

THE WINEPRESS

O taste and see that God is good



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PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARCH

Let us observe this Lent Season by devoting time to reflect on the purpose of Christ's passion (suffering) and death on the cross.

By His stripes we are healed from the wounds of our sins; by His death, we are given new life.

Pray that His love will impel us to share the Gospel with others so that they too may believe and find peace with God.






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What's in The WinePRESS?

The WinePRESS is underpinned by 5 key and evergreen components:

-  **1. Prayer** Focus of the month. Promote alignment of vision and unity of heart as a congregation to reach the lost and bless the needy.
-  **2. Refreshing bytes.** Encourage one another in daily living by sharing inspiring stories, testimonies, events and useful information in support of outreach efforts.
-  **3. Exhortative writing.** Scripture-based articles and nuggets to inspire love for God's Living Word and obedience to His Commands, being doers of the Word, not hearers only.
-  **4. Scripture challenge.** Bible quiz and learning activities to promote scripture memory, meditation and retention of God's Word. Look out for prizes!
-  **5. Service-in-Action.** A call to action for JCCians to serve God's people and the Taman Jurong community with their talent, gifting and material resources.

LENT OBSERVANCE PUZZLE

This year, Lent begins on 17th February. Try the following quiz. The answers can be found in the Word Search Puzzle. (One of the answers has been picked out for you.)

1. What is the first day of Lent called?
2. What is the Sunday before Easter called?
3. What is the special name for the day that we commemorate The Last Supper?
4. What is the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
5. How long is the season of Lent?
6. What is the liturgical colour for Lent?
7. Lent is also called the P_____ season.
8. Moses and _____ appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
9. _____, _____ and _____ went with Jesus to the Mountain. We observe Lent with R_____, instead of rejoicing.

O	P	O	C	I	W	K	K	Q	S	F	J	U	V	F	O	M	Q
P	G	W	R	E	P	E	N	T	E	N	C	E	C	O	I	S	I
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L	O	V	E	S	P	R	I	N	G	W	E	L	S	T	F	S	X
M	P	T	T	R	R	W	I	B	K	V	L	F	S	Y	H	L	L
S	Q	U	E	J	A	M	E	S	U	E	I	C	F	D	D	T	U
U	P	Q	R	F	D	L	J	O	H	N	J	L	T	A	W	O	E
N	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	L	Y	K	C	I
D	W	X	U	J	Y	B	M	T	D	S	H	V	W	S	C	M	Y
A	P	J	L	C	R	N	E	V	X	I	K	Y	G	H	K	G	Y
Y	U	M	A	U	N	D	Y	T	H	U	R	S	D	A	Y	X	W
Q	X	Q	Q	P	R	S	I	T	T	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	S



LAW VS. GOSPEL: LOVE FOR UNLOVABLE (PART ONE)

By Joseph Hiow

Law vs. Gospel is a major theme in Lutheran theology. God shows His love through both.

WHAT IS GOD'S LOVE?

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." (1 John 4: 12)

God's love is holy and eternal. Animals will never be able to understand who God is, and what His love is like, simply because they do not have the image and likeness of God. Only humans, God's special creations, can experience His love, though this experience is not complete simply because we are fallen.

The best way to know Christ's love more is through the living Word of God, the Bible, guided by the Spirit. Let's first look at God's Law.

WHAT IS LAW?

According to Martin Luther, the Law is the demand of God. The Law is in both the Old and New

Testaments. The Law has a good and right outcome; it helps us to know and do the will of God, so that we can glorify His name.

It is the commandments of God; when people obey, they draw on God's strength through faith to live a righteous and blessed life.

HOW DOES GOD SHOW HIS LOVE THROUGH HIS LAW?

God's Law reins in our sinfulness and steers us from Satan to Christ.

God shows His love to us through His Law by convicting us of our sinful nature so that we turn to the hope and comfort of the gospel. This is achieved through the three uses of the Law.

The first use is to restrain evil in our society and promote public order. It instills civic righteousness. Luther in his Small Catechism says, first, the Law helps to control violent outbursts of sin, and keeps order in the world. This use is a curb.

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The second use is to condemn us, move us to repentance and drive us to Christ.

To Luther, the second use of the Law is the principal use. It is a spiritual one, which serves to increase transgressions. It is through Law that sin might grow and be multiplied, especially in the conscience.

As the Law accuses us, it functions like a mirror that clearly reflects our sin, blindness, misery, wickedness, ignorance, hate and contempt of God that lead us to death, hell, judgment and the well-deserved wrath of God.

On the third use, the Lutheran Formula of Concord (Article VI) says:

“The law has been given to men ... after they are reborn, and although the flesh still inheres in them, to give them on that account a definite rule according to which they should pattern and regulate their entire life.”

David P. Scaer (ThD, professor, Concordia Theological Seminary) describes the third use as the unity of the Law and the Gospel. He says:

“Our Apostles’ Creed arose out of the answers to questions addressed by the minister to the candidates for Baptism with the understanding that the newly baptized would lead God-pleasing lives to distinguish them from unbelievers.

Lives patterned after Christ’s life belong to sanctification, but they also may be regarded as the fulfillment of the Law in its third use.”

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) fulfilled the Law not simply by refraining from a prohibited evil, but by helping the stricken traveller.

Mere claims to moral perfection have little to do with understanding of the Law; but the willingness to help those in need epitomizes the love that is demanded by God’s Law.

Christ’s righteousness becomes his when he performs good works with a cheerful spirit (third use).

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO HIS LAW?

1. We should meditate on God’s Law daily, whereby we are blessed. (Psalm 1: 1-2)

2. We should remember God’s Law diligently – to be well-prepared like how Jesus was when dealing with Satan’s falsehood. (Matthew 4:4)

We should apply God’s Law in our lives delightfully—love our neighbors as ourselves. (Mark 12:30-31)

Discussion Questions:

1. What have you learned about the Law?
2. How could you apply the uses of the Law in your lives?

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AM I MY NEIGHBOUR'S KEEPER?

By Martin Cheah

In Jan 2021, I attended the funeral of one of my neighbours, who lived about 3 units away from my house along the common corridor. He had lived in this block since the beginning (ie about 30 plus years ago) like me.

Previously when we didn't have lifts to individual units, I used to pass his house all the time on the way out or on the way back. We just greeted each other but I couldn't carry on further because of my limited dialect capabilities.

Since the lift upgrading, I have not seen him for many years as I do not have to walk along the common corridor to reach my house. Then recently, we saw tentage being assembled below our void deck and found out it was for his wake. Even at his wake, I was like Job's 3 friends, sitting in silence because his family was also Hokkien speaking.

"If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' but you (Ezekiel) do not speak out to dissuade him from his way, then that wicked man will die in his iniquity, yet I will hold you accountable for his blood." – Ezekiel 33:8

This neighbour is not a wicked man to my knowledge but he certainly wasn't a Christian either. I have so many other neighbours in my block and some I don't even meet or know.

Does the Ezekiel warning apply to me? However, maybe God will take into consideration that every night I pray that God will save my loved ones, relatives, friends, ex-colleagues, JWCG members unsaved family members and of course, my neighbours. Is that enough or must I learn Hokkien because I live among a people who mostly speak Hokkien?

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Surprisingly, five floors below me, there is an Indian neighbour who neither speaks English or Malay but understands Hokkien. Can you beat that?

ON THE OTHER HAND

One Sunday in Jan 2021, Joo See and I were having lunch at the air-con coffeeshop. As we were having our “bak chor” mee, a stranger just put his plate of food on the table and asked if he could join us because there were no available tables.

Since the table could seat four persons, we allowed him to sit. Actually, I am not sure if we had any legal grounds to say no.

We quickly finished our noodles but unfortunately Joo See had a cup of coffee which was too hot to quaff. The man was also uncomfortably eating his food but surprisingly when his son told him there was a table nearby, he didn't want to move but

continued to eat at our table.

So, I tried to make small talk but he could not understand English. Joo See took over and mentioned to him we were attending the Hokkien service later.

He then mentioned that his son attended JCCK as a child and is now a helicopter pilot just back from Australia. He even took out his phone and showed us a picture of his son in uniform.

We left quickly and when we were out of the door of the coffeeshop, Joo See shared her concern about being in close proximity with a person whose son just came back from Australia, a country that is still under lockdown in certain parts.

This is the risk of being sociable in the current environment.

MIRACLES IN MY LIFE

By Martin Cheah

As we begin a new year, the young person will look at the future and what plans he or she dreams to fulfil with God's help. What future does the old person have? We look back and remember the miracles in our lives.

AUGUST 1990

My daughter was a miracle. Actually, every birth is a miracle if you really think about it. Millions do not get born because of abortion. However, Debra was a miracle baby to us. [Read her story here.](#)

FEBRUARY 2006

The tip of my left middle finger was sandwiched by a sliding door and the doctor recommended amputation of the first phalanx. However I requested that he sew it back together and leave it to God for healing. [Read my story here.](#)

NOVEMBER 2012

My daughter Debra was prompted to pray for one of her maternal uncles without knowing why until later we found out that his wife was knocked down by a car. [Read this story here.](#)

JULY 2019

Sometime in July 2018, I started to notice that when I look at straight lines, there is a bump along the line. The eye specialist said that there was a growth in my right eye which is refracting the light landing on the optic nerves. However, after prayers from many people, the polyp shrunk and I started to see straight lines again. [Read this story here.](#)



PROJECT KAMPUNG SPIRIT: SHARING LOVE WITH TAMAN JURONG RESIDENTS

By Peggy Tan

The Chinese New Year season has dawned. The smell of spring is in the air.

Yet, there is a sense of atypical quietness as people are spending more time indoors, socialising less as they dutifully abide by the Covid-19 safety advice.

Every season has its share of ups and downs. Every season, the JCC Outreach team remembers to share our love with our neighbours – the Taman Jurong PKS residents.

On Jan 31, 2021 and in early February, Outreach team members went on their pre-CNY visitations to share the season's blessings.



Each of us visited one or two households, bearing practical gifts of mandarin oranges, biscuits and face masks. Glad to experience the exchange of goodwill and cheer with our lovely neighbours.



Despite the shadow of Covid-19, we recognise that **GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME and ALL THE TIME GOD IS GOOD:**

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

By Rev Anthony Loh

We have just stepped into another New Year – which means that we are all one year older, or one year more mature. “Life is short,” people say. “So, live well.”

To live well has different connotations to different people. It can range from seeking a life of decadent pleasures to living a life that is holy and pleasing to God.

I am reminded of the 17th Century classic “The Pilgrim's Progress from This World, to That Which Is to Come” by John Bunyan of what he had. While these friends fixed their eyes on Chinese New Year falls on Friday Feb 12, 2021.

This year, CNY holidays are no longer a happy long weekend for overseas tours. Nevertheless, CNY is still attractive to children as a time to receive angpows.

For the elders, CNY is time to adorn their homes with the Chinese character 福 in big calligraphy, supposedly to usher in good fortunes – a blessing!

What does **BLESSING** mean to you? The Bible has plenty to say about **BLESSING**.

BLESSING BEGINS WITH GOD.

The first occurrence of blessing is in **Genesis 1:22**, when God blessed the sea creatures and birds, telling them to be fruitful and multiply in the earth.

In **verse 28**, God gave a similar blessing to Adam and Eve, adding that they were to exercise dominion over creation. When God called Abram to go to the Promised Land (**Genesis 12:1-3**), He promised to bless him, make his name great and, through him, to bless all the families of the earth.

In the said Genesis passages, the Hebrew word for “bless(ed)” is *brk*, which can mean *praise(d)*, *fill(ed)* with strength or adored. The blessings here are plainly associated with God’s favour in bestowing (with His pleasure and from His superior position) the fullness of potential upon the recipient.

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Today, God continues to bless us *“in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.”* (Ephesians 1:3)

BEING BLESSED IS FINDING GOD’S FULFILMENT OF HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES.

Most people will associate “blessing” with tangible benefits. Yet, the greatest blessing is finding God’s fulfilment of His purpose for our lives. Another Hebrew word for blessing, אֲשֶׁר (ašrê), is also translated as happiness:

BEING BLESSED IS FINDING GOD’S FULFILMENT OF HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES.

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“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

In the NT, the usual Septuagint translation of the Hebrew אֲשֶׁר (’ašrê, “blessed is”) is makarios as in The Beatitudes (Matthew 5; Luke 6) which declare that a person facing woes is already in a happy state with the assurance of vindication and reward that will be theirs in God’s kingdom.

When our spiritual perspective is right, our lives will be always in contentment because God never fails in His promises!

Psalm 138:8 (ESV) says: *“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”*

BLESSING DOES NOT STOP AT US, BUT IS FOR US TO EXTEND IT TO OTHERS.

The ultimate desire of God is that people are blessed through us.

In God’s call to Abraham, God said, *“I will bless you...and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”* (Genesis. 12:2-3)

Similarly, when Israel prayed for God’s blessings, it was for the purpose of declaring His salvation among the nations: *“God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us – that your way may be known on the earth, your salvation among all nations.”* (Psalm 67:1-2)

God wants to bless us all, but we still need **FAITH** and **OBEDIENCE** to activate the blessings in our lives:

- I. **FAITH** pleases God and entails believing that God exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)
- II. **OBEDIENCE**, as we note in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, begets blessings upon Israel in physical and material ways.

In the NT, Simon obeyed Jesus by faith, saying, *“But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”*

His **OBEDIENCE** yielded the great reward of a huge catch beyond the fishermen’s wildest imagination. (Luke 5:1-10)

Jesus next instruction to Simon, *“Don’t be afraid, from now on you will fish for people.”* (Luke 5:11)

Let us obey God and His Words. With thanksgiving for our blessings, let us watch out for people whom we can bless today!



IS THIS THE ORIGINAL JURONG WEST CELL GROUP (JWCG)?

By Martin Cheah

More than 30 years have passed since JWCG came about.

The founding members were Mr and Mrs Khoo, Patrick and Lydia, Nancy, Lucy, Joo See and Martin.

Mr Khoo Teng Choon was the CG Leader. He was a leader for quite a number of years until he left the church to support his son's church.

Sometime in 1997 there was a reshuffle of cell groups and most of the CG members were assigned to other groups and JWCG received a new group of people.

Of the original JWCG, only Lucy, Joo See and I remain.

When Mr Khoo was leading, we had many activities because he was a good all rounded leader.

Since I took over by default, because the meetings were held in my house, there were much lesser outdoor activities because I am mostly a homely person.

However, I did organise a couple of Christmas outreach events for JWCG in years past.

Looking back the past 20 over years the group had doubled in number.

Looking forward, now with two Core Team members (Henry and Peggy), it may be the season to multiply. Perhaps from JWCG-O to JWCG-R to JWCG-N. (O - Original, R - Reshuffled, N - Next Gen).

Join us and be part of the Next Generation of JWCG.

Watch the video below and take a walk down memory lane with us.





JCC—MISSIONS OUR ROOT AND OUR CALL

By Tan Swee Leong

Reflecting on our roots, JCC was founded by missionaries and funded by mission organisation. Not only that, they provided missionaries to pastor the Church:

- Rev Daniel Nelsson (1967 -1970)
- Rev David Danielson (1970 -1972)
- Rev John Nelson (1972 - 1974)
- Rev Ralph Kusserow (1974 -1982)

So for the first 15 years of JCC, the Church was pastored by missionaries, at no cost to the members. We owe a debt of gratitude for the generosity of the Mission Board in LCA and the sacrificial service of our missionary pastors.

Those who were in JCC in the early years, the Pioneer Generation can remember with fondness Pastor Nelson, with his warm smile and enthusiastic spirit, his wife Betty Lou, so motherly and caring.

Pastor Kusserow, his pastoral heart, love and care for members. Mrs Kusserow such a godly woman, always calm and caring and never ever even raising her voice. They were our role models, how they impacted us by their "holy lives", set apart for God.

They built up the first generation of leaders for JCC, many are still around today, those whom you see

"REFLECTIONS ON THE JOURNEY OF JCC" is a series we will be featuring in THE WINEPRESS to provide JCC members and friends a look-back to our beginnings and the journey we have taken to reach who we are today.

The reflections are those of our founding missionary pastors, our ministry leaders and those who have contributed to building the spiritual body. These reflections contain many lessons for us and give us an understanding of our roots, heritage and how God has been at work leading us.

To the younger generation, may these lessons not be lost but be the foundations to build upon as the Church transitions through the generations.

today in their 60's. How they grounded us in our faith and how they show forth the "joy of the Lord" in their service.

We need leaders who exemplifies Christlikeness, to be role models and mentors for our spiritual journey. Leaders who do not only preach the word but live the word and by their lives and ways impact and shape our faith.

OUR MISSIONARIES

Having been blessed by missionaries and impacted by their life and example, a number of our members in the formative years of the Church went to the mission field.

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JCC is a mission sending Church, many of whom are still serving in full time ministry today:

From left:

- **Pushpa Tharuman** - Youth with a Mission, India, Education Life International Cambodia (ELIC)
- **Molly Lim** - OM India, currently missionary in Wales (pictured with husband)
- **Jerry Lam** - OM Duolos, currently, OM Sarawak (pictured with wife)
- **Teng Ting Ching** - OM Pakistan, currently, Full time worker caring for aged
- **Grace Tuang** - OM Duolos
- **Michael Christian** - Tomorrows Hope, NIAS
- **Kong Chak Mun** - Lutheran World Missions

We were a small church in the 80's probably around 100 members, there was a stream of people willing to serve God full time and they were all so young, yet they served in some of the toughest locations.

JCC - A MISSION SUPPORTIVE CHURCH

Missions has always been at the heart of the ministry in JCC. We supported our missionaries who went to the field. We journeyed with them as they went through the experiences, joys and challenges. We grew and learn from them the mission heart of God.

In the 80's we supported the Sengoi work in Cameron Highlands under the Lutheran Church in Malaysia and Singapore. Pastor Sin and his wife Siew Bee were the missionaries then and had hosted many of our members during our mission trips.

They became close personal friends, encouraged and challenged JCC members to missions. During this time, we adopted a work in Menguo Village in Chiang Rai, Thailand reaching out to the Akha

people. We supported Pastor Lee Jian Ping (pictured below) in his work and completed a project to pipe water from a water source to the village.



Pastor Lee Jian Ping

It was out of this exposure that Pastor Michael Christian was motivated to be involved in missions starting Tomorrow's Hope in Nias Indonesia, an orphanage serving the community for more than 25 years.

Pastor Michael together with his wife Sinta has ministered to many and grown the work beyond the orphanage. At the same time, the work faces its challenges of transitioning to new leadership and for long term support and renewal of the work.

In the later part of the 80's we started work in Cambodia under the Lutheran World Mission, in its work in Kampong Chhnang. In the initial years we did a series of mission trips involving children ministry and medical work.

The response was encouraging which led to setting up of a centre to reach out to the Phum Krous community with livelihood projects, medical mission and relief work, Krous Church was eventually formed.

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Chak Mun, the Captain of our BB Company started work in Cambodia under the BB Learning Centre in Cambodia in 2009, before transitioning to become a full time missionary under Lutheran World Mission in Cambodia.

Looking back we have journeyed in missions, there are precious lesson from our exposure, involvement and engagement with missions. We need to have a heart for missions because it reflects a heart for Christ and His work be it local or global mission.

Heed the words of Martin Luther:

For Luther, the proclamation of the Gospel is the

Christian's highest privilege, and he should begin by exercising it in the normal situations of life.

In a sermon he preached in his own home in 1533, he said: "The noblest and greatest work and the most important service we can perform for God on earth is bringing other people, and especially those who are entrusted to us, to the knowledge of God by the holy Gospel".

It was Luther's conviction that missionary work ideally proceeds from the home base.

Coming in the next issue: Reflections on the Journey of JCC Into the 80's and beyond.

REFLECTIONS OF PASTOR JOHN NELSON, JCC FOUNDING PASTOR

By Pastor John Nelson



Rev John Nelson

It was my privilege and joy to be associated with JCC from the very beginning.

Queenstown Lutheran Church (QLC) was growing and reaching many people with the Gospel, so when JTC announced that a religious site was available in Jurong, we were very interested and excited about being able to bring the Good News to that area as well.

At that time in the mid-60s I was pastor in QLC and was the Lutheran representative on the National Council of Churches (NCCS).

At one of our Council meetings we discussed the expansion of the church into the new town in Jurong Industrial Estate. It was a new experiment and many were not sure of its success.

Only the Lutheran Church expressed interest. The Anglican and the Methodist Churches said they would support the Lutheran tender for the religious site.

Once we got the site, the Lutheran church assigned personnel to actively begin the ministry in Jurong.

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We rented a shop house across the street from the church site and Paul Chong started the ministry. He was soon joined by Rev. Daniel Nelsson and Ms. Anita Ewing.

My early role was of supervising the work, overseeing the building plans and the construction. It was an exciting time and the church was planted.

We had a grand ground breaking of the new Church, with the Methodist Bishop John Lundy, Chairman of the NCCS, and representatives of the Anglican Church taking part.

The Church was called “Jurong Christian Church” and not “Jurong Lutheran Church.” This was in the hope that the denominations could unite as one. In the early years both the Anglicans and the Methodists assigned pastors to the ministry in the Jurong Church.

I became more closely involved in the ministry of JCC in 1972 when I was assigned to be the Pastor-in-charge of the English language section.

When we arrived at JCC the Kindergarten was in full swing with a great staff. The Boys Brigade was really growing with a group of dedicated officers. There were large Youth groups in both section and a good number of evening recreational programs.

I was really excited to be pastor of such an active congregation. At that time the members of the congregation represented seven different denominations. The worship service and the theology of the congregations was Lutheran, but any Christian could become a member of the church without becoming Lutheran.

It was the “golden age” of Christian co-operation, fellowship and evangelism. I looked forward to becoming involved where my gifts could add strength to the Church.

I made an effort to visit the homes of all members to get to know them. It was a way to minister and to learn to know them and their needs and concerns. I enjoyed this very much.

I think my greatest contribution in the few short

years was teaching the Bethel Bible class. There is no greater joy than teaching the Bible.



Christians young and old want to know the story of the Bible and not just Bible stories. Some of the students had shift work in their factories so would miss a class taught in the evening.

For those students I always had a class the next morning so they would be able to keep with their class. It was amazing how they came and learn. Some in that first class went to become pastors, missionaries and church leaders.

Years later, when I was Pastor at Bedok, I came back and taught a Bethel class held on Saturday afternoons.



I don't remember any difficulties or conflicts in the congregation in the year I was there.

As I said it was the "golden age". I had a confirmation class that I will always remember. There were seven in the class. There were 2 Anglican boys, 2 boys from the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, a girl from the Presbyterian Church, one Lutheran girl and a girl from a Hindu family, who was baptised before the Confirmation service.

The parents of the Anglican and Mar Thoma Church asked if it was possible for their Bishop to do the confirmation, since it is the custom in their Churches for the Bishop to do the confirmations. "Of course, it would be great, I replied; so Bishop Chiu Ban It did the confirmation of all seven of the young people. This was another example of working together for the glory of God.

I only served two years in JCC before being

transferred to Salak South Gardens in Malaysia. I did come back to teach a marriage enrichment class for ten couples. The seven week class was followed by a very meaningful Renewal of vows ceremony for those couples.

If I had made a contribution to JCC, it was only by the grace of God. A few years ago I was able to be present for the ground breaking ceremony of the new Church building.

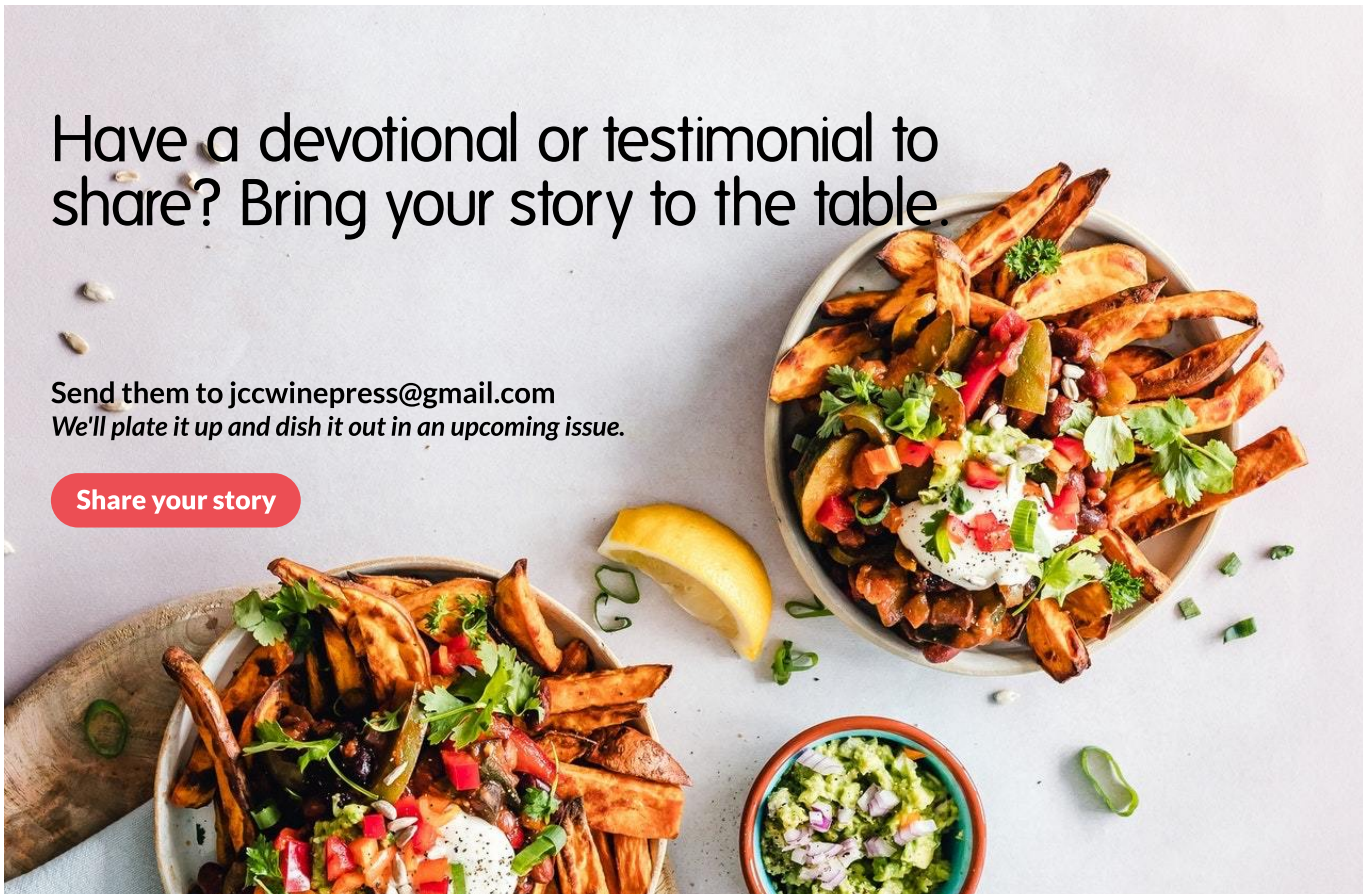
I was the only one there who had been at the other ground breaking 45 years ago. Recently together with my wife Betty Lou, we visited the new Church building. It was a testimony to the community of what JCC has done. The spirit of Church cooperation is in evidence as you proclaim the Good News.

May you continue to be faithful and to love one another as Christ has loved us.

Have a devotional or testimonial to share? Bring your story to the table.

Send them to jccwinepress@gmail.com
We'll plate it up and dish it out in an upcoming issue.

Share your story



OPEN TALK WITH GOD

With Bryan Tay



Dear Lord,

- I am not sure if you heard me.
- I plan, I work hard. I try my best.
- I admit that maybe I try too hard at times.
- I really want the best for my loved ones and myself.

My precious child,

I have heard you the moment you prayed.
I will supply all your needs from the abundance of my riches in heaven.
I love you with an everlasting love.
And I want the BEST for you.

BUT I DON'T SEEM TO SEE RESULTS.

DO YOUR BEST. I'LL DO THE REST.

Wait for God's timing LET GO... & Let GOD!

And we know that in **all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Let us not become weary in doing good, for **at the proper time** we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Galatian 6:9 (NIV)

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like day. **The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise**, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter: 3: 8-9



THEODORE: GOD'S GIFT

By Sacharissa Phang

During the early stages of my pregnancy, we were informed that the foetus had a thick nuchal translucency of 12.8mm (the normal range is below 3mm) and there was presence of a large ventricular septal defect in the heart.

Statistically speaking, the foetus had less than a 5% chance of making it to live birth with a high possibility of genetic conditions. Doctors had advised us to consider abortion.

We visited different doctors and specialists, and took various tests including genetic tests and Amniocentesis (a prenatal test to check for chromosomal abnormalities) but results all came back as negative.

This led to more confusion for us and we were left wondering if there was really nothing wrong or was science simply not advanced enough to detect any abnormalities.

We were angry, scared and heartbroken. It was a whirlwind of emotions. The one thought that was constantly on our minds was that we wanted to keep this little one.

Our family, together with brothers and sisters from JCC as well as prayer partners came together to intercede for God's intervention and healing.

Our heavenly Father was gracious and merciful and the visions which the JCC intercessor team and prayer partners had while praying strengthened our faith in Jesus Christ and reminded us that God is always in control and He can do the impossible.

We are truly thankful for those who had journeyed with us and prayed faithfully during those few



Congratulations to the proud parents, Sacharissa Phang and Joshua Chan!

months.

True enough, God worked a miracle and our baby's condition steadily improved to a point which surprised the doctor. From a large heart defect, it is now a small one. The doctor had confirmed that no surgery is required. The nuchal thickness had reduced greatly as well.

On 02/02/2021, our miracle baby made his grand entrance into the world! We are really thankful to God for His divine healing and grace towards the baby and us. Indeed, nothing is impossible with Him!

God of wonders beyond our galaxy

You are holy, holy

The universe declares your majesty

You are holy, holy

GOD'S HEALING ON THE COMMUNITY

By Yeo Jie Min



Hello everyone! I am currently a social worker with a family service center in the Commonwealth area.

I recalled one of the afternoons where the Holy Spirit prompted me to do a prayer walk around one of the rental block clusters as our center frequently received cases from that cluster. The numerous cases range from families facing risks such as domestic violence, suicides, and self-harm behaviour to child protection concerns.

What I'd like to testify is that after the prayer walk and surrendering the residents to Him, the opportunity came the following day when a lady whose case I am working on, consented to me praying for her family. They are a Malay-Muslim family.

Her daughter with special needs has been having hallucinations, could not eat or sleep well and was unable to attend school. The lady had obtained polyclinic referral for psychiatric assessment as well as sought help from Muslim religious leaders.

The lady told me that the Muslim religious leaders had shared that there is a strong spiritual evil force binding this family and affecting all of their

relationships, particularly her daughter. There seemed to be black magic done on them by an extended family member but the Muslim religious leaders could not reveal the identity.

Being in a profession dedicated to helping others, I recalled thinking, "When the spiritual realm is involved in my work, only Jesus can come and help this family." Thus, I plucked up the courage to ask the lady if she would allow me to pray for her as a Christian and took the opportunity to pray for her and her family, asking Jesus to come and help them.

I am thankful for the opportunity and at the same time, knowing that God will do what He can so long as we ask!

Call for Prayer: Please continue to pray for the spirit of violence and mental burden (suicidal thoughts/depression) to be lifted from the community, for the physical, mental and spiritual safety of the young children and youths and for peace and love to be restored in their lives.

**"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
Matthew 7:7**

Apologies from HOM

The HOM sincerely apologises for the wrong photo accompanying the article on the testimony of Lily Lee published in the Jan 2021 issue of The WinePRESS. The photo gave the wrong impression that it depicted the husband of Lily Lee when, in fact, it was not. Upon being notified of the error, corrective action was immediately taken to remove the wrong photo from the article. We apologise for any distress caused to the affected parties.

Martin Cheah