

# AG *times*

ISSUE  
NOV 2022  
60  
SPECIAL  
EDITION

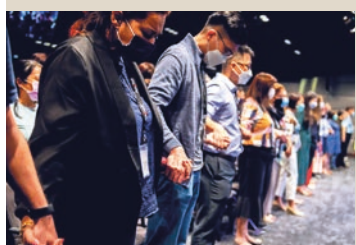


## MM33

HIS MANDATE. OUR MISSION.



## HIS MANDATE, AND OUR IDENTITY



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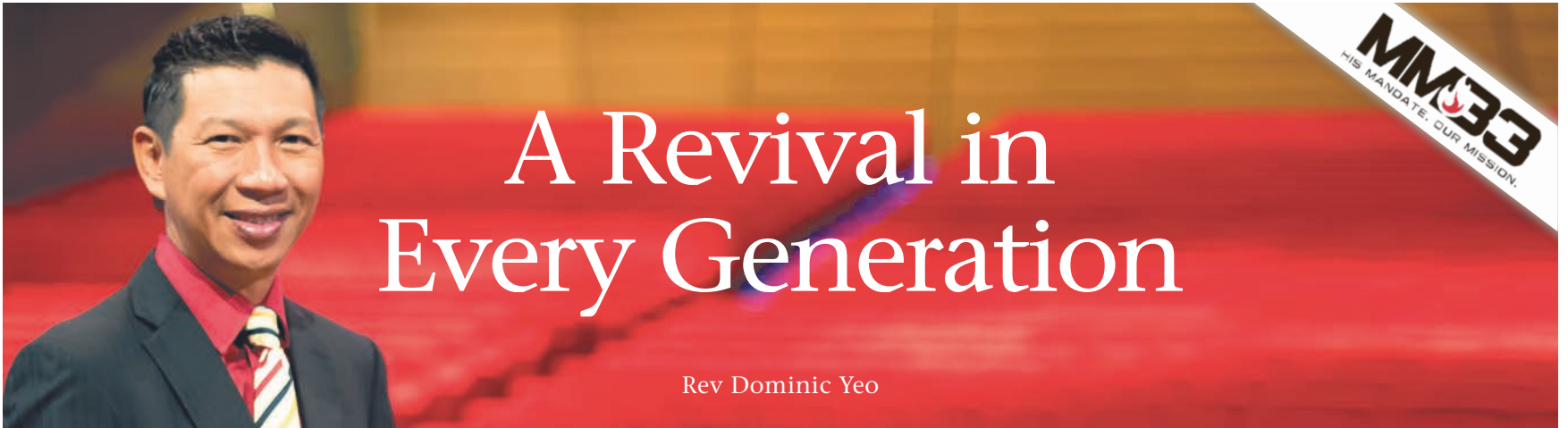
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PRINTER:  
SPH Media Limited

MCI (P) 052/08/2022





The expansion of the Early Church in the Book of Acts reveals how the Pentecostal outpouring led to the embracement of the Gospel beyond the Jews.

As a movement, the Assemblies of God traces our roots back to Azusa Street in 1906. It was a time when Pentecostal power was restored to the church. People started flowing in the gifts of the Spirit—speaking in tongues, releasing prophetic words, and witnessing miracles, signs, and wonders. Church meetings were held continuously as people hungered for more of the Spirit. The Pentecostal experience brought about a spiritual awakening, igniting a worldwide movement.

**Each generation has a story to tell.** *“One generation will commend your works to another; they will tell of your mighty acts.”* (Psalm 145:4). Throughout history, there have been several powerful movements of God. The Azusa Street revival is just one of the many revivals the Church has experienced. Here in Singapore, the outpouring of the Spirit upon some Anglo-Chinese School (ACS) students in 1972 was the beginning of the charismatic movement in our nation. Groups of students gathered at the ACS Clock Tower along Barker Road for regular prayer. If you walked up Barker Road Hill in those days, you would have seen groups of ACS boys praying. The students seized every opportunity before, during, and after school hours to cry out to the Lord.

**Each generation has its race to run.** *“...for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died...”* (Acts 13:36 NLT). In 1994, the Christian Fellowship in Fairfield Methodist Secondary School had a revival after a group of them came together to pray fervently for one entire year on the school's basketball court. Subsequently, more students from other churches joined in. A great hunger for God grew. Every class had a prayer group. Canteens were empty as students prayed for their generation during recess times. The atmosphere in the school's Chapel time transformed. At the Easter presentation in school, more than half the school responded to give their lives to Jesus!

**Each generation has its own revival.** *“For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.”* (Psalm 100:5 ESV) He is faithful to all generations. The Early Church had a Peter who stood up and addressed the crowd, calling them to Jesus and 3,000 were added that day (Acts 2:41). In 1517, there was a Martin Luther who brought about the Protestant Reformation. In 1906, we had William Seymour who led the Pentecostal Reformation of the Church, subsequently giving birth to the Assemblies of God movement in 1914.

God wants to move in every generation. I believe a new wave of revivals is coming throughout the world and we have the responsibility to fan the fires of revival. The

question is, will you arise to fan the flames or dull the flames of revival in your generation?

We are living in the most exciting time in history. In 2033, we will celebrate the second millennium of the ascension of Jesus Christ and the beginning of Pentecost. The best celebration of that significant milestone will be to present a strong Church and a mighty harvest to the Lord.

The years preceding 2033 are important. We need to recognize that we are living in end times. There is a coming revival that is stirring in the Spirit. The reset of the world happened with COVID-19. As the world emerges out of the pandemic, it is time for the Church to be that shining beacon of hope and salvation for the world.

MM33 represents the Mandate and Mission given to the Church in AD33. That commission in Matthew 28:19 echoes through generations. The same Pentecost power for salvation is in us to engage in the greatest work of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting that the world has ever seen.

There has never been a better time to usher in a period of revival than now. The Lord has equipped believers for such a time as this. The Assemblies of God is now a globally connected Movement of God spanning more than 140 countries. Our collective resources, churches, and members around the world have grown and we are poised for greater impact.

Will you rally the call for salvation in your time and in your generation? Will you hunger for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit in your time so that every generation will see revival taking place?

## 每个世代都有复兴

使徒行传记载了早期教会的扩展。它显示圣灵在五旬节的倾倒如何导致犹太人外邦人领受福音。

神召会这个运动，发源于1906年的艾苏萨街。当时，教会经历五旬节圣灵大能的恢复。圣灵的恩赐在人们的身上流露—说方言、释放先知性话语、见证神迹奇事。教会的聚会一个接一个进行，因为人们对圣灵渴慕不已。五旬节的经验带来了属灵的觉醒，开始了世界性的运动。

**每个世代都有自己的故事。** *“世世代代的人都要颂赞你的作为，他们要传扬你大能的作为。”* (诗篇145:4 新译本)。纵观历史，神曾几次大能地运行，而艾苏萨街的复兴只是教会经历的众多复兴之一。1972年，英华学校的一些学生经历了圣灵的浇灌，发起了新加坡的灵恩运动。一群群学生定时地聚集在巴克路

边的钟楼祷告。如果当年你走上巴克路的山坡，你会看到一群群的英华学生在祷告。他们抓紧机会在课前，课时和课后向神呼求。

**每个世代都有自己当跑的路。** *“……大卫在他自己的世代里，遵行了神的计划，就睡了……”* (使徒行传13:36新译本)在1994年，花菲卫理中学基督徒团契的一群学生在学校的篮球场上热切祈祷了整整一年后，学校经历了复兴。来自别的教会的学生相继加入他们的行列。他们对神的饥渴越来越大。每个班都有祷告小组。休息时间，食堂都空了，因为学生都在为他们那代人祷告。学校里，礼拜时间的气氛转化了。在学校的复活节演出时，半数以上的学生接受了耶稣的救恩！

**每个世代都有自己的复兴。** *“因为耶和华本是美善的，他的慈爱存到永远，他的信实直到万代。”* (诗篇100:5新译本)祂对每个世代都是信实的。早期教会有站起来对人群说话，呼吁他们归向耶稣的彼得，而当天门徒增加了三千人(使徒行传2:41)。在1517年，有带来宗教改革的马丁·路德。在1906年，有带领五旬节派改革的威廉·西蒙。在他的带领下，1914年的神召会运动诞生了。

神要在每一代人中动工。我相信新一波的全球性复兴要来了，而我们有责任挑旺复兴之火。问题是，你愿意兴起，去挑旺你那代人的复兴之火，还是去熄灭它？

我们生活在历史上最精彩的时候。在2033年，我们将庆祝耶稣基督升天和五旬节圣灵开始浇灌。这个重要里程碑的最佳庆祝方式就是将强大的教会和大丰收献给主。

2033年之前的几年很重要。我们必须明白我们生活在末世，而且在圣灵的煽动下，复兴已经不远了。2019冠状病毒促使世界按下重启键。随着世界走出疫情，教会是时候为世界作希望和救赎之光了。

MM33 (《祂的旨意·我们的使命》)代表耶稣在公元33年给教会的旨意和使命。这个记载于马太福音28:19的委托代代呼应。当时五旬节的大能就在我们里面。让我们运用它行世界前所未见，大有成果的布道、门训和植堂！

现在迎接复兴是最好不过的时刻了。为着这个时刻，主已装备好了信徒。神召会现在是一个沟通有效的全球性运动，跨及140多个国家！我们的共同资源、全球教会和会友已增加，而我们也已准备好更大影响世界。

你愿意号召这个世代接受救恩吗？你愿意渴望圣灵全新浇灌这个世代，使每一代都能看到复兴的发生吗？



# Zion Full Gospel Church Camp —Sing ‘O’ Zion

From August 5-7, 2022, we came together for a church camp to “disconnect” with the outside world and “reconnect” to God.

By Natasha Bong, Zion Full Gospel Church

When I was approached to write a personal reflection on church camp, I readily agreed. After all, how tough can that be? A week later, I realized that reflection takes more than a quick “Yes”—because ‘reflecting’ is never easy. I never thought that when I said yes, I would be disconnected from my devices and sitting with a pen and paper to literally “write” the article, but that was exactly what I ended up doing!

Looking back, that same theory applied to church camp for me. This was my first church camp in many years, and it gave me the opportunity to truly ‘disconnect’ to ‘reconnect’ with God. This is not to say that church camp was ‘quiet’ all the time (we can be noisily fun at times too!), but I believe many would agree that some of the best moments in church camp were the “offline” moments—moments where we had morning devotions, sermons, games, or just fellowship over the multiple meals. We were given the opportunity to reconnect back with God, with church, and with the community.

While disconnecting could mean tuning out from the outside world, my experience at church camp also made me realize that there was another form of disconnecting that was at move. Throughout church camp, there was a growing awareness within me for the need to ‘disconnect’ with what I was “comfortable” with and reassessed my understanding of the “things I have always known.”

Ps Henson Lim’s sharing highlighted the importance of worshiping with the right purpose, which I understood as worshiping with the right heart and the right intention.

Three statements from the sharing stuck with me:

- 1) Kingdom People worship with Kingdom Purpose,
- 2) Worship of God must align with the Will of God, and
- 3) Passionate Worship leads to Practical Worship.



*Sing ‘O’ Zion Camp*



*Camp Speaker, Ps Henson Lim, sharing the Word*

“Whose Kingdom is it?” Pastor Henson asked. “God’s Kingdom,” we said. I realized in that moment that while it may be easy to declare that it is God’s Kingdom, acting on it does not come so easily. It is hard to give up the things we are comfortable with.

However, it is a decision we must make—acknowledging that it is God’s Kingdom means as Kingdom People, we are *His* People, and worshiping Kingdom Purpose means we are called to worship *His* Purpose and to be aligned to *His* Will for us. We must understand the purpose before we can truly worship God. Worship involves submission, surrender, and sacrifice. There is a need to trust in the Lord and let him take the wheel. This ties in to one of my favorite verses, Matthew 6:21, that reminds us that our treasures should lie with God, lest our hearts and desires not be aligned with Him.

Nevertheless, I would not deny that in the world we live in, it is a constant struggle to not try to arm wrestle God to our will. However, when we truly submit and surrender to God (no matter our fears) by opening the doors of our



*God be enthroned*



*Life-giving water of God flowing in and overflowing our hearts*

heart, I envision it like Carissa’s drawing on the last night of church camp—the life-giving water of God will just flow in and overflow our hearts. Church camp may have ended on Day 3, but I believe the ‘awakenings’ (and fun!) that we had will remain with us as we once again ‘reconnect’ back to the world.



# Eternal Life Assembly's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary —Go Deeper, Reach Higher

Thanksgiving for  
the past and looking  
forward to the future.

By Jennifer Lee, Eternal Life (EL) Assembly

## The Journey

It all started in a small residential unit at Bo Bo Tan Gardens in July 1967. EL's humble beginnings included a handful of members and limited financial resources. Thankfully by God's grace, the small congregation grew. Growth came with the challenge of having to find a place to hold its services. Growth brought about new challenges. We were constantly on the hunt for new places to hold our growing congregation. Venues rented included halls at Foo Chow Association, Apollo Hotel, PUB Building as well as landed properties at Devonshire and Pasir Panjang.

Each move saw God's grace and provision. Today, EL resides at Bukit Timah Shopping Centre (since November 2000) and enjoys the facilities of two beautiful auditoriums, ten training cum classrooms as well as the church office—a place fully paid up and where we can call our own! Praise the Lord!

## The Celebrations

The journey has truly testified God's goodness and faithfulness. A celebration service was held on July 9, 2022, to mark this milestone! This joyous occasion was graced by its founding pastor, Rev John Lee, and the Assemblies of God Singapore General Superintendent, Rev Dominic Yeo.

An inter-congregational worship team led the church into a time of exuberant praise and worship. It was also timely and memorable for the new addition to our pastoral staff, Rev Gary Chia, to be ordained by Rev Dominic on this special occasion. Besides a special item presentation from the Filipino Congregation and cake-cutting ceremony, Faithfulness Awards for 15 years and 50 years were presented to members who have faithfully journeyed with the church.

A year-long celebration awaits beyond July 9, 2022. EL has been blessed to be a blessing. Community events have been lined up to bless hospice patients, migrant workers as well as neighboring low-income households in the following month.

Internally, bonding programs which aim to bring inter-congregations and inter-generations closer together are also in the pipeline, ending with a fun banquet finale towards the end of the year! God is good!



*The pastors and leaders gathering on stage for the cake-cutting ceremony*



*Here together to celebrate our church's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



*Our guest speaker, Rev Dominic Yeo, preaching the word*

## The Message

In line with EL's theme, "Go Deeper, Reach Higher," Rev Dominic's three-point sermon was a kairos word, exhorting the church to align with the VISION, WORD and PLACEMENT of God.

Just as God has assured Joshua that the old season was over with Moses' passing, the Lord similarly has better and greater things in-store for Joshua and the Israelites. The old season of 55 years has passed, and God will restore the church for the greater!

We were reminded of the importance of coming into agreement with God's VISION. His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9) and He has better plans for us (Jeremiah 29:11). His WORD is the manifestation of heaven, and our deliberate acceptance is key for His promises to unfold. God has a PLACEMENT for those He calls. And when He places, He will position us!

Indeed, we believe that God has called EL to a new season. We have a new placement, a new mandate! We trust that God is empowering and strengthening the pastoral team, equipping the leaders and expanding the ministries. The best is yet to come and we claim the promise that the glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house (Haggai 2:9). To God be the glory!



*Rev Gary Chia ordained by Rev Dominic Yeo*



*An inter-congregational worship team leading the church in a time of worship*



# When We Look with Our Hearts

Trinity Christian Centre's Vision Weekend saw Trinitarians expressed their faith through abundant giving.

By Zoey Tay, Trinity Christian Centre

"There can be miracles when you believe," echoes—from the soundtrack: *When You Believe*, from the movie Prince of Egypt. When God delivered His people from slavery. It takes faith to believe, "*faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ*" (Romans 10:17). We need faith to build for generations.

Faith was stirred up amongst Trinitarians as we gathered as a family. From September 16 to 18, 2022, guest speaker Ps Dr Philip Lyn, Senior Pastor of Skyline SIB, Malaysia, exhorted us with sermons titled, 'This One Thing' (Vision Rally), and 'When the Miraculous Chooses You' (Vision Weekend).



*Our guest speaker, Ps Dr Philip Lyn delivering the Word of God*

Trinitarians, who heard the powerful messages preached, were empowered to look with our hearts and not our minds. With faith in our hearts, a grand total of **\$12,147,164.88** was committed to this year's Vision Faith Promise.

With a vision of "Building for Generations", Trinitarians are committed to give to the building fund, to build more

storehouses for the harvest that God will give to us. When new souls come to know and accept Jesus Christ as Lord, they will fill the new houses in time to come. We are excited about the opening of Trinity@Adam on December 31, and the projected opening of Trinity@Choa Chu Kang in the second half of 2023. We also look forward with anticipation for other building opportunities that God will give to us.

As a new member of Trinity family, I was floored. Deeply impacted by the Kingdom culture, I wondered what God was downloading into the hearts of Trinitarians!



*The congregation coming together in worship*



*We each hold a miracle in our hands*



*Filling in the Faith Promise Card as an act of faith*

Three Trinitarians, Daniel Pang from Campus Ministry, Shireen Kriplani and her husband, shared with us how this year's Vision Weekend had left an indelible mark on them.

## On celebrating Vision Month...

### Shireen's husband:

Ps Dr Philip Lyn emphasized that we ought to look towards the future of what God has planned for us and stay focused on the one main thing—getting souls saved for eternity.

Building for Jesus is about capturing God's heartbeat for people, running with that purpose, and passing the baton to next generations.

### Shireen:

Vibrant! Trinity is always creative and passionate. The prayer pointers for our 21-day fast and prayer, thoughtful mementos where we could chart our journey through Vision Month with the prayer card, prayer impressions and Faith Promise Card. Not to forget, the photobooth we could visit with our physical and spiritual family. Despite the size of the church, there is always warmth and a sense of belonging.

### Daniel:

Capturing photos at the Photo Booth was a great way to remind us of the wonderful relationships we have forged in Trinity. The photos also remind us that it was the people who collectively build the church for the coming generations.

The building and its structures and equipment do not make the church. The church is more than these things. Rather, the people make the church. We are responsible for partnering with God to ensure that Trinity leaves a legacy that lasts through generations.

It was exhilarating for me to witness the numbers ascending from five to eight figures on Sunday. Behind the numbers, it was Trinitarians living out their core values of passionate honor, relentless belief, audacious fervor, contagious faith. A deep desire to see revival and Kingdom expansion was expressed through their abundant offering unto God. Such a Kingdom culture was indeed infectious and unforgettable for me. Especially when the miraculous chose me to serve the Lord in Trinity at a time such as this.



# You are INCREDI-BOWL!

A father-child bonding event organized by Family Life Ministry.

By Rev Derek Sim, Elim Church

Fathers are typically seen by most children as the more serious and fierce parent and may come across as authoritarian and unloving. Yet fathers are uniquely placed by God to head their households and to love their family the way God loves us. As a way to foster greater bonds between fathers and their children, Elim Church Family Life Ministry decided to organize, for the first time, a father-child bonding activity called “You Are Incredi-Bowl!”

The committee laid out two objectives for this activity. Firstly, we wanted our fathers in Elim to bond with their children through a fun activity that all ages could enjoy. Secondly, we wanted men across generations in Elim to get to know and to bond with one another.

With these in mind, we headed to Kallang Bowl in Leisure Park Kallang on the morning of July 16, 2022. All 50 places were snapped up during registration, and as participants arrived, we could sense the eagerness of both parents and children as they awaited the friendly competition to begin.

## Building Relationships Through Play

Participants were assigned to their bowling lanes according to their family groups together with others. The friendly



*Parent-child teams deep into the games*

competition commenced at 10am, and it was a great joy to see fellowship and acts of love taking place throughout the venue. Fathers taught their children how to bowl with care and patience. The older and the younger celebrated and encouraged one another with cheers and high-fives.

## Building a Community of Fathers and Godly men

This event was also an opportunity for the fathers and brothers in Elim to get to know one another. Some of the empty-nesters and young adults joined in for the fun and fellowship, and it was heartwarming to see brothers across generations getting to know one another, making new friends and sharing life together, especially among those who would usually attend different services on the weekend. Some of the wives and mums came as well to show support, cheering their families on even if they were not bowling.

At the end of the two-hour session, three teams with the highest score across two games won medals for their achievement. I am certain, however, that the scores did not matter as much as the love and friendship on display.

Overall this event was truly a fun and eventful time for all participants, and the Family Life Ministry Committee are grateful for all the dads and mums and brothers who came and who played a part in making this event a great success. We look forward to more of such activities in the future, as we seek to foster love and care for one another at every stage of family life.



*The INCREDI-BOWL participants*



*Our medallists*



*Family Life Committee who put everything together*



# Blessed Grace 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner —Celebrating God's Goodness

A time to give thanks to God, a time to celebrate and a time to warm hearts.

By Christina Lim, Blessed Grace Social Services

After a hiatus of two years, Blessed Grace Social Services (BGSS) was finally able to hold a physical dinner at Jubilee Garden Restaurant on September 4, 2022. A total of almost 1120 turned up for the event. It was indeed an evening of celebration, testifying of the goodness of God in our lives. The Guest-of-Honor for this event was Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education.

The evening started with four beneficiaries from each of our core programs (Chai Chee ElderCare, Gambling Addiction Recovery Centre, Narcotics Addiction Recovery Centre/Prison Outreach, and Migrant Domestic Workers Care Group) showing their appreciation for the help they have received from BGSS. Their heartfelt words warmed the hearts of many who had arrived.

Next was the energetic Zumba dance performed by some of the beneficiaries and family members of BGSS Gambling Addiction Recovery Centre. That truly broke all ice and got the hearts of guests pumping, ready for more. Seeing the volunteers rallying together to carry the wheelchair-bound elderly onto the stage was one of the most touching moments. With smiles on their faces, the elderly danced along to the song "Chan Mali Chan" as everyone cheered them on.

For the rest of the evening, beneficiaries from BGSS took turns to stand on stage, either sharing their personal testimonies or singing out in unity. Many guests were moved by their courage to stand up and testify of God's goodness.

Indeed, the spirit of restoration and transformation resonated throughout the hall. What a blessed night by the grace of God!



Participants packed the entire ballroom in BGSS 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner



Mr Chan (third from left), our Guest-of-Honor with BGSS Board of Directors



Gambling Addiction Recovery Centre beneficiaries



Energy from the Zumba dance was electrifying



Migrant Domestic Workers Care Group beneficiaries



Narcotics Addiction Recovery Centre beneficiaries



Chai Chee ElderCare beneficiaries



# Grace Christian Centre Discipleship Course

Hear how the  
Discipleship Course  
benefited the leaders  
and the participants.

By Rev Tay Hey Tong, Grace Christian Centre

God inspired me to start this course in January 2022 in response to Matthew 12:43-45, urging me to nurture our people with God's Word, otherwise the devil and the world would infiltrate their minds with wrong teachings. During the course, I covered the themes of the fruit of the Spirit, to grow in wisdom and to lay down our lives to serve God and others. I thank God for a fruitful time of discipleship.

Here is some feedback from both leaders and members on what they learned at the Discipleship Course:



"As a teacher of the Discipleship Course, I was able to uncover more of God's truth while mentoring the students. New insights were gleaned, such as the depth of God's love as Biblical principles and verses were shared with them." — **Lester Lim**, leader

"It was interesting to learn how to grow in wisdom. In addition, I applied what I had learned by sharing God's love with the people around me. I thanked God for the great opportunity of learning." — **Lee Zheng Xian**, 14, student



"I made full use of the opportunity to do an in-depth study of the Bible verses given to us during the course before I imparted what I had learned to my young believers. I thanked God for this great opportunity to be used by God." — **Wan Foong Sim**, leader

"I learned to love God by loving others. When others hated me, I would still love, pray and do good to them." — **Ling Yi Xian**, 8, student

"I learned to put God first by coming to church every week to learn more about God's Word and serve him more." — **Ling Yi Xun**, 8, student



"The process of preparing and teaching the lessons had enabled me to understand God's Word better, motivated me to apply it in my life more and strengthened my personal relationship with God." — **Gideon Tay**, leader

"Being taught in the Discipleship Course, I was able to develop a greater understanding of the Word of God. Also, it helped me apply what I had learned in real life, such as enabling me to relate well in my interpersonal relationships and in times of emergencies. Finally, I had learned and experienced the depth of God's love in my life." — **Lua Zi Ying**, 15, student



"Mentoring the students in our Discipleship Course had allowed me the opportunity to study God's Word in depth as I prepared the lessons for the students. By doing so, it helped to further reinforce my understanding of the Scriptures." — **Esther Tay**, leader

"After I had attended the Discipleship Course, I learned to put God first and served him more faithfully." — **Wu Jun Lin**, 10, student



"Learning in-depth the solid teaching materials prepared by my pastor, my foundation was fortified and I grew spiritually. As I taught the youths, I was encouraged that they were not playful but hungry for God's Word. In addition, I was invigorated because they were being transformed more and more into Christlikeness by God." — **Kalai Arasan**, leader

"Being able to teach at the Discipleship Course not only helped me grow spiritually, but also enabled me to see the growth in my students' lives." — **Angeline Mok**, associate leader

"The Discipleship Course had helped me gain more understanding about God's Word, such as the depth of God's love and I was able to apply it in real life to bless others." — **Jeriel Ho**, 15, student



# Mandate of Christ—Redefining Church, Redefining Context, Redefining Christian-life

*An interactive and engaging session with Rev Dr Philip Huan on redefining “Church”, “Context” and “Christian-life”.*

*By Rev Winnie Ong, Lifeline Family Church*

The Ministers Training and Togetherness in Prayer (2TiP) was held at Trinity Christian Centre on April 4, 2022. After the opening prayer and worship, the attendees were introduced to Rev Dr Philip Huan. Raised and ordained in the Methodist Church, Rev Dr Philip ministers to high-level leadership such as senior pastors, church boards, and ministry staff across local and international denominations. God puts in Rev Dr Philip's heart love and passion for the local church and conveys what God is saying in this pandemic.

COVID-19 has brought about sadness and discouragement to the churches and reset a new normal in the way we do church. We must pray for an anointing from the Holy Spirit to give us new ideas to do church. Rev Dr Philip spoke on the subject of “Redefining the Post-Pandemic New Normal.”

He created a group chat for his session and asked the ministers to type in their answers to his questions. Participants sent in short and crisp answers to the chat.

## Redefining Church

What is “church” and how do we do it and define it? Rev Dr Philip gave this definition: Church is a community of Christ-followers who grow in and lives out God-values of their faith, anchored as value-based pillars of ministry, e.g., faith, outreach, harmony, reconciliation, and word-based decisions.

He showed a slide of a survey to the question “Which takes the most of your church's time, effort, and resources presently?” Six items were listed: Nurturing, Mentoring; Word; Worship; Hospitality/*Oikos*; Outreach; and Mission. Understandably in this pandemic, Outreach and Mission took the last two places.

At this point, he asked the ministers to say a prayer for their churches and typed in the chat, “God, I need this for my church...”

## Redefining Context

The landscape is the “Pandemic and Social Movements”. Some Christians are



1



2



3



4

uncomfortable with seeing their traditions disrupted and unable to connect online. Newcomers who visited church online may find this being their only connection to the church.

Online is a valid community and social media is the new “public square”. This is a new and future world for discipleship and the Church must find a pathway to engage, reach out and win this community.

## Redefining Christian Life

There was group work for about 20 minutes. Participants were to select the top issue they resonated with and gathered in groups of three to five people. They worked out the Three Rs: Resonance, Reasons, and Response in the discussion.

The interactive session was a success and the ministers could resonate with the topics discussed.

1 Empowered to serve His Mandate

2 Guest speaker, Rev Dr Philip Huan, ministering the Word

3 As we praised and sought the Lord together.

4 Discussion and prayer



# Missions Unstoppable in a Pandemic

*A 14-year-old eye-opening E-Missions experience.*

*By Hannah Cheong, Bethel Assembly of God (Outpost #1)*

I will always remember December 3, Friday, 2021. I sat at the table together with my Adventure Rangers (AR) Commanders Julie Goh and Mark Teo. We all had our personal laptops in front of us, readying ourselves to go on a virtual missions trip or E-Missions. We did this in place of our outpost's annual mission trip to Iloilo City, Philippines. No packed luggage, no flights to catch, and no hotel stays to worry about. It was just our laptops and our ready hearts to be a blessing to the children in Iloilo.

We were excited because this was an unprecedented adventure.

When we joined the Zoom session, there were already 200 children from 19 Iloilo churches logged in. The local coordination was supported by Bethlehem Charismatic International Fellowship. Our mission was to help run an engaging two-hour session for the children, ranging in ages from 11 to 14 years old. We chose to model our session as a Royal Rangers meeting with a Bible story, program features, games and devotion. I was also tasked to share the devotion - a simple story to illustrate a single spiritual truth.

My commanders were confident in running a program over Zoom as they had to do so during the last 18 months of the pandemic. Commander Mark shared a Bible Story on David and Goliath from 1 Samuel. He spoke with such clarity and energy, and the ARs listened with much interest even though some required interpretation from English to Tagalog. Commander Clarissa conducted the first Program Feature. She taught a song "Jesus Loves Me" with sign language. It was well-paced, and the children were able to learn the sign language and they sang along with such enthusiasm.

Commander Julie conducted the second Program Feature. She told a story on the "Cross" using papercut to illustrate John 3:16. As Commander Julie told the story, she patiently led everyone to fold and tear their A4 papers and at the end of the story, the A4 paper revealed a cross. Indeed, our truest happiness is in Jesus. Commander

Mike led two recreational games—Ten Fingers and Broken Telephone. These brought much cheer and fun to the children.

After most of the activities were conducted, I shared a devotion using the story of Zaccheus emphasizing that God loves everyone, God's love changes us and it is never too late to follow Jesus. An opportunity was given for those who wanted to receive Christ and many children responded. Praise be to God!

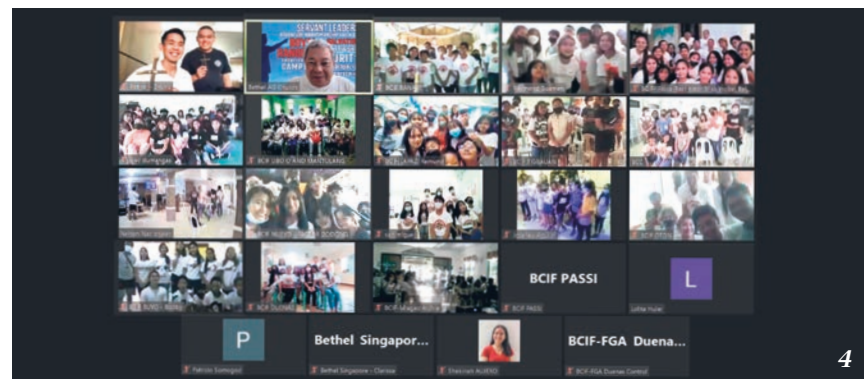
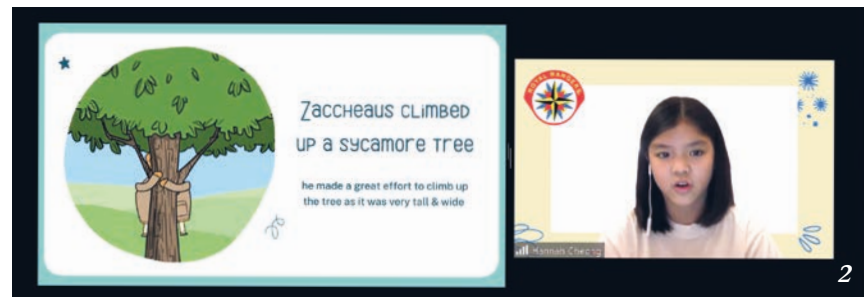
Through this E-Missions experience, I felt humbled and thankful. Despite it being a Zoom meeting, I could feel the joyful atmosphere and responses from the children. As much as I got involved, thinking I was there to bless the children of Iloilo, I was tremendously blessed myself in doing so.

Missions is truly unstoppable even in a pandemic! I loved how my Commanders led in the various activities, and how they interacted with the ARs over Zoom. I felt so proud as my Commanders and I ventured into this extraordinary experience together. There was much for me to learn from their hearts and passion in going all out to give of themselves in the Royal Rangers ministry - reaching, teaching and keeping boys and girls for Christ.



Royal Rangers weekly meetings are ongoing and back to physical meetings. If you are between 5-18 years old, there is an age group for you to join.

Visit [www.royalrangers.org.sg](http://www.royalrangers.org.sg) to find a church (outpost) to join in the fun and adventure!



- 1 I was excited for the opportunity to be part of the core team that planned, coordinated and ran the E-Missions for the 11 to 14 years old children of Iloilo City, Philippines
- 2 My first experience sharing a devotion at the E-Missions program
- 3 The children were very spontaneous to showcase their cheers and yells, their excitement and energy could be felt through cyberspace
- 4 The E-Missions also included programs to children of other age groups from 5 to 18 years old, and we were able to collectively bless 921 pastors, leaders, children from 19 churches and celebrate over 300 salvations



# ACTS College Retreat 2022 —Empowered by the Spirit

*After a two-year hiatus, ACTS College Retreat finally returned to a physical one.*

*By Euvin Aw, ACTS College*

ACTS College Retreat took place from July 13-15, 2022, at Changi Cove, with Dr Simon Chan as the speaker.

Solitude. This word impressed the planning committee's heart as they prayed for God's direction in this retreat. In the past two years, many may not have been able to have that, having to continuously adapt to the new COVID-19 measures that were constantly changing. At the same time, we all found ourselves having to attend zoom meeting after zoom meeting. Thus, it has become apparent that the need for solitude is very important as we tide through this time of transition.

Dr Simon started the first night session by encouraging us to cultivate the habit of solitude. It is more than just resting or being alone; it is a time to seek God and hear His voice. The aim is not just for one's spiritual health but also to be better able to fight the Lord's battles. He went on to highlight the importance of having both solitude and community, as well as the need to hold these two in tension.

What better way to get to know one another through games! We were divided into small groups, where we went around Changi Beach, not just to challenge the physical body, but also to share our thoughts, reflect on the day and pray

together. An amazing grace indeed, I mean race—Amazing Race!

In the subsequent sessions, Dr Simon shared on *'The Holy Spirit, Giver of Life'*, where we were taught three progressive steps; to be controlled by the Spirit, to mortify our sinful nature and to be led by the Spirit. Finally, ending the last session with, *'The Holy Spirit, Giver of Hope'*, for without the Spirit-inspired hope, we live only for the present.

The retreat concluded with a sunrise service by the beach. A meaningful way to conclude the three days. We were introduced to the term *'Ad orientem'*—A practice of the early church to face the east, awaiting the second coming of Christ. Even as we ended the retreat, each going back to our individual churches and ministries, we were reminded to practice what we had learned over the past three days, with our hearts "facing the east", waiting for the return of Jesus.



- 1 Dr Simon Chan joining in the icebreakers
- 2 Sunrise service by the beach
- 3 A session with Dr Simon on the Empowerment of the Spirit
- 4 Empowered by the Spirit Retreat
- 5 Enjoying a time of Amazing Race



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# Assemblies of God Singapore —Our Roots in Pentecostalism

*As a denomination, Assemblies of God (AG) Singapore has its roots in the early days of Pentecostalism. Bro Edmund Chua studies into this history and shows us that we are empowered to preach the full gospel.*

In spite of its relatively short history of 200 over years, the Pentecostal movement has, since its inception, grown at an exponential rate to make up close to 10% of the world's population today (Goheen 2014, 180). Notwithstanding the “bewildering varieties” of movements in global Pentecostalism, all Pentecostal movements, including the Assemblies of God Singapore's (AGS), share in one common origin (Anderson 2017, 649). It is the definitive event of the Bethel Bible School revival in Topeka, Kansas. Much like how Christianity today finds its roots in the historical event of Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection, and builds its identity around the meaning of this event and its consequent events; Pentecostalism likewise finds its roots in the Bethel Bible School revival and builds its identity around the meaning of this event and its consequent events, including the Azusa Street revival.

## Our Extraordinary Origins

The Bethel Bible School revival began on January 1, 1901, when Agnes Ozma, a student at the college, broke out in tongues after prolonged sessions of corporate intercession with members of the college community who were seeking for the Pentecost experience and empowerment. Led by the Bible school principal Charles Parham, students at the college fervently sought the outpouring of the Spirit's power after they exhaustively searched the Scriptures and became convinced that the Bible promised a continuing and all-inclusive empowerment of God's people for His mission (Goff 2002, 956). It is in this revival that principal Charles Parham developed Pentecostalism's distinctive theology of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a unique and subsequent experience to conversion, evidenced by the speaking of tongues. This baptism would serve as believers' gateway to supernatural gifts of the Spirit and power for Christian witness and service. It would lead believers into deeper love of God and greater fervency for Christian witness (Ward 2016, 660). The Pentecostal theology would later be taught by Parham to William Seymour, who would later preach about it and personally experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, before being used by God to initiate the famed Azusa Street revival in 1906 (Robeck 2002, 1055).

## Our Phenomenal Growth

The Bethel Bible School revival was not an isolated charismatic move of the Holy Spirit. Supernatural manifestations including outbreaks of tongues were reported in the United States and Asia prior to and after this (Ward 2016, 660). These include earlier revivals like the Moravian Brethren revival and the Wesleyan revival in 1700s, and later revivals like the Welsh revival in 1904–1905 and John Sung's revivals in 1920–1930s. While each of these revivals featured Spirit-empowered ministers who would call thousands into repentance, none were able to produce a global movement sustained by successive generations of Spirit-empowered ministers bringing the message of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The Bethel Bible School revival is unique because it was not just about believers turning their hearts to God after encountering the Holy Spirit. At its core, it is about the sharing of the message of Christ's tangible

empowerment of His people through the personal experience of the baptism of Holy Spirit. This sharing happens in words, initially through the content of Charles Parham's teaching; in deeds, through active prayer to seek the Holy Spirit's empowerment; and in the move of God, through Christ baptizing His people in the Holy Spirit. Pentecostalism was able to multiply exponentially over the last two centuries because of this succession formula. Successive generations of ministers would preach about and demonstrate God's charismatic empowerment to stir up anticipation of God's empowerment in the next generation and then leading the next generation to receive God's empowerment through baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is why, as Pentecostals, we are proud to say that we preach a full gospel of not just the events recorded in the Gospels, but also the events recorded in the Book of Acts with the crowning moment being the event of Pentecost.

## Our Unique Identity

To the wider Christian community, Christ is our Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King. As Pentecostals, we know dearly that Christ is more than that. Christ is also our Spirit Baptizer. This is not just something that we cognitively acknowledge but also something we believe in dearly because of our personal experience with Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is why we do not just preach the full gospel in words, but we also communicate it in deeds by fully embracing the charismatic empowerment of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives, worship, and ministry practice.

Our roots in Pentecostalism are not purely historical. Pentecost and the Bethel Bible School revival are not unique historical events. Successive generations of Pentecostals experience the event of Pentecost when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Our experiences of direct encounters with God as well as our continued reflection of these encounters form our Pentecostal identity which we live out in all that we do (Vondey 2017, 18–19).

## Our Shared Calling

This year, we embark on a new and exciting chapter of mission sending, church planting, and discipleship by pursuing MM33's audacious vision. Our Pentecostal identity would inform us that our mission in MM33 is to send Spirit-filled missionaries like Parham who would preach the full gospel and lead others like Ozma and Seymour into encountering God through Pentecost. It is also to commission those who encountered God to likewise go forth and bring others into the same encounter with God. To plant more than half a million churches across the world in ten years is a tall order. It will take more than just a handful of ministers in respective Assemblies of God churches to fulfill this mandate. How God mightily empowered the common and marginalized, like Ozma, a woman, and Seymour, a black, in the 1900s, tells us that He is willing to pour out His Spirit on all people to accomplish this mission. To be willing to be empowered and sent is therefore the call that our generation will have to answer. More than that, we are also to preach the same full gospel to the next generation so that they would likewise be willing to answer the same call from our God who is ever willing to empower and send.



**Bro Edmund Chua** is passionate about Christian education. He believes that the purpose of Christian education is to transform lives and to equip saints for service in the Kingdom. He also strongly believes that all Christians are called to be humbly empowered for service. Edmund currently serves full-time as Registrar at ACTS College. He enjoys mentoring young adults to witness God's purpose unfold in his mentees' lives. As a self-professed Bible geek, Edmund cracks Greek jokes.

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# Three Keys We Should Know About Assemblies of God

*If you were to give a concise summary of what one should know about the Assemblies of God (AG), what would you say? Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock gives us three keys.*

In conjunction with the MM33 theme for this issue, “His Mandate, Our Identity,” I would like to highlight three keys to knowing the Assemblies of God (AG). The core beliefs of AG are articulated in its 16 Fundamental Truths<sup>1</sup>. The first version of the Fundamental Truths was written in 1906 to unite the movement as the leadership involved in the formation of AG came from different denominational churches after they had experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the Azusa Street revival meetings.

## The First Key: The Bible is the Word of God

The opening words in the introduction to AG Tenets of Faith are, “*The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice*” and its very First Statement states, “*The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct*” (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21). We must hold fast to our belief that the Bible is the Word of God, and that it is the foundation to all our beliefs and practices. Let me share three reasons why the Bible is the Word of God:

**Unity and Consistency.** The sixty-six books in the Bible were written by forty authors within a span of 1,600 years. Although the writers were from different countries and backgrounds, there is an incredible unity in its contents. For example, Moses recorded “*the Word of the Lord*” during the Exodus around 1440BC from Egypt to Canaan (Exodus 24:4; Numbers 33:1-2; Deuteronomy 31:9). Jesus who lived around 33AD told the Jews, “*If you believe Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*” (John 5:46-47). Twenty-five years later, Paul mentioned Moses in his letter to the Romans (Romans 10:5-9). Jesus came and fulfilled the law and the writings of the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 5:17-18).

**Authentic and Accurate.** The geographical and historical records are accurate and authentic. Sir William Ramsay, one of the greatest archaeologists in mid-nineteenth century, was sceptical of the accuracy of Luke’s writings. However, he concluded at the end of his investigation that “*Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of facts trustworthy, he is possessed of the true historic sense...*” in short, this author should be placed along with the greatest of historians.”<sup>2</sup>

**Alive and Still Speaking.** Jesus said, “*The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life*” (John 6:63b). The writer of Hebrews concurred that “*the word of God is living and active*” (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God can instill faith in us (Romans 10:17). We would never have known Jesus if we do not have the Bible. During my secondary school days, I resisted the Gospel and often argued with Christians who witnessed to me. During my long medical leave in 1974, I read a book entitled, “*The Greatest Is Love*”<sup>3</sup> not knowing that it was the Bible. I wept as I read the four Gospels. I surrendered my life to Jesus and acknowledged Him as my Lord and Savior. For the past 48 years God has not stopped speaking to me through the Bible!

## The Second Key: The Holy Spirit

Another key emphasis of the AG is the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48; 19:1-6). John the Baptist proclaimed that Jesus would baptize believers with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11). Jesus told His disciples, “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8). With the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel spread from Jerusalem to other parts of the world. We need the Holy Spirit to do the same work today! Only He can convict the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment, and guide people into all truth (John 16:7-14).

We need the Holy Spirit to teach us all things and remind us of everything that Jesus ever told us (John 14:16,17,26) to carry out what He had commanded believers to do (Matthew 28:19-20).

In 1906, God poured out His Spirit upon a gathering of believers in an old warehouse which became the Azusa Street Mission on Azusa Street. The revival lasted night and day for three years and birthed forth the Pentecostal Movement. Both Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements could trace their roots back to the Azusa Street Mission. Today, there are more than 700 million Spirit-filled believers around the world.<sup>4</sup> We need God to do it again in the twenty-first century! Come Holy Spirit, we need You!

## The Third Key: The Church

People often associate church with a physical building, worship, songs, sermons, and liturgical practices. If these are what church is, what impact does the church have? The church is a gathering of believers who love the Lord and impact the world around them by the way they love and serve one another and shine for Jesus!

**Love.** Jesus commanded us to love one another just as He loved you, “*By this all people will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another.*” (John 13:34-35). Let us begin with one simple thing that we all can do together: start to speak well of one another, speak well of church leaders, and of our churches.

**Serve.** Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45), and He is our role model (John 13:1-17). When the Early Church believers served one another despite their differences, the Gospel spread, rapidly increasing the number of believers. Even the priests who opposed them were converted (Acts 6:1-7). When we come together, the Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to us to serve effectively, and to build up one another (1Corinthians 12-14).

*Continued on pg 17...*



**Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock** is the Senior Pastor of Bethel Assembly of God and Chairman of Bethel Community Services. He also serves as the Treasurer of The Alliance of The Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of Singapore (APCCS), Executive Committee Member of the AG Singapore, President of Teen Challenge Singapore, Board Member of Tung Ling Bible School and Bible Society of Singapore, and Vice Chairman of IRCC (MacPherson). He holds a Doctor of Ministry and Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Asia Pacific Theological Seminary and a Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Theology (Ministry) from the University of Wales. He is happily married to May since 1977 and they have two adult sons.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ag.org.sg/tenets-of-faith/> accessed on 3 August 2022

<sup>2</sup> <https://bibleapologetics.org/luke-a-historian-of-the-first-rank/> accessed on 3 August 2022.

<sup>3</sup> “The Greatest Is Love” was used as the title of the cover of the New Testament, Living Bible Translation.

<sup>4</sup> George O. Wood, *What Azusa Had And We Need* <https://news.ag.org/es-ES/Features/What-Azusa-Had-and-We-Need> accessed on 3 August 2022.



# Three Reasons Why I Love the Assemblies of God

*Through the eyes of our longest serving General Superintendent, Rev Dr Patrick Lau shares why he loves the Assemblies of God (AG) Singapore movement.*

## My Association with the AG Singapore

I gave my heart to Jesus in 1965 through the ministry of Truth for Youth Movement, under Bethel Assembly. I had no idea then about denominations. All I knew was this church—Bethel Assembly. Through the years I discovered that Bethel Assembly was one of the churches under the umbrella of the AG Singapore. Later, I also learned that this is part of a worldwide AG Movement.

I grew spiritually in Bethel Assembly, learned the doctrines of AG (Singapore), and began to love this church, the people, and the leaders. I decided that this was where I would stay and embrace all the teachings of the AG.

Soon, I got deeper into this movement. I served as a pastor for over 43 years, and as the General Superintendent of this movement for 31 years. This is how much I have loved this movement, and still do.

## Why Do I Love This Movement?

### 1. The Doctrines of the AG (Singapore)

The AG Singapore, and worldwide, has a set of doctrines that we call the *16 Fundamental Truths or 16 Tenets of Faith*. It covers the basic teachings of the Bible. The AG doctrines are practical. They unify us as a movement, identify who we are, and build Christians to be strong and powerful witnesses for the Lord.

As a Christian and a pastor, I find the fundamental truths beneficial. They help me know where I stand. The doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues, has been a powerful instrument in the growth of the AG Churches. The empowerment from the Holy Spirit gives believers the boldness to be witnesses for Jesus. The Holy Spirit also enables believers to experience freedom in worship expression.

### 2. The All-Embracing Character of the AG (Singapore)

Though we have a set of fundamental doctrines to let people know where we come from and who we are as a movement, the AG is not exclusive. We do not behave that we are the only ones who have answers and are favored by God. We are not proud and arrogant but are very accommodating to other denominations. Let me elaborate on what I mean.

When serving as the General Superintendent, I was asked to sit on several interdenominational committees. I sat in the National Council of Churches (Singapore), Evangelical Fellowship of Singapore, Bible Society (Singapore) Advisory Council, Billy Graham Crusade planning committee, and the Military Christian Fellowship Advisory Council. Though the committee members were from different denominations,

we all worked well together. The other denominational leaders happily embraced me as an AG leader. I became a good friend to the leaders of the other denominations. That is why I love this movement. We work together to build God's Kingdom, not just our own kingdoms.

I recall another very amazing account about how the Lord granted us a favor. When our Bible school, Assemblies of God Bible College (the present ACTS College), needed to be registered with the Ministry of Education, it looked impossible. Without that recognition, overseas students could not study in our Bible School. It was the Late Canon James Wong, an Anglican Canon, who helped us to be registered with the Ministry of Education. He was then the Chairman of all Anglican Schools. It was then that we could accept overseas students. Over the years we have developed great friendships and fellowship with all denominations.

### 3. Passionate in Missions and Evangelism

I can say that the growth of this movement is due to its passion for missions and evangelism endeavors. When I was a young pastor, I was blessed to see how few churches (there were only about five AG churches in the 1960s) would always gather to plan for youth rallies, crusades, door-to-door evangelism, and other events. When I came into leadership, the fire for missions and passion for evangelism were still burning hot. I am glad to have witnessed many AG churches being pioneered in this period.

I cannot forget the youth rallies back then. Lorries carrying loads of believers and friends who were enthusiastically waving their own church flags would pull up at rally venues like Victoria Memorial Hall or Victoria Concert Hall. The halls would easily pack more than a thousand youths. There was so much excitement in evangelism and reaching people for Jesus.

The passion for missions was also strong. Most churches participated in the Mission Faith Pledge, introduced by Rev Dr Fred Seaward. I was amazed by how far churches engaged in missions. Even small churches were sending missionaries, supporting missionaries, and planting churches overseas. When the churches take care of God's business in missions and evangelism, He takes care of building the local churches. I love the cooperation among the AG churches. We move like a live movement. We are united. We move like a mighty army.

Dependence on the Holy Spirit to take the AG movement into powerful encounters continues to this day. We shall move forward till Jesus comes to take His Church. I am so glad to be part of the AG movement in Singapore.



**Rev Dr Patrick Lau**  
*K.T. is currently serving as the pioneer and Senior Pastor of Faith Fellowship International. He is also a Pastoral Mentor to younger pastors and ministers. He has served as the General Superintendent of the AG Singapore for 31 years and has sat on the committees of several local Christian organizations while in office as a General Superintendent. Rev Dr Lau is a veteran full-time minister and has been with the AG for over 50 years. He is married to Dr Rina Nga Su Yin. His two adult children are Rev Daphne Lau and Dwayne Lau.*



# Three Purposes for Identifying with My Local Church

*Why do we need to identify with a local church? Rev Jessamyn Tian delves into the Bible and presents her findings.*

The word 'church' in the New Testament (NT) is the translation of the Greek term *ekklesia*. It identifies a gathering of a group of believers in Jesus Christ. Hence, when Jesus declares, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18), Peter and the others knew what Jesus meant. It should be noted that 'church' was never used to refer to a building (synagogue, tabernacle, temple, chapel, etc.) where believers gathered.

The word 'church' in the NT refers to (a) "Local" churches: communities of believers defined by their geographical settings; and (b) "Universal" church: all believers (Jews and Gentiles) in Jesus Christ from all times and places. The first meeting of the universal church will take place during the Rapture. Until then, the local church is the believers' expression of community.

## God's Purposes in Establishing the Local Church

Every local church comprises a group of people saved, united in the Spirit, and called (individually and collectively) to represent and reflect Christ to the world. God's design is for the local church to fulfill the following purposes.

1. *Exaltation of God.* First and foremost, believers come together to worship God and exalt His Name.
2. *Edification of the saints.* This is accomplished through the five-fold ministry of the church. The pastor-teacher's role is to teach sound doctrine and its application to church members and help them to grow in spiritual maturity, that is, building up of the body of Christ. The church that is growing in faith and love is seen in their doing life together, caring for one another through prayer, honoring one another, encouraging one another, and meeting one another's needs through practical acts of kindness.
3. *Evangelization of the world.* As believers grow and mature in Christ, they would be compelled by the love of Christ to obey the Great Commission, to "go ... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things [Jesus] has commanded."

The ministerial responsibility of the local church therefore falls upon the members. **We are the church.** Yet, most churches do not function this way. Rather, they fit the "80/20 syndrome" where 20% of the members conduct 80% of the ministerial responsibility.

Friends, this should not be so. As followers of Jesus Christ, let us give ourselves wholeheartedly to see God's purposes for His local church fulfilled in and through our lives. Let us heed the admonition of the apostles, Christ's first disciples.

- Hebrews 10:24-25, NLT "Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

- John 9:4-5, NLT, "We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world."
- 2 Peter 1:1, NLT, apostle Peter's letter was addressed to those "who share the same precious faith we have..." and acknowledged that spiritual maturity is a remedy for false teaching, and a right response to heretics in the light of Christ's second coming.
- Ephesians 4:1-3, NLT, apostle Paul urged the believers "to lead a life worthy of your calling..." and reminded them of their roles in keeping the unity in the body.

## Reflection and Response

Since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, we have seen the good, the bad and the ugly in society and in the church. Generally, local church leaders have done well in navigating their flocks through the confusion and chaos, albeit losing some along the way. Overall, the local church has weathered the most difficult period of the pandemic and has emerged stronger. We witnessed with joy that church leaders have used the season to seek God as they innovate new ways to reach out to the lost and to care for those in the household of faith. This work is on-going, and our prayer is that God will give us the wisdom and courage to accomplish all the work He has for the church as we move into the next season.

However, the local church needs to do more than just to 'keep the church going.' More needs to be done in teaching and building up the church (the body of believers) so that we will be gripped by the urgency to fulfill the Great Commission. Dr Dallas Willard in his book, *The Great Omission* made two profound statements that support the observation above.

- "... the greatest issue facing the world today ... is whether those who, by profession or culture, are identified as Christians will become disciples—students, apprentices, practitioners—of Jesus Christ, steadily learning from him how to live the life of the Kingdom of the Heavens into every corner of human existence" (p. xv).
- Additionally, Dr Dallas Willard said that a great misconception of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century church is that "we can be Christians forever and never become disciples" (p. xi).

For the local church to live up to God's design, we must commit to a life of worship that pleases God and brings Him glory—not just when we gather on Sunday, but also when we go shopping, supervise our staff, parent our children, serve in the church, go on overseas mission, or exercise our citizenship. Then, the local church will be doing the same things that Jesus Christ would do if He were here physically on the earth. The church is "Christian," "Christ-like," and "Christ-following."



**Rev Jessamyn Tian** has contributed much to improve the operational efficiency and enhance the business models of the churches she had been associated with during the past three decades. She has a heart for the elderly and would partner with like-minded friends to reach out to the infirmed and elderly who live on their own. She is exploring avenues where her skill sets can be leveraged to increase the capabilities of institutions that care for the elderly.



# Healed from Diabetes!

*To be placed on long-term medication would seem like a death sentence to many. Is it possible to be healed from diabetes? Do miracles still happen? Agnes Yeo shares her miracle story of experiencing God's divine healing.*

*Adapted by Zoey Tay, Trinity Christian Centre*

When 51-year-old Agnes went for her regular medical check-up on April 9, 2022, she was diagnosed with diabetes. "I felt as if I was given a death sentence," shared Agnes, a professional in International Trade Compliance. Devastated, she was resigned to her fate of being placed on long-term medication.

The medication was not without side effects: already feeling helpless and discouraged, Agnes became easily irritated. Life seemed to edd out of her like a withering plant.

Tired of living without joy, she picked up courage to confide in a good friend who was a fervent Christian and a health care professional. This friend introduced Agnes to Trinity's livestream services and encouraged her to pray and trust God for divine healing.

But Agnes struggled. "I felt guilty for inflicting this illness upon myself. When I was diagnosed with pre-diabetes years back, I did not bother to change my lifestyle and continued to consume sugary drinks and foods. Could I ask God for healing?" she wondered.

Amidst her struggle, Agnes clung onto God's healing grace. "I might not be worthy, but Jesus is worthy" she whispered to herself. She began to pray and audaciously, asking God to heal her completely of diabetes.

A divine moment came when Agnes heard Lead Pastor Dominic Yeo's message, *'Tapestry for a Miracle'*. "Fully trusting God is not leaning on our own understanding!" declared Ps Dominic as he shared how God miraculously

healed him. As she heard the Word of God preached, she was stirred in faith to believe for and claim divine healing for herself. She felt impressed by the Holy Spirit to stop her long-term medication\*. Taking a leap of faith to trust God, she finally made lifestyle changes as well.

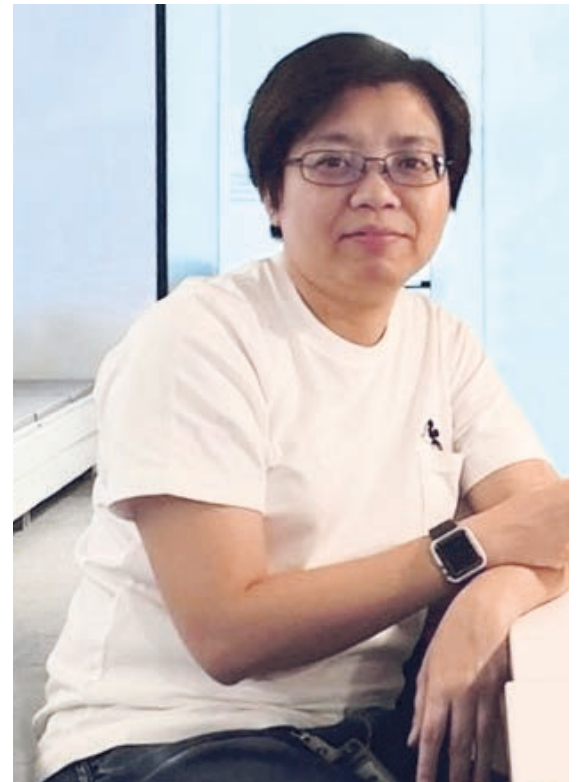
Three months later, Agnes went for a follow-up consultation. To her surprise, the doctor said no medication was needed anymore! A miracle had happened! Previously diagnosed with diabetes and placed on long-term medication, now Agnes has been divinely restored to health with zero medication needed!

"I thank God for leading me to Trinity Christian Centre to experience His grace and love," shared Agnes, who is part of a Connect Group now and has started serving as a Celebration Host at Trinity@Bukit Batok. "I am getting ready to usher in more visitors in the Decade of Expansion."

Agnes has since stopped consuming sugary drinks and foods and is on a healthier diet and lifestyle. Having overcome a health crisis, she has learned not to take good health, and especially God's grace, for granted.

*"With God all things are possible,"* (Matthew 19:26) has become Agnes' strong conviction. May you experience the God who makes all things possible when you take a leap of faith to trust and believe Him!

\*(Disclaimer) Do speak to your spiritual leaders and pastors whenever you receive such impressions and allow them to partner you on this journey of faith.



*Agnes has been divinely restored to health with zero medication*

...Continued from pg 14

**Shine.** The Church is *'the salt of the earth and the light of the world.'* People *"see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:13-16). The Church needs to light up the world with the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept us homebound for two years. It is time to gather back with your congregations. *"Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near"* (Hebrews 10:25, NLT).

A man had gone to church for several years but suddenly stopped attending. His pastor dropped by one evening. The man invited him in. He knew why his pastor came. They

went and sat in front of a fireplace. Neither man said anything. After a few minutes, the pastor picked up the tongs, took one of the logs out of the fire, and laid it on the hearth. The flames died down and flickered a few times before going out. They watched in silence as the log started to grow cold. The pastor once again picked up the tongs and put the smouldering log back with the other burning logs. Immediately it burst back into flame. The pastor got up and said, "Well, I need to go now. But I've enjoyed the visit." The man rose too and said, "I appreciate your message, Pastor. I will be in church on Sunday."

While we are recovering from the disruptions caused by the pandemic, I exhort you to use these three keys to work together with AG churches globally to fulfill the vision of MM33.



# Praise Report from Jesus Heal Me

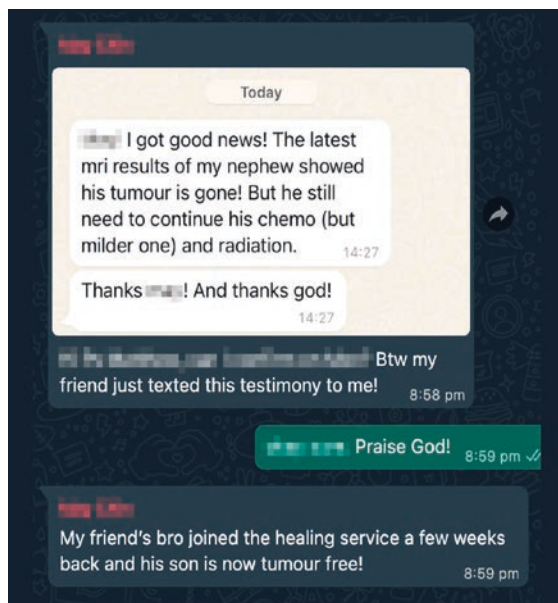
*Powerful testimonies of healing taking place online and onsite.*

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

Year 2022 has been amazing so far. As the healing ministry transits to doing ministry onsite, I realized that the team has emerged more effective than we used to be pre-pandemic. Testimonies are coming steadily not only from our onsite ministries and from Singapore, but also from our online ministry, and from our overseas involvement.

As of October 12, 2022, the team received 494 testimonies of healing for year 2022 alone. I want to thank God for what He is doing through the healing ministry, and I am believing God for more than 700 testimonies for this year!

Here are some encouraging testimonies that I have received through the healing ministry. Be blessed!



*Healed of tumor in his bladder*

A 14-year-old boy was healed of a tumor in his bladder. After praying for him, the MRI results showed that the 5-cm tumor was gone. Everyone was surprised. The doctors checked if there was a mistake with the scan. There was none.

Usually, the doctors want to be sure, so they would recommend the patient to complete the treatment. Here is the amazing thing—the boy's family are not Christians; yet the Lord touched them in a big way. Praise God!



*Sickness made her blind, but now she sees*



*Churches were packed to the brim, with the altarcall filled with people where we spent hours praying for the sick*

We had a powerful time of ministry with the Assemblies of God, Vietnam. We ministered at AG churches across the city. Every night the churches were packed with people. We spent hours just praying for the sick. Here is one of many powerful testimonies from the local people—the Lord opened blind eyes!

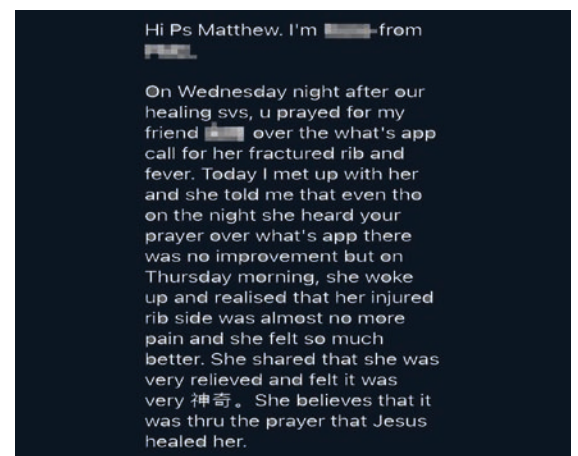
"Do you see how strong I am now? I love to come to church, but sickness robbed me of that. I became very weak and cannot see. Tonight, my daughter brought me to this healing service. Now I can see. Strength has come back to me, and I can dance for the Lord again."



*A sister healed of fractured finger and blurry vision*

A sister was healed of a fractured fourth finger. She can now fold her fingers into a fist without feeling pain. She later testified that her vision was also clearer and no longer blurry. When the Lord touches us, it is not just a healing of one issue, it can be the healing of multiple issues in the same body.

"I can now see very clearly. I can even see the cameraman's eyeball. Thank you, Jesus!"



*Non-Christian healed of a fractured rib via a recorded prayer*

During a healing service at a Methodist church, a Christian lady had the faith to pray for her non-Christian friend over the phone. She could not reach her friend, so she got me to send a prayer through WhatsApp audio recording. Healing took place the next morning to the amazement of her friend. In the words of the friend, she said, "It was 神奇" (translated as "Miraculous"). It is 神奇 because 神 (God) is involved! God is interested in her life.



# I Found a New Family

*I found God who grants me peace and my spiritual family who gives me a home.*

*By Uriah, Harborlight Church*

Before I came to know Christ, my life always felt dark, gloomy, and lonely. I've always felt like I didn't fit in, and that I didn't belong—no matter where I was.

Growing up was not all sunshine and rainbows at home. Things took a bad turn when my father left the family in 2012. It was also during that time that we found out there were years of outstanding mortgages and bills left unpaid. Being the eldest son, I knew that I had to help my mother to provide for the rest of us. Things got worse when she was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. She passed on in 2020. Her passing broke me.

It was during that dark time of my life, when I felt so broken and hopeless, that I first heard about Jesus. A friend invited

me to attend the online service at Harborlight Church. That was the first time I heard about the many good things Jesus has done for His people. I got curious and wanted to know more. Eventually I attended my first live service in December 2020, and accepted Christ on Christmas Day. Since then, I've never looked back. Christ lifted every weight, burden, guilt, shame, stress, and anxiety off my shoulders and set me free. I felt His love was unlike any other; and finally, I felt at peace. I found a new family, a community that took me in without any hesitation, and I just knew that I was... home.

I was born into another faith, yet the idea and concept of God rarely felt real or personal to me. But after experiencing the love, the peace, the greatness found

in Jesus, I am assured and know that God is real. God has provided so much since I chose to follow Him and acknowledge Him as my Lord and Savior—I found a better job, am part of a community, enjoy a sense of peace that transcends all understanding, and have hope for a better future. God has lit up every dark corner of my life. I pray that many others can experience the awesome love of God, just as I did.



*Through the church, Uriah found God and his spiritual family*



*Serving with the Sound Ministry*



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# Nothing Is Lost by God's Grace

*God led me step by step in my recovery.*

*By Bro Low Loy Nghee, Centre of New Life*

It was supposed to be a usual morning, waking up for breakfast and running errands with my wife. Unusually, the mobile phone kept slipping off my left palm at breakfast. Dismissing it, I went on with my errands. Three hours later, the left flip-flop unusually kept slipping off my foot. Sensing something amiss, we rushed to Changi General Hospital (CGH). Grateful that I did not wait for more symptoms to appear (arm weakness, face drooping, cognitive confusion, speech difficulty), the medical team at CGH ascertained there was already a 17mm clot on the right side of my brain. Simply put—I just had a stroke!

This was least expected, given that I am active in sports, running and golfing. More importantly, for 20 years, I have been strict in the yearly scan on the walls and valves of my heart, along with cholesterol level checks at the National Heart Centre—this is because, at age 40, I was detected to have a minor valve that cannot shut firmly and as the back flow of blood could trigger a heart attack, I had to monitor my heart regularly.

While I was still at the Accident and Emergency Department at CGH, I kept asking the Lord, “Why?” Before any reply could arrive, the worst began to unfold. For the next five days, the strength on the entire left side of my body weakened further, to the point that I was no longer in control over them. I could not sit steadily and fell from the bed in the Stroke Unit Ward, which created a commotion for the nursing staff. Despite the medical team’s assurance that the loss of strength and control of body were normal post stroke effects, by then, I was absolutely demoralized, experienced anxiety attacks and needed melatonin (to sleep). The fact that the doctors could not trace any medical explanations to the clot in the brain, made it worse!

It was my first hospitalization, coincided at a time when no visits were allowed due to the peak in COVID-19 cases then. Left on the hospital bed, cables attached to my body—loneliness and despondence filled the first week.

During this period, my mobile phone was more active than I was. Filled with lots of texts and calls of encouragement and prayers that I appreciated immensely. One common advice given to me was “recalibrate” but one that struck me most was—“NIL: Nothing-Is-Lost”—where God is concerned.

I could recall at the hospital bed, at the prime of David’s youth, he was well celebrated; a musician who could help the king to refresh with the playing of a lyre, restored pride to the Israelites by defeating Goliath and an endeared soldier who struck “tens of thousands”. But all of these changed and came to a pause when there was an attempt to pin David to the wall with a spear by King Saul. This led to David, hiding in the cave of Adullam. Loneliness and

despondence probably filled him too. However, we later read that these were momentary losses to David who later, became the king of Israel, composer of many Psalms and a man after God’s own heart.

## My Reflections:

- His grace for me was there throughout. So many episodes that could have gone awry but somehow, developments fell into my favor. To cite one: I don’t wish to imagine what would have happened if I had waited for all the stroke symptoms to appear before heading to hospital. The clot could have gotten bigger, damaging more brain cells and correspondingly, more body parts!
- He had called me to be humble—what I did in the past was of good but temporal use. When He called on me, He wanted me to experience Him firsthand (note the contrasting effects of the Beatitudes). This was the “recalibration” that He wanted me to experience with Him. Not to continue basking in what I can do, but to rely on Him fully.
- I had to trust in His promises—that nothing will be lost (NIL). Wallowing in self-pity brought me nowhere. In fact, if I was unwilling to fight together with God, all would have been lost, eventually! I needed to cling on to God’s promise of an abundant life, which included standing up for my health and family. In my state, I had to be determined to fight, to recover!



*Taking the steps of recovery*



*Working out during therapy*

By week two of my stay in CGH, I was put on Leo—a robotic treadmill lookalike machine that forces brain cell linkages to movements on my left leg—and the 20-minute workout on Leo was as strenuous as a 2.4km run, when you took the exercises seriously. By week three, I found sufficient strength to walk round the ward with close supervision by a therapist. By week four, I was ready to be discharged, to be with my family—whom I missed sorely—and was able to not be a burden to them too.

Today (since mid-March), my mobility and independence are far steadier and stronger. I used the walking aid only twice when I stepped out of home and took public transport for a breather. (If you are a stroke patient, don’t attempt this without professional advice.) True enough, thank God that nothing has been lost or holding me back from fighting to regain my health and ministry as I went on to help in recent AG events (AGM, CIE and August 2TiP). I am even typing this reflection with one hand! There are still calibrations, I know, since I am far from the conditions of my pre-stroke days, but with His grace and my reliance on Him, I know He will lead me closer to recovering fully.