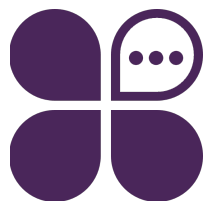


July 2021



# THE WINEPRESS

*O taste and see that God is good*



## What's inside?

3

NEW JCC WEB PORTAL

5

MANNA BRIDGE

9

THE ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

12

JCC THROUGH THE YEARS - A PERSONAL REFLECTION



### PRAYER FOCUS FOR AUGUST

What should you pray for in this brand new month?

Seek the Lord in your personal walk with God, our Cell Ministry, Goshen Initiative, JC 23 and David and Goliath Preschool.

Prayer pointers can be found on the next page.



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## PRAYER FOCUS FOR AUGUST

- **Hunger and Thirst in seeking God's presence actively through personal devotion** (e.g., with a prayer altar, a dedicated place to spend a quiet time with God).
- **Cell Ministry:** Every JCCian to be part of the CG life, not giving up meeting together but encouraging one another, and spurring one another on toward love and good deeds. ([Heb 10:24-25](#))
- **Goshen Initiative:** Opening of doors and more bridges to be established. Pray for JCCians who have registered to join the Goshen Initiative. May God's blessings be upon them as they will be invited to be a part of the "Manna bridge" to the community.
- **David and Goliath Preschool:** Joy of the Lord and excitement to be upon the Management Committee, Principal and staff in the transformation of the pre-school ministry.
- **JC 23, connected with the Theme of JCC ("Be one, Make one, As one"):** Pray that JCCians will rise up in discipleship and disciple-making, journeying with each other to grow in the Lord.



# SAY HELLO TO OUR BRAND NEW JCC WEB PORTAL

## Jurong Christian Church Invites You

Wherever you are, you can join our online services by registering on this website. Jurong Christian Church is happening online, and available for everyone interested in joining, wherever you are.

### Latest Announcements



New Church Website and

### Have you visited our brand new JCC web portal?

It took 5 months of hard work by the TEChannels team and the vendor to create it! This portal serves the English, Chinese and Hokkien congregations. And we did not simply build a website. We created a whole new, communicative web portal for outreach, communication and learning!

#### So what's new?

Our new web portal has inbuilt features and functions to engage users in an interactive manner. In addition, privileged information and access rights are reserved only for JCC members. Users can get information updates, socialise with one another, enroll in online courses and much more.

Go to [www.jcc.sg](http://www.jcc.sg) and sign up as a member today!

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Happy exploring...start connecting!

#### Membership has its privileges

Here are some exciting features that you should begin exploring:

- Create private Cell Groups for communication and sharing of materials
- Connect and socialise with any other subscribed member
- View Church events on the Calendar and make bookings
- Join Sunday online service directly from home page
- Enroll in Christian educational courses
- Create and publish courses to benefit others (for Approved Instructors)

# INSTALLATION OF THE BISHOP



LCS WORSHIP SERVICE  
INSTALLATION OF THE BISHOP  
AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
会督与执行委员会  
就职礼崇拜仪式





Saturday 26th June 2021. A closed service (only pastors, the Executive Council and some VIPs) was conducted at JCC for the installation of the new bishop.

Bishop Terry Kee in his last message as bishop advised Rev Lu Guan Ho, the new bishop to be strong and courageous, God will provide the gifts because He has called and will equip him.

For those who wish to watch the service and listen to the full message, you can still access it from the link on the right.

LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE  
BISHOP & EXCO INSTALLATION  
SERVICE



SATURDAY 26th JUNE 2021 SATURDAY at 3.00 PM  
Brought to you live from Jurong Christian Church



## "MANNA BRIDGE"

BY REV ANTHONY LOH

### DISTRIBUTING BREAD TO OUR NEIGHBOURS

"Thank you so much! 谢谢你! (xiè xie nǐ)" - simple words of thanks with warm smiles characterised our encounters as we, in groups of five, went about distributing bread to our neighbours in Taman Jurong.

With job uncertainty, dips in income, food insecurity, etc. driven by the Covid-19, many families are finding it tough adjusting their lives to the new normal.

In such a time, JCC launched the Goshen Initiative to build bridges to reach out to the community with love and care in practical ways. The Manna Bridge - food distribution to the needy - is one such initiative.

The Manna Bridge - food distribution to the needy - is just one undertaking for every JCCian to play a part in building a church without walls.

We pray for God's leading to more Goshen bridges for Jurong Christian Church to be pragmatically and spiritually relevant within the community that

He has placed us in for 54 years.

I encourage all JCCians to take hold of the precious opportunities to reach out - to bring Christ's love to people and to bring them into fellowship with Christ.

Working the ground in the new normal situation is an experience in uncharted waters.

As we manage some practical Covid-19 barriers in our effort to bring blessings to our neighbours, we thank God for enabling the valuable experience to gain confidence in readiness to pick up more opportunities that will come our way as a church without walls.

Someone posed a witty question: "Can we hand the bread via our zoom session?"

In this pandemic climate, safety concerns are at the top of the minds.

While this is unquestionable, we still need to be wary about being browbeaten by fear to become inactive in our God-given mission.

### 1) THE HEART OF GOD FOR EVERY HUMANITY

In the Old Testament, God blessed the nation Israel. God's people were constantly called to be proactive in reaching out to those in need.

**Leviticus 19:10** – “Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God.”

**Deuteronomy 15:11** – “There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.”

**Zechariah 7:10** – “Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.”

### 2) THE MODEL BY JESUS, OUR MASTER

In the New Testament, Jesus was always concerned for the underprivileged. He never failed to attend to their needs. Not just in filling the stomach of the hungry, but also by His compassion in many ways, He led people into knowing God and His Kingdom.

**Matthew 15:32** – “Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

**Luke 7:13** – “When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, ‘Don’t cry.’”

**Matthew 20:34** – “Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.”

### 3) THE APOSTLE PAUL

Paul, the great missionary who planted many churches, knew that the purpose of the church is to introduce the Kingdom of God to the world. When Christians exert positive influence as “salt and light” to the world, others are led to God by the tangible love they experience.

**Galatians 2:10** – “All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.”

**Hebrews 13:16** – “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”



### CONCLUSION

As we celebrate JCC's 54th Anniversary, let us commit ourselves to be actively used as God's channels of blessings to the world.

Every JCCian is called to A Life of Discipleship – “Be One, Make One, As One”.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:17b)

To feed the sheep is meeting needs and a proof of loving the Lord. We love Jesus, and therefore we care and will do our best for the community. In the context of our Manna Bridge, our bread distribution is an attestation of our life of discipleship (i.e., following Christ).

We pray that from the Manna Bridge, our faith journey will move onward to other bridges of outreach to the community as our Lord leads us.



## Introduction to our cell group

-- Jonathan & Jiemin (CGL) --

“

*Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with each other.*

**Mark 9:50**

”

**Huh? What did Jesus mean when he said, “have salt among us”? Does that mean that we have to sprinkle ourselves with salt? Well, not literally...**

Salt is usually associated with the condiment used in our dishes to enhance its taste and flavour. Though eating too much salt can contribute to high blood pressure, and you might think this means we should cut out salt completely, salt is actually an important nutrient for the human body.

Our body uses salt to balance fluids in the blood and maintain healthy blood pressure. It is also essential for nerve and muscle function. While a little salt in our diet is necessary, it is important to keep the amount in check.

However, Jesus may not be talking about food seasoning here.

According to Jesus, we are the “Salt of the Earth”. Salt might seem like an insignificant ingredient but in the context of this passage, salt is used in an influential and meaningful illustration.

In Jesus’s time, before food (especially meat) could be refrigerated, salt was used as a preservative to cure it and keep it from going bad. Its primary function, then, was to prevent deterioration.

Carrying this illustration forward to today, Jesus wants to prevent the ‘decay’ of our relationship with Him and with others.

If we continuously pursue a strong relationship with Him, He will be the “saltiness” that we can then apply to our relationships with others. When we are at peace with Jesus, we can then be at peace with others.

In Matthew 5:13, Jesus shared that if salt loses its saltiness, it is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. Likewise, if our relationship with Jesus is fractured and hurting, it would be challenging for us to function as ‘Salt of the Earth’. If we allow our relationship with Jesus to falter, it becomes like “unsalted” salt and is only good for tossing onto the ground, and our relationships with others will falter along with it. Jesus does not want this for us!

So be salty today! Keep our ‘saltiness’ in check daily and carry the “salty” peace of Jesus into all of our relationships that we meet day to day, moment by moment!

**Fun Facts about our Cell:**

- We are 1.5 years old!
- Was formerly part of DOT cell group
- We are mainly a young adult group, consisting of members between mid 20s - late 30s
- Team strength of 12 individuals at different life stages: - singles, couples, families with young kids and retirement!? =P
- Youngest member: Josephine (19 months)
- We meet twice a month on Saturday afternoons between 3.30pm -5.30pm. All are welcome to join us!

**Our Vision:**  
Be Christ-like

**Our Mission:**

**S** - to **SERVE** others as Christ has served us

**A** - to **ACT** as Christ would want us to

**L** - to **LOVE** as Christ loves

**T** - to **TESTIFY** for our faith as Christ would want us to





## THE ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



# A Ω

### Introduction

We are all familiar with the Old and New Testaments, but how much do we know about the world they were situated in or of the events after the era of the Early Church?

Through this series, we hope to bring readers through the history of Christianity using the 26 letters of the English alphabet.

Each letter will feature a person/ place/ event/ item that helps us better understand the Bible, the history of the Church until today and how our lives have been impacted.

We hope that you will have a better appreciation of the historical context surrounding biblical events and those thereafter, and see how God moves throughout history – His Story.

### **A** is for Augustus

*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." – Luke 2:1*

#### Who was Augustus?

Augustus (born Gaius Octavius, 63 BC – 14 AD) was the first Roman Emperor and the man who arguably set the stage for the events of the New Testament.

The grandnephew of Julius Caesar, Octavius was named in Caesar's will as his adopted son and heir after the latter's assassination.

After defeating his arch-rival Mark Antony (and his lover Cleopatra), Octavius became the sole ruler of the Roman Republic.

In 27 BC, the Roman Senate gave Octavius the elevated titles of Augustus ("the illustrious one") and Princeps ("first in order"); Augustus also styled himself as Imperator Caesar ("commander Caesar") in honour of his pre-eminent adoptive father.

The Roman Republic ruled by a Senate was now the Roman Empire ruled by an Emperor – "Caesar" and "Augustus" became regnal titles for subsequent Emperors (Acts 25:8-12).

Under Augustus the Empire consolidated its gains, controlling territories stretching from Portugal to Egypt by the time of his death.

Augustus was succeeded by his stepson Tiberius, the Emperor during whose reign Christ walked on this earth (Luke 3:1).

#### Augustus's role in Bible events

Caesar Augustus established the world in which Christ and the Apostles lived – its politics, economics, and culture. Augustus was the one who ordered the census that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-3).



The Augustus of Prima Porta, 1st Century AD

*continued on the next page*

Augustus also installed King Herod's – the king during Jesus's birth (Matthew 2:1) – son Herod Archelaus as client ruler of Judaea, Samaria, and Idumea (i.e., modern day Israel–Palestine).

Augustus later removed him from power and combined the territories into a single province (Judaea) under direct Roman rule in 6 AD.

Judaea Province was supposedly ruled by Tetrarchs (i.e., rulers) of the Herodian Dynasty, but real power was in fact exercised by Prefects (i.e. Governors) such as Pontius Pilate who ruled in the Emperor's name. The governorship of Judaea was, however, not a prestigious one due to Judaea's backwater status.

Direct Roman rule introduced taxation which the masses resented. This gave rise to the episodes with tax collectors like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) and Levi (Matthew 9:9), and the encounter with the Pharisees (Luke 20:20-26).

Latin was introduced as a language of administration – the sign on Jesus's cross was written in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew (John 19:19-20).

Augustus's reign laid the foundations for a regime that would last until 476 AD in Western Europe and 1453 in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The Roman Empire created the system for which Christianity could spread (e.g., excellent transport infrastructure and internal peace; see Paul's missionary journeys in Acts 13-21) and then flourish after being legalised (313 AD) and made the State Religion of the Empire (380 AD).

### “Son of God” vs Son of God

Augustus deified his adoptive father Julius Caesar, adding *divi filius* (“son of the deified one”) to his many titles – this made Augustus a “Son of God”.

As Emperor, Augustus also held the office of Pontifex Maximus (chief high priest of Roman religion). This title later became that of the Pope after Christianity was made the State Religion. Augustus's prominence and achievements also led to the cult of Divus Augustus being established within Roman religion after his death.

We can hence appreciate the gravity of the words Christ spoke to Pilate (John 18:33-37) – Christ was declaring that He was a divine king greater than Rome.

FROM THE GROUND UP

31ST JULY

8PM - SANCTUARY

# PRAYER & PRAISE



## CELL GROUP: A FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

BY SUZIE EE

I started attending JCC's worship service in Aug 2020 and became a JCC member on Easter Sunday 2021. Prior to my membership, Rev Anthony Loh had referred me to a cell group in Jan 2021.

Regarding the fellowship of believers, Acts 2:42 mentions, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

I believe this group of believers in the Apostles' time met daily. Even though our cell groups' meetings are at most once a week, they nevertheless play a significant role in bonding members within the JCC community.

I say this with my personal experience of the positive fellowship in my cell group that encouraged me to progress from being a "guest" to become a member of JCC.

*In the cell groups, we approach God to experience faith, love and hope.*

You can find relationships are real; this is a safe environment where members belong together. We hear in the words of the Apostle Paul that when one member is suffering, all parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured all will rejoice with it. (1Cor 12:26)

We rejoice when there is a new-born added to our family, our children move up to the next level in their studies or anyone who gets a promotion. We celebrate birthdays with joy like a family.

We do not forget that we need to show compassion

when there is a sick child, when our children lose interest in their studies or show signs of rebellion, when our superiors give us unfair treatment or when anyone gets retrenched.

Our members who are working overseas need to be heard and cared for. Through such times, we join hearts in praying to our Lord Jesus. Praying together enhances our bonds as brothers and sisters in Christ.

### *How can we be proactive within the cell?*

- Call up a member to share your joy or hard time. If you think of using texting, you will have to be thoughtful about its suitability for the situation.
- Consider bringing a meal to any member who is unwell and has no help at home. Invite those staying alone to have a meal together.
- Do hospital or hospice visitations when you hear of the patient's family facing a difficult time. Pray for the stressful situation.
- We also need to connect with members who are unavailable at cell meetings. Call these people up from your cell phone or send a Zoom link to maintain contacts. Set the date, time on the Zoom invite.

Our Lord Jesus gave himself for us; ought not we give ourselves to one another? It is in giving that we receive. Indeed it is more blessed to give than to receive.



## JCC THROUGH THE YEARS - A PERSONAL REFLECTION

BY TAN SWEE LEONG

### Reflecting our foundational years

As I reflect on the reflections of various leaders through the growing years of JCC, I feel a deep sense of God at work in JCC. We had the privilege of the missionary Pastors imbuing us with the value of selfless devotion and love for God and his people. They gave sacrificially of themselves and we hold them as exemplar for life and faith. Indeed when I contemplate the Church Vision **“Be a Christlike Church living out the Great Commission and the Great Commandment”**, I see them reflecting the values of the vision through word and deed. They laid a foundation of faith and service. They were the pioneers planting JCC in a new industrial town of Jurong, whilst other established denominations had reservations. If it was not for the work of God, I do not see how the Church could have taken root and grown

### Building the structure with our local Pastors

God in his good time handed the mantle of leadership to our local Pastors, most were young and inexperienced, but they were also the pioneers -the first cohorts of locally trained Pastors. The local Pastors brought a new dynamic in Church life. They were contemporaries with Church members in age and in JCC they moulded strong familial bonds. Whilst the missionary Pastors moulded faith in members, the local Pastors were co-labourers with members and groomed leaders. JCC saw a number of Pastoral changes throughout its history. Each change need adjustments and adaptations but on the whole the Church was accommodating and worked with each new Pastors. God in his gracious providence raised members who were “fervent for the Lord”, they went for theological training and took up full time positions as missionaries, Church workers and Pastors.

### Cultivating and strengthening the foundations

Numerous new field ministries were started in JCC, including the Cell Groups, Dialect ministry, Kindergarten, Women ministry, BB, GB, Youth (Pulse) and Missions. In each of these ministries, the hand of God was upon the hearts of those who led and served. Each was green field and were built without prior experience and knowledge. It was a journey of faith, some grew and thrived whilst others went through significant changes. The ministries impacted lives, built commitment and conviction in the heart of members and in the process built the succeeding generations of leaders.



Photo was taken before Covid

### A BUILDING METAPHOR OF JCC

The original JCC building served us well for almost 50 years, we are grateful to the missionary organisations that gifted us the building. We cherished the times of so many collective experiences and memories - ministries, activities, marriages, baptisms, camps, meetings, cell groups and growing up years there. After nearly five decades, the surrounds of the Church premises saw renewal and upgrading.

*continued on the next page*



We embarked on a new building and God's hand was at work in providing us with a 5 storey Church Hub housing multiple Churches serving the wider Christian Church community. The building look somewhat grandiose, more importantly we want it to serve God's purpose for the times and in the community he placed us in.

With the new building is JCC entering a new phase of life? What and how is God speaking to the Church? "Building" has been used in the Bible as a metaphor.

Pastor Edmund Chan in his book – MENTORING PARADIGM offers an interesting insight of a building metaphor – of **Superstructure, Structure and Substructure**.

"In life, we gravitate toward the visible and the spectacular. We judge and pride ourselves upon our influence and accomplishments. That is what we call **Superstructure** that is easily visible.

It is the **Substructure**, the unseen foundation that our true strength lies. Without a deep and stalwart substructure, the **Structures** cannot hold. Thus is it important to spend time to build on the foundation of substructure than on the superstructure.

**Superstructure** – represents the outward accomplishments of our life, work and ministry. It is built by competence and skill.

**Structure** – the framework around which the facade and usable floor area are built. They are the areas that we need to guard in our personal life. Time with God, family, friends and community.

**Substructure** – Who we are, what we do when no one sees, form the substructures of our life. A life of

worship, lived before God in the fear of Him and held together by humility, wisdom and perseverance, constitutes a foundation that will withstand immense stress and strain. The continued maintenance and growth of this substructure, firmly anchored in God through the practice of the spiritual disciplines, is the work of a lifetime.

**Food for thought** – Where is our time spent? Substructure, Structure or Superstructure? In church, we may focus a lot of time in DOING various ministries and neglect in building the BEING, which is the depth of our character."

### A WARNING OF "HOW WE BUILD"

Jesus warns in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish builders in Luke 6:47-49

*"As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."*

Unless one builds his character on the rock-solid foundation of God's Word, he will surely be swept away by the flood inundating the world. As 1 Cor 3:11 says, *"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 3:9-10 to be careful how you build.

### Building for our Predestinating Purpose

In the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 7:22-23, Jesus warns:

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

It is surprising if not shocking that those who come before God calling Him Lord were rejected despite claiming to have done great works for God.

*continued on the next page*

Not only were they rejected but they were called “evildoers”. The Lord said: “I never knew you”, they had no relationship with God. Saving faith speaks of relationship – our knowing God

How are we to be known by God? *“But whoever loves God is known by God.” 1 Cor 8:3*

Our relationship with God is based on knowing God and being known by God. It is not knowing about God, but an abiding relationship with God which leads to loving God.

How is love of God expressed? The one who loves God will keep his command – Obey his word. *“If you love me, keep my commands.” Jn 14:15*

*“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” Jn 14:21*

There are indeed lessons even as we journey and see how God is speaking and leading us.

Watch your faith: is it only an expression of doing devoid of the vital relationship with God? Our faith is an expression of our being – who are in Christ. Our doing is an outflow of our being. It is never the reverse. This was the problem of the Pharisee they tried to be righteous by doing neglecting their being, their relationship with God.

It is also an expression of our “Being with” who and where are we investing our time in building and

cultivating our relationship with God. I believe that this is the calling for the Church.

My prayer and hope is that JCC will be true to its calling and not be distracted into the outward, and neglect the building of the being, our relationship with God with Jesus as our foundation. The Superstructure may look good and alluring, is the foundations sound so that the structure and superstructure can indeed continue to stand strong shine and bring glory to God?

Our Church Vision is anchored by Rom 8:29:

*“For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”*

Our predestinating purpose is to be “conformed to the image of His son” to be Christlike - fulfilling our destiny – glorification:

*“And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.” Rom 8:30.*

May God grant us His wisdom, grace and strength to live true to His calling for us.

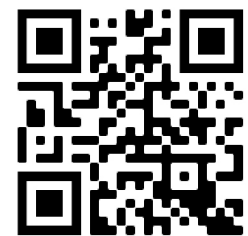


Photo was taken before Covid

# Community Life Emphasis - Cell Group

God has put a big spiritual family in JCC through our baptism! We thank God for the opportunity to grow and serve Him together, especially in the Cell ministry!

No man is an island. As part of Community Life Emphasis Weeks 2021, we strongly encourage you to be part of a group of believers whom you can be accountable to and share life with.



Please respond to God's Word  
by using the QR code or link -  
[jcc.sg/communitylife](http://jcc.sg/communitylife)



## BABBLING PRAYER

BY JOHN LEE

### Is praying three times a day for the same prayer request considered a babbling prayer?

The short answer is: NO, whether a prayer is babbling is dependent on the whole content and attribute of the prayer rather than a mere number.

Now, a long answer to the question: What is a babbling prayer which Jesus refers to in Mt 6:7?

We might better understand what Jesus means if we compare the following three translations of the relevant verse:

- “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” (NIV)
- “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (ESV)
- “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.” (NKJV)

The words I have underlined help us to arrive at a consistent interpretation that it is not mere repetition of words in a prayer or the repetition of prayers that Jesus is speaking against.

“Babbling” here is about the pagans’ prayers to their gods that are unduly prolonged or drawn out with pointless repetitions of meaningless words for a show. Jesus is warning His followers against the errors of the heathens.

Jesus also has a word of admonition against the Teachers of the Law regarding their lengthy prayers “for a show”, warning that they will be punished severely. (Mk 12:40) (Note that the lengthy prayers might extend to many hours over multiple times per day.)

A dictionary definition of babbling is “the action or fact of talking rapidly and continuously in a foolish, excited, or incomprehensible way.” One may easily reckon that the excess of words in such babbling is not a measure of one’s piety.

According to TLSB (commenting on Mt 6:7), the meaningless babble might have included incantations. Quoting Augustine, “Gentiles ... make it their endeavour to exercise the tongue rather than to cleanse the heart.”

I think it is not beyond a person to be self-aware of his/her sincere heart in prayers, whether silently or aloud, whether in fewer or more words and in whatever posture (standing, kneeling, hands clasped, or hands raised). It is between the person and God.

As Christians, we may have the desire to pray many times per day, repeating our petitions in our prayers. (1 Thess 5:17) Surely, it can’t be logical that this would be tantamount to babbling to God. Nevertheless, there is no biblical requirement for us to fix a certain number of times to pray per day. “Being faithful in prayer” (Rom 12:12) cannot be evident by a mere number.



## A TIME TO WALK

BY MARTIN CHEAH

Young or old, we are building bridges with our neighbours in Taman Jurong as part of the Goshen Project.

Walking for the elders may be a bit of an issue but we have many young people in our JCC community who can handle the physical part of the program.

There is a weekly Manna Bridge where JCC members help to distribute bread which is freely contributed by bakeries to the people living a few blocks from our church. Quite simply, you just bring the bread and give it to the people you meet and ask them to allow you to take a photo as proof for the bakeries.

You will get to know our neighbours and build friendship bridges with them.

Recently, there was a project by DGP requiring cell groups to go round to the blocks to distribute flyers to introduce the pre-school.

From JWCG, a team of “younger” members volunteered to carry out the mission and completed 2 blocks within 2 hours. One of them

told me that his legs were aching the next day.

If the kids come to DGP we have our reward to “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” -Proverbs 22:6

After all that walking, we have to be prepared with the gift of the Gab. When the opportunity affords, we will visit our neighbours at their homes, bring some food and engage them in conversations.

A training was conducted to Equip members for Community Evangelism in June and a practical was carried out on June 26.

Members were to visit some homes bringing dried foodstuffs and have a conversation with the people. We experienced friendly neighbours who welcomed us in and chatted with us.

Before leaving we prayed for them. We hope that they will welcome us back.

“A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be - and not building bridges - is not Christian.” - Pope Francis





## JCC'S MISSION & THE GOSHEN INITIATIVE

BY JOHN LEE



JCC's mission statement: *"To be a Christ-like church, living out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission."*

### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

The Great Commandment is about LOVE. It embraces the most important commandment (to love God) and the second one (to love your neighbour) – (Mark 12:29-31).

Apostle Paul says, *"Love never fails ..."* (1 Corinthians 13:8)

Jesus Himself says: *"All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* (Matthew 22:40)

Regrettably, in man's fallen state, the lack of love is abundantly manifest in widespread conflict situations, even among Christians.

### THE GREAT COMMISSION

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

TLSB: "Though all God's people are to bear witness to the Lord (cf Psalms 145; Isaiah 43:10), the focus here is on the apostles and their calling as leading witnesses and representatives of Jesus. (Compare to the authorization in Matthew 10:1-7.)"

The Book of Acts reveals the fervent work of the apostles in founding the Christian church and spreading the Good News. Among them, Apostle Paul embarked on four missionary journeys

establishing churches in the Mediterranean region. Without doubt, the apostles set the example for all generations after them to bear witness to the Lord. This is fulfilling the Great Commission.

### OBEYING THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

If LOVE is a luxury concept in a sick world, is salvation similarly so?

Jesus says, "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

If we have no love, the inference is that we are not Christ's disciples. Then the Great Commission is irrelevant to us, right?

*"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (1 John 4:7-10)

We can set incremental goals to develop our love intentionally. Instead of being daunted in our faith by Satan's accusations where we fall short due to our weaknesses, we can stand tall in growing our love for God and for man in our progressive spiritual formation.

### OBEYING THE GREAT COMMISSION

The thrust of the Commission is to bring the Good News to pre-believers.

*continued on the next page*

The methods of the first century might be ineffectual in today's environment; and so, we fine-tune our approaches. By the Lord's promises, we know that we are not alone in our work:

- *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)*
- *"If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth." (John 14:15-17a)*

The Commission is not about:

- everyone becoming missionaries in a foreign land;
- individual enterprise solely, but is the outreach work of the church as a body with co-labourers playing different roles blending into the singular purpose of bringing salvation to pre-believers everywhere.

The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all missionary activities. Nevertheless, JCC is still living out the Great Commission with the Goshen Initiative (G47) of building bridges to the community.

### THE COMMANDMENT, COMMISSION & G47

The Great Commandment ("Love ...") is the foundation of the Great Commission ("Go ...").

The G47 (Goshen Initiative) presents an opportunity for JCCians to fulfill the Great Commission with love. There are easy tasks for some that may be unsuitable or hard for you. (This is understandable.) There are tasks that seem tough for some but are easy for you. JCCians who have stepped forward are dovetailing their varied humble contributions. We must also appreciate the "unsung heroes" (community supporters and sponsors) – a testimony of God's help with us.

Pray that more JCCians will be inspired to volunteer their participation.

### PATIENTLY WAITING FOR HARVEST, WITHOUT GRUMBLING

As Rev. Fredric Lee shared with us in his sermon on June 13, the Parable of the Growing Seed (Mark 4:26-29) teaches us that there is no instantaneous growth in farming. "Just as the farmer is patient in waiting for the land to yield its valuable crop,

through the autumn and spring rains, we too must emulate the farmer's patience and stand firm in our



sowing because the Lord's coming is near."

Rev. Fredric rightly advised, "Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. We can learn to develop the farmer's patient faith and grow our godly character trait of patience."

Another parable related to the kingdom of God is the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32), which teaches us not to be discouraged in our work in growing the kingdom of God. Just as the tiny mustard seed would grow into a huge tree, from small beginnings the kingdom would ultimately grow in size and prominence. We may find apt encouragement from Zechariah 4:10 (NLT) too – "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin..."

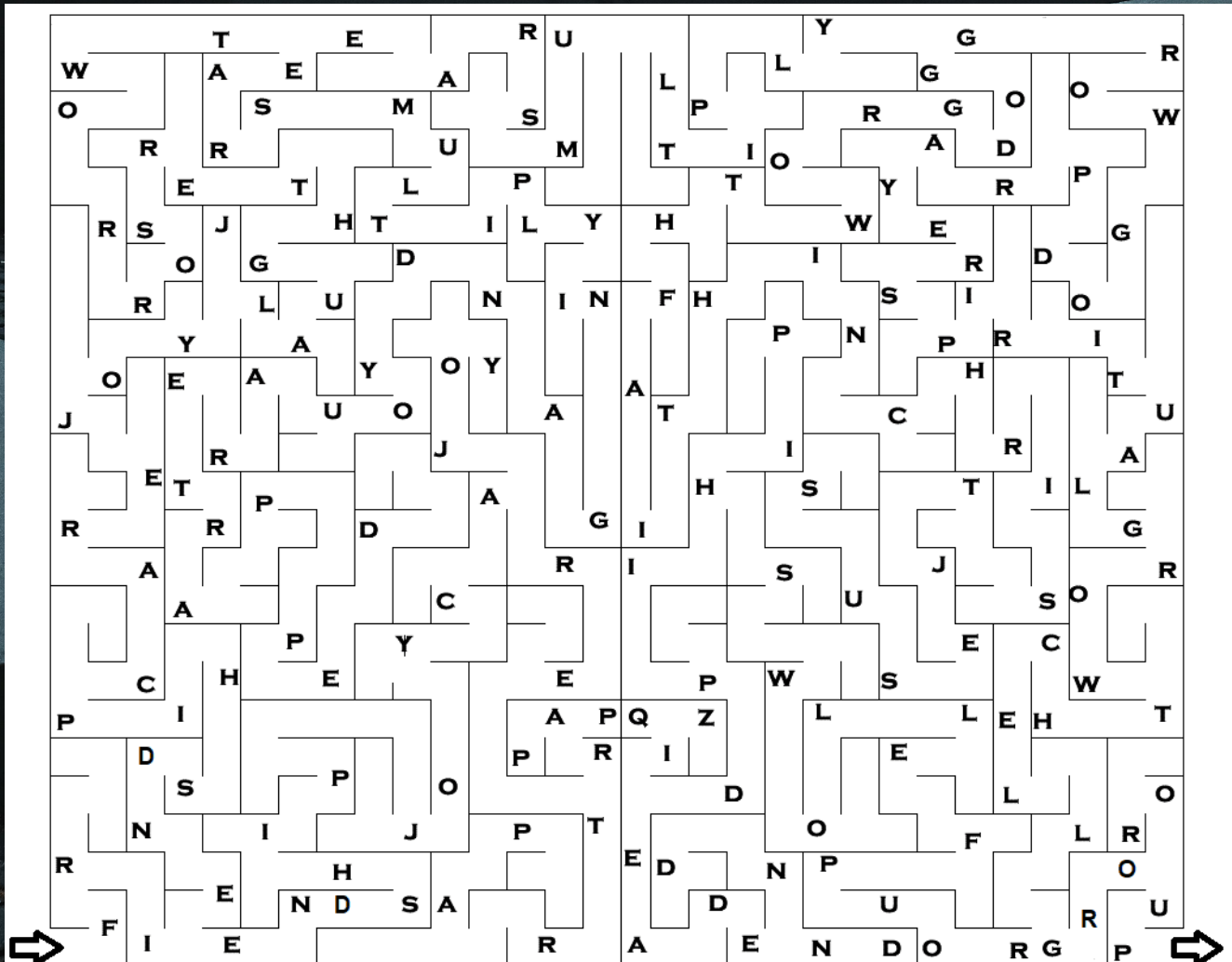
TLSB: *"Precisely because the Kingdom grows so slowly and its Lord is so patient, believers tend to become discouraged and its enemies are emboldened. But in the end, the Kingdom alone will stand, and everything else will be overthrown. • Lord, let us see both in fact and by faith that Your kingdom will someday be all in all. Amen."*

## BIBLICAL COMMUNITY MAZE

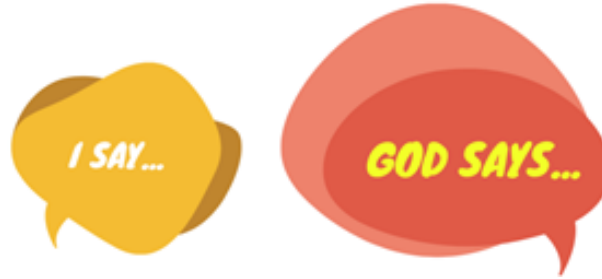
What are the characteristics of a Biblical Community?

Trace your path through the maze below. Along the correct path, pick up the letters to form 14 words in sequence to fill in the blanks below:

- In a Biblical Community, people are connected in \_\_\_\_\_ and mutual \_\_\_\_\_.
- In a Biblical Community, people share \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- A Biblical Community seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- In a Biblical Community, people are connected to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.
- In a Biblical Community, people encourage one another in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is an example of a Biblical Community.



# OPEN TALK WITH GOD



By Bryan Tay

Dear Lord,

I find it difficult to control my words when reacting to difficult situations. It is so easy to blast out and lash out at the offending party without restraint, especially when I know I am right. What should I do?

My precious child,

Words can kill or heal. The tongue has the power to curse and bless. As God's child, you are to live and abide by My Kingdom values. Each time you are tempted to lash out, remember that I am also in that conversation.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY LORD?**

**BE SLOW IN GETTING ANGRY.**

**A 3-inch tongue can kill a 6-foot man  
DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL DO WITH YOUR TONGUE**

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.

Proverbs 17:28 (NIV)

Whoever derides their neighbour has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.

Proverbs 11:12 (NIV)

For whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

1 Peter 3:10 (NIV)

Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city.

Proverbs 16:32 (NIV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouth, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)