





FLOODGATES

October to December, 2018

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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".

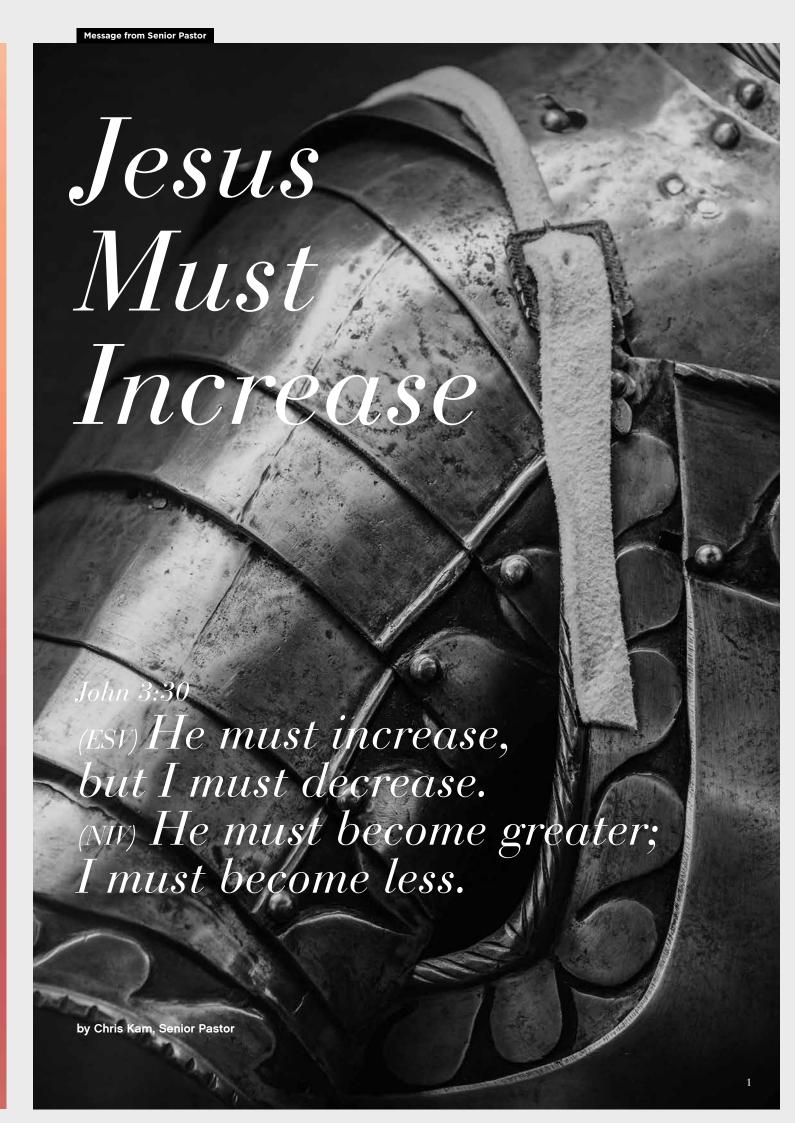
Romans 12:2 tells us "Do not conform to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - His good, pleasing and perfect will".

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 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.



hese are the words of John the Baptist. Let me set the context from John 3:22-30. For a short period of time, the ministry of John overlapped that of Jesus. The Judean countryside was alive with the teachings of both cousins about repentance and God's kingdom. Large crowds followed both of them and many were baptised. An argument broke out (v25) between John's disciples and a certain Jew on why he should be joining John's group over the matter of ceremonial washing (baptism). More people were going to Jesus than John. John's disciples were jealous and angry as they were more interested in promoting their movement and not committed to Jesus at all. They seemed to have the idea that they held a monopoly on the ministry of baptism and they resented the fact that people were switching camps. They were reminiscing the former days when everyone went to hear their leader John (Mark 1:5).

To appease them, John illustrated by referring to a wedding custom of his day. The friend of the bridegroom was only an assistant (v29), and not the main participant. In modern-day terms, John could have been the best man and Jesus the bridegroom. He has no other duty but to assist the groom in his marriage. He has no business trying to win the bride or drawing attention to himself. He waits for the groom and rejoices when he hears the voice of the groom at his arrival. His joy is complete when all attention is on the bride and groom on their wedding day. The bride is the church, or the people of God. All that John had to do in his ministry was to call attention not to himself but to the greatness of the Bridegroom. He had no other purpose but to prepare for the arrival of the Christ, the Groom. So, he said to his disciples, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

John baptised only with water, but Jesus baptised with the Holy Spirit. John reminded his disciples that he clearly taught them he was not the promised Messiah, but someone sent ahead to herald the coming of the Messiah (John 1:8, 15,

20, 23). To the degree Jesus was exalted and worshipped, John became increasingly unnecessary and faded away.

This story reminds us of the attitude we need to adopt as Christ's disciples. As we minister to people, investing our time and life in others, our purpose remains the same like John: "He must increase, but I must decrease." If we do enough soul searching, we might be surprised to discover how often we have craved attention for the recognition of what we do in His name. We are in some sense "applause addicts", who need our regular fixes to draw attention to ourselves. To the degree we draw attention to ourselves, to that degree or more, we draw attention away from Jesus.

"As you minister to others let this be your job description, the gauge of your success: you and your opinions become less and less important while Jesus becomes more and more important."

- Walt Henrichsen



A great question to ask ourselves as we serve Him is to do with the first two of the five core habits of DUMC: "Honour" and "Humility". To honour Jesus, let us move away from our desire for self-honour and recognition. To have a heart of humility as a servant of Christ, let us remember that "....apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5) It is a frightening thought for me as the Senior Pastor of DUMC to ask this question: What will the church be like if we remove Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Would we function normally after that? God forbid that we discover we are merely relying on our human abilities and talents to do ministry, and it does not really matter whether or not God is present. God forbid that we draw attention to ourselves, our programmes, and even our ministries.

I preached recently on the feeding of the 5000 (John 6:5-13). Why was the crowd there? There was no music, no entertainment, no air-conditioning, and worse still, no food! Yet people were there, hungering for Jesus. I wonder what would happen if we were to remove all that from our church today? Why do we come to our celebrations (or our cell groups and all related activities)? Is it for Jesus, or for our uplifting worship, great cozy facilities

and services, or even a great sermon? We can do all these well and yet miss the whole point of what John is trying to say: "He must increase, but we must decrease." We are guilty of putting our faith in our faith (also called a religion) rather than on the object of our faith, who is Christ! How deceptive our hearts have become! As Apostle Paul wrote in rebuke: "...having a form of godliness but denying its power." (2 Tim 3:5)

Let us be reminded that we lead people to Jesus, to cross-carrying, to self-denial, to a separation from the world, to a crucifixion of our fleshly desires, to holy living, to nobility of godly character, to despise what the world has to offer, to self-discipline, to a total commitment to Jesus, to Love God, Serve People and make disciples towards Christlikeness, and to a BARE MINIMUM of just simply JESUS. Would we fade away as we herald Christ and put Him in the fore? Our glory is not found in having our names in our ministries and as a church. Our purpose is simply that "He must increase, but we must decrease." Let us be found faithful in doing that in the coming days. "Come, Lord Jesus." (Rev 22:20)







Making the most of every opportunity as a family.



by Kenny Tan, PJN6

There were only just six more hours before I had to go on that dreaded stage. "What are you doing?!" my subconscious screamed. "We simply don't EVER speak in public, much less volunteer to be an emcee!" Never mind that! What about this last minute presentation? It's not even ready! I'm not ready! How did I get here?





MONTHS BEFORE...

When my wife asked if she should take on the role of chairing the next Family Day, without missing a beat, I confidently assured her with a "Why not?" Little did I think of how deep the proverbial rabbit hole would go; who knew that with my wife's newfound responsibility would come sleepless nights, endless stress, and unexpected recruitment. That last bit really threw me for a loop; I, a quiet introvert with a healthy fear of being at the centre stage and microphone, volunteered to be the emcee for the day. Like any good supportive husband would do, I suppose.

MOTHERS' SACRIFICES...

But to talk (too much) about my struggles would be to undermine the Herculean effort, undiminishing steadfastness, and boundless energy that the ladies demonstrated over the months of planning. And they were not just ladies. They were wives and mothers too. Ladies who will almost never get the chance to clock out of work. Ladies without which a household would fall apart. Yet, here they were, managing their 24/7 job and Family Day planning altogether.

A NEW CAUSE...

For the New Mummies Ministry (part of Women to Women), Family Day has always been about bringing families together. For the past few years, we encouraged that with wholesome outdoor games and sports. Fathers, mothers, sons and daughters all working together towards a single goal – to lead their teams towards undisputed victory (and fun, let us not forget fun)! But we were led to grow to be more than just getting together as a family, but getting together for a purpose. Conveniently, we did not have to look too far for it – DUMC's theme of the year, "Step In". With that, Family Day 2018 became a day of working together and reaching out to the community together – as a family.

GAMIFYING OUTREACH...

The games, which were usually competitive in nature, had to be rethought. Of course we were not going to throw out all the fun. No one said that community outreach and fun were mutually exclusive (if someone did, no one told us). So the amongst the first challenges were how to create activities that were cooperative in nature. We wanted to exemplify all of us being part of the body of Christ working together towards His Glory.





CAREY ISLAND...

Community outreach would not be one without a community to reach out to. Thanks to the hardworking and resourceful team members planning the event, we reached out to the Mah Meri tribe of Carey Island. More specifically, a selfless couple, Paul and Helena of the Jubilee Ministry. And they had a very immediate and pressing mission – to help a single mother of the Mah Meri whose three-year-old daughter was suffering severe developmental impairment. With a daily household income of just RM20 on a good day, she was unable to meet her nutritional and nurturing needs.

WRAPPING UP...

With all that said and done, we managed to wrap up 2018's Family Day with great success. Everybody left having being part of something greater, which we hope would lead up to even greater things in the future. With the help and support of sponsors and the families that came that day, we supplied the family with enough educational toys, nutritious powdered milk and financial support to last them months on end. And just as importantly, we all did it as a family and had fun doing it.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK...

At the end of the day, I have come to realise, not one of us could have put together this monumental task alone. It takes a village to raise a child. And this Family Day 2018 was our metaphorical child that we nurtured together for the Kingdom of God as a family. Without the drive, dedication and skills of every mother that God brought to the table, this year's Family Day would not have been what it became – another opportunity to reach out for His Glory.

"You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27



Have you been in a place where the joy of the Lord was literally over-flowing?

Overflowing

Joy Of The Lord

by Low Mei Ling, PJN2





That was how I felt on the morning of 1 October at Hall 1 in Dream Centre. The hall was filled with 350 happy people who had come to watch the famous play, 'The King and I' staged by the Golden Club and directed by Chow Hung Lan.

Those on stage looked like they were 'on top of the world' while everyone else in the hall was beaming. It did not matter if your neighbour was someone you had never met before. Everyone was friendly to one another. In this club, every member is 'very precious' and is likened to the premium BMW cars. Apart from their names, each one is introduced as a '5-series, 6-series, 7-series or 8-series'.

In the show, the King's role was played by 8-series Uncle Eng Kong. He had such long and difficult lines. Yet, he delivered every word and line with such perfection. After watching him, all the 'cannot do' in one's mind will be thrown out of the window. Anna, the school teacher was played by the beautiful 6-series Song Har. She was very much in her character. After the show, she shared, 'It was all possible because of God's amazing grace. I was full of fear but once on stage, the Holy Spirit took over.' As Song Har was educated in a Chinese school, the songs and the storyline were all new to her. Before the start of this project, the whole cast gathered to watch a video of 'The King and I'. All the other cast members mostly in their 6 and 7-series were just as inspiring and their singing as mesmerizing as in the video. With this show, they demonstrated that they can do all things through Christ who gives them strength.

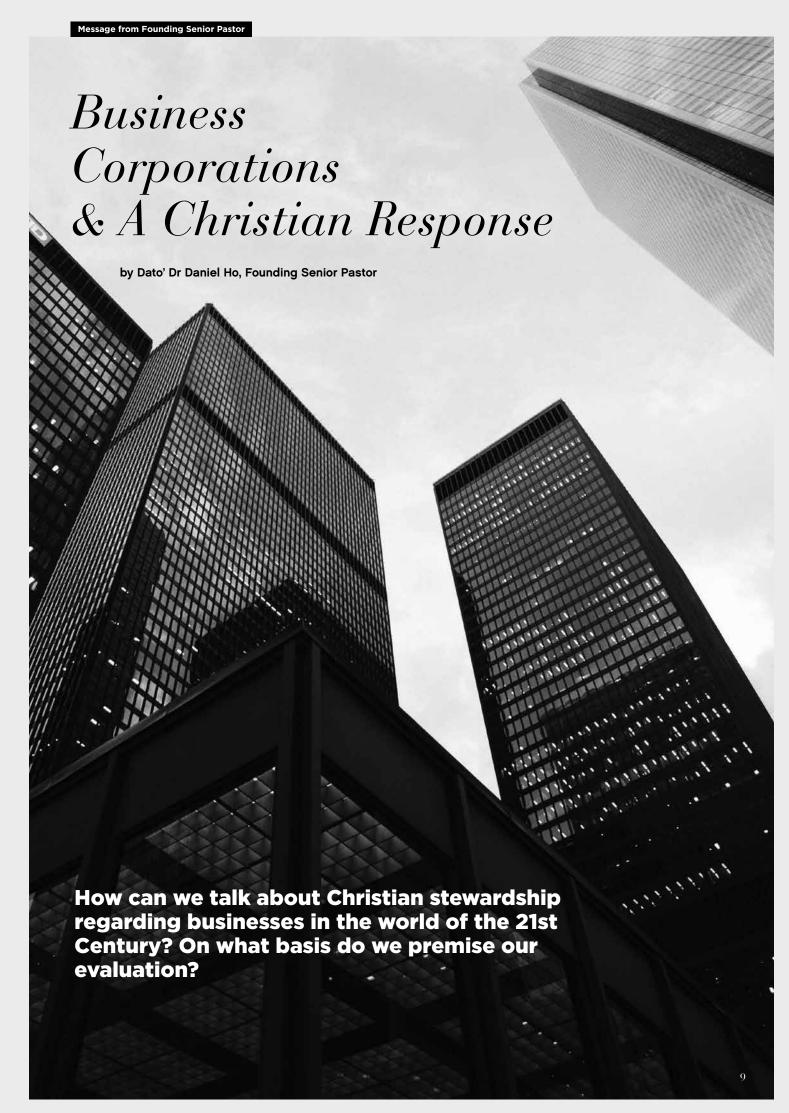
While the show was impressive, the behind-theshow stories were just as amazing. One of the dancers, 7-series Shalynn had a problematic ankle. She drove one-and-a-half hours to Dream Centre that morning and after one rehearsal, her ankle was in acute pain. Various members prayed and administered first aid to her. But when she was on the dance floor, no one could tell. As Shalynn committed to give her best to the Lord, He was there to help her.

Many people also complimented Song Har for the beautiful red gown she wore in the play. It was actually her wedding dinner gown. Isn't it amazing that now in her 6-series, she can still fit into her wedding dinner gown? All these stories just show that we worship an amazing God who never fails to amaze us. With Him all things are possible.



After 'The King and I', there were at least another dozen more solo, duet and group performances by various Golden Club members. Some of them went up to the stage with their walking sticks but once they started to sing, they did not need their sticks. These members have all been trained by the Golden Club's very own vocal coach, Shirley.

I asked 86-year-old aunty known as 'Sim Chei' who sang a Cantonese opera number if she was nervous on stage. She gave me a puzzled look and then she answered, 'I am happiest when I am up on stage!' Praise God for the Golden Club. Rupert Ling who heads the Golden Club believes that all senior citizens should not be lonely but be involved in activities that bring them joy and meaning. DUMC's Golden Club welcomes everyone irrespective of one's faith. The Club meets every Monday in Dream Centre.



Message from Founding Senior Pastor

Message from Founding Senior Pastor

I recently read Public Theology and Political Economy - Christian Stewardship in Modern Society by Max Stackhouse (Eerdmans, 1987), a book that I have been wanting to read for years. There is one particular aspect which Stackhouse focuses in the book that I would like to elaborate in this article. It is that of the business corporation. Stackhouse discusses the "quadrilateral" touchstones of authority in Scripture, in tradition, in reason and from which he draws out principles of public theology and a Christian response.

Every business corporation, including public entity, has a character that must be assessed on moral and spiritual grounds. This inner quality or 'soul' of these entities can and should be reformed and renewed from a Christian perspective.

Stackhouse identified the following to be some of the problems of business corporations namely:

- The emphasis on the profit motive which can play into greed resulting in the worship of mammon.
- A subtle mechanism to engineer needs and sometimes unnecessarily. As a result, we buy things we don't need to impress people we don't like with monies we don't have!
- There is also the inequitable distribution of items or goods and sometimes producing items of little lasting value.
- Some of these corporations cooperate with some of the most exploitative forces in other lands, for example, with cheap labour to produce goods at the lowest of costs and the greatest of profits.
- It is machine-like and often churns on relentlessly and people in the corporation are like little cogs only in a giant cogwheel. It can get truly impersonal where people are treated as just numbers and digits. In such a system it is natural for one sometimes to feel small, insignificant and helpless.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

It alienates human beings and sometimes dehumanises human society. Employees are treated like money-making machines. As a result, loyalty and commitment level may be low on both sides. From the employer's side, if one cannot churn out those figures one is on the way out. From the employee's side, once there is a better offer, even a few ringgit more, he will jump ship.

As Christians, we should ask these questions.

Does the business corporation we are involved in produce items of little value or non-lasting value?

Does it satisfy a need or is it only producing to satisfy the wants of the people?

Often, we like to compare characters of business corporations in terms of:

- The depth or humane fabric of human relationships or the lack of depth in the corporation.
- The sense of purpose and the direction it takes.
- About disciplined work ethics and professional excellence.
- About a responsible attitude towards employees, for example, in remuneration, safety standards, housing, health benefits, healthy and safe working environment, dignity and respect towards all, a family environment and being personal.
- Finally, a responsible attitude on the part of the employees such as discipline, diligence, determination/perseverance, intensity of participation, loyalty, stewardship, ownership, sense of belonging is needed as well.

While we may rail against the profit motive and the greed of corporations we also rejoice when our family or church members work in "quality" corporations or organisations.

What therefore should be some of the themes of public theology that we should emphasise on so that in our biblical evaluation and teaching we could bring these to bear on corporate life and the business corporations? Stackhouse suggests the following:

VOCATION

We are to respond to a call and not just simply a job to undertake. Be conscious that we are responsible and accountable to God ultimately and not just our bosses and the corporation. It will require discipline, commitment and sacrifice. As we are doing this for the Lord's sake and not just towards our employers and the corporation, our quality and our standards should be different. We should contribute not only towards the good of mankind materially but also spiritually. The same should be said of corporations. That they have a duty towards people, its staff, society and the nation in contributing materially and towards the good and total well-being of mankind, society and the nation. There is the business corporation's vocation too!

and to future generations. How should we live out such covenantal relationships so that we do not become consumeristic only in our stewardship of the resources that God has given to us in this world?

The above are some of the issues Stackhouse suggests we should deal with in our Christian response to the corporate world. We can and should engage with peoples across the board, from different ethnic, social and religious backgrounds so that our biblical emphases and public theology are applied in the corporate world. Then can the Church be relevant in a nation, even our nation Malaysia!

MORAL LAWS AND FREEDOM

We are called to promote truth, justice and righteousness. Corporations are expected to do the same as well. Together, we must make sure that truth is upheld and that rules, policies, programmes, projects and its implementation are just and fair across the board irrespective of ethnic, social and religious backgrounds. One's life should be upright or righteous. Where there is injustice, oppression or exploitation we must be unafraid to speak out and work against it, in and outside the corporations. This may be costly but that is the call of Christians in public life and its political economy. It must promote greater equality and freedom for all.

SIN

Greed, selfishness and all forms of idolatry must be tackled. Idols are not just what we make with our hands and worship but also what we make with our hearts and worship such as career, money, power, position, fame, success and profits. Dehumanisation, alienation and environmental pollution must be tackled and dealt with seriously, diligently and conjointly.

COVENANT

We are in a covenant with God, with fellow human beings and with the environment which God has given to mankind to steward properly. We are therefore accountable to Him and to one another



Come To The Table

by Debbie Loh, PJN3

Christ our Lord invites
to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of
their sin and seek to live
in peace with one another.
The Invitation to
Communion, Methodist
Liturgy

There is something about Holy Communion that I look forward to, and that is the remembrance of Christ together with the family of believers in DUMC. It gives me a sense of togetherness as we remember the body of Christ, broken for us and the blood of Christ, shed for us – acts that our Lord provided to us as His people, as a means of grace for our lives.

I chanced upon a book by Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury some time ago, that sparked some treasured reflections on communion.

CHRIST OUR LORD INVITES TO HIS TABLE...

It is Christ our Lord who invites us to this Table of Communion, with Him and one another. The table is a great equaliser. We come at the invitation of Jesus, and not because of our status in society that is given by our performance, our ethnicity, our cultural linkages, our education level, our class, our age and many other things by which society identifies us.

We simply come because we love Him who called us and enabled us to love Him. And hence, this invitation is given even to those we do not like, are at war with, cannot relate to or dislike. We do not get to choose who eats at the table – it is Christ's invitation.

... ALL WHO LOVE HIM.

Do you love Jesus? What does this love mean? As Asians, love to us often means a series of actions and service. But actions and service can be disconnected from the sense of belonging to Jesus, being ministered to by Him, or allowing Him to wash our dirty "feet" i.e. the darkest parts of our lives. Part of loving Jesus is to know that we are fully loved by Him. This is because Christ is the source of our love – it is He who defines what love means. Therefore, we cannot know what love means unless we have first experienced His kind of love – the kind that made Him take the form of a servant and wash our feet.

And therefore, if we are willing, even the dirtiest sinner is capable of returning Christ's love, if we would allow His transforming love to wash us clean.

WHO EARNESTLY REPENT OF THEIR SIN...

We are all and without exception sinners, touched and saved by grace from our sin. It is the sick who need the doctor and we are tired of being infested with the rot and destruction that comes with a life that is curved inward. Repentance is a relief to those who know that our ways do not work anymore, and we need God. Repentance is a relief to those who feel stuck and trapped in our ways with no way out. Repentance is a comfort to those who have reached the end of ourselves and realise that we need God. There is little wonder that there is blessedness for being poor in spirit, because spiritual poverty is the true assessment of us. What grace there is in repentance!

... AND SEEK TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER.

The invitation by Christ is one for sinners to the table, who are willing to look at one another and say, "Peace". Despite our differences, peace.

Despite our unlike-mindedness, peace. Despite our ministry priorities, peace. Despite our different preferences and unmet needs, peace.

This table is not a gathering of "great minds" who "think alike". This table is not a gathering of "birds of a feather".

And therefore we do not despise those who are not as intellectual, or creative, or trendy, or pious, or punctual, or excellent, or laidback (the list goes on) as us.

Instead, we make peace. Paul says in Philippians 2:2, "complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." Being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind is not something we find ourselves in. It is something to be worked on. In doing so, we are not frustrated by differences. But differences give us clues on areas to work together to be of the same mind, as guided by the Spirit.

In our prayers, let us come to God in repentance, confessing ways in which we have thought ourselves more worthy than others. Let us confess our sins before God when we have judged our brothers and sisters, when we are after all one body, receiving from the same bread and cup.





Nepal is a land of natural beauty coupled with cultural richness just waiting to be discovered. Many have travelled there to conquer the majestic Mount Everest, still others to trek the Everest or at least to reach the Annapurna Base Camp. But for the seven of us, we were sent on a mission by His Majesty the King of kings.

We had a unique team because we represented three different congregations in DUMC. Unity was the word the Lord impressed on my heart during our pre-trip preparations and it was emphasized again during the church prayer. Pastor Kelvin Yong shared Psalm 133 during our ministry time with the Crossfields leadership. Praise the Lord for the unity among us that despite all the hardship and challenges we faced during the trip, the team stood united. God met with each of us at our different points of need. We came back from Nepal truly blessed.

JIN SWAN, PJN6

I am thankful to be able to serve with the team and to witness how God used us to minister to the people through the sharing of our testimonies at the home visitations, the Sangati (Celebration) and Youth & Discipleship Teaching. Indeed, only God can make the trip possible and He opened my eyes to see the living conditions of the people in Nepal.

I had an incredible adventure during the trip and saw how God prepared us during the weekly pre-trip meetings. It is one of those countries that stays with you and one visit is just not enough. In closing, the two words that describe my Nepal Mission

Trip: challenging and amazing.

EVELYN BANDONG, BM CONGREGATION

Nepal sangat istimewa bagi diri saya kerana saya merasakan memori masa kecil bersama keluarga. Pastor Man dan isterinya mencurahkan kasih sayang dan menjaga anak-anak di Living Faith Orphanage seperti anak kandung sendiri. Dari mata anak-anak kecil itu terpancar harapan dan damai sukacita dalam diri mereka kerana ada yang peduli tentang peribadi mereka.

Saya tidak dapat lupakan Maidi kerana di sini saya mengalami proses kesembuhan dan damai sejahtera dalam diri saya.

Semasa morning devotion, saya merasakan Roh Kudus bekerja ke atas peribadi saya. Dua minggu sebelum ke Nepal, saya sangat bergumul terutamanya dalam hal keluarga, pekerjaan serta pelayanan saya. Saya sangat tertekan sehingga menangis. Pada saat saya menyatakan bahawa Tuhan saya tidak mampu dan tidak berdaya untuk menghadapi segalanya, Tuhan katakan. "Serahkan segalanya dalam tangan-Ku, Aku akan mengerjakannya dan ianganlah khuatir akan hidupmu". Wow! Tiada apa yang boleh diungkapkan melainkan saya mengasihi Engkau Tuhan dengan segenap hatiku. Tiga kunci yang saya dapat dari trip ini adalah love, healing dan peace.

Features





PING YIN, PJN 6

This journey was truly an amazing We visited the Nepalese Migrant and exciting one. I was worried that I would not be able to perform well in my assigned task as a prayer secretary because I am a 3-year-old Christian but God spoke to me through answered prayers along the journey. When our team's luggage was overweight by 24 kilos, I prayed hard as the luggage was being checked in. Miraculously we managed to get all the luggage through without paying a single

I learnt that it is not about me but it is all about my praying heart. I became more sensitive to God's presence and was able to release words and scriptures when I prayed for the Nepalese. This was something I had never experienced before in Malaysia. Furthermore, I discovered the gift of distinguishing between spirits. What an amazing discovery!

GRACE TOH, KL

Unity Network (NEMUN) in Kathmandu, an NGO set up to advocate for Nepalese workers abroad, and to help Nepalese returning from overseas to settle back in Nepal. We met a couple of NEMUN leaders who were previously from DUMC's Nepali Sangati (celebration). They came to faith in Malaysia and after working for a couple of years, had returned and were expanding His Kingdom in Nepal. It was such a privilege to witness the diaspora ministry in action. I am reminded that every life is precious, every encounter is an opportunity to share Christ and every life transformed is a life God can and will use for His glory. The trip opened up new perspectives for me! Mee Chien, PJN4 When we are obedient and step

out in faith, we can rest on His

promises for He is faithful. A few days before our trip to Nepal, work in the office was piling up and things were not going as planned but by the grace of God, all worked out well when I committed and surrendered everything to Him.

Our journey to Maidi and back was tough and full of challenges especially during the monsoon. Our truck got stuck many times but each time we sought Him, God sent help. I am reminded that I am not alone even when I am going through challenges in life for He is always with me. This trip gave me excitement, a sense of fulfilment and it was eye-opening.



JAGAT PHERWANI, NEPALI SANGATI, PJN4

This was my third mission trip to Nepal. God laid in my heart a burden for the women and children who are left behind to fend for themselves while the men go overseas to earn a living. One day, after prayer walk, our team boarded a bus. I started talking to a 15-year-old bus conductor who has an interesting name - Mission. He dropped out from school because he felt bored attending classes. He had a tag line: 'I have no height, but I can fight'. I invited Mission to come to our children's program which he did without hesitation. At the end of the program, he gave his life to Jesus. My prayer is that Mission will grow to be a man after God's heart and he will fight the good fight to please God all his life. Truly, God prepared us and used us as His vessel to touch lives. I can only

say "Amazing team and serving Him is our privilege!"

KHOON LAN, PJS1

When Pastor Shambhu told us that we would be visiting the home of a young couple whose husband dabbled with evil spirits and had evil manifestations before, some of us felt uneasy. The first thought that came to mind was that I was ill-equipped. My late mother used to share her experiences in doing deliverance but I had never done it. The team prayed for God's protection, wisdom, discernment and committed the visit to the Lord. As four of us stepped into the home, we had no fear because the presence of God was with us. When the young man manifested, we prayed in tongues and commanded the evil spirit to leave him. Praise God, he was delivered. What an awesome faith-building trip!

We were grateful that we could spend some time with Agnes and Kat and caught a glimpse of their lives in Kathmandu. Kat took us to visit some of the businesses she is helping to build through the Business for Transformation (B4T) program. It opened our eyes to see the unconventional way of reaching out. What a brilliant business strategy! As we marvel at God's beautiful creation in Nepal, we are also reminded that He loves the Nepalese too. If you have not been or are contemplating to go on a mission trip, then we would ask you to quickly sign up for the next Nepal mission team. The journey was so enriching and unforgettable. As Jin Swan puts it, one visit is just not enough...



It is generally agreed that God speaks to us in three ways – explicitly (through dreams, divine visitations, etc, that may result in prophesies), through the counsel of others (pastors, leaders, other mature Christians) and most commonly, through the Bible. As Christians, we believe that although the Bible may be written by man, it is inspired by God. Hence, we refer to the Bible as God's Word in the written form. But what makes the Bible, the "Bible"?



We ask the question what the Bible is – the best way to say it is the Bible is God's written revelation to His people; now God reveals Himself in all kinds of ways and He actually speaks in ways outside the Bible in days of old to prophets and the people of God. And so, you'd hear the voice of the Lord and call that the Word of the Lord, and over time that became inscripturated, became written down into His Word and over time we've collected the books that contain those Words into 66 smaller books that collectively we call the Bible.

Michael J Kruger, Professor of Early Christianity Reformed Theological Seminary

At the commencement of (almost) every Saturday and Sunday Celebration, just before we read from the Scripture, the congregation will stand with their Bibles held out, and proclaim, "This is my Bible, it is the Word of God - it informs my mind, inspires my heart and instructs my behaviour, so help me God." This habit which our Senior Pastor instils into the congregation is a wonderful reminder of the Bible's utility i.e. the Bible is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Undisputedly then, DUMC members, Christians and, to some extent, even non-Christians regard the Bible as a holy book and confer upon it much honour and reverence.

From the onset and for the avoidance of doubt, let us be

crystal clear on this - there is nothing wrong with treating the Bible with honour and reverence. In fact, it is commendable and a prudent thing to do! The Bible is, after all, God's Holy Word to us and should be acknowledged for its holiness.

The problem is this: that an increasing number of Christians today, in their impatience of wanting quick answers from the Bible, fail to realise that there is a difference between the Bible and God. Whilst we as Christians claim that the Bible is central to our faith and our relationship with God, how many of us truly regard and use the Bible as a tool to hear God's voice and to deepen our relationship with Him rather than merely using the Bible to obtain quick answers to our immediate questions? When life is comfortable and well, do

we still diligently read and study the Bible? Or, only scramble to it when we are faced with life's urgent woes, and for quick solutions?

THE BIBLE IS A TOOL

The Bible is God's revelation to us in order that through our study of the Bible, we would come to know Him better. Regardless of how much we trust in or revere the Bible, the Bible can never replace God. As important as the Bible may be to the Christian faith, we do not pray to it like how we pray to God. In that sense, the Bible is a complementary tool to explain the Divine God and not an addition to it. The Divine Trinity remains Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not Holy Scripture.

The danger is seeking the Bible itself to be the source of the answers rather than seeking God whom the Bible points us to

Again, let us be clear that there is nothing wrong with seeking for answers in the Bible as the Bible remains an excellent avenue to seek His guidance – it is, after all, God's blueprint for how we should live our lives. The danger is seeking the Bible itself to be the source of the answers rather than seeking God whom the Bible points us to. If we use our Bible as God intended, the Bible is an effective tool to change the weather of our hearts and not merely to educate our minds.

When understood in this light, we see how the Bible is far from merely a self-help textbook.

A proper study of the Bible as a tool to commune with God would open opportunities for transformation of hearts, the manifestation of which will be evident from the outward conduct of our more godly and Christlike lives. Used wrongly, however, the Bible would only serve to factually educate the mind – and erroneously too – without a dent on our hearts.

THE BIBLE IS NOT AN EASY TOOL

Perhaps the reason Christians err in their effort from focusing on God to idolising the Bible is because the Bible itself is a thoroughly difficult book to understand. Not only is the Bible a compilation of numerous literary works ranging from eyewitness accounts to poems and from letters to sermons, all spanning across thousands of years of authorship from multiple authors, and with each book set in different settings and cultures, it was also originally written in different languages. Even after all 66 books of the Bible were eventually translated to the English language, still there are numerous versions of English translations with each version suggesting a different angle and emphasis.

It is not difficult to see then how a full and proper understanding of the Bible is no easy feat. So complex is the Bible as a piece of literature for study that it would be almost impossible for any two theologians to unanimously agree with each other on their views and interpretation of the Bible. Therefore, whilst the Bible is an effective tool to cultivate a relationship with God, the Bible is an effective tool only if we invest much time and effort in correctly studying it.

It may seem counterintuitive that the goal of studying a book is to promote a relationship rather than to an academic end, but when it comes to the Bible, that is exactly the case. An improved academic knowledge of the Bible should be the by-product of an enhanced relationship with God, never the other way around.

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A BOOK, IT IS A RELATIONSHIP

The origin of Christian teaching, unlike other faiths, did not start from a book. There was not first a "divine book" from which God quoted and Jesus preached from. Rather, the inverse is true - it was God's speaking to His people and Jesus' teachings and parables as well as accounts of circumstances surrounding these that were eventually transcribed into a written form. Once we understand this, we can begin to appreciate that the Bible is only an extract of God's instructions to us and does not reflect the totality of God's Word.

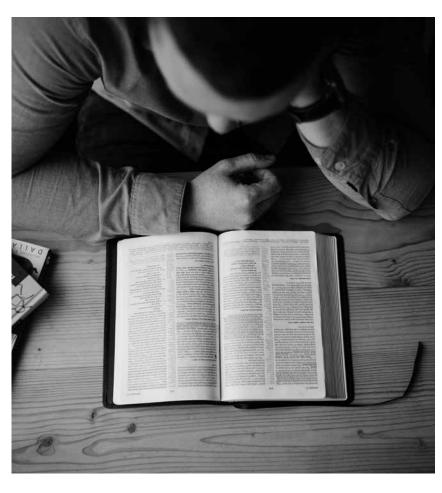
The undeniable truth is simply this - that whilst studying the Bible daily is valuable, it is nowhere near as valuable as developing and maintaining a daily relationship with God Himself. As Christians, the first step in our daily walk with God is to develop a daily intentional habit of reading the Bible. But it does not and must not stop there. Our reading and studying the Bible must be understood to be a means of building a relationship with Him.

The problem then is not that our reverence and respect for the Bible is misplaced, rather that we may have missed the forest

for the trees. In our pursuit of studying His Word, we must not confine our focus to the limited print estate between the covers of the Bible as no single book can comprehensively encapsulate the divine revelation of our relationship with Him.

The Bible is essentially God's self-revelation and God doesn't just reveal Himself in terms of what you must do – that is the consequence of who He is and the way in which He wants us to understand His will.

Conrad Mbewe, Pastor Kabwata Baptist Church



THE THIN LINE

If we were to treat the Bible as the sole source of God's word to us, we would have missed the entire plot that is Christianity as that would be akin to treating the Bible as if it were the testament of a dead god and that the Bible is all that we have left of that god. No, God is not dead – He is alive and well for Jesus rose from the dead and His speaking to us goes far beyond the 800,000+ words of the Bible.

On its surface, it may seem a thin line to tread between treating the Bible with reverence and respect versus making an idol out of it. Intrinsically, however, the difference is stark - particularly when we examine the inspiration that drives our will to study the Bible. If it is merely to gain clarity and an education, then it is time we took a step back to re-evaluate if we have misplaced our motivation. If, however, it is to better understand God and to spur your commune with Him, then, in my humble opinion, I reckon you are doing just fine.



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Parents Support Parents

by Lynn Foo, PJN6

Parenting is an adventure, a continuous journey filled with joy and laughter. However, it is also a journey fraught with much heartache, tears and frustrations. As parents embark on this journey, nothing prepares them for the many responsibilities and tasks ahead. Throughout this lifelong journey, parents are constantly challenged by many uncertainties, leading them to feel inadequate and often, troubled. It is in such times that having someone who can come alongside and offer some

support and encouragement, is so priceless.

"Bible"?

Under DUMC's Family Life Ministry, Parents Support Parents (PSP) is where that someone can be found. Here, parents can connect with one another providing support, a listening ear and mutual encouragement. In this informal environment, parents will know they are not alone in this journey. Here, we spoke to Dennis Ngai and his wife, Yew Joo Wei from PSP:

TELL US MORE ABOUT PSP

PSP is founded on the core values. AUTHENTICITY & ACCOUNTABILITY, COMMUNITY and STEWARDSHIP. PSP began in July 2017, when we sighted an opportunity parents whose children were in Children's Church, who had a lot of free time. This, coupled with a growing need amongst struggling parents, birthed the idea of PSP, with the blessings

of our leaders, TC Lau and Jean. On the first Saturday of every month, we gather from 3.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the Café Function Room. As the programme was well received, we progressed to a bi-weekly session.

Once every three months, there is a Hangar Talk (a talk held in the Hangar) where we invite a speaker and a sofa couple to have a conversation and dialogue with parents.

WHAT IS THE AGENDA OF A TYPICAL SESSION OF PSP?

Each session begins with a video presentation. So far, our source is from Right Now Media. For example, our last series was entitled You and Me Forever by Francis & Lisa Chan. Following this, we will break into groups, where participants can share key learning points, experiences and discuss how to apply these practical handles. Each group will have a pair of facilitators to assist in the discussion. The session ends with a time of prayer for one another. Throughout the session, light refreshments are provided and this helps to maintain a relaxed atmosphere, like chatting over a cup of coffee!

WHAT ARE SOME STRUGGLES THAT ARE **COMMONLY FACED BY** PARENTS AND HOW DOES **PSP STEP IN TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?**

Generally there are two groups of parents. The first group comprises new parents — parents with young children. They lack experience in handling their

children. The second group would inspired in this ministry. Besides be parents whose children are in the pre-teen ages. They often share that their children are no longer compliant and show signs of rebellion. Sadly, one common problem is parents leave church because they find coming to church (or joining a CG) too cumbersome.

PSP does not provide answers or solutions but it is through open sharing and discussion that we can learn from one another and so are encouraged to press on despite the many challenges faced. It is also our desire to direct parents to a cell group if they have not joined one yet. We do not counsel and if there is a need, we will direct them to other For PSP, we hope to strengthen parents who may have more experience or whom we know have gone through similar issues.

DO SHARE WITH US SOME **TESTIMONIES OF SEEING GOD MOVE IN THIS MINISTRY**

We are blessed to be able to see parents accepting Christ through this ministry. We are also able to reach out and invite parents to join cell groups, where they can grow in their relationship with God. The ministry has been a good platform to re-integrate many young parents into a community of believers.

WHAT MOTIVATES BOTH **OF YOU TO CONTINUE SERVING IN THIS** MINISTRY?

Our team has greatly motivated us to keep going. As we see our co-workers serve diligently and sacrificially, we are indeed

that, seeing parents come regularly and at the same time reaching out to others to join us, really spurs us on. The pastors and leadership of the church have also been supportive and that too has cheered us on!

TELL US WHAT YOU ENVISION FOR PSP IN THE FUTURE

There are also the Parenting Courses (for children and teenagers) which run concurrently for five weeks. In 2019, we hope to bring these courses to the zone and cell group levels.

the current programme, particularly, the Live Hangar Talk where we intend to have more speakers or panelists from diverse backgrounds.

Join PSP held bi-weekly on Saturday from 3.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. at the Café **Function Room in Dream**

The next Live Hangar Talk is on December 1, 2018. Stay tuned for more activities at http://dumc.my/connect/ adults.family-life/ **DUMC Family Life on** Facebook or email parenting. children@dumc.my

REUNION With The True God

By Janice Khoo, KL

I was a short-tempered person and used to be very easily irritated. I could not understand why I behaved in such manner. I was always at home, undergoing stress while taking care of my two lovely and active grandchildren. At that time, I was a devotee to a Chinese deity including many other idols and images which I placed on a big altar in my home.

On several occasions, in the middle of the night, I would catch a glimpse of a strange shadow passing in front of me. These night experiences were too frightening for me. When I tried to recite prayers before all my idols on my big altar, I did not fully understand what I was reciting and meditating on.

One day, my youngest daughter Winnie brought my husband, Robert and me to DUMC. We were encouraged to join and attend a cell group. Soon after, we were assigned to a cell group. In the cell group, we met and got to know many new and nice friends besides learning more about Jesus. In January 2018, I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour.

On March 31, 2018, I experienced the touch of the Holy Spirit. It was during an Easter celebration when Senior Pastor Chris asked

those who needed prayer to come forward. I went forward as I needed God's help in controlling my temper. As I was being prayed for, I was touched by the Holy Spirit, and cried profusely. Immediately, I fell under the power of the Holy Spirit. When I got up, my hands were cold. My body was trembling as I walked back to my seat. My son-in-law, Joel approached Pr. Moy How to pray for me. He told me that I had been touched by the Holy Spirit. Pr. Moy How later led my husband in the sinner's prayer to accept Jesus as his Lord and Saviour, too.

Today, I am more tolerant and peaceful after the prayer encounter.

Within the same week, I requested my cell members to help in removing all the idols and images on my big altar from my home. After all the idols were removed, the disturbing shadow ceased manifesting. My home is now filled with peace. Whenever I pray to God the Father, I now know who I am praying to and what I am praying about.

Two nights before the Baptism & Membership Encounter Weekend (BMEW) which was held on August 23, 2018, a bright light shone in my eyes. When I opened





my eyes, the light disappeared. When I closed my eyes again, the light reappeared. It was an assurance of God's presence being with me.

During the BMEW, the most significant moment was when my husband and I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Once again, I cried profusely but this time, it was a cry of release as I fell under the power of the Holy Spirit, and immediately, I spoke in new tongues.

Recently, I received my water baptism — cleansed of all my past sins, and spiritually born again, following Jesus as my Saviour.

And I know I cannot be separated from the love of God.

"Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer" Psalm 61:1

My God, My Saviour

by Boey Mun Seng, PJN6

In May 2017, I went to see a doctor at the Ampang Hospital due to shortness of breath, and was recommended to take a blood test. The results showed a very high white blood cell count, and an alarming low red blood cell count. The doctor insisted that I must be admitted to the hospital as soon as possible. Further tests in Ampang Hospital, which has a reputable team of haematologists, confirmed a blood disorder classified as Stage 4 chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL) which affects the blood and bone marrow. Many other tests and procedures were conducted on me during the 9-days of hospitalization. I went on to have a total of six intravenous chemotherapies, five as out-patient, and numerous blood tests.

The words from Jeremiah 17:7, "but blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him" assured me to rely totally on Him as Christians were praying for me. My wife and I had this sense of awe — there was no fear, worry or anxiety from the time of the first blood test to the confirmed diagnosis of the cancer and through the long period of chemotherapies. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27)

Over a period of time, I recuperated well and a final blood test was done on June 13, 2018. Praise God I was given a total clean bill of health by the oncologist as the blood profile was completely normal. I can only say — it is God's hand in my life. Psalm 119:50 says "My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life." There were practically no side effects at all. I was eating well (I ate all the hospital food!), had only slight nausea (probably twice), slept very well most of the nights (and

days), and drove on my own to the hospital from Petaling Jaya, most of the time.

In fact, two specific prophecies were released by Senior Pastor Chris Kam in church about God's healing upon me. My loved ones claimed them on my behalf. I can only give all glory and honour to God Almighty for His mercy on my life and for bringing me out of the doldrums.

"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters." Psalm 18: 16

PRAISE THE LORD.

"For I know the plans I have for you, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, Plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29: 11

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DUMC Stories

Alone But Never On My Own

by Jaya B, PJN4

A few years ago after a series of extra-marital affairs, my ex-husband left me to be with someone else.

Even before that painful day, our home had not been a home, and family was not a family. There were rarely good words spoken between us. There was domestic violence (which not many knew about), then he walked out of the family, leaving the entire responsibility to me, including his debts.

That was when darkness, loneliness, isolation and pain gripped me. I felt unwanted. My children and I were left destitute, with unresolved problems including mounting debts, and having to survive on whatever was left behind for me. Worst of all, I did not know what to do next. All I could think of were uncertainties—why me, and what had just happened? What did I do wrong to deserve all this? What was going to happen to my children? Would there be any future for them? When would it end? It was a hard time for me. I remember how difficult it was

to take care of three children and study at the same time. The burden was too much for me to bear and I even thought of suicide but I could not as I had to think about my children's welfare. Some church friends, who had been keeping in touch with me, heard of my plight and offered help to bring me out of the mess I was in. At first, I refused their offer of help as I was determined to make it on my own. I was wrong. The tears of my eldest son made me accept my friends' help. My son was emotionally affected as he could not accept the absence of a father in his life. a person to whom he was very close.

When my parents found out what had happened, they were devastated. I managed to convince them that I could handle my situation. Since they were working overseas, they graciously sent me some financial aid. To alleviate their fears and concerns for me, I told my parents that I would finish my studies and move on in life.

Soon with the help of church friends and even some strangers,

I moved out one night. It took two days to shift all our things, which required making a few trips up and down the stairs! Through these helpers, I saw God's mercy with my own eyes. It was as though God himself came to help me. My neighbours were startled to see us moving out, and they commended the generous help of these Christians.

Since we did not have a place to stay, we stayed in our cell leader's house for more than

to stay, we stayed in our cell leader's house for more than a month. Once again, I saw God's compassion through this family. Never have I seen such generosity — they gave us a roof over us and gave us food to eat. During our stay with this family, I learnt how to live again. Every member of the cell group helped us financially, gave us a lot of encouragement, and showed us what love really was.

Finally, I managed to find a place to stay and graduated from my studies. I was really proud of myself that I was able to finish what I had started, with God's help. Though my parent could not be around for my graduation, my family in Christ was there to



celebrate the joy and share the moment with me.

My life started to become better.
We attend church celebrations.
We attend cell group meetings.
The children attend Children's
Church. My children are now
being surrounded with loving
aunties and uncles whom God has
put them to be with.

Is my wound healed? Have I recovered? How am I moving on? How is my life?

Today I can gladly say that I am healed, and able to live again. I am smiling more, laughing a lot, happier now, and I love the life that God has given me and my three children. Now I have a job that can provide for me and my children. Today I can say what I went through was an episode that God knew I could go through by relying on Him.

Currently, I am working for a non-profit organization called Parents Without Partners (PWP) as a Social Coordinator. My role is to interview single parents and evaluate their needs. I am also heading a reading program which caters to the needs of a group of underprivileged children. Under

PWP, a trading arm called Jumble Station exists to generate income for PWP.

When I got this job in 2014, I was not sure what to do. So I asked God. And He answered, "...do the same as I have done for you, share love, show compassion and show them that there is hope..." So I went on with His guidance in this work. It is a journey that I could not have comprehended with my own understanding. I needed God to give me wisdom, strength, courage, confidence, blessings and much more to be involved in this ministry. The passion to advocate for these single parents grew in me. Through this ministry, I understand why God called me to be part of this organization to reach out to the broken, the shattered, and the lost, and to

shartered, and the lost, and to share God's love, the gift of hope. At the same time, I have learnt to be humble and grateful and to count my blessings for what He is doing in my own personal life, and to grow deeper with Him through this ministry.

To-date, PWP has helped more than 200 single parents since it

was established in 2007. There are many single parents under our care who need financial help and moral support. Besides offering financial and grocery aid, and job placement, this year PWP is supporting single parents in a counselling program, skills training and a financial literacy program (through collaboration with other bodies). We also have an online store where hand-made items are sold to support the cause.

PWP needs your generous support so that we can continue with our mission and be a blessing to the community out there. Share our passion for a better future for single parents and their children!

Contact:

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Estore: www.jumblestation.com.
mv

PBB Account: Parents Without Partners Bhd 3155836224 FB: Parents Without Partners, jumblestationpwp Blog: jumblestation1.blogspot. com

My God Who Speaks

by Stella Lau, PJN6





He had an encounter with God...

Design, especially abstract art, has always fascinated Joshua San. His love for design is one that is matched only by his interest in people. He believes in creative representations and communications which are presented in forms best received by the recipients. However, the recipients must first be attracted and captivated long enough for the message to be conveyed. The content on the other hand must be true, constructive and genuine. Due to the categorization of our education system that defines 'smart' and 'less smart' students into the science and art streams respectively, Josh did not pursue graphic design in secondary school. Fortunately for Josh, his parents believed in supporting their son's interest. Josh furthered his studies in graphic design after Form Five. He later spent years in various advertising agencies, wondering if there was more that his passion could be used for God. When he gradually availed his talent and time for the use of His kingdom, God spoke.

In 2012, after eight years of working in the industry, Josh was convicted by the Holy Spirit to take a one year sabbatical leave. It was not an easy choice to make as he did not earn enough to have excessive savings to fall back on in case he could not find a job at the end of one year. However, truly assured by the Holy Spirit, he took the leap of faith to trust in God's providence. Josh made a commitment to be productive every day during his sabbatical year. He kept a record of what he did daily and got

deeply involved in church work, filling the gap for DUMC's design needs. At the same time, he also poured his soul into the cell group he was leading, doing his best to be their spiritual leader, a brother and a friend.

GOD'S GOODNESS WAS EVIDENT

That year, Josh's friends pooled

their money to buy him his first smart phone. His investment and influence in their lives was apparent as the money collected also paid his phone bill for a full year. That same year, Josh got a new fully paid car from his father. Their family is not exactly well to do. The sabbatical year was a promise from God to Josh that He will take care of his needs. All Josh needed to do was to obey. Towards the end of the sabbatical year, Josh was approached by an entrepreneur who was already running a group of companies dealing with cyber-security, IT services, photography and event management. Josh was offered the opportunity of a partnership to start a design company within the group. After much consideration and prayer, Integricity Creatives was created with the vision to increase the standard of design and creative communications between churches and Christian organisations in Malaysia. The company was open to receive business from both Christian and non-Christian associations such as TNCC, Alpha Malaysia, YWAM and Asian Beacon.

There were occasions when Josh had been asked to consider full-

time employment in DUMC. He had always thought himself to be a marketplace guy, and did not give much thought to those offers. In 2017, during the LEAD conference in DUMC, he had an encounter with God. God showed him the plans He had for DUMC and the role Josh was to play in it. Not long after, Josh was again approached to consider a very specific position in DUMC, one tightly related to what God had revealed to him during the LEAD conference. Back home, without being prompted, his wife unknowingly said what he needed to hear — if he wanted to go into full-time ministry, she would be supportive of the decision. She assured him that they did not need a lot of money to get by, and that they would have faith that God will take care of them. Her support was the confirmation he needed from God to answer the call.

GOD USED MANY WAYS TO SHAPE, MOULD AND SPEAK INTO JOSH'S LIFE.

He gave Josh words and vision, He sent an entrepreneur, pastor and also his wife as confirmation. Josh now spends his every working day in DUMC being conscious that he is doing God's work. He spends less time struggling with his limitations, instead he surrenders them to God with prayer. Even when things are urgent, he spends time waiting on God because he knows that he serves a God who speaks. Especially when visions are so big that it seems impossible, he knows that is exactly where God's power will prevail.

THE ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS

Light of the World

DUMC



The Christmas season has arrived and we are excited!

We would like to invite you to DUMC's



Come join us for any (or all!) of the dates below as we celebrate the reason for the season!

01 Dec 5:00 pm 02 Dec 10:00 am

08 Dec 5:00 pm 09 Dec 10:00 am

15 Dec 5:00 pm 16 Dec 10:00 am

Carols by Candlelight 22 Dec 5:00 pm 23 Dec 10:00 am



25 Dec Christmas Day 8:30 am & 11:30 am

Dream Centre, 2 Jalan 13/1, Seksyen 13, 46200 Petaling Jaya Selangor, Malaysia. dumc.my

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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.