2 0 2 1 E20 Gift a Christmas E30 The Grace Discipleship Framework (GDF) — Part 2 E04 Giving Thanks for an Unusual Year

MCI (P) 032/12/2020



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60th

Annual Business Meeting

Friday, 26 March 2021

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE EXERCISE:

Dear members

All registered members of Grace Assembly of God would have received the membership update letter via email or post. Registered members refer to members who have been baptised and accepted for membership in Grace Assembly, or who have officially transferred their membership to Grace Assembly.

All registered members are to submit their membership update by 2359 hrs, 5 March 2021. Those who do not update their membership details by the stipulated deadline will not be eligible to vote. a) Please update your membership details at https://register.graceaog.org/, even if there are no changes. Your user ID will be your Date of Birth (ddmmyy) plus the last 4 alphanumeric of your NRIC Number, and the password can be found in the membership update letter which you have received from the church.

For example, if your date of birth is 12 Jan 1999 and your NRIC number is \$1234567X, your user ID will be 120199567X.

b) Physical copies of the membership update form can be deposited into any of the boxes labelled "Membership Update Forms" at the following locations:

Grace@Tanglin:

Main entrance at Galilee (Level 1)

Grace@BukitBatok:

Reception/Bookshop (Level 1)

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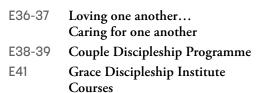
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Scan QR code for our church services.

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Thank you for your contributions!

We are grateful to Gracians who have contributed to this issue, in one way or another.

NEW BEGINNING!

Isaiah 43:16-19 (ESV)

16 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. 19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

I shared this passage at our 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 31 December 2020. We thank God for His faithfulness in guiding Grace Assembly through the last 70 years, serving many families and helping many to the saving knowledge of Christ. Through this local church, we have also blessed the community and met the needs of the least, lost, and lonely. Beyond Singapore, we have also impacted the nations through our missions' endeavours of planting churches, preparing leaders, and propelling people.

As we step into the new year of 2021, the Executive Church Board and the pastoral leadership want to strengthen all that God has established in Grace Assembly. We must never allow the past to hinder God in doing new things through Grace Assembly. The past achievements must inspire us with greater faith to partner with the Holy Spirit for the future. The past must give us the courage to create new ministry strategies in meeting the changing needs of a post-Covid world. The new ministry strategies will involve using digital tools in our discipleship strategies, strengthening our small group ministry, empowering parents to disciple their children, and building an effective and engaging online church.

The post-pandemic world will require us to examine all our current discipleship strategies (former things) and partner with God in doing things that we have not done in the past to reach more people for His glory and purpose (new things). I solicit your prayers and partnership in this exciting journey ahead of us!

Rev. Dr. Wilson TeoSenior Pastor



Giving Thanks for an Unusual Year 为不平凡的一年而感恩

BY Selina Esther Lim, Corporate Communications 翻译王紫璇传道



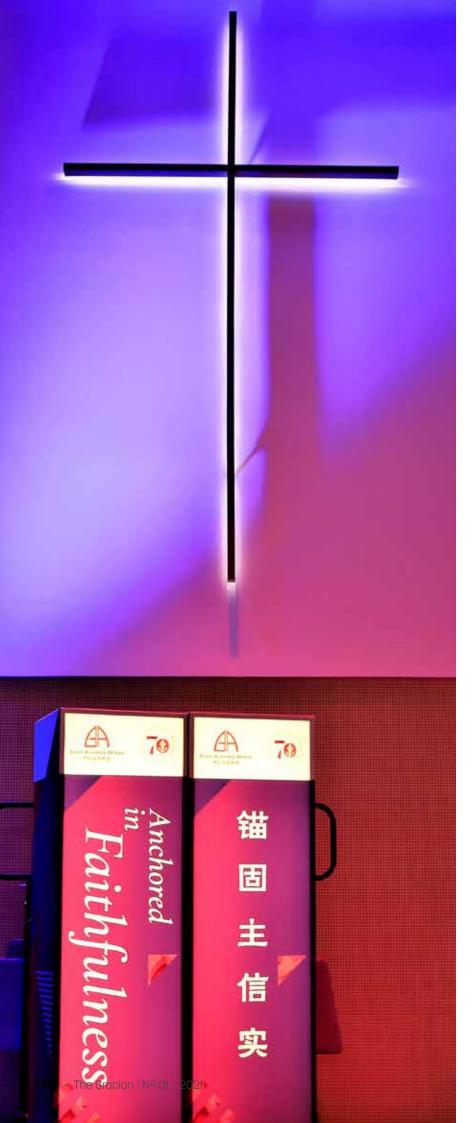
It was a year like no other.

2020 was supposed to be a year filled with excitement and celebrations to mark Grace Assembly's 70th Anniversary.

While the pandemic might have cancelled out our original celebratory plans to mark a key milestone in our church's history, it could not rob us of the joy and the gratitude that we have in our Almighty God for all that He has done for us! Hallelujah!

Our church and maybe some of our Gracians had gone through a roller-coaster year brought about by Covid-19. Nevertheless, we were grateful that amid all the challenges and restrictions that we were faced with, there were still many things that we could be thankful for!

When we could not meet face to face, we found other ways to stay connected. When our pastors and Gracians got infected by Covid-19, we were not crushed. We overcame and our faith increased.



When we could not sing out in church, we brought the worship into our homes and sang at the top of our voices.

While the gates of the church may shut, our church life did not. Instead, we witnessed ground-up initiatives led by Gracians, young and old, to pray incessantly for the church. Pre-believers attended our online courses and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Guests visited our services online and decided to become part of our Grace Assembly family. What used to take place only within the church building had gone beyond the boundaries of our land. Country borders may close but discipleship and God's work in the missions fields continued.

The list of things that we were grateful for, goes on.

The 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 31 December 2020 was the finale event as we marked the end of an unusual year. It was carried out simultaneously at both Grace@Tanglin and Grace@BukitBatok, and many Gracians braved the heavy rain to return to church for the on-site service. The service was also live streamed to those watching from home while some Gracians tuned in via Zoom.

At the service, many stories were shared about lesser-known things that happened to Grace Assembly in the last 70 years. However, they spoke loudly of God's grace and His hand upon our church. Time and again, God has provided for all our needs and He has led us through many storms. We have emerged victoriously each time, to where we are today. Tears flowed and loud applause were heard, throughout the service.

" ... we were grateful that amid all the challenges and restrictions that we were faced with, there were still many things that we could be thankful for!"





























那是空前的一年。

2020年本应是激动人心并一起庆祝恩典堂 70周年纪念活动的一年。

虽然疫情使我们取消了为纪念我们教会历 史上的一个重要里程碑的庆祝计划,但它 不能夺取我们全能的神为我们所做的一切 而拥有的喜乐和感谢!哈利路亚!

我们的教会,可能还有一些恩友都经历了因2019新冠病毒所导致的跌宕起伏的一年。尽管如此,我们仍满心感谢,我们在所面临的挑战和限制中,仍然有许多值得我们感恩的事!

当我们不能面对面相见时,我们找到了其他保持联系的方法。我们并没有因牧者和恩友被感染了2019新冠病毒而被击倒。我们克服了困难,增加了信心。当我们不能在教堂里唱歌时,我们就把主日崇拜带到家中,扬声歌唱。

虽然我们关上了教会的门,教会的生活仍在进行。然而,我们见证了恩友,无论老少所发起的行动,不断为教会祷告。非信徒参加我们的网上课程,并将他们的生命献给耶稣基督。宾客们参加我们的在线聚会,并决定以恩典堂成为他们的家。过去,只在教堂里发生的事,如今已经扩展到各处各方。国与国之间的边界会关闭,但门徒训练和神在宣教中的工作仍在继续。

让我们感恩之事数之不尽。

2020年12月31日举行的70周年感恩纪念活动是我们为这非凡的一年画上句号的最后一笔。这场聚会在恩典堂@东陵和恩典堂@武吉巴督同时进行,许多恩友冒着大











"尽管如此,我们仍 满心感谢,我们在所 面临的挑战和限制 中,仍然有许多值得 我们感恩的事!"



雨返回教堂参加现场聚会。这场聚会也进 行了网络直播, 供无法出席聚会的人在家 收看,而一些恩友也通过Zoom收看。

在聚会中,分享了许多在过去70年里发生 在恩典堂的不太为人所知的故事。然而, 他们放声述说神在我们教会中所施的恩典 与带领。神一次又一次, 为我们提供了所 有的需要,并带领我们经历了许多风暴。 我们每一次都取得了胜利,才有了今天的 成就。在整场聚会中,大家热泪盈眶,掌 声连绵。

虽然我们70周年的庆祝活动已经结束了, 但我们要继续持守在神的信实中,等候 主,因祂必要成就新事。我们相信,恩典 堂必在祂的信实中继续奋勇向前!







New Things for 2021

BY Selina Esther Lim, Corporate Communications

At the first weekend English Service of 2021, Senior Pastor Wilson Teo shared about the general direction for Grace Assembly for this new year.

Titled "New Things", the sharing was a continuation from what Pastor Wilson had preached at our 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on 31 December 2020.

At the 70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service, Pastor Wilson shared of Isaiah 43:16-19 (ESV). These verses showed that God's Word to Israel was never to limit God to the past, but to look forward to the new things that God would do among them. And these new things may happen suddenly and unexpectedly.

At Grace Assembly, we are thankful to God for His faithfulness over the church for the past 70 years -- for the past godly leaders and members who gave of their lives and finances so that Grace Assembly can have our two buildings at Tanglin and Bukit Batok.

However, we should not let ourselves dwell in past achievements and forget that God is doing a new thing among us. All that God has done in the last 70 years for Grace Assembly is only a beginning. We should not limit ourselves to just these two buildings that God has blessed us. There is so much more that God wants to do in and through this local church.

That was why Pastor Wilson felt that God has chosen Grace Assembly to be the largest religious cluster of Covid-19 infected cases last year. It was probably God's way of shaking us out of our comfort zone, and He scattered us all over Singapore so that we could wait upon Him for the new things that He wanted to do among us.

Pastor Wilson reminded the congregation that during the pandemic period, God showed us that Grace Assembly was not just about the buildings we own. It is about God's people, a living local community, who share a common discipleship experience of doing life together. When we could not meet in our buildings, God built us up spiritually with Him and relationally with each other when we banded together to overcome our challenges and difficulties.

God revealed to us the critical need to adopt digital technology for our classes, our services, and many other discipleship areas. God has used this pandemic to prepare us for any crisis that will happen in the future whereby Grace Assembly can function with, or without a building.

Pastor Wilson continued to share about the following areas which represent three out of our five strategic pillars, that we need to strengthen, for Grace Assembly to arise stronger than before, from this pandemic experience.

1. Discipleship

Throughout the pandemic last year, we saw a very healthy take-up rate of online classes, ranging from Alpha Course, Membership Class, Restore to Wholeness, and many others that went online.

From the attendance and engagement, it was evident that Gracians and new visitors are very keen on online classes, given the ease of attending one.

This is a new thing that God has accelerated through the pandemic. Given the positive response and feedback, we will be offering more online classes in the coming days. Pastor Wilson also expressed his desire to see all our Grace Discipleship Institute (GDI) classes to be held both online and on-site in the days ahead.

Another area of focus under Discipleship will be on small groups.

Our small groups have been one of the key pillars that kept our faith community intact during this challenging time when we could not meet on-site for relational engagements.

Pastor Wilson expressed his appreciation to the small group leaders who gave their best to facilitate and connect with every member, relationally and spiritually, during this difficult time. This faith community had allowed everyone to remain relationally connected to God, and to one another, and to spur each other on, especially in difficult seasons.

This reinforced Pastor Wilson's belief that being part of a small group is necessary for every believer and not just something good to have when one has time.

As such, there will be greater emphasis on the small group ministry in Grace Assembly, which is vital in ensuring the continuity of the church whenever we cannot gather in our buildings.

Moving forward, small groups will become one of the key platforms for Gracians to be discipled according to the Grace Discipleship Framework.

Pastor Wilson also added that discipleship within the family is another important area. During the circuit breaker period when churches were closed, many parents had to step up to be the Children and Youth ministers to their kids. In this process, God was doing a new thing – He has started to restore faith discipleship to parents, who are the spiritual headship of the family.

God has used a pandemic to show us that church buildings can be closed, but the basic unit of the family remains. The faith of the family in Christ can remain strong even without a church building. Pastor Wilson urged parents to arise to take back what rightfully belongs to them as the spiritual headship of their families. This is a significant shift from the old thinking that the church was the main discipler of their children. In the days ahead, the church will be sharing more with parents on strategies in partnering and empowering them to fulfil this critical role to disciple their children.

2. Community Outreach

Community Outreach refers to believers being the salt and light in the community where we reach out to the needy such as the widows, the orphans, and the foreigners among us.

The intent is not to get people saved as the primary motivation.

The purpose is to be a blessing to the community because everyone is created in God's image - believers and pre-believers.

Pastor Wilson went on to explain that the church blesses and helps the needy because they are fellow imagers of God who have a real need in their lives. As God's people, we must reach out to the least, the lost, and the lonely, who require tangible help.

He also shared how Grace Assembly has blessed the community in 2020 through various activities and platforms, despite the pandemic and the restrictions.

Moving forward, Grace Assembly wants to remain relevant to the needs of the community. The church plans to start a centre to allow believers to donate food, clothing, and other necessities to bless the needy. It is also

exploring to partner with tuition agencies to provide low-cost subsidised tuition for needy students within our church premises. Not only do we want to meet the needs of the poor, but we also hope to alleviate poverty by helping needy families' children to break out of poverty through education.

3. Missions

Through Grace Missions, we are now involved with 12 nations through planting churches, preparing leaders, and propelling people. Through the pandemic, God has shown us again that the needs in the nations are very plentiful. While Singapore has a substantial financial reserve to keep the nation going, many countries do not.

As a nation blessed by God, Pastor Wilson emphasised that we must do our part to see the gospel preached and the Body of Christ strengthened in the nations.

During the pandemic, country borders were closed. However, this did not stop us from evolving to use online technologies to continue our missions work. Our current missions' strategies have served us well for the last ten years. However, God has revealed to us the need to review our Grace Missions' strategies for the future, to ensure that they will be relevant for the post-pandemic world.

Ending off the vision casting sermon with a prayer, Pastor Wilson dedicated Grace Assembly to the Lord in 2021, asking that His Kingdom come, and His will be done in this local church of Grace Assembly.

You can watch the Pastor Wilson's sermon broadcasts here:

3 January 2021 – New Things (English) https://youtu.be/qakeIq-9LCM



70th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service https://youtu.be/RJApTAowq1k



Thousands **DISPLACED** in Cambodia floods

BY Pastor Au Wai Ching

Since the beginning of October 2020, multiple tropical storms that have crossed into Cambodia caused widespread flooding across 19 provinces.

As of 28 October 2020, at least 42 people have died. The floods have affected 2 million people with 800,000 people directly and negatively impacted. Of these, approximately 388,000 people with pre-existing vulnerabilities prior to the disaster are in need of major humanitarian assistance. The most severely affected provinces are Battambang, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat, Kampong Speu and Kampong Thom in central and western Cambodia.

More than 161,500 houses have been damaged and some 14,300 households were evacuated to safe sites, evacuation centres, while others are sheltered in tents or plastic sheets.

Grace Missions has committed to providing disaster-relief aid for flood victims through our missions partner New Hope Church in Pursat. The church has used the funds to purchase essential items and together with the government, they have started distributing food packages to affected families.

Let us lift up Cambodia in prayer. Please pray for the following:

- Evacuees to have access to clean water, sanitation facilities and hygiene items, food especially for children under five. They also need essential items like mosquito nets, blankets and tarpaulins, access to education supplies and temporary learning spaces, and assistance to restart livelihood activities.
- Safe delivery of assistance to affected families as roads and bridges have been damaged. Over 175,000 households have had their livelihoods

impacted and 329,000 hectares of agricultural land has been damaged. 89,152 of the most vulnerable households across 14 provinces require food assistance and livelihoods recovery support.

- health care facilities and hospitals to be able to function again.
- welfare of 1,640 children in 48 residential care institutions
- welfare of prison inmates. Population of two prisons were relocated, resulting in overcrowding in the prisons.
- Swift and safe removal of unexploded ordnance
 - Cambodia is one of the most affected countries in the world, with landmines, cluster munitions and other unexploded weapons. The floods could have dislodged unexploded ordnance (UXO) and landmines. Efforts to safely remove them is being hampered due to the inaccessibility of some areas. There have been five requests for UXO removal thus far.
- COVID-19 outbreak to be well-controlled. There has been a surge of community cases. Further support is needed to scale up the response, including immediate humanitarian assistance as well as longer term support to restore access to basic services and rebuild the livelihoods of affected people.

Grace Missions has reached out to 1,100 affected families. We continue to give assistance to the churches affected so that both the church and their communities of pre-believers would be blessed.

The church has used the funds to purchase essential items and together with the government, they have started distributing food packages to affected families.

Source taken from https://reliefweb.int/report/cambodia/floods-response-plan-cambodia-2020-period-nov-2020-april-2021

MISSIONS

God's Heartbear

20-21 FEBRUARY 2021

Join us for our usual weekend services, as we tune in to God's heartbeat for missions!

Speaker: Pastor Ron Cantor

ON-SITE SERVICES

20 Feb 3pm NXTGENSVC

Grace@Tanglin

Grace@BukitBatok

5pm English

Grace@BukitBatok

21 Feb 9am English

Grace@Tanglin

11.15am English

Grace@BukitBatok

1.30pm Filipino

Grace@Tanglin

ONLINE SERVICES

20 Feb 3pm NXTGENSVC 21 Feb 11.15am English



Watch out for our guest worship team, **Awaken Generation**, who will lead us into a great time of worship at our English, NXTGEN and Filipino services!

A Course for the OPPORTUNE MOMENT (KAIROS)

BY Raymond Wee

Grace Assembly conducted its 5th run of the KAIROS Course from 13 September to 8 November 2020. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions about physical gatherings, the KAIROS Course was conducted online via the ZOOM platform by our own team of 15 facilitators. Sessions were conducted every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm. 24 participants completed the full course and graduated on 8 November 2020.

Throughout the course, the participants showed great motivation and enthusiasm. Many were touched in ways they did not expect.

KAIROS is a foundational course on world Christian missions. It brings out God's heart for all the nations of the world and His desire to use His people to be a blessing to them. KAIROS emphasises the importance of ministering to cultures that still have few or no indigenous churches.

KAIROS... brings out God's heart for all the nations of the world and His desire to use His people to be a blessing to them.

KAIROS is designed to educate, inspire and challenge Christians to meaningful participation in God's heart for all the nations. It is a tool God is using to help transform the worldview of believers, so they see themselves as having been blessed in order to be a blessing to all people groups.

KAIROS is a nine-session course that covers four major areas:

- Biblical We discover that missions lies at the centre of God's concern and that an overriding theme throughout the whole Bible is God blessing His people to be a blessing to all people groups.
- Historical God's missions purpose can be seen throughout history. We gain much from studying the past successes and failures of the church in the area of missions expansion.
- Strategic We learn about strategy and key missions strategies that bear fruit in reaching unreached people groups in today's world. Every believer and church have a significant role to play.
- Cultural Missions involves crossing cultures. We learn what culture is and see what it takes to communicate and make disciples in a culture different from our own.

KAIROS uses a variety of learning methods and activities such as:

- Devotional Teaching
- Prayer for Least Reached People
- Introductions to Readings
- Video Teachings
- Readings
- Worksheets
- Small Group Interaction
- Special Cultural Activities

The following are some excerpts of their takeaways from the KAIROS Course:

"I have always been a short-term missions goer. But after attending KAIROS, I realised there was so much for me to learn. I need to keep the vision by learning more about the cultures of the least reached people (LRP) and praying for them. It is more important to have real compassion for these LRPs than just simply going for short-term missions trips. Reaching out to the lost should be integral in all Christians, not just for missions-minded Christians." — Sandy Low

"I have a good understanding about God's business which is to win the world; the challenges faced, the strategies to deploy and what role I can play in this mission." – David Chung

"It helps to put into context my work among the refugees and provides insights and practical suggestions that I can apply in my work."

- Jean Leow

"The KAIROS course has helped in guiding and transforming me with a much clearer perspective about how AMAZING God's love is for all mankind. It is also being in partnership with God in this journey of being a missional biblical Christian and be a genuine/authentic loving person as a whole." – Michelle Lee

"I've been taught practical tips when reaching out cross-culturally. Like sing the right heart language when speaking, allowing people to remain in their community and 'remain-like' their people so Christianity does not seem like a foreign religion that is intrusive. Also being a humble learner of their culture, while always having the aim that the locals would be able to lead and drive the growth of the church in future. I would say it is essential in the discipleship journey of every believer to know God's heart for the nations and our role in it, since we have already been blessed with the knowledge of who God is." — Geraldine Ng

"It has given me a clearer vision on God's redemptive purpose and how to worship cross culturally."

– Doreen Hor

"It has changed my worldview as a typical Christian to a biblical Christian." – Tan Siew Poh

"A highly recommended course. It is a course that every believer should attend. So many who have been Christians for years without knowing the important and fundamental truth are taught in this course." – Ricky Lui

"KAIROS is a complete message of God's love, weaving it from the Old to the New Testament and connecting it to where I am in the present day. It tells me why it matters that I see the world and missions through God's lens, so that it can impact and shape my life as a Christian. KAIROS makes me want to love Him in a way that He has destined and that will honour and bless Him." – Kim Chan

We will be conducting the 6th run of the KAIROS Course in the second half of 2021. There is also a shorter version of the KAIROS Course called, "The Unfinished Story" in the first half of 2021 which is open to both the English and Chinese congregations. Please look out for the publicity and registration details of these upcoming courses on our church website.



The Unfinished Story gives an overview of the mission of God and how God's people is part of His mission.

PLATFORM: Online via ZOOM

DURATION: One pre-session (50 mins)

and 4 other sessions (2 hrs each)

TIME/DATE: 2.30pm-4.30pm

27 Mar • 3, 10, 17 Apr •

24 Apr 2021

FEE: S\$12

(for course reader and postage)

CLOSING DATE: 14 Mar 2021



Sign-up online: https://event.graceaog.org

Seminación de la semina

As part of our Missions
Convention 2021, we have
invited Pastor Avi Mizrachi
and Pastor Guy Cohen to
share with us on "Israel & the
Nations" via an online live
session on Zoom.

This Love Israel seminar is limited to only Gracians on a first-come-first-served basis.

Look for registration details coming your way soon!

Meanwhile, mark your calendars:

19 February 2021, Friday 8:00 pm — 9:30 pm Zoom meeting with Mandarin interpretation

Overcoming Befriending CHALLENGES in times of Crisis

BY REACH Community Services Society

"It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end."

—Deuteronomy 11:12

Like a long-drawn out storm, the COVID-19 pandemic hit us all, and brought on massive disruption to all the services we offered to our beneficiaries.

With the exception of our Senior Centres which remained operational on-site, all our other centres were shut during the Circuit Breaker. However, staff from REACH Community Services continued to serve our clients remotely, operating from their own homes.

The Community Befriending Programme (CBP) was the worst hit, with both the Befrienders and Befriendees impacted. As part of the safe-distancing restrictions, the Befrienders, many of whom are also seniors themselves, had to stop visiting the vulnerable and isolated senior Befriendees and were confined to their own homes. Without fellowship and interaction, the lack of social interaction meant that the senior Befrienders themselves suffered from loneliness and isolation. Clearly, landline phones alone—which most seniors have at home—are inadequate to overcome isolation. The most vulnerable group also became the most disadvantaged.

The urgency to create more platforms to connect with the seniors was apparent. This called for prompt action in searching for additional platforms for engagement, which led to online platforms such as Zoom, WhatsApp video calls and Facebook being used to execute the Befriending Programme.

Photor Ave Cd Vor it Unspirate

Hence, the "Tele-Befriender Programme" was conceived in May 2020.

An intentional programme was rapidly put together to equip our seniors with smartphones provided by CareLine, and simultaneously train them to use software or equipment to network with others.

Initially, both the volunteer Befrienders and senior Befriendees were resistant. God our Jehovah-Jireh nonetheless provided us a committed Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partner who was able to mobilise a large number of dedicated volunteers who were equipped with the technical knowledge and people skills, and were eventually successful in reaching out to our senior Befriendees.

Through the 10-week engagement period, 28 seniors were touched by these volunteers. Furthermore, most of the volunteers have continued befriending our seniors even when the commitment period was over.

Through this experience, many volunteers were also motivated to stay constantly connected with their own aged parents. Despite it not being our intention to educate the volunteers about the need to spend time with their aged parents, the rippling effect of this befriending effort could possibly be God's plan to draw children closer to their ageing parents.

While the staff were busy adapting to the changes and meeting the increasing demands of community support as a result of COVID-19, volunteers played a significant role in filling the gaps by being the extra hands and legs in reaching out to the vulnerable. Volunteers are part of REACH's heartbeat.

How has Befriending and Tele-Befriending impacted lives? Scan to watch!



GIFT a Christmas

BY Christen Chung, Grace Kids Ministry











1, 2. GK families doing Christmas deliveries at **Bukit Batok**

- A GK family meeting their beneficiary
- 4, 5. GK families doing Christmas deliveries at Telok Blangah

On 20 December 2020, Grace Kids organised "Gift a Christmas" outreach project in collaboration with Grace Community Outreach (GCO). We hope that we can build empathy and compassion in the lives of our little ones through their involvement in such meaningful projects. No matter how young, we believe all our little ones can be a blessing to others.

This year, in total, we reached out to 145 beneficiaries in both the Bukit Gombak and Telok Blangah communities. It was heart-warming to witness the beneficiaries breaking into smiles when they received the gifts over from our little ones' hands. This year, the gift was either a blanket or towels. We hoped to bring across the message that we are covering them with prayers this Christmas. Besides the purchased gift, in the gift pack were cute hand-made cards done by our children together with a 1kg rice pack as well as masks sponsored

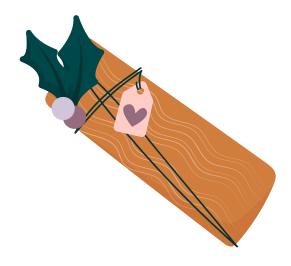
> by GCO. Upon collection of the rice and masks, families then went on their way to personally hand over the gifts to the beneficiaries.

Due to COVID-19, there were various restrictions which caused many inconveniences for the project. However, we are proud of the 142 participating families for stepping out of their comfort zone to spread the joy of Christmas in a very special way this year. Similarly, we are thankful for the 16 Grace Kids leaders who volunteered and laboured in this project as well as for the support parents rendered to make this project achievable for our little ones and, a success.

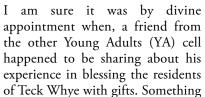


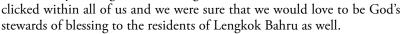
Let Us be God's Stewards to **BLESS** Others!

BY Ulicia Yip, BIBIMBAP Campus Cell



The yearly affair of feasting and presents exchange felt unusually underwhelming as we were planning for our Christmas gathering. Something seemed off. Perhaps it was the stale atmosphere of 'sian-ness' (aka lethargy) in the air, or the inability to even find anything enjoyable to do.





Our initial exuberance and excitement were slightly dampened when we realised that we, as students, were too 'financially-challenged' to be able to reach a large group. We were only able to prepare 30 gift packs of confection for the children and 20 tau sar piahs to treat the elderly. In faith we trusted that although little, it was a seed planted and seedling watered in the lives of the people we reached out to.

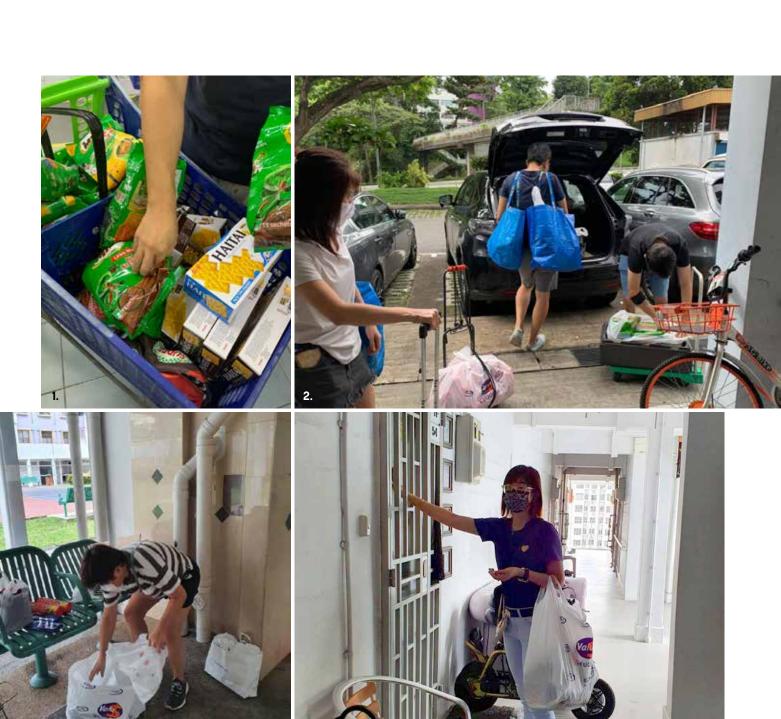
I remember vividly the scenes of the four of us carolling Christmas songs through the corridors in attempt to spread the 'Christmas mood'. Children ran out of their rooms and peeked with excitement through their metal gates, in anticipation of our sugary treats and doggo balloons. Many elderly residents wished us peace and good heath as they received our tissue packs and tau sar piahs with grateful hands. It was pure joy, to see their faces light up with smiles.

Look around! God has blessed us with much. The four of us chose to receive God's blessing by giving Him our five loaves and two fishes. Will you do the same?



We declare York Hill **BELONGS** to *Jesus*!

ву Infiniti GMG, Region В1









1-4. Preparation work – buying, sorting and carrying gifts to the homes of residents

5-6. Engagement with residents

7. Leaders Alex and Irene and a member with resident

The desire to do outreach as a Grace Missional Group (GMG) has been burning in our hearts, especially when we are unable to go to Karimun for missions and many of us are still working from home due to Covid-19.

We prayed and felt led by the Lord to approach one of our GMG members, Lunar, who has been doing outreach regularly to the one-room flats in Chinatown. We asked for Lunar's help to plan for an outreach activity for our GMG. Eventually, she proposed that we reach out to the residents living in the one-room flats at York Hill.

Almost everyone in our GMG voted "Yes" to Lunar's proposal. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we had to divide our members into three groups. Each group was assigned a different block. We bought biscuits, beverage sachets and hand sanitisers for the residents. To prepare ourselves, we also met online to pray for the outreach activity and asked for the Lord's presence to enter every home and touch all the residents at York Hill.

On 19 Dec 2020, we embarked on our food distribution and outreach activity at York Hill. Each group covered about three to four levels in each block. Many of the residents were happy to see us and they were open to us praying for them.

In total, we prayed for 14 households. We were very surprised at how open they were! But we knew in our hearts that this would not have happened, if not for the Lord's divine visitation to these residents in a special way. God's presence had certainly gone before us to soften the ground and the hearts of the residents at York Hill. One of the residents uttered "Amen" after our prayers for them, while one pre-believer resident even raised her hand during our prayer.

There was an unspeakable joy in many of our hearts during and after the outreach activity. We saw the needs of the residents of York Hill and how the Lord's presence had touched them. Truly, it is only Jesus who can meet their needs.

This outreach activity was just the beginning and we hope to do this more regularly as a GMG. We had a great time fellowship when we did the outreach together, as well as and over lots of yummy food!

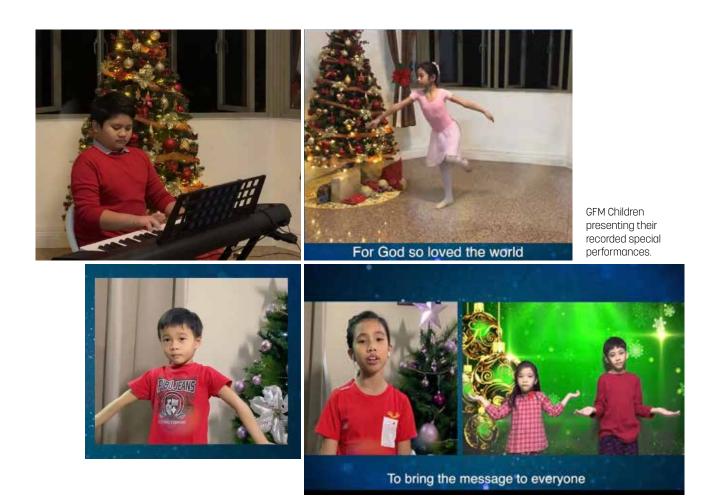
There were lots of laughter and joy in our hearts as we try to get to know each resident. We prayed for the Lord to continue to fill us with His compassion for the residents and to always keep them in our prayers for their salvation. We hope many more will join us in our coming outreach. We are so thankful and grateful to be able to partner with the Lord for this outreach opportunity.

To God be the glory!

GRACE FILIPINO MINISTRY - CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

"The **ONE** True Light"

BY Jeremy Retuta



Worshippers this Christmas found their normal celebrations curtailed. Recorded carols, preaching, performances and greetings were all done online. We call this the "new normal" during this pandemic season. Whatever this new norm brings, followers of Christ find it no reason to withhold the greatest season to celebrate and tell the world of His great love to mankind. As one of the Christmas carols stanzas cited, "A thrill of hope". Yes, Jesus is the One True Light who brings the tangible hope even in these unprecedented times! In John 1:9, it is written: The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

The Grace Filipino Ministry (GFM) brought these promises of Jesus as the One True Light to its on-site Christmas thanksgiving service on 20 December. Thank God for the timely approval from the government to allow 150 worshipers on site, making it possible for us to host 112 participants.

The service commenced with a simple recorded Tagalog version of 12 Days of Christmas put together by church members. It gave everyone a glimpse of Filipino cultural Christmas ambience and a demonstration of strong family bonds despite the current circumstances. The kids magnanimously demonstrated their gifting with their recorded rendition of "Tell the World of His Love". We were grateful for the gift of technology which made all these possible.

Sis Ynel Hizon, Bro Darwin and Sis Den Joaquin shared their testimonies on how the Lord powerfully displayed His glory in their lives during the pandemic season. Sis Ynel, who was left jobless for nine months, was sustained by the Lord in staying in Singapore on a social visit pass for almost a year. She experienced multiple rejections in her job applications. She and her husband continued to trust the Lord and held on to Jeremiah 29:11's promise. The Lord answered and she started her new job on 17 November 2020.

Darwin and Den, who have been preparing for their wedding for almost a year, were challenged to resume the celebration due to the pandemic. The Lord used their friend and spiritual mentors to lead and guide them on how they could push through their marriage in Singapore, and they were solemnised on 29 June 2020. Den shared how she was given strength by the Lord as she faced her single motherhood journey and found her true love. She also pointed out that God's plans are better than ours and held on to Romans 8:28 that we just need to put our full trust in the Lord, and He is in control.

Pastor Rosita Cristobal unwrapped the key message within the One True Light theme aligned to the big idea, "Celebrate the One True Light, the One that enlightens everyone — Jesus Christ". There were three key points emphasised to the congregation — Jesus is the one true light, Jesus is the joy of everyone's heart and Jesus is the hope of the world.

In Him was life and that life was the light of mankind. This was the true light that came to the world and enlightens every heart of mankind as Luke 2:11 says. He takes away the sins of everyone. He promises freedom from sin, darkness, bondage of sin and death. Jesus is the joy of everyone's heart, as witnessed by the three wise men and the shepherds as the angels announced the good news of the coming of Jesus that will bring joy. Jesus is also the hope of the world, as confirmed by Simeon, the "just and devout man" who has been waiting for his last days in Luke 2:30-32 that Jesus was the one whose salvation was prepared for all people, including us the Gentiles.

Eighteen guests were welcomed, and ten souls accepted that great hope and true light in their lives — Jesus Christ! Truly, the best present that we can give our Lord this Christmas is to bring more lost souls to his Kingdom. Jesus is the perfect gift that fits every heart!







Recorded videos of GFM members' greetings

Christ's the **REASON** for the *Season*

BY Wong Hui Hui, Grace Prison Ministry - Family Care





- 1. Child receiving Christmas goodie pack with PFS Staff, Elijah
- 2. All ready to go
- 3. Blessed to be a blessing



The spirit of Christmas simply would not be doused by the gloom of the pandemic. In December 2020, over 80 Gracians from both the English and Mandarin congregations, in partnership with the Grace Prison Ministry and Prison Fellowship Singapore (PFS), keenly participated in the Angel Tree Project to bring the hearts of inmates and their loved ones together in the spirit of Christmas.

Handwritten letters from inmates, NTUC gift cards and goodie packs were personally delivered by Gracian volunteers to 69 inmates' families all over Singapore, with messages of hope, peace and reconciliation. While Grace Assembly has participated annually in the Angel Tree Project for 5 years now, this is the first year we had the highest number of participants involving both congregations. Praise be to God!

Volunteers Thiam Chye & Mei Ling from the Mandarin congregation shared, "Although we initially could not reach the recipient via phone, we kept trying nonetheless and eventually went down to the house to see if she was home. Thank God we managed to connect with her and were privileged to hear her story. As the recipient is a Christian, she asked us about our church services and we also took the opportunity to pray with her."

We praise God also for Grace Missional Group (GMG) that have risen in such a time as this and wanting to bless the community out of their own initiative. CCK Covenant was one such GMGs! In partnership with the PFS Care Club which reaches out to children of those incarcerated via weekend tuition, the members packed and prepared Christmas goodie packs, which contained personally written Christmas cards, children's bibles and specially requested gifts, for 23 children.

We are indeed encouraged by the spirit of giving (of time, prayers and gifts) amongst Gracians to bring Christ's love and hope to families of those incarcerated. Christ is truly the reason for the season!

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Grace Apprenticeship Programme (GAP) invites you to pray as you step into the future!

This is a 9-month full-time internship, starting from 1 July 2021. Equipping provided.

Enrolment for GAP 2021-2022 will open in April.

For more information, please visit graceaog.org/GAP.



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GAP Intern's Sharing

GOD of GAP(s)

BY Wong Hui Hui

After leaving my job in 2018, I attended Bible school for two years and was seeking the Lord's direction on my next steps after my graduation in 2021. The 9-month Grace Apprenticeship Programme (GAP) internship programme at Grace Assembly of God presented itself as a timely and opportune platform to expose myself to the workings of church ministry and to discern my calling with the counsel of the church. Although joining this programme at this juncture meant taking a pause from my full-time studies, I thought there was no better time to explore and experience a reimagined ministry in the midst of the unprecedented crisis of COVID-19. GAP proved to be an extension of learning that exercised my mind, hands and

There were six interns, including myself, and twice a week, we would have different pastors come in to teach and interact with us on a variety of topics including Intercessory Prayer, Teaching and Preaching, Leadership, Missions and Communications, just to name a few. It was not only academic knowledge that they

equipped us with, but also heartfelt sharing of their pastoral experiences and journeys into full-time ministry that were truly inspiring. I have also been encouraged and heartened by the life stories of my fellow interns who are also on this shared journey of discovering the call of God upon their lives. I know I would be amazed to see where God takes each of them!

Being involved with Grace Missional Communities as an intern gave me a privileged glimpse into a pastor's work, their responsibilities as shepherds and an understanding of the church's small group and leadership structure—all fuelled by a heart for discipleship. Through these months, I learnt that the beauty of church ministry perhaps lies in its very brokenness. It continues to baffle me how God can use broken persons like us to bring healing and hope to a broken world. Ministry in church (just like in secular work) is no easy feat, but I witnessed God's provision in the process. Despite the gaps in us, in others, and in situations, God continues to meet us in our gaps—our lack and limitations, our not-good-enoughs, or the far-from-perfect circumstances to bring His ful(filling) unto us.

GAP Intern's Sharing

Surrender, and BE TRANSFORMED

BY Seah Simin

Hi! I am Simin, one of the six GAP interns currently interning with the church and I am serving under Grace Kids (GK). I applied for GAP because I want my life to be my answer to God.

Jeremiah 12:5 spoke to me when I was struggling as a chairperson at SIM Christian Fellowship back in 2018. God later revealed to me that the 'horses' are my pastors and ministry staff because they have been running before me with a lot more experience, speed and stamina than me. Though Jeremiah did not respond to God verbally in Jeremiah 12, his answer came in the form of his life. Likewise, I pray for mine to be the same.

Beyond weekly chapels, equipping sessions with different pastors and theological education with TCA College, I have also learnt more about the church, the GK operations, the church's leaders and their families. More importantly, I believe I have learnt more than I have been taught. I have caught glimpses of the lives of the different staff members during their sharing, their convictions behind their decision-making, their hard work and heart for God and His people. GAP has definitely helped me to grow as a person and strengthen my relationship with God.

Recently, the poem below reminded me that my discipleship journey depends on how much I am willing to surrender and be transformed by Him, hence humbling me to accept daily challenges, tasks and struggles so as to be moulded and refined by Him.

"When I was young, I set out to change the world.

When I grew a little older, I perceived this was too ambitious, so I set out to change my state.

This too, I realised was too ambitious, so I set out to change my town.

When I realised I could not even do this, I tried to change my family.

Now, as an old man, I know that I should have started by changing myself.

If I had started with myself, maybe then I would have succeeded in changing my family, the town, or even the state — and who knows, maybe even the world."

Hasidic Rabbi, quoted by Peter Scazzero



The Grace Discipleship FRAMEWORK (GDF) - Part 2

BY Pastor Lee Meng Cham, Head of Grace Discipleship Institute (GDI)

Our church vision motto: "More People, More Like Jesus" succinctly captures the call and reason of existence for every church, Grace Assembly included. It contains our two core activities evangelism, the sharing of the Gospel with the aim of helping people come into God's Kingdom, and discipleship, the journey of Christlikeness for those who have entered into His Kingdom.

Pastor Wilson has given the definition of Discipleship as "the process of becoming like Jesus Christ in every area of one's being." This is all-encompassing and comprehensive.

Iesus Christ is to be the centre, the standard, the model, the motivation, the reason and the endpoint for our discipleship. It is not about us or what we do; it is about Him and how we are becoming like Him.

"The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher (Luke 6:40; NIV)."

The effectiveness of our Discipleship Framework is measured against how enabled we are to become more and more like Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

This is a process, which means that on this side of heaven, we will not finish becoming like Christ.

"5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, selfcontrol; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:5 - 8; NIV)."

As Peter exhorts us, as long as we make every effort to keep adding His virtues to our lives, we will not be unproductive and ineffective in becoming like Christ. Progress, rather than perfection, is expected.

The extent of this becoming like Jesus Christ is in every area of one's being. In the private, the public, the family, the workplace, the home, and the marketplace, our becoming like Jesus Christ must be evident. This 360° Discipleship requires us to come up with a holistic approach.

To address all these aspects of discipleship, we have three tracks, of which the core is termed "The Disciple-Maker Track". This core track is for every Gracian.

We began by asking how we are to assess the holistic development of a disciple. The typical discipleship program creates classes with the appropriate content and environment that are geared towards the envisioned change and growth. While Scriptural and Spirit-led content and teaching are powerful as foundation for discipleship, they nurture only one aspect and not 'every area'.

Hence, we came up with an assessment in the Five Key Growth Areas, which cover the whole development of a person, and couched in simple and easyto-translate verbs:

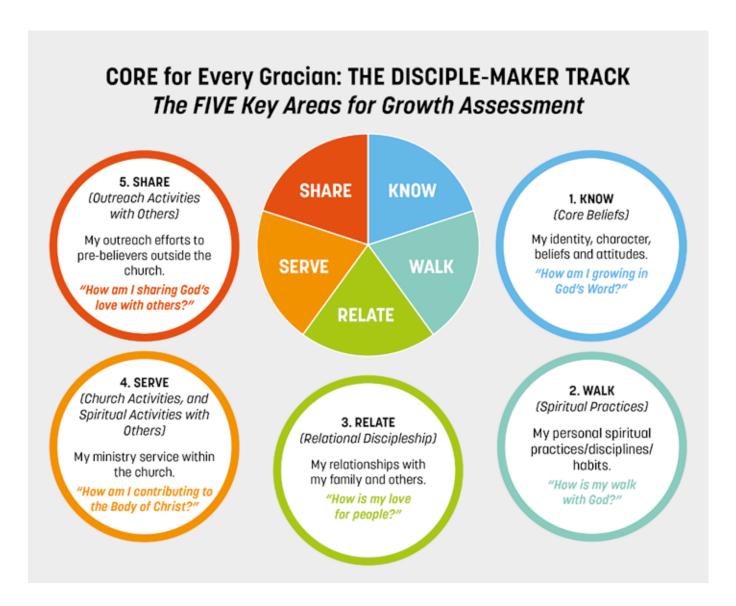
1. KNOW

Sound, true and right knowledge is a vital starting point. Jesus is the Word and He reveals the Godhead through the Scriptures. It is this ongoing quantitative and qualitative engaging with God's Word, through personal Bible reading, courses, classes, seminars and Bible studies that builds a biblical worldview in understanding God's purpose and mission for us, and who we are in Him; including our identity, beliefs, character and attitudes. So instead of asking how many classes we have attended, which may or may not be an accurate indicator, we ask, "How are we growing in God's Word?"

2. WALK

Cognitive development, though, essential, is inadequate because "knowledge puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1b)". It is not the hearing of the Word but putting the Word into practice that is commended (James 1:22). The Word of God should translate into spiritual disciplines, real-life application, and empower our day-to-day interactions, behavioural change and habit formation. The point of interest is, "How is our walk with God?"

These first two pertain to our personal growth and development as disciples.



3. RELATE

To know that we are loved by God and to love Him in return is very fulfilling but the greatest commandments according to Jesus is not just loving God (the vertical relationship) but loving people as well (the horizontal counterpart). Disciples must go beyond self-care and self-preservation to caring for the family of God, from personal expressions of faith to corporate, and from being individual-focused to community-focused. Relational discipleship consists of small groups where spiritual mentors and spiritual parenting is in place to impart Christian values and biblical principles life-on-life. While our love of God must be our primary motivation, here we want to consider, "How is our love for people?"

4. SERVE

Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit we want to discern and discover the gifts that He has given to the Body of Christ. This gives us our roles in the Body – areas where our gifts come into play in edifying the church of God. Under Christ's Headship we all have an important part in ministering together. As we have freely received, so we freely give and offer our worshipful service. We need to ask, "How are we contributing to the Body of Christ?" Our service is an important gauge of our growth as disciples of Christ.

5. SHARE

The members of a church exist to bless those who are outside the Church. We are to be Christ's witnesses to those who are beyond the walls of our premises. As Christ's ambassadors, we are translated from being of the world into God's Kingdom and to be sent back from the Kingdom into the world. In this sense, everyone is either a missionary or a mission-field! Every disciple must have an outlet and an output of being and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to pre-believers; first, to those in our household, then to those at our workplace, community and the nations. The success of discipleship is not in the number of years but in the number of people, family members, and acquaintances we have the privilege and opportunity to share: "How are we sharing God's love with others?"

With these five areas one can determine if one is growing healthily or in a lop-sided fashion. Only healthy disciples can be strong and able disciple-makers, who in turn, produce healthy and balanced disciples.

Grace's FIRST Alpha Online Course

(6 May – 5 August 2020)

BY Cynthia Tan, Alpha Course Coordinator 2020

I was privileged to be the course coordinator for Grace Assembly's very first online Alpha course held from 6 May to 5 August 2020. At first, I felt very inadequate as to how we can conduct the course online, but the Lord assured me. We prayed for 70 guests as it was Grace Assembly's 70th Anniversary, and God really answered our prayers by granting us 70 guests including one from overseas! I also give thanks for 18 highly competent and motivated facilitators who served tirelessly together.

The powerful message of God's love and hope was delivered through the Alpha videos and breakout group sessions on Zoom. We had to learn how to conduct fun online games to bring the lessons to life and connect with our guests. We even had an online healing session where God healed some of the guests. God, in His amazing and personal ways, had reached us even in the digital space with His presence. Indeed, with God all things are possible! The joy of seeing six salvations during the course was incredible. We are still receiving great news of more souls coming into His kingdom after the course. Praise God!

Do reach out to your pre-believing family and friends to join us in the next Alpha run starting on 23 February 2021! To find out more about Alpha Online 2021, please visit http://alpha.graceaog.org/

Here are some photos and testimonies from Alpha Online 2020:





TOP: Alpha facilitators in red! BOTTOM: Having fun together with real, on-site games.





LEFT: Nothing beats a face to face meal after an online Alpha session!

RIGHT: On-site gathering after an online Alpha session.

(The government's limit of 5 visiting guests per household was adhered to.)

I accept the Christian view intellectually because it is the only worldview that is logically consistent and relates to reality. From origin (beginning) to destiny (end), meaning (what is the meaning of life) and morality (how we should live).

- Min Sunn (Accepted Christ at Alpha)

Through the Alpha course, I have a better understanding of what Christianity is, how to have a relationship with God, and how God works in us. It helps me to continue looking to Him as I go through life experiences in the future.

- Ke Jiaxin (Accepted Christ at Alpha)

I often take medication for nausea and bloating. One day, the medication did not work. I was in discomfort the entire afternoon and was hoping my gastric would subside by bedtime or I would be up the whole night, trying to sleep and propped up by multiple pillows. The topic on Alpha that evening was "Does God heal today?" Pastor Matthew shared the biblical basis for healing and about his experiences in Grace's Healing Room Ministry. He told us about people who have been healed and how to pray for healing for ourselves. He then invited us to join him to pray for our own healing. I closed my eyes and echoed the prayer he led us in. While there were other things I could have prayed for, I was still badly nauseated, so I prayed for healing from it. When the prayer ended with an "Amen", the nausea at the back of my throat, the bloating and discomfort disappeared! To be honest, I was a little surprised because it was so sudden. I was not surprised that God heals, but rather, that something this small was worthy of His attention and that the healing was so immediate. That evening, I slept well. The discomfort and nausea were well and truly gone.

- Angela Ho (Healed at Alpha)

Through the sessions I had together with my fellow Alpha facilitators and group mates, we would end up sharing about our lives and struggles, and even prayed for each other's situations. What I experienced through the weekly meetings was a community of God's people, who sought to explore the faith together and supported one another. The care I received from my group helped me to persevere through this difficult season in my life and showed me how the love of God often works through his people. I would recommend others to not only attend the Alpha course because of how it justifies the Christian faith, but also to experience the meaning of Christian community which cannot be answered through words alone!

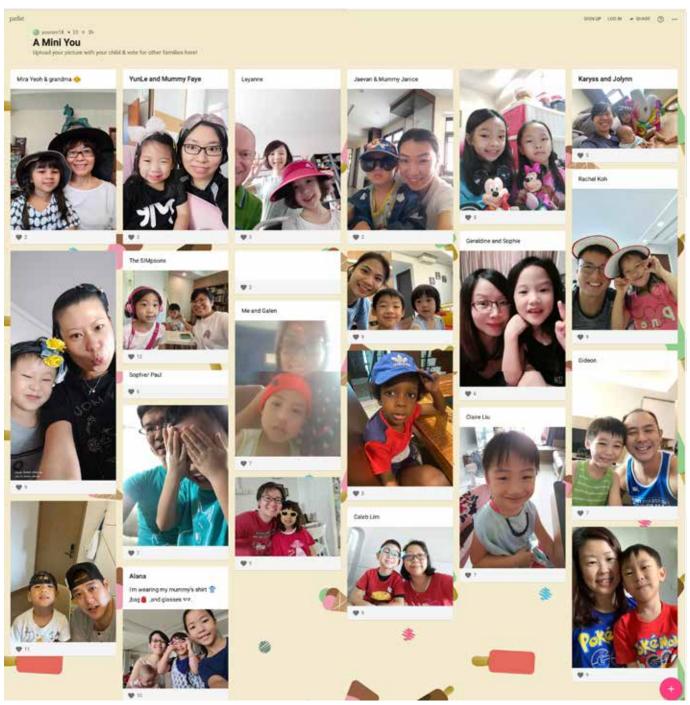
- Nick Wee (New believer)

I really appreciated the openness in sharing and asking of questions in a non-judgmental setting among individuals of varying degrees of maturity in their Christian walk. Ironically, it was a very new believer who pointed me to the writings of Ravi Zacharias, and it was then that I realised the Apologetics route was something that spoke to me. It is still a journey—and I am still learning day by day—but if not for that first step to sign up for Alpha, I know 2020 would have been a very different year for me. I highly encourage everyone, regardless of where you are in your Christian walk, to consider embarking on a similar journey and join Alpha in 2021.

- Priscilla Lim (Believer)

FIRST Online Sparkle Family Service

BY Sim Soo Wei, Children Ministry



Families posted selfies on padlet for the game "Mini You". Which child look most like their parent, guardian or sibling who were present at the Family Service?

We conducted our first Sparkle Family Service on Sunday, 17 January via Zoom. There were over 45 families joining us for the first time and the children had so much fun learning with their parents and guardians in the comfort of their own homes.

Through the game, 'Hot Potatoes', families got to know one another's names and that set our maiden sail to intentionally know and build up the Sparkle Family community.

Sparkle comes under Grace Kids Ministry. Together with their parents, we disciple children aged 3 to 6 years old to be more like Jesus.

Sparkle Services are held weekly via Zoom and if you would like to join us, do connect with Soo Wei at soo.wei@graceaog.org.

Every 3rd week of the month, our usual Sparkle service will be transformed into Family Services where we collaborate with our church's Family Life Ministry to disciple our families through the teachings and activities which are catered for both parents and children. Through these family services we hope to:

- inspire parents to disciple their children's faith
- Instruct parents with handles and the Word of God to disciple their children
- involve Parents in building communities with their children
- invite Pre-believing families to join us via this platform

Some parents' comments for our first Family Service:

My daughter, Rachel, absolutely loved the story-telling part of the service. She was really engrossed in it!"

Lin Hui, Father of Joel (9 years old), Megan (6 years old), Rachel (4 years old) and Tristan (1 year old)

We enjoyed the Family Service very much! It was very engaging and interactive. Really liked that the Word was taught in a way that the kids could appreciate... and relevant for parents too

Grace Lum, mother for Karyss (4 years old) and Jolynn (6mths)

I think it is a very good idea to get the family together for children's service. Nurturing a child takes more than the children's church or school. The adults should know what the child has learned and reinforce it in their daily interaction.

Soo Fun, grandma of Mira (4 years old)



BEATING the Exam Fever *Together*

BY Jairus Ho, JC Region (Nexus)

Amid COVID-19, our junior college (JC) youths still had to study hard for their year-end examinations, especially for those taking the GCE A-Level national examinations. They all powered through the disruptions brought about by the pandemic and worked hard to ultimately do their best.

Inspired by their tenacity, their cell leaders and regional leaders wanted to bless them through sending them surprise welfare packs which included snacks and handwritten notes -- to encourage them to press on during the final leg of their junior college life. Despite being unable to meet physically for cell like we would normally do, the welfare packs were our way of reaching out and blessing our youths, given the constraints!

As members of the church, especially in extraordinary times like these, it is all the more important for us to be intentional with our relationships, to have each other's back as a body of Christ!

Stay strong and let us press on together! :)

LOVING one another... **CARING** for one another

BY Wendy Lam, Family Life Ministry



"Let His Love be perfected in us.." 1 John 4:12

How can I help someone struggling with problems affecting their mental well-being?

How do I help a family member who is a pre-believer and may be suffering from depression?

To what extent can I help the person? What are the limits...so that I do not support her in a way that is unsustainable?

These were questions raised by some Next-Gen leaders in Grace. Emotional and mental health issues apply to all life stages many of us can relate to these questions.

Do you know of a Gracian going through a prolonged period of crisis? You want to help but you do not know how to start. You noticed someone not behaving her usual self, in a depressed state, needing help. Is there someone in church that you can refer her to for help?

In view of the growing needs of the church faced by our leaders, a team of volunteer counsellors and pastoral carers from our Counselling and Pastoral Care Ministry (CPCM) came together to organise a training programme to equip them with basic counselling skills and practical handles in helping troubled teens and those with mental condition such as depression. The inaugural training was held on 11 and 18 November 2020. Some of the takeaways from the training were the understanding of a biblical counselling approach, using active listening skills, observing boundaries in helping, identifying those in need and making referrals. Here are some testimonies from the Next-Gen leaders who benefited from the training and the team of trainers from CPCM:

Next-Gen leaders

"Very useful because it provided the 'whys' for Christian counselling (versus secular counselling) in the current climate of a greater awareness of mental health...The session was very engaging because of the opportunity to participate in role-playing activities based on relevant scenarios. The facilitators were very encouraging & welcoming throughout the training, making it a safe space for us to learn & explore."

- Elevate RL A

"It helped lay the biblical foundation for counselling. The skills taught (eg setting boundaries, listening techniques) may seem simple but they're really useful because of its relevance!"

- Elevate RL B

"The facilitators were very well-informed about such issues and provided very manageable handles — whether spiritual or practical!... appreciate the referral framework set-up!"

- YAYP RL

"...appreciated how Pastor Ben delineated the goals, roles and responsibilities of counselling and pastoral care in the church context. Overall, the sessions have also prompted me to examine my own responses when youths under my care have sought help, as the motives I have will inevitably influence the form of help I will provide... to help me set healthy boundaries and expectations."

- Elevate RL A

CPCM Trainers & Facilitators

"It has been a stretching but enriching journey...considering I've been in my comfort zone for so long. Being broken and restored myself, the desire to see fellow gracians claiming the goodness of God is strong. I am also encouraged by Ps Ben and the pastoral care team, seeing their hearts for God's people and selfless contribution. The trainings have certainly been helpful, not just knowledge wise but also a structure to follow through." - Valerie

"I am currently handling a case and learning to apply some counselling skills and principles from the various trainings I have attended. As I am relatively new to counselling, attending, and serving as facilitator in this Next-Gen training helped to reinforce my learning. The skills I learnt help me become more confident and effective in helping people with emotional needs. One thing I have become more aware of is setting boundaries when helping friends with emotional needs." - Wei Shih

"In recent years, the Lord divinely placed sisters with needs in my path. God's heart to minister and reach out to those who are broken-hearted and crushed in spirit became my desire too when I grew in knowledge and in strength of Him... my journey as a pastoral carer began after attending GMC Foundation of Christian Counselling in March 2019. I volunteered to serve in this ministry. Training is on-going, so is walking alongside those in need of a listening ear and care. As I'm new to this role and I'm still learning and there are challenges, but God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called to be His hands and feet!" - Sian

COUPLE Discipleship Programme

BY Andy Lim, Marriage Life

To all dating couples and single Gracians looking to start dating, how prepared are you when you step into the world of dating, courtship and eventually marriage? Do you have couple mentors to walk with you in this initial phase of your journey? Have you invested in books, attended courses on subjects like understanding gender differences, couple communication, handling conflicts, boundaries in dating, remaining pure until you are married and understanding how your family of origin will affect how you relate to each other?

Welcome to the world of dating, courtship, and eventually marriage! When a man and a woman decide to take this initial path to know each other and evaluate if they are suitable for each other, they are embarking on the initial stage of the second most important decision of their lives!

The most important decision in one's life is to decide where and how you will spend eternity. Accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour means choosing to live a life set apart for God and growing in Christ-likeness and Christ-centeredness in every part of our lives.

The second most important decision is probably the selection of one's spouse. This person that you choose will be spending the rest of his/her life with you till death do you part. This person will be with you, be involved in your life's decisions; sleep and wake up with you every day and if the Lord blesses, he or she will become the parent of your children. Hence, it is of utmost importance to take this decision very seriously.

Following up from the YAYP relationship sermon series where Nexus/YAYP organised a Zoom meet-up of dating couples with some married couples as shown on photo, YAYP will be starting this new Couple Discipleship Programme (CDP). The common practice in forming this relationship is broken into three phases: Dating, Courtship and Pre-Marriage:

Dating Phase – This first phase normally takes about 3-6 months with the couple getting to know each other and eventually deciding if they would like to take the relationship to the courtship phase as boyfriend/ girlfriend. Generally, it is advisable not to start this phase unless the couple is ready to get married within the next 5 years.

Courtship Phase – This next phase along the 5-year timeline allows a couple to gain a deeper understanding of each other with the intention to progress towards engagement and marriage. Some couples may take 2 years and some longer.

Pre-Marriage Phase – This final phase is when a couple is engaged and starts to plan for their wedding ceremony and married life. Couples



in this phase would likely be attending or attended the Marriage Preparation Discipleship Programme (MPDP). Couples can also consider signing up to attend MPDP at anytime during the courtship phase. MPDP is a 4-5 months course on a 2 weekly basis before couples get married followed by another 2 sessions during the first year of marriage.

The Couple Discipleship Programme (CDP) will cover the first 2 phases of the relationship for you and your partner. Upon entering the Courtship phase, we will assign a married couple to be your mentors. These couple mentors will be available to engage and support you and partner in your relationship on a monthly basis.

YAYP and FLM are pleased to bring you this exciting programme to prepare both singles and couples so that you can be better informed and receive the guidance that you need. Married Couple Mentors will walk with you on this journey before you sign up for MPDP.

Watch the space as YAYP will announce this programme soon. For more information, please contact Ps John Lin at john.lin@graceaog.org.



Missions in the 21st Century

SPEAKER : Dr Khoo Hin Hiong



Dr Khoo Hin Hiong

Students will learn more about the contemporary developments in the discipline of Missiology, and this course will equip them to meet the challenges of missions in this post-modern world.

Registration:

Fee for non-credit or audit students: \$15 Fee for 3-credit module: \$130 (with assignments)



Register at https://event.graceaog.org by 25 February



Grace Discipleship Institute

GDI Courses

DATE	DURATION	TIME	COURSE/VENUE*
FEBRUARY			
17, 24 Feb • 10, 24 Mar 7, 21 Apr • 5, 19 May	8 Wed	10am–12nn	WOG DBS: Book of Leviticus
20 Feb • 6, 20 Mar • 3, 17 Apr 1, 15, 29 May • 12 Jun	9 Sat	9:30am-12nn	Marriage Preparation Discipleship Programme (L2 Eden for 1st session only)
23 Feb – 25 May	14 Tues	8am-9.30pm	Alpha
27 Feb • 13, 20, 27 Mar	4 Sat	9am–10.15am	MBS: Book of Deuteronomy Part 1: A New Era
MARCH			
4-5 Mar 6 Mar	Thurs, Fri, Sat	7pm–10pm 9am–1pm	GMC: Missions in the 21st Century
4 Mar – 8 Apr	Thurs	8pm-10pm	使徒行传 Book of Acts #
6, 13, 20, 27 Mar	Sat	2pm–4pm	Pre-Natal Discipleship Programme
14 Mar	Sun	3pm-5pm	面对压力 How to Deal with Stress #
18, 25 Mar • 1, 8,15 Apr	5 Thurs	8pm-9.15pm	Grace Baptism & Membership Class
25 Mar • 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Apr 6, 13 May	8 Thurs	8pm-9.30pm	洗礼与转会 Baptism & Membership #
27 Mar • 3, 10, 17, 24 Apr	5 Sat	2:30pm-4.30pm	The Unfinished Story (English) for English & Chinese congreg.
27 Mar • 3 Apr	2 Sat	10am–12nn	Basic Counselling for People Helper Grace@Tanglin L2 Eden
APRIL			
3, 10, 17, 24 Apr • 8, 15, 22 May (Break 1 May)	7 Sat	9am–10.15am	MBS: Book of Deuteronomy Part 2: Counter Culture
6, 13, 20, 27 Apr	4 Tues	8pm-9.30pm	Serving by SHAPE
7 Mar Briefing 28 Mar Meet the Facilitators session Main session: 9-11 Apr	Fri–Sun	7 & 28 Mar, Fri, 2:30-4:30pm 9 Apr, Fri, 8pm-10:30pm 10 Apr, Sat, 10am-12:30pm 11 Apr, 2:30pm-5pm	Restored to Wholeness Level 1

^{*} All courses will conduct via Zoom Online, except those indicated. # Class will be conducted in Mandarin. Registration starts one month before the course commence. Closing date is one week before the course start.

REGISTER ONLINE:



English https://event.graceaog.org



Chinese / 中文 https://event.graceaog.org

Pastoral Staff Movements & Appointment



RESIGNATIONS:

The following pastoral staff have resigned due to personal reasons.

- Samantha Lim from Creative Arts Ministry
- Tiffany Tay from R-AGE Ministry
- Vivienne Lim from Children Ministry

RETIREMENT:

Pastor Joyce Chan from Cantonese Ministry

REDESIGNATIONS:

- Pastor Siew Woh Kit from Chinese Ministry will now support the church in the area of Pastoral Care.
- Pastor Ng Mee Noy will move from Hokkien Ministry to Mandarin Ministry.
- Pastor Esther Lock from the Cantonese Ministry has converted to part-time and she will continue to support Pastor Patrick Lee in Grace Community Outreach.

APPOINTMENTS:

We are pleased to appoint the following bi-vocational ministers for 2021:

- Pastor Joyce Chan serving in Chinese Ministry
- Rev Matthew Tan serving in Healing Room Ministry
- William Hioe serving in Grace Missional Communities

We pray and entrust them in God's hand that He will continue to lead them and guide them according to His plans!

Looking for a meaningful job?

Look no further! Check out our full-time positions in the following ministries in Grace Assembly.

- Corporate Communications
- Finance
- Media

Head over to https://www.graceaog.org/jobs/ for more details!



RESTORED TO Moleness

(ZOOM FORMAT)

LEVEL 1:

Introduction to Inner Healing & Deliverance
(Mass Ministry)

7 March, Pre-Briefing: 2:30 - 4:30pm 28 March, Meet the Facilitators: 2:30pm - 4:30pm

9 April, Friday 2021 8:00pm - 10:30pm 10 April, Saturday 2021 10:00am - 12:30pm 11 April, Sunday 2021 2:30pm - 5:00pm



For more details, please visit our website: https://www.graceaog.org/familylifegrace/



Course Fee: \$10

Register online:
https://event.graceaog.org
Closing date:

**Gmall is required for the participants to access the teachings for the seminar.

25 February

** GDI course refund: admin charge of \$10 will be chargeable for cancellation of courses less than 7 days prior to course commencement.

Photo: Ave Calvar Martinez @ Pe

Israel Pilgrimage Trip 2021

28 November – 10 December 13 Days, 10 Nights Walk the paths Jesus walked and see the Bible comes alive!

Online registration starts in June!

For more details, please check out www.graceaog.org/pilgrimage.









CHINESE NEW YEAR COMBINED SERVICE

Giving Thanks for God's Grace and Hope this Chinese New Year!

Sunday, 14 February 2021



Speaker: Rev Timothy Hoon

On-site Services:

GRACE@BUKITBATOK

9am-10.30am

GRACE@TANGLIN

11.15am-12.45pm

Ticket booking will open on Wednesday, 10 February at 12 noon.





Online Service:

https://graceaog.online.church/

- 9am-10.30am
- 11.15am-12.45pm







18, 25 March 1, 8, 15 April Thursdays 8pm–9.15pm Zoom Online



Register online: https://event.graceaog.org Closing date: 11 March

My Spiritual ENCOUNTER During J333

BY Annie Ng (Region D)



This is a testimony of my baptism of the Holy Spirit during a J333 session on 7 October:

On the night prior to J333, I reconsidered attending it as my husband was not well physically, my eldest daughter, Sarah, came home late from CCA at around 7.25pm, and my youngest, Rebecca, was having exam stress. We started to have dinner only at 7.35pm. By the grace of God, I made it at 8.05pm, flustered. As I quietened down my soul and closed my eyes, and tried to be still before the Lord, I heard a still, small voice that said, "Do you love Me?" I didn't respond immediately and remained silent. Moments later, I heard the voice again, saying, "Do you love Me?" It was then that my tears just flowed. I realised that I had been occupied with trivial concerns, such as having dinner with my family. I was convicted and began to ask God for forgiveness.

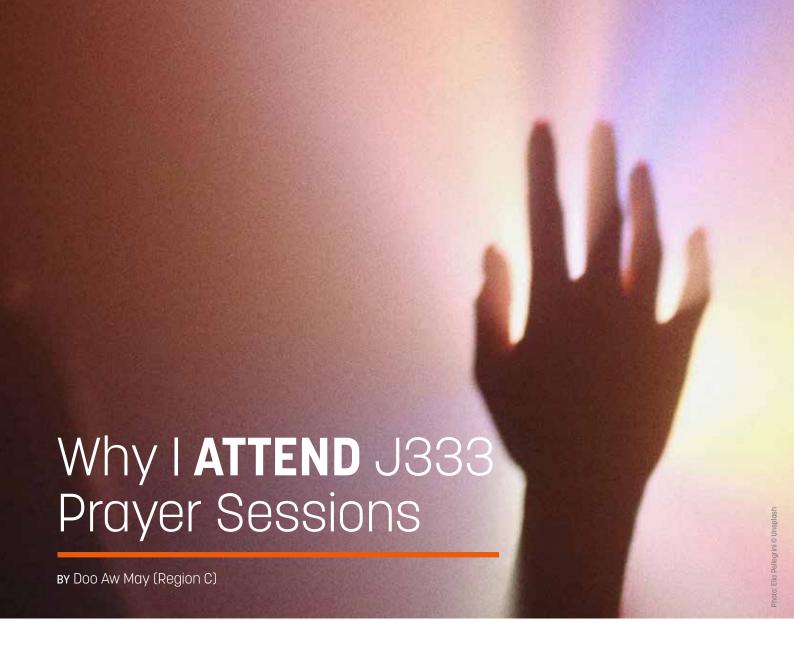
That night, J333 was led by Pastor Peter Lim and he encouraged those who wished to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He led with the song "Fall" by Hillsong United. The message was "relax, receive and respond." He invited those who wanted to receive to sing the chorus:

Holy Spirit come in power Change my heart I want to live for You, my God Let Your Spirit come in power Change my life That I may live for you, my Lord Fall on us Lord

I wanted to receive His love as I had been struggling with my wish to speak in tongues for a few months already, uttering monosyllables with little progress and disappointment. I felt that hearing His still, small voice, or seeing visions and dreams were easier for me than speaking in tongues. This could have been because I came from a Baptist church previously.

I relaxed and closed my eyes as the chorus played. Suddenly, I sensed a gust of wind, something descended upon me, tears just rolled down my cheeks, my tongue was loosened and I started to utter in angelic tongues, while my right hand started to shake uncontrollably. Yet, it was a peaceful feeling. It was then that I realised that I had a spiritual encounter receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Praise God! I even remember the exact time it happened—8.33pm.

I learnt that sometimes we fixate too much on our current situation and use that to determine the outcome. But God turned it around. I almost did not attend J333 that day and could have missed this powerful encounter! If only we can be still before Him, and hear what He has to say to each one of us...





My son and I joined the Grace@BukitBatok worship service about four years ago. I was urged by the Holy Spirit to join J333 to pray corporately. I looked up what J333 stands for and found that it refers to Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." I responded to God's call and joined J333 as often as I could and the Supernatural healing sessions because I wanted to know and experienced the great and unsearchable things of God. I used to attend only twice a month at Grace@BukitBatok, but since the COVID-19 outbreak, I attend J333 and the Supernatural prayer sessions via Zoom almost every week.

I feel it is my privilege to be able to pray corporately for the needs of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and for church ministries. Through J333, I get to know more about church missions works locally and overseas and contribute toward meeting the needs for missions through missions pledges and prayers.

Through the J333 Supernatural prayer sessions, the needs of fellow brothers and sisters become real to me, I learn to pray for healing for myself and others, and I am much encouraged by the testimonies of God's love and faithfulness in healing His people.

Through praying for the needs of God's people I develop a link or connection to fellow brothers and sisters whom I have not meet or known personally.

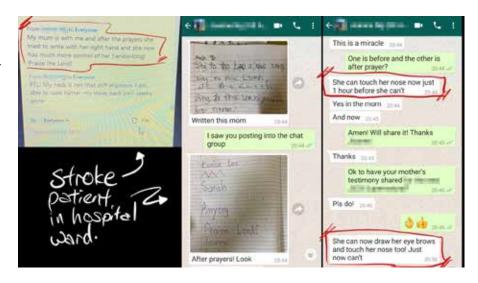
SUPERNATU

BY Pastor Matthew Tan

Over the past six months, J333 Supernatural became a platform for many healings to take place. We were glad that Gracians took the opportunity to bring the Healing Room ministry to their loved ones. The team heard of Gracians visiting the homes of their family members to tune in to the healing meetings. People were even joining us from hospitals wards-both local and overseas.

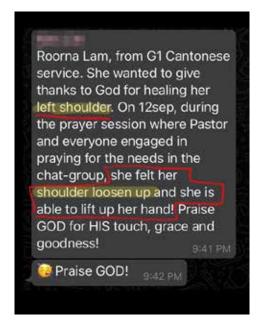
Throughout this time of online ministry, the team witnessed many healings, demonic manifestations, and salvations through the breakout rooms. We thank God that those who accepted Jesus were discipled and channelled to Grace Missional Groups (GMG).

Here are some encouraging testimonies:



Improvement of movement control

One of our Gracians attending the Grace@BukitBatok English Service heard of J333 Supernatural through her GMG. She then visited her mother who was hospitalised due to a stroke. That evening, as they tuned in to the prayer meeting from the ward, there was a huge improvement to the movement control in her hands.



Healing of frozen shoulder

Roorna Lam from Grace@Tanglin Cantonese Service, felt her shoulders loosen up during the healing meeting and was able to raise her hand.



The Lord touched his eyes

A brother from Grace@BukitBatok English Service woke up one day with no vision in his left eye. He attended J333 Supernatural with his wife. He later went for an eye check-up, but the doctor found nothing wrong with his eyes! We thank God that his full eyesight was suddenly and miraculously restored.



Father's condition improved in the hospital

A sister from the Grace@Tanglin Chinese Service shared with the team about how her dad's condition improved in the hospital when we were praying for her during a healing meeting.

Sometimes, the full effect of a testimony can be muted because suspected illnesses can be confirmed negative by scans after prayer. No one knows for sure if the Lord actually did a miracle before the scan, or it was actually negative in the first place. Nevertheless, we thank God that people actually got better because that was what we were praying for. Ministry continues!

Do keep the Healing Room team in prayer. Continue to bring the Healing Room ministry to your friends and loved ones so that they may receive a healing touch from the Lord, our Jehovah Rapha.



Mum's SALVATION

BY Celine Chan, Shammah, Region A

My mother had been a staunch Buddhist/Taoist all her life. And for most of her life, she has often been gripped by fear and superstition. Over the past four years, my mother experienced many health problems. She had multiple falls, which resulted in fractures to her knee, hip and back. In early 2020, she also began kidney dialysis and was often in and out of the hospital.

Because of her condition, I decided to use every opportunity to share about my faith with her. I would encourage her to call upon the name of Jesus whenever she was anxious, fearful or in pain. I also constantly shared Isaiah 41:13, "For I am the LORD your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

On 24 August 2020, while my mother was waiting to be admitted to the hospital for shortness of breath and severe back pain, she told me that she had decided to follow Jesus and I seized the opportunity to lead her in the sinner's prayer with my limited Hokkien. I thank God for His gift of salvation that led my mother to call His name and be saved.

Over the next two months, my mother's health worsened. An MRI revealed that she had a degenerative lumbar spine which was pressing on a nerve. This caused her to experience constant pain and numbness in her limbs, and she could not sleep well. In November, my mother's condition deteriorated to a point where the doctor told us there was nothing much we could do to relieve her pain.

When she received the news, my mother decided to stop her dialysis as the pain she had to go through was unbearable. My brothers and I encouraged her to continue the treatments, but she wanted us to respect her final wish. So we reluctantly agreed and she began palliative care at home.

Those six weeks of home palliative care were the most precious and wonderful times we spent with our late, beloved mother. We saw how our Lord had granted her all the desires of her heart the moment she put her trust in Him. Firstly, she was baptised at home on the day she was discharged, in the presence of all her children.

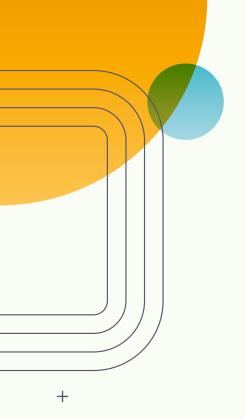
Secondly, she was able to sleep through the night for eight hours without pain—despite not having slept well for four months due to constant pain, and needing medication every three hours for it. She even told us that she was not sleeping on earth, but was with Jesus in heaven. My mother also testified that she saw heaven and it was a beautiful place, with many homes and rooms. God showed her a glimpse of her room, which made me recall John 14:2-3, "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." This blessed assurance from God gave my mother confidence.

Thirdly, she bade farewell to relatives and friends calmly, without the fear of her imminent death. She declared and shared her new faith in Jesus, telling them she was unafraid despite her days being numbered, and that she knew where she would go after she passed on. She also told everyone not to be sad for her, but to be happy that she would be with our Lord Jesus in eternity forever.

Fourthly, we have never heard mum singing all our lives! Yet, after accepting Christ, she would listen to worship songs and sing aloud purely, with all her heart. Whenever she said Hallelujah, she would have a wide smile on her face, despite the pain and suffering she was going through. She was firmly assured in her faith and had no fear of death: only peace and readiness to meet our God. And God honoured her faith and received her home on 15 December, as she passed away peacefully in her sleep.

It is my privilege to share my testimony of God's grace in my mother's life after her conversion. God opened the eyes of her heart to meet Him and the Holy Spirit taught my mother to grow in the knowledge of Jesus day by day. She was so eager to learn how to pray, listen to sermons and worship God. Despite being a young Christian, she was filled with the spirit of wisdom and revelation of Jesus. She constantly testified about the goodness of God despite the circumstances. Even when she was physically in pain, she still raised a Hallelujah to praise Him. I saw transformation in her life, and how she moved from darkness to light; from the power of Satan to God. Despite her late conversion, God did not short-change her or let her miss out on aspects of Christian living. She was baptised, attended church once, a cell meeting over Zoom, listened to sermons and even worshipped online! God did exceedingly and abundantly more than she could ask for.

I thank God for His gift of salvation to my mother, and am comforted that she is with Him in heaven now. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from ourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so than no one can boast." All glory to Him, Hallelujah and praise the Lord!



My company has been trading Financial Futures and Options in listed Exchanges for close to a decade. At the start of the pandemic, in March 2020, things started going downhill. As the market became more volatile, Exchanges and brokers asked for higher margins to be placed for every trade. Equities, bonds, and even gold were sold off sharply, and crude oil went negative. Never in history have prices fluctuated so much.

In mid-March, our company conducted some trade which we were familiar with. But a week later, liquidity for the product suddenly dried up and the market went against our position. To cover for market losses and hold on to our position, we needed an additional US\$3 million.

In desperation, I approached our previous partners to see if they could help but was turned down by them. I felt so helpless and prayed fervently for the market to turn in my favour or for someone to come up with additional funds to bail us out. To make matters worse, I was tied up with helping my daughter, who was studying in the United Kingdom (UK), to book flights so she could return to Singapore before UK went into lockdown. Her flight was cancelled and we had to arrange alternatives. By God's grace, we managed to book the last seat on another flight so she could return safely to Singapore.

How **COVID-19**Almost *Destroyed*My Business

BY Andy Tan, Shammah, Region A

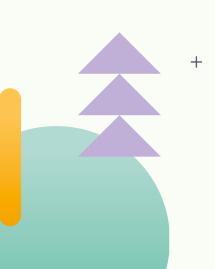
After settling my daughter's flight, I was still praying in the office when the Lord reminded me of an acquaintance whom I met in November 2019 at a brokers' event. He asked me then, if I was keen to invest for others, but I put that conversation on hold. With God's prompting, I decided to call him and told him about my company's situation. He then introduced a company to me that could take over our trades. So my company presented our strategies to them and they seemed interested, but asked for a day to revert. The next 24 hours passed by slowly, but I did not want to sound pushy and keep calling them. I could only pray and send out prayer requests to close friends for a favourable outcome. Listening to worship

songs while waiting anxiously helped me to take my mind off the situation, and I trusted and believed that God would be is able to turn things around.

The call finally came at around 7pm on Sunday, 22 March. The company agreed to take over those trades, but needed a few days to channel funds into their account. Thank God, our broker granted us more time to manage the transition and agreed not to liquidate us yet. It was a great relief!

A bleak and stressful situation that almost ended in bankruptcy for my company turned out to be a blessing. That trade alone reaped a profit of US\$2.2 million for 1.5 months, and our net profit for the first half of 2020 was a new record for us. At first, it seemed that no help would arrive, but God opened doors, poured out His favour, and orchestrated the entire situation for good. Today, my company is out of the woods, our partnerships have grown stronger, and we even set up a new fintech company to provide trading solutions for traders.

Through this difficult time, I clung onto His promises, submitting my work and business to God, knowing that the battles I face are not mine but His as well. "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10) All glory to God!



An **Unexpected**Time of Rest

BY Andy Tan, Shammah, Region A



On 8 July 2020, I woke up with an unusually painful sore throat. My throat felt dry even when swallowing saliva, and lozenges did not help to soothe it at all. So I went to Parkway East Hospital at about 5pm. It was then that the doctor spotted a 1-cm lump at my neck. He told me an infection was causing the swelling, and advised that I should see an Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialist if the pain and discomfort should persist. He then prescribed me antibiotics and painkillers, and sent me home. But my condition did not improve. At dinner, my throat was still painful when eating and I had difficulty swallowing food. I took some medicine and tried to sleep.

However, the swelling around my neck worsened at night. I kept choking on my saliva and felt my airway was blocked. I had to get up every hour through the night to spit out saliva, which looked like phlegm. The swelling also spread to my lower jaw and face. The next morning, the pain worsened and I felt breathless when talking. So I made an appointment to see an ENT at Changi General Hospital (CGH).

At CGH, a scope showed that a severe swelling and blockage had narrowed my airway. I needed emergency admission into the high dependency ward for treatment and monitoring. The doctor told me that if the swelling around my neck had pus, I would also require an emergency operation.

I waited in an isolation ward as I was displaying symptoms similar to that of COVID-19. However, my swab test result was negative, and a CT scan showed that I had a severe throat infection instead. Thank God I sought treatment early, as any delay might have been fatal. Over the next two days, I reacted well to the medication and was finally discharged on 12 July.

I give thanks to how God had seen me through this 4-day ordeal—from the moment I sought treatment, to the ENT making special arrangements to see me, to the negative swab tests, the speed of healing, and how my body reacted well to the medications, with no side effects.

I thank Him also for an unexpected but much-welcomed time of rest since I was undergoing tremendous stress that year. In March, I was facing financial difficulties and my business almost folded. Jermane, my daughter, was trying to return home from Leeds, where she was studying, before the lockdown. Jermane and I, as well as April and Janelle (my two other daughters), also all had dengue fever before my throat infection happened. I am thankful to God that He saw us through this difficult time. Prayer had made things possible.

+







MCI (P) 032/12/2020



请扫描二维码以订阅《恩·友》季刊电子版。



第60屆常年事务大会

2021年3月26日,星期五

会籍更新

亲爱的会友:

所有已在神召会恩典堂注册的会友 应已通过电子邮件或邮寄的信件收 到会籍更新信函。已注册的会友是 指所有已经在恩典堂洗礼并入籍为 会友或已经正式转会来到恩典堂之 信徒。

所有已经注册的会友需要在2021年 3月5日,晚上11时59分之前呈交会 籍更新资料。所有未能在截至日期 内更新会籍资料者,将被取消投票 资格。 a) 请通过https://register.graceaog.org/更新您的会籍资料。您的用户名(User ID)是您的出生日期(日日月月年年)加上您身份证件(NRIC)的最后4位数字和字母,您可以在教会已邮寄给您的信件中找到您的登录密码(Password)。

例如,如果您的出生日期是1999年1月 12日,身份证号码是S1234567X,那么您 的用户名(User ID)就是120199567X。

b) 您可以将填写好的纸版会籍更新表格投进任何一个标有"会籍更新表格"的箱子里,这些箱子将放在以下地点:

恩典堂@东陵:加利利堂(1楼) 恩典堂@武吉巴督:接待处/书店(1楼)

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恩牧之言

C02-03 新开始!

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E04-011 为不平凡的一年而感恩 Giving Thanks for an Unusual Year

恩典之作

CO4-O5 2021年之新事

恩典教学

C06-07 恩典门训框架(二) (门训框架/GDF)

恩典节拍

C08-09 圣诞佳音到你家

C10-11 不一样的圣诞

C13 教牧调动与聘任

我们下一期的季刊将 在四月份发行! 敬请 留意!

我们期待听到您的声 音!

我们一直都在寻找恩友 分享生命的故事以及对 我们教会的爱。如果您 想与我们分享,请发送 电邮至

gacomms@graceaog.org



若要查询崇拜时间, 请扫描二维码。

新开始!

以赛亚书43:16-19

16 耶和华在沧海中开道,在大水中开路。

17 使车辆,马匹,军兵,勇士都出来,一同躺下不再起来, 他们灭没好像熄灭的灯火。

> ¹⁸ 耶和华如此说,你们不要记念从前的事, 也不要思想古时的事。

19 看哪,我要做一件新事,如今要发现,你们岂不知道吗? 我必在旷野开道路,在沙漠开江河。 我在2020年12月31日的70周年感恩聚会上分享了这段话。我们感谢神在过去70年中对神召会恩典堂的信实引导,服侍了许多的家庭,并帮助了许多人得着基督的救恩。通过这个地方教会,我们也祝福了社区,并满足了弱势、迷失和孤单之人的需求。除新加坡以外,我们也通过了我们的宣教竭力植堂,培训领袖和激发众人,去影响许多的国家。

当我们迈入2021这新的一年时,教会执事会和教牧领导层希望加强神在神召会恩典堂中所建立的一切。我们绝不能允许过去拦阻了神要藉着神召会恩典堂做新的事。过去的成就必须激发我们以更大的信心,并与圣灵连结配搭展望将来。过去必须给我们勇气,以制定新的事工策略,来满足后新冠病毒世界不断变化的需求。新的事工策略将包括在我们的门训策略中使用数码工具,加强我们的小组事工,使父母有能力为他们的儿女进行门训,并建立有效且富有吸引力的在线教会。

后大流行世界将要求我们检验我们目前所有的门徒训练策略(以前的事情),并与神合作做我们过去没有做过的事情,为祂的荣耀和目的去接触更多的人(新事物)。在我们面前的这一激动人心之旅程中,我恳请您的祷告和配搭!

赵克文牧师(博士) 主任牧师

2021年之新事

撰文 林燕玲, 教会通讯 翻译 王紫璇传道

在2021年第二周的华语主日崇拜中,赵克文主任牧师分享了恩典 堂在这新的一年的总体方向。

赵牧师以"新事"作为他讲道的主题,延续了2020年12月31日他在70周年感恩聚会中分享的内容。

在70周年感恩聚会中,赵牧师分享了以赛亚书43:16-19(和合本)。这些经文让我们看到对以色列来说,神的话不是把神局限在过去,而是期待神在他们中间要做的新事,这些新事会出乎意料地发生。

我们感谢神在过去70年里对恩典堂的信实,要感谢那些属神的领袖和会友,他们摆上他们的生命和金钱,建造了位于东陵和武吉巴督的两座标志性的建筑。

但是,我们绝对不能停留在过去的成就却忘记神要在我们的当中做新事。神在过去70年里为恩典堂所成就的仅仅是个开始。我们不可以将我们自己局限在神赐给我们的这两座美好的建筑里。神在这间本地教会中还要成就更多的事。

这也是为什么赵牧师认为是神拣选了恩典堂在去年成为2019新冠病毒最大的感染群。这是神撼动我们离开我们的舒适区的方法, 他将我们分散在新加坡各处,让我们可以等候祂将要做的新事, 等候祂将要在我们中间成就的事。

赵牧师提醒会众,在整个疫情期间,神向我们展示了恩典堂的本质并不只是我们所拥有的建筑物。恩典堂关乎的是神的子民,关乎生活在本地的群体,一起体验相同的门训生活。虽然我们没有了实体有形的建筑,但是当我们一起胜过我们的挑战和困难的时候,我们与神一起建造了我们的属灵生命,并和彼此建立起了关系。

神使用这一场疫情让我们做好准备,为要应对未来可能发生的任何危机,无论是否有建筑,恩典堂都能发挥作用。

接着,赵牧师继续分享了以下包含了我们五个战略支柱所需要强化的三个方面,使恩典堂通过在疫情当中的经历的而得到提升。

1.门训

在去年的疫情期间,我们举办了在线洗礼与转会课、天父的爱、圣经课程,以 及其他在线课程。从出席率和参与度来 看,我们的恩友与新朋友都有兴趣参加 在线课程,上课方式也很便利。

这是神通过这场疫情加速成就的新事。 由于大家的回应和反馈良好,我们将继 续提供在线课程。赵牧师也希望以后恩 典门训中心的所有课程都能够以在线和 现场授课的两种方式进行。

另一个需要强化门训的将是我们的小组。

当我们没有现场聚会和交流的情况下, 在这样充满挑战的时期,我们的小组是 使我们在这场疫情中维持我们信仰群体 的关键支柱之一。

赵牧师向小组组长们表达了他的感谢, 感谢他们在这特殊时期尽最大的努力来 帮助并联系每一位组员,为小组成员提 供关系和属灵上的支持。特别在这困难 的时期,这个信仰的群体让每一个人继 续与神、与彼此保持连结,彼此鞭策。

这也让赵牧师坚信每一位信徒都必须参加小组,而不是等有时间的时候去选择 性参加的活动。

因此,当我们不能在我们的建筑里聚集的时候,我们会更加强调恩典堂的小组事工,这对于保证教会的持续运作是至 关重要的。 在恩典门训中心的框架下,小组以后将 是恩友受装备的一个重要平台。

赵牧师也提到家庭中的门训是另一个重要部分。阻断期间教会关闭的时候,家长就成为了他们的孩子的主要导师,去牧养他们。在这个过程中,神在家庭中做了新事一神已经开始恢复父母在信仰上的门训,他们是家庭中属灵的领导者。

神用疫情来告诉我们教会的建筑可以关闭,但家庭这一基本单位仍然存在。就算没有了教会的建筑物,每个家庭在基督里的信心仍然可以保持坚固。赵牧师鼓励家长们兴起并拿回原本属于家长的权柄,就是家庭属灵的领导者。这是与以前"教会是孩子主要的导师"这一观念的另一个重大转变。在未来的日子里,教会将与家长们分享更多一起配搭的策略,并赋予他们权力,实践在装备孩子上所扮演的一至关重要的角色。

2.社区外展

社区外展指的是信徒在社区中是盐和 光,要向当中有需要的人,如寡妇、孤 儿和我们中间的客旅伸出援手。这个出 发点的主要目的不是让人得到救恩。

它的目的是祝福社区,因为每一个人, 无论他是否是信徒,他都是按照神的形 象所造的。

赵牧师继续解释说,教会去祝福和帮助 这些有需要的人是因为他们与我们一样 有神的形象,他们在生活中有切实的需 要。我们作为神的子民,必须伸出援手 去帮助那些最需要帮助的人,那些迷失 的人和孤独的人。

他分享说尽管2020年处于疫情和限制中,但恩典堂年仍然通过不同平台与活动去祝福社区。

恩典堂以后将继续满足社区的需要。教会计划建立一个中心,让信徒捐出食物、衣服和其他必需品来祝福有需要的

人。教会也在探索与补习机构合作的可能性,在我们的教会地点内为贫困学生提供学费津贴。我们不仅要满足贫困人士的需要,而且要通过教育帮助贫困家庭的孩子摆脱贫困。

3 差传

恩典差传通过建立教会、培训领袖和推动会众,我们现在已经与12个国家建立了关系。神借着疫情再次让我们看到,各个国家都有极大的需要。许多国家都无法像新加坡一样拥有大量的储备资金来维持国家的运作,但许多国家都没有。

作为神所赐福的国家,我们必须尽自己的一份力量,在列国中传扬福音,使各国中基督的身体得以坚固。

尽管各国在疫情期间停止了出入境,但 这如无法阻止我们通过在线科技继续我 们的宣教工作。我们现有的差传策略在 过去十年发挥了很好的作用。但是,神 让我们看到我们需要为了未来检讨现有 策略,以确保这些策略将继续在在疫情 后发挥作用。

赵牧师在最后以祷告结束了分享异象的证 道,他祷告将恩典堂2021年交托给神,愿 祂的国降临,祂的旨意成就在恩典堂。

您可以在此收看赵克文牧师的的证道:

• 2021年1月10日 - 2021年之新事 https://youtu.be/rlDGLcRDIfw



 70周年感恩聚会 https://youtu.be/RJApTAowq1k



恩典门训框架(二) (门训框架/GDF)

撰文 李明湛牧师 翻译 林秀水牧师

我们教会的异象:"更多人,更像耶稣"简洁涵盖教会存在的每一个原因和呼召,包括神召会恩典堂。它包含我们两项核心活动——布道,传福音使人进入神的天国,及门徒训练,使信徒成长更像耶稣的旅程。

赵克文牧师将门徒训练定义: 兴起圣灵充满,爱神和爱人;在教会内外,塑造耶稣基督门徒的恩友。这是全面包括所有的。

耶稣基督是我们门训的中心、标准、榜样、动机和结果。焦点不是我们或我们做什么;是耶稣基督和及我们如何更像祂。

"学生不能高过先生;<u>凡学成了的</u> 不过和先生一样(路 6:40)。"

门训框架的效果是建在如果有效的 更像基督,我们的救主来衡量的。

这是一个**过程**, 意味我们今生是不可能完全像基督。

"5正因这缘故,你们要分外地殷勤;有了信心,又要加上德行;有了德行,又要加上知识;6有了知识,又要加上节制;有了节制,又要加上忍耐;有了忍耐,又要加上 度敬;7有了虔敬,又要加上爱弟兄 的心;有了爱弟兄的心,又要加上 爱众人的心。⁸你们若充充足足地有 这几样,就必使你们在认识我们的 主耶稣基督上不至于闲懒不结果子 了。"(彼后1:5-8)

彼得劝诫,只要我们竭尽全力将祂 的美德不断添加在我们的生命中, 要像基督就不会徒劳无益。 所以, 我们期盼进步,不是要完美。

更像耶稣的范围是在**人的全方位**。 在隐私,公开,家庭,工作场所, 家庭和职场中,我们更像耶稣生命 是显而易见的。这360度的门训要 求我们提供一套全方位的方法。

为落实门训的需求,我们提出了三个轨道,其中的核心轨道被称为"门训之道"。这核心之道是每个恩友必经的。

首先,我们要了解该如何评估门训的整体发展。典型的门训课程会创建具有适当内容和环境的课程,以适应预期的变化和增长。但是,丰盛的内容和课堂内的培训虽然能满足门训的基础需要,它只能培养门徒的单一方面,而不是"全方位"。

因此,我们设计了五个关键成长领域的评估,涵盖门徒全方位成长过程,并用简单易懂的动词介绍:

1. 知识

正确,真实和适当的知识是至关重要的起点。耶稣是道,并借着真理启示神格。通过个人阅读圣经研究,持续不断的定量和定性处与神的真理,建立圣经世界观,后进解了神对我们的自的和使为人们,们徒所参与的课程,有问:"我们在神的真理成长的如何?"

2. 行 为

认知上的成长虽然必要不可缺,但它还是不足,因为"知识是叫人自高自大(林前8:1)"。值得表扬的不是听道,而是将道行出来(雅各书1:22)。神的话应转化为属灵纪律,应用于现实生活,并增强我们的日常互动,行为改变和习惯的养成。目的是,"我们如何与神同行?"

前两题关乎我们成为门徒的成长和发展。

3. 关系

有了神爱我们的知识并能回馈神的爱是令人满意的,但是耶稣所托付我们的大诚命不仅是要爱神(神与人的关系),也要爱人(人与人的关系)。门徒必须超

恩友"核心": 门训之道 五个评估增长的关键领域 知识 5. 分享 分 享 1. 知 识 (外展活动) (信仰基要) 个人身份、品格、 个人在教会之外 信念和心态。 事奉 分享福音。 行 为 "我们在神的真理 "我们如何与人 成长的如何?" 分享神的爱? 关系 2. 行为 4. 事 基 (属灵纪律) (教会活动和其他活动) 3. 关 系 个人属灵操练、 (关系门训) 个人在教会的事奉。 纪律和习惯。 个人与家人和人 的关系。 "我们如何与神同行?" "我们如何为基督肢体 做出贡献? "我们对人的爱 又是如何? 4

越自我爱护,自我保护的范围; 从个人信仰的表达到群体生活, 从个人中心到群体中心,来爱护 神的家庭。

关系性的门训由小组组成,其中有属灵导师和属灵家长指导,以关系影响的指导基督教价值观和圣经原则。我们的出发点虽然是应为我们爱神,我们也要思考:"我们对人的爱又是如何?"

4. 事 奉

在圣灵的带领下,我们要辨别和发掘神所赐于基督肢体的恩赐。使我们能发挥肢体部位的作用——使用我们的恩赐祝福神的

教会。在基督的领导下,我们有 重要的职分一起事奉。我们既白 白的领受,也该白白的奉献敬拜 的事奉。我们的事奉是有效和重 要的量器来评估门徒的成长的过 程。我们需问:"我们如何为基 督肢体做出贡献?"

5.分享

教会的存在是为了祝福教会以外的人。我们需要向教会墙外的人见证基督的爱。作为基督的使者,我们是从世界被救赎进入神的天国,并从天国被差派到世界去。意味,每个人都是宣教士或宣教禾场!每个门徒都必须成为耶稣的口和手,与未信者分享福

音;首先,向我们的家人,然后 向我们的同事,社区和万国。门 训的成功不是年限,而是我们所 分享的人数,家人和亲朋戚友, 及机遇的人:"我们如何与人分 享神的爱?"

有了这五个方面,我们可以确定每个信徒的成长是否偏斜正轨。只有健全的门徒才能成为健全有能力的门徒导师,借着他们又培训下一代的健全门徒。



圣诞佳音到你家

撰文 曾文来传道



过去的岁月里,恩典堂每年都会举行圣诞佳节庆祝会,无论是在教会、礼堂、甚至在马路上。是的,你没有听错!恩典堂曾经在新加坡最贵的马路——乌节路,与大夥一起欢庆特别的这个节日。

踏入2020年,这又是一个特殊而又充滿變數和挑戰的一年!疫情的缘故导致教会不能举行现场聚会。然而,这一切都不能攔阻我們要一起欢庆的圣诞的熱情。在这样的背景下,恩典堂举办了线上圣诞庆祝会—"圣诞佳音到你家"。是的,你没有听错!这又是一个全新的欢庆方式。

恩友透过Zoom软件的平台与亲朋戚友一起欢度了12月24日欢乐的下午。一共有260个登录上线,当中有不同的集合,包括个人、夫妻、家人和不超过五人的小组的形式。估计参与人数超于400人!









1. 三代齐欢舞,全家庆圣诞 2. 陈爱丽师母 - 平安的信息 3. 全家齐欢乐,拍照留个念 4. 台前抢看:绽放精彩的主持功力 5. 圣诞直播间:就是从这里到你的家 6. 幕后花絮:倾注全力全神倾注,确保最佳视觉效果

在一连串的精彩的开场节目过后,陈爱丽师母分享了平安的信息,他如何在受限制的困境中经历神与他同在的平安!以马内利!神与我们同在。基督教不是一个宗教,而是一种关系。谢谢陈爱丽师母的提醒。

接下来的圣诞活动带动了另一个高潮。大家都踊跃参与在其中, 无论是在家寻宝游戏,烹饪圣诞餐或手工亲手作,场面非常热 闹。最后,在观赏牧者勉励视频,加上萧牧师祝福祷告后,结束 "圣诞佳音到你家"的聚会。

这是一个难忘的下午, 必定留在许多人的记忆中!

不一样的圣诞

撰文 合乐小组

每年进入十一、十二月,许多地方开始预备迎接圣诞节的来临。普世欢腾!耶稣基督降生!到处充满假期佳节气氛!

但是今年在新冠病毒疫情笼罩和行动管制 令下,我们小组的圣诞节活动无法再现往 日的景象邀请很多人在同一地点一起参加 庆祝耶稣的降生。

上帝没有什么是不可能的……阿门!

約伯記42:2

我知道, 你萬事都能做; 你的旨意不能 攔阻

馬太福音19:26

耶穌看著他們,說:「在人這是不能的, 在神凡事都能。」

感谢赞美神!这次小组不一样的圣诞节活动.我们可以透过线上Zoom链接两个家庭同步庆祝!哈利路亚!

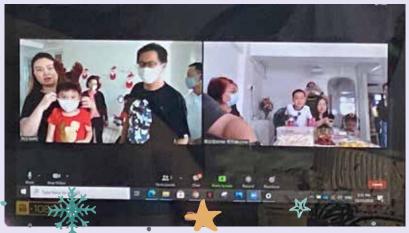
谢谢詩瑋和苗懿姐妹开放他们的家庭,也 谢谢洁莹姐妹为小组预备的节目表,小组 2019/2020回顾与圣诞讯息短片。还有小组 的弟兄姐妹们带来和预备的食物!

虽然只是短短的两三小时的相聚(实体和线上),但是大家都很高兴,也有很多分享和见证。

- 上 小组的弟兄姐妹一起帮忙布置
- 中 小组弟兄姐妹带来和预备的食物
- **下** 因人数有限,我们分开在两个地方然 后透过Zoom连接









感谢神在谈爱系列一"爱有行动"中啟示……神就是爱。我们爱神的最大证明就是爱人。若我们在生活上有着爱的标记,若别人清楚看见我们彼此相爱的行为,我们便是爱神。

感谢赞美主,苗懿姐妹的母亲(范月玲姐妹)看见我们彼此相爱的行为……在当天接受耶稣基督为她个人救主。哈利路亚!果真是"不一样的圣诞!"。



感谢主! 范月玲姐妹当天接受耶稣基督为 她个人救主。



2020是个充满挑战的一年,靠着神的恩典 我们安然度过。虽然没有实体教会崇拜和 小组聚会,却没有影响以马内利组员们彼 此相爱的心。

展望2021 让我们互相扶持一起向着主的标 杆直跑共赴主宴席。

华语堂,以马内利小组

宣教上の帝の政権

2021年2月20-21日

来参加周末主日崇拜,一起探索 宣教 一 上帝的心跳

讲员:华语 — 许顺明牧师

闽南 一 庄良貌牧师

现场崇拜聚会

2月20日 下午1点

闽南语

恩典堂@东陵

下午5点

华语

恩典堂@东陵

2月21日 上午9点

华语

恩典堂@武吉巴督

上午11点15分 华语

恩典堂@东陵

下午1点30分 闽南语

恩典堂@武吉巴督

在线崇拜聚会

2月21日 上午9点

华语

教牧调动与聘任



辞职:

以下教牧因个人原因辞职

- 林慧芬姐妹(创艺事工)
- 郑舒慧姐妹(青少年事工)
- 林诗凌姐妹(儿童事工)

退休:

曾慧贤牧师 (粤语事工)

岗位调动:

- 中文事工的萧和杰牧师将在教牧关怀方面支持教会。
- 黄美莲牧师将从闽南语事工调去华语事工。
- 粤语事工的骆丽霞牧师已经转为兼职教牧,她将继续在恩典社区外展中支持李向阳牧师。

聘任:

我们很高兴地委任以下2021年的义务同工:

- 曾慧贤牧师(中文事工)
- 陈天祥牧师(医治事工)
- 丘威廉弟兄(恩典使命家庭)

我们祷告并将以上同工交托在主的手中, 祂必继续按照祂的心意带领他们!

逐可以

已经有超过两千九百万人在启发课程中找到 解答。来一起探索基督徒的信仰吧!

无压力!无收费!

活得

2月23日 — 5月25日

每逢星期二,晚上8点─9点30分

^{強言} 华语

与英语启发同时进行

更有



报名截止日期: 2月16日



http://bit.ly/恩典课程报名



我们要与以下在2020年获神召总会颁发的事奉认可证书 Credential Holders 的教牧同工一同喜乐:

按立牧师 (Ordained Ministers)

罗西塔·克里斯托瓦尔牧师(恩典菲律宾事工) 李向阳牧师(恩典社区外展) 吴丽珍牧师(华语事工) 黄美莲牧师(华语事工) 陈崇仪牧师(下一代事工 - 儿童、青少年及青成年) 陈天祥牧师(义务同工 - 医治事工)

持证传道 (Licensed Ministers)

黄耀辉牧师 (恩典门训中心)

曾文来(华语事工) 林健雄 (恩典使命家庭) 王紫璇(华语事工)

准传道 (Exhorters)

吴丽珠(创艺事工) 林伟良(青成年与专业人士事工)



中英联合农历新年崇拜

2021年2月14日, 星期日



讲员: 洪茂祥牧师

现场崇拜聚会

恩典堂@武吉巴督

早上9点 — 10点30分

恩典堂@东陵

早上11点15分 — 中午12点45分

订票平台将于星期三, 2月10日中午12点开放订票。



在线崇拜

https://graceaog.online.church/

- 早上9点 10点30分
- 早上11点15分 中午12点45分





J333 在线时间表

晚上8点 / 2月 - 3月 / Zoom会议

海个 星 期 三

第一和第三个星期 英语

第二和第四个星期 华语

第五个星期

双语,现场转播 恩典堂@东陵

第二和第四个星期 超 自 然

使徒行传

《使徒行传》直接并有力地 记载了圣灵大能的工作。报 名学习此书,让我们的信心 可以被挑旺。主的大能在这 些使徒的身上也在我们的身 上,圣灵浇灌我们让我们能 继续在每一天的生活中做主 的见证,活出更像耶稣基督 的生命。

讲员:**张玉瑄牧师** Rev Emily Teo 2021年3月4日至 4月8日 (星期四)

晚上8至9点30分

Zoom会议

会议号码: 913 2004 9445

密码: 2021



免费





http://bit.ly/恩典课程报名截止报名日期:2月25日

洗礼与转会

日期 3月25日、4月1, 8, 15, 22, 29日、5月6, 13日 (星期四)

> **时间** 晚上8点─9点30分

> > 平台 Zoom会议



http://bit.ly/恩典课程报名截止报名日期:3月18日

作为宣教周的一部分,我們 邀请了Avi Mizrachi牧师和 Guy Cohen牧师,通过在线 平台分享《以色列和国家》 这一主题。

本次讲座只限恩友,並以 先到先得的方式进行。

我们将公布更多报名详情, 敬请关注。

请记下讲雇时间:

2021年2月19日,星期五 晚上8点 - 9点30分 Zoom在线聚会,提供华语翻译