the description of the dish, and how well-balanced it was as a meal. The children got their creative juices flowing and made many uniquely plated sandwiches with interesting combinations.

Having to stay home for an extended period also presented an opportunity for the older



2

Rangers to learn how to help out around the house by going through the Bachelorette Merit. In order to meet the merit requirements, the Adventure Rangers (AR), ages 11 to 14, learned how to cook meals for their family, do the dishes, fold the laundry, clean the house, prepare a personal budget and more.

Outpost#21

In another outpost, activity packs with printed lesson plans were mailed by commanders of Zion Full Gospel Church (Outpost#21) to the 5 to 7-year-olds. The format of the activity packs encouraged parents to be involved in teaching their children. For children with parents who are unable to help deliver the lessons, the commanders also released a weekly video as complementary support so that the children stay engaged and learn. In addition, the DRs also embarked on the cooking merit by making microwave omelettes, fried rice and pancakes, while older ARs wrote personal messages of encouragement to medical



3

workers battling COVID-19 at the frontlines.

Despite the curveball that COVID-19 threw at the churches, we give thanks and glory to God for the resourceful commanders who went the extra mile to ensure that the Rangers in their charge continue in their journey of spiritual, mental, social and physical growth!

- 1 Bethel AG—For Show and Tell, Discovery Ranger Elias Heng, 8, presented his ham and egg fried rice, one of the three different lunches that he and his brother prepared during the circuit breaker.
- 2 Faith AG—As part of the Bachelorette Merit, Discovery Ranger Elizabeth Chia, 11, washed the dishes at home with some added height from a stool.
- 3 Zion Full Gospel Church—Arya Nadine Nama, 6, enjoyed the Ranger Kids activity pack that was mailed to her home.



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Catching the Dream of God for Us

It is God's dream to have us equipped for the work of the ministry.

By ACTS College

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr shared on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial Hall of his dream to live in the United States where people “will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”. It was on the back of this dream that many Americans gave their lives to the civil rights movement.

God's Dream

At the College Spiritual Emphasis Chapel this year, College President Rev Dr Casey Ng shared on God's dream for every one of us to be equipped for the work of ministry and the building up of the body of Christ. It is on this dream that ACTS College built its vision of being a global learning community where spirit-filled leaders can be holistically empowered to transform lives and society.

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,” Eph 4:11-13 (ESV)

At ACTS College, we believe that God intends for every believer to get trained as a leader for service and edification. That is why ACTS College trains everyone who dares to dream with God. God has called everyone:

- to have a unified conviction of Christ as the Son of God;
- to mature through a personal encounter with God; and
- to grow in Christ-likeness.

Theological education, as Apostle Paul presents, goes beyond imparting knowledge and ministry skills. It is, at its heart, spiritual formation.

“We would have failed in our mission as a Bible college regardless of how brilliant our graduates are if they fail to live like Christ.”
— Rev Dr Casey Ng

Spiritual Formation

Given our busy lifestyle, spiritual formation must be intentional. As a community, it involves every member connecting with God and letting God shape us to become more like Christ.

This year, ACTS College is taking one more step towards this goal by weaving mentoring and spiritual formation into our education framework. This change is fundamental and seeks to change every aspect of the ecosystem we call learning community.

This Spiritual Emphasis session saw College President Rev Dr Casey Ng present members of the learning community with an open invitation to actively seek God through the Eco-Scan spiritual formation framework: to pray, reflect and respond to God on the

- physical,
- intellectual,
- emotional,
- social,
- moral, and
- spiritual aspects of our lives.



As we pray, we can ask God what He is speaking to us about in these areas of our lives, and we can consider our response to Him. As a community, we can share our interactions with God with one another, and we can encourage each other to pursue the will of God for us in this journey.

In conclusion, God has a dream for each of us. God called us as disciples of Christ to learn, to grow, and to make a difference in the lives of others. We can take the first step, as often as we can, by prayerfully scanning our lives. We can continue a second step, by sharing with one another what God has spoken to us, and we can take the third step by encouraging one another to respond to God and to grow together in this process.

Let us catch this dream together.



Eco-Scan

Let's Catch God's Dream for Us Together!

Scan

Prayerfully scan yourself in 6 areas, using 2 open questions:

Q1: What is God speaking to you about...?
Q2: What is my response to God?

Share

- List down our answers
- Send a copy to: deanofstudents@acts.edu.sg
- Talk to someone about your eco-scan results

Encourage

- Pray together
- Encourage one another to respond to God along the way
- Testify for what God has done in one another's life

SOURCE: WHOLE PERSON FORMATION

Email deanofstudents@acts.edu.sg to share your testimonies with the rest of the community!

- Online Spiritual Emphasis Chapel group photograph
- 3 Chapel highlights
- 4 Whole Person Model

Church in a Pandemic

Our 50th anniversary celebration became a witness of God's providence and faithfulness.

By Sean Yue, Moriah Assembly of God

2020 set out to be a year of celebration and thanksgiving for Moriah Assembly of God (AG). After all, it marked the 50th anniversary of God's providence and blessings upon our church. Dubbed 'Moriah50', our golden jubilee year aimed to showcase God's glory in Moriah AG's times of abundance and trials. With many plans set into motion, ranging from church camps in Malaysia, to having sunset barbeques on Good Friday, the hearts of congregation members were filled with anticipation for the eventful year ahead.

Challenges Tackled

Unfortunately, as reports of COVID-19 started to flood in, coupled with the commencement of the circuit breaker period, the planning and executing of these events soon came to a halt. Instead, our efforts and resources were redirected towards continuing church services weekly. Rather than having the congregation come to church, the challenge was whether we could bring church to them, mainly through online platforms. This presented an unprecedented challenge for the church, especially since we previously had no need to leverage upon such technology for our church services.

Yet, with every trial, comes a powerful God who provides His children with the strength and tenacity for breakthrough. Knowing this, Moriah AG set out undeterred to slowly bring our different church services online. A mini-recording studio was soon set up at Moriah Ministry Center (MMC) to record Sunday services that were to be streamed weekly on Facebook. With permission from the government, different ones took time out and gathered at MMC to serve in their various capacities, whether it be for the worship, visuals, or audio. All this was done out of love and service for God, and to also allow the congregation to worship and hear God's Word every Sunday.

Online Prayer Groups and Meetings

Moriah AG's mission to bring church online did not stop there. Soon after, Moriah's Outpouring Night (OP night), where the church comes together for a prayer night, started taking place



Prayer meeting online



Gathering to pray, edify and encourage one another



Our youth showing their energy and youthfulness with a big heart

on Zoom, where we capitalized on the platform's breakout room function to facilitate small group prayer sessions. The different cell group leaders started holding cell group meetings (or in the case of the youths, life group meetings) on whatever video chat platform available, such as Zoom and Skype.

Beyond allowing us to resume our regular church services, the virtual realm has also enabled the community spirit in Moriah to shine through. Since the onset of the circuit breaker, different groups started to meet online to catch up. These included organizing surprise Zoom birthday parties, playing online games as a youth group, and meeting as a worship team to pray for one another.

Care Packages Delivered

Beyond online meetings, the church recently personally delivered care packages to every Moriahian's doorstep, each

coupled with a beautifully designed handwritten note. Clearly, God has blessed each of us with a heart of concern for one another and has reminded us that Christian living goes beyond our weekly church activities.

2020 is an important year in Moriah's history. God has used this period to introduce major changes in how we conduct our church services and given how our current situation could become our new norm, it seems like Moriah's move online is, at least in the foreseeable future, here to stay. It would seem that what started as a celebration of God's past glory soon turned into a display of His future plans and never-ending providence for Moriah.

While we close a chapter in the short history of our church, let's continue to trust God as He opens up a new one. Here's to the next 50 and beyond. All Glory to God!

Online Church is the NEW Normal!

It was a steep learning curve for us as we tackled the new normal of running church activities.

By Ps Sabrina Chow, Risen Christian Assembly

On March 29, with the announcement of Circuit Breaker (CB) we had to convert quickly from on-site service to online platforms.

A Steep Learning Curve

It was a steep learning curve for the Audio-Visual-Lighting (AVL) team. Before CB started on April 7, we purchased software and hurriedly pre-recorded services on-site and then stitched together for live-streaming. When the CB restrictions were extended, we switched to individual home-recording, enhanced by ring lights, tripods, microphones and honed our “garage band” skills, mixing vocals with music.

Cell groups, classes and prayer meetings similarly went online. We had a steep learning curve in conducting our meetings on Zoom and had to educate the church to give digitally. To engage the church better, we also added mid-week video clips to encourage the congregation.

Since then, we have reinvented ourselves for the digital church by assembling volunteers to man and upload pulpit messages, enhancing social media posts, connecting online with visitors and intercessors providing real-time prayers.

We are delighted to reach up to seven times more people online and have started a new online service at 2pm on Sunday.

Blessing the Foreign Workers

In this time of need, the Lord impressed on me to bless foreign workers with messages of Jesus’ love and hope. On May 9, 23 and 30, we partnered Gems Tabernacle Tamil Church to distribute essentials, pre-paid phone cards, masks and foodstuff. We shared our outreach on FB live. Hundreds witnessed, and many were encouraged by our ministry.

We are certain that this “push” for RCA to go beyond the four walls to reach the unchurched, is the new normal. Let us seize this momentum and win lost souls for the Kingdom. Glory to God!

Let us share...



Live Streaming was Alien – Hannah Foong

During the CB period, I felt the Holy Spirit nudging me to step out in faith and serve the church. Without prior knowledge and experience in online live-streaming, I accepted the role to manage the live streaming for RCA’s Online Worship Services on Facebook and Youtube channels.

My first solo attempt at hosting live-streaming from home was overwhelming. I was trembling inside-out while Bro Meng Hee coached remotely. Fortunately, I experienced God’s peace in my heart. Praise Him, it went smoothly.

On my third attempt, the live-streaming crashed just as the preaching was about to start. Although I had a great teammate with me and I spent time troubleshooting, the issues recurred in subsequent weeks.

I was beginning to feel drained and defeated. I even contemplated giving up. Suddenly, a thought came to me to search for answers to a technical problem on the search engine. Through trial and error, I finally found a solution to address the issues. I thank God for giving me the patience and wisdom to sort out!

Whenever I faced other live-streaming issues, God led me to the solutions instantly. He built my confidence and skills in a short span of time. Today, I can sit back and manage live-streaming on FB and YouTube (English & Chinese interpretations) without a hitch. God never fails, as long as we believe!



Let Go and Let God – Alsen Chanamuto

As a worship leader at RCA, the whole idea of coordinating off-site recording with various singers and musicians was daunting. I was not sure if the worship team had the equipment and the technical ability to put together an online worship service. The extended COVID-19

restrictions compounded the fact that I had to record solo at home and worship in front of the camera, which I was not used to do.

There were many failed attempts but on one occasion, as I prayed, I was reminded of the song ‘The Heart of Worship’ by Matt Redman. It led me to ponder about how we can worship God even when all is stripped away. Through this season, God reminded me constantly that although we continue to desire excellence in serving him with our instruments, it is ultimately our heart of worship that is most pleasing to Him. Since then, I have had many refreshing moments of worship in His presence and know that I can go on, week after week.

My two valuable lessons include:

- Partnership with the Holy Spirit. No matter how prepared I am, issues could surface. The Holy Spirit’s guidance has assured me that everything is under control.
- Put my trust and faith in God. Releasing and yielding to God is the sure way of soliciting help from Him. I learned that obedience, humility, and a teachable spirit are keys to God’s will for us.

Sharing LIVE, Sharing Life

They bared it all.
Pastors in Trinity
Christian Centre
shared their secret
talents, passions
and biblical insights,
all from their homes,
LIVE!

By Imelda, Trinity Christian Centre

I have called Trinity Christian Centre my home church for 15 years. In all that time, I have never really seen what our pastors are like outside of church. The closest I came to that was bumping into a pastor on the street. But even then, it felt awkward—kind of like bumping into your schoolteacher. COVID-19 may have caused the Church Camp in June to be canceled, but the resulting Circuit Breaker had given us a rare treat. For the first time, we had privy into our pastors' personal lives where they are most relaxed—at home. Not that they were necessarily relaxed as Broadcast Life Conference was broadcasted LIVE!

Hidden Talents

The conference kicked off with 'Dom can cook', where our lead pastor, Rev Dominic Yeo walked us through his family recipe of beef stew. I recall Ps Dominic mentioning during one of the services that he cooks, but I didn't think much of it. When I saw his well-stocked kitchen, I realized that there's more to Ps Dominic than what I knew. After watching him patiently slow-cook the beef to perfection, I am convinced that if Ps Dominic weren't a pastor, he would have been a chef!

Now my curiosity was really piqued. What other hidden talents do my pastors have?

Working from home has not been the best for my posture. In fact, I have been suffering from aches and wanted to get a laptop stand. Thanks to life hacks from Bro Jonathan and stretching exercises from Sis Hannah, I now have a makeshift stand and also learned some stretches to put into my daily routine! It dawned on me that God loves me so much that He would care about these little details, and supply what I needed for my well-being through my pastors.

Ps Susie and Bro Derek's book recommendations were also timely. I thought, "Now I have something to read during this Circuit Breaker." I was also touched by Bro Derek's honest sharing of his past struggles with addiction—a side of our leader that I had not known.

The finale of the Conference really touched my heart. Pastors got together to sing our own composition, 'Over All' to remind us that our God is still over all, even during the COVID-19 situation.

Apart yet Closer

This Broadcast Life Conference was so refreshing yet familiar. I realized that the heart behind it was truly Trinitarian—caring and connecting. Powerful messages by guest speakers, testimonies from Trinitarians who survived COVID-19 or whose work was affected, and practical life tips from our leaders, all served to encourage and empower us through these challenging times. It was a great platform to connect with our loved ones even with the social distancing. It truly felt like we were all in this together.

And although we are currently physically apart, I now feel closer to our pastors than in all my years at Trinity. If I bumped into any one of them on the street today, I would certainly not feel as awkward. I look forward to our physical reunion in church. But in the meantime, I'll enjoy abiding in God with my fellow Trinitarians and getting to know my pastors even more online.

How others have been impacted

"There is so much job insecurity in this COVID-19 season. In the session 'Glimpse into the Israel Pilgrimage', Ps David shared how ravens supplied food to Elijah while Elijah was hiding in the brook. I was immediately reminded of how God has blessed us with so much food through loving friends and Connect Group members as we went through the Circuit Breaker. It was a feast that I would not even have splurged on myself! My faith in God has increased. I am not as anxious now." — **Michael Kee**

"There were moments my faith was shaken when the COVID-19 situation didn't seem to improve, and I actually questioned and doubted God. Many of the sessions—'Modern Day Parables', 'Book Me' and 'Flatten the Curve' reminded me that my faith must not be determined by the circumstances I see. Rather, I'm to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and continue to believe that our God is at work. Rev Ong's session reminded me that I need to declare that God is in control. He has blessed our nation and He will continue to bless and bring us out of the economic crisis faster than our human minds can comprehend." — **Ang Bee Leng**



A heartwarming surprise finale of the song Over All sung by all pastors for Trinitarians



Dom can cook, so can you!



Trinitarian Sheila Teo and family enjoying Chef Dom's recipe



Stretching exercises that are useful while working from home in Stretch Forth

Migrant Workers Project

As we blessed the migrant workers with acts of kindness, we were blessed in return.

By Angeline Tan, Sembawang Assembly of God

As we look around us, we see sophisticated infrastructures, blocks of flats we have endearingly called home and many other buildings and landmarks that strengthened our identity as Singapore. The Singapore we see today would not be where it is without the contribution of our migrant workers.

Meeting a Need

The outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic has led the world into a time of fear, uncertainty and chaos. Singapore and many other countries have been fighting the COVID-19 battle. During this time, news of clusters and hotspots have flooded our news channels and every day we hear of how the migrant workers' dormitories have become rapid clusters of the deadly infection. As the clusters increased, there were also reports of migrant workers staying in smaller dormitories who were unable to receive proper meals and resources for their daily needs.

As the local church, God had brought about a timely opportunity for us to partner with Rev Samuel Gift Stephen from the Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO) as a part of their outreach efforts during this pandemic. The experience had truly been an eye opener for me as I still vividly recall the day we carried out our blessing project for the migrant workers.

On June 7, 2020, I was part of the team sent to distribute cartons of fresh fruits to the migrant worker dormitories situated in Tuas. As we gathered at the different dormitories, there was an undeniable sense of fear and uncertainty. There were questions running through my head; What if we contracted the virus? What if we unknowingly became carriers of the virus and spread it to our loved ones?

We were, after all, in the territories of the infamous COVID-19 major clusters.

Fears Dissipated

These fears and uncertainties however, dissipated as we began to distribute the fresh fruits to the migrant workers. We were welcomed with warm greetings and our deliveries were received with grateful smiles. Even in the midst of what



All hands on deck

could seem like a time of uncertainty within the community, the warmth felt spoke volumes of the hope the migrant workers had. As in Proverbs 11:25—"A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." The more we distributed, the more we were refreshed. I realized that this was what love in action meant.

In a first-world country like Singapore, we sometimes forget how blessed we truly are. God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves—not only to the people familiar to us, but to go beyond that. It was truly a great privilege to participate in this project, to be able to get a glimpse of God's heart for His people, and to be used as a vessel in showcasing and delivering His love to the migrant workers community.



Coming together to be a blessing to the migrant workers



Sharing a light moment

Written by Ps Joyce Hsu

新加坡是个发展国家，花园城市，也是国际重要的商业及经济中心。因此新加坡许多基层工作，需要引入外国劳工来担任。在新加坡就有300多千的外国劳工，他们大多数都集中住在多处的客工宿舍里。

当新冠肺炎袭击全球时，多处的客工宿舍也爆发了群体感染。政府立即迅速做出反应，开始加盖更多的宿舍，供他们分散居住，同时也开始为客工们做全面性的筛检，进行隔离。顿时，工程大停摆，政府还得负责供应他们的膳食，而一些教会团体亦适时伸出援手配合政府，加入供应客工们饮食的行列。

(太5:16)“你们的光也当这样照在人前，叫他们看见你们的好行为，便将荣耀归给你们在天上的父。”三巴旺神召会教会也积极与 Alliance of Guest Workers Outreach (AGWO) 合作，在 Ps Anthony 的带领下，呼吁身为三巴旺神召会的牧者领袖们，多走一里路树立榜样，大家出钱出力，一起购买新鲜水果送到Tuas的客工宿舍去。一大早，Ps Anthony 带领几位牧者到批发市场采购了新鲜水果后，便直奔Tuas的客工宿舍会和后，我们沿路开车分派水果到各个宿舍里，感谢上帝，让我们有机会体现了(可12:31)“要爱人如己”的行为。

当被隔离在宿舍里的劳工派人出来领水果时，他们眼中散发出一种感恩和好奇惊讶的表情，相信当客工们接到这份爱心水果时，也领受到上帝无私的大爱。(太5:35)因为我饿了，你们给我吃；渴了，你们给我喝。这是耶稣。

在这次的阻断措施，教会迅速的捐款及亲自派送水果的行为，给会友们做了一个很好的榜样。事后，也有会友回馈给教会，为什么没有让他们一起参与。因为在疫情当前的阻断措施期间，是不适宜太多人参与户外活动的。当领袖们愿意以身作则，多走一里路就是一种门徒培训的生命见证。

在这世界多变，疫情可怕，生命脆弱，人心惶惶之际，是身为神儿女的基督徒将上帝的平安和爱活出来的最佳时刻。就如(提前6:18)记载“又要嘱咐他们行善，在好事上富足，甘心施舍，乐意供应人”。施比受更有福，感谢主，给我们有这样的福分，藉由这次的爱心水果行为，将神的爱显明出来。



Exchanging a quick conversation

我们的神是信实的！

神医治我！

魏凤美姐妹, 神召會伯特利堂

我们的神是信实的，祂爱我们，祂对我们的爱永远都是一样，祂是全能的神也是奇妙的神。无论我们身在何处，面对什么事，祂都知道，我们晚上睡觉时，祂都看顾，因为我们的神不打盹。以下是我的见证：

在4月18日凌晨约4点，在睡梦中我被一阵剧痛痛醒了。发现在我右边肋骨的下方的位置很痛，痛得无法忍受。心想到底身体发生了什么事，该不是肝脏出了什么问题吧？因为痛得太厉害了，本想叫醒老公载我去看急诊。但是想到他这几天也睡得不好。所以我打消这个念头。

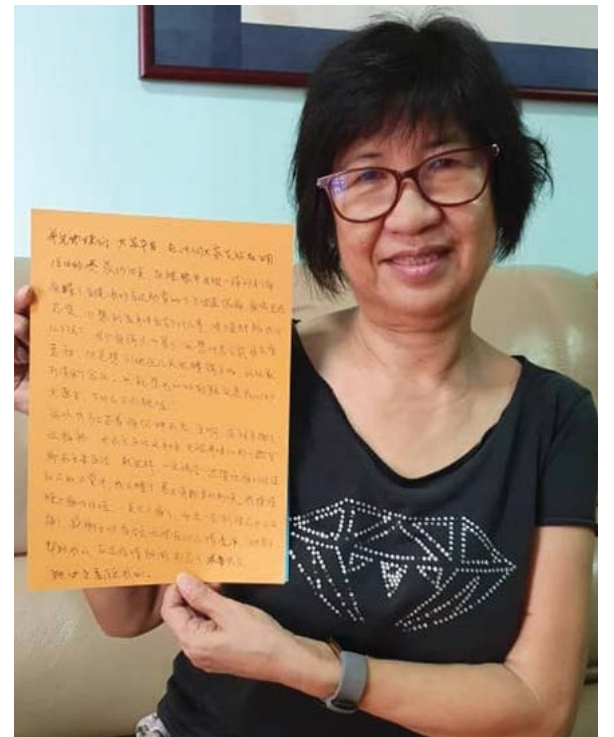
我想到我们的耶稣是大医生，为什么不求祂呢？所以我马上忍着痛向神求告：“主啊，求你来挪去这疼痛，也求主医治这身体，无论身体的那个器官，都求主来医治。”就这样，一边祷告一边按住痛的位置。在不知不觉中，我又睡了。等天亮起来的时候，我摸摸凌晨痛的位置，一点也不痛了。而且一直到现在再也不痛了。感谢主的看顾，无论在什么情况下，祂都帮助我们，在这疫情期间，别忘了求告天父。祂必会看顾我们。

感谢赞美主，我得到医治了！我们的神是垂听祷告的神，哈利路亚！

弟兄姐妹，我们在天父眼里是神的宝贝，祂无时无刻都与我们同在！马可福音11:24说：“凡你们祷告祈求的，无论是什么，只要信是得着的，就必得着。”神的话是有能力、有权柄！当我们祷告时，把我们的眼目转向神，祂必与我们同在，祂必看顾。

在这冠病疫情期间，很多时候，我们会感到害怕、无助，但是弟兄姐妹，神不会撇下我们不顾，祂一直与我们同在。尽量的留在家中，除了有必要或重要的事项才出门（如购买食物或日常用品，复诊等等），也是在这段时期，神要在我们的灵命动工，修复我们，把过去的生活改变过来，让我们有时间多读神的话语，祷告，因此让我们天天仰望祂，亲近祂，感谢祂、赞美敬拜祂。虽然生活不一样，但是我们的神是一样的、祂是永不改变的神。以赛亚书41:10 “你不要害怕，因为我与你同在；不要惊惶，因为我是你的神，我必坚固你，我必帮助你。”

将一切尊贵荣耀归于上帝！



Sis Wei Mei Feng writing out her testimony to share with us

Translated by Rev Raymond Loh, Elim Church

Our God is faithful, and He loves us. His love for us will always be there. He is the Almighty and Wonderful God. No matter where we are or what we are facing, even when we are asleep at night, God will take care of us because He does not slumber. The following is my testimony:

Crying to God for Help

On April 18, at about 4 a.m., I woke up with a sudden pain; a spot below my right rib was unbearably painful. I wondered what had happened to my body. Was it something wrong with the liver? Because the pain was so bad, I wanted to wake my husband to take me to the A&E department. But the thought that he had not been sleeping well for the last few days caused me to dismiss the idea.

I thought of our Jesus, the Great Physician. Why not pray to

Him? I endured the pain and immediately prayed, “Lord, come and remove this pain and heal my body, no matter which part of it. Lord, I am asking for Your healing touch.” As I continued in prayer, I fell asleep.

Receiving Healing

At daybreak, I touched the part where I experienced pain in the early morning and found that it didn't hurt anymore. Since then, I no longer experience any pain. I thank the Lord for His care. He will help us no matter what the circumstances may be. During this pandemic, don't forget to pray to our Heavenly Father. He will take care of us.

Praise the Lord, I am healed! Our God is the God who listens to prayers. Hallelujah! Brothers and sisters, we are a treasure in the eyes of our Heavenly Father, who is with us all the time! Mark 11:24 says, “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will

be yours.” The word of God is powerful and authoritative! We look to God when we pray. He will be with us; He will take care of us!

During this COVID-19 pandemic, we are often fearful and helpless, but brothers and sisters, God will not leave us alone, He will always be with us. Do stay home, only go out when necessary (like when buying food, necessities or seeing a doctor). It is also during this period that God will work in our spiritual life to repair us, change our life, allow us time to read God's Word and pray, so let us look up to Him every day, draw close to Him, thank Him, praise and worship Him. Although life is different, our God is the same, He is the God who will never change. Isaiah 41:10 “Do not be afraid because I am with you; do not be dismayed because I am your God, I will strengthen you, and I will help you.”

Give all honor and glory to God!

God the CEO

Unconventional and nothing short of miraculous - how William Lai followed God as his CEO during the worst crisis.

Adapted by Kristine Lee, Trinity Christian Centre

When William Lai took over his father's flagging business, earnings were just enough to pay for wages and running costs but struggled to repay bank loans. William tried everything he could to revive the business with little success.

Three years later, William made a decision. "I asked God to be the CEO of the company."

New mandate, surprising blessings

William testified that God's first instruction to him was to bless all his employees so that they can experience His blessings. As he worked out the future business plans, William introduced a quarterly performance bonus.

Business began to turn around and profits started to roll in. Work became a breeze. Around this time, William learned that his Type 2 diabetes condition was healed. "For the first time in 20 years, I no longer need to take medication for my diabetes," he exclaimed.

In another first for William, the company did not have problems with bank debts. William's sister, the Financial Controller of the company, was shocked. She, although a pre-believer, recognized the hand of God upon the business, like other employees who saw the business transform.

William recounted one incident. "Our company had confirmed the choice of a Chinese national as our driver. But a different guy showed up and everyone was shocked. I soon found out this new staff's grandmother was the only Christian in the village where he came from. Immediately I knew that this "mix-up" of staff was God's divine arrangement. One day I brought him to Trinity's Chinese service and he accepted Christ."

The unconventional CEO

But this year, William's declaration of God as the CEO was tested. COVID-19 caused business to fall 75% compared to the previous year. On the retail front, cash collected was less than \$100 on some days. On the business front, William's clients were unable to receive goods or pay for them because of the Circuit Breaker, and bad debts started accumulating.

"I tried very hard to find solutions on my own that I even thought about letting my elderly employees go. But God stopped me. He impressed upon me that He loves them and does not abandon anyone in crisis."

In a time when mass retrenchments were common, William obeyed God and defied business logic to keep his staff. They were amazed and felt blessed. In reality, this decision did not come easy.

Who's in control?

"Money was still going out and little was coming in. I was overwhelmed by fear and my mind was so consumed by the challenges I was seeing. The more I depended on myself, the more confused and troubled I became. I could not sleep and started having panic attacks."

William's Connect Group was supportive and prayed for him. "But I was still self-absorbed in trying to solve my challenges." This went on for weeks until I broke down and cried out to God for help.

William said, "I heard God say, 'Son, let it go and rest in me. I'm still in control. Focus on me, not your situations.'" When I surrendered to God, I instantly felt God's peace and strength coming on me. I learned that God's peace is always available and it was I who chose to leave His peace aside when I follow my own strife.

Blessings and favors!

Amazingly, an urgent order came in two days later, and within a week's time, William's company received their biggest ever order. It was so big that they had to look for a new supplier and the earnings covered three months of warehouse rental.



William Lai honored God by letting God take over the running of his company

My sister and the other staff could not believe it! They could see how this was clearly God's blessings."

Already amazed by the unexpected income, William was bowled over by two more repeats of the big order. William recalled excitedly, "The total quantity from these three orders is seven folds of our usual transactions. I can foresee that our overall results for this year will be much better than previous years. What a turnaround from that 75% loss!"

"Instead of looking to God, I let the crisis get the better of me. But when I sought God and let Him take over as the CEO, nothing could stop His plans for my staff to experience His blessings. Not the Circuit Breaker, not COVID-19. He is indeed over all and my CEO! Praise God!"



Warehouse rental and other expenses had to be paid despite zero income and increasing bad debts but God turned it around

#BlessedtoBless

God used what I have to be a blessing to others.

By Jeryl Tan, Emmanuel Assembly of God

When the Circuit Breaker (CB) kicked off in April 2020, the Singapore economy almost immediately seemed to grind to a halt. Non-essential businesses had to discontinue; hiring was mostly frozen, and many experienced salary cuts and job losses. The seriousness of COVID-19 began to become real as the entire nation reeled at the social, economic and financial impact of the pandemic.

Like everyone else in their 20s, I too was building my dream career that God has called me to. Feeling the peace of God at 24, I left my full-time job in events management to pursue photography. Four years on, at 28, the career I pursued has been filled with God's blessing and a testament of God's goodness.

I had virtually zero job since the start of 2020 but managed to secure a partnership with one of the top advertising agencies in Singapore in March. I was upset and discouraged as COVID-19 worsened. I started worrying whether the partnership could continue when agencies were more careful with their expenditure, especially when monthly revenue decreased.

Blessing Businesses With My Skills

At the start of CB, all I did in April was made in my own strength, desperately looking for sales, reaching out to everyone I knew in the industry because "it was not enough" and "I wasn't sure if the finances will last me through the year". Until one day, while I was reading a book, God planted the idea of blessing the businesses in need with the skills He has blessed me with. I knew I was called to be in the workforce, but I never knew how I could be a blessing or the light in the advertising/media world. Immediately, the idea clicked. I have the skills, the equipment and props, and basic crockery from the agency I was working with. Why don't I help those in need with what I have instead of just lazing around and worrying about where my next job was going to come? Before 2020, I had never done food photography, but God provided me with the opportunity when I worked with the agency. The hashtag #blessedtobless was birthed.

Shine a Light On

Anyone who follows the group Hawker Dabao 2020 can see a drastic difference in engagement when it comes to a business with nice photos compared to one with little photography knowledge. That was when I decided that the latter are the ones I need to help and to shine God's light on.

Matthew 25:35-36 *"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."* These verses spoke to me and I realized the F&B businesses were in need of help. Behind every business is a family of mouths to feed, and if five photos or three hours of my time can feed a family for a month, it's well worth it. The impact is significant and magnified because of the situation affecting the entire F&B industry.

God Never Short-changes

My original intention was to help friends of friends in the F&B industry tide through CB and end when Phase One begins. However, this was extended after the media covered the project, creating more awareness to businesses who had never heard of the initiative before.

The project was off to a steady start. However, the requests got a little overwhelming after the media coverage. Nevertheless, it warmed my heart to see businesses which are self-sustained, give up their requests for another business that needed it more. I was so overwhelmed by the support and encouragement from everyone who came forward with a note or gesture to facilitate the initiative.

My personal take-away from this project is that God never short-changes, and when He calls any of us into something, He will equip with the necessary skills and resources. When there is a need, we can and will meet the need. This is one thing I have learned through my journey with God which started since age 13. God continues to be faithful and makes it His business to empower and enable us to do His will.



Jeryl at work



Food pictures to attract diners

The Elijah Blessing

In the midst of challenges, God sent me blessings beyond what I could imagine.

By Dwayne Lau, Eternal Life Assembly

I'm a freelance theatre practitioner and a drama coach. Suddenly, my entire career came to an abrupt halt. I was fearful and overwhelmed by the bleak future that lay ahead. I stepped right into a season of famine, of drought, and of lack.

Trusting Him

I'm thankful that the account above was not the end. God used this obstacle to create many opportunities for me to learn to trust him. During that same time, churches had to be shut down. And so, with my God-kids team, we decided to embark on a project called *"Stories from my Bedroom"*, a video-retelling of Bible stories. The same day when I received the news of my show cancellation, I was preparing the script for the Story of *Elijah and the Widow of Zarepath*, from 1 Kings 17. There was a drought, but God provided for Elijah.

"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook."

When the brook dried up, God led Elijah to a widow who would supply him with food and drink. The widow herself later experienced miracles of provision and resurrection of her son from the dead. For the longest time, this passage was just a Bible story that I learned in Sunday School. I didn't realize God was preparing me to step up my faith to trust Him.

As with Elijah, the ravens came.

The Elijah Blessing

I had a call from a lady. She needed help to create a theatre syllabus for her school. We met up, I did the work and she paid me. I had never seen or heard of this lady before. She had gotten my number from a friend and connected with me. I'd like to think she was one raven that God had sent to provide for me.

Later, I applied to an online sales platform. They were looking into helping local artists who had lost their gigs and shows but had another skill that they could use to help generate income. The company approved my application and gave me a three-month business account, connected me with interviews with the newspapers and on radio. God was opening doors and creating opportunities. My fabric necklace brand #nudlesbydwaynelau now has a platform and spotlight which I would otherwise have not gotten on my own efforts.

I had people that I would have never expected, text me, saying God prompted them to wire money over to my account to bless me. God kept reminding me that He would continue to send these ravens my way.

When the Circuit Breaker kicked in, the Creative Director of Gateway Theatre called me and asked if I was keen to take on a Story Telling series, recorded from my own room. Again, it was God telling me, *"See! I've got your back! Trust me, I will provide for you!"*

Day after day of staying home, friends kept blessing my family with treats. I remember coining it *"THE ELIJAH BLESSING!"*

Being a Channel of Blessing

While Elijah experienced miracles of provision, he also was a channel of blessing. Through him, the widow was blessed and experienced miracles. I too wanted to be a channel of blessing. I was faithful in my giving of tithes and offerings. I made cards and sent them out; ordered surprise food deliveries. I wanted to do my part to bring joy to people during down times. I embarked on a pet project, writing musical parodies—partly to keep my creative muscles going but also to keep my spirits high. People messaged to share that these videos have kept them sane and happy during the entire Circuit Breaker. I write this not to brag, but to show that I was only able to do all this because of the grace of God. I was immensely grateful for how God was faithfully providing for me—"Freely you have received, freely give."

I was reminded to count my blessings and search for silver linings. I spent a lot more time at home with my father and sister. I had more time to rest and hone new skills. I started listening to a lot more podcasts and sermons. God stilled me a lot more so that I was able to better listen to Him. It was with God by my side that I was able to remain positive. On a live interview with Tampines MP Mr Baey, I was asked, "How do you stay positive?" Without a doubt my answer was "God. Trusting God keeps me positive." He had proven Himself over and over. Indeed, as the famous hymn goes, *Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus*. I also shared about the strong support system I had. Friends, family, pastors and especially my Life Group. They have been such pillars.

There were many difficult times. I had panic attacks and sleepless nights. I had days where my mood was at its lowest. There were times when I would just burst into tears thinking about the uncertainty of the future. But each time, I knew that God was always there.

My dear friends, God is faithful. It's difficult to see beyond the natural. That's why we need faith. God has built my faith over the past few months and is continuing to do so. Before this COVID-19 crisis hit, I remember leading *Way Maker*

during worship. I want to leave you with this assurance and affirmation that Jesus IS our Way Maker. He is our Promise Keeper. He is our Light in the Darkness. That is who He is, and nothing will change that.



Dwayne in one of the "GATEWAY KIDS CLUBS series"



A newspaper article featuring artists who were offered help by businesses and organizations