



NOVEMBER 2022

# THE WINEPRESS

O TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD



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DO WE CRUISE  
OR CRASH INTO  
THE YEAR 2023?  
BY REV ANTHONY LOH

By God's grace, we will be completing the year 2022 with just one more month to go. As we journey towards 2023, we know that anything is possible. Again, by God's grace, we will embrace the new year with hope.

I would like to acknowledge the faithfulness and diligence of all ministry teams and all JCCians for having done good work openly or behind the scenes in the Lord's service.

What comes next? Some may be thinking of new resolutions. E.g., spend more time with family and friends; join the fitness bandwagon (Fit and Fab) for health; learn something new; etc. These are worthy goals.

As I look into the Bible for inspiration, a passage from Ephesians grabs my attention.

There are three pointers from Eph 5:15-20 that we can think through and include in our plans:

- Be wise
- Understand the Lord's will
- Be thankful

### 1) BE WISE

*"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." (Eph 5:15-16)*

We must be careful and wise in our living because of the overwhelming challenges in the world today. The poisonous traits of the man of lawlessness continue to afflict us – wearing down individuals, families, societies and nations. The deterioration of mental health in an increasing number of people due to many sources of stress is concerning.

In such a time like this, we are called to be wise in seeking the Lord in all things daily. Recently, I came upon this illustration which should speak to many of us:

*"A delivery man once told the following story: ON MY WAY to deliver a computer to a customer, I saw a handwritten sign at the entrance of an alley. It read: "Blocked! Do not pass! Difficult to turn back." I continued anyway, only to discover that the alley was indeed blocked by a fallen tree. As predicted, it took a while to turn the truck around. When I finally got back to the entrance, I noticed a second sign. It read: 'Told you so!'"*

Brothers and sisters, God has warned us many times in life, but our minds and ears are seemingly blocked and we fail to listen. Today, let us turn around and let us not allow our hardened hearts to drive our life until someday when we have to face this admonition – "Told you so!"

Let us invest our time wisely for the Lord.

*Continued on next page*





## 2. UNDERSTAND THE LORD'S WILL

*"Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord," (Eph 5:17-19)*

Let us not be self-focused, but Spirit-focused and other-focused!

The Bible also tells us in 1 Cor 10:31, *"So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."*

Being Spirit-focused and other-focused, we respond to the Great Commandment – Loving God and loving our neighbours (Mat 22:36-40); and heed Apostle Paul's exhortation to the Philippians:

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2:3-4)*

When we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, the body life of the church will display unity and be a powerful vessel to the Lord for every good work.

## 3. BE THANKFUL

*"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph 5:20)*

There are many more Bible verses that extol the goodness of giving thanks to the Lord. (Ps 95:1-3; Ps 100:4-5; Col 4:2; Phil 4:6; 1 Thess 5:18; etc.)

Dr. Dale Robbins writes, *"I used to think people complained because they had a lot of problems. But I have come to realize that they have problems because they complain. Complaining doesn't change anything or make situations better. It amplifies frustration, spreads discontent and discord, and can invoke an invitation for the devil to cause havoc with our lives."*

Complaining makes us miserable. Psalm 77:3b says, *"I complained and my spirit was overwhelmed."*

In fact, giving thanks in all circumstances is God's will for us in Christ Jesus. (1 Thess 5:18)

Here is an inspirational quote to reflect on:

*"God is working things out for you. Even if you don't feel it, have faith and be thankful. Where faith and hope grow, miracles blossom." (Author unknown)*

## LET'S CRUISE, NOT CRASH!

It was a terrible time for the Israelites during their Babylonian exile. How did they feel? Jeremiah assured them that God had not abandoned them, and they had a future and hope in God's plans when they would again turn to the Lord.

*"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." (Jer 29:11)*

In whatever difficult circumstances that we face, we can also be assured that God knows the plans He has for us. When we live wisely, understand His will for us and show our gratitude to Him with thanksgiving all the time, we embrace the hope of a future as we cruise (not crash) into 2023.

## ⊕ PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

### **A) A RENEWED HEART**

“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” (Ps 51:10)

As 2022 draws to a close and 2023 beckons, pray for a renewed heart in our unceasing pursuit of seeking Christ first.

### **B) A SURRENDERED HEART**

Job 11:13-18 asserts that if we surrender our heart to God, turn to Him in prayer and give up our sins, we will rest safe and secure filled with hope and emptied of worry.

Pray for a surrendered heart allowing Christ to guide and direct our plans so that He is revealed to the world by our testimony.

### **C) A WITNESSING HEART**

The Holy Spirit will prove this sinful and corrupt world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8)

The Holy Spirit is our constant helper and the revealer of the things of Christ. Pray that we remain steadfast with a witnessing heart for Christ.

### **D) A WORSHIPFUL HEART**

God is watching us and personally listening when we worship Him. The Bible says, “Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.” (Ps 99:5)

In our daily spiritual communion with God, may we maintain a worshipful heart of humility and reverence to Him who is worthy of our praise.

### **E) AN UNWAVERING FAITH**

There is great reward for faithfulness. Faith moves mountains. (Mt 21:21-22)

May our faith be unwavering in Christ, with the confidence that the Lord hears our prayers and empowers us to overcome every challenge in life.







A new church liturgical year is around the corner. It will be ushered in by the season of Advent beginning Sunday, 27 November 2022.

20 November 2022 is the last Sunday of the current liturgical year. On the church calendar, it is marked as Christ The King Sunday. On this day, our Gospel reading for Sunday worship is taken from Luke 23:33-43, which gives an account of the crucifixion of Jesus.

As Jesus was hung on the Cross, there was an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." (Luke 23:38) All four Gospels (Mt 27:37; Mk 15:26; Jn 19:19) record this. Thus, Jesus' title as KING is borne out unmistakably by the Gospel writers.

It was not to the liking of the chief priests of the Jews that the title of KING was foisted on Jesus.

They protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." (John 19:21) But Pilate refused their request, saying, "What I have written, I have written." (John 19:22)

TLSB says, "The victim's crime was usually posted, but Pilate stated Jesus' title as a fact to mock the Jews."

Jesus himself was persistently harassed by his mockers:

- The rulers sneered at him, "*He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.*" (Lk 23:35)
- The soldiers mocked at him, "*If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.*" (Lk 23:37)
- One of the criminals crucified together with Jesus insulted him, "*Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!*" (Lk 23:39)

Against the backdrop of the treatment that Jesus received from his mockers, it is gratifying to note that Jesus had his confident defenders:

- The other criminal rebuked the first criminal. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." (Lk 23:40-41)

- Pilate's refusal of the Chief Priests' request was a barefaced reflection of the strong conviction in his heart about the innocence of Jesus and His eminence as King of the Jews.

Ironically, Jesus' enemies in their mocking (Lk 23:35, 37, 39) are placing right in front of us Jesus' claim about His saving power as the Messiah.

Now, all hearers of the claim are in two groups. One group is represented by the scornful criminal who had no fear of God. (Lk 23:39-40)

The other group is represented by the other criminal who believed in the saving grace through Christ. He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (Lk 23:42)

Jesus answered the penitent sinner, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Lk 23:43)

Which group do you belong to? Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews, the promised Messiah, Saviour of the world?



 **MISSION.  
OUTREACH.  
EVANGELISM**  
BY JOHN LEE

## MISSION

Mission is a ministry or service.

In the NT, the English word "mission" is found only in Acts 12:25. It is a translation of the Greek *diakonia* and refers to the ministry or service that Barnabas and Saul fulfilled in providing famine relief from Antioch to Jerusalem.

## OUTREACH

The word "Outreach" is not in the Bible. It ordinarily means "*an effort to bring services or information to people where they live or spend time.*" (Cambridge Dictionary)

When Barnabas and Saul travelled from one place to another on a mission to provide famine relief, they were essentially doing outreach work of bringing help (needed services or information) to people where they lived and spent time.

The outreach effort in providing practical help was a testimony of Christian love and care, which paved the way for sowing of the Word and enabled remarkable success in advancing the Gospel among the Gentiles on subsequent mission. (Acts 13:1-3)

## EVANGELISM

Evangelism is an evangelist's mission.

### Evangelist Philip

In Acts 21:8, Philip is called an evangelist. His mission was evangelism – to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

*"So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7)*



### Evangelist Timothy

In 2 Tim 4:5, Paul exhorts Timothy to do the work of his ministry as an evangelist. The ministry of evangelism would require a sober mind (alertness) in the prevailing circumstances with many heretical teachings.

### Evangelists among Christ's gifts

"Evangelists" is mentioned in Eph 4:11 as a unique spiritual office among Christ's gifts to the Church.

### **M.O.E.**

Mission, Outreach and Evangelism in Church vocabulary have their distinct denotations. Nevertheless, in usages of the words among Christians, I see that the key object may be stated as:

*To bring salvation to the lost – through our Mission (ministry or service) via our Outreach (provision of practical assistance) and Evangelism (sharing information on the Good News).*

Considering the abbreviation M.O.E., what do you think it best stands for?

Is it:

- **Ministry Of Education** – engaging Christians in teaching and learning?
- 3 distinct ministries – **Mission, Outreach, Evangelism**?
- **Ministry Of Evangelism** for which it is our mission to bear the Good News in our loving outreach to the world?

### **HOW IS OUR M.O.E?**

In the Great Commission, we are called to "make disciples of all nations." "All nations" means just that – all, including Singapore!

A Christian who saves a soul in his village is as praiseworthy as one who saves a soul across the ocean. So, both kinds of efforts should be encouraged.

Recommended "toolkits" for the M.O.E. are aplenty in the market of ideas.

**Christians should never be straightjacketed in their approach to the M.O.E., which should reflect a collaborative effort among members of the body of Christ, as all function within the unity of the Spirit with a variety of gifts distributed among them. (Eph 4:1-12)**

Whatever practical ways that Christians engage "all nations" in their M.O.E. attempt, they are good if the key desire (bringing salvation to the lost) is served. Any method is worthy of endeavour if its aim is right. It doesn't always have to be high-decibel or high-visibility.

### **NEED TO PRAY**

Souls have been saved by both "hard" and "soft" approaches. Regrettably, promising and well-meaning proposals do fail some, with seeds landing on hard ground. Knowing this, we don't shake our faith if results are not visible. Gladly, unconventional methods of sowing have also seen success. It gives us hope to pursue fresh ideas, with the awareness that M.O.E. efforts must be flexible and adaptable. There is no one method that suits all.



Continued on next page

The late American evangelist Billy Graham confessed:

*"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'"*

How many of us can identify with the humility of Billy Graham and recognize our need to pray?

#### **MEDITATE ON JOHN 6:44**

As our Lord says, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day." (John 6:44)

TLSB comments: "come to Me. God alone has the power to make the spiritually dead alive (cf 5:25-26)."

Martin Luther says:

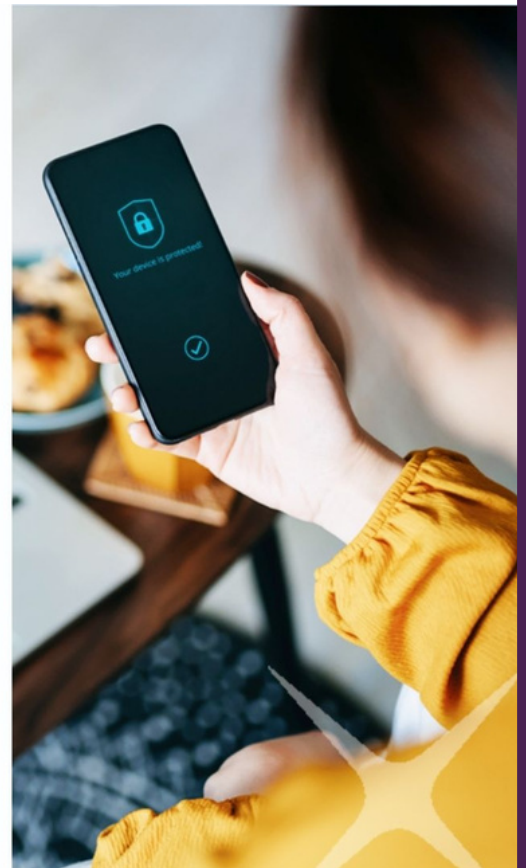
*"I believe that by my own reason or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and abundantly forgives all my sins, and the sins of all believers, and on the last day he will raise me and all the dead and will grant eternal life to me and to all who believe in Christ. This is most certainly true."  
- Book of Concord (by Tappert, 1959) p 345*

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 IS TITHING 10%  
OF MY NET OR  
GROSS INCOME?  
BY MARTIN CHEAH

This question was posed by Bryan Tay in his sermon, "Don't give God your loose change." He followed up with another question, "Does it include my CPF or my year-end Bonus?"

When I was a Roman Catholic, decades ago, I did not practise tithing, giving only \$2 or \$10 each time the offering box reached me. When I started tithing in JCC, I considered giving 10% of my gross income because I figured that it was easier to calculate than to factor in CPF with its many variable rates.

I did not encounter any difficulty with money matters with this simplified method of calculating the 10%. Of course, I did not get rich but neither was I poor.

*"Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the bread that is my portion. Otherwise, I may have too much and deny You, saying, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, profaning the name of my God." (Proverbs 30:8-9)*

However, when I was eventually convicted in my heart to tithe, I had already been a Christian for many years. What about all the income, bonuses and CPF before I started tithing? Do we need to back date our tithing?

Also, I figured that giving in small amounts monthly is easier than to give as one big lump sum at the end, when it is time to draw out my CPF.

I did not give monthly on my year-end bonus because it was not a guaranteed that I would receive a bonus. So I usually waited till I received my bonus (and usually it was variable) and then give 10% of the gross amount in an additional one-time giving.

Personally, I think not because in Philippians 3:13-14 it says, "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

When I retired about 3 years ago, I thought I did not have to tithe anymore since I no longer draw a salary and I had tithed based on gross pay which means I had given my CPF portion already. But serving in the Dialect ministry, I always wondered why these elders are still tithing? They are retired and not drawing a salary. We still issue them the Stewardship form with the tithing option. How do they calculate the 10%?

But because of the Dialect elders' sterling example, I still continue to give but only once a year because my monthly retirement sum from CPF is only a pittance, I accumulate it and give a year end amount of 10% of the total for the year.



## **M**EDITATE ON GOD'S PROMISES

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. - Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*



An empty mind is the devil's workshop. To live a godly and righteous life, we need to fill our minds with thoughts that are right in the eyes of God. God is Spirit and we are made in the image of God. He has created us as a trichotomy: Each of us has a spirit, soul/mind and body. Imagine a situation like this: When you have to talk with someone you do not like, you are able to see him physically (body), engage in conversation with words and expression (soul/mind) but deep down in your heart, you wish you never needed to speak to him (spirit). As God's children, the Holy Spirit lives in us. As such, that inner sanctum is God's territory unless we choose to reject Him. The mind is thus the place where daily battles take place: to make decisions that please God, ourselves, others or the devil. If we want our daily conduct to be pleasing to God and be successful and prosperous in everything we do, we need to fill our minds with God's Word and godly thoughts.

### What does God say about this?

*The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.*  
*Psalm 19:7 (NIV)*

*This Book of the Law must not depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in all you do.*  
*Joshua 1:8 (NIV)*

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*  
*Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR PRACTICAL LIVING?

We need to make God's Word our solid rock and foundation in daily living. Since we have accepted His Word as the absolute authority over our lives, we must mean it. Just as nutritious food needs to be properly chewed and digested in our physical body to make us healthy, the Word of God must be properly studied and digested in our spirit to effectively strengthen our spiritual body. We can meditate on God's Word during quiet moments of solitude or simply let His Word ruminate in our minds as we go about our daily life activities. The key is to stay focused and be attentive to how we are digesting each part of the scripture and assimilating it in our spirit.



Let the light of God's Word shine into every nook and cranny of our hearts and be prepared to confront the issues. The purpose is to let its meaning, power and revelation so convict and consume us that it drives us into acting upon it and claiming it for our life situation. If we believe that God's Word is truth and life, doesn't it make sense that our minds should be preoccupied with it?

### REFLECT AND RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

- What kind of thoughts are you preoccupied with throughout the day?
- What are the physical and mental obstacles that prevent you from meditating on God's Word?
- Each week, choose a portion of scripture that speaks to your situation and meditate upon it. Note the positive change in your thought pattern.

## LET'S THINK & TALK STRAIGHT

BY BRYAN TAY

*"A son honors his father, and a slave his master. If I am a father, where is the honor due me? If I am a master, where is the respect due me?" says the LORD Almighty." Malachi 1:6*



Christmas is coming soon! Most of us have been exposed to the worldly and commercial view of Christmas. Some people will be busy shopping for gifts for family and friends, even until the very last minute on Christmas Eve afternoon! Some will be busy organising and preparing parties and get-togethers. Yet others will simply be accepting invitations to chill and party the Christmas night away! Has Christmas been commercialised to such an extent that it is just another holiday on our calendar? And not even a religious holiday for that matter? Is Christ missing from Christmas?

### Is Christmas the same as X'mas? How dare we axe Christ from Christmas?

As Christians, we must not blindly follow the world in its commercial interpretation of Christmas which is aimed at deriving business gains. It is time for us to stand up and declare the true purpose and meaning of Christmas. Don't get me wrong. We can still have parties, get-togethers and even gift-exchange programmes. But remember to send the correct message of Christmas to the recipients of your gifts and labour of love when doing so.

Tell everyone: "This gift is to remind us that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and eternal damnation. I wish you "JESUS" more than anything else. If we repent of our sins, believe in our hearts that Jesus died to pay for our sins, and confess with our mouth that He is our Lord and Saviour, we will be saved."

### GOD IS ASKING

- What does your priority of programmes look like in the Christmas season?
- Have you thought of what your family members and friends really need? Jesus or gifts?
- Take action individually or as a small group of like-minded Christians (or Cell Groups) to make Jesus known this Christmas season.

*I welcome your comments, thoughts and sharing on this reflection. Write to [jccwinepress@gmail.com](mailto:jccwinepress@gmail.com). We will publish your contribution in the next issue.*

# ΑΩ ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



## QUARTERS OF JERUSALEM

*"Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together" (Psalm 122:3)*

### WHAT ARE THE QUARTERS OF JERUSALEM?

The Quarters of Jerusalem are the four traditional divisions of the Old City of Jerusalem, the 0.9 square kilometre walled area in Jerusalem containing several sites of key importance and holiness to the Abrahamic religions. The four quarters, uneven in size, are: the Muslim Quarter, Jewish Quarter, Armenian Quarter, and Christian Quarter. The Temple Mount constitutes a technical fifth Quarter. Little known is the fact that Lutherans also have a presence in the Old City.

### JERUSALEM REBUILT

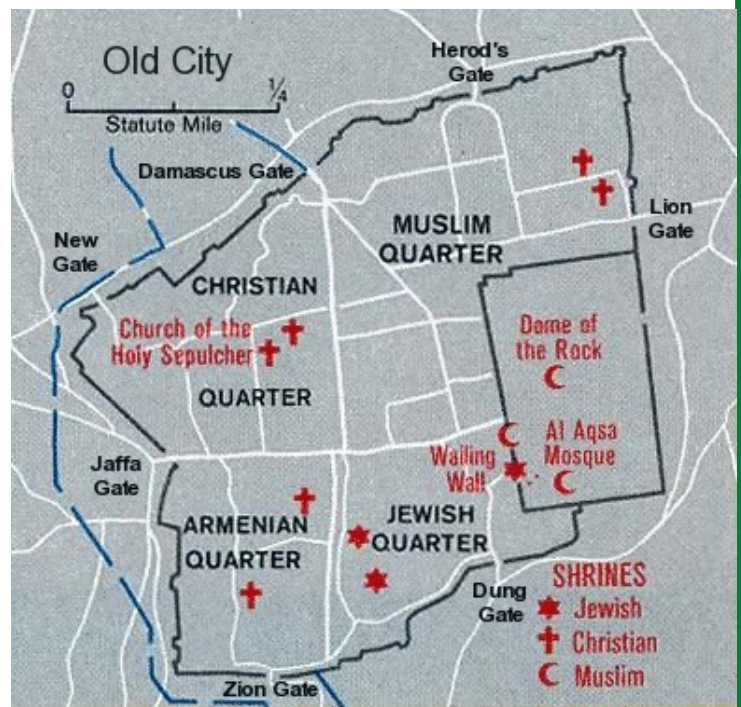
Jerusalem became Israel's capital after David conquered it from the Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:6-9). Solomon would build up the city's walls to include the Temple Mount (1 Kings 9:15). Jerusalem remained the capital of the Kingdom of Judah after Solomon's death until it was destroyed by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24-25).

Cyrus later allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple (2 Chronicles 36:22-23). The city's walls were then rebuilt by Nehemiah (Nehemiah 6:15). The Herodian Dynasty that ruled Judea during Jesus's day rebuilt the Temple, expanding the Temple Mount and city walls in the process (Matthew 24:1-2). The entire city, including the Temple, was later destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, as Jesus prophesied (Matthew 24:1-2).

Jerusalem would subsequently fall under various powers such as the Byzantines, Muslim Caliphates, Crusaders, and Ottomans. During this time, the city would experience repeated periods of destruction and reconstruction. The current walls and gates of the Old City were built in 1535-42 by the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent.

### THE MUSLIM QUARTER

The Muslim Quarter is the largest and most populous of the four quarters, covering the northeastern section of the Old City. The Quarter initially had a mixed population of Muslims, Jews, and Christians until major riots in 1929 forced most of the Jews to move out of the Quarter.



Map of the Old City's Quarters by "(WT-en) Jpatokal"



The Via Dolorosa starts in the Muslim Quarter, covering the first seven Stations of the Cross (out of fourteen).

### THE JEWISH QUARTER

The Jewish Quarter covers the southeastern section of the Old City. It was not initially a Jewish-predominant area; the number of Jews only increased in the early 20th Century as Jews emigrated back to Palestine. The Quarter saw fierce fighting during the 1948 Israeli War of Independence and fell into Jordanian hands. Israel took back the area during the 1967 Six Day War and subsequently evicted many Arab residents.

The Quarter contains many archaeological sites, such as the Broad Wall – a defensive wall dating back to King Hezekiah’s rule during the 8th Century BC, and the Israelite Tower – fortifications dating to the Iron Age. Probably most famous is the Western Wall (also known as the Wailing Wall) – the remnant of Herod’s Temple accessible to Jews.

It is also home to numerous yeshivas (traditional Jewish education institutions focusing on the study of Rabbinic literature) and synagogues, most notably the Hurva Synagogue – built in 1864 but subsequently destroyed and rebuilt several times due to conflict.

### THE ARMENIAN QUARTER

The Armenian Quarter covers the southwestern section of the Old City. The Armenian presence in Jerusalem dates back to the 4th Century AD, when Armenia adopted Christianity as its national religion and Armenian monks settled in Jerusalem. The quarter gradually developed around the St James Monastery, a focal point of the Armenian community. The Armenian population has declined over the years, especially during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 20th century.



*The Western Wall and Western Wall Plaza. Photo by “David King”*

Though formally separate from the Greek Orthodox and Latin (Catholic) Christians, the Armenians (as Christians themselves) consider their quarter to be part of the Christian Quarter. The central reasons for the existence of a separate Quarter are the Miaphysite theology (i.e. Christ’s divine and human natures are united in one nature) that Armenian Christianity adheres to, and the language and culture of the Armenians, which is distinct from the Arab and Palestinian Christians in Israel-Palestine.

### THE CHRISTIAN QUARTER

The Christian Quarter covers the northwestern section of the Old City. It was built around the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – the supposed site of Christ’s crucifixion and burial. Most buildings in the Quarter are also Christian churches/holy places, mainly from the Catholic and Orthodox denominations.



*The “Altar of the Crucifixion”, built over the alleged spot where Christ was crucified. Photo by “Ondřej Žváček”*

During the 19th century, as the European imperial powers sought to expand their influence in Jerusalem, they began constructing several structures in the Christian Quarter. Ottoman attempts to halt European influence were thwarted by the personal interventions of Heads of State, such as Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany.

The first Protestant church in Jerusalem was established by the Anglicans in 1849. The second was built by the Lutherans – the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer. The land for the church was gifted to the Germans in 1869 by the Ottoman Sultan, after Wilhelm II’s grandfather participated in the inauguration of the Suez Canal. The church was constructed from 1893 to 1898 and was dedicated on Reformation Day, 1898 by Wilhelm II.

The Church of the Redeemer currently houses Lutheran congregations that worship in Arabic, German, Danish and English. A garden next to the church contains a memorial marking the location of the crusader headquarters of the Knights Hospitaller.



*The Church of the Redeemer c.1900, US Congress Library*



*Temple Mount. Photo by “Avram Graicer”.*

## THE TEMPLE MOUNT

The Temple Mount constitutes the “Fifth Quarter” of the Old City and is probably the most recognisable site in Jerusalem. It is a flat plaza surrounded by retaining walls (including the Western Wall), which were originally built by Herod the Great when expanding the Temple. The plaza itself is dominated by two monumental structures built during Muslim rule – the main praying hall of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock (where Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad ascended to Heaven). As such, the Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism and the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem are under the custodianship of the Jordanian Royal Family (the Hashemites), a legacy started during the period of British control over Palestine. As such, the Old City is administered by the Hashemite Dynasty while Israel maintains security control. The Israeli government hence enforces a ban on non-Muslim worship within the Temple Mount as part of an arrangement known as the “status quo”. Nonetheless, the site remains a major focal point of the Arab-Israeli conflict.



## CONCLUSION

Jerusalem is a holy city to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It is also rich in history and has been part of many empires, both ancient and modern. While it contains many sites central to biblical narrative, Christians should nonetheless look forward to the New Jerusalem that God will bring about after Christ's Second Coming (Revelation 21:2).

For further reading:

[Old City of Jerusalem](#)

[Temple Mount](#)

*All information and pictures taken from the respective Wikipedia articles unless otherwise stated.*



## LCS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - BEHIND THE SCENES

BY MARTIN CHEAH

Murphy's law is sometimes stated as: "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong, and at the worst possible time."

If you were expecting to hear about all the problems and issues which the planning committee faced throughout the six months prior to the event, then you were wrong.

We were working under God's Grace, not Murphy's Law. Every issue was resolved by a happy chance with divine blessing.

In July 2022, we were pondering about a deposit of \$5,000 for 35 tables at Ban Heng Restaurant in Orchid Country Club in Yishun with a proviso that there would be no refund if the COVID rules were changed on the day of the dinner. We did it anyway.



*Continued on next page*





Then COVID cases started to peak in July and there was news that new rules might be introduced. Then the case numbers went down only to rise up again in mid-October. We were a little apprehensive, but there was only one way forward – to proceed with our plan. Finally, we were able to enjoy a grand dinner and a good time of catching up with old friends from the other LCS congregations.



During September, the BLC dance team first visited JCC and found the area at the front of the worship hall too narrow for their dance item. So, they went back and modified their flags and dance routine to fit into the narrow space. After more rounds of practice in October, they unleashed a powerful dance to the Lord in the Reformation service.



The souvenir tote bags with printed logo and the dinner table gifts (keychain with logo) were delivered on time despite the supply chain disruption. Thanks to Bobby (QLC) for his good coordination with the suppliers in China.



At the same time, we started looking for a bilingual emcee and Chen Shi Song 陈世淞 from BLC agreed to take the role. What a good job he did. In early September, we still had not finalized the LCS video history and Rev Martin Yee was down with Bell's Palsy and was on long MC. He even attended a ZOOM meeting from his hospital bed. Jean Le (BLC) finally completed the LCS video history on 25th October. He named it version "Take 13". I supposed that he had to make 12 edits before coming up with the final one. It was an interesting video and will be archived on the LCS website. Rev Yee recovered in time to attend the dinner and even did the translation for Bishop Lu's opening speech.

Ticket sales for the dinner was also slow, with concerns about travelling inconvenience to the venue and the food quality at that price. It took a long time for some congregations to finally sell off all the tickets.



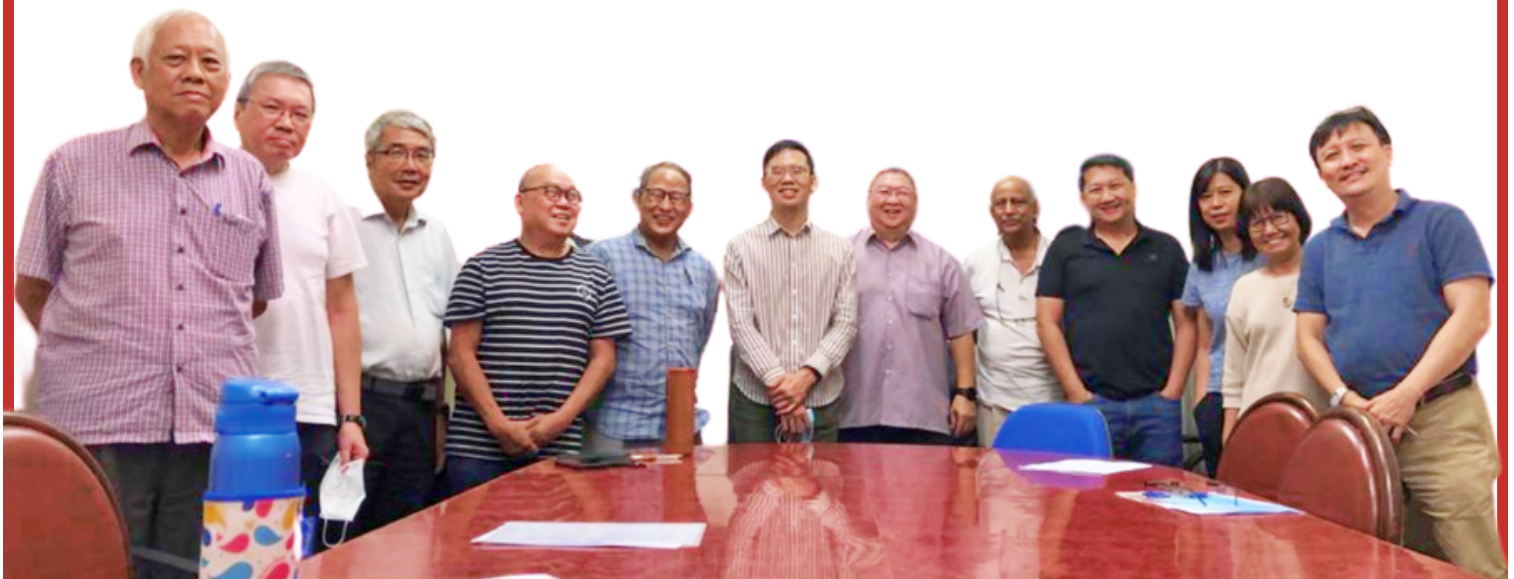
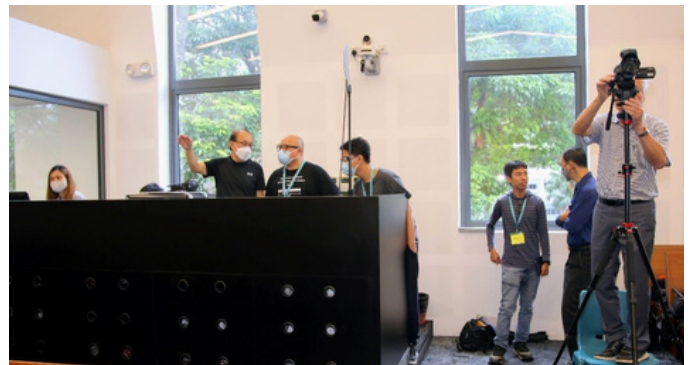
The people found their way to Orchid Country Club by car-pooling or public transport. The restaurant was filled up on time and the food was good. No complaints at \$500 nett per table, some people even thought that LCS must have subsidised a lot for the dinner.

As the video on the kindergarten kids singing the song "To God be the Glory!" played, and the last dish was served according to the scheduled time, the committee gave out a sigh of relief. Our job was completed with God's help.

The weather was good and it only started to rain when we had already left the restaurant on our way home. Only poor Pasang who was travelling by motorcycle was delayed at a bus stop to wait out the rain but eventually made it home safely. Praise the Lord.

Some minor hiccups did occur. The prize money for the Logo Design competition was left in the office and could not be presented to the winner during the ceremony. A number of guests caught the COVID and could not turn up for the dinner. We tried our best to fill up the seats.

On the whole, everything else went smoothly. The committee were not the only ones who made this happen, although we were given the recognition. It took a whole lot of people, working as a team to make an event like this happen. We want to thank the people who are normally unnoticed, working in the background: the sound team, ushers, camera men and of course the one who truly works unseen, the Lord Almighty. Thanks be to God.







♥ DGP GRADUATION 2022 (29 OCTOBER)  
BY MARTIN CHEAH



Two young valedictorians addressed the audience, one in English and the other in Mandarin. What was impressive was that they delivered their speeches smoothly without referring to any notes. They received a round of loud applause.

Mr Tharman presented the graduation certificates to the kids, and they all had their graduation photos taken with him. It was a proud moment for them and their parents.

The kids did a number of dance items and at the end of the day, Rev Anthony Loh came up to pray a blessing over them.

May God continue to watch over the children and keep them well grounded in knowledge and wisdom as useful members of the society.







♥ NOVEMBER  
BREAKING NEWS  
BY MARTIN CHEAH

### BIKE CLUB'S NEW PARTS STORE

On 13th November, the Bike Club moved their storage of bike replacement parts to the storage area just next to the handicap carpark lots.

Previously, their storage area was in MPH1 and whenever they went in to retrieve any parts, they would be distracting any event that was happening in the hall.

### MARTINA'S MOTHER'S PASSING

Martina's mother, Cecilia Yuen passed away on 6th November. We thank God for His Mercy to Mdm Yuen who was baptized on 22nd October (just 15 days earlier).

"Godma" Peggy Lee was there to console Martina and also step into the role of liturgist/worship leader for the funeral service.

