

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6-7



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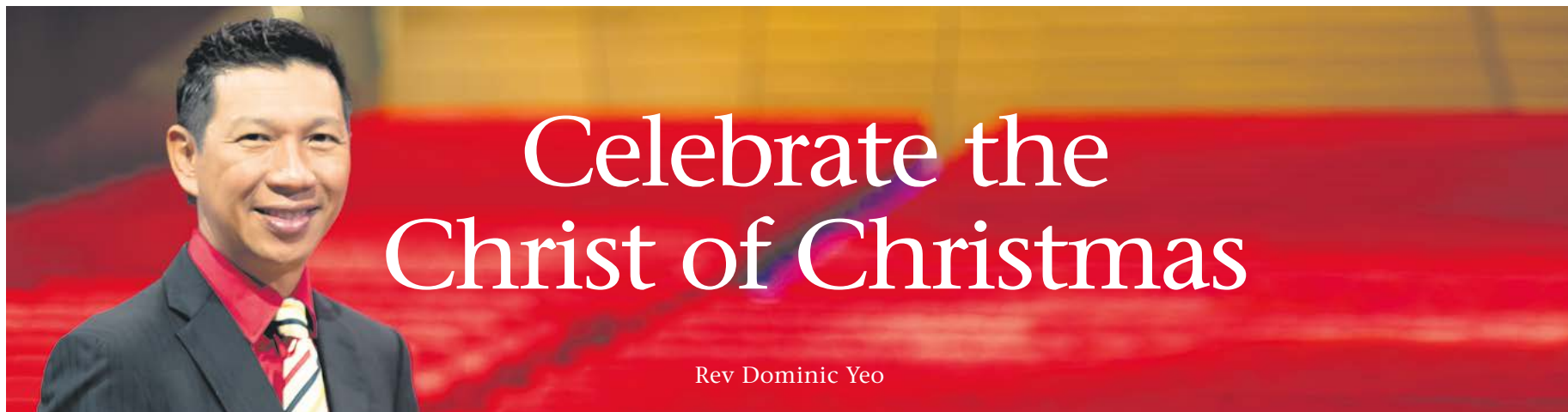
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Rev Dominic Yeo

Celebrate the Christ of Christmas

Since the start of this year, the world's news has been blanketed by COVID-19. Borders were closed. Planes were parked. Tourism revenues tumbled. Economies dipped into recession. All sorts of gatherings were limited to a handful of people.

Celebrations of new-borns, birthdays, marriages, and anniversaries began to take on deeper meanings with shorter guest lists and no frills. Celebrations became more intimate, richer in experience and, in a sense, went "Back to Basics"—back to the core of why we do what we do.

As Christmas approaches, the malls may not be as glitzy as in previous years. There may be fewer presents to buy and exchange as there would be fewer parties. But the meaning of Christmas doesn't change.

Peeling away the wrappers and tinsels, Christmas is about Hope for all mankind. The Presence of God doesn't change with COVID-19. He is still among us and with us—He is Emmanuel! And God *"anoints [us] to proclaim good news to the poor"*! (Luke 4:18) The Mandate of God doesn't change with COVID-19. The Anointing of God upon us doesn't change because of COVID-19.

COVID-19 may have hoarded the front-page of every newspaper in the world this year, but don't let the pandemic deceive you! *"Greater is He that is in you, than He that is in the world."* (1 John 4:4, KJV) The Authority of God in our lives will not change due to COVID-19.

Jesus Christ is the reason for this season! In trying times, it's easy to lose focus and forget the reason we celebrate Christmas. It's not all gloom and doom as we approach this season. There is much to rejoice and celebrate!

THE GIFT OF REDEMPTION

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..." Isaiah 9:6

As believers, we have much to be thankful for. Regardless of whether churches can gather in this season, wherever you are, in your homes and with your family, give thanks for this gift of redemption. As recipients of this gift, let us continue to share this gift that we have received. Remember, we are anointed to proclaim this good news!

THE GIFT OF HOPE

"...he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Whenever I read this passage, I'm filled with renewed hope because God is our Wonderful Counselor. No matter the situation. No matter the trial. No matter the past. He is a Mighty God! He moves mountains, He fills every valley, He makes crooked paths straight, He speaks, and it has to happen. God is more than able to turn situations around. There is nothing our God cannot do.

He's the Everlasting Father, He's always here for us. He will be here long after COVID-19 is history. Church, come on! History is already written from God's perspective. Question is: "Can you perceive the supernatural in the natural?" From God's perspective, COVID-19 is already vanquished. His church is not bound by this pandemic and heaven's resources are available for us. We need to arise in faith to operate with this gift of hope that we have in Christ.

He's the Prince of Peace! It can be nerve wrecking, but Jesus gives peace that surpasses all understanding. So, step out in faith to pray and minister to someone to encounter this peace we have in God. Jesus Christ is our gift of hope to ride out of depression, brokenness, poverty, and every pandemic.

THE GIFT OF LOVE

While many write cards or wrap presents, God seals this gift with great passion. I love how Isaiah 9:7 concludes this gift. It says, *"The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."* Church, get excited! God is zealous about this. He's zealous for His church to remain established and upheld, and he wants to see His church walking in victory. We may have stormy seas before us, but He holds our hands and enables us to walk on water. We may feel like David facing Goliath, but He guides our paths so that our plans, however small, will make great advances.

So, let's celebrate the Christ of Christmas. Let's rejoice and know the hope we have in Christ. Let us be bearers of this hope!

颂扬圣诞节的基督

自今年初开始，世界各地的新闻都被冠状病毒的报道覆盖了。边境被关闭。飞机停飞。旅游业的营业额大幅度的下降。经济陷入衰退。各类型的聚会仅限于少数人参加。

新生儿的庆生，生日，婚礼和周年庆的庆祝活动没有了璀璨的装饰，受邀客人数的限制赋予这些庆祝活动更深层的意义。庆祝活动变得更加亲密，有更深的体验，而更多的感觉是——回到基础——回到我们做这事的初衷。

随着圣诞节的临近，购物商场或许不像往年那样的耀眼夺目。圣诞派对数量的减少，导致购买礼物和交换礼物的次数也相对的减低。尽管如此，圣诞节的含义却没有因此而有所改变。

剥去一切的包装和装饰，圣诞节就是全人类的盼望。上帝的同在不会因为新冠病毒而改变。祂仍然在我们当中并且与我们同在——祂是以马内利！上帝“用膏膏【我们】，叫我们传福音给穷人”！（路加福音4:18）。冠状病毒不会改变上帝的旨意。上帝给予我们的恩膏也不会因为冠状病毒而有所改变。

今年，冠状病毒的报道可能占据了各地报章的首页，但是，不要被这疫情蒙骗了你！“因为那在你们里面的，比那在世界上的更大。”（约翰一书4:4）。上帝在我们生命中的权柄不会因为冠状病毒而有所改变。

耶稣基督是这个佳节的原因！在艰难的时期，我们很容易失去焦点，忘记了我们庆祝圣诞节的原因。随着这个佳节的临近，我们眼前不是只有阴霾，它仍然有很多值得欢乐和庆祝的事！

救赎的礼物

"因有一婴孩为我们而生，有一子赐给我们。..." 以赛亚书9:6

身为信徒，有很多值得我们感恩的事。在这个佳节，无论我们是否能够回到教会一起聚会，还是你在家中与家人一起，都要为这个救赎的礼物献上感恩。作为这个礼物的接受者，让我们继续与人分享我们所得到的礼物。记住，我们是受膏传福音的人！

有盼望的礼物

"...他名称为奇妙、策士、全能的神、永在的父、和平的君。" 以赛亚书9:6

每当我阅读这段经文时，我都会充满新的盼望，因为上帝是我们奇妙的策士。无论局势如何。无论试炼如何。无论过去如何。祂就是一个全能的神！祂挪动山脉，祂填满山洼，祂修平崎岖之路。祂所说的必定成就。上帝有能力扭转局势。我们的上帝是无所不能的。

祂是永恒的父，祂一直都在我们的身边。在冠状病毒成为历史的许多年后，祂还会在这里！教会！加油！历史已经从上帝的角度书写了。问题是，你能感知自然界中的超自然现象吗？从上帝的角度来看，冠状病毒已经被击败了。从上帝的角度来看，祂的教会不受到冠状病毒的束缚。天堂的资源供我们使用。要使用这份在基督里有盼望的礼物，我们的信心需要被兴起。

祂是和平的君！局势可能让人不知所措，但耶稣所赐的是出人意外的平安。因此，凭信心踏出去为人祷告和服侍人，让他们也经历我们在上帝里所拥有的这份平安。耶稣基督是让我们可以摆脱抑郁，破碎，贫穷和每个疫情的一份有盼望的礼物。

爱的礼物

当许多卡片和礼物被一个吻封印时，上帝却以极大的热心来封印这份礼物。我喜欢以赛亚书9:7对这份礼物所做出的总结。它说 *"万军之耶和華的热心，必成就这事"*。教会，激动吧！上帝对此事充满热心！祂热心的想要祂的教会继续被建立和被支持！祂热心的想看见祂的教会在胜利中前进。此刻可能是风雨如磐的海洋，但祂紧握我们的手，使我们能够在水面上行走。此刻或许就如大卫面对歌利亚，但祂会指引我们的道路，纵使我们的机会多么的微小，但都会获得极大的进展。

因此，让我们颂扬圣诞节的基督！让我们欢喜快乐并知道我们在基督里的盼望。让我们成为这盼望的器皿！

Trinity Blesses Community Organizations with \$500,000

While COVID-19 required many changes to our celebratory plans, it did not dampen our spirit to be a blessing.

By Trinity Christian Centre

“Blessed to be a blessing.” These five words sum up the culture of Trinity Christian Centre.

Trinity has been tremendously blessed over the past 50 years. From our humble beginnings as a group of 10, the church has grown into a 10,000-member congregation spanning four countries.

Blessed to Serve, Blessed to Give

In every season, Trinity has sought to be a blessing. Committed to serving the underprivileged, the church established Care Community Services Society (CCSS) in 1996. A 2018 and 2020 President’s Challenge recipient, CCSS operates as a registered charity offering programs for children, youth, the elderly, families, and ex-offenders.

During the 2009 financial crisis, Trinity also took bold steps to help the affected, including a donation of \$100,000 to assist financially-challenged families and individuals. The church’s youth also demonstrated a heart for the community that year by organizing a charity concert that raised over \$222,000 for the Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund.

An Extraordinary Greeting

As part of our 50th Anniversary Celebrations, a special after-service segment was held on August 29 to honor Trinity’s past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future.



Trinitarians and guests watching DPM Heng’s address at church

Held at Trinity@Paya Lebar, it commenced with a congratulatory video message by Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, who commended Trinity for her commitment to religious harmony and support for vulnerable members of our community.

An Extraordinary Blessing

After the video, Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo presented \$100,000 checks to representatives from five community organizations – the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC), Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), Yayasan Mendaki Education Trust Fund (“Mendaki”), South West Community Development Council (“South West CDC”), and CCSS.



From left: Mr Pok Cheng Chong (CDAC), Mr Anbarasu Rajendran (SINDA), Ms Low Yen Ling (SW CDC), Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Ms Zuraidah Abdullah (Mendaki), Mr Dewin Lee (CCSS)

“COVID-19 has created an economic crisis that has impacted people of all strata of society. With these in mind, our leadership deliberated over how we could give a tangible blessing to the community.

We decided on donating to these five organizations because they have been consistently helping those in need and represent different races in Singapore. We trust that what we give today will be a blessing to the five community organizations and their beneficiaries across Singapore.

Regardless of the challenges, the resilience and tenacity we carry today to forge forward will be tomorrow’s testimony of victory, inspiring the generations to come,” shared Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo.

What Receiving Organizations Say



From left: Eugene Cheng (Treasurer, Trinity Christian Centre), Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Ms Low Yen Ling (Mayor, South West CDC)

“This spirited solidarity and support strengthen our multi-racial harmony and social resilience. The funds for South West CDC will enable us to respond to the needs of the vulnerable and

those affected by the crisis.” – Ms Low Yen Ling (Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Mayor of South West District)



From left: Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Ms Low Yen Ling, Mr Pok Cheng Chong (Executive Director, CDAC)

“The donation will be of great help to CDAC as we enhance our programs to support more families whose livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic.” – Mr Pok Cheng Chong (Executive Director, CDAC)



From left: Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Ms Low Yen Ling, Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah (Chief Executive Officer, Mendaki)

“This donation will allow us to expand our outreach to more students, supporting them in their education journey despite the current operating landscape.” – Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah (Chief Executive Officer, Mendaki)



From left: Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo, Ms Low Yen Ling, Mr Dewin Lim (Executive Director, CCSS)

“We are overwhelmed by their act of kindness. The donation will enable CCSS to continue providing practical and emotional support to the needy in our community.” – Mr Dewin Lee (Executive Director, CCSS)

50 years ago, Trinity was birthed out of a heart for people and a passion to serve the community. 50 years on, this remains at the center of all we do.

As Trinity embarks into the next 50 years and beyond, we are committed to be a people who demonstrate an unwavering commitment to strengthening social ties and blessing the nations.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Lianhe Zaobao (联合晚报) article <https://www.zaobao.com.sg/news/singapore/story20200830-1080752>

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APAGF Zooms in on Pandemic Impact at First Virtual Meeting

Our leaders from APAGF gathered for a time to encourage, share and update on how our churches are moving forward in the pandemic.

By Trinity Christian Centre

The global pandemic and travel restrictions notwithstanding, the General Councils in the Asia Pacific Assemblies of God Fellowship (APAGF) were determined that their annual meeting proceeded. It was more important than ever to come together to encourage one another, and share updates, experiences and resources. God's mandate needs to be fulfilled even when the world is reeling from the impact of COVID-19.

Instead of meeting in Vietnam, 57 participants from seven different time zones gathered on Zoom for the first virtual APAGF meeting on July 22 and 23.

Besides the General Superintendents (GSs) meeting, there were three other meetings – Next Generation, National Bible Schools and National Missions.

Topping the agenda was the impact of the pandemic on churches in the region. Led by Rev Dominic Yeo, Chairman of APAGF, the GSs also shared how churches were coping with worship services being shifted online. All agreed that the Church must keep up with the changing times and be equipped to deal with pastoring in a pandemic.

Backed by a firm belief that prayer is even more vital at such a time as this, the APAGF executives will gather the region for a Concert of Prayer in September. It will also be a time of equipping pastors and leaders and training for the churches.

Helmed by Rev Gerald Tan, Asia Pacific representative of World AG Next Generation Commission, the Asia Pacific Next Generation chapter met for the third year running. The AP Next Generation Leadership Gathering in May 2020 had to be canceled because of COVID-19. However, the Next Generation team intends to leverage technology to hold next year's event in different countries to mitigate the restriction of international travel.

At the second meeting of National Bible Schools, eight representatives shared how classes had to go online. They also agreed on the need for the region's seminaries to collaborate more creatively by sharing digital resources.

The focus of the first meeting of National Missions directors was on building relationships across the missions network for greater collaboration and partnership. Special thanks go to Rev Brad Walz, Rev Jeff Hartensveld and Rev Michael Dissanayake for attending the meeting despite the unfavorable timings. Their presence and contribution are greatly appreciated.



1-2 Our APAGF leaders coming together to share heart to heart

Praise Report from Our Missionaries

Thanking God for opportunities to minister in the midst of restrictions.

By Rev John Lim, ElimParis

There is a period of great uncertainty here in Paris as we are bracing ourselves for a possible second wave. I am reminded, "When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll. Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul". In this time of upheaval, I am thankful to the Lord for His divine peace and using us to be instruments of His peace.

Ministry Continues

We are thankful for the lives touched during the COVID-19 period through our ministry. We are grateful that we were able to visit and minister to our members when they could not come to church due to the restrictions. We visited Natalie and her children in the south of Paris. Natalie testified that God sustained and provided for her and her children during this difficult time.

During the confinement period in France, we could still continue the ministry in the hospitals as we encourage families of the patients. It is a privilege for us to be bringers of peace to those in times of need.

Since the month of March 2020, many restaurants have been forced to close due to the pandemic. In spite of all these difficulties, our church's treasurer, Xiangyu, when faced with challenges in his restaurant business, chose to give thanks for God's faithfulness in providing for his family.

Being a Blessing

We are blessed to be a blessing to the King of Kings church in Beyrouth, Lebanon, after the terrible explosion in the city. We sent a love gift to them as they reached out to meet the needs of the devastated community. Pray for them as the city recovers from the tragedy.

Another area to give thanks for was the privilege of being featured in videos that depicted our ministry and life in France. First, we participated in the Singapore's "National

Day Online Celebration" put together by the Singapore Embassy to France. Rebecca shared her favorite dish with the Singapore community in France and we also spoke about being the chaplains to the hospitals here. This is the link (from 28:30 onwards):

<https://www.facebook.com/SingaporeEmbassyParis/videos/2278808352244154/>

Secondly, we were invited by a Mediacorp Channel 8 reporter to share about my work of a chaplain and visiting the sick in the hospitals during the COVID-19 situation. In it, we talked about the work of counseling and compassion in the French hospitals during a time of unprecedented challenges faced by the French healthcare system. We were glad that the message of His love could touch lives. This video is on the 8world.com website, Facebook and YouTube. Here are the links:

<https://www.8world.com/news/world/article/ch8stories-singaporean-in-france-1199591>

<https://bit.ly/ch8stories-Covid-19-Sgorean-in-France>

Thank you, dear friends, for your continued prayers for France and us. Your prayers will sustain us as we serve here. Please pray for us:

- God's wisdom and strength upon us as we lead the church together with our leaders.
- God's provision for all the people in France as we battle COVID-19.
- God's anointing for us as we continue to minister and reach out in love to the suffering.
- God's anointing be upon the government leaders and pastors in France.

<https://johnlimkc.wordpress.com/>



- 1 Natalie's family spending some time together with us when we visited her
- 2 We are looking forward to minister in the hospitals
- 3 Xiangyu's business was affected by COVID-19 but he chose to give thanks to God
- 4-5 Being a blessing to King of Kings Church
- 6 Singapore National Day Online Celebration
- 7 On the 8world.com video



Forging Forward Conference 2020

A time to challenge and empower our Next Generation leaders.

By Next Gen Commission Team

Forging Forward Conference 2020 is Assemblies of God (AG)'s first Next Generation Commission (NGC) Conference held on Zoom. It began at 8pm, on September 12, 2020, and reached across the Asia Pacific from Singapore. The conference is opened to all who are serving in NGC ministries such as pastoral staff, leaders, teachers, volunteers and potential leaders. The key theme was to charge all NGC ministers to forge ahead with the Spirit in this digital era.

About 200 participants from Singapore, Japan, and Indonesia gathered for an explosive time of worship. It was truly a Spirit-filled night!

"I felt it was refreshing to serve with musicians from another church, and I could sense the unity of being one in the body of Christ, regardless of which church we were from." – **Stephanie Lim, Worship Team, New Horizon Church**

The Challenge to Advance

It was an honor to have Rev David Hall from Lifepoint Church Adelaide, Australia. He preached on tapping into the Spirit and challenged ministers of the next generation to advance in this digital age. Rev David spoke from 1 Corinthians 2 and spurred all NGC ministers and volunteers to not only to preach and teach the Word of God but also demonstrate the power of God in our generation, just as Jesus did then. He spoke on how we can do ministry with the power of the Holy Spirit right now, during COVID-19. We may not be able to gather physically, but God has the power to move in every realm, both physical and digital.

His empowering Word was followed up by an exclusive interview facilitated by Ps Isaiah Fadzlin. It was a dynamic session where many were enriched by Rev David's replies.

"Powerful conference on Zoom! I was very ministered by it. During the worship and prayer time, my palms felt warm. And though I have had a long day, I felt refreshed. The six points shared by Rev David, on how

to connect with the power of God was so relevant. How we need God's power to forge forward, even more so when times are so uncertain. Some of Zion's youth who attended the conference shared how they were inspired by the message and stirred in their spirits. So good! God moves through digital spaces too!" – **Tan Yunyun, Youth Pastor, Zion Full Gospel Church**

Though the "How to's" in ministry was covered extensively during the conference, the leaders could sense the presence of God right in their own homes. It was an enriching time for their souls and spirit!

"It was a blessing being able to still attend a church conference during such times. The message by Rev David was powerful, and it spoke to me very clearly. Personally, I am struggling with some things in my life but through the sermon, I truly felt God's reassurance and peace. I am grateful to be able to still feel God's presence even though the conference was held in this manner." – **Samantha Ho, Young Adult Ministry, Calvary Assembly of God**

"I came with a heart that was ready to learn on how I could effectively teach about the Holy Spirit to my class with ages ranging 4-6. I was swept by the Spirit, soaking in the presence of God right at the start of the conference. The worship was impactful and it ministered to me. The whole session taught me one precious lesson that I can bring to my young class and that is to trust the work of the Spirit and allow the Spirit to minister. It is important for teachers to be moved by the Spirit and carry that passion to teach the Word of God to the children. They will feel the anointing." – **Deborah Chun, Children Ministry, Maranatha Christian Assembly**

The Power of the Holy Spirit

The conference is just the beginning. May our young leaders continue to rise up and be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit because there will be an out-pouring of the Spirit in their generation.



"Personally, I think the message is really a timely one, especially for this generation. As Christians, we all know that we should love God and love others, but I feel we tend to forget (at least for me) that we also have the very same power to do the real, tangible miracles of God, that this generation needs! Really was inspired to step up and out of my comfort zone and pray in the Holy Spirit for others! Come on, this is how we can reach out to the youth!" – **Joel Cheang, Secondary 4 Youth, Zion Full Gospel Church**

- 1 Coming together to lift up our praises to God
- 2 Ps Isaiah facilitating the session via Zoom with Rev David Hall from Lifepoint Church Adelaide, Australia
- 3 Our Next Gen leaders having some fun in front of the camera

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Rosita Leonardo Cristobal	Grace Assembly
Lee Heung Yeung, Patrick	Grace Assembly
Ng Lee Chin, Jasvin	Grace Assembly
Ng Mee Noy	Grace Assembly
Tan Chong Yi, Joey Asher	Grace Assembly
Tan Tian Xiang, Matthew	Grace Assembly
Wong Yew Fei, Benjamin	Grace Assembly
Fan Siew Fong, Bernadette	The Harvest Force
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Licensed Ministers

Lim Ping	Eternal life Assembly
Chan Boon Lye, Isaac	Grace Assembly
Lim Jianxiong, Peter	Grace Assembly
Wang Zixuan	Grace Assembly
Grace Deborah Samuel	Smyrna Assembly
Leong Yoke Sin, Priscilla	Trinity Christian Centre
Lim Sock Ping, Joyce	Trinity Christian Centre

Associate Member

Teo Yew Peng, Shirley	City Gate Church
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Exhorters

Bay Yan Ying, June	Calvary Assembly
Low Loy Nghee	Centre of New Life
Ng Poh Ming, Damien	Elim Church
Alvin Phang	Elim Church
Koh Soo Cheng, Susan	Faith Assembly
Wong Kong Weng, Isaac	Faith Assembly
Jonathan Baysantos	Grace Assembly
Angel Muyco Cruz, Jr	Grace Assembly
Goh Lee Choo	Grace Assembly
Lee Yuet Hoe	Grace Assembly
Lim Hui Fen, Samantha	Grace Assembly
Lin Weiliang, John	Grace Assembly
Yee Sam Oi, Theresa	Living Water AG – Tampin, Malaysia
Koh Eng Soon, Peter	New Horizon Church
Lu Wei Liang, Gavin	New Life Church
Lawrence Vimal Augustine	Smyrna Assenbly
Harvey Colasino	Smyrna Assenbly
Rajesh Gopala Krishnan Menon	Smyrna Assenbly
Aarathi D/O Ramchand	Smyrna Assenbly

AG General Council Meeting

Persevering in Our Mandate to Move – Not an ordinary meeting but one which called for the Father's business.

By Ps Navin Ong, Centre of New Life Church

It was hard to know what to expect at this year's AG General Council Meeting (September 10), without our usual vibrant praise-filled atmosphere, expressive worship and Spirit-inspired prayers, to which we are so accustomed. It was the first time for many attending an AGM via video-conferencing.

Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock called to order, what at first seemed like just another business meeting, but under unique circumstances. Under the legal provisions of COVID-19 Temporary Measure Act 2020, the acceptance of reports, election and re-election of officials had been executed through a proxy form. The Annual Report and Financial statements in both soft and hard copies had been sent prior to the meeting and had been made available to members since August 19, 2020. Also provided for under the COVID-19 Temporary Member Regulation, the Chairman of the meeting has been appointed to act in proxy for all members. A member who had matters to raise had to post or email the chairman before the meeting. Also, as the meeting was online, members were not required to propose or second resolutions.

Remembering our Mandate to Move

Opening in prayer, General Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo set a firm spiritual tone for the rest of the meeting with an authoritative exhortation from Mark 4:35-41.

He reminded us that our God is a God of movement, who is never satisfied with the 'status-quo'. He is concerned for other communities and just like the first disciples, we are to obey the voice of our Lord, look beyond our immediate challenges and minister beyond our immediate communities to 'go to the other side' with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A Prophetic Destiny and Destination

First, he exhorted lead and senior pastors, stressing that as they weather the storm, facing demonic challenges and crises in life does not mean they can never get to the other side. They are to persist despite the storm. He asserted, "While this side may be a side of challenges, the other side is a side of fulfillment. While this may be a side of storm, the other side is one of quiet confidence. While this side may be a side of great crisis, the other side is a side of great victory." Facing such challenges and crises, means they and their churches are 'on the right track' for a prophetic destiny and destination.

Fulfilling our Mandate with our Eyes on Jesus

Next, addressing all as a denomination, Rev Dominic exhorted us to keep our eyes focused on Jesus and on the other side. He reminded us that going over is our mandate and we are to look beyond the pandemic. Our congregants are watching how we rekindle

our faith and trust in Jesus. We inspire them when we persevere. The Kingdom is advancing and going over is a matter of destiny to which God has destined us, the AG Singapore and AG worldwide.

Resolving to Move with Due Diligence

The first resolution was to accept the Auditors reports for 2019. Rev Chia reported on two questions that had arisen from the floor and how they had been satisfactorily addressed. Voting for the resolution had been done by proxy earlier. The vote had been unanimously passed to accept the Auditor's Report.

Resolving to Stand Strong and Stand Up to Serve

The second resolution was to re-elect two current members and to elect two new members to the EXCO. Rev Simon Ang was re-elected as Assistant General Superintendent and Rev Tan Hock Cheng as General Secretary. Rev Jason Tan and Rev Bernadette Fan were both elected and welcomed as new members to the EXCO.

Honoring His Faithful Servants on the Move

Rev Dominic honored three veterans who were stepping down to make more room for renewal in the EXCO.

Rev Robert Lum has served with distinction but felt it was a good time to step off the

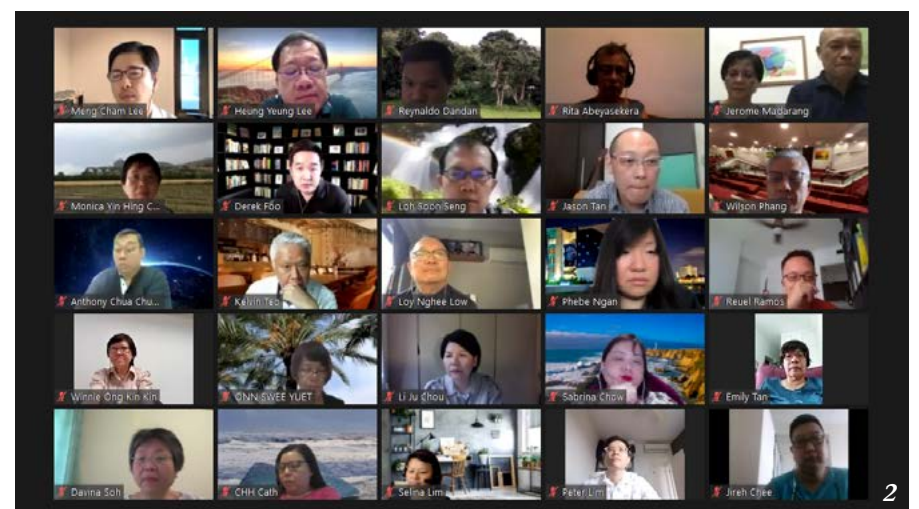
plate for the renewal process. Serving in EXCO since 1996, he held the following offices: EXCO member 1996-1997, 2017-2019, General Treasurer 1997-1998, General Secretary 2000-2001 and Assistant General Superintendent 2002-2016.

Dr Emily Tan had served as an EXCO member and as an important voice for Chinese-speaking churches, from 2004-2009; 2012; 2014-2019. She is in transition to go back to Malaysia.

Rev Gerald Tan had served as an outstanding EXCO member from 2013-2015, and again from 2017-2019. He shared how it was his joy, pleasure and honor to serve the larger body in this capacity but also delighted to step-off to make room for others this season.

Flowing with the Larger Move of the Spirit

Wrapping-up, Rev Dominic called for us to join AG churches all across the Asia-Pacific in corporate prayer at the end of September. He further encouraged us to stay closely connected to the larger AG body through a conference in October. What started out as a business meeting under extraordinary circumstances, was in fact a meeting about Our Father's business – a call to persevere in our mandate to move in-step with the Spirit, and in sync with the larger Body of Christ.



1-2 Our ministers gathering for the General Council 2020 via Zoom



The Christmas Interruption

Within the last few months, the COVID-19 pandemic unwillingly interrupted our way of life. Countries, companies, schools and homes had to find alternative ways of doing things. Working from home, home-based learning, online meetings, online church services and cell groups became the new norm. Having to adapt so suddenly and so quickly was uneasy and inconvenient for many of us.

Similarly, when Jesus was born, His arrival had interrupted mankind. His coming was uncomfortable for many. Yet, this was so that the world would be saved and humans could receive a new hope.

This issue, we travel back 2,000 years peeking into the history of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and even the earth, to see how it differed from the usual.

May the stories bring you hope and peace in the midst of the chaos.

The Christmas Interruption

The Earth Interrupted: The Salvation Story

Interruptions to the norm could be good in many ways. Such was the interruption by God to planet Earth.

Rev Winnie Ong brought a strong teaching on how divine interruption to Earth was necessary for the salvation of mankind.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world in early 2020, it bounced out of control. By mid-September, WHO reported 213 countries and territories having over 30 million confirmed cases of infection, and over 950,000 deaths.* COVID-19 interrupted the world without warning. It came to hurt, not to heal; it came to destroy, not to save.

For all its beauty and splendor, Earth and its 7 billion occupants face horrifying interruptions in many forms and severity—tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, fire, and floods, etc. Besides natural disasters, people and wildlife experience drought and famine, pollution and pestilence. The Apostle Paul describes earth's troubles this way: *"We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."* (Romans 8:22)

God Interrupts Earth to Create

Not all disruptions are unwelcomed. The Bible reveals that planet Earth was not beautiful or perfect at the start. It was formless, empty, and dark (Genesis 1:2). Then God entered the picture and made earth habitable for all life forms. He proclaimed with joy, "Let there be light... let there be..." and transformed a dark and watery planet into the functional and beautiful blue planet teeming with life forms in its sky, land, and water. He made earth turn on its axis 24/7 and have the sun, moon and stars regulate times and seasons. Angelic beings rejoiced at God's creation.

The Creator looked at His own work and approved each item He had called into being or shaped with His hands. They were perfect as He breathed life into them. The crowning glory was in creating the first human beings, a male and a female so that they too would populate the earth. They are at the top of the hierarchy of life forms because they are special beings. Unlike other life forms, the first humans are spirit beings with a soul, and a body made from earth itself.

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" (Genesis 1:26)

Man was to rule and manage Earth according to the Creator's purpose and design for it. Alas, blinded by greed and mistrust in the Creator, the first humans fell for the lies of the Creator's enemy, the Devil. So, Man fell into sin and from that point on people continued the downward path of distancing themselves from the Creator. Earth too suffers from mankind's destructive ways. It groans for release from its curse, and God would save it.

God Interrupts Earth to Save

There were people who looked to the Creator for hope and salvation. Enoch walked with God; Abraham believed God; Moses obeyed God; and prophets spoke for God. Then there were people who distanced themselves from their Creator. When earth people corrupted themselves and filled it with violence, God stopped them from further destruction.

God returned Earth to the pre-creation state of watery mess but preserved the lives of a righteous man called Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives. They repopulated the earth. The Chinese must have known this part of human history. In their written language, the single word for boat 船 is composed of three separate words: 舟 (boat), 八 (eight), and 口 (mouths). The word itself speaks of salvation of a family when God made Earth new once again.

The Creator repopulated the air, the sea and land with reserved pairs of male and female animals. He interrupted earth with a deluge to save it and give it a new lease of life.

God Interrupts Earth to Redeem

About 2,000 years ago, God re-entered the world. This time the Creator interrupted earth in a supernatural conception.

"The angel answered (Mary), 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)



Rev Winnie Ong is Associate Pastor of Lifeline Family Church, in charge of the CARE cells. She is also the Network Representative of Global University (USA), a distance learning Bible College. She is married to Rev David Wong and they have two adult daughters. Winnie preaches and teaches in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin.

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The Christmas Interruption

Girl Interrupted: The Mary Story

Mary's world turned upside down when the Lord's angel visited her and told her she would give birth to the Savior. Rev Grace Ong, feeling like Mary, shares how challenging situations brought upheaval to her life, and how God turned it around.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." – Charles Dickens

The Best of Times: Great Expectations!

2020 found me at the start of a new season as a returned missionary, pioneering a new migrant church in Singapore. It promised to be a milestone year. We just moved to a new home of our own. My son would take the O-levels. My father would turn 70 this year. Our GOSEA 2010-2020 missions project would celebrate the end of a 10-year vision. I just graduated with a Master of Divinity from ACTS College. My calendar was full of mission trips schedules. We were on the threshold of the best of times.

When the angel came to Mary and called her highly favored, there must have been such a different expectation in her heart than what was to follow. I am sure most of you, like me, started out 2020 with great expectations of increase, promotion and favor.

In February 2020, God answered our prayer and provided a dream venue for our church-plant. It was strategic, affordable, and tastefully furnished. We paid the deposit and were so excited for the big move to our Promised Land.

The Worst of Times: A Hot Mess!

And then COVID-19 broke out. All churches had to cancel their services. The Circuit Breaker started on the week of our planned move. We had to switch to a Zoom church instead. Then, my mother was hospitalized for pneumonia. Next, my father, Rev Andrew Ong, was diagnosed with shingles with excruciating nerve pain. We were in hospital three times a week. Dad's shingles resulted in Bell's Palsy, a temporary paralysis of his face. His 70th birthday was coming, but he could not even smile fully. This was not the grand birthday celebration our family envisioned. He had to host the ASSM (ACTS School of Supernatural Ministry) in July, and here he was in the greatest need of a supernatural miracle himself.

On the ministry front, our missions were in crisis. The pandemic badly hit Southeast Asia and many of our missions cities were in lockdown. All schools were closed. Our primary missions support base was through our preschool SonShine Kids International in the Philippines, and most of our missionaries were tent-making teachers in Southeast Asia. All had no work, rentals had to be paid, and no one could come home because the airlines canceled all flights. Then we received the distressing news that one of our church-planters in Cebu was infected with COVID-19. Cebu was a hotspot of the rapid spread in the Philippines. The whole pastoral team in one of our churches had to be quarantined.

Mary, after the angelic visitation, found herself pregnant out of wedlock, having to leave her hometown and give birth in a stable. It brought her great inconvenience and discomfort, and to the onlookers, she probably appeared very "suay" or disfavored. It almost seemed the angel brought bad news and life was a hot mess.

Times of Divine Interruptions: Signal of His Control

Thankfully, God's divine interruptions in our lives signal His control. What appears detrimental to our plans may end up desirable to His purposes.

I witnessed the miraculous recovery of my parents as many joined us in fervent prayer. Instead of canceling the ASSM course, God sent my father a team to bring the ASSM online and to our biggest surprise, there were more than a thousand students! We witnessed not only the miracle of Papa's healing, but the ASSM became a platform for many miracles of healing during this pandemic. Someone brain-dead woke up from his coma the next morning after prayer! I got the news that our pastors' COVID-19 results were negative, and our stricken pastor recovered completely. The Almighty God is truly the God of miracles, both instant and gradual. Being forced online, I saw the biggest batch of students in the history of ASSM being activated in the gifts of the Spirit!

In the mission-field, I felt a divine inspiration to bring our entire Bible School and preschool in the Philippines online. It seemed incredulous as preschoolers were so restless. The internet in the Philippines was very unstable and our teachers, untrained. Yet God enabled us to arrange two weeks of intense re-training of our teachers and by July, we could start summer and regular online classes with 160 kids in Lapu-Lapu City with 12 online classes every day!

In July, we finally moved into our new church premises. Despite the safety protocols and restricted services, we saw the salvation of three Filipina migrant workers after our re-opening. We persevere in our vision to be a blessing to the migrant workers in Singapore.

Our Response: Interrupt Me, Lord!

Looking back at the turbulent months, God birthed new modes of doing ministry and gave us a new expectation of the miraculous. He re-equipped us, shook us out of our old, over-familiar wineskins and made us dependent on Him.

Mary's response to the angel touched me immensely. Despite her troubled thoughts, she said in Luke 1:28, "I am the Lord's servant, may your Word to me be fulfilled." God fulfills His Word in ways beyond our imagination. My prayer this Christmas is, "Interrupt me, Lord. I am your servant. May your Word to me be fulfilled your Way."



Rev Grace Ong Cabusao was a missionary for 18 years to the Philippines, involved in church-planting, equipping workers and directing a Christian preschool. In the last 10 years, they have sent Filipino missionaries to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam to plant churches, equip workers and touch communities. She moved back to Singapore in 2018 with her family and is a volunteer staff at ACTS College and pursuing her Doctoral studies. Together with her husband, Rev Noel Cabusao, they are pioneering a church for migrants at Faith Antioch Hub@City Gate Church. They have two children, Caleb and Kyla Cabusao.

The Christmas Interruption

Man Interrupted: The Joseph Story

Joseph's marriage plan was interrupted by the inception of Jesus. What lessons could we learn from this?
Rev Lawrence Koo writes.

The Context

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25)

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Singapore government imposed the Circuit Breaker in early April. Many couples had to either cancel or postpone their wedding plans as a result. To them, COVID-19 was a huge interrupter! All the efforts put into planning a dream wedding seemed to have gone to waste. One can imagine the frustration and disappointment these couples felt because of something totally unexpected and beyond their control. But even what they went through paled in comparison to Joseph's experience.

Joseph in Shock

In the Scriptures, we learned that Joseph was engaged to his sweetheart, Mary. In the Jewish custom, an engagement was considered a marriage except without consummation. Joseph must have been counting the days and looking forward to the big day. But nothing could have shocked him more than when he found out Mary was pregnant!

The conversation between Joseph and Mary could have gone something like this:

"Mary, how could you be unfaithful to me? What have I done to deserve this?"
"Joseph, please listen to me. I have not been unfaithful to you. You are the only man I love. Trust me!"

"Trust you? How can I trust you when all I can see is your protruding tummy? Tell me who's the man who did this to you!?"

"No one, Joseph. This pregnancy was an act of God. The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit."

"What? Mary, I think you've either lost your mind or you're taking me for an idiot to think I could believe what you've just said." And Joseph left, utterly angry and confused.

Is there any couple out there whose marriage plan has turned out as bad as Joseph's? I think not. Joseph's marriage plan met with an interception, not just an interruption. However, as a righteous man, and with his deep love for Mary, he did not want to shame Mary publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly (Matthew 1:19). But God intervened. Joseph had a dream. In that dream, an angel appeared to him and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:20-21)

Joseph woke up from that incredulous dream feeling puzzled and bewildered. Nevertheless, he was glad that what Mary had told him was not a lie. His secret plan of breaking the marriage was divinely interrupted, and his love and trust for Mary was restored. He went ahead with his marriage plan and took Mary as his wife. It was, however, ceremonial in nature. His physical intimacy with his lawfully-wedded wife faced an interruption—he had to observe sexual distancing for one year!

The interruptions Joseph experienced were not without a purpose, however. They served to bring about the fulfillment of the prophecies of the promised Messiah, which led to the invasion of the Savior into this lost world!

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"
(Matthew 1: 22-23)

What can we learn from Joseph's story?

Firstly, life's events do not always go according to our plan.

There are happenings that are beyond our control. We must learn to accept situations that are far from ideal. No one expected COVID-19 to come our way. For many of us, we see COVID-19 as a mega interrupter. All our plans have come to a halt. There is absolutely nothing we can do.

Secondly, our plans must give way to God's purpose.

I am sure many people are feeling frustrated because their plans are interrupted or have come to naught because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But as God's children, we must remember nothing happens without a reason, no matter how unpleasant it may be. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."

At the end of the day, God's purpose will prevail. Nothing can prevent God's salvation plan for mankind from happening, not even a COVID-19 pandemic. The Christmas story is a perfect example. So be encouraged and remember that even in interruptions, we are partners with God in His plans and purpose!



Rev Lawrence Koo
is the senior pastor of
New Horizon Church.

The Christmas Interruption

Shepherds Interrupted: The Outcasts Story

Heaven in the highest reached out to the shepherds in their lowest, in unexpected circumstances and their lives were changed forever. Rev Charles Tan encourages us to learn from the shepherds' responses.

In this pandemic, all of us experience the need to adjust to changes. So did people at the first advent of Christ. As the title indicates, the passage is best taken from Luke 2:8-20. Here we can clearly see the revelation of Christ's birth given to the shepherds, the rejoicing of the heavenly host, the shepherds' response, the result of their obedience and their return with great rejoicing.

The Revelation

Without any expectations, suddenly, out of the dark, the angel of the Lord appeared before the shepherds with his glory shining upon them. They stood in awe and gripped with great fear with what they saw. They were interrupted in their normal routine of life. The angel told them not to fear and announced the birth of a Savior, Christ the Lord. Like the shepherds, many of us continued life as usual and kept busy until COVID-19 brought life to a halt.

Pause to reflect. Some of us may have fears about our health, family, job security, the economy, or world conditions. But let this season remind us of the Savior and that we do not have to be afraid.

That such divine visitation would ever come to the shepherds instead of to royalties or religious groups of the day is unthinkable. For shepherds were considered the outcasts, who were despised, mistrusted, and not allowed into the temple. Religion looked at them as people without hope. Not so for God. The angel announced the birth of the Lamb of God to men raising sacrificial lambs is so relevant as Jesus came for the outcast. Health care, nourishment, accommodation to the outcasts become important in this pandemic. God had heard their cry. *"Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked."* (Jeremiah 20:13)

The Rejoicing

A great multitude of heavenly host appeared praising God, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"* Christ came *"to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."* (Luke 4:18-19).

The Response

The shepherds talked among themselves after the angels had left them. Could they be questioning the validity of such angelic visitation, to leave the sheep

in danger, or find any excuses that would have held them back? Though it interrupted them from their normal activities, they went in haste to seek what the angel had announced. They went searching stable after stable until they found the one where a child had been born. How they responded made all the difference.

They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger as they had been told. They had gone from the most exalted of heavenly sights to the humblest of earthly ones. From a dramatically lit sky to a dimly lit stable, the smell of animals and the atmosphere were familiar and a welcome for them.

The Result

They came, they saw Him, they knew His name and were changed forever. They became the first evangelists. They went about proclaiming what they had heard and seen without any skills or special gifts. They simply acted on what they believed. All those who heard them marveled at those things they told.

The Return

After seeing the wondrous sights and proclaiming the message, they returned to the ordinary. That is true for us each year, for the celebration of Christmas is a special time. But when the fun and excitement is over, we must return to our jobs and our responsibilities. But the shepherds returned so full of what had happened in their lives that they could not keep themselves from sharing the good news with everyone they met. With hearts filled with praise, they worshiped and glorified God.

Whatever trials we have gone through or are still in transition due to the pandemic, let us be like the shepherds. Our normal routine is interrupted. Allow God to do a deeper work in, for and through us for such a time as this. Let us look forward to 2021 with great anticipation that all things do work for good to those who love Him.

Let me pray for you: Lord, let us learn from the shepherds. Grant us that we may hear where You would entrust with such a great revelation. Remove the fear and speak the words of Your presence to save. Give us searching hearts like the shepherds, who left their work to scour the barns of Bethlehem until they found You. That we be so changed and return to where You have placed us as Your witnesses who are filled with praise and joy in Your Name. In Christ's name, we asked. Amen!



Rev Charles Tan is presently serving as President of Church Resource Ministries Singapore (CRMS). He is attending as well as volunteering in pastoral and mission ministry in Hingwa Methodist Church. He and his wife, Deborah are married for 44 years. They have four grandchildren.

God Provided

Everything is possible with God, even in the midst of the pandemic.

By Jess Sim, Harborlight Church

In December 2019, I resigned from my job of four years, wanting to take a short break while in search of my next challenge. I was exhausted by the constant travel in this job and in my heart I knew that it was not sustainable for me. Even though I had set my mind on leaving, it was still a really big step from a place of comfort to a big unknown, but I decided to trust that God will provide—even without having found a job yet.

Right after I left my job, the COVID-19 pandemic exploded. Businesses were beginning to suffer huge losses and many were not hiring. Without securing a new job, I would be lying if I had said I did not feel a tinge of worry. Had I known this was going to happen, it was unlikely that I would have resigned. Still, I put my faith in God, and was blessed that the IT industry which I was in, was not hit as hard.

Amid the brewing recession, I continued getting LinkedIn messages from recruiters for relevant job opportunities and even attended several interviews.

For the last role that I interviewed for, I prayed to God to reveal to me if this was the right role. If it was, I asked Him to open the door. After a week or two of praying and believing in God, not knowing if I would get the job, I finally received the job offer with a higher-than-market-rate increment.

I could not believe my ears when I first received the call. I want to thank God for everything that He has done for me. I had expected that it would take me a long time before I could find a good job opportunity but indeed this has proven that nothing is impossible with God—not even in the worst of times in this pandemic!



...Continued from pg 11

The birth of Jesus was anything but quiet. Wise men from the east saw a bright star which indicated a king was born. It led them to Jesus, and they knelt to worship. Did they know He was God incarnate? Angels visited shepherds in the field announcing the Savior's birth (Luke 2:14).

Why did God interrupt earth this time? He did not come to condemn the world of its sin and rebellion. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and to call sinners to repent (Luke 5:32). He came to surrender His sinless body to give them eternal life (John 3:16).

God interrupts earth to bring forth life, joy, and salvation. He replaces chaos with order, darkness

with light, fear with faith. Invite Jesus into your life and let Him make something new of your life.

Something beautiful, something good
All my confusion He understood
All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife
But he made something beautiful of my life.
— **by Bill Gaither, Something Beautiful**

**https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200921-weekly-epi-update-6.pdf?sfvrsn=d9cf9496_6*

From Hopeless Drug Addict to Hardworking Student

God and my friends in Teen Challenge partnered together to effect a change in me!

By Rino Koh Teng Sheng, Teen Challenge Singapore

Hello, I'm Rino and I am 32 years old this year. After going through the vicious cycle of a drug addict, I am proud to share that I am free from drug abuse for five years, three years due to incarceration, through the strength and grace of God.

Addicted Since Secondary School

I started taking drugs when I was in secondary school. I remember my so-called "friends" encouraging me to try it with them. In order to blend in, I started to have my first high, enjoying the out-of-body experience along with the friendships. I was introduced to even more friends and enjoyed the attention I got from it. Then, I started to try out different drugs. It became an addiction. However, I failed to recognize it as one. Before I knew it, I started to drift away from my family. I also avoided people who advised me against drugs. My health took a hit, and I was hospitalized a few times. It also affected my studies and eventually I was expelled from school. The first time I got caught by the police was when I was accompanying a friend to do some loan shark activities. I went out on bail and again was caught when I was screened while hanging out in the void deck with my friends.

Imprisoned by Drugs

Eventually I went into a Drug Rehabilitation Centre at age 21 for my first drug offence. By God's grace, I was given the lightest sentence and entered Teen Challenge (TC) for a pre-release program. At that time, I was rebellious, only thinking of ways to break the law. My initial impression of TC was that it was just a place that I was sent to. I didn't want to change. The staff treated me well. After I was released, I went into the vicious cycle of playing with drugs again. As I did not change my circle of friends, I went in for a second time at 24 and a third time at 27. The third time, I was too ashamed to face God and ask for forgiveness.

The Turning Point

Then one day, God's presence suddenly filled me and comforted me when I needed Him most. I started to reflect

upon my life and thought about my future. The thought of my family members passing away while I was still stuck in this vicious cycle of prison brought fear to me. I did not want to be in a situation where I had to attend the funerals of my family members in chains. I started to change. I started praying and reading the Bible every day. I began to renounce myself from the gang and slowly drifted away from bad influence. It was tough as people would judge and make fun of me. However, these were pains that I had to go through to grow stronger in Christ.

A New Start at Teen Challenge

Due to good behavior in prison, I was given a chance to choose which halfway house to go to. I chose TC. I decided to be on my best behavior this second time there. However, not every resident had the same goal to be transformed in Christ. Some even tempted me with different things. However, God is great. He placed many positive people around me—volunteers, staff and inmates, who never failed to support me. It was a struggle but these two verses helped me pull through, *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Romans 8:31) and *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* (Philippians 4:13).

At TC, I had acquired the habit to connect with God daily through quiet time, and weekly Sunday services. Life after TC wasn't a bed of roses, but it's much better than drugs and prison. I also started to enjoy healthier relationships with my family. It doesn't mean that once we believe in God, we'll have a good life immediately. God will continue to grind us and strengthen us daily, so that one day we'd be ready to receive His will and blessings. Currently, God has been kind to allow me to upgrade myself with a driving license and also a sponsored diploma in Kaplan. I pray that God will continue His blessings and provide me with a sponsored degree.

I thank God the staff of TC for their continuous, steadfast support that has allowed me to get to where I am today.



Rino (first on the right) with his family at an outing (pre COVID-19)

The Butterfly Story

The loss of a newborn. A contracted disease. A journey through depression. A story of life, loss, and transformation.

By Mey Chan, Trinity Christian Centre

In October 2018, I was jolted awake with a message in my mind – “Go take a pregnancy test”

Really, God? At the age of 44?

The test was positive—a wonderful surprise for my husband and me. We named our baby Noah. In the days to come, God continued to drop many words into my mind. I kept a journal to remember the promises. As time went by, the messages started to feel heavier. *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged”* (1 Chronicles 22:13). I had an inkling the journey would not be easy.

Crash Landing

At week 10, we revisited the doctor. The results of the first scan were disturbing. The doctor advised us that our baby had a high risk of Trisomy 13—a genetic disorder that causes facial deformations and the under-development of major organs. Subsequent tests and scans further confirmed that our baby's heart, brain, and face had many abnormalities.

We were crushed. But we knew that terminating our baby was not a choice. We would do our best to take good care of God's gift to us. Yet, we constantly wrestled with our decision. In the storm of negative reports, we clung on to God's promises.

The Rainbow

God saw that we were struggling with our skeptical doctors so He made a divine connection. Damien's brother introduced us to a well-respected geneticist. She helped us find a new team of doctors who greatly respected and supported our decision.

Arrival and Farewell

Baby Noah arrived a month early. Despite the doctors' warnings that he would be a “blue baby” (with no cries nor the ability to breathe), he came out crying loudly. We had eight precious hours with him until he peacefully slipped away in my arms. We were beyond sad. At the same time, we felt unspeakable joy and peace. Joy unshakable. Peace in the midst of suffering. Inexplicable yet so real.

Our little boy brought great joy and delight to many. We changed. People around us changed too. Baby Noah taught us to treasure life.

In the Cocoon

In September 2019, I was diagnosed with severe depression and anxiety. Psychiatric medicines did not work for me and doctors were making little headway. In desperation, we cried out. *God, have You abandoned us?*

God may have seemed silent, but He never left us. He sent many people to remind us that we were not alone. Family, friends, godly people—they all prayed relentlessly for us. They also supported us in practical ways and cheered us on.

Out of Darkness

One day, I was introduced to a therapist who asked me, “Are you ready to let God take full control? Do you trust Him? Do you trust Him to use me? Joy and peace belong to you. You are an eagle. Fly high and take them back.”

Step by step, in hope and trust, I worked hard on my road to recovery. The mind and the body healing in tandem.

Transformation

Today, I am fully recovered and better than before. I share my experiences and journey with others who are in similar struggles. I want to let people know they have hope! God is the ultimate cure. Complete healing comes from the Healer.

Many say mental illness will be a cycle for life. You never know when it may hit you again.

I asked God if this was true. Shortly after, a butterfly flew into our house and I started noticing posts of butterflies on social media.

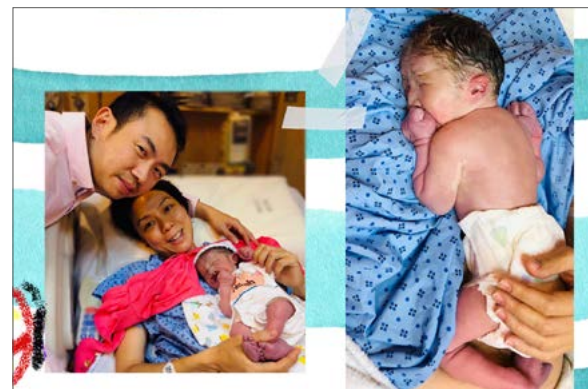
God reminded me of a law in nature: a butterfly will never become a caterpillar again. It remains a butterfly—transformed from its former self.

In that moment, I knew. I will never cycle back into the same mental illness again. I am completely healed, transformed by my Creator.

To all who may be in a cocoon of sorts at the moment, know that you do not need to fear. Know that you are never alone. Joy and peace. They belong to you. Always.



Mey and her family



Noah arrived crying and breathing, unlike what doctors predicted



Sharing her journey to encourage others, including on livestream with an organization in the Philippines

God Saves!

Praise God for my mother's salvation.

By Jeremy Choo, Eternal Life Assembly

Psalm 117 *"Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD."*

The above verse was my praise to the Lord when my mother received salvation. I want to give God all the glory for His mighty work!

My Mother's Encounter with God

My mother visited our church on many occasions since 1990s and know our pastors, their spouses and several of our church members. Many years ago, when Rev Oh Beng Kee came to our church to preach, my mother went out for the altar call and believed in Jesus. But due to the objection from her sister and one of my brothers, she backed out. From that day onwards, she lost interest in God.

Despite her lukewarmness, I continued to invite her to church and talk to her about Jesus. As a family, we continued to pray for her to believe in Jesus. I prayed to God to open my mother's heart to the Gospel, so that she will call upon the name of Jesus.

My Mother's Salvation

On July 6, 2020, I brought lunch to dine together with her at my sister's home. She was lying on the sofa when I arrived. I asked her how she was doing and she replied that she was feeling very uncomfortable and not able to sleep well. Instead

of asking her my usual question of "Have you taken your medicine?", I told her that I would pray for her after our lunch. To my surprise, she told me that she wanted to believe in Jesus and be baptized! I was overjoyed and told her that our pastors would be available to baptize her that very evening. She readily agreed but requested to have her baptism at my home.

The Good News

I texted Rev Bob and informed my family immediately. My family burst out in tears upon hearing the good news. Indeed, our hearts were filled with deep joy and gratitude for the Lord's miraculous answer to our years of prayer for her salvation!

In the evening, Rev Bob, Rev Daniel, Sis Catherine and my niece, Li Xuan came over to our home. Rev Daniel led her to Christ again and baptized her. We were all so excited and delighted for what the Lord had done for her. I want to thank God for His faithfulness and love for my mother. Despite her old age (87 years old), God did not give up on her but continue to reveal Himself to her. It is God who has brought her to Himself. He has delivered her from darkness into light!

Brothers and sisters, I want to encourage all of you to continue to pray for your unsaved parents, siblings, relatives and friends. Great is His love towards us and His faithfulness endures forever. He hears and answers our prayers when we pray according to His will. For everyone who calls upon His name will be saved. Amen!



My mother being baptized by Rev Daniel



My family, together with our pastors, rejoicing as my mother took the step of faith to be water baptized (The number of visitors to the house was kept to five persons)



My mother (seated, first from the right) enjoying an outing with her churchmates (pre COVID-19)



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CAMPORAMA IS POSTPONED

The National Camporama has been rescheduled to December 2021. We are still committed to planning an amazing Camporama for you, so stay tuned and see you next year!

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The World Interrupted: The Faithfulness of God

By Rev Simon Ang

Face masks, social distancing, economic recession, work from home, home-based learning, online church services... all of this translates to stress, frustration and spiritual fatigue. During this pandemic, all of us have lost something. We've all lost a certain amount of our personal freedom and had our lifestyles impacted in ways that frustrate and debilitate. Some of us have lost income or even a job.

2020 will forever be etched in history as a year of promise that quickly turned into a year of pandemonium. There has been so much pain and suffering in the world brought about by the pandemic and economic fallout. So much heartbreak. And sometimes that's all we can see. And we ask ourselves, "God, why does it have to be this way?"

For most of us, our default position is almost always the same when it comes to pain and sadness, difficulty and challenge: self-pity, self-preoccupation and self-concern. We don't think about the good that could come of it, much less how it might positively affect other people. Our goal is for people to feel sorry for us, sympathize with us and feel our pain. And then, for us to wallow in it: To focus on all we don't have, can't do, isn't going our way and how we've been inconvenienced.

The question then is how can we survive spiritually in a pandemic world? For me it's simply learning to look at life through the *faithfulness of God*.

These are the words that Thomas Obadiah Chisholm wrote in the great hymn Great is Thy Faithfulness...

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not:
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.**

And this is the chorus...

**Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

Virtually every line of this great hymn is pulled from the Scripture, and it reminds us of how the God we serve is faithful in every way—even when things don't work out exactly as we would like, we can see His hand at work in every moment of every day.

The Psalmist David's praise of the faithfulness of God in Psalms 145 is an attitude we should cultivate to survive this pandemic. May I humbly submit three important truths for us to consider.

FIRSTLY, Focus on the Faithfulness of God.

When you read the Bible, you encounter again and again examples of God's faithfulness to His people. He makes His promises, and He keeps His promises. Psalm 145:13 says, "*The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.*"

This doesn't mean that His people will never have problems, or never face hard times. What it does mean is that we can be sure that no matter what we face, God will see us through.

When Thomas Obadiah Chisholm sat down to write this hymn, the Word of God just flowed out of his heart onto the page, because the Word was so deeply ingrained in his spirit that he could not see his life from any other perspective—even though his life hadn't always been a bed of roses.

SECONDLY, Meditate on His wonderful works.

David said in Psalm 145:5, "*I will meditate on your wonderful works.*"

When you look at the world around us, you'll find nothing but a fallen mess, a world gone wrong. But in God's creation we see signs of His faithfulness everywhere.

God is faithful to His Word, faithful to His promise, faithful to His people. Just like the light of dawn follows the darkest hour of the night, God is faithful to lead you out of your darkness into His marvelous light.

Make it your habit to focus on goodness where goodness exists, to focus on beauty where beauty exists, to look for any reason—any excuse—to celebrate God's faithfulness.

THIRDLY, Revel in the nearness of God.

David wrote in Psalm 145:18, "*The Lord is near to all who call on him.*"

In the third verse of this great hymn, Thomas Chisholm wrote...
Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

This is about so much more than just having your sins washed away. It's about living each day reveling in His presence, experiencing His peace, His power, His victory, His hope—in spite of the circumstances. Learn to stop venting and start praying because we don't need sympathy, we need strength for each new day! It begins with a willingness to revel in the nearness of God and say, "God, I need you. I need your help. I need your mercy. I need your presence in my life."

Let us never lose sight of the faithfulness of God: the wonder of mercy, the beauty of creation, the truth of God's Word.

As we close this chapter in this chaotic year, **we can embrace the new year secured in hope, anticipation, expectation and faith because of the faithfulness of God.**



Rev Simon Ang is the Senior Pastor of Moriah Assembly of God and the Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, Singapore.



From us at AG Times:
Heartfelt thanks to Rev Simon Ang for journeying with and leading the AG Times for the past seven years. We couldn't have made it this far without you! You have been a wonderful blessing!