



On the Road to Unity

By John Lee



Man Proposes

By Alicia Wong

RUSH HOUR

Rush Hour

By Joyce Tan



Mission Trip Pt.2

By John Lee, Alice Quah,
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Reformation 500

Years



Brother Martin Writes

On 30th October 2017 I was in JCC to witness and photograph an event that took 500 years in the making. The Roman Catholics and Lutherans commemorating 500 Years of the Reformation together.

Bishop Terry Kee shared in his homily that Martin Luther did not intend to split the church but to reform some of its errant practices. The Catholic Archbishop William Goh added that the Catholic Church believe in salvation by Grace, through Faith in Christ alone. He emphasised this by saying if good works can save, then Christ died for nothing.

In fact, this was one of the points which moved me from my Catholic upbringing to be a Lutheran, if there were any other way to Heaven, then Jesus Christ died for nothing. Jesus did not come to show us a way but He is The Way. *"No one comes to the Father except through me (Jesus)."* John 14:6b and *"Salvation is found in no one else, for*

there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

Skeptics may wonder how can one man's life be worth the many? Take an example of a hostage situation. Supposing terrorists held 10,000 people in a hostage situation. Can one of the 10,000 people stand up and say, "Take me and let the rest go"? But what if Lee Hsien Loong came up to the terrorists and say take me and let my people go. What more, if God came and say, "Take me and let all the peoples go"? Yes, the life of that one man, God Himself, is ransom enough for the whole world.

Christmas is just around the corner and the lights in Orchard Road are reminding of the Advent. We think of Jesus as God's gift to the world but He is more than that. He is the ransom paid for the sins of the world. If we think of Jesus as a gift, some people can reject the gift. However if we realize that He is the ransom for our sins, can all of us who have sinned reject the ransom that is given to set us free?

If you think you have no sins, just imagine our smart nation where there are cameras everywhere to catch you spitting, littering, speeding, jaywalking, shoplifting, malingering, surfing and all kinds of shameful acts. *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* Hebrews 4:13

REFORMATION

500

1517
to
2017



ON THE ROAD TO UNITY



October 30th, 2017 – A special day for Lutherans and Roman Catholics to come together to jointly commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by a special service held at Jurong Christian Church at 7.45 p.m.

It was a traditional Lutheran liturgical service with the sanctuary filled to the brim by Lutherans and Roman Catholics, graced by Archbishop William Goh of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in Singapore and Bishop Terry Kee of the Lutheran Church in Singapore.



Bishop Kee shared that Martin Luther had no intention of rebelling against the church. He was intending to invite dialogue and discussion on the 95 theses, but no one came forward. In addition, his superior was both a prince and the Archbishop of 5 localities, and therefore might be politically motivated not to act on the theses. Some historians/theologians also mentioned that Martin Luther

might not have used a hammer and nails to pin the 95 theses to the door of the church, but used some sort of adhesive to stick them there. However, the image of Martin Luther using a hammer and nails have been passed on from generation to generation and might have given Roman Catholics the misunderstanding that he was rebelling against the church. On the contrary, his true intention was to bring the church back to the centrality of Christianity – Christ alone, salvation by grace through faith and not by good works. Nevertheless, because of the differences or misunderstandings between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics, battles/wars were fought with many casualties. This saddens God, who wants to see the church united. Instead of focusing on the differences, which though there are many, we should instead focus on the many similarities that both Lutherans and Roman Catholics share; i.e., one Lord, one Faith, and one Baptism. (Eph. 4:5)

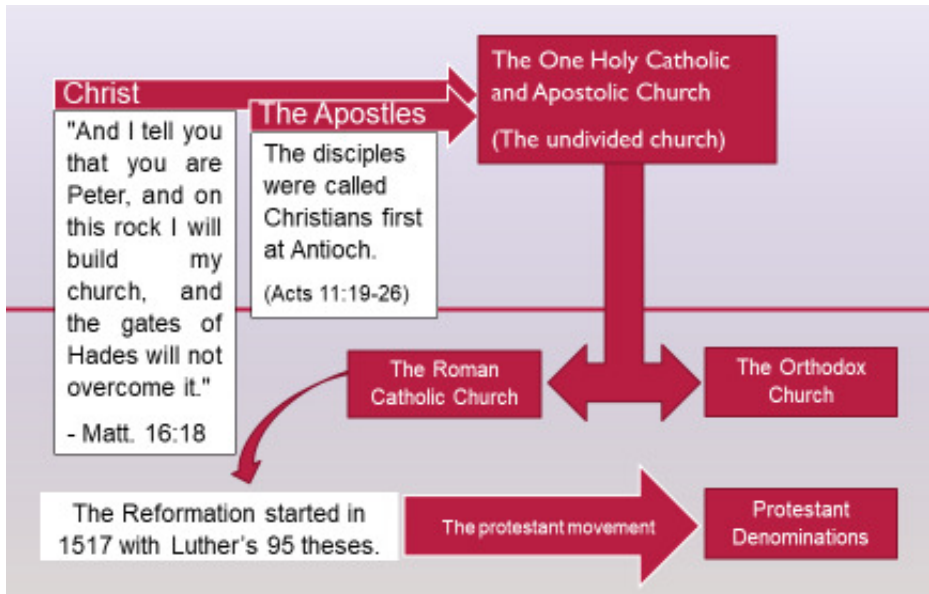


Archbishop Goh acknowledged that Martin Luther had no intention of rebelling against the church but was primarily wanting to bring back Christ into the centre. It was not that this was absent from the Christian doctrines in those days, but the church had somehow deemed this as already in the hearts and minds of the Roman Catholics who should therefore move on to doing good works. (James 2:14-18). The affable Archbishop went on to share a bit of humour saying, “That’s why Roman Catholics love to do good works.” ☺ While affirming that the central doctrine in the Roman Catholic church is still salvation by grace through faith, and not by good works, the Archbishop also cautioned that living by grace doesn’t mean continuing to live a life of sin (Rom. 6:1-2), pointing out to his listeners that even the Lutheran theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, mentioned the concept of “cheap grace” in his book “The cost of discipleship”.

It is good to note the cordial atmosphere in which leaders of both the Roman Catholic church and the Lutheran church can exchange views to develop better understanding of our intersecting traditions. Ideally, the church should be united by the message of/from our Lord Jesus Christ. However, because people sin, it is a matter of historical fact that schisms in the church had to happen. As we recall 500 Years of The Reformation arising from Martin Luther’s famous act in 1517, we tend to think about the event as the greatest schism in Western Christianity whereby we have become familiar with the dichotomy of theologies between what we know today as the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church.

400+ years before Martin Luther led the theological breakaway from the Roman Catholic Church, there was the earlier Great Schism that led to the formation of the (Western) Roman Catholic Church and the (Eastern) Orthodox

Church from the original Undivided Church (“One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church”) that was first headed by the Apostles in the New Testament era.



Separations in relationships always bring anxieties and angst, no less for the broken body parts of the church. However, if wisdom prevails, separations due to differences of opinions need not be permanent. After a cooling-off period, the causes of original disagreements can be revisited with mutual goodwill and equanimity, with the hope of better comprehending the common foundation of our faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; and seeking the accomplishment of unity in adopting the correct teachings of scriptural truth.

Reconciliation in the church takes time, but every achievement we hope for can begin with a small step. In this regard, the following report speaks to us the encouraging news of a positive step forward with the ecumenical document, “Declaration on the Way”:

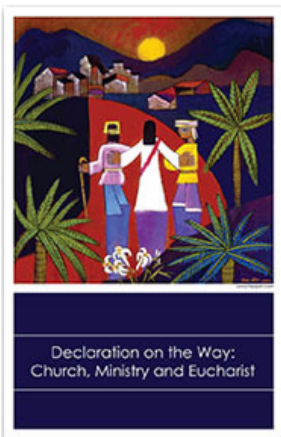
<http://www.usccb.org/news/2015/15-147.cfm>

October 30, 2015

WASHINGTON—Drawing on 50 years of national and international dialogue, Lutherans and Catholics together have issued the “Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist,” a

unique ecumenical document that marks a pathway toward greater visible unity between Catholics and Lutherans. The October 30 release of the document comes on the eve of the anniversary of Martin Luther's posting the 95 Theses, which sparked the Protestant Reformation.

"Pope Francis in his recent visit to the United States emphasized again and again the need for and importance of dialogue. This Declaration on the Way represents in concrete form an opportunity for Lutherans and Catholics to join together now in a unifying manner on a way finally to full communion," said Bishop Denis J. Madden, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Catholic co-chair of the task force creating the declaration.



It is notable that “by a vote of 931 to 9, the E.L.C.A. Church wide Assembly overwhelmingly accepted the ‘Declaration on the Way,’ a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans.” ¹

This historical document contains 32 statements of agreements on church, ministry and Eucharist (Holy Communion). Obviously, a lot more detailed and tough work needs to be done for continuing dialogue and consultations to boost unity as the church grapples with very significant concerns among the divisions on the path to consensus.

From the Great Schism (Western-Eastern split of the church) to The Reformation (started by Martin Luther) and to the multitudes of other ruptures in church unity, the branches and sub-branches that have formed out of the “One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church” can be bewildering.

Forging church unity is the task that “Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans/posts/10153893452328775>

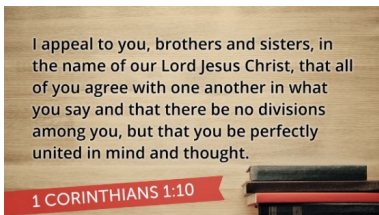
until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Eph. 4:11-13)

Leaders in the church have been aware of the mandate from Christ to forge unity instead of allowing sins to foster divisions. Efforts have been made coveting concord instead of conflict – with dialogue milestones in recent years involving Lutheran, Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox and Reformed partners.



Pope Francis prayed for Christian unity, specifically “that all Christians may be faithful to the Lord’s teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity.”²

Regarding the ‘Declaration on the Way’, Elizabeth Eaton (Presiding bishop of the E.L.C.A.) said, **“Though we have not yet arrived, we have claimed that we are, in fact, on the way to unity.”**



Indeed, we are on the way ... along a journey paved with great challenges. No matter how long the journey, the hand of God is with us to give us unity of mind to carry out the necessary task, following the word of the LORD. (2 Chronicles 30:12)

The gathering of Roman Catholics and Lutherans on the occasion of commemorating the Reformation is neither the first nor the last of opportunities for amiability, goodwill and understanding to build up in the One Body of Christ. Positively, it strengthens the hope for unity to develop, with patience, through continuing dialogue and collaborations.

The endeavour for unity is not an effort to convert Roman Catholics or Orthodox Christians into Protestants, or vice versa. It is to encourage all Christians to approach the Word of God with a teachable spirit and to approach one another with humility while matters in some people’s minds are difficult to understand and accept. We can agree to disagree on some issues temporarily. As Christians prayerfully study and follow the teachings of the Gospel of Christ, the Holy Spirit will illumine the path for everyone.

John Lee

² <https://www.catholicregister.org/faith/item/24064-pope-francis-continues-to-champion-christian-unity-in-2017>

Cambodia Mission Trip 0117

Refreshed after initial doubt

I wanted to go on mission trip years ago but was not given the opportunity to do so by my previous church. When the announcement for a mission trip to Cambodia came in July, I felt the calling to go and signed up after hearing that my kakis Jacq, Pauline, Vandi & Suan will be going too.



After several weeks of preparation and packing, we seemed ready to proceed. However, it wasn't so for me. A few days before departing, I began to doubt if this was really what I was prepared for. I shared this with sis Esther Ang who told me that this could be a spiritual attack for doing God's work. I asked her to uphold us in prayer for God's leading and protection.

Just 2 days later, news of flooding in Cambodia put me into panic mood again. I wanted to buy a pair of PCK boots but was advised against it by Jacqueline due to the difficulty of walking in it. One day before the trip, thoughts of PCK boots still lingered in my head but I was too busy clearing work in office and too tired after work to go hunting for one.

The most memorable takeaway for me on this trip was the community service on the second day of camp. None of us had any idea what it was till Patrick told us just minutes before it started. This was the equivalent of CWO - corrective work order – for littering in Singapore, except that we were expected to pick up litter along the village with



our bare hands for 1 hour.

Though it was optional for the SG team, many of us braved the hot sun to do the 'unthinkable'. The 'kiasi city folk' mentality in me kicked in and I told Jacq I might turn back if it should become unbearable. It was a bit hard initially picking up



Conducting a game

litter without any tool, but it became easier once I started to do so. Along the way, I sang with a Cambodian youth volunteer and soon some other children and youth joined in too. Strangely the fear of dirt and hot sun disappeared and the 1 hour of 'hard labour' ended with a fire lit to burn those bags of rubbish collected. Some of the youth and children started to warm up to us and called us teachers when they saw us working alongside with them. One of them gave me a flower too.

My reflection: People don't care how smart, successful or rich you are but how much you care and your humility to integrate with them.

Will I go on another mission trip? YES, I will (but no flooding please, otherwise PCK boots will be in my suitcase).

Praise and all glory to God for His leading, protection and good weather throughout the 4-day trip. The Lord will empower those who are willing.

The Bible says, "Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

At the end of the mission trip, I felt very much refreshed. Praise God!

In His Service,

Alice Quah

Make Real Friends



Attentive children



Pauline teaching the children on how to brush their teeth



A health talk by a volunteer

The mission theme was "Make Real Friends". We went to Cambodia with this dance song "Jesus is my Best Friend", hoping to impart the true meaning of friendship with Jesus. Though the children enjoyed every bit of it, we also tasted friendship with our fellow mates and the Khmer hosts.

Before going to Cambodia, I was warned not to touch the children as they might have illnesses which we were not aware of. It was in the last day of the camp that I met this boy who had just recovered from chicken pox. Dried scars were seen on his face and hands. He was so happy that he gave me a High-

Five which I returned with. How would I not go along with the flow? Surely God would protect me.

The 7 Khmer dance coordinators had practised their song steps every night for a week. Their interest and spirit of responsibility deserved a thumbs up. The children readily followed their dance steps with ease and energetically. “Oh, Hallelujah!” – They sang and danced with actions. Praise the Lord! They even took this song dance as morning exercises.



As the Tang Krang Community Centre is a place of learning for the children, it will carry some influence on the parents. The parents were receptive of the efforts made by Pastor Vibol and Sister Sreyleak. The children were taught personal hygiene (including correct toothbrushing explained by Pauline) and safety awareness (“Beware of the threat of the wolf in lamb’s skin”). We also had a village clean-up by picking up litter and burning it at a safe place. The villagers would discover God’s love in action. Whoever loves God must also love his environment.



In any mission trip, we would be Christ’s ambassador, and our ways would be observed. We need to set good examples, walk the talk by showing kindness and love. We were called teachers and little flowers were given to us, showing that what we did were appreciated. Love and friendship were in the air.

A mission trip is an opportunity to spend time with spiritual brothers and sisters in Christ in another country. The physical distance between the places might be great, but the spiritual bond makes us feel close to one another.

Dear JCCians: Though you may think your ability to contribute is little, you should know that your presence with the people in the mission field counts a great deal. So why not grab the next opportunity to join the next mission trip and be a blessing?

”The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.” – Matt. 9:37

Vandi Choo

Nine men & women of Little Faith



Nine of us arriving at Phnom Penh airport on the afternoon of 14th Oct. Thank God for the smooth passage of luggage through customs.

Thank God that nine of us – men and women of little faith – survived Cambodia!

With little faith, we signed up for the mission trip, expecting the opportunity to submit to just a little “hardship” and in the process do some good for the people in Tang Krang Village while also gaining insights into the works of our mission on the ground.

Few days before the trip, we read news of unrelenting rains and floods in provinces nationwide. We were cautioned about potential difficult conditions if the weather was not welcoming, to prepare a second set of footwear, to bring bottles for drinking water. We brought everything “needed” to survive Cambodia – raincoats, toiletries, water bottles, torchlights, insect repellents ... Remember: we were men and women of little faith.

To much surprise (or was it no surprise at all?), I discovered at our daily devotions in Cambodia that quite a number among us had second thoughts after signing up for the trip.

To add to our concerns, we had so much luggage with items in large quantities that we were wary of encountering inconveniences at Cambodia customs. Decision having been made to go, nine men and women of little faith just had to trust God for the success of the mission trip. When we reached the Phnom Penh airport, we could see out of our aeroplane’s windows that the tarmac was very wet. It had rained heavily, we were later told; but at the point of our touchdown, the rain had stopped.

Throughout our days there, we were never hindered by the weather. Yes, there were occasions of rain, but these were limited and at appropriate times that didn’t interfere with our travelling from place to place or any of our activities.

It did not rain when we visited the remote village of Kandal on the first day.



Getting to know the work of Pastor Moses in Kandal Preaching Centre



Pastor Moses’ family, staff and volunteers

It did not rain when we had our activities going on at Tang Krang Community Centre, including the time we spent out in the open during community work. The rain came only briefly while we had our activity breaks in a sheltered area.

In brief, we, men and women of little faith, were overly prepared with all our paraphernalia of imagined “needs for survival in Cambodia” – The survival paraphernalia we brought along were mostly unneeded and unused.

Visiting Cambodia, we were impressed by the works of God’s servants on the ground – Pastor Moses in Kandal, Pastor Vibol in Tang Krang CC and their staff and volunteers who were either local or from overseas.



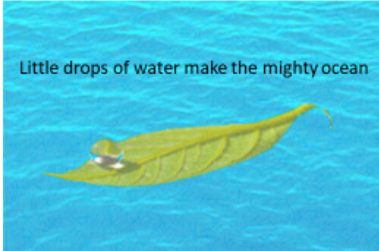
We, men and women of little faith, were much encouraged by the potential of our mission work in Cambodia to reach the villagers with the Gospel and at the same time bring them practical blessings through which they can see God's love

in the provisions.

Prior to the trip, our brother Zewen had highlighted to us the danger of a single story when contemplating the mission work in Cambodia. Simply put, we are often tempted to base our thoughts on a limited story that we hear when in fact there are many overlapping stories of the real situation on the ground. Now, as you have the opportunity to hear “nine different stories” from nine different observations and perspectives of the nine men and women of little faith who have made the trip to Cambodia, it will still be a different thing to you if you were to give yourself the opportunity to be personally there to take in the real scene on the ground, breathe in the real air of hope that both the people there and we have, and feel the spirit of God at work in driving the interest of the villager participants in the programmes set up for them.

The works of our brother-and-sister servants of God on the ground there are not easy, but their faithfulness in the Lord's service in simple environments and the satisfaction that the ordinary folk had without the excess of materialism of the city folk provide humbling lessons for us.

The Tang Krang CC is just 1¼ years old and it has drawn such enthusiastic participation by more than 70 in the first children's camp. It has regular Sunday worship and Bible Study sessions apart from English classes a few days weekly. The Kandal Preaching Centre is about 3 months' old but there is already a classroom with computers set up for English classes. Pastor Moses has also commenced a Bible Study group. There is hope in us that Kandal will follow Tang Krang CC in continuing spiritual growth to God's glory.



Obviously, our Cambodian brothers and sisters are not alone in God's service. They need and have our support. Are you among the supporters in prayers? Are you among the supporters who are able and willing to give practical help in any way, no matter how little but knowing that little drops of water make the mighty ocean? Are you like the

nine of us – men and women of little faith – who would someday somehow find the opportunity to pay a visit to our brothers and sisters in Cambodia, and to discover for yourself the live story on the ground?

John Lee



I have not seen a happier photo of John than this one I took when he was carrying Jason Tan's little boy.

Methinks his grandfather clock time is running fast.

On the other hand, Ronnie, who is already a grandfather seems just as happy to carry Frank Jonathan's son.



Well, for me, I will just have to carry my camera in my hands.

Martin Cheah

UNFORGIVENESS IS HELL

Some people leave the church, the cell group, the company, the neighbourhood, the state, the country and even the world because of unforgiveness. Someone may have hurt them and they cannot stand to be around that person, so they relocate as far as they can go to avoid the person.

Wouldn't it be funny if they ended up in Heaven and found that their mansion is right next to the person whom they could not stand on Earth? Now they would have to live in eternity next to him. Wouldn't that be Hell?

In the news earlier this year, Coptic Christians have come out and been publicly forgiving their tormentors. This has sent shock waves throughout millions in Egypt, who are amazed that the Christians still forgive in spite of all that has happened to them.

Amr Adeeb, perhaps the most prominent talk show host in Egypt, leaned forward as he searched for a response.

"The Copts of Egypt ... are made of ... steel!" he finally uttered.

Moments earlier, Adeeb was watching a colleague in a simple home in Alexandria speak with the widow of Naseem Faheem, the guard at St. Mark's Cathedral in the seaside Mediterranean city.

On Palm Sunday, the guard had redirected a suicide bomber through the perimeter metal detector, where the terrorist detonated. Likely the first to die in the blast, Faheem saved the lives of dozens inside the church.

"I'm not angry at the one who did this," said his wife, children by her side. "I'm telling him, 'May God forgive you, and we also forgive you. Believe me, we forgive you.'"

"How great is this forgiveness you have!" his voice cracked. "If it were my father, I could never say this. But this is their faith and religious conviction."

Joyce Meyer said:

Many people ruin their health and their lives by taking the poison of bitterness, resentment and unforgiveness.

Forgive the person who badly hurt you. Forgive quickly. The quicker you do it, the easier it is.

When you forgive, you must cancel the debt. Do not spend your life paying and collecting debts. Hebrews 10:30 says that vengeance belongs to the Lord; He'll repay and settle the cases of His people. Let God pay you for past injustices. Do not try to collect from the people who hurt you, because the people who hurt you can't pay you.

Debra had a very difficult customer who came up to her near closing time one day to ask many frustrating questions delaying her until she reached home at nearly 11 pm that night. She managed to keep her cool. The next day, she was told that she was being awarded a gold service award.

It is almost like ***Undercover Boss***, a television franchise series that features the experiences of senior executives working undercover in their own companies to investigate how their employees really work.

Could God be testing you when you are faced with people you cannot stand? Can you forgive them and pass the test and enjoy the rewards of Heaven?

Some advise from Romans 12:

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

16 Live in harmony with one another.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends,

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Saint Paul had to remind the Romans 6 times to live at peace with everyone. Bible teachers like to mention that if a word appears a number of times in the chapter, then it must be important. Of course, he did not use the same words 6 times but mentioned the same point 6 times in various ways. Read these verses 6 times over and perhaps you can overcome and be victorious.

Corrie ten Boom says forgiveness is letting go of the bell rope. It is just that simple, but when you do so, the bell keeps ringing. Momentum is still at work. However, if you keep your hands off the rope, the bell will begin to slow and eventually stop.

It is like that with forgiveness. When you decide to forgive, the old feelings of unforgiveness may continue to assert themselves. After all, they have lots of momentum. But if you affirm your decision to forgive, that unforgiving spirit will begin to slow and will eventually be still. Forgiveness is letting go of the "rope" of retribution.

Martin Cheah

Man proposes

When Alvin and I were newly-weds, we made a lot of plans. One of those was doing our devotionals together. Sounded fantastic at that time and for a while, we did spend time studying God's Word. However, months passed and



cracks appeared. He, being more nocturnal, would prefer doing our devotionals just before bedtime as he takes a long time waking himself up in the morning. He also finds it comforting to doze off in bed with lingering thoughts of God in his mind. On the other hand, I have always been a morning person so while my energy is highest in the day, it dips by night. That is why I tended to rush through our readings (which annoyed Alvin to no end) so that I could get onto the sleeping part as soon as possible. So much for our best laid plans. The intended quiet time together did not turn out as well as we thought it would be, and so we scrapped it altogether. Since then, I had pretty much given up the idea of us spending regular time discussing about passages in the Bible.

Man proposes. God disposes. Turns out God has not forgotten about this desire of mine. Ever since I have joined The Vine, I have, subconsciously, been involving Alvin in it. Often, I let him vet the contents of what I had written, other times he would share what other insights he had after reading them. Even before I pen my thoughts down, I would share and bounce off the ideas that had taken root in my mind to him. If I remember correctly, he had even contributed two articles himself!

Recently, our discussions have even gone beyond my writings to a recent Christian article shared by a mutual friend of ours, regarding why 59 percent of millennials raised in a church have dropped out. The article, though it was based in an American setting, spoke to us differently. Through the sharing and discussion, I was able to know my husband better and it was then that I realised though we are currently serving in different ministries, though we have different gifting, though we are really, very different from each other, through many ways, God is still working in us and with us, bringing us closer to Him as well as each other. I must admit that there are days when marriage is not smooth sailing at all but I also remember that life as a single had its challenges too. In fact, at different stages of our lives, we face different challenges. We moan, we cry but at times we also rejoice at each of these stages.

As I looked for an apt ending to this sharing, this verse came into mind.

*“For my thoughts
are not your
thoughts,
neither are your
ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.*

*“As the heavens are
higher than the
earth,
so are my ways
higher than your
ways*

and my thoughts than your thoughts. - Isaiah 55:8-9



Amen
Alicia Wong

RUSH HOUR

TIME & TIDE WAITS FOR NO MAN?

Hurry and get it done! The early bird catches the worm. Why do you take so long to do it? Kill two birds with one stone. Strike while the iron is hot. Oh come on, really why wait, just do it! Don't think too much as time is of the essence. Do these remarks and comments sound familiar to you?

I was driving along MCE three weeks ago when I saw police cars and part of the road cordoned off to handle an accident that had happened early in the morning. It was just before 7 a.m. and in no time, my heart sank as I saw a lifeless arm falling out of the tent. I knew immediately that there was a casualty involved. It was sadness at first sight with car loads of thoughts driving through my mind, wondering how this could have happened if everyone drove safely. I thought to myself, how naive I was. Who would have wanted such things to happen in the first place?

This episode did have an impact on me, teaching and reminding me not to rush at the expense of losing focus on what is more important in life than life itself; i.e., the life that God has given to us. Yes, we need to be prudent and prepare ourselves for raining days. There is nothing wrong in doing things quickly or going through the motion of speeding things up on what we want to do or need to do every day. We should not forget what is important in life. We may regret it when we hit a bump before we slowed down or pulled the brakes. Then, it would be too late. ☹

It took a long time for me to decide if I should drive again after two decades. I am still quite young really! Two accidents previously had marred my confidence to drive though there were no physical injuries then. It did affect me psychologically. This is not the important point here. I did understand that there is a time for everything as I prayed and will continue to pray for wisdom and strength in what to do daily.

The sight of the accident brought me back to the basics of knowing Jesus Christ; i.e., what is important in our lives as a Christian and why did we become one in the first place?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe

stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:16-17

Yes, remembering why God first loved us puts us in our place that we are nothing without Him. His love for us made the difference in our lives. All of us would have our personal stories and experiences to tell in our walk with Him. Continue to pray and study his Word. Continue to know Jesus better.

John and Martin have ways of sharing articles, quotes and messages through our WhatsApp group and email. Sometimes, there will be no responses because it takes effort to read them and yes, the messages can be quite lengthy sometimes. Nevertheless, they are encouraging even if there are some punt and intent in it. 😊

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts"

Mother Teresa

I leave this 10 beautiful lines shared by John with all of you. Enjoy reading it and remember what is important around us even if the time and tide waits for no man. There is no rush in reading this below. Please take your time.

Beautiful 10 lines

- 1) *PRAYER is not a "spare wheel" that YOU PULL OUT when IN trouble, but it is a "STEERING WHEEL" that DIRECT the RIGHT PATH THROUGHOUT LIFE.*
- 2) *Why are a CAR'S WINDSHIELD so LARGE & the REAR VIEW MIRROR so small? This is BECAUSE our PAST is NOT as IMPORTANT as OUR FUTURE. So, LOOK AHEAD and MOVE ON.*
- 3) *FRIENDSHIP is like a BOOK. It takes a FEW SECONDS to BURN, but it TAKES YEARS to WRITE.*
- 4) *ALL THINGS in LIFE are TEMPORARY. If they are GOING WELL, ENJOY them, they WILL NOT LAST FOREVER. If they are going wrong, don't WORRY, THEY CAN'T LAST LONG EITHER.*

- 5) *Old FRIENDS are GOLD! NEW friends are DIAMONDS! If you GET a DIAMOND, DON'T FORGET the GOLD! To HOLD a DIAMOND, you ALWAYS NEED a BASE of GOLD!*
- 6) *Often when WE LOSE HOPE and THINK this is the END, GOD SMILES from ABOVE and SAYS, "RELAX, SWEETHEART; it's JUST a BEND, NOT THE END!"*
- 7) *When GOD SOLVES your PROBLEMS, you HAVE FAITH in HIS ABILITIES; when GOD DOESN'T SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS, HE has FAITH in YOUR ABILITIES.*
- 8) *A BLIND PERSON asked GOD: "CAN THERE be ANYTHING WORSE THAN LOSING EYE SIGHT?" HE REPLIED: "YES, LOSING YOUR VISION!"*
- 9) *When YOU PRAY for OTHERS, GOD LISTENS to YOU and BLESSES THEM, and SOMETIMES, when you are SAFE and HAPPY, REMEMBER that SOMEONE has PRAYED for YOU.*
- 10) *WORRYING does NOT TAKE AWAY TOMORROW'S TROUBLES; IT TAKES AWAY today's PEACE.*



Joyce Tan

11/11/17 The wedding of Joshua and Allie. It was a bawling affair as emotions ran high during the exchange of vows. What God has joined together, let no one separate.



Oct/Nov events

1st Nov 2017 Susan Koh's father passed away and on the 2nd day of the wake service, which I attended, Tony gave a detailed eulogy of his father-in-law's achievements and hobbies. His great passion was photography and I knew that because he would notice me with my camera even though I could hardly speak to him with my limited Hokkien.



18th Nov 2017
A timely Training on Chinese Funeral Rites & Customs by Deacon Peter, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant and then to Mandai Crematorium to attend the funeral of Pastor Chua Chin Seng's wife.



27th Oct 2017 Prayer Meeting
When the Mission Team came to share their testimonies the turnout at the Prayer Meeting was about 40 persons almost 10 times the regular attendance of a Prayer Meeting. God willing, this trend will continue and even grow as we come to hear of God's work amongst us and to pray for our Mission Teams and for the church.



28th Oct 2017 YAM Laser Tag



4th Nov 2017
Jethro, son of Frank and Preethi celebrated his 1st birthday at their condo's



function room. The guests included people from the various adult CGs. It was almost like a combined CG event.



Children's Day 2017

JCC iS.H.I.N.E ZONE (Kidz Church)

We have all celebrated Children's Day but do we know its significance and origins? Frankly speaking, I did not know the answer myself when I first posed this question. As I did some research, I was surprised to find that this special day has its Christianity roots!

"Children's Day is an international celebration intended to bring nations together to promote child welfare. Its origins can be traced all the way back to Reverend Dr Charles Leonard, pastor of the Universalist Church of the Redeemer in Chelsea, Massachusetts, who gave a service dedicated to childhood innocence in June 1856. His sermon was so popular that it gave rise to an annual tradition known as Rose Day, later rechristened Flower Day. The first country to declare a national holiday for its youngsters was Turkey, which did so on 23 April 1929. The day is celebrated on various calendar dates in different countries."

How did JCC celebrate this day?



As we enjoy these photos, let us also remember why we celebrate Children's Day...

- It is an affirmation of children and those who work with children.
- It is a celebration of the relationships we enjoy, past experiences - the life we share together.
- It is a time to remember that our children are a gift from God as well as what God has done for our children.
- It is a time when kingdom priorities are made evident: "...and a little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11:6); "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it" (Luke 18:16-17). Children show us the way of joy, celebration and love.
- It is a time for the inclusion of children in special and meaningful experiences - to involve them in the life of the church.
- It is a time for modeling love and encouraging parents and teachers in their relationships with their children. Likewise, children model for us the ways that we can be open to the gifts of the Spirit.
- It is a time to rejoice in God's presence, guidance, comfort, power, companionship, and assurance--all of which are given to our children through the Spirit.
- It is a time to mark another year of healthy growth. Spiritual growth is celebrated much like a successful year of growth at the time of the harvest. The Holy Spirit is the agent of this growth, guiding young lives to the truth and instructing them in it.

Alicia Wong

Snippets



30th Oct 2017

Two choirs presenting songs in English and Chinese, a Thai dance and finally a tree planting ceremony with the Lord adding the water, this was the 500 years of Reformation commemoration service.



26th Nov 2017

The Mission Team for Trip 0217 comprising 17 persons came forward to be sent forth by the congregation.

May the Lord Jesus be with them in Cambodia and bring them safely back.

