

ALLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO SHINE THROUGH - Celebrating the Life of Stella Chiang

By Susan Chiang

On Stella's passing, a good friend of ours, Aradhana, wrote this in her sympathy card to me: *"We grieve the loss of Aunt Stella! She has been such a blessing - a beautiful prayer warrior, loving, kind, caring, thoughtful, generous, gentle, humble and a strong woman of faith. She remained strong in faith until the end!!"*

All the cards that Stella had received over the years - be they birthday cards, thank-you cards, get-well cards, letters of encouragement, letters of appreciation, have the same train of thought running through them - *"Thank you for your love and kindness, Stella! It's a blessing to have you as my friend!! Your gift of encouragement has encouraged us to be more caring and loving towards each other!! God has given me a most precious gift - your friendship which, touched by the love of Jesus in action, is priceless!!"*



Everyone who knew her loved her dearly, not only her friends, but children too and even my cat. Stella was not only kind and caring, she was also very generous, not only with her time but with her money. If there was any need, she would be the first one to share her financial resources. But God is not a debtor to anyone, but will repay to the giver blessings and joy to overflowing, and Stella had experienced that to the max. She was lacking in nothing.

Coming from a Christian home, we all went to Sunday School from a very young age, then carried on to join Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC) where we grew in our faith and were baptised by Rev James Seah in 1974. (It was so apt then to see Rev James Seah say the closing prayer for Stella at the livestreaming of her funeral in PSPC). But it was in 1975 that, in her own words, she had to make the painful decision of breaking off a five-year relationship with a non-Christian when she realised that although they both loved each other very much, he had no interest at all in knowing



her God, even after five years. Yes, there were nights of crying herself to sleep but Stella believed that that stand of obedience unto the Lord was her "turning point". From that moment on, she

could surely testify about His wonderful encouragement and bountiful blessings, and how God had helped her to soar in faith and in her love for Him.

And I can testify to that fact when I saw her grow, literally grow in her faith and her love for her God and just allowing Christ more and more to shine through her. And this is the testimony that, if we are willing to make a stand of obedience for the Lord, He can surely use us mightily too, and mould us more and more in His Son's image.



Stella began to be more involved in activities in PSPC - Sunday School teaching, in charge of the Youth Department, choir director of five musicals, editor of the youth magazines; and she also had many opportunities in counselling while she worked as a secretary in Scripture Union Singapore.

Stella decided to study Psychology at UWA in 1981 and graduated in 1984 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours in Psychology Class 2B). Returning to Singapore after she completed her studies, she worked for two years in the Personnel Research Dept of Singapore's Ministry of Defence and was then led by the Lord to work full-time in Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church as Pastoral Staff Counsellor, which she enjoyed very much.

She received her migration papers to return to Perth in November 1988 as a Permanent Resident. She tried to find work in a psychology-related field but no doors were opened so she went back to working as a secretary. And talking about Stella being a secretary, my sister was a fantastic typist. She had typed many of her fellow university students' theses for them, even typed from handwritten notes for the books

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of one of the pastors, Bill Gaunson of Thornlie Church of Christ, where we worshipped in the early days in Perth. When working at BHP's Legal Dept, my sister could listen to a tape of opera or classical music while typing her legal documents and notes. Seriously, my sister could multi-task!



When she was made redundant due to restructuring at the company she had worked for 15 years, she started volunteering in many organisations – at the Cancer Council when they had a huge mail-out job to do; then in the Cancer Centre of Fiona Stanley Hospital where she would talk to

cancer patients (whilst they were undergoing treatment, and of course she made good friends out of some of them), or run errands to the store to get them some socks, beanies or scarves, and she would bring a few back for them to choose what colour they wanted.

Then she went on to volunteer in Fiona Stanley Hospital itself in the meet and greet 'way finding' area, bringing wheelchairs to patients who were ready to be picked up, etc. There were many more agencies where she volunteered her time and all these she did with her calm and friendly demeanour and that cheerful smile of hers!

Then in 2018 Stella had her first endometrial cancer diagnosis. She was rushed to Emergency where they found there was a cancerous mass near her left ureter for which

A Personal Note

Outside my office, there are several Australian umbrella trees. Occasionally, there will be a striking display of red flowers at the top of the tree. I can see them because I am on the second storey, but they would not be visible from the ground. "What a pity that the people walking along the paths would not be able to appreciate them," I thought one day. Then I realised that the flowers are meant to be seen from above, for the birds to sip the nectar and pollinate the flowers. The fruit would be eaten by birds and small animals which would then scatter the seeds through their droppings.

I reflected that God did not create the umbrella tree for my enjoyment, but He had created an ecosystem which sustains the birds and small animals, which in turn help to propagate the plant. We see insects as pests, but without bees and other insects, many crops and fruit trees would disappear. We are all dependent on one another.

We probably think that we are a superior species, and yet we too carry around a little ecosystem in our bodies – the trillions of bacteria that live in our gut as well as on our skin (<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240813-the-surprising-benefits-of-the-microbes-that-live-on-your-skin>). They live in symbiosis with us, providing nutrients and protecting us from more harmful microbes. We do not yet fully understand the roles they play in our health and disease.

Man has been entrusted with the stewardship of the earth. God has appointed us as stewards and caretakers. How then should we fulfil this responsibility? Lawrence Ko's article (page 6) on the role of the urban church to transcend and transform, provides some food for thought.

The church, too, is the visible body of Christ, with many parts which are interdependent. In this issue, we share the stories of Stella Chiang (cover) and Charles Lim (page 3), who have gone to be with the Lord. Stella came to Christ as a child, while Charles became a Christian much later in life. Nonetheless, God worked in and through their lives, to touch and bless many, within the church and bringing the Good News to others. May our lives, too, shine the light of Jesus on those around us and may PSPC be a microcosm of what God's redeemed world would look like!

Postscript: If you're wondering why the style of this editorial is a little different, I've been inspired by the Ink and Inspiration workshop by Bishop Robert Solomon (page 19)!

Chia Gaik Bee

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



The umbrella tree, seen from the second storey



The tree as seen from the ground. The flowers can hardly be seen



Birds visiting the flowers

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she was treated with chemotherapy, then radiation. Treatment was good for a while after radiation and then the bad news came that her cancer had spread to the right ureter. The oncologist sprang into action and started her on immunotherapy which had a positive result when she learnt that with that treatment, 60% of the cancer had shrunk.

What we thought was a very positive outlook was then crushed when she contracted COVID, which started the downward spiral of her health because of her compromised and low immunity and ultimately took her life. As I look back, she was quietly suffering through the numerous Emergency hospital visits and operations, hospital stays, ongoing blood tests, oncologist appointments and various treatments, all the while experiencing feelings of discomfort, unwellness, pain and neuropathy (numbness) in her hands and feet. She fought so hard against her cancer whilst still keeping a positive outlook and remaining cheerful. That was my sister for you!

She loved God very much and loved His Word. There were

many bookmarks scattered in her Bible extolling His love and goodness and one of them read: *"What shall I render to the Lord, For all His benefits towards me? Psalm 116:12. Bless You Lord, I love You very much!!"* Surely Stella would be able to say with confidence as Paul did in 2 Timothy 4: 7-8: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day. And as God wipes away every tear, sorrow and pain from her eyes, He will say "Well done, my good and faithful servant!"*

I take comfort and joy over the fact that Stella is now in the loving arms of her Heavenly Father. To all her family and friends, she was a beautiful, loving, kind, caring, encouraging and generous friend but to me, Stella was all that plus so much more, the best sister anyone could ever have or wish for and I am so blessed, honoured and privileged to have known her as my beautiful and special sister whom I will miss so very very much.



Charles Lim - How I came to accept the Lord

28 April 2012

I had two strong vices.

I started smoking and drinking when I was 15 years old. The consumption increased along with my age. So when I was fifty years old, I sat down and thought to myself, whether I had consumed too much nicotine and alcohol. I used to boast that if I were to vomit the beers that I had consumed, it could fill up many swimming pools to intoxicate swimmers!

I decided to quit. I knew it would not be easy. And I felt it had to be by divine means. This meant I had to be more godly, by seeking the gods of my ancestors, and whichever god could help. So whenever I travelled, I made it a point to visit a place of worship to pray to all kinds of idols and deities. In one overseas trip, I joined a queue that was supposed to be at least 17 hours long to see an idol in a temple. I badly wanted to visit him: firstly, to seek my fortune; and secondly, to curb my bad habits. When we arrived at the temple, I was put off when I found out that I had to pay a bribe to cut our queue by 10 hours. Moreover, each of us would have only 30 seconds to stand in front of the idol to say whatever prayer we wanted, then quickly make way for the next in line. Nevertheless, I went through it but in my heart I was thinking that it was not a very good bargain. On the way back, as we proceeded downhill for the five hour car ride, the car door on my side suddenly came off. So we had to stop the car and walk some distance to pick up the battered car door. We tied the door with some strings, and being the strongest of the three I was tasked to hold it

to ensure the weight of the door did not cause the strings to fray for the rest of the long journey. This got me wondering to myself. What kind of god is this? After paying bribes to the guard to reduce our waiting time to seven hours, instead of this idol sending us back in safety and blessing, now I had to hold the car door all the way. I eventually realised these mute and dumb idols had not helped. Rather, they had been a great disappointment to me.

One evening, at 7pm, as if by a divine arrangement, everyone in my home was out. It was unusual. So I decided to secretly kneel down, without my family knowing, to say a simple prayer. Actually, it was more like a challenge than a prayer. I said, 'Jesus, are you there? You know something? I want to ask you to do something for me. I have been to those gods, especially Buddha, Balaji and Kwan Yin, seeking them to remove my smoking, drinking and bad temper. They have not given me any results.' I then said, 'I know it is not easy, but if you can remove these vices from me, I will follow you.' Then I stopped praying.

For in those days, I doubted the power of prayers, so I said those few words. Then I was expecting an immediate sign to happen, but nothing happened. There was no loud sound, or wind or voices responding to me, although I felt calm but not hopeful. Not long after my prayer, my family members came home, and I went to sleep early that night.

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The following day, I woke up rather late, and had my breakfast. Routinely, I took my packet of Gudang Garam filter cigarettes from my drawer to enjoy my cloven nicotine. I was upset when the cigarette tasted so bad. So I asked Laurie, our Filipino domestic helper, to dash downstairs to the coffee shop to buy me a few fresh packets of Gudang Garam. When the packets arrived, the same 'bad taste' happened. So, for the better part of the day, I was grumbling as I was unable to enjoy my smoke.

Come evening, I decided to have my own 'happy hour' by myself. I took out my Johnny Walker Black to sip. My normal consumption was easily half a litre daily. Then I had a shock, for the whiskey smelt like ditch water. I was again mad, this time at the bottle, so I asked Laurie to bring me an unopened bottle. The same bad taste happened, so I had no choice – no cigarette and alcohol for the day.

As I sat and thought about why all these happened, something reminded me. I recalled my short prayer the night before and asked myself: Could Jesus have responded so quickly? I felt that it was incredible, but this time I was focused. True enough, the next day, and the next, I had no craving for cigarettes or alcohol. My swear words were gone, and I began to be more human.

Then I started to attend PSPC with Doreen. I found the sermons exciting. The Bible made sense about a lot of things. I began to thirst for God's Word, and started to read the Bible feverishly. God had proven to me that He is real. For, just a month after our baptism, a friend borrowed our Kodak camera with film. After he had used it, he had to develop all the photos, and saw the 13 baptism photos of Doreen and me.

He and his wife were surprised to discover that we had accepted the LORD. They spoke in Hokkien, '*le chiak hong kah liow?*' (You have become a Christian?) I said, '*wa chee choon siang sing ya sor liow!*' (I am now a believer in Jesus Christ!) Then they realised that we had become Christians and saw the change in me.

One day, a month after that conversation, the LORD gave me the opportunity to invite my friend to kneel down to pray to receive Jesus as LORD. Honestly, at that time, I didn't even know how to pray properly at all. Yet, my simple sincere

prayer had touched my friend. Eventually he and his wife were baptised, and he and I are now working in partnership serving the LORD, supporting a church in Indonesia!

I want to conclude this testimony to proclaim that we have a mighty God who is magnanimous. He will listen to our prayers, so we must not be discouraged if things do not happen immediately. Thus, however weak we think our prayer is, God is pleased to hear it, and He will not allow our prayers to return to us void.

So, if we have dear ones at home, especially grandparents and parents, do pray for them unceasingly. I must emphasise that you must do so repeatedly, like those saints who prayed with my daughters Ai Lin and Ai Vee for their parents.

We must plunder hell to fill up the heavens. Pascal said, "In our life there is a God-shaped vacuum that only God can fill." Yes, that statement is true for me. Now my heart has been filled. I am thankful and willing to take my role as the spiritual head of my family.

It is already 16 years since I started walking with the LORD. Every step has been sweeter and firmer and brighter.

Now I trust God more, and learn to live by faith, and not by sight. God has proven that one tiny smooth stone can easily slay a giant, if we aim properly. He can make the donkey speak to embarrass a man like Balaam. He turned a self-proclaimed coward like Gideon into a mighty warrior, and prison doors cannot hold those who serve Him in righteousness and truth.

Thank you again, may you be richly blessed.

I thank God for my wife, Doreen and daughters Ai Lin and Ai Vee for their perseverance.



Charles (bottom left) with his family

A Daughter's Viewpoint

By Lim Ai Lin

I became a believer in my early teens, when the late Rev Richard Ng led a team of 16 persons from PSPC in 1982 to start a church at a void deck in Blk 23, Woodlands Drive. My mother Doreen was desirous to meet my new church friends and through the years she attended church whenever she could. My dad, Charles Lim, on the other hand, was very unhappy that my mum, sister and I were deeply involved in church activities.

In 1995, when I was posted to Jakarta for work, my mum continued to attend church. One day, my dad told her that he felt sorry she was going to church alone and offered to accompany her so that they could have lunch together after the service. He told her he would wait for her outside as he didn't want to listen to the "garbage" being preached by hypocrites standing on the pulpit. However, he decided to wait at the back of the church instead since it was too hot

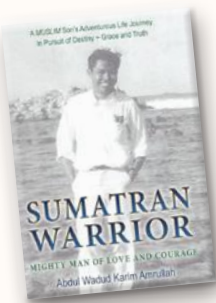
to stand outside. Each Sunday, he moved one pew forward and before long, my mum found that my dad was listening intently to each Sunday's sermon.

In early 1997, I received a fax from my dad in my office in Jakarta, informing me that he and my mum were getting baptised. I was in a state of disbelief as I witnessed my parents' baptisms.

My father soon became an infectious Christian. His good friend Sim Guan Seng and his wife Lock Huey also surrendered their lives to God, and together, they travelled to East Malaysia and Indonesia, sowing seeds of friendship and the gospel. My father had by then befriended an American couple, Mr and Mrs Charles Lewis who used to transit in Singapore on their way to or from America, calling PSPC their Singapore home church. Soon after, my dad "inherited" The Little Flock ministry when the Lewises decided to retire after labouring more than 40 years in Indonesia. From just a handful of secretly believing men, The Little Flock has grown to over a thousand families in the city area and the surrounding outskirts.

Together with the late Pak Hui Owyong, the sewing mission in Marta's home started in the late 1990's. After going through severe hardships through the earthquake in 2008 and severe life challenges, Marta's sewing mission continues till today to provide opportunities for disadvantaged women to earn a small living, while they persevere in their faith as Christians in a very hostile ground.

Another key person to mention here is the late Pak Willy Amrull whose life's transformation story has been recorded into a book titled "Sumatran Warrior", documenting his story as a young boy in West Sumatra, Indonesia. Willy shared his transformational life account, as he travelled through escapades from pain of war, life's intense hardships and surrendering to Jesus. Willy's account of his upbringing and life after becoming a Christian is very similar to the hundreds of men today who have embraced the God of the Gospel.



PSPC has been faithfully supporting the church led by the local pastors since adopting this ministry in 2000, fondly known as the "Ming Ministry". By God's providence, this flock has grown by leaps and bounds through the years. There are numerous other churches in Mingland led by other faithful men and women producing a generation of young adults, working as nurses, teachers, accountants and pastors today in different Indonesian cities. The main objective of the annual Vacation Bible School is to provide an opportunity to sow gospel seeds to the kids so they may be a bridge to their parents. It is hoped that the young believers will grow up supporting one another through their faith journeys in an environment that constantly seeks to persecute them. We pray that the on-going programmes for the children, youth, adults and prisoners will continue despite economic and logistical challenges.

The dominant religion is very strong. Those who leave the religion are disowned by their family and society. Indeed, the believers of "The Little Flock" have endured intense social pressure in the areas of housing and employment, and day-to-day discrimination and ostracism in education, health care, social and judicial services. Through the years, the labourers and fruits of The Little Flock mission work have gone through untold suffering, encountering discord, desolation, devastation and destruction attempts by Satan.



One of the groups from PSPC that visited the Mingland in the early 2000

My dad was used as a vessel to share the Good News with the Ming people. His fluency in Bahasa Indonesia, love for God and His people enabled him to share the gospel effectively with a great sense of urgency. My parents visited them regularly with the support of PSPC and the faithfulness of Eld Evelyn Loh and numerous other PSPC members who tirelessly displayed their compassion, affection and care for The Little Flock. We continue to seek the prayers and support of PSPC to seize the opportunity to sow gospel seeds in this area while the doors are still open.

Above all, we give God all glory and praise for He has promised us:

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. – Isaiah 55:11



From the City to the Mountains: Transcend and Transform

By Lawrence Ko



The church in Singapore is a church in the city of Singapore. As such, we need to understand the Biblical concept of a city if we want the church to become an effective urban church. Cities are gifts from God even though the first city was built by Cain having been expelled from his family. It was indeed the first “refuge city”, an atonement concept which would be explored when the Levitical cities were built. The ultimate city of refuge and atonement would be the eschatological one, descending from heaven as the heavenly Jerusalem city. Hence the city can become a great signpost to the celestial city, the latter being built not by human hands, but whose architect is God.



The urban church can play a significant role in the envisioning of a city built with the righteous standards of God (viz., godliness) and pervaded by the *shalom* (peace) of God. Such an urban setting can prepare human habitation with the creatures of God and with the presence of the Creator God. Here, the roles of humans as priests of God’s creation, lifting creation in the worship of God and also as the stewards of God in caring for His creation can be demonstrated.¹ To experience God’s presence and transcendence, we do not need to go to the mountains. God is present here with us in the city, especially in the urban church.

The 21st century will be marked as the urban century as UN experts tell us that over 75% of the world will live in cities by 2050 and up to 85% by the end of the century.² We are thus living in a rapidly urbanising world with Asia as the most rapidly urbanised region with hundreds of new cities being built, especially since China embarked on the road towards reform and modernisation 40 years ago. More countries are now being modernised, from Southeast Asia to South Asia, from Central Asia to Africa, aided over the last decade with the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the new Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) to help finance these urbanisation projects.



The new cities in the developing world will have new urban amenities and unprecedented opportunities with technological advancements and digital innovations, from paved roads to modern transit and fast rail, traversing great rivers and ravines with suspension bridges and satellite systems. However, there are newer and greater challenges in the new era, from rural-urban and transnational migration resulting in overcrowded cities. The Millenium Development Goals (MDG) have alleviated rural poverty through urbanisation but have created a new challenge of urban poverty. Over 800 million urban poor now live in urban slums in cities all over the world.



The world has also awakened too slowly to Climate Change, which the UN-Habitat experts have attributed to human activities, which have degraded the environment and are destructive to the ecosystem. The cities, which occupy only 2% of the earth’s land surface area but consume over 70% of the energy flows, contribute to 75% of the pollution, and they are chiefly responsible for this climate crisis, as carbon emission is high in the cities from fossil fuel and energy use (particularly from coal). Consumerism and thoughtless lifestyles in the city further fuel the overproduction of material consumer goods and food which drain earth’s resources and create much waste.

Where is the urban church in this picture? How can the church play a role in combating climate change and respond adequately through appropriate climate action? Firstly, the church needs to recover an adequate theology of creation which calls for a reverential understanding of God as Creator and indeed a theological perspective of humanity as priests and stewards, made in the divine image to serve God and care for creation.

¹ “Environmental Stewardship and Priesthood of Creation” in Lawrence Ko, *From the Desert to the City: Christians in Creation Care*. Ethos Institute, (2020)
² UN-Habitat’s World Cities Report 2022. <https://unhabitat.org/wcr/>



The Bible is replete with teachings of God's shalom and shabaat (sabbath) principles, which reflect the vision and values of God's kingdom. As God's royal priesthood and a holy nation with a sense of transcendence (i.e. being able to lift ourselves up from the worldly and materialistic lifestyle of excessive consumption aided by expensive media and marketing campaigns), the urban church can then help transform the world through adopting God's shalom and sabbatical principles of living. This will mean rethinking and re-envisioning the way we live, rightly relating with God's creation, with one another, and thus with God the Creator.

Walter Bruggemann, the Old Testament biblical scholar, has pointed to the practice of sabbath as a way of resistance. It alludes to a war-time mentality of confronting evil through resistance, of not giving in to the enemy. Indeed we are in a cultural war, and as disciples of Christ, it is imperative to stand up and be counted, to hold the line by simply practising the sabbatical principles in obedience to the Ten Commandments of God. That would be a powerful resistance of "saying No to the Culture of Now" as Bruggemann puts it.³

The urban church in understanding the calling of God's royal priesthood and living out the creative responsibility of humanity made to work and tend the earth, can then find a myriad of ways to express our understanding of Creation Care through our vocational calling whether in the fields of academia or arts, banking or business, culture-making or community service, etc. Caring for God's creation is not limited to coastal clean-ups, nature walks or urban farming. It is a call for the courage to be, to transcend our culture and transform it.

As cities are being built from Asia to Africa, the 21st century urban church has an opportunity and a responsibility to participate with God in shaping the cities and the cultures. We first shape the city; afterwards, the city will shape us.⁴ With God's help, we can be agents of transcendence and transformation.



³ Walter Bruggemann, *Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now*. Westminster John Know Press (2017)

⁴ Emily Soh, "We shape our city, and our city shapes us" in Lawrence Ko, ed. *Ethnic Rhythms: Life in the Global City*. Singapore Centre for Global Mission, (2015)

YACHT Retreat 2024

Yacht Club Chalet C (Changi), 26 - 28 July 2024

Photos by Eld Aaron Tan and Ng Pin Sheng



中文服务组@Rengit

Chinese Ministry Mission Month @ Rengit

By Chong Mui Ling 张美灵 Edited by Vanessa Gu 顾青

龙引 (Rengit) 是位于马来西亚柔佛州的一个小镇，经常参与龙引宣道所 (以下简称宣道所) 活动的少年约10位到12位，平均每次参加的人数约6至10人。但是，宣道所缺乏年轻人带领这些少年的成长，近年来当教会重启后，宣道所只能借助新加坡及邻近新山教会的短宣队前来做带动的服事。

长老会磐石堂的中文事工曾在2023年12月与龙引宣道所合作，到那里进行了第一次短宣活动。今年7月，中文事工启动了第二次短宣之旅。尽管当地的少年们当天有其他活动安排，但当他们听到短宣队的哥哥姐姐们要再次到来的消息时，很多人都非常珍视这个机会，即使那些平时不太愿意来的孩子也尽量安排时间来参加。尽管有6人临时有事无法前来，而且他们非常投入地参与了活动。

当天，磐石堂短宣队宣讲的内容是撒该的认罪，宣讲之后要求少年们写出自己的认罪文。短宣队积极地带领着少年们的参与，也增添了他们之间的凝聚力。同时，短宣队也为宣道所的老师提供了一个学习的楷模。会后，短宣队员与老师们一起陪同少年们享用龙引著名的Ali鸡饭，大家在温馨的聚餐中共同体会着团契的温馨。用餐后，两位短宣队员带着少年们到篮球场打球，在那里他们遇到在去年的短宣活动中结识的几位少年，而其中的一位与短宣队员一直保持着联系。

球场中还有其他的青少年从未走进过宣道所，这些未得之民中也有宣道所的羊。相信若有青年导师接触他们，陪伴他们一起打球，那么他们将有更多获得福音的机会。愿我们的短宣队员经常记念龙引这个乡镇，时常回来跟进这里的少年人，愿我们的教会能给予他们更多的关注。宣道所至今尚未有青年领袖，愿上帝赐福那些已经步入宣道所的少年人，让他们在短宣队哥哥姐姐的培育和影响下逐渐成长。期待有一天，他们能够有影响力带动龙引的青少年们融入教会。



(English Translation)

Rengit Presbyterian Church (RPC) is in the small town of Rengit in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. About ten to twelve teenagers regularly attend church activities, with an average of six to ten attending each time. However, our church needs younger adults to help and lead these youths to grow. Since the church restarted its activities in recent years, RPC has relied on the support of short-term mission teams from Singapore and neighbouring Johor Bahru churches to help in the ministry.

In December 2023, the PSPC Chinese Ministry partnered with Rengit Presbyterian Church and conducted its first short-term missionary activity there. PSPC Chinese Ministry launched its second short-term mission trip in July this year. Although the local teenagers had other activities planned that day, many of them cherished this opportunity when they heard their brothers and sisters from the short-term mission team were coming again. Even teens who were usually reluctant to participate tried their best to schedule a time to attend. Although six teens could not attend due to other commitments, those who came were very involved in the activities.

On that day, the team from PSPC preached on the confession of Zacchaeus, and after the sermon, the youths were asked to write their own confessions. The team actively

led the youths to participate in the task, which added to the cohesion among the participants. At the same time, the PSPC team also provided a model that the teachers at the church could follow. After the meeting, the team members and teachers accompanied the youths to enjoy the famous Ali's Chicken Rice, where they shared warm fellowship over a cozy meal. After the meal, two team members took the youths to the basketball court for a game of basketball. There, they met some youths they had met during the December 2023 outreach trip, and one of them had kept in touch.

There are other youths at the basketball court who have never been inside the church. They are like the lost sheep of RPC. I believe that young mentors can reach out to them through playing basketball, which increases the opportunities to share the gospel. May our short-term missionaries always remember the township of Rengit and come back to follow up with the young people here, and may our churches pay more attention to them. We have yet to have any youth leaders in RPC. May God bless these young people who have entered the RPC so they can grow up under the nurturing and influence of their brothers and sisters from the different short-term mission teams. We look forward to the day when they will influence other youths in Rengit to come to the church.

Bus Captain – Recruiting now!

Interviewed by Chia Gaik Bee

Some of us may have harboured ambitions of being a bus driver when we were children. But what about a bus captain? On the second Sunday of each month, William Leong Yew Fai serves as a bus captain, bringing seniors from the Sarah Active Ageing Centre (SAAC) to PSPC for the Mandarin service.

Messenger: How did you become a bus captain?

William: I live in Tiong Bahru, opposite Jalan Bukit Merah, where SAAC is located. I saw Colleen Quek reaching out to the elderly, and I thought that this was something I could do, as I speak Mandarin and I'm good at crowd control.

Messenger: What do you do as a bus captain?

William: I have to gather the elderly from SAAC and do a headcount when they get on the bus, and make sure they all get back safely as well. I also have to organise breakfast and lunch for the elderly.

Messenger: What would be the qualifications for a bus captain?

William: The ability to speak in Mandarin and dialects if possible. You have to be quick and alert to watch out for the elderly, particularly during bad weather. Sometimes there are those who randomly board the bus; you need to spot who's new and bring them to the befrienders. It also helps to have a sense of humour when interacting with the elderly. It helps them stay awake before the worship service, and brightens their Sunday.

Messenger: Apart from your heavenly reward, what else keeps you going in this ministry?

William: I learnt how to communicate with the elderly and coax them to board and alight the bus safely. I also get a kind of satisfaction when I see their happy faces on the bus outing rather than being cooped up alone in a lonely home. It's important for them to be able to come on the second Sunday as they are able to receive Holy Communion. I also invited an ex-colleague, Soon Bee, to join PSPC and the SAAC ministry, as he is well-versed in the Bible and can speak in several dialects. He does home visits and helps the elderly to grow in their faith.



William (right), with his wife Angelina on the left and Sherina in the middle.

Currently the SAAC elderly come to PSPC for the Mandarin service on the first two Sundays of the month, due to having only two members, Colleen and William serving as bus captains. If you would like to serve in this area, do contact Christine Chan at christine@amkco.com.

Praising God to the Ends of the Earth

By Tan Tong Jen

Challenged by our Choir Mentor, Mrs Simon Chan, the Choir went on a musical missionary trip to Manila late June this year (27 - 30 June), the first of such trips in over three decades. Our goals were to present God's gospel to the wider Manila community through the Proclaiming Christ Concert on Saturday (29 June), and to encourage the local church and choirs on Sunday (30 June). Our host church was the historic UCCP Ellinwood Malate Church, which is located in the heart of the older section of Manila City. This year the church is also celebrating its 117th anniversary, and we are glad to be part of that remembrance of God's love in Manila.



DAY 1

The host church really went out of its way to ensure our trip was smooth and meaningful. The hotel that the church arranged for us is actually affiliated with the church, and they even put up publicity for the Proclaiming Christ Concert in the hotel lobby!

The choir was visibly all excited to give our best to God, so much so that even while waiting for our bus after dinner, our ladies and men ensembles did an impromptu rehearsal right in the private room that we were given!



DAY 2

The Senior Pastor of Ellinwood Malate Church, Rev Carlos Dela Cruz, took us on a day trip to the Ta'al Lake in the Tagaytay region that is on the outskirts of Manila. At the lip of the caldera overlooking the live volcano that was still spewing steam, we shared fellowship with Rev Carlos and his wife Eunice as we marvelled at the works of God's creation. Yet, along the way to and from the popular retreat spot, we passed by parts of the city where living conditions were quite squalid by modern standards, and we were reminded of our mission to reach out to the destitute through God's gospel of hope.





DAY 3

We started the day with a spiritual retreat under the guidance of Rev Carlos, at which we were reminded of why we serve and especially as a choir.

After a quick lunch, we had a rehearsal for the concert that was happening later that evening. The church architecture was truly awe-inspiring and simultaneously challenging for our choir to fill with our voices. The sanctuary is easily twice as large in all dimensions as our own sanctuary in PSPC, and we were expecting a crowd of 1,200! By God's grace, and under the steady hands of Mrs Simon Chan, we managed to deliver the programme to a full house, with participation from the Ellinwood Chancel Choir. After the concert, we shared dinner fellowship with the Chancel Choir as well as the helpers from the Youth Choir in the fellowship hall that was converted from the original sanctuary.



DAY 4

The choir presented the anthem and offertory at the 7am and 9.30am services on Sunday. We were greatly encouraged to find out that the 7am service is actually run by and for youths, and many of the Youth Choir members serving every Sunday during service have to leave their homes at dawn as they need to travel a long way to the church. We were also very touched by the church's outreach effort to the children of the needy in the neighbourhood and around Manila through their Vacation Bible School programme.

CLOSING WORDS

The Senior Pastor, Rev Carlos, and the choir director of the Chancel Choir, Ms Vera, were both very appreciative of us coming to Manila to encourage them in their service to God and His people. Members of the Chancel Choir and Youth Choir shared during the dinner fellowship that they were also very moved by our visit which showed them how important their own ministry is. On our part, we were also encouraged by their faithfulness and fervour to serve God with whatever they have. We were told the church is building a Music and Arts Center within the church compound to draw people around the city to God through music and the arts. This coincidentally is in line with PSPC's own desire to be a beacon within the Arts Triangle where we are situated. We left Manila with hearts filled with thanksgiving, for we came to serve, yet we were served instead, and richly too!

All glory to God!



My Journey in the Church Choir

By Paul Tan

I joined the church choir when I was in my early 20's. I was then a student in a local university. My late mother was then the director of our church choir. She was the one who first introduced me to Mrs Chan. She told me that Mrs Chan was giving voice lessons to the choir members as well as anyone interested.

As I had always been singing in choirs since I was a child – both in church as well as in my school and was very keen to learn the proper techniques of singing, I took the step to join Mrs Chan's voice lessons. At first I was a bit fearful as I had heard from my mum that Mrs Chan was very strict and had very high standards when it came to singing. However I was reassured by some other choir members that Mrs Chan was strict but was also a very warm person once we got to know her. As I persevered with my weekly singing lessons, I was able to appreciate that what my mum and the choir members had told me about Mrs Chan was true. But most importantly, for the first time in my life, I found my voice and singing technique improving gradually. As I continued to go for lessons, Mrs Chan also encouraged me to join the church choir so that I could put into practice the vocal techniques that I had been taught. Thus, I soon found myself singing with the church choir at our church 11am service.

In June 1993, several members of the choir including myself had the privilege of going to the Philippines on our first mission trip. And now, 31 years later, we're back again to minister to the people in the Philippines. Praise God!



In the blink of an eye, I have been singing with the choir for more than 30 years! Singing in the choir has been a truly transformative experience. I was drawn by the beauty of the music and the sense of community among the choir members. But as I continued to sing and serve, I discovered so much more. Through the choir, I've deepened my faith, found comfort in times of struggle, and experienced the joy of worshipping God through music. Most importantly, being part of the church choir has helped me grow in my relationship with God. As I sing, I feel His presence, and His love and grace fill my heart. It's a feeling that's hard to put into words, but it's a sense of peace, joy, and connection to something greater than myself.

Singing in the choir has also taught me discipline, teamwork, and the value of using my talents to glorify God. It's a privilege to be part of a group that leads others in worship and brings people closer to God through song.

It is worth noting that the role of the choir in worship was mentioned even in the Old Testament.

In Nehemiah 12:31 it says: Then I brought the leaders of Judah up onto the wall and appointed two great **choirs** that gave thanks. One went to the south on the wall to the Dung Gate.

In addition, in the Book of Psalms, there are numerous Psalms written by King David that are addressed to "the choirmaster", e.g. *Psalm 19:1: To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Thus we can see from the Bible how important the role of the choir is in the worship of God in our churches.

From the Bible, we also learn that all Christians have been given spiritual gifts and that each of us should use our gifts to serve God and fellow believers.

In 1 Corinthians 12 it says :

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."

For me, I believe that I have been given the gift of singing, which is one reason why I have remained in the choir for so many years, in order to use my gift to glorify God and to edify and encourage fellow believers as well as to reach out to those who have yet to know the Lord Jesus.

Thus I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you who have been gifted with the gift of singing to similarly continue to serve the Lord by making use of the voice that the Lord has given. However, if your spiritual gift is not in singing, it doesn't matter. The important thing is that each of us must use the gifts God has given us to glorify Him and serve His people. Just remember this: In the world, we are always told, "No one is indispensable." But in God's Kingdom, Nobody is dispensable!

After more than 30 years, I'm still grateful for the opportunity to serve in the choir. It's a blessing that I cherish deeply, and I look forward to many more years of singing for the glory of God.

Singing for God in Manila: Reflections

By Mae Heng

The Manila choir retreat opened my eyes to how worship is an expression of our love for Christ and others. There was a song presentation by the host church's children's choir, consisting mostly of the neighbourhood street children who recently participated in Vacation Bible School. These children comprise one of the church's outreach ministries. While most



of the children worshipped with their little voices, with help from the adults who led the Bible school, there was a mute boy in the back row of that choir (*boy with the arrow*), who used his facial expression and actions to worship God. Not having a voice did not stop him from praising

the Lord. It reminded me of Psalm 150:6 "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

I saw the priority that the Malate Christians placed on church worship. Some came from far away, and their journey

took more than an hour. Yet, they came early. Their 7:30am service was a YOUTH service with a full youth choir. (This meant they'd have to be at choir practice probably at 6:30am.) There was joy as they served. Would I be early or punctual if our church service was held at 7:30am?



Mae (left) and her sister, Lynn

During the retreat, I was reminded that God sees our hearts. I realised that the style of worship or how "in tune" the singing was, would not be a lesser sacrifice of worship to God. Lastly, Ellinwood Malate Church had a few kneeling pews in the front of the sanctuary. Many voluntarily and joyfully came to the front at the end of the service to pray on their knees. Were they not embarrassed by what others might think? Maybe our church does not have space for kneeling pews. For a start, we can embrace this posture of humility and reverence of kneeling in prayer, privately, at home.

MARKETPLACE COMMISSIONING



ELEANOR TAN: I recently graduated from NUS with a Bachelor's degree in Science, majoring in Life Sciences. I currently work as a curatorial assistant at the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum, handling entomology specimens. Please pray for mental acuity and dexterity, so I don't accidentally destroy anything important!



JOANNE TEO: I graduated from law school in May and am now studying for the bar. I will be training for a year at a law firm before being qualified. Currently, I serve as part of the PSPC choir.



IRVIN CHEW: I studied at NTU and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biological Chemistry. At the time of writing, I have yet to secure a job position, and I'm currently searching, hopefully, for something STEM-related. My prayer points will be for God's guidance as I navigate applications and interviews, for God's provision to open doors for me to discover a suitable and meaningful career, and for God's strength as I manage work, church, and family commitments.



IAN CHIA: Hi everyone! I studied at NUS and majored in Medicine. I am now working at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital as a houseman. Please pray for strength and perseverance as I do my work and to be a good witness for His Kingdom.

In & Aound PSPC

THE CHIA FAMILY DEPARTURE TO JAPAN

PSPC members at Changi Airport sending off Shao Xiong, Levene and Emma on 25 July 2024.



Wedding

We are **Christopher Kee and Claire Wee**, and we got married on Star Wars Day (4 May 2024)!

The past three months of married life have been an adventure as we settle into our new home and continue growing in our faith as a couple. Marriage is teaching us what it means to love each other and our families unconditionally, just as Christ loved the Church.

Oh, and a little bit about us... we love going on long walks, hunting for good eats, and late night cooking after a long day at work!



Baptisms and Transfers (8 September 2024)



Sissi Goh Yan Xi 伍晏晞 (Baptism)

I advise people across the whole spectrum of wealth management and specialise in family inheritance and business succession planning. I am from a non-Christian family, but my grandparents were Christians. I met Neng Giin at a Christian fellowship meeting, and he invited me to PSPC. His lovely wife, Adeline accompanied me to Alpha. Work aside, I also enjoy dancing, singing and investing in personal growth.



Lim Yeok Kim 林玉金 (Baptism)

我名叫林玉金，今年57岁，是住在红山的一位老人。

由于身体经历过中风，我行走不方便，需要靠坐着轮椅走动。眼睛也由于身体疾病，视力受损，

看不清东西。再加上在我之前的生活中发生了很多不愉快的事情，这些种种让我内心充满了苦楚，感觉孤单，对未来充满了惶恐和无助，感觉生活太苦了。

几年前，住在隔壁栋的邻居朋友以及磐石堂的同工姐妹看到我经常一个人傻傻地坐在我住的祖屋楼下发呆，就鼓励我来磐石堂教会参加活动。我觉得换个地方散散心也好，就开始跟着他们来到磐石堂参加定期的教会活动。

来到教会后，我逐渐认识了教会里的其他弟兄姐妹，他们都对我非常友善。让我渐渐从害怕接触陌生人变得逐渐喜欢来教会。我也被听到的圣经故事所感动。我渐渐发现我内心没有像以前那么苦了，很多以前让我感觉烦乱紧张的事情，哪怕是很小的事情，我发现我现在比较能看开，放开，因此我的内心也比以前多了些平静。

尽管我的记性不好，所听到的圣经故事的具体内容我已经记不清了，但我记得的教导是只要信靠耶稣，努力祷告，跟祂祈求，祂会带给我希望，赐我力量，让我内心更平和。

感谢主，赐给了我力量和安慰。我很高兴认识了这位真神。我愿意继续信靠祂。

(English Translation)

My name is Lim Yeok Kim, and I am 57 years old, an elderly person living in Redhill.

Due to a past stroke, I have difficulty walking and need to rely on a wheelchair to get around. My eyesight is also impaired because of health issues, and I cannot see clearly. In addition, many unpleasant things had happened in my life, which filled me with bitterness inside, feeling alone, fearful, and helpless about the future, and feeling that life was too hard.

A few years ago, a neighbour and friend who lived in the next building and the co-workers and sisters of PSPC noticed that I often sat idly in a daze under the block where I live, so they encouraged me to come to PSPC to join in the activities. I thought it would be good to have a change of scenery, so I started to follow them to PSPC and participated in the regular church activities.

After coming to the church, I gradually got to know other brothers and sisters in the church, and they were all very friendly to me. I gradually changed from being afraid to interact with strangers to actually like coming to church. I was also moved by the Bible stories I heard. Gradually, I realised that my heart was not as bitter as before, and things that used to make me feel annoyed and tense, even small matters, I find that I am now more able to see and let go; my heart is more peaceful than before.

Although my memory isn't good, and I can't remember the specifics of the Bible stories I've heard, the teaching I remember is that as long as I trust in Jesus, pray hard, and supplicate with Him, He will bring me hope, give me strength, and give me more inner peace. Thank you, Lord, for giving me strength and comfort. I am so happy to have known this true God. I want to continue to trust in Him.



William Toh Wen Rong 卓文荣 (Transfer)

大家平安，我是文荣，我来自一个不信主的家庭，但在我的早期教育中有幸就读于基督教学校。虽然我在很小的时候就听过福音，但直到大学期间，我才开始认真地寻求上帝。在朋友的帮助下，

我开始明白基督教信仰，也开始与上帝建立关系。信主后，我的生命有了显著的改变，我晓得要以上帝为我生命的中心，也在祂的应许中得平安。我于2018年通过我的妻子开始参加长老会磐石堂的聚会，并决定在今年的周年庆转会成为会友。

(English Translation)

I come from a non-Christian family but was fortunate to attend Christian schools throughout my early education. Although I was exposed to the gospel at a young age, it was only during my university years that I began to seek God more earnestly. With the help of friends, I came to understand that being a Christian is about having a relationship with God. After accepting Christ, I became more attentive to God and others, finding peace in the assurance of my future. I joined PSPC in 2018 through my wife. Prior to this, I was a member of Trinity Christian Centre.



Susanna Tan Li Wen 陈丽文 (Transfer)

大家好！我是丽文，很开心能在今年的周年庆能转会加入长老会磐石堂的大家庭中。我喜欢爬山、画画、聊天，也特别爱喝茶、吃蛋糕。希望有机会能够更认识大家，享受在主里的团契。

(English Translation)

Hi everyone, I am very happy to join the PSPC family and excited to get to know each of you better! Despite my petite size, food is never far from my mind (with a soft spot for Japanese cuisine and local hawker food) :P! Am currently on a quest to find the best tea in Singapore, so please let me know if you have any recommendations :)

They came. They showed. They explained. They taught. They testified.

Our PSPC Chiang Rai team 2023 (CR23) shared their mission trip experience during **Sunday School's Missions-in-Focus Sunday on 21 July 2024** (Kindergarten to P6s). Nine members of the CR23 team showed our Sunday School (SS) children what they had done on the Chiang Rai mission trip through a skit, sharing, songs and games.



The team explained to the children the purpose of the skit in a foreign country as the team does not speak Thai fluently. Hence, the skit was used to convey the meaning of the message through the non-verbal acting/drama instead of the spoken word. The team also explained the meaning behind the elements of the skit where these depicted the various temptations in the world that cannot satisfy people's fleeting desires, but their deepest longings can only be satisfied through hope in God. They emphasised the need to go on the mission trip to share Christ with the villagers in Chiang Rai so that they too could know and experience hope in Christ. They also shared the need to support and partner with the local church.



The team then taught the children the songs they had sung on the mission trip and our children got to experience a little bit of the mission trip through these songs.

Next, the team testified about what the mission trip meant to them. Some cannot wait to return to the mission field as they have built precious friendships with the locals. *"Friendship built is precious to us."* The trip also helped team members understand the beauty of working together as a team. In addition, they got to share what it means to be a Christian in Singapore and hear first-hand how the villagers experience Christ. They testified that *"God isn't just a God of Singapore; God is God of the whole world. You can only experience that when you are overseas."*

The team taught our SS children a game that they had played with the local children. And our SS children experienced what the game was like by playing "scissors, paper, stone" and what the longest scissors, paper, stone looked like in PSPC.

Lastly, the team encouraged our SS children to be involved in missions by participating with their family in PSPC's year-end mission trips to either Chiang Rai or Chiang Mai.

Sunday School appreciates the CR23 team – Eld Justin Lee, Athelia Low, Emma Kok, Samson Yu, Abigail Ng, Amanda Leong, Raymond Woo, Sybil Lim and Sandra Lim – for sharing their mission trip experience with the SS children. We thank them for coming over to SS where our children were able to get a glimpse of the mission experience. May God spur our children to have God's missional heart and be involved in His mission at a young age.

BOYS' BRIGADE (BB) 1ST COMPANY

~ 3rd Quarter Update



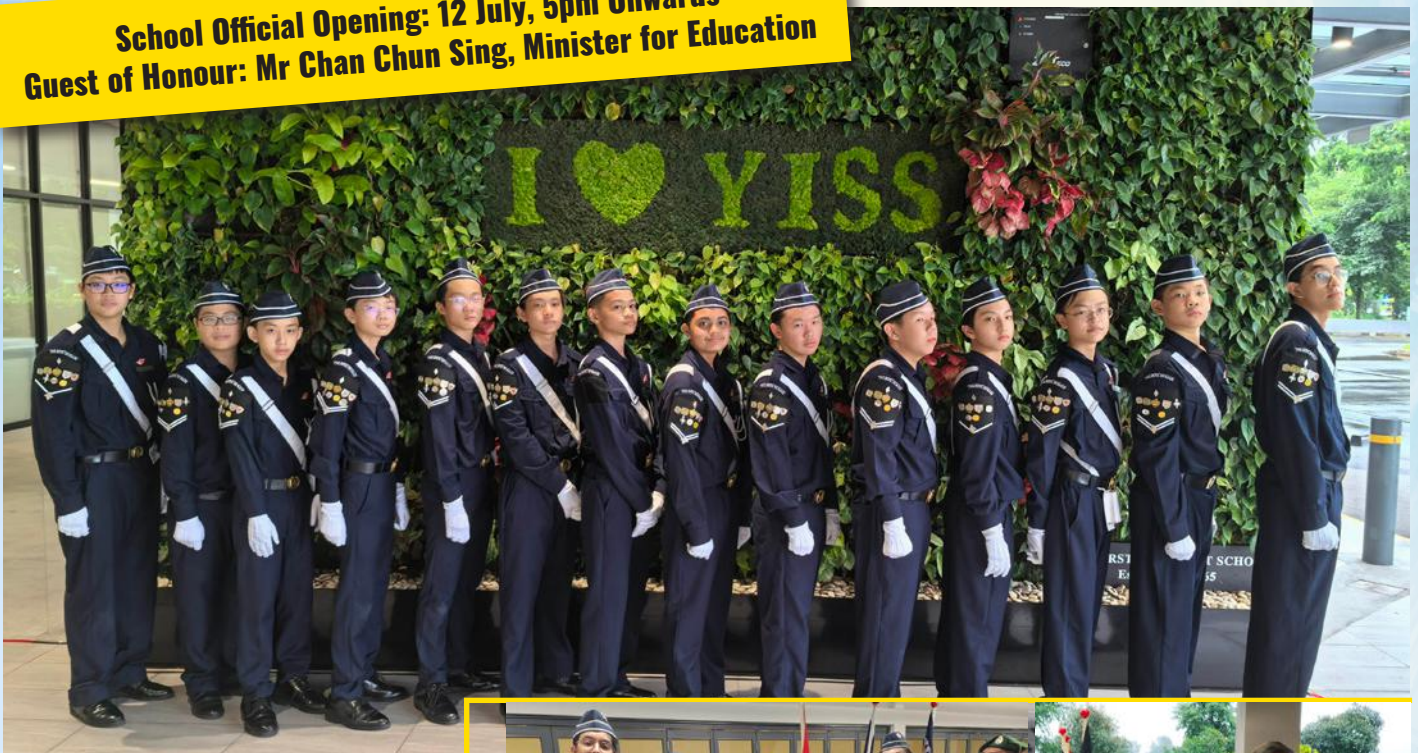
THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Ho Yew Keong

Captain

1st Singapore Company

School Official Opening: 12 July, 5pm Onwards
Guest of Honour: Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education



The official opening of Yusof Ishak Secondary School and the National Day parade were the focus for us in the Third Quarter.

The school's official opening was on 12 July from 5pm onwards and the guest of honour was Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education.

The Boys formed the Guard Of Honour contingent together with NPCC and NCC using SAR21.

Next was the school's National Day parade on 8 August 2024 for which we only had two rehearsals. Those who were not involved in the opening were trained beforehand in their drill for this parade.



The Boys represented the School well!



A total of twenty Boys were involved including the reserve and flag party. They were also required to conduct a march past with eyes right and they were up to the standard even though they were only given short training sessions. Kudos to the Boys!

During this time of practice and rehearsals, we also injected some badge work and lessons like Leadership, Adventure, Community Service, and Global Awareness.

Thank you to all the Officers and Teachers who had stepped forward to help conduct the various lessons.

Next, during the September holidays, our Boys will be going for their 1Star Kayaking Proficiency Certification.

Please pray for their safety and a good time of learning for the Boys.





THE BOYS' BRIGADE

By Pr Carol Ng
Acting Captain
1J Singapore Company

BB1J

~ 3rd Quarter Update

CAMP 2024

We are thankful to God who gave us good weather to run the BB day camp on 31 May 2024. Praise God that we had near full attendance; eight of our Boys attended the camp! We are thankful to God for a fun and blessed camp. All glory to God!

We started camp with breakfast, feeding the Boys' tummies so that they would be filled with energy for the many activities lined up for them.



Our first activity was knot tying and the Boys picked up the needed skills to help them with the next activity – setting up a basha. All huddled around to learn basic knot tying skills and they persisted from the start to the end as they understood the need to grasp it for their next activity. We thank God that our Boys pressed on to learn the various types of knot tying so that they were able to continue to set up the basha. Basha is a tent using a groundsheet, supported with rope attached to the ground. The ground was hard but our Boys persevered to hammer down the vertical poles needed to support the ridge line. They also had to peg down the rear corners with tent pegs. They were able to set up the basha with much hard work and help from the Officers and Teachers. Look at their satisfied and happy faces!

Our Boys did outdoor cooking for their lunch. They learned to cook outdoors using mess tins. They were apprehensive as most of them had not been given the opportunity to use the stove at home or to prepare lunch for themselves and their family. It was heartening to see how they handled the cooking session from start to finish. All the Officers and Teachers were there throughout the cookout to provide guidance and make sure that safety was in place. The verdict? Our Boys enjoyed the fruits of their labour – happily digging into the noodles, luncheon meat and eggs.

The Boy finished up the whole outdoor cooking experience by washing up their own mess tins and

cutlery, and also cleaning up the cooking area. May our Boys continue to have the confidence to cook at home and the responsibility to tidy up after preparations and cooking.

Our Boys were also treated to a game of laser tag after lunch. They were divided into two groups and had fun playing against one another. They learned to play this game with much strategic planning and teamwork. The Officers and Teachers also joined in for a friendly battle. All had fun!



We give thanks to God for another great camp! We are thankful for the support from the parents and school teachers and leaders for allowing us to run the camp. Our Boys indeed benefitted from the good fun and learning in the camp.

We are also thankful to God for all the Officers and Teachers for their hard work, commitment and love for Christ's Work! Praise God for all of them!



By Jess Goh
Captain
7th Company Girls' Brigade

GIRLS' BRIGADE (GB) 7TH COMPANY

~ 3rd Quarter Update

Dr Low Guat Tin (LGT) Challenge

The Girls' Brigade's Dr Low Guat Tin (LGT) Challenge encourages Girls to seek creative ways to improve the lives of those around them – expanding the boundaries of their capabilities and empathy towards those in their world. The Girls in our Company came up with the idea of helping others to understand the challenges of those who are visually impaired, and they received a Silver Award for their creativity and hard work.

Below is the sharing by SGT Chen Xinyuan on how she came up with the script and how SGT Sarah Liao gathered the girls to film the video.



While brainstorming for possible topics for the LGT Challenge 2024, I remembered a TikTok video I saw a few days before. It was made by a visually impaired influencer who talked about his experiences as someone who is visually impaired. I remembered looking in the comments section, and realised that many people don't know much about the blind community's diversity, and how this community is overshadowed by one stereotype others have of them; and so I decided that this could be a topic worth working on for the LGT Challenge as there are many things about this community that people should know. I also considered if this would be a feasible topic for the company to work on.

While writing the script, I took into consideration how a conflict between two opposing groups (sighted and non-sighted) would go: what one would say to the other when they are not enlightened and what the response of the victim might be. I also took into consideration the capabilities and personalities of the girls playing

the characters, adjusting the characters' lines to suit them, and scripting in things I felt they could execute best.

As for the settings and contexts, I wanted to go with diversity in the situations. While one setting was about students, the other was about the public. In a school setting, students might know or have heard of one another, while in public they are absolute strangers. This helped make each scenario more defined and unique from the other.

I was also aiming for some comedy in the script. My vision was for it to convey information in the scenarios that could happen in real life with a hint of comedy.



SGT Chen Xinyuan

I summarised the whole act and explained it to the Girls. I then assigned each of them roles and gave them time to look through their character and lines to understand the whole story until they were familiar with it. We started recording when they felt ready and I also allowed them to look at their scripts while filming. Through this process, I learned how to cooperate with the Girls, which took a lot of resilience as we had to retake various scenes many times. At the same time, I learned many new facts about visually impaired people. I believe the Girls did too. The Girls were very cooperative, as they listened to what I told them to do, and they did a great job. Hopefully, they also developed a better understanding of people with visual impairment.

SGT Sarah Liao

GB Day/Company Award



All the hard work put in by the Officers and Girls helped us attain the Silver Award. The Award was given to the Principal by one of our leaders during our GB Day ceremony. Below is a reflection by SGT Ong Shu Hui.

"What I have learnt from the GB message this year is to be a proud GB Girl to serve and represent our CCA in any aspect, be it national, or school. Being on stage on GB Day gave me a sense of pride in GB and to be able to stand on stage with the rest of my cadets to celebrate the day together made it even more special. When presenting the company award to the Principal, I felt really proud of my company and our members for playing a part in contributing to our overall performance in the CCA."





The Girls' Brigade Friend in Deed (GBFD) Project 2024 hoped to fulfil up to 3,000 specific wishes of vulnerable Singaporeans across the island during the June school holidays. Our Company adopted twenty wishes and each wish was \$60. The girls put on a video at assembly and set up a booth at recess time to help raise funds to buy their wishes. They also went out to shop for some of the wishes which we could not get online. Below is the sharing by SGT Ong Jin Wen on her experience.



My experience in GBFD was very memorable. I got to raise funds in school and also buy items for the needy. It was fun as we got to bond more by working together. This event taught me to be grateful for everything I have as others may not be as lucky as I am. It also helped develop my sense of teamwork, my leadership and communication skills. Lastly, the GB Friend in Deed experience was impactful, and I am inspired to contribute to the community and foster meaningful connections with others.

Catching Butterflies with a Pen

By Workshop Participants

Words of wisdom and advice from Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon

A writing workshop organized by The Messenger Team, Princep Street Presbyterian Church (PSPC)

Ink & Inspiration: Sharing through writing

Sat, 10 Aug 2024
9am - 12pm, PSPC

Conducted by Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon

- ✧ Writing comes out of a **profound relationship with God.**
- ✧ Writing is a calling, just **write when God inspires.**
- ✧ Writing stories of our spiritual journey is a legacy we can pass down to **affirm God's faithfulness and transforming work in our lives.**
- ✧ Our writing ought to be connected to our relationship with God, reflecting Him and His grace. It is **our sacrifice of worship to Him, our offering to Him, even as He has gifted us with the skill or talent or desire to express His thoughts through us with pen and paper.**
- ✧ Writing makes us more human – it **changes and transforms, teaches and heals.**
- ✧ **Disciplines** associated with writing include **solitude and silence.**

- ✧ **Keep a journal** during your quiet time.
- ✧ **Catch the fleeting butterfly thoughts and insights, and pin them down on paper.**
- ✧ Writing is a **prophetic enterprise, pastoral exercise, a painful task, a pleasurable gift.**
- ✧ **Read widely** to write well. Read beyond your own areas, not just to learn but also to appreciate different styles.
- ✧ **Be open to critique and feedback.**
- ✧ **Practise, practise, practise.**





PLH Art Activity

by James Theng (Senior)

As Julia Cameron once said, "Creativity is God's gift to us. Using our creativity is our gift back to God."

This profound quote, one relevant in ever so many facets of our lives, is one that perhaps forms the firm, bedrock foundation of our annual art activity at PLH - an extremely fulfilling activity that I will remember fondly.

During the activity, PLHers were split into groups and allocated specific passages of the Bible to read and tasked with creating a piece of artwork on the wall that reflected the passages read. However there was a twist: each artwork was to be made using tape!!!

Each group was handed two rolls of green tape, one small and one large, and we got down to work.

Preliminary tasks included reading the passage and planning how to best represent it artistically. It offered us all an invaluable opportunity to express our creativity, and through the fun activity, made the passages we read all the more memorable and enriching.



Some groups got to work quickly, rendering a quick yet elegant digital mock-up of their ideal art-piece using their phones. My group was tasked with representing Genesis 22, where Abraham was tested with sacrificing his child's life to God (see picture above).

It was truly impressive to see the creative skills of PLH members flourishing, with some groups creating practically Oscar-worthy artworks, such as the awe-inspiring rendition of Noah's ark. That such impressive works could be created using naught but tape and minds? Truly incredible, and nothing short of a work of God! Can you guess the other passages that have been depicted?

All in all, the activity was highly fulfilling, an opportunity to delight in both creativity and company, as well as grow ever closer to God, most definitely an experience I will carry with me dearly.

Missions-in-Focus: Sharing by Lily Huang (Junior)

For Missions-In-Focus month, we participated in lots of fun activities organised by PLH, for PLH. We learnt more about the Chiang Rai mission trips, not just by listening to insightful sharings by PLHers who have been on these trips, but also by taking part in hands-on, immersive activities. We even got to learn some phrases in Thai! In the end, we took home a beaded bracelet used to teach the story of Christ by the mission trippers in Chiang Rai – and lots of new knowledge about mission trips and Thailand.

The next week, our very own Uncle Shaun prepared a talk on mission trips for us. Personally, I gained a lot of valuable insights into the whole experience of mission trips, as well as why they're important. However, the highlight of that session was the delicious butter chicken muffins Uncle Shaun prepared for us afterwards! The sharing served as a great way to end Missions-In-Focus month, teaching us the little ways we can touch others' lives and show them God's love.



Shaun encouraging us to use our spiritual gifts to show God's love to others



Calcutta muffins with butter chicken and cucumber tomato raita lovingly prepared by Shaun



All smiles as we tuck in!



Sharing by Chiang Rai Mission trippers

For enquiries, please contact Rev Ron Tan at rontan@pspc.org.sg or Shaun Lee at slighme@gmail.com