

FLOODGATES



IN THE BEGINNING...



FLOODGATES

January to April 2020

Message From Senior Pastor

1-3 We Are Not In Control. God Is.

Events

4-5 FORWARD2020

Message From Founding Senior Pastor

**6-9 We Have Never Been
This Way Before**

Features

10-15 Cambodia Mission Trip

16-19 Japan Exploratory Trip

20-25 Forgiveness And Reconciliation

26-28 Chasing The Lion

29-30 A Book Review: Lizard Tails

DUMC Stories

31-33 God's Everlasting Grace

34-35 Journeying Through Alpha

36-37 God My Healer

38-39 God's Love And My Disneyland

40-42 My Real Life Hero

43-44 LEAP Internship Programme

Damansara Utama Methodist Church
Dream Centre, 2 Jalan 13/1, Seksyen 13,
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
T +603.7958 7388 F +603.7958 3787
E general@dumc.my    dumcMY
W dumc.my
The church office is closed on Mondays.

From The Editorial Team:

We are living in an era of constant change, and we witness something new every day, to the point that we may be numb to it. Nothing surprises us anymore. With instantaneous information available through social media, and the constant bombardment of “news”, today’s generation can be overwhelmed by what used to be considered “unusual” or “shocking” in times before, and begin to believe that this is “acceptable” and “normal”. But it should not be “acceptable” nor “normal”.

Romans 12:2 tells us **“Do not conform to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”**

Floodgates was created to be a vessel, a platform where we can publish articles and testimonies to bless and inspire God’s people towards Godly renewal of the mind mentioned by the apostle Paul, and which will stand out from the daily bombardment of confusing and possibly unhelpful “information”.

In Floodgates, we, as a Church, the Body of Christ, can share stories and bear witness to God’s amazing grace and give Him the glory. Also, we can remind ourselves that we are nothing without Jesus, that we would just be part of a dying world and hopeless.

On the cover, “G” is at the centre of the title, Floodgates, just as we need to place God at the centre of our all. Our name Floodgates originates from Malachi 3:10 **“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”**

Father God, may we all, children of God, be blessed when the “floodgates of heaven pour out...” and be reminded that the presence of God in our lives is the blessed life.

Message From Senior Pastor

WE ARE *Not in* CONTROL.

GOD IS.

by Chris Kam, Senior Pastor

The country suffered a double whammy – the unexpected political fiasco which was unprecedented, and a tiny virus named COVID-19 that brought the whole world to a standstill, literally. How do we as disciples of Jesus respond in a Christ-like manner? Surely no one will blame us for feeling frustrated, anxious or angry. This is the time we will be tested on what we believe about God and His sovereignty. Who we are is often tested, not in good times, but in bad or challenging times. As the saying goes, it can bring the best or the worst out of us.

We read with amusement how supermarkets ran out of toilet paper and other essentials. What is it that drives this herd mentality? Psychologists suggest that it has to do with the need to do whatever it takes to try and get back some control individually over something beyond one’s control. Such a desire would also be reflected in how some are now considering the next wave of migration to other countries for greener pastures.

It is amazing how often God speaks in my simple daily bible reading and devotion about the issues I am facing. No less this time when we are having two national crises at hand, feeling often helpless, yet confident that the future is not determined by men, but by a sovereign God who is in control. How do you hold a healthy tension between being a citizen of this nation and of heaven? (Philippians 3:20-21 *"20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."*) How do we responsibly take all the necessary precautions to prevent infections, which are not a hundred per cent full-proof anyway, and still trust that our lives are in God's hands? How do we act on certain things and yet trust that God is sovereign in all things? There are no easy answers.

Our call is to be godly and useful citizens wherever He has placed us. We are called as a Body of believers to be salt and light. (Matthew 5:13-16) We are not Malaysians by accident but by a sovereign act of God. (Acts 17:26 *"From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands."*) While we are here as pilgrims on this earth (Hebrews 11:13; John 17:16; 1 Peter 2:11), we subject ourselves to the governing authorities. (Romans 13:1 *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God."*)

The signs of the end times just before the return of Jesus have been prophesied. (Luke 21:10-11 *"10 Then he said to them: 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great*

signs from heaven.'") It will get increasingly challenging, unsettling and chaotic, even for the church, as persecutions increase in intensity. Jesus Himself said: (Luke 21:17-19 *"17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life."*) Why then are we surprised when all these things happen?

It was in the midst of all these the Lord spoke to me from Luke 9:12-14 *"12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.' 13 He replied, 'You give them something to eat.' They answered, 'We have only five loaves of bread and two fish—unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.' 14 (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, 'Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.'"*

We are all familiar with the feeding of the five thousand. There were probably double that number if we are to include the



When we look to Jesus, He will do a miracle only when we surrender the little we have to Him.

women and children. Because it was a remote place in the late afternoon, the disciples were concerned about the welfare of the crowd. The sooner they could dismiss the crowd, the better it would be for people to fulfill their basic need for food and lodging. The disciples had done their homework. They had only five loaves and two fish. The strange part of the story was that Jesus instructed them to give the crowd something to eat. He was asking them to do the impossible! It was an impossible sum – five loaves plus two fish were not equal to five thousand men!

Jesus was basically saying to them the obvious - "You cannot." They had no choice but to look to Jesus and allow Him to take over. Having sat the crowd down so that they were ready to receive their food, Jesus took the small portion of bread and fish, gave thanks to His Heavenly Father, and had the disciples begin distributing them.

I can imagine the scene and the increasing amazement in witness of a wonder. It was a miracle on an impossible scale! Not only did they all eat but they were also satisfied, meaning there was more than enough to go around. The disciples even picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces left over.

The Lord put me in the shoes of the disciples. It was an impossible sum and I am definitely not in control of the situation. When we look to Jesus, He will do a miracle only when we surrender the little we have to Him. No wonder Jesus said we only need to have the faith of a mustard seed to move mountains. (Matthew 17:20) It is not our faith that is of concern, but the object of our faith who is Christ. The number 'five', represented by the five loaves, symbolizes human weakness and limitation in the light of God's covenant and grace. Man is insufficient in himself. Adding the two fish to the five loaves gives a total sum of seven which symbolizes the perfection and completeness of God. This story reminds us that we are never sufficient and adequate in ourselves until we surrender everything to Jesus. We can miss the Presence and Provision of God in the limitation of our five loaves and two fish.

What is God saying in our double whammy? **We are not in control. God is.** Is God turning our eyes to Jesus at this very moment? Are our lives, and the church, shining forth the glory of God in the midst of uncertainties? It is a time to build faith and not fear. It is a time of reflection and examination. It is a time to pray and do what's right where truth, justice and righteousness are concerned. Are we harnessing this as a discipleship moment for the entire church? We must continue to function (in all acts of compassion, mercy and justice) as always, and more, until He comes again. We are not in control of things in our lives. Only God is. Our hope is in God.

FORWARD2020

by Loh Chan Wai



**WE
HAVE
NEVER
BEEN
THIS
WAY
BEFORE!**

by Pastor Dato' Dr Daniel Ho, Founding Senior Pastor

Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before.

**But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the ark; do not go near it
(Joshua 3:4)**

These words from Scripture are absolutely apt and reminiscent of our times: "... you have never been this way before". Indeed, the whole world has never been this way before and is reeling with panic and exhaustion in dealing with this global coronavirus pandemic.

But, first, why did Joshua's officers say these words to the people of God? They are crossing River Jordan for the first time to possess the promised land. They are going into both alien and hostile territory. Moreover, none of them were trained for warfare. The odds stacked against them are huge. Yet, go in they must.

More importantly, who is going to lead them into taking the land? The priests carrying the ark of covenant of the Lord are going to lead the way. We know the ark represents the Lord's presence and that is what the people are to follow; with the Lord really ahead and leading them. Their focus should always be on the Lord in spite of the foreboding challenges.

In the past 40 years through the wilderness, the Lord had always been central in their journey. It is going to be no different in the new era. Likewise, as we are under lockdown and a pause (and much of the world too), it is crucial to re-evaluate about the centrality of life. What is or who should be at the centre of our life? This "pit-stop" allows us to ponder and re-order our priorities and focus all over again. Is God at the centre or have work, career, hobbies or other affections consumed us?

Also, the people of God were told to keep a distance of a thousand yards from the ark of covenant in the march. Imagine more than 3,000 years ago social distancing was already being practised! There is going to be both the distance as well as the proximity regarding the ark. But why? Distant enough to behold the fearsome presence of the Lord with reverence and awe and yet close enough to keep focus on the Lord at all the times and to follow Him. This is what it should be for us in the present too. Maintaining a “distance”, a posture of reverence and awe for the Lord. An extended daily time in worship, in the Word and in prayer. And yet close enough to always keep the Lord before us. Prayerfully this would be our new lifestyle from now onwards. Otherwise the MCO and lockdown would have gone to waste!



In the present and before the crossover, the people of God have been camping and living in extremely close quarters. Also sharing food and everything else with no proper toilet facilities. Imagine the tension and the conflicts at times between adults and children. It is a known fact that husband and wife conflict since MCO has skyrocketed while many things like crime rate and car accidents have dramatically declined. This is a great time to learn to resolve conflict, to value relationships and to live together with joy and gratitude all over again. It should be a great time for bonding and renewing of relationships in the family besides renewing our commitment to the Lord.

What about the future? How should our re-ordered life look like and what is the promise ahead for us? Let me proffer a few thoughts.

Firstly, God is dealing with this global economic system which is based upon human greed. Overnight trillions of dollars have just dissipated. God is teaching us to know how to say ‘enough is enough’! Sadly, human beings don’t know how to do that, including us as Christians. Didn’t Jesus tell us, *“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15)? Let us all honestly check our hearts on this.

Secondly, in this global pandemic God is dealing with human pride and the insatiable desire for control. We thought we are in-charge and can do everything. Moreover, science has all the answers to life and living. So, what do we need God for? But a miniscule virus unseen to the naked eye has humbled all of us. With all the brilliance, expertise, resources and collaboration the whole world is scrambling for help and an answer. Of course a vaccine

will be developed in the coming days and we pray it will be soon to lessen sufferings and the pain of the loss of loved ones. No less health care workers at the frontlines sadly. However, acknowledging our human limitations and learning humility and trust in God should be an important lesson for all of us. Then we experience God’s amazing grace as Apostle Peter tells us: *“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble”* (1 Peter 5:5).

Thirdly, God is teaching us about simplicity of life. Under lockdown we begin to realise that there is very little that we actually need in life. We have accumulated too many things cluttering our closets and our homes. Certainly no need for branded goods. After all, who sees and who knows? But why enrich the purveyors of these branded stuff? A lot more monies could be saved and given away including the stuff that have cluttered our lives and homes. We need to learn to live simply so that others can simply live too. Learn to live loosely to the things of the world so that our lives are freer to serve God and the advance of His Kingdom.

Fourthly, there are many more people in need than we realised. The group that is suffering the most is those in the B40 group, the lower 40% of the social ladder in our nation; the poor, needy, marginalised and the elderly. Another important group is the migrant workers and those with refugee status only. Most of these are daily wage earners and are people with the greatest needs under lockdown. We praise God that many churches and individuals, besides NGOs and other religious groups, are rallying to help these in dire need. We must and continue to do more. We must respond in great generosity and be willing to release even more resources. At such a crucial time, the call is urgent and the privilege to fulfil the words of Jesus (Matthew 25:40) should be our joy and blessing.

Finally, in such an unprecedented global crisis we could be on the cusp of the greatest spiritual revival the Church has

ever known. Countless people are living in anxiety and fear. People are uncertain about the future. Many are shut in, lonely and just longing for someone to talk to. Job losses and business closures are unimaginable worldwide. The foundation of one’s life, security and confidence are shaken. It is at such a time that people are wondering about the meaning of life and what the future holds for them. There is no better time but now and no better place but right where we are to offer the peace and hope that is in Christ Jesus. Fuelled by prayer, this could be the Church’s finest hour ushering in spiritual revival like we have never witnessed before in human history! May this lead to radical and lasting transformation of human lives, societies and nations.

**There is no better time but now
and no better place but right where
we are to offer the peace and hope
that is in Christ Jesus.**



The Lord brought together a team of six multigenerational team members at the very last minute. This mission trip was on the verge of being canceled but God in His own way touched our hearts and we went forth.

The Lord worked wonderfully in each team member during the entire mission trip and this was evident in the quality of the debrief sessions at the end of each day and the morning devotions. It was obvious that the Lord was speaking into our lives throughout the trip through the people we met and the ministries they were involved in. God showed up in many ways and we witnessed how the Gospel of Christ can transform the community in Baray, Cambodia. We encourage everyone to conquer their lion for this year of Impact 2020 and experience God in a new way. It is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

The following is our testimony and thanksgiving to the Lord; may it bless your heart:

ROGER HEONG, KL (MISSIONS TEAM LEADER)

One of our Cambodian pastors is named Pastor Kea. His church members adopted this village called Boerngre (Fishing Village) which CMS had been reaching out to since 10 years ago. It was a village that was known to be full of drunkards, and violence was common. It was so bad that the local authorities refused to care about this community. Now, the village has about 20 -30 adults attending church along with about 40 children. More importantly, because of the gospel, the lives of the villagers are now changed. The local authorities are now paying attention to this community. CMS is playing a role in advocacy to provide them with a permanent place to live where they can be close to the source of fishing, as the company that owned the surrounding lands were trying to evict them from the lake that they fished in. The only school in their village is most important so that the children can have access to education. The church members from Pastor Kea's church who support the work in this village are clearly chasing their lion. It is a challenge going out to that village every week, traveling by motorbike for 45 minutes over dirt roads. In the rainy season, they have to take a boat to the village in order to run the church service on Thursday every week.

During the outreach to the first village, we met a young man aged 23 who could not walk due to a fall two years ago. Moreover, he had lost his ability to speak. He came for the medical work and lived next to the

Cambodia

(14 - 22 Nov 2019)

Mission Trip

outreach site on his own as his father had left him. We also met a family of four children who had been left fatherless and the mother had to go to the city to work. The eldest girl and boys had to work to provide for themselves. The Christians in that village cared for the people in both cases and I could sense Jesus's compassion in them. The Christians there were the extension of Jesus's hands to each of them.

AME KWET, PJN5

I have been blessed to grow up and live in a decent and comfortable place like Malaysia. Through this mission trip in Cambodia, God gave me the opportunity to hear and see the pain and suffering of the people He loves so that I would not take things for granted. This propelled me to share the love of God to the people who needed much. God is love, He loves every single person on this earth. God is truth and He wants to set people free. He loves the Khmer people even though they rejected Him and continued praying to other gods.

One of my testimonies is that I was sick and down with fever on the second day of the trip. We were scheduled to do church preaching and house visitation for the next two days. I needed to be strong and alert to carry out the task. That was when I experienced the strength that God gave me. Even though my body was weak, my mind was clear. I knew that God loved each and every one of them very much. That was why we were there to share and to bring the message of hope and joy. Every story that I heard was unique, encouraging, touching and heart-wrenching. Everyone that I met or listened to was special to me. God is omnipotent and omnipresent no matter

**God is love,
He loves every
single person on
this earth. God is
truth and He wants
to set people free.**

where we are, whether in Malaysia or Cambodia He is there to listen and help.

Finally, I am very grateful that after 12 years, I got the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Cambodia again. I was able to witness the changes and growth in the CMS ministry in Baray. The faithfulness of the local pastors, leaders and believers was very encouraging and heart-warming. I pray that it will not take another 12 years for me to go back there again.

ANDREW PUI, PJN6

I am indeed honoured and delighted to have met Valan at the youth hostel in Phnom Penh. This 26-year-old physically-challenged young man inspired me and uplifted his house mates. Despite all the challenges that he was facing, he was living his life positively and walking with Christ closely. I am thankful to the Lord for allowing me to spread love to the people whom I met in Cambodia and sharpen the way I look at worldly affairs from a higher perspective.

Moreover, God humbled my character to engage and play games with the poor during the village outreach program and opened up my heart to share my personal testimony with the villagers during home visitation. God is real and He loves every one of us in this world. His timing is always perfect. The more you bless others, the greater your blessings in life. I discovered that life is more meaningful when we care for others and I am ready to serve on the upcoming mission trip to Hokkaido, Japan in August 2020, by God's grace. I will continue to share my mission journey with the people I meet, Christians and non-Christians alike.





LEH JAN, PJN6

I was in the midst of looking for a job, so I am thankful to God for calling me to this mission trip. His blessings truly overflowed to me in providing all that was needed for this trip. If it is God's calling to do work for Him, obey and go because He will provide. In one of the Home Visitations, we met a lady whose whole family were executed by the Khmer Rouge. It was heartwarming to see her neighbours taking care of her, giving her rice and food to eat. The children in the village also cared for and interacted with her. Even though the Khmer people are poor, they are very polite and good to others.

I will encourage more friends in Christ to go on mission trips because that is where God's heart is. I will also try to obey God to go on more mission trips for Him.

JOANNE CHAN, PJN1

I was thrilled to see the Word of God coming alive during this mission trip. I witnessed how knowledge turned into practical application. It was my first mission trip and the ministries of house-to-house visitation to share the gospel, and of preaching in church were new to me. It sounded scary at first but I am grateful to see how the gospel brought joy and transformation in society. Moreover, it sustained the believers' lives in Cambodia. Every new day was one with new hope and excitement to see how God would work through us.

God showed himself in a very tangible way. He is indeed a good, good Father who knows my fears and hears my prayer. I received breakthroughs. I was very upset at the beginning of the trip because



of my own self-condemnation for not doing a good job in my preaching. I reminded myself not to think about this as I was there to be the hands and feet of Jesus but the thought kept coming back every night when I was going to sleep. One night, I decided to cast it to God and ask Him to help me overcome these self-blaming thoughts. The next morning during the devotion, my team member, Le Jan shared the story about the widow with two copper coins. Even though she had little, she was willing to give all to God. Jesus saw it, was compassionate and He acknowledged her heart for giving Him her all. I then understood that God does not want me to be perfect but to be willing to give Him all that I am and have, no matter how little it is. He knows my imperfections and I should not rely on my strength. Even in my imperfections, God is still greater. He can work in me and through me to bless others. He can multiply the five loaves and two fishes. I thank God for showing Himself to me and for pouring His love on me through my team member's sharing although he did not know what was going through my head.

I am amazed at the passion of the pastoral team in Cambodia, for their fervent service in their villages. What amazes me are the pastors' testimonies of their challenges in reaching out to the nearby villages. Pastor Kea recounted how he had been consistently reaching out to non-believers even when faced with threats. He was threatened with an axe and told not to come back again. In the end, Brother John from Kampau village came to love God and have a relationship with Christ. The fruit of salvation was borne because of his constant care. It is a joy to see a pastoral team that is so close knit like the early church in Acts, and to see their passion for God's kingdom.

CALEB SOH, PJN6





SARAH, PJN3

Japan has been my favourite holiday destination for the past nine years. It was not until Pastors Tak & Su from Sapporo visited my cell group in May 2018 to share about the state of Christianity and churches in Japan that a new love for Japan was birthed in me. Out of this burden and desire, I began to pray for an opportunity to go to Japan for a mission trip and God indeed answered my prayer through this exposure trip.

This being my first mission trip to Japan, I did not know what to expect or how best to plan, but I felt God assuring my spirit that He would take care of everything, I needed only to GO in faith. I was amazed over and over during the trip. As we spent time in fellowship with the local Japanese Christians, God opened my eyes to see and feel His love for the Japanese. I realized how our presence and testimonies brought such joy and encouragement to the local churches, and how similar we were through the stories shared. I felt a kindred bond with them beyond the language barrier.

Although only 1% of Japan's population of 126 million are Christians, and nearly 70% of Japanese pastors are over 50 years old, it was inspiring to engage with pastors across the generations - in their 30s and 60s, including a 21-year-old aspiring to become a pastor. Their servant leadership and shepherd's hearts touched me.



Exploratory Mission Trip 2019

The ground is hard for mission, and the Japanese churches need love and affirmation. I felt this was the purpose of this first trip, and I thank God we could bring the love of Christ to our Japanese brothers and sisters. I count it a “bonus” I got to share my testimony with a group of young adults, one of whom came to accept Christ later.

God is moving in Japan, there are so many more stories to tell and testimonies to share.

The ground is hard, but there is hope.

“There are more needs now than ever before, and an even greater need for the Gospel.”

AMANDA, PJN5

It was a true honour and blessing to be able to partner with God for DUMC’s first exploratory mission trip to Japan. God laid a strong burden in my heart many years ago for the souls in Japan, and I went on my first mission trip to Japan with OMF in early 2018. This was now my third mission trip to Japan and God has opened my eyes to different aspects and how He has moved in Japan since then.

We started praying for Japan a couple of months before the trip was finalised. God put the team and the mission trip together step by step, answering one prayer after another. The language barrier was the major concern initially, but we were blessed with 4 translators.

One of the highlights was the opportunity to partner with local Christian university student groups to put together an outreach event hosted in the church. Out of the 36 in total attendance, there were 12 non-Christian students and half of them were interested to find out more about Christianity. We were also blessed to witness God’s miraculous hand of healing on a man who had undergone brain surgery after a severe accident, and was recovering strong. Indeed, it was amazing to witness how God was moving the hearts of the people and how He had already started to prepare the next generation for Japan. We count it a blessing to work alongside Him for His plans and purposes for Japan and to be the ones to bring His good news to this land.

There were a number of record-breaking disasters in Japan throughout 2018. I feel that God has



softened the heart of the Japanese and has opened up more spiritual needs now than ever before in Japan. However, due to cultural barriers, not many have heard about the Gospel but only know Christianity merely as a ritual of a religion. How can they believe if they have not heard and how can they hear without someone preaching to them? The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. I am overjoyed that DUMC will begin sending teams to Japan in 2020 and delighted that we, as a church, can continue contributing to the churches in Japan.

WENDY, PJN2

I went on the Japan exploratory mission trip with a clear purpose, to see what God had in store for me in Japan, especially in Hokkaido. God answered my prayer by making this trip happen for me with His provision and blessings.

The key highlight of the trip was God’s revelation through a vision that I received when a Japanese sister prayed for me. In the vision, I saw the whole sky of Sapporo filled with crosses with Jesus nailed on each one of them. God was sitting on His throne looking down from above. It was such a magnificent view. God was showing me His love and His saving grace upon the land of Japan. It was like a glimpse of revival. I was in awe and there was much to process.

Through the conversations with Pastor Tak from Sapporo Minami Evangelical Christ Church, God affirmed to me again the confirmation of the vision regarding Hokkaido that I received about 1.5 years ago. I also sensed that God was directing me back to a specific place in Hokkaido, where He seemed to have specific things to reveal to me.

The ground might be hard, but God is moving in Japan. He is also building up the young generation there. I can see God’s heart for the Japanese revealed through 2 Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”* My prayer for the Japanese believers is

Romans 15:13 *“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

It was a significant trip for me with God’s revelations and affirmation. The words released to me during ministry time before the trip were fulfilled. All glory and thanks be to God.

KAM YONG, PJN5

By divine appointment, we met a woman taking photos along a street. She was alone so we offered to take a photo for her. After taking her photos, she showed us photos of Christmas decorations she had taken at a mall. She knew Christmas was the birth of Christ but nothing else. We took the opportunity to share about Christ, that God loved us sinners so much that He gave us Christ to save us from eternal condemnation and that we might be united with Him in Heaven. When we were lonely or sad, Christ would always be beside us and not leave us nor forsake us. She teared up and began to pour out her frustrations and feelings of rejection from her medical doctor, a recent breakup with her boyfriend, as well as her own health issues. We sensed her loneliness and shared that Jesus would never leave her, nor forsake her. Suddenly, I remembered a Japanese gospel tract left in my Bible, since the year 2000. I gave it to her and she cried when she saw the church address stamped behind it. The church was in her mother’s hometown, where she had grown up! She was amazed that God had planned for her to know Him since 19 years ago! We prayed for her and left her the church’s contact. Before, she was distraught and in tears, but now she was smiling and beaming with joy.

There are many Japanese even along the streets, who might be briskly walking by seemingly busy with their lives. Many are attracted to the beautiful Christmas decorations with glistening lights, but deep down, they are walking with voids in their hearts only God could fill.

God is here, touching every heart. Will you join Him in pointing others to the true Light of the world?



FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION

by Alex Tung, PJN1

A BRIEF COMPARISON OF FORGIVENESS VS. RECONCILIATION

Just as Christ forgives, so we as Christians are likewise called to forgive. But what is forgiveness and is it the same as reconciliation – are they both essentially the same thing? If they are not, then are Christians called to forgive *and* to reconcile, or is forgiveness less meaningful if it does not include reconciliation? Also, how do forgiveness and reconciliation relate to Jesus' sacrifice? Was Jesus' death only meant to achieve forgiveness of our sins, or was it also to achieve reconciliation of our relationship with God?

This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. **And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.** And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

Matthew 6:9-13

FORGIVENESS VS. RECONCILIATION

Much has been expounded about the need for Christians to forgive and reconcile with their perpetrators. But have we stopped to consider what these words "forgiveness" and "reconciliation" truly entail? Although they may seem similar, they are not; though what amounts to forgiveness is hugely different to reconciliation; both are not wholly exclusive of each other – it is possible to forgive someone without seeking reconciliation, but conversely, forgiveness is an essential prerequisite for reconciliation. That said, forgiveness is hardly trivial. How difficult it is to forgive one's perpetrator depends on the extent of hurt, and understandably it is the deepest hurts that we find most difficult (if not impossible) to forgive. But succeeding forgiveness, reconciliation goes one step further and requires both perpetrator and victim to mediate their predicament. As such, unlike forgiveness, reconciliation is impossible if either is not a willing participant.

The misconception between forgiveness versus reconciliation may be the reason why many have been unable to forgive, let alone reconcile, with their perpetrators. As a result, the victim may end up dragging a huge burden of grudge and vengeance within them when a better understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation may ease them of this load.

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.
Hebrews 12:14

FORGIVENESS: A PERSONAL PROCESS OF HEALING

From the offset, let us be clear that forgiveness is not and does not amount to validation – forgiving someone does *not* amount to us condoning their actions. Whether the perpetrator's actions were justified or not is not our judgement to make; that is God's prerogative and God alone will be able to judge appropriately.

In concise narration, forgiveness involves an internal process of working through our emotions, acknowledging and understanding why (and how) our perpetrator has hurt us, with the end goal of releasing the burden to God. Depending on the severity of the hurt, this process may take us a much longer time to resolve than other issues. But the sooner we are able to achieve it, the sooner we would be released from the burden of holding the grudge that consumes us from the inside. Numerous books have been written and many

counsellors have been trained to do just that – to help us internalise and process the hurt within us in order to release it, and no longer be held captive by it.

In achieving forgiveness, it means that we are now unwilling to seek vengeance or demand compensation for the wrongs done against us, that we no longer seek to harm or take revenge on our perpetrator. Forgiveness is a personal spiritual act, where we surrender our grievances to God's judgement honouring Him as the one who holds the right to punish evil, rather than taking justice into our own hands.

How successfully we are able to achieve forgiveness is based squarely on our relationship with God – not the perpetrator. The process of forgiving another starts and ends as an internal process, requiring only our communion with God without any reciprocation by the perpetrator. As such, forgiveness does not require both parties to sit down to talk through what had happened, making up and hugging it out until both parties are amicable and happy with each other. Clearing the air, finding a middle ground and mending the relationship is all part of the reconciliation process – not forgiveness. Instead, forgiveness is oftentimes achieved in solitude and is completely independent of the perpetrator.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, **forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.**
Ephesians 4:31-32

RECONCILIATION: A COLLABORATION TO RESTORATION

Challenging as forgiveness may be, reconciliation takes this a step further. With reconciliation, both the victim and perpetrator need to come together to mediate their differences with the goal of achieving harmony between the two. The goal of reconciliation is for both the victim and the perpetrator to mend their estranged relationship. Unlike forgiveness, it cannot work in isolation and requires both parties to be active participants jointly seeking a harmonious end to their dispute. Any attempt at reconciliation, if pursued by only one party, is not going to be successful.



For successful reconciliation to occur, both parties must first be willing participants having forgiven any wrong committed and leaving the business of punishment, retribution and vengeance to God. As discussed above, this prerequisite alone may be overwhelming. But assuming forgiveness has been accomplished, both parties must also be keen and prepared to reconcile – it is possible that the victim, although having forgiven the perpetrator, refuses to be reconciled.

Although reconciliation is the gold standard, there are admittedly, circumstances where reconciliation is not possible – for example where the perpetrator has not truly repented or where the victim's safety risks being compromised. In such instances, parties are not ready for reconciliation. In such circumstances, dogmatically accelerating the parties through the reconciliation process would certainly do more harm than good. Taking time off for both victim and perpetrator to truly seek God and be sufficiently repentant should instead be the focus. But aside from such exceptional circumstances, the model Jesus set out for us should always result in Christians pursuing reconciliation once forgiveness is achieved.

Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar.
First go and be reconciled to them;
then come and offer your gift.
Matthew 5:23, 24

JESUS' ATONEMENT OFFERS FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

When Adam and Eve committed the original sin in the Garden of Eden and sin entered the world through their hearts, two things happened – (1) humanity was doomed and regardless of how much good we were to do in our lives, we remained sinful in nature and were destined for hell never being able to atone for the price of our sins; and (2) humanity was banished out of the Garden of Eden and our relationship with God became severed, and we no longer enjoyed the close communion with God which Adam and Eve did prior to their sinful act.

In order to rectify these, we need a Messiah who is able to forgive us of our sins and to restore our relationship with God. For this, God sent Jesus – our Messiah, the only Man who

lived a perfect life and hence was able to pay the price of our sins, thus qualifying us for salvation. In accepting Christ as our Lord and Saviour, we not only are offered forgiveness but also reconciliation so that our relationship with God can be restored.

Take, for example, the Sinner's Prayer. The Sinner's Prayer is made up of 3 main components: (1) first is a statement of apology and repentance where we recognise ourselves as sinful beings and who, due to our sinful nature, are not able to live a sin-free life; (2) secondly, we acknowledge Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us, His dying on our behalf as a penance for our sins so that our debt is paid in full by Him; and (3) finally we welcome Him through the Holy Spirit into our lives in order to counsel and guide us to repentance through our renewed and restored relationship with God.

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: **Be reconciled to God.** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION – TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

If Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary was only to forgive us of our sins, then our relationship with God would remain severed and we would remain cut away from God without the Holy Spirit within us. Conversely, if Jesus' sacrifice was only to restore our relationship with God, then our sins would remain unforgiven and we would remain condemned for eternity in hell. No, neither of these options would work – Jesus' sacrifice as the ultimate sacrifice was meant to fulfil both goals – forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God. To omit either from Jesus' intention would lead to a disastrous end for humanity as a whole.

Towards that end, any attempt to dichotomise the concept of salvation between forgiveness and reconciliation would be purely academic as in reality, forgiveness and reconciliation (in the Christian context) are two sides of the same coin – and a coin that we sorely need. Jesus' offer of both forgiveness of sin and reconciliation of relationship is made freely and openly to all and sundry – and this offer of salvation is neither preferential nor biased. Regardless of the wrongs done or sins committed, Jesus' offer remains an invitation to the world at large. Regardless of our background and what we have done, the Hound of Heaven pursues us with His salvation to a relentless end.

Nonetheless, in the same way reconciliation requires both parties to be willing and active participants, so does our salvation. Free as Jesus's offer may be, true salvation is predicated upon our acceptance and response. To accept His offer, we need to say the Sinner's Prayer (and really mean it!) and genuinely apologise for our sins, acknowledge Him as the Saviour, and seek a repentant life.

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, **forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.** Colossians 3:13

WHEN A CHRISTIAN FORGIVES

Whilst there are admittedly circumstances where reconciliation is not possible (typically where one party is not truly repentant), the Christian concept of forgiveness should always be one that naturally leads to reconciliation. Numerous worldviews advocate forgiveness as a recommended concept but it is only Christ who combines both forgiveness and reconciliation as an inseparable package.

As such, just as Christ offers both forgiveness and reconciliation, so should we. With forgiveness, which we can do independently of the other person, we should also unconditionally aspire towards reconciliation. But with reconciliation, unless there exist extenuating circumstances which prevents it, given that it requires equal participation from the other person, we should always be prepared to offer.



CHASING THE LION



by Sarah Lye, PJS2

As DUMC members, we know that the main thrust of our church this year is IMPACT2020. What does IMPACT2020 mean? First, we need to know the meaning of 'impact'. According to the English Oxford Dictionary, 'impact' means 'a marked effect or influence'. The Collins English Dictionary defines 'impact' as 'the impression made by an idea, cultural movement, social group, etc.' In short, 'impact' means something that is done that will have an effect on another person or on a group of people.

In the context of DUMC, IMPACT2020 means that we are all being geared and steered towards doing something that will touch people's hearts and lives, to make a significant impact in a community or certain group of people.

In order to fulfill the objective of IMPACT2020, first and foremost, we as individuals need to ask God personally what He wants us to do. We need to seek the Lord's face and to ask Him to show us the direction or path that He would like us to go so that we could achieve the goals of IMPACT2020. We must persevere in seeking God's direction for IMPACT2020. We cannot afford to do things according to our own ways or agenda. This is because it is all about God being glorified and magnified at the end of the day. We are mere vessels for Him to use to fulfill His greater purpose.

There has been a call for us to 'chase the lion'. What is this 'lion'? This 'lion' is actually something akin to a challenge that God puts within our hearts for us to conquer. It could be a small-sized, medium-sized or huge-sized challenge! The 'lion' or challenge for each one of us is different as we are unique and we have different passions that God imparts within our hearts.

Some people could have the desire to reach their loved ones within their own family, or a certain minority group of people or even make a difference in their homes, marketplace, school, colleges or universities. Others may want to reach out to the down-hearted, the poor, the marginalized, etc. Whatever the 'lion' is, we must remember that God is the One who leads us to that lion because we do not want to chase a lion if God is not there! That is why the most important thing is not what we want to do, but what the Lord wants us to do! We need to be still and listen to His heart. We need to inquire of the Lord and hear His still small voice. He will reveal to us when we wait upon Him and seek His face. *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near."* (Isaiah 55:6) In Exodus 33:14, the Lord replied, *"My Presence will go with you and I will give you rest"*.

When we hear from God accurately, He will direct our paths. His presence will accompany us and He will give us rest. We are not created by God to strive but to be rested in Him.

We have been constantly reminded of the three challenges in order to ‘chase the lion’:

- 1) **Think of something you have never tried**
- 2) **Do something you have never done**
- 3) **Go somewhere you have never been**

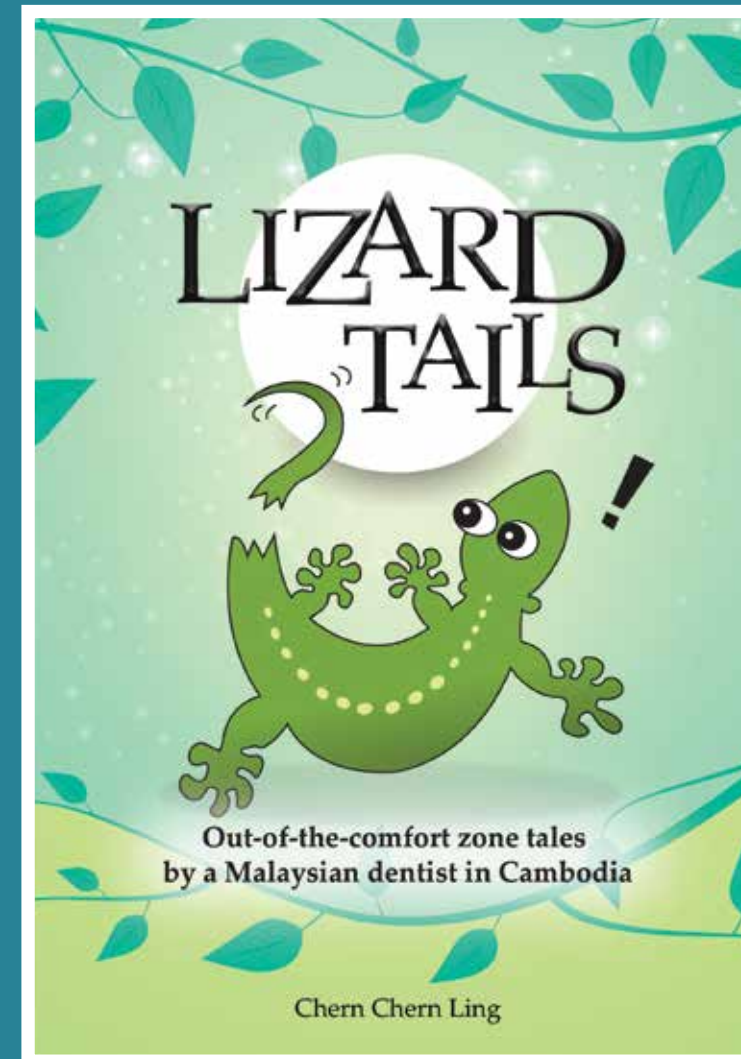
It is very easy to think off our head with regard to the challenges above because we are so used to using our head knowledge and not using our heart knowledge to discern the intents of God’s heart for our own lives. Therefore, the emphasis is not chasing the lion that you want but chasing the lion that God puts within your heart!

Oftentimes, we may feel that we are not equipped or ready to chase the lion. We may feel inferior or insecure about ourselves as we are bound by our own limitations and our own personal problems or issues that we have in our lives. We must not let this hinder us from chasing the lion. Instead, we should ask God for His empowerment and enablement to chase the lion. *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.”* (Zechariah 4:6)

We also need to have faith in God in chasing lions. *“And without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him”* (Hebrews 11:6). If we want to please God, we need to have faith in Him. He promises in His Word that He rewards us when we earnestly seek Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

Moreover, we should rest assured that each of us is valuable and precious in God’s sight. *“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”* (Deuteronomy 7:6) God sees us as valuable to Him. As such, this should influence how we see ourselves and it should affect how we treat other people. Everyone is created in God’s image and hence, every person should be treated equally, with respect, kindness and dignity.

In short, IMPACT2020 will require us to chase the lion and make a significant difference not only in the lives of the people that we are impacting, but also in our very own lives. Our own character will be moulded as we pursue the lions that God puts within us. Come, let us all chase the lion for His glory’s sake! And we will be amazed at how God works in each of us as we surrender ourselves to Him when we look back in the days to come.



Lizard Tails

Book Review by Cheryl Pola

I first met Chern Chern while on holiday in dusty Siem Reap in November 2019. She had a quick, breezy smile, but seemed strangely reticent when asked about her 20 years as a dental missionary in Cambodia with her husband, Yew On. Instead, she took out a book, with a pale green cover and a picture of a lizard with its conspicuously broken tail. The title was unexpectedly cheeky - Lizard Tails!

“The title is controversial, you know. It came from my son. Many people find lizards icky. Like the gecko that lost its tail, there were many times I found my steps sluggish, my heart hollow and heavy, my sleep disturbed. Thankfully, these episodes were always surpassed by God’s grace. His healing hand reached out each time and the ‘tail’ grew back”, she said.

I took the slim volume back and started reading. It is not easy to capture 20 years of ministry into 22 short chapters. But it is a story that needs to be told and Chern Chern tells it with laughter in her voice and a sparkle in her eye. From the unbearable heat in their first Cambodian home, to the frustration of training Cambodian dentistry students, to Yew On being ambushed by axe-wielding firefighters ready to break into their flat in Singapore, Chern Chern’s stories teem with candour and the unmistakable thread of God’s faithfulness.

While the book races along a good pace with its punchy story-telling, it would take the discerning reader to slow down and glean the grains of wisdom tucked within each anecdote - lessons which Chern Chern had learnt, often at great personal cost. Read the book, enjoy the ride and let the stories linger in your mind and seep into your heart.



From L-R: Chern Chern, Cheryl and her husband, Chris in Siem Reap in Nov 2019.

Books are available from
Ng Thian Ser
HP: 60123083755 (Whatsapp)

Dong Moi Ngok
HP: 60133649151 (Whatsapp)

Eunice Tan
Office: 60379587388

Cost: RM25 each
Proceeds go to
OMF Cambodia Relief and Development
Project (Clefts) P70003

Theme of book:
God’s faithfulness, Missions

God's Everlasting Grace

by Lynn Foo, PJN6

A testimony of a mother who found reassurance in God's everlasting grace.

“My love for your daughter far surpasses how much you think you love her as a mother. Will I not take care of her?”

Those were the clear words that God reassured Ee Lin with, as she prayed and cried out to God for His protection over her daughter.

Lim Ee Lin's journey with the Lord Jesus Christ, has been a series of divine and supernatural encounters. She recalls how, more than 20 years ago, she came to accept Jesus as her personal saviour. She witnessed how God's timing was always on point - how a voice got her to start her journey to a church, arriving just in time for service, and how the Holy Spirit touched her.

Soon busy-ness got in the way, but God was constantly speaking to her, asking her to 'come home'. On one occasion, when she was working in a bank as a counter officer, the same voice prompted her to ask a lady customer if she was a Christian. Although strange, she obeyed and that was how Ee Lin was introduced by this lady, Irene, to attend DUMC.

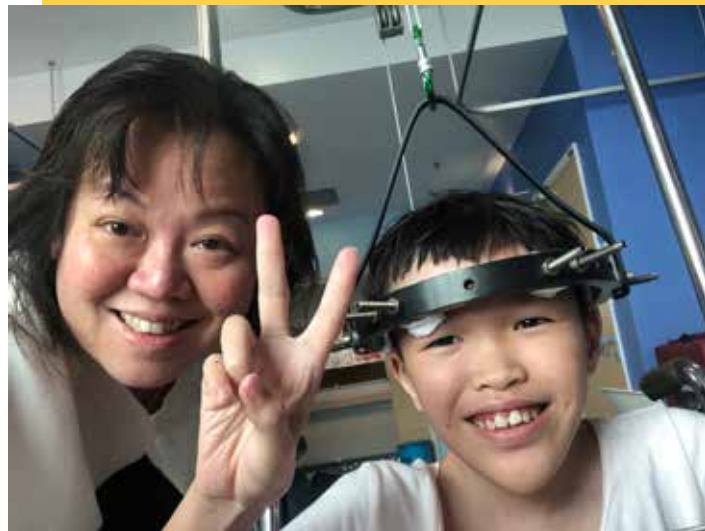
Fast forward to the year 2006, Ee Lin and her husband were blessed with a beautiful

baby girl, Allison. However, when Allison was seven months old, Ee Lin noticed a strange posture with Allison's hand and took her to the pediatrician. Allison was then diagnosed with scoliosis - a medical condition that caused her spine to have an abnormal curve.

As time progressed, Allison's condition deteriorated and her spine was bending at close to 70 degrees when she was three years old. Specialists recommended major surgery to insert rods in her spine to straighten the curve. They explained that it would be a high risk surgery. Ee Lin was caught in a dilemma whether to proceed or not. If Allison went into surgery, there was a possibility she might not make it; but if she did not, the continuous curving of the spine would mean that it could press on her internal organs and eventually lead to organ failure. Surgery would also mean the start of a long-term journey, with Allison having to go through a surgical procedure twice a year to continually extend the rods.

At that point in time, all Ee Lin could do was to pray, and she was prompted by the Holy Spirit to pray that God would allow this surgery in His time, using the right method.

To mitigate the risk of Allison's organs being damaged, Ee Lin agreed to the surgery. As they were preparing for surgery, Allison suddenly had a runny nose in the morning and the operation was postponed. During



that time, the team of doctors re-evaluated Allison's case and decided that the risks involved would be too high due to her body weight and the long duration of the surgery.

They decided to proceed with an alternative treatment to put Allison in a fixed cast. It was a challenge for Ee Lin as the cast caused Allison to start developing infections on her skin. God pulled Ee Lin through that time, providing her with wisdom on how to clean and care for Allison. Allison was subsequently provided with a flexible brace when she was seven, which she used till she was 12. During this time however, Allison could not really grow and only gained two kilos in the span of five years. At 12, having a spine curvature of about 100 degrees, doctors then suggested that surgery had become a very viable option for Allison.

Ee Lin began searching extensively across the Internet for other possible locations for the surgery - from the United States to Taiwan. But there was a still small voice telling Ee Lin that she should just proceed with the surgery at PPUM. Still, restless and wanting to decide for herself, she got in touch with a Taiwanese professor after a long search. And the professor's advice was for her to seek treatment at PPUM! "If only I had just trusted in the Lord's voice instead of using my own strength and allowing fear to grip me," Ee Lin recalls.

In God's perfect timing, it was finally time for Allison's surgery. As Ee Lin prayed, God sent her a vision of a troop of angels and assured her that these angels would be protecting Allison. She later realised that these angels came in the form of Professor



Through that experience, Ee Lin was able to share about this prayer-answering God who is always watching over us.

Kwan and his medical team. They attended to Allison and also stood by her as Allison stayed and recuperated in the hospital from late April 2019 to late July 2019.

The surgery went well and it took half the time of what was initially anticipated, due to advancements in medical technology. Indeed, it was God's timing and His method. As Allison recovered in the hospital, miracle after miracle happened. A dear friend, Kit Wan, who had recently switched to freelancing work, was able to help Ee Lin. However, during that time, another challenge surfaced - her husband suffered a stroke, but by God's amazing grace, he recovered well.

Ee Lin's heart is filled with gratitude for the other angels like her aunt, Madam Lim Jim Bee, who provided nutritious food for Allison that helped her gain 11kg, in just two and a half months - which was so essential in her recovery journey! Church members and leaders like Pastor Meng Geok and Pastor Jonathan offered much spiritual comfort for her and Allison as well. During those trying moments, her travelling to and from their home in Shah Alam was taking a toll on her as well. She shares her gratefulness for the goodwill and solidarity of the DUMC leadership to allow her to park her car in the church premises, as the car served as her makeshift 'storage space' of clothes and other essential items.

Her colleague at work, Stella, was also there, supporting Ee Lin in her business dealings with clients and filling in the gaps for her at her workplace. God also worked through her clients like Mae and her husband, who supported the work that she

was doing. In addition to that, Ee Lin also had the chance to share the gospel with her elderly mother. Her mother, who was at that time a non-believer, learned to pray for Ee Lin and Allison, as she knew that the prayer of a mother is very powerful. Through that experience, Ee Lin was able to share about this prayer-answering God who is always watching over us.

Another miracle was in God's generous providence in their lives. The medical finances had quickly become a major worry for Ee Lin. As she spoke to another lady whose daughter had been there and in a very similar condition with Allison, Ee Lin thought to herself, "there is no way I will have enough to pay for the total bill". But God gave her constant reassurance that all would be sufficient. When it was time for Allison to be discharged, Ee Lin had only one choice, which was to surrender to God. The amount that was charged was only a third of what the other patient had to pay! The hospital administration had also helped her to seek welfare funding. In other words, whatever she had was sufficient, and there was even some left over which could be used for Allison's post-surgery care. Till today, she cannot comprehend how this would have been possible, if not for the gracious and miraculous Hand of God.

The miracles and the presence of God have been endless in Ee Lin's life till today. She rejoices that "it is really only by the work and love of God that I can share this story with you. God is so evident in my life that all I can say is, to Him be All Praise and Glory, forever!"

JOURNEYING THROUGH ALPHA

Jeslin Tan's story recorded by Natalia David, PJN6



It has been a few years since I said the Sinner's Prayer. On some days I feel connected to God and on other days not so much. It was in 2016 when I met my boyfriend CH at a colleague's wedding reception. He was a pre-believer who was reluctant to know God.

I invited him to my CG's Christmas party, which he attended. During the party, one of my CG members tested the waters to see if CH was ready to accept Christ. At the end of the conversation he seemed ready. At this he was led to say the Sinner's Prayer. Everyone cheered for him after but I sensed that something was not right.

I approached him and asked him if he realized that he had just become a Christian by saying that prayer. He shook his head and went quiet; I knew he was unhappy and upset. There had been a misunderstanding since CH only spoke Mandarin and his English was not that great at the time. My CG members had misunderstood his readiness on

this journey. After that day, he was neither willing to meet my CG friends nor attend weekend celebration with me.

We dated for six months after the incident but I felt less and less connected to CH as my relationship with God grew closer. There were times we could not meet even during the weekends since he worked on Saturdays and I attended celebration on Sundays. I also spent my Sundays with my CG mates over lunch, tea, or CG events which made it difficult for us to meet.

At the end of the year, I decided to tell CH that I loved him but that I loved God more. I told him that he could not possibly be the one for me if he did not love God. We had different lifestyles and beliefs and as a couple it would difficult to have those differences between us. This was not what I wanted for myself and so I told him that we should stay friends for now.

We remained friends for a few months and then one day, CH decided he wanted to get to know God. He told me that he wanted to get to know God since God was important to

me. His chance came when one of my CG mates invited us for a new season of Alpha. We attended this together and to my surprise he enjoyed the Alpha sessions and tried to make it to the sessions every week. Even if I was busy and could not make it, CH would make it a point to go for the sessions by himself.

After attending Alpha, he decided to attend weekend celebrations with me. We enjoyed our time together with my CG and friends. We would talk and discuss God in our time together. There came a time when I felt that God was speaking to me and saying that now CH was the one. We decided to become a couple again and we started our journey with God as a couple. He made sure I attended CG and celebration every week. He became my chauffeur which meant I had no excuses not to attend even if I was feeling tired from work or life.

There was a time I suffered from prolonged insomnia and depression from health issues. I had to go through three medical surgeries which caused me to have difficulties in keeping up with my life on most days. God is faithful; He was always there for me at my lowest. I knew he orchestrated every event in my life as well as CH being there by my side through it all even before I knew I was going to fall sick and needed the support that CH gave me.

Looking back I see how much God has changed him as a person. He is not the same man I met back in 2016. Last November, CH was baptized in DUMC. We are now in the midst of pre-marital counselling. My health has improved immensely. My life is no longer an incoherent mess, and looking back, it is hard to believe at times how much everything has changed.

I would like to leave this with you in parting:

**“Be still and
know that I am God”
Psalm 46:10**

All Glory to God, Amen!





GOD MY HEALER

by Maureen Wong, Golden Club

I thank God for His unending grace and mercy and amazing love that has enabled me to share this testimony.

During a routine self-examination in 2018, I discovered a lump the size of a 50-cent coin beneath my left armpit. Rather than turn to the Lord, my mind went into a panicked state. The look on the doctor's face during my clinical checkup revealed the gravity of the situation, as she promptly wrote me a referral for further checkups after her colleague had examined the lump.

Dorcas, my friend from my cell group, offered to accompany me on the next checkup. My arrival at her doorstep was promptly met by her invitation to pray. Though my mind was in disarray, I accepted her offer. As she beseeched the Holy Spirit for my peace of mind and God's assurance, anointing oil joined her prayer upon the affected area. About five minutes later on our drive to the clinic, I felt a sharp pull on my left arm, stretching from the wrist to the shoulder blade, as if an electrical surge of current had passed through. I asked Dorcas how come there was a pull. "Must be the

Holy Spirit working on you," was her cool reply.

"Must be the Holy Spirit working on you," was her cool reply.

During the examination, the doctor sought the lump as written in the clinic referral, and his baffled stares further heightened my worry. Then he queried: "Madam, where is the lump? I feel nothing." Lo and behold, I was most amazed to hear such wonderful news, and was very ready to do backflips as my 50-cent sized concerns were as good as naught. In order to clear any doubts, the doctor arranged a mammogram the following week and the results were an all-clear! Praise and thank you GOD, Jesus of Nazareth and Holy Spirit for such a wonderful result!

During this visit to get my mammogram results, I was not feeling very well so I asked the doctor whether he was able to check my throat. He was kind enough to check and discovered that my tonsils were very inflamed. He gave me five days' worth of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. The pain went down but my throat was still sore and phlegm was building up. A few weeks later, I went to see another doctor and once again the tonsils were enlarged. I went through another cycle of medication and antibiotics. During my quiet time, I prayed and asked God what was happening to me. I used to be strong and robust but lately I had been tiring easily. From October 2018 till April 2019 I had been having recurrent tonsillitis.

My youngest son advised me to seek an ENT specialist to have my condition checked properly. "Your immune system is going downhill, better have a thorough check-up, Mom!" he said. The first ENT specialist provided me with a week's worth of antibiotics as the throat ulcers were rather prominent, along with further anti-inflammatories to quell the throat swellings.

The pain and discomfort did subside on one side of the tonsils, but they didn't bring about a full recovery.

I sought a second opinion from another ENT specialist who utilized more advanced equipment, and his initial scrutiny of my throat had him gently putting the news to me that surgery was imminently needed, for at my age I should not have such huge tonsils and frequent inflammations.

The doctor said, "You need to undergo surgery asap and get a biopsy." He suspected that it might be lymphoma. The doctor also checked my nostrils, though a failure at entry hinted at a deep blockage that was inhibiting proper breathing. No wonder my sleep patterns had been pretty bad the past year.

I was not prepared for such news. I had always suspected that something was amiss with my health but took no heed of it. My niece, a nurse working in the same hospital, tagged along for my checkup with the ENT, and believed I should consider the doctor's proposal, since my immune system had deteriorated since the early days of this condition. Once home, I prayed and asked God to give me peace and clarity at this time of turmoil.

My CG members also prayed for me and indeed during such times, you really need support and prayers. A few days later, without fear or trembling, I committed all to GOD and went ahead with both surgeries for my tonsils and nostrils. The doctor took out two turbinates from my nostrils. The best news that came out was that the biopsy results were clear and benign. To GOD be all glory and praise for the successful surgeries. Health-wise I am much better now, no more sore throat and my breathing is so much better. Thank GOD for sending all His earthly angels to care for me, and accompany me and most of all thank You, God, for indeed You are my ABBA Father who always watches and cares for me.



GOD'S LOVE

by Nelly Goh, PJN3

When I was a child, my older sister Lay Hua would often take me to meet with her friends, and to church conventions. They would chat together in English, a language that I knew very little of. The more they spoke, the less I did, until eventually I became a person of very few words. As a child, one of my greatest wishes had been to learn English. However, despite all my studying, I could not pick up the language. This want remained at the back of my mind throughout my younger years.

Growing up, the only religion I knew was the one from my father's temple. My father was a temple medium, and a popular figure within the Chinese community due to his dedication towards the idols. This same commitment was also expected of my siblings and me. Despite this, we were terrified of the idols. The temple was often filled with strange noises, and the origins of those sounds haunted us.

I chose Christianity when I was about 17 years old. To me it was a more peaceful, clean and quiet religion than my father's temple. However, I regarded Christianity as nothing more than a religion for over 20 years, before I first encountered God.

I got married in 1981, and for over 17 years, I was a housewife. I had longed to explore the world, and to me that meant entering

the workforce. However, I had no qualifications to hold a job, and very little confidence in myself. Despite my doubts, I prayed to God, asking Him to create an opportunity for me. At the time I laughed to myself; the chance of me getting a job that I would enjoy was slim. Still, I wanted to be a career woman. The next morning, I received a call that simply amazed me. A florist shop called, saying that they wanted to hire me. How could my prayers have been answered so quickly? How could it be that I had not only received a job, but one that I wanted? But God is a powerful God, and nothing is impossible for Him.

On the first day of the job, I was very fearful. I was afraid to talk to strangers, and unsure of how to conduct myself. I remember that my boss left me very early in the day, and I was alone in the shop. During my lunch break, I pondered whether or not to remain working in the shop. As I went to buy my lunch, I heard a voice telling me to "Glorify God". At first, I was very confused. Where was this voice coming from? There was no one around me. These words resonated within me and I was convinced that persevering through this would bring glory to God, so I continued.

I worked hard, learning to communicate with others, and picked up vital work skills. My boss commended me on my diligence

and eagerness to work, even wanting to give me a share in the business. I thought that this was it, that I would become a "business-woman". However, it became clear that the florist shop was doing very poorly. I discovered that I would not be able to get my salary for six months. I waited for as long as possible for the business to turn around. After all, God had provided me this job; surely, He would save it? However, that did not happen, and I was forced to quit. I worked for over two years as a florist. At the time I asked, "Why, God? This was the job You gave me; why would You take it away from me?"

But I had no choice but to believe that this was all a part of His plan. I continued to pray for a new job, this time a part-time

In 2005 I visited Disneyland in Hong Kong and was reminded of God's vision for me. I was in awe when I went through the main entrance and first saw the castle. To me it was not just a colourful building, but a source of inspiration and a thing of beauty. But even with knowing what Disneyland was, I could not understand how this place applied to TJC. I was still wholly inexperienced when compared to the other teachers. I placed a lot of pressure on myself. I worried that I did not meet up with expectations. Throughout this time, I asked God on many occasions, "Where is my Disneyland? Where is the Disneyland You promised? I cannot find it!" But God did not answer me.

In 2007 the theme for the TJC graduation was Disneyland. At the time, I thought that

my Disneyland

one, so I could spend more time with God. He provided once again. He led me to DUMC's children's education ministry, TJC (Tadika Juara Cerdik). When I first began, God gave me a vision. In it, He told me that this was to become my Disneyland. At the time I had no idea what that meant. I continued to ask God how this was so, but I received no reply.

As I became accustomed to the new task before me, a different part of God's plan was revealed to me. In TJC my dream of being able to speak English was slowly fulfilled. In my new position, I was able to build my confidence in the English language. In the beginning this was a struggle for me, and without faith there would have been no way that I could have become a teacher. I was like the small children that I taught. I was fearful, and in disbelief that I could be a teacher. But God made a way for me. He was like a father bringing a timid child to their first day of school. For, "God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

this was it. This was why God had told me that TJC would be my Disneyland. As I was in charge of the decorations I created a castle, inspired by the one I had seen in Hong Kong's Disneyland two years before.

It was not until after 18 years of working at TJC, on May 25, 2019 that I awoke in the middle of the night with God's answer. Disneyland is more than just a castle, although it is often symbolized that way. For children, Disneyland is a fairy tale, which is why I work with children. However, it requires adults to run it. Disneyland also has many rides - ones that scare you, for instance the haunted house, ones that make you laugh, ones that you have to struggle with, and some with their ups and downs, like a roller coaster. I like some rides and I do not like others. Regardless, they each bring a different dimension to the park. Disneyland was a representation of both my work and spiritual life. And it was only at the completion of my work-life that all the pieces began to fall in place. However, my spiritual journey does not end here and will only continue to grow and mature. God loves me and He has given me my Disneyland.

My Real Life

HERO

by Toh Joon Sim, PJN2

My earthly father was my hero! But then again, you may perhaps think that I am biased? Of course I am! We were his princesses! But on a more serious note, in reality, he was a real-life hero by having saved a friend from a drowning incident in his younger days. He never related this amazing event to us, his three daughters, when we were growing up, and it only came to light not long ago. We were on some legal errands at the office of the son of the 'almost-drowned' lady in Penang when the story of my dad's heroic act came to light. This was my dad, a quiet, humble and unassuming man, but a real-life hero! Who needs a red cape to do mighty acts of bravery or sacrificial service? He was that kind of hero to us and to many others who had come to know him over the years.

He was a man of few words, but as his children, we were taught to know our place, duties and responsibilities at home and in school. He never demanded that we be at the top at school but we were to simply do our best. My dad loved God and lived to give what he had to those in need. He had many passions, hobbies, exploits and pursuits. Our family was never considered rich or well to do, but Dad and Mom always made sure they provided for their three daughters, in the best way they saw fit. All things were equally divided among the three of us. My dad was a man before his time. Quiet and simple in his devotion

to God, he raised us to fear God, and to be equal to men in knowledge and outlook about life. He also had many hobbies and interests; three of which stand out vividly: photography, baking and carpentry.

Quiet and simple in his devotion to God, he raised us to fear God, and to be equal to men in knowledge and outlook about life.

My sisters and I literally grew up in front of my dad's camera lenses. He was into both still photography and videography. We were his little models and actresses in his still black and white (B&W) photos as well as his homemade 35mm silent movies. We were the main characters of his 'special effects' homemade motion pictures, appearing and disappearing in and out of the scenes. At times, it could be tiring 'acting' in his movie productions, but in retrospect, he was inclusive in his cine-making efforts. He even allowed us sometimes to stay up late to help him develop his black and white prints, or be rookie editors at his side assisting him in his movie editing processes when the 35mm reels came back from the photo laboratories. Every time we watched these old home

movies, we never failed to have a hearty rolling-on-the-floor laugh at ourselves, re-living the fun and silly antics of our younger days. Friends used to ask us how we remembered so much of our childhood, and we would just candidly state that "we had help!"

Dad also taught us photography. His lessons had nothing to do with the automatic fail-safe handphone apps we are so used to today. He believed in one needing to learn the basic skills of photography from the bottom up. These involved all those complicated F-stops, apertures, shutter speeds, focal lengths, light exposures, composition and such things. But we did learn it from my dad, the amateur photography & cinematography enthusiast!

Our family never had big birthday party celebrations. But celebrate we did in a humble and small way as much as my parents could afford. Dad used to bake our birthday cakes himself, with cream and icing, the full works, if we so demanded it. Mine would always be the same - pineapple upside-down cake year after year! My sisters and I were also his conscripted 'child labourers' when it came to Chinese New Year cookie-baking times. Each of us would be assigned a task in the 'production line', be it just cutting the butter paper, lining the baking trays, scattering the flour, cutting dough or cleaning out the cookie cutters and removing egg shells. We even separated

the egg yolks from the whites when he was confident that we were 'skilled' enough to not mess up his batter! We watched him knead dough with his muscular arms and bake cinnamon rolls (which by the way, were the world's best rolls ever - moist, bursting with flavours from the spices with every mouth-watering bite, as a freshly-baked cinnamon roll should taste!). Growing up, it was always fun to watch and be involved in dad's baking projects. His Kenwood mixer and Mason baking bowls

stood the test of time, with the mixer having been 'resurrected' more than a couple of times, as my dad was a frugal man, having grown up during the Second World War. He was not in the habit of throwing equipment away until it was truly beyond repair. In fact, most repairs were done by himself.

Other than his love for photography and baking, he was also very good with his hands. If I tell you that I am still sleeping on my childhood bed, would you believe me? Well, it is true!

Dad was also a skilled carpenter and the bed frame I am sleeping on now was made especially for me when he took pity on me when I was three years old, having grown too big for the baby cot I was sleeping in back then. My two elder sisters who had single beds then were at times not willing to share their single beds with me, so he designed and hand-crafted a bed of my very own. As a matter of fact, most of the furniture in my parents' house was made by him over a period of time. First it was the kitchen table, then the cabinet where



we stored dry food and our crockery for daily use. It was so well made that it is now considered an antique. Today, it sits proudly in my Petaling Jaya home as a tribute and legacy to my dear father's craftsmanship. The three-piece sofa set and its matching cushion covers, however, were among the first few items we had to give away with his passing in October 2018, but we do hope that it will continue to serve other families faithfully with its solid structure and build.

I can go on and on with many more stories of my dad and his 'great exploits' but the main intent of my writing this article is not just to honour him and his legacy, but also to highlight a very important point to the many fathers today, with their own broods of growing up children. The key point is: "Be there for them!" Be inclusive in your pursuits of leisurely hobbies or work tasks. Share your passions and hobbies with them. Involve them in your daily or weekly routines and activities, even though sometimes it may seem trivial or 'enforced hard labour' from your children's perspective. Do not simply work hard at your jobs to put food on the table or simply to provide for their physical and future needs such as education, car, house, etc. Your children need their fathers to be present when they score their first 'A' or fail in class exams. They need their dads when they fall and scrape their knees, to cheer them on or hold their hands when they learn to skate or ride a bike. Be there for them, do not just provide for them. By being there for them and with them, you will not only pass on your faith, love and devotion for the Lord, you will also indirectly have a hand at building up their confidence and character. This confidence will help carry them over good and bad times, and hopefully long after you are dust and but a memory.

As a tribute to my father's passing, I am reminded that a 'present father' in a child's growing-up life is essential to his/her character growth and development as a person. My dad was not rich, but he provided for his family as well as he knew

how, living a life of a man who feared his God, a devoted husband and loving father. Dad did not have much, but he gave of himself, his time, and his skills to all who asked and were in need. My dad was fairly private in his faith; he never insisted that we attend Sunday School or church with him, but he did impress upon me that we worshipped a jealous God at an early age - when I was merely seven! Watching him and mom age in the past six years had taught me many lessons about life and coping with old age. It changed my perspective on life and about the real meaning of growing old gracefully.

So, treasure the time God has given to you with the family He has blessed you with. Redeem your time before it is lost and make needful changes to include your children before they leave home to set up their own families. Do not miss the opportunities God has so graciously given to you! Live well today, be heroes to your children. As my dad proved, you do not need a red cape to be a hero. Stand up and be counted for your child's Godly heritage. Be strong and courageous, my brothers (and sisters) in Christ!

**"Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he
will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)**

Food for thought: So how can you train a child but to spend time with them...?

PS. This article is not written solely just for fathers but is also applicable to mothers too ❤️

LEAP

Internship Programme

JOY NGUI, NEXTGEN

I joined the internship programme in May 2019. I had just finished my high school diploma and didn't feel ready to go to college yet. Soon after graduating, I heard that DUMC had the LEAP Internship Programme. I thought it would be a good use of my time before heading off to college.

So, after spending 7 months in the LEAP Internship Programme, I can confidently say that I've changed and learned a lot ever since. When I first started, I felt uncomfortable to talk to people I didn't know and I always had a fear of making mistakes. As my manager assigned me tasks, I slowly learned to step out of my comfort zone. I made mistakes and I'm glad that I did because it was what helped me to learn. And of course, I had lots of fun while at it! I'm so thankful that I was in a safe environment to experience what it was like to work in an office.

Aside from all that, I have also grown and matured in my relationship with God. There was weekly devotion, Bible study, chapel, and time for reflection. This helped me to slow down and be mindful of God amidst all the busyness and anxiety from work. I'm glad that each intern was assigned a spiritual companion. I truly appreciate my spiritual companion for making time to meet up with me, listen, encourage, and walk together with me in my relationship with God. I'm also thankful for my manager, colleagues, and all the other staff. I experienced much joy just by working, volunteering, and knowing that the little things I did would serve a great God!

SHRAY, NEXTGEN

As I was close to finishing high school, I heard of the LEAP programme through DUMC News. I applied to intern in NextGen and was accepted after the interview process to be under the leadership of Pastor Terry. I began in August 2019.

I have truly grown in self-confidence, responsibility and accountability. I enjoyed the tasks I was assigned as it gave me new opportunities to be involved in planning events, organising logistics and even creating videos. I also had to call vendors asking them for quotations and invoices, placing orders and inquiring about product details. This was something I had never done before.

In terms of the working environment, I was happy to have settled in rather well amongst the other interns and everyone else in the office. Pastor Terry's leadership as my line manager has truly encouraged me as he led by example. He was always willing to explain certain terms and methodologies as well as mentor me. The other pastors and NextGen staff were also good role models and were willing to provide help when I needed it.

The weekly Bible study sessions and chapel sessions were enlightening and gave me a rather detailed understanding of Scripture. It was also a time to reflect on how my spiritual life was.

Over the months, I learnt a lot from this experience as the tasks I was assigned challenged me to take charge and step out of my comfort zone at times. I will cherish this experience whether it was something as small as learning how to bank in a cheque or as big as planning an entire NextGen event.



DUMC Congregations & Ministries

CONGREGATIONS

ENGLISH

Pr Chris Kam
english@dumc.my

BAHASA MALAYSIA

Pr Eddy Marson
bahasa.malaysia@dumc.my

CHINESE

Pr Dr Ling Shui Nyuk
chinese@dumc.my

NEPALI

Adrin Sant
nepalese@dumc.my

MYANMAR

Pr Sarah Aye
myanmar@dumc.my

TAMIL

Pr Ravindren Arumugam
tamil@dumc.my

FILIPINO (Fellowship)

Peter Lim
filipino@dumc.my

YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Pr Jonathan Yeoh
children@dumc.my

NEXTGEN

Pr Terry Yeow (Teens)
nextgen@dumc.my

Pr Sara Leong (Campus)
nextgen@dumc.my

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MINISTRY

Thomas & Cynthia Lim
ism@dumc.my

ADULTS

MEN ALIVE!

Pr Chris Kam
men.alive@dumc.my

WOMEN2WOMEN

Stella Hoh
w2w@dumc.my

COMMUNITY

BREAKTHROUGH DRUG REHABILITATION CENTRE

Pr Samuel Krishnan
breakthrough.rehab@dumc.my

CITIZENS NETWORK FOR A BETTER MALAYSIA

cnbm@ces.org.my

EXCEL TUITION CLUB

Yuen Ting Ai
excel.tuition@ces.org.my

GOLDEN CLUB

Rupert Ling
general@ces.org.my

FOODBANK

Tan Hong Looi
foodbank@ces.org.my

S.T.A.R YOUTH (Ministry for Intellectually - Challenged Youth)

Tracey Chan
micy@ces.org.my

STREET MINISTRY (Ministry to the Homeless)

Jerry Teo
street.ministry@ces.org.my

URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sophy Lim
urban.community@ces.org.my

YOUTH EXCEL SERVICES (Football Coaching)

Pr Samuel Krishnan
yes@ces.org.my

FIRST TOUCH

CONNECTORS

Pr Alex Tan
connectors@dumc.my

SECURITY

Pr Adrian Chong
security@dumc.my

USHERS

Pr Alex Tan
ushers@dumc.my

MISSIONS

CROSSFIELDS

Pr Kelvin Yong
missions@dumc.my

FAMILY

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

T C & Jean Lau
family.life@dumc.my

PREMARITAL COUNSELLING

Bob & Ruby Chee
pmc@dumc.my

MARRIAGE

Adrian Chen & Susan
marriage.course@dumc.my

PARENTING (Children)

Ronnie & Ivy Khoo
Dennis Ngai & Joo Wei
parenting.children@dumc.my

PARENTING (Teens)

Vincent & Lily Wong
parenting.teens@dumc.my

WEDDING PLANNING

Elizabeth Lee
weddings@dumc.my

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

DEW CREW

Huong Yew Yi
dew.crew@dumc.my

FLOODGATES (Church Magazine)

Petulia Lun
floodgates@dumc.my

CREATIVE ARTS

Darren Ong
creative.arts@dumc.my

RESONATE (Worship ministry)

Pr Gilbert Tan
resonate@dumc.my

OTHERS

FORERUNNERS

(Intercessory Prayer Ministry)
Pr Chris Manivannan
forerunners@dumc.my

TADIKA JUARA CERDIK

Lily Tan
general@dreamacademy.edu.my

**LOVE GOD.
SERVE PEOPLE.
MAKE DISCIPLES.**

We are DUMC.

A church for all generations
—an exciting community
of families, senior citizens,
young adults, teenagers,
and young children, doing
life together.

Our primary purpose is not
to make nice religious Christians.
Our purpose is to build passionate
disciples of Jesus Christ.

