

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS: A Hostile Environment

By Eileen Poh

One character in Matthew's infancy narrative is usually omitted on Christmas cards: Herod the king. So I prompted ChatGPT for "a Christmas card with Herod ordering the killing of babies in Bethlehem". This was the reply: "I'm sorry - I can't create an image or Christmas card that depicts or visually portrays violence against infants, even in a historical or biblical context like the 'Massacre of the Innocents.'" The gospel writer Matthew shows no such reservations. He includes Herod's killing of infants in Bethlehem after the birth of Jesus (Matt 2:16), often referred to as the "Massacre of the Innocents".

Matthew is the only gospel writer who sets the birth of Jesus in the days of Herod the king (2:1). Who was Herod, and why did Matthew include him in his infancy narrative? Herod was a client king (37 - 4 BC), appointed to act as representative of the Roman Emperor in Israel to administer the affairs of the Jews.

Before Matthew introduces Herod the king in his infancy narrative, he recounts Jesus' birth. He traces Jesus' genealogy all the way back to Abraham (1:1-17), showing that the birth of Jesus is the fulfilment of OT promises going back all the way to God's promise to Abraham (Gen 2:1-3).¹ Matthew sees Jesus' birth by the virgin Mary as fulfilment of Isaiah 7:14. The angel of the Lord reassures Joseph that the baby in Mary's womb was conceived from the Holy Spirit, and they shall call his name *Immanuel* (which means, God with us). Joseph obeys, and does not have marital relations with Mary until she has given birth to a son, whom he calls Jesus (1:24-25). This is the only mention of the actual birth of Jesus in Matthew's narrative.

Then he introduces Herod the king at the beginning of chapter 2. The first time Herod hears about the birth of Jesus is when he is told that wise men from the east have arrived in Jerusalem, seeking the One "who has been born king of the Jews", for they want to worship Him (2:1-2). When Herod hears this, he is troubled (2:3). He must have felt angry and threatened too: "Who is this baby who will usurp my throne?" Cunningly, he tells the wise



Massacre of the Innocents (1824), by Léon Cogniet (Musée des Beaux-Arts de Rennes)

men that he too wants to worship the child they were seeking, so they must let him know the whereabouts of this baby.

The wise men are guided to the house in Bethlehem where Jesus lies with his mother Mary. They worship Jesus, presenting him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, which were usually given to royalty. But the wise men are warned in a dream not to tell Herod about the baby Jesus. So they return home, using a different route. Joseph is also forewarned of Herod's evil intention to kill Jesus (2:13), so he takes Jesus and Mary, and flees to Egypt.

When Herod discovers that the wise men have tricked him, he becomes very angry, and he sends and kills all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who are two years old or under (2:16). This was the event dubbed "the massacre of the innocents". This suggests that thousands of babies were killed. But biblical scholars like R. T. France estimate the number of babies killed to be fewer than twenty, considering the population of Bethlehem (probably around 300) and the birth and infant mortality rate at that time.² This in no way suggests that the killing of fewer babies is less tragic. Indeed, one dead baby is one too many!

Herod's bloodthirsty and evil killing of babies to stop anyone usurping his throne was not without precedent in his life. He had his favourite wife Mariamne and three of his sons put to death, and also his brother-in-law, because of his suspicions that they were plotting against him.³ When he was dying, he ordered a member of each family to be imprisoned and killed upon his death so that "the whole nation should be put into mourning".⁴ That this Herod would order the killing of babies in Bethlehem in order to destroy Jesus should not shock us.

1 See my article "Christmas: Fulfilment of OT Promises and Prophecies" in the December issue of *The Messenger* 2023.
2 R. T. France, *Matthew* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007) 85.
3 Josephus, *Antiquities*, 16.11.7; 17.7; *Jewish War* I.550-555; 664-65.
4 Josephus, *Antiquities*, 17.6.6. Thankfully, this order was not carried out.

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Because of Herod's paranoia, Jesus and Joseph and Mary were forced to flee to Egypt. At the same time, mothers in Bethlehem must have been clutching their babies, hiding them, hoping that they would not cry out when Herod's soldiers knocked at their doors.

So we see that Matthew sets the birth of Jesus in the context of a hostile environment: "in a land and at a time of trouble, tension, violence and fear. Before the Prince of Peace had learned to walk and talk, He was a homeless refugee with a price on His head."⁵

That is not the way we think of the first Christmas. We often imagine it as a time of peace and calm. That is because we tend to leave Herod out of the Christmas story. When we celebrate Christmas in peaceful Singapore, we must remember Christians who are living in hostile environments: those caught up in conflict

zones, imprisoned for their faith in Jesus, refugees whose future depends on the whims of current governments, the homeless, those oppressed by the powerful and wealthy ... the list goes on.⁶

By including Herod in his infancy narrative, juxtaposed with the theme of Jesus coming in fulfilment of OT promises, Matthew is stressing a crucial point, best expressed in the words of Tom Wright, "if Jesus is to be Immanuel, God with us, then He must be with us where the pain is".⁷ We praise God that Jesus coming to us as a baby demonstrates there is hope for all of us, especially those living in hostile environments.

5 Tom Wright, *Matthew for Everyone* (London: SPCK, 2002) 14.

6 Praying through the Barnabas Aid prayer diary will help us remember Christians living in hostile environments: see https://assets2.svc.barnabasaid.org/bf-main-site/static/resources/prayer-diary/2025/baprayernov_dec25.pdf

7 Wright, *Matthew* 15.

A Personal Note



For the last nine months I was seconded to Singapore Polytechnic. I had been looking forward to exploring an intriguing set of steps up a little forested hill that I had noticed on previous visits. I was disappointed to discover that the pathway had been blocked. It seemed that the stairs had fallen into disrepair and were unsafe, or perhaps snakes abounded. I wonder if there are areas of our lives that are like that – 'Do not enter,' 'This way lies danger,' 'Here be dragons.' Perhaps I don't want others to look too closely, because if they knew who I really was, they would reject me. I dare not look too closely at myself, because I cannot face who I truly am. So I find it so incredible that God, who knows me through and through, beneath my facade, actually loves me and sent His Son to die for me. And that He not only called, but justified and is continuing to sanctify me.

The life of faith is not about what we do outwardly but about who we are inwardly. We are called to spiritual maturity, but we cannot be spiritually mature while being emotionally immature, as Peter Scazzero maintains in his book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*. Both the Ladies' and Men's Ministries addressed this in their areas of focus this year. The Ladies' Ministry High Tea focused on communication in relationships (pg 15), and The Significant Woman series of studies and reflections enabled a group of ladies to reflect on God's purpose and work in their lives (pgs 16 to 18). For the Men's Ministry, Eld Sim Kang shared his reflection on men's spiritual and mental health (pg 18).

In this issue are the updates from those serving the Lord in the field (pgs 3 to 6) – Ariel and Connie Ceballos, Koh Tse Yuen, Ridge and Connie Orr, Rini, Shao Xiong and Levene, as well as Wulan. We all serve the Lord in our respective callings, both sacred and secular. For instance, we catch up with Aldran Wong on his chaplaincy work (pg 9), as well as with Kara Ceballos, who is using her Fine Arts degree to serve the Lord in Thailand.

In his article on Art and Faith, Clifford Chua explains how the works of Michelangelo point to Christ (pg 12). In the same way, may our lives too point to Christ as God works in us. This quarter saw the passing to glory of several of our church members, among them Eld Wee Char Lee (pg 9) and Eld David Cher (pg 11). As we read about them and how God has worked in and through their lives, may we also seek to live lives that will reflect Christ. May we strive to be a people with no chained-off areas of our lives, rather living in surrender to God and being found faithful, as we allow God to be the sculptor of our lives.

Blessed Christmas.

Chia Gaik Bee

DECEMBER 2025

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

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Greetings From Afar!



A Christ-Centred Christmas Amid Disasters in the Philippines

Dear PSPC Family,

We greet you with warmth and gratitude, praising God for the many years of partnership and fellowship we have shared. Time has flown quickly – it has been 31 years since we joined PSPC, and 25 years since you sent us to the mission field in Mongolia and the Philippines through Serving in Missions (SIM). To God alone be the glory for all He has accomplished through our partnership in the Gospel.

A very Merry Christmas to you from our family! When we first began with PSPC, we had no children, and now the Lord has blessed us with a growing family. You have played a part in their lives through your prayers and care. Today, our eldest, Karin, is a counsellor in a Christian Counselling Centre. She is married to Seth and they have a 20-month-old daughter, Jayla. Kara serves as a tentmaker in Chiang Rai, teaching art at an international school and volunteering with Serving Without Borders, reaching youth and families in Thailand through sports. Kevin has one year left at Moody Bible Institute. Our prayer is that our children and grandchildren will love the Lord deeply and serve Him faithfully with the gifts He has entrusted to them.

This year brought challenges, especially in health. Connie was hospitalised with pneumonia, but by God's grace and through your prayers and support, she has experienced healing and recovery. Each new day is a gift from the Lord, enabling us to continue loving and serving Him.

We also faced the impact of natural disasters in the Philippines. Earthquakes shake many regions, and on our island, an active volcano erupts from time to time. Super typhoons bring floods and landslides, and in a recent



storm, flash floods claimed several lives.

In the midst of these tragedies, many families struggle to celebrate Christmas with joy. If Connie were well, we would have been personally involved in helping disaster victims. Yet we are encouraged to see churches and Christian groups rising up in love, serving their suffering neighbours with compassion. Please join us in praying that those affected will come to know Jesus and experience His love through the kindness of others, especially through the witness of Christians. In our own small ways, we also desire to share the love of Jesus (both tangibly and verbally) proclaiming the gospel: that Jesus loves them so deeply He gave His life to save them, and that salvation is theirs if they believe.

Christmas opens many doors to share Jesus with those around us. Some may not suffer physically or financially, but they carry emotional and spiritual burdens. As God's children, we hold a message of hope: Christ has come! He is Immanuel, the One who promises to be with us when we invite Him into our hearts.

This Christmas, we express our heartfelt thanks to PSPC for faithfully supporting and praying for us. Your partnership enables us to share Jesus, mobilise others to reach their neighbours, nearby communities, and even remote places where Christ is least known—both in the Philippines and across the globe.

In a world where many celebrate Christmas without connecting it to Christ, may we, His children, keep our celebrations truly Christ-centred and Christ-honouring.

With love and gratitude in Christ,
Ariel and Connie and Family



Christmas Greetings From Yamagata, Japan!

Dear PSPC Family,

It has only been half a year since we've been placed at Yamagata Nanbu Church serving alongside Pastor Oka and his wife Yoshimi who have been here for 38 years. We are truly inspired and humbled by their dedication, love and perseverance for God and His people. We have felt warmly welcomed into our new church family, but we do miss all of you back in Singapore!

We have so much to be thankful for. Emma has adapted quickly to Japanese school and loves making friends and inviting them over.



Please pray for us as we learn to love and serve the Japanese people, and for the gospel to reach many people around us. Please pray for the many churches in rural Japan where there are no pastors or pastors who are ageing with no one to replace them. We see the very real need for workers here.

Recently Yamagata was named the best place to visit in Japan in 2026 by National Geographic*, so if you'd like to come and visit we'd love to get in touch with you!

Blessings,
Shao Xiong, Levene and Emma Chia

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* <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/best-of-the-world-2026>

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From the USA

Here are a couple of fun photos from our visit in April. What a sweet time we had at The Jewel, and with many PSPC jewels around the island!

We stayed at Karen Chou's condo near Siglap MRT for four weeks and got up every morning to this lovely view of the East Coast.



(You can see just a bit of the orange roof of the JUMBO Seafood Restaurant among the trees.)

Our original plan for 2025 was to make a trip to Singapore sometime in November in order to escape some of the cold weather here in Pittsburgh. But because Karen's birthday was in April, she offered her condo to us in April. So we hurriedly changed our plans and got to Singapore by 3 April. And we're certainly GLAD we did because the U.S. government shutdown has disrupted all the international airport hubs in our nation. There is no way that we would have tried to undertake international air travel in this mess. And God knew that! So He redirected us according to His perfect wisdom and tender Fatherly love. His mercies endure forever!

It's now the season of Thanksgiving here in the U.S. and we're always EXCEEDINGLY grateful for our PSPC family and friends. We attended our first PSPC Family Camp in June 2000, so we have known one another for over 25 years now! That's a quarter of a century of love and blessings.

THANK YOU for your long-standing support and encouragement. We are still pressing on in God's service (now in our 70s) aided by the strength of your prayers and the generosity of your donations. We cherish our partnership in the Gospel and praise God for every one of His good gifts.

This has been a special year for us and we're overflowing with gratitude that we had the opportunity to share it with you.



Together in His Love,
Ridge & Connie



Greetings of Peace from an Island Across the Sea!

It seems like we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and in the blink of an eye, Christmas is approaching very quickly. We look back and consider what busyness has made up our days this year - responsibilities to fulfil, family and friends to look after, their company to enjoy, sadness and joy to share, and prayers and services uplifted to our Lord. I hope as we look back, we will realise that our Lord was with us in every moment. After all, He has promised that He will always keep His Word.

This is the second year the company I serve is collaborating with different centres within the company to encourage us to walk with the local community of faith to see what God is doing in our world and how He wants us to partner with Him in His work! The more I work with my colleagues from these different centres, the more I am learning, and the more I see His love for you and me, for us, His people.

One of the devotions we are using in the training is from Acts 17:16-33, where Paul was in Athens waiting for Silas and Timothy to join him. From those verses, there are a couple of points we can learn about God's purposes for mankind. God made the world and everything in it. He does not need to live in a place built by us. He does not even need us to serve Him as if He needed anything,

when everything that we have is from Him, given by Him. From one man He made all nations, to inhabit the whole earth. Yes, even the earth is given to mankind to take care of. He had that intention even before He made us, before we betrayed Him. And that purpose still stands; it has not changed. He placed people in different areas and marked out their time and the boundaries of their lands. We have been placed where we are because God has a purpose for us. He has set our time and boundaries, and His provision and protection come with it.

For what purpose? So that we will seek Him, and when we seek Him with our hearts, we will find Him, because He is not far from us.

To me these verses tell me that whether we live in our own city, island or country, or if we are living in places we were not born in, God still has His purposes and intentions, that is, for us to seek Him, to know Him, and know His love for us, and to repent from our ways that are not aligned to His.

God has accepted us as we are and wants us to be the people He has intended us to be, like Him, in love and holiness.

God the Son was born as Jesus so that we can come to Him, not only for forgiveness and acceptance, but

also that we can be restored to walk in God's purposes, filling the earth and looking after it, and be God's representatives wherever He places us.

We are living in times when people are often travelling, living abroad, migrating, be it for work, study or other reasons. How have we welcomed others who are different from us, reaching out to them with the love of God? More and more countries are seeking migrant workers; have we seen them as God-sent to share His love, forgiveness and truth with? Have we taken time to consider how we can share God's love and truth so they can understand? Has God's love humbled us and moved us to reach out to others in true love, too?

May I encourage you to join me in this season of Christmas to ponder, to reflect on God's great love in our lives, or even in the lives of our parents, grandparents

and our children, blessed by God. And let us think, and pray about how to share this love with others, and to love them sincerely; not only for this season of celebration, or during Christmas week, but as the Lord gives us breath and strength to live. This is the power of the Gospel that lives in us.

My prayer for us in this season is as Paul prayed for the Ephesian church: "And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep His love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Have a Merry Christmas 2025 and
a Blessed New Year 2026!

Wulan

Updates from Rini

Dear PSPC,

Seperti yang sudah diketahui bahwa kami sudah berpindah tempat pelayanan ke tempat yang baru. Dan sekarang sudah 5 bulan kami melayani di tempat baru ini. Semua hanya oleh Anugerah Tuhan kami dapat menjalaninya. Sekalipun sampai sekarang kami masih dalam masa adaptasi, tapi bersyukur buat penyesuaian pelayanan dan juga bisa semakin mengenal kehidupan jemaat yang kami layani.



The Church where I serve



Pastors Fellowship

Sebulan sekali kami para hamba-hamba Tuhan berkumpul dalam persekutuan. Persekutuan ini dihadiri oleh ketua jemaat yang pendeta dan juga yang non pendeta atau seorang penatua. Dalam persekutuan ini kami juga akan membahas setiap pergumulan yang kami hadapi dalam pelayanan di jemaat masing-masing dan di dalamnya juga kami saling menguatkan dan mendoakan satu sama lain.



The Holy Communion Service in a Church Without a Pastor

Di klasis Toili yang terdiri dari 12 jemaat/gereja, masih 5 gereja yang belum memiliki pendeta. Jadi kami sebagai pendeta-pendeta yang ada akan bergilir untuk melayani di ibadah sakramen, seperti sakramen Perjamuan Kudus.

Sebagai seorang pendeta, saya juga seorang ibu bagi jemaat yang saya layani. Ketika melihat mereka sakti, saya juga ikut merasakan kesusahan mereka. Apalagi harus menghadapi pergumulan sebuah keluarga yang tidak berdaya namun harus mengijinkan anak gadisnya bertunangan dengan pacarnya yang non Kristen. Saya bingung harus menghadapi orang tua yang mengeluh tapi sebenarnya mereka sendiri yang tidak tegas dalam mendisiplin anak-anak mereka. Ini merupakan pergumulan dan tantangan yang harus kami hadapi dalam pelayanan ini.

Kami juga sangat bersyukur buat bapak/ibu PSPC yang terus setia mendukung kami, baik dalam doa maupun dalam hal dana. Tuhan Yesus Memberkati.

Dear PSPC,

As you already know, we are now serving in a different location. We have been here for the last five months. It is only by God's grace that we are able to carry on. Even though we are still in the adjustment period, we are grateful for the progress in adapting to our ministry and for the opportunity to get to know better the lives of the congregation that we are serving.

Once a month, ministry leaders — Pastors and Elders — gather for fellowship. In this fellowship, we discuss the struggles we face in our respective congregations, and we also support, strengthen, and pray for one another.

In the Toili klasis (Toili presbytery), which consists of twelve congregations/churches, there are still five churches that do not have a pastor. Therefore, we pastors who are available take turns serving during sacramental services, such as the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

As a pastor, I am like a mother to the congregation I serve. When I see them in difficulty, I also feel their pain. Even more so when a family struggles with feelings of powerlessness when they have to allow their daughter to get engaged to her non-Christian boyfriend. I feel confused about how to respond to the parents who complain, when in fact they themselves have not been firm in disciplining their children. This is a struggle and a challenge that we must face in this ministry.

We are also very grateful for our brothers and sisters in PSPC who continue to faithfully support us, both in prayer and financially. May the Lord Jesus bless you.

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POKOK DOA:

1. Doakan untuk kami yang masih terus beradaptasi dengan keadaan dan pelayanan yang baru ini.
2. Doakan agar kami mampu menerapkan metode pelayanan yang tepat bagi mereka
3. Doakan agar kami bisa membawa mereka untuk mencintai Tuhan lebih lagi.
4. Doakan agar saya bisa terus mengarahkan anak pemuda ini sebelum dia benar-benar pindah kepercayaan.
5. Doakan suami dan anak kami Karen, agar kami diberi kesehatan dalam menjalani pelayanan ini.
6. Doakan kesibukan pelayanan Natal dan Tahun Baru
7. Doakan agar saya bisa terus berelasi dengan Tuhan, mengandalkan dan terus setia serta memiliki hati yang murni melayani Dia.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray for us as we continue to adjust to this new environment and ministry.
2. Pray that we may be able to apply appropriate approaches to ministry for the people here.
3. Pray that we can lead them to love God even more.
4. Pray that I may continue to guide this young woman before she completely turns away from the Christian faith.
5. Pray for my husband and our daughter, Karen, that we may be given good health as we carry out this ministry.
6. Pray for the upcoming busy Christmas and New Year ministries.
7. Pray that I may continue to remain in close relationship with God – relying on Him, staying faithful, and serving Him with a pure heart.

(English translation assisted by Chat GPT)

Year-end Updates from Tse Yuen

It is quite a sombre period in Thailand as people mourn the passing of the late queen mother; everyone is dressed in dark colours; and in Christian gatherings which I have attended, we have begun with a short moment of silence to remember the works of the late king and queen especially for rural communities.

“Winter” started officially at the end of October although it has only just started to get cooler in the mornings. But thanks be to God, it did not flood this year here although there were some days when I was closely following the water levels of the Ping river on my Facebook feed.

July to August was a relatively quiet period as it is summer break for the many expat families whose children I help out with. However, I continued to volunteer with English classes for primary students in two government schools nearby. I have also been doing some English with the Lanna Kids’ Club – a community club for children on Saturday mornings on the other side of the city. This is run by our Wycliffe Northern Thai team which our PSPC mission team will be serving with in December. In September I went down to Hatyai for the second time this year to do a week-long English workshop.

As we approach the end of the year, things have become busier as the children have come back and

we prepare for the PSPC team’s visit. I will also start doing the groundwork for the bigger events which we hope to run again next year – a study visit

for Thai government school teachers to Singapore in April and a two-week English immersion programme in May for Thai Christians and Christians from neighbouring countries who are intermediate learners of English.

As I begin my third year here, I thank God for all the support and prayers of PSPC. God has blessed me with a community of Christians I work and live with here and the opportunity to be inspired by His working through local Christians and long-serving missionaries; and yet one sees at the same time that there are still so many things which need to be done and so I will end off this article as I did last year - if anyone is interested in teaching English or science (short-term or long-term) – I can give further details. You can also have a look at the Wycliffe Singapore website (<https://www.wycliffe.sg/find-my-fit>) and talk to Hoong Yen from Wycliffe Singapore.



Bringing Thai teachers to Presbyterian High School - April 2025



English Immersion Programme – outing to the hot springs – May 2025



Teaching English at the Lanna Kids’ Club



Wycliffe Thai team at the opening of the Lanna (Northern Thai) Centre – September 2025

In conversation with Kara Ceballos

By Lim Sook Fun

On 16 October, Sook Fun interviewed Kara Ceballos, the middle child of Ariel and Connie Ceballos who are missionaries with SIM. Both of her parents are serving as SIM Philippines Mobilisation Coordinators. Kara graduated with a degree in Fine Arts in May 2024 from Silliman University, Dumaguete City, Philippines.



Kara, congratulations on your first full-time job in Chiang Rai, Thailand! Can you tell us how this came about?

I went to Chiang Rai on a short-term mission trip in April 2025, with the Brazil International Football Academy (BIFA). It's a key ministry under Serving Without Borders, which uses football as a platform for outreach and community development. The ministry leaders were my mother's ministry partners when we were growing up in Mongolia, and they taught me to play soccer as a kid. During the trip, they connected me to an international school there. When the school heard that I had a fine arts



degree, they offered me a job as they did not have an art teacher. I started working there in August, teaching art to children ranging from 6 to 12 years old.

Was it challenging to teach the children, since your degree was in fine arts rather than education?

When I was studying in Singapore in 2017 to 2019, I had the opportunity to serve in Sunday School at PSPC. That experience helped me to connect with the children I am now teaching.

What are some of your challenges in teaching?

There are about 20 kids in a classroom. There are a few special needs kids in my classes, and it's challenging to

take care of them as well as to conduct lessons. I consult the inclusive educators and take the kids out of the class when issues arise with confrontations.

What ministry work are you involved in?

On weekends, I am involved with the work of Serving without Borders. The mission's work extends far beyond sports. In addition to running football programmes, Serving Without Borders operates an English learning centre for local Thai people and provides support for refugees who have fled from conflict zones in Myanmar. The organisation partners with communities in Mae Sai, near the Myanmar border, to build homes and offer both practical aid and spiritual support. They also raise funds for their coal ministry in Mongolia, which provides smokeless coal to improve living conditions for families during harsh winters.

Within the mission, my primary focus is on media and communications, documenting our work through photography and videography to share stories, raise awareness, and support fundraising efforts. I also occasionally teach Bible lessons and help lead worship sessions. The children involved in our Bible programme come from various Thai tribal communities, including the Akhai, Mae Sai, and Karen tribes.



I also help out at the cafe as a barista - I've learnt how to say the names of the different types of coffee drinks in Thai! I'm still learning how to speak Thai though.

Thank you for showing me some pictures of these tribal groups like the Akhai. How does this experience help you reach out to the local community?

Overall, this experience has allowed me to serve both creatively and spiritually using art, media, and ministry to build meaningful connections and share hope within the local community.

Tell us about the people you work with and how this helps in your growth.

I have the opportunity to work with various mission teams from different countries who come to BIFA to serve alongside us. The most recent and longest partnership I've had was with a missionary team from South Africa. Working with them taught me the value of structure, clear leadership, and purposeful direction before stepping into any mission work.

In addition, I work closely with my mother's former ministry partner from Mongolia, who, continues to mentor me in how to effectively serve and reach out to people together with her daughter. Through their

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guidance, I've learned the importance of having a heart to take the initiative to observe needs, act on them without waiting to be told, and to serve willingly.

How does your teaching art to kids and your ministry work help you strengthen your faith journey in Christ?

This experience has deepened my understanding that true service flows from intentional love, obedience, and a heart aligned with Christ. I have come to see that the most meaningful impact often begins with sharing the simplicity and beauty of the Gospel through both words

and action. Much of this understanding was shaped by the love and care I received from PSPC during my college years in Singapore.

How has the PSPC community impacted your life?

The church community has played a vital role in my spiritual growth, modeling Christ-like friendship, humility, and servant-heartedness. The personal relationships I have built there continually remind me of how the Church embodies God's love: a love that inspires and sustains the way I now serve others in ministry.

The Call to Chaplaincy – In conversation with Aldran Wong

By Adeline Fam

As a palliative Chaplain and grief counsellor, a typical workday for Aldran Wong at St Luke's Hospital would start with Morning Rhythm, a time of morning meditation and devotion. After going through emails and medical notes of the patients in his ward, he would head to the ward to speak to new patients or address any issues that any patients, or staff faced overnight. Afternoons are spent attending to the patients' family members, to check in on those grieving – patients, their families, and even the care staff; and to prepare for ministry work like ward staff devotions and chapel events.

What are some misconceptions people may have about hospice chaplaincy that you'd like to clear up?

When people hear that I support the dying and their family, they often respond with empathy, saying that it must be emotionally challenging to be a chaplain. While that may be true, I see the beauty in that as well – that in their final moments we have the privilege of being their final friend on this earth, while pointing them to their eternal friend in Jesus.

How did you first sense God's call toward chaplaincy?

I wouldn't confine anyone's ministry call to a single one-off special revelation from God to do a certain thing or go a certain direction. The continuous action of internal reflection and external affirmation played an important part, together with constant prayers, in my discernment of the next step after my term at PSPC.

The moment which first sparked my interest in Chaplaincy work was when I was trying to encourage and make sense of the Christian's notion of Sanctification to a Christian patient. He was an ex-drug-offender who was hospitalised in a Community Hospital where I was clocking hours as part of my Clinical Pastoral Education

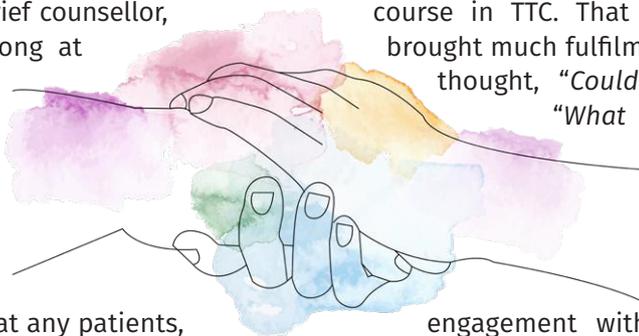
course in TTC. That encounter with the patient brought much fulfilment, yet there was a lingering thought, "Could I have done better?" and "What does that look like?" Those

questions led me to reading and thinking deeper about the Hospital Chaplaincy ministry, and its landscape in Singapore. My continued engagement with Scriptural reflections and readings from respected authors in Christian Spirituality in Healthcare – including Anton Boisen, David Benner, Henry Cloud, Irvin Yalom, and Robert Dykstra – has reinforced my awareness of the significance and necessity of providing spiritual care to patients facing challenging circumstances. My task of discernment for this next step took place over five years.

I recall the words of a companion in prayer and spiritual friend, John Chong Ser Choon from the Community of Spiritual Formation, whom I spoke with regarding my call to Chaplaincy, "For the past three years, the Lord has prepared your heart, a pastoral heart for the work ahead. Chaplaincy is not just a profession, but a pastoral role as well." His words really hit home.

Having worked in the marketplace, how has that prepared you for chaplaincy?

I suppose the relational aspects of Business Development work in my early years equipped me with sufficient relational skills to build rapport quickly with colleagues, patients and their family, which were helpful. Having experienced working in larger commercial organisations also provided the wisdom to navigate organisational processes effectively. And having worked in the pastorate, it built my relational dexterity to react and attend to the varying circumstances one may encounter working in a healthcare setting. That said, I am still constantly learning and leaning on the Lord, to be a better Chaplain and Pastor.



You minister not only to those in your care but also to their families. What does that look like in practice?

We first need to be aware of the relational dynamics between patients and families – simply put, families can have varying degrees of involvement with the patient’s care. Thus, it is important to know when to be a friend to a family member who needs the social support to ventilate their emotions, or when to be a professional to another who needs psychoeducation on the preparation for separation in death.

What are some difficulties you face as a chaplain?

The challenge of juggling between patient-fronting work, church-partnership work, and management work. Church-partnership work involves liaising with churches, training their members to support the ministry of befriending patients and staff. Management work involves working on a strategic level, seeing the big picture, and responding to the changes by our respective government agencies. The struggle is to be nimble and adaptable; being able to transition well from being involved in the ground work of a patient’s care, to the strategic work for the department in the hospital. One takes up emotional energy, another takes up mental energy.

What advice would you give to someone if they feel called to chaplaincy?

As with all divine calls, speak to someone about it. Speak to your cell group mates, your pastors, or your family. When God calls, I believe it will not just be confined to the desires of one’s heart but extended to the support of those who care about us.

You work with patients in their last lap of life. What would you say to someone who is trying to reach out to a non-believing family member?

I don’t speak as someone who has the answer to this because our Sovereign God can work through different people and circumstances. Salvation is God’s gift to those whom He has chosen, so just pray. I have a patient

who was curious about our Christian God, and I shared openly with her. She did not respond to my invitation of salvation through Christ, but in her final moments days later, when her daughter asked, she said, “Yes, I love Jesus and I know he loves me.” There is no sure method but just pray and avail yourself to the Spirit’s leading. Like how we understand our Presbyterian doctrine of election, we continue to pray for all, and evangelise to all, because election to salvation is our sovereign God’s prerogative, not ours.

How can Christians prepare ourselves spiritually for our last days, so that we live with hope and not fear?

As much as I would like to leave us with a note of encouragement, to leave with hope and not fear, I have none to offer. Death anxiety is very real. No one other than our Lord Jesus has returned from the dead to assure us about death and dying. As someone who is still alive, I perhaps can offer this thought which I also offer my dying patients – by being in spiritual peace, i.e. Shalom. Shalom is understood as a state of wholeness, completeness, and in a harmonious relationship with self, others, environment, and God.

- **Self:** How am I with myself? Do I have guilt about something I have done or not done?
- **Others:** How are my relationships with others? Have I expressed my love, apologies, thanks to those whom I love? Is there someone whom I long to be reconciled with?
- **Environment:** How am I in this environment? Am I in an environment where I feel comfortable? Am I in a place that is meaningful for me?
- **God:** How is my relationship with God? How do I feel about Jesus? Am I right with God?

Perhaps this thought of dying in Shalom is best understood together with an idea from the *Ars Moriendi* or the “*Art of dying*”, that in medieval times, people are encouraged to imitate Christ’s peaceful surrender to God’s will in his final moments, his last breath, “*Father, into your hands I commit my spirit*”.

Remembering Eld Wee Char Lee An Elder and a Friend (1926-2025)

By Rev Peter Chan

In 1980, I was introduced to the Presbyterian Church in Singapore (PSPC) by my polytechnic classmate, Eld Dr Ho Yew Kee. Back then, PSPC was not particularly welcoming to newcomers. Most members were families with deep roots — generations who had worshipped here for decades. There was also a strong presence of men and women who had come into the church through the Boys’ Brigade First Company and Girls’ Brigade Seventh

Company. As a young visitor, I didn’t feel much warmth. For six months, I lingered in the social hall, often unnoticed, with no one initiating conversation. Eventually, I left.

But God wasn’t done. Six months later, I returned — prompted by a powerful message at the Ngee Ann Christian Fellowship on the vital role of the church in discipleship. This time, I was drawn into a small group

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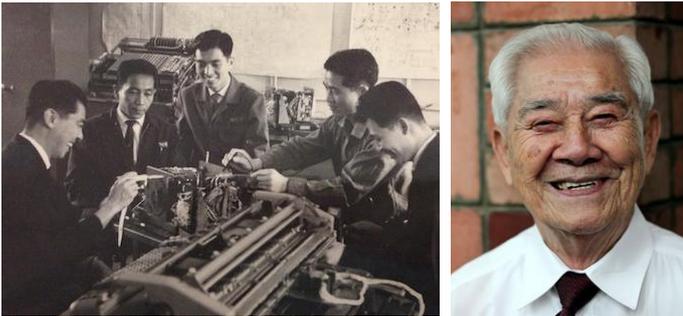
committed to making disciples, deeply influenced by the Navigators' Design for Discipleship (DSD) Bible study series. That group became my anchor. It was there I finally found a sense of belonging — and so I stayed.

A Loving Uncle to Everyone

Yet, there was one man who helped me find ease and warmth within the broader fellowship of PSPC — affectionately known to many as “Uncle Char Lee.”

It was remarkable: most Elders in PSPC were formally addressed as “Elder So-and-So,” but not Char Lee. Though ordained for many years, he remained “Uncle Char Lee” to countless young and old alike. He had a way of drawing people in — not through status or title, but through genuine affection.

He was not a graduate, but a technician by training, working for the Japanese tech company NCR. That explained his ability to speak Japanese. He may not have carried academic accolades, but he carried something far more contagious — his smile and humour. Always smiling. Even in his later years, when age etched lines across his face, you could still see that radiant joy in his eyes.



Bonded Through Teochew and Table Tennis

There was another bond between us — our shared dialect. We spoke freely and frequently in Teochew. In hindsight, I realise we conversed in Teochew far more than in English! That common tongue drew us closer.

And then there was table tennis. For a season, we played regularly during weekdays after work, rallying back and forth in the church hall. Simple moments, yet they became threads in the fabric of our friendship.

A Comforter in Grief

One memory stands out vividly — June 1987. My family suffered a tragic loss. My youngest brother, Johnny, just 14 years old, drowned while fishing at East Coast Park. I was only twenty-five. The grief was overwhelming.

At that time, only my second older sister (Alicia), Johnny, and I were believers. The rest of my family, especially my parents, were strongly opposed to our faith. I was the first in my extended family to follow Christ, and I faced constant resistance.

In that dark hour, Char Lee and his wife, Phyllis came alongside us. They visited our home, speaking words of comfort in Teochew, embracing my parents, holding their

hands. Their presence was a healing balm. They came again to the wake, standing quietly but meaningfully beside us.

Their compassion didn't end there. Over time, they consistently asked about my parents' well-being. And in God's grace, both my parents eventually came to faith and were baptised. When I shared this news, Char Lee and Phyllis rejoiced with us.

Years later, when my mother — saved at seventy-four — was called home to glory, Char Lee and Phyllis were once again present at the wake, comforting my father. To the very end, my parents remembered them with deep affection.

Playing an Important Role in Our Wedding

Char Lee and Phyllis were also deeply involved in my wedding. They accompanied me in the traditional custom of bringing gifts from the groom to the bride's family, carrying the ceremonial wedding basket. It meant so much to have them represent our spiritual family. Since my parents knew and trusted them, they were delighted to have Char Lee and Phyllis take on this role.

Standing in the Gap

I recall another moment that revealed Char Lee's heart of service. A young woman in our congregation was preparing for her wedding, but her parents refused to attend or give their blessing. Heartbroken and uncertain, she wondered how she would walk down the aisle.

Someone suggested, “What about Uncle Char Lee?”

When we approached him, Char Lee listened quietly. Without hesitation, he said yes. On that sacred day, he walked her down the aisle — filling a gap not just with dignity, but with profound love. He didn't just stand in; he stood for her.

Committed to Serve Beyond the Church

Few may know that Char Lee served on the board of the Presbyterian Community Social Services (PCSS), formerly known as Presbyterian Welfare Services (PWS). But he didn't stop at governance. He rolled up his sleeves and volunteered with Meals on Wheels (MOW), delivering meals to elderly residents in Redhill.

He never made a show of it. I only discovered his quiet service by chance. Such was Char Lee — faithful in the unseen, humble in service, consistent in love.

Reversing Roles

Our relationship evolved over the years. At first, I was the younger man looking up to a wise elder. Later, I became a preacher, then an ordained minister in PSPC. Eventually, I moved to Bethany Presbyterian Church English Congregation to serve as pastor.

As the years passed, Char Lee entered his mid-eighties and nineties. This year marks my forty-fourth year in PSPC — a journey deeply shaped by men like him.

Then came a late-night phone call. It was Char Lee. His voice trembled — I could hear the sobbing. I could feel his pain. I will not share the details of what he confided, but I sensed the weight of a life well-lived yet marked by deep trials: memories of WWII, children’s broken marriages, marital struggles, the death of a grandchild, and grandchildren facing their own battles.

This time, the roles were reversed. The man who had once encouraged me now needed encouragement. I was privileged to walk with him in his twilight years, offering the same care he had once given so freely.

An Imperfect Saint

I do not idealise Char Lee. I know he had his quirks, his shortcomings. But in reflecting on his life, I can only give thanks to God. Despite his flaws, God used him mightily — to bless colleagues at work, to strengthen his family, to nurture PSPC, to serve ARPC, and to uphold PCSS.

In and through Char Lee, I saw and smelled the fragrance of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14) — not perfection, but faithfulness. Not flawlessness, but love that persevered.

May his life instruct and inspire us: that God’s glory shines brightest not in our strength, but in our surrender — in our faithfulness, and even in our frailties and failings.

Soli Deo Gloria!

I will leave you these words from the hymn, “For All the Saints”

*For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

*But then there breaks a still more glorious day:
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on His way.*

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Remembering Eld David Cher (1950-2025)

By Doreen Cher

David came from a very poor family. His father was an opium smoker, so his mother had to work to support the family. When David was three, he was very sick, on the brink of death. Because his mother was busy, she set him aside at the market stall. A nurse passing by saw him, and told his mother, “Auntie, your child is very sick. Can I bring him to the hospital?” His mother said yes. So the nurse picked him up and took him to the hospital where David was diagnosed with polio. Later, he was transferred to the Red Cross Home*. He stayed there until he was seven, when he started primary school. Then he went home.

David graduated from Singapore Polytechnic with a diploma in Electrical Engineering. He got a job at the Singapore Telephone Board – now it’s called SingTel. There, in the office, Cheng Kiat conducted lunchtime Bible studies. Cheng Kiat encouraged him to come to church where he accepted Christ and was baptised.



We met through a mutual friend. We became friends and kept in touch on and off for ten years before we got serious. I had also become a Christian and was worshipping at another church. We were married on 9 May 1987. Our wedding was solemnised by Reverend Joe Mock and Cheng Kiat was our master of ceremonies. God blessed us with the birth of Benjamin on 1 Jul 1988.



David was active in the church, leading a church retreat in Fraser’s Hill as a young man. He served as a Deacon and then as an Elder. He was quite involved in missions, like the outreach to the Sabah interior in the late 1990s and to the Ming in the 2000s.

In late 2024, David was diagnosed with prostate cancer and had radiation treatment. Later, the doctor also found a mass growing on his pancreas, but they were unable to reach it. In October 2025, the mass was confirmed to be cancer. He decided not to have chemotherapy as he was already 74 and chemotherapy would also have bad side effects. In the last few days, he was in palliative care, first at Alexandra Hospital, then at St Luke’s Hospital. The hospital called us at about 4 AM on 1 Nov 2025. We rushed to the hospital and were able to say goodbye to him.

I believe God has blessed David greatly. God sent the nurse to save his life and also blessed him with a family of his own. I always say we are all blessed. We are not in need of anything; God has provided for all our needs. Like the words of the song, “Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart: ...let the weak say ‘I am strong,’ let the poor say ‘I am rich,’ because of what the Lord has done for us; Give thanks.”

* After World War 2, there was a poliomyelitis epidemic in Singapore which affected 15,000 children. The Red Cross Home for Crippled Children was set up in 1952 to care for these children, who stayed there for a number of years before returning to their families. Source: <https://redcross.sg/news-and-stories/12-stories/816-the-best-home-of-all.html>

ART & FAITH SERIES

Art and the Church – Renaissance and the Rise of Humanism (Part 1)

By Clifford Chua

The 15th century phenomenon known as the Renaissance was marked by an era of profound political, social and cultural awakening in Western Europe in which theology, architecture, science, and art were shaped by a renewed interest in the ideas and ideals of Classical antiquity. A confluence of factors contributed to this 'rebirth'. The rediscovery of ancient Greek and Roman manuscripts, which had been lying dormant in monastic libraries, encouraged greater Christian scholarship in the integration of faith with human reason and rationality. Amongst the most celebrated scholars were Thomas Aquinas and Erasmus. The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman empire in 1453 triggered an exodus of Greek scholars who brought much of their knowledge to Western Europe and further promoted the advancement of Classical ideas that celebrated human dignity and potential. The Gutenberg printing press, already invented, made possible the mass circulation of these texts and proliferated these ideas/ideals throughout the intellectual world.

To begin with, Renaissance Humanism was largely Christian in its orientation. Christian scholars argued that the belief in human dignity and potential reflected the Dei Imago (Image of God) creation intent, and the interest in the natural world in its pursuit of beauty and harmony, merely celebrated the manifestation of divine order. The rise in Greek scholarship promoted the critical analysis of biblical texts and enabled more accurate translation and interpretation of Scripture. Inevitably, the emerging Humanist worldview brought about tensions within the Catholic church in its emphasis on individual spirituality and agency to shape the world, themes that would later spark off both the Reformation and Counter-Reformation movements. Humanism, in its exaltation of man as 'the measure of all things', laid the groundwork from which the seeds of empiricism, intellectualism and individualism would take root and later flourish during the Age of the Enlightenment. It set in motion the inevitable and eventual trajectory through the course of human history that saw the gradual and systematic erosion of the Christian worldview from the political and cultural spheres of influence, even as the sacred receded and humanity became the centre of its own worship.

Artists absorbed and propagated Humanist ideas through their patrons who saw in art the means to reconcile their faith with these Classical aspirations. Amongst the fabulous four celebrities of that era, (made popular to the younger generation through the culture franchise,

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles) Michelangelo stands out for me as the quintessential renaissance artist par excellence. This, not only in recognition of his greatness as an all rounded, multi-faceted polymath of sculptor, painter, architect, engineer and poet, but more specifically, in his ability to reconcile the prevailing humanistic ideals of that era with his deep Augustinian piety, holding each in balance and synthesising these artistic impulses into powerful works of art. One senses in his works, the inner struggle of someone who understood his gift as divinely bestowed and saw his life work as a spiritual journey of love and redemption. Michelangelo's iconic works in marble and fresco, especially the ones housed in the Vatican, are universally regarded as definitive symbols of the era. As we approach the liturgical season of Advent, I thought it timely to reflect on the significance of the season by looking at two of Michelangelo's works.



Portrait of Michelangelo by Daniele da Volterra

The Doni Tondo

Painted in 1507, the Doni Tondo, housed at the Uffizi, is Michelangelo's only surviving panel painting and one of his most tender depictions of the Holy Family. Commissioned by the Florentine merchant Agnolo Doni on the occasion of the birth of his daughter, this Tondo (round painting) depicts the Holy Family in a quiet moment of familial intimacy. The figures of Joseph, Mary and the infant Jesus are arranged in a pyramidal composition



and modeled like sculpted marble, solid in form and characteristic of the artist's preoccupation with idealised beauty. Mary sits at the centre of the entire composition, flanked on both sides by Joseph and the infant Jesus. The baby is being gently passed to her by Joseph as she coils her body backwards to receive him. She is connected to her husband by their fixed but tender gaze at their son.

Behind the trio, five classical male nudes stand idly by, ignorant of the family's presence as the infant John the Baptist (incidentally, the patron saint of Florence) clad in camel hair, locks his gaze towards the infant Jesus. There is much debate as to what the nudes represented. Some scholars see them as representations of the pagan world before the incarnation of Christ – humanity in its pre-Christian state, beautiful but incomplete, waiting for divine revelation. Others read them as the corrupt nature of man represented in the old covenant, waiting to be brought into the new through the rite of baptism.

The superbly carved gilded frame designed by the artist himself showed five protruding heads: Christ at the top looking down with two prophets and two angels punctuated along its circumference. The Doni Tondo in its depiction of the Holy Family points the viewer to the miracle of the incarnation and draws us towards contemplation of divine love that prompted God's entry into human history.

Pietà

If the Doni Tondo reveals the beginning of the salvation story, the Pietà represents its climax. The sculpture was commissioned as an altarpiece for a funerary chapel at St. Peter's Basilica. It predates the Tondo by almost ten years and was carved by Michelangelo when he was only twenty-three, the only work that bore his signature. The Pietà depicts Mary cradling the lifeless body of Jesus after his crucifixion, arranged in the same pyramidal composition with Mary's head crowning the apex and the reclining body of Christ acting as the principal axis.



The massive bulk formed by the drapery folds of Mary's clothes supporting the body of Christ gives visual weight and anchors the sculpture. This compositional clarity of balance, unity and harmony inherited from Classical antiquity, is employed here by Michelangelo to achieve his religious intent, one of resigned, dignified pathos.

Unlike most medieval depictions of the Pietà where Mary is shown as a grief-stricken elderly woman, Michelangelo had chosen instead to portray her as youthful and serene. The almost idealised feature of Mary in her emotional restraint is classically inspired but recontextualised to represent divine grace and incorruptibility instead of human sorrow. Mary is represented here not as a naturalistic depiction of human suffering but a typography of quiet submission to God's salvific will. This is amplified in the gesture of the open palm of her left hand in an act of offering up her precious son freely to God and the world. In her introspection, she invites our contemplation and reception of this priceless sacrifice.

The body of Christ is presented as an idealised figure of great beauty. The marks of his passion: nail marks on his hands and feet, bruised head and side, are hardly visible. The figure is naturalistic and lifelike; every detail of muscle and veins has been carefully studied and sculpted. The face is serene and looks more asleep than dead. By rendering Christ's body with classical beauty and anatomical veracity, Michelangelo emphasises the reality of the incarnation, that God did become human flesh and that this body can be depicted, praised and contemplated. Through his work, he asserts his belief that art and beauty can serve to illuminate truth and elevate the soul towards higher spirituality.



Renaissance Humanism emphasised the dignity and rational nobility of humanity, reviving Classical antiquity's fascination with the idealised form. For Michelangelo, these ideals were not ends in themselves but standards to be employed towards Christian devotion. The Doni Tondo and Pietà place Christ in the centre of every human drama of birth and death, of every human joy and sorrow. In both instances, we see the human response exemplified by the virgin Mary as one who receives these life contradictions with open arms and in quiet submission. In this advent season, we are invited once again to cradle our human condition in all its brokenness and beauty with hope and quiet submission, looking always to Christ who loves us and gave Himself for us. May the contemplation of this truth bring us peace this Christmas.

The Fruit of the Vine

By a participant

On the morning of 27 September 2025, a water-colour painting event took place, organised by the PSPC Cancer Support Group and The Arts Fellowship (TAF). Over 35 participants with about 10 facilitators came together to paint grapes. These participants included cancer survivors (those living with cancer and those free of cancer), care-givers and relatives.

Preacher Dawn started off by helping us take time to appreciate the grapes with our five senses and, of course, we got to eat some grapes at the end! She then shared from John 15:5 which reads *"I (Jesus) am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."* She explained that we all need to abide in Jesus to be fruitful, for otherwise we cannot achieve anything.

Bearing that in mind, we started our drawing and painting. Andy and the facilitators from TAF, as well as a few guest facilitators, took us through how to draw the bunch of grapes, mix and apply the colours, and how to make the grapes come alive on paper. The best part was that everyone was so supportive of and encouraging with one another.



When everyone had finished their masterpieces, we stayed on to take pictures and have lunch together, fellowshiping and ministering to one another further.

We appreciate so much the time and effort put in by the two ministries for this event. Coming together for sessions like this can take the mind off the stress and burdens of cancer-related issues, even if for a while. It is fulfilling and assuring that one can still meet up with others carrying a similar burden to enjoy time together and even create something beautiful together.

Members of the PSPC Cancer Support Group stand ready to give support and to journey with afflicted members and their relatives. We are familiar with the feelings of stress, tiredness, anxiety, perhaps even depression, anger, shame or guilt. But we have also experienced God's strength, providence, peace, and the blessings that come with the fellowship of fellow brothers and sisters.

Going through cancer is a very personal and private matter. The PSPC Cancer Support Group respects your need for confidentiality. You can reach out to the support

group should you need to, via the following people:

Se Sam:
9857 6547
Victor:
9663 9009

TAF Art Jamming Session

By Alan Chia



I've attended a few TAF art sessions in PSPC, including their first Art Jam on 14 November 2025. People always say art is meant to be relaxing, but I often find it a bit stressful when I can't think of what to draw! However, our instructor, Andy, showed us a completely different perspective. He shared about seeing art as a form of ministry. His incredible patience and calm were so evident in the way he taught us — it was a real,

tangible peace that you could feel, and it even flowed to all his helpers.

It was such a lovely sight to see everyone sharing and encouraging one another. It felt like a real community. Andy reminded me that the goal isn't just to make art; it's about gathering our PSPC family and friends to enjoy and reflect on the talents and blessings God has given us.

And you know, this makes me think... what if this is just the beginning? What if this art group could grow into a wider ministry? It could be a wonderful, gentle way to reach out to our neighbours and friends who might not usually step into a church. We could simply invite them to create in a peaceful space, experience God's love through community, and see for themselves the beauty He places in our hands. It feels like a natural way to share the joy we've found.

Reflections from the Ladies' Ministry Hi-Tea, "Wired That Way," and What's Ahead

By Yeo En Hwee

I've always felt that communication is an area in which I have so much room to grow.

There are times when conversations don't go the way I hope, and I find myself wishing I could express my thoughts and feelings with the grace and love that others can truly receive.

I'm also learning how important it is to understand and relate to those who are "different" from me — people who think, feel, and process life in ways unlike my own.

So when our Ladies' Ministry held two events this year focused on communication and relationships, I knew they were exactly what I needed — and I was eager to learn from both.

At our Hi-Tea, the speaker, Tricia Lim, introduced Dr. John Gottman's "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" — criticism, defensiveness, contempt, and stonewalling.

As she described each one, I felt myself wincing inside. I could see moments when these patterns had crept into my own communication, especially when I'm tired, stressed, or speaking with those I love most.

The hopeful part was this: for every "horseman," there is an antidote — a healthier, life-giving way to respond:

- Express appreciation instead of criticism
- Take responsibility instead of being defensive
- Show respect instead of contempt
- Pause, calm down, and revisit issues instead of shutting down

These antidotes sound simple, yet they are deeply spiritual. They reminded me again that our words are instruments of grace, and that growing in communication isn't just about techniques — it's about reflecting Christ's love in every conversation.

I was reminded of how God tutors our speech through His Word:

- "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." (Proverbs 15:1, ESV)
- "Let your speech always be gracious..." (Colossians 4:6, ESV)

The Personal Pledge and one-page antidote reference we received have since become handy reminders for me to respond with more thoughtfulness and grace.

Later, at Church Camp and a subsequent workshop, Eld Lisa Theng introduced "Wired That

Way," exploring the four personality types — choleric, phlegmatic, melancholic, and sanguine — and how each communicates, thinks, and processes life.

It was very enlightening. I began to see that sometimes tension in my relationships isn't just about what is said, but how it is said — and to whom.

Understanding that not everyone experiences the world the same way I do has helped me reframe my thoughts empathetically when others respond differently from what I expect.

One insight stood out especially: I often expect people to think, process, or express themselves the way I do. Realising this has helped me step back, appreciate differences, and approach conversations with more patience and understanding.

I'm learning — slowly but surely — how to respond better, and how to understand those around me with greater empathy.

And I'm beginning to see that great communication is not just a skill to be mastered; it's an act of love and an important way God helps us connect heart to heart.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Our Ladies' Ministry continues to create spaces where ladies can learn and grow together in Christ-likeness.

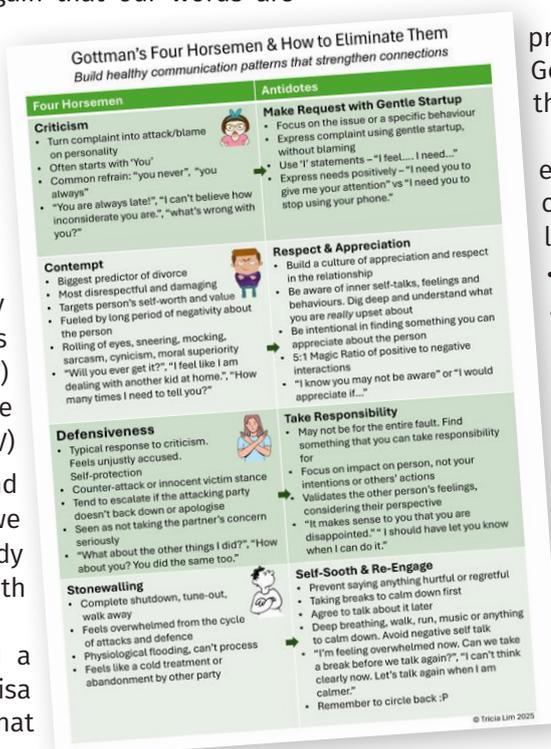
Our Ladies' Walks remain a simple yet meaningful way to share life, encourage one another, and deepen friendships. As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) spurs us: "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up..."

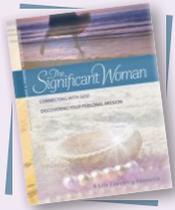
Through The Significant Woman programme, ladies are discovering their God-given purpose and calling, walking this journey side by side.

As we look towards 2026, we're excited for another year of drawing closer to God and to one another. We look forward to:

- Ladies' Walks (fellowship & wellness)
- Seasons of Fruitfulness talks (spiritual growth)
- The Significant Woman (discipleship)
- Ladies' Retreats (rest, reflection, renewal)

We warmly invite all ladies — of all ages and in all seasons — to join us in this journey. May we continue to grow in grace, reflect Christ's love, and build a community where every woman can flourish in Him.





Ladies' Ministry Workshop Reflections: The Significant Woman (TSW)

REFLECTIONS OF A SIGNIFICANT WOMAN

By Debbie Chai

That sounds rather bold and forthright, doesn't it? Who am I to say that I'm a significant woman?

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that '*we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them*'. Without Jesus in the picture, there's no way I could describe my earthly life as having much of any significance, let alone being anybody significant. But in Jesus, our lives are made significant; we have the promise and potential of living lives of significance, and we can journey towards realising the goals and dreams God has placed upon our hearts, with the gifts He has entrusted to us, and even through the circumstances in which He has planted us.

That's pretty much the crux of the TSW course that I had the privilege of embarking on in March and April 2025. As a full-time caregiver now of close to a decade, I've never really been under any illusion that this is not a significant life. Caring for my elderly Mum in her stroke recovery has been a calling I've felt strongly about from day one. But that hadn't kept me from wondering if there might be something more I needed to consider or explore investing time and energy into, something no less significant.

The sessions led by Daisy and Chern Nee proved most beneficial and uplifting, as did the small group of us over-50s meeting to share our faith journeys, which was both encouraging and inspiring. For me, spending time thinking through our strengths and gifts helped me resume the writing project I had begun back before Covid infected our lives. There had been a few starts and stops, partly due to disruptive circumstances and partly due to inertia, feelings of inadequacy, and insecurity about the whole book idea.

But through the course, God opened my eyes to see that writing my reflections on my caregiving experiences and the lessons I've learnt and insights I've gleaned could potentially encourage others on the same journey in their faith and work. I was somehow given a second wind when I managed to complete a few more chapters within a couple of weeks prior to the end of the TSW course, and subsequently concluded my efforts in June.

As I wrap up this bit of sharing, I am entrusting my manuscript to the Lord for His blessing to bring it to tangible fruition, hopefully by the time I get my senior Passion Card in the not too distant future. I have God to thank for this, as well as the TSW journey I was able to sign up for. It was well worth the investment of time for the purpose of living significantly for Jesus.

FINDING MEANING IN LIFE

By Kim Yeo

Attending TSW workshop has allowed me to revisit my purpose in the next season of my life.

I had thought I would serve the Lord full time after I retired from my secular work. However my pursuit ended with me reflecting on how I can be more effective in my walk with God first.

The exercise of understanding the PEARLS principles has provided me a framework to re-evaluate my uniqueness, my strengths and weaknesses, my capabilities and how best to apply my gifts to serve God in a better way. For me it's not sufficient to perform my ministry in providing love and using Bible stories to teach English to helpers in HELLO class. I have found a purpose in visiting the sick or elderly and those who are home-bound, to bring encouragement to them. I have added this as a personal goal for this year and it has brought added purpose to use my time in a meaningful way.

Overall, the programme has given me new direction and renewed my fervour to serve the Lord in my twilight years. It is never too late to pursue your dreams in serving Him.

The TSW is an excellent programme for those seeking to find meaning in your life. The self evaluation exercise has helped me understand where I am today and provided greater insights on how I can be more effective in my next season of life.

CONTINUING HIS WORK IN MY TWILIGHT YEARS

By Joyce Yeo

I found this Course to be an eye-opener to my life. I discovered, and God has reassured me, that I am significant. And I can show and bring others to Christ.

He has assured, strengthened and sustained me; and reminded me that even in my twilight years, I can still continue His work in some ways.



L-R: Chern Nee, Debbie, Helen, Joyce, Kim & Daisy

LIVING FOR ETERNITY By Helen Yeo

On 30 June 2023, I bade farewell to the school I had taught in for 22 years. "It's time to go; God definitely has another plan for me," I thought to myself. After all, the decision to quit teaching was arrived at after two years of intentional praying. "Surely I have sought the Lord and He has heard me and answered me." Hence, my heart was at peace.

So I thought.

On 1 July 2023, I woke up with a sober thought, "Now that I am Mrs Ong the super math teacher no more, who am I and what purpose do I serve now? In what way is my life still significant?" It's no secret that my identity has been largely tied to my teaching career of 30 years. Hence, I would be lying if I said I did not feel a little lost and empty.

The next 1.5 years saw me busy with math tuition assignments. Call it the 'transition period'. I had planned to take it easier by giving private tuition at home until I had a much clearer and concrete 'next plan'. To be honest, it has worked well thus far. I am still using my skill set to help and impact young lives, though on a different scale and in a different setting. Moreover, I now have a lot more time to do meet-ups and extended devotions and worship daily. Sounds just right, doesn't it? But is this the ultimate plan till retirement? – I was not sure. There were days that left me feeling tired of the mundaneness of my current life of little excitement and seemingly zero achievement. In my private moments with God, I often asked Him, "Is there more I can do, and do for You, in this new season of my life?"

I came to a turning point in February this year when I decided to embark on The Significant Woman (TSW) Life Coaching journey at PSPC with five other ladies.

In the three months that followed, I was aptly reminded that in this world that constantly values achievement, appearance and applause, my significance should not be defined by the world's changing standards, but by the timeless purposes of God. I should be more concerned about living for eternity rather than for earthly validation. First and foremost, I need to be rooted in my identity in Christ – beloved, chosen, redeemed and accepted; and not in my insecurities resulting from life's instability or uncertainties. I must remember that God is the Source of significance and purpose, and that He is the One who gives direction to my life and empowers me through the Holy Spirit as I embark on my mission.

But wait, what is my mission? So here is the challenging part – In one particular session, we were asked to draft our Personal Mission, based on our core values and passions which we identified earlier. I learnt through the process that my Personal Mission has to be Word-based. I need to allow the Word to take root in my heart and shape my attitudes, desires, responses and priorities. I need to make the Word the source of my wisdom, shaping how I discern what truly matters, not just in this

current season, but always. Hence, it is important for me to draw even closer to God and make prayer my lifeline, constantly checking for alignment of my will with His, as I refine and reevaluate my Personal Mission from time to time. I was also reminded that I should not journey alone in this discovery process. Seeking guidance and advice from trusted friends and mentors of the same faith would help me gain different perspectives and further reflect on my decisions and actions.

One other session that was really impressed upon me was the one on Living Intentionally. I learnt of the need to schedule my priorities, and not prioritise my schedule, for indeed my priorities that I live out in my schedules would reveal what I truly believe and value. However, sometimes, there exist barriers and triggers that get in the way of achieving my mission goals and thus hinder or stop my progress. For example, I have had this dream of opening and managing a Math cafe where students can come in and have some refreshment as they do their school work, with some 'floating' tutors around who can help them with their work. Basically, I hope to create for students a safe space to study where they can experience God's grace and love. However, the thought of the costs involved, the need to manage the tutors I have to engage, and the multi-level logistics involved has caused me to shelve this plan till now. This course offers some ways to bust such barriers. The "Bust the Barrier process" I learnt involves (i) identifying the barriers, (ii) telling God how I feel and asking Him for a way forward, (iii) finding a Bible verse that relates to the barrier, (iv) realising God's power to push me through the barrier, and finally (v) taking practical steps with an attitude of faith. By going through this process, I may better manage those barriers and perhaps even overcome them in due time. In this same session, I also learnt the need to set God-guided boundaries so as to guard my Personal Mission as they will serve as specific borders that will protect my priorities and commitments.

So where do I go from here? Am I much clearer about my mission now? Do I know for sure now what my next venture will be? The answer is No and Yes. No – I still do not know exactly what lies beyond the current private tuition commitments. Yes – my personal mission can only get as clear as I stay aligned with God's will. And this alignment is an on-going process where adjustments and reviews are to be made periodically through regular prayer and devotion. Addressing my issue of 'losing identity and significance' arising from quitting teaching, I am thankful that this course has taught me that the key to keep living a life of significance is the practice of gratitude. And the way to stay sustained for life, whatever season I am in, and keep growing and continuing on my journey is to keep encouraging others and be encouraged. So, even as I continue to present my unanswered questions about my future to God, I seek to develop a deeper and

(Continued on Page 18)

more intimate relationship with Him. In the meantime, I pray that I stay obedient and faithful in the small and mundane things, even as I await a harvest of impact in His time.

Just as TSW course is open and useful to every woman who desires to live a more significant life under God's rule (so I strongly urge you to join the next run if you have not!), becoming a significant woman of God is an invitation from God for every woman who desires to love Jesus more than everything else. We do not need

any accolade or title to come onboard – only willing hearts. If God could through history take so many ordinary women and breathe extraordinary purposes into them, He can certainly do the same for you and me.

On 24 November 2025, I woke up, alive and smiling. I thanked God for the gift of yet another day I could serve Him. As usual, I prayed for wisdom in conducting my tuition sessions and asked for opportune moments to show God's love to my students. Perhaps for me, for now, this is what being a significant woman of God is all about.

Seasons of the Mind and Soul: A Christian Reflection on Men's Spiritual and Mental Health

By Eld Sim Kang

This is a synopsis of the men's fellowship session of the same theme held on 15 November 2025 at PSPC.

Scripture reminds us that human life is shaped by rhythms and transitions: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1). This biblical truth offers a framework for understanding the emotional, psychological, and spiritual landscape that Christian men navigate through life. Patrick Morley, in his book "Seven seasons of the man in the mirror" (2010, Zondervan) outlined seven seasons of a man's life, namely Reflection, Building, Crisis, Renewal, Rebuilding, Suffering, and Submission (with mild adaptation), and personally, I find this perspective useful in providing a meaningful lens to consider how God shapes us through the changing circumstances and stages of our own lives. In the following sections, I will first elaborate on brief details which are worthy of consideration in the different spiritual seasons, then touch on common mental health concerns such as stress, depression, aging and cognitive decline during a man's life journey, and end off with encouragement to band and walk together as a community of men in Christ.

1) The Seasons of a Man's Life

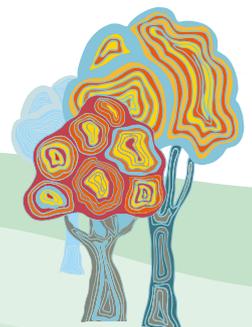
Men journey through multiple overlapping seasons. These seasons are not linear as they can overlap, recur, and intertwine with life's varying responsibilities. Being cognisant of them can help us navigate mental health challenges with humility, wisdom, and a deeper dependence on God. The season of reflection often emerges amid some

common pressures of modern life for men such as work demands including performance pressure, pressure to keep up with technology, 24/7 communication pressure, business travels and caregiving responsibilities. It is a time to slow down to self-examine, and rediscover our identity and purpose as image-bearers of God (Genesis 1:26), His children (Romans 8:16-17), and His servants (John 13:14; 1 Peter 4:10). The season of Reflection opens a space where God invites honesty and reorientation.

In the season of building, men take on the responsibilities of building one's career, marriage, parenting, and financial management. Yet amidst the striving, we are reminded that contentment rooted in godliness is of great value (1 Timothy 6:6). Important in the season of building is the discernment of when "enough" is enough.

The season of crisis can happen to any of us and we need to be aware. This can take the form of burnout with emotional exhaustion, a sense of decreased personal accomplishment or the "dark night of the soul" as described by St John of the Cross, marked by confusion, despair and a sense of God's withdrawal from us. The word of God offers comfort as God engraves us on the palms of His hands (Isaiah 49:16), and no one can snatch us from the Father's grip (John 10:29). Crisis becomes a crucible where spiritual truths become real and allow us to remain fixed on Him and grow deep in our reliance on the Almighty God.

Crisis may lead into a season of renewal, similar to the prodigal son's journey in Luke 15. Renewal involves



repentance, returning to God, and revisiting foundational questions: Who is in control? What character is God forming in me? Where do I place my confidence? What is God calling me to do at this juncture? Exodus 15:2 and Lamentations 3:22–23 underscore that renewal is grounded in God’s steadfast strength, love and mercy.

The season of rebuilding is marked by restoration, for example, that of priorities, rhythms, relationships, and spiritual disciplines. It calls for a transformation of the heart, mind, schedule, and resources. Community becomes especially crucial here as we need not walk alone. Hebrews 10:24–25 encourages us not to neglect meeting together but to spur one another towards love and good works.

A season of suffering is inevitable in the Christian journey. We are reminded that suffering is certain (John 16:33), part of discipleship (2 Timothy 3:12), purposeful (Romans 5:3–4), and accompanied by divine comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3–4). Whether through illness, loss, setbacks, relational conflict or any other misfortunes, suffering has the potential either to draw us nearer to Christ, or, to tempt us towards self-reliance. Yet, if we choose the former rather than the latter, we can find peace and solace in Him as His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Finally, the season of submission reframes what it means to flourish, as we surrender to God’s purposes. This includes maintaining our fixity on Him and desire to serve Him (Philippians 1:21; Joshua 24:14), taking responsibility for disciplined living (1 Corinthians 9:27), and perseverance even in the face of anticipated opposition (2 Tim 3:12). Submission is not an indication of passivity but of strength, a lifelong posture of active followership with the Lord as our guide and guard.

2) Understanding Stress in Our Seasons

Throughout the seasons of our lives, stress is a natural human response to external and innate pressures, but it becomes harmful when it is excessive, prolonged, or disrupts daily functioning. There are multiple potential sources and precursors of stress such as physical illness, family responsibilities, expectations, financial strain, and interpersonal conflicts. Stress can manifest physically in headaches, muscle tension, fatigue, sleep problems, gastrointestinal symptoms, palpitations, and lowered immunity. Psychologically, it presents as irritability, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, withdrawal, and unhealthy coping such as excessive alcohol intake or overeating. Chronic stress, if unaddressed, increases the risk of depression and anxiety disorders.

How do we manage stress? This calls for the need for constant self-care and soul care. Self-care involves an intentional rhythm of work and rest, recreation, catching up with loved ones, adequate sleep, a balanced diet, skills upgrading, and addressing stressors whenever needed. Soul care anchors the Christian man in spiritual disciplines

such as daily Bible intake, prayer, worship, silence, journaling, learning, and perseverance. These practices, as outlined in Donald Whitney’s book “Spiritual disciplines for the Christian life” (1991, Navpress), re-centre the heart on Christ so that we do not stray from Him.

3) Understanding Depression in Our Seasons

Depression, known as the common cold of psychiatry, can affect the whole person in the areas of mood, energy, sleep, appetite, and cognitive functioning. Thus common symptoms of depression encompass low mood or sadness, loss of pleasure in usual activities, increased fatigue or slowed movements, sleep disturbance, changes in appetite, slowed thinking, feelings of worthlessness and even thoughts of death or suicide. Risk factors include biological vulnerabilities, certain personality traits such as obsessional traits, poor social support, financial difficulties, and co-existing medical illnesses. Depression is treatable through early identification, assessment and management including medication, psychological therapy, and neurostimulation modalities if warranted.

4) Ageing, Cognitive Decline, and Caregiving

As men age, they encounter new challenges in physical health, cognitive functioning, work transitions, financial stability, social relationships, and the reality of mortality. Yet, as MacKinlay and Cameron wrote in *Biblical Perspectives on Aging* (2019), ageing is a gift of God’s provision as “it becomes a space where people are transformed by the grace of God to find the wise maturity always intended by God for later life..., as later life can be a time of renewed maturity, restored community, and a deeper trust in God.” Ageing invites us to reframe sickness and suffering as temporary, held within God’s promise of eternity with Him. Locally, dementia affects approximately 1 in 11 seniors in Singapore, and caregiver burden is substantial as stress, distress, financial sacrifice, and even psychological morbidity among caregivers are common. Various aspects of supporting individuals with dementia include medical care, cognitive aids, behavioural strategies, lifestyle interventions, social engagement, caregiver support, and future planning. Some of these areas provide the church with opportunities to partner with professional or medical interventions to embody Christ’s compassion towards both individuals with dementia and caregivers.

5) A Community Anchored in God

As men in Christ, we all experience different seasons of the mind, body, and soul. We need to understand these spiritual seasons and the common mental health concerns that we can face over time. Help is available through pastoral care, community support, and professional resources when needed. In every season of life, may we find our strength not in self-sufficiency but in the God who walks beside us, sustains us, and promises to complete the work He has begun in us.

Cedar Tree AAC (Bukit Merah) Mid-Autumn Outreach Chapel @ PSPC

By Caleb Lee

On 20 September, the Chinese Ministry held their monthly chapel service for our friends from Sarah Active Ageing Centre @ Bukit Merah (now renamed Cedar Tree @ Bukit Merah). Every third Saturday of the month, a bus full of lively seniors pulls up along Prinsep Street, and as they step out, they are greeted by volunteers who usher them into the sanctuary. From my experience, there are hugs and handshakes all around. It's very heart-warming!

Typically, chapel service involves an icebreaker, worship, sharing or testimonies, games, and lunch and fellowship. Pastor Wan Xian led the icebreaker, which works a bit like 'hot potato'. She starts by asking someone a question (e.g., "What did you eat today?"). The person she asks does not answer but must ask someone else a question. And on it goes. I believe somewhere along the line an aunty asked why I was so handsome but unfortunately, bound by the game rules, I could not share my secret.

Then, our dear SBC interns, Charish and Cecilia, led worship while I played the piano. The songs were 赞美飞扬 (Let Praise Arise) and 唯有耶稣 (Jesus, You Can). Although the seniors are a mix of believers and non-believers, they enjoy the music and lyrics all the same! It's great to have this little opportunity to share Jesus' love through song. Thank you to Charish and Cecilia for leading the worship!

The main event was Janice's sermon and testimony. She shared from the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. By worldly logic, the father should have resented the son who left and, in doing so, hurt him so much. But that was not enough to separate the son from his father's love for him! Janice encouraged the seniors that no matter how far away they feel, God's love is stronger. At that point, I was already quite moved. But Janice followed it up with a testimony from her own life – a story of how

God's love can overcome decades of unresolved hurt and resentment and reshape all that pain and loss into something beautiful. I think the seniors were very touched too, and they appreciated Janice's courage in vulnerably sharing her story with them. It was amazing to hear her testify to God's love in her life.

Following the sermon and testimony was a quiz (with prizes!). Janice asked some questions based on the parable, while our church intern Michelle asked some questions on Chinese riddles. Let's try one: 左手五个, 右手五个, 拿去十个, 还剩十个。猜一个日常用品。 In English: Five on the left, five on the right. Take ten away, ten remain. Guess a household product. The seniors participated (very) actively and it was such a joy for everyone to laugh together. Thank you to Michelle for organising the riddles!

The chapel service closed with a lunch of chicken rice. Yummy! The fellowship hall comes alive with chatter when the seniors and volunteers share a meal together and chat. Many of these seniors and volunteers have built their friendships over years and years, and it was wonderful to witness this over lunch.

The whole occasion was a great chance to see God's work – be it through the staff, volunteers, music, games, sermon, testimony, or food. May we thank God for the chance to serve with Cedar Tree, for our friendships with the seniors, and for His grace and love to be with them as they navigate the challenges of their sunset years.



中秋节提醒我们“团圆”，然而许多人的关系并不圆满，但是还有更深层的问题是：我们的心常常与神“失散”。耶稣在浪子回头的比喻中告诉我们，天父上帝是一位满有慈爱的父亲，即使我们远离祂，祂仍然等候、奔跑、拥抱，渴望我们回家。

真正的团圆，不只是家人同坐一桌，而是人与神重新相遇、和好。耶稣说：“我就是道路、真理、生命；若不借着我，没有人能到父那里去。”祂就是我们回天父家的唯一道路。愿我们都在基督里，经历与天父的重聚，找到真正的家和平安。

By Janice Lee 李忆缘



Cedar Tree AAC (Bukit Merah)
 Outing on 18 November 2025 to the Changi Chapel and Museum.



PSPC 182nd Anniversary Service 2025

Photos by Michael Goh & Julian Ong



Children's MINISTRY CORNER

By Pr Carol Ng
Sunday School Superintendent

Teachers' Day Celebration (7 Sep 2025)

It takes a BIG heart to shape little minds and it also "takes a village to raise a child".

Indeed, we give thanks to God for all our Sunday School teachers and co-teachers, our Sermonette presenters and our JV teachers who are involved in shaping little minds for Christ at PSPC. We give thanks to God for all of them (photo is only half of the children's ministries community) for being part of the church community in raising our children in faith and character for Christ.

Our hearts were full of thanksgiving as we fellowshiped with a Teachers' Day thanksgiving meal at the YWCA, Fort Canning. We wish all could join us in this celebratory occasion, but they are also in our hearts as we celebrate the occasion.

Let us press on to shape little minds for Christ and encourage one another to press on to nourish the children through and through, tending the garden that God has given us. May we continue to serve Him with joy and gladness.

Your labour is not in vain [1 Corinthians 15:58].



Children's Day Celebration (5 Oct 2025)

We thank God for our celebration of Children's Day with our PSPC children. Our Toddlers and Nursery teachers prepared a fun-filled programme in the classes.

For our Kindergarten to Primary level children, they were treated to a puppet show on 'God's love is strong'. It was hilarious to see the balloon being pulled out of the young puppet. The children learnt that nothing is stronger than God's love [Romans 8:35-39].



For activities, the Kindies proceeded to their own classes for art and craft, where they coloured and made a banner, also on the theme "God's love is strong". The primary level children were grouped into six small groups, and each group was given a task to do an Egg

Drop Challenge. The objective was to make sure that the egg would not break. It was a fun activity where the children learnt that God's love is stronger than the combined straws which tried to protect the eggs from the drop. They learnt that they can trust in God to protect them, especially in times of brokenness and despair, because God's love is stronger than anything else.



P6 Graduation (9 Nov 2025)



Below L-R: P6 Teacher, Jerome Lim, Ivan Tay, Natalie Leow, Jereann Ho, Rebecca Ong, Charlotte Lim, Pr Carol Ng (not in the photo, Mikail Lim and Raphaelle Malphettes)





THE BOYS' BRIGADE

BOYS' BRIGADE (BB) 1ST COMPANY

~ 4th Quarter Update

By Ho Yew Keong
Captain

1st Singapore Company

In the 4th Quarter, we had only four parades to finish what we had left undone. For the Sportsman Badge for soccer, we learned the rules and regulations; this was conducted by I-Zack Lum. We practised the basic skills of passing, dribbling and shooting. We want to thank Lawrence Goh, Dillon Chua, Ow Yuhao and Kelvin Neu for coming all the way to YISS to help coach the Boys. Besides the practice sessions, the boys also had to pass a theory test to qualify for the badge.



10 Oct was the Brigade Thanksgiving and JM Fraser Award Presentation Day. 1J was awarded the Distinction Award 2024. We want to thank the Teachers and Officers for their hard work. We hope to restart 1J in 2027 after they move to their new premises next year. We were well represented by the 1st Alumni, 1J, 1st Officers and Helpers.



Six Officers attended the Brigade Annual Officers Retreat (AOR) in JB. We had a good time getting to know the Officers from other Companies and learning from them.



Our last parade was on 7 Nov when we had the basha and tent building test and soccer test. The Secondary 1 Boys finished off their practical test with this last module of building a basha and the tent. The Boys that came passed the test and will be awarded the Adventure Badge. We will also give out all the badges and promotions to those who deserve it. Six Boys were promoted to Staff Sergeant (SSG), in the first batch of SSG in YISS.

On 18-19 Oct, five of the seven of our Potential Founders Men (PFM) attended the National Leadership Assessment Course. This is a prerequisite for the Founder's Badge, which is the highest award in the seniors' programme. Thaddaeus and I were the accompanying Officers. Also, this group of Boys had to fulfil their Community Involvement Programme by serving in BB Share a Gift (BBSG). They had to complete two full-day duties to qualify. Some Boys were sent to man the collection centre at NTUC outlets. We want to thank these Boys for their commitment to satisfy all the criteria for the Founder's Badge. Pray and hope that all seven of them will clear the three requirements for the highest award.



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(Continued from Page 23)

The last event of the year for 1st Company was our very own 1st Company 95th Thanksgiving Dinner held on 5 Dec 2025. Many from all years and batches of Boys and Girls, men and women came for this event to remember God's faithfulness in this ministry. We also had guests from Malaysia and Scotland. We had a good time catching up, recalling all the times that we had together when we were younger. Thanks to Joe Lee and his team for planning and organising the dinner.



Lastly, please uphold Thaddaeus Tan (photo, on the right) in prayer as he has been appointed Brigade Asst Secretary from 1 Jan 2026. Do pray that he will be able to manage his time well for his work, family and ministry. We want to thank him especially for stepping forward to serve at the Brigade level.



PROGRAMMES FOR 2026

11 Jan, 11am Service
BB Day service at PSPC

25 April, 10am
Annual Enrolment
Ceremony at
Westwood Sec School

OTHER PRAYER POINTS:

- Thank God for the wonderful year we've had, and for His protection on all of us.
- Give thanks to God for all the Teachers, Officers and Helpers who have worked hard to teach the Boys.
- Welcome Ng Kum Chuen to the team so that Kok Choo can take a break. Pray that Kok Choo will have a good rest and come back with more ideas and energy.
- Pray for the final three results of the seven Potential Founder's Men, and pray that all seven can clear all the three courses and be awarded the Founder's Badge.
- Next year we will have a new teacher-in-charge joining us. Pray that she will be able to understand and work closely with us in nurturing the Boys.
- As the first batch of 29 Boys will be in Sec 4 next year, they will take their leave from April onwards. Pray for a good recruitment and for at least 20 Boys to join us.

IN & AROUND PSPC

Seniors' Sunday
23 Nov 2025



Senior Members' Fellowship
Christmas Celebrations
13 Dec 2025



Northern Thailand
Mission Trip
Commissioning
30 Nov 2025

Chiang Mai Team	(5-18 Nov)	Shawin Goh	Angie Chang
Fung Chi Ming	Alan Chia	Gregory Ng	Est Jordan Lee
Chng Buck Kim	Mary Choo	Joseph Lim	Sallyn Martens
Khai Hui Beh	Lawrence Goh		

Chiang Mai Team	(22 - 28 Nov)	Chou Lai Hai <th>Grace Goh </th>	Grace Goh
Ashika Lim	Olivia Grace Ng	Ho Kuan Luen	Michelle Choo
Siau Qi Hong	Shaw Hai Phin	Tan Tong Jim	Xu Bang Hui
Samuel Ng	Hik Tan	Wong Lee Jeng	
Anna Beth Ng	Joseph Wee		



WEDDINGS

Tan Hiap Sing & Jasmine Chee
(22 November 2025)

Our hearts are filled with thankfulness to our faithful God, who has carried us through many seasons of life. In His good and perfect time, He brought our paths together and led us to this union. Today, we celebrate not only the joining of two hearts, but the coming together of a new family of five. It is our desire that the Lord use our family to reflect the love and character of Christ, and His love for all.



PSPC Updates

(October 2025 - Present)

NEW BIRTH

Gabriel Chua
17.11.2025
[Parents:
Rayner Chua &
Wong Ye Wen]

DEATHS

Eld David Cher	01.11.2025
Mabel Tang Mooi Tjin	05.11.2025
Lawrence Lee Him	06.11.2025
Kok Tao Chin	14.11.2025

Nathaniel Pek & Faith Chen
(25 October 2025)



Girvan Tay & Lydia Lee
(2 November 2025)



Infant Baptisms on Christmas Day 2025



Nathaniel Chen Qing En
[Parents: Mark Chen & Liu Huimin]



Jasmine Chua Shi En
[Parents: Justin & Sharon Chua]



Josiah Ho Yong En
[Parents: Ian & Amanda Ho]



Luke Phua Chen Kai
[Parents: Jonathan & Ruth Phua]



Tahlia Wong Cheng Xin and Theodore Wong Sheng Kai
[Parents: Nicholas & Kara-Anne Wong]



Xzander Wong Zhe Yu
[Parents: Ocean & Lynn Wong]



Azriel Woo Zeyu
[Parents: Raymond & Amanda Woo]



Hannah Yii Mu Xi
[Parents: Yii Zheng Wei & Jialin]



DG Time (by Sophia)

Recently, my Bible study group went to Old Chang Kee on a group outing. The cosy atmosphere of the cafe made it easy for us to open up, and we had a conversation spanning multiple topics, including our studies, favourite subjects, and hobbies.

A few of us talked about the importance of literature to us. We shared our contrasting perspectives on the subject, and in doing so, gained greater insight into the different ways in which we view the world.

Although this session may not seem as meaningful (content-wise) as Bible study, I think forming close bonds with our peers is an important part of going to church. Our Christian journey should not be a solitary one; sharing the fears and doubts we may come across allows us all to grow together in faith as a community.



Games Day (by Isaac)

On 28 November, we visited the Singapore Botanic Gardens for our games day, a time for bonding and relaxation. There was a wide range of activities to enjoy, including a crossword puzzle that tested us on interesting trivia, and multiple group activities that challenged our group coordination.

For example, one game involved making the longest line using 10 personal items, while another involved singing as a group, and others involved sports. We appreciated one another's strengths through these games.

When we came to our final station, we were a bit stumped. The game involved us measuring the circumference of the Swan Lake at the gardens, using the number of steps as a guide.

I felt that the variety of activities was very interesting, learning fun facts, problem-solving skills and harmonising. I enjoyed the coordination and teamwork among my group, especially when playing sports. This day was a really welcome surprise and a time of rest after studying hard for my O-levels, and I had a lot of fun!





PLH Graduation (by James)

It's been a long and invaluable six years as part of Prinsep Lighthouse (PLH), a journey filled with joy, laughter, and growing closer and closer to God each and every step of the way.

If I had to praise one aspect of Lighthouse, it would without question be the simply incredible mentors. They're kind, supportive, effective, passionate and amazing all around. They helped Lighthouse feel like a safe space for me, a place where I was always welcome and could rest easy, filled with people I could confide in and grow alongside.

Despite a troubled beginning due to COVID in my first few years as a member of PLH, meaning we could not meet face to face, I'm happy to say that through God's grace, we were able to overcome it – ultimately forming strong, lasting friendships with our peers regardless.

To commemorate my time in Lighthouse, I've penned a short poem, featured below:

Home In The Light of Your Holy Lantern

*Six years of a journey that never ends
Growing closer to God, making new
friends*

*Nurturing Love to become a tightly knit
band*

*Learning more about our Creator, hand in
hand*

Where did it all take place?

*It was within the walls of a bright building,
A building built for guidance*

*A place where we could be guided in our
journeys of faith*

While learning how to guide ourselves

*It was within a location free of judgement,
full of nothing but*

care and

Love

(your neighbour as yourself)

It was a tower coaxing to life a brilliant ember

Shining, incandescent, with beaconic light

*Rays of salvation for lost ships and souls
through piercing night –*

*It was a home radiating warmth and safety,
Free with laughter's flight,*

*One of security, sanctuary, shelter –
a Lighthouse*

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