

AGCSS' Love Our Neighbors Campaign

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A while ago, the water pipe in my house had burst and my house was flooded. The furniture got wet and the house got messy as the water kept gushing out. I was drenched as I tried to fix the pipe that burst. Thankfully, it was only a pipe.

Water theme parks have wave pools, where people sit on large floats and subject themselves to the thrill of being carried by the waves. The fastest way to move in the waters is to go with the flow. To experience the water rides, people have to go through the waters. You can't stay out of the pool and still experience the flow.

Ezekiel 47 describes repeatedly how God leads us through the waters. In verse 3, it states, “**led me through water** that was ankle-deep.”, in verse 4, “**led me through water** that was knee-deep”, and “**led me through water** that was up to the waist.”

There are powerful truths that we can glean from this.

The presence of God is found in going through the waters.

God promises to be with us through the storm. He does not watch us from afar. He is with us in our boat. He is with us, leading us through. The key word here is how God “leads” us through the waters. We don't need to fumble when God leads us. We only need to follow His leading.

Often, we think that we are left to face difficulties alone. There are times when we are tempted to scoot off and avoid trouble or skirt around difficult situations. But today, know that God is with you through the good and bad times.

His presence is with us when we go through the waters, when we face challenges. He is Emmanuel, God with us. He never abandons you in trouble. It's crucial that we recognize that His presence is with us. His presence was with Joshua as he crossed the Jordan at flood stage. His presence was with His people as they battled Jericho. God led them every step of the way. He gave them instructions to follow. And as the people of God obeyed, they were in the center of God's presence, will and plan. Even though they were about to go into battle against the strongest fortress of their day, they obeyed and followed God's leading.

It's not going around nor avoiding the obstacles but THROUGH it!

The power of God is experienced in going through the waters.

The manifestation of His presence brings His power. As the Israelites faced the mighty Jordan, His power manifested, enabling His people to cross over.

Our challenges are tools that God uses to showcase His power. As powerful as the water currents of the Jordan were, obedience to step into the waters activated the power of God that stopped the waters upstream. As unformidable as the walls of Jericho were, obedience to walk around it in full view of the enemy brought about God's power of protection and victory!

“God leads us through the waters” is a powerful revelation from Ezekiel 47! We need to go THROUGH whatever stands before us. When we do so, God brings the breakthrough that you need through the manifestation of His power. Where He leads you to, His presence and His power will be, enabling you to overcome your challenges.

The provision of God is actualized in going through the waters.

Ezekiel 47:7-12 tells us that where the waters of God flows, the salty water becomes fresh where swarms of living creatures can live. There will be large numbers of fish, fish of many kinds. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Every month, they will bear fruit because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing.

Just reading what the intention of the water is for makes me excited! It's to bring life wherever it goes!

God is in the midst of our challenges. As His people, God's presence, power and provision is readily available for us. But we cannot allow fear to inhibit us from entering into the deep. We cannot be bystanders and remain at the side of the river.

The victory at Jericho ushered in a new season for the Israelites. Though they were days of battles, it was also days of conquering and becoming a strong nation and people that belong to God.

We are living in unprecedented times, but it's of no surprise to God. And this is what He tells His church—I am here with you. I am for you and I will use you to bring life to the nations!

Are you ready to follow God's leading THROUGH the waters to see an unprecedented move of God?

涉水前行

不久前，我家里的一条水管爆了，家里淹了水。水喷涌而出，家具都湿了，家里乱七八糟。我修理水管时全身都湿透了。幸好那只是一条水管。

水上乐园有波浪池，人们能坐在橡皮筏上感受着波浪推动他们前行的刺激。在水中前行最快的方法就是顺流而行。要体验滑道设施，我们就必须涉水。我们不能不下水却拥有顺流而行的体验。

以西结书第47章重复地描述神如何带领我们穿过水体。在第3节“领我涉水前行，水深及踝”，在第四节“领我涉水前行，水深及膝”，以及在第5节“领我涉水前行，水深及腰”。

我们从这里可以获取大能的真理。

我们涉水前行时有神的同在。

神应许伴我们经历风雨。祂不在远处观望。祂与我们同舟。祂与我们同在，引领我们度过艰难。关键的是，神如何“引领”我们涉水前行。当神引领我们时，我们不需要摸索。我们只要跟随祂的引导。

我们常认为我们是独自面对艰难的。有时我们很想拔腿就跑，逃避困难或面对困境时绕道而行。但是今天你要明白，神一直与你同在，不论在顺境或逆境。

我们面对挑战时，必须涉水时，神都与我们同在。祂是以马内利，与我们同在的神。祂从不在我们面对困难时撇弃我们。知道祂一直与我们同在是很重要的。当约书亚在约旦河河水泛滥的情况下过河时，神与他同在。当约书亚攻打耶利哥城时，神与他同在。神带领以色列民的每一步。祂给他们指示。当以色列民跟从神的指示，他们就在神同在的中心，在神的旨意中，在神的计划中。虽然他们要攻打的城是当时最坚固的城堡，他们仍顺从，在神的带领下，跟随神的指示作战。

面对阻碍，我们不该绕道或逃避，而是迎难而上！

Continued on pg 19...

Global Concert of Prayer 2021 —Singapore AG Segment

A powerful time of concerted online prayers for the purposes of God in our world.

By Rev Bernadette Fan, The Harvest Force

On March 18 to 20, 2021, the Assemblies of God (AG) Church all over the world gathered online for 50 hours through the Global Concert of Prayer: Unlimited. Organized by the World AG Fellowship, 152 nations came together to pray.

Singapore AG hosted the prayer segment on March 20, 2021 at 11am. The AG Worship Team began the hour with vibrant songs of praise. Thereafter, Rev Tan Hock Cheng, the General Secretary of the AG, Singapore, exhorted everyone to seek the voice and power of the Holy Spirit with this pressing statement, “We are living in extraordinary times and people are looking for hope!”

“Come, Holy Spirit”

We began the first prayer segment focusing on the age-long prayer of the Church.

Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Everything starts with a hunger for God’s deep presence. God responds lovingly to our inner longings. In that hour, we prayed in unity to be hungry and thirsty for God’s presence, we sought to be filled continually with the Holy Spirit. We entreated God to rekindle among us the sense of longing for the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit. We also invited the Holy Spirit to come into our lives, family, church, offices and schools. We sought the Holy Spirit to confirm God’s message of grace with miraculous signs and wonders amidst us.

“Expand Our Imagination”

This second segment purposed us to pray from Ephesians 3:20.

Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

The Holy Spirit power is the power at work within us to do what God is willing and able to do. We serve a God who answers us with the extraordinary and He is most certainly able to do even the impossible. Our imaginations can be expanded to serve the purpose of God.

Through this time of prayer, we appealed to God to expand our ability to love as God loves. We cried out for an expansion of imagination, expansion of our capacity, and expansion of our thinking to see all things by faith. With God, all things are possible!

“NexGen Movement”

In the following segment, Rev Dominic Yeo, the General Superintendent of AG, Singapore, called out for attention towards the next generation of believers in Singapore and around the world. We were led to call forth a Davidic generation to arise at the hour. This would be the generation that will stand up for God’s kingdom’s sake.

As we prayed, we boldly asked God to saturate the next generation with the power of the Holy Spirit. Calling for a release of anointing to this generation to ignite their schools and campuses with God’s glory, we prayed for increase of Christ-centred leaders who know the priority of God’s kingdom. As the next generation enter the working world, we believe they will use their education for God’s glory.

“SilverForce”

This penultimate segment was dedicated to praying for believers aged 50 to 80. Rev Dominic reminded us that this group, called the Caleb Generation, had with them life experience, network of connections and spiritual gifts. They can be mobilized and mightily used for God’s purpose.

In our prayer, we sought God that this Caleb generation would rise up and become the



sermon and faith movement, praying that the Holy Spirit would inspire them to get behind the vision and leadership of the Church. We cried out, “Lord, grant them hunger and thirst to serve You in their golden years, and say, ‘Give me that mountain!’”

“Strong and Mighty Churches”

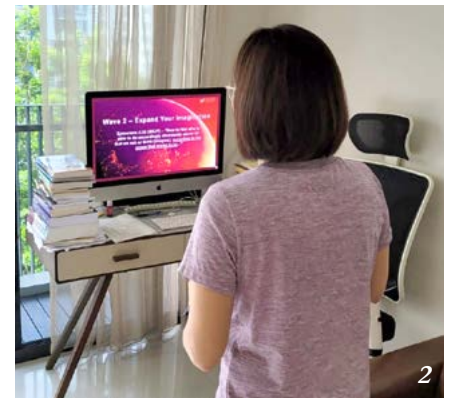
Rev Dominic underscored the importance of strong and mighty churches. He led us in this prayer segment to ask God for disciples, instead of crowds; every church to be missions-minded; churches to know their purpose and redemptive gifts and calling; and strong families as a solid bedrock of ministry.

Finally, we prayed in unison for church-planters to be raised and a movement of church-planting to take place in Singapore.

“Father, let there be a stirring of hearts to plant churches that will see an unprecedented harvest of lives here! In Jesus’ mighty name, AMEN!”

Some of the participants shared their thoughts:

“We held a gathering through ZOOM for those who wished to pray together. We have 24 persons in the meeting in the Singapore



session. I was personally blessed and greatly encouraged as we prayed.” — Rev Robert Lum, Eternal Life Assembly

“Ministry of the music was powerful. Praying for the next generation of youths to arise in prophecy!” — Jenny Kee, Risen Christian Assembly

“教会更要火热的为下一代祈求... 香港的祷告很全面, 感觉有同心和一, 圣灵的带领和感动... 现今这个时代, 我们不只要读经, 我们更要敏锐于神要对我们说的话... ” — 神召会信心堂

I was encouraged at the sight of so many servants of God who prayed so passionately over their nations and for the next generation of leaders. Truly, this international prayer rally has demonstrated to us that nothing—not even the pandemic—“will be able to separate us from the love of God.” And His love is even more evident than this momentous gathering of the saints to “worship [God] in the Spirit and in truth.” — Amos Chua, New Life Church

- 1 Rev Dominic Yeo, the General Superintendent of AG Singapore leading the prayer session
- 2 Tuning in from our homes for a time of united prayer

Global Concert of Prayer 2021 —Closing Session

National church leaders from the World Assemblies of God take turns to pray for 50 continuous hours.

By Trinity Christian Centre

An amazing 152 nations from around the world rallied online for the inaugural Global Concert of Prayer (GCOP) by the World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF) from March 18 to 20, 2021.

Uniting under the theme “Unlimited: Unleashing Our Potential”, the prayer rally brought together thousands of churches and many more believers. They tuned in to Trinity Broadcast or gathered in churches to join national church leaders who led in 50 hours of continuous prayer for local and global issues with the world still wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We cannot suppose that God will do for us without prayer what He has promised to do for us only through prayer. Therefore, we must pray! Pray fervently! Pray expectantly! Pray constantly,” said Dr George O Wood, Chairman of WAGF, who kicked off the opening session.

“This was such an awesome gathering of believers from across the world on a single platform. “We have been so blessed by Dr Wood, Rev David Mohan, WAGF executive council members, and many national church leaders who exemplified for us the power of prayer,” said Rev Dominic Yeo, Secretary of WAGF and Chairman of GCOP Organizing Committee.

Floodgate of Testimonies

Testimonies are still flooding in from across the globe on what God is doing through GCOP.

“Our entire Christian community was gathered in prayer and worship. We have several testimonies of the blessings received by being a participant in GCOP. The call to prayer extended beyond the Assemblies of God as other denominations prayed along with us,” said Rev Moisés, Cuba.

Over in Finland where the lockdown is still in place, Rev Mika Yrjölä, Chairman and International Representative, Finnish Pentecostal Churches shared “We had hundreds of people tuning in to the broadcast—many for significant amounts of time. One of the families testified of how beautiful this opportunity to ‘gather’ was. They were deeply touched by the event and cried as the different nations prayed and a beautiful atmosphere of

prayer filled their house. Even their children loved it and said, ‘it was like finally going to church again after a long time.’”

“It may have been daylight somewhere in the world, but it was 4am in Singapore when the Lord woke me up to listen to and engage with the session that was taking place. When I obeyed and put on my earpiece, Pastor Glyn Barrett, National Leader of Assemblies of God, Great Britain, was speaking about the baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. As I listened, I prayed and right there, God did a beautiful work in my state of slumber. I received a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit to intercede for people,” shared Joanna Lee, a church member from Trinity Christian Centre, Singapore.

When God summons His people to prayer, it is hard to be on the sidelines. Suan Lim, another member from Trinity Christian Centre, Singapore, said, “I have not felt such a draw in my spirit to serve and engage in prayer since COVID-19 disrupted the world last year. God is rebuilding individual lives and His church. Every session of prayer and worship that I tuned in to captured my heart to respond to God. It was like fresh spring rain upon a dried parched land.”

MM33 to Stir Urgency for Making Disciples

At the closing session, Rev Dominic Yeo announced MM33, a WAGF global initiative to stir Assemblies of God churches to greater urgency to pray for, reach out to and make disciples. “MM is the Roman numeral for two thousand, which marks two thousand years since the ascension of Christ in AD33. We are believing God for the greatest revival in history,” said the Chairman of MM33 Committee.

With the tagline *His Mandate, Our Mission*, MM33 will culminate in a year-long celebration of the Jubilee of Jubilees and the revival as one big global family in Christ in 2033.

MM33 will be launched at the next World Assemblies of God Congress in Madrid in May 2023.

Let us get behind all that God is doing!

Scan this QR to watch the Highlights from GCOP or go to <https://vimeo.com/528698784>



- 1 Rev Dominic Yeo, Secretary of WAGF and Chairman of GCOP Organizing Committee speaking to the audience
- 2 Dr George O Wood, Chairman of WAGF kicking off the opening session
- 3 Worship experience and response
- 4 Broadcasting from Hong Kong: Rev Dr Timothy Yeung leading a segment in the concert
- 5 Rev Dr Barnabas Mtokambali from Tanzania leading in prayer



Leverage

A time of empowering our Children, Youth and Young Adults ministers.

By Ps Jay Ong, Calvary Assembly of God

Openness to change. Opportunities instead of obstacles. Obedience to follow the Lord's call.

These were the three essentials that Ps Isaiah Fadzin (Assemblies of God Singapore's NextGen Commission Coordinator) exhorted ministers to take hold of as Singapore enters the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic. He was speaking at the end of the local NextGen Commission's first meeting for 2021, *Leverage*. An initiative by the World AG Fellowship, NextGen Commission encourages collaboration among churches in order to perpetuate a Spirit-empowered legacy to children and youth.

The session on March 26 saw Children, Youth and Young Adults ministers from 13 churches gather to learn from three passionate panelists on how to navigate the new norm brought about by the pandemic.

Moderated by Ps Amadea Seow (Maranatha Christian Assembly), the panel consisted of Ps Poh-Low Aye Lan (Emmanuel Assembly of God), Ps Reuel Ramos (The Living Word Fellowship), and Ps Lyanna Teo (Calvary Assembly of God).

Challenges and Creative Solutions

For over an hour, panelists shared about the challenges they have faced and the corresponding creative solutions employed when physical services were allowed from Phase 2, as well as the lessons learned for moving their ministries forward.

The first major challenge discussed was finding ways to advance the gospel while keeping to Safe Management Measures. While churches can now hold physical services, group activities remain limited to eight people. This rules out traditional big-scale events such as youth camps and outreaches.

Working around these limitations, and the possibility of accidental slip-ups during inspections by Safe Management Officers can be daunting. However, Ps Reuel encouraged churches to develop solutions, instead of seeing the measures as an opposing force.

An example of not being constrained by guidelines, Emmanuel held youth camp stayovers in the individual homes of their youth in December 2020, instead of everyone congregating at a conventional campsite. Ps Aye Lan shared that this new format yielded a positive outcome and campers gave much positive feedback. Moreover, the decision to hold a camp even during this challenging period was rewarded with almost twice the expected sign-ups because nobody could travel overseas for holidays.

Invaluable Collaboration

While individual churches can achieve results on their own, the panelists agreed that collaboration has been invaluable in the new normal. Ps Lyanna shared how Calvary partnered with the Children's Pastor from another church to film videos for their children services just before and after the Circuit Breaker. Indeed, two are better than one as videos for children services were not something Calvary could have achieved with its own resources, and children from the partner church were also blessed by the videos.

Firm Foundations

Wrapping up the discussion, the panelists shared that no matter the times, there are some basics that remain evergreen, such as the need to build firm foundations which will not be shaken when troubles arise, the fact that discipleship starts at home, and the importance of partnering parents in raising the younger generation up in the ways of the Lord.

Leverage certainly got the attendees thinking about how we can turn the current circumstances into advantages for God's Kingdom. And in the months and years ahead, Children, Youth and Young Adults ministers in the Assemblies of God will continue exchanging ideas with and supporting one another. We invite you to continue interceding for NextGen ministries to continue leveraging the opportunities risen from the pandemic.



- 1 Coming together for a time of worship
- 2 Ps Isaiah, the Assemblies of God Singapore's NextGen Commission Coordinator, addressing the Children, Youth and Young Adults ministers
- 3 Our panelists
- 4 NextGen leaders learning from the panelists

Empowered to Succeed

... for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. (2 Timothy 1:7 ESV)

By ACTS College

When facing a challenging situation, often our instinct is to recognize our limits and call it quits. Daunted by the demands of the task or problem, we could back down or look for a way out. Some people swing to the other extreme of “positive vibes only.” They insist on positive thinking, often to the extent of suppressing their anxiety or settling for shallow, feel-good answers to their faith struggles.

A more balanced and biblical way to approach the challenges of life is to know that we are enabled by God for success. “Empowered to Succeed” was the message spoken at ACTS College’s Orientation Chapel on January 4, 2021. Conducted online, the chapel session saw lecturers and students of the college coming together to worship God and listen to His Word. The message was delivered by Rev Dr Casey Ng, the president of the college. Preaching from 2 Timothy 1:7, Dr Ng encouraged his hearers that God wants to empower everyone to succeed. If we want God’s empowerment, we must be willing to do the following:

1) Fear Not: Stop Saying “I can’t” (1 Timothy 1:7a)

As Paul’s apostolic delegate to the Ephesian Church, Timothy was commissioned to deal with some of the elders who were leading astray members with their false teachings (1 Timothy 1:3). This was challenging for Timothy, who was probably a timid person by nature. Paul drew Timothy’s attention to God. He reminded Timothy that God has not given believers a spirit of fear or cowardice. Fear can overwhelm us with terror till we feel helpless. A soldier overcome by fear is unfit for battle. Hence, Paul wanted Timothy to fear not and to stop saying “I can’t.” If Timothy could not step out of his fear, he would fail in his task.

We can identify with Timothy. We know how it feels like when fear assaults our minds, making us imagine the worst case scenario or think lesser of ourselves without reason. Fear comes in different forms—the fear of failure, the fear of losing control, the fear of disease and death. No matter how menacing fear looks like, or how incessant its attacks, it does not control us. We can decide to stop fearing and stop saying “I can’t.”

2) Trust God: Start Saying “I can do it through the Holy Spirit!” (1 Timothy 1:7b)

Paul urged Timothy to trust God because God has given believers the Holy Spirit of power, love and self-control. However insurmountable Timothy’s challenge appeared to be, it was nothing that God could not handle.

God has given us the Holy Spirit of power. The Spirit that dwells within us has endowed us with power to continue the ministry and to undergo suffering. God’s power strengthens our inner being (Ephesians 3:16) and supplies us with sufficient boldness for ministry.

God has given us the Holy Spirit of love. The love of God is poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). The first evidence of the fruit of the Spirit is love (Galatians 5:22). We live a life of love in the Spirit (Colossians 1:8) by serving others in the power of the Holy Spirit; even when we face our opponents we can correct them with gentleness (2 Timothy 2:25).

Finally, God has given us the Holy Spirit of self-control. Self-control over our actions and thoughts prevents rash behavior and helps

us to make sound, balanced assessments of situations. This was important for Timothy. He needed clarity of thought to trust the invisible God in the face of visible threats. He needed wisdom to handle the deceptive teaching of the false teachers.

No matter how tough the challenges confronting us are, we can trust God and start saying, “I can do it through the Holy Spirit.”

God wants to empower us to succeed. Knowing this truth motivates us to fear not and trust God no matter how difficult our mission or problem is. The American preacher Phillips Brooks once said, “Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks.” With the Holy Spirit, we can do it.



1 2021 Orientation Chapel’s participants receiving a word from Rev Dr Casey Ng

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The Heart of Christ for His Church

In the April 2TiP, our ministers heard from Rev Alton Garrison on his church's ACTS2 Journey.

By Rev Philip Tan Kwang Ming, Itinerant Minister

One of the most discouraging situations a pastor may encounter is to find that his church has plateaued or, worse still, is on the decline in numbers. This and other similar problems, and what to do about them, were passionately and professionally dealt with during April's 2TiP by Rev Alton Garrison, Assistant General Superintendent of AG, USA and author of "A Spirit-Empowered Church".

The Beginning of ACTS2 Journey

Starting off as a young evangelist, he traveled the world preaching the Gospel for almost 20 years until he was appointed Pastor of Little Rock Church in Arkansas. He had absolutely no pastoral experience, but God, in His grace and mercy, began to move, and Little Rock Church, which had plateaued for 30 years, began to grow. However, Rev Alton realized that something was missing—he didn't know how to lead people from where they were to where they needed to be. He lacked a process and God revealed the process to him while he was in desperate prayer because of setbacks over the publication of his book. The process is found in Acts 2:42-47. Rev Alton refers to that process as "ACTS2 Journey".

What ACTS2 Journey is

The ACTS2 Journey starts with an assessment of your church's current condition. A diagnosis of your church's condition is not to make you feel uncomfortable but to determine your church's health condition.

The next step is to look at the level of emphasis placed on four important aspects or qualities of your church—**Vision, Relationships, Programs and Management**. This exercise, together with the health results of your church will be used to determine where your church is in its life-cycle; whether it is on the ascending side of the life-cycle, plateauing, or on the descent.

The Fruits of ACTS2 Journey

According to data presented by Rev Alton, 84% of ACTS2 Journey churches in N. America have less than 200 members and 70% of these churches have either plateaued or are declining in numbers.

However, the good news is many of these struggling churches are showing rapid signs of recovery and remarkable growth as they embark on the ACTS2 Journey. This alone should reassure any pastor that there is hope no matter how hopeless a condition his/her church may appear to be in. If you find yourself on the descending side, you have to keep recasting your vision. If you slide further down the descent slope, not only is vision casting necessary, change becomes necessary as well. If you slip even further down, you need outside help.

Strategy With the Spirit

Rev Alton is passionate about churches being healthy and he is of the conviction that a healthy church is the hope of the world. Achieving a healthy state requires that you go through the process but it has to be process together with the empowerment of the Holy Spirit; it's Strategy with the Spirit, not either/or.

Towards the end of the session, Rev Alton gave an overview of the four Weekend Retreats held for ACTS2 Journey church leaders. Also mentioned briefly were the many topics that would be covered during the Retreats, such as Initiating Changes, Five Levels of Leadership, Strategic Plan, Core Values, Communication etc.

Overall, it was an interesting and enriching training session, made even more so with anecdotes of his, as well as his father's ministry journeys and struggles.

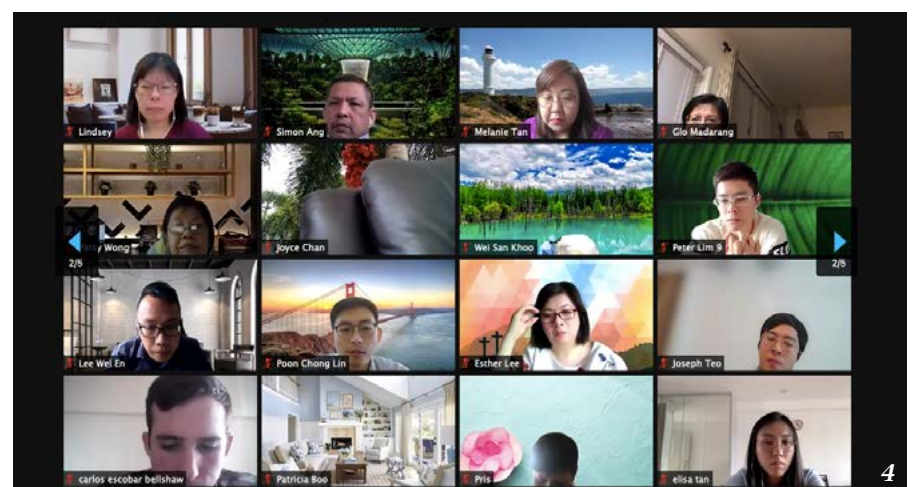
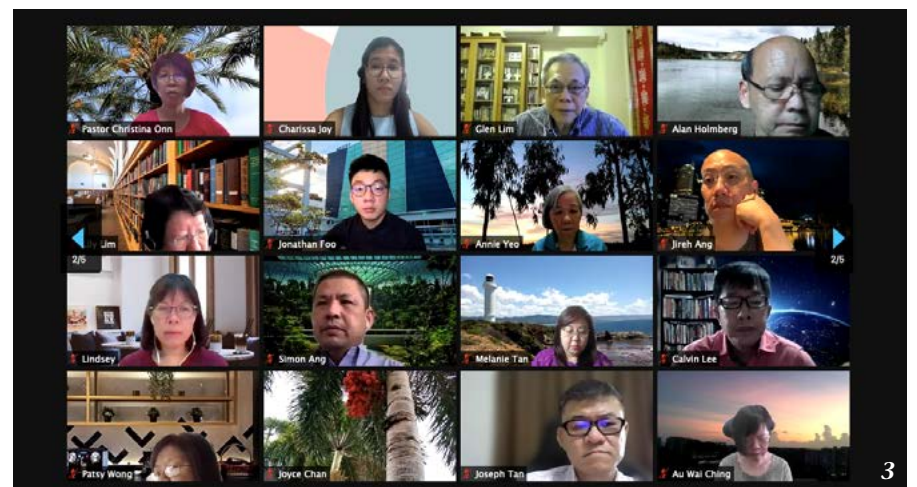
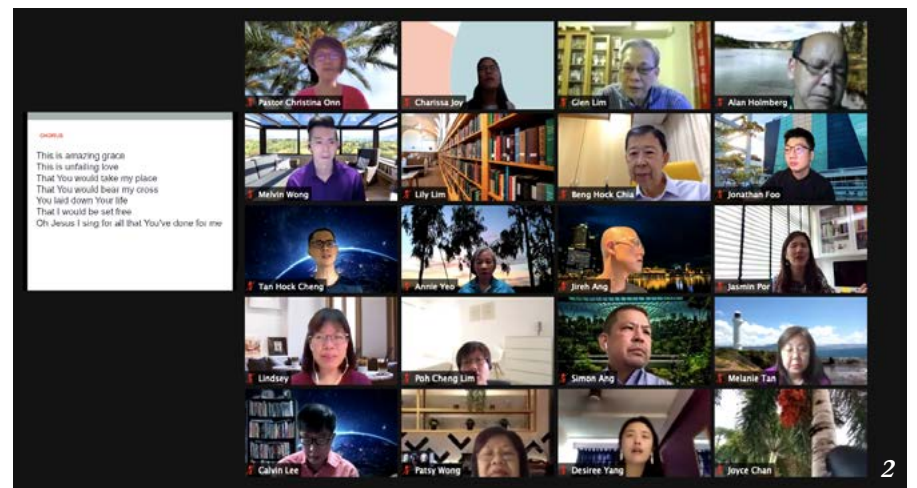
Assessing Current Reality

Area	Question	Response
Area 1	What is the current reality of your church's spiritual life?	
Area 2	What is the current reality of your church's financial health?	
Area 3	What is the current reality of your church's leadership?	
Area 4	What is the current reality of your church's community involvement?	
Area 5	What is the current reality of your church's physical environment?	

The above chart is adapted from "Congregational Self-Study" Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries. <http://www.npn.org/congregational/self-study.pdf>.

Remote Spotlight ACTS 2

Rev Alton Garrison



- 1 Our speaker, Rev Alton, sharing the Word
- 2 Coming together to worship
- 3 Our ministers listening in
- 4 Praying together as a community

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AGCSS' Love Our Neighbors Campaign

Loving our neighbors in tangible and practical ways.

By Risen Christian Assembly and Arise Community Services, REACH Community Services Society and Faith AG

Risen Christian Assembly and Arise Community Services

By Lam Poh Ling

There is nothing like loving our neighbors because this is God's command.

For two solid hours on December 12, 2020, we took delight in our continued effort to reach out and touch the lives of the community around Arise Community Services (ACS). This comprised 200 households of elderly and under-privileged one-room HDB flat dwellers at French Road and King George's Avenue.

Our aim was to reassure the residents that regardless of situations, we are there to help meet their basic needs. Our volunteers had pre-packed goodie bags that contained essential items like toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, towels, umbrellas and a \$20 NTUC voucher. Bringing Christmas cheer and festive joy to the neighborhood, we also included an invitation flyer to Risen Christian Assembly's (RCA) Christmas outreach program.

This door-to-door activation was made possible by the 35 members from RCA and their friends who volunteered and paired up to bless the recipients.

"Very happy to see familiar faces after such a long break, thank God for keeping them well."
— **Sarah Lee**

"I felt blessed to be involved and connecting with the residents in the community" — **Esther Hong**

"I was so glad to give out the goodie bags to the residents. I felt unspeakable joy seeing their happy faces." — **Ian Chai**



1 Bring blessings to one of our beneficiaries

REACH Community Services Society

By REACH

We are blessed to be a blessing.

We were blessed with many 'Love Our Neighbors' (LON) goodie bags which we could repurpose for our programs. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we had to modify some of the programs earlier planned. Some of the LON bags were used in our last November and December ration distributions to the vulnerable households, while some were also used in our recent Chinese New Year (CNY) outreach.

Apart from being used as carriers for groceries and household necessities, the LON bags were used to bless our communities—'neighbors' in other ways.

REACH has a regular "Community Da-Pau Program". As the name suggests, these involve cooked foods. Because of current COVID-19 restrictions, we are not able to execute our regular café programs at our Senior Centers. Seniors are not allowed to unmask and to communally have meals at the Centres, but they are allowed to take packaged cooked food back to be consumed at home. So REACH Café volunteers reorganize themselves, where volunteers cook food to be packed into bento boxes and distributed them to the seniors, to bless our community. These bento boxes benefit the seniors living in the vicinity, but come to our Senior Centre at Bukit Gombak Vista for programs and activities. They now leave the Centre with a bento box lunch after completion of the activities. The LON bags are used to help carry the bento boxes back to their homes.

During the CNY period, we would distribute CNY goodies to the households around Bukit Batok, Bukit Gombak and Jalan Membina. This year, the distribution took place on February 14. We were thankful we had volunteers from Grace Assembly of God and the community to help us in the distribution.

It is a team effort in working out these programs. Our staff in REACH got down to plan, organize and carry out the programs. Everyone put in their heart, mind and strength to make sure every part of the programs ran well. Our volunteers prepared food, packed the bento boxes into the goodie bags and distributed the bags to the residents. Similarly, volunteers prepared and packed CNY goodies into the bags to bless the many.

The residents whom we blessed are from Bukit Batok, Bukit Gombak and Jalan Membina, which are near Grace Assembly of God's premises at Tanglin and Bukit Batok, and our Senior Centers. We are glad to be a blessing to our 'neighbors'!



2 The people we have blessed

Faith AG

By Tan Hoon Kiang

A series of programs to bless our 'neighbors'.

In the LON campaign, we tapped on our community outreach program to be a blessing to our neighbors. Our program involves the Faith Love Cart, Faith Bursary Merit Award and the Whampoa Milk and Cereal Project.

The first two are wholly Faith AG funded projects while the Milk and Cereal project is partnering with the Whampoa Community Development and Welfare Fund to deliver milk and cereal to needy families with small children.

The Faith Love Cart started off with supporting families with basic food necessities but has since evolved to giving vouchers to allow the families greater flexibility on their choice of commodities.

The Faith Bursary Merit Award is to encourage and support children in their studies.

We believe that lives will be blessed and touched by our efforts.



3 Reaching out to one of the residents through our Milk and Cereal Project



4 Serving together as a family



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Ranger Kids

Ages 5-7



An exciting programme for young children, Ranger Kids experience fun, adventure and learning about God!

Adventure Rangers

Ages 11-14



Adventure Rangers gets youth participating in activities like camping, arts, technology and other sports and outdoor activities where they learn about God and grow in their relationship with Him.

Discovery Rangers

Ages 8-10



Discovery Rangers features an engaging system of learning through various indoor and outdoor activities where Rangers develop spiritual habits and grow in their relationship with God.

Expedition Rangers

Ages 15-18



Expedition Rangers mentors youths to develop self-reliance, leadership, and a deeper appreciation of God.

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Operation Restart

Pressing onward
in a new normal.

By Trinity Christian Centre

Trinity's on-site services finally restarted with a big bang on January 16!

With the maximum number of people in one service capped at 250 people, not all 8,000 Trinitarians got a chance to be back on the first weekend. But those who managed to, walked into an atmosphere of warmth and welcome. Traffic Marshals and Celebration Hosts greeted Trinitarians who entered the house of the Lord.

After months of worshiping God in our own homes, the atmosphere of being in God's presence was hugely different from worshiping at home. Being united in corporate worship is such a wonderful experience!



"I was so excited to be back in the house of the Lord. We arrived early and took our seats. The moment the music started, I teared non-stopped. I really missed being in church so much. I'm so grateful that we can be back in church—with the worship atmosphere surrounding us, being in the community of believers and worshipping. I was so overwhelmed. That desperate longing to be back was met that day. I couldn't help but tear and tear, wetting my cloth mask thoroughly." – Carol Lim

How inspiring it was to see various groups and fellow worshippers arriving on time with an expectant heart, ready to respond to God.

Even though we weren't able to cross zones, mingle and catch up with one another in church, the joy of seeing familiar faces, and smiling at one another beneath our surgical masks – this was Incredible Unity at work!



Our Lead Pastor, Rev Dominic Yeo, addressing the congregation on the first service of 'Operation Restart'

Even though we couldn't sing aloud, our hearts sung louder as we lifted our hands in worship and declared our praises to our faithful God and a thick presence of the Lord descended upon His people – the Vibrant Atmosphere was awesome.



"Manning the sound booth in a broadcast service is so different from doing it live. The music comes alive! The worship really moved me that day... it was so, so intense. There was such a tangible presence of the Holy Spirit in that weekend service!" – Ronald Loke

Pressing Onward to Encounter God Every Day

Acts 2:46 exhorts the church to meet daily in the temple courts and this is exactly what we did in 'Operation Restart' – every weeknight from Monday to Friday, at 8pm. And what a joy it was to see Trinitarians bringing their 'oikos' to church to encounter God!



Trinitarians gathered, hungry for the Word of God after being unable to attend church physically till now.

Miracle Monday is especially for people to come and experience God's power for miracles and breakthroughs! If you need a miracle of any sort, come! If you have a need, come!



"I have had back pain for a few months and I couldn't bend over to touch the floor. After we prayed, I was asked to touch the floor to test our healing and I could do so. What was difficult before became very easy! Now I am able to bend over with ease." – Candy Fang

Bible Study Tuesday—what better way to press onward in spiritual maturity than to study the Word! "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130). A topical study of the Bible refreshes our perspective and redirects our thoughts, words, deeds and paths towards God.

Prophetic Prayer Wednesday is a time to be sharpened in the Holy Spirit and engaged with God's prophetic Word. Grow in authority as we declare God's now Word and see God's will be done in our lives, families and church.

Walking in the Word Thursday dives deeper into God's Word so that we can understand a wider perspective of the weekend sermon. This service prepares us for the weekend sermon, tuning our hearts and minds to receive a double portion of the Word.

While Connect Groups still meet on Fridays, **Fabulous Friday** is where we can bring our oikos to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and encounter God!

COVID-19 will pass. Social-distancing and contact tracing measures will become distant memories. But for now, let Operation Restart be that beginning when Trinitarians press onward toward God, devoting themselves to meet God every day in the temple courts, and see the Lord add to His church daily those who were being saved!

24th Founding Anniversary

This year's theme, 'Revive, Rebuild and Restore', for our church aptly reflects where God wants us to be.

By Ps Reynaldo S Dandan, Jr,
The Living Word Fellowship

"The worship halls will never be short of thanksgiving and praise for God from His people. The limitations of physical space will never void yearning hearts to worship and glorify the Creator of the universe." These statements rang true for every believer in The Living Word Fellowship (TLWF) as we celebrated our 24th Founding Anniversary. Despite the imposed crowd limitations, each member of our church joined in the celebration through various platforms, both in person and online.



Scanning the SafeEntry QR code before going into the service hall

Where We Were Before and Here We Are

As a backdrop, TLWF was formerly a Filipino ministry under the Church of Praise until it became independent in 1997. Since then, it has ministered not only to the Filipino expatriates in Singapore, but to the local community as well. Yet, TLWF remains very strong in ministering to migrant workers, many of whom work in various businesses, households, and industrial sectors in Singapore. In fact, during the initial stages of the outbreak, many of our Filipino nurses and other allied health professionals, needed to be nurtured spiritually. As a result of our outreach to them, TLWF had become a spiritual home to many of our frontline workers.



All ready to receive the Word

Revive, Rebuild, Restore

Hence, amidst this trying time, being able to gather physically and virtually for our 24th anniversary celebration became all the more meaningful. Rev Jason Tan of Zion Full Gospel Church was the guest speaker of the worship celebration. He preached a compelling message from Matthew 21 about faith and how it would revive, rebuild, and restore the people of God. He encouraged and challenged the people that "miracles and breakthroughs await us when we have exercise faith, belief and take action to overcome the mountains of our lives. These words became an added impetus to the church's 2021 theme, Revive, Rebuild and Restore.

Evidently, COVID-19 changed the social landscapes in Singapore and around the world. By far, this year's anniversary worship celebration was rather plain compared to previous years. Only a limited number of people could be accommodated in the worship hall (it was Phase 2 during this



Rev Jason Tan, our guest speaker, ministering the Word

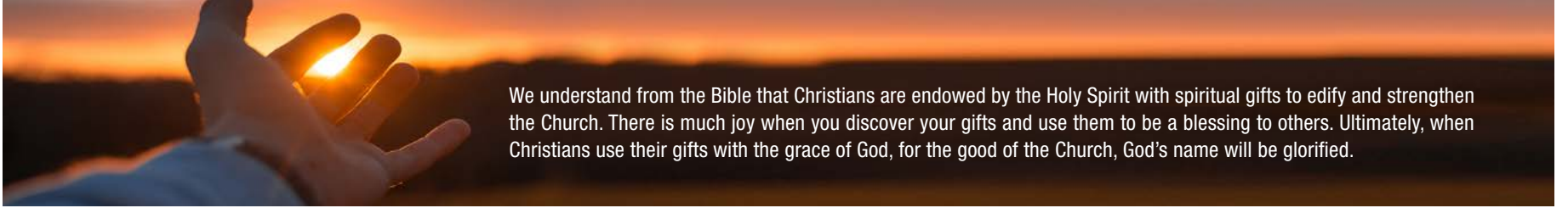
time) and the rest would have to join via the online stream on YouTube or Facebook.

Fortunately, no platform could halt the move and work of the Spirit in the worship of His people. The congregation, both online and live, commented that they were blessed and recharged as they watched the preaching.

Community is Our Strength

We as a church realized that as a community of believers, our relationships are bound by far greater things and ultimately, a great and awesome God. It was also during this difficult time of social distancing that the essence of a community, which ought to be rooted in love, devotion, and commitment to God, became real to everyone.

We thank God that COVID-19 did not deter our church from moving forward, growing and reflecting. As we celebrate our Silver Jubilee next year, we remain committed to making disciples of all nations and love God as His faithful followers. Hence, no pandemic, calamity, social or economic upheaval could impede this call of God to His Church. If there is one thing all of us have learned during this new normal, is that God shines brighter and more glorious in seemingly dark times. Here's to 24 more glorious years in God!



We understand from the Bible that Christians are endowed by the Holy Spirit with spiritual gifts to edify and strengthen the Church. There is much joy when you discover your gifts and use them to be a blessing to others. Ultimately, when Christians use their gifts with the grace of God, for the good of the Church, God's name will be glorified.

Using Our Spiritual Gifts for the Church

What it Means to be Gifted to Serve

What does it mean that “each is gifted and use it to serve one another”? Chen Jingting explains.

Believers who are grateful for God's saving grace should be eager to serve their Lord and His people. Yet many ministries are facing the problem of “so much to do, so few willing to do it.” There is a deluge of needs but a dearth of servants to meet those needs.

Common reasons given by believers who do not serve include:

“I'm not good enough.”

“Ministry is only for the super spiritual or mature.”

The truth, as we will see from 1 Peter 4:10, is that every believer is gifted by God for ministry.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:” – 1 Peter 4:10 ESV

From this passage, we find three principles that should shape our approach to ministry.

We Have Nothing to Prove (“As each has received a gift...”)

Influenced by the world's performance driven culture, we may feel the pressure to be competent enough to minister. If we do not measure up, we decline to serve.

On the contrary, Scripture teaches us that we have nothing to prove. We should stop worrying about whether we are skilled or knowledgeable enough because God can enable us through spiritual gifts to do His work.

The Apostle Peter makes it clear that each believer, not just an elite few, has received a gift from God. The word “gift” is translated from *charisma*, the Greek word for “gracious gift”, something that is given generously at no cost. Grace is favor given to those who do not deserve it.

The truth is none of us will ever be good enough to earn God's favor. Yet God graciously equips each of us with His gifts. Since God is not bothered by our insufficient eloquence or skills, neither should we. We should not let our lack of competence stop us from serving, knowing that God can enable

us to do more than what our flesh is able to.

We Have Something to Do (“...use it to serve one another...”)

Being gifted by God does not mean that we live passively. We have nothing to prove but we still have something to do.

The purpose of God gifting every believer is for mutual service. The word “serve” comes from the idea of waiting on tables. It carries the meaning of doing humble tasks in order to help others. Hence, we exercise gifts not to fulfill our potential or enhance our reputation but to serve the family of God by ministering to one another's needs.

Every believer (not just the pastors and leaders) is called to get involved in ministry (Ephesians. 4:12). Thus, we should seek God for how we can do our part to build up the Body of Christ.

We should also grow in our skills, knowledge and character so that we can be more effective in our service. Some may ask, “Why bother to grow when God can enable us?” They are mistaken in thinking that God will bypass our faculties or take over our bodies when we exercise a gift.

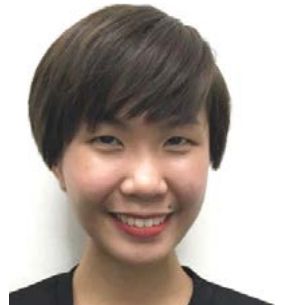
Rather, God works through us—our background, intellect, experiences, talents, language and moral conduct—as we operate in His gifts. God's role is to empower, our role is to offer our lives in service.

We Have Nothing to Hide (“...as good stewards of God's varied grace:”)

Since each of us is gifted by God to serve, we are accountable to God for how we use His gifts. We should serve with diligence and integrity so that we have nothing to hide when we face God at the final judgement.

This is easier said than done because ministry can be trying and discouraging. We may see more setbacks than successes. We may be tempted to take shortcuts or give up.

Let us press on in doing God's work God's way because at the end of our race, we want to receive the highest accolade from Him, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”



Currently a student at ACTS College, Chen Jingting is in her final year in the Master of Divinity programme. She holds a Bachelor of Communication Studies from NTU. Jingting is serving in her church staff team as a sermon researcher. Before joining her church full-time, Jingting worked as an editor and a writer. She is currently volunteering in her church's teaching and mentoring ministries. Previously, she served in a variety of ministries such as foreign worker outreach, communications and worship. Jingting is married to Stephen and has a one-year-old son, Junyi.

¹Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 568.

Using Our Spiritual Gifts for the Church

Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts for the Church

How do you discover and nurture the spiritual gifts that God has endowed you with? Silas Tan shares some tips with us.

I believe that it is God's desire that His children use spiritual gifts to edify the church, but we often dare not exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit by faith. I think we subconsciously suppress the work and gifts of the Holy Spirit due to a lack of understanding, pure neglect and sometimes fearful of making a fool out of ourselves. Such neglect is a loss to the church. Thus, it is important to do the following:

1. Relook

Relook what the Word of God teaches about spiritual gifts. There are many Biblical references concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12). There are many more gifts than speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues and the prophetic gifts. We need to study and understand the purposes behind the various gifts made available to Christ's disciples in the church. When we understand God's intention then we will be more inclined to exercise our gifts to help His people.

2. Rediscover

I believe that all believers have been given spiritual gifts to serve the Lord in different capacities. It is our duty to discover our individual gifting, hone it, and develop it so that we can be used to bless the church. There are tests available out there to give us an indication of our potential gifts. Our spiritual leaders can also guide us along the way and give us the platform to use spiritual gifts in the most productive way. The church leadership plays an important role to fan our gifts, to encourage and give opportunities for people to exercise various spiritual gifts for the common good of the church.

3. Reignite

Reignite the fire in us to exercise the gifts God has placed within us. We need to expect great things for God, and we achieve that through the power and the gifts of the Spirit. There must be a strong desire to seek the Lord first, then the gifts in order to fulfil God's plan for the church. Many times, we do not receive because we have not asked. The Bible encourages us to

seek spiritual gifts in order to equip and strengthen one another in the Body so that God may be glorified.

4. Realize

Realize that the church uses spiritual gifts to glorify and exalt God. It is not about us only but all about Him being glorified and praised which is of utmost importance. We edify and bless one another when we use spiritual gifts effectively. We need to have the attitude that God uses His gifts in us to minister to others for a very distinctive purpose, which is to equip and edify the church and for pre-believers to see God works amidst His church.

The church leadership plays an important role to encourage and give space for the congregation to exercise their gifts on platforms such as in ministry, in the cell groups, etc. However, there must be some protocol or order in service to prevent confusion.

Learn to discern the still small voice of God speaking to us. The key is knowing the Shepherd of your soul and the peace of God that rules in your heart. Sometimes we worry about how others regard us or be afraid to make mistakes or simply confused. "Should I prophesy or not?" Your heart beats faster in excitement. "Should I pray for someone to receive healing?" Spiritual gifts are not intended for us to display our holiness or spiritual maturity. It is purely God's grace to distribute a spiritual gift to one person in order to meet the need of another in the church. It is the believer's duty to avail himself and it is all about Him and nobody else.

Exercising spiritual gifts requires faith from us. We must ask God earnestly for a spiritual gift, then take a step of faith to exercise it. Perhaps we can take a leaf from the story of Peter who walked on water. He could because he took the step of faith to get out of the boat when he saw Jesus approaching. The other disciples thought they saw a ghost and cuddled in fear at a corner of the boat. Exercising your spiritual gifts requires that first step of faith. Start by getting out of the boat!



Silas Tan is the Executive Director of Teen Challenge, an alumni of ACTS College and has been serving in his church board for the last 30 years. He was corporate executive for many years before he joined Teen Challenge. He came to know Christ in his youth and has been attending the same church till now. Together with his wife Siew Leng and two children, they have been worshiping and serving as a family in various ministries in Shekinah Assembly of God for many years.

Using Our Spiritual Gifts for the Church

Serving Actively with Our Gifts

AG Times interviewed some of our members from different churches who are serving actively in our churches with their spiritual gifts.

AS CHRISTIANS, WE KNOW THAT WE ARE ENDOWED WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO EDIFY THE CHURCH. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS YOUR PREDOMINANT GIFT?

TKK As I reflect on the many gifts which God has blessed me with, I am thankful that one of them is the gift of **hospitality**. Merriam Webster's Dictionary defines hospitality as "generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests". In the hospitality industry such as airlines, hotels and restaurants, the focus is to provide the best service to the customers. What about hospitality in our churches and community?

Hospitality expresses and fulfils the Lord's commandment to "love our neighbors as we love ourselves." In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), the true neighbor is one who shows kindness to those in need. Jesus coupled this command to loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Hence extending hospitality is one way to show our love for others, just as Christ loves us.

LH I like to serve in the spiritual gift of **helps**. The person with this gift is someone who tends to work behind the scenes to get things done and often does his/her job joyfully and take the responsibilities off others' shoulders.

PK Based on the 'Uniquely You' resource, I have discovered that one of my predominant gifts is in **teaching**. The gift of teaching enables the teacher to explain why things are true. While prophets declare truths, the teacher explains further on the reasons why they are true. He is interested in researching and exploring seemingly insignificant details of information. He enjoys presenting what he discovers and presses towards a deeper understanding of the truth. He simply loves to study and stretches the limits of learning and sets high standards for himself in the knowledge of God's Word.

MT I consider myself to be more of an evangelist (office) with a **healing** (gift) ministry. I mostly minister at healing services in Singapore and around the region. I am passionate about raising up ordinary church members to exercise their authority in Christ for the purpose of power evangelism.

I believe that all Christians can pray for the sick and see healing happen (Mark 16:17) since we are confident that the Lord will equip us for the ministry He wants us to do. This means that the frequency of seeing healing happen can be adjusted by God when we keep praying for the sick. We can keep the desire burning by listening to testimonies, keep praying for the sick, and not giving up.

Most of the people who serve with me at first did not believe that they have the gift of healing. After some time of serving together and witnessing scores of people healed through the ministry, they have come to accept that the Lord has gifted them as well. This gift of healing followed them home, even to their workplaces, and to the mission field. I enjoy seeing them minister to the sick in their sphere of influence and bringing people to Jesus.

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THIS GIFT?

TKK I didn't take any spiritual gifts assessment to discover this gift of hospitality. In fact. It wasn't even my natural inclination. Our church underwent Additions and Alterations works from 1997-1999. During that period, we leased a hotel function room for our services. When the church was ready to move back to our premises in 1999, my pastor asked me to take charge of the usher ministry. I agreed as I saw a need.

As chief usher, I became more forthcoming and pro-active. I also grew in my spiritual walk with God. Over the years, I developed the qualities of hospitality—communication, attention to details, being

sensitive to the needs of others, interpersonal skills, etc. Indeed, as we avail ourselves to serve, God will affirm and develop our spiritual gifts.

LH I've been in Moriah since I was 12 years old. Growing up in this church has given me the opportunity to know everyone by name. About 30 years ago the late Rev Alfred Yeo approached me to serve in the Hospitality Ministry. He said that I'm a people-person and that I could use my gift to minister to the people around me. I've been serving in the Usher Ministry since. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit impresses upon my heart about the need of a brother or sister in Christ and I would pray with them and extend a helping hand to minister to them.

I would also meet up with newcomers to get to know them better and see if they need any help. An usher not only greets people as they come into the church, distributes bulletins and collect offerings; he is the first person a member meets. It is the usher's role to set the pace and ambience for the members to enjoy God-filled moments when they are in church. It brings me joy to know that I have helped and ministered to them, being a channel of blessing to the people I meet. That's how I discovered my gift.

PK It all started from attending Bible Study Fellowship in 2008. The disciplined study stirred my heart to desire more of the knowledge of God's Word. Later, an opportunity was created by the Senior Pastor of the then Herald Assembly of God Church when I was appointed to lead the Christian Education Ministry. It was an awesome but a heavy responsibility to promote Christian education in the Church but there were opportunities to practise and polish my teaching skills. It was also during that time that I saw the need to be theologically trained as a teacher of the Word. I pursued my studies in a Bible College. In 2013, my Senior Pastor challenged his members to be more involved in missions and this again was another good opportunity for me to participate in missions teaching.

Discovering one's gift is a process and it is God who provides the opportunities. One needs to sense God's leading and be prepared to take up the challenge. To confirm one's gift, there must be affirmation from the people of God. For me, the encouraging feedback from the students in the church and mission fields confirmed it. The Senior Pastor's confidence in my work also affirmed my gifting.

MT When I responded to the call of God to full-time ministry, I was not inclined to the ministry of divine healing. I was more interested in philosophy, theology and apologetics, and the mental gymnastics that come with them.

Also, when I was growing up, I stuttered badly, and this really affected my self-confidence. Even when I joined my church as a missions staff upon returning from a stint in Nepal, I still could not speak well. This caused me to doubt my ministry effectiveness.

However, at the age of 28, three years into full-time ministry, I started to notice that when I prayed for the sick, people were getting healed. More and more people (both Christians and non-Christians) started coming back to me with testimonies and medical reports. Miraculously, I realized that my stuttering was gone too. It was like God had flipped a switch and turned it off.

From then on, the Lord put in me a burden for the sick and I kept ministering to them. Of course, not everyone I prayed for were healed; for some their condition got worse and they even passed on ... but in my mind I thought that some people got healed is better than no one getting healed at all. This kept me going.

Over time I sharpened my skills to minister effectively in different settings—be it one-on-one, or in church services where the majority are Christians; or in open-air crusades where Christians are the minority.

HOW ARE YOU USING YOUR GIFT TO EDIFY THE CHURCH?

TKK Ushers are typically the first point of contact whenever members and visitors enter the sanctuary. A smile, a handshake (before COVID), a warm greeting to the members is not a routine task but a joy to welcome them in the Lord.

Besides attending to our members and regulars, we are always on the lookout for new visitors. The hospitality team hopes every new visitor feels welcomed and has a positive experience with us throughout the service. At the beginning of service, the emcee will announce and welcome their presence. At the end of the service, the hospitality team will follow up with the new visitors.

Many visitors from Malaysia, the Philippines, and India have since settled down in our church. We also have regular visitors from UK, USA, France, Spain, Honduras etc. They attend our services, life group and Christian education program during their work stint in Singapore, from a couple of months to several years. Most of them are serving in our church too. Praise be to God.

LH As an usher I help to set the stage for worship. This will make God's people feel welcome and comfortable when they walk into the service. I help them enjoy the worship that may encourage them to have a life-changing experience that day. The Holy Spirit also empowers me to listen and see to the needs of the members. Some of these needs may be small but I try my best to meet them. That's what I'm happy to be doing.

I also enjoy meeting people who are new to the church, connecting them with our members, helping them settle in and make Moriah their home church.

I make it a point to remember every visitor by name and even when they return to church after a long absence, I can still recall their names. Seeing them smile when I remember their names really makes my day.

PK I am the Director of Christian Education Ministry in New Horizon Church. My committee and I set up a curriculum which provides a framework for holistic education for the members. This provides for the members' spiritual growth and equips them for the work of the ministry.

I have also taken up the role of a Bible teacher in New Horizon Church. My students are willing to set aside time in studying God's Word. It is my responsibility to teach them well. I constantly educate myself to develop a deeper understanding of the Word.

To further enhance my teaching gift, I went on to conduct missions teaching in China and Myanmar. This was to widen my scope to teach in different environment as there is a lack of teachers in these regions. I hope that that the Christians there will eventually be the light and salt in their own communities.

MT I run an evangelistic healing ministry that serves churches across Asia. I also serve in Grace Assembly of God as a lay pastor leading their Healing Room Ministry and serving in the missions department.

To me, discipleship is key. Evangelistic efforts can be made more effective when the follow-up is tight. If I want to focus on the healing ministry, I will need to work with churches to disciple and pastor the new converts.

When I began my healing ministry, I made it a point to hold healing meetings in churches. The reason is simple. If the healing meetings are hosted by the churches, I get to train their volunteers. New believers who come to the healing meetings can always go back to the same church in the weekends and see the same pastor. This will result in a tighter follow-up effort compared to renting a hall outside or doing the ministry on the streets. In short, when it comes to discipleship efforts, many small fires might sometimes be better than one big fire.

The things I do in Singapore, I do them overseas as well, ministering at evangelistic crusades, training the churches and teaching in Bible colleges. I thank God for this ministry!

WHEN I SERVE THE CHURCH WITH THIS GIFT, I FEEL...

TKK I feel a sense of belonging to the local church as well as to be a blessing to others. Frankly, I didn't realise that I have been serving in the usher ministry for more than 20 years until I was asked to contribute this article. What can I say, apart from saying that God is faithful and good to me all these years?

Through these years of serving, I have learned to work and relate better with one another. Ministry requires team effort. I am blessed to have a team of ushers who have been faithfully serving in the church all these years. We serve, not grudgingly, but willingly as an expression of our love for God. Hebrews 13:1-2 says: "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it".

I am thankful that God can use me with the gift of hospitality to serve in the usher ministry. God can use ordinary people like you and me, if we have a willing heart and an obedient spirit. As God has blessed us with different spiritual gifts, let us use them to bless others and in turn glorify Him.

LH When I serve the church, I'm humbled and happy to be in the service "of helping" as mentioned in *1 Corinthians 12:28*, "And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues." I enjoy helping people feel welcome, be seated comfortably, and be ministered to in the presence of God.

I feel most fulfilled when I know the needs of our members even before they tell me.

If I may borrow one of my fellow ushers, Bro Francis' famous phrase, "One Heart Serve", which reminds me that when we serve God with our gifts, we are serving him wholeheartedly. God is far more interested in the commitment of our heart than the amount of time we serve him.

PK While serving in the Church is important for every Christian, serving with the right gift is crucial too. We should serve with the gift endowed by God. Only then can we have confidence in our service as we depend on the Holy Spirit. Joy is often experienced in the effective and efficient usage of our gifts in serving God.

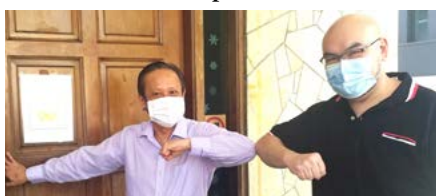
The greatest gain in using my gift to serve the Lord is having a personal encounter with God. Through my teaching experience, I find myself first gaining an insight of the knowledge of God personally. The understanding is awesome as it not only expands my knowledge of God's Word, but it also touches my heart to experience the personal involvement of God Himself in my teaching. The revelation of God reveals the limitation of man's wisdom and draws our dependency on Him. God never fails to provide His thoughts and ideas, and He provides the necessary resources for the preparation of my lessons. I always marvel at the completion of my lesson plan, knowing that it is the mighty hand of God which guided has guided me.

The other great accomplishment would be the joy derived from hearing from the students themselves. Their expressions and appreciations revealed that they had benefitted from my teaching and were inspired to move further into their own learning and serving. One example of an encouraging feedback from one of my missions teaching was, "This course can be offered as a regular subject at the Bible school because it has been helpful for students to grasp the heart of a missionary and the methods needed." Another feedback from a student in a Christian Education class in New Horizon Church was, "I really appreciate your effort in preparing such detailed teaching materials that benefit us so much." Such positive feedback causes me to realize that all effort is not wasted, and I would have to be even more responsible in my lesson preparation.

MT I enjoy seeing the surprised faces of long-time Christians when healing takes place as they pray for the sick.

My heart also breaks for those who are suffering from any form of sicknesses. I feel the pain when people do not get healed and later pass on. Rather than focusing solely on healing, it is also important to focus on salvation. When Christians pass on, they get to be with Jesus in a new body. Healing is just a signboard to point people to Jesus. If healings and miracles are real, Jesus is also just as real, after all we pray in Jesus' name, and the best thing is that everyone can all bring Jesus home today.

TKK Tham Kok Kay
Zion Full Gospel Church



Elbow bump greeting a church member before service

LH Lilian Howe
Moriah Assembly of God



At the entrance, welcoming members to the service

PK Peter Koh
New Horizon Church



Teaching on 'Footsteps of Paul' to students in a Bible school, Yangon, Myanmar (Photo was taken pre-COVID-19)

MT Rev Matthew Tan
JHM Ministries (Jesus Heal Me)



Call for salvation during a crusade in Cambodia (Photo was taken pre-COVID-19)

Praise Reports on People Healed and Set Free

Ministering to those who need healing in the new normal.

By Rev Matthew Tan, JHM Ministries (Jesus Heal Me)

In 2019 I started a healing ministry to be a blessing to the body of Christ. I used to minister at healing services in Singapore and run crusades around the region. In the current pandemic, all these ministries are no more, at least not in the form that I was familiar with.

Serving the Churches Online

Now, I am serving a few churches in their healing ministries and ministering at their miracle services. The way these ministries are conducted has changed drastically. Many churches have shifted their healing meetings online, including the ones that I minister in.

Surprisingly, with this shift online, the reach of the ministry has also expanded. I have seen people joining these healing meetings from homes and hospital wards, across different time zones, and even from locked-down countries. Instead of people coming to the church for the healing ministry, we can now bring the ministry to them.

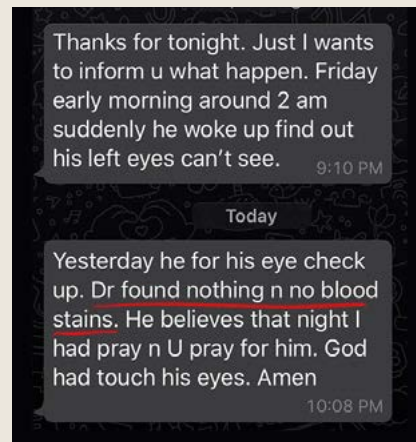
God Heals

I thank God for the many testimonies that we have received from people who have been healed. From the relief of pains to tumors disappearing, the healing ministry team also saw spiritual manifestations when volunteers prayed online. In fact, I have received more testimonies of healing in 2020 compared to the past years of ministry. This is a testament that distance does not diminish the power of Jesus' name.

TESTIMONIES

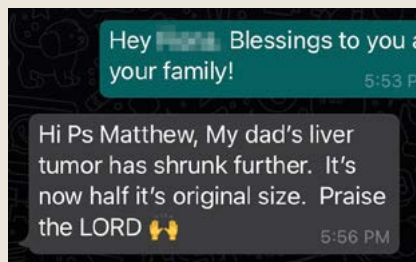
Healing of blindness in one eye

A lady testified that her husband's left eye had suddenly lost its sight. After prayer, his sight came back and he went for an eye check-up, where the doctor could not find anything wrong with him.



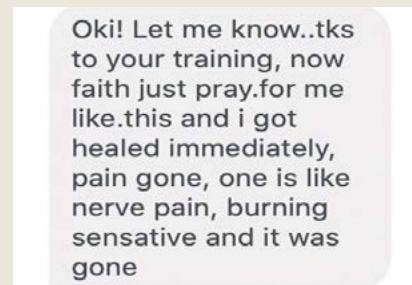
Healing of liver cancer

The daughter of a 93-year-old man with liver cancer brought him to the healing ministry online, where he got prayed for by a volunteer. After prayer, we received reports that the tumor had shrunk.



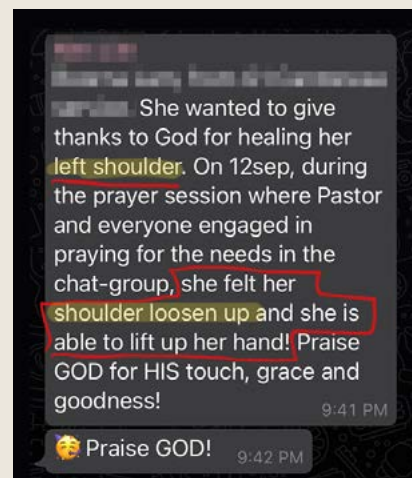
Healing of pains due to nerves

A text message from one parent saying that she received healing when her 5-year-old daughter (named Faith) prayed over her. After watching how the team prayed for the sick, Faith then turned to her mother and started praying for her.



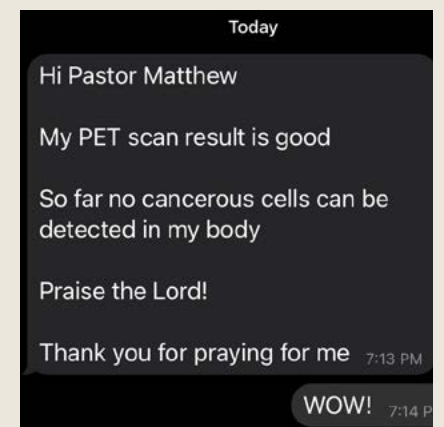
Healing of a frozen shoulder and neck pains

Some testimonies of immediate pain relief as the team was praying online at the healing meeting. Healing from frozen shoulder and neck pain.



Healing of stage 3 breast cancer

This lady was diagnosed with stage three breast cancer. She came for prayer three weeks before her PET scan. After that, no more cancer cells were detected. She chose to continue the chemo treatment following the doctor's recommendation to finish the course.



I encourage churches and ministries to keep ministering to the sick. People need Jesus, and the Church needs to be encouraged that the Lord is moving in a very practical way. If you are going through any form of sickness, keep looking to Jesus. Call upon the name of Jesus! The Lord can touch you today wherever you are.

Never Too Young to Share Jesus

What a joy to bring my friends to church and seeing my friend saved!

By Janelle Goh, Trinity Christian Centre

Hi everyone, my name is Janelle and I'm 11 years old.

Last year, Trinity's children ministry, DiscoveryLand, gave out two flyers to each child to invite our friends to the Children's Day event.

At that time, I did not actually have anyone in mind as I was afraid my invitations would be rejected. However, I still decided to bring the flyer to school. I wanted to invite my friends for the fun and wonderful activities to learn about God.

I prayed and asked God to tell me the right person to invite. The first person I invited was a girl sitting behind me in school. However, because of her own personal beliefs, she rejected me without much hesitation. That did not stop me from inviting another classmate, Xeloda, who was very willing to go to for the Children's Day event.

I was overjoyed that she accepted my invitation and she's been consistently going for service since then. When the Circuit Breaker started, DiscoveryLand launched Connect Groups for Pre-Teens online and Xeloda and I decided to try it out.

Sure enough, the Connect Group (CG) was a really fun place where we learned more about God. After that wonderful experience, we decided to invite another good friend of ours.

At the end of our CG meeting, our teacher asked if there's anyone who has not yet said the sinner's prayer before. That was when our friend responded. What a joy it was to be able to say the sinner's prayer together with our new friend.

Faith to care and connect with our friends is about taking that first step to invite them and letting God do the rest! I'm really happy that I took the courage to invite both of my friends and God saved them.

Xeloda Lee, 11

"I'm really glad Janelle invited me last year to DiscoveryLand, I've learnt so much about Jesus since then and I'm so much happier."

Gillian Ong, 11

"I've known Jesus before, but never said the sinner prayer before. I'm glad Janelle and Xeloda shared Jesus with me."



Scan QR code to watch Janelle share her testimony Or click on this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7zYrMSp9gU>



Janelle's joy is reaching out to her friends



Janelle with Xeloda and Gillian in their online Connect Group

...Continued from pg 2

我们涉水前行时能够经历神的大能。

神同在的彰显带来祂的能力。当以色列人跟随神的带领渡过约旦河时，神的能力彰显，使祂的子民能够过河。

我们面临的挑战是神用来展示祂大能的工具。尽管约旦河的河水汹涌，但是踏入河里的顺服行动启动神的大能，止住上流的河水。尽管耶利哥城的城墙坚固无比，尽管绕城而行将以色列民完全暴露在敌人的注视下，但是他们顺服神的指示，得着的是神保守他们的能力和战争的胜利！

“神引领我们涉水前行”是以西结书第47章强而有力的启示！我们必须直面障碍和困难。当我们这样做时，神透过

祂能力的彰显带来我们所需要的突破。不论祂引领你去哪里，祂的同在和能力也会前去，使你能够战胜挑战。

我们涉水前行时能够看见神供应的实现。

以西结书47:7-12告诉我们神的河流经过的地方，咸水变成淡水，万物滋长，鱼产丰盛，有大量和多种类的鱼。沿河两岸长着各种果树，月月结果，因为这水是从圣所流出来的。树上的果实可吃，叶子还可作药用。

单单读到这水的用处就使我兴奋！这水不论到哪里都带来生命！

神在我们的挑战中同在。身为神的子民，神的同在、能

力和供应是随时为我们预备的。但是我们不能允许惧怕阻碍我们涉水。我们不能站在河岸上袖手旁观。

耶利哥城战役的胜利为以色列民带来新的季度。虽然那是战争的时代，但是那是占领土地，成为强大国度和属神的子民的时代。

我们生活在前所未有的时代，但是神并不会感到意外。而这是神要告诉祂的教会的话：“我与你同在。我为你征战。我会使用你带给列国生命！”

你预备好跟随神的带领涉水前行，目睹神前所未有的运行吗？

The Fulfillment of God's Promise of a Child

God, in His miraculous way, provided a child for us, reminding us of His faithfulness.

By Ps Timothy Eu, Calvary Assembly of God

Doubt, confusion, and discouragement. Those were the initial emotions running through our hearts and minds as we received news about our infertility. Questions like "How could this happen to us when we have been faithful all these years?" and "Where is the fairness in all this?" rang on repeat as we came to terms with the medical report. It had been three years since we got married, and another four before we experienced the fulfillment of God's miracle in our lives and family.

But while the reality of God was real to both Amanda and I, the word He gave us in our turmoil was unique. Amanda received a promise of God's provision in the form of a child, while I received a promise of His purpose in both the presence or absence of a child. And with that, we continued our up-and-down journey of hope (whenever Amanda missed her period) and disappointment (when the tests showed up negative) all the while trusting in the faithfulness, sovereignty, and love of God.

A Rainbow

Fast forward to 2019, Amanda received a second word from God about how a rainbow would symbolize the fulfillment of His promise of a child. And thus, began her search for God's rainbow in the six months that followed. However, her search proved futile: she could never seem to catch a glimpse of a rainbow even when others within her geographical locations happily posted photos of ones they had seen on Facebook.

In the beginning of 2020, as Amanda was sitting in the living room, she felt prompted to go out of the house to have a look around. And as she did, she saw the fullest rainbow she had ever seen. As she relayed the news to me, we decided to present it to the Lord in prayer and to not read too much into the rainbow for fear of yet another disappointment. However, by the grace and provision of God, Amanda tested positive on a pregnancy test two days later. With what had unraveled the days prior, we rejoiced at the miracle of God in our family.

The Test

However, what was supposed to be a beginning of a new season of life soon began to become a deeper test of faith as a result of Amanda's difficult first trimester. Numerous episodes of spotting and bleeding took place. The thought of losing a child we now have weighed heavier upon our hearts than not having a child in the first place.

This was felt no greater than at our church's 60th anniversary service cum lunch celebration.



The fullest rainbow as a sign of a child

I still remember receiving Amanda's WhatsApp message a minute before I was due up onstage to preach, informing me that she was bleeding heavily. In that moment, God's peace and comfort stilled the fear and anxiety in my heart as we made arrangements for her to immediately go to the hospital and for me to join her right after I was done with the message. God's word was so clear, "Be faithful for I am faithful. Entrust them to me." As the message reached its conclusion, I updated the church on Amanda's pregnancy and current situation, called the church to join us in intercession, and headed straight to the hospital to find Amanda and the baby well.

Our Miracle

Six months later, we welcomed Josiah, our miracle baby boy, into the world. We would like to thank God for His faithfulness in our lives and for giving us the strength and grace to trust and to live for Him in the midst of the many challenges and uncertainties. We would also like to encourage those who are still waiting for your miracle to keep trusting in Him and to remember that the miracle is not just found in the fulfillment of His promise, but in His faithfulness to us through the process.

Lastly, remember that you are not alone, for God's placed many who can journey with you just as He did with us. To God be all glory, honor, and praise!



Ps Timothy, Amanda and Baby Josiah