

## Fresh Fire CONFERENCE 2024



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# Movement of Discipleship: God's Kingdom Continuity Plan

Rev Dominic Yeo



Assemblies of God (AG) Singapore celebrates 95 years from the time AG missionaries landed on our shores and established the first AG church. Since then, we have seen the successful passing of leadership batons and the unfortunate closure of some unhealthy churches.

I believe there would be no dead churches if churches were filled with disciples. When churches do not produce disciples, the Church will become endangered. Even if we were to have a revival in our midst, it would not be sustained if discipleship is lacking.

Without discipleship, spiritual growth is stunted. New believers remain as spiritual babies—vulnerable, unable to discern truth for themselves, and easily falling away. Large crowds can dissipate quickly. We witnessed this with COVID-19, when churches around the world saw an exodus of congregation members who had not returned to church even until today.

Without discipleship, the church will lack strength, and tenacity to fulfill her God-given mandate and mission. The church becomes a “social gathering”, void of power for true life-transformation.

Without discipleship, the strong foundations of the past will eventually become relics as we compromise and incorporate worldly views. The light that we are called to bear will dim and fade.

Discipleship is God's Kingdom Continuity Plan. The Bible is very intentional in its words. The Great Commission in Matthew 28 specifically says to “make disciples”. All over Scripture, the Bible reveals the marks of a disciple—one who abides in Christ and in His Word, one who loves one another, one who is fruitful, one who is filled with the Spirit, and so forth.

Jesus had disciples and followers. But it was the disciples that brought the gospel to the world.

Discipleship is a movement that multiplies. Jesus started with 12 disciples. From those 12 disciples, 70 other disciples joined the fold and were sent out (Luke 10). By the time of the Book of Acts, 120 were in the upper room—from 12 to 70 to 120. At Pentecost, Peter preached the Gospel, and 3,000 people were added to the church.

Discipleship enabled the one AG Singapore church that began 95 years ago to multiply into what we have today: 50 churches with 18,500 adherents.

When the church produces real disciples, it transforms from a mere institution into a powerful movement that multiplies itself, transforms communities, and advances the Kingdom of God. Discipleship strengthens the church, ensuring that the Great Commission of making disciples continues from generation to generation.

Discipleship is a movement that strengthens. Look at the journey of Jesus' 12 disciples. From wondering whether Jesus truly cared for their living when the storm broke out in their boat to the fearless proclamation of the Gospel, they were persecuted but undeterred in their mission.

Discipleship makes the church resilient in the face of social and cultural shifts. We no longer just become consumers of religious services but become active participants in God's redemptive mission—to be God's light in darkness.

The questions we need to ask ourselves are: Am I growing in the Lord? Am I bearing fruits? Is my ministry bearing fruits? How can discipleship be better executed in my ministry? What kind of disciples am I developing? And it doesn't matter if you are a pastor, a veteran believer, or a new believer.

The call to plant One Million churches by 2033 as the global AG movement isn't to plant weak churches. It is to plant healthy churches. Healthy churches require a healthy base of disciples, and developing disciples isn't something left to chance.

I pray we, as the Assemblies of God Singapore, will be excited to see a movement of discipleship happening in all our churches. The vibrant abundant life. A people marked by strong faith, abiding in God, with a deep and meaningful relationship with Him, living out victorious lives, and being God's agents of change for our world.

As we continue to run toward 2033, when we celebrate the 2000th year of our Lord's accession, let us present to Him churches that are strong in carrying His heart and mandate.

## 门训运动：神国度的延续计划

自首批神召会宣教士登陆新加坡，建立第一间神召会教会，至今已有95年。从那时起，我们见证了领导棒子的成功交接，也目睹了一些不健康的教会不幸关闭。

我相信，如果教会里都是门徒，就不会有毫无生命的教会。当教会不产生门徒时，教会将变得濒临灭绝。即使我们当中经历复兴，如果缺乏门徒训练，复兴也无法持续。

没有门徒训练，灵命成长就会受到阻碍。新信徒将停留在属灵婴儿的阶段，容易受伤害，无法辨别真理，并且容易离弃信仰。庞大的群体也会迅速消散。我们在冠病疫情期间见证了这一点，当时全球各地的教会出现了会众流失的情况，至今许多人还未重返教会。

没有门徒训练，教会将缺乏力量和坚韧，无法完成神所赋予的使命。教会将变成一个没有真正生命转变能力的社交聚会。

没有门徒训练，过去的坚固基础最终将成为遗迹，因为我们妥协并吸纳了世俗的观点。我们被呼召要承载的光将会逐渐暗淡和消失。

门徒训练是神国度的延续计划。圣经中的用词非常刻意。马太福音28章的大使命明确地说要“使

万民作我的门徒”。在整本圣经中，处处揭示了门徒的标志。门徒就是常在基督里并常在祂话语中的人，是彼此相爱、多结果子、被圣灵充满的人，等等。

耶稣有门徒也有跟随者，但将福音带到世界各地的却是门徒。

门徒训练是一场倍增的运动。耶稣一开始有12个门徒。从12个门徒增至70个门徒，且都被差遣出去(路加福音10章)。到了使徒行传的时候，有120人在楼上的房间里祷告。门徒从12人增至70人，再到120人。在五旬节，彼得传讲福音，3000人加入了教会。

门徒训练使95年前在新加坡成立的唯一一间神召会教会倍增成今天的50间教会和18,500名信徒。

当教会培养出真正的门徒，教会将从一个单纯的机构转变为一个强大的运动，这个运动能够自我倍增，转化社区，并推进神的国度。门徒训练使教会得以坚固，确保使万民作门徒的大使命得以一代又一代地延续。

门徒训练是一场使教会坚固的运动。看看耶稣的12个门徒的历程。起初，他们乘船遇到风暴，质疑耶稣是否真正关心他们的性命。直至后来，他们无所畏惧地宣扬福音。尽管受到迫害，他们的使命感丝毫不减。

门徒训练使教会在面对社会和文化变迁时具备韧性。我们不再作宗教仪式的消费者，而是成为神救赎使命的积极参与者，在黑暗中作神的光。

我们需要问自己几个问题：我是否在主里面成长(无论你是牧师、资深信徒还是新信徒，都应该问自己)?我在结果子吗?我的事工是否结果子?如何在我的事工中更好地执行门徒训练?我正在培养什么样的门徒?

全球神召会运动旨在回应呼召，于2033年植堂一百万间教会。这个运动不是要植下软弱的教会，而是要植下健康的教会。健康的教会需要有健康的门徒基础。培养门徒不是随意的事情。

我祷告我们新加坡神召会的每一间教会都能兴奋地看到门训运动的展开。让教会充满活力，有丰盛的生命。让我们成为信心坚固、常在神里面、与祂建立深厚关系的群体。让我们活出得胜的生命，成为改变世界的属神的器皿。

我们继续奔向2033年，庆祝主耶稣升天2000周年之际，让我们献给主坚守祂的心意和使命的，刚强的众教会。

## Kingdom Expansion through the Movement of Discipleship

Eight Keys in Developing an Intentional Discipleship System in Your Church

Churches see the importance of disciple-making as part of church growth. We are called to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20). How are we making it a clear goal? In this issue and on our social media platforms, AG Times will explore this topic in an eight-part series.



# Make Disciple-Making Your Church Mission

*What are the considerations when you see the importance of disciple-making and want to incorporate it into your church mission? Rev Dr Chia Beng Hock turns our focus to these teachings.*



When we think or talk about discipleship, very often we gravitated to methods and material. When we focus on methods and material, there is a likelihood that the disciple-making becomes a process of transferring knowledge and misses out on transforming lives.

*Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:18-20)

### His Command Our Mission

Matthew 28:18-20 is often referred to as the Great Commission. Commission is the Old French word derived from the Latin *commissionem*, which means "authority entrusted to someone to carry out a mission."

Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me..." it means Jesus has absolute authority to rule and command (Ephesians 1:20-21), authority to give eternal life (John 17:2) and authority to heal and to cast out demons (Mark 16:15-18). When Jesus commanded His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." He entrusted them with authority and power and promised to be with them always "to the end of the age."

In Book of Acts, the disciples were empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 2:1-5) to carry out God's eschatological purpose—proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom "to all nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14). As long as the end has not come, Jesus' command remains our mission. With His power and authority, enabled by the Holy Spirit and His ever-presence with us—we are able to accomplish our mission!

### Our Mission Is Disciple-Making

We have no doubt that the mission of the Church is to make disciples. How do we make disciple-making the mission our church?

Firstly, what is a disciple? A disciple is a learner who follows a master teacher. "Discipleship meant much more than just the transfer of information... it referred to imitating the teacher's life, inculcating his values, and reproducing his teachings."<sup>1</sup> A.W. Tozer stressed that "only a disciple can make a disciple." This is Jesus' game plan: disciples make disciples who, in turn make more disciples.<sup>2</sup>

Secondly, what does the mission of disciple-making entail? I define disciple-making as a journey we walk with someone, helping him (her) to know, trust and follow Jesus, and in the process he (she) becomes more like Jesus.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Go, means as you continue in your journey, make disciples of all nations (*ethnos*) or people groups. When the disciples in Jerusalem were under strong persecution and scattered, they did not run in fear but went around preaching the Good News

about Jesus (Acts 8:4). In the New Testament, discipleship and evangelism were hand in glove. The disciples were in a journey of helping people know, trust and follow Jesus.

### Water Baptism

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." When we help someone to know Jesus, we lead him (her) into a relationship with Him. In baptism, the person is immersed into a relationship with the Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit. He (she) expresses his (her) obedience and renounces his (her) past as he (she) is being buried with Christ, declaring his (her) trust and commitment when being raised through the glory of the Father to live a new life as sons and daughters of God (Romans 6:4; 8:14-17), and following the footsteps of Jesus!

Paul added in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that we were all baptized into one body regardless whether we are Jews or Gentiles, slaves or free, we all share the same Spirit—a new relationship with other disciples was initiated by the Spirit. In this relationship, Jesus commanded that we love one another as He loved us. By so doing people will know that we are His disciples (John 13:34-35).

### Only A Disciple Can Make A Disciple

"Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you..." Since "only a disciple can make a disciple," we must be taught to obey what Jesus has commanded us before we can do the same to others. I was in the Puzzling World at Wanaka, New Zealand recently and I saw a poster with the word "Teach" and its reflection is "Learn". The poster aptly reminded me that what I teach reflects how much I have learned. Paul exhorted us to follow him as he followed Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1), to be imitator of God as dearly loved children (Ephesians 5:1) and be an example to all believers (1 Timothy 4:12). To make disciple-making our church mission, we must make it our personal mission!



Paul in his letter to the church in Ephesus showed us how the church as an extended family (2:18-22) made disciple-making its mission. Believers were equipped by gifted ministers to serve each other effectively (4:11-16) and consciously living their new life in Christ (4:16-32), imitating God as dearly loved children (5:1) they journeyed together helping each other to know, trust and follow Jesus. They also made it their personal mission where husband and wife helped each other to grow in their relationship with Christ and with each another (5:22-33). Parents disciplined their children and modeled for them how they would honor their parents (Ephesians 6:1-4). At workplaces, employers and employees (6:5-9) practiced mutual respect as they followed Jesus!



**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) and Acting Executive Director of AG Singapore. 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. They have two adult sons.

*Continued on pg 19...*

<sup>1</sup> <https://seminary.grace.edu/what-is-the-true-meaning-of-christian-discipleship/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/help-others-grow/discipleship/what-is-discipleship.html>



# Assess Your Church's Need for Discipleship

*Before we develop a discipleship system in our church, we need to assess what our church needs in this area. Rev Lawrence Koo shows us what we can work on.*

Every caring pastor knows discipleship is essential to the development of a healthy church. But the reality is that discipleship rarely happens among most Christians. Just look around you in church. It's obvious, isn't it?

Bobby Harrington, the co-founder of discipleship.org and the lead pastor of Harpeth Community Church, said, "A disciple of Jesus is someone who is following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus."

I believe this is the gold standard of discipleship!

Sadly, many Christians have fallen short of Jesus' standard in discipleship. The fact is, today, we find all kinds of Christians in churches—the professing Christians, the cultural Christians, the nominal Christians, the worldly Christians, the religious Christians, and the carnal Christians. But disciples of Christ are few and far between. That is why discipleship must be an integral part of every local church. To ignore the need for discipleship in the church is like turning a blind eye to the elephant in the room.

How then should we address and meet the need of discipleship in the church?

**First and foremost, discipleship must begin with pastors and leaders.**

1 Corinthians 11:1 *"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ."*

Are we disciples ourselves? Do we really follow Christ conscientiously? If not, then we have forfeited the right to ask people to follow Christ. True discipleship in the church will never happen if discipleship is not happening in pastors and leaders. If discipleship is only a program in the church, we would end up doing discipleship in the church and not being a disciple in our lives.

The danger is, pastors can make discipleship into a professional task. It is a job or a ministry that we do to others. We are more concerned with the quantitative growth of the church than the qualitative life of the Christians. If our church is small in numbers, we feel awkward when we are asked by other pastors, "How big is your church?", as though the numbers were the be-all and end-all of church.

Pastors are disciples first before they are pastors. This is our first and ultimate calling. We are called first to follow Jesus, then only are we to go and make disciples. But if pastors are not disciples, discipleship in church is not possible.

**Secondly, pastors and leaders must disciple others.**

In the opening of Paul's letters to Timothy, he refers Timothy as his "true son in the faith", and 'my dear son.' (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2)

This speaks of Paul's close relationship with Timothy. Paul took Timothy under his personal tutelage and groomed him to be a follower of Christ.

Personally, as a pastor, I have always been involved in discipleship. Currently, though I have stepped down as the senior pastor, I still disciple two men and two couples. I even turn pre-marital counseling into 'discipleship' sessions.

When I conduct pre-marital counseling, I would ask the couples why they want to get married. Invariably, their answer is, 'because we love each other'. Then I would say to them that the real purpose of marriage is discipleship. I can see the puzzlement on their faces. "What has discipleship got to do with marriage?", they must be wondering.

The fact is, everything in Christian life is discipleship because we follow Jesus in everything, including marriage. When a couple truly follows Jesus in their marriage, their marriage becomes stronger and more stable.

In my opinion, discipleship is most effective one on one. It's personal because discipleship is relational. It's about life touching life.

**Thirdly, discipleship must begin and happen in the home.**

One common misconception in discipleship is that discipleship is the responsibility of the church. We relegate the all-important task of discipleship to the pastors, youth workers, and Sunday School teachers, hoping that our kids will turn into great men and women of God. The truth is, discipleship is primarily the responsibility of every Christian parent. The church is only a facilitator and a partner in discipleship of their children.

2 Timothy 1:5 *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

Before Timothy became a disciple of the great Apostle Paul, Timothy learned about Christ from his grandmother and mother at home.

As a pastor, one of my frustrations is that what I do on Sunday in church can be easily undone from Monday to Saturday by the parents at home. When parents are not showing the way and leading their children to follow Christ at home, all my efforts in church are short-circuited and futile.

Therefore, to make discipleship happen in the church, it is not only about formulating an ingenious discipleship system, but fighting the systemic spiritual disease of the church, because a healthy church naturally makes and grows disciples.

Ultimately, the effectiveness of discipleship system of a church hinges on the spiritual ecosystem of the church, where pastors, leaders, and parents work together to create an environment for discipleship to blossom and become a reality.



**Rev Lawrence Koo** stepped down as the senior pastor of New Horizon Church since June 2024. Currently, he is involved in itinerant ministry and missions.



# Design an Intentional Discipleship Program

*What are the considerations, steps and implementations you could work on when you design a discipleship program? Rev Matthew Lim gives us a detailed explanation.*

Discipleship, which embodies Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), is at the heart of the Christian mission. As such, an intentional discipleship program that aligns with the disciple-making mission and developmental needs of one's church, will foster not only spiritual growth among believers, but also the formation of a transformative Christlike community who will in turn win the prebelievers and disciple new believers.

This article, which outlines the key considerations and practical steps of designing an intentional discipleship program, and supported by examples, charts and applications for today's context, could be useful for pastors or church leaders who hope to make disciple-making the sustaining emphasis of their churches.

## 1. What Considerations?

### a. Is the discipleship program in alignment with the church's mission?

The foundation of any discipleship program is its alignment with the church's mission. The mission defines the overarching purpose and direction of the church, and the discipleship program should reflect this unique calling, whether that be evangelism, community outreach, missions or another focus. Without this alignment, the discipleship efforts may lack coherence, and thus fail to produce the desired spiritual growth and results.

For example, a church fervent in reaching out to the local community may design a discipleship program that involves training members in relational evangelism and practical ways to serve the neighborhood, besides updating regular opportunities to engage in community events or projects.

### b. Does the discipleship program meet the developmental needs of the congregation?

Different churches have different developmental needs depending on their congregation's demographic makeup, spiritual maturity and specific challenges. Understanding these needs is essential in designing a program which resonates with the members.

The chart below is a sample of an assessment of one's congregational needs:

Demographic	Suggested Program Focus	Key Congregational Needs
Young Adults	Integration of Faith and Work Seminar, Mentoring	Life Purpose, Career Guidance, Ethical Decision-Making
Families	Family Devotion, Biblical Parenting Workshop, Counselling	Marriage Enrichment, Parenting, Work-Life Balance
Seniors	Intergenerational Mentoring, Pastoral Care	Legacy, End-of-Life Issues, Intergenerational Relationships

### c. What kind of resources are needed to run the discipleship program effectively?

Effective discipleship requires resources—trained leaders, study materials, meeting spaces and financial support. Churches must assess their available resources and then plan accordingly. In certain cases, partnerships with other churches or mission organizations might be necessary to fill the gaps.

For example, our church, which is a smaller congregation with limited staff, in this next phase of our discipleship development, is partnering with other churches and Christian organizations, to access a broader range of discipleship resources, from mentors/coaches to video teachings.

### d. Is the discipleship program flexible and adaptable?

The program should be flexible enough to adapt to changing circumstances, such as shifts in congregation demographics or external challenges such as a pandemic. It should allow for continuous evaluation and updates to ensure it remains relevant.

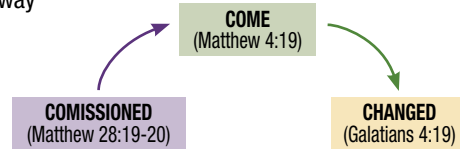
Example: Our church only had in-person small groups initially, but started an online group later, to accommodate members who cannot attend due to physical distance or health concerns.

## 2. What Steps?

### a. Develop a Discipleship Pathway

A clear discipleship pathway helps members understand where they are and what their next stage of growth should be.

Chart: Emmanuel Church of Singapore's Revised Cyclical Discipleship Pathway



Note: Our church started with the progressive pathway of the 5Ms: Membership, Maturity, Ministry, Mission and Magnification of the "Purpose-Driven Church" when discipleship was first implemented in 2018.

### b. Outline Discipleship Progression

Outline clear steps for growth from a new believer to a disciple-maker. This progression should include spiritual milestones and resources for each stage.

Stage	Spiritual Milestone	Resources
Seeker	Knowing the Savior	Seeker-Friendly Materials and Media, Alpha Course
New Believer	Understanding the New Life in Christ	Christian Life Foundations, One-on-One Discippling
Growing Disciple	Developing Spiritual Disciplines	Prayer Meeting, Bible Study Group
Maturing Disciple	Serving in Ministry	Ministry Training, Leadership Development
Disciple-maker	Leading Others	Disciple-making Training, Mentoring New Leaders

### c. Develop a Strategic Plan with Clear Objectives

- Define specific and measurable objectives for your discipleship program. For example: Increase small group participation by 10% in the following year.
- Application: Develop a strategic plan that outlines the action steps needed to achieve your discipleship objectives.
- The chart below is an example of a plan:

Objective	Action Step	Timeline	Who is Responsible
Enhance Bible Study Engagement	Launch a church-wide Bible reading plan	12 months	Pastoral Team
Increase Small Group Participation	Recruit and train new small group leaders	12 months	Small Group Coordinator
Promote Mentoring Relationships	Establish a mentoring matching program	6 months	Mentoring Coordinator

### d. Provide Training and Resources

- Equip leaders and participants with the necessary tools and resources for intentional discipleship.
- Application: Offer training sessions, provide study guides, and recommend books and online resources.
- Currently, our church is using the "Omega Discipleship Series" by Ian Malins, which is available at SKS Bookstore.



**Rev Matthew Lim** is the Senior Pastor of Emmanuel Church of Singapore and an associate ordained minister with the Assemblies of God of Singapore. He has been serving the Lord for more than 20 years, with experiences in missions, pastoring, marketplace ministries, itinerant preaching and interpretation, and teaching at Bible college. He is married to Ruth and they have two children. He is presently doing a doctoral program with ACTS College-APTS.

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# Provide Mentorship and Accountability

*In the Bible, Moses and Joshua set for us a dynamic mentoring and accountability relationship. Bro Low Loy Nghee gleans from their example to teach us.*



In January 2024, our General Superintendent enlightened our AG community on the seven movements of MM33, partnering God to witness “the greatest revival of our time”. Gleaning from the lives and relationship of Moses and Joshua, this article dovetails into one of the movements - discipleship, with attributes of mentoring and accountability to encourage us as **D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E.** to be “a people transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit to be a testimony and impact for God wherever they are.”

**Determine.** Moses was 80 years old when he spoke to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:7) to free the children of Israel from slavery as the initial objective. It was this period that Moses was connected with a young Joshua who became his assistant (Numbers 11:28). This relationship went on till Moses was 120 years old (Deuteronomy 31:2-3), when the leadership of Israel was handed to Joshua. Throughout, both resolved to serve God and the children of Israel in the search of the Promised Land as the primary objective!

**Inspire.** God’s work never ends abruptly or His promise fizzles out because the passion to fulfill His objectives is inspired by the Holy Spirit, with God in the centre of it all. In the surprised encounter with God, Moses stepped out of exile to serve Him and returned to Egypt to liberate the children of Israel from afflictions (Exodus 3:15-17). Joshua witnessed firsthand how God through Moses severely dealt with Pharaoh and the Egyptians that eventually freed the children of Israel from captivity. The impetus and passion for Moses and Joshua to work together were already framed and also the opportunities for Moses to impart to Joshua.

**Servitude.** There is humility and strength when one subjects him/herself to someone in authority for a higher objective. But it won’t be without challenges. Moses had his human sides; not at ease with delegating until the nudge from his father-in-law (Exodus 18:13-24). He had challenges opposing spy reports (Numbers 13:30-33) and was susceptible to outbursts—striking the rock for water in frustration. He failed to honor God’s holiness, which resulted in him being banished from the Promised Land (Numbers 20:10-12). Yet Joshua, ‘a man in whom is the Spirit’ (Numbers 27:18) remained steadfast and undeterred even for cameo duties. He alerted Moses of the going on at the foot of the mountain where the Ten Commandments were obtained (Exodus 32:17-18). He did not depart from the tent where/when God and Moses communicated (Exodus 33:11).

**Courage.** In leading, there is a need for some level of audacity to embrace differing comments or assessments presented by the minority. Moses, in yielding to the daunting reports from the ten spies (Numbers 13:31-32) instead of the other two reports (Numbers 14:6-8), resulted in a longer-than-needed wandering in the wilderness. And for those who have to undertake tasks, there must be guts in taking up challenges even in unfamiliar or uncharted ground. In the run up to the very first military campaign (Exodus 17:9-10),

**Impact.**

the confidence Moses placed on the inexperienced Joshua, who was equal to task in being bold and brave in getting the troops organised and battled the Amalekites, resulted in a memorial victory (Exodus 17:9-14)! With God, exceptions abound in being ‘strong and courageous’ as asserted by Moses (Deuteronomy 31:6,7,23) and echoed by Joshua (Joshua 1:6-9)!

In any relationship, there ought to be patience with an outlook of positive outcomes and not be shrouded with negative thoughts or ill feelings, like suspicion, jealousy or threats. When specifically tasked by God (Numbers 27:22-23), Moses simply acted by laying hands and commissioning Joshua publicly that led to a smooth changeover of leadership (Deuteronomy 34:7-9). While the search of the Promised Land was mooted by Moses, the outcomes were achieved years later under Joshua’s watch as ‘the Lord gave to Israel all the land that He swore to give to their fathers... not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass’ (Joshua 21:43-45).

**Potential.**

Age and inexperience should not be a showstopper or derail to any task. As a former slave, it should not be a surprise that Joshua did not receive any military training and yet, still hand-picked by Moses to undertake an existential task! As a former prince (Exodus 2:14), Moses should have military or self-defence abilities but yet, these seemingly had no influence as he opted to believe and trusted in the potential of Joshua’s yet-to-tap-on abilities in a battle (Exodus 17: 9-13) which was a precursor to the future ones he led and fought in Canaan, beginning with the iconic victory at Jericho (Joshua 6:20).

**Lead/Learn.**

To lead, one has to be on top of things and be visible, like the staff (Exodus 4:1-2) that opened the Red Sea (Exodus 14:16), provided water at Horeb (Exodus 17:6) and the symbol of conquest at Rephidim (Exodus 17:9). It gives others the opportunity to observe or witness, with almost a touch-and-feel! The 40 years together suggested that Moses and Joshua had amiable interactions and perhaps, complemented each other through leading and learning. Joshua observed firsthand the experience and behaviour of Moses in both his strengths and the human side as he patiently geared towards being the next leader of Israel.

**Exemplary.**

The lives of Moses and Joshua have already been exemplified much in the Bible with only some aspects extracted for this article. In our MM33 journey, it is opportune for us, as believers to make the first move to attest **D.I.S.C.I.P.L.E.** reflected here, as a testament “to engage in the greatest work of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting the world has ever seen”—as our primary objective in the decade ahead, together!



**Bro Low Loy Nghee** in a career spanning 35 years, spent the major part as a civil servant, fully retiring in February 2020. He served in lay capacities at Bethel AG (where his faith journey began in the 70s), Centre of New Life (supported its formative years in the 90s) and in the recent five years, as the Executive Director of AG Singapore till July 2024.

# 继续努力完成大使命



## Press on to fulfill the Great Commission

By Bro Joseph Sim, Zion Gospel Mission

2024年8月15日星期四，神召会的中文部牧者同工领袖齐聚一堂，参加牧者同工团契。这次聚会不仅仅是一次例行的聚会——有力地提醒我们在亚洲传福音的共同使命。该聚会通过故事和教导，鼓励每个人继续努力完成大使命。

永生堂的卢彼得牧师首先分享了他在亚洲的宣教经历。自神学院时代起，彼得牧师就积极参与拓展神的国度。永生堂正在亚洲通过社区外展、辅导和教育来传福音。彼得牧师概述了宣教工作的五个基本要素，即五个“C”：呼召(Call)、使命(Commission)、挑战(Challenge)、代价(Cost)和收获(Catch)。他敦促那些开始宣教的人听从上帝的呼召，走出舒适区，面对文化挑战，并准备好付出时间和金钱的代价。但在牺牲之外，还有“捕获”——当我们用智慧和爱去服事时，就能赢得灵魂。

陈约瑟牧师用路加福音第五章来说明宣教旅程。他强调宣教过程中经常会遇到的困难和失望，以及当我们信靠并顺服上帝时，即使在看似无望的情况下也会发生的奇迹。彼得是一个熟练的渔夫，当他遵从耶稣非常规的指示并见证了神迹般的渔获时，他经历到了这一点。陈牧师强调，这种顺服让基督的大能通过我们做工，带来个人的改变，并为神的国度带来丰硕的收获。

这次团契有力地提醒了我们宣教的呼召。宣教领域充满挑战，但奖赏却是永恒的。当我们像彼得一样信靠和顺服时，我们会看到神通过我们的努力行使奇迹，为祂的荣耀转化生命和社区。让我们凭着信心走出去，因为我们知道呼召我们的那一位是信实的。

On Thursday, August 15, 2024, Chinese ministers and Assemblies of God leaders gathered for the quarterly Chinese 2TiP meeting. This assembly was more than a routine gathering. It was a powerful reminder of our shared mission to spread the gospel in Asia. Through stories and teachings, the presenters encouraged everyone present to press on to fulfill the Great Commission.

Rev Peter Loh of Eternal Life Assembly opened the session by sharing his mission experiences in Asia. Since his Bible college days, Rev Peter has been actively involved in expanding God's kingdom. Eternal Life Assembly is advancing the gospel in Asia through community outreach, counseling, and education. Rev Peter outlined five "Cs" of mission work: The Call, The Commission, The Challenge, The Cost, and The Catch. He urged those embarking on missions to heed God's call, step out of their comfort zones, face cultural challenges, and be prepared to sacrifice time and money. Beyond the sacrifices lies the "Catch"—souls ready to be won when we minister to them with wisdom and love.

Rev Joseph Tan used Luke 5 to illustrate the missionary journey. He highlighted the difficulties and disappointments often faced in missions and the miracles that occur when we trust and obey God, even in seemingly hopeless situations. Apostle Peter, a skilled fisherman, experienced this when he followed Jesus' unconventional instruction and witnessed a miraculous catch. Rev Joseph emphasized that such obedience allows Christ's power to work through believers, leading to personal transformation and a fruitful harvest for God's kingdom.

This 2TiP meeting was a powerful reminder of our call to missions. The mission field is challenging, but the reward is eternal. As we trust and obey, we will see God working miracles through our efforts, transforming lives and communities for His glory. Let us step out in faith, knowing that the One who calls us is faithful.



- 1 中文牧者同工们 Serving together as Chinese ministers
- 2 来到主面前敬拜 Coming before the Lord in worship
- 3 永生堂的卢彼得牧师首先分享了他的宣教经历 Rev Peter Loh of Eternal Life Assembly opening the session by sharing his mission experiences
- 4 陈约瑟牧师用路加福音第五章来分享宣教旅程 Rev Joseph Tan using Luke 5 to illustrate the missionary journey
- 5 团契 Fellowship
- 6 小组分享 Small group sharing

# Racial Harmony Day in Teen Challenge

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)*

*By Teen Challenge, Singapore*

Racial Harmony Day in Singapore is a significant occasion that promotes understanding and appreciation of the country's diverse cultural heritage. This day was celebrated with much joy and laughter on July 20, 2024, at Teen Challenge where our residents and staff were transported back to their "Kampong Days".

Rev Samuel Gift Stephen, our representative from the Board of Directors, graced the occasion with a welcome speech and emphasized the importance of maintaining racial harmony in Singapore.

This day aimed to deepen understanding of the various faiths, beliefs and practices through multi-ethnic activities and various cultural performances, such as Malay and Chinese cultural dance and an Indian musical performance.

Each resident gathered regardless of race, language or religion to celebrate with their families and loved ones where they experienced strong bonds across different races and cultures.

Music speaks a universal language that resonates deep within us, creating connections that go beyond cultural differences. Performers from the various communities showcased their culture and colors through dance and song. Our residents and their families were mesmerized and clapped their hands as they sang to the familiar tunes of the good old times.

This added to the celebratory atmosphere as guests relaxed and enjoyed themselves. The shy residents who preferred to sit right behind enjoyed the ambience in their own quiet and special way, with deep smiles etched on their faces. The loud and gregarious ones stood up and joined the fun along the way. There was no stopping them, as they released all their fears and insecurities.

The next treat was for the residents and their families to experience various traditional "Kampong Games" games such as "Chop Stick Skills", "Chapteh" and "Cowrie Seashells".

Outside the open court, the "Chapteh" was flying "high" as the residents and staff tried their very best to tap the rubber disc with colored feathers attached to a rubber sole with their feet. The concentration was intense indeed! There were "Aiyaaaaas" and "Aiyooooos" echoing as they focused throughout the game. It was such a heartwarming sight as the rest gathered around to cheer them on.

Then there was this popular Indian game called "Cowrie Seashells," which was introduced to the residents and their family members to try out. There was such a magnetic bonding and togetherness among the family members and the residents that it was indeed priceless.

The Chinese game called "Chop Stick Skills" was where the residents were tasked to use their non-dominant hand for the entire task or halfway through an activity to increase the amount of concentration and precision. Some were experts and manoeuvred, while some kept stumbling with their chopsticks. There was much anxiety among the rest of the staff and family members as they watched the ongoing action. Loud cheers, whistles and claps sounded across the hallway with laughter and joy. All barriers were broken and there was oneness created.

Food, glorious food, that aroma from a spread of various dishes and cultures permeated the air, inviting all who were gathered there. Everyone helped themselves to the dishes prepared and mingled around, sharing and caring for one another; an unseen bond had been formed!

Families came together and the residents were able to share this special moment and cherish the limited but precious time spent together.

As the sun set, there was a slight tinge of sadness that lingered as the families left Teen Challenge, bidding their goodbyes with hugs and assurance that they would meet soon. This day fostered a deep appreciation for the richness of different cultures and laid the foundation for embracing diversity in our lives.



Perhaps the moment of truth is that our family and friends, regardless of race, language or religion, will always have a strong bond of love that cannot be broken and lasts forever.

"...This is not a Malay nation; this is not a Chinese nation; this is not an Indian nation. Everybody will have his place: equal; language, culture, religion."—Mr Lee Kuan Yew



We have vacancies for  
**job opportunities**  
at Teen Challenge.

- ★ Cook
- ★ Front Office Security Staff
- ★ Operation Executive
- ★ Social Worker

For more information,  
please contact Ms Diana Ho  
(Assistant Manager Administration)  
at [diana\\_ho@teenchallenge.org.sg](mailto:diana_ho@teenchallenge.org.sg)

- 1 All having fun at the Racial Harmony Day event
- 2 Interacting as a family
- 3 Chapteh game
- 4 A Malay dance performance
- 5 Chopsticks game
- 6 Fellowship over food

# Royal Rangers Leaders Rendezvous 2024

*LIT UP - Living in Truth, Unleash Potential.*

*By Royal Rangers Singapore*

During the National Day long weekend, over 100 Royal Rangers leaders and their families gathered in Batam for Leaders Rendezvous. They were joined by three Malaysian and two Indonesian leaders. The rendezvous was a time of fellowship, food, fun, and faith, bringing leaders together to bond and connect.

The theme, “*LIT UP - Living in Truth, Unleash Potential*,” created a powerful atmosphere of spiritual renewal. Rev Dr Naomi Dowdy, who has had a long history with the ministry of Royal Rangers Singapore, delivered inspiring messages. She emphasized, “Each one of us is born with purpose and potential” and reminded everyone that “You can only reap what you sow”. This was a timely message to remain true and steadfast to the call of God and to accept His divine appointment as leaders. Even the spouses of leaders were encouraged in their supporting role and felt the warmth of the extended, family-like community.

For the older leaders, seeing the younger generation of leaders running the rendezvous was a powerful testament to the seeds of faith they had sown years earlier. The younger leaders were also challenged to take on new heights and follow in the footsteps of those who came before them. Camp Commander Koh Yong En expressed his joy, saying, “It is a blessing to see leaders of different generations serving faithfully week in and week out, come together for a time of fun and being ministered to during this rendezvous.”

As the weekend drew to a close, everyone left feeling recharged in both

spirit and faith, ready to continue their ministry of “Reaching, Teaching and Keeping boys and girls for Christ!”

*“Busting the ‘Myth’ of Work-Life Balance was eye-opening. It highlighted the importance of finding a rhythm and knowing when to rest—physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually—while juggling various roles.”* **Jaime Teo, Senior Commander, Outpost 21, Zion Full Gospel Church**

*“During a service, God showed me that a coal alone dies out, but with others, it ignites. This reminds us that in serving God, we need to be surrounded by those who spur and encourage us. We’re not alone in this!”* **Glenda Boey, Senior Commander, Outpost 5, Harborlight Church**

*“After two years serving as a Royal Rangers leader, I’m deeply moved by the love and selflessness of the commanders. This experience reveals God’s love in all leaders and keeps me on track. The consistent training and mentoring show me that God is watching over me.”* **Mike Lam, Commander, Outpost 1, Bethel AG**

*“The message reminded us that the RR ministry is God’s plan, not ours; we are merely His vessels.”* **Eric Teh, National Commander, Royal Rangers Malaysia**

*“I participated in Royal Rangers 30 years ago as a youth and left the church as a young adult. As I returned to this Leaders Rendezvous, I saw many Commanders from my youth remained in the ministry. Their steadfast dedication has been a lifeline for me and many others. They’ve sacrificed their lives to bear fruit and serve God. To all Commanders—past, present, and aspiring—thank you for your unwavering commitment and for helping people like me find our way back to God.”* **Stanley Cheong, Commander’s Spouse, Outpost 1, Bethel AG**



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- 1 Over 100 leaders and their families together for fellowship, food, fun and faith
- 2 The spiritual sessions brought a great time of refreshing and revelation to many leaders as they stepped out to commit themselves again to the ministry of Royal Rangers
- 3 In a fireside chat session, Rev Dowdy and three national staff members (Ps Michael Koh, National Commander Chia Eng Kiat and Ps Wu Tze Chong) shared their own leadership journeys, challenges and debunked the myth of balancing life, work, family and ministry
- 4 Enjoying a day out with activities like shooting range with paintball, team building games and lots of group fun
- 5 Leaders participating in a light up dance to celebrate Singapore's National Day and to the future of raising the next generation of leaders for God's glory

# Fresh Fire Conference 2024

*Held on May 22 to 23, the Fresh Fire Conference 2024 saw us empowered and refreshed for God's work.*

*By Rev Dr Alvin Lim, Maranatha Christian Assembly*

"It has been a while since God's people can gather post-COVID and let's experience the fire of God to bring revival in you and through you," as Rev Dominic Yeo rallied all Assemblies of God (AG) churches in Singapore to come together for the Fresh Fire Conference 2024. Our last Fresh Fire Conference was in 2015 with Ps Samuel Rodriguez. The conference opened with more than 600 delegates pouring into Trinity Christian Centre to worship God passionately together.

Our General Superintendent and Chairman of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, Rev Dominic kicked off the plenary sessions in the morning by exhorting us to move from the Cross to Pentecost. It is not enough to be saved by the Gospel but we need the Holy Spirit to empower us for supernatural living and world evangelization. Rev Alan Hewitt, Assistant

Pastor of Hope Church preached next on the high cost of low passion in our life and ministry. It was a sobering message that God wants to do so much more but we are often satisfied with status quo and miss out on his greater outpouring.

We had three tracks namely Next Generation, Evangelism and Discipleship tracks in our afternoon Application Sessions. The format for each session had about three panelists sharing their experiences and was facilitated by a moderator with questions and answers from the participants. It was wonderful to hear from different local AG church pastors as they shared and dialogued on key practical ministry issues and solutions together.

During the night sessions which was free to the public, it was awesome to see the youths packing up the altar area jumping

and dancing to worship God. The presence of God filled the room as AG churches came together to worship God in spirit and in truth.

Rev Chris Cartwright, General Superintendent of the Elim Pentecostal Churches shared on the first night of how God can come to us suddenly as we come to the end of ourselves, just like Moses did in the encounter of the burning bush. He also shared on Day Two morning about how we need to experience God's fire in the room (Pentecost) so that we will have His fire for the road (ministry). He shared many inspiring stories of revival and miracles of what God is doing around the world.

The climax of the conference happened on the final night as Rev Alan Hewitt preach a message entitled, "Throw Away the Matches". It was a prophetic message of

how we try to create artificial fire to get our ministries going by running many programs instead of depending on God for real revival fire through prayer and seeking His face. The tangible presence of God was so strong during the altar call that people were just kneeling and weeping to God in repentance and hunger. God showed up and that was what mattered most! We began to sense that God wants all AG churches to unite and He wants to do much more through us as an AG movement in the power of the Holy Spirit. This conference is indeed the fire starter, and this is our prayer, "Lord, unite and use us as an AG movement to reach Singapore and beyond! Amen!

We want to thank the AG Executive committee, all speakers, Trinity Christian Centre, Organising Committee and all the volunteers who made the conference a success!





Here are some testimonies from the participants:

“I have been blessed by the sharing from the speakers, especially the very authentic sharing by the youth pastors at the Gen Z + Alpha App sessions for both days! There are certainly many relevant learning points to bring home and apply.” **Yew Qiu Leong, The Harvest Force**

“One thing God is speaking to me about my life: I learned that it is not about how big or small your ministry is but your attitude towards the Kingdom of God and the talents (parable of the talents) He has given you. You can either choose to hide the talents or multiply them double fold. Church is not about chasing the numbers of the church but mentoring and discipling the people. And the double-fold blessing will come through the power and might of Jesus Christ. One thing God spoke to me about our church: the youth pastors who shared about how to connect with the Gen Z and Gen Alpha showed that a lot of trust between leaders was important for good shepherding of the youth. I believe that in Amplify\*, we need to begin to discuss more openly about how we and our youth are doing spiritually, mentally and emotionally, in order to look out for one another and disciple one another better.” **Isaac Lee, Faith AG** (\*Amplify is Faith AG’s youth ministry)

“I came with an expectant heart to be touched by God. God never fails. Every word from the morning sermons spoke to my inner man. It renewed, refreshed and empowered me to move forward with God. I attended the App session- Community Outreach. I learned so much from the experiences of the seniors pastors. I’m so glad that I came

to Fresh Fire Conference 2024. Just being there with so many Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ, feeling the presence of the Holy Spirit, it’s awesome!” **Ling Ling, Moriah AG**

“The Digital Discipleship App Session was very good and thought-provoking. It also introduced me to other pastors from other churches and was surprised by how good of a communicator some of them are” **Alex Ang, Emmanuel AG**

“God has blessed me by giving me confidence in the gift that He has given me, the gift of tongues. I have always been very sceptical about whether I have been baptized by the Holy Spirit or not, I never knew whether I speak in tongues or not. But when I came to this conference, I had no real idea why I was coming, I just wanted to receive something. So, God in His divine plans showed me in the first day morning when there was an altar call, I went up and was immediately touched by God. I just started speaking in tongues and I couldn’t stop. He has really changed me where I feel more confident of His gift to me.” **Eddy Huang, Sembawang AG**

“The Fresh Fire Conference ignited the passion in my heart. The Lord called me in my desperation. The Lord showed me the high cost of low passion. The Lord has spoken to me through His words on how we should focus on His goal which is higher than my goals. His amazing grace and words stirred our hearts (me and my team) to do more in doing community outreach. We found people who have the same heart as us and that was the confirmation from Him that we are on the right track. Indeed, God is the source of the fire, the passion and His fire is always fresh. To God be the glory!” **Merry Jane Fregillana, The Living Word Fellowship**



- 1 Ministry at the altar
- 2 Receiving a touch from God
- 3 Our speakers sharing their experiences
- 4 Taking notes on what we learnt

- 5 Fresh Fire Conference 2024 participants
- 6 The Organizing Committee and our guest speakers
- 7 Food and fellowship time



# Empowered for the Future

*ACTS College students were empowered to face challenges ahead.*

*By S Nirmala Santhanasamy, ACTS College*

In today's fast-paced world, feeling overwhelmed and powerless is common. The pressures of daily life and Christian service can be heavy, making it challenging to find the strength and motivation to move forward.

The ACTS College Retreat, held from July 10-13, 2024, at Berjaya Waterfront Hotel in Johore Bahru, Malaysia, provided 48 students and faculty members a unique opportunity to step away from the busyness of life. We immersed ourselves in a serene, spiritually nourishing environment, finding space to reflect, pray, and reconnect with God and others. This intentional pause allowed us to discover the inner empowerment that God has placed within each of us, inspiring us to face the challenges of our daily lives with renewed vigor and motivation.

Rev Michael Yeo from Church of Praise, Johore Bahru, led five insightful teaching sessions focused on different aspects of empowerment:

1. Empowered for the Future: Rev Michael emphasized trusting that our future is in God's hands, drawing from 1 Kings 18:44. He encouraged us to serve God and His church expectantly, with a renewed sense of purpose.
2. Empowered to Face Failure: Rev Michael taught that failure is not the end but an opportunity for learning and redemption. He urged us to embrace failure with faith, understanding that setbacks can become setups for God's most significant work.

3. Empowered to Conquer Criticism: Criticism can catalyze personal growth when approached with a Christ-like attitude. Rev Michael explained how to handle criticism constructively, using biblical examples, and stressed the importance of grounding our identity in Christ.

4. Empowered to Defeat Discouragement: Rev Michael provided biblical examples of how discouragement can build our resilience and trust in God's perfect plan. He articulated that feeling discouraged is natural, but unaddressed discouragement can negatively impact our spiritual health and those we serve.

5. Empowered to Endure: In life and ministry, success comes not from swiftness but steadfastness. Rev Michael encouraged us to persevere through life's most challenging battles, trusting God's timing and purpose. This emphasis on perseverance has instilled in us a sense of determination and resilience, knowing that we can overcome any obstacle with God's help.

The retreat reinforced that empowerment is a continuous process of growth and reliance on God. It boosted our spiritual insights, preparing us to face the future confidently. Whether dealing with failure, criticism, discouragement, or the need for endurance, we were reminded that God's work in us is ongoing. God has empowered us to live out our faith boldly and victoriously.



Testimonies from students:

**Amorelle Marrero:** The retreat was a beautiful spiritual and physical renewal opportunity. Rev Michael's preaching ignited a renewed passion to serve and seek the Lord. The five sessions provided valuable tools to navigate the future. It became clear that the Holy Spirit's empowerment is essential, equipping us to face failures, overcome criticism, conquer discouragement, and persevere.

**Robert Abhisek:** As the retreat ended, I felt renewed motivation. During Session Two, Bro David Lim's prophetic messages reminded me of God's unchanging character and faithfulness. The final session's altar call and the song, "You Are Still God," resonated deeply, reminding me that God is always there. My biggest takeaway was, "Don't let the stumbles of yesterday define tomorrow." God calls us to rise and walk in His purpose.

**Christina Tan Poh Gek:** I was baptized with the Holy Spirit last year but struggled to speak in tongues. During the retreat on July 11, 2024, while worshipping, I suddenly spoke freely in tongues. I cried with joy, realizing that doubt had held me back. The Holy Spirit removed that doubt and tongues flowed freely from my lips.

**Reetha Vanimogan:** The retreat centered on "Empowered for the Future." Each day included meet-and-greet sessions, uniting us in fellowship to advance God's Kingdom. The worship and teaching sessions were refreshing pit stops on my journey. Rev Michael's session on "Empowered to Endure to the End" assured me that challenges are fleeting, and God is in control. The altar call left me feeling assured and empowered for the journey ahead.



- 1 We are ACTS College
- 2 Honoring the Lord with our worship
- 3 Receiving prayers and ministering at the altar
- 4 Ukelele performance by Golden Legacy (seniors), Church of Praise, JB
- 5 Appreciating Speaker Rev Michael Yeo
- 6 Appreciating interpreter Ps Edmund Chan



**TalkingHearts.SG** was founded in 2023 by a group of believers who shared a passion for integrating faith and psychology to support individuals, couples, and families in their journey through life. Our mission is rooted in the belief that mental wellness is vital to overall spiritual health.

We are deeply concerned with the state of mental wellness among the Christian community. Beyond emphasizing that God wants us to be healthy in our minds and that it is perfectly spiritual to seek professional help even as we hold steadfast to our beliefs and garner support from our pastoral caregivers, we also recognize that most of the time, the market prices may deter Christians from seeking professional help. Talking Hearts started as a ministry to give back to the Christian community, subsidising heavily below the market rate with quality services. By doing so, we aim to make mental health support more accessible to those who might otherwise be unable to afford it, ensuring that no one in our community has to face their struggles alone.

At TalkingHearts, we strive to reach out to more individuals, by walking alongside them to offer compassionate care that honors their psychological needs and spiritual journey, supporting their well-being in every aspect of life.

#### What is Professional and Christian Counseling?

Professional counseling involves working with a trained counselor to address various psychological, emotional, and relational issues. This type of counseling is based on established theories and practices in psychology and mental health. The therapist uses evidence-based techniques to help individuals understand and manage their thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. Professional counselors might specialize in areas including:

- Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT): Focuses on changing negative thought patterns and behaviors.
- Psychodynamic therapy: Explores unconscious motivations and past experiences.
- Humanistic therapy: Emphasizes personal growth and self-actualization.
- Family and couples therapy: Addresses relational issues within families or between partners.

Christian counseling integrates Christian values, beliefs, and practices with evidence-based techniques. It's based on the belief that humans are created in God's image and deserve love, respect, and compassion. Christian counselors help clients understand their identity, purpose, and meaning through faith. During Christian counseling, the Bible and prayers may be used alongside therapeutic techniques. The goals are often not only emotional and mental well-being but also attaining spiritual rest and alignment with Christian values. Christian counseling is a powerful instrument for healing, growth, and transformation. By integrating faith and psychology, it offers a unique and holistic approach to mental health.

The Key Principles in Christian Counseling include:

- Spiritual Integration: Encourages clients to explore their faith and relationship with God.
- Biblical Guidance: Uses Scripture for wisdom, guidance, and comfort.
- Compassion and Empathy: Reflects God's love and grace.
- Holistic Approach: Addresses body, mind, and spirit for overall well-being.

For more information on counseling services, please email [admin@talkinghearts.sg](mailto:admin@talkinghearts.sg)

...Continued from pg 5

#### e. Continuous Evaluation and Adaptation

- The effectiveness of a discipleship program should be regularly evaluated, and adjustments could be made based on feedback and changing needs within the congregation.
- Application: Conduct regular surveys or feedback sessions with participants to gather insights into what is working and what needs improvement. Introduce new topics for study or alter the format of meetings where appropriate.

Chart: Continuous Cycle of Discipleship Program Development

Phase	Key Focus	Action Step
Mission Alignment	Ensure program reflects church's mission	Clarify mission and vision with church leadership
Needs Assessment	Understand congregational needs	Conduct surveys and interviews with members
Pathway Design	Outline the stages of spiritual growth	Design the discipleship pathway
Implementation	Launch the program and engage participants	Communicate and roll out program to members
Evaluation	Measure effectiveness and make appropriate adjustments	Gather feedback and refine program

### 3. What Now?

Implementation is key to the success of any discipleship program.

However, discipleship is not a one-time event but an ongoing process. Therefore, consider the following for sustaining the program:

#### a. Integrate Discipleship into Church Life

- Ensure that discipleship is woven into church activities and events.
- Application: Intentionally include youths in the organizing committees of church events so that intergenerational friendships can be fostered, and mentoring relationships can be built.

#### b. Equip and Empower Leaders

- Invest in the development of current and future leaders who are passionate about discipleship.
- Application: Offer regular training sessions and workshops and go to conferences focused on disciple-making principles and practices together.

#### c. Celebrate Successes

- Publicly recognize and celebrate individuals and groups who are intentionally making disciples.
- Application: Share testimonies during services or in church newsletters about how discipleship or disciple-making has changed lives and deepened faith.

Designing an intentional discipleship program is an arduous and dynamic process that requires thoughtful planning, alignment with your church's mission, a realistic understanding of your congregation's needs, and flexibility. By considering the unique context of your church, and delineating intentional growth phases in your discipleship pathway, you can encourage an ecosystem where discipleship can flourish, and lead members toward spiritual maturity and reproduction of disciples.

The journey towards a disciple-making church is an ongoing kingdom endeavor, and with dedication and intentionality, it can lead to a vibrant community of disciples and disciple-makers. Remember, the ultimate goal is to make disciples who in turn make disciples, perpetuating the Great Commission in your church and beyond.

# Zion Full Gospel Church Mission Team in Manila

An intergenerational mission team taught, ministered and blessed the lives of the many they reached out to.

By Brayden Lim, Carissa Pua and Hilary Lee, ZFGC

Zion Full Gospel Church (ZFGC) team of nine members had the privilege to partner with Oikos Helping Hand (OHH) to serve in Manila, Philippines from August 30–September 4, 2024. It was a journey of faith for the intergenerational team, since it was the first time for most of them in the Philippines. And for some it was even their first mission trip!



*The intergenerational team at Changi Airport ready to depart*

## Fellowship Meetings

The first day of ministry saw hearts filled with God's love in the Youth, Ladies and Gentlemen Fellowship Meetings at Agape Church, Tondo. The team ministered through skit, personal testimonies and prayer ministry. At the end of each meeting, food items were then distributed to the participants. In the Gentlemen Fellowship, Bro James Woon shared a powerful testimony on how God had delivered him from a series of medical issues. His sharing encouraged the men to seek Jesus in their lives and many of them came up for prayer.

James Woon (Retiree):

*"My sharing is on 'I Sought the Lord' taken from Psalm 34:4, 'I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.' I've learned that when we consciously fix or focus our mind's attention and our heart's affection on God, He grants us the courage to face our fears*

*with confidence and to overcome it. We have power and authority in Jesus' name!"*



*Food distribution at the Fellowship Meetings*

## Youth Ministry

Next day was Sunday Service at Agape Church, Las Pinas. For lunch, the team cooked Singapore-flavored braised pork belly for about 30 youths, followed by ministry at the Youth Meeting. Besides the joy and laughter flowing from the lunch table and youth games, there was also the equipping of God's word from Exodus 4:13-14 titled "Do Not Be Afraid," shared by Jann Tan, a university student herself. Many youths shared how they were encouraged by her sharing and responded during the prayer time by surrendering their fears to God.

## D.I.S.C. Workshop

Monday was a full-day workshop for the 25 OHH staff and leaders. The workshop on D.I.S.C. behavior styles was an interactive and engaging time between the team and the church leaders. Everyone learned more about themselves and how to work better with different personalities in a team, thus forging stronger unity in the Body of Christ.



*Interactive activities carried out with OHH staff and leaders at the D.I.S.C. workshop*

## Home Visits

On two separate occasions, the team set out to the slums to do home visitations together with the local staff. The visits gave the team opportunities to converse, pray and provide some food supplies to various families and individuals. Many team members were moved by what they encountered in the Filipino believers. Despite the poor living conditions, the locals showed great trust in God as their

Provider and Father. Their grateful hearts challenged the team members to be more aware of God's love and care in their own lives as well.

Jann Tan (university student):

*"During our home visits in the Philippines, we had just 10-15 minutes to connect with each family, but I learned how powerful even brief moments of love can be. By embracing every opportunity, I can be a willing vessel for God's love to flow through, even in short interactions."*



*Home visits at the slums*

## Children Ministry

Due to the typhoon and floods, children ministry plans at OHH Learning Centre needed to be adjusted. Praise God that about 30 out of the 50 children could still attend the program! There were songs, games, a skit and some crafts to engage the four to six year-olds audience. The skit illustrates the story of Peter walking on water (Matthew 14). From the skit, the children were taught to trust in God and that they can overcome tough situations with Jesus.



*Songs, games and craft with the children*



*Skit about Peter walking on water*

The ZFGC mission team has been so blessed by the Filipinos' love for God. Many of them might not have much materially, but knowing God was their everything. With the numerous testimonies and thanksgiving to share, God's hand was truly upon the team and OHH!

# April Showers Bring May Flowers

Inspired by a true story of kindness, healing, and a life well lived.

By Jennifer Lee, Eternal Life Assembly  
(Edited by Rev Daphne June Lau)

Have you ever wondered how a simple story can ripple through someone's life, inspiring transformation?

Our recent evangelistic drama, *'April Showers Bring May Flowers'*, which was held on August 16 to 17, set out to unveil this reality, drawing audiences into a narrative of hope, reconciliation, and the incredible power of faith to transform lives.

Dwayne Lau, the visionary behind this production, shared, "The spark of inspiration came during the final days I spent with my father, the late Rev Dr Patrick Lau. I felt compelled to craft a story that reflected his life—a life richly lived, marked by his unwavering love for God and his ability to touch others in profound ways."

The drama weaves together the lives of families and individuals, each navigating their personal storms. As they journey through trials, they find their breakthroughs unexpectedly connected to a humble florist named May, a character lovingly inspired by the late Rev Patrick.



*Our actors gave their very best*

Within this narrative, audiences encountered raw moments of conflict, heartache, and grief—emotions drawn from real-life experiences that made the story deeply relatable. "It felt like I could see myself in the story," one viewer commented. Many were seen teary-eyed during some of the emotional scenes. Dwayne hopes that those who watched will uncover



*All glory to God for a successful show*

glimmers of hope in their own challenges and realise that, like the characters, they too can find their way through life's shifting seasons.



*Laughter and fun in the house*

The immersive experience began as soon as the audience stepped into the foyer, where they were embraced by a vibrant bloom of flowers. The stage, too, was adorned with flowers, beautifully showcasing the drama's central theme. Every element of the production—from decor to sound and lighting, to makeup and costume—was crafted in-house by our dedicated team. The cast of 23, supported by a crew several times that size, worked in perfect harmony. The media team also poured their creativity into publicizing the event and driving ticket "sales". It was a powerful season of unity, as congregations and generations came together, embodying the spirit of the Eternal Life (EL) family.

The drama culminated in an impactful theme song, composed by Rev Daphne June Lau, with contributions from cast member Sellek Teng, and masterfully arranged by industry professional August Lum. The lyrics resonated deeply, reminding us that while life's seasons may change, God's presence is a constant—guiding us through, if only we open our hearts to Him. The song is like the story set to music, perfectly capturing the message of the entire show.

We thank God for 80 salvations and rededications during the three shows, as our Senior Pastor, Rev Robert Lum,



*A dance of joy*



*A captivating theme song ministering to the audience*

extended invitations to the audience. We also give thanks for the many more who were touched in ways we may not even be aware of.

As the lights dimmed and the final notes faded, many in the audience left the auditorium carrying not just memories, but a renewed sense of hope. Though they had come for the show, we believe many departed with a divine touch. We thank God for the opportunity to plant seeds of faith through this EL Drama!



*Team work makes the dream work*

# Succeeding Rev Lawrence Koo at New Horizon Church

On May 19, 2024, we saw the change of leadership from Rev Lawrence Koo to Ps Joshua Lye at New Horizon Church.

By Ps Joshue Lye, New Horizon Church

Ps Joshua Lye shares...

I received the Lord at the age of nine, in 1980 at Revival Centre Kuala Lumpur which Rev Lawrence Koo had co-planted with Rev Ronnie Chin, when they were students at Bible Institute of Malaysia. However, I did not know Rev Lawrence as he had moved south to plant the next church.

Subsequently, I came to Singapore for my secondary education. At the age of twenty, I received the call of God during a church revival, but I was to complete my earthly career before entering full-time ministry. In 2013, while working as a CFO, the Holy Spirit led me to start Revivalife Church (RLC). In 2020, I left my corporate career to serve fulltime while pursuing a Master of Divinity at Singapore Bible College (SBC).

Rev Lawrence had been looking for a successor when the Lord divinely connected me to him through Rev Ronnie in July 2022. We started a mentoring arrangement and met monthly. During a session, we discussed the topic of succession, and he asked me to pray about it. After a period of engagement with the board, I joined New Horizon Church (NHC) on July 9, 2023, and RLC was integrated into NHC.



Rev Lawrence during NHC merger service—Herald Assembly and Agape Community in 2013

We had a ten-month transition period as I had to complete my studies before succeeding Rev Lawrence on May 19, 2024. However, I had to jump straight into action to set the new five-year vision and the plan for 2024. I engaged with the key stakeholders of NHC to understand the challenges and aspirations of NHC.



Rev Lawrence handed the staff and rod to Ps Joshua during the Installation Service in May 2024

On January 7, 2024, I shared the new vision with the church. My immediate challenge is to rejuvenate the church which has an ageing demography. To do that, we have to be effective in our outreach, especially to the next generation. Hence, our first vision is to be a missional church. To be effective, we have to disciple our people to fulfill the Great Commission. Hence, our second vision is to be a discipling church. To be empowered, they need to experience revival. Hence, our third vision is to be a church in revival. Our fourth vision is to raise up the next generation and our fifth vision is to have a vibrant senior's community.

The Lord is already working in all five areas since its launch, and the church is walking together with excitement into the next phase of NHC. I thank Rev Lawrence for laying a strong foundation in NHC for me to build on. He also led the church through a smooth leadership transition. The Lord honors Rev Lawrence's faithful service by preparing his successor 44 years earlier in the first church that he co-planted.



Farewell Service for Rev Lawrence in May 2024



Rev Ronnie (middle) with Rev Lawrence (left) and Ps Joshua (right) at New Horizon Church in 2023

**Tribute to Rev Lawrence Koo, Senior Pastor, New Horizon Church**



How do you practically lead two different church congregations to come together harmoniously as one? This question was before Rev Lawrence Koo in January 2013 when Herald Assembly and Agape Community merged to form New Horizon Church. Prayerfully and wisely, he decided that there had to be a common culture, and PULSE was established (P-Prayer; U-Unity; L-Love; S-Servant leadership; E-Extravagance).

This culture served as the guide for the conduct of work and relationships in New Horizon through the last 11 years and has held the church in good stead till today.

Pastoring is demanding work and often no respecter of time. So often, Rev Lawrence worked tirelessly, whether meeting with members to render pastoral care or conducting last minute wake and funeral services, among other commitments. It was all in a day's work for him and he always gave his best, no matter how physically tired he was.

Rev Lawrence strongly believed that one should serve in the area of one's gifting and was instrumental in identifying and raising members to head or serve in the different church ministries. His sensitivity to God's calling in members' lives is evidenced by the pastoral team and ministry teams that he had raised and developed.

Rev Lawrence often shared that he once wanted to change his name to Barnabas, which means 'Son of Encouragement'. Despite retaining his name, he nonetheless continued to live out that attribute. Beyond sharing words of encouragement to members who faced doubts in their life or abilities, he would more importantly pray for God's enablement upon them.

Rev Lawrence has always been willing to offer his shoulders as a stepping stone for others if it helps them go further and serve God better. Such is his humility and desire to see kingdom work advance with all necessary resources.

As he hands the leadership of New Horizon Church over to Ps Joshua Lye, we know that he is stepping out and moving forward in the spirit of Caleb, asking of God to 'give me this mountain.' God will surely honor this desire. We will be praying for Rev Lawrence as he blesses the wider body of Christ in his next phase of ministry. Thank you, Rev Lawrence Koo. We love you and bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Malayalam Fellowship 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

A testament  
to the grace  
and faithfulness  
of God on our  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

By Bro Dennis Jacob, Emmanuel Assembly of God

On August 10, 2024, Emmanuel Assembly of God's Malayalam Fellowship joyfully celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The day was a testament to the grace and faithfulness of God, marking a decade of spiritual growth, unity, and service in the Lord's vineyard. From the very beginning of the day, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable, guiding every activity and filling the hearts of the congregation with praise and thanksgiving.

The celebration commenced at 10am with a powerful session of prayer and worship. The sanctuary was filled with voices lifted high, as the congregation sang hymns and songs of adoration, creating an atmosphere of reverence and gratitude. As we worshiped, we were reminded of Psalm 95:1, "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."



A worship song by our brothers

Following worship, the day's activities unfolded with a vibrant array of events that brought the community closer together. A Bible Quiz was one of the highlights, where teams were formed to delve deep into the Scriptures. The competitive spirit was alive, but more importantly, it was a time to learn and reflect on the Word of God. As 2 Timothy 3:16 reminds us, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness," and this quiz truly embodied that spirit.

The fellowship also featured a Bible trivia session conducted through the Kahoot mobile platform, allowing participants

to engage interactively with biblical knowledge. It was a moment of both fun and learning, where technology met tradition in a meaningful way.

The melodious voices of our church members, who offered songs of praise and worship, added to the spiritual ambience. Their heartfelt renditions uplifted everyone's spirit, creating an atmosphere of divine connection through music, as encouraged in Psalm 100:2: "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."



Star Kids performing a skit on Daniel's escape from the lion's den

The younger members of the fellowship did not lag. The children performed a skit on the story of Daniel and his deliverance from the lions' den, a story of unwavering faith and divine protection. Their performance was both touching and a powerful reminder of God's power to save and protect those who trust in Him.



Ice-breaker games

The day was also filled with moments of joy and laughter through various fun events and ice-breaking games. These activities not only provided entertainment but also strengthened the bonds of fellowship among the members, as we are reminded in

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together... but encouraging one another."

A special report on the mission work in Andhra Pradesh, India, was presented, highlighting the church's commitment to spreading the gospel and serving communities in need. This report reminded us of the Great Commission, as stated in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

Throughout the day, the congregation enjoyed the hospitality of the church with lunch, dinner, and snacks provided. It was a time of fellowship, sharing, and thanksgiving for the Lord's provision.



Ps Chacko giving a short message on 'Recapping Our Faith Journey'

45 members participated in person, and additional members who had relocated to India or other parts of the world joined via Zoom. This demonstrated the unity of the Body of Christ, transcending geographical boundaries.

The celebration concluded with a special ceremony, during which prizes were distributed to the children, and teachers were honored with mementos for their dedication and service to the church. This was a fitting end to a day that celebrated not just the past 10 years but also looked forward to the future with hope and faith.



Honoring the teachers of Star Kids Sunday Bible Class



Members enjoying a fun-filled game session

As we look back on this day, we are reminded of 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Emmanuel Assembly of God Malayalam Fellowship was not just a milestone but a reaffirmation of our commitment to continue growing in faith, serving the Lord, and spreading His love to all. May God continue to guide and bless this fellowship in the years to come.

# The Living Word Fellowship Church Retreat 2024

**“Reconnect,  
Refreshed, Refired”  
—a God-filled retreat.**

By Amorelle Caput-Marrero,  
The Living Word Fellowship

## An Overwhelming Gathering in the Philippines

The theme ‘Reconnect, Refreshed, Refired’ set the stage for a transformative experience as The Highland Metropolitan AG in Puguis, La Trinidad, Benguet hosted our inaugural retreat last June 6-8, 2024. Bringing together 74 participants, the gathering ignited a vibrant spirit of spiritual renewal.

## Encountering God’s Cleansing and Purpose

The first night featured a reflective message by Rev Walter Caput, centered on Isaiah’s transformative encounter with God (Isaiah 6:1-8). He emphasized how this experience led to cleansing from sin and a deep yearning for a closer connection with God. Just as Isaiah was empowered by the Holy Spirit, Rev Caput encouraged us to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit’s work, recognizing our weaknesses and embracing God’s strength. Through this spiritual rejuvenation, we were inspired to see God’s vision with clarity and, like Isaiah, were convicted of shortcomings, cleansed by His grace, and committed to His purpose.

## Sunrise Service, Refreshing Activities, Inspiring Talks

An invigorating sunrise service at 4:30am with Ps John Arieta challenged us to reignite the fire for reaching the lost and those needing God’s love. We were encouraged to reconnect with former members who returned to the Philippines and those who might have lost their passion for serving God. Ps Arieta emphasized the importance of staying connected with God as we fulfill His plan for us.



*Our hearts were full after the sunrise worship*

Participants also enjoyed a revitalizing Zumba session, fostering camaraderie through fun and energetic movement. The morning activity also included a scenic one-and-a-half-hour journey to Northern Blossoms Flower Farm in Atok, Benguet, where participants bonded and strengthened relationships amidst the breathtaking surroundings.

One of the retreat’s goals was to reconnect with former TLWF members who had returned to the Philippines permanently. Pastor Reuel Ramos led the afternoon session, featuring a panel discussion with three former members who once worked in Singapore and now serve as full-time ministers across the Philippines. Their inspiring stories of transitioning from secular careers to ministry challenged us to discover our own purpose and answer God’s call.



*An afternoon with former TLWF members,  
now serving as full-time ministers in Philippines*

## A Fun-Filled Fellowship and Rededication to God

The “boodle fight” dinner on the second night was a lively event filled with laughter and fellowship. New friendships were formed, and cherished memories were relived.

Rev Dom Lopez’s message on the last night challenged us to be “HOT” for God: Humble, Obedient, and Trainable. He emphasized surrendering our lives to God’s purpose, just like Isaiah when he declared, “Lord, here I am, send me” (Isaiah 6:8). Rev Lopez reminded us that our character matters to God and that we should strive for maturity in knowledge, experience, ministry, mission, and multiplying disciples for Christ. He concluded by reminding us of the power we hold to witness for Christ (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2:17-18), and the importance of self-sacrifice, openness to God’s word, unwavering commitment, and being “all out” for God.

## Leaving a Lasting Impact

The retreat culminated in an outreach program, collaboratively organized with the host church’s new daughter church. Primarily serving and ministering to youth aged 8-16, this partnership enabled us to share God’s love with these precious young souls. As Bro Roland Cher aptly said, “Love is demonstrated in action through simple acts of giving, time, effort, and gifts.”

The Living Word Fellowship Church Retreat was a truly meaningful experience. REFRESHED in God’s presence, RECONNECTED as a body of Christ, and REFIRED with a renewed passion to serve Him!



*Our retreat journey culminates in service to the  
community of Nangalisan Tuba, Benguet, Philippines*



*Renewed in spirit, strengthened in bond,  
and ignited with purpose to serve*



*Together with our guest speakers and their spouses*

## Testimonies from committee and participants:

“The Retreat gave us the opportunity to be Reconnected with our relationship with God and as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Refreshed by God’s comforting presence and Refired with the Holy Spirit’s power as our hearts have been reignited to serve God with enthusiasm. Praise God!” — **Philippines Committee**

“Praise God for this opportunity to serve Him with our energy restored. Beyond amazed to see everyone working and enjoying together. Also, connecting with the youth during the outreach has truly humbled us. The host church committee’s hospitality made us united in serving. Indeed, we are ‘Happy to serve as the Lord Reconnected, Restored and Refired us to serve in a more meaningful way!’” — **Singapore Committee**

“I thank God for enabling me to attend the church retreat themed “Reconnect, Refreshed, Refired,” held in Benguet, where my biological father also lives. This retreat was a truly memorable and answered prayer, as it marked my first reunion with my father. It was a blessed time of fellowship and spiritual growth alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ, providing a much-needed renewal for my soul.” — **Ruby Macrohon**

“The retreat was a profound spiritual journey. I experienced a deep Renewal of faith, Reconnected with loved ones, and Ignited a fresh passion for serving God. The Holy Spirit’s guidance led to personal growth and a stronger commitment to living out my faith.” — **Beth Untalan**

# School of Healing

*Raising up ordinary church members for power evangelism.*

*By Rev Matthew Tan, Jesus Heal Me*

2024 has been a very good year for the healing ministry. By end-November, we would have run the School of Healing in eight different countries, held 26 classes. Each class spans from two days to one week.

We heard stories of how after the training, the participants continued to pray for the sick. And the public started coming to the church every Sunday because they heard news of people getting healed in the church. We also learned of how healing started to happen in workplaces and in homes among family members. The participants, once shy and timid, now become bold as lions. We are seeing these phenomena happen in Singapore as well as in the other nations.

We thank God for his favor upon the team. Healings and miracles literally followed us as we minister. Even the people we coached started seeing healing happen as they pray for the sick. To date, we have received in excess of a thousand testimonies of healing just for 2024 alone.

We have many more ministry opportunities lined up for 2025. Do keep the ministry in prayer as we continue our work of raising up the Church to pray for the sick and see healing happen.



*Coaching Bible school students to pray for the sick in Vietnam*

Here are some encouraging testimonies from the pastors and ministry leaders of the Singapore churches we ministered in.

“The classes were interesting, informative and practical with opportunities for hands-on learning with the trainers. These lessons were very helpful to us. These are the post-class observations in the church.

Firstly, salvation of souls. It's been a while since we rejoiced over souls saved in our services. Such great joy and encouragement! Secondly, church members rising up to pray for the sick. We have been active in praying for the sick ever since the training sessions and healing service.

Personally, for me, after the class, I don't shy away from praying for the sick anymore. I don't feel the pressure that they need to be healed from my laying of hands. I just know that I am the vessel to be used by God and I avail myself to give people the opportunity to experience Jesus.” - **Ps Olivia Khoh, Bethany Christian Centre**

“Although I am already involved in a healing ministry, I am greatly blessed by the practical tips these classes offered. They have led me to further understand the various aspects of physical healing and the skills required to smoothly facilitate healing from happening. The practical lessons were light hearted and sometimes even hilarious, and yet in those moments the Holy Spirit moved to heal the sick among the class participants.” - **Carlmond Tan, Covenant Evangelical Free Church**

“I found the teaching to be comprehensive and most important of all, it led to impressive signs and wonders. The teaching is theologically sound. It laid the foundation for my team to understand and to pray for the sick in a confident manner.

My ministry team was also invited to join their healing service as part of the learning experience. The praying was simple and transferable. We also took notes on the operations aspect of the healing service. It was easy to follow, and I believe every church can do this and be a blessing to their community.” - **Rev Dennis Lee, River Glory Church**



*Teaching pastoral staff and ministry teams in Cambodia*



**Rev Matthew Tan** has an evangelistic ministry that is marked by the healing anointing. He is the lead minister of Jesus Heal Me and he often ministers at evangelistic events and healing services. Recently he started the School of Healing – a training program for Christians who aspire to be effective healing ministers. Through this school, he hopes to raise up the body of Christ for power evangelism. You can sign up for the School of Healing at this url — [tinyurl.com/jhm-soh](http://tinyurl.com/jhm-soh)

...Continued from pg 3

42 years ago, I started a Bible study group at my workplace using the material my church provided. We met every day. I had the opportunity to journey with a young man, helping him to know, trust and follow Jesus. One month later, I answered God's call, left the job and served full-time. A couple of months later, I saw this young man walking into our church sanctuary. He decided to worship with us and continued his journey of knowing, trusting and

following Jesus. Today, one of his sons is a full-time pastor—what a joy!

## What Would Jesus Do

To make disciple-making our church mission, we must avail and pace ourselves to be discipled and disciple others. Let me end with a story taken from one of the bestselling books *In His Steps* written by Charles M. Sheldon. In the story,

Rev Henry Maxwell challenged his congregation to not do anything for a whole year without first asking, “What Would Jesus Do?” It became a way of life to a group of members who committed to do so and in spite of many challenges they faced, they persisted. A year later, their lives were transformed and their community was impacted!

His command is our mission. So, “What should we do?”

# God Saw Me Through Cancer Treatment

*Giving thanks for answered prayers and my church's support while going through cancer treatments.*

*By Lilian Howe, Moriah Assembly of God*

In November 2023, I was diagnosed with Triple Positive HER2 breast cancer. My surgeon told me that this cancer was aggressive but very responsive to treatment. I was assigned three very good doctors: a very dedicated breast surgeon whose specialty is Breast Surgery, a Plastic Surgeon who is gentle, caring and meticulous, as well as a very caring and dedicated oncologist. God blessed me with excellent doctors, but three who were incredibly caring.

My oncologist recommended six rounds of Chemotherapy together with Targeted Therapy (an injection given at the thigh).

The chemotherapy took away my hair, my good cells and my love for food. After each round of chemo, I will be down for at least two weeks with nausea and diarrhoea. At the end of the second week, my appetite resumed, and after the third week, the whole cycle started again. This went on for about 18 weeks.

After the second chemo the tumor shrunk by 50%! I rejoiced and kept praying together with many friends and family who were with me throughout this whole journey that I would not have to go through surgery.

At the end of the fourth chemo, my oncologist told me that the tumor had responded well to treatment, and she said, "No bargain." I wondered what she meant by that. Then, she said, "Even though the tumor has shrunk, you will still need to go for surgery".

I went numb.

The doctors told me I could go for a simple mastectomy, lumpectomy, lumpectomy with conservation or mastectomy with breast reconstruction. Each surgery had its pros and cons.

After that, I spent days and nights thinking of the different surgeries that my breast surgeon showed me and what the plastic surgeon could do for me.

Though the doctors gave me the surgery options, they told me that neither they nor my family could make the decision for me. I had to make the decision on my own. Finally, God

gave me peace of mind as eventually, I chose to do a mastectomy with breast reconstruction after consulting the doctors again and again.

On April 18, 2024, after completing six rounds of chemo, I was wheeled to the operating theatre for a supposedly 18-hour surgery. I never thought I could go through this surgery without God's hand upon my life, as my blood count was very low, and I needed four bags of blood transfusion in total during this surgery. Amazingly, when I went into the operating theatre, I did not have any fear, as God's Word assured me in 2 Timothy 1:7 that He has not given me a spirit of fear but of power of love and a sound mind.

I thank God that not only was the surgery successful, but when the surgeon removed the lymph nodes for tests, the results came back that they were cancer-free. Praise the Lord! Lymph nodes being cancer-free meant that I did not need to do Auxiliary Clearance, which was the removal of all lymph nodes. An 18-hour surgery was reduced to a 9-hour surgery! After the surgery, I did not even experience any nausea, sore throat or giddiness; another prayer answered.



Furthermore, I did not suffer pain from the surgery except discomfort from the wounds and was discharged in less than a week. I am amazed at the healing of the wounds. Many of my family, friends and fellow church members stood in the gap for me. My brother's cell group members even prayed round the clock on the day of my surgery.

The after-surgery histopathology report read: "No evidence of metastasis", "No evidence of malignancy", and "No residual carcinoma identified". Hallelujah!



During this ordeal, I'm so blessed to have my church pastors and members visit me at home to pray and partake in Holy Communion with me, encourage me, as well as offer their time to support me. Friends took me out for meals whenever I could eat. Family members especially accompanied me for hospital appointments and treatments, sometimes spending hours with me at the hospital.

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for all that you have done for me and for sending me angels to make this journey so much easier.

After the surgery, I needed 11 sessions of targeted therapy (an injection every three weeks) and hormone pills for five years to prevent relapse. Looking forward to being fully recovered and total remission. Claiming it in Jesus' name. Amen!