

## Messiah Savior Immanuel Son of the Most High The Nazarene

Understanding the names of Jesus  
in the Christmas story

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PUBLISHER:

**AG** ASSEMBLIES  
OF GOD  
SINGAPORE

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

PRINTER:  
Singapore Press Holdings Ltd

MCI (P) 065/07/2021



# Hope that Makes a Difference

Rev Dominic Yeo

'Circuit Breaker', 'Heightened Alert' or 'Stabilization Phase'—whatever name it's called, the question at the top of people's minds is: "When will they see the light at the end of the tunnel?" The world has been battling COVID-19 for almost two years. It's been quite a long dance back and forth with the virus. Resources are drained. Relationships are strained.

We wish for a public announcement to say: "Today, COVID-19 is no more a pandemic!" Some 2,000 years ago, a similar proclamation was made in the town of Bethlehem. In Luke 2:11, an angel declared, *"Today... a Savior has been born to you."*

How precious those words were after 400 years of being in captivity, and under the rule of Greeks, Egyptians and Romans. The Israelites were probably thinking: "Is there an end to our suffering?" or "Is there hope available for us?"

These are the same questions we ask today as we approach the end of another year. As we make another turn into a new year, will there be an end to COVID-19? Is there hope available for us to hold on to?

Christmas is a reminder that HOPE came and invaded darkness.

Luke 1:5 tells us *"in the days of Herod"* and Luke 2:1 records that it was in the *"days (of) Caesar Augustus"* that a Savior, a Messiah had arrived! Hope had come!

In the days of Heightened Alerts and whatever phases, Jesus is here with us. He's our anchor and peace in stormy seas. He's our shelter and stronghold.

## A Difference in Our Views

When we have hope, we have faith. Hebrew 11:1 tells us: *"Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."*

In 2 Chronicles 32, the Assyrian army was about to come for Jerusalem. The men were overwhelmed and outnumbered. There was no way they could overcome the Assyrians. Fear paralyzed them. But King Hezekiah reminded them in verses 7 and 8, *"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged... for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles."* And true enough, God fought the battle for them and annihilated the Assyrian army.

In 2 Kings 6:14-17, when an army of horses and chariots surrounded the city and the servant panicked, Elisha prayed for his servant to see that *"those who are with us are more than those who are with them"*. And when he looked, he *"saw*

*the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha"*.

What do you see? As you reflect upon the many things that have happened in 2021, do you see God's hand of protection? Do you see His armies surrounding you, fighting for you, and defending you?

## A Difference in our Responses

There are two responses in 2 Chronicles 32. The first is the response of being an encourager, just like King Hezekiah who encouraged his men. Sometimes people do lose sight of the hope we have in Christ. Sometimes people forget the goodness of God. But we can be an encourager who will bring confidence to people.

Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to *"consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another"*.

Your response to be present in church and in your small groups encourages and brings confidence to people. Don't let fear ring-fence you in from reaching out!

The other response is a response of confidence in the Lord. After King Hezekiah's encouragement, *"the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said"*. Even when the enemy continued to call out to them *"to terrify them and make them afraid in order to capture the city"* in verse 18, they did not give ear to the enemy, but instead took it to the Lord in prayer.

Hebrews 10:23 tells us: *"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."* Confidence is holding on to the hope we profess! A response of confidence is a response of declaration.

2 Kings 6:18 says: *"As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, 'Strike this army with blindness.'" So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.*

When you know who fights your battles, you will respond with courage, boldness, and authority. You won't let fear cripple your faith. You won't be like a headless chicken running amok!

So even when the year comes to an end, and COVID-19 doesn't seem to end, let's remember that hope came in the times of Herod and Caesar. Hope is available in the darkness of nights.

May the hope of Christmas make a difference in your view and your response as you cross over into the year 2022.

Have a Blessed Christmas!

## 有盼望就不一样

阻断措施、提高戒备或稳定疫情阶段 — 不管什么名称，人们最想知道的是“什么时候才能看见曙光”？全世界和2019冠状病毒对抗几乎两年了。我们和病毒共舞，来回搏斗，资源耗损，人际关系紧张。

我们期待听到公告“今天，2019冠状病毒不再是大流行”！两千多年前，在伯利恒镇有类似的公告。在路加福音2:11，天使宣告：“今天……一个救主为你们降生了。”

对于被掳四百年，在希腊人、埃及人和罗马人的统治下生活的以色列人来说，这是多么宝贵的话语。他们或许曾想“我们的苦难有尽头吗”，“我们看得到希望吗”？

年关将至的这个时候，我们也问着同样的问题。当我们进入新的一年，2019冠状病毒会消失吗？我们是否有盼望？

圣诞节提醒我们盼望来到人间，侵入了黑暗。

路加福音1:5告诉我们“希律执政期间”，而路加福音2:1记载“凯撒奥古斯都”的时候，救主，主基督降生！盼望降临！

不论在提高戒备或其他阶段，耶稣都与我们同在。祂是我们在狂风暴雨中的锚和平安。祂是我们的庇护和山寨。

## 不一样的看见

当我们在盼望，我们就有信心。希伯来书11:1告诉我们“信就是所望之事的实底，是未见之事的的确据。”

在历代志下第32章里，亚述大军要攻打耶路撒冷。以色列人寡不敌众，不知所措。他们无法战胜亚述人，感到恐慌。然而希西家王在第7和第8节提醒他们：“你们当刚强壮胆，不要……恐惧、惊慌；因为与我们同在的，比与他们同在的更大。与他们同在的是肉臂，与我们同在的是耶和华 — 我们的神，他必帮助我们，为我们争战。”果然，神为他们争战，剿灭了亚述大军。

在列王纪下6:14-17，当车马军兵围困城池，以利沙的仆人惊慌时，以利沙祷告让仆人看见“与我们同在的比与他们同在的更多”。仆人就看见“满山有火车火马围绕以利沙”。

你看见什么？当你回顾2021年发生的许多事情时，你看到神的保守吗？你看到祂的天军围绕你，为你争战，护卫你吗？

*Continued on pg 17...*



# EL Project Home Cheer 2021

Bringing blessings  
to the patients and  
caregivers.

By Kong Li Shin, Eternal Life Assembly

Towards the end of March this year, Eternal Life Assembly (EL) embarked on 'Project Home Cheer 2021', together with its social arm—PPCSS (Potters Place Community Services Society), to volunteer with HCA Hospice Care (HCA). HCA is Singapore's largest home hospice care provider aiming to support both patients and caregivers with a smooth transition to end-of-life care through one of its core services—'Home Hospice Care'. The purpose of this project is to cheer up patients, raise awareness of home hospice care through volunteerism, as well as to bring about the gift of love and friendship between the beneficiaries and volunteers.

Instead of long hospital stays and frequent trips to the outpatient clinics, patients are now able to spend precious time with their loved ones in the familiarity of their own homes without compromising the quality of care they require because of their condition. The team at HCA not only conducts frequent home visits but also provides individualized care for each patient depending on their needs. HCA also supports both patients and their caregivers mentally, physically and emotionally. A round the clock care helpline is also available.

Our volunteers formed small groups to purchase and pack gift hampers to distribute to beneficiaries' households. The hampers consisted of basic necessities and non-cigarette and alcohol vouchers. A total of 73 households were blessed by this outreach. Children bags were also given to 13 households where beneficiaries were identified to be below 19 years of age.



*We are here to bring a smile to your face*



*All ready to be a blessing*



*We are glad to minister to lives through our giving*

"It's a wonderful feeling to bless people who are really in need. Can't express the feeling when we see the smiles of the recipients. What a wonderful God we have. We feel so blessed."

— **Leonor, Filipino Congregation, One Soul for Jesus LG**

"Our group called before the visit. The son answered, "My dad has been hospitalized, but my sister will be there to receive you". When we arrived, we were met by a lady in her mid-sixties. She is older than all of us! It made us realize the aging population is real. The caregivers are retired and they are looking after their even older parents."

— **Kian Kong, Hillview LG**

"I sensed the fatigue of the caregiver, both physically and emotionally. She was up through the night to arrange for hospital discharge and was woken up the next morning by our delivery. I am encouraged by how, even in the midst of such a challenge, she still smiled and was appreciative of these little things we could give."

— **Shuwen, Chinese Youth, Prayer People**

"As we were shopping for the various items for the beneficiary, we noticed how the items to be given were much cheaper than what we would usually buy for our own household. At that moment, we recognized how privileged we were. We thank God, with much humility and gratitude, that we are able to participate in such a project to bless others just as God has blessed us!"

— **EL English Youth Secondary Division**

"We were thankful that we managed to say a few words to the patient and his family. This event definitely opened our perspectives to see all of Singapore's community. We are glad that we had the chance to be able to give to others although it might be little. But this would be the first of many."

— **EL YA, YA @ Clementi**

"Helping out in the HCA delivery with my cell group has given me the opportunity to be a channel of blessing and spread God's love to the family in need. In Mark 12:31 (ESV), it says, "The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Truly, thank God for this experience to live out this Bible verse!"

— **Amanda Leo, YA Gen 2 Cell**



*It is a joy to touch lives*

*Activities in photos were done in accordance to Safe Management Measures at that time.*

# AlphaTrackers Innovate to Minister Virtually

AlphaTrack was pioneered by Trinity's Lead Pastor, Rev Dominic Yeo, in 1995 to raise up 'Harvest Warriors' and strategic leaders to reach the lost. This year, AlphaTrackers went online to reach the nations for Jesus – and saw powerful times of ministry.

By Trinity Christian Centre

Trinitarian Tracey Tay Yee Hasin, 19, has always looked forward to joining AlphaTrack, Trinity's three-month full-time program to equip believers for ministry while discovering one's calling and destiny.

## Innovate to Minister

54 batches have graduated in the last 26 years. Ps Joanna Teoh, who leads the program, has led 21 batches so far. She shared, "This year's AlphaTrack cohort needed to innovate in evangelism strategies, especially in this pandemic climate."

Held from May 10 to August 6, 2021, three mission efforts were launched and hosted online: one e-MIT (Missions Impact Team) for primary school students, a seven-week English course, and a special ministry gathering for school teachers. All three projects were aimed at reaching the unsaved in Indonesia, where Trinity has a local Regional Center, Trinity@Jakarta.

"Many of us had to do things we weren't used to doing. A lot of planning took place as we met in teams to lead ministry projects," Tracey shared. "To grow in strategic leadership, we not only learned administrative tasks, but how to relate to people and remain down to earth. Having a heart for them is important."



*Batch 54 comprised of these 15 'Harvest Warriors,' bold and fearless for the Gospel*

## Working Together as a Team

Tracey recounted that the AlphaTrackers rallied their talents together to help pull off the projects. "Chloe had drama skills we needed for skits. Janel had experience in film-making from school. Everyone had something to contribute and we covered for each other when necessary. That's the beauty of team ministry."

The AlphaTrackers conducted research on the communities they were reaching out to, learning about their cultures and the COVID situation in those areas.

"Before we can minister, we have to know a community's needs. Meeting their needs in a personal way can lead to trust and friendship. They may then be open to hearing the Gospel," Tracey said.

A school in Indonesia requested for help with adjusting primary school students back to school for the start of the academic year. To help facilitate the orientation process, Tracey and her peers planned a special online program called Be Brave Students.

"Some students were afraid of going back to school and getting COVID-19 or not having friends to connect with. We wanted to show students they didn't need to be afraid of anything because Jesus is their friend and superhero. He makes us brave," Tracey said.

The program was filmed and produced at Trinity@Paya Lebar, featuring dances, games, and songs. About 480 students participated and more than 100 students indicated they wanted to receive Christ at the end of the program.

## Ministry to the Teachers, University Students and Working Adults

The school's teachers were also invited to a special ministry service via Zoom led by Ps Alana Mah, Center Pastor of Trinity@Jakarta. They met in breakout rooms with AlphaTrackers facilitating the discussion of the message. Those who were believers but did not have a home church were invited to further connect with Trinity@Jakarta.



*Encouraging the Indonesian students to Be Brave adjusting back to school*

To reach out to university students and working adults, AlphaTrackers ran an English Literacy Program and led 12 English classes over 7 weeks on Zoom. Some 55 Indonesian students from 11 cities participated, providing the opportunity to connect with pre-believers.

"Before we started, we prayed and asked God to reveal prophetically to us what the students' needs were. One AlphaTracker received a prophetic insight that there was a spirit of death that needed to be addressed. Interestingly, when we asked students questions such as, 'Has there been a time when you felt grief?', we learned that many had lost loved ones," said Tracey. "They were open with us, and we shared God's Word in return."

## Spiritual Gifts Discovered Being in AlphaTrack

Tracey had no prior missions experience but discovered her spiritual giftings through AlphaTrack.

"I received words of encouragement from my peers who shared they saw the gift of evangelism in me. One person said, 'I think your boldness to share is really unique to you.' This really spurred my faith. I haven't preached and seen thousands saved, but God uses the small things, and people are encouraging me to further develop this gift."

Tracey will be moving overseas for her university studies this October. "It's so interesting to see how the Lord leads. Wherever I go, I hope to make an impact around me. Aside from bringing friends to Christ, I want to help others fulfill their God-given destiny, too."



*Tracey filming for the e-MIT to primary school students in Indonesia*



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# Big Smiles, Full Hearts, Filled Tummies

*The theme of the retreat was “Empowered to Succeed”.*

*By Tan Shuyan, ACTS College*

The title sums up our annual ACTS College retreat, which was held on September 10, 2021. Despite the COVID-19 situation, we thank God that we could meet together in smaller groups of five in houses whilst connecting with the rest of the community virtually via ZOOM.

## During the Retreat

We started the morning by taking photos in our small groups and sharing them with the rest. Those who were ZOOM-ing in alone from their homes were not forgotten either. It was great seeing both familiar and unfamiliar faces at the retreat. After the fun, we entered into a refreshing time of praise and worship. Although it was led via ZOOM, we were all ministered by the presence of the Lord.

Thereafter, we settled down to listen to the Word taught by Rev Dr David Lim, who was ZOOM-ing in from the USA. He shared with us on the topic of being “Empowered to Succeed” in two back-to-back sessions. In the first session, we learned about the six keys to discovering God’s will. It was empowering to learn that we are not just to seek God’s will but to give birth to the will of God. In the second session, we learned to run the race well by being faithful where we are placed and were reminded to bloom where we are planted. The fresh perspectives shared in both sessions were inspiring and encouraging to us as listeners and receivers of the Word.

Spiritually nourished, it was time to be physically fed! We adjourned for lunch, taking the time to fellowship and share our reflections and takeaways from the morning. For those who chose to go out for lunch, it was also a time to explore a part of Singapore where we had never frequented before.

## New Student Learning System

After lunch, we were briefed about the exciting new student learning system which would take effect next year. This new system is not without cost, and it is heartening to learn how God is in the midst, providing for the needs of the College as it seeks to innovate and make learning easier. We ended the time together with Holy Communion and offering. However, it was not the end for some of the groups, and they stayed on in their homes for more fellowship and sharing.

Our annual retreat may have ended, but the friendships fostered will continue. It has indeed been a refreshing time of bonding with other schoolmates, many of whom we have yet to meet in person due to the pandemic. Many thanks to the college leadership and student leaders for organizing this wonderful and relaxing hybrid retreat. The way of doing things may have changed, but our God is ever-faithful and unchanging. Praise be to God!



1 Our speaker Rev Dr David Lim

2 ACTS Hybrid Retreat

3 Fellowship time

4 Gathering in some of our homes





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# AGCSS and Network Partners

*Let's collaborate to achieve more.*

*By Tan Hoon Kiang, Faith Assembly of God*



In the latest Assemblies of God Community Services Society (AGCSS) Virtual Network

meeting held on September 16, 2021, all participants reported on the continuation of their community works despite the COVID-19 situation. The prolonged COVID-19 situation has caused great hardships to many. It is heartening to see AG social organizations and churches relentlessly continue to provide basic necessities like daily provisions, food and supermarket vouchers for the disadvantaged. Many expressed that more could be done with better funding.

REACH Community Services shared on their challenge of raising funds for their programs during this pandemic. Unable to conduct their street collections for their normal Flag Day Donation drive, they turned to the internet

and hosted their first ever "REACH E-Flag Day 2021" online. It is indeed gratifying to see them overcome the different restrictions caused by the pandemic to continue their ministry to "the Least, the Lost and the Lonely" in the community.

Rev Beatrice Kang, President of AGCSS, applaud the tireless efforts of different organizations in reaching out to their respective communities. All the Network Partners are also encouraged to avoid "**silo-thinking**" and seek to **do more for the Lord through stronger collaboration** with other AG organizations. AGCSS hopes to help facilitate this collaboration through its network connections.

We invite any AG organizations and churches, keen to collaborate with any AGCSS Network Partners to contact [Beatricekang@trinity.sg](mailto:Beatricekang@trinity.sg) or [jason.tan@zfgc.org.sg](mailto:jason.tan@zfgc.org.sg)



1 In one of our network meetings

2 Our vision

## Feed Lives, Empower Minds

*A fundraiser to provide students at our CareHuts with wholesome meals in the form of lunch and afternoon tea breaks.*

Many of the children who attend CCSS's after-school student care centre—CareHuts—come from financially challenged families that struggle to provide nutritious meals at home. During school vacations, the centres operate on a full-day programme and provide children with breakfasts in addition to lunch and tea breaks.

Good nutrition for children aged seven to 12 is pivotal for their growth and general well-being. Thus, CCSS is deeply invested in serving wholesome meals to support their physical and brain development, as well as reduce the risk of developing chronic lifestyle related diseases later in life.

With adequate nutrition, children will be more focused in structured activities as their energy level is contained. This will in turn have a positive effect on their schoolwork and all-round development.

\$4.50 feeds one CareHut child per day.

It is in **your** hands to help feed lives and empower minds. Your support gives them a brighter future to bloom where they are planted.

If you are interested to know more about our programmes and services, please visit [www.ccsscares.sg](http://www.ccsscares.sg).

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**\$4.50 feeds  
one child a day.**



Care Community Services Society's after-school student care centres provide children, some from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a safe and conducive environment to bloom where they are planted. These centres empower children through character building activities and healthy meals\* for their nourishment.

**Help feed minds and empower lives.**

\*Children are provided lunch and refreshments from Monday to Friday.

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# Play, Pray and Partner

*Our ministers came together to bond through Play, Pray in unity and Partner to grow the Next Generation ministries.*

*By Ps Amadea Seow, Maranatha Christian Assembly*

AG Next Generation Commissioning (NGC) gathered once again at “The Gathering” event on September 10, 2021, 2pm over ZOOM. 28 pastors from the different AG churches across Singapore who minister full-time to the Next Generation came together to connect. Ps Isaiah Fadzlin from Faith Assembly of God shared that “The Gathering” focuses on three aspects: Play, Pray and Partner where ministers come together to bond over Play, to Pray together in one Spirit, and Partner with different ministers in supporting the growth of Next Generation ministries.

## Play

Ps Jay Ong from Calvary Assembly of God started the event with fun and laughter over games. The Next Generation ministers competed with one another in a Treasure Hunt (ZOOM version) and Describe Yourself in another game. Bro Benjamin Tan, from Bethel Assembly of God led us into a beautiful time of worship. Voices were raised from different locations in unison to lift the name of God in worship.

The event moved dynamically into a time of sharing where our pastors and ministers were grouped into groups of seven for this purpose. They shared deeply about the needs of the Next Generation and how different churches can support one another to build God's Kingdom. It was led by four facilitators: Rev Alvin Tay from Emmanuel Assembly of God,

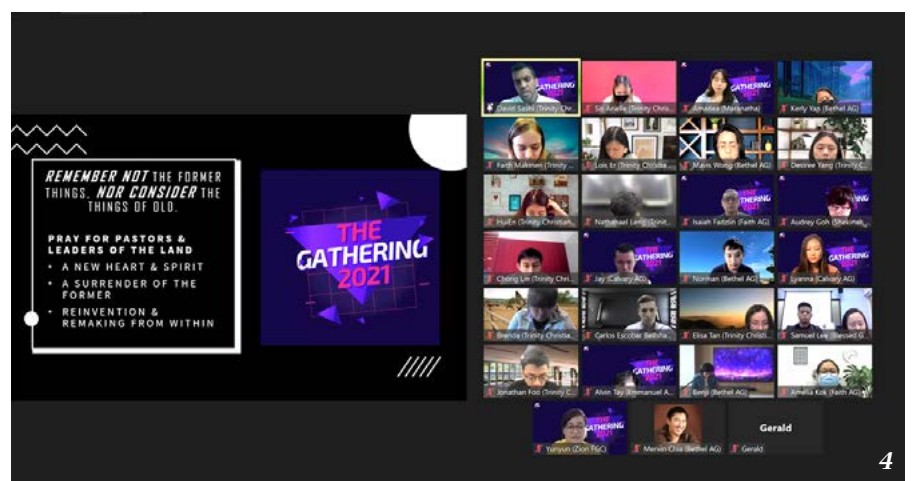
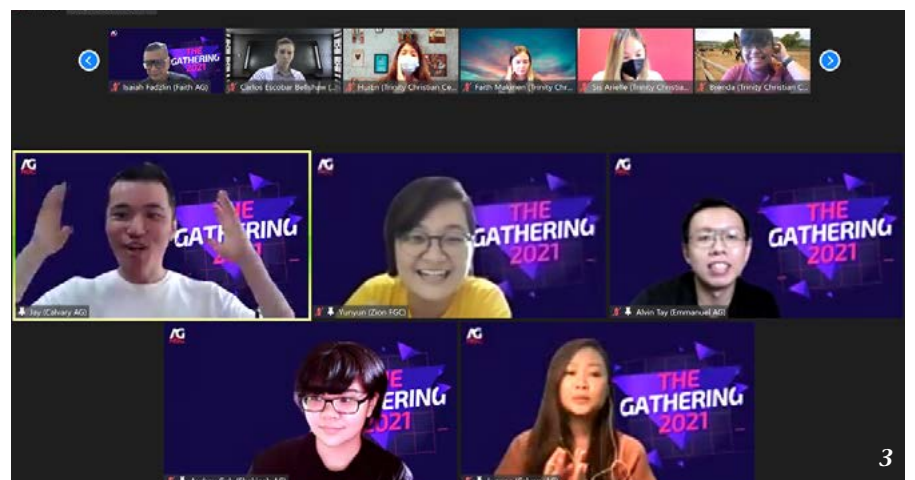
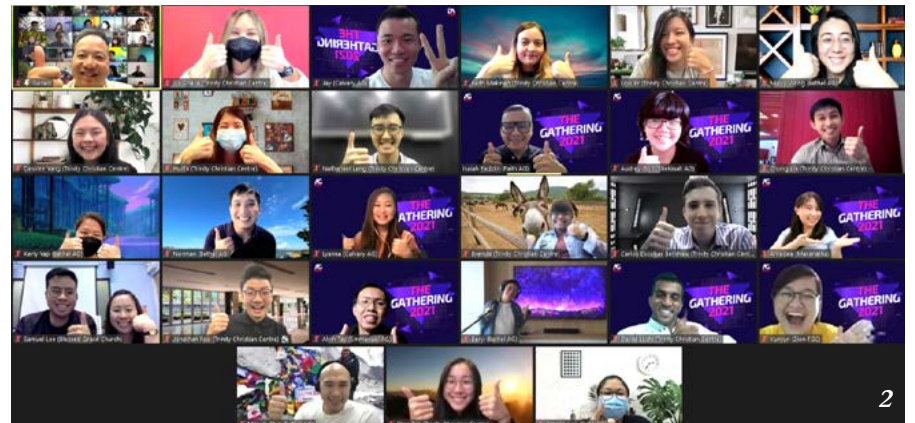
Sis Audrey Goh from Shekinah Assembly of God, Ps Lyanna Teo from Calvary Assembly of God and Ps Tan Yunyun from Zion Full Gospel Church. The ministers bonded deeper under their warm facilitation and meaningful partnerships were forged.

## Pray

The Next Generation ministers assembled once again in the main ZOOM room to unite in prayer led by Ps David Sashi from Trinity Christian Centre. The ministers prayed fervently in the Spirit as one, to be empowered by the Spirit to touch the hearts of many young lives in Singapore. We prayed for young people to rise up and cause a rippling effect of God's love to their generation. Rev Gerald Tan, Chairman of Asia Pacific AG Fellowship Next Generation Commission, exhorted the ministers to continue to be connected with one another and especially with the Spirit.

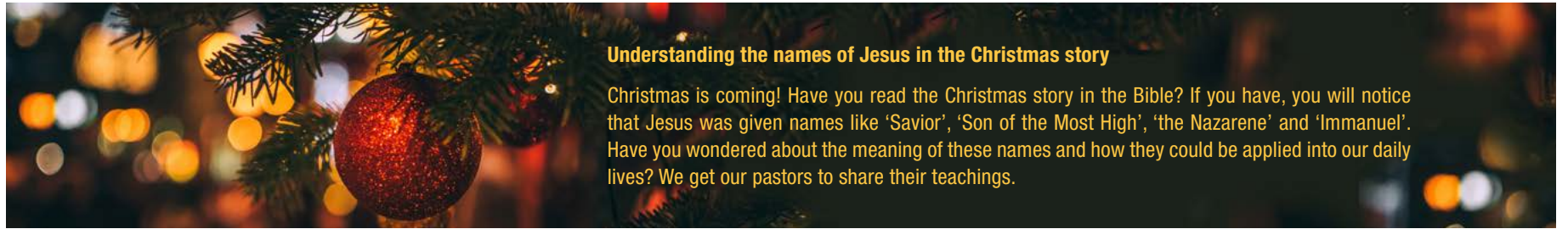
## Partner

AG NGC is thankful to the ministers for availing themselves to lead in different segments such as the ice breakers, worship, facilitation, prayer and exhortation. We are also deeply touched and appreciative of all our ministers who took time out from their busy schedules and participated in this event. It was an enriching time of bonding, prayer and partnership with one another as AG's Next Generation ministers.



- 1 Coming together to worship
- 2 The Gathering of our ministers Partnering to see growth in the Next Gen
- 3 Group facilitators getting the groups to bond through Play
- 4 Praying together for the Next Gen ministries





### Understanding the names of Jesus in the Christmas story

Christmas is coming! Have you read the Christmas story in the Bible? If you have, you will notice that Jesus was given names like 'Savior', 'Son of the Most High', 'the Nazarene' and 'Immanuel'. Have you wondered about the meaning of these names and how they could be applied into our daily lives? We get our pastors to share their teachings.

### Understanding the names of Jesus in the Christmas story

# Jesus, Savior of my Soul

*What does the Name "Jesus" speak about and how it applies to our lives? Rev Simon Ang bring his insights.*

Every Christmas, it is common to see many people singing and praising the name of Jesus. This is unsurprising, especially since Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. But do we truly know the significance behind this wonderful name? Looking at Matthew 1:21, God instructed Joseph to "name [his son] Jesus" even when it was traditional for the child to share Joseph's name, thereby highlighting just how special this child would be.

Even right at the first proclamation of Christ, we are introduced to His role of "[saving] His people from their sins". The very first word over this Christ child, and we are already given the promise that it is He who would eradicate our sins—a promise that over the last 4000 years prior, no one was able to fulfill. While sin could be put under the blood through tabernacle offerings, it was merely a way to hide the sin, instead of completely removing it.

#### He Saves Us from Sin

But why is it so important that Jesus saves us from sin? This brings us to the beginning, both of the world and of our lives. The first man, Adam, fell to the serpent of sin and introduced his wrongful nature into the human race. Likewise, given that we are all born from Adam, our lives began by being born into a fallen nature, or an Adamic nature as it is called. Simply put, as soon as we are born into the world, we are born into sin and are separated from God.

Despite this, we can still escape eternal damnation by calling upon the name of Christ, who saves us from sin and mends our broken relationship with God. Indeed, it is Jesus who rescues us from the threats to our divine destiny, and who restores our purpose and wholeness. This statement may sound like a mouthful, so let us break it apart.

#### The Meaning of 'Jesus':

##### Rescue

We can start by looking at the meaning of the word 'Jesus', which refers to 'Savior'. Incidentally, the word 'Savior' also means 'Deliverer', or the One who rescues.

##### Destiny and Purpose

From here, we must understand that all of us are not born into Christ by mere coincidence. In fact, there are specific destinies which we are born into, certain purposes that God has chosen for our lives, of which sin threatens to destroy. And it is Jesus who rescues us from these attempts to ruin our divine destiny and purpose.

##### Wholeness

Finally, one of the best NT translated words for the words 'Jesus' and 'Savior' is the word 'whole'. While many of us seek for wholeness through external means, it is only through Christ where we can find it, as it is Jesus who restores us and makes us whole.

This completes our statement of what Jesus does in our lives: **Jesus rescues** us from the threats to our **divine destiny** and **restores our purpose** and **wholeness**.

#### The Works of Jesus:

##### Jesus Redeems

Now that we know what Jesus does, we can go on to explore how He does it.

Firstly, Jesus saves us from missing the mark He sets for us. Here, we can look to a word closely related to sin: 'hamartia', which simply means to 'miss the mark'. To aid this analogy, we can imagine life as an archery shootout. Many of us draw our bows and prepare to hit the bullseye mark of happiness and success.

Yet, as much as we may rely on our own strength to prepare and aim, there are just many factors that we may be unable to control—indecision, changing wind speeds, and rain are but a few factors that override our strength and cause us to miss our mark, leading to failure and sin.

It is only through relying and calling on the name of Jesus that we may overcome these obstacles. Not only can Jesus redeem us from the sin of missing our marks, the Bible also says that He will prevent us from misfiring, hence also helping us to fulfill our divine destiny.

##### Jesus Forgives

Next, Jesus saves us from living with guilt and condemnation. Far too often, unresolved sin can come back to haunt us in the form of guilt, which can then lead to self-condemnation. And sadly, this can manifest in mental illnesses which drastically decrease our quality of life and relationship with God. This is made worse when we are consistently consumed by our guilt, which further paralyses us from taking any meaningful action against it.

Yet, if we once again choose to rely on the name of Jesus and bring our sins to the cross, He will forgive us and help us forgive ourselves too. Consequently, Jesus will release us from any shame or condemnation that has shackled us from living a whole life filled with God's purpose.

The presence of sin, no matter how small, has an insidious ability to take control of our lives. It can leave us feeling hopeless with guilt, depressed from condemnation, and prevents us from living our lives with wholeness and purpose. It is only through the beautiful name of Jesus that we may, according to Hebrews 8:12, have our sins not only forgiven, but also forgotten. So, as we proclaim Jesus' name during this Christmas season, let us dwell on the awesomeness of His name and praise the name of Jesus that saves His people from sin.



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Superintendent of the  
AG, Singapore.



Understanding the names of Jesus in the Christmas story

# Son of the Most High

*The angel told Mary that Jesus would be called the “Son of the Most High”. Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock teaches on the meaning.*

And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

## Knowing Him...

Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, a virgin betrothed to Joseph and told her that she had found favor with God, and she would bear a son when the *Holy Spirit would come upon* her (a very similar statement that Jesus used in Acts 1:8, “You shall receive power when the *Holy Spirit has come upon you...*”) Therefore, the child to be born would be called **holy** because He is the Son of God set apart by the Holy Spirit from its conception and kept from the taint of original sin. (Luke 1:35).

**“You shall call His name Jesus”**—The Greek name *Iesous* comes from the Hebrew name Joshua which means “Jehovah is salvation.” There are others in the Jewish community who are named Jesus or Joshua, but this Jesus is different from all of them because...

**“He will be great”**—greater than all of them. He is greater than Joshua who led Israel into the promised land (Hebrews 4), greater than angels (Hebrews 2:2), greater than Moses (Hebrews 3:3), and He is called the “great high priest” (Hebrews 4:14). In John’s Gospel, the Jews asked Jesus if He is greater than Abraham and the prophets who died (8:53), His reply was “before Abraham was, I am.” He exists even before Abraham was born...

**“He...will be called the Son of the Most High”**—This announcement by Gabriel affirmed the deity of Jesus. The Most High is a title indicating that nobody is higher than God. As the Son, Jesus has the same essence as the Most High God, yet He gave up His divine privileges, born in human likeness with the humility of a servant with complete obedient to God and even willingly accepted His death on the cross! “Amazing love! How can it be, That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?” exclaimed Charles Wesley. “Therefore, God has **highly exalted him** and bestowed on Him **the name that is above every name**, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:9-11). Even demons trembled when they acknowledged Him, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God” (Mark 4:7).

**“The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David”**—Jesus, born as a son from the lineage of King David (Luke 3), was a natural descendent to the throne. However, His rule surpasses time and location, the house of Jacob for **“his kingdom there will be no end!”** Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ who will fulfill this promise (2 Samuel 7:12-17; Psalm 110; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Now that you know Jesus from Luke 1:30-33. I would like you to ponder over this question: **What shall I do with this Jesus?**

Here are some responses to consider:

**Receive Him.** “...you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21), and to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). If you have not done so, would you receive Him as your Saviour and Lord today?

**Love Him.** If you have received Jesus, you are now God’s dearly loved children, and we are to walk in love (Ephesians 5:1-2). “We love Him because He first loved us” (1John 4:19, NKJV). If we love Him, we must love our brothers and sisters whom He loves (1John 4:20,21).

**Worship Him.** If you believe that **Jesus is the Son of the Most High God**, would you do what the angels and saints are doing in heaven (Revelation 4:1-11; 7:9-12)? The twenty-four elders offered their crowns and they prostrated before the Jesus who is the King of kings and Lord of lords!

It is said that during Queen Victoria’s coronation week, she sat in the Royal Box while Handel’s Messiah was being performed. The lady-in-waiting went to her and said, “Everyone in the room, when they reach the hallelujah chorus, will rise and stand till the music ceases, except the queen. It is the royal etiquette that the queen should keep her seat.” As the performance progressed, when the hallelujah chorus was reached, the people rose and stood with bowed head. It was noticed that the queen was so deeply moved. Her lips quivered, her eyes filled with tears and her body trembled until they came to the burst of melody: “King of kings and Lord of lords.” Then in spite of the royal etiquette, the young queen stood up and, with bowed head, remained standing until the music ceased.<sup>1</sup>

True worship requires our single focus on Jesus, the Son of the Most High God, and with humility offer to Him what is rightfully His (1Chronicles 29:14).

**Serve Him.** Worship is never complete without serving. The Jew would understand that *‘ābad* (Hebrew) can mean to worship, serve, and labour. Worshipers of the Lord would not just sing but serve Him too (Colossians 3:16-17). Likewise, your posture in serving your earthly employers should be “heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” (Colossians 3:23).

What would I do with this Jesus, the Son of the Most High God? Would you receive Him, love Him, worship Him and serve Him? I pray that you would.



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<sup>1</sup><https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/community/faith-celebrating-and-appreciating-queen-victoria-s-weekend-1.24134743>

Understanding the names of Jesus in the Christmas story

# Jesus the Nazarene

*What significance does the name “Jesus of Nazarene” have? Rev Dr Casey Ng expounds.*

## What's in a Name?

What's in a name? Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet? That may be true for Shakespeare's Juliet but untrue for the ancient world of biblical times. In the biblical world, “[a] person's ‘name’ embodied his or her character and very being” (Fee and Hubbard 2011, 359). If that is so, then what significance does the name “Jesus the Nazarene” have?

The name “Jesus the Nazarene” came about when Joseph, obeying the instructions given to him in a dream, resettled his family in Galilee, in a place where he resided before, the city of Nazareth (Matthew 2:19–23). Being a resident of Nazareth, it would not be unusual for Jesus to be known as “Jesus the Nazarene” (Matthew 2:23) or even “Jesus of Nazareth” (Matthew 26:71). So, does this name only denote the place of his residence? Well, if names embody a person's essence, then there must be something more than meets the eye. Let us then focus on two incidents in John's gospel—John 1:45–51 and 18:1–9—that may help us unpack the significance of this name.

## John 1:43–51 Jesus Is the King of All Believers

One fine day, Nathanael was sitting under the shade of the fig tree in his garden. His friend Philip came to him excitedly and said, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (John 1:45 NASB). Probably with a smirk on his face, Nathanael asked, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” (John 1:46 NASB).

Nathanael lived in Cana in Galilee, a neighboring city of Nazareth (John 21:2). Nazareth was probably an obscure little town with few rich and famous people that the Hebrew Scriptures omitted its name. Not only did Nathanael the outsider thought little of this insignificant place, even the residents of Nazareth could not accept Jesus teaching them (Luke 4:16–29).

Not wanting his friend to miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime experience, Philip said to Nathanael, “Come and see” (John 1:46 NASB). What Philip urged Nathanael to do was a common practice of the people looking for rabbis, to search for a solution to a problem together. For all we know, there may be “something new or important” for us to discover (Morris 1995, 145).

It is likely that Nathanael listened to the advice of his friend and let go of his prejudices and followed Philip to see Jesus. In his brief encounter with Jesus, Nathanael's biases were removed, and eyes were opened. He could only proclaim: “Rabbi, **YOU** are the Son of God, **YOU** are the King of Israel” (John 1:49; emphasis in the Greek text). Nathanael was able to receive a progressive revelation of Jesus' identity and submit to Jesus as King. Thus, Jesus wants to reveal himself to us if we set aside our biases against him.

## John 18:1–9 Jesus Is the Great “I Am”

The time was around midnight. A platoon of Roman soldiers rushed off on a critical mission, codenamed *Capture Jesus the Nazarene Secret Mission*. Armed with lanterns, torches, and weapons, together with some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, they followed Judas Iscariot to the garden

where Jesus was. The soldiers must have wondered what kind of criminal Jesus was since there were about two hundred of them on duty that night (Klink 2016, 734).

Jesus, knowing their intent to arrest him, approached them, and asked them, “Whom do you seek?” (John 18:4 NASB). In reply, they said, “Jesus the Nazarene” (John 18:5). Jesus answered, “**I am**” (*egō eimi* in the Greek text of John 6:20). Upon this majestic declaration of Jesus' identity, the soldiers “drew back and fell to the ground” (John 18:6 NASB). This reaction of the soldiers is astonishing. Instead of rushing forward to arrest Jesus, the soldiers momentary retreated. As Edward Klink III (2016, 736) remarks: “At the sound of his voice, they fell to the ground ‘as if vanquished by a greater army’” and it could only be “an act of fear and reverence, even worship.”

We are familiar with the seven “I Am” sayings in John's Gospel. These sayings describe the person and work of Jesus Christ. However, when Jesus identifies himself simply as “I am,” something miraculous takes place.

In John 6:16–21, after Jesus had fed the crowd of five thousand, his disciples were in a boat headed for Capernaum. It was dark and windy, and Jesus was not with them. When they had rowed about 4.5 to 5.5 km, they saw Jesus walking towards them on the sea. To allay their fears, Jesus said, “**I am**; do not fear” (*egō eimi* in the Greek text of John 6:20). “So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and *immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going*” (John 6:21 NASB; italics mine).

Can you believe it? Teleportation. This is not science fiction. This miracle happened when Jesus said, “I am.” Just as Jesus was at the garden, the absolute “I am” saying, without any predicate, exhibits the power of the Almighty God.

The Roman soldiers had a spectacular encounter with the Almighty God. Yet they missed the message and tried to oppose God's purpose by arresting Jesus the Nazarene instead. However, nothing can thwart the purpose of God. Ultimately, at the name of Jesus, the “**I am**,” every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:10–11).

What does Jesus the Nazarene mean to you?

Jesus the Nazarene is that ordinary guy from the humble town of Nazareth. *What good thing can come out of that?* He is the Son of God, the King of all who believe in him, the one who knows everything about us.

Jesus the Nazarene is also that dangerous wanted criminal that about two hundred soldiers were assigned to arrest him. *What good thing can come out of that?* He is the Almighty God himself who deserves to be worshiped and obeyed.

What does Jesus the Nazarene mean to you? As you encounter Jesus, will you be like Nathanael who acknowledged his lordship, or the soldiers who opposed his lordship? May we allow Jesus the Nazarene to be the Lord of our lives!



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Understanding the names of Jesus in the Christmas story

# Immanuel

*“Immanuel” is a name given to Jesus in Matthew 1:23. Ps Derek Foo helps us appreciate the beauty of this name.*

Names are very significant and important to us. They give us a sense of who we are and where we belong. As parents, my wife and I chose to name our daughter Charis, praying that she would abound in the loving grace of God. Matthew accords a specific Hebrew name to Jesus in **Matthew 1:23**—*Immanuel* meaning *God with us*. He quotes almost verbatim from the words of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14. In doing so, he was reminding his audience, the Jews, about the divine significance of this baby to be born. We too should appreciate the significance of *Immanuel* in our lives. Here are three things for us to remember as we think about Jesus as our *Immanuel*.

## 1. God’s Plan Will Never Be Foiled

Isaiah 7 was never intended to be a prophetic Scripture about the Messiah. Isaiah was revealing God’s plan to Ahaz king of Judah as he faced attacks from the kings of Israel and Samaria. The people of Judah were shaken and full of fear. In response, God assures Ahaz to not fear and to stand firm in their faith. Isaiah tells Ahaz, “The Lord Himself will give you a sign...” (Isaiah 7:14a)—a sign that God’s plan will come to pass.

God gave Abraham and Sarah a son, Isaac, despite Sarah’s barrenness. Moses heard God’s voice from the burning bush and performed miracles to assure the Israelites of their deliverance from Egypt. Gideon saw the fleece wet and the ground dry and was assured of God’s plan of deliverance. These are but a few examples of the times God gave signs to His people to assure them that His plan will always come to pass.

This Christmas, remember that God’s sovereign plan will never be foiled. His plan for the salvation of mankind has never been destroyed, thwarted, or even delayed a little. At just the right time, God gave the world His Son, Jesus Christ, our precious Savior. We may have experienced many setbacks and uncertainties because of the global pandemic. Yet, we can be assured that God’s plan will never fail, and everything is under His control. May we trust and have faith in God’s sovereign plan, for His thoughts and ways are indeed far higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

## 2. God’s Promise Will Never Be Broken

In the revelation of God’s divine plan, we are assured that what He says

will come to pass. Isaiah tells Ahaz, “... The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son...” (Isaiah 7:14b, cf. Matthew 1:23a). Judah was crying out for deliverance from enemy attacks. The Jews were crying out for deliverance from Roman rule. God’s promise of salvation in both cases is assured through the birth of a son. God fulfilled His promise to David that a king from his lineage will always be on the throne (2 Samuel 7:16; cf. 2 Kings 8:19). God promised a Savior who would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). Indeed, it is through Jesus Christ that we are saved from the penalty of our sin—eternal death.

Therefore, remember this Christmas, that God’s promises will never be broken. When we cry out to God in our struggles, He promises salvation and deliverance—a way to emerge victoriously. We can, as His precious children, cling on to the various promises He makes in His Word—He will supply our every need (Philippians 4:19); that He will work in all things for our good (Romans 8:28); and that we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus (Romans 8:31). Trust in His unfailing promises that will never be broken. Great is His faithfulness.

## 3. God’s Presence Will Never Depart

Every Christian should always desire to abide in God’s presence. The Tabernacle in the middle of the Israelite camp served to remind God’s people of God’s ever-abiding presence—that God was with them always, and that they were to move only at His command. In the times of oppression experienced by Judah in OT and Israel in the NT, Immanuel—“God with us” reminded the Israelites that God had not left them. He was with them by their side.

This Christmas, remember that God is with us. His Presence will never depart from us. Whether we are worshiping and praying in church or in our homes, He is right there with us. Jesus Himself promised to be with us until the end of the age (Matthew 28:20), and the Holy Spirit dwells in us (John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 3:16). When we walk through dark and tough times, just as we did from the start of the pandemic, we are assured of His presence that comforts us (Psalms 23:4) and gives us peace (John 14:27).



*Ps Derek Foo has been serving full-time as the Worship and IT Support pastor at Elim Church for the past decade. He is married to Hwee Min for 13 years and together they have a beautiful nine-year-old daughter, Charis.*

# God Gave Me a Community

*I found my sense of belonging when I started serving in the production “Longing”.*

*By Eugene Yong, Eternal Life Assembly*

Before I came back to Christ, I was longing for a community of acceptance. As I jumped from groups to groups, I had never stayed long with the friends I made throughout the years. I did not see my purpose in life and that life is meaningless to me. I was going through my life day by day aimlessly. Gradually, I fell into depression and had suicidal thoughts from time to time. It was because I was affected by how society had treated me and how I viewed things in a negativity way. I prayed from time to time for a stable community which could accept me for who I am.

## A Friend Reached Out to Me

My interest in film-making actually led me back to Christ. I met a friend, Joshua, through my sister, and he asked if I wanted to be involved in a short web series called “Longing” produced by a church. At first, I was skeptical due to my bad experience with my previous church. However, because of my interest and I heard the concept summary of the project, I felt that it was aligned with my own longing for God and a community. Therefore, I agreed to the project and everything started to took off from there.

On the first day, I met Jireh who was the project producer, and he greeted me warmly. I was surprised because I have never felt that kind of welcome at all. As the production started, I felt joy and more joy, day by day even though the production was tiring because I love the people who were involved in the project.

I felt a sense of family among the crew. They treated everyone like family and it did not matter if you were inside or outside the church. Subsequently, by the end of the production, I was ready to dive head-in into this community but something held me back: I was afraid because of my past experience.

## First Steps Towards A Loving Community

After the shoot of the web series was over, I was invited to attend the viewing of the first episode of “Longing” in Eternal Life (EL) Assembly. I accepted the invitation. It had been years since I attended a church service and the feeling was way

different from the first time. I attended the church’s morning service. I felt warmth and peace instead of awkwardness and discomfort.

I remember that, at one night, I took a cab home with Jireh and I began asking more about EL. After that ride home, I’m sure that this IS the community I was looking for.

At the last viewing of the series, Jireh invited me to their youth camp and I said I would consider. Actually, I wanted to go because I wanted to experience the spirit of community again.

At the second day of the youth camp, there was an altar call. I was overwhelmed by so much love and comfort from God and the people who brought me to the front of the altar area. I broke down there and cried throughout the entire altar call.

Jireh came down and ask me to pray with him. I felt God’s presence behind him and cried even more because God’s presence was so strong and it gave me the assurance that I have found my belonging in this community at last.

## I Found What I Wanted

I was deeply convinced by my experience that day and a week later, during the Christmas event with the youth ministry, I publicly announced that I wanted to settle into EL and called it my home-church community. Later, I was introduce to my cell group and they are a loving bunch. They are the community that I was always longing for in the past and they accept me for who I am. I want to thank my pastors and friends who have guided me in coming back to Christ.

I want to thank God for planning the path for me to go back to Him and for using my interest to do that. After rededicating my life back to Christ, I have seen many changes in me. I finally found a purpose; my life does not seem so grey, but is full of colors; I am able to control my emotions better now; my depression is slowly being healed and I am grateful for God in what he has done for me.



*Eugene (second from right) serving with his teammates in the Longing production*



*Eugene (second row, second from left) with his cell group (Photo was taken before P2HA)*

Years back, I prayed to God for helping me find a nurturing community, acceptance and love. God is indeed faithful. He kept his promise and answered my prayers. I really want to thank God for being my promise-keeper and walking with me on this journey of faith.

Through it all, I have finally accepted the past bad experience and moving on to the new path that God put me on. I pray that my testimony can touch the people who are going through a similar situation.



# My Story of Hope

*Liver failure and diabetes at 19 years old. Rachel shares her story to encourage and bring hope to others.*

*By Gracia Goh, Zion Full Gospel Church*

Despite being only 20 years old, Rachel Ng has battled liver failure and currently lives with Type 1 Diabetes. She shares her story to encourage and bring hope to others.

## The Shocking News

The Singapore Polytechnic Engineering student first discovered that she had diabetes and liver failure when she experienced abdominal pain and collapsed at the neighborhood market last year. Upon hearing her diagnosis, she describes her initial response as “confused and shocked.”

“As I recovered in the hospital, I felt sad and wondered why this would happen to me. But I think that it’s normal to have those emotions.”

For three weeks, Rachel was hospitalized and blood tests became an everyday occurrence as a PICC line (Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter) was inserted through a vein in her arm. She was unable to eat, brush her teeth or shower, and every day was filled with a series of repeated motions of waking up and waiting for nurses to inject the insulin.

## Christian Friends, the Encouragers

Rachel talked about her sources of encouragement during the hospitalization period saying, “Xue Qi and Zhi Yu came to visit me twice. The first time I was in ICU, they prayed. The second time they visited, they prayed. During those hard times, friends are very important; knowing that they were by my side and that I could lean on them. They knew my condition and they didn’t judge me for it.”

## Living with Type 1 Diabetes

Now, she still visits the hospital every three months for regular check-ups and scans.

Living with Type 1 Diabetes means that Rachel now must

test her blood glucose levels by pricking her finger three times a day. Before every meal, she needs to inject insulin to balance her glucose levels. Adapting to this new routine was challenging as she must bring an entire package in order to perform these tasks, and forgetting a single part can be a major hassle.

On top of adapting to her lifestyle changes, the judgmental stares from strangers while she tests her glucose levels in public also posed additional challenges. Although she is no longer fazed by those stares, she talks about how insensitivity from strangers had affected her emotional state negatively—especially since she had to deal with her own acceptance of the situation at the start.

## God Strengthens

“During my hospitalization, the Mandarin song, 相信有爱就有奇迹 (Believe in Love, You Will See Miracles) brought me a lot of hope. The whole song represents exactly what I felt during that period.”

At times, Rachel still struggles to express her emotions to God—yet whenever she does, the act of surrendering those feelings to God releases her of her burdens and leaves her feeling lighter.

“I believe that there’s a reason why these things happen, and I trust that He has already planned out my life. This is my life, and these are the obstacles I have to face that’s when I’m tested and it matters whether I fall off.”

Reflecting upon her experiences, Rachel stated, “I should have cherished my life properly. In the past, whenever bad things happened, I just wanted to give up and think of a way out. But now when I face challenges, these thoughts don’t come back anymore. Throughout this journey, I have become stronger,



*(Left) Rachel feeling encouraged by friends,  
(Right) an IV catheter in her arm*

and I can encourage people with what I’ve gone through. Whether they want to hear it, it’s up to them—but at least my story might give them a bit of hope that life is precious.”

## Sharing Her Faith Journey

Rachel has documented her experience on Instagram where she encourages her friends and followers with her testimony, sharing her faith journey and spreading a message of hope even in the darkest of times. Through her posts, others have even reached out to her, sharing their own struggles and fears with her.

“Even when we don’t see it, know that God is still working. God sees the end although we can’t see it. So, don’t give up and in the end, God will lead us to our destination.”

*This testimony was first published on Zion Full Gospel Church’s website.*

<https://zionfullgospel.org.sg/liver-failure-and-diabetes-at-19/>

# God Turns Loss into Gain

*God's abiding presence did not leave me as I underwent a painful job loss. As I trusted Him, God intervened.*

*By Angeline Ng, Trinity Christian Centre*

Have you ever been in a place where life was smooth sailing, but suddenly you were awakened by a storm?

In July 2020, I lost my job amidst the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. To make matters worse, I turned down a job offer two months earlier because I felt God asking me to wait.

It never occurred to me that my job would be made redundant. My career path had always been smooth. I was shocked, and the fear of being unable to provide for my family became real overnight. I found myself caught in a storm.

In the days that followed, all I could do was find refuge in God's Word to cope with my confusion and grief.

## God is Holding My Hand

I brought my brokenness before God during worship with my Connect Group (CG). God's presence was tangible, and I heard Him saying that He would walk with me through this season even though I could not comprehend the "whys" and "hows". A member of my CG saw a vision of God's open doors for me, which brought me much assurance. Later that night, God spoke to me through Isaiah 41:13 and 1 Chronicles 17:9-14: *"For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."* (Isaiah 41:13)

*"And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning..."* (1 Chronicles 17:9)

## Planted in Perfect Timing

I took comfort in these promises and heard God telling me to wait and trust Him. Instead of orchestrating events on my own, He instructed me to rest in Him as He worked on my behalf.

I never expected how God was about to intervene. Five days after I lost my job, I learned that a similar role had opened in another multinational company. The talent acquisition partner was from my ex-company who was temporarily overseeing the hiring of this role, and she was able to present my application to the hiring managers.

As I awaited the outcome, I held onto the truth that God would hold my hand and plant me in the right place.

Seven being God's number of perfection, I was in awe that within the course of 49 days, (7x7) in God's perfect timing, I received a job offer with a better remuneration package than my previous job. This did not happen by my own strength or power, but by the incredible grace of God!

God truly works behind the scenes even when we do not see it and may feel doubtful about obeying His promptings. In my case, it did not make logical sense to give up the previous job offer, but now I understand it was God's divine plan for me to be where I am today.

A year into this job has taught me that the journey of faith is not over. When I am met with new challenges, I recall God's amazing provision and am reminded of His great deliverance in the storms of life. All we need to do is be still in His presence



*Angeline trusted in God's intervention*

—in the eye of the storm—and allow God to perform miracles on our behalf.

He will not forsake us during our trials. In this COVID-19 season, He will provide abundantly for His people as we put our trust in Him. He will answer our cries.

When life does not make sense, God's promises will guide us through the tsunamis of life in peace and confidence. The Jehovah of Yesterday is the same today and tomorrow. Even when the valleys are deep and the mountains unconquerable, God will lift us up. Indeed, He is our promise keeper and will not let us perish. All Glory to God!

*...Continued from pg 2*

## 不一样的回应

历代志下第32章中有两种回应。第一种回应是作鼓励者，就像希西家王如何勉励他的百姓。有时人们看不见在基督里的盼望，有时人们忘了神的美善，但是我们可以成为鼓励者，将信心带给人。

希伯来书10:24-25提醒我们“彼此相顾，激发爱心，勉励行善。”“不可停止聚会，好像哪些停止惯了的人，倒要彼此劝勉。”

你出席教会聚会和小组聚会的回应能鼓励他人，把信心带给他们。不要让惧怕圈禁自己，阻止你接触他人！

另一个回应是对神的信心的回应。希西家王鼓励百姓后，“百姓就靠犹大王希西家的话”。即使在第18节，敌人不断叫嚣“要惊吓他们，扰乱他们，以便取城”，他们都置之不理，反而因此祷告。

希伯来书10:23告诉我们“要坚守我们所承认的指望，不至摇动，因为那应许我们的是信实的”。信心就是抓紧我们所承认的盼望！信心的回应就是宣告的回应。

在列王纪下6:18“敌人下到以利沙那里，以利沙祷告耶和华说：“求你使这些人的眼目昏迷。”耶和华就照以利沙的话使他们眼目昏迷。

当你知道谁为你争战时，你会以勇气，胆量和权柄回应。你不会让惧怕绊倒你的信心。你不会像无头苍蝇一样手忙脚乱！

虽然这一年将要过去，而2019冠状病毒却仍肆虐，但是让我们记住盼望降临在希律和凯撒执掌期间。在漆黑的深夜里有盼望的。

跨入2022年，愿圣诞的盼望使你有不一样的看法和回应。

圣诞蒙福！



# Frontline Missions

*God brought healings to people through online platforms like Zoom.*

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

When I think of frontline missions, I often thought of being in war-torn countries or deep in the jungles reaching out to the unreached. I have never thought that this pandemic would be an opportunity for the healing ministry to be considered frontline as well.

Back in April 2021, when the 'Wave 2' situation in India started, I was at home complaining to God "Why I am not receiving any invitation to minister?" Admittedly, this is a very self-centered question, but I have my reasons. I have many friends in India who know that I have a healing ministry. But why no invitations given the need of the hour? Zero!

As I was complaining to God, a thought suddenly came to my mind: "Maybe the pastors are busy fighting their fires." And I found out that it was true. People were dying and the pastors were busy burying the dead, some of them had to bury their loved ones who passed away. It was a really sad time.

So I got my own translator and organized the healing meetings and invited the pastors and their churches. Hundreds turned up and I run these prayer meetings 3-5 times a week.

## COVID-19 Healing Meetings

Do you know how COVID-19 Healing Meetings look like? There is nothing much to look at actually. There can be over 100 people on Zoom, and 90 of them will be there with their camera switched off. My team was puzzled. What was happening?

There was a time when one man switched on his camera by mistake and he quickly switched off his camera. That man was on a ventilator gasping for air. He was dying. It was so painful to see. No wonder so many people turned off their cameras, they were dying.

It was at that time, that the weight of what my team was doing dawned upon me. It was literally about life and death. Even my translator and his family were COVID-19-positive, just that their symptoms were not so severe.

By the grace of God, many people were getting healed. Of course, there were people who died, but I told myself, at least some got well miraculously. Less people dying is always better. This became the start of country-specific 'Healing Crusades' online.

For five months (April to August 2021) we conducted 60 such Healing Meetings around Asia—Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, and Vietnam—a good percentage of our Healing Meetings were attended by non-Christians and the Gospel was shared at every session. By the grace of God, many non-Christians received healing as well.

## Testimonies

In July we had a testimony of four people coming into the Indonesia Healing Meeting. They were COVID-19-positive. We prayed, and during the Healing Meeting, they felt their fever had left them. Their oxygen levels rose from 70% to 98%. The next day, they took the PCR test. Results were COVID-19-negative. One person could be said to be a coincidence. Four is a miracle. They were from different parts of the country, they did not know each other, and they were non-Christians.

At that time in India, Indonesia and Myanmar, many people were rejected from the hospitals due to lack of beds, leaving them to die at home or on the streets. These were the people who came to our healing meetings. People were getting well by the families! Symptoms left entire families immediately after the healing meetings ended. The evangelistic message was clear: "If you have no access to the hospitals, you can have access to Jesus."

In Vietnam: We mobilized a church to serve the nation. Jesus healed many people during the ministry. Pain left, eyesight and hearing restored, big tumors became small, and rotting feet started to recover.

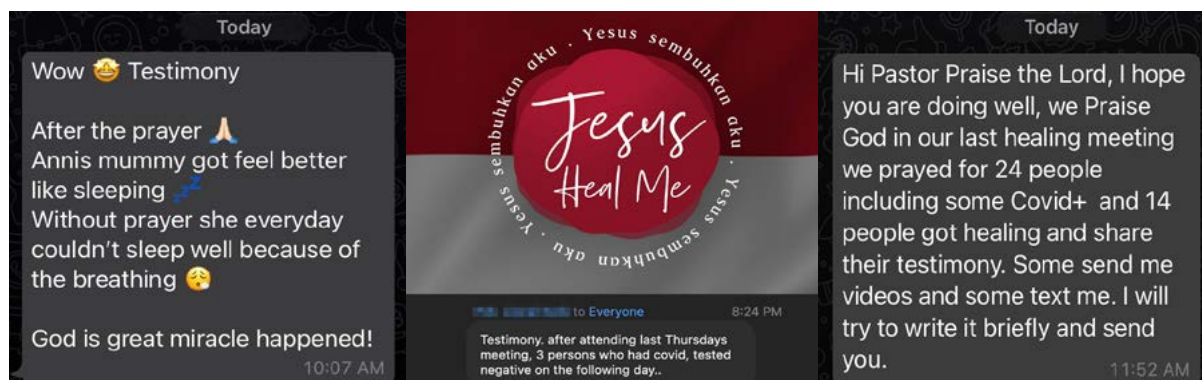
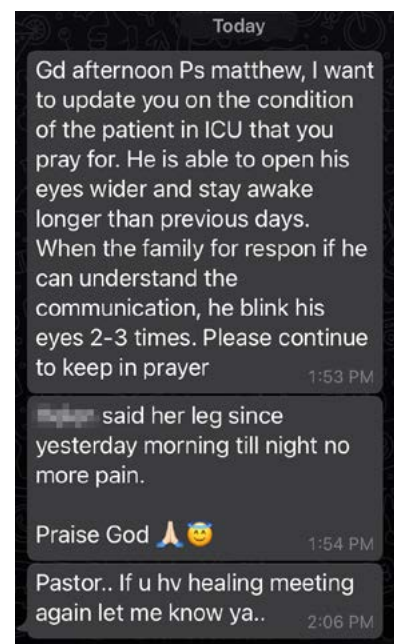
In Myanmar: One lady testified that she was stricken with great pain for months due to cancer, and after we prayed for her, the pain just disappeared. She claimed her healing by faith.

Over the months of April to August 2021, we received 197 documented testimonies of healing ranging from COVID-19 to cancer. I am sure that there were more testimonies, but these were the ones we have received, with each number representing a screenshot in our testimony archive.

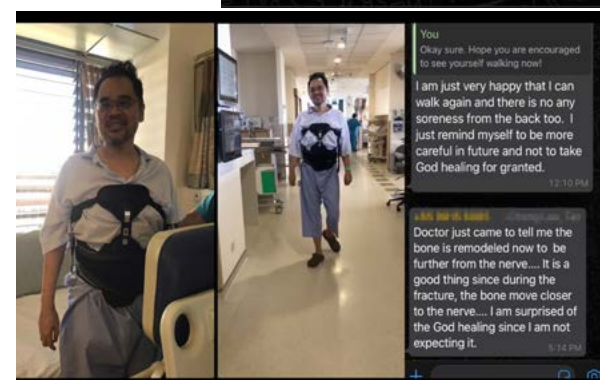
Let us continue to press on in faith especially during this pandemic. To God be the glory!



*Our ministry in Vietnam*



*God heals people with COVID-19*



*People are healed of various issues*

# My Strength is in God

*From taking drugs to serving God, John's (not his real name) life was turned around when he surrendered himself to God.*

*By Teen Challenge Singapore*

John dropped out of school in 1986 at a tender age of 13 years old. Upon quitting school, he socialized with friends who were involved in substance-abuse like glue sniffing and heroin.

In 1990, he was arrested and sent to the Boy's Home for three months. Since then, from 1990 to 2019, John had been arrested a total of 14 times. The charges were mainly for drug abuses.

## First Encounter with God

John encountered the Lord when he was serving his sentence in prison in 1994 and has since accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. While he made the commitment to be a believer of Christ's teachings, he confessed he was not a true follower of Christ. God had been gracious and faithful in sending many godly individuals to encourage and spur him in his walk with God. However, in his 29 years of life, John went in and out of prison.

Since encountering Jesus Christ and accepting Him as Lord and Savior, John's life slowly started to see God's marvelous work unfold slowly and surely. One of the most impossible feats was his attempt at the GCE O-Level examination. This happened when he was serving his seven years of Corrective Training from 2005 to 2012. By God's grace and enablement, John completed and achieved five credits within three years. He praised God for giving him another chance to achieve his academic pursuit.

## The Gift God has Given

Since becoming a Christian, John's other passion involves his love for music in playing the guitar as he was inspired by another ex-offender. He aspires to compose songs. John felt that with his limited talent he would not be able to do so on his own. He did not give up and continued to pray for the gift of composing songs. There were many incidents he felt the inspiration suddenly come upon him and he followed the leading. To this date, John had composed and written about 10 songs in Mandarin and Hokkien.

## God's Help in the Midst of Temptations

To John's delight, he was selected for Halfway House Scheme Model (HSM), a rehabilitation program for suitable offenders to serve the tail end of their sentence in the community, with conditions imposed as part of reintegration back to the society. John was placed into Teen Challenge. He was challenged to believe it is not the program or organization, but rather the power of God that will transform him. John testified during his time at Teen Challenge that he faced many temptations both in and out of the center. But by God's grace and strength, he resisted strongly and emerged stronger in his faith and his life.

## That Step of Faith

Since becoming a Christian during his incarcerations in prison, many pastors and godly counselors had often approached him on the matter of water baptism. For whatever reason, he has always procrastinated and replied, "See first." Prior to beginning his time at Teen Challenge, he felt a strong prompting to obey the Lord in water baptism.



*John receiving his water baptism certificate*

However, he told God to send someone to speak to him as he sought for confirmation. While he was in Teen Challenge, to John's surprise, one of the staff approached and encouraged him to get water baptized. He was shocked and finally agreed that there could be no more "see firsts" and was water baptized on December 13, 2020 with nine other residents of Teen Challenge through the Alpha program. All glory to God!

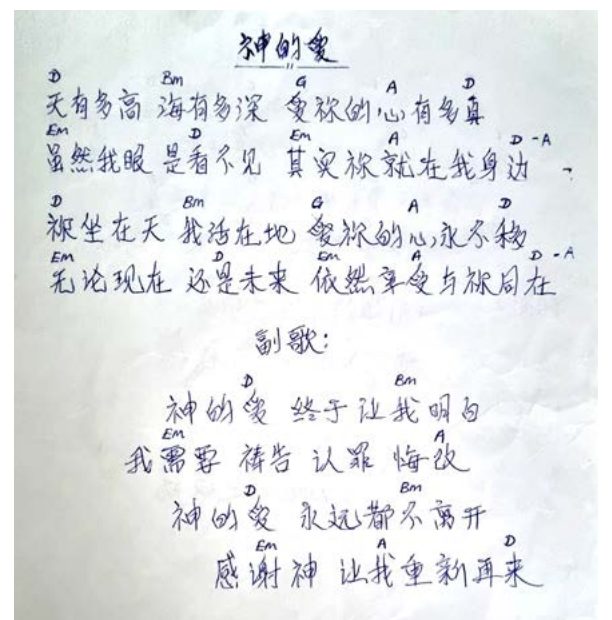
## Loving God and His Family Back

Over the years, other than the faithfulness of God who has never given up on John, he is deeply grateful for the unfailing love of his family, in particularly his mother who stood by him through these 29 years of incarceration. John is determined not only to repay, but also reciprocate his love to his loved ones by staying away from drugs or any other bad vices.

In wanting to surrender his all to God and allow Him to govern his life, John is determined to center his thoughts on one of his favorite passages of Scriptures—Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Him who gives me strength." Relying on this verse, John believes that he will stay in his current employment and at the same time, continue to upgrade himself in going for courses that is beneficial. He is also determined to stay clean



*John playing the guitar while composing his songs*



*One of the songs John composed*

and be a contributing citizen of Singapore in the society. There will be no more missing in action and at the same time, be faithful to serve in a local home church—Church of Punggol Sengkang.

As John concludes, he prays that whoever reads this article will be encouraged to know that God is in the business of transforming lives when one surrenders to Him. At the same time, he hopes that with this sharing of his life story, it will serve as a wake-up call for others who may be giving in to drug-abuse or those who are not serious in their relationship with God.



# **20TH TEEN CHALLENGE CHARITY GOLF EVENT**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

## **TANAH MERAH COUNTRY CLUB TAMPINES COURSE**



**For more information, kindly contact  
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