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Mentoring and Succession for Kingdom Continuity

General Superintendent Rev Dominic Yeo

MM33
HIS MANDATE. OUR MISSION.

1. Mentoring is a BIG word. How would you summarize it for our readers here?

Mentoring is often seen as helping a person in becoming more Christ-like. However, mentoring is much larger than just character development. Mentoring involves the shaping and forming of the mentee's mind, in both their strategic thinking skills and values, as well as their practical ministry skills like financial planning, team building, as well as forming and casting a vision for ministry.

Discipleship is not just about Character Formation, but it is also about Ministerial Formation.

2. What is one principle you apply when you mentor younger ministers?

Don't kill the God-given shape that He has gifted them with. Our spiritual sons and daughters will be different from us. And because they are different, we want to mentor them, not program them.

Just as how David couldn't fight Goliath in Saul's armor, they will win their battles with their God-given shape. Mentoring is sharpening their God-given skillsets, allowing their redemptive gifts to shine forth. Resist the need to conform them to who we are. Release them to their God-given destiny instead of locking them up in your preferred setup.

Give them opportunities to grow. Bring them along for ministry. Allow them platforms to teach and preach. Be willing to share the stage with them. We have to step off the plate to give them space to practice.

3. Why is leadership succession so important for the growth of the church?

Succession is the mentality of a lasting organization. If we love the Church, we must be ready for succession, and not allow circumstances or poor planning to jettison the responsibility of leading the church.

Many senior pastors reach a point of seniority in life before realizing the need to hand over their church. Often because of failure to groom someone from within, they begin looking for someone from the outside to come in. Sometimes it can be quite a difficult process as the new pastor that comes in may not carry the same vision and DNA of the house. More time is required for mentoring and alignment. However, by the time they reach a certain seniority, time is no longer a luxury available.

Succession is not just about the leadership of the church, but has to do with every rank and file. If you are a head of communications or head of worship, the absence of your position will impact the church. Every position in the church needs a succession plan.

If you want a lasting ministry that will continue to impact the generations, you need to have succession plans.

4. We understand that in March 2023, you handed over your Lead Pastorship in Trinity. Why did you do so when you can continue?

Every ministry has a trajectory and peak. There is a golden moment in ministry but it's important to recognize the moment and not overstay the moment – even for lead pastorship.

There is a bell curve of time, a pattern of life that God has ordained. As leaders, it's important to be willing to leave at the height and peak of one's ministry when you have strength and associations, and when you have sons and daughters in the house.

With the increase in life expectancy today, some would say the best contributive age of a minister is when they are 60-70 years old. While all the wisdom they can offer is great, it's also important to recognize that the next generation will require time to build and run the distance for the new season of God. When you hand over later, the next generation of lead pastorship is short-changed of that time to establish and see the accomplishment of the new season.

Hence, it's crucial to pass the baton at the right time so that the next runner can take the ministry further than you can.

5. The Assemblies of God of Singapore celebrates our 95th Anniversary this year. As we look back, what is one thing that makes your heart glad?

It brings me great joy when believers and ministers in the AG Singapore churches testify of our greater Togetherness, stronger Trainings, and evident Transformation.

When I first became General Superintendent of AG Singapore in 2010, God revealed three T's to me for AG Singapore. The first was 'Togetherness'—to forge stronger bonds of unity among AG ministers and our churches. The second was 'Training'—to develop our ministers to be sharp in their anointing and practice, so that we can equip men and women to be strong and mature disciples. The final T is 'Transformation'—where there will be an increased transformation from within our churches that will effect greater transformation in our communities and the nations beyond.

Going forward, I know God will continue to enable us to be His agents of transformation. MM33 is really moving us into a fresh trajectory for transformation. Transformation of our local churches; Transformation of our leadership; Transformation of our world as they are touched by God's glory.

6. As we look forward to our Centennial, in line with MM33, what do you hope to achieve for our denomination?

It was just five years ago that we celebrated our 90th Anniversary. In the last five years, the charge to grow the Assemblies of God to ONE million churches worldwide by 2033 happened. Along with our greatest charge to expand the Kingdom of God, came one of our greatest challenges—COVID-19.

Every commission of God will have its challenges. We are taking back territories and we should expect opposition. My prayer is that AG Singapore will rise to a greater level of faith and courage to step into the commission of God and allow the entire arsenal of heaven to be upon us to build strong and healthy churches. Also, to plant more churches, so that there will be more centers where worship, the teaching of the Word and discipleship can take place!

7. How can we pray for you?

I definitely covet your prayers with a heavy overseas ministry schedule. Pray for wisdom as I head MM33 for the next 10 years. Pray for God's protection upon my household. Pray for health as I am more engaged in global ministry to inspire the movements of MM33. Pray for effective time for family bonding; pray for

God to bring the right people to stand shoulder to shoulder and carry the ministry, as well as the right associations that can add strength to the assemblies.

近距离探讨国度延续的督导和交棒

1. 督导是个大词。你可否为读者简明概括督导的意思？

督导通常被视为帮助人变得更像基督。然而，督导不仅仅是品格发展。督导涉及在策略性思维技能和价值观方面塑造受辅者的思想，也在财务规划、团队建设、事工异象形成和瞻异象方面塑造事工实际操作的技巧。

门训不只是品格塑造，也是事工塑造。

2. 督导年轻传道人时，您使用的其中一个原则是什么？

不要破坏神赐予他们的形象。我们的属灵儿女和我们并不相同。因为他们不同，我们要做的是督导他们而不是使他们成为某个样式。

就如大卫无法穿上扫罗的铠甲与歌利亚作战，我们的属灵儿女同样的要依靠神赐予他们的样式赢得争战。督导能强化神所赐的技能，使他们的属灵恩赐尽情发挥。请不要要求他们成为另一个自己。要释放他们进入神的命定，而不是把他们锁在你喜欢的状态中。

我们要给他们成长的机会，带他们参与事工。要给他们教导和讲道的平台，要愿意和他们分享舞台。我们需要腾出位置，让他们有操练的空间。

3. 为什么领导层的交棒对于教会的成长如此重要？

一个持久经营的组织必有交棒的心态。如果我们爱教会，我们就必须做好交棒的准备，不要因为情势或计划不周而放弃领导教会的责任。

许多主任牧师在年长时才意识到需要交棒。其中好些牧师由于未能从教会内培养人接棒，只能从教会外找人来交接。这个过程有时相当困难，因为新来的牧师与教会的异象和基因不一定相同。他们需要更多的时间接受督导和对齐，但主任牧师已年长，没有那么宽裕的时间了。

交棒不只是教会领导层的事，也是教会里每个部门应思考的事。如果你是传讯或敬拜负责人，你位置的空缺将会影响整个教会。教会中的每个职位都需要有交棒计划。

如果你想要一个持久的，能够继续影响几代人的事工，你就需要制定接棒计划。

4. 我们知道您于2023年3月进行了主领牧师的交棒。在您还能继续任职的情形下，您为什么要这样做？

每个事工都有一个轨道和巅峰。我们要意识到事工中的黄金时刻，并且不要超时停留在那个时刻，即使对于主任牧师来说也是如此。

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Mentoring, Intergenerational Leadership and Succession

In MM33, we read about mentoring, intergenerational leadership and succession. This issue, we get our pastors to share their teachings on these topics.

Three Perspectives of Jesus' Model of Mentoring

*Jesus has set for us a model of mentoring through His examples while on earth.
Rev Simon Ang examines the Bible and shares these perspectives.*



Mentoring is a timeless concept that has been practiced across cultures and generations. In the Bible, Jesus stands as the ultimate model of mentoring, demonstrating profound love, compassion, and transformative leadership.

Jesus' words in John 15:4, *"Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."*

Abiding means I get into Christ in such a way that I go so deep into Jesus that we become one. It means you have a life source that grows you. And every mentoring relationship whether you are the mentor or the one being mentored must begin with us abiding in Him. That is the foundation stone of how Jesus modeled mentoring for us. This article explores three key perspectives of Jesus' approach to mentoring.

Transformation through Relationship Building

One of the most compelling aspects of Jesus' ministry is His emphasis on cultivating deep and authentic relationships with His disciples. In the Gospel of Mark, we see Jesus calling His first disciples, Simon and Andrew, by the Sea of Galilee, *"Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men."* (Mark 1:17) This simple but profound invitation marked the beginning of a transformative journey.

Jesus selected twelve disciples, whom He taught and mentored closely. He modeled a servant-leader mentality, demonstrating humility and genuine care for the disciples' growth. One remarkable example of Jesus' discipleship is found in the washing of the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). By this act of humility, Jesus exemplified the importance of serving others and cultivating a heart of compassion. As mentors, we can adopt a similar perspective with our mentees by demonstrating care and humility whilst guiding them through their journey of growth.

Jesus' call to discipleship goes beyond just a casual interaction. It is a dynamic and relational experience in which He walks alongside his disciples, sharing life experiences and spiritual insights.

Equipping through Empowerment

Another significant perspective of Jesus' mentoring model is His commitment to equipping His disciples for their ministries. Jesus was renowned for His exceptional teaching skills, employing various methods to impart spiritual truths and wisdom to His disciples.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus delivered a masterful teaching that outlined the Kingdom of God. His teachings went beyond mere intellectual knowledge; they challenged His listeners to live out their faith authentically.

But Jesus's mentoring approach went beyond teaching and discipleship; He empowered His followers to become leaders themselves. Jesus entrusted His disciples with responsibilities, giving them opportunities to exercise their faith, learn from their mistakes, and ultimately grow into effective leaders.

Before His ascension, Jesus commissioned His disciples to continue His work by making disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). He promised to send the Holy Spirit to empower for this task. By entrusting His followers with the Great Commission, Jesus instilled confidence, courage, and a sense of purpose within them.

Likewise, as mentors, we need to prioritize equipping our disciples with the Word, spiritual gifts, and practical skills. We need to encourage them to step out in faith and embrace the power of the Holy Spirit to influence and impact their spheres of influence. Our discipleship is not just about transferring knowledge, but it is also the activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Reproduction through Multiplication

The third perspective of Jesus' mentoring model is the concept of reproduction and multiplication. Jesus' investment in His disciples was not merely for their personal growth but also for the expansion of God's kingdom. He intended for them to continue His teachings and replicate the mentoring process with others.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus states, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do..."* (John 14:12)

This multiplication principle aligns with the idea of spiritual revival and growth. The Pentecostal movement itself has experienced waves of revival throughout history, marked by an outpouring of the Holy Spirit and a renewed passion for evangelism. Just as Jesus' disciples spread His teachings and initiated a movement, Pentecostal believers are encouraged to multiply their spiritual impact by mentoring others and igniting spiritual renewal.

As mentors, we need to be intentionally investing in the next generation so that they can contribute to the continual growth and expansion of the Church. This model of reproduction resonates with Jesus' call for believers to bear fruit that remains and inspire others to do the same.

I conclude that Jesus' model of mentoring highlights the depth and richness of His approach. From building transformative relationships to equipping through empowerment and reproducing through multiplication, Jesus' mentoring model is a blueprint for believers seeking to impact the world for Christ. By embracing these perspectives, Spirit-filled mentors and mentees alike can experience a holistic and impactful mentoring journey that reflects the heart of Jesus' ministry.



Rev Simon Ang
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Three Principles in Mentoring Pastors

If you were to mentor a young pastor. How would you start? Rev Robert Lum draws from his personal experience and shares three principles.

“We teach what we know; we reproduce who we are.” — John Maxwell

Through the years, I have come across different terms for mentoring: the Paul-Timothy relationship; discipler-disciple, teacher-student, instructor-apprentice, coach-coachee, and mentor-mentee. The idea is similar—an experienced person guiding a younger or less experienced person in a formal or non-formal relationship.

Honestly, I did not have a formal mentor, but I have learned from many experienced pastors and leaders. I thank God that He has brought many godly leaders into my life. I remember an incident that happened when I was a lay leader many years ago. Someone called the church to conduct a funeral for a member. My pastor was away on a mission trip. I did not know what to do and called a pastor whom I knew. He patiently explained the concept of ministering to bereaved families. He taught me how to respond and helped to conduct it. This brings me to the first principle of mentoring pastors:

1. **Take a sincere, genuine interest in the person.** The Bible tells us to “love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.” (Romans 12:10) This is especially important for pastors because they are generally guarded about their needs and struggles. Trust builds up when the person knows that the mentor has his interest at heart. He will share more freely and learn more readily. In this way, the mentorship is more effective.

Whether it is formal or informal mentoring, we should establish a personal relationship. Paul called Timothy “his son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2). He brought him on his journeys, prayed, encouraged, and taught him to handle church matters. I tell the staff, “We are more than colleagues. We are family.” I ask about their well-being and their family. I listen to their stories, pray, encourage and give my advice (if appropriate). I will follow up with them.

The younger or newer pastor needs to know that he is being valued as a person and not merely a worker. This kind of mentoring relationship takes time and effort. The senior leader should initiate the process. As senior leaders tend to be busy, we must set aside time for personal interaction. When we possess a genuine interest in people, mentoring pastors will become mutually satisfying and beneficial.

2. **Be open and honest about yourself.** It is said that character and values are more caught than taught. Mentors are more experienced and can help to build a younger person. But we are not perfect. Paul’s weaknesses and struggles are seen in the Bible—the split from his mentor, Barnabas (Acts 15); the struggle with his sinful nature (Romans 7); his inglorious past as a persecutor and his need for support from Timothy (2 Timothy 4:9).

Mentoring is not a one-way process. We strive to be honest about ourselves and our struggles. We may think that sharing our vulnerabilities will discourage the mentee. On the contrary, we become a model of humility and authenticity. We demonstrate our need for God and others. The mentee discovers the truth that God uses imperfect people for His kingdom.

This is not an easy principle to practice. People expect senior leaders to be victorious all the time. They like to hear stories of blessings. As a senior leader, I know how difficult it is to say, “I have my struggles and problems too.” Yet I know the power of authenticity and transparency. Life in the ministry is fraught with challenges and difficulties. Hurts, discouragement, and failures are a part of it. With the help of the Holy Spirit, let us exemplify Paul’s word in 2 Corinthians 12:9 to our mentee. “*But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.*”

3. **Build people to be competent and independent ministers.** It is important to remember that the goal of mentoring is to develop a younger or less experienced pastor to a level of maturity and competency. Paul, in his final exhortation to Timothy, said, “*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction... keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.*” (2 Timothy 4:2, 5) The mentee pastor must be able to function confidently and independently.

As a senior minister, I am conscious of the flawed thinking, “I am better than him (mentee).” It is true at the beginning of the relationship. However, as he learns and practices, he will develop God’s gifts in his own style and ways. To do this, we need to trust the person to do the job, first under supervision, then independently. It could be different, but we honor and respect the way God uses a person. In a recent planning summit, I told the staff, “My job is to make you successful (for the Lord’s kingdom).” Jokingly, I added, “You must increase, and I must decrease.”

This also requires that my identity and security is in God. I must avoid developing a co-dependency attitude that ties the mentee to me. A time will come when the mentoring ends. The relationship, however, continues. When the mentee becomes a mentor, this is successful and fulfilling mentoring!

“*And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.*” (2 Timothy 2:2)



Rev Robert (Bob) grew up in Eternal Life Assembly since his conversion in 1967. After a five-year banking career, he became a full-time Christian minister in 1985 and was appointed as senior pastor in 1992. Known for his friendliness and passion, Bob is a “people’s pastor”. He is married to Dorothy and they have three daughters, two sons-in-law and two grand-daughters and three grandsons.

Three Patterns of Church Leadership Succession

*When we talk about church leadership succession, we can find patterns of it in the Bible.
Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock dives into the Bible and shares his revelations.*

Leadership succession is inevitable. Succession takes place when a leader is stricken by severe illness, or decides to retire, or feels that God is leading him to another ministry, or in the worst case, a leader's untimely death. William and Warren stressed the fact that "Every pastor is an interim pastor."¹ They added, "Actually, that phase could be adapted to every leader: Every CEO is an interim CEO, every college president is an interim college president, and every denomination leader is an interim as well. Whatever hat you wear, it's probably true for you as well."² Therefore, succession is not a topic that leaders should avoid but a reality to work on—the sooner the better! To keep within the length of this article, we will look at three biblical patterns of leadership succession.

1. Home Grown Succession

When Moses knew that his time was up, he prayed to God for a successor,³

*"O Lord, you are the God who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new man as leader for the community. Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them into battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd."*⁴

The Lord chose Joshua the son of Nun to succeed him. He was appointed in the presence of the Eleazar the priest and the congregation of the people.⁵ Joshua was a much younger man in his eighties. He had journeyed with Moses and the congregation since they left Egypt.

Although he was not chosen among the 70 elders, he was a leader representing the tribe of Ephraim, and he was better known as "the servant of Moses."⁶ He was with Moses at Sinai, in the tent of meeting and he led Israel to victory in the battle against the Amalek. He succeeded Moses after his death at 120 years old.⁷ Taking over from Moses was definitely an uphill task, God promised that He would be with him and give him success, but he needed to be "strong and courageous" and be careful to observe the Law.⁸ He led Israel successfully into the promised land, he was no longer known as "the servant of Moses" but "the servant of the Lord, died at 110 years old."⁹

In the Book of Acts, there was a young man Timothy who traveled with Apostle Paul and his team in their missionary journey to Europe. Paul spent three years in Ephesus, and although he had appointed elders¹⁰, he eventually left his leadership role to Timothy.¹¹ Taking over the leadership role from the Apostle Paul was obviously "too big a shoe" for Timothy. Paul wrote two epistles to instruct, encourage and affirm his almost reluctant successor. According to the *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, Timothy served as the Bishop of Ephesus, and he was martyred in AD 97.

2. Father-Son Succession

David prepared his son Solomon to succeed him, but a conspiracy

attempt by his brother Adonijah to hijack the throne was unsuccessful, and Solomon was anointed as King after the death of his father David.¹² In fact, Judah continued to enjoy "Father-Son Succession" because God promised David, "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."¹³ On the other hand, Saul the first king of Israel insisted that his son Jonathan should succeed him, but his choice was not God's choice. He fought hard to keep his throne but failed tragically.

David was a man after God's own heart, and Solomon also loved the Lord, followed David's footsteps, and sought after God for wisdom to rule well.¹⁴

When Rev Billy Graham was called home to the Lord, his son, Franklin succeeded him in 2018. Franklin was already serving as the President of Samaritan's Purse. He wrote in his book, *Rebel With A Cause*, "Just being the son of Billy Graham won't get me into heaven."¹⁵ He knew his commitment to the Lord and wanted to do more for Him.

3. Grafted Succession

This is like a horticulturist selecting a desired plant and grafting it into another plant. When the Church in Jerusalem heard that the Church in Antioch needed a pastor, they sent Barnabas. When the Church in Antioch began to grow, he went to Tarsus to look for Saul (later called Paul).¹⁶ They served together in Antioch until the Lord called them to preach beyond Antioch. Thus, the Church of Antioch grew beyond its shore.¹⁷

In the Old Testament, God did not choose a student from the school of prophets to succeed Elijah but led him to a farmer named Elisha, who eventually succeeded him as the superintendent of the school.¹⁸

Sometimes, it is not that the church does not have capable people to take up or succeed the senior leadership, but it is about seeking God for the right person. Competence in senior leadership is more than ability to provide good caregiving and operating a ministry. Moses asked for someone like a shepherd to provide leadership, give guidance, and know how to protect the congregation from enemies.

In the last five years, we have seen these three common patterns in leadership succession among the Assemblies of God churches. Just to name a few Home-grown successions: Trinity Christian Centre, The Living Word Fellowship, Emmanuel Assembly, Elim Church, and Bethel Assembly. There are at least two Father-Son Successions: Centre of New Life and New Destiny Fellowship International. Grafted Succession: Calvary Assembly, Grace Assembly, Maranatha Assembly and Sembawang Assembly. Thank the Lord that they are doing well.



Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock is Pastor Emeritus 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 Assemblies of God (AG) of Singapore, President of Teen Challenge Singapore, Board Member of Tung Ling Bible School and Bible Society of Singapore, Treasurer of Global Leadership Summit Singapore, and Vice Chairman of Harmony Circle (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 his wife, May since 1977 with two adult sons.

¹ William Vanderbloemen and Warren Bird, *Next: Pastoral Succession That Works* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020), 15.

² Ibid.

³ Numbers 27:12-20.

⁴ Numbers 27:16-17, NLT.

⁵ Numbers 27:18-23.

⁶ Numbers 11:16-30; 13:8, 16; "Servant of Moses" (*shārath*, refers to one who ministers or serves), Exodus 24:13, 33:11; Numbers 11:28; Joshua 1:1.

⁷ Deuteronomy 34:5-9.

⁸ Joshua 1:1-9.

⁹ Joshua 24:29.

¹⁰ Acts 20:17.

¹¹ Acts 16-20; 1 Timothy 1:1.

¹² 1 Chronicles 22-29; 1 Kings 1.

¹³ 2 Samuel 7:16, NLT.

¹⁴ Acts 13:22; 1 Samuel 13:14; 1 Kings 3:3-15.

¹⁵ "Franklin Graham", *Billy Graham Evangelistic Association*, accessed September 18, 2023, <https://billygraham.org/about/biographies/franklin-graham/>

¹⁶ Acts 11:19-26

¹⁷ Acts 13-14.

¹⁸ 1 Kings 19:15-21; 2 Kings 2:1-22.

Three Postures in Passing The Leadership Baton

*What should our posture be like when passing on the leadership baton?
Rev Calvin Lee highlights three postures to adopt.*

Most of us are familiar with the term ‘passing the baton’, especially those of us who have been in a relay team. Even if we have not been on a relay team, we have watched one before and we do understand the concept of passing the baton.

Passing the baton in a 4x100m relay race is the most critical part of the race. It happens three times, and each handover impacts the race. When it is done in a smooth and swift manner, precious seconds are gained. When the passing is not done well, it slows down the pace of both runners and valuable time is lost. If the baton is dropped, it is likely the team will lose. The passing of a baton is a good analogy for a transition of leadership. When it is done well, it will strengthen the church but when it's done badly, it will weaken the church.

Leadership succession is vital for the ongoing development, growth, and sustainability of corporations including churches.

Warren Bird, research director for Leadership Network said “Succession planning is both biblical and essential, but there is no cookie-cutter template. The only thing that's certain? It's an inevitable need in every church. And we hope to move it from taboo to normal.”

In the Bible, we see leadership succession taking place from time to time be it from Moses to Joshua, Elijah to Elisha, or David to Solomon. It represents the passing of the mantle from one to another.

Let me highlight three important postures in passing the leadership baton.

Numbers 27:18-23, “So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the Lord. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in.” Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the Lord instructed through Moses.

1. We See It As Spiritual Not Just Natural

Numbers 27:18-19, “So the Lord said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit of leadership, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence.””

When leadership succession takes place, it's not just a special moment or historic moment but God's divine moment especially when it's God-directed. It's an immensely powerful moment because leadership succession speaks of two important elements:

First, God's Sovereignty

God is sovereign! It's needful that we seek Him and His guidance in this crucial area of finding the next leader or successor. When God has a task or a mission, He will choose the right man or woman for the job. That has been God's way or method.

Second, Human Submission

It's about the man, or woman of God responding in total submission to the will of God.

In this account, we see both Moses and Joshua submitting themselves to God's leading. Both Moses and Joshua were God's chosen vessels to accomplish a designated assignment for a specific season.

Therefore, it's crucial that we see the passing of the baton as a special God's moment for the church.

2. We Focus on the Future Not Just the Present

Numbers 27:20-21, “Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the Lord. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in.”

God had not finished what He had planned for His people. Now it was time for Joshua to lead the people of Israel forward. This was God's instruction to Joshua.

Joshua 1:3-4, “I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.”

Just as the Lord had a great mission for Moses, likewise, He also had a great mission for Joshua. It has to do with the ongoing task and fulfillment of God's will for the nation of Israel.

Likewise, in passing the baton, we do it with the future in mind. It is about the next person leading the church forward to greater heights to fulfill God's plan. Prayerfully, the outcome of succession is that the church will rise to greater heights in growth and expansion. That is why we must be mission-focused, with the mission bigger than the individual as it is about His church, His will, His plan, His agenda, His kingdom.

As it concerns the future, the right person and right timing is important. You don't want to pass on the baton too early as the next leader may not be ready for the responsibility. You also don't want to pass on the baton too late. You don't want to overstay your welcome in leadership.

Leadership requires correct timing in passing the baton. Brady Boyd said, ‘Succession should look like 4x100m relay. The handoff happens at full speed instead of when you've run out of energy.’

Passing the baton is not just about finding a replacement; it is about renewal. Therefore, the passing should take place at a time that will enable the church to move forward strongly into the future.

3. We Do It Purposefully Not Based on Probability

Numbers 27:22-23 “Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the Lord instructed through Moses.



Rev Calvin Lee has served in different capacities in Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Singapore. His pastorate journey started in 1982 at Emmanuel Assembly, Ipoh, Malaysia and joined Grace Assembly of God Singapore in 1988. He served at Grace Assembly for 30 years and the last eight years, from 2012 to 2019, as the Senior Pastor. Rev Calvin was the first Executive Director at REACH Family Service Centre @ Bishan and helped to lay the foundation in establishing REACH Community Services. Presently, he actively engages in a diverse range of meaningful endeavors. He fulfills multiple roles as a preacher, teacher, mentor, consultant, and counselor in different settings.

Continued on pg 18...

“Walk for Overcomer” Online Charity Virtual Walk

*Staying fit and supporting a noble cause.
By Teen Challenge Singapore*

On May 15, 2023 to July 31, 2023, Teen Challenge (Singapore) organize an online charity virtual walk called, “Walk for Overcomer.” It is a charity campaign at www.Overcomer.sg that helps support our residents at Teen Challenge (Singapore).

Since October 17, 1976, Teen Challenge (Singapore) has provided rehabilitation services for individuals struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Our organization offers therapeutic programs designed to help individuals overcome their addictions, develop positive behaviors, and reintegrate into their communities and families. To learn more about our work, please visit www.TeenChallenge.org.sg.

We are humbled and grateful for the support we have received from the community. As part of our efforts to spread awareness and rally support, we have had the privilege of visiting various churches to share our ministry and promote this charity campaign. It has been a joy to encourage Christians to stay fit and support a noble cause simultaneously.

During the campaign period, participants can complete the chosen distance at their own time and pace. To track their progress, participants can utilize their preferred Strava apps or step counters. Upon completion, they can submit their steps or distance online to receive an E-Cert of completion.

We are immensely grateful for the generosity of our supporters. We have about 100 people and organizations signed up and donated for the “Walk for Overcomer” and have collectively raised an estimated \$27,000 (as at end July 2023) to support our residents.



It is heartwarming to witness the compassion and dedication of individuals who believe in the transformative power of rehabilitation and recovery. Your support enables us to continue our vital work and provide the necessary resources for our residents as they journey towards a brighter future, hope and restoration.

All on-line donations allow us to tap on dollar-for-dollar grant from the government, up to \$250,000 and 250% tax relief of the amount donated.

Your donations do touch lives! Read the testimony on how Benjamin Raj's life was transformed by your giving (Pg 18).



- 1 Sharing our vision at The Harvest Force
- 2 Invited by Shepherd AG to talk about the event
- 3 At Bethel AG during their Mental Wellness Exhibition
- 4 Faith AG had us sharing the purpose of the event

The Human Shepherd

A look into our pastors' mental well-being.

By Agnes Lee, REACH Community Services

I am honored to be asked to pen this article, featuring pastors' mental well-being from a unique blend of hats as a counselor as well as a Christian.

The pastors I have had the privilege of encountering over the past few years while attending church have been amazing people with inspiring speeches, insightful sharing of God's word, friendly smiles, and assuring handshakes that make me feel welcomed every time I see them. Yet statistics appear to reveal an unseen side. 70% of pastors constantly fight depression¹, 80% believe their pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families², while 44% do not take a regular day off³ (as cited in Gaultiere). In the year 2022 report by Barna, "the percentage of pastors who have considered quitting full-time ministry within the past year sits at 42 percent."⁴

There are many occasions in the Bible that leaders have been called to shepherd their people (1 Peter 5:1-4) and to be good shepherds (Zechariah 11:17). Jesus identified Himself as the Good Shepherd (John 10:14-15) and we gain much consolation knowing the care and safety we have of being a sheep under Jesus' care. This expectation naturally extends to include leaders and even more so towards the pastors in our church, for they hold responsibility for guiding the church and its members. However, what does the role of being a shepherd entail, especially in this broken world?

"I Need to Rest but I Can't"

Shepherds are expected to guide and lead the flock. They are indispensable, for if the shepherd is down, the sheep are lost. However, in the human world, our shepherds who are also human, need their rest. While there are usually off days set aside for church workers, they often must respond when there are ad hoc activities or

when crisis calls. According to research by Lifeway Research on 1,500 pastors, 84% said they are on call 24 hours a day⁵.

This is made worse in the digital world today where reaching out to others is made so easy with the various instant messaging apps. Last seen and blue-tick status have elevated the expectations to respond and are conversely frowned upon when we do not get a reply fast enough. Long gone are the times when waiting is a norm and boundaries less permeable.

These unwritten expectations and lack of boundaries may also become magnified in smaller churches with limited full-time pastoral staff. While large churches can manage by rotation or division of workload, pastors in smaller churches may find it difficult to redirect ad hoc or crisis cases that require the pastor's immediate attention or guidance. With the heavy responsibility of caring for their sheep, pastors would find difficulty in keeping to the said boundaries for their own mental well-being.

With these various factors at play, pastors frequently find their rest time being set aside for other activities deemed more important and significant. Boundaries to protect rest time become a luxury instead of a necessity, and in fact, not having such stringent boundaries may become an implied expectation. If intentional efforts to protect these boundaries are not maintained due to extrinsic manners or intrinsic pressures, it is often hardly surprising to find our beloved pastors burned out from lack of rest.

"I Have my Down Time, But I Can't Show it"

On a similar note, while the shepherd shoulders heavy responsibility to lead and care for his sheep well, there seems to be an evolving expectation for the pastor's professionalism to be continuously displayed. However, we often forget that

pastors are also human and face similar struggles just like their sheep. Grief and loss, relationship-related struggles, physical ailments and so on. Being a pastor does not shield them from these stressors or life's hurdles. Yet, they are expected to bounce back faster and stronger than anyone else, or better yet, to not falter at all.

The issue is often amplified when the factors that can help in the recovery process are limited. Other than praying and seeking counsel from our Heavenly Father, it is often useful to have someone to listen to and process our struggles with. Having a trustworthy confidante can translate to feeling supported and less alone on the journey. Sometimes such helpful conversations can also provide gentle insights into blind spots and constructive advice.

However, oftentimes the struggles that pastors face in church can be sensitive and draw more confusion if shared with someone from the same church. Their potential support group is then limited to people outside their churches, and then further narrowed if this counsel has to be someone who is able to relate and empathize with what the pastor is going through. With limited resources and support networks, the strain on the pastor intensifies—as pastors are, regardless of their struggles, often expected to deal with their personal issues professionally and impeccably as leaders of the flock.

"How Can We Help Our Pastors?"

While the list above is not exhaustive, it hopefully creates some awareness and acknowledgement of the unique situations that our pastors may be in. We often overlook the fact that pastors are humans just like us and are also prone to experiencing burnout.

Therefore, counseling should not be viewed

as a taboo; rather, it can be destigmatized through proper education and by adopting a right perspective. This will help create a safe space for our pastors to receive the much-needed support they require. While counselors will not be able to provide practical necessities such as supplying manpower or helping to enforce boundaries, counselors are able to help process the obstacles they face and expectations.

Counseling can also be seen as a place of neutrality where pastors can be vulnerable and authentic in sharing their struggles as their confidentiality will be protected under basic counseling ethics of confidentiality. Having a professional counselor to guide them through their thought processes can also help in their recovery, allowing them to continue the good works of God.

WHERE TO FIND HELP

- To learn more about Care for Pastors Programme (see adjacent page) by REACH Community Services Society, please visit or register on our website at <https://reach.org.sg/services/counselling-service/care-for-pastors/>
- For urgent need to seek mental health-related help: Samaritans of Singapore (SOS) 24-hours hotline: 1-767



Agnes Lee is an Assistant Senior Counselor from REACH Counselling and Mental Health, and a registered counselor with Singapore Association of Counselling. She believes that mental health issues are not a sign of "weak faith", but stuck-ness due to past or current hurts. She is married to Ryan with a 7-month-old son.

¹ Francis A Schaeffer Institute of Church Leadership Development research studies in 1998 and 2006.
² David Ross and Rick Blackmon's "Soul Care for Servants" workshop reported the results of their Fuller Institute of Church Growth research study in 1991 and other surveys in 2005 and 2006.
³ Pastors at Greater Risk by H.B. London and Neil B. Wiseman, Regal Books, 2003.
⁴ New York Times. 2022, August 22. Pastor Burnout Pandemic. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/28/opinion/pastor-burnout-pandemic.html>
⁵ Green, L. C. (n.d.). Despite Stresses, Few Pastors Give Up on Ministry. Lifeway Research. <https://research.lifeway.com/2015/09/01/despite-stresses-few-pastors-give-up-on-ministry/>



CARE FOR PASTORS PROGRAMME

A programme that provides professional counselling services to church pastors who are facing a range of emotional, psychological, spiritual and ministry issues. Our focus is to foster a culture of understanding, compassion and self-care within the church community.

Our Pastoral Counsellors

REV. CALVIN LEE



- Honorary Pastor, Grace Assembly of God Church, Singapore
- Master in Social Science (Counselling), University of South Australia, Australia

REV. CARA HENG


(online session only)




- Associate Pastor, Grace City Church, Perth, Australia
- Registered Psychologist, AHPRA, Australia

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 counselling@reach.org.sg

  6801 0730

REACH Counselling Centre @ Shunfu
Block 307 Shunfu Road #01-137
Singapore 570307

REACH
COMMUNITY SERVICES

The counselling sessions are strictly by appointment only.
Your identity and information shared are strictly confidential.

#KingdomMomentum

First Asia Pacific Assemblies of God (APAG) Missions Congress, July 20-21, 2023 was held at Trinity@Paya Lebar, Singapore.

By Rev Lindsey Lui, APAG Missions Congress Chairperson

More than 200 delegates from 19 nations lifted their hearts and voices in unison to herald the coming of God's kingdom in Asia Pacific at the first APAG Missions Congress. What a defining moment!

The theme, "Kingdom Momentum", was the cry of APAG churches to be a part of a God-given, Spirit-led momentum movement to take back tribes and nations from the kingdom of darkness and bring them into God's kingdom of light.

Happenings

Delegates received a fresh vision and new anointing for God's mission in the morning and night rallies. They also received new insights and strategies from the 10 workshops on missions leadership thinking and best practices. For many, the opportunities to make new friends and build ministry connections brought great joy.

Dr Fidel Monzon, APAG Missions Chairman shared, "The plenary sessions during the morning (Rev Ong and Rev Setiawan) and the evening rallies (Rev Yeo and Rev Monzon) were truly inspiring. The messages ignited a holy fire to reach nations with the

gospel. Workshops throughout the day provided new and refreshing perspectives, practical approaches and interactive discussion allowing lecturers to engage participants in a meaningful way, making the congress an enriching experience. The last night concluded with delegates signing a Covenant of Commitment 'to do everything possible within our means in the next 10 years and beyond to finish the task and fulfill the Great Commission in every part of the world'. We believe this congress is just the start of a mighty move of missions in the Asia Pacific region. APAG will go, not by might, nor by power but by His Spirit (Zechariah 4:6)."

We hope the stories of some of the delegates will inspire you. Whether we are senders or we are sent, we are a part of 'Kingdom Momentum'.

A big shout-out to the AG (Singapore) organizing committee and all the volunteers for serving joyfully and excellently in the congress. Kudos to the APAG Missions Lead Team for providing spiritual direction to the congress and to Trinity Christian Centre for hosting the event.



- 1 Interceding for nations
- 2 Rev Dominic addressing the crowd
- 3 APAG Missions Directors
- 4 Serving together as a team
- 5 Workshop participants

Hear what the participants have to say...

"The workshop on 'Reaching the Unreached' brought tears to my eyes as I felt deeply God's heart for the lost."

"The whole team of AG district leaders from my province came because they wanted to know how to better mobilize their local churches."

"I was alone in the missions field during the pandemic due to the lock-down. It was a trying time. Meeting God and the different people in this congress had greatly encouraged me."

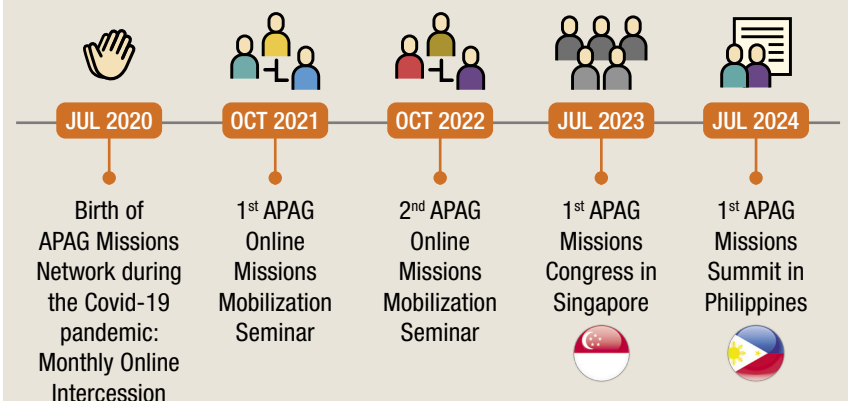
"After the congress, my team from PNG made an unplanned trip to KL to connect with the organization working with the refugees. A new partnership was made. God is full of surprises."

"God once gave me a vision that I would teach others how to intercede for the unreached. Today, that vision is realized. I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this congress."

"My team (we are tentmakers) has been meeting online for the past year for prayer and accountability. What a joy to meet many of them in-person in the congress for the first time!"

"I brought my young adult church workers to this congress because I wanted them to be a part of God's mission. We prayed for provision for accommodation as our funds were limited. God answered our prayers when a Singaporean church leader opened her home to us."

APAG Missions Network seeks to empower local pastors and leaders to intercede, mobilize, equip and send their members as cross-cultural workers into God's mission, specifically among the unreached and unengaged people groups.



For more info on missions resources, or to join our monthly intercession (prerequisite: Senior Pastor's endorsement), contact us at apagmissions@gmail.com.

Global Concert of Prayer

The Global Concert of Prayer (GCOP) was anchored by leaders and ministers coming together to pray for our nation.

By Rev Jessamyn Tian, Shepherd's Assembly

Rev Dominic Yeo, General Superintendent, Assemblies of God (AG) of Singapore welcomed 150 credentialed ministers (including fellow EXCO members) gathered at Trinity@Paya Lebar for the privilege that AG Singapore had in anchoring the GCOP on August 24, 2023, 11am to 12pm. Presently, Rev Dominic Yeo is the Secretary of World AG Fellowship and Chairman of the Asia Pacific AG Fellowship.

Opening Prayer and Worship

In his opening prayer, Rev Dominic Yeo thanked God for the privilege that AG Singapore had to lead and anchor the one-hour GCOP. He asked God to raise the Church in Singapore to pray in the greatest move of God in our nation.

The GCOP started with the participants, including those who participated online, joining their hearts and voices in exuberant worship: Extolling the Lord God Almighty for Who He is, and all that He had done in and through Singapore since the nation's independence 58 years ago; and declaring that in His Name, we shall overcome every limitation and believe for greater things that God will do and through our nation! Indeed, God deserves all the glory, honor, power, and praise!

First Segment of GCOP

Rev Jason Tan, General Secretary, AG Singapore, and Senior Pastor Zion Full Gospel Church hosted this segment of GCOP. Rev Jason thanked God for gathering us for this auspicious occasion. He urged all to pray to our Lord—first and foremost—for a significant breakthrough in our lives. Then, as our nation celebrated 58 years of her independence a few weeks before, Rev Jason rallied all to pray for our beloved nation:

- For our national leaders to have God's wisdom to govern Singapore so that we may continue to enjoy peace, prosperity, and progress in the decades to come;
- For God to raise up the next generation of church leaders within AG Singapore, who will lead the way to see Singapore fulfilling her calling as the Antioch of Asia. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8)

Rev Jason handed the time to key leaders in AG Singapore, requesting them to lead in prayer for the different movements in MM33:

- **Signs and Wonders**, by Rev Anthony Chua, Senior Pastor, Sembawang AG.

Rev Anthony prayed specifically that as AG Singapore ministers go forth and preach everywhere; the Lord working with them will confirm His Word through signs, wonders and miracles: signs that point people to Jesus; wonders that will astound people, and miracles that confirm the preaching of God's Word through healings and deliverance. Through it all, the Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of multitudes to God. (Mark 16:20; Romans 1:16)

- **NextGen**, by Ps Tan Yunyun, Youth Pastor, Zion Full Gospel Church. Ps Yunyun led in prayer for the NextGen—the young people in AG Singapore:

- ◆ God will turn the hearts of NextGen to the fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to their children.
- ◆ God will reverse the trend of AG Singapore losing our young people to the world. Instead, the Holy Spirit will anoint and empower the present leaders—with passion, compassion, and godly wisdom—to raise the NextGen that they may lead AG Singapore to greater heights and deeper depths in the decades ahead.

- **Prayer**, by Ps Reuel T Ramos, Senior Pastor, The Living Word Fellowship:

- ◆ In leading this segment, Pastor Ramos thanked God for reminding believers in Jesus all over the world—that the Lord has entrusted to us the mandate to go and make disciples of all nations, and that God has sent us the Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfill His mandate.
- ◆ Ps Reuel sensed the urgency of the Church carrying out the Great Commission; for Jesus said, *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20.)
- ◆ Ps Reuel acknowledged that the key to fruitful ministry is for ministers to live lives that are characterized by a posture of humility before God, intimacy with, and total dependence on God (2 Chronicles 7:14). Ps Reuel



- 1 General Superintendent Rev Dominic Yeo leading in prayer
- 2 Leading the congregation into a time of worship
- 3 Our pastors leading in prayer
- 4 All ready to pray and engage

thanked God for His blessings upon Singapore. He asked God to remind us not to trust in our ingenuity or self-sufficiency. Instead, we are to continually pray for the unity of AG Singapore—and to ask God, our Commander-in-Chief—to do greater works in and through us (Zechariah 4:6; 1 Corinthians 2:4).

- ◆ At the core, we pray for a fresh baptism of love—for the Lord, and for our neighbor. Let there be a fresh movement of prayer and intercession for the lost. And as prayer revival sweeps across Singapore and throughout the world, raise up a mighty army—workers that are thrust into the harvest field (Matthew 9:37).

In concluding this first segment of GCOP, Rev Jason encouraged everyone present

to continue in prayer for what resonated with them most—whether it be in prayer, missions, NextGen, or discipleship.

Final Segment of GCOP

Rev Mark Poh, Executive Committee Member, AG Singapore, and Senior Pastor, Emmanuel AG hosted this segment of GCOP.

- ◆ Rev Mark asked AG Singapore ministers to take a closer look at the NT church recorded in Acts 2:42-47 and rallied all present to pray that every local assembly of AG Singapore will be a healthy, thriving congregation.
- ◆ Rev Mark added that healthy churches will grow. So, he challenged ministers to pray for a fresh church planting movement in Singapore, and to the regions beyond. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Continued on pg 19...

APAGF NextGen Leaders NOW Conference 2023

“I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

By Ps Mavis Wong, Trinity Christian Centre, and Ps Tan Yunyun, Zion Full Gospel Church

“Now” is the rallying cry of Asia Pacific Assemblies of God Fellowship (APAGF) NextGen Leaders NOW Conference Committee. The inaugural APAGF NextGen conference had 164 NextGen children, youth and young adult pastors and leaders from over 8 countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and South Korea) and 55 churches converging together at Harvest Christian Assembly, Klang, Malaysia. From July 5 to 7, 2023, delegates enjoyed the warm welcome and hospitality of the host church and an outpouring of unity and love among the nations represented.

Powerful Opening Service

Rev Gerald Tan¹ anchored the opening service with the message “Now’s the Time to Change the Tide.” Sharing from the story of David’s battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17), Rev Gerald exhorted NextGen ministers to take up their positions and authority to change the tide of churches losing the next generation to the world.

Relevant Workshops

NOW conference had a good variety of afternoon workshops addressing challenges in children, youth, campus and young adult ministries. The workshops range from general topics such as *‘Crucial Conversations with Your Senior Pastor’* to specific ones like *‘Knowing the Generations: Generational Insights.’* This ensured delegates were equipped with practical and relevant skills for their specific ministry contexts.

Passionate Night Service Preaching

The first night service saw the passionate preaching of Rev Reynaldo Calusay². He spoke on *‘Five Elements’* that Caleb had to reverse the aging tide and remain relevant (Joshua 14). Rev Rey challenged delegates to remain focused on the unfinished task of world evangelization (Matthew 24:14).

The conference also included a forum and a worship and prayer session on Day Two. The forum with three Senior Pastors—Rev Rey, Rev Ong Sek Leang³ and Rev Dominic Yeo⁴—meant that delegates had the opportunity

to seek the advice of these spiritual giants about their personal walk with God and to glean insights on church leadership and pastoral issues. The worship and prayer session facilitated a time of adoration to seek God’s face and intercession to see God’s name be proclaimed to the NextGen in the Asia Pacific region.

Heartfelt Response

At the last night service, Rev Ong spoke on *‘Practical Handles to Activate Generational Transfer’* (Deuteronomy 6), where generation transfer is said to be a transfer of life and not just a transfer of skills or anointing. The altars were packed as people responded to the call of desiring to move in greater power for the next generation. NOW Conference closed with a rousing commissioning by Rev Dominic. Based on the account of Moses encountering God’s call through the burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6, 10-12), he shared on *‘The Now Moment’* and charged the NextGen ministers to: “Now, go!” (Exodus 3:10)

The success of NOW conference was evident in the unity of our worship and in serving one another. Five different nations led the worship sessions and there was even a combined worship team from these five nations. A total of 65 delegates and 21 volunteers served in various roles throughout the conference.

God is breaking our hearts for each other and the NextGen, stirring revival in the hearts of these Pastors and leaders!



Ps Mavis Wong welcoming the delegates from eight different nations

Testimonies from the Delegates

“I have enjoyed the unity of worshiping and praising God together. I have learnt the importance of being consistent in living out your life and your faith. Then the faith you live out will impact your ministry and the next generation.” — **Kanmani** (Lay Leader), Children Ministry, Cavalry Assembly of God, Singapore

“It was wonderful to see NextGen ministers coming from different nations to worship God together. The workshops were very helpful and insightful.” — **Joseph Teo** (Pastoral/Ministry Staff), Children Ministry, Trinity Christian Centre, Singapore

“It was heartwarming to see so many young leaders come together from different nations! We made a lot of new friends and shared stories and testimonies with one another. Hope to have more of such gatherings to encourage and equip our future leaders.” — **Angeline Tan** (Pastoral/Ministry Staff), Youth, Campus, Young Adults Ministries, Sembawang Assembly of God, Singapore

“I was able to connect with other NextGen ministers and hear how NextGen ministries were doing in different nations. Overall, the conference was encouraging for me as a young minister.” — **Jonathan Roberts** (Pastoral/Ministry), Youth, Campus Ministries, Bethany Church, Malaysia

“I felt everyone’s passion for the NextGen. I have big expectations for the NextGen in my country.” — **Okamura Haruki** (Lay Leader), Children, Youth, Young Adults Ministries, Nagoya Assembly of God, Japan

“During the forum session, it was refreshing to observe how Ps Brian, as a Next Gen minister, interacted with the three Senior Pastors. It opened my mind to how Next Gen ministers could have close and friendly relationships with their Senior Pastors.” — **Hozue Shiraishi** (Pastoral/Ministry Staff), Children, Youth, Young Adults Ministries, Shinagawa Bethel Church, Japan



Panel discussion with General Superintendents (GS). L-R: Rev Brian Lopez, Philippines NextGen Head, Rev Ong Sek Leang, GS of Malaysia, Rev Dominic Yeo, GS of Singapore, Rev Reynaldo Calusay, GS of Philippines



Conference Organizing Committee. L-R: Rev Tan Szet Anne, NextGen Head of Malaysia, Rev Brian Lopez, NextGen Head of Philippines, Ps Mavis Wong, Trinity Christian Centre, Singapore, Rev Gerald Tan, APAGF NextGen Head, Singapore, Ps Jay Ong, Calvary Assembly of God, Singapore, Ps Reuben Gan, Harvest Christian Assembly, Malaysia

¹ Chairman of NextGen Commission, APAGF

² General Superintendent, Assemblies of God of Philippines/EXCO Member, World Assemblies of God Fellowship

³ General Superintendent, Assemblies of God of Malaysia/Vice Chairman, APAGF

⁴ General Superintendent, Assemblies of God of Singapore/Chairman, APAGF

Blessed Grace Social Services 9th Anniversary Dinner

A celebrative night of thanksgiving and appreciation.

By Christina Lim, Blessed Grace Social Services

Blessed Grace Social Services (BGSS) held our 9th Anniversary Dinner at Jubilee Garden, Toa Payoh SAFRA, on September 24, 2023. Approximately 1,100 beneficiaries, family members and guests gathered to testify of God's love and grace for us.

Representatives from each of our four core programs (Chai Chee ElderCare, Gambling Addiction Recovery Centre, Narcotics Addiction Recovery Centre/Prison Outreach, and Migrant Domestic Workers Care Group) started the evening off with heartfelt words of appreciation to BGSS and her volunteers for the help they have received.

In the opening speech, Chairman Mr Too Lee Soong reaffirmed BGSS' commitment to her mission to transform lives and restore families.

Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Eric Chua was the Guest-of-Honor for the event. In his addressing speech, he pointed out that the work of BGSS demonstrates how government, corporations and individuals can all come together, collaborate and create lasting social impact. On behalf of BGSS, Mr Eric Chua proceeded to present plaques and certificates of appreciation to donors and volunteers who have supported us throughout these years.

For the rest of the evening, beneficiaries from each core program took turns to go on stage, giving thanks to God. Some shared their personal testimonies, while others presented songs and dance in praise of God. What a blessed night for thanksgiving and appreciation!



- 1 Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Social and Family Development & Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, Mr Eric Chua, our Guest-of-Honor (center) with BGSS Board of Directors
- 2 Gambling Addiction Recovery support group
- 3 Chai Chee ElderCare
- 4 Narcotics Addiction Recovery Prison Outreach support group
- 5 Migrant Domestic Workers Care Group
- 6 We give thanks for the many who came

Blessed Grace Social Services is the social arm of Blessed Grace Church.

Holy Spirit Weekend

Sembawang Assembly of God held our Holy Spirit Weekend on June 17 and 18, 2023.

By Kimberly Tay, Sembawang Assembly of God

Over the course of the two days, many had come to welcome and receive the Holy Spirit into their lives.

The Holy Spirit Weekend was held in English on the 17th, and in Mandarin on the 18th.

Ingredients for an Anointed Life

Kicking off the Holy Spirit Weekend, Rev Calvin Lee started the first Encounter Session by leading the congregation into understanding more about the anointing of the Holy Spirit. He shared about the ingredients needed for an anointed life: Connection, Covetous, Consecration, Conviction and Commitment.

1 John 2:27, "As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him."

Many individuals responded to the altar call, placing aside all their earthly burdens, to soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We were asked to let go of the things that might



Lifting our worship to the Lord

be holding us back from drawing closer to God and the Holy Spirit.

Deeper Work of the Holy Spirit

Personally, I was asked by God to let go and forgive a person which I had held grudges against for a long time. Even in that moment, I still found myself wanting to deny His request, "God I can do anything, but how do I forgive someone who has hurt me greatly?"

During prayer, a pastor came to lay his hands on me. His prayer, which asked for me to forgive and let go of my personal grudge, acted as a confirmation to me that God could do even greater things in my life, if I follow Him. Therefore, even though it took everything in me to not run away, I forgave that person. And now I see that it is through this act of obedience that the Holy Spirit can work even deeper in my life.



Deeper in God

Ephesians 4:30-32, "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Workshops for Reflection

Two workshops titled, "How to Draw Closer to the Holy Spirit" and "How to be Led by the Holy Spirit?" were conducted by Rev Calvin Lee and Rev Pacer Tan respectively. Both workshops were eye-opening as they covered questions that everyone might have, guiding everyone into a time of reflection.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Why is it important to walk with the Holy Spirit? What could be hindering us in our journey to grow close to the Holy Spirit, and how can we draw close despite it all?

As we were discussing these questions, we could feel ourselves drawing closer to God as we were quenching our thirst for the Spirit.



Being still and hearing from God

Encounter Sessions

The congregation was also reminded of why the Spirit's leading is vital. Looking at Romans 8:14, we learned that being led by the Holy Spirit would be a proof of our sonship in God. A Christian that lives without the Spirit's leading simply has religion, but he does not have a saving relationship with God. This is why it is important to draw close to the Spirit as He guides us away from sin.

The day ended with the second Encounter Session, which was led by Rev Pacer Tan. This session was about "Indwelling versus Infilling of the Spirit". Indwelling lives in every believer and is activated through the act of repentance and our faith at the point of our salvation, while infilling happens when we seek an active relationship with God by continuously following the Spirit.

We were also taught on the "Overflow of Infilling", and how we can allow for that to happen by speaking to one another with joy, singing and worshiping with all our heart, giving thanks in all things and living in mutual submission.

It is truly by God's grace that we were able to organize this Holy Spirit Weekend successfully. Praise the Lord that every individual who walked through the doors was able to draw closer to Holy Spirit through the teachings, and to feel spiritually refreshed. May God continue to bless everyone as we continue to walk with Holy Spirit.



Ministry at the altar

Encountering God in Our Church Camp

Eternal Grace Assembly's church camp saw many encountered God's presence.

By Ps Deborah Queck, Eternal Grace Assembly

Our church camp's theme this year was "Encounter God". It was held in Batam, Indonesia, from June 17 to 20, 2023. Our guest-speaker was Ps Jonathan Chandra. This was our first church camp after COVID-19, we experienced the presence of God during our camp and had a great time of fellowship. We truly thank God for His love and grace in our lives.



Receiving the Word wholeheartedly



Full of excitement as we were ready to encounter God

The work God had done is best told by these testimonies from our members:



Adrian Tay's testimony:

I was a little apprehensive at first, to join such a big group on my first ever church camp. However, I was glad I made the decision to go, as it gave me an entirely new perspective of God. I was a young and lukewarm Christian, and never saw God in such light as described

by Ps Jonathan (our camp speaker), with such candid fervor and vivid descriptions!

It was refreshing to get away from our busy lives to draw closer to God and even experience His presence. Not forgetting His mercy and divine providence of safe journey, both the spiritual and physical feasts and godly church members to fellowship with.

I was also fortunate enough to attend the camp with my mother and twin brother. The trip helped to strengthen our relationship as a family, as we would rarely go on such trips together. Although my brother is a non-believer, I hope he will take in what he had experienced at the camp and eventually accept Him when the time is right.

Looking back, I could see how God used me during this camp. I felt everything was deliberately planned by Him even to the arrangement of my roommate whom I had rarely interacted with, but we were able to talk and share. This also opened up deep memories of my past, and God spoke to me that I, unbeknownst to myself, may be still harboring resentments, which I was able to put to rest, providing me with a calmer disposition.

Throughout the camp I could feel the Holy Spirit working in my life, growing my love for Christ and His Word. During the services, I was touched by God and filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. I also experienced falling under the power of the Spirit, for my first time. It was something supernaturally unexplainable for me, and as I came around, my legs were all jelly. It was the first time I didn't feel restrictive during worship. I truly encountered God's presence!

God also spoke to me through visions in my dreams during this church camp. In a vivid dream He told me, "Isaiah", however it was without any chapter or verse. I was pondering this all throughout my breakfast. It was only when I went back up to get ready for service that it dawned on me that my room number "5812" was the Bible reference. Isaiah 58:12 "You shall raise up the foundations of many

generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." This verse resonated deeply in me and I'm still trying to fully grasp the message He is trying to tell me.

I thank God for the opportunity to make new friends and get to know more friends at the church camp. This camp has been an enlightening one in my short but fruitful spiritual journey.



小丹的见证:

大家好，我是小丹，来自中国海南。2008年我嫁来新加坡，是表姐妹夫妇看护我也向我传福音。我夫家都是基督徒，我也信主并洗礼了。我儿子嘉杰今年12岁，家里有一些情况渐渐的我们也很少去教会了。去年，我丈夫意外身亡，这突如其来的噩耗使我和孩子感觉到很无助。感谢神没有忘记我，祂差派Richard牧师、Deborah牧师，和教会弟兄姊妹们来操办我丈夫的丧礼，教会也给我很多的帮助、陪伴与鼓励。

在今年的家庭营会中，我更加经历神的真实与同在。在一次的敬拜中，我感觉神的灵带领我去天国，我仿佛看见小时候的我，阿爸天父把我抱在他的怀里，感觉天父给我满满暖暖的爱。我在异象中看见病逝多年的家婆和意外身亡的丈夫，他们在天国里都很好，这使我对离世亲人的挂虑有了盼望。在另一次的敬拜中，神对我说，嘉杰是祂赐给我的祝福及产业，祂必看顾他。神知晓我心中一切挂虑！当下，我好像一只鹰在空中自由的飞翔，不管前面的暴风来临，神已为我预备了一切，我感觉身体变得好轻松啊！还有在另一次的敬拜中，我感觉有一股很重的力量压下来，头部麻麻的，神要我在灵里奉主耶稣的名，宣告在我身上的苦毒和咒诅都要破除，我作了宣告，挣扎了一整子也完全得释放了。当下我忽然感觉到我的生命完全得自由了！

感谢神如此爱我，祂是如此的真实又充满权能！哈利路亚！



Encountering God at the altar

Passing the Shepherd's Staff

Ps Wong Yew Keong is installed as the fourth Senior Pastor of Bethel Assembly of God.

By Wayne Wong, Bethel Assembly of God

2023—the year of significant transition for Bethel. At our Annual General Meeting in April, a strong Vote of Confidence was passed for then Deputy Senior Pastor, Ps Yew Keong to step up. Subsequently, on June 4, Bethelites convened to install Ps Wong as Bethel Assembly of God's fourth Senior Pastor.



Senior Pastor, Ps Wong, sounds a clarion call to Bethelites and Singapore Churches with the vision to 'Live Spirit-Empowered Lives'



Ps Wong Yew Keong with the Shepherd's Staff, a symbolic significance of Senior Leadership Renewal at Bethel Assembly of God



Rev Dr Chia and Bethelites uniting in hearts and prayer for Ps Wong Yew Keong

To kick off the service, Ps Aaron Low, Worship Pastor of Bethel, led the congregation in praise and worship, declaring the goodness and greatness of God. Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock, Pastor Emeritus, preached his final sermon as Bethel's Senior Pastor, exhorting Bethelites with Jesus' declaration, "I Will Build My Church". (Matthew 16:18)

Thereafter, the procession to install Ps Yew Keong commenced. During the ceremony, Rev Dr Chia charged Ps Yew Keong with the office of Senior Pastor. Ps Yew Keong's wife, Mrs May Wong, and two sons, Wayne and Glen, were invited onstage to join him. Ps Chia and Bethelites united in support of the family through pledge and prayer.

To complete the change of leadership, Rev Dr Chia handed over the Shepherd's Staff to Ps Yew Keong, symbolizing the significance in senior leadership renewal at Bethel—to be a Shepherd of the flock under your care. (1 Peter 5:2-3)



Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock hands over the Shepherd's Staff to his successor, Ps Wong Yew Keong

"The staff you hold, is the leadership axis connecting God and Bethelites. Use it as Joshua of the old did; strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6-9); knowing well that as God was with Moses and Joshua, He will be with you (Joshua 1:5)." — Bro Loy Nghee, Executive Director, AG Singapore

The installation service concluded with Ps Yew Keong declaring to the congregation that a new day was upon the local assembly. Bethelites were exhorted to look forward as we stepped into a fresh adventure. The freshly minted Senior Pastor also unveiled the recently elected key office holders for Bethel, who will serve alongside the pastors and staff. They include the board members, trustees and a council of advisors.



Ps Wong Yew Keong exhorting the congregation in his first address as Senior Pastor

To end the day in a befitting and celebratory manner, the congregation enjoyed a lavish buffet feast, lovingly referred to by Bethelites as the "Agape Feast". The attendees heartily tucked into the excellent banquet spread.

All in all, it was a day filled with thanksgiving unto God, fellowship among brethren and most importantly, lifting the name of God Almighty on High.

God Snatched Me from the Jaws of Death

Thankful to God and my church friends' prayers, I am a testimony of a transformed life by the grace of God.

By Philip Yong, Bethel Assembly of God

I was backslidden for many years. I got saved in 1981 through the Royal Rangers (RR) ministry in Bethel Assembly of God and I continued to serve and got married in the church. My marriage was solemnized by Rev Chia Beng Hock then.

However, my life spiraled down when my wife died unexpectedly in 2009 and three months later my mother passed away too. I was left alone with two young children. I was devastated, full of anger and bitterness with God and life. It did not help when my sister sold the flat we were staying in and I lost all sense of stability. My father moved to Port Klang to stay with his sister while my daughter stayed with my aunty.

My son, together with me, led a nomadic life, as we moved from one rental room to another. This went on for four years until we got the key to our own flat. However, by then I had turned into an alcoholic as I tried to seek solace in drinking.

At My Worse

My first brush with the law was at a roadblock when I was caught for drink driving. However, I ignored the ban and continue to drive without a valid license. It was a matter of time before I was caught a second time at a roadblock and this time with a two-week jail sentence. I continued to be recalcitrant, drank and drove without a license. I was caught a third time with an even heavier fine, five years driving ban and a five weeks' jail sentence.

I got so drunk that my son often had to go out looking for me and carried me back home. Life was painful for me, and I felt pointless to live on and that it would be better if our lives just end. God was furthest from my mind.

Deteriorating Health

I started coughing late last year and my condition worsened

in February this year when I coughed out blood. I did a lung X-ray and the doctor told me it was cancer. On March 20, I woke up in the middle of the night coughing out a lot of blood and my children brought me to the Ng Teng Fong Hospital. While waiting in the hospital's Accident and Emergency Department, I passed out and I was in a coma for three days.

I was operated on twice in the ICU to stop the bleeding. When I regained consciousness, I was in so much pain, unable to move or speak and I felt like I was dying. I thought to myself that I cannot die then as there are still many things that I needed to tell my children. In desperation, I cried out to God to preserve my life for just one more day. I continued to pray and a sense of peace and comfort came over me. A while later, my condition stabilized, and I was transferred to the general ward.



In coma for three days in the ICU

Road to Recovery

My condition improved and my recovery was fast. Within a week, I was able to walk and consume solid food. Many



Philip Yong sharing his testimony in church

friends and relatives came to visit me daily and especially my friends from Bethel AG, who continue to intercede for me. God answers our prayers!

I had my blood test and ultrasound for my liver, kidney and spleen. The hospital also did a CT scan and scope biopsy for my lungs before I discharged. The results for my liver test were in the normal range despite my years of drinking. As for my lung, the doctor shared there are no more cancer markers.

Looking Ahead

My recovery is truly a miracle and God has given me more than one day and I told Him that I will give my life to Him. God never said it would be easy, but He will walk with us and to trust Him (Proverbs 3:4-5).

Looking ahead, I am living on God's grace and He has truly snatched me from the jaws of death, *"I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord"* (Psalm 118:17, ESV)

...Continued from pg 2

神命定了人一生时间的钟形曲线和生命模式。身为领导者，当你处于事工的巅峰，拥有力量、有联系、有教会的众多儿女时，愿意离开是很重要的。

现今，随着人预期寿命的增加，有些人认为牧师的最佳贡献年龄是60-70岁。他们的看法相当有智慧，然而认识到下一代将需要时间为神的新季节建造和奔跑也是同样重要的。当你较迟交棒时，就留给下一代主领牧师更少的时间成就他在新的季节要设立和建造的一切。

因此，在适当的时候交棒让下个接棒人把事工带上更高的一层楼是很重要。

5. 新加坡神召会今年欢庆95周年。回首过往，哪一件事令你欣喜？

当新加坡神召会教会的信徒和传道见证团结的强大，培训的有效，还有肉眼可见的转化时，我感到特别开心。

在2010年，当我第一次成为新加坡神召会的总督时，神为新加坡神召会向我启示3T。第一个T是“团结” (Togetherness)：在神召会神职人员和教会之间建立更牢固的团结纽带。第二个T是“培训” (Training)：培养我们的神职人员在恩膏和实践上变得敏锐，这样我们就能装备信徒成为稳健和成熟的门徒。最后一个T是“转化” (Transformation)：众教会内有更多的转化，这将给我们的社区和列国带来更大的转化。

展望未来，我知道神将继续使我们成为祂改变世界的推动者。MM33确实让我们进入了新的转型轨道。我们地方教会的转化；领导层的转化；世界的转化——当世人被神的荣耀触及时，我们的世界就会发生转变。

6. 我们期盼神召会百年庆典的同时，根据MM33，您希望我们的宗派实现什么目标？

五年前，我们庆祝了90周年。过去的五年内，我们有了于

2033年使神召会增长到全球一百万间教会的使命。这个扩展国度的巨大的任务下达时，最大的挑战——2019冠状病毒——也同时到来。

神的每个使命都有它的挑战和阻挠。我们在夺回失地，必须预计阻碍的发生。我祷告新加坡神召会兴起，有更大的信心和勇气完成神的使命，让天上全部的武装力量装备我们，以建造强健的教会和更多的教会，能有更多的敬拜中心，以便教导神的话语和进行门训！

7. 我们能怎么为你祷告？

我的海外事工行程繁重，绝对需要你们的代祷。祷告我在未来10年带领MM33的工作上有智慧。求神保守我的家人。请为我的健康代祷，因为我更多地参与全球事工，激励教会投入MM33运动。祷告我的家庭相聚时间满有果效；求神带领适当的人与我并肩肩负起这个事工，也带来适当的联系，使神召会力上加力。

Breakthrough from Drugs

An interview with Benjamin Raj, a graduate from Teen Challenge, who also volunteers in tele-counseling to reach out to troubled youths.
By Teen Challenge Singapore

How did you get into drugs?

I was about 14 when I started getting myself involved with gum, sniffing glue, sleeping pills, and slowly upgraded to heroin. That was the most miserable part of my life as I saw my life fall apart because of this error.

How did drugs change your life?

Because of my addiction to drugs, I lost my family, my house, and ended up becoming worse! My wife decided that she had had enough, and filed for divorce. In 2018, I was caught again for drug-related offenses, and sentenced to five years and three strokes of the cane. Words cannot describe my sorrow in being separated from my daughter as we were very close to each other. In 2017, my father's COPD—lung infection got worse. He was given three months to live. I told my family not to bail me out if anything should happen to my father. But by God's grace, he held on, and he passed on last year after I was released. Glory be to God for His perfect timing.

How has life changed after knowing Teen Challenge?

It was a blessing in disguise when I was selected to fulfil my incarceration in Teen Challenge for the rehabilitation program. Initially, I was uncomfortable because I didn't expect to have people supervising us, doing our prayers, and all that. I know that it is good for me, but then it was difficult because going into a halfway house rehabilitation program was a new thing to me. However, as time went by, I began to respect the staff there; they were more like brothers and sisters to me.

The staff at Teen Challenge showed care and exhibited empathy for my concerns, and they were genuine. I told myself that I should aspire to become like them because I

heard powerful testimonies of how God set them free from the bondage of drugs. They remained free for many years and that really encouraged me to pursue the same goal.

Describe Teen Challenge in three words.

Supporting, caring, and family. This is the Teen Challenge for me.

How did Christ help you in the journey of recovery?

The Holy Spirit told me not to walk on the broad and wide path, but to carry on walking on the narrow path. Initially, I chose to walk on the broad and wide path, which was pleasurable for me at that point in time as a teenager. That led to my downfall which lasted a very long time. I have no regret in turning my life over to God. I know He is always there for me. Suddenly, after so long, I realized that I had missed so many of the good things that God can offer me. See, right now, I'm blessed with a good job which came about while I was in Teen Challenge.

What has God done for me? What has Jesus done for me? I'm 50 years old now, I would need another 50 years to share with you the many blessings He has done for me. There were times I know that He is with me, but I took it for granted. Now I appreciate what God is doing for me, and I wish to do more for Him. I've asked God to show me His way, and to guide me every day. I'm continuing my journey with God. My goal is to impart what I have learned in my rehabilitation journey with the help of God.

What are some words of encouragement you would like to share with friends who are currently in rehabilitation?

To be courageous and live for your loved ones. Also, to work hard and help others who are in need! Don't let others

influence you and tell you what to do but live a life that is accountable to God. Recovery is not going to be easy because temptations are everywhere! All my life I have tried ways and means to be bad, so why not channel the same energy to be good from today? I am thankful to God for the help and rehabilitation period I had in Teen Challenge.



Benjamin Raj whose life is transformed in Teen Challenge is also volunteering in a tele-counseling to reach out to troubled youths

...Continued from pg 6

Here we see Moses' season ending; it was time for him to step down and for Joshua to step up. God has a season or time for His chosen ones.

The truth is that we only lead for a limited length of time. In other words, there is a season or a time limit to wear the mantle or to hold the office. It is not meant to last forever. William Vanderbloemen and Warren Bird proclaimed, "Every pastor is an interim pastor."

Hence the passing of the baton should take place when one is still healthy, strong, and able. Preferably, it should not happen when one is unhealthy, unable, or worse still, unwanted. No coach waits for an injury to raise someone up.

It is not about holding on but letting go. We need to work ourselves out of the job. Of course, it is easier said than

done. That is where one's conviction is so crucial. We need to realize that it has never been about us as it has always been about what is best for the church.

To some, passing the leadership baton seems to come easy. They can pass the baton just like Olympians. During their greatest burst of speed, they hand over the baton and the next person takes up the race. For others, this is not the case. They like to hold on to their position of leadership for as long as possible. Of course, there are those who tried but were not successful for some reason.

We need to heed the words of John Maxwell who said, 'Place a higher priority on succession than on security' and those of Bruce Miller, 'Leadership is more like a baton than a trophy. You keep a trophy, but you hand off a baton.'

Of course, leadership transition is complex because there are many parts to it. Therefore, it augurs well for the church when a process and plan of succession is put in place at an early stage. Succession needs to be purposeful.

When leaders fail to plan for the inevitable transition of their senior leadership, they will likely drop the baton and cause harm to their congregation. Like in a 4x100m relay, a dropped baton can cost the team the race. If you drop the baton during the handoff, it does not matter how well you run your portion of the race. It is important that we pass the baton with much prayer, wisdom, courage, humility, and grace. A successful handover keeps the team moving in the right direction toward the finish line.

Let me conclude with this quote by John Maxwell, 'A leader's lasting value is measured by succession.'

My God Who Provides

God who has watched over and provided for me since young, is a God who is also faithful at every juncture of my life.

By Caroline Tham, Harborlight Church

Have you ever worried that you may not have enough? Perhaps you've faced seemingly insurmountable sales targets at work, a shortage of funds for school fees or any personal needs. But rest assured that the Lord truly can and will do exceedingly abundantly above all that you could ever imagine for His glory—as I have personally experienced in my own life.

God has been Faithful since Young

I had the privilege of knowing Jesus from a young age as my wonderful mother brought us to church regularly and made sure we knew how to pray. I remember her intercessor friend and she prayed for me to be baptized in the Spirit when I was about nine years old, and so His Spirit and peace have always been very real to me.

The lyrics of Jamie Slocum's song "I Cannot Turn Away" reflect how I've always felt, "Something deep, something holy, all my life God has shown me something real, I cannot explain. A love so beautiful, I cannot turn away."

Being loved by Him, my heart's desire has always been simply to love Him in return and to be a blessing to others. At 43, I still cannot turn away as it has been such an incredible journey watching Matthew 6:33 unfold in my life.

Jesus has faithfully provided for my life in every area, from financial provision for Bible School and university, to employment, where I have never needed to search for new jobs because He graciously provides, to even the seemingly insignificant things such as receiving simple pleasures like chocolate or flowers within days of expressing my desire to Him. He is such a loving Heavenly Father and walking with Him daily brings such joy and contentment even through life's ups and downs.

Answered Prayers for Work Matters

Over the past 10 years, I've been involved in the charity

sector with annual fundraising targets in the millions and have found myself on my knees countless times, wondering how in the world I would be able to hit the targets, let alone surpass them. Thankfully, the Lord, in His graciousness, has always answered and provided exceedingly abundantly above all I could ask or imagine, allowing our team to surpass our targets every single year, even during COVID years. It has allowed me to share at work and with many others of how amazingly good and faithful God is. All I've needed to do is to commit my life, especially my work, to Him and give Him room to move in His power for His glory.

Being a Blessing to Others

I would not pretend that it has always been easy to trust Him. In fact, I've probably whined and complained bitterly more than most, especially when I felt lost because He did not answer me in a way I had cried out for. What I have learned is that I may not always understand the WHY but I do understand WHO has me written on the palm of His hand.

Romans 8:28 says that *He truly works ALL things for the good of those who love Him*. Trust Jesus completely because He has your best in mind for all eternity. I have seen how my times of brokenness were when He gave "treasures of darkness". He has birthed songs in my spirit, which have then gone to be sung in various churches for worship or as specials.

I remember visiting a Filipino church in Singapore once and it happened that one of my songs was led during worship. It was such a humbling moment to see how the Lord could use me, despite my complaining and whining, to be a blessing to others. Don't focus on the answer you did not get but focus on WHO you're crying out to because He knows exactly what He is doing for your good and to His glory.

May I encourage you to give God your life, your work plans, crazy hours and impossible targets and step back to watch



Caroline serving in the worship team

Him work? You will find yourself in awe of how great our God is, just like I always am.

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21, NKJV

...Continued from pg 11

- **Evangelism and Discipleship** was led by Rev Terence Ong, Executive Committee Member, AG Singapore, and Senior Pastor Centre of New Life.

- ◆ In his prayer, Rev Terence emphasized that our Lord Jesus' mandate to us to "go and make disciples of all nations," and to do so with "all authority" that has been given to Him (our Lord Jesus).
- ◆ Furthermore, as the Lord Jesus is with us always, we, His disciples, are confident that we can accomplish the task given us by Him. (Matthew 28:19-20.)

- **Healthy Church & Church Planting**, by Ps Loh Aye Lan, Executive Pastor, Emmanuel AG. Ps Loh asked every minister present to agree with her as she prayed for every local assembly in AG Singapore to become healthy, thriving churches; and to attain their full potential as God's called and chosen: to stay true to her calling, to preach the unadulterated Word of God, and to touch the world around us (the sick, impoverished, hungry and thirsty) with Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

Closing Remarks and Benediction

In closing, Rev Simon Ang, Assistant General Superintendent, AG Singapore, and Senior Pastor Moriah

AG encouraged all ministers of AG Singapore to keep on praying for a fresh wave of the Holy Spirit to sweep across the church in Singapore and across the world; that the Church of Jesus Christ will rise up with courage to preach the Gospel, and go forth with fervency and compassion to fulfill the mandate given by the Lord, "that Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven!"

Rev Simon prayed the Lord's benediction over all ministers and invited all to join in the chorus, 'To God be the Glory,' at the close of the GCOP helmed by AG Singapore.

Praise God for a great GCOP!

ROYAL RANGERS SINGAPORE **OVERCOMERS** 9TH NATIONAL CAMPORAMA

Full Camp
(For 8-18 years old)
6 - 9 December 2023
(Wednesday - Saturday)
\$280/pax

Ranger Kids Day Camp
(For 5-7 years old)
8 December 2023
(Friday)
\$70/pax



*Get Ready for an **AMAZING** time
of Fun, Fellowship & Faith!*



Camporama is open to all children and youth to join in!

Get ready for an incredible adventure at the Royal Rangers Camporama! This camp is all about having a blast with both indoor and outdoor activities that everyone can enjoy. Prepare yourself to be inspired in your faith through the night services and by listening to God's word from our fantastic camp speakers.

It's going to be an unforgettable experience!

Camporama will be held at Christ Church Secondary School. Find out more and get registration information at our website by scanning the QR code or email camporama@royalrangers.org.sg for any enquiries.

Visit our website for information
and registration details



www.royalrangers.org.sg/camporama2023