

ISSUE 102

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

DUMC 

FLOODGATES



IMPACT

FLOODGATES

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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, 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.

IMPACT 2020



by Chris Kam, Senior Pastor

CHASING THE LION

We are fast approaching an important milestone in DUMC's life come 2020. For quite some time I have been praying and discerning what God would have us do when we arrive at this milestone. The vision of IMPACT2020 was birthed in my heart more than a year ago. As I took on the role of Senior Pastor in 2016, I began to ask the Lord, "What's next?" for DUMC. We thank God for the blessings of years past, and I think, for

those of us long enough in DUMC, we stand amazed at what He has done in us and through us.

Our Anniversary Gift Weekend (AGW) has been an annual blessing when our people give towards the work of God. What a privilege to be a channel of blessing to more than 130 organizations around the world! We have learnt the spiritual principle that *"It is more blessed to give than to receive!"* (Acts 20:35) and *"Whoever sows generously, will also reap generously."* (2 Corinthians 9:6). Do you know that we have given out more than 60 million ringgit in total through our annual anniversary gift since the founding of DUMC? What a privilege for us to be able to reach out to places where we cannot go to support and encourage those in the work of the Kingdom!

We have our community outreaches serving the poor and needy. We have our mission outreaches sharing the good news in numerous countries. We have emphasised a heart for the community that we come from and in our marketplace. My heart's cry - "Is there more Lord?" It is not about doing more but enquiring "what does God want us to do next?". What better time to ask this question than when we arrive at 2020, at the 40th anniversary of DUMC?

I sense God stretching us even more in faith. In my Forward series of 2018 at the beginning of the year, I preached a sermon about "Chasing the Lion" - a story of a warrior of King David called Benaiah (2 Samuel 23:20-23). He chased a lion on a snowy day and killed it. That story inspired something in me. Often, we are on the defensive. We frequently say, "Don't let the lion chase you! Stay safe!". But Benaiah, for reasons unknown to us, and against the better judgement of any safe-thinking person, went after a lion! It birthed in me this big idea: *"Have a dream so big that unless God is in there, we are bound to fail."*

My heart's cry - "Is there more Lord?" It is not about doing more but enquiring "what does God want us to do next?".



**"What are the li
us to chase aft
Kingdom?"**

With that in mind, I asked the Lord, “What are the lions that You want us to chase after to extend Your Kingdom?”. I am mindful that the Kingdom of God is never extended by just any one church, but by the universal Body of Jesus around the world. Who are the partners we need to work with? Who are the partners who can help us as we help them? Where can we go to grow our faith and a deeper dependence on You? What better time to ask this question than when we arrive at the year 2020, the 40th Anniversary of DUMC?



There is something about the number 40. Mentioned more than a hundred times in the Scriptures, this number generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation. The 40th mark seems to suggest a breakthrough in the Bible. Moses’ life was divided into 3 segments of 40. Each 40-year segment marked a significant transition. Moses was on Mt Sinai for 40 days and nights, on two separate occasions (Exodus 24:18; 34:1-28) to receive God’s laws. He sent spies for 40 days to scout out the Promised Land (Numbers 13:25; 14:34). For the lack of faith on their end, they had to wander in the desert, one year for each of the forty days. The prophet

Jonah warned ancient Nineveh for 40 days, warning them of the destruction to come because of their

many sins. The prophet Ezekiel lay on his right side for 40 days to bear the sin of the people of Judah, a day for each year (Ezekiel 4:6). Jesus fasted and prayed 40 days and nights before He began His ministry. He was tempted by the devil many times. He appeared miraculously in His physical body to His disciples and

others for 40 days after His Resurrection from the dead.

The number 40 can also represent a generation of men. The original generation of Israelite men, because of their sins after leaving Egypt, could not enter Canaan which was their inheritance (Deuteronomy 1). A new generation was allowed to possess the Promised Land after 40 years. Interestingly, the Bible was written by 40 different people!

What’s there for DUMC after 40 years? I believe the assurance of God to us and the generations after us is this: “... and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” (Genesis 12:3b). We belong to the wider Body of Christ and we are part of that plan! Let’s go find it!

You will therefore be involved in something historic for DUMC. Something that when you look back one day, five years from now, 10 years from now, you can say, “I am so glad I was part of it.” You are potentially participating in something far bigger than yourself, that can be life-changing for the entire church in the years to come. I will be encouraging you and your cell group to get out of your comfort zone and be a blessing! When you see the hundreds of people going out, and the reports that you will receive, you can proudly say, “I am a part of it!”

IMPACT 2020 is not just for the year 2020. I am praying that the Lord will do something beyond 2020, and even our lifetime. I want to challenge the church with these three statements to pursue:

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

Go chase the lion! Don’t miss out!

ons that You want er to extend Your



BABY DEDICATION

Ceremony

by Lynn Foo, PJN6

On 16 June 2019, DUMC had its inaugural Baby Dedication Ceremony during Sunday Celebration. A total of nine babies were dedicated that morning. Conducted by Senior Pastor Chris Kam, the parents were invited on stage with their children as they followed the order of the ceremony and were subsequently prayed for by the pastors and church elders. The baby dedication ceremony is a celebration of God's generous offer of salvation to the child, and for the parents and the church to publicly affirm their commitment to being channels of God's grace for the child.

Prior to the baby dedication ceremony, all parents had to complete two sessions of the Baby Dedication Preparation Course. The course covered topics like God's generous offer; the charge to parents and the church's responsibility. These topics emphasize the fact that the dedication of a child to the



Lord is a response to what God has first done - that He has made a promise to Abraham that flows to us through Christ's completed work.

Children of believers are born into a Christian home, where the Christian faith is to be passed on through its lifestyle and teaching. As leaders of the home, parents are to institute family practices that provide a steady rhythm of prayer, Bible study and fellowship. They are also responsible to integrate their children in the life of the church, which is the larger family of God.

As the larger family of God, the church is to provide support and equipping to the parents in raising the child in the ways of God.

Each couple was also assigned a support couple who would have the privilege of accompanying the couple and their family on their parenting journey. The support couples would act as loving friends, hearing their difficulties, rejoicing with them in their milestones and connecting them to resources.

Below, a few of the parents share their thoughts on their journey and on the ceremony:

**MARVIN CHRISTAIN
MIOD & FOO SZE LIN**

As parents of 7-month-old Eleanore Sher, Marvin and Sze Lin heard of the Baby Dedication from their CG member and wanted this ceremony to serve as a reminder that Christ must be first in all areas of their lives including parenting. They are glad to be in a loving community and pray that their daughter will grow up to serve the Lord.

**ERIC JEEVAN JOHN
MANUEL NEHRU &
PRICHELLE LIM**

Parents to 8-month-old Emma Lim Nehru, Eric and Prichelle were excited to celebrate this milestone as Emma grows in the ways of the Lord. They were particularly impacted by the second class during the preparatory course on God's Purpose for each family and the need for intentionality to serve the Lord as a household.

**KENNY KWA &
HANNAH LEE**

It was possibly double the excitement for Kenny and Hannah as they dedicated not one, but two of their beloved children - K-Lynn (2 years old) and K-Renn (4 months old). They shared how they have been blessed by their support couple, Albert and Anne; who would continue journeying with them and who have provided valuable encouragement and advice.



As these parents take the first step in dedicating their babies for the glory of God, may we as a church, build an environment of inclusion for the child into the community of God and lovingly receive and include these babies as part of God's family, along with their families, and support the family in nurturing the children towards becoming full members of Christ's body.

“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

2 Timothy 3:14-15

In God's Eyes, NO ONE Is Too Young

by Low Mei Ling, PJN2

Amazing things happened at the recent DUMC Vacation Bible School camp (VBS camp) from 11 to 13 August 2019. The camp was attended by 338 children aged between five and thirteen. Can you imagine over three hundred children rushing into the hall when the doors opened? All the children were excited and ready to have an encounter with the Lord.

To usher in the Lord's presence, the camp kicked off with a shofar call to worship followed by a prophetic dance by members from our Bahasa congregation. During the dance, one dancer felt as if her feet had been lifted off the ground as though she was flying. It was a most unusual experience for her. The eager hearts of the children in worship helped to usher in the manifest presence of God.

When the children participated in the Holy Communion on the first day of camp, they learnt about the significance of the Lord's Supper, and their identity in Christ was also reaffirmed. A week later, when I asked one of the children about this Holy Communion, the child said without hesitation, "It was to remember the work of Jesus Christ on the cross". I was impressed beyond words. Even adults, when asked, may not be able to explain so quickly and accurately.

God's manifest presence intensified on the second day of camp. Most of the children at the camp were filled with the Holy Spirit and they broke out in tongues for extended periods of time. One 9-year-old boy called Ivan broke out in holy laughter. He laughed and giggled for what must have been more than half an hour. When the session had ended and everyone had gone for tea break, he was still standing in the hall and laughing alone.

When Ivan eventually stopped laughing and went for his tea break, his friends asked, "Why are you so late?" Ivan replied, "I was busy laughing." It was true. He was busy experiencing the joy of the Lord in holy laughter. After the tea break, when 9-year-old Ivan prayed for another 12-year-old Ivan, the older Ivan too was touched by the Holy Spirit and began to laugh uncontrollably.

Kelly, a 10-year-old girl of a foreign nationality was also powerfully touched. She was found weeping. She explained that, for the first time in her life, she felt the love of God in a physical sense. She heard God, the Father telling her, "You are My child! I love you, My child!"

Prophet Joel had said that when God pours out His Spirit, *“Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions...”* (Acts 2:17b). At the VBS camp, many children had visions or impressions from God in words and in images. One child had a vision of heaven and Jesus. Yet another child had a vision of open heavens and God’s promises.

On the final day of VBS, the children proceeded to pray for the camp volunteers and the nation. One adult volunteer shared that when a child prayed for him, the power of the Holy Spirit was so strong that he nearly fell backwards.

Pastor Jonathan Yeoh who heads our Children’s Church was most touched when a child released words of affirmation that he had not even shared with anyone.

Wendy Lew, a first-time volunteer at VBS was astounded by what the children under her charge could do under the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. Monica Lee, who was the camp commandant for this year’s VBS was in total awe of God at the closing of the VBS – to see adults kneeling and children going around to pray for the adults and anointing them with oil. What a sight to behold!

In God’s eyes, clearly, no one is too young. At VBS, He used these children to manifest His power. As many were now fully charged for God after the camp, they asked Pastor Jonathan if there would be similar prayer sessions each weekend. The children were ready to be vessels for God. When I interviewed Ivan after the VBS, I asked if he could pray for me. Immediately, he broke into tongues and prayed over me.

“Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions...”





Colin, a 7-year-old child excitedly told his mother, "If you have time, you must tell people in your office about Jesus." When his mother explained the following day that she was too busy to share about Jesus, he asked, "Don't you have breaks at work?" It is amazing how swiftly the children applied what they learnt.

Pastor Jonathan believes that God is raising up a prophetic generation of children. But they need to be discipled on how to walk with Him. To continue to hear God's voice, they need to have a personal prayer altar and be soaked in the Word and in the Spirit daily. Ivan shared with me that he has begun using the Bible reading plan provided at the camp.

The hearts of the children are pure and open to God. Unlike adults, they have no pre-conceived ideas, inhibitions or doubts. They allow God the full liberty to have His way through them. Many of us adults who desire an encounter with God have much to learn from the children in our church. All glory to God for all the amazing experiences at VBS. May there be a continuous outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon DUMC in the days to come.

Note: In the interests of the children, all their names in this article are not their real names.



Malaysia:
A Vision of
Transcendence
Needed in the
Midst of
Immanence

by Pastor Dato' Dr Daniel Ho, Founding Senior Pastor



The euphoric dust of tsunamic proportion following GE14 has long settled. Clarion calls have been made for an increasingly clear national narrative, a blueprint that goes beyond political manifestos, regarding nation-building. But sadly, hopes and dreams, excitement and passion, have encountered confusing messages and disturbing voices lately. The whole national narrative for rebuilding a strong and dignified nation is appearing to be increasingly elusive. It feels like we are taking two steps forwards but three steps backwards. What is wrong? What has happened? Where is the direction for a national narrative? Would statesmen besides politicians arise to lend their voices and hands to chart the course forward for the nation?

As we celebrate Malaysia Day again on September 16 and before hopes and dreams are shattered, we need, **firstly**, a vision of transcendence in the midst of immanence. A transcendent vision to see beyond what the ordinary human eyes and minds can see and conceive. Prophet Isaiah testified in the year that King Uzziah died: *“I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1).”* Sometimes when human beings occupy the throne we cannot see beyond and we cannot see clearly. It is only when the throne is vacant can a right vision be restored.

As a people of God we must always remind ourselves to look beyond and to look above. It is to have a Kingdom mindset. To know that the Sovereign Lord is very much in charge and is still rightfully seated on the throne. He loves and has not abandoned Malaysia. We must have the peace and assurance that this is so. Otherwise our confidence can be shaken and we become troubled and doubtful like increasing number of Malaysians. We wonder again with the question: “Is there hope and a future for our nation?” It is of utmost importance to maintain such a transcendent vision in the midst of immanence, in the here and now, if we are



**A transcendent vision
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not to lose hope for our nation. In God there is always hope!

Secondly, we must always look to God and not to men if there is going to be real hope. Men will always fail us, even the best of them sadly. Our hopes should never be pinned on men. We are all flawed beings, people with feet of clay. Only God is our true hope, confidence, peace and assurance for the future. We must pray and never underestimate the power and efficacy of prayer. We have seen and experienced the power of prayer in the last General Elections. We must continue to pray and persevere. Jesus prays all the time (cf. Luke 5:16). He is our Chief Intercessor (cf. Hebrews 7:24, 25) and He tells His disciples to always pray and never give up (Luke 18:1).

As we pray we may be led by the Lord to prophetically act out in the physical realm what the Lord is showing us in the spiritual realm. This requires sensitivity and discernment. When we superpose the spiritual onto the physical, we get a true picture of the real landscape. For example, in 2 Kings 6:15-23, when Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, saw himself and his master being surrounded by an army of horses and chariots out to capture them, Gehazi saw the true picture of the landscape when Elisha prayed, *“O Lord, open his eyes so he may see. Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha (v. 17).”* This is a superposing of the spiritual onto the physical so that Gehazi sees the true landscape.

That is what we may have to do sometimes when led by the Lord. To enthrone God’s purpose and God’s will so that our nation will not go out of line with His design and destiny. Satan is often out to rob God’s good design and destiny for every nation and we, as God’s people, may have to prophetically act and speak out His purpose, in this case, for Malaysia as we are led by Him.

Finally, we must never forget our role and our part as salt and light in the nation. It is easy for us to be distant and detached, to do our own thing, or to move away to comfortable pastures. God has made us Malaysians for a divine purpose (cf. Acts 17:26) and we must continue to play our part in nation-building with dedication and determination notwithstanding the challenges. It is a call to engage with peoples from every social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. When we as ‘salt’ and ‘light’ are put to work, only then can we be of influence and impact. We must pray as we engage and engage as we pray. Like the two wings of a bird, prayer and engagement will enable us to take flight. And when we do that together then shall a nation like Malaysia soar again. May we all always see God and see beyond in all our endeavours.

And to quote Martin Luther King Jr: “When years have rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvellous age in which we live, men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilisation, because these humble children of God were willing to “suffer for righteousness’ sake”.”

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we pray.**

“No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”

1 John 4:12

Pastor Moy How once said that one time of CG Advance equals many times of the regular CG meeting which binds every CG member to one another. This proved to be true when we had our first CG Advance with a 100% participation from all CG members! We have greatly advanced and have certainly drawn closer to one another and to God personally too.

MAGGIE

The CG retreat was a memorable and fun one! It is very effective when a cell group gets away to spend time to know more about one another and at the same time learn more about God. We get to bond and understand one another better, as compared to the few hours we spend at a cell meeting. Working together to prepare food, or play games really helps us realise how awesome and unique each person is and we learn to appreciate one another more.

CHERYL

THRILLING is the one word that I would take away from that exciting weekend. A complex combination of funny, serious, and playful characters made everything great. Fun games to scrumptious food to prayer sums up a wonderful time spent together. This reminds me that God is with us personally and also with us collectively, as His people. We are traveling together on this journey, sharing its joy and bearing each other’s burdens through prayer. I believe this has made an impact on everyone as we came together on this great escape.

KIMBERLEY

It was truly a fun-filled and spirit-filled 2-Day CG advance. Everyone participated so harmoniously as a team, from the



Our First CG ADVANCE

barbeque to out-of-the-box games! It was a divine personal time as well, to calm our hearts to hear God. Definitely looking forward to the journey ahead together in Christ!

EDDIE

CG Advance has been a remarkable experience. It was a joyful weekend together knowing we were fellowshiping in the presence of our Father through games, chatter, cooking, worship and sharing. I personally felt the closeness as a CG family and was grateful that we could connect with one another well. The memories will definitely retain a soft spot in my heart and I am looking forward to more fellowship together.

TSE NEE

A cell group retreat that was well planned and structured. Full of fun, relationship-building, biblical learning and leadership training. I had a fruitful weekend with tons of joy.



JOSEPH

It was a great getaway from the hustle and bustle of a busy life, especially during the long quiet time. I could really feel God's presence and how God talked to me through His Word was so powerful.

KENNY

The CG retreat was a powerful, spiritually-filled outing. There were sessions of worship, pause and ponder, and games that helped us all to come closer to Him. We also experienced a greater sense of togetherness as a CG. Through His divine intervention, it was full attendance!

KUN YONG

As I have just started my career, most of my time has been spent serving the company and rest time has become less. I was grateful to see that all CG members attended this retreat. I enjoyed playing 'escape room', solving a treasure hunt, singing worship songs, indulging in a barbeque and sharing ideas with other CG members. Moreover, it allowed me to relax while having an awesome time with my CG family.

ZACH

I am very glad I made time to join this CG retreat. God showed me once again that life is not just about work and routine but it is more about taking rest in Him (Matthew 11:28) and constantly remaining in Him (John 15:4). I thank God for this CG family because it is through the fellowship that we have that we have learned how to serve and love one another like how Christ has loved us. All these give me hope and assurance that indeed God is with us. I praise You my God, my King, Emmanuel.

JODELLE

I am glad that I joined this wonderful retreat with my dearest CG family. I got to leave aside chaos from the world to get closer to God. The prayer-walk got me to meditate purely on God's Word. During the walk, I started to appreciate nature more. It is amazing that





our Lord created such a beautiful place for His beloved people. I felt the absolute peace and love that only God can give. The world might be evil but our Lord is always good. Praise the Lord!

KAR SENG

I made it to the CG Advance by God's grace. It was truly a much-needed spiritual, emotional and physical retreat for me. God spoke to me and I was able to listen when I quietened down. God calmed me amidst my stressful work environment. I learned to appreciate every moment ahead knowing that God is in control of everything. The atmosphere was good. We had such a wonderful time as a spiritual family and I look forward to another retreat together.

DAVID

Our very first CG Advance has been filled with a lot of memories, for not only were we physically nourished but spiritually too. We were reminded of the importance of cell group as the body of Christ where we can exercise our spiritual gifts that God has given us to serve others, grow together and build one another for GOD's kingdom.

ANGELINE

As the CG leader, I was filled with so much joy and thankfulness to have all our CG members come together for our first CG Advance. I was amazed to see how everyone could just work as a team to serve, lead, share, play, pray and support one another so spontaneously and wonderfully. This is truly an ideal spiritual family reunion. All praise and thanksgiving be unto our Lord Jesus who binds us together in His love and with one another. Amen!



A 'BITE' INTO REALITY

by Kaylene Lim, 13 years old, PJN3

On 9 August this year, our CG (fourteen of us in total) went on a five-day trip to Cambodia. This was my first overseas trip with a “mission” and I was rather nervous, not knowing what to expect of the trip. I went with my mom who had been to Cambodia 17 years ago, and she warned me about how hot it was, how dusty, and more importantly how poor the Cambodians were. The main goal for our trip would be to do dental hygiene work with Cambodian children.

On the day we arrived, we went almost immediately to teach at a school on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. I felt very apprehensive initially as I would be teaching one class there, and I was worried that the kids would neither respond well nor like me. Once we reached the Prey Key Church Pre-School, I did not have much time to fret. The kids could not speak English, some could not even count! The whole CG participated. Aunty Swee Lin and Aunty Joan assisted me with my class of six young students. As the children practised writing numbers and played educational games with us, the class went like clockwork. It was hot, but I did not even bother. Everything was going so well that God had to be present!



After the lessons, we taught them proper dental hygiene skills. Aunty Chern Chern and Uncle Yew On, who are both dentists, showed us how to paint their teeth with fluoride. Their teeth were in an awful condition, with deep cavities and decayed molars. It was my first realisation of how poor these Cambodians were – some did not even own a toothbrush. As I painted each tooth, I quietly prayed that the fluoride would help and that their teeth would heal.



Before the trip, I was asked to prepare my testimony to be shared with the children and teens there. Mommy told me to consider sharing honestly about a time when I struggled hard to obey God, and how God taught me obedience. I finally chose to share an embarrassing story about how I had copied answers and cheated at my Mathematics lessons for months when I was eight years old. Copying and cheating were much easier than actually learning and working on my Mathematics exercises - until the day I got caught red-handed! Not only had I been lying to God and everyone, but my Mathematics foundation had become shallow and shaky! In my testimony, I shared two Bible verses that convicted my heart: Psalm 34:13 – “keep your lips from telling lies”, and Psalm 5:6 – “God destroys those who tell lies”. My cheating was akin to the foolish man building his house on sand from Matthew 7:24-27. Our hope was to challenge the children/students in Cambodia to live like the wise man – to choose obedience to God, even when it is the harder option.

I did my best sharing my testimony, but I really did not think that it was powerful or life-changing. However, after I had shared with some campus students, I was surprised that they were really impacted by it. They thanked me for being honest and told me that my story “really touched my heart”. Their affirmation in turn touched my heart. God had used my cheating episode to bless and challenge others to build their lives on firm ground in obedience to God. I told Mommy that

Our hope was to challenge the children/ students in Cambodia to live like the wise man – to choose obedience to God, even when it is the harder option.

**It was now
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I never knew that God could or would use my cheating in such a powerful way. She later said that it was now 'God's Story'; meaning that it was no longer mine to hide, but God's to use.

I was pleasantly surprised that the Jesus Village Church we attended on Sunday sang greetings in all the South-East Asian languages: Khmer, English, Chinese, Thai, Malay and so on. This reminded me that God's church is multinational, and it was a beautiful way of welcoming anyone to the church regardless of race. They also sang worship songs with lyrics written in both Khmer and English so that we could all worship the Lord together. I could feel the Holy Spirit's presence in the church.

Later that day, we went to a different church, Prek Phnov Church, to perform dental work and to run the Children's Programme. This church is located in a particularly poor area. Some of the kids just wore shorts, and their teeth were in even worse condition than the Prey Key preschool kids. Some children only had two to three remaining permanent teeth left in their mouths! Still, it was a blessing to be able to provide them with a toothbrush each, to clean teeth for the afternoon, share basic dental hygiene knowledge and to apply fluoride. Aunty Yu Ming and Mommy role-played "The Wise and Foolish Men" and I shared my testimony again. Again, it did not feel like my testimony had much effect, but I believe that the Holy Spirit was working in their hearts. It was not too hot, despite the lack of fans. I enjoyed being with the kids and doing a craft activity with them. I was quietly horrified by the state of poverty that they lived in. Uncle Leroy said that when we prayed for the kids, he did not know what to pray for. What kind of life could they have? Still the kids were really happy and joyful. It taught me to remain thankful for what I had, as these people had barely anything, yet they were so teachable and joyful.



On Monday, we drove to Baray early in the morning, to Wisdom Nest School. We were amazed to see a really nice, well-kept school. We were concerned about time, because we had to complete dental work with 300 students before 11 a.m. We had to rush to set everything up after we arrived at around 9:30 a.m. Some of us applied toothpaste, some of us helped with the brushing. Some of us did the fluoride application. Some of us helped to organise the students into groups and lines. I could not believe it when suddenly, I found that we had completed everything at around 10:30am! It was truly a miracle of God that the fourteen of us worked so well and so fast together – like a well-oiled machine!



After the dental work at Wisdom Nest School, we got to meet Aunty Esther, a Malaysian missionary to Cambodia. We were privileged to hear her testimony of how she came to take root in Baray. What struck me was how human she was, not some mega-super-human, but an ordinary woman with giant faith in God. I learned that anyone can be a tool of God, if they would only trust in Him. At the same time, being able to spend five days with Aunty Chern Chern, Uncle Yew On and Niklas was a huge amazing blessing to me. The work that they have been doing (and continue to do) in Cambodia is so important!

This whole trip with our CG members has taught me many things. I feel much closer to God, having experienced Him in such a first-hand way. I also am much more thankful for the conveniences I enjoy day to day. Seeing how poor the conditions are in Cambodia has convicted me that complaining whenever our home water or power supply is cut off is just being terribly ungrateful. I believe that this trip has also drawn us closer together as a CG, and I really want to go back to Cambodia again!

Knowing God

by Sarah Lye, PJS2

Have you ever thought that you knew God in your head but then you did not really know God's heart? All of us are actually guilty of that because we always think that we know God. But then when adverse circumstances hit us, we will just stumble and question God – how come He does not care for us? Or why did God let us go through challenging times? We doubt God when situations do not seem right to us. We should respond correctly by asking God this question: “Is there anything that You want me to learn from this, God?” This is because ultimately God's heart is that He desires the best for us.

There are several aspects of knowing God: His Word, His heart, His character and His will.


We will talk about knowing God's Word. We know that the Bible is God's Word. So when we spend more time reading the Bible, meditating on Scripture, spending countless hours studying the Bible, there is no doubt that we will know the Word of God. It is important to know the Word of God simply because the Bible is the instruction manual that God has given us so that we can live a meaningful and purposeful life. In Luke 4:4, Jesus answered “It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone’”. Psalm 119:105 states: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path.

When we know what the Bible says, we will treasure His Word in our heart. This will help us not do things that dishonour God. We will want to obey God instead of rebelling or sinning against God. Psalm 119:101 says: I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I may obey your word.

Reading or studying God's Word will open the door for us to know God's heart. The Bible reveals God's heart. His heart is for the people that He loves. His heart is also for the widow, the stranger and the poor. Zechariah 7:10 says: Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other. God desires us to stand up for the widow, the poor and the strangers in our midst. God's heart is also for the lost. That is the purpose of the gospel – to save the lost, like what Luke 19:10 says, “For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost”. The lost here refers to people who have not heard the name of Jesus or trusted Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. So wherever we are, we should humbly ask God to give us the boldness and courage to share about Jesus with the people around us especially when we know that they have yet to become believers. We also need to pray for opportunities to share the gospel with pre-believers.

God is so rich in His character. He is so full of love. He is also kind, gentle, patient and faithful. He always understands our situations and desires the best for us. When we know God's character, we will also want to be like Him. We choose to be like God so that we can be a vessel for Him to use. We want to be like Christ so that we can be a good testimony.

When we know God's heart, we will also know God's will or purpose for our life. We know God's will by seeking Him earnestly, by spending time with Him and listening to what He says to us. He will show us His will when we seek Him with all of our heart, as stated in Isaiah 55:6 “Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is



“Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.”

near” and in Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”. When we know the will of God, we will desire to follow His will just as King David did in Acts 13:22 “God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’ David did everything God told him to do. He was obedient to the will of God.

God desires to reveal His purpose or will for our life. He wants to guide us and lead us in all the circumstances of our life. He longs to navigate our paths as we put our trust in Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight”. Psalm 32:7,8 continues by saying “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you”.

In short, when we desire to know God, we will know God in all the different areas of our life as He reveals Himself to us progressively. So let us be encouraged to draw near to God as Scripture says in James 4:8 “Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded”. Remember not to give up asking and seeking the Lord for God promises in His Word that you will not be turned away. Instead you will find Him. “So I say to you, “Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” (Luke 11:9-10).



Born Again

by Ian Ong, PJN2

I was like a small boat in a **stormy sea**;
Carried by the waves **without direction
and purpose**;

Lost in the midst of a storm,
waiting for my fate;
Even in **desperation** and **destitute**,
HE was far from my mind.

HE kept on calling my name when
I deserve only HIS **wrath**;
HE left HIS ninety nine sheep to save me,
the one **lost sheep**;
HE spoke to me in that **still small voice**
and it grew into a loud cry;
HE **carried me** on HIS shoulder and
promised me **a hope and a future**.

HE showed me **unconditional love and grace**;
HE **loves me so** and HIS ONLY Son **FREELY** gave
HIMSELF for me;
HE gave me **salvation** and **redeemed** my life through HIM;
HE **forgave me** of all my sinful ways and **restored me**.

HE became my **trusted friend**;
HE became my **advocate** and **counsellor**;
HE **taught** me all things and **reminded** me of
everything HE had said;
HE gave me **unmerited favour** enabling me
to **bear much fruit**.

Through every **stronghold**, HE set me **FREE** and
taught me to **LOVE**;
Through every **trial and tribulation**, HE moulded
my character and gave me **HOPE**;
Through every **failure**, HE showed me **treasures in the
darkness** and built my **FAITH**;
Through it all, HE became my tower of **strength and refuge**
as HE brought forth **victory** after **victory**.

HIS **Commandments** kept me from being derailed;
HIS **Great Commission** and **Will** became
my Life driven purpose;
HIS **True and Faithful LOVE** kept me near HIM;
HIS **Gift of Eternal Life** is reason enough to
abide in HIM always.

I am proud to call HIM, **Abba, Father**;
I am honoured to be **adopted as HIS child**;
I am humbled to be **co-heir with HIS Son**;
I am BORN AGAIN in Christ!

Hallelujah! Amen!





ENVIRONMENTALISM

Impacting Others: A Brief Look Into Creation Care

by Alex Tung, PJN1

WHAT IS CREATION CARE?

In essence, the term “creation care” is a Christian concept which advocates for Christians to care for the environment. The term is coined out of a conviction that as stewards of God’s creation, we have been tasked with the responsibility to care for and manage all His creations such that all creation can continue to draw resources from it.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.**”

Genesis 1:26

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**”

Genesis 1:28

Nonetheless, as much as we are called to be stewards of His creations, we are also told that this earth will not last for eternity – the Bible tells of how this earth will eventually perish in order to make way for a new earth. The challenge then is in balancing the pursuit of environmentalism so that mankind and the environment can mutually co-exist sustainably whilst acknowledging that God’s grand plan for this earth means for it to be eventually replaced with a new earth.

Therein lies the subtle, yet fundamental, difference between creation care and bare environmentalism. Whilst outwardly both may support going green, creation care takes its view of environmentalism from the reference point of a God-given mandate for stewardship – this is vastly different from bare environmentalism which seeks sustainability in order to protect and preserve the environment.

THIS EARTH IS NOT FOREVER

The story is told of a conversation between a travelling backpacker and a Rabbi. The Rabbi had invited the weary traveller into his home for a meal and upon entering the Rabbi’s home, the traveller was staggered to see that the Rabbi’s home was almost bare with only a few pieces of furniture and fittings. This prompted the traveller to ask the

Rabbi if this was truly his home and if it were, where all his furniture was. The Rabbi asked the traveller in return if the traveller had managed to pack all of his furniture into his backpack, to which the traveller answers “no, of course not – I am a traveller and am only here temporarily”. The Rabbi nodded and replied, “Well, so am I”.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; **the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies.**
Isaiah 51:6

Then I saw a **“new heaven and a new earth”**, for **the first heaven and the first earth had passed away**, and there was no longer any sea.
Revelation 21:1

Much like how Christians are called to live their lives investing into things of eternal worth, so we are also to treat the environment in equal measure. Regardless of how much we have invested into the things of this earth, our lives will surely come to pass one day – and on that day, it is not what we have invested into on earth that we will be able to bring along with us, but only what we have invested into His Heavenly Kingdom.

In that same light, regardless of how much we invest into and care for the environment, the day will come when God’s promise will be fulfilled and the earth will be destroyed in order to make way for a new earth. What sense does it make then to expend all our resources to preserve the environment that will eventually perish? Would it not be more expedient to invest into things that are of eternal worth i.e. the salvation of mankind’s souls?

THE GREAT COMMANDMENTS AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

Whilst granted that Christians are called to be stewards of the earth, the second greatest commandment Jesus left us with expressly calls for us to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. In addition, the Great Commission exhorts all Christians to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: **‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40

“Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Important as it may be to fulfil our responsibilities as stewards of God’s earth, our call to evangelism cannot be neglected. As such, our pursuit for environmentalism needs to be supplementary to our fulfilling Jesus’ commandments and commission to us – that pursuit cannot be tiered in priority to Jesus’ call for us to love our neighbours and to share the Gospel with them. Wastepaper and aluminium cans can (and should) be recycled, but the soul of man cannot.

CREATION CARE VS THE GREAT COMMISSION

I am not saying that Christians should not care for the environment. Rather, Christians (in their capacity as stewards of His creations) should indeed care for the environment – and they should do so passionately and faithfully. Drawing from one of the best known scriptures of John 3:16, it is interesting to note that the opening of its literature articulates God’s love for *the world* – neither humanity, not mankind nor any of His creations. It was because God so loved *the world* that He gave His one and only Son.

For God so loved **the world** that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Environmentalism that is borne out of the basis of love for our neighbours (see Matthew 22:36-40) is thus caring for the environment with the right purpose. The right motivation to pursue environmentalism needs to come from our love for one another and a genuine concern of how a damaged environment can impact others. Consider, for example, those who rely on the environment for their livelihood (farmers and fisherman, our *Orang Asli*, etc.) - it is such communities who are likely to be most impacted by environmental damage.



It would be hypocritical to (claim to) champion evangelism on one hand whilst blatantly damaging the environment on the other. If we are choking a child with smoke and smog, cutting off a family's food supply and livelihood or inflicting an expecting mother with health complications through our brash disregard of the environment, can we still in good conscience claim to love them sufficiently to share Christ with them? Loving and caring for the environment is a necessary by-product of our pursuit of evangelism; and the more we learn to love our neighbours, the more we will understand how our actions on the environment can have a negative impact on them.

ENVIRONMENTALISM, DONE RIGHT, IS CREATION CARE

The real question then is not whether a Christian should bother with environmentalism, but rather *why* a Christian should bother with environmentalism. As Christians, it should be a given that we need to care for and protect the environment. But that said, whilst there is nothing wrong for a Christian to “go green” or to reduce his carbon footprint, it is the motivation behind his efforts that needs assessment.

Although environmentalism cannot and should not be our top priority in fulfilling the Great Commission, a right approach to evangelism would nonetheless require the pursuit of creation care as an inevitable side project running in tandem. Our love for the environment must always stem first from our love for our neighbour and a genuine concern of how our stewardship of the environment would have an impact on them. That is the defining difference between bare environmentalism which Christians should avoid, and creation care which all Christians are called to.

**We cannot be all that God
wants us to be without
caring for the earth.¹**

- Rev. Rick Warren

God Has A PURPOSE

by Lynn Foo, PJN6

As the mother of an autistic 19-year-old son, Jackie has her own set of struggles and challenges. But before Jackie Ong came to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ, the Lord had already prepared the way ahead for her. In 2018, Jackie was slated to rent a shop lot in Old Klang Road to begin a new business – a convenience mart. However, at the last hour, she was told that the unit was unavailable. As a result of that, she had to source for another venue, which brought her to a shop lot that was a few doors away from the soon-to-be ready DUMC Puchong. Looking back, it was indeed God's divine hand as she reflects on how she then came to accept Christ in February 2019 after one of our DUMC members dropped by at her convenience mart.

From then on, she began encountering God in many ways. In June 2019, she was at a W2W session at Dream Centre when Pastor Jackie Mare from South Africa was preaching. During this session, she was prayed for and was told that she would be an intercessor. Her heart also longed for her son to be healed and she requested that Pastor Jackie pray for him as well. As Pastor Jackie prayed, she was asked if she liked teaching. She replied, yes, and that she was a pre-school teacher by training. Pastor Jackie prophesied that she would teach by using her experience as a mother of a special needs child. She was also reminded that the Lord had not forsaken her.

During the session, she also experienced the infilling of the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues. She felt much joy and comfort as she rested in the presence of God.

With this powerful encounter, she is now planning to use her convenience mart to reach out to other special needs children and their mothers. She intends to start a centre where these children can come and learn computer skills and have art classes. At the same time, the mothers to these children can gather together to support one another through prayer and sharing. Knowing that God shall be her Strength and Teacher, she continues to move ahead with a purpose, wanting to be a blessing to the community in the vicinity (Puchong) and beyond.

A
NEW
LIFE

by Angel Tashveer, PJN6

My name is Angel Ng Tashveer and my CG Leader is Lim Kah Hooi. We are in PJN6 under Pastor Gilbert.

I was born in a family which prayed to many Chinese deities, and I just followed. The subjects of God and love were all very obscure while I was growing up. We did not really talk about them, even though I had a lot of questions about certain rituals, but all were left unanswered. The home I grew up in was critically violent, and though my mom got the worst of it, the children (myself included) suffered much physical and emotional torment.

It was a long time ago, but it is still clear in my mind – not a day of peace and calm at home. There were lots of open wounds, deep-lasting scars and tears growing up. These experiences had negatively affected every aspect of my life, my growth and development.

I grew up believing that shouting, screaming or hitting were the only ways to get your message through to someone. I was rebellious at one phase of my adolescent years and that became my defence mechanism to protect me from my vulnerability to the world around me.

I was fourteen when I first heard the name “Jesus”. A nun in my school said to me, “Whatever you have in your heart, you can talk to that man on the cross; His name is Jesus.” Thereafter, I joined my school’s Christian Fellowship, and a classmate drew a diagram to explain to me where I was in relation to God in heaven, where Jesus and the Cross served as the “bridge”.

In the beginning, it all seemed too bizarre to me, as that was the first time someone actually explained my relationship with God. I did not know how powerful that Name was, but since then, strange things have started to unfold. Christian brothers and sisters started to “appear” in my circle of friends. You may not believe it, but my first Bible was a tiny pocket-sized given by a friend.

Whenever I turned the pages, and read the words, they gave me great comfort. It made me realise that there was hope, despite whatever predicament I was going through. I just knew then that this God was real, and I could read about Him.

The Lord Jesus has helped me to navigate my life. He has transformed me from being a failing student to become a scholarship holder who graduated *magna cum laude* (1st class honours), and that pretty much set the foundation of my professional life. He gave me the strength to forgive and taught me a lesson about “letting go”.

My relationship with my father actually got better after that. I am still praying for my family, that one day Christ will touch them too. My heart is filled with His infinite peace and love which overflow at times!

One thing for sure, since encountering Christ, my way of looking at things has definitely become different; things that I once was blind to, now I see. I always sense God’s presence by my side, and I know I have been watched over all this time. Although I still mess up big time, many times, He is there to call me back — always.

My walk with Jesus has never been a smooth one, but as I grow older, I now understand the walk was never meant to be smooth, but rather a fulfilling one. With the Lord’s blessings, my education and businesses have taken me all over the world.

I had every reason not to do well in life growing up in that abusive and dysfunctional environment and all the obstacles along the way, but when I stop and look around me now, I am amazed to see how blessed I am! And it is all to the glory of His name, the name above all names.

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Our purpose is to build passionate
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