



FEBRUARY 2023

THE WINEPRESS

O TASTE AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD



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The annual observance of Lent is a traditional custom of Christian churches.

The word “Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word “*lencten*”, which means spring. In 325 the council at Nicaea discussed the Lenten season, but it wasn’t until the time of Gregory the Great that the start of the season was established on a Wednesday, called Ash Wednesday. This year, the season will begin on Feb 22 and end on Apr 8, a period of 40 days before Easter, without counting Sundays.

The 40 days is symbolic of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and endured the temptation by Satan.

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” (Mt 4:1-2)

1) A TIME FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Also called the Passion season, Lent is intentionally for our self-examination, instruction, repentance and prayer.

It awakens us to the suffering, death and resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Because Jesus died, and thus paid for our sins, we have life. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too will rise and enjoy heaven forever. This season is a time for spiritual renewal for all the people of God as we grasp the deep meaning of God’s grace in our hearts.

Martin Luther says, “*Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times.*”

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

2) LENTEN FAST

Fasting as a tradition of Lent is a spiritual discipline practised by Christians, and is meant to help us focus on spiritual matters, to prioritize a spiritual hunger for God over physical desires.

There is a variety of propositions on the Lenten fast from different church denominations. However, most churches view fasting as a private matter between the individual and God.

Here is a quote from “Concerning Christian Liberty” by Martin Luther:

“Now I would advise you, if you have any wish to pray, to fast, or to make foundations in churches, as they call it, to take care not to do so with the object of gaining any advantage, either temporal or eternal.”

In that book, Luther has more to say about fasting. In gist, we are to maintain a holistic theological outlook about fasting without misunderstanding it as crushing the flesh as to earn rewards for good work.

An individual’s response to the call for purposeful reflection on one’s need for God, to bring our souls closer to Him by our repentance, should be our apt focus to make our observance of Lent most meaningful.

“Lent is not just fasting or praying ... It is the season, when Jesus did sacrifices ... and is calling us to sacrifice the bad in us and to outshine our good nature.” – The Broken One, by Brittney Sahin.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

CONCLUSION

Christ spent 40 days in the desert. He devoted His time to prayers and thus drew strength to resist temptations. The Passion of Christ will culminate in His death on the Cross as propitiation for our sins.

We spend 40 days in prayers and meditations through the season of Lent. May we share our thanks to God for the greatest sacrifice, and pursue godliness and useful actions to share our love with our neighbours.



PRAYER FOCUS FOR MARCH

A) JCCIANs WHO HAVE COME BACK TO GOD

Pray for JCCians who have come back to God during the Lent season after falling away. We give thanks to the Lord for His grace and mercy. May the Lord continue to guard the heart of every JCCian, for it is the wellspring of life. (Prov 4:23)

B) DGP

We thank God for our new Chairman of DGP, sister Gek Luang. May God bless her with wisdom, strength and resolve to lead the DGP team, rise to every challenge and not grow weary.

C) CELL MINISTRY


How can we build up our cell groups to bring spiritual growth to members of all ages and backgrounds, including both mature Christians and new believers?

"With man this is impossible, but not with God. All things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)
Commit the cell ministry to God in prayer.

D) GOSHEN BRIDGES

Give thanks to God for the passionate work of His servants in the outreach field. The Lord has blessed us with the Goshen Bridges linking us with our neighbours in Taman Jurong. We continue to pray for His spiritual empowerment to establish a strong relationship between the church and the community.



 ARE WE
DISPENSABLE OR
INDISPENSABLE?
BY JOHN LEE



Here is an anonymous poem titled “No Indispensable Man” from the Internet.

No Indispensable Man

Sometime when you’re feeling important
Sometime when your ego’s in bloom.
Sometime when you take it for granted
You’re the best qualified in the room.
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how they humble your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out, and the hole that’s remaining
Is a measure of how you’ll be missed.
You can splash all you want when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore;
But stop, and you find that in no time
It looks quite the same as before.
The moral in this quaint example
Is to do just the best that you can;
Be proud of yourself, but remember
There’s no indispensable man.

How much do you agree or disagree with the poem? Below are my thoughts.

INDISPENSABLE

There are people who think of themselves as indispensable in their work. It is not a case of being self-conceited. Self-recognizing their indispensability provides strong motivation for them to uphold a serious attitude towards the importance of their presence instead of shirking responsibilities.

DISPENSABLE

There are people who think of themselves as not indispensable. It is not a case of them feeling dispensable like unimportant digits among other people who display higher capabilities. Instead, they do not pride themselves as being the most talented person in the job. They are unpretentious about themselves. Instead of being domineering over their space, they welcome opportunities for others to come into the space, to work for a good result.

THE INDISPENSABILITY OF MOSES

In Exodus 3:10, Moses received a direct call from God to bring the Israelites out of Egypt.

But Moses said, "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." (Exodus 4:13)

While Moses felt that he was dispensable, God's will was set. God arranged for Aaron to meet Moses, and the two would go together to Egypt to fulfil God's will. In other words, it was God who enforced the indispensability of Moses for the task.

THE DISPENSABILITY OF MOSES

At last, by faith, Moses led the Israelites to cross the Red Sea. For a duty well carried out, was he indispensable to lead God's people into the Promised Land? This time, Moses did not beseech God to send someone else. It was God's sovereign will to dispense with Moses because of an incident at the waters of Meribah Kadesh. (Deu 32:51-52; Num 20)

GOD'S WILL

The experience of Moses informs us that one may be indispensable at one time and not indispensable at another time. Whatever we think in human terms, God's will prevails.

Unity and diversity of Christians in the church is God's will. (1 Cor 12:12-31) This means that even if a weak member of the body thinks of himself as dispensable, the reality that is in accord with God's will is that he is indispensable. (1 Cor 12:22)

Despite his "weakness", he is still needed by the church and he can still render service to God in some way. Even if his role is not high up in the ecclesiastical hierarchy, his "imperceptible" position as a small cog can be critical to enabling the big wheel of ministry to rumble.

Similarly, if strong members of the body smugly think of themselves as indispensable, their self-accreditation of superior prominence will come to naught according to God's will which gives them no special treatment but gives greater honor to members that lack it. (1 Cor 12:24)

We can also draw a parallel from the story of the widow's offering (Luke 21:1-4) that even in our contribution of service, what counts as more in our effort is determined by our attitude. The church is like a tree, in which the right attitude is the good root that produces good fruit. (Mt 12:33)

We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps. (Prov 16:9)

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS

Now, what do you think? Are you dispensable or indispensable? Are the motivations of your thoughts right?



 **SCHADENFREUDE**
BY MARTIN CHEAH



I came across this word in the Straits Times 19th Jan 2023 under the headline, “Is it wrong to feel happy about someone else’s misfortune?”. The meaning of *schadenfreude*: the emotional experience of pleasure in response to another’s misfortune. Schadenfreude is a German word that combines *Schaden*, which means “damage,” and *Freude*, which means “joy.” In other words, pleasure on observing misfortune and in particular, that of someone who somehow deserved the misfortune.

Now when you hear someone say, “She/He deserved it”, that’s *schadenfreude*. Researchers have found that there are three reasons behind *schadenfreude*: aggression, rivalry, and justice.

The synonym of *schadenfreude* is *epicaricacy* (rejoicing or deriving pleasure from the misfortunes of others).

An example from modern context may be more suitable. For example, when the England captain, Harry Kane, completely missed an important penalty in the recent World Cup Quarter Final match against France, the French fans and players were obvious in their happiness... When the winning team saw their rivals saddened by defeat, they felt a sense of *schadenfreude*.

Here is another example of usage of the word: Jeremy had a feeling of *schadenfreude* when his ex-wife’s second marriage failed.

Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the Lord see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.
- Proverbs 24:17-18

So dear brothers and sisters, I hope we have no use of this word in JCC.

Here are some fancy words with simple meanings for you to impress your teachers, bosses or colleagues:

WORD	SIMPLY MEANS	USAGE
Penultimate	second to last	It's the penultimate episode of the series tonight
Confluence	coming together	A confluence of events make us think the end is coming
Despondent	hopeless	She started to feel despondent about ever finding a good job
Erudite	smart	She is a scholarly and erudite person
Ennui	boredom	Ennui crept up in the heart of the lonely child
Pusillanimous	afraid or timid	He is too pusillanimous to stand up to his opponents
Pervicacious	stubborn	Your grandmother had spunk, bless her pervicacious soul
Resplendent	gorgeous	His crown will be resplendent

ΑΩ ALPHA TO THE OMEGA

BY SAMUEL CHONG



TIMOR

"Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD; exalt the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea." (Isaiah 24:15)



Timor Island as seen from space (1989), Wikimedia Commons.

WHAT IS TIMOR?

Timor is an island in the Indonesian Archipelago, 500km away from Australia. The name is a variant of timur (Malay for "east") because it lies at the eastern end of the Lesser Sunda Islands. The island is divided between the sovereign states of Timor-Leste (East Timor) and Indonesia. A predominantly Catholic country today, East Timor is another interesting case study of how political changes can make or break the church.

PORTUGUESE TIMOR

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive in Timor and its neighbouring islands, attempting to establish a foothold in the Spice Islands in the early 1500s.

The Dutch entered the region in the 1600s and progressively ousted the Portuguese. West Timor came under Dutch control by 1640, and the Dutch eventually controlled the entire Indonesian Archipelago save for East Timor which remained under Portuguese control.

The Portuguese introduced Catholicism to Portuguese Timor but did not evangelise the entire population. At the end of Portuguese rule in 1975, only 20% of East Timorese considered themselves Catholics.

THE INVASION AND OCCUPATION YEARS

A revolution in Portugal in 1974 installed a new government which favoured the immediate decolonisation of Portugal's empire. Conflict soon broke out between Timorese partisans which resulted in a declaration of independence by the socialist Fretilin party followed by Portuguese forces retreating from the island in November 1975.

Indonesia invaded East Timor in December 1975 under the pretext of anti-colonialism and anti-communism to overthrow the left-leaning Fretilin regime. The Indonesian occupation lasted until October 1999, during which many Timorese died.

THE CATHOLIC "REVIVAL"

During the period of occupation, East Timor was subjected to Pancasila, Indonesia's official state philosophy, whose first principle is "Belief in the one and only God".

East Timorese animist belief systems did not fit in with Pancasila, resulting in mass conversions to Catholicism. By 1985, 95% of East Timorese identified as Catholics.

The Catholic Church in East Timor officially split from the Portuguese Church in 1975. However, while Portuguese clergy and Latin/Portuguese mass were replaced by Indonesian clergy and Indonesian mass, the Church in East Timor never joined the Indonesian Church.

The Catholic Church played an important role in society during the Indonesian occupation. Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo became one of the most prominent advocates for human rights in East Timor, and many priests and nuns risked their lives to shield citizens from military abuses.

In 1996, Bishop Belo and Jose Ramos Horta, a fellow independence activist, received the Nobel Peace Prize for “their work towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor”.

Pope John Paul II visited East Timor in 1989, exposing the occupied territory’s situation to the world media and catalysed global support for East Timorese independence.



Wooden statue of the Virgin Mary and Christ Child, 19th Century, Wikimedia Commons



East Timorese mourning for Pope John Paul II after his death, BBC News 5 April 2005

John Paul II spoke out against the violence in East Timor, calling for both sides to show restraint and for East Timorese to “love and pray for their enemies”. Nonetheless, the Vatican was officially neutral and also wished to maintain good relations with Indonesia, the world’s largest Muslim nation. Upon his arrival, John Paul II symbolically kissed a cross and pressed it on the ground, alluding to his usual practice of kissing the ground on arrival in a nation, yet avoiding overtly suggesting that East Timor was a sovereign country. While he spoke fervently against abuses in his sermon, he avoided naming the Indonesian authorities as responsible. John Paul II is especially beloved in East Timor; a statue of him stands in the capital Dili today.

The Indonesian occupation ended in 1999 after the fall of Suharto’s government and mounting international pressure on B.J. Habibie’s administration. East Timor came under United Nations administration before gaining full independence in May 2002.

THE PROTESTANT MINORITY

Protestants had been a tiny minority in East Timor under Portuguese rule.

Protestant congregations only increased during the Indonesian occupation owing to significant numbers of Protestants among the Indonesian military forces and civil servants. After Indonesia withdrew, the number of Protestant churches and adherents dwindled drastically, with many moving to West Timor.

CONCLUSION

Several past articles have explored the relationship between Christianity and politics, whether colonial or post-colonial.

East Timor is yet another example of this, showing how political changes can make or break church congregations. Nonetheless, East Timor remains a predominantly Catholic country today, unique in Asia alongside the Philippines.

[Timor](#)

[Religion in East Timor](#)

[Catholic Church in East Timor](#)

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



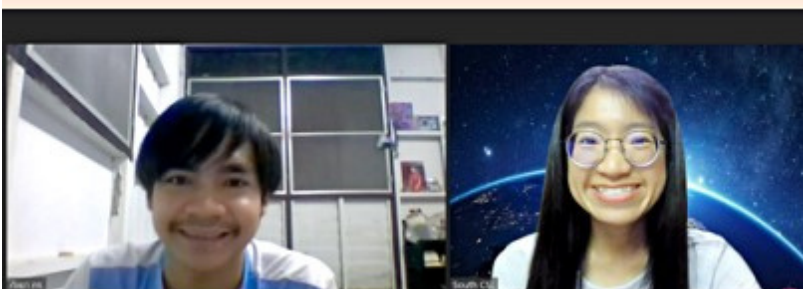
**MISSION
UPDATES**
BY MISSION TEAM

JCC have members who are called to bring the Good News to people in other countries. Here are some of their exploits as reported in their newsletters.

THAILAND

Chih Chiang shared about the visit from a Korean Mission team to Thailand where he is currently working. Read about it here: <https://tinyurl.com/94fum434>

Bee also shared her work in Thailand and you can find her report here: <https://tinyurl.com/3vu8xu7w>



Continued on next page

NIAS

In December, Pastor Michael Christian visited Nias and he gave an insight into what is happening there and how we can pray for the orphans. Read about it here: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8pr79p>



JCC Mission Trips 2023

2 locations, 4 trips: Nias, Cambodia

Nias (End June, End Dec)

Cambodia (End June, Mid/End August)

SIGN-UP DEADLINE: 28th Feb 2023

CONTACT: NIAS - Ewe Ewe (97860250) / CAMBODIA - Amos (93921530)



for
**BOLD
CHRISTIAN
LIVING**
BY BRYAN TAY

Prioritize Spiritual Discipline



Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. -- 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV)

It is easy to fill our day with activities, running from place to place and engaging ourselves with people and programmes. It is also possible to fill our days with nothing but simply lazing around as if God were transparent and dead. That is not what God has intended for our lives. He has created us in His image to have fellowship with Him. We are made to know Him and enjoy Him. He has given each of us gifts and talents to work with so that we can live this earthly life purposefully. Guided by His strength and wisdom, we can then reach our fullest potential in life according to His perfect will for us.

To achieve that, we need to do some things first – Surrender ourselves unreservedly to Him and spend time to seek His will for our lives through prayer. Study God's Word together with fellow Christians and spur one other to pursue holiness, righteousness, and goodness. To that end, we need to prioritise these spiritual disciplines in our daily lives.

What does God say about this?

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.
1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.
Galatians 5:17 (NIV)

What does this mean for practical living? We are probably very good in planning, organising, and prioritising tasks relating to our studies, job roles and social responsibilities. We do this because we can see the fruit of our labour in getting good grades, job promotions and satisfied customers. These are all well and good. We may even be disciplined to set aside an hour for exercise thrice a week. But what are we doing for our spiritual disciplines?

There are four important disciplines that we need to maintain if we want to live a victorious Christian life.

Imagine the four arms of the cross: Prayer (upward arm), Word (downward arm), Fellowship (right arm) and Evangelism (left arm). Each of these is critical in developing our spiritual strength and character in our walk with God. These four arms work like the four well-balanced spokes of a wheel to set us in a smooth rolling motion. Work these disciplines as priority activities into your daily and weekly life routines and experience the reality of God's power and revelation in your life.

Reflect and respond to God's Word

·How often do you talk with God in prayer? What are most of the conversations about?

·What tools and methods are you using to study His Word and fellowship with other Christians to edify one another?

·When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone and/or played a part in leading them to Christ?



CELL GROUPS ABLAZE@OCC A TALE OF 2 HAIRCUTS

Bryan Tay

Make a guess. Where is this “barber shop” located? Looks like times are “bad” and CG members are giving one another free haircuts!

This is how CG life can be fun. In our BFF Cell Group, Brother Ronnie has an old-style barber chair, complete with reclining feature (not auto though, don't ask for too much!) and fully equipped with scissors, comb and a pair of real-clickety hair snipper to look and sound real!

Bryan Tay is seen choosing a hairstyle for Ronnie to “execute”! Who says seniors cannot have fun?

In another saga, brothers-in-arms from e-LIDs Cell Group were invited to “demolish” Malcolm's centre-parted oppa hairstyle, razing it to a perfect round of black, bushy 2-mm spikes, ready for enlistment into National Service the following day!

Needless to say, some professional trimming was needed to clean up the new-style “aftermath”. But it was all fun, evident from the smiles, both from the “demolition experts” and the recipient!

We live, grow and fight the good fight together...leaving no man behind!

Want to join BFF (Seniors) or e-LIDs (Young Adults: 20-24 years old)?

Contact Bryan Tay: 9720 7979



God's Grace

“Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. “As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; The rain also covers it with pools.” – Psalm 84:5-6 (NKJV)

The pilgrims passed through a dry valley. They dug the grounds. They put in a lot of effort, expecting blessings of one kind; i.e., groundwater to spring up from below. They didn't get it. Were they frustrated?

No, they had expected it tough. Despite knowing the uninviting physical attributes of the land (a vale of tears – a scene of trouble and sorrow), they persevered with strength of faith in their pilgrimage to Zion. God blessed them with a blessing of a different kind – rainwater in abundance to fill the whole place with pools!

The blessing of rain was many times more uplifting than the groundwater they sought.

We are not unfamiliar with our experience of having yearnings for things which in the end we fail to get for all our efforts. We may be seeking a job opportunity, desiring service in a ministry in church, looking for some fulfilment of personal interest, etc. Are our efforts in vain? No!

Despite not getting what our minds think of, and running into seemingly hopeless situations, our intact faith through our resilient pilgrimage will touch heaven and change the circumstances to reflect the glory of God.

We dig wells, thinking in human terms that the deeper we dig (our striving), the greater will be the collection of groundwater (our gain). However, outcomes do not always follow what we normally fathom by our creature faculty. Instead of springs rising from the ground, we may have unexpected showers of blessings pouring down.

“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.” – Prov. 21:31 (NKJV)

Put in another way by German-born clergy Thomas à Kempis (c. 1380-1471) in his Christian devotional book “The Imitation of Christ”:

“For the resolutions of the just depend rather on the grace of God than on their own wisdom; and in Him they always put their trust, whatever they take in hand. For man proposes, but God disposes; neither is the way of man in his own hands.”



Grace – a gift that the Pharisees overlooked when they esteemed works and laws.

Grace – the gift we treasure from Heavenly Father given through His Son – with its enabling power for all who believe in Jesus Christ!

Shakespeare says in Hamlet: “There is a divinity that shapes our ends ...”

The divinity working through the mysterious enabling power of God's grace shapes our testimony for Christ!

John Lee

click the button to register for the Retreat



Manna Bridge LNY Tea Party

Florence Tang



On the 4th of February, JCC hosted a Lunar New Year tea party for our friends from Taman Jurong. These are residents from the neighbouring blocks whom we have been reaching out to through Manna Bridge.

The week before the party, the Manna Bridgers walked the blocks to distribute goods and extend personal invitations to the residents. Sixty residents indicated they would come for the party. The team rejoiced and continued to pray that God would open doors for all of them to come.

On the day of the party, it was raining heavily. An hour before the event, some Manna Bridgers went out again to remind the residents to come but found that many had other commitments or were not feeling well. When the time came to start the celebration, only four guests had arrived. It was a discouraging sight, but the team continued to trust that God would bring the people and sent another team to a nearby block to invite anyone else who would come. Bryan even drove to the block to ferry people to church. We were surprised to see the open doors and to find people who were so excited to immediately come to church and join the party.

In the end, more than sixty guests attended the party! We praise God for the powerful testimony by Mong, the sharing by Samantha, hearty dumpling feast prepared by the helpers, and energetic lo hei facilitated by our emcees. There were many good conversations and we all shared a warm time of fellowship. One of the residents told us he was touched by the sharing and said he wanted to share his own story of coming to know Jesus at the next event!

Through this experience, I am reminded that God is sovereign and works in ways we sometimes cannot see. I am also reminded that outreach is a team effort and everyone plays a part.

Indeed, as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6 "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

At the tea party, a husband-and-wife pair also came to the church but stayed outside. They had met multiple Manna Bridgers (Xavier, Caleb, Naomi...etc.) through the previous walks and came to ask for help with some forms. Caleb was able to help with the forms and Lawrence approached to pray for them. The next few days, Wen Wei and Jinfay then followed up with the application. This week, we received great news that Lawrence and Grace had further shared God's word with them and the wife had become a Christian!

Though the effects of outreach may not be immediate or visible, let's continue to faithfully sow seeds and water them. God will make them grow, and in the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up!

Join us for Manna Bridge. Come for Manna Bridge training on 19th March!

<https://tinyurl.com/MBtraining19Mar>



THE WINEPRESS' LAST ISSUE

IN NEWSLETTER FORMAT

Martin Cheah



For thirty over years The Vine (started in Nov 1989) and later The Winepress (started in Nov 2020) have existed in a newsletter format. In the beginning, it was a hardcopy, printed and distributed to members monthly by the church office. With the advent of the Internet, it was transmitted to members as a PDF file monthly via email. When Kylie joined JCC in 2020, she contributed her talent to transform this newsletter into a more interactive softcopy format using a web-based publishing and graphic design tool called Lucidpress. I take this opportunity to thank Kylie for all the help she had provided while she was with us and wish her God's blessings for her future.

This year, new members joining the Winepress team have contributed fresh and interesting ideas. This February 2023 issue of The Winepress is our last one to be in a newsletter format. Beginning from April 2023, The Winepress will be a blog within the JCC website. If no hiccups, we expect to start blogging by the first week of April with weekly updates or new posts.

One of the objectives of The Winepress is outreach to the community. The trend these days is to read blogs instead of newsletters. People want their newsfeed in small portions rather than a whole issue of 20 to 28 pages and they want it faster. We welcome your continuing support in one way or another to make The Winepress Blog work.



Kylie

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Isaiah 43:19

BB Study Session

Pte Pranav

I am PTE Pranav from the 28th BB Company, currently in Secondary 2 and regularly attending the BB study sessions for students. I would like to share the exciting experience I had joining the BB hotpot gathering on 4 Feb 2023 at JCC to celebrate Chinese New Year.

It was fascinating to me as I got an interesting insight into the tasty Chinese hotpot food culture.

What is hotpot? It is a dish whereby a heat source placed on the dining table keeps a pot of soup stock simmering, and a variety of foodstuff and ingredients are served beside the pot for the diners to put into the hot stock. It was one thing for me to hear about it and another thing for me to experience it directly.

First of all, I had the experience of going shopping with a few BB boys at the nearby NTUC Fairprice supermarket to buy \$100 worth of ingredients suitable for the hotpot, including fresh and frozen items. We appreciated much the generosity, time and energy of our BB officers in supporting the event.

Students' CNY Hotpot Meal Fellowship

As the time came for us to gather around a long table, the warmth of our fellowship was as notable as the heat rising from the steaming pot at the centre.

It was my first time having a hotpot meal, and it was really good. Although the cooking was simple, I felt very fortunate to have the food given to us and I always make it a point to eat without wasting any.

Eating may be one of life's simplest pleasures, but eating together face to face foster our friendship and confidence with one another in the BB study group.

I wish there will be another hotpot session like this next year.

