

The Girls' Brigade - New Beginnings

By Chia Gaik Bee

THE LEGACY OF THE GIRLS' BRIGADE IN PSPC

In 2025, the Girls' Brigade (GB) in PSPC enters a new chapter with the establishment of the 8th Company in Yusof Ishak Secondary School, 75 years after the 7th Company was first started in PSPC.

The story of the Girls' Brigade (GB) in PSPC began in 1950, 20 years after the founding of the Boys' Brigade 1st Company. Through the ministry of the Girls' Brigade, many girls came to Christ, some becoming active members of PSPC, and some going on to serve in other churches and leading other GB Companies. Over the years it has experienced ups and downs, going into recess on two occasions, but through God's faithfulness and that of PSPC members, the GB ministry has continued. Here are some of the milestones of the journey.



1950 - The 7th Company Girls' Life Brigade was formed under Mrs Lily Chiam and Mrs Quek Khye Kee. The pioneer group of 12 Girls comprised Gloria Ho, Lau Mui Lee, Lau Lee Leng, Harriet Lee, Rosalind Lee, Lily Nai, Jenny Nai, Celine Seenivasan, Merlin Seenivasan, Girlie Tan, Lily Tan and Tan Pek Choo. Lau Mui Lee and Girlie Tan later went on to become Elders of PSPC and several of them are still worshipping at PSPC today.

1964 - The name of the organisation was changed to Girls' Brigade, when the Girls' Life Brigade in England, the Girls' Guidry in Scotland and the Girls Brigade in Ireland, amalgamated as a single organisation.



1980s - the Company moved from being church-based to school-based, beginning with Christ Church Secondary School.

1993 - The Company went into recess, due to dwindling enrolment.

1996 - The Company was re-established at Pioneer Secondary School, along with the Boys' Brigade 1st Company. There were challenges from 2005 to 2007 when CCAs had to take place on weekdays instead of Saturdays, as most volunteers were not able to serve on weekdays. Thankfully, in 2007, the GB was permitted to operate on Saturdays again.

2016 - The 7th Company celebrated its 20th anniversary at Pioneer Secondary School. PSPC also started the Girls' Brigade 88th Company at Pioneer Primary School with 41 Girls. This was in conjunction with the establishment of the BB 1st Junior Company at Pioneer Primary School in 2015.



(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1)



2017 - The 7th Company moved to Boon Lay Secondary School when Pioneer Secondary School merged with it. It went into recess in 2017 while the Girls, through the approval of the Principal, joined Westwood Secondary to finish their curriculum until they graduated.

2022 - The 88th Company at Pioneer Primary School was closed due to the impending merger with Juying Primary School.

2023 - PSPC took over the GB Company at Westwood Secondary School, and renamed it the 7th Company.

2025 - The 8th Company begins at Yusof Ishak Secondary School, joining the Boys' Brigade 1st Company.



A Personal Note

A Spiritual Year in Review: Reflect, Renew, Rejoice

The year is coming to an end. Students have received report cards. Employees have had annual performance appraisal reviews. In addition to determining a grade, they also highlight what was done well and areas for improvement. Performance appraisals are also a time when feedback is given. It may at times be encouraging and at other times painful, but considered carefully and acted upon, it can help us to learn and grow.

What would an annual performance appraisal look like from a spiritual lens? Is it right to examine our spiritual life in this manner? The Bible tells us that we will be held to account for what we have done or not done. For work appraisals, the performance would be measured against the goals set at the beginning of the year or core competencies. What were my resolutions or targets? Did I set any? (For next year, I will attempt to read the entire Bible. Ask me in a year's time!)

What do we measure ourselves against? One yardstick could be the Fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Do those around us see growth in these qualities as we navigate the challenges of our daily lives or respond to difficult circumstances? It can be scary to seek feedback because it exposes our blind spots, or we may be told things that we don't want to hear or want to act upon.

What would a spiritual appraisal look like from a learning and development perspective? This year, the sermon series and Bible studies covered the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the books of Haggai, Malachi and Hebrews. What do we remember of what we heard and studied? What were the key lessons learnt? What did we apply or put into practice? For me, what remains at the end of the year (sorry, Pastor!) are: that God has given us gifts. Use them in love to serve others. Build God's house. Do not take God's grace and mercy lightly. Live a life worthy of our calling. Unfortunately, what I know in my head has not always translated to what I hold in my heart or do with my hands.

Praise the Lord that Christ has done for us what we could not do for ourselves, atoning for our sins and reconciling us to God. Not only that, though we continue to sin, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live in Him and for Him. "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Jude 1:24-25

Blessed Christmas!

Chia Gaik Bee

DECEMBER 2024

Do you have any feedback on *The Messenger*? Do let us know at pspcmessenger@gmail.com

the team **Editor** ~ Chia Gaik Bee • **Writers** ~ Ng Keng Gene, Lewis Tham, Adeline Fam, Lim Sook Fun and Noah Tan • **Sub-editors** ~ Debbie Chai, Dorothy Tan and Wang Su Chen • **Elder-in-Charge** ~ Elder Long Seh Wei • **Art Direction** ~ Serena Lim • **Coordinator** ~ Choo Wai How • **Printing Co-ordination** ~ First Step Communications

The Captain's Reflections

By Ng Keng Gene

Despite having more than a decade of service in the Girls' Brigade Singapore (GB) under her belt, Jess Goh's next assignment in the ministry is a little unnerving for her. In 2025, Jess – or Ma'am Jess, as she is known to the girls – will prepare to relinquish her leadership of the GB's 7th Singapore Company at Westwood Secondary School to establish the 8th Singapore Company in Yusof Ishak Secondary School. After a period of transition, Jess will hand over the captaincy of the 7th Company to Sharin Huang, who was formerly a GB Girl at Pioneer Secondary School.

Although the new company's opening is an answer to the prayers of ministry volunteers, including Jess, the task of building a new company from scratch is one that she has faced with some reservations. Jess joined PSPC's GB ministry in 2010, when the 7th Company was operating in Pioneer Secondary School. After the 7th Company's 20th anniversary with Pioneer Secondary School in 2017, it went into recess, following Pioneer's merger with Boon Lay Secondary School.



As PSPC had operated its BB and GB companies in Jurong West for 20 years, church volunteers had been praying for an opportunity to continue their work in the area. One possibility that emerged was bringing the 1st BB and 7th GB companies to Yusof Ishak Secondary School, which was still located in Bukit Batok when the Pioneer companies were closed. PSPC's "pursuit" of Yusof Ishak led the BB and GB teams from the West to the North-East, as the secondary school was moved to Punggol in 2022.

God opened the door, and PSPC was invited to start the BB 1st Singapore Company at Yusof Ishak Secondary School in January 2023. However, as a newly-relocated school with a small intake, there was no opening yet for the GB 7th Company. Instead, there was another door that opened for GB. In 2023, PSPC took over the sponsorship and operations of a GB company in Westwood Secondary School in Jurong West. The



company, which took the 7th Company's name, will only have three Sec 2s and seven Sec 4s next year who will step down from GB come April 2025. Jess is hoping that at

least five girls from the forthcoming 2025 Secondary One batch will join the company next year to keep it going. The 7th Company has six regular volunteers, including Jess, which allows them to comfortably care for about 60 girls, based on a 1:10 officer-to-girls set by the GB Headquarters.

"We still had hopes of starting a GB company in Yusof Ishak Secondary School," said Jess, who added that the door, however, seemed to be closed, as the church did not hear from Yusof Ishak Secondary School by July 2024 – the usual time frame for the school to make a decision. However, in September 2024, PSPC was invited to start a GB company in the school. "That is something that we have been praying for, that the door will be opened to continue the work of the Girls' Brigade," said Jess.

While thankful for answered prayers, Jess knows the road ahead is unlikely to be straightforward. "I'm 56, and I'm not young anymore," she said. "It has been difficult for me ever since we started serving in Westwood because girls are quite different these days," Jess said; that compared to 14 years ago, when she first joined the ministry, she now feels more acutely the generation gap between herself and the girls. She added that communicating with teenagers has also become challenging, as many spend significant time on social media, which affects how they approach interpersonal relationships and build community. "I've been pretty resistant because I don't know whether I have the energy – it's been quite tough. I feel very tired working in Westwood, even with so few girls," she said, citing instances when it was difficult to connect with and motivate the girls. "So I was pretty reluctant when it was confirmed that I would have to go. When it was not confirmed, I was asking God if I could remain with the 7th instead of starting afresh."

But in a conversation with God, Jess felt like she was "told off" by Him. "God has been telling me, 'I can send anybody. It's not that I really need your help, but this is an opportunity for you to journey with me and reach out to girls. Are you willing to journey with me?'" she said.

"Through this dialogue, I have come to accept that this is God's plan for me in this season of my life." She added: "I know He has already paved the way; He has told me that I just need to obey and that He will provide."

As she looks ahead to starting the 8th Company in 2025, Jess has already experienced God's provision in the form of new volunteers who stepped forward to help run weekly parades.

"We never expected so many helpers to come forward – that's something amazing," she said.

"That said, we're starting anew. I have to think of how to motivate the girls and also train the new volunteers, so there will be a lot of training and guiding, as well as trial and error," she said. "So the pressure is on."



Merry Christmas from the Philippines!

As we celebrate this season of joy and hope, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful and loving partnership with our family and ministry here in the Philippines. You have been God's instruments, empowering us to continue serving His kingdom as mission mobilizers—encouraging and challenging God's people in churches, seminaries, and Christian colleges to engage in missions as goers and senders.

Your prayers and generosity have made this journey possible, and we thank God for you. May this season fill your hearts and homes with the peace and joy of Christ, the Light of the World, who brings hope and salvation to all who believe. We pray that His blessings overflow in your lives and inspire you to continue being a blessing to others.

This Year's Ministry Highlights

- **Ariel** continues to preach and build relationships with pastors and workers across the Philippines, opening doors to share God's Word in their churches. He also participated in the Arise Mission Conferences held in various cities, mobilizing professionals and youth to commit their lives to Jesus and His mission.
- **Connie**, as SIM Philippines' Third Culture Kid Coordinator, provides guidance to families on adjustment challenges and educational options for their children. She also took on a new role as Community Services Coordinator at a local Christian college, where she mobilizes faculty, staff, students, and alumni to holistically serve marginalized communities.
- **Connie, with Ariel's support**, leads outreach efforts in partner communities, mobilizing faculty, staff, students, and alumni



to actively engage with these communities by sharing God's Word, teaching literacy, and addressing practical concerns such as health, environment, and livelihoods. One of our recent projects blessed 320 children across four communities with school supplies. These initiatives aim to inspire others to embrace missions and experience the joy of serving Christ by making a meaningful impact. We pray that the volunteers grow in faith and compassion and that the beneficiaries develop a personal relationship with Jesus.

Family Milestones

We are also celebrating God's faithfulness in our family:

- **Karin** graduated with her Master's in Counseling from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Cornerstone University, on 4 May – just five weeks after welcoming our granddaughter, Jayla. She now balances part-time counseling work with caring for her 9-month-old daughter.
- **Kara** earned her Fine Arts degree from Silliman University in May.
- **Kevin** is halfway through his studies at Moody Bible Institute, where he serves as president of the Missionary Children Organization. He is active in his church, occasionally preaching, and cherishes the diverse, multicultural community at Moody.



We are grateful for your unwavering support and prayers. **May God richly bless you and your loved ones this Christmas and in the coming year.**



With love and gratitude,
Ariel, Connie, and family



Letter from the Orrs

Dear PSPC Family,

You may remember that last autumn we moved to a first-floor apartment after living in a third-floor apartment for 12 years. We felt it was time to say goodbye to the 28 steps in the old place. We weren't having trouble climbing the stairs because playing pickleball twice a week keeps us



healthy and mobile, but we wanted to get into a home without stairs BEFORE stairs become a problem for either of us.

We really liked our previous apartment, so we thought it was not possible for us to enjoy another apartment as much. But we underestimated the generosity of our gracious God, for He has

given us an apartment that's even MORE convenient and comfortable. Just look at Ridge enjoying our new balcony, laden with our favorite flowers! And it's warmer than the previous apartment, as well. So now a year later, we're all settled in and hoping to stay here for many years to come. Thank you for your prayers for this move. This is a real gift from God and we will endeavor to minister from this home for the praise of His glory.

Our church here continues to be a source of strength and encouragement to us. Last year we asked you to pray for the pastor of the English congregation. In June, he and his wife decided that God was calling them to postpone their move to overseas missions and stay on as our pastor for another term of three years. And to make our joy even greater, God has just given the Mandarin congregation an additional pastor. So beginning in January



2025, the church will have three Chinese pastors, with a vision to send one of the three off to plant a new church sometime in the next two to three years. The Chinese congregation is growing faster than the English congregation, but we in the English congregation have been blessed with the joy of three weddings in the past year and the birth of a new baby in August and the anticipation of two more in December.

Our three weekly Zoom Bible studies continue to provide us with a host of opportunities to reach out to Chinese seekers and new believers. Now more than half of them are joining us from overseas where they have very little fellowship and times of corporate worship. We never tire of sharing God's Word with these eager hearts and praise God for a steady stream of introductions to

new contacts. And praise God for excellent wifi!

Empowered by your many prayers and gifts, we continue on here with joy and gratitude.



In His Love and Grace,
Ridge & Connie



Christmas Greetings from Chiang Mai!

By Koh Tse Yuen

It's winter here so that means slightly shorter but cooler and clear days – perfect weather!

Having been here for more than a year, I am grateful once again for the many blessings God has provided, the people he has brought into my life, and the opportunity to learn and see His hand at work.



English workshop in Hatyai

I was in Singapore for just over a week in July and I thank God for the opportunity to share with you and to meet many people. In the last few months, other than my usual English and science lessons, I went down to Hatyai to do a short

five-day English workshop with attendees from a number of churches in the area. We covered basic grammar and conversational language as well as some basic Christian terms in English, e.g. books and characters of the Bible.

In October, I attended the launch of the Isan (Northeastern Thai) Oral Bible Translation in Khon Kaen. It was interesting to meet so many Christians from a different part of Thailand and there was a great sense of joy, enthusiasm and unity at the meeting. Nevertheless, on the last day as we travelled to Udon Thani for a site visit and passed through many villages, I was reminded that this region is a vast area with very few Christians.

Around this time too, Chiang Mai was hit by two waves of floods, the second of which caused large amounts of damage and disruption. The area where I stay was thankfully completely unaffected; however, many places were flooded to waist level or higher and in the week after the flood, many of us spent several days helping friends and students to clean up their houses. It was quite tragic to see streets lined with destroyed clothes, appliances, mattresses and broken furniture.

Looking ahead to the new year, I have a few new projects including volunteering in a second government school and organising another run of the English workshop in Hatyai. I will also be organising an English Immersion programme for Wycliffe Thai as we did in May earlier this year. We hope to organise a study visit for Thai school teachers to come to Singapore. I do appreciate your prayers for wisdom in all this, and if anyone is interested to teach English short-term or in teaching or supporting any of these programmes, you can go to <https://www.wycliffe.sg/find-my-fit> or let the editor of The Messenger or me know!



After the flood, waist-high muddy imprints can be seen along the bushes





Greetings from the Chias in Sapporo, Japan!

Dear brothers and sisters in PSPC, thank you for all your prayers and support for us while we are in Japan. We miss you all so much! It is winter and where we are, temperatures drop to below zero and the snowfall can reach up to five metres. When we feel really cold we try to think of how hot it is in Singapore.

Besides the changes in weather we are also adapting to many other changes. Whilst we had been in Sapporo five years ago, many fellow missionaries whom we knew have since moved away or retired; we are assigned to a new church and the most significant difference is that we now have a child with us. Emma has been embracing her new life in Japan (the food, friends, and especially snow!) really well, but she does miss her family and friends back in Singapore and often talks about them. She remembers PSPC too! Emma will be going to school at the beginning of next year after she turns three. She is really excited and looking forward to making new friends there. Please pray for her transition especially as she has to adapt to a new language and culture while at school.



As for us, we have started our Bible language course and are improving our ability to talk about the Bible, pray, and preach in Japanese. We will both be sharing our testimony at the Hokkaido Bible Institute (HBI), a seminary in Sapporo, sometime next year. At times language learning is really fun and we enjoy conversations with our Japanese teachers. However, we do get discouraged when we feel that we are not making as much progress as we want or keep forgetting words or making mistakes in grammar. Please continue to lift us up in prayer that we will persevere when we feel tired and remember that the purpose of language learning is to reach the Japanese people with the love of Jesus Christ.

Finally, we hope that you will continue to pray not just for us but for the Japanese Christians and churches here. Christmas is a very precious time where it is easier to share the gospel with family and friends and invite them to church. To most Japanese people, Christmas is about parties, KFC, and Christmas lights. Most do not know anything about the birth of Jesus Christ and who He is. Please pray with us that the Japanese believers will be bold in bringing the gospel to those around them this Christmas season.

Blessed Christmas! May we all share the gift of Christ this season!



If you would like to receive regular updates from the Chia's about their ministry in Japan, please email shao.levene@gmail.com



God Reconciled the World to Himself

By Wulan

"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." 2 Cor 5:16-20.

Lately, after I had returned to the field after my home assignment, God brought to my attention what I had put aside and was reluctant to face or even do. I believe it is nice and wonderful if my ministry is just solely working with migrant workers; okay, I can have the addition of their family members into the picture, but that's all. I don't wish to have other additions that will cause discomfort or uneasiness and even headaches. But as I continue serving in this work, somehow God has helped me to consider the situation of the employers,

that is the local people, even as I reach out and serve the migrant workers.

Many migrant workers here are caring for the elderly or those who need someone to be with them almost all the time, either due to health reasons or conditions that have made them reliant on other people's assistance. These workers do not have it easy when they have to leave their family, hometown, and all things familiar to them, and to adjust to a new place, environment, language, social system, and a foreign family they are going to live with, to work for.

On the other hand, the employers who hire them do not have it easy either, letting a complete stranger stay with them; and if they have the choice, I don't think they would choose this. They also have to provide for her lodging and pay this stranger her salary.

Sometimes, the elderly person who employs the migrant worker has a complicated situation with her children. Sometimes, the migrant worker faces temptations and desires things from the fleeting beauty of the world and succumbs to it and ruins her life, dreams and hopes which she initially had for her family and herself.

I have known two migrant workers, one for four years or more, and the other for almost two months. Both decided to terminate their working contracts, after considering how they were not accepted but instead faced disappointment after disappointment of broken promises and neglect.

Listening to them and praying with these friends is certainly not easy. I can understand and feel their need to be accepted, to be treated as a person and for who they are, even though sometimes they might look like a country bumpkin or someone who is slow to understand but are still expected to be fluent in the local language.

Although the employer believes the migrant worker is well-treated, there is often much that is left unspoken between both parties, which causes misunderstandings.

As I reflected on and considered their situations, I realised that employers have issues too, be it family or societal pressures, even pressure from their culture or from themselves, especially if they are very mindful of 'face' and society's standards; that can be a recipe for failure and depression.

I realise, regardless of age, we are human and are sometimes reluctant to face our issues and bring it to the Lord, to learn and be changed by His grace, love and peace. Our human nature is to expect and want others to change, but not

ourselves. I realise sometimes we act like spoiled children, immature and looking for shortcuts.

This Christmas season, I would like to encourage you all from 2 Corinthians 5:16-20, which was written at the start of this article:

- we should no longer regard others from a worldly point of view;
- we are in Christ, we are a new creation, so we should be set apart for His use and to serve Him; and
- all this because God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ.

Let us consider Him who is rich but became poor so that we can be rich. The Son of God, who is God, who has everything with the Father and Spirit, was willing to become like us, human, born in a poor family, he humbled Himself to work to earn his meal, even to die for us so that we can receive what He has.

Let us not keep this truth, God's love and acceptance, to ourselves, but let us live it out in our daily lives.

May you all truly receive God's peace and be at peace in Christ!



By Rini. Translated by Chia Gaik Bee.

I am truly grateful for God's presence in our family's ministry for the last two years and eight months here.

During the eight months of serving as pastor, there have been many responsibilities that had to be carried out.

With the time that God gave us to serve the congregation here, we were allowed to slowly get to know their characters.

There are congregants who want to hear the Word of God and strive to do it, and there are those who just come to worship but don't want to do it yet.

There are also those who don't want to come to worship; they feel they don't need God. Moreover, these people often protest church activities.

There are also congregants who are involved in adultery, and some of them are serving as Elders.

There are youths who are in relationships with non-believers who end up getting pregnant out of wedlock.

I have given advice to the cases above, but they want to go their own way.

This is a challenge that I must face.

It is very sad to face all of this.

I am grateful that God continues to strengthen me.

Please pray:

1. That God will continue to strengthen me in serving them, that I never get tired of teaching them, believing that one day God will change their hearts.
2. That God will help me not to give up on this ministry. Sometimes I feel alone.
3. For the congregation, that they will experience growth in faith, fear God more and love God more.
4. For readiness of heart and body to go through the super busy ministry in December and January.
5. That Luki will love God more, and also that Karen can grow healthily and become a child who fears and glorifies God.
6. That we become a family that is pleasing in the eyes of God.





A Note from the USA



Praying Friends,

Blessed be the name of the Lord, for He has been gracious to us! We are filled with gratitude for your sweet prayers over Joshua's studies. By God's grace and mercy, he graduated on 13 December 2024 with a Bachelor's in Pastoral Studies. We couldn't have reached this milestone without your prayers and unwavering support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We are going to pack and move out of the school's campus. I will write again soon with more updates.

May this Advent season bring hope, and may His peace reign in your hearts, filling you with joy!



With love and gratitude,
Joshua, Mary, Joel & Ellis

Faith in the Marketplace

By Lewis Tham

You are definitely not alone when it comes to having stress in the workplace. As a Christian, facing situations that test your faith – be it backstabbing, burnout or even discrimination – can feel particularly challenging. Navigating these moments with integrity often places believers in a unique and sometimes difficult position.

Being a Christian, you pledge to do what is right in the eyes of God. Your actions and thought processes may differ greatly from those of your non-believing colleagues and superiors, putting you in a tight spot.

For example, as an auditor, you might be coerced into falsifying entries or, as a manager, to cover up for a dishonest but well-performing employee. With the possibility of risking your job in order to maintain integrity, what would you do in this watershed moment of your life?

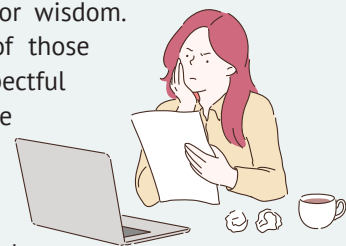
Faith in the Marketplace, an initiative by the Yacht Ministry, aims to be an informal discussion that allows people of all ages, positions and sectors to get a clearer perspective of their faith in the workplace. Previously targeted at young adults, the pastoral team saw value in opening it up to the Church, seeing as how not only young adults preparing to enter the workplace will face difficulties that test their faith.

This year, on 31 August 2024, Faith in the Marketplace took place in the Upper Room, with panellists Julian Ong, Evelyn Ng and Sean Wat sharing their experiences dealing with workplace misfortunes. Though their experiences were varied and brimming with nuggets of information, much helpful counsel also originated from the attendees, with many sharing their own personal experiences and tests of their faith.

A particularly memorable point shared by a panellist was that "honesty and accountability are at the heart of your faith". When pressured to compromise one's integrity, "First, take a step back and pray for wisdom. Seek to understand the motives of those involved – sometimes open, respectful conversations can reveal alternative ways to solve the issue without compromising our beliefs."

Another point stated was taken from Romans 12 where God, through Paul, reminded the community of believers worshipping in Rome that revenge was not for one's taking. "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.' Says the Lord." A panellist shared that when emotions cloud judgment in times of unjust suffering, God's Word enables clarity.

Faith in the Marketplace will continue to take place next year and seeks to be an annual event dedicated to encouraging and strengthening Christians through personal experience, advice and God's Word. This August, the session concluded with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall, with discussions in smaller groups. This allowed for a safe and personal environment for attendees to share and listen to others and to gain strength to face the demands of their faith in the workplace.



Catching Up with Rev Peter Chan

By Lim Sook Fun

Rev Peter Chan is currently the Executive Secretary for Ministry for The Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS). He was the Acting Senior Minister in our church between mid-2010 and 2012. From 2013 till July 2023, he was the Senior Minister of Bethany Presbyterian Church English Congregation. He was concurrently the interim Senior Pastor at All Saints Presbyterian Church from 2018-2022. With such a wealth of experience, it is indeed a privilege to interview him for The Messenger(TM) and learn about his ministry.

TM: How many portfolios are there in the Synod?

There are six ministry portfolios in the Synod – missions, youth, education, women, presbyterian care network, and the Asian Institute of Calvin Studies (AICS). Initially, Rev Dr Fion Sin was the Executive Secretary (ES) for Ministry. A need arose to hire another ES to share the load, including administrative aspects. Hence, two of us serve in three ministries each.

TM: Share with us your current role as ES, which involves three ministries – the Ministry for Youth, Education, and Missions.

My role as ES is dependent on the chairperson of each Ministry. Each has a different working style and preference. For example, when writing the Minutes for meetings, although part of my administrative support includes this, the Synod Youth Council chairperson prefers to rotate this duty among members. In contrast, in the arena of Education and Missions, I am expected to write our meetings' Minutes as well as draft the correspondence. Another task for me is starting the Presbyterian Educators' Network (PEN) and the Chaplaincy Fellowship.

TM: Please elaborate on the PEN and the Chaplaincy Fellowship. I understand that Rev Darryl's wife, Angeline Chan, a principal, shared under the PEN fellowship?

Yes, she did. PEN is an initiative that brings together and engages educators in our Presbyterian churches to fulfil our vocation. The Chaplaincy Fellowship provides an opportunity for chaplains in our Presbyterian schools to share, support and pray together. This Fellowship is an exchange of experiences and networking. Together with the Presbyterian Education Council (PEC) Chair, we meet up with our schools' principals for fellowship, seeking to encourage them in their work and, hence, enhancing connections.

TM: Would you like to share about recent, if any, overseas trips for the ministry?

I went to Cambodia in May 2024. It was my first time there. I was asked to spend four days with the pastors and their families. I spoke on marriage and family within the biblical context. We were grateful for the pastors' hospitality. Some of them were preaching in remote areas, which was definitely a big challenge.

TM: What is the background of pioneering church planting in Cambodia?

Three churches in Singapore – Chen Li, Amazing Grace, and People's – planted the seeds in Cambodia. Now, we have sixteen churches and preaching stations scattered across six provinces. In October 2025, we will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Cambodia (PCC). We are excited about what God is doing, paving the path for the Gospel to be preached faithfully and diligently in Cambodia. On 14-17 November this year, Rev Phua Chee Seng, Chairperson of Synod Missions Council (SMC), led us, together with a team from SMC, to revisit Cambodia and propose a plan to be presented to the Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PCS), thus furthering our mission there through the Presbyterian Church in Cambodia (PCC).

TM: What are the programmes in the Synod Youth Council (SYC)? How are the programmes working out?

In SYC, we have two major training programmes – the Synod Youth Internship Programme (SYIP) for youths in January and the Synod Training & Exposure Programme (STEP) for young adults in May. Moreover, we have the annual NexGen Talk event in December which is a precursor to the SYIP. These programmes include a lot of administration, logistical planning, and physical presence with the participants.

TM: Who usually gives talks to the youths?

The talks are given mostly by our TTC lecturers and Pastors. If they need me to arrange, I will provide logistics support. In the future, they might use the Synod office where we have a larger conference room and increased seating for 200 people in the new auditorium.

TM: The Helping Hands (THH) is a Christian halfway house that supports the Singapore Prison Services in rehabilitating drug offenders. Share with us about your work there.

As one of the counsellors, I come alongside THH residents for fortnightly counselling sessions. Most residents are looking forward to breaking their drug addiction, and aiming for a better future for themselves, so they are working towards this objective.

TM: Share an example of your counselling sessions at THH?

I was talking to someone about his struggle with drug allurements. I shared with him about Joseph's temptation in Genesis 39, how, although he had resisted several seductive temptations, nonetheless, he was unjustly thrown into prison. While there, God's grace was with him, for our Lord granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warden.

TM: How are you involved in the FILOS Community Services that is located in Chai Chee?

I help out with the elderly services that promote physical and mental wellness among the older folk. This centre

(Continued on Page 10)

(Continued from Page 9)

supports people who have mental health issues and shows them how they can live and age well in the community.

TM: Please tell us about the Connecting Ministry that you are also involved in.

We provide a safe space for Christian singles (first within EP, then others) to meet and make new friends and plan and organise programmes and activities for such opportunities.

TM: At Bethany Presbyterian Church English Congregation (BPCEC), where you were a Senior Pastor between 2013–2023, what were some challenges you faced?

Every church has challenges unique to its situations. BPCEC is a much smaller congregation than PSPC. One of the biggest challenges had to do with finding guest speakers. I was preaching two or three times a month, so I was not looking for many guest speakers. When I was planning the pulpit programme in PSPC, I had no problem finding guest speakers. But when I was planning it for Toong Chai and Bethany, I faced many difficulties.

TM: You completed your Master of Counselling degree in November. How does the completion of this course enhance your ministry?

In my 31 years of pastoral ministry, somehow, God has been blessing me with strengths in preaching, teaching, and counselling. Interestingly, I found myself being involved in a lot of individual and couple counselling sessions. Having been involved in marriage counselling, I'm convinced about the need for adequate premarital counselling. That explains why I require a couple to have eight lessons with me plus one family-of-origin session.

It took me one year to arrive at the decision to do the Master of Counselling. First, it involved a lot of money. Second, it involved a lot of time, especially the practicum hours. Third, I had to answer to myself why I was doing this since I've been doing a lot of pastoral counselling for so many years. Pastoral counselling is conducted in a religious context and within a religious approach. Of course, it is also undergirded by counselling psychology, as well as theology. Master of Counselling has widened my knowledge and deepened my skills in counselling in a larger context to benefit a broader community.

TM: Many of us know you and your family as far back as ten years ago. How are Diana, your wife, and your three sons?

Well, thankfully, we are still a family of five members by God's mercy and grace! Diana went through different seasons of caring for her parents, who were sick, and for my mum when she had major surgery. She stopped giving private tuition after she had trouble with her eyes. Though she is not working, she is actively co-leading a Praise Dance group in Punggol.

Joseph, our eldest, has been working since graduating from University slightly more than seven years ago. He works in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Jeremy, our second son, returned from his studies in Perth and started working as a physiotherapist in a polyclinic in May 2023. Both Joseph and Jeremy continue to worship at BPCEC. Jordan, our youngest boy, is completing his studies in Perth in physiotherapy.

All our boys are not married yet, though not available!

TM: How do you feel about returning to PSPC on Sundays?

There is no issue about returning to PSPC as a member/worshipper. My identity is not tied to my position and title. Ultimately, I'm a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ. Moreover, I'm a member of PSPC first and foremost, not because I'm a Senior Minister first and then a member. Finally, let me reiterate I'm back as a member and worshipper in the pew!

TM: What are your aspirations?

They say you know you are ageing when you start talking more about yesteryears than future years. So, I had better live out this principle of being forward-looking. I turned 61 a few months ago. I am not looking at retirement yet, at least not within the next few years. Lord willing, I hope to work till I am seventy. I hope my efforts to keep my body fit and healthy pay off.

My aspirations are more than just what I do but what I leave behind. I hope my children and those who come after them will continue in the faith and in our Lord Jesus Christ. Diana and I are not perfect parents, and we did not provide a perfect family environment. Yet, I trust that God will continue His work of grace in this family.

TM: What would you like to share with our readers?

Whether I'm serving as a pastor, staff in the Synod Office, or volunteer at Helping Hands or FILOS Community Services, I am still a child of God, disciple of Jesus, and servant of the Gospel, seeking to glorify God by serving humanity because of the grace of God in Jesus Christ!

Thank you so much for sharing with us, Peter.



(L-R): Jeremy, Peter, Diana, Jordan, Joseph

PSPC 181st Anniversary Service 2024

Photos by Alan Yeo



We Can't, But God Can!

By Helen Yeo

My husband Benjamin and I had the pleasure and privilege to have a nice chat with Mr See Ah Hwee, 72, and his spouse, Mdm Chua Poh Hoon, 60, just a week before they transferred their membership to PSPC three months ago. We were a bit anxious at first because we had to converse with them in Mandarin and Hokkien. But as we chatted, we were thankful that the Spirit led and guided us, and gave us the words that we needed. It turned out to be one of the most encouraging conversations we have had.

FAITH BEYOND INTELLECT

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:12

As Bukit Merah residents, the couple started participating in the activities at the Sarah Active Ageing Centre (SAAC) at



Bukit Merah more than 10 years ago. It was about four years ago that through PSPC's collaboration with SAAC, they started to attend our Mandarin service weekly.

When asked how they came to know Christ, Mr See shared that his mother was the first Christian in the family more than 40 years ago. Subsequently, Mrs See accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour while Mr See decided to follow Jesus thereafter. They were both baptised in their previous church. When the church had to close down due to reasons unknown to them, their pastor urged them to quickly look for another church to stay connected to a church community. During the transitory period, the couple depended on an audio Bible player to listen to the Word

(in Hokkien) and worship songs. In particular, Mrs See, who has been battling depression for a while now, enjoys singing worship songs to God. Mr See shared further that though they are both uneducated, they are somehow able to understand

(Continued on Page 12)



the audio sermons. They also often encourage each other to pray to Jesus, for by doing so, they experience peace and better sleep quality.

Listening to them, we could not help but feel so encouraged by their simple faith. They remind us that Jesus often chose the ordinary, the unrefined, and the uneducated to tell His story. None of their failings and inadequacies were obstacles to being called by Jesus, trained and used by Him. That applies to each of us, too. Putting our faith in Christ is not so much an issue of the intellect as it is a matter of the heart. It is a relationship that must be entered with humility and a surrendered heart.

GOD MAKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. ~ 1 John 5:4

When asked if they have experienced any personal breakthroughs in their faith journey, Mr See shared that he had been smoking since the age of 12, and just two years ago, he miraculously and successfully quit smoking for good! He strongly believes that God heard his persistent cry for help in this area and that it would not have been possible without His intervention. He is convinced that God can turn our situation around, however long we have been stuck in it, if we keep our eyes on God and His Word, and put our trust in Him. As he thanked and praised God for His limitless power and ability, we could see the sparkle of gratitude and joy of deliverance in his eyes.

GOD HELPS THEM TO MAKE RIGHT CHOICES AND DO RIGHT THINGS

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ~ Galatians 5:16

On how else God has helped them in their daily lives, Mrs See shared that she worries less now, knowing that she just has to pray to Jesus whenever she feels anxious or depressed again. Instead of focusing on her depression, she now chooses to trust in God's protection. Mr See added that when he is tempted now and then to go back to his old ways of gambling

and smoking, he would pray that the Holy Spirit helps him to resist and ignore it. He also learned to take things one day at a time, and leave everything to God. On his wife's health concerns, Mr See said he prays frequently for her to experience God's peace. Though they are not able to pray nicely composed prayers, he believes that God hears them and will help them.

Indeed, walking by the Spirit leads to the right decisions. We need to learn to abide in Christ and obey Him, trusting that His ways are always right. What a great reminder from Mr See!

SPEND MORE TIME WITH JESUS TO BECOME MORE LIKE HIM

And we all, with unveiled faces, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. ~ 2 Corinthians 3:18

Regarding what can help them grow spiritually, Mr See responded that they would want to spend more time with Jesus, for he believes that they will become more like Jesus when they spend more time with Him, hearing and learning from Him. When asked how that is so, he explained further that the people he spends the most time around will influence him the most. He shared that for this reason, he has decided not to walk too closely with some of his old non-believing friends anymore.

What a simple yet so profound truth! Spending time with Jesus is indeed so necessary to be rooted and one with Him. It exemplifies what following Jesus means. Even Jesus made it a point to spend time with the Father; will that not benefit us too?

LOOK FORWARD TO ATTENDING CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ~ Romans 15:7

Encouraged by their decision to transfer church membership to PSPC, we asked the couple what made them choose PSPC. Mrs See responded that she looks forward to coming to PSPC because she can experience Jesus here. Mr See added that he observes that Christians behave differently in a good way and he enjoys the fellowship here. They enjoy listening to the sermons too, as every week they are reminded to trust in Jesus, to pray unceasingly, and to not be afraid of anything. It is a place where they can find joy, peace and help.

It was hard not to be uplifted by the childlike faith of Mr and Mrs See as they spoke from their hearts. It is so heartwarming to know they have found a spiritual family here and have since been strengthened spiritually by the Word. May PSPC continue to be a church that welcomes and proclaims salvation to people from all walks of life through the faithful preaching of the Word.

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.” ~ Romans 10:17

Chinese Ministry: Mid-Autumn Festival By Joshua Wee

This year, the Chinese Ministry Mid-Autumn Festival Outreach event saw something out of the ordinary: among the usual grey and white heads were a few nervous young faces dressed in simple black attire to match their fully black hair. These were NAFA students in PSPC who shared their talents through music. Congregants and invited guests were treated to touching renditions of new and old songs as the students earnestly sang and played the piano and violin in accompaniment. One particular fan favourite was the classic 《月亮代表我的心》("The Moon Represents My Heart"), which had many in the crowd singing along. Besides Mandarin throwback hits, instrumental pieces and modern songs were also performed, appealing to audiences of diverse backgrounds.

Ironically, one song that stood out with a particularly relevant message was the last song you would expect to hear at such an event. "What Was I Made For?" by American singer Billie Eilish – a song from the Barbie movie, no less – asked an important question beyond the romance and the pretty vocals; it asked the exact question of the title. In an increasingly competitive world with rising costs of living, uncertain job prospects, climate change and other factors, more and more young people tend to just give up on life (the Chinese idea of 躺平) and wonder what exactly they were born for. Chinese Ministry seminary student, Samson Yu, addressed these issues with a timely sharing on Luke

5: 4-11, in which Jesus appeared to some fishermen on the shores of Galilee. In their former vocations, Simon and friends spent many long days out at sea trying to make ends meet in a job with uncertain and often frustrating yields, much like many of us do today. Jesus filled their nets with fish to show His credibility, then offered them a new vocation as fishers of men with a certain hope and reward in eternity. Samson also shared his own journey exploring different paths in life in search of something bigger to live for beyond simply living day by day for himself. We were challenged to think about the purpose behind our daily striving and whether it was for ourselves, for others, or for eternity. Finally, those who wanted more out of life than the world offers were called to respond in faith.

After the service and presentation of song items, attendees were treated to a delicious spread in the conference room, making new friends and catching up with old ones over lunch. I was personally encouraged to meet some fellow university students invited by Eld Alex Lee, and we talked about their experience moving to Singapore to study and what lay ahead after graduation. By bringing together such a diverse community to enjoy a shared festive occasion, the hope was for Christ's love to be made manifest through the community spirit and fellowship that are fundamental parts of the Mid-Autumn celebration.



当好消息来到我们身边

By Samson Yu 于宏恩

今年的圣诞布道是以路加福音1:26-55来思考“神的救恩如何临到卑微的人（马利亚），改变他们的生命，并将盼望带给全人类”为主线。三幕环环相扣：

第一幕：当好消息被宣告时，神的拣选让平凡的人成为恩典的器皿

天使告诉马利亚一个很大的好消息：“你要怀孕生子，起名叫耶稣。”这个孩子不是普通的孩子，祂是神的儿子，是将来要拯救人的救主。为什么神要找马利亚？她既不是什么有权有势的人，也没做过什么大事。其实答案很简单——因为这是神的恩典。神看重的，不是我们的身份、地位，而是我们的心是否愿意接纳祂。马利亚听了天使的话后，忍不住问了一句：“这怎么可能呢？我还没有成亲啊。”这不是她不相信，而是她真的不明白。这时天使解释说：“这是神的工作，圣灵会帮助你。”接着，天使还安慰她：“因为在神没有难成的事。”就好像我们的生活里也有许多让我们觉得“不可能”的事情。可神要告诉我们，祂有能力，也有计划。听完天使的话，马利亚虽然还不完全明白，但她顺服了。她说了一句很简单却很感人的话：“我是主的使女，情愿照你的话成就。”马利亚没有抗拒，也没有自夸，她只是用简单的信心接受了神的计划。

第二幕：当好消息被印证时，神的作为让人更加坚定

马利亚听了天使的话，心里虽然愿意顺服，但还是有些疑惑和不安。于是，她赶紧去找她的亲戚以利沙伯。马利亚走了很远的路，终于到了以利沙伯家。还没等她开口，以利沙伯就被圣灵感动，说了一句特别温暖的话：“你在妇女中是有福的，你所怀的胎也是有福的。”神借着以利沙伯，给了马利亚一个很大的安慰和鼓励。这让马利亚知道，她的选择没有错，神的计划正在一步步实现。这祝福的关键在于“相信”两个字。相信神的话，相信祂的应许，我们就会经历祂真实的作为，因为神的计划从来不会失败。

第三幕：当好消息被颂扬时，神的盼望改变世界

马利亚经历了天使的宣告、以利沙伯的祝福，她的心里充满了感恩，于是，她唱了一首特别美的歌。她说“我心尊主为大，我灵以神我的救主为乐。”为什么她会这么感恩？因为她发现，虽然她只是一个平凡人，但神却拣选了她，让她参与到祂伟大的计划中。

马利亚的歌声还提到：“神叫有权柄的失位，叫卑贱的升高；叫饥饿的得饱美食，叫富足的空手回去。”原来，马利亚清楚，神的救恩会带来翻转，让那些被忽视的人得安慰，让那些谦卑的人得高举。“神扶助了祂的仆人以色列，为要纪念祂的怜悯。”因为神的救恩不是偶然的，而是祂对全人类的应许。

邀请与结尾

亲爱的朋友们，今天这份救恩不仅是马利亚的故事，也是我们的故事。圣诞节的意义就在这里：神的救恩临到你和我，给我们带来永恒的盼望。马利亚面对神的计划，展现信心的顺服。以利沙伯见证神的信实，激励马利亚坚定信心靠。你又如何呢？



SAAC Christmas Chapel Service

By Michelle Chau

Philippians 2:3: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."

This year's Christmas celebration with the Mandarin SAAC (short for Sarah Active Ageing Centre) chapel service marked a good end to the full year of my time serving with this ministry for 2024. And I thank God for the surprise guest He used that day to remind me of biblical humility.

On 14 Dec 2024, our biggest turnout to date of 70 elderly in attendance was encouraging. The good news of Jesus's arrival in Luke 1: 26 - 55 was proclaimed to the elderly in an engaging variety of worship songs, bite-sized sermons and a quiz. For lunch, the team also specially prepared home-cooked Christmas meals for all.

At my lunch table, seated opposite me, was the bus driver uncle in charge of bringing the elderly from their Bukit Merah residences to church every third Saturday of the month for the SAAC chapel service, plus the first and second Sundays of the

month for the Chinese Sunday worship service. To my delight, it was Uncle's first time stepping into PSPC and attending the SAAC chapel service after all these years! Praise the Lord! Seated on my left was Uncle Havi, an elderly Eurasian who could not speak or understand Mandarin. He had injured his knee and moved into the Bukit Merah residences area not too long ago. I found out he is a Catholic and decided to visit the SAAC chapel service for Christmas celebrations, only to realise upon arrival that it was conducted in Mandarin. However, despite the language barrier, Uncle Havi shared that he still enjoyed it and that the morning festivities were a humbling experience for him.

When he said that, I felt strangely humbled. If a participating senior could experience such humility through the programme, how much more can a befriender like myself gain from it? What God has told me to do in Philippians 2:3, I know that Jesus will always have a greater lesson for me to learn and grow in my own humility.



BOYS' BRIGADE (BB) 1ST COMPANY

~ 4th Quarter Update



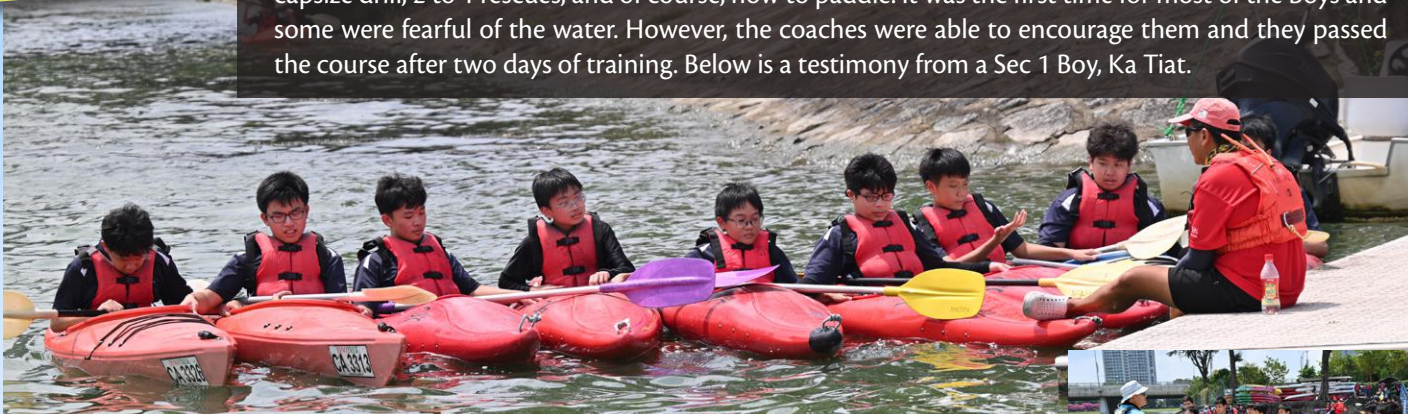
THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Ho Yew Keong
Captain
1st Singapore Company

The last semester of the year focused on Kayaking 1 Star and the year-end camp.

Kayaking 1 Star

We had our two-day Kayaking 1 Star certification course at Kallang Water Sports Centre during the September holidays. A total of 31 Boys passed the course. The compulsory module included capsize drill, 2 to 1 rescues, and of course, how to paddle. It was the first time for most of the Boys and some were fearful of the water. However, the coaches were able to encourage them and they passed the course after two days of training. Below is a testimony from a Sec 1 Boy, Ka Tiat.



"One interesting experience I had in BB was the 1 Star kayaking course. It taught me many life skills, like not giving up no matter the situation, and always learning from my mistakes. I also learned many important life-saving skills, like the capsize and rescue drills. These were interesting to me as I had not done them before, and it can help me in future if I go kayaking. I had to show resilience and perseverance at the start of the course as I could not manoeuvre the kayak well. The instructor gave me feedback that I needed to think before doing something, and

he even reprimanded me for not doing so. However it did not make me feel demoralised, instead I decided to learn from my mistakes and listen to the instructor's feedback. In the end I learned how to properly manoeuvre the kayak without it moving uncontrollably. Also, during the capsize drill, although I was scared, hesitant and fearful of capsizing the kayak, I knew I had to try it first so I could learn to ride the kayak safely. After trying it, I realised it was not so bad after all. So these are the reasons why I found the 1 Star kayaking course interesting and memorable."



Year-end camp



We ended the year with our two-day annual camp in church. We had a Heritage tour of Fort Canning conducted by Malcolm Tan, who impressed us by wearing a British Army Military Police uniform. He shared about Fort Canning as we walked around the park. We really appreciate Malcolm's efforts and insights.

At night, we were led by Sean Wat, Greg Tan, Kum Chuen, August and Zhi Wei on a walk around the neighbourhood to give a simple food pack to rough sleepers. The Boys were split into five groups and led by the volunteers and their squad officers. We were allowed to talk to the rough sleepers and learn more about them with the guidance of the volunteers. We thank the volunteers for spending the late night with us.



The second day was the final module for the Leadership Course on planning. Wei Chuan led the lesson on how to plan, and gave them a small assignment to plan as a squad.

The camp ended with sharing by some Boys. About 14 parents and family members were present. Rev Darryl, Chaplain of 1st Singapore Company, presented the rank to the Boys who were promoted to the next higher rank. We then took photos in front of the church, the first Company photos after a seven-year hiatus!



Do pray for the new Principal and the new Head of Department for Co-curricular Activities, as we continue the work in the BB 1st Coy and start the new GB Company in 2025.



BB GB YISS OPEN HOUSE



BB1J

~ 4th Quarter Update



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Pr Carol Ng
Acting Captain
1J Singapore Company

We are thankful for our four P5 Boys who have completed their Award lessons for the Silver and Red Colour Badges. The four of them – Zhao Da, Lim Jun Yu, Lim Jun An and Liao Yi Jie were awarded the Colour Badges and the Service Badges on 8 November 2024.



Our BB Officers and BB Teachers were proud to pin these badges on our P5 Boys. Indeed, it was an occasion to celebrate and rejoice with them on their journey in BB1J.

We are thankful that the P5 Boys have completed all the 6 Colour Badge work, and all the requirements for the Gold Award. As the school has stopped P1 registration since 2023 and there have been no BB recruits since then, due to the school moving to Tengah in 2026, the Company will stand down as we have fulfilled all the requirements of the Colour Badges and the Gold Award for the P5s. Thus, we wrapped up BB1J on 8 November as it was the last day for CCA in 2024.

Our five P6 BB Boys joined the four P5s on for a time of thanksgiving and farewell. Each Boy was presented with a personal photo collage of activities that they had participated in. Indeed, it was a moving and meaningful farewell and thanksgiving with photo collages as mementos for the Boys. They also reminisced about the good times, looking back on 2024 with photo slides and anecdotes of their days in BB.

We also had birthday celebrations with Boys whose birthdays are in November and presented farewell snack packs to all to mark the joyous occasion. The Teachers and Officers also shared their heartfelt wishes for all our Boys as we bade farewell to them. It is our hope that they will remember and treasure the knowledge, skills and lessons learnt and friendships made.

We are thankful for the support that the school has rendered to BB1J and Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC) in teaching many important life skills and shaping the Boys' characters through many of the activities and lessons. We also thank all our Officers – former and current – for all their hard work and love for the Boys all these years in BB1J at Pioneer Primary School.

It is our hope that our Boys would look back with fond and heartfelt memories and know the love of Jesus in their lives. We pray that we shall see them one day in PSPC.

God bless our Boys, BB teachers, Principal and all in Pioneer Primary School.





By Jess Goh
Captain
7th Company Girls' Brigade

Girls' Brigade (GB) 7th Company

~ 4th Quarter Update

Community Outreach Programme at Sarah Active Aging Centre (SAAC), 1 November 2024

On 1 November seven girls from GB 7th Company visited SAAC as part of their community project. The girls presented a song and interacted with the seniors through games and water-colour painting. It was the first time the Company had done such a project. Hence, it was rather stressful for both the Officers and the Girls. However, we were very encouraged by how the Girls managed to overcome their fears and had an enjoyable time with the seniors. Here are the Girls' reflections:

REC RAS MOHAN KADISHA NISSI

(Nissi is in Sec 3 this year and she joined us only at the end of last year when she was transferred to Westwood Secondary.)

For the Values In Action (VIA) project facilitated by our CCA, I did many things I wouldn't have done on my own. During the two months of preparation, all of our Officers and leaders worked hard to help us prepare in all the ways they could. Through their help, we were able to carry out our plans and we rehearsed the entire programme. Though there were many difficulties, we persevered with the help of our Officers and friends.

On the day of the programme itself, we were a bit restless as not everything was going as we had anticipated. But we organised around the barriers that blocked our plans. We divided the work that needed to be done.

During the event, I was a tad scared, or maybe a lot, but with my friends around me I made my way through. Even during the presentation of the song, I struggled past my fear and sang louder than I thought I would. By facilitating the games we bonded with the seniors. Seeing their happy smiles made our day. By helping the elderly with their painting, we conversed with them to learn more about their lives.

When I conversed with them, I learned about their daily routine and how they spend their leisure time. Their simple life brings them much joy, as they can see and play with their grandchildren (for some) and even though some are single they enjoy their time doing what they love, such as painting, for one particular elderly person that I spoke with. I do think I need to improve on my social skills as I wasted some time thinking about what I could talk to them about. And I definitely need to improve on my confidence, as even standing before a small crowd scared me for a while. I did my best to entertain them even though I was not of their same language and race. I was able to help an elderly person paint through my words of encouragement, as she was a bit shy about her lack of painting skills. All in all, this was a wonderful experience and I have to thank the Girls' Brigade, the Officers, the leaders, and most importantly, my fellow girls.



SGT KHOO JIA YING

At first, everyone struggled to sing because we were too shy or we weren't confident enough as we don't have trained vocals, but on the day itself, we sang harmoniously, and we could hear each other sing and we were all in sync. It was really satisfying and enjoyable to hear our own singing. Hence, all the scolding and reminders during our rehearsals was worth it as we improved after each session.

SGT SARAH LIAO

Preparing for the VIA was stressful and pretty scary as it was my first time leading a project. We had to prepare many logistical steps to make sure that everything worked well during the day itself. We also had to discuss the gifts and the food and we wrote to the Centre many times to confirm many things. I did have a moment when I panicked because they said 1 November was not suitable and I was worried because there were no other backup options left, but it was settled and we could make it on that day. We also had to practise and practise the song so we could give a good performance for the elderly. I tried my best and hoped it was enough for the day itself; though it was stressful, we managed to get all we needed and got ready in time for the day.

On 1 November, I received a shock when I heard two girls could not join us and we needed as many people as we could to help us sing and carry stuff; however, the Officers helped us out and we were able to work well together despite not having that many people.

At the beginning of the event, I was stressed as it felt like there were so many people staring at us and I was afraid that we would not give a good performance but I did my best and was relieved to hear some seniors singing along. During the games that I was in charge of, it was heartwarming to see that they were having some fun and they were nice to each other, taking turns and all. During the activity, I was really impressed as some of the seniors did such a good job at painting; interactions were also spontaneous, and it was so nice to get to know the seniors. They were all so kind and seeing them laughing among themselves made me feel really delighted.

I learned many things through this project; it was the first time I was one of the people leading a project like this and even though it was stressful, I learnt how to assign tasks and work well in a team. I also learnt how to ask for help and listen to other people's opinions and not to stress myself when I did not know what to do. I learnt how to interact with people with whom we had a big age gap. I learnt and realised that this whole project was for a good cause and we really brought smiles to the seniors' faces. I learned that we have to practise a lot for things to go smoothly and think through everything. I learned that we have to be patient with each other and be kind no matter what because something small to us may be very big to someone else. In the end, throughout all the stress and endless thinking and planning, the VIA project was a success and it gave me a sense of accomplishment.



Northern Thailand Mission Trip



Chiang Mai (6-17 Dec)



Chiang Rai (13-24 Dec)

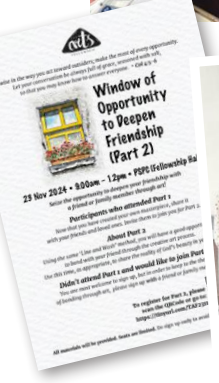


(L-R): Jon Yeo, Gregory Ng, Eld Justin Lee, Lawrence Goh, Leng Li Li, Angie Chang, Sharon Goh, Sophia Lim, Koh Tse Yuen & Manee Saifon.



Top (L-R): Oon Ming Ing, Chou Lai Har, Riki Tan, Zenith Ho, Ho Kuen Loon, Lionel Gan, Samuel Ng, Emma Kok & Joseph Woo.
Bottom (L-R): Athelia Low, Siau Ek Ping, (front: Olivia Ng), Juana, Mok Hui Min, Sybil Lim, (front: Anna Ng), Sandra Lim & Abigail Ng.

The Arts Fellowship Workshops (Part 1 & 2)



The Resurrection of P3PC Puppetry Team

By Noah Tan

When I think about puppetry, a picture of fairy tales being told using small handmade mimes comes to mind immediately. So, I was naturally intrigued when I realised that the Church had a Puppetry Team, and that it had just been restarted by Pr Carol Ng and Dn Jerome Lim. To write this article, I interviewed the Puppetry Team, and summarised what they told me about the ministry. This article will focus on what the Church Puppetry Team does, their aims, and how to contact them to contribute to their ministry.

What is Puppetry?

According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, puppetry is the art of manipulating puppets to create puppet shows.

There are many types of puppets, but the ones our Puppetry Team uses are hand-and-rod puppets for performances in the Children's ministries. The puppeteer will insert his or her dominant hand into the puppet to control the mouth of the puppet. Meanwhile, the puppeteer's less dominant hand controls the arms of the puppet using arm rods attached to the hands of the puppet. The puppets that the Church Puppetry Team uses today had been left behind by Rev Ridge and Connie Orr for Sunday School use.

Why has the Church Puppetry Team been restarted now and what are their aims?

The Church Puppetry Team is not new, and has been around for quite some time. However, the Puppetry Team recently felt that the time is right to revive the Team as we are blessed with a history of performing arts gifting and skills in P3PC, and they seek to recover these abilities or resources to retrain and deploy people towards this effort. This year's church theme, **Equipping God's People, Advancing His Kingdom**, also played a part in the decision.

The Puppetry Team's main aim is to spread God's Word and the Gospel to all ages through puppetry. The team feels that this art is a powerful tool, able to effectively enhance both children's and adults' experiences to learn more about the Gospel. Puppetry is not replacing traditional methods but it can enhance or provide a supporting medium to teach children as well as adults. The team hopes to achieve their main objective, which is entertaining and enriching both young and old to become more engaged in God's Word.

The Puppetry Team's first performance after they reformed was for the Sunday School Ministry to celebrate Children's Day 2024, and there is more coming in 2025!

What is being in the Church Puppetry Team like?

The Church Puppetry Team gathers to train after Church on some Sundays, but most of the time, they practise their puppetry skills at home in front of the mirror.

Members of the Puppetry Team told me what they enjoyed most about the ministry:

- the interaction and making the puppets come "alive"
- the ability to try something new
- bringing the team back together
- teaching the Gospel and the Word to both children and adults in a fun and engaging way
- the energy the activity gives to participants

Join the Church Puppetry Team!

If you want to join the Church Puppetry Team, you can contact Dn Jerome Lim or Pr Carol Ng.

Do note that one must have strong and nimble hands to take care of and handle all the heavy puppets for performances. However, the most important thing is a willing heart and a passion for the ministry.



Children's MINISTRY CORNER

By Pr Carol Ng
Sunday School Superintendent

P6 Graduation

It was the time of the year when we celebrated the P6s graduation from Sunday School (SS) to Lighthouse (PLH).

We gathered in the Upper Room for the special occasion on 10 November, from kindergarten children to the P6s. We also had our SS teachers, P6 parents and some PLH youths and mentors gracing the occasion.

We had a time of worship in song led by PLH mentor, Julian Ong. The kindergarten children up to the P2s left for their own SS class lessons after the offertory and the rest of the SS children and teachers stayed on for the rest of the programme.



Elder Andrew Ong reminded the P6s that they are not defined by grades but God is the one who defines them. He also cautioned the P6s not to get addicted to their smartphones and encouraged them to read the Bible and pray daily. Elder Andrew also shared some tips with the parents – keep engaging and spending time with their children, don't sweat the small stuff, and balance discipline with freedom. These words of exhortation also encouraged all who were present.

Thereafter, our P6s and P6 teacher, Shwu Hoon shared their reflections of their experiences in Sunday School through Haiku* – a form of Japanese poetry. Each read out their SS experience in Haiku form. It certainly warmed the hearts of everyone, teachers and parents alike, and I am sure all the P6s too. Our P6s also presented small bouquets of flowers to their parents as an expression of thanks for supporting them in Sunday School and in life.



(L-R) Teacher, Shwu Hoon, P6s: Ye Tong, Chloe, En Xuan, Ean, Isaac, Julian, Owen, Thaddius, Pr Carol & Eld Andrew
Not in photo: Jacqueline, Jocelyn & Benjamin

Haiku

Sunday School's Embrace

Lessons fade away
Prayers drifting in the breeze
Lighthouse calls my name
- *Chloe Mackay*

Moving on

Time flies by quickly
Sunday School comes to an end
Lighthouse here I come!
- *Isaac Ang*

Sunday School is Preeeety Gooooood

Teachers are so great
Take us out for prata too
Learned so much as well
- *Owen Lee*

:)

Sunday School is good
I go on to Lighthouse now
Sunday School done now
- *Benjamin Eng*

Sunday School is Good

Sunday School is good
As it teaches me to learn
more about Jesus
- *Ean Er*

God

God is our Father
God's son save us from the sins
Pray to Him all day
- *Jocelyn Yu*

God

God is amazing
Everyday, His promise lives;
Guiding light for all
- *Chen Ye Tong*

Our Marvelous God

I learned about God
His forgiveness knows no bound
His love unfailing
- *Jacqueline Cheam*

How Great Sunday School Is

Sunday School helps me
Teach me about the Bible
With some prata too
- *Julian Cheung*

Graduation

We finished the year
Learning so much, sharing hope
Ready to move on
- *Lim En Xuan*

Precious

God sent you to us.
We learned and shared; we pray you'll
Always be faithful
- *Shwu Hoon*

* The first line has five syllables, the second line has seven syllables, and the third line has five syllables.



Sunday School wished the P6s well and gave each of them a Bible as a memento, but more importantly, the gift represented the hope and prayers that our P6s will continue to walk closely with God by reading His Word.

Next, Pastor Ron shared about the Lighthouse Ministry and its programmes. We ended the graduation with snack packs and ice cream for the children. Indeed, it was a day of celebration of our P6s' transition to the next generational ministry. May they continue to grow in wisdom, stature and favour of God and men.



Celebrating PSPC's Anniversary

"What would PSPC look like 10, 20 or 30 years from now?"

"Will there be more people? Will there be enough space for everyone?"

"What would you like to include in the church that will meet the future needs of the church?"

"What kind of church would you like to have?"

Our Sunday School (SS) children were challenged to design their ideal future church or space during this year's PSPC Anniversary programme. They were encouraged to either build, draw or describe their ideal church. They were also given a 3D church pattern that they could cut out and construct the shape of a 3D church that looked like PSPC. You can see that our children had fun constructing a 3D model church and some even put their initials on the church. You could see their creativity and love for the church! Young ones, you are part of the church. Good job!

There were some SS children who simply drew and designed their very own future church. Look at their drawings, and you will understand the heartbeat of our children.



The future church belongs to these young ones, and it was a great activity to help them treasure not just the church building but also the church, i.e. the people of God.

We shared with our children that it was wonderful that we had good ideas, designs or thoughts about what the church should look like or what we could include in our church. However, no matter what the designs or plans are, the most important thing is the people of God inside the building.

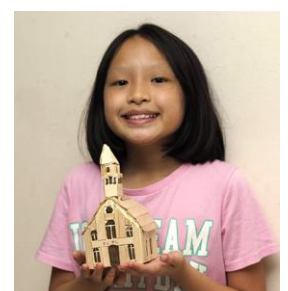
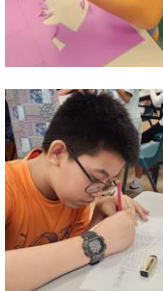
For church = people of God.

We are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27), who gather in His name, worshipping, fellowshiping and serving Him as the body of Christ in a physical space.

Realistically, we can't fit all our designs or everything that we desire in a church, but we put things in place for the best of God's work and God's people, Equipping His people and Advancing His kingdom.

We thank God that we celebrated the 181st anniversary of PSPC in an interesting way with our young ones. Let's help our children remember that church is God's gift to us – God's church with God's people doing God's work.

Let us treasure our Church, and treasure one another as people of God – encouraging one another to trust Jesus all the way, and serving God wholeheartedly so that many people will come to know Jesus.



Sunday School Children's Day



New Births at PSPC



Parents: Lee Wei Yong & Cheryl Teo

We are thankful for **Ezra Lee En Le** who was born **10 March 2024**. Never knew this little baba would bring such joy to us. Enjoying every single moment bringing him up (well, maybe except the massive clean up after baby led weaning).

May God grant his mercies and wisdom upon us to bring him up in a Christian home.



Parents: Nicholas Wong & Kara-Ann Tan

We are immeasurably blessed and filled with joy for **Tahlia and Theodore**, our twins who joined our family on **22 November 2024**. They are our wonderful answered prayer after a difficult IVF journey.

We pray for wisdom and grace to bring them up to walk closely with our Heavenly Father. Raising twins will certainly not be easy! We are thankful for the PSPC family and we hope that this church family will continue to pray with us. We hope they will receive love, joy, and guidance as they grow up in PSPC.

PSPC Updates
(October - Present)

DEATH
Tan Giok Siew Lily
29.10.2024

WEDDING
John Eng & Tiffany Toh
26.10.24

Weddings at PSPC

We are **Stuart Chen** and **Joy Lee**, and we got married on **24 August 2024!**

It has been an eventful first three months of married life as we settle into our new home and get used to new routines. We are constantly reminded and surprised by God's grace and providence shown through family and friends, from the day we exchanged our vows until now.

Each day, we are reminded that marriage is not just a bond between two people, but a sacred calling to grow together in Christ. We are grateful for the countless ways God has led us, and we trust in His guidance as we continue to build our life together. With every step, we seek to draw closer to each other and, most importantly, to Him.

Hello everyone! We are **Arul Selvan** and **Janice Lee**. We were happily married on **2 November 2024** in Sabah, Malaysia, and had a blessing ceremony on 30 November 2024 in

PSPC. After dating for over five years, we thank God for bringing us together, for the love we share, and for the future we will build as one. We humbly seek your prayers, so that we may build our marriage on the foundation of Christ, and we may grow closer to God and to each other, becoming a light and testimony to His grace.

We are **Clarence Chong** and **Zhang Danwei**! We recently tied the knot on **2 November 2024** to mark the beginning of an everlasting journey together. In light of this, we hope that we continue to grow together in Christ as the Centre of our marriage and love each other as He has loved us.

We are truly blessed with what we have been provided with by God, in PSPC, to make this journey happen. We give thanks for all the blessings that God has so wonderfully provided along the way. We pray that we continue to grow ever stronger in faith and love in Christ, and with each other.

Hello PSPC! We are **Cho Yang Xuan** and **Annabelle Teo**. Fun fact: our wedding date, **October 12, 2024**, is a unique combination where the first four digits, 1012, double to form the last four, 2024 – it reminds us that love multiplies and transforms as we grow together.

As we embark on this journey, we are grateful for the love and support of our families and friends. We hope to build a life filled with joy, patience, and understanding, cherishing each other's quirks and celebrating life's simple pleasures. May our marriage be a testament to God's love and grace.

'And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.'
- Colossians 3:14

Dear PSPC, we are **Joshua Lin** and **Susanna Tan** and we got married on **2 November 2024**.

Despite being relatively new to the church, we are truly blessed to be able to celebrate our marriage with many of our PSPC friends. We are so thankful for the love, support and hospitality shown to us and we look forward to growing our marriage and roots together in PSPC.



Hi everyone! We are **Jeremy Tsang** and **Julia Leong**, and we got married on **21 December 2024** after being good friends and five years of dating. We're so thankful for the family and friends we've grown up with in PSPC, and we look forward to our continued fellowship and service together!



Infant Baptism (25 December 2024)



Dalene Cheung Rui En
(Parents: Eric Cheung & Eunice Tan)

Bringing up children to know God and growing their faith is not an easy task for us. We are truly blessed that we have a knitted Christian community of family and friends in PSPC that provide us with guidance and grace on this daunting journey.

Baptising each of our children serves as a confession and renewal of our faith as parents. It is also our responsibility and commitment to the spiritual upbringing of our children to expose them to the teachings of God.

At Christmas this year, we present our third child, Dalene, for baptism. Dalene means valley, a natural creation of God which serves as a constant reminder for us that we are His creation and though different moments of struggles and the paths seem uncertain, He is always there for us. The name is also a short form of Mary Magdalene and we pray that Dalene will grow up to be a faithful servant of God.

Joy Ow Le Xuan
(Parents: Ow Yuhao & Serene Ho)

Our family is truly thankful to God for giving us Joy. From our journey of conceiving, delivering and now parenting we have witnessed for our own selves God's faithfulness in our lives. As her name suggests, we pray that Joy will grow up to know Jesus



personally, experience the joy of knowing Him, and be a beacon of joy to others as well as that she lives out her life in Christ. We are also grateful for the love and concern shown to us by our PSPC brothers and sisters in Christ, and we pray for strength and wisdom to bring up Joy as godly parents, to love her as Christ has loved us.



Declan Chien Rui Kai
(Parents: David Chien & Sharilyn Wong)

We thank God for blessing us with such a wonderful privilege to be Declan's earthly parents. Our prayer as we present him for infant baptism is that Declan will come to know, love, and serve his Heavenly Father with all his heart, mind, and strength. Please pray for us as we raise Declan and teach him God's ways!



Jamie Chua
(Parents: Justin Chua & Sharon Tam)

Our family has been very blessed with our baby girl Jamie and it is our honour to present her for infant baptism. We pray that we will nurture and raise her in the ways of the Lord.

Jevis Tay Shun Feng
(Parents: Zekiel Tay & Andrea Goh)



Three and we are done! Little Jevis popped out on 22 August 2024 and was warmly welcomed by his brother and sister. Between the three-hourly diaper changes, baby Jevis has been giggling and blabbering a lot. We pray for him to seek God's Kingdom first and be a mighty tool for the furtherance of His Kingdom.



As 2024 draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to our graduating seniors, Abigail and Sophia. We would also like to welcome our incoming P6s who will be joining PLH next year!

PLH End-of-Year Camp

The annual PLH EOY Camp was held on 6 - 8 Dec 2024. The camp was themed 'Resting in the Lord'. It was a time when our youths explored what rest is and why we should rest.

Sharing by Isaac (Middler)

The PLH EOY camp is always something I look forward to. It consists of a wide range of activities for us to participate in. One thing I really enjoyed was the fellowship among campers.

Usually, we're all too busy with our individual lives to interact outside of our DGs, but at camp, the stress is gone. We are able to interact and discuss random and sometimes questionable topics and get to know each other better, especially between different groups. We also welcomed the incoming P6s and I hope that they also were able to get to know us better. The interactions between campers were one of the things I enjoyed the most at this camp.

My biggest takeaway from the camp was the importance of rest. Being caught up with our busy and stressful lives, we tend to assign rest with a lower priority. However, we still need it to function properly. There are also many types of rest, like physical, emotional and mental rest, which help the body in different aspects and are no less important.

Sharing by Natalie (Junior)

This year's end-of-year camp was a very meaningful time of fellowship and reflection. The main theme of the camp was about rest, and we had the opportunity to hear about and experience different types of rest, like physical rest, mental rest, and even emotional rest. My favourite was spiritual rest, where we got to read passages of the Bible and meditate on God's Word. This was the most meaningful to me, as it not only allowed me to understand the deeper meaning of the text, but also gave me a chance to spend time with God! Overall, my biggest takeaway from this camp is that there are many different types of rest, and we should try our best to ensure that we practise all these types of rest.

Sharing by Lily (Junior)

The theme for this year's PLH camp was "Rest", and similarly, I think my biggest takeaway was really learning how to rest—both emotionally and spiritually. The idea that rest requires being intentional was pretty surprising to most of us, but upon reflection, it really is true that different people find rest in different things and that we can't just expect any non-work-related activity to be relaxing. In doing so, we fool ourselves into perceiving real work as rest and end up even more tired afterwards. This was one of many intriguing points brought up in our hour-long group discussion during the camp, which was probably the activity that I enjoyed most—the question cards we used ranged from icebreakers to deep dives into the subject of rest. The camp was a really great experience for me overall—from bonding with my fellow PLHers to learning more about God and getting some real rest. I can't wait for next year's camp! :-)



Mentors' Appreciation



Class Time

