



ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SINGAPORE

Celebrating 95 Years

#Blessed95thAGSingapore
#AGSingapore95thAnniversary
#AGSingaporeCelebrates95Years

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1928 may have been the year that Walt Disney created Mickey Mouse or even the year where penicillin, the antibiotic that continues to save lives, was discovered. Yet, for our little red dot at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, it was a place that God led the Assemblies of God (AG) missionaries to. They thought they were on a ship enroute to Hong Kong, but the Holy Spirit had other plans: On April 1, 1928, Rev and Mrs Cecil M Jackson conducted an Easter service on the ship that docked on the shores of Singapore and stayed as the Spirit led them.

Today, 95 years later, the AG movement in Singapore continues to grow from strength to strength. Many of our churches have become missions-sending churches all around the world.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 reveals to us how missions is truly God's mission. "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given*" for the purpose of "go"-ing and "make"-ing disciples of all nations.

All Authority

"All authority" means the whole resource of heaven and earth has been released for this work. This means that the whole arsenal of heaven is behind the church as we move forward to do missions. When *all of God's authority* has been channeled into this command, nothing can stop the work of God.

Recently, I had the privilege of hearing testimonies of what God is doing inside war-torn Ukraine. Despite the war, many church leaders and believers remained and continued to minister to civilians and soldiers. Since the war began, almost 300,000 people opened their hearts and received salvation.

There is an increasing escalation of wars, natural disasters, famines and diseases. These have been foretold so that the Church will not be caught by surprise but recognize that we have a mission to tell people that Jesus is the answer! Jesus has always been the answer for the world. And He calls us to carry that answer to the ends of the earth.

Therefore Go

"Go" is not a suggestion. It's a command; an instruction. Coupled with "all authority" that has been given to the church, God has commanded the church to "go". When God says "go", it's about obedience and not an obligation. It's about carrying God's heartbeat for the lost and making it ours.

Going will involve sacrifice. Going will require a sacrifice of time and resources. Beyond the missions trips that many of us embark on with our churches—that is good and we should continue to do so—I believe God is calling business owners to get involved in the mission of God: Missions.

95 years ago, the obedience to "go" by two AG missionaries to pack their bags and get on board the ship led to the birthing of the AG churches in our nation. Imagine what your obedience to "go" can do. Imagine the ripple effect of your willingness to "go" to wherever God has called you to.

This July, I encourage you to participate in the inaugural Missions Congress organized by the Asia Pacific AG Fellowship. Held on July 20 and 21 in Singapore, come for a time of exchange, empowerment, and equipping for missions so that we can go to the nations with greater synergy, strength, and anointing. (To register: <https://tinyurl.com/APAGMC2023>)

As missions was the mission of God, will you make it your mission as well?

宣教是神的使命

1928年是华特·迪士尼创作米老鼠的那一年，也是拯救数百万人生命的抗生素盘尼西林被发现的那一年。然而，对于我们这个位于马来半岛尾端的小红点来说，这是神带领神召会宣教士前来的一年。他们以为自己只是乘船途径新加坡前往香港，但圣灵另有计划：1928年4月1日，塞西尔·杰克逊牧师 (Rev Cecil M Jackson) 和师母在停靠在新加坡海岸的船上主持复活节聚会，并在圣灵的带领下留了下来。

95年后，新加坡的神召会运动继续发展壮大，因为我们的许多教会已成为差人到世界各地宣教的教会。

马太福音第28章中的大使命向我们揭示了大使命真正是上帝的使命。“天上地下所有的权柄都赐给我了”，为的是要“去”和使万民“作”门徒。

所有的权柄

“所有的权柄”意味着天地间的一切资源都可用在这

项工作上。这意味着，当我们前去宣教，整个天堂的军火库都是教会的后盾。这个命令的背后是神所有的权柄的释放，因此没有什么能阻挡神的工作。

最近，我有幸听到一些见证，了解到神在饱受战争蹂躏的乌克兰所做的事。尽管发生了战争，许多教会领袖和信徒没有离开，还是继续服事平民和士兵。自战争开始以来，近 30 万人敞开心扉接受了救恩。

战争、自然灾害、饥荒和疾病不断加剧。这些已经被预言，这样教会就不会感到惊讶，而是认识到我们有一个使命去告诉人们耶稣就是答案！耶稣一直是世界的答案。他呼召我们把这个答案带到地极。

所有你们要去

“去”不是一个建议，而是一个命令，一个指示。加上已赋予教会的“所有权柄”，神命令了教会“去”。当神说“去”时，这关乎服从而不是义务。这关乎使神的心跳成为我们的心跳。

“去”意味着牺牲。“去”需要我们牺牲时间和资源。除了我们许多人所参与的教会宣教之行外（这很好，我们应该继续这样做），我相信神在呼召生意人参与神的使命——宣教。

95年前，两位神召会宣教士顺服“去”的命令，收拾行装上了船，我国神召会教会才得以诞生。想象一下你对“去”的服从能成就什么。想象一下你愿意去的涟漪效应。

今年7月，我鼓励你参加由亚太神召会团契主办的首届宣教大会。宣教大会于7月20及21日在新加坡举行。我鼓励你前来交流、得能力和为宣教装备自己，这样就可以带着更大的协作能力、力量和恩膏“去”各国。报名网址：<https://tinyurl.com/APAGMC2023>

宣教是上帝的使命，你愿意把它作为你的使命吗？

Doing missions for God is much more than just going on missions trips. It is sharing God's heart to see nations reached for Jesus. As MM33 seeks to increase the number of missionaries being sent to the nations, find out how you can get involved by reading this special section dedicated to missions, where we hope to answer some of the questions you might have.



What is Being Missional? God's Missional Heart and Strategy

What does "missional" mean? Rev Dr Alvin Lim examines these four missional theological concepts which seek to define the term "missional".



The World Assemblies of God received a fresh vision to plant one million churches worldwide by 2033. It has generated new conversations about what it means to be a missional church and how do we reach that goal together.

The term "missional" became popularized after the publication of the classic book "Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America" edited by Lois Barrett and Darrell L. Guder in 1998. There has been an avalanche of books jumping on the "missional" bandwagon ever since. This book is largely influenced by the writings of Lesslie Newbigin, a returning British missionary from India, who critiqued how the Western church lost its central influence in an increasingly pluralistic West.

There have been numerous books on new missional strategies with different definitions and expressions that can become confusing or being dismissed as just a passing church growth fad. The greatest contribution to me in the missional conversation has been a re-examination theologically on the identity and role of the church, which will in turn lead to various missional initiatives and strategies. I have listed four key missional theological concepts that have caused a paradigm shift in my own missional perspective which I hope would also be helpful to you.

1. **Missio Dei** — This is the Latin theological term for "the mission of God". The mission belongs to God and not to us. God is the initiator of this mission. Missional is therefore the adjective describing someone or something characterized by this mission. Darrell Guder defines the mission as "God's initiative, rooted in God's purposes to restore and heal all creation."¹ Christopher Wright defines it as, "Our committed participation as God's people, at God's invitation and command, in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of God's creation."² What you may notice in these two definitions is that it talks about the restoration and redemption of all creation beyond just the souls of humans (which is our traditional definition). We are commanded to cultivate and steward all creation in the cultural mandate (Genesis 1:28) and there is an eventual restoration of New Heavens and Earth. The *Missio Dei* is much bigger than the spiritual activities that we do in church. It is more than being more evangelistic or missions oriented. The church does not have a mission but the (greater) mission has a church. What if how we work in our physical jobs, steward our earthly resources, and participate in every arena of society lead us to being better witnesses that point more human souls to God?
2. **Trinitarian Missiology** — The definition of the missional church needs to begin with the missional God as the originator of the mission. Traditionally, the church is burdened with fulfilling the Great Commission and driven to do more to reach more souls because it depends on us. While this is not entirely wrong, it can lead to guilt driven motivations and mission fatigue. In missional theology, we are reminded that the Trinity is deeply involved and leading the mission, rather than the church. God the Father is the initiator of the

mission, sending His Son, and eventually the Holy Spirit to continue that mission. Israel is recruited in the Old Testament and the church in the New Testament to join this redemptive mission of the Trinity (John 20:21-22). The church overflows with the love of the missional God, follows the example of Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the Great Commission. The church is liberated to just trust and obey God in this mission and leave the results of church growth to the Him! How much more effective if we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit rather than our own human efforts?

3. **Missional Church** — The age-old debate is whether the church exists to care more for its members or the unchurched. It is the discipleship versus evangelism tension. Which is the means, and which is the ends? In missional theology, the missional church is birthed from the missional God. The church is missional by nature and fails to be the church when it loses its missional priority. It is like Jesus asking what the use of salt is when it loses its saltiness (Matthew 5:13). The church is never called to be a social club or an educational centre, dishing our religious goods and services to pander to the needs of her members. Newbigin says that the church "exist for the sake of those who are not members, as sign, instrument, and foretaste of God's redeeming grace for the whole life of society."³ Biblically, our love for one another is not exclusive but reflects the inclusive love of the missional God (John 13:34-35; 17:22-23). Biblical communal witness is way more powerful than just individual witness. We need one another in this body of Christ. Has the church lost her identity as the salt and light of society? Have we been too busy counting our sheep and forgotten about the millions still unreached around us? May we return to our true identity and calling.
4. **Incarnational Ministry** — The missional theology seeks to relook ministry through the incarnational ministry of Jesus and the early church. The modern church is largely built on an attractional model of ministry where we invite visitors to come to church for an event or show where a professional clergy presents the gospel and salvation takes place. While there is still a place for this method of evangelism, it is becoming less effective due to the increasingly foreign sub-culture of the church scene and the mistrust of religious institutions. Lay people have also become mere spectators when they should be equipped as the priesthood of believers. Instead of depending largely on the "come and see" model, believers need to be equipped more on the "go and tell" model of lifestyle outreach just like Jesus and the early church. They shared the good news in both word and good deeds leading to rapid multiplication of house groups. In this post-pandemic world, where people are less inclined to gather in large groups on a regular basis, perhaps a more impactful and intimate way of ministry is to bring the gospel to them. How have we sought to be a blessing to our communities as we share the good news in word and good deeds?

May we unite to be the missional church as we follow the leading of the missional God in this end time harvest!



Rev Dr Alvin Lim is the Senior Pastor of Maranatha Christian Assembly. He graduated with a Doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is passionate about teaching and preaching the timeless Word of God for this changing generation. He is married to his beloved wife Geok Hong, and they have three lovely children: Isabelle, Iris, and Isaiah. His favourite hobby is playing with and taking care of his Schnauzer dog named Hippo.

¹ Guder and Barrett, Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America, 4.

² Christopher J. H. Wright, The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative (Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP Academic, 2006), 23.

³ Lesslie Newbigin, The Gospel in a Pluralist Society (Grand Rapids, Mich. Geneva SZ: W.B. Eerdmans; WCC Publications, 1989), 233.

Reaching the Unreached

What are unreached people groups? How can you reach them? Rev James Singh gives us three steps.



About three decades ago, the worldwide church was introduced to the 10/40 Window. It gave the church better insights into world missions. Effectively, the 10/40 Window is the geographical area spanning from North Africa, across the Middle East towards Asia, approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. Two-thirds of the world's population live in the 68 nations of the 10/40 Window. The 10/40 Window is often called "The Resistant Belt". 95% of these four billion people are unreached. 87% of these four billion people are the poorest of the poor.

Many people in this zone have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most countries in this window are un-evangelized or unchurched as resources are limited.

Today, many churches and missionary organizations have embarked on long-term projects targeting nations within the 10/40 Window. But there is a conundrum. The outreaches have been centred around the capital cities and major towns, forgetting the remote places. Whilst reaching the city is essential, it should be a strategic base for reaching the smaller towns. In this article, I will give you three steps, though not conclusive, that could be a guide to embarking on mission work in this area of operations.

1. The Scope: Building a mission portfolio

The scope for missions has to be holistic: spiritual and social. Many people living in these areas have social and financial needs. I want to challenge you to adopt a long-term holistic approach in your mission portfolio.

When God builds His church, He sovereignly places specific skill sets, gifts, or talents with people. Do a quick scan of your church members and see what those skill sets are. Those talents and skill sets become a litmus guide on how you can get involved in missions.

For example, if your church has a heightened emphasis on fasting and prayer, how about embarking on prayer missions? Training can be done through online or in-person modalities on how the church can mobilize intercessors for His Kingdom in the nations or teach them to organize a 'prayer walk'. In a recent conversation with a pioneer church planter, it came to light that prayer walking is one discipline that has been watered down over the years. If one can put a thousand to flight, how about two or three?

If your church has medical professionals, how about embarking on medical missions to target unreached areas? Many areas today lack medical services, and this could be a tool that can be used for evangelism. In fact, God has designed the Church (the 'called out ones') to manifest His wisdom, power, and authority; and what better way of demonstrating this than in situations which supersede what earthly governments are capable of?

What if there is no specific focus in your church? Have you considered networking?

2. Networking

Assemblies of God churches worldwide have many resources for missions. We can combine resources to further God's Kingdom. As God has given each church certain skill sets, let us acknowledge them and activate them to bless unreached people groups. Engage with other Assemblies of God churches with a mission portfolio and see how you can collaborate for the furtherance of His kingdom on earth. All hands on deck!

3. Strategy

Times and seasons are changing. Borders are closing, and some are opening. Scrutiny of religious movements has taken a toll, and some nations are tightening their borders to foreign missions or front-line Christian organizations. What happens when these restrictions hit your plans? We need to have a quick workaround or change our contact methods.

Recently, a pastor approached me and asked for advice regarding a particular situation he was experiencing with his missions department. He shared that over the last few years, they had poured huge amount of resources into a particular nation, training and equipping the people so they could reach out to their community. Unfortunately, the doors were tightening up, and it was becoming difficult to make inroads with the Gospel to this nation. He asked for my thoughts on shifting their focus to another people group in another nation.

The Lord gave me the insight to see that the diaspora of this particular people group had now spread across to other countries. If the source nation they are coming from is tightening its borders, we can go to where these people are and reach out to them. A key lesson here: go where your burden leads you and to whom you are called. Doing otherwise might be detrimental to you and those you are trying to reach.

With cross-border workers living in Singapore itself, there is an opportunity to touch their lives and disciple them.

As I was writing this, some nations are tightening their borders, while some doors are opening, some others are closing. In these last days, we desperately need a strategic mind to navigate these difficulties. I believe that one has to discover the best strategy in the region or terrain. **A closed door is not a closed chapter.**

There is much work to be done. Therefore missions cannot be layered with the pomp and pageantry of comfort. We must seize the opportunities for church-planters and long or short-term missionaries to be stationed in these unreached areas. It's mission time, and we must get our boots to the ground and reap the harvest.



Rev James Jagjeet Singh, is the overseer of Eagle's Nest Church and an itinerant Evangelist under the Assemblies of God, Singapore. In this dual office, he carries a prophetic anointing and the fire of the Holy Spirit wherever he goes. His passion is to see revival come upon the churches. He graduated from Assemblies of God Bible College with a Bachelor of Theology. He is married to Rosie, and they have two children, Josiah and Sarabeth.

What Benefits can Short-Term Mission Trips Reap?

Are short-term mission trips even effective? Here are some ways these trips can make a difference if we follow God's lead. Rev Raymond Seet shares.



Short-term mission trips can range from a few days to a week or two. It is natural to wonder how much impact we can make for God's Kingdom in such a short time.

It is possible for such a trip to provide us with great opportunities to use our gifts meaningfully, and to serve and teach the people from diverse backgrounds. In this way, not only can we impact others, we can also grow spiritually, and are equipped for greater contributions in the future. The key is to follow God's lead.

Remember the story of Jonah in the Bible, where God told him to go to the city of Nineveh to call the people to repent. What should have been a straightforward three-day trip became an ordeal for Jonah due to his disobedience. This reminds us that even short mission trips can be effective, as long as we give our humble submission to God's calling and trust in His leading.

Here are five ways we can focus on God's leading to ensure we make a difference on a short-term mission trip.

I. Remember the Objective: Spreading the Gospel

The prime objective of every mission trip is to spread the good news of Christ's salvation. Of course, training will be provided to guide us on how to share a message or personal testimony that can leave lasting impact on those who hear them. However, it can still feel daunting to learn how to spread the gospel to people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

As we step forward in faith to go on a missions trip to spread the gospel, remember that the Holy Spirit will always be in our midst to guide us toward clearly communicating our message or testimony. More importantly, trust that the gospel truths will transform the hearts of those we share them to!

II. God is the One Who Enables

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:4 says that when we do not remain with Him, we can do nothing. Wherever God leads us, whatever work He wants us to do, that is what we should be doing. We must remember that apart from God, our efforts are futile!

So, what really matters is not the place or length of time for each mission trip, but our submission and obedience in doing God's work for His Kingdom's glory. As we prepare for the trip and even during the trip itself, let us focus on listening to God's leading and obey what He wants us to do, and ask Him to enable us.

III. Trust God to Widen Perspectives

These trips provide a bigger picture of God's Kingdom. By seeing how different cultures lead to varying atmospheres of churches and ministries, our perspective of God's Kingdom becomes much wider, and our faith levels are stretched.

By stepping out of our comfort zones in our home churches, we might be able to see clearer the fields that are ripe for harvest, both overseas and at home, which we may have been oblivious to until stepping out for the missions trip. Let's allow God to show us what fields of harvests may be around us.

IV. Build Godly Relationships

While street evangelism and sharing the gospel with strangers may see some conversions, building on these relationships and living out the lives that God has called us to, will help us to win souls that are anchored in God's Word. We must remember that our ultimate objective is to make disciples of Jesus, not just gaining believers.

In addition, it can be a challenge for missionaries to find the encouragement and spiritual support they need. Let us encourage them by not only by serving alongside them in their ministries, but serving them as well. Let them feel the love and support from the fellow Christian community.

V. Allow God to Stretch You

While such trips help us gain a deeper learning of ministry work, it is even more powerful to learn about how we can use our own giftings in a ministry to serve the body of Christ.

As we allow God to transform lives through us, let us also ask Him to grow our giftings and empower us to share the gospel with every tongue, tribe and nation, to the end of the world.

How to know if a mission trip is right for you

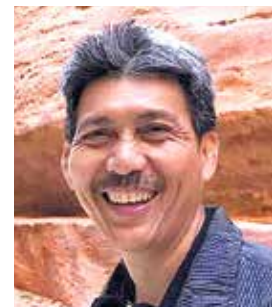
So, when you are prayerfully considering where to go and which mission trip is right for you, ask yourself the following questions:

- Does this trip have clear goals and purposes that I know God is calling me to accomplish?
- Do the leaders of this trip exhibit godly character?
- Is this trip meant for a reached or unreached people? How will that affect my decision?
- Are there ways for me to serve, love and share the gospel with others?

Ultimately, mission trips, regardless of how long or short they are, aim to glorify God, by loving people the way Jesus would. If you have a passion to tell people who Jesus is and create a desire in them to worship Him, chances are you are suitable for the trip.

Undoubtedly, God will show up during your short mission trips to teach you how to love others, serve Him and make a difference wherever you go. You just need to take that first step in faith.

Join a missions trip today!



Rev Raymond Seet has 32 years of ministry experience and is currently serving in Emmanuel AG's Indonesian Service. He graduated from Global University. He is married to Ernawatie and they have three grown-up children with ages of 28, 26 and 24. He enjoys walks during his leisure time.

Heart of a Missionary

As we conclude this section, we speak to Rev Annie Yeo, a missionary in Cambodia who shares her heartfelt thoughts on mission work with us.



WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO EMBARK ON THIS JOURNEY?

It began with a need to base someone temporarily at a Cambodia work under our church's missions support. At first, I struggled because Cambodia was not the country in my heart. However, after God showed me clearly He wanted me to go there, I obeyed.

A sudden turn of event led to a new proposal: start Eternal Life Assembly's own pioneering work in Cambodia.

God knows me. I would have said "No" if initially I were asked to pioneer a new work there. God first got me to say "Yes" to Cambodia, then He changed the assignment.



Rev Annie speaking at a food pack distribution event

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE FOR YOU AS A MISSIONARY?

Sometimes, the most meaningful and memorable experiences on a mission are the most unexpected ones.

The process of buying a tuk-tuk for our ministry has been so challenging that I'd wanted to give up. On the first day we used our new tuk-tuk, I witnessed God's compassionate providence for a grieving family. That made the difficulties I'd undergone worthwhile.

We were fetching some Singaporean visitors in our new tuk-tuk to our place of ministry. A family asked for a lift to a place about four kilometres away, where there was transport for hire. The couple's daughter had passed away in another province. They were bringing the deceased baby back to their own home after the funeral.

In His providential care for this bereaved family, God went the extra mile. He sent us to give them a lift not just to the place to hire a transport but to the entrance of their village (it was along the way to our destination)! He has spared them from the long walk in the hot sun, carrying an infant and their bags.

This incident motivated me to be willing to face whatever challenges that might come my way, to reach people with God's love.



Imparting the Word at a leaders meeting

HOW DOES ONE PREPARE FOR THE MISSION FIELD?

- Maintain good spiritual, emotional and physical health.
- Learn to be adaptable and flexible.
- Go for short mission trips, preferably to your intended destination, before you venture into longer-term mission work.
- Hear and learn from other missionaries, especially Singaporeans, preferably in the mission field you intend to go. Their experiences will be useful to you and they can give you some helpful advice on how to cope with the challenges you would face.
- Above all, pray and seek the Lord.

WHAT HAS GOD BEEN SHOWING YOU RECENTLY?

- God is the One who causes the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)**
He can grow the ministry even without me being there physically in the missions field. In the two years I was away in Singapore due to the pandemic, God's hand remained on the local team and the ministry continued to grow.
- As the ministry grows, the way things are done has to evolve**
When I returned to Cambodia, I realized that some of the things I used to do in the past were no longer necessary. I've had to see how I could continue to contribute meaningfully to enhance the ministry, and not be a hindrance to the local team as they continued what they had been doing in my absence.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

Please pray:

- That I will continue to be faithful.
- God's wisdom be upon me as I adjust my involvement in the mission field after the pandemic.
- The process of handing over this ministry to the local co-workers is smooth.
- God to show me His direction for what's next for me after the hand-over.



Ministry in a cell group



Teaching in a cell group



Rev Annie Yeo was the Missions Pastor in Eternal Life (EL) Assembly before she went to Cambodia in 2015 to start a daughter church for EL. Besides church ministries, the EL Cambodia Missions also runs an Enrichment Centre on weekdays, teaching English and Khmer to over 100 students.

AGCSS Network Meeting: Strengthening Families

Call to collaborate on strengthening families.

By Tan Hoon Kiang, Faith Assembly of God



Families have always been the bedrock of society and the fabric of a strong nation.

The Need

In the latest Assemblies of God Community Services Society's (AGCSS) network meeting held on March 22, 2023 at REACH Community Services, Ms Poh Ee Lyn, Head of Department for Families for Life @ Community with Fei Yue Community Services reported an increase in the percentage of divorce in Singapore in 2021. (Singapore Department of Statistics, 2021). This dire statistic shows an urgent need for more to be done.

The Program

Fei Yue Families for Life @ Community have been running Prepare and Enrich Marriage Enrichment Programmes. Supported by Families for Life, this program is complimentary, and it seeks to strengthen marriage relationships through evaluating strengths and growth areas, improving communication skills, conflict management, managing stress, personality differences. She highlighted that key to its success is the availability of a "Marriage Mentor" to walk with and mentor the

couple upon completion of the program.

Fei Yue offers to train Marriage Mentors for the AGCSS network partners. The training is complimentary, and mentors will be accredited to facilitate the Prepare and Enrich individual sessions with couples.

The Importance

There was general agreement on the importance of strengthening marriages. This was best echoed by Silas Tan, the Executive Director of Teen Challenge, who has witnessed the terrible price of broken families among his clients and their struggle to re-integrate into the society.

Participants who attended the network meeting were thankful to Ms Poh for sharing invaluable insights and for extending possible collaborations that will surely strengthen community organizations and their affiliated churches for Kingdom advancement.

AGCSS will continue to facilitate more collaborative efforts through its network connections.



- 1 The network meeting's participants
- 2 Discussing thoughts and ideas
- 3 Ms Poh sharing in the meeting
- 4 Taking a refreshment break

We invite any AG community organizations and churches, keen to collaborate with any AGCSS Network Partners to contact Beatricekang@trinity.sg or jason.tan@zfgc.org.sg

Free Love Meals Community Project

A joint project to bless the community.

By Teen Challenge Singapore and Sembawang Assembly of God

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was ill and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36

Collaborate

Teen Challenge Singapore and Sembawang Assembly of God (AG) came together to serve and bless the community in Sembawang Crescent. The purpose of the 'Free Love Meals Project' is to establish long-term relationships with the residents and be a blessing to them. We were glad that many residents were willing to receive the lunch boxes, canned food and bottles of vitamins from us. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive!

Serve

On the other hand, this initiative also served

to build up the self-confidence and self-worth of the brothers in Teen Challenge Singapore. It was very encouraging to see many of our brothers serving the residents lovingly and humbly. It was an opportunity for some of them to showcase their culinary skills to bless the community.

As Proverbs 25:11 mentions, *those who refresh others will be refreshed!* We would like to thank God for this beautiful opportunity to partner with Sembawang AG to bless the community.

Here at Teen Challenge Singapore, we would like to invite AG churches to engage us in serving the wider communities so that we can shine forth the glory of God!

For community partnerships, please kindly contact our Operations Manager Bro Freddy Quek at freddy.quek@teenchallenge.org.sg



1 Free Love Meals Community Project by Teen Challenge Singapore and Sembawang AG

2 Our volunteers coming together to bless the community

...Continued from pg 17

On March 1, 1986, I took over a small fellowship of about 30 people. Back then, the fellowship had no legal status, so the bank did not allow us to start an account without proper recognition. The first two years were most difficult. Thank God for the sacrifice and commitment of pioneering members and friends, we were able to set the church in order. We acquired the legal registration and started a bank account, becoming a registered church named 'Maranatha Christian Assembly'. The place we met was small and neighbors complained about the presence of religious meetings in a private estate. We had to move to a hotel in Orchard Road for our meetings. As we kept the faith and continued to sow into Maranatha, God provided. We started to see an increase in attendance and finances. The foundational years had many milestones. We taught foundational courses, created our unique system of management and accountability. Eventually, we bought a property. The finance company said we needed 30 years to pay up, but we believed God for His provision and paid up the full loan in 10 years. We were then able to buy the next unit.

Despite the COVID-19 situation, the church continued growing in attendance and income. We continued to find ways to connect even during safe-distancing times, taking the opportunity to renovate the auditorium and other community halls and rooms. We began to broadcast our sermons to members, and also reached 200 prisoners every Sunday with social media planforms. During that period, we learned how to use Zoom and up to today, we are coaching church leaders in nations through this video communication and collaboration platform. The church is reaching out to a world of hurting people, with uncertainties and new challenges post-COVID.

One Chapter's Closing is a New Chapter's Beginning

On July 31, 2022, I retire after 36 years of full-time service in Maranatha Christian Assembly. Rev Dominic Yeo, our General Superintendent installed Rev Dr Alvin Lim, a former pastor from Grace Assembly of God, as my successor.

I thank God for leading me through over two decades in my ministry and journey as a spiritual leader.

It is time to devote more time to the larger body of Christ. I also believe that the greatest mission field I can offer my services is the family. Retirement doesn't mean the end of life and ministry. I hope my rich experience can continue to be a contribution to those I can serve.

My prayer can be summarised by the words of a very old song:

Jesus, use me
Please don't refuse me
For surely there is a work I can do
And even though it is humble
Help my will to crumble
Though the price is great
I will work for you.

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National Training Camp 2022

A unique leadership learning experience for leaders of children and youth in Royal Rangers.

By Royal Rangers Singapore

The opportunity to learn and experience the outdoors through camping was severely limited in the last two years. With the easing of the safe distancing measures, the time was right to return and provide the opportunity for new Royal Rangers (RR) leaders to encounter God among His creation.

New Leaders Trained

RR leaders gathered from various churches in a National Training Camp (NTC) during December 14 to 17, 2022 at Sarimbun Scout Campsite. As a training camp, it was focused on introducing the new leaders to the methods and activities of the RR program.

A total of 23 trainees attended with four coming from the Philippines. The overseas campers were invited and supported to attend NTC as part of RR Singapore's efforts to expand the growth and impact of RR in the Asia-Pacific region. The trainees ranged

in ages from 19 to 59 years old.

New Purpose Received

Many came with much uncertainty in what the expectation and experience will be. After four days and three nights, all the trainees successfully completed the training and emerged with a new sense of purpose and understanding of the ministry, their roles and a special bond with their fellow trainees.

Camp Commander Erwin Chan reflected, "The camp was by no means for the faint-hearted but for the faith-hearted. Many were left exhausted by intense lessons, activities and challenges. Yet, each trainee persevered and brought themselves humbly before God. This opened their hearts for God to speak and work in their spirit. Then God empowered ordinary men and women to become extraordinary leaders to mentor children and youth into future servant leaders".



Introducing the trainees to a model campsite which was their goal to complete building within the camp duration



Evening campfires brought fun, fellowship and an opportunity for the trainees to dedicate and commit themselves to serve God in the RR ministry



Lessons on rope craft and lashing provided trainees with knowledge to build structures necessary for a safe and comfortable campsite



Trainees were taught to navigate and lead a hike where they used a basic compass and map as well as GPS and digital maps



The trainees embarked on a hike to explore the many interesting places of interest around the Northwest region of Singapore – Wetland marshes, frog farms, abandoned prawn farming sites



Ps Esterlina Quirit
(Royal Rangers Philippines)

God struck my heart with two lessons: first, is to remember that we are meant to carry God's light and as a torchbearer into the world and to continually bring His message to those who need it, especially to the children and youth; second, is to never put ourselves or others in a box that limits what we can do. We serve a big God who will give us talents and gifts, and must not box ourselves in with our own fears.



Cmdr Goh Wai Leng
(Faith AG, Outpost #11)

I'm just an aunty who goes to NTUC but I chose to come for NTC. I wanted to re-discover the God whom I serve and to understand why my late husband was so dedicated to the RR ministry. I am so thankful for this ministry that is focused on the discipleship of our children and youth, where each generation will pass on the torch to reach, teach and keep boys and girls for Jesus Christ.



Cmdr Edmund Ong
(Bethel AG, Outpost #1)

This camp is truly the start of my journey as a leader. I've learnt from the instructors and my fellow trainees the purpose and example of leading others as well as the importance of making the right decisions for God.



Cmdr Susan Yee
(The Harvest Force, Outpost #23)

It was an amazing experience to join other trainees as young as 19 years old who have grown up in the RR program at NTC. Their ability to lead others and serving God was a testament to the value of the RR ministry. I hope my own three children will get to grow up to be like them and become future leaders who will serve God faithfully.



Trainees formed up for a morning parade to hear a morning devotion from the camp chaplain and a word of encouragement from the camp commander



The training staff and instructors, who are volunteers serving with dedication and excellence, played a pivotal role in crafting the learning experience and smooth running of the camp



Almost all meals were cooked by the trainees in the outdoors where trainees learned to handle food and cook safely with a portable gas stove, open fire and charcoal fire

ACTS College Family Day 2023 —Empowered to Engage

A time of the year when fellow students and teachers at ACTS College gathered together to bond beyond the classroom.

By Daphne Quek, ACTS College

March 11, 2023—ACTS College Family Day is an annual event where students and faculty members are encouraged to invite their families for a day of fellowship.

The Connection

In line with ACTS College's commitment to foster learning within a community and to grow in our relationship with God, ACTS Family Day is more than just an event. It is a chance for the college to learn from one another and grow together as they connect and engage beyond the confines of weekly classes and deadlines.

The Fellowship

This year's Family Day was held at Gardens by the Bay, where a series of fun games were stationed at different parts of the Serene Garden. The day was capped off with a trail walk to the Supertree Grove, followed by delicious lunch at the Jurassic Food Nest Hall, where heartfelt conversations and rounds of fellowship continued.

Amidst our fun and fellowship, God's presence was clearly with us. The perfect weather and the way families embodied the character of Christ were just a couple of ways we saw Him at work. It served as a reminder that God's presence is not limited to our feelings. His presence can be seen in the students who extended their help to other members within the community as much as it can be seen in the way the husbands and wives served each other—because that is how Christ loves.

The Memories

Even though our time of fellowship had to end, the memories and newly formed relationships will continue to stay with us as we journey through our faith. We thank God for His goodness and unfailing love towards us that allows us to love the way He does. We pray that through these engagements, we learn how to love one another the way Christ loves us. As stated in John 13:34-35, the Gospel is best represented by how we love one another.



- 1 ACTS College Family Day 2023
- 2 Everyone gave a big smile to the camera
- 3 We talked about anything under the sun
- 4 In our small groups

Chinese Training and Together in Prayer (2TiP)

Our AG Chinese network pastors and leaders gathered for the Chinese 2TiP. 我们神召会中文网络牧师和领袖们，聚集在中文2TiP。

By Sis Khor Siew Khim, ACTS College

New Wine New Wineskin

On February 2, 2023, with much excitement and anticipation, we saw Chinese ministers and leaders gathered for Chinese 2TiP. In today's ever-changing and complex world, how should we continue to engage with the new season? With the theme "New Wine New Wineskin", Rev Sophia Tan gave a fresh perspective from Isaiah 43:18-21 to prepare us for the new season.

1. Take on new endeavors because our Creator God is with us.

During the pandemic, we realized that what was once working well, may not be that feasible anymore, and we are to adapt and change. A perspective for us is that God, the Creator, is doing new things by changing the environment. He demonstrates power, grace, and love so that people would witness His faithfulness, promise, and glory.

2. Breakthrough from old mindset and attitude to carry the new anointing.

How do we walk in the new season and time which God has given us? How do we carry the fresh anointing and soar for the Lord? In Luke 5:37-39, Jesus gives an analogy that people will continue to brew new wine according to the new season and put it into new wineskins. If we want to keep up with

the new things God wants to do, two actions are required from us.

First, we must get rid of the old mindset and not just insist on the aroma and experience of old wine. The most challenging thing about creating a new game is being inseparable from the past! The biggest obstacle to confidence is not being unable to move forward to tomorrow but being inseparable from yesterday!

Second, do not limit what God is doing in our life. Allow the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and attitudes, and expand our life capacity. Make ourselves more resilient and become a vessel of renewal. Let God's power and new grace fill us!

With this exhortation in mind, we gathered in small groups to pray for one another, and for a revival fire to sweep through our AG churches again.

Reflection by Char Maine Loh

"It was great to see different pastors and leaders gathered onsite once again. We get to pray for new friends and know their names and savor our favorite CNY snack during the ice breaker. Ps Sophia also shared a heartfelt message about preparing for a new season, having new wine and new wineskin."

中文培训和一起祷告 (2TiP)

新酒新皮袋

2023年2月2日，我们的中文传道人和领袖们怀着激动和期待的心情，再次聚集在一起进行中文牧师同工团契。在瞬息万变、纷繁复杂的当今世界，我们该如何继续迎接新的季节？陈鸾卿牧师以《新酒新皮袋》为主题，从以赛亚书43:18-21中提出了一个全新的视角，让我们为新的季节做好准备。

1. 行新事，创新局的神与我们同在

在大流行期间，我们意识到曾经运作良好的可能不再那么可行，我们要适应和改变。我们的一个观点是，创新局的神藉着环境的改变，显示祂在做新事。这样做，就是要彰显祂的能力、恩典和慈爱，让神的子民见证神的信实、应许和荣耀。

2. 突破固有的思维心态，承载新恩膏

我们如何行在神所赐新的季节、新时机中？我们如何承载新的恩膏，为主翱翔？在路加福音5章37至39节中，耶稣打了一个比喻，说人们

会按新的季节，继续酿制新，把它装入新的皮袋里。如果我们要跟得上神要做的新事物，我们需要采取两个行动。

首先，我们要破除陈旧的心态，不能一味地执着于陈酒的香醇和体验。开创新局最困难的就是离不开过去！信心最大的障碍不是不能走向明天，而是离不开昨天！

其次，不要限制神在我们生命中的作为；让圣灵更新我们的思想和心态，扩展我们的生命容量。让我们自己更有弹性，成为更新的容器。让神的能力和恩典充满我们！

在这样劝勉下，我们一起在小组中分享得着并为彼此祷告。此外，我们也祈求复兴之火再次席卷我们的五旬宗教会。

罗钻敏传道的反思

"我能看到各个的牧师和领袖再次实体聚集，实在欢喜。在这次的团契，我们也为新朋友祈祷，认识彼此的名字和最爱的农历新年小吃。陈鸾卿牧师也分享了关于准备新赛季、拥有新酒和新皮袋的信息。"



1 Our Chinese network pastors gathering for the first Chinese 2TiP

2 Our guest-speaker Rev Sophia Tan addressing our leaders

3 Into a time of worship

4 Small group interaction

5 Introducing the working committee



Cultivating Prayerfulness in the Church

**Ps Isaac Ngo,
Campaign Director in
Eternal Life Assembly,
shares how God
moved in the church
during their 40 Days
of Prayer Campaign.**

By Eternal Life Assembly

In keeping with our 2023 direction of “Go Deeper, Reach Higher” in prayer, Eternal Life Assembly embarked on a time of realignment, refreshment and rededication through the 40 Days of Prayer Campaign by Rick Warren.

From February 12 to March 26, 2023, the campaign saw old and young alike dutifully meditating on a verse in Scripture daily, and actively taking notes during the sermon series on Sunday. Sermon topics from the campaign included “The Five Dimensions of Prayer”, “Praying for Healing and Restoration”, and “When God Says No”, amidst many others.



The launch of our 40 Days of Prayer Campaign

Life Groups Sharing

ELites committed themselves to weekly Life Groups, where they shared about what God had spoken to them that week. They also learned through seven video lessons that dealt with unique topics, some of which included “Who You’re Praying To”, “The Pattern of Prayer”, and “How to Pray for a Breakthrough”. These video lessons, coupled with the weekly sermon series, were effective and insightful, especially in debunking myths and misconceptions about prayer.

Several platforms were also birthed to encourage ELites to pray faithfully and consistently—Pre-Service Prayer, Prayer Encounter Nights, as well as Good Morning Jesus.

Pre-Service Prayer



Coming together during our Pre-Service Prayer to usher in the presence of God

Pre-Service Prayer was held 15 minutes before Sunday service started. This was meant to prepare ELites for the service, and also to foster a culture of prayerfulness.

This was opportune as it helped usher in a heightened spiritual atmosphere in the room during our Sunday services. The Spirit of God would work powerfully during services and altar calls, healing people of their physical and emotional burdens. There were testimonies of frozen shoulders being set loose, jammed fingers being mobile again, and hearts receiving and giving forgiveness to those who had hurt them.

Prayer Encounter Night (P.E.N.)



Members praying for one another during P.E.N.

The second initiative, Prayer Encounter Night (P.E.N.), was held on Tuesdays at 8pm. Throughout the four sessions, ELites learned how to pray, and practiced praying for one another using different Scripture verses.

“I left P.E.N. feeling refreshed and recharged,” shared Gek San, an ELite who had been swamped with work prior to the session. “I really thank God for giving me the break—physically and mentally, the assurance, the healing and the comfort I needed.”

Her testimony resonated with Thiam Chai, another ELite who had been facing similar struggles at work. He felt led

to join his wife, Siew Lin, for the next session of P.E.N., and they were greatly ministered to. In particular, the Holy Spirit led the speaker to pray for someone who was undergoing great stress to have a good night’s sleep. Siew Lin was surprised, as this was the same thing she had prayed over her husband.

“We were deeply moved by this encounter and felt that God had led us to this prayer service so that He could reach out to touch us and tell us that He cares for us,” the couple testified.

Good Morning Jesus



Gathering for Good Morning Jesus prayer initiative where families could come together to seek God first in the morning

Another prayer initiative, Good Morning Jesus, was held from 7am - 8.30am in the morning during the March school holidays, with the hope that families could come together to seek God first thing in the morning.

Although it was a challenge for many ELites, especially those who lived further away from church, we were so encouraged by the number of people who chose commitment to God over their own comfort. Many of them were blessed by Ps Gary Chia, who shared five crucial truths about the Lord’s character in the Psalms.

Bee Ting, an educator working in the special needs industry, was exhausted and initially hesitant about coming.

“I was worried that I would doze off during the session... but God surprised me every day. Every minute that passed just energized me further!”

Bee Ting testified how she was brought to a deeper understanding of the love of God, and was motivated to come for the rest of the sessions with the EL family.

Throughout these 40 Days of Prayer, we have seen and experienced for ourselves how God is at work in our church, revealing Himself in a greater measure to us.

We are thankful for how God has brought our church thus far, and we continue looking forward to how God will grow us from strength to strength, glory to glory.

22nd Anniversary Church Celebration Banquet

Sembawang Assembly of God (AG) celebrates 22nd Anniversary with a purpose.

By Angeline Tan, Sembawang Assembly of God

On February 19, 2023, members and guests of Sembawang AG gathered at Ban Heng at Orchid Country Club to celebrate the church's 22nd Anniversary. The atmosphere was filled with celebration and joy as our esteemed guests and church family gathered to celebrate this significant milestone of Sembawang AG.

Start of the Evening

The evening began with a heartfelt welcome from the emcees, as well as a short time of worship. This was followed by prayers and thanksgiving.

We were also blessed with a special performance by Praise Drums Ministry, who drew our guests with their thrilling and captivating display of rhythm and dance.

As the guests enjoyed the delicious food, the banquet hall was filled with the sounds of laughter, joy and heartfelt conversation as we enjoyed one another's company on this joyous occasion.



Church Board and Pastoral Team

Anniversary Auction

Next, the highlight of the anniversary celebration was none other than our Anniversary Auction. The purpose of this auction was to raise funds for our community services as below:

1. Primary/Secondary Tuition Ministry
2. Youth Counseling Ministry
3. Families of Incarcerated
4. Free Meals on Wheels

To support this cause, one of our church members had taken 12 months' time to sew two sets of two 100 Blessings Blankets to be auctioned off. Another member also contributed a set of Vintage Peranakan Jewellery to be auctioned off at the event.

It was a unique and exciting auction that combines the thrill of bidding with the joy of giving back; for our Lord Jesus Himself mentioned, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." The atmosphere was charged with energy as different ones bided to support this worthy and impactful cause.

As the items were auctioned off, the winners were announced. The auctioneer thanked the participants and highlighted the success of the event, revealing the impressive amount of money raised for our community services.



Praise Drums performance

Prizes to Bless

The evening concluded with a blessed draw which allowed winners to walk away with wonderful prizes. As the night ended, the emcees took a moment to thank everyone for attending and for making the event such a wonderful success.

We are thankful to members and our esteemed guests who have shared in this momentous celebration. As Sembawang AG enters our 22nd year, may we continue to forge forward to bring the highest glory to our great and mighty God!

Truly, God deserves the highest glory. Amen!



Faithful members celebrating and serving in unity

三巴旺神召会22岁了!

感谢主! 2月19日三巴旺神召会刚欢庆了成立22周年庆祝活动, 透过此活动感恩与赞美上帝对三巴旺神召会这22年来的信实与美好的见证。

22年前神赐给陈赞美牧师的异像-要三巴旺建立一间教会, 就在绕城的过程中感动了一位姐妹愿意开放她的家, 来建立小组而开始这美好的祝福, 如经上约伯记8:7所记: 你起初虽然微小, 终久必甚发达, 就这样经历了旷野(搬了至少5次的教会地点)直到迦南美地(目前的教会地点)。

回首这22年来, 上帝的美好真的是数不完....

在2019年, 安东尼牧师从陈赞美牧师承接了上帝的使命, 当一交棒就遇到了世纪大疫情。面对大环境的改变, 上帝再次加添新的力量、新的异象予安东尼牧师, 共渡了这瘟疫及重启教会的大试验, 在这其间上帝也不断带领安东尼牧师, 推行了教会改革, 神迹主日、超自然神迹之夜、社区服务、419计划、小组区域化等的事工与活动, 旨在让弟兄姐妹们重新聚焦于上帝, 对外则继续谨记上帝的大使命, 走入社区-建立关系, 触动生命。

在庆典上弟兄姐妹及各教会的牧师传道共赴此宴席, 一起见证三巴旺神召会的成长, 从策划筹备到活动的过程当中, 也见证了像使徒行传上的情景-凡物公用, 弟兄姐妹都甘心乐意将自己的时间、财物及才干, 奉献给主用。这也成就了在庆典上的拍卖项目所收金额超过5位数, 此金额用于社区活动-提供免费中小学补习、青少年辅导、关怀囚犯家属及午餐献爱心活动。

最后, 感谢主与感谢教牧长辈、来自不同教会的牧者同工、三巴旺神召会的弟兄姐妹们, 由于大家无私的参与及奉献, 让我们再次共同经历了上帝的信实, 让我们能带着信心喊出我们的心声: "曾经风闻有祢, 如今亲眼看见祢!"

一切荣耀归主!



Gathering as a family to rejoice together

Mandarin Service Launched and Water Baptism

We rejoice in our Mandarin Service's launched and with our members as they took a step of faith in water baptism.

By Ps Samuel Gift Stephen, Life Centre

Life Centre (Formerly Smyrna Assembly) officially launched its first Mandarin Service in April 2021. Our ministry team focused on loving and caring for the elderly and families staying around the church and many came because of the relationships built.

Friendship Evangelism to BLESS

'Friendship Evangelism' is a tool that we use to build authentic deep friendships with these seniors and families. Using the acronym **"BLESS"**, firstly, we **Being** by praying for these families for Open Doors and Open Hearts. Ephesians 6:12 mentions, *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* Thus, prayer is always the beginning point for evangelism. We encourage each believer to pray for their unsaved family, friends and neighbors during breakfast, lunch and dinner. This is to be intentional in praying and evangelism.

Secondly, **Listen** to them. Listen to their struggles and needs. Most of the time, they just need a listening ear, especially the elderly.

Thirdly, **Eat** with them. We recognize here in Singapore that food is always a great way to build relationship. We invite them for a meal or just coffee, and these always create opportunities to hear them and build trust.

Fourthly, **Serve** them. Serve their needs, help according to your capability, but don't make them dependent on you and always point them back to trust Jesus.

The last "S" is **Share** your testimony. Now this is an art. It is not just sharing your testimony plainly but sharing it effectively and making room for the hearers to put their trust in Jesus.

Keep doing the above repeatedly, you will see fruits. Above all, always know that, to build relationships, you need to invest time and resources.

Relationships Built

From this 'Friendship Evangelism', we have many who came to attend our Discipleship Class every Monday in our church. These classes addressed the questions they have about our faith and focused on healing and deliverance.

These classes give them the opportunity to invite Jesus into their heart and on December 31, 2022, Life Centre Mandarin Service conducted its third baptism service with six brothers giving their lives to Jesus.

A Step of Faith in Water Baptism

As with our church's practice, our Mandarin Ministry gathered at the Sembawang Beach at 9.30am. We started with a time of Praise and Worship, followed by a short Word on what baptism is and the challenges after baptism. After the Word, each candidate shared a short testimony on why they had invited Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

This was a powerful time as they publicly declared their allegiance to Jesus. We then laid hands on each candidate and prayed for them as they prepared to go into the water. Ps Samuel Gift Stephen and Bro Terence Tan led each candidate into the water till waist deep.

Ps Samuel made a public declaration baptizing them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit into the body of Christ. There were many from the public who gathered around to witness, with some clapping and cheering as each candidate came out of the water.

The ministry team would burst out in a mandarin praise song each time a candidate came out. After baptizing the six candidates, Ps Samuel and the ministry team gathered around them, anointed them with oil and prayed for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He encouraged them to always be accountable to one another as their journey in faith can be challenging, but with the power of the Holy Spirit, they can overcome the schemes of the devil. The baptism service ended with some light refreshments and fellowship.



Praying for our baptism candidates



Coming out of water into a new faith



Giving out baptism certificates to our members



Reflecting on my Journey as a Spiritual Leader

Rev Dr David Lee has handed over his senior pastorship to Rev Dr Alvin Lim. He takes us on a journey in this pastoral reflection on leadership and succession.



What makes a good Christian leader?

A good, spiritual leader must be led by Christ.

He or she must be a responsible person, responsive to God's calling and direction. Without obedience, commitment, and sacrifice, it is not possible to be a good Christian leader.

Leadership involves spirituality, knowledge, skills and accumulated experiences. In this article, I wish to share my journey as a student leader, pioneering pastor and spiritual leader.

Leadership, to me, is not always loud and domineering. Our Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated through His life and ministry what it means to be a servant leader. Leadership is acquired by studying the Scriptures and learning from biblical models and principles. Good leadership is the ability to silently bring effective change, solve long-term problems patiently and bring lasting results, without allowing negative forces to destroy the benefits these accomplishments bring. Most importantly, a good Christian leader is dependent on God for His grace, wisdom and strength to bring glory to God. None of us should rob God of the glory due to His name alone.

Prayer Allows You to Align with God's Direction

As a Christian, even at an early age, I recognized the importance of prayer. Taking time to listen to God inspires revelation that can empower and transform destiny. By taking time to hear from God, with His empowerment, we can learn to speak in faith and be His witness.

The value of being prayerful was instilled in me since my school days. Some of my school mates and I would meet every morning to pray till it was time to rush to school. After

classes, we would gather in the same prayer room and pray for another hour or so. It was during those times of prayer, where we inherited God's plans and purposes for our lives. Leadership begins on our knees. As we get on our knees and pray, we will be able to download God's vision and direction for our lives.

Be Faithful in Every Small Task

My spiritual leadership journey and ministry had many ups and downs. However, through the years, I learned about the faithfulness, providence, protection and grace of God.

In 1971, I was invited by Rev Dr Robert Lim to serve with him in Evangel Assembly. My days in Evangel were happy ones, as I learned much about spiritual leadership and taking ministry initiatives from Dr Lim. He was a Christian mentor, who gave me opportunities to teach, preach and equipped me with social and ministry skills. My time serving at Evangel taught me not to despise small beginnings. Seeds may not seem significant but with faithful nurturing, these seeds can one day grow into trees that are numerous or big in size. In the same way, if you are faithful in serving God, no matter how small the tasks may seem, He will provide for your every need and lead you into abundance.

At the pioneering stage, Evangel was unable to provide me a salary, so I started work in an electronics factory for six months. Later, I served in the oil exploration industry and became Head of Administration and Materials Management of the company, where I worked for nine years. I also became Director of Research for Institute of Purchasing and Supply, teaching courses on logistics. Later, I became the General Secretary of the Institute. God had opened doors for me to be able to organize and manage urgent and expensive

projects, carrying out multi-million dollar tasks.

In the meantime, I was serving in various functions of the Assemblies of God (AG) of Singapore, including chairing the first Chinese Rally, which birthed the Chinese department in the AG, chairing the Ministers' Fellowship for many years, and serving in the AG Executive Committee. When I received my first ministerial papers from the AG in 1969, we only had 10 churches and 20 ministers, including missionaries. This gave me many hands-on opportunities to serve in pioneering and development stages of the AG.

One of the most memorable things I've worked on were the monthly Christ Ambassadors Rallies at Victoria Memorial Hall in the sixties and seventies. Together with Rev Alfred Ang, full-time coordinator, we planned and ran these rallies, which brought purpose, passion and prayer to young lives. In those days, churches hired lorries to transport people to the rallies. Hundreds of young people attended these rallies and many found Christ and salvation in these meetings.

God is truly a good God. If you avail yourself to Him and serve Him wholeheartedly with every small task, He will surely grow your efforts and ministry and bless the work of your hands.

God will Provide

In my 22 years of service as a Christian leader, I resigned from my job and went into full-time ministry at Faith Assembly in 1981. In 1985, I met and married my wife Shirley Ng. Even though I had lost 80% of my pay when I went into full-time ministry, my wife and I trusted God with our needs. And God never failed us.

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Every Morning I Thank God that I am Still Alive

God's words and prayers sustained me throughout my operations.

By Eisen Tan, Lifeline Family Church

On December 15, 2021, I felt chest pain after coming home from work. I was rushed to the hospital. Three arteries were found to be blocked after cardiac catheterization and bypass surgery was recommended. I was transferred to SGH's National Heart Centre. The doctor explained to my family the process of the operation and if everything went well, I should be able to go home in four to five days. However, all operations will have some risks such as stroke, kidney failure, inflammation, and others. The night before the operation, my family and I had Holy Communion at my hospital bed. We prayed and entrusted the entire operation and the surgeon to the hands of God.

Two Surgeries Back-to-Back

On the day of operation, a kind anesthesiologist comforted me on the way to the operating theatre. I was very calm knowing that I was in God's hand. The operation was successful, but it also caused an imbalance in the body's electrolytes, resulting in irregular heartbeats over the next four to five days.

When my heartbeat was back to normal, I developed a high fever. A CT scan showed bleeding around the heart. An emergency surgery was performed the next day to stop the bleeding and remove the inflamed fluid. That night, I told God that I did not want my life to end there because I want to witness my children getting married and see grandchildren with my own eyes.

My family came to pray with me before the operation. Again, I felt very peaceful when I was pushed into the operating theatre. I was very sure that I would make it this round again. But after the operation, X-rays showed fluid in the right lung. The doctor had to insert three tubes into my chest to drain out the liquid. I was frustrated and depressed. I felt being detained by an evil spirit, very helpless and scared. At that moment, the Holy Spirit reminded me to pray. I knelt and prayed sincerely, "God, I am so tired. I want to rest in you, God. Protect me and heal me." After that, I felt released and peaceful. That night, I was reminded of these words from Psalm 23. *"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not lack anything. He leads me to still waters and makes me lie down in green pastures."* I slept very soundly.

Miracle, Tears and Joy

The next day, God's grace and miracles began to release. All infections cleared. Drip antibiotics also stopped because blood test results showed no bacteria, and I just needed oral antibiotics. I managed to start walking and my heartbeat was stable. Ultrasound on the heart showed it worked normally. There was a mild fever of 37.7 degree in the evening. This time, I believed that God would bear everything for me.

On January 7, all test results showed I was recovering. I immediately called my wife and told her the good news. At noon, I could not be discharged because I still had a fever and possibly inflammation in my body. I was very disappointed, and tears began to flow.

My wife comforted me and said, "Let's pray and commit to God." Later, the infection specialist explained that the fever in the morning could be due to the stopping of antibiotics. He said, "If antibiotics can be resumed by oral medication, you may be able to continue with the discharge."

So finally, I am going home, praise God!

God's Answers to my Ordeal

While waiting for discharge, a nurse of another faith who had taken care of me in another ward saw me sitting on the bed. She came and said to me, "God loves you very much. You know, many people here prayed for you when they heard that you needed a second operation. It is very rare to have to operate twice within such a short time." These words touched my heart deeply, and tears flowed again.

Throughout my stay in hospital, I listened to many sermons and read the Bible. God's Word has sustained me. Resting at home, I asked God why He wanted me to go through this ordeal. The following are the answers that touch my heart: God is always with me. He waits for me to hand over my burdens to him. I can rest safely in His arms. God is in control of every experience I go through. God wants me to reset the priorities of my life. By God's grace He has brought me through it all! Amen!



Eisen Tan and his family thanking God for preserving his life

The Presence of God and Prayer Support are the Best Medicines

With prayer support from my family and church, God sustained, healed, and saw me through my cancer treatment.

By Jolene Peck, Zion Full Gospel Church

I was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer in November 2021 as part of a yearly screening. The tumor size was 1.8cm. I was 48 years old. Although I knew in my heart that I had God to rely on, fear still took hold, and I was lost and crying. I said to myself, "Why me?"

On the first day, I confirmed that it was stage one cancer; I could not help but cry a few times alone in my room. Due to the pandemic, Mario, my husband, and I were working from home, so he was always there to encourage me. He sent me a worship song to encourage me, turning my focus from worry into hope. That song was "Grace" from Laura Story. The song reminded me that in my imperfections, God loves me. How I ought to seek His face, and I will walk in the power of His daily sufficient grace. At that moment, I turned my eyes to Jesus and told myself, "God will see me through and heal me". I didn't know how and when; I just needed to trust Him alone. Mario and Jann, my daughter, prayed for me in our daily family prayer time. I, too, have become more disciplined in my daily reading of the Bible and quiet time.

God is faithful. He saw me through in the next six months when I underwent diagnosis, treatment options, surgery, healing and post-operative therapy from November 2021 to May 2022. For the next five years, I had to be on hormone therapy and oral treatment to prevent relapses. In addition, regular follow-up with oncologists and gynecologists was needed to monitor the onset of uterine cancer, which is one of the side effects. I am thankful I had not suffered any potential side effects from hormone therapy throughout the treatment period.

However, in the recent annual follow-up scans and blood test at the end of January 2023, the tumor marker reading was out of range. A new small 0.7 cm tumor was detected by ultrasound on the same breast. I was very anxious because it felt like a second sentence. Although I couldn't help but feel uncertain and anxious, I kept praying and asking for God's protection. Despite the uncertainty,

I went anyway for the planned family holiday in Japan, and God showed me the marvelous beauty of His creation. I proceeded with the biopsy after the trip.

I reached out for prayer support. Through prayer, I am thankful that my biopsy result on February 17 was favorable; the tumor is benign. All I needed was to monitor it for six months. February 17 was also the release of the A-Level results for Jann. We had prayed daily for both results and are thankful that my daughter and I passed our examinations! It was a double blessing in one day. All glory and praise to God.

God is our provider too. My insurance covered all my medical expenses, and my heart is grateful. The second tumor experience steered me towards fixing my eyes on Jesus Christ, recognizing the importance of spending more time in God's word and His presence. I remember the Bible passage from 2 Corinthians 12 about Paul's vision and his thorn in the flesh. The tumor and the surgery scar are like thorns in my flesh, reminding me to humble myself and seek God daily. I do not know what will happen, but I am confident God cares for me.

*"So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud."
(2 Corinthians 12:7)*

*"My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses so that the power of Christ can work through me."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)*

I am grateful for the unwavering love I received from my family, the prayer support from my church, Zion Full Gospel Church, and the understanding of all my colleagues at work. Indeed, the presence of God and the prayer support are the best medicines I can ever have!



Jolene Peck and her family are grateful for the prayer support given by her churchmates in Zion Full Gospel Church



God showed Jolene the beauty of His creation during her trip to Japan

Organised by Asia Pacific Assemblies of God Fellowship

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Includes tea break and lunch

NIGHT RALLY

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Free Admission 🎧

🎧 Simultaneous interpretation in Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese and Vietnamese
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Rev Ong Sek Leang



Rev Dominic Yeo



Rev Budi Setiawan



Rev Dr Fidel Monzon

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Rev Arif Multi



Rev Dr Wilson Teo



Rev Dr Samuel Ng



Rev Brian Lopez



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